# *A CHRISTMAS RAPTURE*

***By Renee Vinson***

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**
*(3m, 4 w)*

**KYLE MURPHY:** A young man in his last year of college. Just six months ago gave his heart to Christ. Is friendly and easy going, but a little anxious about seeing his family. They've read about his experience in his letters, but his family is not quite sure how to take him.

**KATIE McCALL:** Kyle's fiancee, a mature young woman with a deep love for Christ. Katie's father is pastor of a full gospel church on the poor side of town. The Murphy's *(excluding Kyle.)* believe they are fanatics.

**CANDACE MURPHY:** Kyle's mother, energetic, youthful, and a bit snobby. Has the Christmas spirit as far as the world goes. She believes that Kyle has been "suckered" by Katie. Candace believes in "religion" as long as it isn't carried too far.

**JACK MURPHY:** Kyle's father, a prominent store merchant out to make all he can. Believes that Kyle's conversion is just a passing phase that he will soon get over. Not a bad man altogether, but blinded by his love for money.

**GRANDMA GUTHERIE:** Mother of Candace, is a plump, overbearing, gossipy old lady. She claims religion, but living it is another thing.

**JAMIE MURPHY:** Kyle's 14-year-old brother. Kyle's conversion has had a great impact on Jamie.

**DENITA MURPHY:** Kyle's little sister, about 8. Loves Santa Claus and Christmas presents.

## STORY OF THE PLAY

Kyle is bringing home his fiancee, Katie, a very religious young woman, over Christmas and the Murphy's dread it. Talk about a damper on the holidays. Grandma won't even be able to eat her rumballs in peace! When Kyle and Katie start talking about the rapture, the adults exit fast. Soon the young couple take the other children outside to see the snow. At that moment an unexpected power outage hits and in the dark, empty house, the Murphy's think the rapture may have actually happened! A delightful story with a strong message.

## PROPS

**Scene 1:** Decorations for tree; garland; candy dish with rumballs; coat, scarf, and long wish list for Denita; letters for Jamie; apron for Grandma; bag of groceries and plain brown bag for "rum" for Jack. **Scene 2:** Coats, scarves, and luggage for Kyle and Katie; tray with hot chocolate mugs with spoons for Candace; tray of candy and cookies for Grandma. **Scene 3:** Coffee mugs, Bible, box of decorations, coats. **Scene 4**: Flashlights, kerosene lamps*. (Lighting in this scene does not need to be too dim.)* **Scene 5**: Coats for everyone.

## SETTING

The livingroom of the Murphy's home on Christmas Eve. SR is an exit to the bedrooms and kitchen; SL is an exit to the outside. UPC is a window with a Christmas tree SL of it and a coat rack SR. DCS is a sofa with a table behind it with a phone and some candy. There should be chairs on either side of the sofa.

## SCENE 1

*(AT RISE: Christmas Eve afternoon about 1:30 p.m. CANDACE is in the living room putting the finishing touches on her Christmas decorations. A record is playing on the stereo, something like "Jingle Bell Rock" or "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." She is singing and dancing along in a silly fashion as she does her work. Toward the end of the song, GRANDMA enters SR and stares at her disapprovingly as she sings the song.)*

GRANDMA: *(Sarcastically.)* Have you ever thought about doing weddings or bar mitzvahs?

CANDACE: *(Startled for a moment, but then laughs.)* Oh, Mother! Haven't you ever heard about having the Christmas spirit? *(SHE turns off the stereo.)* This time of year makes me feel so bubbly! What with the tree all trimmed and the stockings hung, *(Inhales deeply.)* the smell of snow in the air … And just look at all these beautiful presents! *(SHE goes over to her MOTHER and playfully tries to dance with her.)* Doesn't it just make you want to dance?

GRANDMA: *(Agitated.)* I think you've been eating too many rum balls! *(SHE sits down on the couch and reaches into the candy dish.)* My! My! It looks like I'm going to have to make some more. How many of these have you eaten? *(Pops two in HER mouth.)*

CANDACE: *(Sits down by HER.)* Oh, don't worry, Mother. I'll make them. I just called Jack and he's going to stop by the liquor store and pick up another pint of rum before it closes. And by the way, I haven't had but one of your famous rumballs.

GRANDMA: *(Puts another piece of candy in HER mouth.)* Well, it won't be long and Kyle will be home. It's going to be so good to see him! By the way, when are you expecting them?

CANDACE: Oh, he will be here before too long. He said that he was going to try to leave by noon. I can hardly wait! Mom, do you know that it has been six months since I have seen my baby!

GRANDMA: *(Looks at HER disapprovingly.)* I didn't say when are you expecting him. I said, when are you expecting THEM! You do remember about Katie, don't you?

CANDACE: *(HER joy evidently dampened.)* Oh, Mom! I've been trying very hard to forget about Katie! And doing a pretty good job of it, I might add, until you just had to remind me!

GRANDMA: The boy is nearly 23 years old, Candy. You would think by the way you are acting he was coming home from kindergarten! No, Candy! This is the big cheese! He's bringing home the girl he intends to marry!

CANDACE: *(Grimaces.)* You would really be doing me a favor, Mom, if you would just please stop reminding me!

GRANDMA: *(Gets another rumball and continues like SHE never heard.)* What has gotten into that boy, Candy? How could he bring such embarrassment to our family? Do you realize that his bride-to-be's father is the pastor of the full gospel fanatical church on the other side of town?

CANDACE: *(Puts hands over HER ears.)* Mother, I don't want to talk about it, OK! *(SHE is silent for a few moments as she thinks about what GRANDMA has just said. She then looks at her mother and speaks in a low, horrified voice.)* Mom, you don't think he intends on going to church there, do you? *(GRANDMA shrugs her shoulders.)* All his talk in his letters about religion terrifies me! He might do something that drastic! That girl and her father have really suckered him in! What will our friends say? What will the neighbors say? *(SHE gasps in shock.)* Oh horrors! What will the Ladies' Luncheon Committee say? Oh, Mom! I can't bear it! *(SHE puts her face in her hands and shudders.)*

GRANDMA: The Ladies' Luncheon Committee! What about MY weekly hair appointments at the beauty shop? What will all the girls say? Just last week Mary Louise

Phelps was talking about that church. She said that her cousin, Elmer, was peeping in the windows and got the scare of his life! *(SHE gets excited.)* People were lifting up their hands *(Lifts HERS.)* and saying "Praise the Lord! Thank you Jesus!" You know what else? *(CANDACE shakes her head. GRANDMA scoots to the edge of her seat and leans close to Candace.)* That old, good for nothing drunkard Jake Thomas was at the altar crying and praying. And what's more, folks were helping him pray! Can you imagine a drunkard in the house of God? Why, it's a disgrace to us clean living folks! *(SHE puts her hands on CANDACE'S shoulders and looks her in the eyes.)* You've got to talk to the boy, Candace! *(SHE leans back and sighs.)* If not, I'll just have to get Eunice to come to the house every Thursday and fix my hair. *(Shakes HER finger at CANDACE.)* And you know how your husband hates the smell of hairspray!

CANDACE: *(Trying to soothe HER.)* I'm going to talk to Kyle, Mother, just as soon as the opportunity arises. I promise! I'm sure he will see things our way.

GRANDMA: Well, you better hope so!

CANDACE: What a damper on my holiday! *(SHE rises.)* I'm going to go start some more rumballs. Maybe Jack will be home soon with the rest of the ingredients. *(SHE starts to exit but GRANDMA lays her hand on her arm to restrain her.)*

GRANDMA: *(Rises with great effort and grunting.)* No Candy, let me do it. You finish getting things done in here. I know you want everything to look just right for Kyle's homecoming.

CANDACE: *(Kisses HER on the cheek.)* Thanks, Mom! I've got to go to the basement and get some more garland. *(SHE exits SR.)*

GRANDMA: *(Slowly starts to exit SR.)* Well, I guess I better go stir my arthritis up and make those silly rumballs. *(SHE goes to the candy dish and gets the last one.)* I just can't imagine who ate them all! *(SHE exits.)*

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