

Dill & Phil's Christmas Crabtacular!

By Andrew M. Frodahl

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DEDICATION

To my brother, Jonathan Frodahl, the original Dill. Thanks for all the years of support both in writing and in life. Proverbs 17:17

STORY OF THE PLAY

Since they were knee high, Dill Mickle and Phil Slaw, now brothers-in-law, have dreamed of being the grand marshals of Crabshore, Maryland's Christmas Crabtacular. The honor of grand marshal only goes to the fisherman who catches the biggest crab. Gladys Leech has won for the past twenty years! But Phil is trying something different this year, a new tactic. He is going to use faith as bait. (Just like the catch Jesus netted on the Sea of Galilee!) Dill has doubts, but Phil ends up catching a crab of ridiculous measure. They end up beating all the odds to become the grand marshals of the Christmas Crabtacular! However, the men face a difficult choice when the Buoy Bible Church's Nativity float is boycotted by citizens of Crabshore. Dill and Phil must choose to either stand up for the baby in the manger or fulfill their dream.

Will they fulfill their lifelong dream of driving the duck boat in the Crabtacular parade, or make a better choice? The play mixes humor with the message that God gave us all a gift and it's beyond measure! About 45 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 5 w, 1 flex, extras)

DILL MICKLE: (male) A mid-fifties crab fisherman who dreams of being the grand marshal of the Christmas Crabtacular. Dill takes a practical approach to life and he feels that he has failed most of his life.

PHIL SLAW: (male) A mid-fifties crab fisherman who would love to drive the duck boat in the Christmas Crabtacular. He is married to his best friend Dill's sister Bernie. Phil approaches things from a more Biblical sense. He knows he and Dill haven't been successful, but still believes God has a plan.

BERNIE SLAW: (female) The glue to the yin and yang of Dill and Phil. She is Dill's younger sister and married to Phil. She loves the Lord and sees His hand at work before anyone else does.

GLADYS LEECH: (female) The most successful Crab fisherman – ah, fisherwoman – in all of Crabshore, Maryland. She has received the honor of serving as grand marshal for the last 20 years. She is in love with Dill and he knows it. Her approach is non-conventional. She is rough around the edges, but she cares about God's creatures and lets many of them find residence in her hair.

CHERISH MICKLE: (female) Mid-twenties niece of Dill, Phil, and Bernie. Her father was Dill and Bernie's younger brother. Cherish is a devout follower of Christ, but sometimes she gets caught up in the Lord's work and fails to recognize the people around her. She knows Zach Newport is interested in her, but she can't see beyond Zach's past.

ZACH NEWPORT: (male) The son of Mayor Newport. He is smitten with Cherish and tries very hard to convince her that he is a changed man.

MAYOR NEWPORT: (female) The proud Mayor of Crabshore, Maryland. She is the mother of Zach. She is worried that Zach hangs out with the people of Buoy Bible Church too much.

PASTOR SCOTT: (male) The new Pastor of Buoy Bible Church. He has some new ideas on how to get the church more involved in the community.

CRAB MAGISTRATE: (flexible) No one knows how old the Crab Magistrate is or if she/he can really serve in this capacity.

PICKET PAULA: (female) A voice that will not be silent. She will protest diligently for a cause. Sadly, her energy is usually directed towards causes that don't coincide with God's causes.

PROTESTORS: (flexible) A mob of zealots.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: The Crab Shack, evening. Three days before the Crabtacular.

Scene 2: The Crab Shack, morning. Two days before the Crabtacular.

Scene 3: Outside City Hall of Crabshore/the Mayor's Office, that afternoon.

Scene 4: The Crab Shack, evening. Two days before the Crabtacular.

Scene 5: Main Street of Crabshore. Day of the Crabtacular.

SETTING

The Crab Shack is a weather-worn cottage filled with fishing gear in Crabshore, Maryland. Nets, buoys, and crab traps cover the living room. The Crab Shack serves as the abode of Dill, Phil, and Bernie. Bernie does her best to make the crude shelter a home. A sofa is at center with a lobster trap as a coffee table. Two five-gallon pails serve as end tables and a dusty old easy chair sits to the side.

Crabshore City Hall can be played down stage of the Crab Shack or in front of the stage apron. You can use the auditorium aisles as footpaths for the angry protestors. The Mayor's office only needs to be a small desk with phone, intercom, and papers.

Main Street of Crabshore can be played downstage of the Crab Shack. The Duck Boat can be a crude cardboard or lauan cutout. The more unrealistic the better. It can remain stationary or be built to be moved by Phil, Dill, and/or Bernie. Add garland and Christmas lights to boost the appeal. At the other end of the stage can be the parade watchers lined up in lawn chairs. OPTIONAL: A giant Christmas tree made out of Crab traps can be placed down below the stage or far upstage and serve as a set piece for all the scenes. You could have a sign that reads: 'Crabshore's Christmas Crabtacular!'

Scene 1

(AT RISE: PHIL SLAW and DILL MICKLE enter their rundown 'Crab Shack.' A sofa covered in nets and a lobster trap for a coffee table are at center. A couple of bait buckets serve as end tables to the sofa. Buoys and other crab fishing gear is scattered about the modest living room. A Crab Trap Christmas tree is upstage. Dill throws a crab fishing basket onto the sofa in disgust.)

DILL: It's never gonna happen, Phil.

PHIL: What ain't?

DILL: Ya know good and well what. Year after year it's the same thing. We catch little crabs, while everyone else catches big ones!

PHIL: I believe this is our year, Dill.

DILL: We been trying for twenty-five years! And I've tried every kind of bait you can think of – why, one year I even tried Reese's Pieces because Gladys Leech tricked me into thinking that was her secret bait.

PHIL: I memba that, purty embarrassing. Made the front page of the Crabshore Gazette.

DILL: Face it, our dream of being the grand marshals of Crabshore Maryland's Christmas Crabtacular is just that, a dream!

(BERNIE SLAW enters from the kitchen with Christmas decorations for the Crab Christmas tree upstage.)

BERNIE: Hey boys, did ya catch anything?

DILL: A whole lotta nothing! *(Holds up a tiny little crab.)*

PHIL: I wouldn't say that, Dill. I did manage to catch yer sister.

(PHIL runs over to BERNIE and gives her a squeeze. DILL sits on the sofa.)

BERNIE: *(Laughing.)* Oh Phil, you were always the charmer.

PHIL: The tree looks great!

Dill & Phil's Christmas Crabtacular

- 6 -

BERNIE: Just a few finishing touches. I better go git suppa on. Our guest will be here soon.

DILL: Guest?

PHIL: You might want to get cleaned up.

DILL: Who's coming?

BERNIE: It's a surprise.

DILL: Only surprise I want is a giant crab in our net and to have the honor of grand marshalling the Christmas Crabtacular. Do ya think I'm asking for too much?

PHIL: It would be the fulfillment of a lifelong dream to helm that duck boat.

DILL: Can't ya see us, Phil? Driving that duck boat down Main Street?

(DILL jumps up on the sofa and pretends it's the duck boat.

PHIL hops up behind him.)

PHIL: The citizens of Crabshore will all wave at us, lining the streets and cheering for us.

DILL: Did you hear they is expecting a record crowd this year?

PHIL: Yup, upwards of fifty thousand people, Dill.

DILL: Kings for a day.

PHIL: During the most wonderful time of the year.

BERNIE: And the grand marshals git to light the giant crab trap Christmas tree in the city square.

DILL: Forty feet of trap in the shape of a tree. A thing of beauty.

PHIL: Ya know a duck boat can drive on land and sail in the water, Dill. We could drive our catch right to the fish market with a rig like that.

DILL: What catch? We catch more flak for giving up on being attorneys than crabs.

BERNIE: Ya have to admit, Dill & Phil Law Associates would have been purty cool. That and we'd have some money to do some remodeling around here.

DILL: Sis, ya know we could have never passed the Bar Exam.

PHIL: Ya saying I'm stupid, Dill?

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