Gulligan's Island Christmas

By Andrew M. Frodahl

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DEDICATION

To my Pastor Glenn Gromel and his talented family. Thank you - Glenn, Bethany, Abby, Hannah, Luke, Levi, and Jude for all the encouragement and laughter. You continue to be a source of positive feedback both in writing and in life. Thanks for your support and prayers.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Just sit right back and you'll see a tale of a fateful trip, with seven familiar passengers, but with a few new twists! The castaways are stranded on a deserted island after their 3-hour cruise aboard the S.S Anchovy ends with all of them being shipwrecked. There are no cars, no lights, no iPads, no Facebook. It's primitive as can be. What may be worse than the lack of comforts is the sad fact that the marooned passengers are unable to celebrate Christmas properly. How can you decorate a palm tree? Can you achieve a white Christmas with sand instead of snow? Are coconuts useful for making eggnog? These questions leave the castaways wondering… what makes Christmas "Christmas"? The possibility of escape comes with the arrival of a new castaway who might hold the key to their rescue. However, strange messages are left in the sand, leaving the castaways anxious and wondering about who wrote them. Join Clipper (the captain of the S.S. Anchovy), his first mate Gulligan, the billionaires Houston Powell and his wife, the movie star Scarlett Rooney, the dean, and the sweet farm girl Kari Ann Winters, as they search for a way off the island while also learning the true meaning of Christmas. This parody is full of laughs, adventure, and the retelling of Christ's birth, told by the most unlikely of sources.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 4 w, 3 flexible)

GULLIGAN: (male) The clumsy, often dimwitted, but lovable first mate of the S.S. Anchovy. He does his best to make Captain Quip and the rest of the castaways happy. If there is work to be done on the island, it typically falls to Gulligan.

CLIPPER: (male) Captain Alan Clipper of the S.S. Anchovy. He loves being the captain but feels the giant burden of responsibility for the Anchovy being lost at sea and all the passengers being marooned. He is easily annoyed, and Gulligan tries his patience constantly.

HOUSTON POWELL, III: (male) A billionaire who forged his fortune in oil. Some say the prominent city in Texas is named after him… Well, that's what he claims, anyway. No doubt the rumor started from the lips of a Powell. He enjoys the finer things in life and adores his wife, Mrs. Powell, whom he affectionately calls 'Lovey.'

MRS. (LOVEY) POWELL: (female) Houston's prim wife, whose idea of fun is a round of bridge in a climate-controlled country club. Her sarcasm stems from her lofty place in society. Underneath her posh exterior lies a caring lady who truly loves her husband.

SCARLETT ROONEY: (female) A starlet of the silver screen, Scarlett has starred in over forty films you have probably never heard of. She aspires to getting a star on the Hollywood walk of fame, but her acting range isn't much broader than her limited empathy for those around her. She tends to live through her past film experiences because she hasn't ventured out into the real world very much and therefore has little to say without a movie script.

DEAN SCHWARTZ: (flexible) A highly educated scientist who serves as the Dean of Environmental Sciences at Berkeley. He/she puts all his trust in what he/she sees through the lenses of science. To Dean, faith has no place in the laboratory of study.

KARI ANN WINTERS: (female) The sweet farm girl from Nebraska. Thanks to her humble beginnings, she gives the other castaways a different perspective on life. However, she gets caught up in the traditions of Christmas instead of the real reason for the holiday.

JONAH or JOAN HALE: (flexible) The Salvation Army bell ringer who, along with his/her red kettle, is caught in a violent hurricane that lands him/her on the island. He/she has a strong faith and understanding of what Christmas is really about. First appears in costume as SANTA. *(Cont'd.)*

POWLI: (female) The chieftess of the Wondians who live on the far side of the island. The Wondians used to be cannibals a century ago, but missionaries found them and preached the gospel to them, so Powli's grandfather declared Christianity as their official religion.

CATUBAY: (flexible) He/she is a Wondian warrior who does the bidding of the Chieftess with honor and devotion.

SETTING

A backdrop covers the upstage with the landscape of a tropical island and blue sky. Stage left is the castaways' huts. A life preserver hangs on the hut door with the words 'S.S. Anchovy' printed on it. Downstage of the hut is a bamboo table with seven crude chairs or benches, or possibly stumps; the table is rectangular in shape and runs horizontal to stage right and left, allowing the best viewpoint for blocking. A long bench upstage of the table seats five of the castaways, while two bamboo chairs or stumps are on each end, angled to allow optimal sightlines. Center stage is an island jungle complete with some tall palms. One of these palms needs the ability to be cut down. A few boulders, stumps or logs can be scattered about, but not too much, as most of the play's action takes place in the island jungle. Stage right is the lagoon, comprised of rocks surrounding a faux pool of water. Plenty of water fauna can surround the lagoon edges. Most of this is suggested, and can be either simple painted flats or cardboard OR fully realized, depending on your resources.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I
Scene 1: Lagoon & Castaway Huts
Scene 2: The Island Jungle
Scene 3: The Island Jungle & Lagoon
Scene 4: Castaway Huts
Scene 5: The Island Jungle

INTERMISSION

ACT II
Scene 1: The Island Jungle
Scene 2: Castaway Huts

*See additional production notes at the end of the script.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: GULLIGAN is down at the lagoon with his fishing pole. He thinks he has a fish biting and starts tugging on his line.)

GULLIGAN: I caught something! I caught something! Clipper, come look! Ooh, it's a big one!
CLIPPER: Ahhh!

(CLIPPER enters, with the line from Gulligan's pole attached to his arm by a hook. He is trying to dig the hook out of his arm. GULLIGAN keeps trying to reel him in.)

GULLIGAN: Oops… sorry, Clipper.
CLIPPER: Gulligan! You got me… ouch! Stop pulling on the line, you are going to tear my arm off! ARGH! Could you try to keep your hook in the water next time?
GULLIGAN: I guess my line missed the lagoon.
CLIPPER: Give me that pole!

(CLIPPER grabs the pole from GULLIGAN to keep him from tugging the line further.)

GULLIGAN: Sorry, Clipper. I dunno what happened, but I did do something right.
CLIPPER: And what was that? *(Yanks the hook out and throws it to the ground.)*
GULLIGAN: You told me to catch a big one for dinner. I think I did.

(CLIPPER stops and gives the classic Oliver Hardy deadpan to the audience.)

CLIPPER: Gulligan!

(GULLIGAN braces for impact by covering his head. CLIPPER takes off his captain's hat and hits Gulligan on the head.)

GULLIGAN: You know what's funny, Clipper?
CLIPPER: Throwing you into the lagoon for shark bait?
GULLIGAN: I've heard people who are marooned on islands lose a lot of weight. I guess you could say you are surviving well.
CLIPPER: Gulligan! I'll have you know most of it is stress weight. Do you know what kind of burden is placed on me?
GULLIGAN: No, but I'm sure your pants do.
CLIPPER: *(Shakes the last jab off.)* I'm the captain and I am responsible for all the lives on this island. It's a great responsibility. Now, one of my jobs is getting food for Kari Ann to cook.
GULLIGAN: She is a good cook.
CLIPPER: Yes, she is.
GULLIGAN: You know, someday she should write a cookbook. *(Beat.)* Will your arm be okay, Clipper?
CLIPPER: I will be fine. Let's get the poles into the water and try to catch some dinner.

(CLIPPER grabs his pole, which is leaning against a tree, and casts it. GULLIGAN does the same and Clipper braces himself, but Gulligan's line goes into the lagoon.)

GULLIGAN: I did it!
CLIPPER: Thankfully.

(Beat.)

GULLIGAN: Clipper! Clipper!
CLIPPER: Little buddy, shh! You will scare the fish.
GULLIGAN: I think I got one… a really, really big one!
CLIPPER: Hold on and try to keep the pole steady as you reel it in.

End of Freeview

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