

Merry Chrismukkah!

A Christmas play

By
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DEDICATION

For Jeff and Elise Marie.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Grandpa, along with Luke, Ellen, and their two teens, fly to Texas to celebrate Christmas with the rest of the family. Grandpa's other son is a real down-home cowboy, and, unbeknownst to everyone else, has recently gotten married. His new wife is a former New Yorker and recent convert to Christianity. She very likeable, but the family can't understand half the words she's saying! Even more puzzling is her teenage son, who misses the big city, resists speaking to anyone, and is on a "religious break."

Family confusion rises to new heights when Grandpa's daughter arrives with her unemployed husband and their two out-of-control children. She is over-worked and deep into religious experimentation, while her husband is so depressed he's not even going to church. But who can even think about all these problems when their young children are screaming and running around?

But ultimately, there is no need for heavy-duty aspirin or cutting the visit short. Through some last-minute dumpster diving, and more importantly, heartfelt conversations, this dysfunctional but totally ordinary extended family finds the truth and compassion of Christ as they celebrate Christmas together

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The original script was performed at the Kentwood Christian Church in Kentwood, Michigan.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(6 m, 5 w, 1 extra, 1 boy, 1 girl)

GRANDPA: Elderly man. Father of Luke, Gene and Carmen.

LUKE: Middle-aged Christian man. Husband of Ellen and father of Nick and Bethany.

ELLEN: Middle-aged Christian woman. Wife of Luke.

NICK: Young adolescent.

BETHANY: Mid-to-late teens.

GENE: Middle-aged Christian man. Husband of Mimi.

MIMI: Middle-aged woman of Jewish heritage. She has converted to Christianity. Mother of Marvin.

MARVIN: Late teens. Religiously frustrated. Son of Mimi.

BETTY: Late teens. Neighbor of Gene.

LITTLE LOU: Between 6 and 8 years old. Son of Carmen and Rex.

PIPER: Between 8 and 10 years old. Sister of Little Lou.

CARMEN: Early 30s. Religiously confused woman. Wife of Rex.

REX: Early 30s. Father of Piper and Little Lou.

PIZZA DELIVERY PERSON: Flexible, non-speaking role.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

Scene 1: Christmas Eve morning, on a snowy street in Ohio.

Scene 2: A short time later, inside Luke and Ellen's home.

Scene 3: That afternoon, inside Gene and Mimi's home.

Scene 4: A short time later, outside Gene's home.

Scene 5: Meanwhile, in the living room.

Scene 6: Dinner time, in the living room.

Scene 7: Meanwhile, on a walk outside.

Scene 8: Later that evening, in the living room.

Scene 9: Late that night, in the living room.

Act II

Scene 1: Christmas morning, in the living room.

Scene 2: Meanwhile, outside at the grill.

Scene 3: A moment later, back inside the living room.

Scene 4: A few minutes later, outside at the grill.

Scene 5: Mid-afternoon, in the living room.

Scene 6: That night, in the living room.

Scene 7: The next morning.

SETTINGS

There are several easy settings. One is a street near Luke and Ellen's home in a small town in Ohio. Snow is covering a park bench and/or other set pieces. Another set is Luke and Ellen's cozy living room with a couch and chairs. A Christmas tree stands in one corner and numerous suitcases are in the middle of the room. The third set is Gene and Mimi's home in Texas which features Southwestern décor. A couch is off center with a rocking chair next to it and two reclining chairs on either side. A small Christmas tree is on an end table. There are three entrances, the front door, the back door, and the hallway to bedrooms and bathrooms. Additionally, there is a barbecue grill outside the home.

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ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: LUKE, NICK and GRANDPA enter wearing heavy winter coats, hats, gloves, etc.)

LUKE: (Looking at his watch.) Okay, we have one hour to find something for your mom.

NICK: (Yawning.) I'm so tired.

GRANDPA: It's not that early, yahoo! It's already 9:00!

NICK: I know, but I wanted to sleep in all Christmas break!

GRANDPA: Sleep in? And waste the whole day? (A beat.) When I was your age I never slept past 5:00.

LUKE: But, Dad, you also lived on a farm. Nick doesn't need to milk cows and feed chickens.

GRANDPA: Well, it would do him some good if he did.

LUKE: (Conceding.) Okay ... but we need to get shopping.

NICK: (Shyly.) Um, Dad

LUKE: Yes, Nick?

NICK: Can I get something for Naomi?

LUKE: Who's Naomi?

GRANDPA: His girlfriend.

NICK: (Embarrassed.) She's not my girlfriend.

GRANDPA: Well, you talk to her on the telephone everyday!

NICK: She's just my friend.

LUKE: We'll pick something up for her too.

NICK: Where should we start?

LUKE: I have no idea.

NICK: Why do we always wait until the last minute to do Christmas shopping?

LUKE: Because we're men, and that's what we do.

GRANDPA: That's right.

NICK: But what if we can't find anything?

LUKE: Don't worry about that ... I've thought it all through.

We can always pick something up at the airport gift shop.

NICK: (Puts out his fist.) Pound it!

LUKE: What?

NICK: (Duh.) Pound it! (A beat.) Just punch my fist!

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(LUKE punches NICK'S fist a little too hard.)

NICK: *(Rubbing his knuckles.)* Dad! Not that hard! It's just supposed to be a tap!

GRANDPA: Luke, you're raising yourself a sissy. *(To NICK.)* Stop rubbing it!

LUKE: Dad ...

GRANDPA: When I was a boy we punched each other in the face all the time and we never complained.

NICK: That's crazy.

(Pause.)

LUKE: Hey, look, that store's open! I could get your mom a sweater!

NICK: Dad, no.

LUKE: Why not?

NICK: You get her a sweater every year.

LUKE: But she's always cold. *(Pause while NICK looks at him disapprovingly.)* Fine. What about new pots and pans?

NICK: You're the one who cooks.

GRANDPA: Sissy boy.

LUKE: *(Ignoring GRANDPA.)* Car wash gift certificates?

NICK: Are you crazy?

LUKE: An exercise machine?

NICK: Do you want to die?

LUKE: *(Exasperated.)* I'm out of ideas. *(A beat.)* What did you want to get your girlfriend?

NICK: She's not my girlfriend!

GRANDPA: Yes, she is!

NICK: No, she's not!

LUKE: Okay, okay ... what are you going to get your friend who happens to be a girl?

NICK: I don't know.

LUKE: Shopping for women is so hard.

GRANDPA: Your mother wasn't hard to shop for.

NICK: What did you get her?

GRANDPA: Jewelry.

NICK: That's a good idea. Bethany said women like jewelry.

End of Freeview

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