

The Road Home

A Christmas Story

By Phillip D. Smith

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DEDICATION

To the memory of my fiancée, Serina Fay Martin. Although she was unable to see the production, she was there to support me and my efforts to bring to life this story of love and forgiveness. You are missed.

And to Melody, Jackie, Jessica, and Megan – four people who took a few pages and turned them into a memorable production that touched the hearts of everyone in the audience that Sunday morning. Thank you for your patience and hard work.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The first performance was at Southwest Baptist Church, DeSoto, Texas, December 16, 2001. Original cast:

JILL: Melody Erfanie

WALTER: Jackie Shultz

ANGIE: Jessica Ducklow

LISA: Megan Campbell

MAN: Greg Coleman

GIRL: Sarah Price

MOTHER: Candy Campbell

FATHER: Gary Herndon

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Jill, a 17-year-old runaway with a new baby, has been living on the streets for more than two years. It's just a few days until Christmas, and she finds herself at a bus station contemplating whether to continue living on the streets or to reunite with her parents. Jill wants to do what is best for her 7-week-old baby, but her stormy relationship with her father makes her hesitant to return home. At the bus station, Jill meets Lisa, another young runaway, and Walter, a kindly station attendant. With Walter's love and guidance, Jill eventually finds her way home in this touching Christmas drama.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Speaking roles: (1 m, 3 f)

JILL: 17 years old; has a sense of innocence and even a little naïveté. Her hair is dirty and partially pulled back. The baby is wrapped in an old blanket or towel.

ANGIE: Jill's 15-year-old sister; kind, loving, and concerned.

WALTER: Bus-station attendant; grandfatherly type; wears a uniform.

LISA: Teenaged runaway; cocky, smart, disrespectful, and scared; wears rags or old clothes in layers; hair looks dirty and is in braids or dreadlocks. Whenever she isn't speaking, she has a lollipop in her mouth.

Non-speaking roles:

MAN: Non-speaking part; nicely dressed in an overcoat, scarf, and hat. (Can double as Father.)

GIRL: Non-speaking part; daughter of Man; dressed nicely and wears an overcoat.

MOTHER: Non-speaking part; wears holiday clothing.

FATHER: Non-speaking part; wears nice slacks and shirt.

EXTRAS: As chorus, travelers.

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SETTING

Bus station: A phone booth is set off DR, a ticket booth UR, and benches DSC, close to the audience.

Parents' home: A small living room is UL with an easy chair, a small table with a phone, and a partially decorated Christmas tree. Try to set the home living room as far away from the phone booth as possible.

A multi-layered area is best so that choir, musicians, and actors can be seen when necessary. At least three entrances are preferred, but fewer can be used if necessary.

Performance time: About 30 minutes.

Music: Songs listed are suggestions only. Director may select any appropriate numbers as desired. Be sure to obtain permission from the music publishers before use.

PROPS

Lollipop
Boxes of assorted Christmas decorations
Baby doll with blanket
(4) suitcases, bags
Money
(2) sodas
(5) sandwiches wrapped in wax paper
Newspaper
Clipboard or notebook
Tickets
Watch
Trash cans
Assorted trash items

SOUND EFFECTS

Phone ringing; baby crying and cooing.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: JILL ENTERS bus station, carrying a small wrapped bundle hidden from the audience. She goes into the phone booth and dials the phone. We hear a phone RINGING. ANGIE ENTERS living room after three rings and answers.)

ANGIE: Hello.

JILL: Angie. Angie is that you?

ANGIE: Who is this?

JILL: It's me ... Jill.

ANGIE: *(Sits down in the chair.)* Jill. Jill, is it really you?

JILL: Yes, it's really me.

ANGIE: Where are you?

JILL: In a phone booth outside a bus station somewhere.

ANGIE: Where?

JILL: I don't know, Angie. The towns and states all look alike after awhile.

ANGIE: Jill, are you all right? *(Baby CRIES.)* Jill, what was that?

JILL: *(Hesitantly.)* That? Oh, there's a lady with a baby standing too close to the phone booth.

ANGIE: Don't you have the doors closed?

JILL: It's one of those open booths. How is everybody?

ANGIE: We're okay. Mom's been a little sick lately, but other than that, we're fine. Are you coming home?

JILL: I don't think that would be a good idea.

ANGIE: Jill, it's been two and a half years.

JILL: I know, but after what Dad said Look, I was hoping you would answer. I just really wanted to hear your voice and know that everything is all right.

ANGIE: It hasn't been the same since you left. *(Baby NOISES.)* Is that lady still there?

JILL: Yes, she's waiting to use the phone. I'm going to have to hang up.

ANGIE: Jill, come home. Everything will work out.

JILL: It was good talking to you again, Angie.

ANGIE: Jill, don't go.

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JILL: I'll try to call again, Angie. Bye. (*JILL hangs up. ANGIE sadly hangs up the phone then slowly EXITS. JILL walks out of the phone booth and slowly moves DC. She talks to her baby.*) Are you tired, little one? I'll try to find a place for you to sleep. (*Looks around.*) I guess we'll have to stay in this bus station for a while. I'll see if I can't make it comfortable for you. (*Crosses and sits on a bench.*) Angie wants me to come home. You would like your Aunt Angie. Her name is Angela. She's a couple of years younger than me. Has straight dark hair. We're a lot alike ... (*WALTER ENTERS and stands behind the ticket booth.*) ... except she doesn't argue with Mom and Dad. She doesn't really argue with anybody. And she loves children. She would just love you to pieces. You probably need an aunt who would spoil you.

WALTER: (*Heard on speaker.*) Attention passengers, Bus 84 to Duluth will be leaving in ten minutes, boarding at Gate 2. Bus 84 to Duluth will be leaving in ten minutes, boarding at Gate 2.

JILL: (*To baby.*) Duluth. Want to go there? I hear it gets cold there this time of year. (*Sighs.*) This time of year ... not much of a way for you to spend your first Christmas, is it? I'm sorry about that. I'll try to do better in the future. (*Looking up.*) This really isn't like any Christmas I had growing up, but then again, the last two haven't been either. When we were children, Mom and Dad would take us to church. We'd listen to the minister preach about the birth of Christ. The children's choir would sing. The adult choir would sing. I can still hear the singing.

(*CHOIR ENTERS and sings "Carol of the Bells" or "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" or something similar.*)

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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