

SEVEN FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Sketches

by Donna Valentine

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DEDICATION

These plays are dedicated first, to God whose inspiration and gifts allowed me to write them. Second, to my loving and wonderful husband who said, "Take a couple years and write, get these things out of a box and into print!" Third, to all the youths through the years who have been the original actors in each of these skits. And fourth, to my sweet, beautiful mother whose passing means she misses seeing her daughter's work in print, but whose spirit is still the wind beneath my wings. I love you all!

The Playwright

About This Collection

"Seven for Christmas" is the ultimate in Christmas resource collections. It has so much variety that you are sure to find a play or skit that is just right for you. Each skit looks at what Christmas is really about from a different angle. Common to all is the theme of redemption through the miracle of Jesus' birth and sacrifice.

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THE CHRISTMAS CASE (20-30 min.) Cast: 5 men, 7 women.

Detectives are sent to find out why Merryville has lost its Christmas spirit.

THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE (5-8 min.) Cast: 2 men, 2 women.

Committee members want to have the most spectacular program ever!

THE PERFECT GIFT (10 min.) Cast: 5 flexible roles.

Why will no one accept it?

GRANDMA, THE LIGHTS ARE OUT (10-15 min.) Cast: 3 women, 1 girl.

A touching story about faith in our Lord and His provisions for us.

MIRACLE AT HENRY'S DINER (30 min.) Cast: 1 man, 2 women, 5 flexible roles.

A story to tug at your heartstrings as Samantha finds a family.

THE PACKAGE (10 min.) Cast: 2 women, 2 flexible actors.

Laugh along with this absentminded secretary.

THE CHRISTMAS QUESTION (15-20 min.) Cast: 10 or more flexible roles

What will you do with Jesus?

THE CHRISTMAS CASE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 male, 7 female)

RAD, RAD RUSS: The town's radio D.J. for station WEVL and the narrator for the skit. Always on stage, although not always heard.

DETECTIVE S.S. MCGILLIS: No-nonsense type of police detective, very organized, goes by the book. Speaks with authority, making the simplest of lines sound as if they are the most important.

DETECTIVE ERLENE WHITE: High-energy person. Knows the rules, but bends them if necessary to catch her crook. Wild sense of humor which endlessly drives her partner nuts.

MAYOR JESSIE RUNNER: Newly-elected Mayor of Merryville. Worried that if the town can't live up to its promise of providing tourists with a "real down-home Christmas" she will get the blame and be out of office.

POLICE CHIEF ALICE TRUTH: Usually calm and collected, but the Mayor has gotten on her last nerve. Determined her staff will solve this case so she'll be home in time to decorate the family Christmas tree.

GRANDMOTHER MERRY: Grouchy, tired and irritated that her children only come home once a year and she has to slave away for days getting ready.

TEEN: Stereotypical selfish teenager, dancing around with a Walkman. Her idea of Christmas is all the loot she can get.

JONAH WISE: Son of the Rev. Wise, in charge of the Christmas pageant. Has a busy schedule of church services, choir rehearsals, youth group activities, and doing errands for his father.

JANE DOE: Can't remember who she is or where she came from.

BEULAH: Goes around picking up trash and quoting unknown adages.

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MR. GREENTHUM: Walk-on part.

BOB: Tired, irritated postal carrier, who feels underappreciated, overworked and wishes the whole Christmas season would disappear.

Note on staging: Staging for this skit need not be elaborate. The police station can be a few desks/tables on one corner of the stage. The town square is center stage with an outdoor nativity scene displayed. The inn can be a door leading onto stage area with a sign over it reading "Merryville Inn." The radio station can be in a corner, a simple window booth, or even a table with a sign indicating it is WEVL.

Props: Mail, envelope, large mailbag, pole, trash bags, phone, notebook, pad, wastebasket, apron, Walkman with earphones, badge, sheep, paint, star, Jesus figurine.

Running Time: 20-30 minutes.

THE CHRISTMAS CASE

(AT RISE: GRANDMA MERRY takes her mail from POSTMAN BOB. MAYOR and MR. GREENTHUM are in a heated discussion in the corner of the town square. The DANCING TEEN is dancing in another corner.)

GRANDMA: Running a little late today aren't you, Postman Bob?

BOB: Yeah, what's it to you? All these mushy, gushy Christmas cards people feel obligated to send halfway around the world serve no purpose but to slow the mail delivery down. Just look at this ... *(Shows GRANDMA an envelope.)* ... how do they expect us to read addresses like this?

GRANDMA: Now just hold on there a minute, Mr. High-and-Mighty. I spent a small fortune buying my granddaughter a thing-a-watchit for her computer to put those little lines on mailing labels for the inn's mail. Don't go blaming me if other folks aren't as considerate.

BOB: Well fine! You just have yourself a real MERRY little Christmas, Grandma Grump!

GRANDMA: Same to you, Postman Crybaby! *(Slams inn's door.)*

(BOB walks further into town square where the TEEN knocks him over without realizing it. Bob picks himself up, shakes his fist at the exiting Teen and walks on. When he passes the MAYOR, he stops.)

BOB: Mayor, you are just the person I was looking for! I'm running a little late with my deliveries today. Would you mind taking your mail so I can cut on over to the police office and rectory?

MAYOR: IF you feel YOU have to.

BOB: Apparently I do or I wouldn't have asked you! Thanks to you, the whole post office is days behind. Fine idea you had, getting all these strangers coming into town at such a stressful time.

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BOB: *(Continued.)* So you just stand right here and I'll be right back. *(Starts to walk away.)* You wait too, Mr. Greenthum, and I'll bring yours, too!

(HE walks away, muttering to himself. MAYOR remains while MR. GREENTHUM steps up to examine the nativity. The TEEN enters, knocks over Mr. Greenthum and dances away. When the Mayor turns around, she sees Mr. Greenthum lying on the ground.)

MAYOR: Oh, for goodness sakes, Greenthum! Can't you even stand on your own two feet?

(BOB enters carrying a huge mailbag.)

BOB: Don't just stand there and yell at the man. Help him, Your Royal Highness.

MAYOR: Now you just look here! You are a government employee. I pay taxes. You work for me. So you better start showing a little respect for me or ...

BOB: Or what? You'll fire me? Fat chance, lady! No wonder this town's gone to pot! We have a complete goober head in the Mayor's office! Here's your stupid mail!

(HE shoves mailbag into MAYOR'S arms, throws MR. GREENTHUM his mail, and stomps off. Greenthum manages to get up and stumble offstage. Mayor sits down on a nearby park bench and begins to read a letter from the sack. Immediately, she dashes off with the mailbag dragging behind her. A Christmas SONG suddenly comes on as from a radio station. It fades out.)

RAD, RAD RUSS: There it is folks, by request from the little lady on the south side who is missing her hubby this year. Last minute Christmas shopping to do? Greenthum's General Store will be open until 7 o'clock this evening with a selection of great last-minute gifts.

End of Freeview

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