

THE SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS

By Rebecca Somoskey

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Synopsis

The Spirit of Giving appears before the Righteous Judge to bring charges against the Spirits of Selfishness, Greed, and Pride. Giving uses scenes from three modern homes to expose the evil spirits for who they really are. In the last scene, Giving shows himself as the true Spirit of Christmas by visiting the home of the Wright Family, then to Isaiah, the Prophet, and finally to the first Christmas in Bethlehem.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 M, 7 W, 6 Flexible speaking parts, additional angels, chorus)

Bailiff

The Righteous Judge

Spirits of Giving, Selfishness, Greed, Pride

Smith Family: *(middle class Mother, teenage Son and Daughter.)*

Jones Family: *(middle class Father, Mother, young Son and Daughter.)*

Upton Family: *(wealthy older Man and Wife.)*

Wright Family: *(middle class Father, Mother, young Son and Daughter.)*

Isaiah, The Prophet

Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels

Choir *(behind scenes.)*

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SETTING

A pulpit is placed in DSR before curtain to serve as the judge's bench. The Bailiff and four Spirits are seated in the front pew or row. The family scenes, on stage behind the curtains, take place in a simple living room set with a Christmas tree. Scenes may be changed for each family by changing accessories and packages under the tree and rearranging some of the furniture.

PROPS

Judge, choir robe and gavel.

Bailiff, suit.

Spirits, modern dress and wearing signs front and back with Giving, Selfishness, Greed, Pride.

Mrs. Smith, pad and pencil.

Smith Daughter, tree decorations.

Mrs. Jones, tree decorations.

Mr. Jones, newspaper.

Children, game.

Mr. Upton, golf club, polishing cloth, envelope with letter inside.

Mrs. Upton, coat, purse, gloves, scarf, packages.

Mr. Wright, Bible.

Isaiah, scroll with script written on it.

Small manger with straw and doll wrapped in blanket.

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SCENE 1

BAILIFF: *(Comes to front and faces audience.)* Ladies and gentlemen, will you please rise?

(JUDGE enters and takes place behind pulpit.)

BAILIFF: Court is now in session. The Honorable Righteous Judge presiding.

(JUDGE pounds with gavel.)

BAILIFF: Spirit of Giving versus Pride, Selfishness, and Greed. You may be seated.

JUDGE: *(Looking at GIVING.)* Approach the bench and state your case.

GIVING: Your Honor, I am the Spirit of Christmas.

SELFISHNESS, GREED, PRIDE: *(Jumping up quickly.)* Objection, Your Honor. We are the Spirits of Christmas.

JUDGE: *(Pounds gavel.)* Objection overruled. You're out of order. Be seated or I'll fine you for contempt.

(SELFISHNESS, GREED and PRIDE sit down.)

JUDGE: *(Turns to GIVING.)* You may proceed.

GIVING: Your Honor, I am the true Spirit of Christmas. I was born the same night long ago when Jesus came to earth as a baby in the manger. But these evil spirits have disguised themselves as good and are deceiving people. The world has gone crazy running after them and it is going to self destruct if something isn't done. So I'm here to defend myself and expose them for what they really are.

JUDGE: *(Turns to others.)* How do you plead to these charges?

(SELFISHNESS, GREED and PRIDE begin to argue about who should speak first.)

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JUDGE: *(Pounds gavel.)* Order in the court. One more outburst like that and you'll land in jail. Now, you be first. *(Indicates SELFISHNESS.)* You two sit down. *(Pauses while things settle.)* You may proceed.

SELFISHNESS: I'm not guilty, your Honor. This is the twentieth century. Everyone knows that Giving is ancient history. It's a dog eat dog world out there. You know, every man for himself. If you don't look out for number one, nobody else will. It's the only way to survive.

GIVING: *(Stands.)* Objection, Your Honor. Selfishness may be looking out for only himself but where does it all end?

JUDGE: Objection sustained. Proceed.

GIVING: I call as my witness the Smith Family. *(GIVING and SELFISHNESS sit down.)*

Curtain Opens

(MRS. SMITH is sitting at desk. DAUGHTER is putting decorations on tree and humming a secular tune.)

DAUGHTER: Oh, Mom. We had the best time at the mall today. Arts has all their new spring clothes in and there are three new outfits I've just gotta have. I went by the jewelry store and looked at the ring again. I hope you got the right one. It's the one with seven diamonds in a little cluster shaped like a flower. Is that the one you got for me?

MOTHER: *(Answers indifferently as SHE looks over her list.)* Yes, dear. Well, I have everything done on my list now except wrap the last of the gifts, bake four pies, make another batch of fudge, and put the turkey in to bake. I simply must call Grandma and Grandpa and wish them a Merry Christmas.

DAUGHTER: Aren't they coming to our house this year?

MOTHER: No, they said something about going with a group from their church to visit the rest home on Christmas Day.

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DAUGHTER: O-O-O-O gross! I wouldn't be caught dead in a depressing place like that, especially on Christmas. Did they send us our gifts? I hope they got me that leather jacket I want.

MOTHER: No, they said they would bring them over the day after Christmas.

DAUGHTER: (*Stomps HER foot and starts to whine.*) I wanted to wear my new leather jacket to the Christmas dance tomorrow night.

SON: (*Enters SR.*) Hey, Mom. Did Dad really get me that new car?

MOTHER: (*Impatiently.*) I don't know, Son. He said he would. Now, don't bother me. I'm too tired to worry about it now and I have too many other things to think about. I'll be so glad when Christmas is over.

DAUGHTER: You're gonna let me drive it aren't you, Brother dear?

SON: Are you kiddin'? And have a dent in the fender first thing?

DAUGHTER: (*Tauntingly to SON.*) All you want it for anyway is to impress the girls.

SON: Well! What about all your fancy clothes and diamond rings? Who are you tryin' to impress?

DAUGHTER: Don't you dare say anything about my clothes.

SON: And what if I do?

DAUGHTER: Mom, make him shut up.

MOTHER: (*Nervously.*) Stop that quarreling. You two are driving me crazy.

SON: You were already crazy.

MOTHER: Just for that I'm going to tell your dad to forget the car.

SON: Aw-w-w Mom, I need that car.

DAUGHTER: Where is Dad, anyway.

MOTHER: (*Wearily.*) Oh, I don't know. Working late I guess.

SON: (*Sarcastically.*) He's probably down at the tavern forgetting his troubles. Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea for me either. (*Starts toward door.*)

End of Freeview

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