

The Little Christmas Tree

by
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DEDICATION

For Lexi and Webster

STORY OF THE PLAY

It is late December and Mr. Barker has sold all of the trees on his lot except for one - a little Christmas tree. It is a snowy evening, and the lonely little tree listens to Christmas carols that are playing in the distance. All of a sudden, an angel appears. He is a rather gruff, street-wise angel-- an angel that used to grace the tops of Christmas trees at Henthorne's Department Store. But this angel has been thrown out because its wing is broken. To cheer the angel up, the little tree tells the angel about this book she's been reading: the Bible. She shares the story of the birth of Jesus and fixes the angel's wing. As other tossed out ornaments arrive and are fixed, Bernie, an assistant at Henthorne's Department Store whose job is at stake, struggles to find a Christmas tree for the window display. When he places the little Christmas tree in the window with the ornaments, we are reminded of the transformation that can take place during this magical time of year- the Christmas season.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(12 flexible plus extras)

NARRATOR: Storyteller, tries to remain professional.

MR. BARKER: Friendly salesperson.

FATHER: The girl's parent.

GIRL: Younger child who is ready to believe.

LITTLE TREE: A Christmas tree with many gifts.

ANGEL: A gruff appearance. S/he wears a dirty white gown,
has a broken wing and has a "tough guy" air.

TINSEL: Ornament.

RED BALL: Ornament.

REINDEER: Ornament.

MR. HENTHORNE: Owner of Henthorne's Department
Store.

BERNIE: Assistant to Mr. Henthorne.

CRYSTAL BALLERINA: A grateful ornament.

EXTRAS:

Christmas Trees – Can double as ornaments.

Customers – Individuals and families looking for a tree.

Ornaments – Other decorations in Scene 6.

People – Admirers of the window display in Scene 7.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE: *Although some roles are written with gender in mind, all roles are flexible. The ornaments may be as imaginative - or as simple - as time, talent and creativity will allow.*

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SETTING

The play takes place at an outdoor Christmas tree lot and the display window of Henthorne's Department Store. The stage is set with a series of boxes or a triangular platform, the peak of which is upstage. It is designed to allow performers to stand on the various levels, creating a Christmas tree effect for the final scene.

EFFECTS

At certain times in the script, Christmas carols can be heard in the background. Also, if possible, snow falls in Scene 2.
Sound effect of breaking glass.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: SFX: Christmas carols play in the background. We see several CHRISTMAS TREES leaning against the platforms. All the trees are tall, except for one, the LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE. Several INDIVIDUALS and FAMILIES are shopping for the trees. They shake the trees, measure them, and turn them this way and that. There is a great deal of conversation. The LITTLE TREE smiles proudly at the customers, but they don't notice. Gradually, the trees are purchased from MR. BARKER who wishes the customers a "Merry Christmas.")

NARRATOR: Good evening. And Merry Christmas to you all. It is late December and some people haven't bought their Christmas trees. Well, there they are...shopping away. And there aren't many trees left.

(The final CUSTOMERS take TREES and pay MR. BARKER. Only the LITTLE TREE and another TREE are left.)

BARKER: Merry Christmas.

CUSTOMERS: Merry Christmas to you!

NARRATOR: Finally, there were only two trees left on the entire corner. Mr. Barker, the tree salesman, was very tired. It was late and he wanted to go home to bed. He hung up a closed sign and was about to turn out the lights, when suddenly...

(A FATHER and GIRL enter.)

FATHER: Oh, no. It looks like you're closed. I was hoping we wouldn't be late.

BARKER: Oh, I suppose I can stay open for another few minutes. But I am afraid there are only two trees left. Not much of a selection.

FATHER: Well, let's see...

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NARRATOR: The father began to look at the two Christmas trees. He turned the larger one around. *(HE does.)* He measured its height. *(HE does.)* He checked its branches. *(HE does.)* And he nodded his approval. *(HE does.)* But his daughter looked at the Little Christmas Tree. She smiled. And the most amazing thing was, the Little Christmas Tree smiled right back at her. The girl was delighted. She said, "Hi."

GIRL: Hi.

NARRATOR: To her amazement, the Little Christmas Tree said, "Hello."

LITTLE TREE: Hello.

NARRATOR: The girl was thrilled. She clapped her hands and asked her father if they could buy the Little Christmas Tree.

GIRL: Please.

FATHER: Well, it is a very cute little tree.

(The LITTLE TREE smiles broadly.)

FATHER: *(Cont'd.)* But we need a larger tree. We need a tree that can hold lots of ornaments and can be seen from our windows.

NARRATOR: The girl understood the importance of a larger Christmas tree. But she still liked the tiny one. She waved at the Little Tree. *(GIRL does.)* And the tree waved back. *(TREE does.)* The girl was thrilled at this and told her father.

GIRL: Daddy, the little tree waved at me.

FATHER: It waved at you?

GIRL: It did. See?

FATHER: Oh, yes, I see the branches moving.

BARKER: Happens all the time. The wind catches the branches and the trees seem to be waving at you. It's kind of magical. But it is Christmas, the most magical time of year.

FATHER: Yes, it certainly is, isn't it? *(Points to the taller tree.)* We'll take this one.

End of Freeview

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