

Chapter Eleven Christmas

By
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DEDICATION

To my Uncle Bud and Aunt Roanne (Ro) Philbrook. Thank you for all the years of support and encouragement.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Prudy and Pruitt Prouty have sad news this Christmas. Their once successful business, Seagull Commander, is facing Chapter 11 bankruptcy. They are forced to lay off all their employees and liquidate their assets. Melvin Maldaput is the first employee they break the news to as he and his wife Miranda have become their friends. Last year Melvin was facing Chapter 7 bankruptcy and the Proutys were able to help him.

Melvin is upset because he was counting on using his Christmas bonus for a family trip. Adding to the tension, the Proutys get a surprise visit from their estranged son, Pete, whom they haven't seen in many years. Pete has been dating a real-life Princess named Adriana. Pete has invited the whole royal family to the Prouty estate for Christmas. Pete plans to propose to Adriana and wants to impress the royal family by exploiting his family's wealth.

The Maldaputs agree to help the Proutys convince the royals that they're still well-to-do. Will Pete and the royals discover the truth about the Proutys' bankruptcy and realize that true worth doesn't come from wealth or from people, but from God?

This is the sequel to *Chapter Seven Christmas*; however, the play stands on its own.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 6 w)

MELVIN MALDAPUT: A professional pianist who lost his job at the New York Philharmonic a year ago and was forced into Chapter 7 bankruptcy. He is now a top salesman for Seagull Commander.

MIRANDA MALDAPUT: Melvin's wife who recently had their first child. Miranda is a young Christian but growing stronger in the Lord every day.

PRUITT PROUTY: An old timer who invented a seagull call that repels seagulls. It made Pruitt and his wife Prudy overnight millionaires, but they are humble folk. Some people might confuse him with the duck dynasty fellers.

PRUDENCE PROUTY: Pruitt's wife and co-business partner in the Seagull Commander empire. She likes to keep her gun handy but keeps her faith closer.

DENNIS DINWIDDLE: Miranda and Tanya's father. Dennis died from a tragic accident along with Spoofy the cat. Dennis and Spoofy return as angels to look after the family. But are they really angels? *Spoofy is a stuffed animal. Unless of course you have a very talented cat who takes good direction.

DELORES DINWIDDLE: Miranda and Tanya's mother. She is loud, proud, and not taking slack from anyone.

TATE MOUNTAINWAY: Tanya's husband and founder of Mountainway Fat Be Gone Shakes.

TANYA MOUNTAINWAY: Miranda's sister who is harboring a secret.

PETE PROUTY: The estranged son of Prudy and Pruitt.

ADRIANA: The Princess of Westerhollow. She came to America for a fashion show and met Pete. The two fell in love. Or did they?

MARJORIE: The Queen of Westerhollow. She is snobby and everyone and everything is beneath her elegance.

HARRY: The King of Westerhollow. He wants only the best for his daughter.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: December 23rd, evening – The Maldaput Car

Scene 2: December 23rd, evening – The Prouty Mansion

Scene 3: December 24th, morning – The Prouty Mansion

Scene 4: December 24th, afternoon – The Prouty Mansion

INTERMISSION

Scene 5: December 24th, evening – The Prouty Mansion

SETTING

Maldaput Car: Two chairs, a fake steering wheel, and a bench serving as the back seat to hold a baby car seat.

The Parlor of the Prouty Mansion: An upscale parlor with a front door stage right and a kitchen door stage left. A window is downstage of the front door. A hallway is upstage left of a fireplace with mantle. A couch at center, two wingback chairs (one stage right and one stage left of the couch), a coffee table, a side table by the kitchen door, and a coat rack by the front door. Stage left is a large Christmas tree fully decorated. The parlor has been decorated with seagulls everywhere: Seagull paintings, seagull drapes, seagull-themed lamps, a seagull statue on the fireplace mantle. The more seagulls, the better.

*See additional production notes at the end of the script.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: A wingback chair. A rolling chalk/dry erase board stands to the right of the chair. Written on the chalkboard are the titles "Chapter Seven Christmas" (on top) and "Chapter Eleven Christmas" (below). DENNIS is sitting in the wingback chair wearing an angel costume and holding Spoofy. The cat has a halo over its head.)

DENNIS: Hello, and thank you for joining Spoofy and me this evening. Our story begins in "Chapter Seven Christmas" where Miranda Maldaput, my beautiful daughter, and Melvin, her husband, suffered financial ruin. As a result, they were facing Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Melvin was a proud man and didn't want his extended family to know that he was plum broke. Everyone was planning on celebrating Christmas at their house, but the big problem was, they didn't have a house anymore. Melvin solved this problem with the help of an old friend who was a real estate agent. He 'borrowed' an eight-million-dollar mansion for the Christmas holiday. Reluctantly, Miranda agreed to the pretenses that it was their new home and that Melvin had a new job with a Christian rock band. Melvin even convinced the next-door neighbors, Pruitt and Prudy Prouty, to pretend to be their servants. One lie kept leading to another and as it often does, the truth found its way out. However, in the process, Melvin and Miranda learned that we all have a debt to pay and there is only one person who can pay that debt, His name, of course, is Jesus.

(SFX: Cat meow.)

DENNIS: *(Cont'd. To Spoofy.)* I'm sorry you are bored, but I must explain all this, or the sequel will not make complete sense. *(Stands holding Spoofy and walks to the chalk board. He grabs a pointer stick and points at the "Chapter Eleven" title.)* Our new story is called "Chapter Eleven Christmas."

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(SFX: Cat meow.)

DENNIS: *(Cont'd. To Spoofy.)* Fine, but you're not acting very angelic. *(Back to audience.)* Let's begin, shall we? Dennis and Spoofy were dead to begin with. That's us! *(Points to Spoofy.)* This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story. One year has passed and Melvin and Miranda Maldaput have been summoned to the mansion of Pruitt and Prudy Prouty on 131 Profit Lane.

(DENNIS rolls the chalk/dry erase board away, revealing MELVIN and MIRANDA MALDAPUT sitting in their car. Melvin is driving and Miranda is in the passenger seat. A bench is in the back holding their baby car seat.)

MIRANDA: I wonder why Prudy and Pruitt have called us to their house so late?

MELVIN: I'm sure Pruitt wants to give me my Christmas bonus in person.

MIRANDA: We shouldn't assume that. I'm worried because it's ten o'clock at night. I hope it's not bad news.

MELVIN: Miranda, why do you have to do that? I'm sure everything is fine.

MIRANDA: Do you think Prudy is sick? She hasn't looked herself lately.

MELVIN: Why do people say that? She looks like Prudy to me. I can tell it's still her.

MIRANDA: It's a woman's intuition. We notice these things.

MELVIN: No, you imagine these things. First thing tomorrow morning I will go cash my check and pay off a small Christmas loan I took out.

MIRANDA: You took out a Christmas loan? I thought you said we would never get in debt again.

MELVIN: I had to, so I could purchase the big Christmas surprise. But don't worry, I'll pay it right off as soon as I get my Christmas bonus. Do you want to know the big Christmas surprise?

MIRANDA: No, I don't want to know if it's a surprise.

End of Freeview

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