

# CHRISTMAS ON THE BRINK

*Script by Jim Thomson*

*Music and Lyrics by Jim Thomson & Larry Nestor*



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# **Christmas on the Brink**

A Christmas musical for teens

Script by JIM THOMSON  
Music and lyrics by JIM THOMSON  
and LARRY NESTOR

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

“Christmas on the Brink” was written so that it could be performed by a large church or a smaller church that may not have as many resources for characters. Therefore, you can be flexible with the ages or gender of the characters. For instance, the angels can be adults, teens or kids, male or female, as may Slipstream. The parents can be older, taller kids, or teens or adults.

### **NARRATOR**

*Introduces the play.*

### **MR. WILSON (ED)**

*A dad who's worried about how to pay for Christmas.  
Has come to view Christmas as an obligation.*

### **MRS. WILSON (CARLA)**

*A mom who wants Christmas to be meaningful.*

### **CLIPPER and SALLY**

*Typical, good-natured kids.*

### **MAX**

*The neighborhood bully.*

### **DAVE**

*Clipper's friend.*

### **RAPHA and BENJAMIN**

*Obedient, though somewhat stuffy, angels.*

### **SLIPSTREAM**

*The mistake-prone but good-hearted angel.*

### **CREATOR**

*Off-stage voice.*

### **CHOIR**

“Christmas on the Brink” only has ten parts, plus the off-stage voice of the Creator. So, if you want to include all your kids, put them in the choir!

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **Staging**

There are three basic playing areas for the action of this play:

1. The Wilsons' living room, 2. Heaven, and 3. The Park.

To keep the pace of the play action moving without staging delays, we recommend dividing your staging area into three sections. Since the beginning and end of the play is centered in the Wilsons' living room, this can be your primary set. Heaven and the Park can be off to either side on the stage apron or the equivalent depending on your circumstances.

Lighting changes will direct the attention of the audience to the changing action scenes. If appropriate lighting equipment is not available the actors may freeze as new actors in a different setting command the audience's attention by their dialog.

### **Sets**

1. The Wilsons' living room: This is where the play begins. A couch, an end table with a lamp, a phone and a coffee table with a Nativity set should be sufficient. If you can add a desk for Ed Wilson to put his calculator on, that's great. If not, he can use the coffee table. You'll need the phone for a call that takes place later on in the play, and a figurine from the Nativity set for a hand prop in Scene Five.

2. Heaven: It will require little, if any, set preparation. Something suggestive of heaven will do. If you wish, you can rent a smoke machine to give the illusion of billowy clouds around the angels' feet.

3. The Park: All you really need is a bench of some kind, or you may add other park items, such as artificial plants.

### **Props**

1. In Scene Two you'll need: An "angel's phone," which can be a phone to which you can attach some cotton, in order to give it a cloud look. A book with "American Customs of the '60s" written on it. A trophy or bowl of some kind for the "Award for Excellent Effort." A trumpet. When the trumpet sounds, you can have Rapha blow it with a trumpet on stage (pretending or otherwise) or you can have it sounding off-stage.

2. In Scene Four you'll need: Money placed in Clipper's shoe.

2. In Scene Five you'll need: Treats and gifts. A dish towel.

### **Costumes**

Angels: Sheets. You can add halos and wings if you wish.

Slipstream: Begins wearing a sheet in the first scene, but changes to hippie garb. Slipstream will also need a pair of socks that are long enough to tie around his head. A brightly colored pair makes them more noticeable and fun.

Everyone else: Everyday clothing.

### **Transitions**

The play begins with the song, "What a Lot of Things to Do." If possible, highlight the Choir or Singer with lights and leave the playing area dark. When the song ends, the Narrator comes out front and introduces the play. Bring up the lights on the playing area as the Narrator departs and action begins with Mr. Wilson alone, figuring on his calculator.

In Scene One, the action begins with the Wilsons. But then the action switches to Heaven. "Freeze" the Wilsons, and darken, if possible, their part of the stage. Have the angels come to the edge of the stage and have their conversation while they're viewing the darkened and "frozen" Wilsons.

Slipstream will need to change into hippie clothes. If possible, Slipstream could be wearing his hippie clothes under his angel clothes to make for an easier change backstage. When the Choir sings "Tell Them," darken the rest of the stage. This gives Slipstream time to change. Don't forget the socks!

After the song, the action continues with the Angels in the same costumes, but Slipstream is in hippie garb. You'll need the book on the '60s, the trumpet and the trophy for the Award for Excellent Effort.

The other transitions between scenes may be best accomplished by lighting changes and by using the Choir to move the action along as needed.

**SONGS**

*(In order of appearance)*

- 1. What A Lot of Things to Do**
- 2. Tell Them**
- 3. Do You Look Like An Angel?**
- 4. It's So Good to Be with You**

1           *(Lights up on choir)*

2  
3   **SONG:**   *What A Lot of Things to Do*

4   **CHOIR:**   *(Sings.)*

5           Sleigh bells ringing, church choir singing  
6           Gotta get a suit that's new  
7           Maybe one that's brown or blue.  
8           Present buying, ribbon tying  
9           What a lot of things to do.

10  
11           There's a party Thursday evening at the Russells'  
12           Tuesday night our Peggy's in a play  
13           To finish shopping, I'll just have to hustle  
14           Why is that stupid driver in my way?

15  
16           Party going, gift list growing,  
17           Can't afford this all, can you?  
18           Pocketbook is running through.  
19           Picture taking, cookie baking,  
20           How much longer 'til we're through?

21  
22           What a lot of things to do!  
23           Don't know if there's time,  
24           Don't know if there's time for you  
25           Don't know if there's time,  
26           Don't know if there's time for you.

27  
28           *(Lights fade on choir, come up on NARRATOR Center Stage.)*

29  
30   **NARRATOR:**   This is a story about the Wilsons, a family that  
31           might be like some families you know. To the Wilsons,  
32           especially Mr. Wilson, Christmas has become a curious  
33           blend of beauty, tradition, obligation and debt. What the  
34           Wilson's don't know is that someone is watching them as  
35           they struggle through "Christmas on the Brink."



**SCENE 1***(Center Stage)**(ED WILSON is seated at his desk, figuring on calculator.)*

**ED:** Why do I do this? Every year it seems like I gotta spend more and more money. Do I have to buy gifts for *all* my cousins, for Pete's sake? Terrific. I should get this paid off by Christmas 2034. And . . . *And!* Carla might lose her job! How's that?

*(SALLY and CLIPPER come in and sit down, flopping down on chairs.)*

**SALLY and CLIPPER:** Hi, Dad.

**ED:** Hi, guys.

**CLIPPER:** Watcha doin'? Payin' bills?

**ED:** No, I'm trying to figure out how to have Christmas this year.

**SALLY:** That's easy. Let's just have a simple Christmas, Dad. Not like last year, when everybody was upset.

**ED:** It's not that easy to have a simple Christmas. *(SALLY coughs and sneezes.)* And don't you go gettin' sick on me. I'm already makin' monthly payments on our doctor's BMW.

**CLIPPER:** Hey, Dad, guess what?

*(CARLA enters, puts down bag, takes off coat. Comes up behind ED and puts her hand on his shoulder)*

**SALLY and CLIPPER:** Hi, Mom.

**CARLA:** Hi, kids. Well, Ed, whatcha doin'?

**ED:** Trying to figure out Christmas. What do you think we should get your brother and his wife this year?

**CARLA:** I don't know. What did we get them last year?

**ED:** That's not the problem. It's what they got *us* last year. Remember that electric foot massager?

**CARLA:** Well, it's gonna have to be something inexpensive, that's for sure. Things don't look any better at work. We could be eating rice and beans here pretty soon.

1 ED: I know, I *know*.  
 2 CLIPPER: Hey, Dad, guess what?  
 3 ED: What?  
 4 CLIPPER: My teacher, Mr. Johnson? He fell out of his chair  
 5 again today while he was scratching his dandruff.  
 6 ED: How many times is that this year?  
 7 CLIPPER: Three, I think. (*SALLY gets up and stands by ED and*  
 8 *CARLA.*)  
 9 ED: So help me here, Carla. Got any ideas for a gift for your  
 10 brother?  
 11 CARLA: Like I said, something inexpensive.  
 12 ED: Saying “get something inexpensive” doesn’t help me  
 13 decide on what to . . . (*SALLY takes a deep breath, stares open-*  
 14 *mouthed into space, then sneezes loudly.*)  
 15 ED: Good heavens. I thought she was going to turn into  
 16 Frankenstein’s wife or something. So — help me here,  
 17 Carla . . .  
 18 (*Lights fade on living room setting — come up on “Heaven”*  
 19 *setting.*)  
 20

## 21 SCENE 2

22 (*Heaven — Stage Apron or off to Stage Left or Right*)  
 23

24 RAPHA: Oh, Benjamin, come over here for a moment. Look.  
 25 BEN: What is it, Rapha?  
 26 RAPHA: It’s the Wilsons.  
 27 BEN: Arguing over how much they’re obligated to buy at  
 28 Christmas again? Sad. But they mean well.  
 29 RAPHA: We really should send someone down to tell them.  
 30 BEN: True. But whom?  
 31 RAPHA: I almost hesitate to bring this up. But Creator has  
 32 said that the angel Slipstream is to be given the next  
 33 assignment.  
 34 BEN: But he . . .  
 35 RAPHA: Yes?

- 1 BEN: He's so unpredictable.  
 2 RAPHA: True.  
 3 BEN: And so . . . mistake-prone.  
 4 RAPHA: I understand.  
 5 BEN: But Rapha, I like him, nonetheless. Even though  
 6 Slipstream makes many mistakes he's very sincere. And  
 7 he tries so hard.  
 8 RAPHA: I agree. But it doesn't really matter what we think.  
 9 Creator has spoken. And we know he will be more than  
 10 sufficient when Slipstream is insufficient.  
 11 BEN: Which will be often.  
 12 RAPHA: (*Picks up phone.*) Yes — Department of Angelic  
 13 Assignments, please. Thank you. No, I don't mind being  
 14 patient. Yes, I know patience is a fruit of the Spirit. (*Pause*)  
 15 Yes. Is this the Director? I'm inquiring about the status of  
 16 the angel Slipstream. Is he available for assignment? Yes,  
 17 I'll wait. Yes, I know that patience is a fruit of the Spirit!  
 18 (*Rolls his eyes. Pause*) He did what? . . . He wouldn't! . . . He  
 19 shouldn't! . . . He couldn't! . . . He did! . . . But he's still  
 20 available? . . . Well, yes, I suppose he's still the one we  
 21 want. Send him over. . . . Thank you.  
 22 BEN: What happened?  
 23 RAPHA: You won't believe it. Well, maybe you will.  
 24 Slipstream was caught washing his socks in the waters of  
 25 the River of Life!  
 26 BEN: No!  
 27 RAPHA: Verily. But here he comes now. (*SLIPSTREAM enters,*  
 28 *wearing a pair of socks around his head.*)  
 29 BEN: Why are those socks around your . . .  
 30 SLIPSTREAM: Miado, the Angel of Discipline, told me I had  
 31 to wear them. Part of my discipline for washing my socks  
 32 in the . . .  
 33 RAPHA: Yes, yes. Don't tell us. (*Clears throat*) Angel  
 34 Slipstream, Creator has requested that you be assigned  
 35 to planet Earth.

1 **SLIPSTREAM:** Really? How exciting! *(He excitedly lifts hands,*  
2 *accidentally hitting BEN.)* Excuse me. What's my assignment?

3 **RAPHA:** I'll be meeting with you later to explain the details.  
4 In the meantime, get the book from the Library of Wisdom  
5 on "American Customs of the '90s." Prepare yourself.  
6 You're being sent in two days.

7 *(Lights fade on scene action, come up on CHOIR.)*  
8

9 **SONG:** *Tell Them*

10 **CHOIR:** *(Sings.)*

11 Tell them, just go and tell them.  
12 There's a message on the line.  
13 Tell them, this Christmas season,  
14 God's got something on His mind.

15  
16 There is a reason for Christmas season,  
17 And if you're so inclined,  
18 You can look for joy in Jesus,  
19 Mister, he ain't hard to find.  
20

21 Tell them, there is a reason ...  
22 Tell them, it's Jesus' season ...  
23 Tell them, there is a reason ...  
24 Tell them, it's Jesus' season ...  
25 Tell them!  
26

27 *(Lights fade on CHOIR, come up on "Heaven." RAPHA and*  
28 *BENJAMIN are standing up, waiting for SLIPSTREAM.)*

29 **VOICE:** The window of heaven is now open for Slipstream,  
30 case number 240M. One minute to departure.

31 **RAPHA:** Where is Slipstream?

32 **BEN:** We won't have time to make the presentation!  
33 *(SLIPSTREAM runs up in '60s garb.)*

34 **RAPHA:** What on earth?

35 **SLIPSTREAM:** No, man, you mean, "What in heaven?" We're

1           in heaven, man!

2   **RAPHA:** Where — in heaven — did you get those clothes?

3   **SLIPSTREAM:** From Angelic Requisition, you know, man,  
4           groovy!

5   **RAPHA:** But . . .

6   **SLIPSTREAM:** Hey man, you should know. Like you told me  
7           to read this book (*Shows book*) about American customs.  
8           Well, tah dah! I did. Far out, huh? Let's go. I'm ready to  
9           boogie.

10   **RAPHA:** (*Looking at book*) American Customs of the '60s!  
11           Slipstream, you took out the wrong book!

12   **VOICE:** Thirty seconds to departure.

13   **BEN:** There's no time to change anything now. I must make  
14           the presentation. (*Clears throat.*) Angel Slipstream, even  
15           though you are being disciplined, the Creator, in his grace,  
16           has deemed you worthy to receive this great honor. He  
17           has given to you the (*Trumpet*) Award for Excellent Effort.  
18           Given once a millennium to honor all those who endeavor,  
19           with excellent effort, to do good.

20   **VOICE:** Five seconds.

21   **SLIPSTREAM:** Oh wow! I don't know what to say. I've never  
22           been given anything like this before, ever! I'll cherish it  
23           forever! Thanks, man! (*Hugs RAPHA, BEN. Drops book on*  
24           *BEN's foot, drops trophy . . .*)

25   **RAPHA:** Yes, well, when you get to earth, you must . . . Here!  
26           Don't forget this! (*Throws book after SLIPSTREAM.*  
27           *SLIPSTREAM disappears into next scene. Lights fade, come up*  
28           *on "Park" setting.*)

29

30

### SCENE 3

31

(*The Park — Stage Apron or off to Stage Left or Right*)

32

33   (*SALLY is sitting on a bench, praying. Then she begins to cry.*

34   *SLIPSTREAM tumbles into the scene, begins walking past*

35   *SALLY, then stops and looks on with compassion.)*

- 1 SLIPSTREAM: Wow, man, like what's happening?  
 2 SALLY: (*Looking up*) What?  
 3 SLIPSTREAM: I said, "Wow, man, like what's happening?"  
 4 SALLY: Do I know you?  
 5 SLIPSTREAM: No, man, you do not. My name is Slipstream.  
 6 SALLY: What are you doing here?  
 7 SLIPSTREAM: What am I doing here? I see you are crying.  
 8 I wonder, "Like man, what's wrong?" So I say, "Wow, man,  
 9 like what's happen . . ."  
 10 SALLY: What are you, a dweeb or something?  
 11 SLIPSTREAM: No, I don't think so. What is a dweeb?  
 12 (*SLIPSTREAM turns to look at his book.*) Dimwit, dum-dum,  
 13 dunce. . . . No, I am not a dweeb. There is no such thing  
 14 as a dweeb. Where did you find that word? Are you a  
 15 dweeb?  
 16 SALLY: Well, it might not be in your little book there, but  
 17 you're a dweeb, all right. Get lost.  
 18 SLIPSTREAM: Get lost? How could I do that? Wherever I go,  
 19 I'll know where I am. Wow! Far out! You are a dweeb, too!  
 20 We are dweebs united! Right on, sister!  
 21 SALLY: Oh, for heaven's sake. Just get out of here. Get lost.  
 22 Please.  
 23 SLIPSTREAM: But you were crying. And you have a nasty  
 24 cough. And the Creator has sent me to . . . I mean, I've  
 25 been . . . I mean . . . (*Looks at book.*) May I help you, baby?  
 26 Let's have a rope session.  
 27 SALLY: Rope session?  
 28 SLIPSTREAM: (*Looks at book again.*) Rap session!  
 29 SALLY: (*Stands up to leave.*) You need to learn how to talk.  
 30 Listen, uh — what was your name again? Upstream?  
 31 SLIPSTREAM: My name is Slipstream, man.  
 32 SALLY: Listen, Slipstream. I must leave.  
 33 SLIPSTREAM: But your cough . . .  
 34 SALLY: I'll be all right. *Please* don't worry about me. Listen,  
 35 man, I'll see ya' next time I pass through Nerdville.

1 **SLIPSTREAM:** If I'm there, I'll see you, too. Heavy. Later,  
 2 man. You gotta boogie. Peace, brother. Oh — I hope your  
 3 cough gets better. (*SLIPSTREAM exits, looks up to heaven,*  
 4 *and shrugs, with his "I tried" look.*)  
 5 (*Lights fade to dark, a few bars of music on a piano or singing*  
 6 *by CHOIR to indicate a passage of time. Then lights come up*  
 7 *again on the same "Park" setting.*)

#### 8 9 SCENE 4

10  
11 (*CLIPPER and his friend DAVE are walking home from*  
 12 *school.*)

13 **CLIPPER:** Could you believe old man Selmer today?

14 **DAVE:** Is he weird or what?

15 **SLIPSTREAM:** (*Walking up to them*) Hi, Clipper. Peace,  
 16 brother.

17 **CLIPPER:** Hi! Huh? (*Turns around.*) Do I know you? (*To DAVE*)  
 18 Do I want to?

19 **SLIPSTREAM:** My name is Slipstream.

20 **CLIPPER:** Then how did you know . . .

21 **MAX:** (*Entering*) Hey, Clipperhead. Where do you think you're  
 22 going?

23 **CLIPPER:** Home, Max.

24 **MAX:** (*Nasty, he's a bully.*) To see your Mommy and Daddy? I  
 25 don't think so, Snipperbrain. I think it's going to cost you  
 26 some money to get home today. Let me have your wallet  
 27 so I can check out your financial condition.

28 **DAVE:** (*Shoves MAX.*) Leave him alone, Max.

29 **MAX:** Leave him alone, Max. Stay outta this, dweeby. (*Shoves*  
 30 *DAVE back.*) Your wallet, Clip.

31 **CLIPPER:** I don't even have a wallet.

32 **MAX:** Yeah, right. And my sister's gonna go one-on-one with  
 33 Michael Jordan.

34 **SLIPSTREAM:** Please release the young man, Mr. Max.

35 **MAX:** Who are you? What happened? Is the bazoottyhead

**factory working overtime or something? You want me to release the young man? Yeah, I'll release him, all right, as soon as I . . .***MAX throws a punch at CLIPPER. SLIPSTREAM blocks the punch. MAX throws another punch with the other hand, which SLIPSTREAM also blocks. MAX looks dumbfounded, then looking back at SLIPSTREAM, runs away.*

**SLIPSTREAM:** *(Shouting after him)* Thank you for releasing Clipper, Mr. Max. Groovy.

**CLIPPER:** All right! Thanks, man. How'd you do that?  
Karate?

**SLIPSTREAM:** That particular far outness was done by the Creator, man.

**CLIPPER:** Well, whatever it was, I don't think Max will be bothering *me* for a while. You sure put the fear of God into him.

**SLIPSTREAM:** Right on.

**CLIPPER:** Well, Slipstream, I think I owe you a burger. Come on, Dave. I'm buying. *(Takes money from his shoe.)* Today a significant victory has been won for the Clipper by Slipstream! Heavyweight champion of the world! *(He lifts SLIPSTREAM's hand. SLIPSTREAM stumbles.)*  
*(Lights fade, come up on living room setting Center Stage.)*

**SCENE 5**

*(Living room setting)*

(ED and CARLA are standing close by SALLY who is lying quietly on the sofa, blankets over her.)

**CARLA:** *(Holding phone)* OK, doctor, thanks for calling. We'll be in touch. Thank you. Bye. *(Hangs up phone.)*

**ED:** So what did he say?

**CARLA:** That the tests were inconclusive. Ed, I'm scared. My youngest sister, Diane, died of a lung disease when she was about Sally's age.

**ED:** I know, honey, I know. It'll be all right. It's probably just



1           a very bad cold.

2   CARLA: Then why didn't they make that diagnosis? It may  
3           be pneumonia!

4   ED: I don't know.

5   CARLA: And why didn't she tell us when she first started  
6           feeling seriously ill?

7   ED: She probably didn't want us to worry.

8   CARLA: Yeah — about the bill!

9   ED: Now, come on, Carla.

10   CARLA: No, Ed. Your concern about how you're going to look  
11           on Christmas has this whole family under the gun. If it's  
12           such a big deal, maybe you just shouldn't buy anything  
13           at all for anybody!

14   ED: But I . . . (*CARLA leaves in anger. ED sits down, buries his*  
15           *face in his hands. SLIPSTREAM and CLIPPER burst into the*  
16           *room. ED quickly sits up.*)

17   CLIPPER: Dad! Guess what happened on the way home from  
18           school?

19   ED: What? Who on earth is this?

20   CLIPPER: That's what I want to tell you about! This is  
21           Slipstream, and . . .

22   SLIPSTREAM: Nice to meet you, Mr. Wilson. Right on.

23   ED: (*Looking at him quizzically*) Nice to meet you, too.

24   CLIPPER: Anyway, Dad, I brought Slipstream home for  
25           dinner. You know Max, that bully who lives over on  
26           Fourth? Well, on the way home from school today . . .

27   ED: Uh, Clipper, can I talk to you for a second? Excuse us,  
28           please, Mainstream.

29   SLIPSTREAM: Slipstream.

30   ED: Yes. Slipstream. Excuse us.

31   SLIPSTREAM: Far out, Mr. Wilson. (*ED and CLIPPER leave to*  
32           *position off to the side Downstage Right. SLIPSTREAM moves*  
33           *over to SALLY, kneels and prays.*)

34   ED: Listen, Clipper — Sally is pretty sick. I'm not sure we  
35           should have somebody over right now. Besides, he looks

1           so weird! What's that he's got on his head?

2     **CLIPPER:** A pair of socks, I think.

3     **ED:** Well, I don't know if we can trust him or not. Besides, I  
4           don't think we can afford to feed him right now.

5     **CLIPPER:** But Dad! Wait 'til I tell you what he did for me on  
6           the way home from school today!

7     **ED:** I'm sorry, Clipper. He's going to have to leave.

8     **CLIPPER:** But Dad . . . *(ED pays no attention to CLIPPER but  
9           goes directly back to Stage Center. SLIPSTREAM gets up.)*

10           Slipstream, I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

11    **CLIPPER:** No, Dad! Let him stay! Please!

12    **ED:** *(Admonishing)* Clipper . . .

13    **SLIPSTREAM:** It's all right, Clipper. It's time for me to go.  
14           I'll see you around, man.

15    **CLIPPER:** Slipstream! *(ED holds CLIPPER back. SLIPSTREAM  
16           walks off a few steps. He stops and prays, looking up to heaven.)*

17    **SLIPSTREAM:** Oh, Creator! I've failed again. I'll never be  
18           able to tell them about Christmas and how you came to  
19           earth because you love them so much.

20           *(Lights fade down on scene, come up on CHOIR.)*

21

22    **SONG:** *Do You Look Like An Angel?*

23    **CHOIR:** *(Sings.)*

24           Do you look like an angel—

25           Do you act like an angel?

26           Can you be trusted to show the world  
27           the way?

28           Tell me,

29           Is there hope, precious angel?

30           Any hope, precious angel?

31           When no one seems to know

32           That Jesus loves them so.

33           Is Christmas more than show,

34           More than show, precious angel?

35           Do you look like an angel?

1           **Do you act like an angel?**  
 2           **Can you be trusted to show the world**  
 3           **the way?**

4  
 5           *(Lights fade on CHOIR, come up on living room Center Stage*  
 6           *again. In the Wilsons' living room, ED thoughtfully picks up a*  
 7           *Nativity scene figurine, while CLIPPER looks on. SALLY quietly*  
 8           *comes up behind ED.)*

9   **SALLY: Dad?**

10   **ED: Sally! What are you doing? Lay back down — you're ill!**

11   **SALLY: Not anymore.**

12   **ED: Sally, come on, now, lay back down and rest. We all want**  
 13       **to make sure you get well.** *(CARLA enters, drying her hands*  
 14       *on a dish towel.)*

15   **CARLA: Ed, what's Sally doing up?**

16   **ED: I've been trying to get her to lay back down, but . . .**

17   **SALLY: But I'm not sick! Listen — Slipstream prayed for me.**  
 18       **I heard him. I was asleep, but I woke up while he was**  
 19       **praying. He called God his Creator. But you want to know**  
 20       **something else? I met Slipstream around two weeks ago**  
 21       **when I was in the park. I was rude and mean to him. I**  
 22       **called him names. Mom, can you believe that?** *(SALLY*  
 23       *begins to cry.)* **Slipstream knelt down beside me and prayed**  
 24       **that his Creator would make me well, even after I'd said**  
 25       **all those mean things!** *(SALLY hugs CARLA and cries on her*  
 26       *shoulder.)*

27   **ED: Sally, don't get all upset. You need to lay back down now**  
 28       **before you get too tired and . . . You met Slipstream in the**  
 29       **park?**

30   **SALLY: Yes.**

31   **ED: Why didn't you tell us?**

32   **SALLY: Because it was no big deal. He just talked funny and**  
 33       **acted like he was kind of out of place. I just thought he**  
 34       **was some nerd. But after I thought about it, it seemed like**  
 35       **he really cared about me — that he wanted to help me.**

- 1     **CLIPPER:** Dad, there's something else . . .
- 2     **CARLA:** *(Feels SALLY's forehead.)* You know, Ed, she does feel  
3         cool.
- 4     **ED:** Let me get this straight. You met this oddball in the park  
5         and figured he was some kinda nerd, but a nerd who was  
6         concerned about you?
- 7     **SALLY:** That's right.
- 8     **ED:** Why did he figure you needed help?
- 9     **SALLY:** Well . . . because he saw me crying, I guess.
- 10    **CARLA:** What were you crying about?
- 11    **SALLY:** Do I have to tell you?
- 12    **ED:** Yes, you do, young lady.
- 13    **SALLY:** Dad, I was crying because I was feeling really weak  
14         and sick, and I knew we didn't have the money to go to  
15         the doctor and still have enough money for Christmas.
- 16    **ED:** What? You didn't think we could afford to take you to  
17         the doctor? *(ED looks over to CARLA who puts her hands on*  
18         *her hips and gives him an "I told you so" look. ED walks over*  
19         *to SALLY and hugs her.)* Oh, honey, I'm so sorry. How could  
20         I get everything so fouled up?
- 21    **CLIPPER:** Dad — that's not all.
- 22    **ED:** What, Clipper?
- 23    **CLIPPER:** I've been tryin' to tell you guys. There really is  
24         something about Slipstream. Dad, remember what I was  
25         trying to tell you before about what Slipstream did to Max?  
26         He blocked Max's punches with his hands, right in front  
27         of my face, like it was nothin'! It was unbelievable! And  
28         there's something else — he knew my name before I ever  
29         saw him!
- 30    **ED:** So who — or what — is Slipstream?
- 31    **CARLA:** I don't know, but I think we'd better find out.
- 32    **SALLY:** Mom — Dad — do you think he could be an angel?
- 33    **ED:** Dressed like a refugee from the '60s?
- 34    **CARLA:** Look what he's already done for our family. He  
35         helped Clipper keep from being beaten up. He somehow



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