

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

by Kimberlee Mendoza



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**A comedy about a
family gathering gone goofy**

by Kimberlee Mendoza

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANGEL – Happy angel (16-30, F)

DEMON – Arrogant demon (16-30, M)

PETE – Grumpy grandpa (60s, M)

EVE – Pete’s happy daughter (30s, F)

MEREDITH – Pete’s stuck-up daughter (18-21, F)

DENISE – Meredith’s nerdy stepdaughter (12-14, F)

SAMMY – Pete’s hippie son (30-40, M)

KALLIE – Sammy’s hippie wife (30-40, F)

RAIN – Sammy’s daughter (14-16, F)

LEAF – Sammy’s daughter (12-14, F)

DAISY – Sammy’s daughter (10-12, F)

CLAY – Sammy’s son (6-10, M)

NELL – Neighbor (30s, F)

JEFF – Nell’s brother (16-18, M)

TERA – Nell’s daughter (5-8, F)

PAX – Nell’s son (12-14, M)

MICHELLE – Another neighbor (8-12, F)

EXTRAS FOR VIGNETTES – Carolers (Girl 1 and Man 1),
Girls 2 and 3, Man 1 and Woman, Employee 1 and 2

PRODUCTION NOTES

Set 1: The main set takes place in modern day times in an apartment. The set is the dining room and part of the living room. An oblong table that seats seven with a centerpiece on top should be placed at Stage Right. A loveseat and a coffee table are at Center Stage. A rocking chair or recliner is located at Stage Left. Just past the chair is an outside door. A hallway exit is located at Stage Right. A Christmas tree should be positioned against the Upstage wall.

Set 2: On the floor just below your stage, set a manger that is easy to move.

Set 3: Designate several places throughout your audience where actors can move for vignettes. You won't need a specific set, just a location.



Props

Act I, Scene 1 – Manger scene, scarf, checkbook, phone book, cell phone (GPS).

Act I, Scene 2 – Tree décor, newspaper, small ball, money, purse, suitcases, cloth napkins, plates, salt and pepper shakers, silverware, bowls of food.

Act I, Scene 3 – Santa hat, compact.

Act II, Scene 1 – Bowls of food.

Act II, Scene 2 – Rocks.

ACT I

Scene 1

(Music begins to play and a soft light comes up on MARY and JOSEPH positioned in the middle of the manger. ANGEL enters and stands over them. DEMON enters and slinks around audience, ending in front by ANGEL.)

ANGEL: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth!

DEMON: Peace? I hate peace!

ANGEL: Get used to it, Damien. Jesus just split time. Turned B.C. into A.D. Just brought hope to a world that was without hope. *(Sings)* You're going to lose.

DEMON: *(Arrogantly)* That's Damien, the High Demon of Deception. If you're going to address me, use my full title.

ANGEL: How about I just call you cockroach and be done with it?

DEMON: Fine, call me Damien. That doesn't change the fact that my skills will win out in the end. My master has sent me to deceive the people. You watch ... Years from now, people won't even remember this night existed.

ANGEL: How could they forget? It's a miracle. The God of the Universe sent his Son to earth as a baby. Hel-lo. That's, like, incredible.

DEMON: But the human mind is so easily toyed with. It doesn't take much to distract them. And, well, face it: I'm just good at what I do.

ANGEL: I don't believe you.

DEMON: People don't believe I exist or that you exist, but we're still here, aren't we? Just watch, my feathered friend. This will all be a hazy memory. *(Lights out. ACTORS position themselves around the room in their appropriate vignette. DEMON claps by carolers and lights pop on. Carolers enter singing a carol a cappella. GIRL 1 cuts them off before they start the next verse.)*

GIRL 1: Wait! Do we have to keep caroling? I'm cold, and I just want to go home. No one really likes us anyways. Why are we even out here?

1 **MAN 1:** She's right. My back is killing me. Let's just go home.
 2 *(DEMON claps. Lights out. GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 enter.)*
 3 **GIRL 2:** Yes! There's one left. *(Lifts scarf in the air just as GIRL*
 4 *3 grabs it.)* Hey! I saw it first.
 5 **GIRL 3:** I have to have this.
 6 **GIRL 2:** So do I.
 7 **GIRL 3:** Not as much as me.
 8 **GIRL 2:** Want to bet?
 9 **GIRL 3:** It's the only thing my mother wants for Christmas.
 10 Let go!
 11 **GIRL 2:** Well, it's my grandma's favorite color. You let go!
 12 **GIRL 3:** Give it to me.
 13 **GIRL 2:** No! It's mine. *(DEMON claps. Lights out. MAN 2 is sitting*
 14 *in a chair adding up his checkbook. WOMAN 1 walks in.)*
 15 **MAN 2:** It looks like I'm going to have to take out a loan out
 16 on the house in order to buy gifts this year.
 17 **WOMAN 1:** Well, it's important that the kids have gifts for
 18 Christmas, so go ahead. Do what you have to. What
 19 would Christmas be without gifts? We need to make
 20 Christmas special. *(DEMON claps hands. Lights out. He*
 21 *walks to EMPLOYEES.)*
 22 **EMPLOYEE 1:** So you think you're ready for your first shift?
 23 The doors open in a few minutes.
 24 **EMPLOYEE 2:** Yeah, I think so. Ready or not, here they
 25 come, right?
 26 **EMPLOYEE 1:** *(Starts to walk away, but turns back.)* Oh, and
 27 make sure when you greet the customers you don't say,
 28 "Merry Christmas!" We wouldn't want to offend anyone.
 29 **EMPLOYEE 2:** Of course. *(Pause)* Happy holidays!
 30 **DEMON:** Perfect. *(DEMON claps. Lights out. ALL exit except*
 31 *ANGEL and DEMON. ANGEL is on edge of stage, as if looking*
 32 *down on earth.)*
 33 **ANGEL:** *(Singing)* Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of
 34 Israel ... *(Hums. DEMON enters.)*
 35 **DEMON:** You look happy.
 36 **ANGEL:** I should be. After all, the celebration of Christ's
 37 birth is tomorrow!
 38 **DEMON:** Not that anyone would know it.

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- 1 ANGEL: What's that supposed to mean? (*Rolls eyes.*) Not that
 2 I care. You shouldn't even be here. Why are you here? I
 3 haven't seen you in two thousand and _____ (*Insert*
 4 *current year*) years.
- 5 DEMON: And fifteen seconds, but who's counting? (*Smiles.*) I
 6 just came from going to and fro across America and,
 7 well, I don't think you'd like what I saw — though I'm
 8 pretty happy right now. (*Dramatic pause*) Aren't you even
 9 going to ask me what I saw?
- 10 ANGEL: (*Dryly*) What did you see?
- 11 DEMON: That no one even celebrates Christmas as your
 12 master's holiday anymore, but they celebrate it the way
 13 we want. And for that, we're winning the battle, my
 14 dear. I did it. I did it. I said I would, and I did it. Boo-
 15 hoo for you! So sorry! I think you dropped this, (*Arranges*
 16 *fingers into L shape and hands it to her*) Loooo-ser.
- 17 ANGEL: Go away, Damien. You don't know what you're
 18 talking about.
- 19 DEMON: You want to bet a wager on it? That I'm very, very,
 20 oh-so-very right?
- 21 ANGEL: I'm an angel. I don't believe in betting. Shoo, you
 22 disgusting vermin!
- 23 DEMON: OK, OK. No prize, just pride.
- 24 ANGEL: I'm an angel. I don't do pride.
- 25 DEMON: (*Frustrated*) Fine! Do it to prove me wrong. You
 26 know you want that.
- 27 ANGEL: I don't need to prove anything.
- 28 DEMON: (*Really frustrated*) Fine! Do it, and I promise I won't
 29 bother you for the rest of eternity.
- 30 ANGEL: Promise, huh?
- 31 DEMON: Cross my fingers and hope to die.
- 32 ANGEL: Stick a pitchfork in your eye. (*Pause*) It isn't like
 33 your promise means anything anyways. You're the high
 34 demon of deception, which makes you the master of
 35 lies.
- 36 DEMON: Wow, that's the nicest thing anyone has ever said to
 37 me. (*Dramatically*) Say it again! Please!
- 38 ANGEL: Go away!

1 EVE: Next year we should have Christmas back home in
2 Ohio. This California Christmas is crazy silly. There's
3 no snow! I heard on the news that back home, two feet
4 just fell this morning.
5 PETE: Uh-huh.
6 EVE: I miss having a white Christmas.
7 PETE: (*Still reading paper; mumbles.*) That's nice, dear.
8 EVE: Dad, are you even listening to me? (*The ball hits*
9 *HENRY's paper.*)
10 PETE: (*Jumps up. Gruffly*) Crazy kid!
11 EVE: Now Dad, Clay is your grandson. Don't be mean. You'll
12 scar him for life.
13 PETE: (*Voice rising*) A spanking would do him some good!
14 EVE: (*Embarrassed*) Dad, shush! Kallie will hear you.
15 PETE: Fine!
16 EVE: They don't believe in that.
17 PETE: I don't believe I need medicine, but the doctors do, so
18 I take it. (*CLAY approaches HENRY nervously.*)
19 CLAY: (*Apologetic*) Sorry, Grandpa.
20 PETE: Where's your mom?
21 CLAY: Making Christmas dinner.
22 PETE: Well, go help her and stop terrorizing this old man.
23 CLAY: OK. (*He exits.*)
24 EVE: You really need to be nicer.
25 PETE: And you really need to get yourself a man, but you're
26 not listening, so I don't have to either.
27 EVE: I don't need a man.
28 PETE: And I don't need to be nice.
29 EVE: You're impossible.
30 PETE: Just the way I like it, dear. (*RAIN and LEAF enter to set*
31 *the table.*)
32 LEAF: I heard Dad's older sister is coming to dinner tonight.
33 RAIN: Yeah, I heard too. (*Pause*) I don't understand why they
34 all have to come here anyways. Don't they usually go to
35 the Caribbean or something like that for Christmas?
36 (*KALLIE enters with napkins in time to hear them.*)
37 KALLIE: Be nice, Rain. They're your father's family, which
38 means we need to love and accept them.

- 1 RAIN: But have you met her stepdaughter? She's so weird.
 2 And she's only half Aunt Meredith's age, which is even
 3 weirder.
- 4 LEAF: Aunt Meredith is no picnic either. She's just plain
 5 mean.
- 6 EVE: (*Looking at PETE*) Wonder where she gets that?
- 7 PETE: Aaaah!
- 8 LEAF: Though I don't mind Uncle Carl. He's cool. A lot older
 9 than her, though.
- 10 RAIN: Which is also really weird. And how can you like him?
 11 He's always picking his teeth. (*DAISY enters with salt and*
 12 *pepper shakers.*)
- 13 DAISY: Gross.
- 14 RAIN: You guys made me hold his hand during prayer last
 15 year. I couldn't eat. Totally lost my appetite.
- 16 LEAF: Great, now I won't be to shake his hand next time he's
 17 here.
- 18 DAISY: Me either. Gross.
- 19 KALLIE: (*Firmly*) We will have peace in this house. You hear
 20 me, girls? It's Christmas Eve, and I want it to be a
 21 pleasant evening.
- 22 GIRLS: Yes, Kallie.
- 23 PETE: You let your daughters call you by your first name?
- 24 KALLIE: We're modern, Dad.
- 25 PETE: You're saps, that's what you are.
- 26 KALLIE: Come on, girls; help me with the rest of the food.
 27 (*KALLIE exits. There is a knock at the door. EVE answers it.*
 28 *It's JEFF. LEAF and RAIN notice him and walk closer to the*
 29 *door.*)
- 30 RAIN: Who's that? He's cute.
- 31 LEAF: I haven't seen him before.
- 32 JEFF: Hi, my name is Jeff. My sister and her kids just moved
 33 in next door.
- 34 EVE: Oh, hello, I'm Eve. I don't really live here, my brother
 35 does. But nice to meet you.
- 36 JEFF: Nice to meet you too. (*Pause*) I was wondering —
 37 (*MEREDITH pushes past him through the open door.*)
- 38 MEREDITH: Excuse me!

- 1 **EVE:** Meredith! You made it.
- 2 **RAIN and LEAF:** (*Yelling together*) **Retreat!** (*RAIN and LEAF*
3 *run out. MEREDITH enters and hands JEFF her purse and*
4 *money, then begins tossing coats, scarves, gloves, etc. as she*
5 *talks and walks. EVE is running behind her, picking up the*
6 *clothes.*)
- 7 **MEREDITH:** Not by choice. I couldn't get a plane out. I'm
8 supposed to be with Carl in the Bahamas right now, but
9 instead, I'm stuck here. (*Looks back over her shoulder.*)
10 Denise, get in here! (*JEFF moves inside to get out of her way.*
11 *Pause*) That girl. She's supposed to be at her mother's
12 house this Christmas, but something happened and she
13 couldn't go with her. Then Carl couldn't catch a plane
14 out because he's stuck in New York in a snowstorm, and
15 I'm stuck here — with *her*. (*Pause*) Not that I mind her,
16 of course. She is now my child; it's just, what does one
17 do with a child? (*Pause*) I'm barely twenty, for heaven's
18 sake.
- 19 **PETE:** Well, for starters, maybe you shouldn't have married
20 a man twice your age.
- 21 **MEREDITH:** Dad, maybe you should stick to the funny
22 pages. (*He ducks back behind his paper.*)
- 23 **EVE:** I'd say come in and make yourself at home, but you've
24 already done that. (*MEREDITH tosses her last jacket and*
25 *scarf on JEFF.*)
- 26 **JEFF:** I'm not the help.
- 27 **MEREDITH:** No, you are a nuisance.
- 28 **JEFF:** I meant I'm not a butler. I'm the neighbor's brother.
- 29 **MEREDITH:** (*Looks him up and down.*) What is the
30 neighborhood coming to?
- 31 **EVE:** Meredith! Oh my goodness. I'm so sorry. She's stopped
32 taking her medication, haven't you, Meredith?
- 33 **JEFF:** It's fine. Um, my sister's phone hasn't been turned on
34 yet, and I wondered if you could help me out ...
- 35 **MEREDITH:** I'd love to help you out.
- 36 **JEFF:** You would?
- 37 **MEREDITH:** Sure, which way did you come in?
- 38 **EVE:** Sorry again.

- 1 **JEFF:** *(To EVE, frustrated)* May I use your phone?
- 2 **EVE:** Certainly. *(Glares at MEREDITH.)* It's in the kitchen.
- 3 Come on, I'll show you where it is.
- 4 **MEREDITH:** You don't happen to have relatives overseas for
- 5 the holidays, do you?
- 6 **JEFF:** I don't think so.
- 7 **MEREDITH:** Keep it local, Mr. Brother-of-the-Neighbor.
- 8 Don't want you running up my brother's phone bill. Got
- 9 that?
- 10 **JEFF:** Not planning to. *(EVE and JEFF exit. EVE leaves coats*
- 11 *Backstage and comes back Onstage. SAMMY enters.)*
- 12 **SAMMY:** You made it! How is my baby sister? *(To EVE)* Why
- 13 didn't you tell me she arrived?
- 14 **EVE:** Sorry. It's like a tornado; you don't always have time to
- 15 warn everyone.
- 16 **SAMMY:** We dig that you're here. Hey everyone, Aunt
- 17 Meredith is here. Come on in and say hi. Come on, kids.
- 18 Come say hi to your aunt. *(RAIN, LEAF, DAISY, and CLAY*
- 19 *enter slowly, not relishing her presence.)*
- 20 **RAIN:** Hi.
- 21 **LEAF:** Hi.
- 22 **DAISY:** Hey. *(CLAY hides behind LEAF and sort of waves.)*
- 23 **MEREDITH:** *(Dryly)* Good to see you all again. *(Talking in the*
- 24 *direction of the door)* Denise, get in here. *(DENISE comes*
- 25 *stumbling in with a bunch of suitcases. RAIN and LEAF bite*
- 26 *their grins.)*
- 27 **DENISE:** Sorry. It's s kind of hard to maneuver up the steps
- 28 with all these bags. Maybe if you had helped me ...
- 29 **MEREDITH:** Nonsense. A young girl like you needs her
- 30 exercise. *(To RAIN and LEAF)* You know my
- 31 stepdaughter, Denise.
- 32 **RAIN and LEAF:** *(Both greeting her)* Hi.
- 33 **MEREDITH:** These are your cousins. *(Points to RAIN.)* Sky.
- 34 **RAIN:** That's Rain.
- 35 **MEREDITH:** Right. *(Points to LEAF.)* Um, Tree.
- 36 **LEAF:** Try Leaf.
- 37 **MEREDITH:** *(Points to DAISY.)* Flower?
- 38 **DAISY:** Um, Daisy.

- 1 **MEREDITH:** And ... Dirt?
- 2 **CLAY:** It's Clay.
- 3 **MEREDITH:** Close enough. Maybe you could all go play ring
- 4 around the rosie or something.
- 5 **DENISE:** I don't play like that anymore.
- 6 **MEREDITH:** I don't care. Just go do something. *(To KIDS)*
- 7 You can entertain her, right? *(No one says anything.)*
- 8 **SAMMY:** Sure they can. Right, girls?
- 9 **LEAF:** Come on. I'll show you where you're sleeping.
- 10 *(DENISE, LEAF, CLAY, and DAISY exit. MEREDITH looks at*
- 11 *SAMMY.)*
- 12 **MEREDITH:** Why in heaven's name did you give your
- 13 children such silly names?
- 14 **PETE:** For once, Meredith and I agree.
- 15 **MEREDITH:** Dad. *(She crosses to him.)* Merry Christmas.
- 16 **PETE:** Same to you, darling. *(KALLIE enters to put something on*
- 17 *the table.)*
- 18 **MEREDITH:** So they actually got you to come to this hippie
- 19 home for the holidays.
- 20 **RAIN:** You know, Aunt Meredith, if you don't like it here,
- 21 you're more than welcome to go.
- 22 **KALLIE:** Rain! Apologize.
- 23 **MEREDITH:** Trust me, if I had the ability to do that, I would.
- 24 **SAMMY:** Come on, everyone. *(Looking at RAIN)* It's good
- 25 you're here. Right, Rain?
- 26 **RAIN:** Yeah, sure.
- 27 **SAMMY:** Christmas is about family.
- 28 **MEREDITH:** Really? Is that what it's about? *(Laughs.)* It
- 29 hasn't been that since Mom died.
- 30 **SAMMY:** I don't think that has changed. We still have love for
- 31 each other. Family is why we do all this. *(DEMON claps.*
- 32 *ALL freeze as ANGEL and DEMON enter and walk Onstage.)*
- 33 **DEMON:** Ha! Seen enough?
- 34 **ANGEL:** What? They're barely getting started.
- 35 **DEMON:** Christmas is about family. You heard him. Family.
- 36 *(DEMON hugs SAMMY, who is frozen.)* Wrong!
- 37 **ANGEL:** That's a true statement ... sort of.
- 38 **DEMON:** Is that what you want them to believe? OK, then

1 we're good here. I win! Cha-ching!

2 ANGEL: No, Smoky. I'm just pointing out that it's good for

3 family to get together on Christmas. There is nothing

4 wrong with that. There has been no proof either way

5 yet.

6 DEMON: OK, I'll wait, but you're so going down, halo girl.

7 ANGEL: Don't count on it, demon breath.

8 DEMON: We'll see. (*DEMON claps as they exit and ALL come back*

9 *to life.*)

10 PETE: When's dinner? I'm starving!

11 SAMMY: Mellow, Dad. We'll be eating soon.

12 PETE: (*Tossing his newspaper aside*) My blood sugar is

13 dropping. You want to carry me to the hospital?

14 SAMMY: Go grab something from the kitchen. I'm sure Kallie

15 has something you can snack on.

16 PETE: Good idea. (*Pause*) A turkey leg would do just fine. (*He*

17 *exits.*)

18 SAMMY: So, it's good to see you're doing well for yourself,

19 Meredith. Dad told me you're going to graduate from

20 college early and start your own company. I'm so proud

21 of you, sis. (*He goes to hug her, but she jumps up and moves*

22 *away.*)

23 MEREDITH: Who else is coming? I want to mentally prepare

24 myself.

25 SAMMY: Nice catching up with you too. (*Pause*) No one.

26 MEREDITH: Good. (*Pause*) And yes, things are going well.

27 SAMMY: That's wonderful. Did you know that Kallie and I

28 just found out —

29 MEREDITH: That's nice. (*PETE comes back in, very angry.*)

30 SAMMY: What's wrong, Dad?

31 PETE: I was just in there. There is no turkey! Where's my

32 turkey? You can't have Christmas without turkey. It's

33 un-American. It's sacrilegious. It's downright communist!

34 SAMMY: We're having mock-turkey loaf. It's made out of

35 tofu. It tastes just like turkey, but it's healthier. You're

36 going to love it, I promise.

37 PETE: Are you insane? I raised you better than that, Samuel

38 James Mulberry! You've ruined Christmas!

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- 1 SAMMY: Over a turkey? Come on, Dad. You can't be serious.
- 2 PETE: (*Grabs his coat.*) I will not stay here ... (*DEMON claps.*
- 3 *They freeze. DEMON comes in jumping up and down. ANGEL*
- 4 *enters slowly behind him.*)
- 5 DEMON: Food. He's leaving over food. Because Christmas is
- 6 so about the food! Yes! Yes! Yes! (*Dances.*) Deception is
- 7 my name, and this is so my game. I'm the best! I'm the
- 8 best! Who's the best? (*Grabs SAMMY's hand and makes it*
- 9 *point at him.*) I'm the best.
- 10 ANGEL: Shouldn't you have a license to be this stupid?
- 11 DEMON: Who's stupid? You can't even see that this thing is
- 12 o-v-e-r. (*Sings*) Over. (*Takes SAMMY's hand and does a high*
- 13 *five. SAMMY's hand stays up, frozen.*) One person leaves,
- 14 then I've proven my point. And I will sing it to the
- 15 mountaintop: I rule and you drool!
- 16 ANGEL: Not so fast, oh prince of obtuseville. I have until
- 17 midnight tonight. This isn't over until then. I still have
- 18 a chance to prove that there are people in this world
- 19 that recognize the true meaning of Christmas. (*They hold*
- 20 *a stare for a moment, then DEMON claps and ALL come back*
- 21 *to life as they exit.*)
- 22 MEREDITH: Dad, if I have to be here, you're not leaving. I'll
- 23 buy the meat of the month club, and you can have
- 24 turkey every day if you'd like. Just don't go and leave
- 25 me alone with these people.
- 26 PETE: Fine! But I'm not going to be jolly about it.
- 27 SAMMY: Well, at least be jolly when you play Santa later.
- 28 PETE: You can forget that. Get someone else to do it. (*JEFF*
- 29 *enters and starts to move to the door.*)
- 30 JEFF: Thanks for the use of your phone.
- 31 SAMMY: Have we met?
- 32 JEFF: Oh, sorry. I'm Jeff. My sister and her kids just moved
- 33 in next door.
- 34 SAMMY: Awesome! Neighbors. (*Hugs him.*) Welcome. I'm
- 35 Sammy.
- 36 JEFF: (*Caught off-guard*) Uh, yeah, well, Eve let me in to use your
- 37 phone. I appreciate it. The utilities haven't been turned on
- 38 at our new place, which makes it kind of hard.

- 1 SAMMY: You don't have electricity?
 2 JEFF: Not until Monday.
 3 SAMMY: Oh, wow, bummer. That's bogus. It's Christmas Eve.
 4 JEFF: We're using candles. It's kind of festive.
 5 SAMMY: Well, I insist you and your family come over for a
 6 hot meal.
 7 MEREDITH: Um, brother ...
 8 SAMMY: I insist. We'll have plenty.
 9 PETE: You've got that right. He can have mine.
 10 SAMMY: (*Ignoring PETE*) Please, go invite your sister and join
 11 us.
 12 JEFF: You sure?
 13 SAMMY: Definitely.
 14 JEFF: Thanks. (*He exits.*)
 15 MEREDITH: You always were saving the oceans and the
 16 bunnies. Now you're taking in dogs?
 17 SAMMY: You need Jesus, Meredith. (*To PETE*) Both of you
 18 need to think long and hard about what Christmas
 19 really means. (*SAMMY exits. There is a long pause, and then*
 20 *MEREDITH and PETE say their line at the same time.*)
 21 MEREDITH: Caribbean.
 22 PETE: Turkey. (*Lights out.*)

23
 24

Scene 3

25
 26

- 27 (*"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" plays as music comes on.*
 28 *EVE is singing very dramatically. She pushes a Santa hat on*
 29 *PETE's head.*)
 30 EVE: We ... wiiiish ... you a Merry Christmas! We ... wiiiish ...
 31 you a Merry Christmas! We ... wiiiish ... you a Merry
 32 Christmas!
 33 PETE: How about you grant my wish and let there be
 34 silence?
 35 EVE: What will it take for me to get you into the Christmas
 36 spirit, huh? (*ANGEL claps and comes running on. EVE and*
 37 *PETE freeze. DEMON enters behind.*)
 38 ANGEL: Seems to me Eve is showing promise.

- 1 DEMON: Really? What Christmas spirit is she talking about?
 2 Ol' Saint Nick? (*DEMON rubs PETE's beard.*) The Ghost of
 3 Christmas Present? Ooooh. (*Pause*) One of the characters
 4 from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*? (*Dances.*)
 5 ANGEL: You really are despicable.
 6 DEMON: I really hope you lose. You say the nicest things to
 7 me. I don't really want to go an entire eternity without
 8 all those compliments to boost my self-esteem! (*ANGEL*
 9 *rolls eyes and claps as they exit.*)
 10 PETE: Christmas spirit? Bah, humbug.
 11 EVE: Dad, whatever am I going to do with you?
 12 PETE: Kidnap me and take me to the Rescue Mission on
 13 Fifth and Elm. I hear they serve turkey dinner on
 14 Christmas Eve. I'll fill your car up with gas and
 15 everything. Trust me, that's a better deal than what I
 16 put in your stocking.
 17 EVE: You aren't serious! Dad, you're surrounded by family in
 18 a warm home. Trust me, any one of those homeless
 19 people would kill to take your spot in a second.
 20 PETE: Really? Get your coat and keys. No murder necessary.
 21 I'll give them my spot free of charge. (*He stands.*)
 22 EVE: Relax, Dad. I'm not taking you anywhere. (*She exits.*)
 23 PETE: Ah! Fine! I guess I'll take a nap. I'd rather be in a
 24 turkey coma, but I obviously won't get that, will I? (*He*
 25 *exits. RAIN, LEAF, and DAISY enter.*)
 26 DAISY: Well, she's not sleeping on my bed. Her dad is a teeth
 27 picker. Who knows what bad habits she has? Could be
 28 worse or grosser.
 29 RAIN: Shush, Daisy. She might hear you.
 30 DAISY: Sorry. (*CLAY enters.*)
 31 CLAY: Presents! Cool. (*Sits under the tree and starts shaking the*
 32 *gifts.*)
 33 DAISY: Clay, if Mom sees you, she'll have your head. (*There is*
 34 *a light knock at the door.*)
 35 LEAF: Did you hear something? (*They all stop to listen.*)
 36 DAISY: I think it's Grandpa. He snores like a lawn mower. Or it
 37 could be Meredith. She's using some weird mechanical
 38 thing on her teeth. (*Light knock.*)

- 1 LEAF: No, there it was again.
- 2 RAIN: I think it's the door. (*RAIN opens it. MICHELLE is there.*)
- 3 MICHELLE: Merry Christmas, Rain.
- 4 RAIN: Hey Michelle. Merry Christmas to you too. What's up?
- 5 MICHELLE: My mom asked if I could borrow an egg. We ran
6 out and the store is closed.
- 7 RAIN: Um, I'm not sure if we have regular eggs, but do you
8 think egg substitute would work?
- 9 MICHELLE: (*Shrugs.*) Um, sure ... I guess.
- 10 RAIN: OK, I'll be right back. Come on in. (*MICHELLE enters*
11 *and RAIN exits.*)
- 12 DAISY: Hi Michelle. Did you come over to play?
- 13 MICHELLE: No, I came — (*She is cut off by MEREDITH storming*
14 *in.*)
- 15 MEREDITH: This place is insane! No privacy at all. Why
16 don't you have locks on the doors? (*She glares at*
17 *MICHELLE who stares at her a minute, then rushes out, crying*
18 *and scared.*)
- 19 LEAF: You really have a way with people, Aunt Meredith.
20 (*DAISY pulls LEAF away.*)
- 21 DAISY: Well, we'd better get back to Denise. Wouldn't want
22 her to be all by herself. (*They back up knowingly.*)
- 23 MEREDITH: Good idea. I need peace and quiet. (*LEAF and*
24 *DAISY exit. RAIN comes back in with a carton of egg substitute*
25 *and looks around.*)
- 26 RAIN: Where's Michelle?
- 27 MEREDITH: Who?
- 28 RAIN: Our neighbor. She needed an egg.
- 29 CLAY: Aunt Meredith scared her away.
- 30 RAIN: (*Sighs.*) Oh, brother. (*She exits out the front door with egg*
31 *substitute. MEREDITH starts doing her makeup. CLAY begins*
32 *to toss his ball again. This time he purposely throws it at her*
33 *and then takes off running and exits. He says his line from*
34 *Backstage.*)
- 35 CLAY: Merry Christmas, Aunt Meredith! (*Giggles.*)
- 36 MEREDITH: Nothing merry about it! (*Lights out on the snap of*
37 *her compact.*)
- 38



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