

# CHRISTMAS RETURNS

*by Scott Icenhower*



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

---

# Copyright Notice

---

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

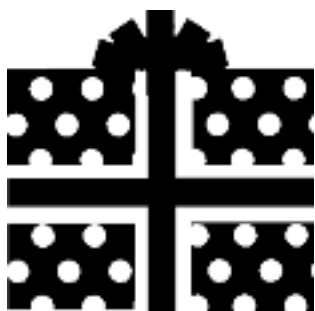
**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.***

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.



# Christmas Returns

**A children's Christmas comedy**

**by Scott Icenhower**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
(In Order of Appearance)

PAT

Retail store employee (m or f)

GREENBACK

Retail store manager (m or f)

JOSEPH

Yes, *that* Joseph —  
Jesus' dad from the first Christmas.  
A customer (m)

SARA PHIM

An angel

CHERUBIM

Sara's little brother

CHOIR OWNER

A customer returning a choir (m or f)

CHOIR

As small or large as needed (m or f)

CUSTOMER 1

A customer returning a box of joy (m or f)

CUSTOMERS 2-8

Each have only one line.  
May be double cast from choir (m or f)

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### Music

*(Only the first verse or so of each song needs to be sung.)*

“Santa Claus Is Coming to Town”  
or another secular Santa song

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“Here Comes Peter Cottontail”  
or another secular Easter song

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

“I Wonder as I Wander”

A song about God’s love (Production’s choice)

### Costumes

Joseph needs a biblical robe, headpiece, and sandals. Choir members could wear robes or “wintery” type clothes. Pat and Greenback are at work, so they should be dressed more businesslike. Choir Owner and Customers wear their own regular clothes.

### Props

A box to represent a container of myrrh; stamp, stamp pad, and stack of coupons; a wrapped present with a message inside and the word “JOY” written on the outside; instruction manual (It’s for the choir, but anything, such as an electronic or appliance manual, will do); uniform boxes or brown paper bags with “God’s Love” written on them; and a whistle (like a referee’s).

### Setting

The return counter of a department store very early in the morning the day after Christmas. A large box is behind the counter, marked for returns. At Center Stage is a table to hold the “God’s Love” boxes, and a “50% Off Sale” banner hangs over the table.

All Scripture taken from *The King James Version*.

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.  
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

- 1           (PAT, an employee, is behind the counter for the big day, but  
2           has his/her head on the counter, asleep.)
- 3   **GREENBACK:** *(Entering)* Pat! Are you asleep?
- 4   **PAT:** *(Waking up quickly)* No, sir! Wide awake, ready to go.
- 5   **GREENBACK:** When you said this was your dream job, I  
6           didn't think you meant it *that* way.
- 7   **PAT:** *(Still sleepy and yawning)* It won't happen again.
- 8   **GREENBACK:** Good, because this is the big day we've waited  
9           for.
- 10   **PAT:** Thursday? *(Or substitute the current day for December 26.)*
- 11   **GREENBACK:** No, the day after Christmas. It's the busiest  
12           retail day of the year.
- 13   **PAT:** I thought that was the day after Thanksgiving.
- 14   **GREENBACK:** You're dreaming.
- 15   **PAT:** I wish ...
- 16   **GREENBACK:** *(Looks at him/her.)* What?
- 17   **PAT:** *(Covering)* Nothing.
- 18   **GREENBACK:** At Thanksgiving, they're only buying. But  
19           today, everyone will return their Christmas gifts and  
20           then go shopping here at our store to buy new stuff. It's  
21           the true miracle of Christmas!
- 22   **PAT:** I thought the true miracle of Christmas was the birth  
23           of God's son.
- 24   **GREENBACK:** Now, remember: no cash refunds, only  
25           coupons. Got it?
- 26   **PAT:** *(Holds up a pad of coupons and a stamp.)* Got it!  
27           *(GREENBACK exits and PAT immediately falls asleep on the*  
28           *counter again.)*
- 29   **JOSEPH:** *(Enters with a small box of myrrh to return.)* Excuse me  
30           ... Uh, I'd like to return something. *(He coughs.)*
- 31   **PAT:** *(Waking up quickly)* Yes. How can I help — *(Looking him up*  
32           *and down)* Uh, if you want to return your costume, you'll  
33           have to put it back in the box it came in.
- 34   **JOSEPH:** What costume?
- 35   **PAT:** You're not wearing a costume?
- 36   **JOSEPH:** No. I wanted to return this box of myrrh. The man  
37           who gave it to us included this gift receipt. Now, that  
38           was a wise man.

- 1 PAT: Yeah ... wise man. Good one. All right, I'll play along.  
2 What is the reason for the return?
- 3 JOSEPH: Well, my wife and I just had a son —
- 4 PAT: Don't tell me. Was he born yesterday?
- 5 JOSEPH: Yes.
- 6 PAT: And evidently you think I was too.
- 7 JOSEPH: What? No, he really was. And there were angels  
8 and shepherds and ... didn't you hear all that noise last  
9 night? I thought the heavenly host would never settle  
10 down.
- 11 PAT: Fine, fine. I believe you. Go ahead.
- 12 JOSEPH: OK. I hate to tell you this, but we're temporarily  
13 staying in a barn.
- 14 PAT: But it's a heavenly place, right?
- 15 JOSEPH: It stinks to high heaven, if that's what you mean.  
16 Still, we don't need *two* kinds of air freshener.
- 17 PAT: Myrrh is an air freshener?
- 18 JOSEPH: Well, we already have frankincense. It smells good  
19 and covers up the cow and sheep smell. Mary likes it.  
20 But the myrrh — it clashes with the frankincense. I  
21 appreciate the Magi bringing us gifts, but I don't see  
22 why they didn't talk to each other ahead of time about  
23 what they were going to bring. Now, the third guy — he  
24 gave us money. That was practical.
- 25 PAT: *(Takes the box of myrrh and throws it into the large returns*  
26 *box behind him. He then stamps his pad and coupon stack*  
27 *repeatedly for comic effect.)* OK, here's your coupon.
- 28 JOSEPH: Can I get the refund in gold?
- 29 PAT: Sorry, no cash refunds. Store policy.
- 30 JOSEPH: I guess I could use this to buy some luggage. I'm  
31 thinking about moving the family down to Egypt for a  
32 while. Thanks. *(JOSEPH exits. PAT put his/her head back*  
33 *down on the counter and falls asleep again. Two angels, SARA*  
34 *and CHERUBIM, walk in, but are dressed as regular people.*  
35 *PAT yawns and raises head. He/she sees SARA standing there*  
36 *and is startled.)*
- 37 PAT: Jeepers! I didn't see you standing there.
- 38 SARA: Most people don't, unless we want them to. We're

1 angels.

2 PAT: You about scared me to death.

3 SARA: We're not that kind of angel. We're the messenger  
4 type.

5 CHERUBIM: I'm Cherubim.

6 PAT: Who said that? (*Looks over the counter down at*  
7 *CHERUBIM.*) Are you an angel too?

8 CHERUBIM: Yep! I'm The Littlest Angel. We would have  
9 done a play about me, but this one was cheaper.

10 SARA: He's my brother. I'm Sara. Sara Phim. Nice to meet  
11 you.

12 PAT: You too. But if you're Sara Phim, that would make your  
13 brother ...

14 CHERUBIM: Cherubim Phim.

15 PAT: Right.

16 CHERUBIM: You got a problem with that?

17 PAT: No, no. But I thought cherubs had wings and didn't  
18 wear clothes.

19 CHERUBIM: Are you crazy? It's the middle of winter. Where  
20 do people get these ideas?

21 SARA: I don't know, Cherub, but since we're messenger  
22 angels, let's deliver our message to Pat.

23 PAT: Me?

24 SARA: Yes. And this is the perfect place. It's here that people  
25 are the most disillusioned with Christmas. This is  
26 where people return their Christmas presents. This is  
27 where their idea of the perfect Christmas gift meets  
28 with harsh reality.

29 PAT: Yeah, I can see that. A lot of people aren't happy or  
30 satisfied at Christmas.

31 SARA: That's because they are celebrating the secular and  
32 not the spiritual. So our message to you is to tell them  
33 that the ideal Christmas gift was Jesus — a gift for all  
34 eternity.

35 CHERUBIM: "For God so loved the world that he gave his  
36 only begotten son ... " (*John 3:16*). No take backs. (*After*  
37 *the line is spoken, CHERUBIM lays down on the floor, moving*  
38 *arms and legs like making a snow angel.*)



- 1 **PAT:** That makes perfect sense. I can do that. (*Notices*  
2 *CHERUBIM moving on the floor.*) What are you doing?
- 3 **CHERUBIM:** I'm making a dust angel. Don't you ever sweep  
4 this place?
- 5 **SARA:** Come on, Cherubim. We have another message to  
6 deliver.
- 7 **PAT:** What's that?
- 8 **SARA:** Every time a bell rings, an angel doesn't get its wings.  
9 (*As they start to exit, CHERUBIM stops and turns around to*  
10 *speak to PAT.*)
- 11 **CHERUBIM:** I know your guardian angel. He's not that good.  
12 Be careful. (*ANGELS exit. PAT put his/her head back down*  
13 *on the counter and falls asleep again. CHOIR OWNER holding*  
14 *instruction manual and CHOIR following him enters.*)
- 15 **CHOIR OWNER:** Excuse me. I need to return this choir.
- 16 **PAT:** (*Quickly waking up*) I'm awake! What can I do for you?
- 17 **CHOIR OWNER:** I need to return this choir.
- 18 **PAT:** What's wrong with it?
- 19 **CHOIR OWNER:** (*He/she claps hands and choir begins to dance*  
20 *and sings any secular Santa song, such as "Santa Claus Is*  
21 *Coming to Town."*)
- 22 **PAT:** Oh yeah, I see what you mean.
- 23 **CHOIR OWNER:** No, not that — wait. (*He/she claps hands*  
24 *again and choir begins to sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."*  
25 *PAT starts to doze off again during song.*)
- 26 **CHOIR OWNER:** You see?
- 27 **PAT:** (*Quickly waking up*) What? What's going on?
- 28 **CHOIR OWNER:** This choir.
- 29 **PAT:** What's wrong with this choir? That's wonderful  
30 Christmas music, very restful.
- 31 **CHOIR OWNER:** That's just it. It's not Christmas anymore. I  
32 don't need them. (*The CHOIR gives him a dirty look.*)
- 33 **PAT:** Do you have the instruction manual?
- 34 **CHOIR OWNER:** (*Hands instruction manual to PAT.*) Yeah. Here  
35 you go.
- 36 **PAT:** (*Flips through a few pages and then reads silently for a beat.*)  
37 **OK, there's a switch.** (*PAT switches the positions of the*  
38 *CHOIR MEMBERS. The back row goes to the front row, for*

- 1        *example.) Now try it again. (CHOIR OWNER claps hands*  
 2        *and the CHOIR begins to dance and sing a secular Easter song*  
 3        *such as "Here Comes Peter Cottontail." He/she claps hands*  
 4        *again and they sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.") See?*  
 5        **Easter. You can keep a song in your heart year 'round.**  
 6        **CHOIR OWNER: You're right. Every day should be filled**  
 7        **with music. All right, choir, let's go home. (He/she claps**  
 8        *hands and choir sings the first two verses of "I Wonder As I*  
 9        *Wander" as they walk aimlessly around the stage. CHOIR*  
 10        *OWNER tries to herd them out Off-stage.)*  
 11        **PAT: I think they reset back to Christmas.**  
 12        **CHOIR OWNER: (As they all exit) I'll never get them back in**  
 13        **the box! (PAT falls back asleep. CUSTOMER 1 enters with a**  
 14        *large Christmas present that has the word "JOY" written on it.*  
 15        *He makes a lot of noise when he sets the gift on the counter.)*  
 16        **PAT: (Startled) Wh-what? Oh, may I help you?**  
 17        **CUSTOMER 1: I'd like to return this.**  
 18        **PAT: But you haven't even opened it.**  
 19        **CUSTOMER 1: Yeah.**  
 20        **PAT: Well, at least open it and see what you're returning.**  
 21        **CUSTOMER 1: Whatever. (He/she opens present and puts his**  
 22        *head into the box. When he/she raises it back up, there is a big*  
 23        *grin on his/her face.)*  
 24        **PAT: You see? That's something you should keep all year**  
 25        **long. That's "Joy to the World."**  
 26        **CUSTOMER 1: There's that much joy in this box?**  
 27        **PAT: It's concentrated. A little goes a long way.**  
 28        **CUSTOMER 1: (Looking in the box again, he pulls out a piece of**  
 29        *paper.) What's this? (Begins to read what's on the paper.)*  
 30        **"Other people who liked "Joy to the World" also**  
 31        **enjoyed "Peace on Earth" and "Goodwill toward Men."**  
 32        **"Goodwill toward Women" sold separately. You're right.**  
 33        **I shouldn't return this. Thanks. (CUSTOMER 1 exits.**  
 34        *GREENBACK rushes in.)*  
 35        **GREENBACK: Pat, Pat, we have problems!**  
 36        **PAT: What's wrong?**  
 37        **GREENBACK: No one's returning anything! What are you**  
 38        **saying to them?**

- 1 PAT: I just told people they should always have a song in  
 2 their heart and keep the joy of Christmas all year long.  
 3 GREENBACK: Is that your “pat answer” for everything?  
 4 PAT: *(Beat)* Not for everything. I did take back some myrrh.  
 5 GREENBACK: We don’t sell myrrh at this location. All right,  
 6 come over here. I want you to be in charge of this sales  
 7 table. It’s after Christmas, so all these gifts have been  
 8 marked down. The shoppers will have a feeding frenzy  
 9 with these bargains. *(Hands PAT a whistle.)*  
 10 PAT: What am I supposed to do with this?  
 11 GREENBACK: Maintain order. Keep the customers safe from  
 12 each other.  
 13 PAT: Like a lifeguard?  
 14 GREENBACK: These people are animals! They will fight over  
 15 this stuff.  
 16 PAT: *(Examining one of the gift boxes)* But Mr(s). Greenback,  
 17 this is God’s love. I don’t think they’ll —  
 18 GREENBACK: I’m going to unlock the door now. Be careful.  
 19 *(GREENBACK exits. After a moment, CUSTOMERS rush in*  
 20 *and try to grab a gift box. Many CUSTOMERS are fighting*  
 21 *over the boxes and trying to pull them out of each other’s hands.*  
 22 *There is mayhem for a while.)*  
 23 PAT: *(Watches in disbelief, then composes him/herself and blows*  
 24 *whistle. Everyone stops and looks at PAT.)* What are you  
 25 people doing?  
 26 CUSTOMER 2: Shopping.  
 27 CUSTOMER 3: We can beat each other, but we can’t beat the  
 28 savings.  
 29 CUSTOMER 4: And I’m sure supplies are limited.  
 30 PAT: Wait a minute. We’re talking about God’s love. There’s  
 31 enough for everybody! *(ALL cheer. PAT blows whistle to*  
 32 *quiet them.)* And it’s not fifty percent off. It’s free!  
 33 CUSTOMER 5: It’s free? What’s the catch?  
 34 CUSTOMER 6: I bet we have to open a charge account.  
 35 PAT: No. God’s love is available to everyone, all the time. It’s  
 36 already bought and paid for. Just take it. *(Each*  
 37 *CUSTOMER takes a box.)*  
 38 CUSTOMER 7: Wouldn’t it be great if there were a song we



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:*

*CHRISTMAS RETURNS*

*by Scott Icenhower.*

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,  
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

[customerservice@christianpub.com](mailto:customerservice@christianpub.com)