

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
By Cleveland O. McLeish

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Original Stage play

By

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SCENE SYNOPSIS: Christmas has different meanings for everyone. For some it is a time of giving and celebrating with family and friends, for others its all about partying and having a good time away from work and school. In this play we examine the real Reason for the Season from two perspectives...that of a rich family and that of a poor family. Lifetime lessons are learnt when these two social classes meet. Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

SETTING: SR - The Home of Clarabelle Myers and her Three Children. It's a uptown apartment with nice couch, furniture and curtains put up. There should also be a Christmas tree far SR with a lot of presents (big and small) underneath.

SL – The Home of Susan Thomas. Only a table at CS with a very small Christmas tree far SL without decorations.

CHARACTERS:

CLARABELLE THOMAS-MYERS	–	Rich Mom
JUNE MYERS	-	Rebellious Older Daughter
GENE MYERS	-	Young Daughter (very feisty)
JACK MYERS Jr.	-	Young Son (not very talkative)
SUSAN THOMAS	-	Poor Mom
SHARON THOMAS June)	-	Older daughter (about same age as
LEROY THOMAS	-	Younger Son
JAMA	-	Grandmother

THE SCRIPT

LIGHTS UP

There's a stool at SR, CS.

SL – Leroy and Sharon enters with the little decorations they have and start To decorate their small tree.

SR – Jama is already seated in her chair knitting.

June Myers enter. She sees the stool and motions offstage if that is where she should sit. She gets the confirmation and sits looking out at the audience.

She looks intently for a beat as if listening to a question.

JUNE: Okay. The reason for the season. Hey what kinda question is that and why you asking me that. Oh, we on tv now. Sorry. Okay, the reason for the season is....*(thinks)*...gifts, I guess. How much you get and what you get, you know. Especially stuff you really want, which is hard for us sometimes, cause we have everything *(laughs)*

JAMA: Child, when you enter a room you should say good morning, good evening or goodnight.

JUNE: Sorry Grandma. I didn't see you.

JAMA: I aint buying that child. I'm too big for you not to see me. I tell that mother of yours she growing you up without manners.

Clarabelle and the other two kids enter.

CLAREBELLE: I try momma.

JAMA: Aint good enough. You spoil them kids I tell you.

June jumps from the stool and goes to join them.

JUNE: Hey mom. Did you buy everything on my list?

JACK: Did you buy everything on my list?

GENE: Did you buy everything on my list?

CLARABELLE: Merry Christmas to you and you and you too.

JUNE: Mom, quit playing. Did you buy the stuff or not?

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: The presents are over there.

JACK: Can I open mine now mom, can I?

GENE: Mom, did you get everything I had on the list mom, did you.

CLARABELLE: Before we get to opening presents, don't you think we should have a family breakfast first.

Pause. The kids just stare at her.

CLARABELLE: Okay, open your presents.

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: Will you cut that out momma.

The kids rejoice as they head for the tree.

One by one they start tearing the presents apart, but what they find is not what they were looking for and with each open present their expression got Grumpier and grumpier.

JUNE & GENE & JACK: Moooooom.

CLARABELLE: What?

JUNE: This sweater is the wrong colour and you got me the wrong brand sneakers and I wanted an X-Box, not a playstation....Mom! You had a list you know.

GENE: Mom...I really wanted a Pink Razor Phone, not the motorolla.

CLARABELLE: I just didn't have time to get around to the 'specifics' of that very long list you gave me.

JUNE: It weren't all that long a list.

CLARABELLE: Really.

Clarabelle finds the list and reels it out.

GENE: I thought you wanted us to be happy.

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CLARABELLE: I do.

JUNE: And you would spoil our Christmas like this. Buying stuff we don't want.

CLARABELLE: What's the difference between a pink sweater and a blue sweater?

JUNE: You wouldn't understand.

CLARABELLE: Christmas aint just about gifts.

JUNE: Just because you don't have nobody to give you anything don't mean you have to spoil it for us too.

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: That's not a very nice thing to say.

JUNE: Christmas aint the same here anymore. Ever since Daddy left you. You just keep spoiling it for us.

CLARABELLE: I'm doing my best here okay. And you shouldn't talk to me like that in front of your little brother. And for the record your father didn't leave me...I left him.

JUNE: Why?

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: Its none of your business.

JUNE: Guess what mom, you just took the merry out of our Christmas.

June throws some of the presents aside and exits.

CLARABELLE: Don't you kids want something to eat?

JACK: Yah.

GENE: I'm not hungry mom.

Clarabelle takes little Jack and exits.

Gene sits on the stool and looks out to the audience.

GENE: To tell you the truth, I don't know what the real reason for the season is. I thought having what I wanted was enough, but I realized that what I really want money can't buy. I want things to be the way it was when Daddy was here.

Gene hangs her head...then gets up and exit.

A Beat.

Gene remains on the stool a little while, then gets up and exits.

JAMA: Lord give me strength before I crucify them kids.

Jama tries to get up, but finds it a bit difficult. She struggles and struggles until Eventually...

JAMA: Somebody...anybody....

Clarabelle comes back out and helps her up.

CLARABELLE: Sorry momma. I didn't remember you.

JAMA: Oh really. Clar, you can't let them kids treat you like you're one a them.

CLARABELLE: I know.

JAMA: Look at Susan's children...

CLARABELLE: Momma, not now. I don't want to hear anything about Susan.

JAMA: Plug your ears if you don't want to hear, but I'm talking. Your sister has children with manners. You should take a page from her book.

CLARABELLE: What do I do different from her?

JAMA: I can give ya a list, but it gonna be longer than what I saw you reel out there just now.

Clarabelle helps Jama through the exit.

(The scene moves to next door)

SHARON: Is that all the decorations we have.

LEROY: Well, I think we may be able to find something else in last years stuff.

SHARON: Go check it out. This tree looks way too naked.

LEROY: Alright.