

The Reason for the Season

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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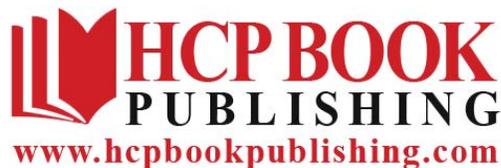


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Characters

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	-	Older Daughter (about the same age as June)
LEROY THOMAS	-	Younger Son
JAMA	-	Grandmother

Setting

Stage Right (SR) - The Home of Clarabelle Myers and her Three Children. It's an uptown apartment with a 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.

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

The Story

Clarabelle is a single rich mom who has a good job, an elaborate house and drives a sporty car. Her three children blame her for their father not being around and to say they are rude may not fully sum up their attitude, but Grandma Jama is there to keep the peace most of the time, and unlike the others, she is a Christian.

Susan is a poor single mother, but her children have learned that one can be satisfied and content with what they have however little. They are grateful for what their mother does and hates the fact that Clarabelle, her sister, is always taking advantage of her and makes them feel inadequate and worthless.

It's Christmas Day. The poor family goes to church, then visits the Rich Family as Susan wanted to visit with her mother, Jama, who is the only thing both these family have in common. When something happens to the younger of the family, things take an unexpected turn.

Play Details

Length: 90 Minutes

Cast: 3 Adult Females, 3 Teenage Girls, 1 Teen Boy and 1 Toddler.

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

THE SCRIPT



LIGHTS UP

There's a stool at Stage Right.

Stage Left – Leroy and Sharon enters with the little decorations they have and start to decorate their small tree.

Stage Right – 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 are you asking me that? Oh, we on TV now? Sorry. Okay, the reason for the season is --- *(thinks hard)* --- 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 ain't buying that child. I'm too big for you not to see me. I tell that mother of yours she is growing you up without manners.

Clarabelle and the other two kids enter.

CLARABELLE: I try, Momma.

JAMA: Ain't 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?

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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 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 get grumpier and grumpier.

JUNE & GENE & JACK: Moooooom!

CLARABELLE: What?

JUNE: This sweater is the wrong color, 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 an iPhone, not the Samsung.

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

JUNE: It wasn'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.

CLARABELLE: I do.

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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 is not just about gifts.

JUNE: Just because you don't have anybody 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 is not 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 exit.

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.

A Beat.

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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 differently 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.

Leroy exits. Sharon moves closer to the audience.

SHARON: I'm supposed to be sitting on a stool talking to you right now, but we just can't afford it. Anyway, The Real Reason for the Season. Uhm. My mom says its Jesus,