



THE HEART OF A CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

Written by us, inspired by Jesus

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

An Original Stage play

By

Cleveland O. McLeish

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SYNOPSIS

It's Christmas Eve and everybody is planning for the big day. There is talk of the perfect gifts, the excitement of the season, the parties and social events. All is in the place...the necessary preparations have been made. Its gonna be the best Christmas ever...and yet, some gave no thought to what Christmas would be like without Christians...without Christ. As the day approaches, the thought of such a cataclysmic event like the rapture will be hard to ignore when gradually people start to realize that something is terribly wrong. People are missing.

THE CHARACTERS

Grandma	-	Female, Late 70's
Dian	-	Female, Early 30's
Johnny	-	Male, Mid 30's
LeeAnn	-	Female child, 7 years old
Diego	-	Male teenager, 14 years old
Officer White	-	Male, Early 40's
Sam	-	Can be male or female, Late 20's
Paul	-	Male, Late 20's
Mrs. Blanch	-	Female, Late 30's
Extras	-	(Speaking & Non-speaking roles)

SETTING

See notes throughout the script.

THE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

SETTING: Living Room/ Kitchen/ Dining Room Combo.

CAPTION: CHRISTMAS EVE

LIGHTS UP

Dian, who is six months pregnant, LeeAnn and Diego are on stage decorating a Christmas tree and Wrapping gifts.

LEEANN: Mommy, are we going on the road tonight?

DIAN: Lee, do you really think you have to ask me that question? We go on the road every Christmas Eve so you guys can buy your toys.

LEEANN: But mommy, you are pregnant. Are you sure you can go on the road with that big stomach? It looks so heavy to be carrying it around all the time.

DIAN: Your daddy will be there with us Lee, so don't worry. He will help me to carry it.

LEEANN: As if he can.

Dian is smiling.

DIEGO: Mom, you still haven't answered my question.

DIAN: Which one?

DIEGO: The party at Randy's tonight. Can I go?

DIAN: Right! Let me think about this. NO!

DIEGO: Mom. This is very important to me.

DIAN: Who is going to be there?

DIEGO: Just some friends from the other side of town.

DIAN: We always go out together as a family Diego. Why should this year be any different.

DIEGO: I'm a teenager mom. We teenagers like to hang out together. You know that. What would I go to buy anyway? I'm too old for water guns and toy soldiers.

DIAN: Ask your father.

DIEGO: My father is in Miami.

DIAN: Your other father and don't go giving me no attitude. If your real father had step up to the plate we would have been married instead.

DIEGO: Whatever mom.

LEEANN: Why are you two always arguing? It's not healthy for the baby.

DIAN: We are not arguing Lee...just having conversations.

LEEANN: Sounds like an argument.

DIAN: Okay baby.

Paul enters dressed like a thug.

PAUL: Merry Christmas family.

DIAN: Paul, don't you think you ought to knock before entering other people's house?

PAUL: Don't be like that, Dian. You know we family.

DIAN: We're not family. You are my husband's friend, and I hope you are not here to ruin this family moment.

Johnny enters buttoning his shirt. He is dressed to go on the road.

JOHNNY: Paul, my man. Right on cue. You ready to roll.

Paul is trying to signal him to shut up.

JOHNNY: Why you shushing me man?

DIAN: Johnny, where are you going?

JOHNNY: Out.

PAUL: I'll be in the car. If you're not out in five minutes, I will know what's up.

Paul quickly exits.

DIAN: You're not doing this to us again. Not today.

JOHNNY: I will be back to take you guys on the road later, baby. Me and Paul ---

DIAN: You and Paul nothing. Its Christmas for crying out loud. We usually spend most of it together as a family. Doing stuff together and you have us decorating this tree and wrapping these presents while you want to go on the road with your buddy's to do what? Drink and smoke?

JOHNNY: We don't need to be doing this in front of the kids.

DIAN: I wouldn't have to if you just think before you act.

JOHNNY: I can't seem to do anything right around here. You argue over the simplest of things.

DIAN: That is not true. Kids...tell your father that is not true.

The kids turn away and start looking busy.

JOHNNY: Kids don't lie. You are way too miserable.

DIAN: Fine. Do whatever you want.

Pause.

JOHNNY: Okay fine. I won't go.

DIAN: Thank you...and in return, I promise you guys to try and be a little less miserable.

JOHNNY: Amen. It's the season to be jolly right?

DIAN: Sure...now be a darling and help us get these gifts wrapped.

Johnny begins to help.

DIEGO: Can I go to a party tonight Johnny?

JOHNNY: I thought we were all going on the road together.

DIEGO: Well I am a little too old for grand market.

JOHNNY: Then why are we going?

LEEANN: Because I am going and you guys won't let me go alone.

JOHNNY: I think we should all go together.

DIEGO: Can I go to the party after?

Pause.

JOHNNY: I should think that would be ok.

DIEGO: Yeeeeeeees.

DIAN: Are you serious?

JOHNNY: Why not?

DIAN: Do you have any idea what kids do at parties?

DIEGO: I am a teenager...not a kid.

DIAN: It's the same difference.

JOHNNY: Baby, we have to let go at some point. If not at fourteen then when?

DIAN: Twenty one sounds good to me.

JOHNNY: You gotta be kidding. Let the boy go...just lay down the ground rules. If he breaks any of them then he forfeits his privilege to go again.

Pause.

DIEGO: Sounds fair enough.

DIAN: No drugs, no smoking, you have to be home by midnight.

DIEGO: One.

DIAN: Twelve thirty.

DIEGO: Twelve forty five.

DIAN: Done. And no girls!

DIEGO: Just one girl.

DIAN: Hold hands and hugs but definitely...

DIAN & DIEGO: No married people stuff.

DIEGO: Got it.

DIAN: I still don't like the idea of you going but I'm letting go with the hope that you break a rule so we don't have to go through this again.

DIEGO: Ok mom.

DIAN: And don't tell your grandma.

GRANDMA'S VOICE: Don't tell Grandma what?

Grandma enters holding her bible close to her bosom in one hand and a small bag in the other.

DIEGO: Hi Grandma.

LEEANN: *(kiddy excitement)* Grandma!

They greet.

LeeAnn hugs her the tightest and longest.

DIAN: Did Peter drop you off?

GRANDMA: Peter was late as usual...so I found my own way. You know I don't like to be kept waiting after I am ready to go.

DIAN: Yes. I'm happy to see you Mom. How long as it been?

GRANDMA: Four weeks.

DIAN: It feels longer.

GRANDMA: I would see you and my grand children every week if you hadn't stopped coming to church.

Pause

DIAN: Are we gonna do this now?

GRANDMA: Now is a good time. It's the only time we have...this moment.

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DIAN: We're in the middle of preparing for the big day tomorrow.

GRANDMA: You always are baby. Using now, this moment...the only real blessing you have to prepare for the days you don't have. What guarantee do you have that we will live to see tomorrow? You should be busy trying to get your kids and husband right with the Lord.

DIAN: I don't need to be hearing this now Mom. I really don't. Please don't let me regret the decision to have you spend Christmas with us.

GRANDMA: I found my way here. I can find my way back. I don't care if I hurt you with the truth Dian. We had family day at church last Sunday...and I was hurt that my family was not there. I called you and you hung up the phone on me.

DIAN: I apologized for that.

GRANDMA: You did, yes. But I am going to say what I have to say then you can send me back home if you want.

DIAN: Fine. You say whatever you want to say. But I don't have to listen to any of it.

Dian picks her pregnant self up and leaves the room.

JOHNNY: Sorry ma'am. I think the pregnancy is taking a toll on her.

GRANDMA: Maybe so. Johnny, you know you are the priest of this house. It is your responsibility to make sure your family is at church.

JOHNNY: You know I'm not into this church thing.

GRANDMA: Why not?

JOHNNY: Too much contradictions. I have more questions than answers.

GRANDMA: Like what?

JOHNNY: Tell you what. Let's get through this Christmas and maybe we can sit and have a really long talk about this whole church stuff. Let us not spoil the children's Christmas. Ok.

Pause.

GRANDMA: At least let us all go to church for tomorrows service. Please. I think tomorrow is going to be a very special day, God willing, and I want my family to be there.

JOHNNY: I will think about it.

LEEANN: I want to go. I love church. I love Jesus. He is a cool guy.

DIEGO: You don't know that.

LEEANN: Yes I do. He lives in my heart cuz I asked him to.

Grandma hugs little LeeAnn.

GRANDMA: Out of the mouth of babes....(*Grandma is smiling*) Anyway. Grandma is hungry.

Grandma puts her bible on the center table.

JOHNNY: I will go make you some tea.

GRANDMA: I didn't say I was thirty.

JOHNNY: I will go make you a sandwich, or something.

Paul appears.

PAUL: So, does that mean we ain't going? It's been like half an hour, man and the AC in the car don't work.

LIGHTS FADE