

What Christmas Means to Me

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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Table of Contents

Characters	4
Setting	5
The Story.....	6
Play Details	7
SCENE I.....	9
SCENE 2.....	11
SCENE 3.....	13
SCENE 4.....	15
SCENE 5.....	17
SCENE 6.....	19

Characters

MICHAEL

JANET

MICHELLE

JULIUS

GRANDMA

PASTOR

Setting

The stage is bare, with only a stool positioned at Center Stage (CS). Each character may have additional props they need to take with them on stage.

The Characters should enter from different parts of the stage.

The Story

This is a series of monologues seeking to answer the question, “*What Does Christmas Mean to Me?*”

Every response is different but is there a common purpose and reason among these different characters as it relates to celebrating Christmas.

This play should provoke each member of the cast and audience to ask and answer this question themselves.

Play Details

Cast: 3 Males | 2 Females | 1 Teenage Girl

Length: 30 Minutes

Genre: Contemporary Christmas Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE I

LIGHTS UP

(Michael, mid 30's, enters and sits on the stool. He looks out over the audience, sad eyes)

(He pulls out a newspaper from his back pocket, and reads through the headlines)

MICHAEL: Another shot by police. Under investigation.

(skips the page)

Another athlete has taken his own life --- another military personnel. Every day, more bad news. A storm is brewing in the Pacific Ocean --- gearing up to make landfall in a few days. Why won't they ever report anything good!

(folds the newspaper)

Christmas, just around the corner. What does Christmas mean to me? It's difficult to answer that. Three years ago, I got married on Christmas Day. Today, I am single. How do you move from married to single in three years, you may ask? Fortunately, my story is not the worse. My wife just got tired of me, really quick. I never expected it --- never asked for it --- never wanted it. I used to go to church too, but something like this can really damage your faith. It's not that I don't believe in God, I am just not convinced that He even sees me. I would be shocked if there is anybody even listening to me right now.

(Gets up and paces a bit)

If I should be honest though, I think with all the time that has passed since the first Christmas, it has kind of lost its value. It's overrated if you asked me. I know some of you feel that way. Most of you were probably forced to come here today, to watch this play. I guess it is something to do as a family, but what about those who don't have a family. What do they do when this time of the year rolls in? Where is the church for them? Where is their Christmas?

What does Christmas mean to me? It's a time to reflect. A time to look back and re-analyze all the mistakes I made in my life. I don't really think about the birth of Jesus Christ. I did love the presents as a kid, loved making my parents believe that I was convinced Santa Claus came. Every kid knows it was their parents who

What Christmas Means To Me by Cleveland O. McLeish

leave gifts under the tree. You can't fool kids these days. They are smarter than we are.

(Sits on the stool)

What does Christmas mean to me? Nothing, I suppose. It's just another day. I do like the snow though. I like the time off it gives me from work, but I hate the work to clear the driveway. I can't even afford to pay someone else to do it.

(a beat)

You know, I remember Christmas as a kid. It was a very exciting time. The family came together, prayed together, ate together. It was nice. I never forgot that, and I was never able to recreate that in my own family. I think our parents had a better handle on this thing than we can ever do. I wish I was like them. I really miss having them around. All the memories.

I think if Christmas is to ever have the value it once did, we will have to practically recreate it. I believe that was what our parents did. They create the Christmas we once enjoyed. I just realize how much effort that must have taken. You know, I think Christmas would have a greater meaning to me, if I had kids. But for now, what can I really say ---

(pause)

(Michael exits)

LIGHTS OUT