

The Flight Before Christmas

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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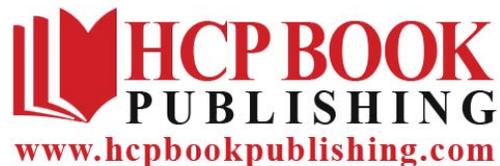


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Characters

- Greg - Senior man suffering from Alzheimer's.
- Sandra - Greg's elderly wife.
- Sam - Homeless guy with immeasurable wisdom and a seemingly prophetic gift.
- Tommy - Runaway teenager.
- Grace - Wealthy and single middle-aged woman.
- Phil - Soft spoken husband.
- Amanda - Helpful and very feisty wife of Phil and mother to Stacy.
- Stacy - Teenage daughter, easily bored, conveniently friendly.
- Jay - No-nonsense Security Officer.
- Sheila - Flight attendant – Single mother of two.
- Attendant - Gum chewing, feisty and over-bearing young woman.
- Beverly - Tommy's mom.
- Extras

Setting

Airport terminal with accompanying signs and sounds. There should be two signs reading “Terminal 1” and “Terminal 2” as well as signs pointing to entrances, exits, restrooms, and cafeteria.

The ambiance of a real airport terminal can also be heightened with sound effects.

The Story

The Flight Before Christmas takes place in an airport terminal in Florida. It's the day before Christmas, and an extreme weather event has hit. The event has forced a closure of the airport and has trapped a diverse group of people in the terminal.

As the evening progresses, everyone has their own cross to bear, and by the end of the play, each person is brought to the realization of the real meaning of Christmas. Characters include an elderly couple facing a health crisis, a homeless man who is sheltering there for the night, a hard-nosed security officer, a runaway child, a wealthy woman, a family with financial issues, and a single mother.

Play Details

Length: 70-90 Minutes

Cast: 5 Males, 6 Females, Plus Extras

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

An elderly couple sits together with luggage at their feet. The husband, GREG, reads from the local newspaper. His wife, SANDRA, fidgets on a cell phone.

There is a homeless man, SAM, crouched in a corner. A child, TOMMY, sits alone close to the elderly couple. A woman, GRACE, adorned in purple is by herself on her iPad.

A family of three walks in with their luggage and finds a seat. The husband, PHIL, allows his wife, AMANDA, to enter the row first followed by their teenage daughter, STACY.

STACY: Why is it so cold?

PHIL: The air condition is on. You know they assume everyone is a foreigner in this place.

AMANDA: It's a multi-national hub. Why would they assume everyone is a foreigner?

They sit. Amanda gets on her iPhone.

AMANDA: Can you please give that phone a break.

STACY: It's my link to the outside world.

AMANDA: I told you not to buy her an iPhone.

PHIL: Everybody has an iPhone.

STACY: Exactly.

AMANDA: I don't.

PHIL: Because you don't want one.

A hardnosed security officer, JAY, walks in with his baton in hand. He heads for SAM. SAM gets up and quickly dashes offstage with JAY hot on his heels.

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GRACE: I need to get on my plane now. I can't take all this drama.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married?

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: Cool.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

Amanda looks across at Tommy.

AMANDA: Why is that little boy here sitting alone?

PHIL: Whoever he's with probably went to the bathroom.

AMANDA: They shouldn't have just left him sitting there all by himself. Someone may kidnap him.

PHIL: This is Orlando. Kidnapping is not a part of our culture.

AMANDA: Well, I think parents need to be more responsible.

GRACE: Does she ever stop talking?

Amanda whips around at Grace.

AMANDA: Who are you?

GRACE: Lady, I don't see you.

Phil turns Amanda around and gestures for her to be calm and quiet.

AMANDA: I hope we're not on the same flight.

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PHIL: I wish you would try a little harder to be like your mother. It's Christmas. A time to be merry.

AMANDA: Okay. You are right. I will not lose sight of what is important. Why is it so cold in here?

STACY: Exactly.

AMANDA: If I didn't know any better, I would think it's snowing outside.

PHIL: Yeah, right. Snow in Florida. The day that happens, Jesus must really soon be coming back.

AMANDA: Anything is possible in this day and age.

PHIL: Anything but snow in Florida. It never snows in Florida.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married?

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: Cool.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

An Attendant walks out with a clipboard in her hand.

ATTENDANT: Attention all passengers on Flight 555. We are experiencing a little bit of delay and ask that you bear with us.

GRACE: How long will this delay be?

ATTENDANT: It's possible that the Flight will not leave before tomorrow morning.

EVERYONE: What?

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ATTENDANT: Uhm, well, I would have suggested we all go home, but that may not be possible either.

AMANDA: What are you saying?

ATTENDANT: Well, strange enough, it's kinda snowing.

Pause.

PHIL: Snowing?

ATTENDANT: A huge snowstorm just came out of nowhere, so we are snowed in.

PHIL: Lady, this is Florida. What are you talking about?

An air hostess, SHEILA, comes in covered in snow.

SHEILA: What on earth is going on? Snow in Florida? I don't believe this.

PHIL: This is not real.

Stacy jumps with excitement.

STACY: Can we go see?

AMANDA: No.

ATTENDANT: I think it best we all just stay right here until this strange phenomenon blows over.

A loud whooshing sound fills the room. Some cower in fear.

AMANDA: That's probably a good idea.

GREG: What was that?

SANDRA: I think it's a snow storm.

Pause.

GREG: I thought we were still in Florida. I don't remember getting on a plane.

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SANDRA: Do you remember what you did last night?

GREG: Of course I do. We, I --- strange. I just drew a blank.

Sandra shakes her head.

Amanda turns to Phil.

AMANDA: I guess we should be looking to see Jesus make His appearance sometime soon.

Pause on Phil's expression.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Later in the day.

AMANDA: *(looks over at Tommy)* You still think his parents went to the bathroom?

PHIL: They would be very sick to be gone this long.

AMANDA: I'm going to talk to him.

Amanda tries to get up, but Phil holds on to her arm.

PHIL: I think we should mind our own business.

AMANDA: He probably needs help.

Amanda frees her arm and goes over to sit beside Tommy.

STACY: You know better, Dad.

AMANDA: *(to Tommy)* Hey.

Tommy looks up at her, then looks away.

AMANDA: What's your name?

TOMMY: Tommy.

AMANDA: Hi Tommy. I am Amanda.

No response.

AMANDA: Are you here with someone?

TOMMY: I'm waiting for someone.

AMANDA: I don't think anyone is coming here soon.

TOMMY: I am patient.

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AMANDA: Okay. Well, if you need anything, I'm just over there.

Pause. No response.

AMANDA: Alright. Nice talking to you.

TOMMY: Bye.

Amanda goes back to her seat.

AMANDA: He's a bundle of joy.

PHIL: Is he lost?

AMANDA: I don't know. I don't see any luggage or anything, but there must be a reason why he's here.

PHIL: Looks like we will be spending Christmas here.

SHEILA: Did someone say Christmas?

Phil is not sure if he should respond.

SHEILA: Christmas is for fools.

PHIL: I guess you don't go to church.

SHEILA: For what purpose? So, someone can exploit my meager salary.

AMANDA: I think the church is much more than that.

GRACE: Hello! Other people who would prefer not to hear about church is sitting here.

PHIL: Listen. We are all stuck here. Best we make use of the time we have together, considering we will never exactly see each other again.

GRACE: I would rather this storm just past so that I can be on my way. I don't mix with the lower class.

AMANDA: How are you still alive with a mouth like that?

Grace stands up.

GRACE: What's wrong with my mouth?

Amanda stands to challenge her.

AMANDA: It's filthy.

Jay barges in.

JAY: There will be no fighting in this airport on my watch.

PHIL: No one here is fighting, Officer. We're just cold and a little bit frustrated.

JAY: I have eyes everywhere, so keep the peace.

Jay exits.

Sam peers in. Satisfied that Jay is gone, he walks in.

SAM: Anybody have a few spare dollars to spare. I would love to get me one of them drink from the vending machine.

Grace turns her face away in disgust.

Amanda fishes for some coins from her bag.

PHIL: Don't give this man any money,

AMANDA: He looks like he needs it.

PHIL: He's going to use your money and buy drugs.

SAM: You do realize I can hear you, right?

PHIL: So, are you on drugs?

SAM: No. And I don't drink and smoke either. I am a Christian just like you.

GRACE: A Christian on the road begging?

SHEILA: Bah!

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SAM: I don't have much, but I am happy.

GRACE: How can you find happiness in your pitiful state?

SANDRA: I can relate to what this man is saying. I learned a long time ago that life is much more than just acquiring stuff.

GRACE: None of you know the value of life. We're here to make money. Lots of money. It's the only way to be happy.

SAM: You don't seem happy.

GRACE: My only discombobulation right now is being stuck here with you people. Don't be fooled by my expression. I am very much happy.

SAM: And alone.

GRACE: Excuse me.

SAM: You are a lonely woman.

STACY: Dad, what's discombo---comba---

PHIL: Ask your mother.

Pause.

Jay barges in. Sam sees him just in time. Jay chases him through the exit.

STACY: I knew trying to travel on Christmas Eve would have been a bad idea.

AMANDA: We planned this trip all year.

PHIL: We just had to wait to accumulate enough money to buy the tickets.

GRACE: There goes my point. I bet the both of you are working and can't make ends meet.

PHIL: I lost my job six months ago.

SANDRA: That's terrible.

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PHIL: Yep. It has been rough.

GRACE: I bet it put a strain on your marriage, that your wife or girlfriend has to foot all the bills.

PHIL: It's my wife, and we are doing okay.

GRACE: She wants you to believe that.

PHIL: We're okay, right honey?

AMANDA: We can talk about this when we get home.

Pause.

PHIL: So, we need to talk about this? You said you were fine paying all the bills and stuff until I can find a job.

AMANDA: I didn't think it would take so long. You haven't even sent out an application in two months.

PHIL: You have been carrying this for two months?

AMANDA: I'm just saying that I need some help, and you'd rather be home watching television, than out there looking for a job.

PHIL: I don't believe this.

AMANDA: Let's talk about this at home.

PHIL: You have said enough. I need to use the bathroom.

Phil exits.

Grace is laughing.

Amanda jumps at her. Stacy and Sheila grab her and pulls her away from Grace.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

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SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married?

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: Cool.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

LIGHTS FADE