

The Last Christmas

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY



Cleveland O. McLeish

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Characters

CHARLIE: 35 year old Male

KARMEN: 33 year old Female

PAUL: 14 year old Teenage Boy (Charlie & Karmen's Son)

JUNE: 13 year old Teenage Girl (Charlie & Karmen's Daughter)

SANDRA: 38 year old Female (Charlie's Sister)

ALPHANSO: 13 year old Teenage Boy (Sandra's Son)

BRIAN: 42 year old Male (Sandra's Husband)

MAN 1: Young Man (Small Speaking Role)

MAN 2: Young Man or Woman (Small Speaking Role)

Setting

A large living/dining room setting with the appropriate entrances, exits, furniture and appliances.

The Story

Christmas is just a few weeks away and teenagers, Paul and June, have submitted their Christmas list to their parents, Charlie and Karmen, but what they are asking for this year is very expensive. The parents are concerned that the children have lost the true meaning of Christmas and decides to teach them a lesson.

Charlie's sister and family is visiting for the Christmas, but her husband is missing. She assumes he may have abandoned his family, and her son is having a hard time dealing with that reality. He blames her for his father's absence.

As Christmas Day approaches, and while the parent's concoct a plan to teach their children that there are more important things than just getting gifts, the unexpected

is about to happen and this could very well be the Last normal Christmas Day that they will experience in this life.

Play Details

Length: 40-60 Minutes

Cast: 3 Males | 2 Females | 1 Male or Female | 2 Teenage Boys | 1 Teenage Girl

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

The Script



SCENE 1
LIGHTS UP

Paul, 14, and June, 13, sits on the couch, writing on separate pieces of paper.

JUNE: I can't believe Christmas is here already.

PAUL: Yep, just 21 more days to do.

JUNE: Wow. I am so excited.

PAUL: Are you finished writing your list?

JUNE: Yep.

PAUL: Guess what? I only have one item on mine.

JUNE: Really. And what might that be?

PAUL: A Samsung Galaxy Note 10.

JUNE: Shut up! That phone's like a thousand dollars, bro.

PAUL: Which is why I only have one item on my list. Besides, it's like a phone, tablet and computer rolled into one.

JUNE: Until you drop it in the toilet.

PAUL: I never drop my phone in the toilet.

JUNE: Anyway, you want to hear what's on my list?

PAUL: Not really.

JUNE: I have a Christian Dior Miss Dior Absolutely Blooming Women's Eau de Parfum Spray...

PAUL: And I'm gonna still hear what's on your list.

JUNE: Some clothes...shoes...a watch....all brand names. I want to go all out for the new year. A new June Baxter.

PAUL: Yes, yes, all gurdy stuff.

JUNE: This Christmas is going to be sooo awesome.

PAUL: You can say that again.

JUNE: This Christmas is going to be sooo awesome.

PAUL: I didn't mean that literally.

SANDRA, 38, and ALPHANSO, 13, enters, hauling two carry-on bags behind them.

SANDRA: Hello, there.

PAUL & JUNE: Hi, Auntie Sandra.

SANDRA: How are you guys doing?

JUNE: We are well.

PAUL: Just preparing our Christmas list for mom and dad.

SANDRA: Are they here?

PAUL: They are somewhere around the back. I can go get them.

JUNE: Me too.

Paul and June heads for the exit.

Alphanso glances at his mother.

SANDRA: Fine, go. I know you'll heading up for the tree house anyway.

All three Children race through the exit.

Sandra pulls the bags aside, and plops down on the couch. She takes out her cell phone and scans through it. She sighs deeply.

CHARLIE, 35, and KARMEN, 33, enters, holding the sheet of paper from their kids.

CHARLIE: Baby, are you seeing what Paul wants for Christmas?

KARMEN: You need to see June's list. My God!

CHARLIE: What on earth is going through these kids minds?

SANDRA: Hi, guys.

Sandra stands long enough to hug them both.

CHARLIE: You look tired, sis.

SANDRA: The UBER driver took a while to show up.

CHARLIE: I told you we would pick you guys up, but you insist on having your own way.

SANDRA: I needed a moment without having to explain...

KARMEN: Where is Brian?

SANDRA: ...where my husband is.

Charlie and Karmen glance at each other.

CHARLIE: Did he die?

SANDRA: I hope not.

CHARLIE: So where is he?

SANDRA: I don't know.

CHARLIE: You don't know where your husband is?

SANDRA: Yes, Charlie, that's what I said. I do not know where Brian is.

CHARLIE: Here we go again.

All three adults sigh deeply.

SANDRA: (*plops down on the couch*) I don't even know what to tell Alphanso. How do you explain to a child that his father just up and left?

CHARLIE: Would the rapture theory be convincing enough?

Sandra laughs.

SANDRA: Seriously. Brian is not a very likely candidate for the rapture anyway. Jesus means nothing to him.

CHARLIE: Well, we all have problems. How are we going to tell our children that the budget for Christmas gifts is \$200 and not \$2000?

KARMEN: When did our kids lose focus of what Christmas is all about?

CHARLIE: Maybe we are to blame. We encourage this gift writing thing from they were toddlers. It's just that it has evolved beyond our budgetary means.

SANDRA: The world is changing.

CHARLIE: Fast. Just trying to keep up with the monthly bills, school related expenses, work and home related expenses is sooo overwhelming. But we can't even let them know how financially stressed we are, or they will start thinking they are a burden to us.

KARMEN: We need a plan.

CHARLIE: What we need to do is reteach them what the real meaning of Christmas is, without devaluing them. Christmas is so much more than gifts and getting stuff and binging on fast food.

SANDRA: Good luck teaching them that.

CHARLIE: It almost feels like what is written on these pieces of paper is more important to them than we are.

SANDRA: Well, then, maybe if we dissappeared, they would see what is important.

KARMEN: We can't just dissappear.

CHARLIE: Why not? Pastor has been preaching a lot about the rapture lately. I think we are all expecting it to happen one day. Why not on Christmas Day?

Pause.

KARMEN: Yes, but no man knows the day nor the hour.

SANDRA: I wouldn't mind dissappearing for a while myself.

CHARLIE: So, let's dissappear.

KARMEN: What are you suggesting?

CHARLIE: Let's get raptured on Christmas Eve...or Christmas Day. Dissappear for a few hours, so our kids know what it feels like to be without us for a little while.

KARMEN: You think maybe you need to discuss this with Jesus first.

CHARLIE: It won't be a real rapture.

KARMEN: You are suggesting that we fake a rapture?

CHARLIE: The alternative is finding \$2000 to buy these gifts.

KARMEN: Yes, but our integrity would be compromised. That's the same as lying.

CHARLIE: We just want the kids to think that we are not here. It's not like we will be gone for real.

Pause.

SANDRA: I like the idea.

KARMEN: It's a stupid idea.

CHARLIE: I think we need to start sensitizing our children that this could be the last Christmas. We should be living each day as if it's the last anyway. If they don't learn this lesson now, next year is going to be a lot worse.

SANDRA: The Last Christmas! It has a nice ring to it.

CHARLIE: We are the adults. It is our responsibility to teach our children what is important.

SANDRA: Do you think this is what Brian is doing? Disappearing to teach us a lesson? Maybe I have been taking him for granted and not know. Oh, what have I done.

Karmen rest her hands on his shoulder.

KARMEN: It's not your fault he left.

CHARLIE: I will try giving him a call.

KARMEN: We are happy to have you with us for the Christmas my favourite sister in law.

SANDRA: I am your only sister in law.

They hug.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2
LIGHTS UP

Paul and June are seated on the couch.

Charlie stands over them like a disciplinarian.

Karmen is seated on the small couch, looking on with amusement.

CHARLIE: *(waving the Christmas list)* Guys, I know every Christmas you look forward to us fulfilling our obligation as parents by purchasing your desired gifts, but we are concerned that you think this is all Christmas is about.

A beat.

PAUL: Are you guys filing for bankruptcy?

CHARLIE: What?

PAUL: You guys are broke?

CHARLIE: I didn't say that.

JUNE: They are definitely broke.

KARMEN: Your father didn't say that.

CHARLIE: Where's your Aunt Sandy by the way?

PAUL: Still sleeping.

JUNE: She was up late last night, crying.

CHARLIE: How do you know that? Her room is all the way down the hall.

PAUL: She was eavesdropping.

JUNE: Was not.

PAUL: You walked all the way down to her room, and leaned your ear against the door.

JUNE: I was checking on them. To make sure they were okay.

KARMEN: It's called eavesdropping, honey.

June folds her arms, and leans back on the couch in defeat.

JUNE: Fine. What's going on with her anyway?

PAUL: Yeah, where's Uncle Brian? Wasn't he supposed to be here too?

JUNE: Alphonso is really upset that he's not here.

CHARLIE: We are straying from the point.

PAUL: Oh yes, you were saying you guys are broke and can't afford our gifts.

CHARLIE: *(sighs)* What is Christmas really about for you guys?

Pause.

PAUL: It is what it is, dad. If you can't buy our gifts, we totally understand.

JUNE: Yeah, most parents can't afford their kids these days anyway.

PAUL: If you could put one of us back, which one would it be?

CHARLIE: We are not going down that road.

PAUL: We can just have a nice, giftless Christmas like most other people in this neighborhood who can't afford their kids.

CHARLIE: Ok, stop. The point is, we want Christmas to be more than just gifts.

KARMEN: Expensive gifts.

JUNE: You are the ones who always ask us what we want for Christmas.

PAUL: Yeah, dad. You both started this whole thing. So don't turn it back on us.

JUNE: We are just following the tradition you guys established.

Pause.

CHARLIE: Ok, so let's modify the tradition a bit. What if this was our last Christmas on earth? What would you do?

JUNE: Oh no, you have a terminal illness. Is it cancer?

KARMEN: No *(laughing)* we don't have a terminal illness.

CHARLIE: Just trying to put things into perspective.

PAUL: Why would it be the last Christmas?

JUNE: He's talking about the rapture.

PAUL: But pastor said nobody knows when it will happen.

CHARLIE: What if it happens on Christmas Day?

PAUL: Before or after we open our gifts?

CHARLIE: Does it matter?

PAUL: Duh, yeah. I would want to get a chance to hold the Samsung Note 10 at least one time before this earth is consumed.

Pause.

Karmen is amused.

CHARLIE: Well, you guys haven't fully surrendered your life to Jesus, so your mom and I would be gone, and you would be left behind. How would that make you feel?

A beat.

PAUL: The thought is rather tempting.

JUNE: Very.

CHARLIE: What?

KARMEN: They don't mean that, love.

CHARLIE: So, seriously, if this was our last Christmas, how would you want to spend it?

A beat.

PAUL: We like what we do now.

JUNE: We don't want anything to change.

A beat.

CHARLIE: Alright. Noted.

KARMEN: I'm gonna go check on Sandy. See if they are okay.

Karmen exits.

CHARLIE: I'm unpacking the Christmas Tree today. It's time we get it up. Which one of you guys wanna help?

Paul and June immediately get preoccupied with their phones.

CHARLIE: Don't all volunteer at once.

A beat.

Charlie shakes his head and exits.

PAUL: They are broke.

JUNE: They are both working so that's not possible.

PAUL: They want to spend less on gifts this year. Maybe we should modify our lists.

JUNE: You mean, remove some items?

PAUL: Yea.

JUNE: You only have one item on your list, so you are talking about my list.

PAUL: Yea.

JUNE: Your one item cost the same as all my other items.

PAUL: But I only have one item.

JUNE: How about you change your item to something cheaper and then we can have this conversation again.

June gets up and exits, annoyed.

LIGHTS OUT