

Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)
By Cleveland O. McLeish & Anna Kay P. Murray



An Original Stage play

By

Cleveland O. McLeish & Anna Kay P. Murray

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THE CHARACTERS

LILA: Elder, Top of the Family Tree, Mother, Wife....a strong Christian woman
Who stands as the Glue that holds her Family Together.

HENRY: Lila's Husband...elderly....more of a shadow to Lila, strong supporter,
Braces her up when she's weak...firm believer in doing what is right and
very feisty.

*(Lila and Henry have been married for 59 years. They have 4 Children, 12
Grandchildren and 8 Great Grand children with one more on the way)*

MR. FOSTER: Proprietor of the Bali Hai Bed & Breakfast Inn. He's not saved and
doesn't see a reason to get saved as all he has, he worked for and thinks
he doesn't need God to achieve.

HARRY: Successful Real Estate Broker, conspicuous, materialistic and better than
everybody.

NATALIE: Harry's wife. She shares in the success of her husbands business and is also
caught up in the material things of this world putting God on a back burner and
sees no reason for Him to be a part of her life.

*(Harry and Natalie will learn that they have lost their million dollar home and have fallen
into financial ruin.)*

TYRONE: Single father who tries his best to please his son and make sure he doesn't
lack anything....even at the expense of his own needs.

DARREN: Tyrone's son. He idolizes his father, though holding the absence of his mother
against him.

(Darren has a serious problem when Tyrone starts to show an interest in Angella.

ANGELLA: Distrusting, stressed, professional young woman who develops an
interest in Tyrone....

KIM: Mr. Foster's daughter....Wayward, rebellious teen.

MICHELE: Kim's best friend....also rebellious.

SAM: Driver for Lila Mae & Henry. He's a down and out one time singer who loves to
sing oldies.

EXTRAS FOR HOTEL STAFF

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SETTING

The LOBBY of the Bali Hai Bed and Breakfast Inn with one EXIT & one ENTRANCE.

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SCENE ONE

LIGHTS UP.

The lobby is well decorated for the Christmas holidays.

Two bell boys enter overloaded with bags and exits just barely nodding to the Receptionists at the front desk.

Enter Sam, driver to Lila Mae & Henry. He falls down under the weights of the Bags

Lila Mae and Henry are not far behind.

LILA MAE: Henry, will you please help Sam with the luggage.

HENRY: I aint helping him. He gets paid to carry our stuff. I'm just a guest here.

LILA MAE: You're lazy Henry.

HENRY: He the one who is lazy. If he can't carry a few bags then maybe we need to fire him and hire a different driver.

Sam struggles to his feet and barely makes it to the receptionist.

HENRY: *(smiles broadly)* Works every time.

LILA MAE: Sometimes I think you don't have a heart.

HENRY: Sometimes you think too much. It's your thinking why we're here in the first place.

LILA MAE: Henry, this is our dream.

HENRY: No Lila Mae, this is your dream. I hate places like this. Hotels are for pimps and prostitutes.

LILA MAE: You wouldn't know. This is your first time at a hotel.

HENRY: And my last.

LILA MAE: You're gonna make this weekend a living hell for me aren't you.

HENRY: Just so you don't drag us back here, yes.

LILA MAE: And it don't matter that its Christmas....and its my birthday?

HENRY: Nope.

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LILA MAE: You aint never gonna change Henry.

HENRY: Yeah yeah, whatever. Anyway...now that we here, what do we do now.

LILA MAE: Check in at the receptionist.

HENRY: And you know this because...?

LILA MAE: It's not my first time sweet heart.

Lila Mae casually strolls to the receptionist leaving Henry standing there with his Mouth wide open.

HENRY: Lila Mae...don't be playing with me.

LILA MAE (to receptionist) Hi, you have a reservation for Lila Mae and Henry Mullington.

Receptionist checks her books.

RECEPTIONIST: Yes we do. Room 156, seventh floor.

HENRY: Oh, don't you have a room on the first floor.

RECEPTIONIST: No sir. The first floor is for the lobby and the rest room.

HENRY: I'll take one of the rest rooms thank you.

LILA MAE: Henry!

HENRY: Why you go book us for the seventh floor and you know I'm afraid of heights.

LILA MAE: The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power of love and a sound mind.

HENRY: And common sense. I aint going to no seventh floor. I'm staying right here.

LILA MAE: Fine. (takes a few bags from Sam) C'mon Sam...I have an empty space in my bed if you're interested.

Henry takes the bags from Lila Mae and he is the first through the door.

LILA MAE: (smiles broadly) Works every time.

Sam exits with the other bags.

Lila Mae takes out some cash to pay the receptionist.

ENTER Harry and Natalie, the rich couple.

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NATALIE: Excuse me, Excuse me.

Natalie steps in front of Lila Mae almost bouncing here aside.

LILA MAE: Excuse me...but I was here first.

NATALIE: Somebody talking to me.

LILA MAE: As a matter of fact, yes.

NATALIE: Sorry darling...but we're in a kind of a rush you see.

LILA MAE: Oh sorry...and I guess I was going nowhere.

Natalie hands the receptionist her credit card.

NATALIE: Where's that other girl who is usually here?

RECEPTIONIST: We work on shifts...so I'm not really sure who you are talking about.

NATALIE: Doesn't matter. Our usual room please.

RECEPTIONIST: Which is?

NATALIE (*rolls her eyes*) You don't know who we are.

RECEPTIONIST: No ma'am.

NATALIE: Can you excuse yourself and allow a more competent individual to stand at this desk please.

RECEPTIONIST: Excuse me.

HARRY: Just give us a room please.

NATALIE: Don't be so aggressive dear. You'll scare the little darling away.

Receptionist tries the card but something is wrong.

RECEPTIONIST: Uhmmm...

NATALIE: Yes dear.

RECEPTIONIST: The card is not working.

NATALIE: Then try again darling ... what is it...don't you know how to charge a card.

Receptionist tries again but the card does not go through. She hands it back to Natalie.

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NATALIE: Incompetent that's what it is...

HARRY: Are we gonna stand here all day or are you gonna find someone who can actually do their job.

RECEPTIONIST: Do you have cash sir?

HARRY: Do I have cash..... This is an insult.

RECEPTIONIST: No sir what I meant was....

NATALIE: Here..(*Taking some money from her purse*)... I hope you know how to use these.

Receptionist takes the cash and hands them a receipt and keys.

RECEPTIONIST: Room 210. Twelfth floor.

NATALIE: It better be the best room you have.

Natalie claps offstage and two bell boys enter carrying their bags. They exit.

Lila Mae is still in shock.

Receptionist turns her attention back to her.

RECEPTIONIST: Sorry about that.

LILA MAE: Don't be intimidated by their attitude dear. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven.

RECEPTIONIST: Tell me about it.

Lila Mae pays her cash and collects a receipt.

LILA MAE: I'll see you around dear.

RECEPTIONIST: Yes maam. Enjoy your stay.

Lila Mae exits.

ENTER Angella. She checks in at the receptionist.

ANGELLA: Can I have a room please?

RECEPTIONIST: Single or double occupancy.

ANGELLA: Do I look like a double occupancy to you?

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Receptionist pulls into a shell.

Angella is sorry she snapped.

ANGELLA: I'm sorry. Just been having a bad day.

RECEPTIONIST: It's okay.

ANGELLA: Single please...as near to the top as you can.

RECEPTIONIST: Okay. Cash or charge.

ANGELLA: Charge (*hands her a credit card*)

ENTER DARREN, twelve years old. He's running all over the stage very excited.

Angella watches him for a beat.

Tyrone comes in behind him carrying all the bags.

TYRONE: Darren (*tries to catch him but he cannot hold him while holding bags*) Darren stop it this minute. You hear me boy.

Darren stops and looks at his father...but only for a minute before circling the Stage again.

TYRONE: Boy I'm gonna kill you... you just wait til I get a hold of you.

Angella finds something to smile about.

Tyrone sees her smiling.

TYRONE: Wow, I never thought my inability to control my son while carrying bags would put a smile on someone's face.

ANGELLA: It didn't...trust me it was all your son... not you.

TYRONE: Okay... about that.... I see someone is in need of a little.....

ANGELLA: What you say sir?

TYRONE: Oh nothing, I was just talking to myself. DARREN!...oh wait till I get my hands on you boy.

ANGELLA: Let me guess...Baby daddy... It's your turn to take care of the boy this weekend and being the distant father that you are you cannot relate to your son because he does not know you... typical.

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TYRONE: Wow your good... now let me guess... Lonley, miserable in need of a man among other things. Had some bad run ins in the past and now you're taking it out on every man you see...TYPICAL.

ANGELLA: Why the nerve.

TYRONE: Listen Lady, you don't know me long enough to put me in a category.

ANGELLA: Sweet heart. Once you are born a man, you are born into a category. I don't need to know you.

Its obvious there will be no further conversation between these two.

Tyrone tries to reach his wallet with his bags...but it is hopeless. He finds Somewhere to rest his bags and turns to face the receptionist.

TYRONE: Good day. My names Tyrone Miller and I'm checking in my son and myself.

RECEPTIONIST: Your son?

TYRONE: Yes, hes right th....(turns around to see only Angella standing there and pointing offstage) Be right back.

Tyrone exits.

Angella is smiling again ...she takes her stuff...collects her receipt and leaves.

Tyrone comes back pulling Darren by his collar. He puts him to stand in front as He finishes up with the receptionist.

Receptionist gives him a receipt and keys.

RECEPTIONIST: Room twelve... second floor.

TYRONE: Thank you (to Darren) Darren....I'm gonna let you go now but please behave yourself.

Darren nods innocently yes.

By the time Tyrone picks up his luggage....Darren is nowhere in sight.

RECEPTIONIST: Usually when people come here for R&R, they leave the children behind.

TYRONE: Yeah, unfortunately for me I have no one to leave him with.

RECEPTIONIST: Oh, well...hope you enjoy your stay here....somehow.

TYRONE: Yeah, thanks. (exits)

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The Proprietor Mr. Foster enters.

MR. FOSTER: Good morning Ms. Bennett.

RECEPTIONIST: Good morning Mr. Foster.

MR. FOSTER: How many people have checked in so far?

RECEPTIONIST: About fourteen...

Mr. Foster looks troubled.

RECEPTIONIST: Is there a problem sir?

MR. FOSTER: Just fourteen... (*sigh*)... this weekend is gonna be a bad one I can feel it.

Troubled faces as

LIGHTS FADE.

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SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP

Lila Mae and Henry are on stage.

HENRY: Man I have not slept in a bed like that since....

LILA MAE: Since what Henry?

HENRY: Since I married you. *(He laughs)*. That bed sure knows how to crack the old bones.

LILA MAE: It's more like them old bones were about to crack the bed *(She laughs)*.

Henry flags her off. Lila Mae continues to laugh.

LILA MAE: So Henry what do you think of the place now.

HENRY: I've seen better.

LILA MAE: Where... on TBN.

HENRY: Oh you got jokes....about time...I was starting to think that boredom was gonna kill me...living with you and all...*(He laughs)*.

LILA MAE: You old foot.

HENRY: And yet still you love me.

Door # 2 opens, Natalie and Harry enters. Natalie and Harry are all dressed up in expensive designer clothing and sunglasses.

LILA MAE: Oh great, just what I need to make my day.... Here comes Mutt and Jeff.

HENRY: Judge not Honey.

LILA MAE: Remember the two people I was telling you about.

HENRY: Yeah.

LILA MAE: That's them.

Natalie and Harry walks pass Henry and Lila Mae. Natalie lowers her sunglasses and looks at Henry with disdain.

NATALIE: They seem to be letting everything in these days... who knows..we might soon be shacking it up lions and giraffes.. one big happy family.

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HENRY: Lila Mae, who does she think she is talking to?

LILA MAE: See what I mean.

HENRY: Excuse me maam.

NATALIE: *(Turning to Harry)* You hear something...

HENRY: Why the nerve of..

LILA MAE: Anger but sin not Henry.

HENRY: *(calmly)* Pardon me maam.

HARRY: Yes... may I help you.

NATALIE: What is your problem Mr.... we don't have anything to give you... you people are like parasites on hard working people like myself...

LILA MAE: Maam you ever heard of the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

NATALIE: Not interested... and why are you talking to me.... C'mon Harry...don't waste time with the hired help.

Natalie and Harry exit the stage through DOOR #1.

LILA MAE: OH Jesus I sure do love you right about now....

HENRY: They better thank God I know Jesus.... You know if you weren't here I would have...

LILA MAE: You would have what Henry.... Don't make me laugh at you... you couldn't hit a fly even if you tried.... If I weren't here *(She begins to laugh)*.

LIGHTS FADE.

LIGHTS UP

Kim and Michelle are onstage.

MICHELLE: It's so cool that your dad owns this place... you must come here a lot.

KIM: Yeah, yeah.... If you say so... the only reason why I'm here is because my mom's not home.

MICHELLE: Girl... I don't care what you say you lucky. At least you know your dad.

KIM: Sometimes I wish I didn't.

MICHELLE: So what are we gonna do this weekend.

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KIM: Girl, I got so much to show you.... The pool, the bar and of course the club with the fellas... so long as ma dad don't catch us we'll be having a whole lot of fun this weekend.

MICHELLE: That's what I'm talking about, hey!

Kim turns to the receptionist.

KIM: Have you seen my dad?

RECEPTIONIST: No not since yesterday.

KIM: I can never find that man when I need him. C'mon girl let's go hit the pool.

Kim and Michelle exit the stage through DOOR #1.

LIGHTS OUT.

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SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP.

Lila Mae and Henry enters the stage through door #1.

LILA MAE: Ah there is nothing like a long walk out doors.

HENRY: *(Breathing tiresomely)* Speak for yourself ... you seem to be forgetting that we're not so young anymore.

LILA MAE: Speak for yourself Henry. I am as young as I feel.

HENRY: But not as you look. *(he laughs)*.

Kim and Michelle enter the stage through door # 1.

MICHELLE: Oh great, old people...

KIM: Michelle... they are my dad's guests... they might hear you.

MICHELLE: Why do you care all of a sudden?

KIM: You know what you're right... let's forget about them, let's go.

Kim and Michelle push pass Lila Mae and Henry on their outside.

HENRY: Excuse me young lady.

MICHELLE: Get out of our way old man.

They open door #1 and as they were about to exit the stage Darren runs through the door almost knocking Michelle.

MICHELLE: Hey, Watch it. .. what's wrong with you. Are you blind?

DARREN: Are you blind?

MICHELLE: You better not mess with me.

DARREN: Make me.

MICHELLE: Why you little....

With this Darren runs across the stage and then exits through door #2.

HENRY: The Lord works in mysterious ways.. doesn't he.

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LILA MAE: Henry, don't say that.

HENRY: What! They only got what they dished out. Serve them right. Too bad though.

LILA MAE: Too bad what?

HENRY: Too bad it wasn't me.

LILA MAE: Henry.

HENRY: C'mon, I know you wanted me to.

LILA MAE: No Henry.

HENRY: Oh yeah I forgot you too saved for trouble makers like me.. well too late, you already married to me *(He laughs)*.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

Natalie and Harry enter the stage through Door #1. They are soaking wet and very distressed.

NATALIE: Rain, just what I need.

HARRY: It was just a light shower hon.

NATALIE: *(Shouting)* A light shower. Look at my hair does this look like a light shower to you... I am soaking wet, my hair is a mess and you are getting on top of my last nerve.

HARRY: The sun will soon come out... don't over react.

NATALIE: Oh the sun will soon come..... I never knew that I married a weather man.... It better or else.

Harry shakes his head as he sighs.

LIGHTS OUT

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SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS UP

Everyone is onstage. Kim & Michelle are preoccupied with MP4 Players and their cell phones.

Mr. Foster walks back and forth restlessly. He uncomfortably addresses the crowd before him.

MR. FOSTER: Good evening everyone, guests and staff alike. I hope your stay here so far has been a good one.

HENRY: Is that why you called us all down here. Do you know what time it is?

MR. FOSTER: Well... there's more...

HENRY: We haven't got all day.

MR. FOSTER: Well that's the thing... it seems that there's a storm heading this way.

NATALIE: Oh great...

TYRONE: Okay, so now that we know I guess we should all try to leave before it hits.

MR. FOSTER: Well, that's gonna be a problem.

TYRONE: What's the problem... all we have to do is pack our things and leave. I don't see a problem.

MR. FOSTER: Oh trust me it's not that simple.

NATALIE: Well.... What else could possibly go wrong?

MR. FOSTER: *(sighs)* I don't know how to say this but..... *(Brief pause)* you're all stuck here. The bridge that links us to the main land has washed away.

NATALIE: Oh no, no way..... I am not stuck here. Harry go get our bags we are leaving.

ANGELLA: Lady are you deaf.... There is nowhere to go.

NATALIE: No I'm not stuck here... not with all a you.

ANGELLA: Well guess what, we are stuck here with you and trust me we are not looking forward to it.

NATALIE: I don't need this. I'm leaving.

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HENRY: Well you know where to find the door.

NATALIE: Shut up old man.... Harry this is all your fault. You forced me to come to this... bad excuse for an inn. I said let's go to the Hilton but no You needed some peace and quiet. Well so much for your peace and quiet.

HENRY: Hallelujah, lady I don't like you but I'm with you on that one.

LILA MAE: Henry.

HENRY: What? She is right. If we had stayed home none of this would have happened.

LILA MAE: The Lord had us come here for a reason.

HENRY: Well it better be a good one.

NATALIE: Oh great another nail in my coffin... Church people just what I need.

LILA MAE: You're probably right.

NATALIE: We planned a big party for tomorrow, our friends are to be coming over this evening what will they think.

MR. FOSTER: That's the least of your worries... I suspect that the power will soon be gone but the generator should kick in... however, it can only run four hours.

KIM: Well at least our cell phones are still working right dad.

MR. FOSTER: Yes dear.... So call all your relatives and let them know what's up... ok gang we meet here again at....

Darren dashes from one end of the stage to the next.

MR. FOSTER: Can somebody please grab that kid.

Tyrone catches Darren and holds him.

TYRONE: Sorry...he's a bit hyperactive. Happens when he eats too much sweet.

ANGELLA: Uh uh,

TYRONE: What's that supposed to mean?

ANGELLA: Nothing.

HENRY: So how long you think we gonna be stuck here.

MR. FOSTER: I don't know. When I know I will let you' all know.

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HENRY: Great....just great. If Jesus comes and find me in this place, I'm gonna be left behind.

LILA MAE: Hush your mouth Henry.

Mr. Foster looks at the teens who are no longer listening to him and are doing there own thing.

MR. FOSTER: Hello. *(they are deep in technology)* I am speaking to you?

MICHELLE: We hear you.

MR. FOSTER: Young lady where is your mother... wasn't she suppose to check in yesterday.

MICHELLE: Well yeah, but, seeing the storm and all I don't think she be coming anytime soon. Just Chill dude....she'll be here.

KIM: Michelle, that's my dad. You can't talk to my dad like that.

MICHELLE: Why not he aint my father... what do I care... besides you talk to him worse.

MR. FOSTER: You haven't heard a word I said have you.

MICHELLE: Yeah man. We heard everything. No need for the attitude bro.

MR. FOSTER: Yeah well, folks...believe it or not we are stuck here together for a few days. Lets make the best of it.

Mr. Foster exits.

MICHELLE: What did he just say?

ANGELLA: Oh dear. Teenagers!!

TYRONE: I get the feeling you don't like children.

ANGELLA: Really...ya think. I wonder what was your first clue?

NATALIE: Harry, get me out of here. I cannot stay among these common people.

ANGELLA: Excuse you. Because you have a dead bear around your neck and an escalade in the parking lot you think you are better than us.

NATALIE: Hate the game sweetheart...not the players. Come Harry. We have some calls to make.

Natalie is exiting with Harry in toe.

HENRY: Kneel Harry...Bark Harry... Sit Harry...

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Lila Mae nudges him.

LILA MAE: Will you behave yourself Henry.

HENRY: I hate to see a man playing a dog.

LILA MAE: It's none of our business.

HENRY: I'll tolerate it as long as they stay out of my way.

LILA MAE: Henry...You best behave. I aint having it here.

HENRY: Okay...I'm just saying.

TYRONE: He's right though. A man should be a man.

ANGELLA: This from a man who cannot control his twelve year old son.

TYRONE: I can control my son.

ANGELLA: Yeah....where is he?

TYRONE: He's right her...(of course Darren is missing again). This proves nothing. Excuse me.

Tyrone exits quickly.

LILA MAE: You two know each other.

ANGELLA: No, and I would like to keep it that way. Why?

LILA MAE: Just wondering why you giving him such a hard time.

HENRY (*sings*) Minding my own business.

ANGELLA: He's a man. They all the same.

LILA MAE: No dear, they are not.

ANGELLA: Whatever... The ones I've met are.

LILA MAE: You've just met the wrong ones.

ANGELLA: Even so... I am yet to meet a good one.

LILA MAE: I doubt you have the time dear.

ANGELLA: Trust me when I see a good one I'll know.

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LILA MAE: Well you just did and guess what... you didn't even realize.

Angella is silent.

HENRY: Okay, I'll go get some popcorn its gonna be a long night.

Henry exits.

MICHELLE: I'm going for a walk. You coming girl...or you rather stay here with the primitive folks.

KIM: But what about the storm.

MICHELLE: What about it..... you coming or are you scared that your dad will find out.

KIM: Of course I'm coming. Don't be silly. *(they exit)*

LILA MAE: I got me a good man. He gets on top of my nerves most of the time...but he's a gentleman...He knows how to love me and put my needs above his own.

ANGELLA: Yeah, well you got the last one.

LILA MAE: Yeah, you would want to believe that. Truth is...when the good ones come you treat them the way you just treated that gentleman just now.

Pause.

ANGELLA: But he's soft...

LILA MAE: Huh huh.

ANGELLA: He can't control his son.

LILA MAE: Yeah...but I bet he wouldn't hurt you like those tough men who can control their sons.

ANGELLA: Okay, okay. God, you remind me of my mother.

LILA MAE: How so?

ANGELLA: She always makes me feel bad.

LILA MAE: I wasn't trying to make you feel bad.

ANGELLA: Yeah, I know. Thanks anyway. I'm gonna go get some sleep.

Angella exits.

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Henry returns with popcorn.

HENRY: Wha....shows over already.

LILA MAE: Intermission.

HENRY: You gone and found hurting people haven't you.

LILA MAE: The world aint short a them baby.

HENRY: Well, you go carry this burden alone if ya plan on going on fasting cause I smell somet'n sweet brewing round back.

LILA MAE: Henry...

HENRY: I'm serious Lila Mae...If I follow you, I may very well develop ulcer. You wanna hear your husband died cause he fasted too much.

LILA MAE: Oh, you aint never gonna change Henry....*(Lila exits)*

HENRY *(looks at the popcorn)* Some vacation this is turning out to be. *(sits and eats the popcorn)*
I coulda done this at home...and it wouldn't cost me nothing. *(continues to gobble on the popcorn)*

LIGHTS OUT

Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)
By Cleveland O. McLeish & Anna Kay P. Murray

SCENE FIVE

LIGHTS UP.

Kim and Michelle enters flopping their hands and sighing.

The receptionist is at her desk sorting paper work.

KIM: I'm so bored.

MICHELLE: Yeah, like there is nothing to do around here.

KIM: This place is gonna drive me nuts. I need some excitement right about now.

MICHELLE: Yeah...but there's nothing.

KIM *(to Receptionist)* Hey you, what do people do for fun around here. Man....you people only cater to old people. What about us.

RECEPTIONIST: The pool is good.

KIM: Lady....forget the pool. Where's the party at?

RECEPTIONIST: We usually have like karaoke....but the storm...

MICHELLE: Karaoke!!!!

KIM: Heeey....remember that club we passed on our way here.

MICHELLE: Yeah...

RECEPTIONIST: Nooo. There's a very bad storm out. Mr. Foster says no one is to leave.

KIM: Mr. Foster this and Mr. Foster that. Do you always do what other people tell you to do?

RECEPTIONIST: Well...yeah, and so should you, especially you Ms. Kimberly.

KIM: Stay out of my life. You're just as stuck up as the old folks.

RECEPTIONIST: Am not.

KIM: Prove it. Come with us to da club. Ya look like you need to unwind.

RECEPTIONIST: I am sorry ladies but some of us got work to do.

MICHELLE: We understand..... your too scared.

KIM: No one is checking in or out for a few days. C'mon...don't be a chicken.

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RECEPTIONIST: I don't know.

KIM: C'mon we'll just tell my dad that you were just ensuring our safety. For sure he would fire you.

RECEPTIONIST: So ow ya gonna get into the club. Aren't you underage?

KIM: Girl...our name is woman. We get anything we want if we swing our hips right.

Pause.

RECEPTIONIST: Okay....one hour.

KIM: This will be an hour you won't forget...yeah.

They exit excitedly as Tyrone enters dragging Darren with him.

Tyrone sits him down.

TYRONE: Darren, I can't keep running behind you like this.

Pause.

DARREN: So are we gonna call mom now and tell her about the storm.

TYRONE: Not yet son.

DARREN: Dad when we get home will mom be there.

Pause. Tyrone gets real uneasy.

TYRONE: She's....not....*(He pauses)* I don't know son I don't know.

DARREN: Why? What did you do?

TYRONE: It's kinda complicated Son.

DARREN: Its your fault isn't it.... It's because of you why mom... hasn't come home. I hate you.. I want my mother.

TYRONE: Darren, you don't understand.

But Darren does not stop to listen he exits the stage through door #2.

(Special singing – Yolanda Adams It's only a test (SUGGESTED Song))

LIGHTS FADE

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SCENE SIX

A loud scream is heard off stage.

Natalie is seen busting through door #2. She is devastated. Harry comes running behind her.

NATALIE: No this is not possible.... This can't be.... Why is this happening to me... I am a good person. Harry what are you going to do about this... I can't live like this... you have to do something.

HARRY: Calm down.

NATALIE: (*Shouting*) Calm down, calm down don't tell me to calm down.... everything we own is gone. Don't you understand Harry.... We will be the laughing stock of the community. What will our friends think.... What will my friends think...

HARRY: I don't know my dear.... But creating a fit over it will not solve the problem.

NATALIE: Shut up Harry... that's all you know to do annoy me. If you aint gonna say anything to help me, then shut up.

HARRY: Natalie, Why you behaving like it's the end of the world... I am a part of this as much as you are... and I'm sure you don't hear me making a scene about it.

NATALIE: Typical... here I am pouring out my distressful heart to you and all you do is turn it and make it bout you. You are so insensitive. ... I should have listened to my mother.. she warned me about you but no I just didn't want to hear. .. now look at my shame.

HARRY: We will survive my dear... in the same way that everybody does... so stop behaving like all hope is gone.

NATALIE: Don't tell me rubbish Harry.... Do we look like normal people to you? You are the powerful Managing Director of Robinsons Enterprise and me the ever fashionable, diva wife... there is no way in this world we can survive this like normal people... cause we're not.

HARRY: You know what you are hopeless.... You don't listen...You never listen.

NATALIE: Oh so now it's my fault... Blame it on me Harry, blame it on me. ... Remember baby I made you. Before I came along you were just Harry... but now you are Mr. Harry Robinson. I was the success of you and you know it.

HARRY: This is pointless.

With this Harry exits the stage.

NATALIE: Yeah walk away.... do what you do best...

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No sooner had he exited the stage he re-enters. But he is very furious. He walks right up to Natalie and begins to speak.

HARRY: Now you listen and you listen well. You are gonna stop this right now you hear me. I don't want to hear none of it anymore.

NATALIE: So now you got backbone..... well too late.

Harry grabs Natalie by her arm.

HARRY: Just shut up and listen.

NATALIE: Oh, Harry the man speaks...it's about time

HARRY: *(grabs her hand)* Don't let me...

NATALIE: Just try it.

Harry quickly lets go of Natalie's hand and begins to walk back and forth on stage.

HARRY: I am sick and tired of your complaining.... It's because of your complaining why we are in this mess... all you ever say is the house is too small, or I need a new car, I want, I want that's all you ever say... you never once stopped to ask me how I was getting the money to finance all your needs or how was our money doing.... Not once. It has always had to be about you, and like the good husband I allowed you to get your way.

NATALIE: This is how you repay me for my years of hard work... you ungrateful..

HARRY: Shut up woman and listen.... If you had been listening to me when I'd asked we probably wouldn't be in this mess. *(Short Pause)* I have been trying to tell you for the past months what has been happening but no it's always not now honey... maybe later, the guests are almost here dear, or lets go shopping first or some other whack excuse. You say you're the success of me... well your wrong... you're the failure... you heard me, the failure!

NATALIE: You ungrateful heathen after all that I have done this is how you repay me. You know what, get out of my sight. You're not worthy of my conversation. Worthless.

HARRY: You know what, I'm done with you.. you hear me I'm done with you *(short pause)* as soon as we get home I want you to pack your things and leave... you're on your own. You wanted me to leave your sight, well guess what, consider me gone.

Harry exits the stage but before he exits Natalie runs and grabs a hold of him.

NATALIE: No Harry, you can't... what am I suppose to do.

HARRY: Your smart... figure it out... and, please, take your hands off me.

Harry exits the stage through door # 2. Henry and Lila Mae enter.

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HENRY: Do you hear that my dear?

LILA MAE: Sure did.

HENRY: Oh Harry, you the man.

LILA MAE: Henry.

HENRY: What! She had it coming... you reap what you sow remember.

LILA MAE: Could you be a little more discreet. She might hear you.

HENRY: So.

LILA MAE: Henry...please...don't you see she's in pain.

HENRY: So is everybody else.

Lila Mae fans him off and walks over to Natalie who is on the floor crying.

LILA MAE: Are you ok Ms?

NATALIE: Leave me alone.

LILA MAE: Ok I can respect that... but if you ever need to talk... I'm in room # 156...

HENRY: She said to leave her alone... so let's go...

Lila Mae and Henry exit the stage through door #2.

HENRY: They have tamed the beast....

LILA MAE: C'mon you. When you gonna learn to behave?

LIGHTS OUT

Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)
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SCENE SEVEN

Mr. Foster enters.

MR. FOSTER: Where is everybody?

Kim, Michelle and the Receptionist enters.

They see Mr. Foster and tries to leave, but he sees them before they exit.

MR. FOSTER: Excuse me....why aren't you at your desk.

RECEPTIONIST: Nuffing saar. I was just been, uhm...

MR. FOSTER: Are you drunk?

RECEPTIONIST: No waaay saar...(passes out in Michelle's arm)

MR. FOSTER: Okay...this is gone too far. Kim, I think I've had enough of your antics and we need to have a talk right now.

KIM: Why?

MR. FOSTER: Well, maybe because I am your father and I care.

KIM: Since when.... The last time I checked he walked out on me and my mom. So do me a favor will you.... Save the mobo jumbo for someone who cares.

MR. FOSTER: Why do you hate me so much?

KIM: Uhhh..lets see...you left my mom...you left me... yeah that pretty much covers it.

Pause.

MR. FOSTER: Aside from what you may think I did not abandon you... your mother and I just could not stay together anymore.

KIM: Well I never asked for a part in this.

MR. FOSTER: But you get to see me every other weekend.

KIM: Yeah, well...I never asked for a part time father either... and besides whenever I'm here you treat me like I don't even exist.

MR. FOSTER: Kim...I am really trying here.

KIM: Yeah whatever... we have this kinda conversation once a year...I see you're trying really hard.

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RECEPTIONIST: Am I like...so fried... you feeling me.....*(Pause)* Cause...I don't feel so good.

MR. FOSTER: Michelle, please bring Ms. Bennett to the sick bay....and... enjoy the rest of your time here cause you wont be coming back.

MICHELLE: What?

MR. FOSTER: You heard me. I can't accommodate you any longer if you refuse to respect me.... and as soon as I'm done here I'm calling your mother.

MICHELLE: No, no...please don't call my mother. If you call my mother I'm dead. No Mr. Foster you can't call my mom... I'll do anything just don't call her..... Please, I beg you.

Pause.

MR. FOSTER: I don't know what kinda parent sends a child to stay at an hotel all by themselves. You just wait.... Wait till your mom gets here... I'm gonna deal with you once and for all. So rest well my dear your day of reckoning is on its way.

MICHELLE: Mr. Foster... aaamm there's something that I shoulda told you....aaamm.

MR. FOSTER: Please don't tell me she doesn't know where you are?

Pause.

MR. FOSTER: Oh, this is just great.

MICHELLE: We had a fall out.

MR. FOSTER: And you ran away.

MICHELLE: Kind of.

MR. FOSTER: And came here?

MICHELLE: Yeah.

MR. FOSTER: Oh great. Now I know I'm calling your mother.

MICHELLE: Please, please. I'll behave, I promise.

MR. FOSTER: You two are gonna drive me up the wall.

KIM: We were just trying to have some fun.

MR. FOSTER: My receptionist is passed out on the sofa, in the lobby, you call that fun.

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KIM: Well Yeah... what so wrong with that.

MR. FOSTER: That's it...I'm calling your mother...and I'm calling your mother. (*Pointing at both KIM and Michelle*).

KIM: This is so unfair.

MR. FOSTER: I'm only looking out for your best interest sweet heart.

KIM: I don't need you to do that. I can take care of myself.

MR. FOSTER: I really hope so...cause I wont be giving you any allowance for the next two months.

KIM: And you wonder why I don't like you.

MR. FOSTER: Kim, I know I'm not the ideal father...but you're not even giving me a chance.

KIM: Why should I?

MR. FOSTER: Because I love you.

KIM: I really find that hard to believe.

RECEPTIONIST (*sings*) Why don't we all just get stoned....get drunk and drink beer drinking songs...

MR. FOSTER: Michelle...can you take her to a room please.

Michelle helps Receptionist to her feet.

MICHELLE: Please don't call mom Mr. Foster...I'll behave. I promise.

Michelle exits.

MR. FOSTER: What do you want from me Kim?

KIM: I want you to work things out with mom...so we can be a family again.

MR. FOSTER: You don't always get what you want in life.

KIM: I just want that one thing...nothing else matters. I want this...this moment we have right now. I don't want to have to be bad to get it.

Pause.

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MR. FOSTER: Your mom and I...we took your brothers death really hard. It caused some damage that may never be repaired Kim...you have to understand...we tried...it just never worked out.

KIM: That's just it Dad....I'm sick and tired of walking in my dead brothers shadow. He's dead dad, he's dead... I'm not.

Kim exits.

Lila Mae comes out just as Mr. Foster is about to exit behind Kim.

LILA MAE: Let her go.

MR. FOSTER: What?

LILA MAE: You can't fix your daughter until you fix yourself.

MR. FOSTER: Were you ease dropping on my conversation with my daughter?

LILA MAE: No sir...I was just passing...but God wouldn't let me go.

MR. FOSTER: Oh really, me and your God aint on no good terms so if you don't mind and with all due respect please just leave me alone.

LILA MAE: What has God ever done to you?

MR. FOSTER: Uhm, let me see...He killed my son....tore my marriage apart, the list is endless. Your God is famous for sitting aside and watching good people suffer....don't you agree?

LILA MAE: No, I'm sorry sir but I have to disagree with you.

MR. FOSTER: So where was he when my son was lying in that hospital bed and all them church folks came round praying that God would make him better...but still he died. Where was He?

LILA MAE: God aint a crutch you lean on when you're in need...he aint a puppy that comes running when you whistle or some supplement for man's ill nor is He a gap filler. His peace surpasses all understanding...His ways, and means are different from ours...He says come unto me and I will give you rest...but you say God give me rest then I will come.... You cannot fit God into your tiny little box Mr. Foster...you take Him as He is or none at all.

MR. FOSTER: And how is this information gonna help me exactly?

LILA MAE: You just remember this Mr. Foster...God aint the cause but the cure.

Lila Mae exits leaving Mr. Foster to think about her words.

LIGHTS FADE

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SCENE EIGHT

LIGHTS UP

Tyrone is on stage sitting in one of the chairs on the lobby.

Angella enters the stage through door #2. He walks over to where Tyrone is sitting.

ANGELLA: Hi

Tyrone looks around to see who she is talking to.

TYRONE: You talking to me...the last time I checked I was not good enough for your conversation.

ANGELLA: Ok be like that.. *(turns to leave)* I knew this was a bad idea.

TYRONE: No don't leave, I'm sorry I didn't mean to... I'm just going through a bad time that's all.

ANGELLA: It's one of those weeks... huh.

TYRONE: More like one of those years.

ANGELLA: I see someone's a bit bitter.

TYRONE: Nah... I aint bitter...I'm more like tired.

ANGELLA: Your son's got you worn out.

TYRONE: Yeah, that among other things.... So what exactly are you doing up at this of the night?

ANGELLA: Couldn't sleep.

TYRONE: Dem fellas giving you trouble.

ANGELLA: Not a chance... I wouldn't give them the pleasure.

TYRONE: So what's your story?

ANGELLA: Don't you think that's pushing it a bit.

TYRONE: Am I?

ANGELLA: Okay...that's it this conversation is over... you're all the same. *(short pause)* you all think that you are God's gift to women.

TYRONE: Wow, slow your role... I was just kidding. C'mon you need to loosen up... play a little.

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ANGELLA: Yeah that's what y'all just love to do... play around... this is all one big game to you... isn't it.

TYRONE: Lady, somebody either hurt you real bad or just got pms.... Man you messed up. Listen let me set the record straight, the last thing I need is a woman to come and complicate my life... ...I got enough problems as it is.... So if you think I'm after you, well guess what I aint... AND BESIDES YOU AINT THAT CUTE.... *(pause)*. Nah I'm just playing you're a masterpiece.

Angella give a little smile.

TYRONE: Now ...there, see that was what I was talking about... relax.

ANGELLA: You should practice what you preach sometime... you know.

TYRONE: So as I was saying what's your story... everybody's got a story. What's yours?

ANGELLA: What's yours?

TYRONE: Now you see, you aint playing fair.

ANGELLA: What, you scared... you got something to hide.

TYRONE: Nah, at least not anymore and since I'm stuck here with you... I guess I could probably mention a few details. But you first... you know what they say ladies before gentlemen.

ANGELLA: Oh really. *(She smiles)*. Well....

TYRONE: Before you go any further... we have not been formally introduced. *(Pause)* Hi I'm Tyrone and you my lovely lady are.

ANGELLA: This is ridiculous *(she smiles)* *(pause)* I'm Angella.

TYRONE: So how is Ms. Angella doing?

ANGELLA: Could have been better but I'm good.

Pause.

TYRONE: That's it... what about how's Mr. Tyrone doing... girl you gotta work with the flow.

ANGELLA: Boy you two kinds a crazy.

Angella and Tyrone laugh.

Pause.

TYRONE: So...

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ANGELLA: Okay if I must... so how's Mr. Tyrone doing.

TYRONE: No.. you gotta do it with a little more flavor.

ANGELLA: What flava...

TYRONE: Aiight, since it's gonna kill you... you don't have to.

ANGELLA: I wasn't planning to.

TYRONE: Why you gonna do me like that... I'm hurt.

ANGELLA: That's the world we live in .

TYRONE: Now that we got that out of the way... back to your story.

ANGELLA: What story?

TYRONE: C'mon.

ANGELLA: Why don't you go first, then I go after.

TYRONE: MMmm. Let me think about it for a sec... aiight.

Pause.

ANGELLA: So.

TYRONE: You meant now. .. I thought you meant... you know like tomorrow or something.

ANGELLA: Tyrone.

TYRONE: Say ma name, say ma name. .. it's starting to get hot in here or is it just me.

ANGELLA: What do you think...

TYRONE: I knew it was me... Yeah, I still got it.

ANGELLA: Oh please.... Now back to the story.

TYRONE: Why you gonna go kill the moment.

Angella looks at him strongly.

TYRONE: Ok enough. ... Once upon a time there lived.... Nah I'm just playing. *(pause)*. I got married to my high school sweetheart right outa high school. We were happy, I was making the bucks, we bought ourselves two cars, a house with a big backyard, we living the American

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dream. And then she got pregnant. I was so excited, I was finally going to be a dad. But she wasn't so happy about it... yeah.. in fact she wanted to do an abortion...

ANGELLA: She what! Really!.

TYRONE: Yep, she said she wasn't ready for a child just yet... she needed some more me time. But being the persistent man I am I didn't want to hear it. All I wanted was my boy and that I got. We were a happy little family well at least so I thought. Then one day about a year or so ago she just got up one night and told me that things would have to change or else. But I didn't take her seriously until she left.

ANGELLA: She left....

TYRONE: I was devastated. How could she do this to me after all that we had been through. I worked ma butt off so that we could have a comfortable life and this was how she repaid me. And what about Darren, what was I suppose to tell him.

ANGELLA: I'm sorry man... but as sad as that is I don't think it was all her fault... you know there are always two sides to a story. I really don't want to sound insensitive but you and I know that that's not the whole story.

TYRONE: And you know this because,

ANGELLA: A mean I was just saying... no offence but a woman just does not walk out on her child and years of marriage just like that... you know.

TYRONE: Well I guess you're kinda right. You know I blamed her the whole time. But it was not until I got a chance to speak to her about four months later that I finally realized what happened.

ANGELLA: So what did she say?

TYRONE: Somebody is a bit inquisitive.

ANGELLA: Sorry.

TYRONE: Nah that's ok ... Yep, she told me that she was tired of living my dream and it was time to live hers. She said that I forced her to have a child and after she did, I spent little time with our son. She said that I worked too much, it was always about work.

ANGELLA: So was she right?

TYRONE: Even though at the time I didn't think so... I must confess that yeah she was. And so now I have a son that I don't know and who doesn't know me. I have to juggle being a father and mother and still be productive at work. It's really hard. And on top of it Darren blames me for his mother leaving.

ANGELLA: I'm really sorry.

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TYRONE: Yeah me too... but it's too late for that now. I have my son to take care of.

ANGELLA: Don't worry, he might not understand now but he will in time. You just make sure that he never grows to hate his mom.

TYRONE: Yeah, it's a task though. Sometimes I just wish he could be a bit more understanding and patient with me.

ANGELLA: He's a child, he doesn't understand yet... in the meantime though you're gonna have to be patient with him. He's hurting just as much as you.

TYRONE: Ms. Child psychologist....

Angella smiles.

Pause.

TYRONE: So now you know my story, what's yours?

ANGELLA: My story...mmm... well my story is....

TYRONE: Is what?

ANGELLA: It is...(short pause)... When I was a little girl I was like the ugly duckling in my family. My sister she was my father's pride and my mother's joy. She was everything that they wanted in a child, perfect grades, perfect friends, even perfect teeth. She was just perfect. Me on the other hand was not so perfect. I was the unexpected child who was born at a bad time. You know that my own mother told me that I wasn't even suppose to be here... and that I should thank my lucky stars that she didn't go through with what she had planned... yeah my own mother said that to me.

TYRONE: Wow, that's harsh, that's harsh man.

ANGELLA: Yeah, I was never as good as my sister. I had few friends and the ones that I had were never good enough for my parents. All my life I have search for a place where I fit in and in that search I got involved in a lot of bad relationships. And today I'm an Accounting Manager hoping to make partner soon and a very bitter woman.

TYRONE: Where's your sister?

ANGELLA: She committed suicide two years ago... my perfect sister killed herself and ma family haven't spoken to me since.

Angella begins to cry but she continues to talk.

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ANGELLA: I have searched for love my whole life ... from men from friends you name it. I have been hurt every day of my life. My heart has been broken one too many times and I don't think I can do it anymore. Tyrone I don't hate you.. I hate what you represent, every time I see a man I remember and I get so angry at life. Sometimes I ask why, what did I ever do to deserve this. Every day that I live I wish I was never born.

TYRONE: Don't you ever think that you have no purpose, don't you ever consider yourself less than anyone else. Yes you'd had a rough life, but it has only made you stronger, you are who are because that is how it was meant to be. Life's not a bed of roses and trust me...I know. But what I have learnt is that the most precious stones are made under the most extreme conditions. Girl you are a jewel and let no one tell you otherwise.

Angella begins to cry even more intensely. Tyrone hugs her as she cries. Darren enters the stage through door #2.

DARREN: Dad what are you doing?

TYRONE: Nothing, nothing son.

DARREN: That doesn't look like nothing to me....why is she crying... you did it didn't you.

Darren runs of stage through door #2.

TYRONE: Wait ... Darren it's not

ANGELLA: Just be patient, he'll come around.

LIGHTS FADE

Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)
By Cleveland O. McLeish & Anna Kay P. Murray

SCENE NINE

LIGHTS UP

Lila Mae and Henry are on stage. Natalie enters the stage through door # 1. She sees them and tries to get away before she is spotted. However, she is unsuccessful.

LILA MAE: Just the person that I was hoping to see.

NATALIE: Hi.

LILA MAE: So how are you doing.... Considering the weather and all.

NATALIE: Fine.

LILA MAE: I'm glad. So...

But before she could finish Natalie responds.

NATALIE: Lady, could you just please mind your own business and just leave me alone.

LILA MAE: I am... as a Child of God you are my business.

NATALIE: Lady, listen... the last thing I need right now is an I love Jesus freak... worse an old lady to be all up in ma business...

LILA MAE: Okay I can respect that. *(short pause)* oh and by the way the name's Lila Mae... what's yours.

NATALIE: Listen Ms. whatever your name is I'm not interested so could you please just leave me alone.

LILA MAE: Don't worry my dear you might not want to talk to me now.... But guess what, right now you aint got anybody else... so you decide what you need to do, but while you do that I'll be over here.

Natalie walks over to door # 2.

LILA MAE: It's okay to feel afraid and it's ok to cry.

NATALIE: What? What are you talking about?

LILA MAE: You might not know but I overheard you and your husband arguing earlier today... and I must say that I am sorry for your loss... you don't need to be ashamed cause we all have our moments.... As much as you may feel all alone I know what you 're going through...

NATALIE: How could you begin to know?

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Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)

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LILA MAE: Me and this man you see here, we've had our tough days but yet we're still here... together and loving it. .. its ok to argue and express your differences... but it's what you do when the arguments over that counts.

No sooner had Lila Mae said this, Natalie broke down in tears and walks over to Lila Mae. Lila Mae hugs her as she cries.

LILA MAE: There you go let it out...

While Lila Mae comforts Natalie, Harry enters the stage through door #2. On seeing what's happening he tries to exit but is quickly approached by Henry.

HENRY: Hey, man... how goes you?

HARRY: I'm good.

HENRY: I can see that... so tell me something... between me and you... what's really going on.

HARRY: And why would I want to talk to you.

HENRY: You don't have to.... But, in case you do... I'm willing to listen.

HARRY: Why would you care to listen?

HENRY: Hey listen, if you don't wanna talk I'm cool. There's a million other things I can think of doing with my time. *(turns to leave)*

HARRY: Uhhh, listen.... Don't take this the wrong way, I'm just not in the mood for chit chat.

HENRY: Sometimes....a little chit chat is all we have left and considering that we are stuck here... the least we could do is try to help each other out.

HARRY: The only help I need is someone to talk some sense into that woman I married.

HENRY: Yeah, I'm pretty sure the Lord heard that prayer.

Henry and Harry continue to talk, as Lila Mae tries to talk to Natalie.

LILA MAE: I know you don't really want to hear this...but God can make all things new.

NATALIE: I've never quite been the Jesus person.

LILA MAE: That's the funny thing about him, he is always there even when you seem to forget that He even exists. Yeah that's the beauty of my God.

NATALIE: So since He is always there, why did he sit by and let this happen to us.

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LILA MAE: Oh no He had nothing to do with this ... this my dear was all you. All the choices you made... it was all you.

NATALIE: But if He knew that this was gonna happen why didn't He even give us a sign.

LILA MAE: Are you sure that He didn't.... My God always gives warning signals but many of us are either too busy to see them or we just ignore them all together.

NATALIE: Harry and I worked so hard to get where we are and now....

LILA MAE: And that my dear was the problem.. Harry and I ... where was God in all of this. ... My dear, God is just God ... and so what you sow that shall you reap.

NATALIE: But we worked hard for everything that we have. Why has He stripped us of it all?

LILA MAE: It is easy to forget what's important when life is too good and sometimes he has to bring us to the point of brokenness so that he can get our attention. So that we can realize that we did not get to where we are on our own.

NATALIE: But why now.

LILA MAE: Only He knows.

NATALIE: So what am I suppose to do now that he has let me with nothing. I can't start all over again. What will my friends say, what will people think. I can't live like this I just wouldn't survive.

LILA MAE: Its not that you can't, but rather that you choose not to. Its not that you can't start over, it's just that you don't want to... but the way I see it you really have no other choice. And what about your friends, if they are who you say they are then they would understand. And what about your husband he loves you so much.

NATALIE: Then if he loved me so much why didn't he tell me about what was going on.

LILA MAE: I cannot speak for your husband.. but let me ask you... would you have listened if he tried, or did you give him a chance... When was the last time that you sat and spoke to your husband, just the two of you?

Pause.

LILA MAE: See that's what I'm talking about... without communication you two are practically strangers... there are times when you speak and he will listen but there are also times when he will speak and you will have to listen. In a marriage it's not about I, me, my or mine... all of that died the day you two said your vows.

Lila Mae continues to talk to Natalie while Henry tries to talk with Harry.

HENRY: So you were the CEO of the company.

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HARRY: Were is right.. thanks to my wife that's all a fading thought now.

HENRY: How so?

HARRY: I made the money while she spent it all.

HENRY: Oh is that so So at no point in time have you ever spent money on something that you saw and wanted...

HARRY: Well...

HENRY: I might be old but I aint stupid, you really expect me to believe that... boy you must think I'm dumb.

HARRY: Well I wouldn't say that I didn't spent some money on the things I wanted but she... she spent money on everything for example, I bought her new car last year and six months later she was asking me for a new car again.

HENRY: So did you buy it.

HARRY: Well... yeah.

HENRY: Now see that there is your problem.... You are feeding the habit. You need to put down your foot sometimes and draw the line.

HARRY: You don't know how she gets.

HENRY: How she get... she a woman aint she... the most she can do is create a fit, quarrel a little... but at the end of the day you still got your money and she'll forget it... cause she'll soon need something else so she bound to talk to you.

HARRY: That easy heh.

HENRY: You see that woman over there, we've been married for almost sixty years, and let me tell you that there have been time when I had to put my foot down, so that I could ensure that survival of my marriage and my family. Sure we've had our misunderstandings but with time we grew to understand that these trials, these problems, these struggles they only come to make us strong. I wanted to quit my marriage from the day after the wedding.. but I didn't. and look where we are now.

HARRY: How'd you do it?

HENRY: The secret of our success... was in our investment.

HARRY: Investment?

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HENRY: Yeah investment.... On the day of our wedding the two of us decide to invest our marriage, our lives together, in God. And trust me there is no better investment than God.

HARRY: Listen no offence but I don't really deal with the God thing. This God you speak about he was never there when I need him. Everything that I have I worked for it, me and nobody else, no God, nobody. So you don't come up in here and tell me about God ... he's the last thing that I need.

HENRY: You know it's quite interesting how people always think that God is never there but the truth is he has always been there.

HARRY: So where is He now? Why did He allow this to happen to me... since he's so loving as you say why did he allow all of this to happen.

HENRY: He didn't have anything to do with what happened to you... that was all you and the choices you made. You know that's the problem with us humans we never want to take the blame for anything. Do not blame God for your mistakes, you were man enough to make them so be man enough to bear the consequences.

Harry does not respond. He just looks into space.

HENRY: Now what up with you and your wife.

HARRY: Soon to be ex-wife.

HENRY: So it's like that now.... After all the years of marriage, after all the hard work... your just gonna throw it away because of some misunderstanding.... You see, that's the problem with you young folks, you run when a problem comes.

HARRY: Say what you will old man... you don't know what I have been through.

HENRY: Oh really, despite what you believe many have trod this path before and they made it because they wanted to make it. Its not an easy path to trod trust me I should know but you see that women over there talking to your wife sure she aint much to look at now but guess what, she's mine and I'm proud of it. ... Now you see that woman over there ... yes that one that has her eyes all filled with tears. Those tears are for you.

HARRY: I strongly doubt that.

HENRY: That woman loves you. If she didn't she would have left a long time ago.

HARRY: She only stayed around for the money.

HENRY: So why then is she still here?

Pause.

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HENRY: So what's it gonna be. Do you want to fight for what you have or do you want to walk away. It's your choice.

Harry stands and looks at his wife as he considers while Lila Mae continues to talk to Natalie (who is still in tears).

NATALIE: I don't think he will take me back.

LILA MAE: You don't know that.

NATALIE: I have lived with that man for years... I think I know him enough.

LILA MAE: Even so... you'd be surprised at what could happen... if you just trust God like I told you, you'd be amazed at what could happen.... All I'm asking you to do is to try God and if it doesn't work then fine you can do whatever you want...

NATALIE: Easier said than done.

LILA MAE: It always is.. but then that's life..... It's not gonna be easy but in the end you'll be glad you did it. *(short pause)*.

Lila Mae stands and beckons to Henry. Who then walks over to her.

LILA MAE: Henry, I think its time we went back to our room.

HENRY: Why?

LILA MAE: Henry, we need to leave.

HENRY: No, no you go. I'm staying. I wanna see what happens.

LILA MAE: Henry they need some time alone.

HENRY: For what.

LILA MAE: Henry....., I said that we are leaving.

HENRY: And I say no.

LILA MAE: I'll give you one of those back rubs you like so much.

HENRY: Then why didn't you say so in the first place.

Henry walks over to Harry.

HENRY: You the man, man. So be the man. *(he then pats him on the shoulder)*.

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Lila Mae and Henry exits the stage through door # 2.

Natalie and Harry are left on stage. After a couple seconds Natalie gets up from where she is sitting and walks over to Harry.

NATALIE: We need to talk.

HARRY: We kinda do, don't we.

NATALIE: Yeah... and this time I promise... I'll listen.

HARRY: Do you wanna talk here or back in our room.

NATALIE: I think I wanna talk in our room... too many people already know our business.

HARRY: Yeah I see what you mean... let's go.

They exit the stage through door #2.

LIGHTS FADE.

Christmas Family Reunion (Part II)
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Closing scene

It's Wednesday morning and the storm is finally over but the guest of the inn are still stuck because the bridge has been washed away. They are not sure of when they will be leaving.

MR. FOSTER: Good morning mam.

RECEPTIONIST: Good morning Sir.

MR. FOSTER: Aint it a beautiful day... I see the sun's out again.

RECEPTIONIST: Yeh I'm glad too that the storms over, I can finally go home.

MR. FOSTER: No such luck mam... remember we don't have a bridge.

RECEPTIONIST: Great just what I needed to hear... oh well I'll just make myself comfortable.

Sam enters the stage through door #1.

SAM: Hello gentle people.

RECEPTIONIST: Hey Sam... wats up. *(short pause)*

Then suddenly the receptionist jumps up.

RECEPTIONIST: Sam... its you... what are you doing here.

SAM: Well the last time I checked I worked here.

RECEPTIONIST: But how did you get here, didn't you go back into town to get the rest of the guests....

SAM: Yeah.

REEPTIONIST: So how did you get here?

SAM: I drove.

RECEPTIONIST: What?

SAM: I drove the bus back.

RECEPTIONIST: But what about the bridge.. is it fixed.

SAM: No the bridge is gone... but I found another route... I would have been here sooner but because of the heavy rains I didn't want to chance it.

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RECEPTIONIST: So are you saying that I can go home.

SAM: Yes thats pretty much what I'm saying.

RECEPTIONIST: Sam I could just hug you... Mr. Foster you hear that... we can go home.

MR. FOSTER: Sure can.

RECEPTIONIST: I'll inform our guests... boy will they be happy.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

Lila Mae and Henry are on stage.

HENRY: Thank God this trip is over.

LILA MAE: Why you say that?

HENRY: This place got too much drama.... I miss my nice and quiet home..ahh.

LILA MAE: C'mon Henry it wasn't all bad.

HENRY: Speak for yourself... it was terrible... I'm never gonna let you drag me to a place like this ever again.

LILA MAE: I know you enjoyed yourself even if you don't want to admit it.

Tyrone and Darren enters the stage through door #2. But as soon as Tyrone let's go of Darren he's off to his old tricks and he runs back through Door#2.

TYRONE: I swear I'm gonna.... Darren!!!

Angella enters the stage dragging something behind her. It's Darren.

ANGELLA: No worries I got him right here. ... now Darren remember our deal.

DARREN: Yes mam.

ANGELLA: Okay go help your dad.

Darren goes over to his dad and takes a bag from him and exits the stage through Door#1.

TYRONE: How did you do that?

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ANGELLA: It's a woman's thing.... Just joking I paid him five dollars... it works every time.

TYRONE: So we cool now.

ANGELLA: Yeah we cool... oh look there's Ms. Lila Mae.. I'm gonna say good bye,, I'll see you outside.

Tyrone exits the stage through door #1.

ANGELLA: Hey Ms. Lila.

LILA MAE: Hey baby girl.... You know my husband Henry.

ANGELLA: Hi.

LILA MAE: So how you doing today young lady.

ANGELLA: Today is a good day.

LILA MAE: I'm glad to hear that.

ANGELLA: Listen I just wanna say thank you...for everything... mister Henry you got a good woman here.

HENRY: Don't I know it.

ANGELLA: I'm gonna be going now... I don't know if I'll see you guys again but... may God bless you both... as he has blessed me.

Angella exits the stage through door #1. Harry enters the stage through door #2. Natalie enter a few second behind him.

HARRY: Natalie, you aint done packing yet.... I tell you that woman got too many stuff.

NATALIE: I'm right behind you dear.

HARRY: Then look like it.

NATALIE: See me now.

HARRY: That's better.

NATALIE: Oh hi Lila Mae.. just the person I was hoping to see.

LILA MAE: Really now...

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NATALIE: I know we started off on the wrong foot but I just wanna say I'm sorry and thank you. Words can't express how grateful Harry and I are for what you and your husband did for us.

LILA MAE: So how you guys doing.

NATALIE: Well its not perfect but we coming on... I'm trusting God that it will get better.

LILA MAE: That's good to hear... listen here's my number feel free to call anytime.

NATALIE: Thanks.. we'll need all the help we can get.

Natalie hugs Lila Mae

NATALIE: Harry baby I'm outside.

HARRY: Be right with you.

Natalie exits the stage through door # 1.

HARRY: Mr. Henry.

HENRY: Just Henry will do.

HARRY: Henry, you the man.... Trust me you the man.

Harry shakes his hand and exits the stage through door #1.

HENRY: Lila Mae, you hear that... I'm the man.

LILA MAE: That's great baby.

Kim and Michelle enter the stage running through door #2. But before they could exit

Mr. Foster enters.

MR. FOSTER: Kimberly slow down.

KIM: Sorry dad...

Kim just stands there waiting

MR. FOSTER: Kim, I just wanted to say I love you and I promise I will try a little harder...

KIM: Me too Dad.

MR. FOSTER: Good. So I'll see you in the next two weeks.

KIM: Yep.

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MR. FOSTER: Take care of yourself and your mother.

KIM: I will dad... now can I go.

MR. FOSTER: Okay... the same goes for you Ms. Michelle.

MICHELLE: Yes Sir.

KIM: Okay girl let's go I wanna catch the window seats.

Kim and Michelle exit the stage in quite a rush.

MR. FOSTER: So I guess your leaving.

HENRY: What did you expect... I aint live here.

MR. FOSTER: Feel free to come back any time.

HENRY: Oh no we aint coming back... your place aint all that.

LILA MAE: Don't listen to him.... He's just sad cause he's leaving.

MR. FOSTER: Well I guess I'll see you guys around... I'm gonna go get ready for the next set of guess.

Mr. Foster exits the stage through door #2.

LILA MAE: Well, this was quite an experience.

HENRY: Sure was... I aint coming back though.

LILA MAE: So you say,

HENRY: I don't care what you do to me... I am never leaving the house.

LILA MAE: Then I guess I'll just have to go by myself.

HENRY: You aint never going anywhere by yourself.

LILA MAE: You never know.

HENRY: Woman you better stop messing with me.

LILA MAE: That's why I love you.... You alright.

HENRY: Yeah even though you aint so cute anymore, and even though you always up in people's business, you aright too....well at least most of the time.

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Sam enters the stage through door #1.

SAM: Everyone's ready.. you guys coming.

LILA MAE: We'll be there shortly.

Sam exits the stage. Lila Mae and Henry looks around.

LILA MAE: Well this is it.

HENRY: Yeah.

LILA MAE: You know that God ... is a real piece a work..... he knew that all of this was gonna happen.

HENRY: Yep, he's good like that.

They exit the stage.

BLACKOUT