

The Flight Before Christmas

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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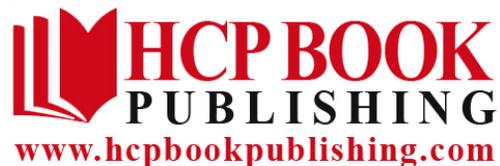


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Characters

- 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.

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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

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

Stacy is sitting beside Tommy. She shows him something on her iPhone. He smiles.

STACY: Why are you here by yourself?

TOMMY: My mom and dad fight a lot.

STACY: Mine too.

TOMMY: Well, they started to throw things and hurt each other. I hear them say they will be getting a divorce. I don't want that, so if I give them something to agree on, they might change their minds.

STACY: So, what are you giving them to agree on?

TOMMY: They don't know where I am.

STACY: Good plan. But I'm sure they are worried sick now. They can't look for you in this storm.

TOMMY: That wasn't a part of my plan.

STACY: Okay.

TOMMY: Do you have anything to eat?

STACY: My mom and dad are in the cafeteria. I will share my lunch with you.

TOMMY: Thank you.

STACY: No problem. Have you ever played angry birds?

TOMMY: Yes.

STACY: Good. Let's challenge.

Stacy hands the iPhone to Tommy.

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Greg folds the newspaper and puts it away.

GREG: I'm hungry.

SANDRA: You just ate.

GREG: Well, I don't think it was enough, cause I'm hungry.

SANDRA: Are you sure you want to take this trip?

GREG: We haven't seen Sadie in over a year.

SANDRA: In your condition, she should be the one coming here.

GREG: Well, she's busy, and she is my only daughter, and we're already here.

SANDRA: With this storm, I'm sure they will refund our ticket.

GREG: Why are you always so hostile towards Sadie?

SANDRA: She provokes it. She has never once accepted me, and I'm sure I take better care of you, than your first wife did. Especially now that you're driving me up the wall with your degenerative disease.

GREG: You seem to handle it pretty well.

SANDRA: That's because I have gotten really good at hiding it when I'm not.

Pause.

GREG: We have another doctor's appointment in a few weeks. Maybe by then, they will find a cure.

SANDRA: I doubt it.

GREG: Don't be so cynical.

SANDRA: I'm just being real. You know this is going to take you to the grave.

GREG: Is that what you want?

SANDRA: What kind of question is that?

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GREG: It sounds like you are waiting for me to die.

SANDRA: I think this conversation just ended.

Pause.

GREG: Fine. I'm going to get something to eat.

Greg painfully gets up and waltz off towards the exit.

Grace is on her phone.

GRACE: The flight has been delayed. *(listens)* A snowstorm. Can you believe that? The world is getting from bad to worse. What will happen next? *(listens)* Why is it that every time I call you, you are asking me for money? You're a man. You should be giving me some. *(listens)* What! *(removes the phone from her ears)* Did he just hang up the phone on me!!!! *(throws the phone in her bag)*

Sandra goes over to sit beside her.

SANDRA: Why are you always so angry?

Pause.

Grace looks around not believing Sandra is talking to her.

SANDRA: I am talking to you.

GRACE: Why?

SANDRA: There is not much else we can do.

GRACE: With all due respect, Grandma, I answer to nobody.

SANDRA: So, you don't need anyone?

GRACE: I thought that was obvious.

SANDRA: So, who will carry your casket when you die, or spend all the money you have worked your entire life to accumulate?

Pause.

SANDRA: That's how empty your life is without Jesus Christ.

GRACE: Great. Another Jesus person.

SANDRA: I'm just giving you something to think about.

GRACE: You have enough to think about with that husband of yours. What is wrong with him? Is he schizophrenic?

SANDRA: He has Alzheimer's disease.

GRACE: What is that?

SANDRA: It's a mental disease that affects one in eighty-five people over the age of 65. It causes confusion, irritability, aggression, mood swings, trouble with language and long-term memory loss. Eventually death.

GRACE: That's sad.

SANDRA: You say that with absolutely no emotion.

GRACE: Maybe because I can't relate.

SANDRA: You have never had anyone with a terminal disease?

GRACE: Not to my knowledge.

SANDRA: What about your parents?

GRACE: I was abandoned at the age of two. I am my own mother and father, so everything you are looking at right now is all me.

SANDRA: It isn't much.

GRACE: I'm better off than everybody here.

SANDRA: You will still die like everybody here, and a stranger will dress you, put you in a box and dirt will cover you in a government cemetery just like everyone else.

GRACE: I would prefer not to talk to you anymore.

Jay comes in pulling Greg by the arm.

JAY: Does this man belong to anyone?

Sandra lifts her hand.

Jay carries Greg to his seat where Sandra is waiting.

JAY: I caught him peeing in the cafeteria.

GREG: I thought it was the bathroom. Why would they put a urinal in the cafeteria?

JAY: Ma'am. I am asking you to keep an eye on him. I would have put him outside if not for this storm.

SANDRA: Yes sir.

Jay leaves.

Sam sneaks in. He unwraps a chocolate bar and bites into it.

SHEILA: Why do you keep coming back?

SAM: Where am I going to go?

Pause.

SHEILA: Good point.

SAM: So, you don't believe in Christmas?

SHEILA: It's just another holiday. Time off to spend with the kids and go have some drinks with a few friends. There is nothing more to life than to enjoy the fruits of your labor. I think that's in the Bible.

SAM: Oh yes. But there is more to life.

SHEILA: What would you know about living?

SAM: I know what it feels like to have everything, and I know what it is to lose everything. Walking both sides helps to appreciate the value of something.

SHEILA: You don't sound like someone who should be on the streets.

SAM: I like to help people. I find those on the street more open to my help than those who can help themselves.

SHEILA: So you're not homeless?

SAM: If, by definition, you mean I don't live anywhere, then I am homeless.

SHEILA: You're not poor and destitute?

SAM: It is not money people need, but what money can buy and do. If there were no need to pay for stuff, then you would not need money. If you could get all you need without paying for it, what then is the value of money?

SHEILA: You should ask miss rich and obnoxious over there.

SAM: *(looks at Grace)* Maybe I should. I will do that when I get back.

Sam ducks out, just as Jay walks in.

JAY: Is the homeless guy in here?

No response.

Jay searches under the chairs, etc. He finds no one. He leaves with a grunt.

STACY: It would almost seem like he knew that he was coming.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

Sam is standing over Grace who has dozed off. She wakes up and is startled to see him standing over her.

SAM: So, if you could get everything you need without paying for it, what is the value of money?

GRACE: Leave me alone, please.

SAM: When you behave like that, it just highlights your loneliness.

GRACE: I am not lonely.

SAM: You travel alone every Christmas.

GRACE: You wouldn't know that.

SAM: I know more than you know.

GRACE: Just leave me be, please.

SAM: You know, your money will perish with you, right?

Pause.

GRACE: You look like you could use some. If I give you \$100, will you leave me alone?

SAM: Don't be fooled, Grace. I don't need your money.

Sam walks away.

GRACE: How does that bum know my name?

Amanda goes over to little Tommy.

AMANDA: Tommy, right?

TOMMY: Yeah.

AMANDA: Why did you run away from home?

TOMMY: Your daughter has a big mouth.

AMANDA: She didn't say anything. It's obvious now you are here alone, and you are not traveling. How did you even get into the terminal?

TOMMY: That was easy. I just walked close enough to an adult coming in. The security guard is not very smart.

AMANDA: Oh yes. I figured that out too.

TOMMY: We children have to teach our parents how to treat us sometimes.

AMANDA: I don't think that's how it works.

TOMMY: The Bible says a little child will lead them.

AMANDA: You're quoting scripture out of context.

TOMMY: I don't think so.

AMANDA: Parents have a responsibility to take care of their children.

TOMMY: We have a responsibility too.

AMANDA: What did they do to you?

TOMMY: I don't want to talk about it.

Pause.

AMANDA: It might help.

TOMMY: I will pass.

Sam stands in the midst of everyone. He is still eating a bar of chocolate.

SAM: Tomorrow is Christmas everyone. Are you all excited or what?

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SHEILA: Bah.

GRACE: It's just another day.

SAM: It's more than that. It's the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

GRACE: Who?

SAM: You know who.

GRACE: I don't get you. Shouldn't you be in some garbage somewhere instead of here harassing law-abiding citizens? And where is that stupid security guard?

SANDRA: Leave the poor guy alone. I like him.

TOMMY: Christmas is a sad time for my family.

AMANDA: Why is that?

TOMMY: My grandmother died on Christmas Day.

AMANDA: Oh my.

SAM: How we perceive death can lead to unnecessary pain. Right, Phil?

Pause. Phil is somewhat taken aback.

PHIL: I'm not so sure I know what you are talking about.

SAM: Your previous wife.

Pause.

AMANDA: Previous wife?

Pause.

AMANDA: You would accuse me of holding back information and you were married before?

PHIL: The marriage lasted a few weeks, and it's too painful to talk about.

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SAM: She died in a car accident.

PHIL: How do you know so much?

SAM: I read a lot, and I remember faces.

PHIL: It was fifteen years ago.

SAM: I still remember.

SANDRA: How did you get through that?

PHIL: I was angry with God. Found no comfort or peace until I met Amanda. That changed everything, and how we met was nothing short of a miracle.

AMANDA: It was here. In this terminal.

PHIL: I was taking a trip to see if a change of scenery could help. If it didn't, I would have come back and taken my own life. God had other plans.

Phil squeezes Amanda's hand. Though still upset, she melts with the gesture.

SANDRA: Sweet story.

GREG: When you get to my age, you realize that dying young can be a blessing. I am so lost in my own head most of the time; it burdens me, and I know it's a huge burden for my wife.

SANDRA: Sometimes life comes in clear focus, and the answers are easy. We embrace those times.

SAM: But life gets tough too. We learn to endure, but most of all, we must believe that God's promise to always be there is very real.

SHEILA: He was never there for me.

SAM: There was never a moment he was not carrying you, Sheila.

SHEILA: I don't know how you know my name, but I tried the Christian way. It didn't work for me.

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SAM: You were seeking a formula to escape poverty. That was not God's will for your life.

SHEILA: I was struggling. I could not pay my bills or send my kids to school. Why would He not provide when He said He would?

SAM: Your motives were not pure.

SHEILA: Whatever.

SAM: I think we're all here for a special purpose.

GRACE: I wonder what that could be.

SAM: We all have our different stories to tell, and we really should learn from each other.

GRACE: I just want to go.

SAM: Eventually, Grace, you will realize that you are not shutting the world out, but simply shutting yourself in.

AMANDA: You sound so educated. What are you doing on the streets?

SAM: I go where I am needed most. On that note, see you all later.

Sam moves to the exit, but Jay shows up in time to block him. He has his baton in his hand.

JAY: I am so tired of chasing you through this airport.

One other Security Officer appears behind Jay.

JAY: We're putting you out for good this time.

Both Security Personnel tries to corner Sam, but he dodges and manages to escape their grips as he heads through the exit. They follow after him.

PHIL: That man is so weird, and I feel this strange sensation that I'm supposed to know him.

SANDRA: I thought I was the only one.

AMANDA: Tell me about your first wife.

Pause. Phil sighs.

STACY: You shouldn't force him to talk about it, mom, if he's still hurting. Especially here, with all these people.

AMANDA: You're right.

PHIL: It's okay. The horse is out the gate anyway, and maybe my story can help someone.

AMANDA: You really don't have to.

PHIL: Her name was Caroline. She was sweet, and we met in college and fell in love. We got married the year we graduated. A beautiful wedding with just fifteen persons. My life was perfect, except I had stopped going to church and my personal walk with God was reduced to formalities. I guess He thought I idolized her, and maybe I did, so He took her.

Phil is in tears. Amanda hugs him.

PHIL: I guess we don't mind when God takes someone we love, but how He takes them makes it hard to come to terms with. I went to the scene of the accident, and I could not even identify her.

Pause. Phil tries to compose himself.

PHIL: Even now, I am still angry with God, but I suppress it because He has blessed me with you.

AMANDA: I am the one who is blessed.

They hug again.

EVERYONE: Awww.

SHEILA: I can relate. God took both my baby fathers.

AMANDA: Oh my. How did they die?

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SHEILA: They didn't die. They just left.

Pause.

SANDRA: I don't think that's the same thing.

SHEILA: It felt terrible.

The Attendant enters with her clipboard.

ATTENDANT: Semi-good news everybody. The weather is clearing up, so you should be on your flight in the next 14 hours or so.

EVERYONE: Fourteen hours?

ATTENDANT: It's really a bad storm. I have never seen anything like it. If you want, I can take you up to the control room, so you can see what is happening outside.

Everybody jumps up and follows the Attendant out, except Sandra and Greg.

SANDRA: I'm too old for that.

Greg looks up from his book 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 book.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Everyone appears frustrated and uneasy.

GRACE: This is getting from bad to worse. I don't know how much more of this I can take.

SHEILA: My sentiments exactly.

PHIL: It's Christmas day. We're all here, so let's do something.

GRACE: Let's not.

SHEILA: My sentiments exactly.

AMANDA: You two atheist will know one day that there really is a God.

SHEILA: If there is, why won't He show Himself?

Sam comes on all happy and pleasant and carrying a few gifts in his hand.

SAM: Merry Christmas, everybody.

SHEILA: Oh brother.

SAM: I brought you all some presents.

GRACE: Where did you get them? From the garbage bin.

Sheila high fives Grace as they laugh.

SAM: That's so funny. Laughter is good medicine, so go ahead, even at my own expense.

AMANDA: How would you be able to buy gifts, really?

SAM: All the money I get throughout the year.

PHIL: You would spend that all on strangers?

SAM: It's all money can do. I have no use for it otherwise, and we're friends, not strangers.

STACY: We have spent the last two days in the same spot together.

SAM: That's right.

TOMMY: What kind of gift you brought me?

SAM: Your gift is special, but it's not here yet.

Sam gives s small box to Phil.

SAM: This is for you.

PHIL: What is it?

SAM: Only one way to find out.

PHIL: You want me to open this now? Here?

SAM: It's Christmas day. Today is the day.

Phil reluctantly opens his gift. He finds a letter inside.

PHIL: I don't understand.

SAM: Read it.

Phil reads it and begins to get excited. He catches himself.

PHIL: How did you get this?

SAM: That's not important.

AMANDA: What is it, honey?

SAM: It's a letter from one of the biggest accounting firms in the world. They want me to come in for an interview next week.

Amanda gets beside herself and jumps on her husband. She catches herself.

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STACY: Does that mean our days of poverty, eating chicken parts and cereal every day is over?

PHIL: I have to get the job first.

AMANDA: Wow. I don't believe this.

Phil turns to Sam.

PHIL: Seriously, who are you?

STACY: Isn't it obvious? It's Santa Claus.

SAM: Pshh. Really? I look that fat?

PHIL: Well this is good news, so the details will figure itself out.

AMANDA: I still don't get how a homeless man would have that letter.

PHIL: Leave it alone dear. I don't care.

Sam gives Sheila a gift.

SHEILA: What is this?

PHIL: Just open it.

Sheila opens the envelope. There is a check inside.

SHEILA: Seriously, what is this?

SAM: You wanted a bonus this year, right.

SHEILA: I have been working here for over five years, and they have never given me one.

SAM: You never needed it until now.

Pause.

SHEILA: So, this check is real?

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GRACE: It can't be real. You guys don't even see that this degenerate is playing with your heads.

SHEILA: I don't care, ma, I'm keeping this check.

Sam goes over to Greg and lay his hand on his forehead.

Greg looks up from his book, like a blind man seeing light for the first time. He looks at Sandra.

GREG: Sandra.

Sandra is confused.

GREG: Wow. You look the same as the day we first met.

SANDRA: You recognize me?

GREG: I'm married to you.

Pause.

SANDRA: I --- what just happened?

Greg hugs her.

GREG: I think everything is going to be just fine, dear wife.

Sandra looks up at Sam.

SANDRA: Who are you?

Sam smiles.

SAM: You knew me once. A long time ago.

Sam goes over to Tommy.

SAM: Hey, little man.

TOMMY: Hey. Are you going to give me my gift now?

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SAM: She's standing over there.

Tommy looks towards the entrance. His mother, Beverly, is standing there with snow falling off her head and clothes. She comes over and takes Sam's place.

TOMMY: How did you get here?

BEVERLY: It wasn't easy. Why did you run away?

TOMMY: I'm tired of you and pops fighting all the time.

BEVERLY: I know. You will be glad to know we have not had an argument in the last 48 hours.

TOMMY: That's because you were searching for me.

BEVERLY: Are you ready to go home?

Pause.

TOMMY: I miss home.

BEVERLY: Come on. Your father is buying us ice cream.

Beverly takes Tommy's hand and leads him to the exit.

Tommy pulls away from her and runs to hug Sam. Then they exit.

SAM: Children!

Jay comes on with his baton.

Sam holds his ground.

JAY: You won't get away from me this time.

SAM: I actually have something for you.

JAY: What is it?

Sam gives him a box. He opens it and finds a watch.

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JAY: This is a Rolex. How would you know I wanted a Rolex?

SAM: Lucky guess.

Pause.

Jay puts the watch on his hand. He takes some time to admire it.

JAY: Thank you, but I still need to escort you out of here.

SAM: I'm leaving today anyway.

Sam follows Jay out.

SAM: So, how is the wife?

JAY: Man, you must be some kind of psychic ---

Sam follows Jay out.

PHIL: I think I know who that is.

AMANDA: Who?

PHIL: The homeless man. I know who he is.

AMANDA: You went to school together? You worked together?

PHIL: It's Jesus.

Pause.

AMANDA: The homeless man is Jesus?

PHIL: Who else would know us so intimately?

Pause.

AMANDA: You're not making any sense.

PHIL: We're not here by accident. He chose to reveal Himself to us here and now. Today is His birthday, and He's the one giving us gifts. We have nothing to give Him.

Pause.

PHIL: We should have a little party for Him.

SHEILA: That's a stupid idea.

GREG: I think it's a brilliant idea.

PHIL: We can get the cake and some decorations right here at the airport shops.

Pause.

GRACE: This day can't possibly get any worse.

STACY: I need something else to do other than sitting here, so let's do this.

Pause.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP

Everyone, but Grace, is busy putting up decorations and adding a few stuff to the already decorated Christmas tree.

Amanda comes on with a cake.

AMANDA: I got the cake.

She places it on a prepared table.

Phil looks around.

PHIL: I think we're all set.

Sam enters. He is dressed in full white, well groomed, clean and looking perfect. Everyone is in shock.

SHEILA: You mean to tell me this is what you are hiding under all that dirty and torn clothes.

SAM: Well, this is a party. Those clothes are for a separate occasion.

Phil escorts Sam to the table.

PHIL: It took us a while, but we finally figured out who you are.

SAM: Not many people do.

GRACE: If you're really, Jesus, why don't you tell me why my life is so miserable?

SAM: You know why?

GRACE: Do I look like I know why?

SAM: You're miserable because you choose to live outside My presence.

Pause.

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PHIL: We really just want to say happy birthday, but there is someone who would probably do a much better job than us.

Tommy comes on and sings “Happy Birthday Jesus” bringing tears to everyone’s eyes.

Sam hugs Tommy at the end of the song.

LIGHTS GO OUT

PHIL’S VOICE: Great. Now we are stuck here in the dark.

SHEILA’S VOICE: The generator should kick in right about --- now.

LIGHTS COME BACK UP

Sam is gone.

Pause.

PHIL: He’s gone.

AMANDA: In body. But He’s with us in spirit.

Pause.

PHIL: Anyone for cake.

Phil cuts the cake. Sandra takes the first slice and carries it to Grace.

Grace is a bit reluctant, maybe embarrassed, but she takes the cake.

GRACE: Why would you be nice to me?

SANDRA: It’s good to see people through the eyes of Christ, and I realize even you need friends, real friends; the kind that money can’t buy.

Pause.

GRACE: Thank you for the cake.

SANDRA: Merry Christmas.

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Pause.

GRACE: Merry Christmas.

The party continues.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK