

The Jesus Stocking

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Christmas is going to be a little unusual this year as the family tries to celebrate their first “official” Christmas after Grandma’s death. Over the past year, each one including Grandpa, Samantha, and her teens, Mary and David, has responded differently to their loss, but through humorous and tender moments, they learn to rebuild their broken relationships. A beautiful Jesus stocking filled with love notes, including one special message, adds the needed healing touch.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I – December, 23rd

- Scene 1: The living room, mid-afternoon.
- Scene 2: The hospital, mid-afternoon.
- Scene 3: The living room, mid-afternoon.
- Scene 4: A Christmas tree lot. Late afternoon.
- Scene 5: The living room. A short time later.
- Scene 6: The living room. That evening.

ACT II – December, 24th

- Scene 1: The living room. That day.
- Scene 2: Christmas tree lot: A little later.
- Scene 3: The living room. Early evening.
- Scene 4: The cemetery. A few minutes later.
- Scene 5: Outside the house. A few minutes later.
- Scene 6: The living room. Later that evening.
- Scene 7: The living room. Late Christmas Eve.

ACT III – December, 25th

- Scene 1: The living room. Christmas morning.
- Scene 2: The living room. A little later.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(5 m, 6 w, and several flexible)

The Family

GRANDPA / DOUGLAS CHAMBERS: 60s/70s.

SAMANTHA CALLAWAY: 30s, Grandpa's daughter.

MARY CALLAWAY: Teenager, Samantha's daughter

DAVID CALLAWAY: Younger teenager, Samantha's son.

Their Friends and Acquaintances

CLYDE: Rough-looking teen, Mary's temporary boyfriend.
(Can double as a Caroler.)

ELAINE: 30s, friend of Samantha's.

JACOB MARTIN: 30s/40s, Christmas tree-selling lawyer.

JOSEPH MARTIN: Teenager, son of Jacob.

MAISY: 60s, friend of Grandpa.

VIREEN: 60s, friend of Grandpa.

LILY: 40s/50s, a patient and friend of Samantha.

CAROLER 1: A Christmas dinner guest.

CAROLER 2: A Christmas dinner guest.

CAROLER 3: A Christmas dinner guest.

VARIOUS EXTRAS: Carolers/ shoppers/ etc.

SETTING

The main performing area is the family's living and dining room. Decorated like a typical middle-class home. It should have at least two entrances, one to the outside and one to the rest of the home.

Alternate performing areas are needed for various scenes, including the hospital, tree lot, and cemetery. These areas are suggested by a piece or two of scenery and can fit most any space.

PROPS

Artificial Christmas tree
Christmas decorations/boxes
Christmas stockings, including the special one
Real Christmas trees
Red Hat accessories
Coats/ gloves/ scarves
Headstone
Notes for Jesus stocking
Paper and pen
Monopoly game
Grocery bags
Donuts/Danish
Assortment of presents
Various plates, silverware, and cups

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Mid-afternoon, Dec. 23rd. The living room of the Chambers/Gallaway home. GRANDPA and DAVID enter struggling with boxes of Christmas decorations. A number of other boxes litter the living room floor.)

DAVID: This is the last of the Christmas stuff, Grandpa.

GRANDPA: *(Collapsing into a chair.)* Good! I wouldn't survive another trip into the attic. My heart feels like it's about to explode.

DAVID: My heart felt like that once.

GRANDPA: Really? When?

DAVID: When George Shultz hung me upside-down off the cafeteria roof.

GRANDPA: Why did he do that?

DAVID: I wouldn't give him my lunch money.

GRANDPA: Good for you. Did he get in trouble?

DAVID: Sort of. My friend Boxer gave him a killer wedgie.

GRANDPA: Thank you, Boxer. Look at all this stuff. Your mother is just like your grandmother. Never throws anything away.

DAVID: Garbage phobia.

GRANDPA: Exactly.

DAVID: Should we surprise Mom and set up the tree?

GRANDPA: I don't see why not. All you have to do is find the box.

DAVID: *(Sorts through the boxes until he gets to the one labeled "Christmas Tree.")* Here it is. *(Begins pulling out broken pieces of branches.)*

GRANDPA: I believe this tree has seen better days. But so have I, so I guess I shouldn't judge it.

DAVID: Hey, Grandpa, will Christmas be okay this year? I mean ... last year we didn't do anything.

GRANDPA: I know what you mean, David. I hope so.

DAVID: Will Mom have to work on Christmas?

GRANDPA: You'll have to ask her. She worked last year because she wanted to.

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DAVID: Grandma dying at Thanksgiving sort of spoiled Christmas.

GRANDPA: Yes, I guess it did. But I don't think she did it on purpose.

DAVID: I know. She just wanted to get to Heaven in time for Christmas.

GRANDPA: Let's pray this Christmas will be better.

DAVID: Grandpa, as long as you're here it will be all right.

(MARY enters with her latest boyfriend, CLYDE.)

GRANDPA: Hello, pumpkin. You're just in time to help sort through our holiday mess.

MARY: Sorry, Grandpa, but Clyde and I have to study.

GRANDPA: Study? It's Christmas vacation.

MARY: We want to get ahead in homework.

DAVID: Since when?

MARY: Nobody was talking to you, David.

DAVID: I was talking to you, Mary. Mom's going to be home soon.

MARY: So what?

DAVID: Maybe we can do something as a family.

MARY: In your dreams. Mom hasn't done anything with us since Grandma ... since last year.

GRANDPA: She's hurting, Mary.

MARY: Who isn't? Come on, Clyde.

DAVID: So, Clyde, what are your intentions concerning my sister?

MARY: Mind your own business, David. Come on, Clyde.

(MARY and CLYDE exit.)

DAVID: *(As THEY exit.)* Just remember, you were named after Mary in the Bible. The Virgin Mary.

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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