

The Unclaimed Gift

By Karen Jones

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THE STORY OF THE PLAY

Serenity and Charity are two angels under Gabriel's supervision. They have been dispatched to Earth to help remind mankind about the true meaning of Christmas. They wanted to maximize their outreach by tackling the place where they would find the most humans: a busy store in the middle of the holiday shopping season.

Their scheme was to leave a package in the "Lost and Found" department, hoping that someone would open it up and discover its mysterious contents. Unfortunately, the humans have other things on their minds, and the package goes unopened for the whole season.

As a last resort, the angels decide to stop being subtle and make a big move ... To finally get the humans to see the unclaimed gift. When they do, the contents lead the humans back to the true meaning of Christmas, and remind them of the love that God has for His creation.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(11 characters)*

SERENITY: Angel.

CHARITY: Angel.

JUNE: Gift Wrap associate. More ditsy.

CLAIRE: Returns associate. The most mature.

SUE: Lost and Found associate. More thoughtful.

BOB: Security guard.

JACKIE: Relief associate.

SAM: Custodian.

GREG: Floor associate.

IRATE WOMAN: Disgruntled customer.

CUSTOMER: Satisfied customer.

**All roles can be played by a man or woman. Change names and pronouns as necessary. EXTRAS optional.*

COSTUMES

JUNE, CLAIRE, SUE, JACKIE and GREG: have the same type of store vest over their regular street clothes.

SAM: dressed in overalls.

BOB: wears a standard security uniform with a flashlight, walkie-talkie, badge, etc.

SERENITY and CHARITY: wear typical angel costumes.

CUSTOMERS and EXTRAS: wear regular street clothes.

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SETTING

Modern-day department store. Sign stretching across the top of the area states "Customer Service." The area is divided into three areas with three different counters. To one side is an easel with the sign. Coat rack is at the back of the stage. The counter labeled "Gift Wrap" is on the left side of the stage. There are boxes of wrapping paper, bows, boxes, etc. grouped beside the counter. The "Lost and Found" counter is center stage. The "Returns" counter is on the right side of the stage. It has a cash register / computer on the counter. Angels should be sitting on stools to the back on an elevated platform.

PROPS

Elaborately wrapped package
Women's coats and purses
Shopping cart with packages
Two cell phones
Rolls of wrapping paper, tape, and bows
Janitor's cart with typical supplies: broom, etc.
Little black note book
Feathers from a pillow
Band-Aids, ace bandages, or wrist guard
Flashlight
Swaddling cloth - Long white piece of cloth
Card

SOUND EFFECTS

Voice over loudspeaker, faint ring of a cell phone, alarm

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Low LIGHTS up on the Customer Service department of a modern-day department store. It is early morning. The stage is empty save SERENITY and CHARITY, who are propped up against each other as they snooze on their stools. Serenity wakes up, stretching and shaking her head. She reaches over and shakes Charity, who grudgingly comes awake.)

SERENITY: Wake up, Charity. They'll be here any minute.

CHARITY: *(Stretches out her arms and yawns.)* So what if they are? It's not like they can see us or anything.

SERENITY: Oh, I know. But we've got to prepare. You go take care of the security camera.

(CHARITY disappears offstage right. SERENITY hops off her stool and walks over to the Lost and Found counter. She takes a beautifully wrapped package from underneath and places it on top of the counter.)

CHARITY: *(Joins SERENITY at the counter.)* You're wasting your time, Serenity. Those humans just aren't getting it.

SERENITY: Oh, I don't know. Maybe today's the day.

CHARITY: That's what you said yesterday. And the day before ... and the day before ... and the—

SERENITY: Okay, I get it. But I can't just walk away. It's almost become a vendetta now. I've just got to get someone to open this package up. Otherwise, we've wasted the whole season sitting on these stools.

CHARITY: Tell me about it. I'm getting saddle sores. Plus, I dread reporting back to headquarters about it. Gabriel isn't going to be very happy.

SERENITY: Well, we've still got three days left. Maybe a miracle will happen.

(SFX: There is a noise offstage. SERENITY and CHARITY hurry back to their stools. The LIGHTS come up to full. JUNE, CLAIRE and SUE enter from the left. They are all wearing

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their coats and carrying their purses. They approach their respective counters: June to Gift Wrap, Sue to Lost and Found, and Claire to Returns. They all remove their coats, put away personal belongings, and put on their work smocks. BOB enters while they are donning their smocks. He goes to the easel and tears off the top sheet. The sign now reads: "Only 3 more days of our holiday blowout sale!"

BOB: Well, are you all ready for the last minute push?

JUNE: As ready as we'll ever be, I suppose. What other choice do we have?

BOB: Now that's not the attitude to have. This is Christmas, after all.

CLAIRE: Not around here, it isn't. You remember what management said. It's 'holiday' now. Nothing specific.

BOB: Well, whatever you want to call it, it's almost over. We're down to the wire now. It's only a few days left.

JUNE: Yeah, but what a few days it's going to be. Why people wait to the last minute to start their holiday (*Stresses the word.*) shopping, I'll never know. And of course, every one of them will want them gift wrapped.

SUE: Well, it is a service offered by the store.

JUNE: Yeah, but it's about crippled me. I'm not sure I can last three days.

CLAIRE: I wouldn't worry about it too much, June. Everything is so picked over I doubt there's much left out there to buy.

BOB: Well, it is slim pickings that's for sure. But if there was just one item left, I can guarantee there'd be at least two people vying for it, maybe more. (*Looks at his watch and starts off stage.*) Well, it's about time to open the doors. Good luck, ladies. (*Exits stage left.*)

CLAIRE: What about you, Sue? You're awfully quiet this morning.

SUE: Just trying to decide on my mystery package.

CLAIRE: Where did you find it this morning?

SUE: Same place as always. (*Picks up the package.*) I don't get it. Every night I place it underneath the counter and the next morning it's always back up on top.

JUNE: Have you told Bob?

End of Freeview

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