

The Original Stageplay

CHRISTMAS

IN HELL

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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SAMPLE SCRIPT



VOICE: I knew pleasure. I found all that was good. I laughed many days, cheered myself with wine, and embraced folly. I wanted to experience all that was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of life. I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I owned more herds and flocks than anyone before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well. I became greater by far than anyone before me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. In life, I had everything...(pause)....In death, I had nothing.

SCENE I

LIGHTS UP – Party Scene.

Decorations, music, food, and drinks in abundance. Guest are scattered all over the room, dressed in elegant, upper-class suits and dresses. Everyone has a glass as they drink in a celebratory mood. Laughter, chatter, eating and drinking.

DIVES walk in. If we thought the guest was dressed in fine clothes, Dives outshines them all. Everyone turns to him and applauds. He is poured some drink into a glass. He smiles and raises the glass. This is the man of the hour.

DIVES: I have built an empire equal to none. I have earned more money than, than...what's the name of that Facebook guy?

GUEST: Mark Zuckerberg.

DIVES: Yes, Mark Zuckerberg. I have accomplished far greater things than, than...what's the name of that guy who founded Microsoft?

GUEST: Bill Gates.

DIVES: Yes, Bill Fakes. I am more popular than any performer. This month alone I have opened two new franchises. Instant profit, and who said there was no god on earth.

One of the guests steps forward with his glass. His name is Phillip.

PHILLIP: I think you have had too much to drink, brother.

DIVES: I'm just getting started. *(Raises glass and drinks)*

PHILLIP: You promised last Christmas that you would not get drunk this time around.

DIVES: Christmas?

PHILLIP: It is Christmas. The season to be merry.

DIVES: No little brother. Christmas is for the weak and poor. Today we celebrate greater than Christmas. Today we celebrate me.

Some applaud. Others just drink.

DIVES: You all have a job because I provided. Christmas is for the underprivileged who need a crutch to lean on; some institution that will offer them bread. I provide more than bread. Meat, fine wine, and entertainment.

He raises his glass to shouts of glee.

Phillip takes the glass before he drinks.

PHILLIP: You've probably had enough.

Dives reach for a bottle of wine.

DIVES: I intend to get drunk tonight. *(He drinks)*

Phillip takes him aside to have a private discussion.

PHILLIP: It's Christmas Eve. We should send the people home to celebrate with their families.

DIVES: Do they look like they want to go home, Phillip?

PHILLIP: They probably have no idea what they want with all this liquor going around.

DIVES: Why are you such a killjoy, little brother? Learn to relax and have some fun without thinking of the minute details.

PHILLIP: You pay me to think of the little things.

DIVES: And I will pay you not to think if that will help you relax a little. Have some wine. Eat some pork. Invite one of these girls for a private session upstairs. This is our time brother. We are looking at a brand-new future.

PHILLIP: I know it's the wine talking.

DIVES: What's with the conscience all of a sudden?

PHILLIP: Just doing my job.

DIVES: In that case, when this night is over, make sure you tell every one of these people that I need them at work first thing tomorrow morning.

PHILLIP: It's Christmas Day.

DIVES: So, let them come in at ten instead of eight. Am I not generous?

PHILLIP: They should be home with their families.

DIVES: It's just another day to make money. We make our greatest profits on commercial holidays.

PHILLIP: It's not just a commercial holiday.

DIVES: You sound just like my wife.

PHILLIP: Soon to be ex-wife --- number six, if I might add.

DIVES: I know where you are going. Don't.

PHILLIP: People like to go to Church on Christmas Day.

DIVES: You think people are interested in going to a sanctuary to listen to some fairy tales of a king born in a horse pen?

PHILLIP: Sharon does it. Mom did it.

DIVES: Mom is dead. Some good that did. She was a fool and Sharon is exactly like her, which is why I moved out.

PHILLIP: She invited us over for Christmas.

DIVES: I have no time for that. If she wants to waste her years believing in all that God nonsense, it's up to her. I will have none of it.

PHILLIP: She asked me to convince you to come. She has something to tell us.

DIVES: Aw, the aura of mystery. It's a nice touch. Still not going. I would die first.

PHILLIP: You were so madly in love with her once.

DIVES: "Were" being the key word in that statement.

Lazarus, much older and dressed in ragged clothes walks into the room. The guest turns up their noses and puts some distance between him and them, and he walks through looking at the table.

Dives see him. He shoves Phillip out of the way and walks over to Lazarus.

DIVES: I told you never to come here.

LAZARUS: Food looks good. I could smell it from outside.

DIVES: Get out before I have you thrown out.

LAZARUS: Why you always treat me like a dog rich man?

DIVES: How else is a dog to be treated?

LAZARUS: You're not going to eat all this food. If it's even the leftovers, I'll take it.

DIVES: You will have none of this food. Go find some water in the streets to bathe yourself and stop trespassing on my property or I will have you arrested.

LAZARUS: Why so mean?

DIVES: Get out.

LAZARUS: Merry Christmas to you too, sir.

DIVES: There's nothing merry about it for you. Go find a church. Those poor jackals will take you in. Beg them for some of their manna and holy water. Beg them some soap and toothpaste. Go find that Jesus you're always talking about. Maybe he will give you some fish and bread.

Pause.

DIVES: Go. Leave. Vamoose.

LAZARUS: God bless you.

Lazarus turns and leaves.

DIVES: *(turns to Phillip)* See what I mean brother. Filth. That's the kind that goes to church. Hungry, smelly, poor and dying. Its people like us that live forever. Not them. They can't afford it. We have the best of everything in this life and any other life to come, if there is such a thing.

Dives drink some more.

DIVES: We have only just begun to build my kingdom here on earth brother. There is plenty of work to be done, but today we eat, we drink, and we celebrate.

VOICE: 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

Dives look around for the source of the voice. He looks at the bottle in his hand.

DIVES: Did you hear that?

PHILLIP: Hear what?

DIVES: I heard a voice. *(laughs)* I think the wine is talking to me.

PHILLIP: You've had too much to drink. *(Takes the bottle away from Dives)*

DIVES: Think I'm going to lie down a bit. The smell of that beggar has somehow upset my stomach.

Dives leaves. Phillip re-joins the other guest. The party continues.

LIGHTS OUT

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