

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

The Original Stageplay



CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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SAMPLE SCRIPT



LIGHTS UP

There's a stool at Stage Right.

Stage Left – Leroy and Sharon enters with the little decorations they have and start to decorate their small tree.

Stage Right – Jama is already seated in her chair knitting.

June Myers enter. She sees the stool and motions offstage if that is where she should sit. She gets the confirmation and sits looking out at the audience.

She looks intently for a beat as if listening to a question.

JUNE: Okay. The reason for the season. Hey, what kinda question is that and why are you asking me that? Oh, we on TV now? Sorry. Okay, the reason for the season is --- *(thinks hard)* --- gifts, I guess. How much you get and what you get, you know. Especially stuff you really want, which is hard for us sometimes, cause we have everything *(laughs)*.

JAMA: Child, when you enter a room, you should say good morning, good evening or goodnight.

JUNE: Sorry Grandma. I didn't see you.

JAMA: I ain't buying that child. I'm too big for you not to see me. I tell that mother of yours she is growing you up without manners.

Clarabelle and the other two kids enter.

CLARABELLE: I try, Momma.

JAMA: Ain't good enough. You spoil them kids I tell you.

June jumps from the stool and goes to join them.

JUNE: Hey, Mom. Did you buy everything on my list?

JACK: Did you buy everything on my list?

GENE: Did you buy everything on my list?

CLARABELLE: Merry Christmas to you and you and you too.

JUNE: Mom, quit playing. Did you buy the stuff or not?

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: The presents are over there.

JACK: Can I open mine now mom, can I?

GENE: Mom, did you get everything I had on the list mom, did you?

CLARABELLE: Before we get to opening presents, don't you think we should have a family breakfast first.

Pause. The kids stare at her.

CLARABELLE: Okay, open your presents.

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: Will you cut that out, Momma!

The kids rejoice as they head for the tree.

One by one they start tearing the presents apart, but what they find is not what they were looking for, and with each open present, their expression get grumpier and grumpier.

JUNE & GENE & JACK: Moooooom!

CLARABELLE: What?

JUNE: This sweater is the wrong color, and you got me the wrong brand sneakers, and I wanted an X-Box, not a playstation. Mom! You had a list you know.

GENE: Mom, I really wanted an iPhone, not the Samsung.

CLARABELLE: I just didn't have time to get around to the 'specifics' of that very long list you gave me.

JUNE: It wasn't all that long a list.

CLARABELLE: Really?

Clarabelle finds the list and reels it out.

GENE: I thought you wanted us to be happy.

CLARABELLE: I do.

JUNE: And you would spoil our Christmas like this. Buying stuff we don't want.

CLARABELLE: What's the difference between a pink sweater and a blue sweater?

JUNE: You wouldn't understand.

CLARABELLE: Christmas is not just about gifts.

JUNE: Just because you don't have anybody to give you anything, don't mean you have to spoil it for us too.

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: That's not a very nice thing to say.

JUNE: Christmas is not the same here anymore. Ever since Daddy left you. You just keep spoiling it for us.

CLARABELLE: I'm doing my best here, okay. And you shouldn't talk to me like that in front of your little brother. And for the record, your father didn't leave me. I left him.

JUNE: Why?

JAMA: Uhm.

CLARABELLE: Its none of your business.

JUNE: Guess what, Mom, you just took the merry out of our Christmas.

June throws some of the presents aside and exit.

CLARABELLE: Don't you kids want something to eat?

JACK: Yah.

GENE: I'm not hungry, Mom.

Clarabelle takes little Jack and exits.

Gene sits on the stool and looks out to the audience.

GENE: To tell you the truth, I don't know what the real reason for the season is. I thought having what I wanted was enough, but I realized that what I really want, money can't buy. I want things to be the way it was when Daddy was here.

A Beat.

Gene remains on the stool a little while, then gets up and exits.

JAMA: Lord give me strength before I crucify them kids.

Jama tries to get up but finds it a bit difficult. She struggles and struggles until eventually ---

JAMA: Somebody --- anybody ---

Clarabelle comes back out and helps her up.

CLARABELLE: Sorry, Momma. I didn't remember you.

JAMA: Oh, really! Clar, you can't let them kids treat you like you're one a them.

CLARABELLE: I know.

JAMA: Look at Susan's children.

CLARABELLE: Momma, not now. I don't want to hear anything about Susan.

JAMA: Plug your ears if you don't want to hear, but I'm talking. Your sister has children with manners. You should take a page from her book.

CLARABELLE: What do I do differently from her?

JAMA: I can give ya a list, but it gonna be longer than what I saw you reel out there just now.

Clarabelle helps Jama through the exit.

(The scene moves to next door)

SHARON: Is that all the decorations we have.

LEROY: Well, I think we may be able to find something else in last years stuff.

SHARON: Go check it out. This tree looks way too naked.

LEROY: Alright.

Leroy exits. Sharon moves closer to the audience.

SHARON: I'm supposed to be sitting on a stool talking to you right now, but we just can't afford it. Anyway, The Real Reason for the Season. Uhm. My mom says its Jesus, but I dunno. I thought there would always be more to it. But I guess it don't matter anyway. It's a cool time to go to church and seeing all those pepper lights all over the place. It's just wonderful. As an artist, I can appreciate that stuff.

Leroy comes back with a few more decorations.

SHARON: Is that all?

LEROY: I think so.

SHARON: Well, then, it will just have to do, little brother.

They finish putting on the remaining decorations.

ENTER SUSAN, dressed sloppily as Santa Claus.

SUSAN (*deep voice*): Ho, Ho, Ho (*starts coughing*)

SHARON: (*laughs*) Moom. Is that you?

SUSAN: Mom. Who's Mom? I'm Santa Claus.

LEROY: Santa Claus sure got big hips.

SUSAN: Hey, watch yourself, young man. You better be a good boy or you ain't getting no presents this year.

SHARON: Mom, I mean, Santa Claus, you got us something?

SUSAN: You betcha.

Susan goes in the bag and takes out two little gifts. She gives one to Leroy and one to Sharon.

They are very excited as they open their gifts. Leroy gets a pen and Sharon receives a notebook and a pen.

SHARON: Oh, this is the best Christmas ever. Thanks to you, Mom.

Sharon and Leroy hug her tightly, and her fake beard drops off.

LEROY: Santa Claus, your beard is on the ground.

SUSAN: Ho, Ho, Ho! (*they all share a laugh*) The tree looks good.

SHARON: It really does.

SUSAN: Its time to get ready for church.

SHARON: Yeah, I don't want to miss worship and praise.

SUSAN: Hey guys, after church I'm thinking maybe we should pay a little visit to your Auntie.

SHARON & LEROY: Why?

SUSAN: Don't be like that. They probably need some Christmas cheer.

SHARON: Mom, it never turns out well for you and her when we go to visit.

SUSAN: I know. But this time will be different.

SHARON & LEROY: You say that every year.

SUSAN: Grandma will be there.

SHARON & LEROY: *(excited)* Alright.

They exit together.

Brief pause (maybe fade the lights for a beat or two to show that some time has passed)

Susan, Sharon, and Leroy enter Stage Right.

SUSAN: Looks like no one is home.

SHARON: But the door was open.

SUSAN: This is the United States dear, not Jamaica. We don't have to close our doors here.

LEROY: Where's Jamaica?

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