



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

The Original Stageplay

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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SAMPLE SCRIPT



SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

(Michael, mid 30's, enters and sits on the stool. He looks out over the audience, sad eyes)

(He pulls out a newspaper from his back pocket, and reads through the headlines)

MICHAEL: Another shot by police. Under investigation.

(skips the page)

Another athlete has taken his own life --- another military personnel. Every day, more bad news. A storm is brewing in the Pacific Ocean --- gearing up to make landfall in a few days. Why won't they ever report anything good!

(folds the newspaper)

Christmas, just around the corner. What does Christmas mean to me? It's difficult to answer that. Three years ago, I got married on Christmas Day. Today, I am single. How do you move from married to single in three years, you may ask? Fortunately, my story is not the worse. My wife just got tired of me, really quick. I never expected it --- never asked for it --- never wanted it. I used to go to church too, but something like this can really damage your faith. It's not that I don't believe in God, I am just not convinced that He even sees me. I would be shocked if there is anybody even listening to me right now.

(Gets up and paces a bit)

If I should be honest though, I think with all the time that has passed since the first Christmas, it has kind of lost its value. It's overrated if you asked me. I know some of you feel that way. Most of you were probably forced

to come here today, to watch this play. I guess it is something to do as a family, but what about those who don't have a family. What do they do when this time of the year rolls in? Where is the church for them? Where is their Christmas?

What does Christmas mean to me? It's a time to reflect. A time to look back and re-analyze all the mistakes I made in my life. I don't really think about the birth of Jesus Christ. I did love the presents as a kid, loved making my parents believe that I was convinced Santa Claus came. Every kid knows it was their parents who leave gifts under the tree. You can't fool kids these days. They are smarter than we are.

(Sits on the stool)

What does Christmas mean to me? Nothing, I suppose. It's just another day. I do like the snow though. I like the time off it gives me from work, but I hate the work to clear the driveway. I can't even afford to pay someone else to do it.

(a beat)

You know, I remember Christmas as a kid. It was a very exciting time. The family came together, prayed together, ate together. It was nice. I never forgot that, and I was never able to recreate that in my own family. I think our parents had a better handle on this thing than we can ever do. I wish I was like them. I really miss having them around. All the memories.

I think if Christmas is to ever have the value it once did, we will have to practically recreate it. I believe that was what our parents did. They create the Christmas we once enjoyed. I just realize how much effort that must have taken. You know, I think Christmas would have a greater meaning to me, if I had kids. But for now, what can I really say ---

(pause)

(Michael exits)

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

(Janet, mid 50's, enters and sits on the stool)

(She looks out over the audience, happy eyes. She sniffs the air).

JANET: Do you smell that?

(A beat)

That's what Christmas means to me. It has a smell no other time of the year does. It's a mixture of cake batter, cleaning chemicals, artificial pine trees, snow, and ornaments. I can smell it before I see it.

As a child growing up, this was the foundation my parents set. Christmas was a time our family would gather together, cook together, reminiscing old times together. We loved it. On Christmas Sunday, we would all go to church, and it would be a happy celebration when all the families in the different communities came together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amidst the contradictory doctrinal views, we all agreed on one thing --- Jesus Christ was born. It really didn't matter the day we celebrate it.

(Points at someone in the audience)

Has anybody ever forgotten your birthday? Do you remember how that felt? What if you had no idea when you were born, what would you do? Of course, you would just choose a random day and celebrate it then, right? So, what's all the arguing for?

(A beat)

I have heard it said that the celebration of Christmas was a pagan ritual, that they did all kinds of ungodly stuff on that day, even child sacrifices.

They say we as the church have adopted all the pagan practices, even to this day. I have no idea if that is true or not, I just know that Christmas smells like heaven, and I love it. I often imagine this big celebration taking place in heaven. Jesus would be given a cake made with pure light. He would blow out the candles, to celebrate yet another 33rd birthday. I wanted to do that, but my family insisted that I embrace the idea of growing older. I don't mind getting older; I just prefer if my age remained static.

(A beat)

Heaven must have a smell, don't you think? I imagine if there is anything remotely close to that smell, it would be just around Christmas. With all that celebration taking place up there, the atmosphere must be charged with fragrances being released from angels, and those who have gone before. My parents would love that.

(A moment of sadness)

I think my appreciation of Christmas should be credited to my parents. I believe because of them. I see a different generation of parents these days --- some who have lost sight of what is important. They have no idea how that is going to affect their children in the future.

(getting happy again)

Anyway, I hope that answers your question. I need to go check on my cakes.

(takes a big sniff of the air)

Sure smells good.

JANET EXITS

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