

# A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

*by Johnny Melton*



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**A CHRISTMAS  
TO REMEMBER**

**By Johnny Melton**

**A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER***Small Town, Big Heart***By Johnny Melton**

**SYNOPSIS:** *A Christmas to Remember* is an inspirational play set in the 1970s—a time without cell phones, texting, or email. An upcoming wedding in a small town keeps everyone on edge, but the reality of life’s challenges brings everything full circle. Leslie is a young adult with special needs, but her childlike ability to see the good in people without judging their appearance touches a homeless man so deeply that it changes his entire outlook on life. There are many lighthearted comic moments in the beauty shop to break up the drama while still nudging the audience toward deeper thoughts as an undercurrent of concern for Leslie’s health runs throughout. Through tears and laughter, Christmas is experienced as a time to give, but also receive.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS***(10 females, 6-7 males, 3-4 either; 6+ extras)*

- BERNICE (f) ..... 40s; Mother of Patty (the bride) and good friend of Rachel and Leslie. She is a devoted Christian and mother, and very loyal. She is stressed throughout the play due to wedding planning for her daughter. She is also a part-time caregiver to Leslie.  
*(51 lines)*
- DORIS (f)..... 40s; Owner of the beauty shop. She is single and attractive—and somewhat of a gossip who says what’s on her mind. She is a hard worker and yearns for acceptance and respect. Will do anything for anybody. She is very funny and loud.  
*(40 lines)*
- BLANCHE (f)..... 40s; Speaks with authority and tells it like it is, even if some people may not like it.  
*(18 lines)*

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- RACHEL (f).....40s; Leslie’s mother. Stressed throughout the play due to her adult daughter’s special needs and terminal disease. (19 lines)
- LESLIE (f).....30; Adult with an intellectual disability. Very sweet demeanor, but is capable of having tantrums. Her gift is that she can see only the good in people and has the innocence of a child. (55 lines)
- ANDY (m/f).....10; Good friends with Leslie. He protects her and is aware that she is special, but he doesn’t treat her any differently than anyone else. (23 lines)
- BUM (m).....late 40s; Very angry at the world, but is changing little by little. He is a large man and well spoken. He tries to hide his intelligence, but sometimes it slips out. (66 lines)
- SUE (f).....50; Always wants to help people and make things better. Supportive of all her friends. Attractive lady, but can be a bit over the top. (6 lines)
- EMILY (f).....50; Customer at the beauty shop. (6 lines)
- PATTY (f).....20; Patty is the bride-to-be of Billy and the daughter of Bernice. She is a bridezilla! Very attractive, outspoken, and extremely stubborn. (28 lines)
- BILLY (m).....20; The groom-to-be. Loves Patty dearly. Billy is very funny, but has a deep spirit and does not tolerate poor behavior, from Patty or anyone else. He is a lovable character with a bright smile. (8 lines)
- MARTHA (f).....50; Customer at the beauty shop and friends with everyone. She is fun and has a light-hearted spirit. (3 lines)
- JIMMY DON (m) .....19; Friends with Billy. Acne problem and very self-conscious of it. Tries to fit in. He puts others down to make himself look

	better because he is not confident in his appearance. (3 lines)
BEN (m).....	45; Leslie's dad and Rachel's husband. Very good man with a strength of character. Soft-spoken and possesses a deep spirituality. (8 lines)
DR. WILBURN (m).....	50s; Very serious man. Protective of his patients. Loyal friend to Leslie and her family. (31 lines)
MARK (m).....	40; Local mechanic. (1 line)
HOPE (f).....	25; Angel who has the job of leading Leslie into heaven. Her voice is soft and filled with love, yet direct in her delivery of lines. (5 lines)
BIDDER 1 (m/f) .....	Selected audience member/volunteer. (4 lines)
BIDDER 2 (m/f) .....	Selected audience member/volunteer. (3 lines)
GOD (m).....	Pre-recorded or offstage voice. (1 line)
TV ANCHOR (m/f).....	Pre-recorded or offstage voice. (2 lines)

**EXTRAS:**

GIRLFRIEND (f).....	18; Jimmy Don's girlfriend. (Non-Speaking.)
KIDS .....	Any number. They sit on Santa's lap. (Non-Speaking.)
ANGEL CHOIR.....	Any age and gender. Minimum number of five, but may be as many as desired. Will sing "Silent Night." (Non-Speaking.)

**DURATION:** 60 minutes**TIME:** 1970s**SETTING:** Small Town, America

## PRODUCTION NOTES

**SET:** Divide your staging area into thirds (more or less) to accommodate the location changes. The beauty shop is the scene of a significant amount of action. The original production borrowed a stylist’s chair from a local salon, giving the business credit in the program. You could substitute a stool if needed. Arrange some chairs around the perimeter as a waiting area. You will need a table with hair products and accessories—items like blow dryers, curling irons, combs, brushes, hairspray, mirrors, etc. A plastic cape to place around the clients also lends authenticity. You will need some type of screen for the TV to show the image of the Bum at the end of the play.

A few scenes take place on the street. Place a bench outside the beauty parlor area at the minimum. You may also add items like a street sign, trash can, and streetlight.

The third area will change throughout the performance. It will start as the Christmas Festival Dance. Set up a dance floor and a small bar with refreshments. You will also need a Santa chair (may be decorated). Add Christmas décor if desired. Then transform into an auction/fundraiser room. Tables are set up with pies and other auction items, and a decorated Christmas tree is displayed that will be auctioned off during the scene. The third change is to Leslie’s bedroom. You will need a bed at the minimum. You could also add a bedside table and lamp.

**COSTUMES:** Take advantage of thrift stores to find some wonderfully retro ‘70s clothing for all. Doris may wear a smock and pants. Leslie needs boots in one scene and a nightgown at the end. Dr. Wilburn may wear a white lab coat. You will need one angel costume for each member of the choir. The angel Hope’s costume should stand out from the other angels in some way. Patty will need a green wig. All going to the dance should wear dressier clothing. Larry needs dirty and tattered “bum” clothing for most of the performance, a Santa suit for the Christmas Festival Dance scene, and then a suit or leisure suit at the end, when he is all cleaned up. If not specified above, characters should default to wearing casual ‘70s clothing. Use makeup to create mascara streaks for Rachel and a pimple on Jimmy Don’s nose.

**EFFECTS:** Use PowerPoint to make the slide of Larry the Bum in his tattered clothing on one side and wearing a suit on the other side. If this is not possible, you may skip the visuals and place a radio in the beauty shop which “plays” the prerecorded TV Anchor and Bum voices.

**MUSIC:** Play some light ‘70s dance music for the Christmas Festival Dance scene. You will also need singers of any age or gender to sing “Silent Night” as the angel choir at the end.

### **PROPS**

- purse with checkbook and pen inside (Blanche)
- chips, soda, and doll (Leslie)
- toy truck (Andy)
- appointment book (Doris)
- check (Bernice)
- candles (one for each angel)
- real or stuffed puppy (Leslie)
- flowers (Larry)

All Scripture is taken from the King James Version.

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## SCENE 1

1  
2  
3 **AT START:** DORIS and BLANCHE are in the beauty shop. DORIS  
4 is teasing BLANCHE's hair. BERNICE enters.

5  
6 **BERNICE:** Hey, y'all.

7 **DORIS:** Hey, Bernice.

8 **BLANCHE:** Hi, darlin'.

9 **DORIS:** How's that weddin' comin'?

10 **BERNICE:** Oh, giiiiirrrl... It's comin', I suppose. I cannot believe that  
11 child of mine decided to get married the week before Christmas.

12 **BLANCHE:** Why then? Everyone is so busy. I know she's my  
13 niece, but it just ain't right stealin' the limelight from Jesus and  
14 all.

15 **BERNICE:** It's because they can get a good rate on their  
16 honeymoon cruise. Billy is tryin' to do it cheap. But I shouldn't  
17 gripe. Billy's a good boy. He just played football without a helmet  
18 too much, that's all.

19  
20 *ALL laugh.*

21  
22 **DORIS:** I don't mean to talk, but that boy does seem to be dimmer  
23 than dark. You know I dated his daddy in high school. He wasn't  
24 any too smart neither. He was supposed to take me to the  
25 Valentine's dance, but he got his foot caught in a steel trap when  
26 he was opossum huntin'. Dang near snapped that sucker right  
27 off. I ended up going with Tim Marshall. He was ugly as  
28 homemade soap, but he did have a nice car.

29  
30 *ALL laugh.*

31  
32 **BERNICE:** I remember him. He don't seem like your type.

33 **DORIS:** We only went out a couple of times. He always wore that  
34 dang Hai Karate aftershave so thick it could burn your eyeballs  
35 right out of their sockets.

36  
37 *ALL laugh.*

1 **DORIS:** There I was, all decked out in my formal dress—I was the  
2 Valentine's Queen of Jaybird High, ya know—eyes waterin' like  
3 a sieve because the fumes was so strong from that dang cheap  
4 cologne. I looked like I'd been sprayed by a pole cat.

5

6 *ALL laugh.*

7

8 **BLANCHE:** Are y'all ready for Christmas yet?

9 **BERNICE:** Not me. I've been too busy with this wedding. We finally  
10 got the cake ordered. Cost me a purdy penny, I'll tell ya that. Can  
11 you believe Billy wanted a Santa Claus cake with elf cupcakes?

12 I told him I was *not* paying for a Santa Claus cake for a weddin'.

13 **DORIS:** (*Disappointed.*) Oh, but that would be cute.

14 **BERNICE:** It's my daughter's weddin', Doris, not the Macy's  
15 Christmas Parade! (*Tone changes.*) Speakin' of parades—I  
16 don't wanna rain on anyone's parade, but Leslie has been  
17 struggling with her health lately.

18 **DORIS:** What's goin' on with that little lady?

19 **BERNICE:** Blood clots, among other things. Rachel and Ben are  
20 goin' to Tulsa to see a new doctor.

21 **BLANCHE:** That family has been through so much. Leslie is such  
22 a sweet little thing. I hope it's nothing too serious.

23 **DORIS:** I hear ya.

24 **BLANCHE:** I just hate the way some of those kids pick on Leslie.

25 You know Rachel put a pop knot on that Kimble boy for makin'  
26 faces at Leslie down at the Piggly Wiggly. I don't blame her a bit.  
27 I'da mopped the floor up with that little brat too, and I think the  
28 good Lord would've smiled on me for doin' it.

29 **DORIS:** All done, Blanche. I think you look like a doll. Dave is gonna  
30 just fall out when he sees this new hair color.

31 **BLANCHE:** I doubt that, Doris, but thank you anyway. Let me get  
32 my checkbook. (*Stands up and digs in her purse for her*  
33 *checkbook and writes check.*)

34 **DORIS:** Thank you, Blanche. I appreciate it. Are you ready,  
35 Bernice?

36 **BERNICE:** Yeah. (*Gets up and sits in the stylist's chair.*)

37 **BLANCHE:** Bernice, please tell Carl to keep us posted if he hears  
38 anything from Ben about Leslie. I will be prayin' for 'em.

1 **BERNICE:** I sure will, Blanche. We will all be prayin' for 'em. Bye,  
2 y'all.

3

4 *ALL say their good-byes as BLANCHE hands DORIS the check.*  
5 *RACHEL enters, meeting BLANCHE as she walks out.*

6

7 **BLANCHE:** Well, hello there, Rachel. How are ya doin'?

8 **RACHEL:** *(Sighs.)* I'm just worn out. Leslie is sick today, so Ben  
9 had to leave work early to stay with her so I could get some  
10 groceries. I am so far behind on everything. I haven't bought a  
11 single Christmas present.

12

13 *BLANCHE goes back in and sits on a side chair.*

14

15 **BLANCHE:** Is there anything we can do to help you, sweetie?

16 **RACHEL:** No, no... but thank you. We'll manage somehow. I'm  
17 gonna shop 'til I drop this afternoon. I've got to get Leslie some  
18 clothes. Nothing fits her. She's lost so much weight since she's  
19 been sick.

20 **BERNICE:** I heard she wasn't doing well. What's going on?

21 **RACHEL:** We don't know yet. Her leg is swollen. Dr. Wilburn said  
22 it was a blood clot and sent her to a specialist in Oklahoma City.  
23 They gave us some blood thinners and that seemed to help, but  
24 she is just so weak and complains about her stomach hurting.  
25 We're seeing a cardiologist in Tulsa next week.

26 **DORIS:** Bless her sweet little heart. We have good doctors here.  
27 Why can't you take her somewhere closer?

28 **RACHEL:** Ben's insisting that we go to this new doctor. We're  
29 desperate for answers. We've been to several doctors already,  
30 and she isn't getting any better.

31 **BERNICE:** Well, Rachel, will you tell us if there is anything we can  
32 do to help? We all love you. Don't hold back. We're here for you.

33 **RACHEL:** I know you are. I love all of you too. Ben and I are so  
34 lucky to have friends like you.

**SCENE 2**

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**AT START:** *Street scene with LESLIE and ANDY outside the beauty shop on a bench. LESLIE is eating chips and drinking a soda and holds her doll. ANDY plays with a toy truck, rolling it on the ground by LESLIE's feet. The BUM walks into the scene and sits down and leans against a wall opposite ANDY and LESLIE. He comes in toward the end of ANDY and LESLIE's conversation.*

**LESLIE:** What are you doin', Andy? You're gonna run over my toe.

**ANDY:** No I'm not.

**LESLIE:** Well, you're gettin' pretty close.

**ANDY:** You have on boots anyway. I doubt that it would hurt.

**LESLIE:** Look, Andy! (*Points.*) Look over there. Look! Look! Look!

**ANDY:** Where?

**LESLIE:** Right over there in the street—in that puddle.

**ANDY:** Whaddaya mean? I don't see anything.

**LESLIE:** It's a rainbow. See it in the puddle? Isn't it beautiful?

**ANDY:** Oh. (*Shrugs.*) I see those all the time. What's the big deal?

**LESLIE:** What's the big deal? It's a sign that God loves us. Even in a dirty old street, God shows us he loves us.

**ANDY:** I never really thought of that. I guess you're right. It is kinda pretty.

**LESLIE:** I love rainbows. They are soooo beautiful! I think that colors are my favorite things in the whole world.

**ANDY:** Yeah, I suppose they are. You seem to notice a lot of things that I don't. I think it's 'cause you're a girl.

**LESLIE:** (*Laughs.*) Maybe so. My mom painted one in my room for me. She knows how much I love 'em.

**ANDY:** I heard that Tommy Kimble was makin' fun of you the other day, and your mom popped him a good one.

**LESLIE:** (*Laughs.*) No, she didn't pop him. She just told him to stop or she was gonna pop him. (*Laughs.*) He didn't mean nothin' by it. He was just playin'.

*BUM enters and sits down against the side of the building at far Stage Right.*

- 1 **ANDY:** I heard my folks talkin' about it. I wish she hadda popped  
2 him a good one. He's nothin' but a bully, always tryin' to pick  
3 fights. Mikey Babcock said Tommy tripped him and kicked his  
4 books clear down to the end of the hall. I heard he got swats  
5 from the principal.
- 6 **LESLIE:** I don't really know him. He doesn't have many friends.  
7 Maybe that's why he acts so bad. I'll bet if he had a friend like  
8 you, he wouldn't be so mean.
- 9 **ANDY:** I ain't gonna be his friend.
- 10 **LESLIE:** See that man over there? *(Points to the BUM.)*
- 11 **ANDY:** Yeah, I see him. He's a bum.
- 12 **LESLIE:** You don't know that. You probably think he's mean too.  
13 He looks nice to me. I'm gonna wave at him.
- 14 **ANDY:** No, you're not! You don't know him, and we aren't  
15 supposed to talk to strangers.
- 16 **LESLIE:** I'm not gonna talk to him. I'm gonna wave at him. He looks  
17 nice.
- 18 **ANDY:** No, he doesn't. He looks like a bum. Ya know why he looks  
19 like a dirty old bum?
- 20 **LESLIE:** Why?
- 21 **ANDY:** 'Cause he *is* a dirty old bum!
- 22 **LESLIE:** *(Laughs.)* Ohhhh... *(LESLIE waves at the BUM.)* Hel-  
23 loooo! *(Grins.)*
- 24 **ANDY:** Stop it, Les. You don't know what he'll do. He may come  
25 over here and kill us!
- 26 **LESLIE:** *(Giggles.)* He ain't gonna kill us. *(Waves again.)* Hel-  
27 loooo.
- 28
- 29 *BUM shoos her away with hand gestures.*
- 30
- 31 **ANDY:** If you go talk to him, I'm gonna go tell.
- 32 **LESLIE:** I don't care. He looks friendly.
- 33 **ANDY:** No, he doesn't. Now, leave him alone! You waved at him  
34 and he didn't like it.
- 35 **LESLIE:** I'm gonna go talk to him.
- 36 **ANDY:** I'm tellin'!
- 37
- 38 *ANDY runs offstage and LESLIE walks over to the BUM.*

1

2 **LESLIE:** Hi. What's your name?3 **BUM:** Get away from me. Leave me alone!4 **LESLIE:** (*Wrinkles her nose.*) You smell bad. You smell like our  
5 trash can when my dad doesn't take it out.6 **BUM:** I don't care what I smell like! What do you want, anyway?7 **LESLIE:** Nothin'. I just thought you looked nice and thought you  
8 might like to look for rainbows with me.9 **BUM:** Rainbows? There aren't any rainbows around here. Now,  
10 get outta here and leave me alone. Don't you know you aren't  
11 supposed to talk to strangers?12 **LESLIE:** If we were friends, then we wouldn't be strangers, now  
13 would we?14 **BUM:** You don't know me, and what you're doing is dangerous.15 **LESLIE:** Are you going to hurt me?16 **BUM:** No, I'm not going hurt you. I just want to be left alone.17 **LESLIE:** Well, if you aren't going to hurt me and you aren't mean,  
18 then why can't we be friends?19 **BUM:** OK. If I tell you we're friends, will you leave me alone?20 **LESLIE:** No. If we are friends, then we should talk.21 **BUM:** I don't want to talk. You don't even know who I am. You can't  
22 just walk up to a total stranger and start a conversation.23 **LESLIE:** Why not?24 **BUM:** Because it's dangerous, that's why. Who are you with?  
2526 *RACHEL runs out of the beauty shop with ANDY.*  
2728 **RACHEL:** (*Yells at the BUM.*) You get away from her and leave her  
29 alone!30 **BUM:** (*Stands up.*) I'm tryin' to leave her alone, lady. She came up  
31 and started pesterin' *me!*32 **RACHEL:** I'm calling the police!33 **BUM:** (*Very sarcastically.*) Weeeeell, now. You're going to threaten  
34 me with three hots and a cot? I'm soooo scaaaaaared!  
3536 *LESLIE laughs.*  
3738 **RACHEL:** Can't you see she's—she's special?

- 1 **BUM:** She's special, all right. She just came over and started in on  
2 me about rainbows!
- 3 **RACHEL:** You know what I mean. If you ever bother her again, I  
4 *will* call the police.
- 5 **BUM:** You go right ahead, lady. I could use a good meal and a  
6 good night's sleep. Jail doesn't scare me. This young lady, on  
7 the other hand, *does* scare me. Haven't you taught her not to  
8 talk to strangers?
- 9 **RACHEL:** (*Glares at the BUM.*) Come on, Leslie. Don't you dare  
10 speak to someone that you don't know ever again. You know  
11 better than that!
- 12 **LESLIE:** He's nice, Momma! He just needed a friend, that's all.
- 13 **BUM:** I don't need a friend, little lady. I need a drink is what I need.  
14 Now would you all kindly get on with your business or whatever  
15 you were doing and get outta here and leave me alone? (*Goes*  
16 *back to the wall and sits down.*)
- 17 **LESLIE:** (*As she is dragged away by RACHEL.*) No, Momma, no!  
18 Noooo! Noooo!
- 19
- 20 *LESLIE pulls away, screaming. ANDY and the BUM step back while*  
21 *RACHEL tries to calm her.*
- 22
- 23 **BUM:** What's wrong with her?
- 24 **RACHEL:** (*To BUM.*) See what you've done?
- 25
- 26 *ANDY, LESLIE, and RACHEL exit, with LESLIE still fighting*  
27 *RACHEL.*
- 28
- 29 **BUM:** (*Gets up and walks around, talking to himself.*) I can't believe  
30 that. Comes up here talking to me of all people and wants to be  
31 friends. (*Scratches his head.*) Rainbows? What rainbows?  
32 Nobody talks to me. I'm not sure if what she just did was...  
33 (*Pauses.*) But somehow she knew that I wasn't dangerous and  
34 wouldn't hurt her. I know she knew that. But how?
- 35
- 36 *Blackout.*

**SCENE 3**

1

2

3 **AT START:** *Back in the beauty shop with DORIS, SUE, MARTHA,*  
4 *and EMILY.*

5

6 **DORIS:** I do declare, I've been busy as a bee this week. I can't  
7 catch a break with a wind sock! Yesterday I worked fourteen  
8 hours and didn't sit down once. When I finally got home, my  
9 dawgs was a-barkin'!

10 **SUE:** Doris, you need to soak your feet in one of them big basins  
11 with Epsom salts. That will keep them dawgs quieted down.

12

13 *ALL laugh.*

14

15 **MARTHA:** What you need is to hire someone to come in here and  
16 help you out. There are lots of nice girls that are lookin' for  
17 beautician jobs. You have plenty of business, and you know you  
18 could use the help.

19 **DORIS:** I can't afford to pay anyone. I barely make ends meet as it  
20 is!

21 **EMILY:** You need a husband is what you need. It might do you a  
22 world of good to find you a man and settle down some.

23 **DORIS:** I haven't been on a date in... oh, gosh—I don't know the  
24 last time.

25 **SUE:** You can't be serious.

26 **DORIS:** Well, I ain't proud of it.

27 **EMILY:** Well, why haven't you gone out?

28 **DORIS:** With who? Someone has to ask me out before I can go  
29 out. All the eligible men around here are plumb sorry.

30 **SUE:** But everybody needs someone.

31

32 *BERNICE and PATTY enter the beauty shop.*

33

34 **BERNICE:** Hey, y'all.

35 **ALL:** *(Ad lib.)* Hey, Bernice. Hi there, Patty.

36 **EMILY:** Well, Patty, are you getting excited yet?

37 **PATTY:** Yeah, I'm excited, but I'm sure ready to get it over with.

- 1 **BERNICE:** She isn't the only one. We just got back from having the  
2 dress altered. She looks absolutely beautiful in it.
- 3 **SUE:** (*To PATTY.*) You've got to bring it in and model it for us. The  
4 dress is everything, ya know. How long is the train?
- 5 **PATTY:** (*Looking at BERNICE.*) Well, Mom and I argued about  
6 that. It's probably about two feet long. I wanted it to be much  
7 longer, trailin' down the aisle all graceful-like.
- 8 **BERNICE:** She wanted it to be six feet long! It would get trampled  
9 for sure!
- 10 **EMILY:** (*To PATTY.*) Well, I bet it's perfect just like it is, sugar.
- 11 **PATTY:** Miss Doris, could you cut my hair soon? We can style it  
12 the day of the wedding, but I want the cut and color now so it will  
13 have time to relax a little and fall into place naturally.
- 14 **DORIS:** I could do that. When is a good time for ya?
- 15 **PATTY:** What do you think, Momma?
- 16 **BERNICE:** We could probably stop by in the afternoon.
- 17 **DORIS:** (*Looking at her appointment book.*) I could get you in  
18 around 3:30 if that will work for y'all. What do you want done?
- 19 **PATTY:** Just a trim, and—well, I want you to bleach it blonde for  
20 me too.
- 21 **BERNICE:** What? No way! We are *not* going blonde. That is the  
22 silliest thing I have ever heard of.
- 23 **PATTY:** No it's not. I went blonde last summer, and Billy loved it!
- 24 **BERNICE:** Last summer the sun bleached it out, and it didn't have  
25 that cheap "bottle blonde" look.
- 26 **PATTY:** I don't care. I wanna surprise Billy
- 27 **BERNICE:** (*Throwing hands up in the air.*) Your father and I are  
28 going to be out all this money for you to look like a floozy. If that  
29 don't just beat all!
- 30 **DORIS:** Now girls, just simmer down. I can lighten it but also tone  
31 it so it won't look brassy. Just leave it to me. If we color it, you've  
32 gotta be careful about washing it before the weddin'. Use  
33 something gentle, like baby shampoo or a color-safe formula.
- 34 **PATTY:** See there, Momma? Doris knows what I'm talking about.  
35 Thank you, Miss Doris.
- 36 **BERNICE:** Yes, by all means. (*Sarcastic voice with a glare at*  
37 *DORIS.*) Thank you, Doris.
- 38 **SUE:** Who is that bum that keeps hangin' around here?

- 1 **DORIS:** I don't know, but he gives me the creeps. Rachel lit him up  
2 the other day. I think he was botherin' Leslie. She had one of her  
3 breakdowns.
- 4 **BERNICE:** No, he wasn't botherin' Leslie. She just started talkin' to  
5 him, that's all. I don't think she knew any better.
- 6 **DORIS:** Well, if ya ask me, he needs to be in jail. There's no tellin'  
7 what that man has done. He may be a serial killer!
- 8 **BERNICE:** He's just an old bum. He ain't hurtin' nothin'.
- 9 **DORIS:** I saw him over by Duddly's liquor store the other day. I  
10 think he's dangerous. And that old bag lady he was with is as  
11 crazy as a liquored-up wild cat. I called Sergeant Otis, but he  
12 said they can't do anything unless he commits a crime. That  
13 police department is as worthless as dryer lint. But I'll tell you  
14 one thing—if he'd harmed one hair on Leslie's little head, we'da  
15 all been on him like ugly on an Allman Brother.
- 16 **PATTY:** Well, he gives me the creeps too. Someone said he broke  
17 outta jail in Arkansas and the laws was lookin' for him. Maybe  
18 we should call the police and tell them where he is.
- 19 **DORIS:** I told you, I already called. They won't do nothin' unless he  
20 does somethin' first. By that time, it'll be too late.
- 21 **EMILY:** Well, let's just keep an eye on him. If he is an escapee,  
22 then we are all in danger.
- 23 **PATTY:** Whew, boy! Enough about all that. I need some advice on  
24 flowers, y'all. What should we get? I was thinkin' roses, but  
25 Momma said that would be too expensive.
- 26 **BERNICE:** Honey, we can get a few roses, but we need some mix-  
27 ins. There's not much to choose from at this time of year. The  
28 florists mostly have poinsettias.
- 29 **PATTY:** I can't wait. You oughtta see the pamphlet about our  
30 honeymoon cruise. Everything is free. We can dance, eat  
31 anything we want, get some sun, and there are stops at exotic  
32 places—just like *The Love Boat* on TV.
- 33 **EMILY:** How wonderful! I could sure use some sun.
- 34 **BERNICE:** Sounds great, sweetie. (*Sudden mood change.*) Too  
35 bad Rachel and Ben can't go on a cruise. They're sick with worry  
36 about Leslie. When Carl and I kept her the other night, she didn't  
37 feel well at all. Her skin was clammy, and I didn't like her color  
38 one bit.

1 **DORIS:** I'm sure glad they could get out for a while. Finding  
2 someone to stay with Leslie—well, that's bound to be hard. You  
3 know, it ain't just Rachel that is picky. Leslie is picky about who  
4 she stays with. You and Carl seem to fill the bill just fine. They're  
5 lucky to have friends like you.

6 **BERNICE:** I just wish I could do more. I can see the stress on their  
7 faces, but they both acted like they had a good time. They  
8 weren't gone very long. When you have a sick child, you just  
9 don't want to leave 'em for very long. I was the same way with  
10 my kids.

11 **SUE:** I know it's hard. How old is Leslie now?

12 **BERNICE:** She's thirty. She looks so young, doesn't she? Leslie  
13 and Carl cut out animal pictures from the *National Geographic*  
14 and made collages. She just loves Carl. He's so good with her.

15 **DORIS:** Carl's a good man. If I could just find me a Carl, I'd be all  
16 set.

17 **BERNICE:** Now, don't you be gettin' no ideas. I'll come unspooled  
18 on you! He has his flaws, but I landed him. (*Laughs.*)

19 **DORIS:** I don't mean Carl, silly. I mean someone *like* Carl. I need  
20 a Carl that looks like Robert Redford or that feller on *The*  
21 *Rockford Files*.

22

23 *ALL laugh.*

24

25

26

#### SCENE 4

27

28 **AT START:** *BERNICE, BLANCHE, and DORIS are in the beauty*  
29 *shop. MARTHA is in the chair getting her hair done.*

30

31 **DORIS:** Blanche, you should've seen Patty after we colored her  
32 hair yesterday. Why, she looked fresh off the runway at a beauty  
33 pageant! Some of my best work, if I do say so myself.

34 **BERNICE:** I have to agree. You did a fine job. I was pleasantly  
35 surprised. I was sooo afraid of how it would turn out, but you  
36 know that child of mine—she's as hard-headed as Mount  
37 Rushmore! (*Laughs.*)

1 **MARTHA:** I saw her down at the Bag 'n Sack, and she gave me a  
2 big ole hug. She looked like a princess! She was so proud of her  
3 hair. She'll be a beautiful bride.

4 **BERNICE:** Well, we finally came to an agreement on the flowers.  
5 We're using holly, poinsettias, pine branches, and pine cones in  
6 the sanctuary. Patty and Billy are meeting with Pastor Murphy  
7 tomorrow night to discuss the details of the ceremony. I hope  
8 she won't try to take over and will listen to him for a change.

9 **DORIS:** What's that girl of yours up to today?

10 **BERNICE:** She's at the Holiday Inn for Sandy Clayborne's birthday  
11 party. They rented the pool for the party.

12 **DORIS:** I hope she doesn't get that hair wet! I don't want the color  
13 to fade before the big day. You have to be so careful the first  
14 week. Then the color sets in good and you can relax a little.

15

16 *Just then PATTY bursts in with green hair. She is crying and*  
17 *hysterical.*

18

19 **PATTY:** Momma! Momma, look at me! Look at my hair!

20

21 *The LADIES in the beauty shop gasp and scream.*

22

23 **DORIS:** What on earth happened?

24 **PATTY:** I went swimming at that dang pool party. I didn't think it  
25 would hurt anything. Look at it! What am I going to do? I'm  
26 ruined! I can't get married lookin' like a troll doll! The weddin' is  
27 ooooff!

28

29 *BILLY runs into the beauty shop.*

30

31 **BILLY:** What happened? Sharon called me and said I needed—  
32 *(Beat, notices the green hair.)* What in the world happened?  
33 *(Laughs hysterically and can't stop.)*

34 **PATTY:** *(Charges at BILLY and swats in his general direction.)* You  
35 stop that laughin'. Stop it! The wedding is off. It's off!

36 **BILLY:** Oh, now darlin', don't worry. It's perfect. Your hair looks like  
37 a little Christmas tree. And here's my present all wrapped up  
38 under the tree.

1

2 *BILLY grabs PATTY up and starts swinging her around in a circle.*

3

4 **PATTY:** Stop it. Stop it!

5

6 *BILLY puts her down*

7

8 **PATTY:** *(Still giggling.)* What am I going to do? The wedding is next  
9 week. I can't believe this happened to me.

10 **DORIS:** Now, wait a minute, sugar. Let me think. We can fix this.  
11 Just calm down.

12 **BERNICE:** *(Looking at DORIS with a look of shock.)* Is that even  
13 possible? She has so many chemicals in it now that she could  
14 open her own pharmacy. What if all her hair falls out?

15 **PATTY:** I can't get married bald-headed! That would be worse than  
16 green. Billy would think he was marrying Kojak. And the  
17 Christmas Festival Dance is tomorrow night. I can't go out  
18 looking like this. I'm ruined! I detest birthday parties. I will never  
19 go to another birthday party as long as I live! *(To BILLY.)* If we  
20 ever have kids, they will never and I mean *never* have a birthday  
21 party. I'm gonna sue the Holiday Inn. I'm gonna close it down!

22

23 *BUM comes strolling out onto the street set and sits down against*  
24 *the wall outside the beauty shop.*

25

26 **BILLY:** Now, settle down, sweetheart. I ain't goin' nowhere. We'll  
27 figure something out. We'll go to the dance and everything will  
28 be fine. You'll see. You can wear a hat or something. In fact, just  
29 go with green hair. I don't care. I would marry you with green  
30 hair, purple hair, pink hair, or no hair. I love you. And soon we'll  
31 be together for better or for worse. Of course, I ain't sure it can  
32 get any worse.

33

34 *BILLY bursts out laughing and PATTY throws her arms up in the air*  
35 *in despair and runs screaming out of the beauty shop and past the*  
36 *BUM.*

37

1 **BUM:** What in the world? (*Looks up to the sky.*) Lord, was that a  
2 cedar scrub eatin' that poor girl's head off? (*Laughs softly.*)  
3 That's not very good advertisin' for that poor shop owner...

4

5 *Back in the beauty shop.*

6

7 **BILLY:** Well, 'bye, y'all.

8

9 *BILLY exits as the LADIES bid him farewell.*

10

11 **BLANCHE:** (*To DORIS.*) Can you get a wig or something? Surely  
12 there is something you can do.

13 **DORIS:** Let me call the beauty college. I'll find out what they would  
14 recommend.

15 **BERNICE:** (*Puts her head in her hands.*) This is awful! What are  
16 we going to do if it can't be fixed? Nothing in the world could top  
17 this. We're out all this money, and—

18

19 *RACHEL walks slowly into the beauty shop. She looks as if she has  
20 been crying, with mascara streaks down her cheeks.*

21

22 **BLANCHE:** What's wrong, honey?

23 **RACHEL:** The doctor called this afternoon. Leslie has cancer.

24

25 *Blackout.*

26

27

28

*INTERMISSION*

## SCENE 5

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**AT START:** *Set change to the Christmas Dance Festival. A dance floor and a small bar with refreshments are set up. BUM is dressed and acting as SANTA, but nobody recognizes him. KIDS line up to sit on SANTA's lap. The scene opens with light music playing as a few couples dance at far Stage Left. LESLIE is dancing with BEN.*

**BEN:** You look beautiful tonight, sweetheart. I'm so glad you're feeling better.

**LESLIE:** Me too. I love you and Momma so much. *(Puts her head on BEN's shoulder.)*

**BEN:** We love you too, sweetie.

**LESLIE:** When Momma was reading the Christmas story to me the other night, I was thinkin' how awful Mary and Joseph must have felt having that little baby in a dirty ole manger. I love Jesus more than anything. He talks to me sometimes, you know. In my heart, I mean.

**BEN:** Does he tell you how much Momma and I love you?

**LESLIE:** *(Looks up at BEN and smiles.)* I know I'm not like other people, but I don't care. I have you and Momma and Jesus.

**BEN:** And you always will. Why don't you go over and tell Santa what you want for Christmas?

**LESLIE:** OK. He looks nice.

**BEN:** I'm sure he is.

*ANDY has been on SANTA's lap and hops down.*

**ANDY:** Hey, Leslie—Santa says I can have a new baseball glove for Christmas!

**BUM:** *(As Santa.)* Why don't you come and tell me what you want for Christmas, little lady?

**LESLIE:** Do I know you?

**BUM:** *(As Santa.)* I don't think so. You're always in bed when I climb down the chimney.

**LESLIE:** No, silly. I don't mean that. I mean, haven't I met you before?

- 1 **BUM:** (*As Santa. A little nervous now that LESLIE will recognize*  
2 *him.*) No, I don't think so. I would have remembered you.
- 3 **LESLIE:** You look familiar somehow.
- 4 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Nope. We've never met. I think I would have  
5 remembered someone as pretty as you are. What can I get you?
- 6 **LESLIE:** I don't think you can get me what I want.
- 7 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Well, why don't you try me? You might be  
8 surprised at what I can get such a sweet little lady such as  
9 yourself. I have all kinds of things back in my workshop at the  
10 North Pole.
- 11 **LESLIE:** I'm sick and I just want to get well. There are some things  
12 that you just can't fix.
- 13 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) What do you mean you're sick? You look fine to  
14 me. Why, you're just as purdy as a speckled pup.
- 15 **LESLIE:** (*Laughs.*) It ain't that kind of sick. It's different. My tummy  
16 hurts a lot, and my legs hurt sometimes too.
- 17 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Hmmm. Well, I think you will be just fine. Now,  
18 what do you want for Christmas? You just name it, and I will  
19 make sure you get it.
- 20 **LESLIE:** I don't think my Momma will let me have it, but I want a  
21 puppy. A little doggie that will play with me and sleep with me at  
22 night.
- 23 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Well, I can't build that, of course. Only God  
24 makes puppies. But—I'll see what I can do. I have a pretty good  
25 rapport with the good Lord as of late. I'll bet I can come up with  
26 a furry friend for ya. But you need to clear it with your folks first.  
27 That mom of yours looks like she could get sideways with  
28 someone pretty quick if you make her mad. (*Both laugh.*)
- 29 **LESLIE:** She ain't mean. Daddy says her bark is worse than her  
30 bite—just like a puppy!
- 31 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) OK, then. I'll see about a little pup. Leave it to  
32 me.
- 33 **LESLIE:** Don't forget what Christmas means, Santa. It's Jesus'  
34 birthday.
- 35 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Indeed it is, little lady.
- 36 **LESLIE:** It ain't about toys and stuff. But I think you know that  
37 already, don't you?

- 1 **BUM:** (*As Santa.*) Yes, I do. You know what? You sure make this  
2 old Santa smile. Have a merry Christmas!
- 3 **LESLIE:** You too, Santa!
- 4
- 5 *LESLIE goes back to her family on the other side of the stage.*  
6 *ANDY is with them. SANTA/BUM exits, shaking his head and*  
7 *looking sad.*
- 8
- 9 **LESLIE:** (*Talking to ANDY.*) Santa says that he is going to get me  
10 a puppy for Christmas. I can't wait!
- 11 **ANDY:** Wow, a real puppy. That's cool!
- 12 **RACHEL:** (*In disbelief.*) What?
- 13 **LESLIE:** Can I have a puppy, Momma? Pleeeeease?
- 14 **RACHEL:** (*Looks at BEN.*) Well... we'll see.
- 15 **ANDY:** That sure beats a new glove.
- 16 **LESLIE:** Thank you, Momma!
- 17
- 18 *LESLIE grabs RACHEL and gives her a big hug.*
- 19
- 20 **RACHEL:** Now Leslie, I said we will see. That doesn't mean yes.
- 21 **ANDY:** (*To LESLIE.*) Yeah it does. (*Sing-songey.*) You're gonna  
22 get a puppy! Can I come and play with him?
- 23 **RACHEL:** Now Andy, you aren't helping anything. Where is your  
24 mother? (*RACHEL looks around as if looking for ANDY's*  
25 *mother.*)
- 26 **LESLIE:** (*To ANDY.*) Sure you can.
- 27 **ANDY:** We can teach him to fetch and all kinds of cool stuff.
- 28 **LESLIE:** I can hardly wait!
- 29 **RACHEL:** Come on, everyone. We're going to find Andy's mother.
- 30
- 31 *LESLIE, ANDY, BEN, and RACHEL exit. PATTY, BILLY, and a few*  
32 *others come On-stage opposite the Santa chair. PATTY still has her*  
33 *green hair, but it is fixed nicely. JIMMY DON and GIRLFRIEND*  
34 *enter from behind the Santa chair. He has a big pimple on his nose.*  
35 *He walks toward PATTY and BILLY.*
- 36
- 37 **JIMMY DON:** Hey, Billy. Well, lookie here. I didn't know you were  
38 bringin' the Bride of Frankenstein with you!

1

2 *ALL laugh but PATTY.*

3

4 **JIMMY DON:** Should be a great weddin'!5 **PATTY:** Shut up, Jimmy Don. What is that on your nose? Why, it's

6 a big zit! Why don't you put in an application with Santa and give

7 Rudolph the night off? You could guide in airplanes with that

8 thing!

9

10 *JIMMY DON drops his head.*

11

12 **JIMMY DON:** *(To GIRLFRIEND.)* Come on. Let's leave the Bride

13 of Frankenstein alone so she can go plug herself into a lightning

14 rod or somethin'. *(Walks offstage with his head down because*15 *his feelings are hurt.)*16 **PATTY:** Yeah, git outta here with your shiny red nose!17 **BILLY:** *(Admonishing.)* Hey, hey, hey. You don't have to be so18 mean. He didn't mean no harm. He was just playin'. It *is* funny.

19 And you know good and well he has an acne problem and can't

20 help it.

21 **PATTY:** I don't care. You heard him. He just had to say something.

22 I told you I didn't wanna come to this stupid dance. And of all the

23 gall to say something to *me* when he looks like the patient from24 Operation. *(Imitates Operation game buzzer.)* Eeeekkk! *(Yells*25 *in the direction that JIMMY DON exited.)* By the way, so sorry

26 about your wrenched ankle, Mr. Operation patient!

27 **BILLY:** Hey, that's enough. You're just bein' mean now. You

28 shouldn't say stuff like that. He's very self-conscious about his

29 zits, and he can't help it. You need to apologize to him, and I

30 mean it.

31 **PATTY:** You're right. I'll apologize.32 **BILLY:** Good. Come on, let's go dance. You look great.33 **PATTY:** Liar. But that's why I love you so much. I may look like the

34 Bride of Frankenstein, but I'm with the best-lookin' guy here. I

35 love you soooo much, Billy!

1 *PATTY* grabs *BILLY* and gives him a big hug and drags him to the  
2 dance floor. During the conversation with the others, the Santa  
3 chair is removed and a street scene is set up. *BUM* still in *SANTA*  
4 costume, is outside taking a break, *DR. WILBURN* walks by him.

5  
6 **BUM:** Pardon me, Dr. Wilburn?

7 **DR. WILBURN:** Yes. Can I help you?

8 **BUM:** I was just wondering what's wrong with Leslie.

9 **DR. WILBURN:** Why do you ask?

10 **BUM:** She told me she's sick. Is it serious?

11 **DR. WILBURN:** I'm sorry, sir, but I can't speak about her medical  
12 condition unless you are a close family member, and even then  
13 I need permission from her parents.

14 **BUM:** I understand. I really didn't mean to pry—I was just  
15 concerned. I'll bet her parents are worried.

16 **DR. WILBURN:** I can tell you that she is very sick, but we're doing  
17 all we can.

18 **BUM:** (*Thoughtfully.*) Sounds serious. If they need help with their  
19 medical expenses, please let me know. I want to help.

20 **DR. WILBURN:** (*Looks at him curiously.*) I'll keep that in mind. It's  
21 very kind of you to offer.

22 **BUM:** I don't think you understand. (*Emphatically.*) I mean if there  
23 is *anything* at all, I can help. Maybe there's a clinical trial in  
24 Europe. Sometimes their research isn't as bogged down with  
25 legalities as it is here. (*Pauses.*) I don't want to come on too  
26 strong, but I have a sense of urgency about this.

27 **DR. WILBURN:** Those procedures cost a lot of money, and I  
28 wouldn't recommend anything that might put her at risk.

29 **BUM:** Don't worry about the money. I don't care about the cost.  
30 You just let me know. It appears to me that she is at risk now.

31 **DR. WILBURN:** You act like money is no object, but I must warn  
32 you that the family wouldn't want any money obtained by illegal  
33 means.

34 **BUM:** Doc, be careful how you judge people. They aren't always  
35 what they seem to be. I'm not from around here. I enjoy seeing  
36 the country, and I just drift around. But remember, I will be more  
37 than willing to lend a hand to this family.

1 **DR. WILBURN:** I didn't mean to judge you, it's just that I've been  
2 their family doctor for years. They are good people, and I  
3 wouldn't want them mixed up in something that could potentially  
4 harm them.

5 **BUM:** I understand. I would never do that.

6 **DR. WILBURN:** How can I reach you?

7 **BUM:** Unfortunately you can't, but I will be in contact with you.

8 **DR. WILBURN:** OK. My office is down the street at the St. Andrew's  
9 Clinic. We're open from eight to five-thirty.

10 **BUM:** Thank you. I'll be in touch.

11

12 *Blackout. Back to the beauty shop. DORIS, BLANCHE, BERNICE,*  
13 *and PATTY are in the shop. DORIS is trying to recolor PATTY's*  
14 *hair. The BUM is sitting just outside the window of the shop,*  
15 *eavesdropping on the conversation of the LADIES.*

16

17 **BLANCHE:** I'm so worried about Leslie. Pancreatic cancer. They  
18 started her on radiation the other day, and she is so sick. Rachel  
19 said that she threw up all day and night. I'm afraid she's going to  
20 dehydrate.

21 **BERNICE:** That poor little thing. She is tough as nails. Rachel said  
22 that each treatment costs a small fortune, even with insurance.  
23 I wish there was something we could do to help.

24 **DORIS:** Maybe there is. Maybe we could hold a church fundraiser  
25 for them. Everyone in town knows what the family is going  
26 through, and everyone wants to help.

27 **BERNICE:** Well, you know them as well as I do. They would never  
28 accept charity like that. Sometimes the pride that folks have  
29 stands right in the line of fire of common sense. But it's  
30 Christmas! We've got to do something!

31 **DORIS:** I agree. It would bless our socks off to help them. Maybe  
32 we could hold an auction of some kind. I could donate hairdos,  
33 perms, hair colors, and makeovers, but of course (*Looking down*  
34 *at PATTY, whose hair is in the sink.*) after the fiasco with Patty,  
35 there probably ain't nobody gonna want me to do their hair  
36 coloring. I still can't believe you went a-swimmin' after me harpin'  
37 on you about bein' careful with that color.

- 1 **PATTY:** I know already! Miss Doris, just tell people that I'm an idiot.  
2 I didn't think it would hurt it, or I would have stayed a country  
3 mile from that pool.
- 4 **DORIS:** I know it, sugar. We'll fix it, but this time you have to stay  
5 away from any kind of chemical or your hair will fall out.
- 6 **PATTY:** I will, I promise.
- 7 **BERNICE:** What if we hatched a plan without Rachel or Ben  
8 knowing about it?
- 9 **BLANCHE:** How on earth could we let the whole town in on it, but  
10 keep it from them? There ain't no way they wouldn't hear about  
11 something like that.
- 12 **DORIS:** Surprise parties happen all the time without people  
13 knowin'. Besides, how could Rachel and Ben turn down money  
14 if they are standing in front of the whole town when we hand  
15 them a check?
- 16 **BERNICE:** I'll talk to Anita down at the Chamber of Commerce. I'll  
17 bet a lot of the local businesses would donate stuff.
- 18 **BLANCHE:** Sure they would! And we can all bake pies and auction  
19 them off. *(Her excitement grows.)* And how about if we decorate  
20 a Christmas tree and auction that off too? I'll betcha we could  
21 raise a few thousand dollars in no time.
- 22 **BERNICE:** Do you remember the preacher's sermon on spiritual  
23 gifts? This is exactly what he was talkin' about. We all have gifts.  
24 We just have to figure out what they are and use them to bless  
25 this family.
- 26 **PATTY:** Billy and I could volunteer to clean out a garage or  
27 something. We don't have any money, but we could help  
28 someone with chores for a donation.
- 29 **BERNICE:** Absolutely. What if Billy volunteered some time to help  
30 kids with their hitting and pitching? You know they start baseball  
31 season in February now. Those poor kids, God love 'em. It's so  
32 cold in February. But private lessons are expensive, and I think  
33 Billy would do a great job with something like that.
- 34 **PATTY:** He will. He'll do whatever I tell him to do.
- 35 **BLANCHE:** *(Laughs.)* Now Patty, he ain't your husband yet.
- 36 **PATTY:** I know, but he'll do it. He loves kids, and he adores Leslie.

- 1 *BUM has been listening intently outside the window. DR. WILBURN*  
2 *walks by.*  
3  
4 **BUM:** Hello, Doc.  
5 **DR. WILBURN:** Uhhh, sorry. I don't have any spare change on me.  
6 **BUM:** I don't want your money.  
7 **DR. WILBURN:** Do I know you? You look vaguely familiar.  
8 **BUM:** No, not really. I was the Santa the other night at the  
9 Christmas Festival. We talked about Leslie.  
10 **DR. WILBURN:** Oh... so that was you?  
11 **BUM:** Yes, that was me. The Salvation Army provides a Santa for  
12 community events, and I volunteered the other night.  
13 **DR. WILBURN:** So what can I do for you?  
14 **BUM:** I overheard that Leslie has cancer, and she is getting  
15 radiation treatments.  
16 **DR. WILBURN:** As I said before, I can't discuss her medical  
17 condition.  
18 **BUM:** Let's not play games, Doc. Those treatments are expensive,  
19 and they can't afford to pay for them. The town is planning a  
20 fundraiser to help with expenses. Everyone wants to help, and I  
21 think they need to. It's powerful therapy for people to help others.  
22 A good deed is priceless.  
23 **DR. WILBURN:** Indeed it is.  
24 **BUM:** You'll be attending, right?  
25 **DR. WILBURN:** Why do you ask?  
26 **BUM:** Can you find out how much the balance of the medical  
27 expenses are after the fundraiser?  
28 **DR. WILBURN:** That's personal. I don't think I can do that.  
29 **BUM:** Yes, you can. You can find out what they will still owe.  
30 **DR. WILBURN:** So what if I can? What are you going to do?  
31 (*Sarcastic voice.*) Pay the balance? Look, I think you mean well,  
32 but—  
33 **BUM:** Listen, I told you before—things aren't always what they  
34 seem. Would you just find out what the balance is?  
35 **DR. WILBURN:** I can find out, but if I do, I need to know what you're  
36 up to.

- 1 **BUM:** Fair enough. *(Pause, and then, with hesitation.)* Maybe I  
2 shouldn't ask, but what do you know about the lady that owns  
3 the beauty shop?  
4 **DR. WILBURN:** Uhhh, Doris? Well, she's very nice. My wife gets  
5 her hair done there. She says that Doris talks a lot, but I think  
6 that goes along with the business. Why do you ask?  
7 **BUM:** She gossips a lot, but she really seems to care about people.  
8 **DR. WILBURN:** Yes, she has a good heart.  
9 **BUM:** She's kind of cute, too.  
10 **DR. WILBURN:** Uhhh, I don't really think you're her type.  
11 **BUM:** You mean that she wouldn't date a bum, right?  
12 **DR. WILBURN:** I didn't say that, but since you did, no—I don't think  
13 she would date a bum.  
14 **BUM:** *(Laughs.)* Neither do I.

15  
16 *Blackout.*

17  
18

## 19 SCENE 6

20

21 **AT START:** *The auction/fundraiser is about to begin. All of the*  
22 *CAST is there with the exception of the BUM. PATTY and BILLY*  
23 *are now married and about to go on their honeymoon cruise. Tables*  
24 *are set up with auction items, and a Christmas tree is displayed that*  
25 *will be auctioned off during the scene. Audience members should*  
26 *be participants in the auction. They should be told before the scene.*

27

28 **BERNICE:** All right, y'all, gather 'round. Come on up close! First of  
29 all, let's give a big round of applause for our newlyweds, Patty  
30 and Billy!

31

32 *ALL applaud.*

33

34 **BERNICE:** So far we are on a roll, y'all. Thank you for your  
35 generosity. We are now starting the pie auction. *(Holds up a pie.)*  
36 This pie was baked with lovin' care by Martha Baxter. It is a  
37 beautiful and deee-licious coconut cream pie. Who's gonna start  
38 the biddin'?

1 **BIDDER 1:** I bid twenty-five dollars.

2 **BERNICE:** All right, we got twenty-five dollars to start. Who will give  
3 me thirty?

4 **BIDDER 2:** I will.

5 **BIDDER 1:** Thirty-five.

6 **BIDDER 2:** Forty.

7 **BIDDER 1:** Fifty dollars.

8 **BERNICE:** Fifty dollars. Going once, going twice, sold for fifty  
9 dollars to *[Insert BIDDER 1's First and Last Name]*. Thank you,  
10 *[Insert BIDDER 1's First Name]*.

11

12 *The auction goes on ad-lib until the pies are gone. There should be*  
13 *three or four pies.*

14

15 **BERNICE:** Now for the last item of the evening, this beautiful  
16 Christmas tree that was donated and decorated by several of  
17 our ladies from every church in town.

18

19 *Big applause from everyone.*

20

21 **BERNICE:** Who will start off with one hundred dollars?

22 **BIDDER 1:** I'll give one hundred dollars.

23 **BIDDER 2:** I'll give one twenty-five.

24 **BERNICE:** I've got one twenty-five. Who will go to one fifty?

25 **MARK:** I'm here to represent Pete's Auto Shop, and we bid five  
26 hundred dollars.

27 **BERNICE:** Oh, my lands! We got five hundred dollars! Will anybody  
28 go higher? Five hundred dollars going once, going twice, sold to  
29 Pete's Auto! Thank you, Mark, and tell Pete thank you, and we  
30 will all be takin' our cars to him. Y'all, give yourselves a big hand.

31

32 *ALL clap and shout.*

33

34 **BERNICE:** Now, let's see what we have in total. Martha, do you  
35 have the tally yet?



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