

A script from



“What I Really Want”

by
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- What** Mark and his father, John, haven't been on speaking terms for quite some time. But there's something about Christmas that makes it seem unthinkable not to mend a broken relationship. **Themes:** Christmas, Family, Relationships, Restoration, Redemption, Fathers, Sons, Traditions, Humility, Pride
- Who** Mark- early thirties
Sophie- late twenties
John- late sixties
Maggie- mid-late sixties
- When** Christmas; Present
- Wear (Props)** All actors should be dressed according to the season.
*See the prop list on the last page of this script.
- Why** Philippians 2:1-11
- How** Have fun with this dialogue and keep it conversational. Keep the energy up and be careful not to slow the pacing down too much during the more serious lines. There's a difference between pacing and speed of delivering lines, so be sure to keep the pacing up so that the script doesn't lose its energy.
- Time** Approximately 8-10 minutes; With song approximately 15 minutes

SCENE 1

Mark and Sophie's metropolitan apartment. It is sparsely decorated for the holidays. Simply a small tree - no more than 6 feet tall. There are a couple of now-empty boxes laying open on the floor marked "Christmas".

Mark and Sophie have just finished decorating their tree. There are very little ornaments on it, but Sophie doesn't seem to mind. It is pretty, nonetheless. Beneath the tree are a few box-gifts and two empty stockings. Mark is behind the tree now, finishing up. Sophie steps back to look at their work.

Sophie: Perfect.

Mark comes out from behind the tree. He looks at the tree, then at Sophie, and back at the tree.

Mark: Perfect?

Sophie: Sure!

Sophie starts to fluff some random branches, trying to convince Mark that it really is perfect.

Sophie: I mean, it's not the big tree at your parents' house, but still...

Mark: Yeah, I guess.

Sophie: Any way- it'll look totally different when you plug in the lights.

Mark: Not if I can't find the plug.

Sophie: What?

Mark: There's no plug at the bottom.

Sophie: What do you mean?

Mark: Well, I could say it in Swahili but I think something would get lost in translation.

Sophie: We've got a million lights on that tree. There's a plug.

Mark: Nope.

Sophie: Look harder.

Mark: I couldn't be looking more harder than this.

Sophie: More harder?

Mark: *(Half muttering)* You know, I don't know how you can light a Christmas tree and not leave a cord dangling at the bottom.

Sophie: I don't know how you can have that many lights on a tree and not find a plug after bragging that you put every piece of furniture in this place together with no instructions and nothing but an Allan key.

He looks near the top of the tree and finds a plug. He plugs the extension cord in about 3/4's of the way up the tree.

Mark: That'll work.

Sophie: You know, yeah. And the extension cord sticking out the side of it just adds to the whole ambiance, I think.

Mark just stares at the lights on the tree, as if, turning on the lights triggered a memory for him.

Sophie: What? What is it?

Mark: Nothing.

Sophie: C'mon. What?

Mark: Mom's probably wrapping the last of the gifts right now. Dad's in his chair, relaxing now that he's done setting up their tree...

Sophie: I forgot today was their day for this too. I'm sorry. You want some cocoa?

Mark just shakes his head.

Sophie: Mark, come on. It's the day before Christmas Eve- it's Christmas-Eve-of-Eve! You have to have cocoa after you set up the tree. It's like...Christmas law or something.

Mark gives a bemused smile.

Sophie: I've got your mom's recipe. It'll be just like the real thing. Just sit down. I'll bring it right out.

Mark sits, staring at the tree.

Lights fade on Mark and Sophie and lights up on John and Maggie.

SCENE 2

*We see **John** in his chair. His glasses sit half-way down on his nose as he reads the Christmas card in his hand. There is a cordless phone and a reading lamp sitting on an end-table next to him. The lamp is lit. **Maggie** enters with a wrapped present in hand. It is a very beautifully wrapped gift.*

Maggie: Got the last one done! He looks up from his card.

John: Looks pretty, dear.

Maggie: And so does the tree.

She crosses to the tree and finds an orange extension cord sticking out the side of it.

Maggie: Ahem.

John: There was no cord at the bottom.

***Maggie** spots the Christmas card in **John's** hand.*

Maggie: Is that from Mark and Sophie?

John: Ha. No.

He puts the card down on the table and takes his glasses off, setting them down too.

John: Rhonda and Ted. I think it'll be a frosty Friday before we get a card from Mark & Sophie.

Maggie: Don't say things like that, John.

John: Well? Am I wrong?

*To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at
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ENDING:

Sophie: No. No, you're right. He was wrong. But he apologized.

Mark: I don't know if that's just going to do it, though.

Sophie: Okay, well, I was hoping to cheer you up with this but because you're on the fence about it...I'll let you open one of your presents now.

Mark: I don't really want -

Sophie: Oh, come on! It'll be fun!

Mark: All right...

He grabs a present from under the tree. Sophie snatches it away.

Sophie: No. Not that one.

Mark: What?

Sophie: Pick any gift. Just not that one.

Mark: Okay.

He picks another gift. It is also the wrong one.

Sophie: Okay. You're not good at this game.

Mark: What?

Sophie takes it out of his hand and hands him his stocking.

Mark: There's nothing in here.

Sophie: Open it.

He reaches inside his stocking and pulls out an envelope.

Mark: What is this?

Sophie: Just open it.

He opens the envelope and takes out a plane ticket.

Mark: What's with the plane ticket?

Sophie: It's a ticket home.

Mark: Home?

Sophie: Just for the holiday. We come back on the 27th.

Mark: But what about work? I'm supposed to be on call Christmas Day.

Sophie: I called the hospital. Talked to your boss.

Mark: You called the Chief of Pediatric Oncology?

Sophie: He's nice.

Mark: Nice?

Sophie: He's covering your shifts.

Mark: But what about Dad? He-

Sophie: When your mom and I talked a few months back, we figured you guys would mend your fences by then...we just forgot you both were eleventh hour kind of guys.

Mark: Honey...

Sophie: Look...I know better than anyone what Christmases are like without a family. To be alone for Christmas- without your mom and dad...it's ironic is what it is. I mean, the whole point of Christmas is for family to be reunited...to be together. I didn't want to have you experience what I had growing up.

Mark reaches over and puts a hand on her cheek- part in thanks, part in comfort. They just stay a moment.

Sophie: I know your dad and you weren't on the best of terms, but...is that...

Mark: Of course it's okay. It's better than okay. *(Pause)* I love you so much.

Sophie: Let's go home.

Fade to Black. The end.

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:*

In the past, this FADE TO BLACK has led to a second musical number - an "Incidental" or quick rendition of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" before concluding.

**Prop List:*

Mark and Sophie's:

Christmas Tree
Decorations
Orange extension cord
Coffee mug
Plate of cookies
Couch
Stocking
Envelope w/ plane tickets

John and Maggie's:

Decorated Christmas Tree
Orange extension cord
Christmas card
Chair
End table
Lamp
Cordless phone
Reading glasses for John