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## **“Cookie Cutter Christmas”**

by  
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**What** Abby and John are celebrating Abby’s favorite Christmas traditions. However, it becomes clear that Abby is caught up in reliving memories rather than celebrating the hope she has in Christ. John reminds her that despite loss and change, Christmas hope is always the same.

Themes: Christmas, Hope, Coping with Change

**Who** Abby  
John  
\*Names can change to be 2 women/sisters

**When** Present

**Costumes  
and  
Props** Coffee Table  
Love Seat/Couch  
Tray of Sugar Cookies  
Icing/Cookie Decorations  
Christmas Tree  
Empty Box (for “Unused Ornaments”)  
Box of Ornaments (including Red Ornament and Special Ornament)  
Nativity Set with Box

**Why** Philippians 3: 12-14; Matthew 1-2; Hebrews 13: 8; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**How** Despite the various activities of the actors in the skit the actors should primarily keep their bodies facing or catcorner to the audience, especially when speaking. They should convey through their movements, interaction, and tone that they are good friends.

John’s character is playful and more relaxed. Abby is serious and rigid during most of the skit but should not be unkind. At the beginning of the skit, the couch is center stage, and the coffee table is placed in front of it. The empty box of “unused ornaments” and box of regular ornaments are placed on the floor. The tray of sugar cookies and icing decorations are on the table. The nativity set with box is behind the couch. The tree is off-stage.

**Time** Approximately 6-7 minutes

The scene opens with **Abby** and **John** on a couch behind a coffee table. A tray of cookies is sitting on the table and **Abby** and **John** are decorating with sprinkles and icing.

**Abby:** Whoa! No, John! You have to put green icing on that part of his hat.

**John:** (eying **Abby** as if aware that she is not enjoying herself) No worries, Abby. I was just changing it up a bit. (Trying to cheer her up, smiles and waggles eyebrows) You know, I just thought one of the elves wanted to break out of the mold and be a little rogue. Maybe leave the North Pole and shop at Macy's for a change.

**Abby:** (stopping to look at **John** with serious expression) John, stop being ridiculous! All of the elves are the same—green on the hat, red on the coat. (Pointing to **John's** cookie) He's an elf. That's what he wears. Santa gets the red on the hat and red on the coat with white for the fuzzy parts. (Returns to meticulously work on cookie decorating)

**John:** (under his breath) I'm being ridiculous? (**Abby** gives **John** a warning look and he quickly returns to decorating a cookie. After a couple of seconds, **John** gives **Abby** a quick glance and recognizing her seriousness, he rallies to be positive and helpful) What about the angels?

**Abby:** (concentrating on the task without looking up, says mechanically) Yellow halo, white wings, and some silver sprinkles.

**John:** Got it. (Works quietly for a few second and then pops a cookie in his mouth)

**Abby:** (looks up appalled) John!

**John:** (chewing slowly and nervously) What?

**Abby:** We needed 12 angels, 10 elves, 4 bells, 3 drums, and 1 Santa. You just ate an angel. Now we only have 11.

**John:** (confused) Aren't we going to eat them all later?

**Abby:** Yes...but not yet! Our perfect cookie cutter Christmas cookies don't get eaten until 7 tonight when we start wrapping presents.

**John:** (rolls eyes, but relenting) Okay, fine. We're almost finished here. Why don't you decorate that angel while I grab whatever's next?

**Abby:** (mollified for now) Nativity set. It's behind the couch.

**John:** (walks behind the couch to retrieve it. Holding it up and carrying it towards **Abby**) Where should I set it?

**Abby:** Thanks. *(Pops up from the couch as if wanting to be sure John doesn't make a mistake)* I'll take it. *(Grabs the box and sets it on the floor before setting out the pieces very carefully on the coffee table)* Mary, here. Joseph, here.

**John:** *(hesitantly questioning)* Ummm...Abby, is that tape marking the stable to show where the pieces go?

**Abby:** *(distractedly, still placing pieces)* Of course. *(Concentrating and talking to self)* Camel here. Baby Jesus does not go out until Christmas. *(Places piece back in the box)* Done!

**John:** *(confused)* So what happens if Mary and Joseph swap spots?

**Abby:** *(eyes John suspiciously)* They don't.

**John:** *(puts up hands in surrender)* Okay...okay. What's next?

**Abby:** The tree, please.

**John:** On my way.

*John heads offstage and picks up tree, carrying it onto the stage to place it stage left of coffee table while Abby admires the Nativity set, but looks sad until John returns. Abby notices the placement of tree and shakes her head.*

**Abby:** The tree is supposed to go there in the corner. *(Pointing stage right of the coffee table)*

**John:** But wouldn't it look better in front of the window? All of your neighbors could admire it!

**Abby:** No, it always goes in the corner.

**John:** *(sighs heavily)* Okaaaay. You got it. *(Moves tree to the other side of the coffee table)*

**Abby:** A little to the left. *(John raises eyebrow at Abby and crosses his arms as if he has reached his limit)* Okay, fine. It's close enough...I guess. Next, we need to put on the ornaments.

**John:** *(excitedly, rubbing hands together)* Yes! That's my favorite part! *(Picks up special ornament to place on tree)*

**Abby:** *(loudly, startling John)* No! *(Realizing she yelled, looks sheepish)* Sorry. That was my mom's favorite. That goes on last.

**John:** *(looks knowingly at Abby)* Understood. *(Puts the ornament down carefully and picks up next one)* How about this one?

**Abby:** Sure. *(Looks away)* That's fine. *(Rallying and becoming "bossy" again).* But don't put any red next to red and make sure you don't use any of those in that box over there *(points to unopened empty box on floor).*

**John:** *(drawing out word)* Why?

**Abby:** Because we never use those. They're just extra.

*Continuing to decorate as they talk.*

**John:** Extra ones...that we never use?

**Abby:** Exactly.

**John:** And we keep them because?

**Abby:** Because we always keep them as extras.

**John:** What happens if we do use them?

**Abby:** *(getting agitated)* We don't.

**John:** Okay...I guess... *(Stops decorating and crosses arms comfortably to watch Abby as she continues to decorate)* Abby, what happens after we decorate the tree?

**Abby:** *(reciting mechanically)* We make hot chocolate...exactly 100 degrees, instant with 2 marshmallows. Made with milk, not water. In our reindeer mugs.

**John:** And then.

**Abby:** And then we drink them in the den in front of the fireplace.

**John:** *(seemingly thoughtful)* Hmmm...Do we get to enjoy them?

**Abby:** *(stops to look at John)* What do you mean?

**John:** *(sighs)* Abby, I don't know if you've noticed, but you are being a tiny bit rigid.

**Abby:** Rigid? No, I'm not.

**John:** Yes, you are. All the way down to which cookie cutter we're supposed to use. What's going on?

**Abby:** *(turns away from John to hang another ornament)* I don't know what you mean.

**John:** I think you do. Look, you've always loved Christmas and you don't seem like you're enjoying yourself despite this forced fun schedule. So, what's up, Abby?

**Abby:** *(sighs heavily and looks at John; plops down despondently on the couch)* I just wanted to have the same Christmas I always have, even if mom isn't here this year to celebrate it. I want it to be just like if she were standing here beside me decorating this tree.

**John:** *(sits down gently beside Abby)* That's what I thought. *(Pauses as if picking words carefully)* Abby, I'm so sorry you lost your mom. I can't imagine how hard it's been. *(Pauses again)*

**Abby:** I sense a "but" coming.

**John:** No...I just wonder how doing everything exactly the same is going to help. Things HAVE changed. You aren't even enjoying yourself.

**Abby:** I know. I just don't know how to do this without her. It's so hard.

**John:** *(thoughtful)* Abby, what do you think your mom would say?

**Abby:** *(smiling ruefully)* She would say that things change, but God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**John:** Yep. And, after that, she would say that Christmas is a great time to remember that Jesus came so that we don't have to be forever separated from those we love. The Christmas message doesn't change—it's hope and joy to the world.

**Abby:** "Joy to the World" ...that was her favorite Christmas Carol. I just wish she were here to sing it with us now.

**John:** Me, too. But—

**Abby:** Aha, there is a but!

**John:** BUT, we are here together to make new memories AND we get to put her favorite ornament on the tree. *(Picks up her mother's ornament and hands it to Abby)*

**Abby:** *(accepts the ornament and places it carefully in a prominent place on front of tree)* I miss you, Mom, but I know that thanks to Christmas, I'm going to see you again. *(Sniffs and then turns and hugs John who stands and holds Abby for a second. She backs away.)* Thanks, John.

**John:** Always, Abby.

**Abby:** *(wipes her eyes and smiles shakily)* Okay...Time to head to the kitchen and make the cocoa and then dive into the cookies. *(Starts to lead the way off-stage with the cookie tray)*

**John:** *(looking at watch, acting shocked and teasing)* What!? It's not 7PM yet and we haven't even started to wrap one present yet.

**Abby:** *(looks back, smiling and lifting eyebrow)* So, you're saying you don't want cookies?

**John:** *(chagrined and starting to move quickly to catch up with Abby)* Never mind. I'm right behind you!

*Lights down.*