

A script from



## **"No L"**

by  
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- What** In a modern suburb, we meet three holiday planners who have "no room" for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Great set-up for a talk on changing our plans to make room for God's. **Themes:** Comedy, Ensemble, Christmas, Nativity, Manger, Crèche, Faith, Unbelief Bethlehem
- Who** *Nick Crassman*– Written as male, but may be played by a female. Obsessive hobbieist and holiday decorator  
*Olivia Martini*– Written as female, but may be played by a male. Spacey, considers herself a true 21<sup>st</sup> century progressive  
*Ed Gudalboy*– Written as male, but may be played by a female. Obsessed with building a shrine to his deceased hound dog Earl
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Couch and chair with optional table between; contemporary clothing.
- Why** Luke 2:7; Proverbs 19:21; Psalm 81:12; John 1:11-12
- How** No "L" is broader comedy (farce) than the other scripts, but don't go overboard with it; deliver the puns as if they were straight lines. Practice to make the "Who's On First"-style timing work for you!  
*Staging:* Angle the couch and chair to form a V. Keep action moving by having each character rise and describe their holiday plans in turn.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

**Olivia** is on the couch. **Nick**, wearing a Santa hat, ushers **Ed** to couch. **Ed** sits, kicks off his boots.

**Nick:** Ho, ho, ho! (Reacting to **Ned's** feet) Whoa! Merry, Merry! (*A bit sourly*) Even if there are only two of you. I'm telling you, we could slam dunk the holiday decorating contest if everyone on the block participated. Thirteen houses, thirteen letters in "Happy Holidays!" Thirteen giant sheets of plywood. Have scroll saw, will cut!

**Olivia:** Except I wanted to be the space between Happy and Holidays, Nick. (*Doing her impression of space*) I am planets... I am stars... I am—waaaahhhh—space!

**Nick:** Nice, Olivia, but it doesn't matter because there are only four of us. Once again our "neighbors" (*making quote marks with his fingers*) are "too busy" with "other things" like baking cookies for shut-ins and doing toy drives for orphans. Where's their holiday spirit, anyway?

**Ed:** Uh, Nick, there's only three of us. I counted. Twice.

**Nick:** Right, Ed, but Holly and Barry Lovegood said they might join us, and that would make four houses. So I thought, "Hmm, what can we spell with four letters?"

**Ed:** Well, pretty much every word my cousin Norton uses. (*Snickers*)

**Olivia:** Tofu!

**Ed:** (*Looks down at his boots on floor*) Boot! (*Looks at foot*) Foot!

**Olivia:** Star!

**Ed:** Toes!

**Nick:** Well, you're on a roll there, folks, but I already thought of the perfect word! First there's "N"—that's me—then "O" (*points to Olivia*), and then "E" (*points to Ed*). And finally, the Lovegoods at the corner would be "L." But if they don't do it, we've got no "L."

**Ed:** No L?

**Nick:** No L.

**Olivia:** No L?

**Nick:** Noel, yeah, that's it.

**Ed:** What's it?

**Nick:** The word.

**Olivia:** What word?

**Nick:** Noel.

**Ed:** Right, no "L." But what's the word, Nick?

**Nick:** Oh, also, Beth Liam says she can lend us her crèche.

**Ed:** Somebody break a leg?

**Nick:** No, Ed, "crèche." You know, a nativity scene with Joseph and Mary, and the baby Jesus in a manger, and—

**Ed:** Ohhhh! Nope, sorry, won't have room, Nick, on account I'm already doing my own nativity scene. It's a tribute to my dog, Earl. (*Taking ball cap off, choking up*) Best darn hound there ever was! Next to that big ol' "E"—hey, E for Earl!—anyway, next to it I'm gonna put a big ol' dog house with a dog-Joseph and a dog-Mary, and dog angels and dog shepherds—

**Olivia:** German shepherds?

**Ed:** Of course! And dog sheep and dog donkeys and dog... (*thinking*)

**Olivia:** Dogs?

**Ed:** Yeah! So, sorry, I won't have no room for them Bible folks.

**Nick:** Well, I'm sure your canine shrine will be very touching, Ed. What about you, Olivia?

**Olivia:** Me? Oh, no! I'm planning my own modern, relevant nativity scene, Nick. With Baby "whoever-you-want-him-her-or-it-to-be" right in the middle of the "O." And instead of cows, a soy lattes machine. And no shepherds because, I mean, eeyoo, right? Instead there'll be hemp farmers! And the three wise men—excuse me, wise persons—will be Steve Jobs, the Dalai Lama, and Oprah! So, nope, no room for them at my place.

**Ed:** What about you, Nick?

**Nick:** Are you kidding? I've been building holiday decorations for the last seventeen years! I've got 4 Santas, 6 Mrs. Santas, 53 reindeer (it's like football—you gotta have a full roster), and 189 elves! So, no, I'm sorry,

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but my yard is way too full of my own holiday spirit to make room for them! So we'll just have to tell Beth Liam we're doing it our way, and there's no room for Joseph and Mary and Jesus.

**Ed:** Nope! No room at the E.

**Olivia:** No room at the O.

**Nick:** And definitely no room at the N!

*Lights out.*

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