

“Uganda for the Holidays”

by
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What A daughter calls home before Christmas to inform her parents of a change of plans that will take her away from the family for the holidays, causing mom and dad to rethink their priorities.

Themes: Missions, Christmas, Faith, Family

Who Annie- A college aged student
Carol- her mother
Sam- her father

When Modern Christmas

**Wear
(Props)** Modern clothing
Apron
Football jersey
Phones

Why Joshua 6

How Annie should be on one side of the stage and Carol and Sam on the other side. Carol and Sam should keep up the pacing of their dialogue, running over Annie and not giving her a chance to say what she needs to.

This script can also be performed as a reader’s theatre with props.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

We hear a phone ringing, then lights up on Carol, picking up the phone and answering.

Carol: *(in the most endearingly annoying sweet accent you could ever dream of)* Hello?

Annie: *(lights up on a different part of the stage)* Hi mom!

Carol: Oh! Annie! I'm so happy you called!

Annie: Yeah...

Carol: *(holds phone down, shouts at husband)* Joe! Its Annie!

Annie: Mom...

Carol: *(still yelling)* No, she's not here, she's on the telephone!

Annie: Mom, I really need to...

Carol: I don't know what she wants, I haven't asked her yet!! *(into phone)* Your father is watching his football game, I'm sure he'll be on in a bit. You know how much he loves to talk to you kids on the phone.

Annie: I know, mom...

Carol: Listen, we were just talking about you a few minutes ago. And we have picked out the best Christmas present for you this year!

Annie: That's...great, mom...

Carol: It wasn't easy, you know. But I really think we hit it out of the park this year. And don't ask, I'm not gonna tell you.

Annie: I won't mom.

Carol: Cuz I really want to see your look of shock this year when you unwrap it!

Annie: I'm sure I'll love it...

Carol: Unless you already have one... I should have checked. You don't already have one, do you?

Annie: I don't even know what IT is...

Carol: Well, I found this amazing little radio that you can put all your songs onto and carry them around wherever you go! It holds a ton of songs, like a hundred or so, and the whole thing fits in the palm of your hand! Imagine that!

Annie: *(a long beat)* Are you talking about an iPod?
Carol: You already have one, don't ya? I should have known! Well, maybe your father can use it...

Annie: Mom, it's ok, really. Listen, the reason I called is...

Carol: Here's what I'll do. When you get home for Christmas, I'll give you the money and you can go out and buy whatever it is you want, then I'll wrap it for you and put it under the tree. How's that sound?

Annie: Um, sure, but that's just it, I'm not...

Carol: OH! I forgot to tell you! Your brother might be bringing a girl home for Christmas...

Annie: What? Really? Joe?

Carol: Yeah, apparently this one is pretty serious! Been going on three whole weeks! I can't wait for us all to meet her...can't remember the last time we met one of your brother's girlfriends. Then again, there's been so many...let's see, there was Sandra, and Jenny...

Annie: Mom...

Carol: ...and the one with the pet squirrel...

Annie: MOM!

Carol: *(as Sam enters)* Oh! Here's your father. Say hi to your father, Annie.

Sam: *(taking the phone)* Hello?

Annie: Hi dad.

Sam: Puddin' pop! How are ya!

Annie: I'm good, daddy...

Sam: Did yer mom tell ya that your brother Joe is bringing home a girl?

Annie: Yeah, she did...

Sam: Let's hope that this one is better than the last! Good old Squirrely!

Annie: Dad! That's really rude!

Sam: Now, listen, I don't want you to worry, but I'm going in for surgery tomorrow...

Annie: What?!

Sam: Yup...I'm a bit nervous, but I don't want you to fret none... the insurance is all paid up... so if something happens while I'm under...

Annie: Dad! What are you having done?!

Sam: I'm having the bunion lanced on my left big toe...

Annie: Dad, listen, I gotta tell you guys...

Sam: So, when you coming home for Christmas?

Annie: That's the thing, dad, I'm not...

Sam: OH! Gotta go! Game's back on! See ya soon, my little roasted chestnut!
(exits)

Carol: Now, listen, you remember Mrs. Smathers, sat in the back of the church? Well, her great uncle passed away last and the church decided to—

Annie: I'M NOT COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!!

Carol: What?

Annie: I'm not...coming home for Christmas...

Carol: Well, of course you are! You and your brother always come home, and we have a big Christmas dinner together, then watch "It's A Wonderful Life" and open presents...

Annie: Mom, I know...but I'm not gonna be home for Christmas this year.

Carol: And why not?!

Annie: Because I'm...

Carol: Are you spending Christmas with some new boyfriend's family? Because you are supposed to be spending Christmas with YOUR family.

Annie: No, mom, I'm actually...going to Africa. (*a loong silence*) Mom?

Carol: Sam!!! GET IN HERE AND TALK SOME SENSE INTO YOUR DAUGHTER!!!!

Annie: Mom, listen...

Sam: (*picking up phone*) Hey again honey bun.

Carol: She says she's not coming home for Christmas...

Sam: What? Of course, you're coming home for Christmas! We gotta watch "It's a Wonderful Life"!

Carol: She says she's going to Africa!!

Sam: *(holding the phone between them so they can both talk and listen)*
Africa? What's over there?

Carol: I bet she's following some boy...

Annie: Mom! I am not following some boy to Africa...

Sam: How you gonna watch "It's A Wonderful Life?"

Carol: I bet they don't even have it in whatever language they speak over there!

Annie: Mom, would you just...

Sam: I don't know how you think SANTA is gonna find you way over there in Africa...

Carol: You are not going to Africa!

Sam: Hang on a minute, Carol. Gumdrop, why do you think you're going to Africa?

Annie: Well, I got involved with a group on campus and we're going over there to visit some orphanages and set up some clean water stations...

Sam: And where exactly are you gonna be?

Annie: Well, we'll be in several places. Mostly Uganda.

Sam: Do you have to go during Christmas?

Annie: It's the only time we could do the trip and not interfere with our classes. The summer trip is already filled. This position just came open two days ago. I'm really lucky that I get to go.

Carol: I just looked this U-Gan-da up on the Google, and it says they had a war.

Annie: Yeah, back in the 80's. I wasn't even born yet! Mom, the places we're going are pretty safe.

Carol: I just can't accept this...

Sam: Candy cane, how are you paying for this?

Annie: It's mostly paid for. I worked some extra shifts to raise the money.

Sam: Annie...

Annie: Dad, listen to me. You guys have always taught us that we should look outside of ourselves and help others. That we're supposed to look out for those in need and to meet that need. This is an opportunity to do that!

Carol: But its Christmas!

Annie: Exactly! A time for goodwill and giving to others! Remember when you used to make us give up some of our toys to the toy drive at Christmas? There are so many others out there who have never had the chance at a Merry Christmas. Maybe we can give one to a few people who really need it. Mom? Are you ok?

Carol: This had better not become an annual thing...

Annie: Does that mean...

Carol: Since I can't seem to stop you...dress warm, drink plenty of water...and call us!!! I'll send you a phone card...

Sam: We're proud of you, sugar plum. Have fun.

Annie: Thanks...fruitcake.

Sam: *(a pause, a sigh)*What can we do to help?

Annie: Return my Christmas presents?

Carol: But...

Annie: And donate the money to the group's mission fund. I'll send you the details later.

Carol: Later?

Annie: Yeah, here's the thing. I'm at the airport and we're about to board the plane!

Carol: Annie...

Annie: Thank you both so much, I knew you'd understand. I'll call you when we land! Love you! *(hangs up)*

Carol: *(stares at the phone for a moment before slowly hanging up)* Sam, you know what this means, right?

PURCHASE
Sam: Pack a bag and fly to Africa?
Carol: Yup!
Sam: Right behind you!

Exit

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