

# Where's The Line To See Jesus?

## Two Act Musical Drama

Written by Lee Brubacher and Karen Cowley

Number of actors: 26

Runtime: 120 minutes

The idea for this presentation was birthed out of the video and song, "Where's The Line To See Jesus," sung by Becky Kelly found on YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OExXItDyWEY>. The author of this drama, Lee Brubacher, was given permission by Steve Haupt, the author of the song, to use it as the basis for this play. Mr. Brubacher was interested in seeing this musical drama used by others and therefore approached DramaShare to publish.

This 2-Act,, 120 minute musical-drama with intermission has been created for full acting cast, choir, soloists, and orchestra (or could be minimized to a 5-piece band). Several of the actors need to be singers too. This production has a Broadway feel with the songs built in as part of the acted-out storyline of the play. Over half of the songs have been written by the author and their drama director, Karen Cowley. Sheet music is included in this package for the songs which they have written. The remaining songs are common cultural/Christmas songs and would need to be sourced by individual churches online or in music stores.

A Stage/Set design map is included in this package.

The author created an opening video for their own use based on the YouTube video, combined with footage of their actual actors. We suggest that those who stage this drama do the same.

For a sample of this script [click here](#)

We ask that you inform DramaShare when you stage this drama in order that we can let the authors know where their drama is being used.

May God bless your ministry, dramatically!

The DramaShare Team

If you need assistance call (toll-free) 1-877-363-7262 or email [contactus@dramashare.org](mailto:contactus@dramashare.org)

## CHARACTERS

### “WHERE'S THE LINE TO SEE JESUS?”

#### HAROLD

Married to Nicole and is not very happy in their marriage. Nicole is a perfectionist and he is fed up with all her nitpicking, not to mention the way she spends money they don't have.

#### NICOLE

Married to Harold. Perfectionist. Loves to spend money. She is stressed out and has no joy in her life. She is a control freak. She is always aware of what others think and puts too much stake in "Things" - always trying to outdo others. She has a full time job.

#### SEBRINA

Harold and Nicole's daughter. (10-12). She is very spoiled and wants for nothing. Her mother buys her everything she wants but gives her little of her time. She feels unloved and is envious of her friend Jenny's home life and structure that she has in her life.

#### NEIL

Harold and Nicole's son (8-10). He is very spoiled and wants for nothing as well. He craves attention that he doesn't get from his parents and is constantly bugging his sister so he will get a rise out of his parents.

#### SHIRLEY

Nicole's cousin. She is always trying to get one up Nicole. She is secretly jealous of Nicole and can't bear to see her have anything better than her. Nicole seems to have it all and what causes the most resentment is the fact that she has been unable to have children and this is one area where she can't compete with Nicole.

#### BOB

Shirley's husband. He loses his temper frequently and has been known to start fights. A know it all type.

#### MITCH

Harold's cousin. Married to Susan. Doesn't see too much of his family through the year. He is a high powered lawyer, travels a lot and feels somewhat superior to other family members.

## SUSAN

Mitch's wife. Very snobby. Feels these relatives are beneath her station.

## DAN

Nicole's younger brother. She adores him and babies him. He always gets away with everything. He is a veterinarian and has a gambling problem.

## MAVIS

Dan's wife. She is a very anxious person. She has a lot of fears which show up in her numerous health problems bordering on hypochondria.

## MADDIE

Nicole's older unmarried sister. She has a career as a market analyst and this is her life. She works so hard she has little time for anything else. She spoils her neice and nephew because this is the one pleasure in life she gets even though she knows she is buying their love. She is the older sister and is often critical of Nicole and overbearing. Their bickering is legendary.

## AUNT DOREEN

Harold's maiden aunt. She is not afraid to speak her mind and can be abrasive. She is well meaning, loves her family and likes to give advice. (During the course of the original performance we came to the conclusion that Doreen was probably Bob's older sister).

## JESUS

No explanation needed.

## LISA

Loving Christian woman who Love the Lord. Married to Mat.

## MAT

Married to Lisa. He is a follower of Jesus and loves his family.

## JENNY

(10-12) Daughter of Lisa and Mat. Grew up going to church and Sunday School. Is confident in her beliefs and has no trouble telling her peers about them.

KYLE

(14-16) Son of Lisa and Mat. He too, grew up in the church and is a strong believer in Christ.

EXTRAS

2 Tim Horton's employees. 4 customers of Tim Horton's, 3 women to sing the Fruitcake Song.

**SET AND TIME:** Living rooms of two different homes. Christmas eve, present day.

In the one living room everything is just so. There is a picture perfect Christmas tree, decorated perfectly with a million presents under it. A few tasteful decorations around (perhaps animated Santa or snowman). There is a fairly large foyer as this is needed for much of the action, as well as a staircase leading upstairs. There is a door to the kitchen off to one side with a wall cut out so you can see some of the kitchen cupboards. Underneath this cut out section (living room side) is a small buffet where the punch bowl, and other party necessities are put out. This living room takes center stage because it will be used the most.

The second living room looks well lived in. The furniture is comfy but not expensive. This could be a dining room or a den instead of living room. There is an archway behind the loveseat which shows a hallway. Stage right will be the outside door which will not be seen. Stage left leads off to kitchen and other parts of the house. The only thing that is seen in the hallway is some hooks for coats and perhaps a small entrance table underneath. No tree is necessary as there is reference to a gathering in their rec room which is probably where they have put their tree. There are a few Christmas decorations on the walls though. This area is much smaller and can be more off to the side, it being used for only a few of the scenes.

Two extra sets will be the coffee shop and the upstairs den of Harold and Nicole. If you have lots of room backstage you can make the coffee shop scene on a wheeled flat which can be brought out during scene change. If not, another way is to add a few flats on hinges to the kitchen scene and they can be spread out when the coffee shop scene is needed. (see set diagram). The den scene is not very big (just enough room for the two kids, a chair and perhaps a small fake fireplace. - This could be wheeled out as well. In the original production the church had a baptistry upstairs so we used this small area for the kids scene. It made it look like they were in the den upstairs.

The diagram we have added of the set is just to give you an idea of what it could look like. You will most likely have to improvise according to your type of stage and area you have to work with.

## **WHERE'S THE LINE TO SEE JESUS? - VIDEO**

This would have to be performed and filmed before hand although the singing could be done by the choir as the video is on the screen or prerecorded with the video. Instead of video it could perhaps be acted out on stage, but if a video can be filmed, it would give a good opening impact to the play. \* A series of still pictures can also tell the story or a combination of video/stills. Or if any of this is not possible, just playing the video which goes with the song should give the audience the idea of the boy at the mall – better if it can be done with the actors in the play though.

SONG – CHOIR: " Where's the Line to see Jesus?" They will just sing the first half of the song, and the chorus a few times, up until the words "In the blink of an eye at the sound of His trump" .The full song will be sung at the end of the play.

### **ACTUAL VIDEO:**

Shot of mall at Christmas, people walking about, shopping and then we see Nicole on the video screen at the mall. She is in a hurry, checking her watch, walks by the Salvation Army Kettle and ignores it. Next she is in a store line-up, tapping her foot, very anxious. Little boy comes up to her as song says "Where's the Line to see Jesus?." She is surprised and points the boy to the Santa Claus line and then points up. Lisa who is in front of Nicole looks back when she hears the question of the boy, and is going to say something when the man in front drops a parcel and startled, she turns, picks up the parcel for the man and when she turns back the boy is gone. Meanwhile, Nicole is tapping her foot, looking at her watch and Lisa lets her take her place in line (Lisa should acknowledge that she knows Nicole. (they are acquaintances). Then a shot of Harold coming out of employment office is taken and as he is getting into his car. We next see him walking dejectedly in the mall, then sitting on bench at the mall. Boy comes up to him on the bench and asks the same question and he refers the boy to the sign that says Santa. He turns to look in his briefcase and when he turns back the boy is gone. He looks rather puzzled and then gets up and starts walking again, shoulders slumped, looking very depressed. Then we see Nicole walking hurriedly down the escalator, not caring who she shoves out of the way. Then we see Lisa, coming down the same escalator, stopping to put something into the Salvation Army Kettle, smiling at people. Video fades.

For filming, the store doesn't necessarily have to be in a mall. However, general shots should be taken of a mall to give the idea that the action is taking place in a store at the mall.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**VIDEO** – The original production was done with a combination of video/stills. Because we seemed to have more story to relay than time with the song, we began with the choir singing “It’s a Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” We had general shots of Christmas, snow falling, kids playing, etc. and then it led into photos of the mall and a few of the actors in the mall. When that song was finished we started in with “Where’s the Line to See Jesus” and the rest of the story was told with the video/photos. As mentioned before, the whole song is not sung – only part of it. If the whole thing was done just as video then probably just use of the song WTLTSJ would be enough time to get through everything.

## USE OF LOCAL NAMES

Within the script there are local places named. The main one is Tim Horton's which is the well known chain of coffee shops in Canada. Others are: Zarkey's (a catering business in Hamilton), the City of Hamilton, Hamilton streets (Mohawk Rd & Upper Paradise Rd), and Limeridge. Please feel free to change them to places, businesses etc. in your own locality. This will definitely add to the humour.

## LIST OF PROPS

- 2 hand held cordless phones (Jenny, Nicole & Sebrina)
- 2 cell phones (Mitch and Sebrina)
- Hand held video game (Neil)
- Tray of crackers with dip (Nicole)
- Shopping bags and boxes from various high end stores. One box in particular marked “The Bay” which will hold Harold's cashmere sweater. (Nicole)
- Two grocery bags filled with groceries. (Nicole)
- Overly long grocery list (just stapled several strips of paper together) – for Nicole in her song “Christmas Stress”.
- Two Christmas gift bags (Susan)
- Christmas gift half wrapped with bow, perhaps scissors, (Mat)
- Mat's coat on hook in hallway of his home (Mat)
- A number of gift bags-at least two of them super size (Maddie)
- Fruit cake nicely wrapped as a gift (Doreen)
- 2 punch bowls, one with apple cider, another empty (Nicole and Kyle)
- Napkins, cutlery, punch glasses, cocktail plates, coffee mugs (Christmas) – Nicole, guests
- Christmas tree decorated
- Small laptop computer (Sebrina)
- Gum (Sebrina)
- Tim Horton's coffee cups
- Donkey ears - (Jenny)
- Elvis hair or mask – Kyle

- Movie magazine with Justin Bieber on front (Sebrina)
- 3 bibles (Neil, Lisa, Mat)
- Huge flashy purse (Shirley)
- 2 Toronto Maple Leaf (or whichever team you choose) hats. One is nice, brand new looking the other is dirty, brim is almost torn off. (Dan)
- Huge kleenex box (mavis)
- Glass with apple juice in it
- T.V remote (Harold)
- Large Christmas centre piece (strange, rather tacky) – Maddie
- Large plastic bag filled with pill bottles which can fit into Mavis' purse (Mavis)
- Several photos (Susan's purse)
- Aspirin bottle Shirley's purse
- Box of donut holes (Tim Horton's scene)
- Tongs (Tim Horton's scene) and jay cloths for wiping counter
- 2 disposable coffee cups (Mat and Harold)

### SET DECORATION

#### LIVING ROOM AND FOYER OF HAROLD & NICOLE'S HOME

(This is a fairly well-to-do family home)

- Wooden coat rack
- Couch
- Love seat and one chair or 3 chairs (one being an arm chair).
- **Sturdy** coffee table (if any actors are to be climbing on top of it for choreography it needs to be sturdy.
- Small buffet to hold punch bowl and other party items
- Matching throw pillows for couch (Christmas)
- Christmas throw for back of couch
- One or two paintings for wall
- Fireplace with mantle
- Christmas stockings
- Christmas decorations for mantle
- Many Christmas gifts under the tree
- Wreath on outside of door and one on inside
- Table by entranceway
- Shelf on wall above table with Maddie's famous centre-piece on it
- Area rug for floor
- End table between two chairs or on one side of love seat whichever you use
- Poinsettias and/or other nice Christmas decorations in entranceway, by stairway, etc.
- Christmas centre-piece for coffee table

## **LIVING ROOM/DEN OF MAT AND LISA**

- Love seat or two comfy chairs
- Sofa table directly behind love seat or end table between two chairs
- Coat rack (this can be hooks attached to wall)
- Very small wooden buffet table with door which would hold a punch bowl. (this doesn't have to be very wide – just enough to hold the punch bowl)
- Small area rug for living room
- A few Christmas decorations on wall

## **DEN HAROLD & NICOLE'S HOME**

- Chair for Neil to sit in
- (Just one chair should be enough as this little scene takes place in just a corner of the Den. Sebrina is in this scene as well but she is talking on her cell phone so she can stand)
- Fireplace
- Two opened Christmas gift bags on the floor

## **TIM HORTON'S (COFFEE SHOP)**

- At least two coffee makers
- disposable coffee cups, donut boxes
- Different items which would be at coffee shop counter (you can get as elaborate as you want) *\*It is not necessary to have a cash register on the counter but you can certainly have one if you wish. Our choreography of the song Free Advice called for the two employees to jump on the counter, so we decided against a cash register. We were able to obtain two huge advertising posters from Tim Horton's which we put up on the wall which really added to the effect. If you are going to use the name of a local coffee shop, it would be a good idea to ask for permission to use their name. We did so and they only asked that we not use their name in any advertising for the play, which we did not.*
- Small table with two chairs

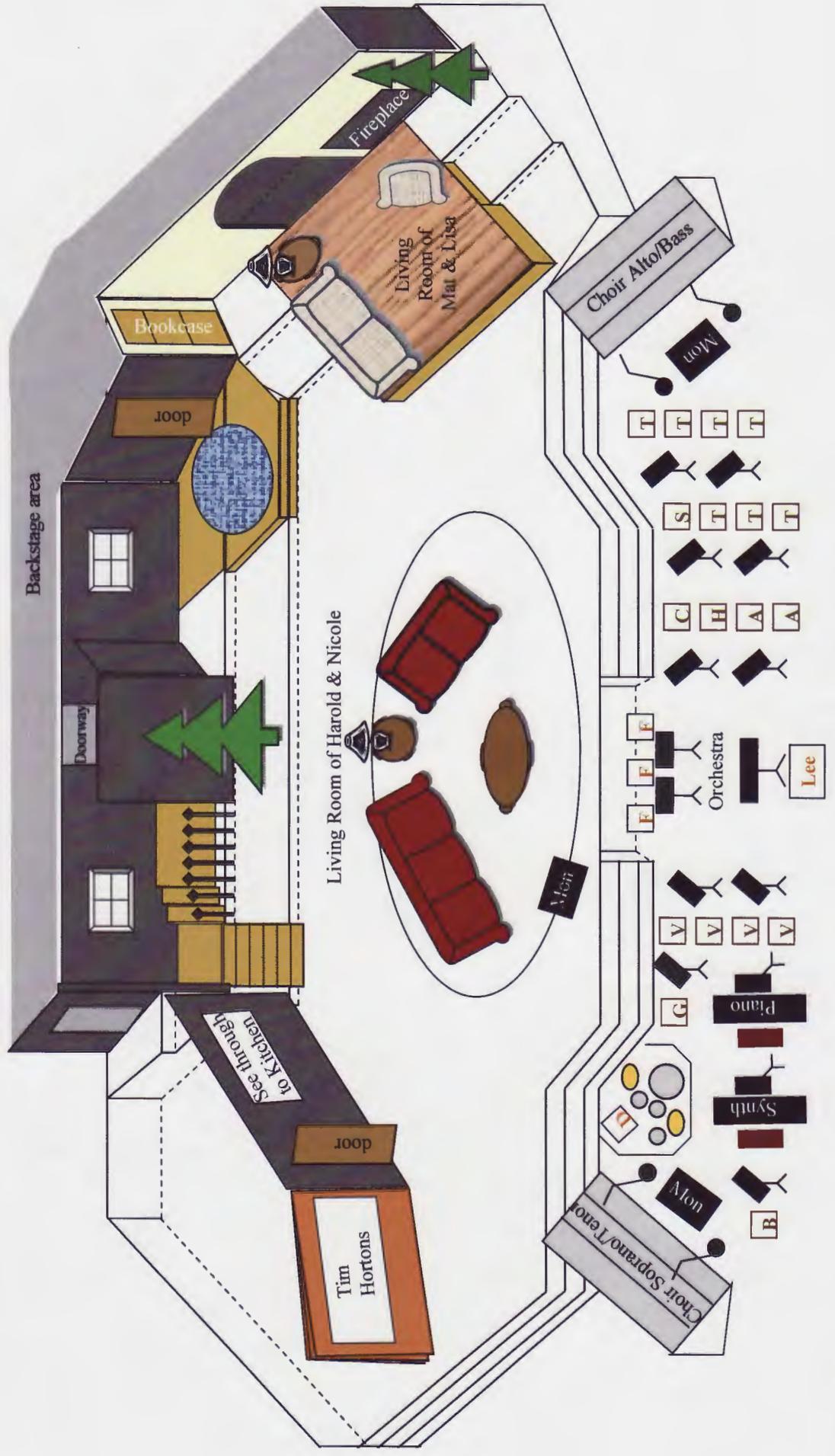
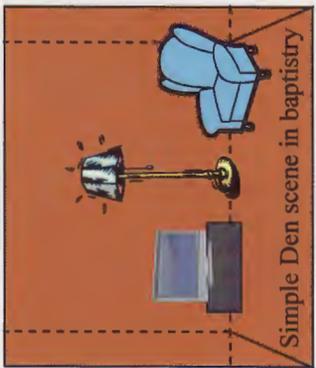
**NOTE:** Depending on your own blocking and choreography, some of these items may or may not be required or you may want to add various items. You may have an entirely different idea for the set in which case you will probably want to make your own list of set décor items.

## **SOME DIRECTIONS ON LAST SONG CHOREOGRAPHY "I Have a Line"**

This song is the final and most important to the play so I have added a few notes as to how this should be done. Not set in stone, but it is a way of having the "guests" leave the stage.

Jesus begins the song and then the main actors – Harold, Nicole, Sebrina and Neil start to participate by forming a line centre stage doing a back and forth motion to the music. The other actors, one by one, are eliminated from the scene. Maddie first comes forward joining the line when the words "Some get in line and for awhile they do fine," and then leaves at second line ".....they are wasting all their time" (looking at her watch like she is in a rush). She grabs her coat off the coat rack and leaves via the front door. This happens with all the other guests as well. Shirley joins the line on the third line of that same verse "they say the line's too long" and leaves on "they just quietly drop out". We had her taking a large tape measure from her purse and measuring the line. Dan and Mavis get in line on "Some first in line" and we have the others in the line forming a circle around them and as the song says "scatter like confetti" they each twirl, breaking free of the circle and then they exit stage. Bob and Doreen who are standing frozen, away from the action, suddenly come to life with the words "There are those who will decide to finally get in line". Bob motions to his watch and they rush to the line but just as they get there the four in the line have passed a sign from one to the other and just as Bob and Doreen get to the line, the last person (Harold) holds up the sign "CLOSED". Bob and Doreen leave, gesturing and telling one another "It's your fault we're late". They grab their coats and exit as song continues. Jesus then takes over the song as Harold goes and sits in his chair, Nicole grabs a bible from the table and brings it over to Harold. She sits with him and they are seen looking with interest at it. The kids come around the chair as well and look at bible with them. On Jesus' last verse he comes around the back of Harold's chair. (They do not acknowledge he is there] and on last line] "it first begins in your heart" he puts his hands on Harold from behind the chair and then he too leaves stage as lights go down.

~ Stage Set-Up ~  
 “Where’s the Line  
 to See Jesus?”



# “Where’s the Line to See Jesus?” Musical-Drama Production

## ACT I

### SCENE 1

*Lights up on empty stage. A phone is ringing. (This is a portable phone sitting on the coffee table.) Nicole enters her home from outside door carrying her purse and several parcels from various high end stores ,as well as a couple of grocery bags. She quickly moves towards phone.*

NICOLE

Ohhhh. I am so late (grabs phone). Hello. Oh Shirley, hi. I just got in. Yeah, I was at the mall. You should see the deal I got on this sweater for Harold.

*She keeps talking on the phone by holding it with her neck and at the same time opens a bag from The Bay with the sweater she has bought for Harold. She takes it out and looks at it as she talks.*

He'll wear it tonight. You will just die - it's amazing - cashmere. Of course it's real cashmere. I know real cashmere. I got it at the Bay. You got Bob a leather jacket? \$1500? Wow, nice. How much was the sweater? Um-\$650. marked down from \$700. Yes, I'm sure it's real cashmere. You and Bob are coming tonight right? Is he wearing his new jacket? Oh, he's keeping it for special occasions. I guess I won't see it then. I am so stressed! The line-ups, the traffic, people shoving. Someone actually took my parking space - some rotten woman with 3 screaming kids just barreled herself into my space - I saw it first. Then I was standing in the check out at (name of store) and this kid comes over to me and says of all things - "Where's the line to see Jesus?" Honestly, was he for real? Just being a smart alec if you ask me. And where was his mother, letting her kid run wild in the mall? I told him that Santa Claus was downstairs and Jesus was probably upstairs - way upstairs. Ha, ha. And yet, there was something about him - he seemed so sad. Odd for a kid to be sad at Christmas time. Well, I have to get going to get everything ready for tonight. Glad I took these 2 days off from work or I'd never get everything done. See you later Shirley.

*Nicole busily takes coat off, unpacks parcels, drops something.*

Oh, I don't need this. I am so stressed.

**Song sung by Nicole – “CHRISTMAS STRESS”** (Lyrics by Karen Cowley, Music & Arrangement by Lee Brubacher, 2011, band/choir parts available upon request)

*Nicole sings the first verse of "Christmas Stress", then says the following during*

*the interlude right after first verse and before she sings the rest of the song.*

NICOLE

Let's see. I have half an hour before the kids come home and where is Harold? He should be here by now. It's not fair. I have to do everything.

*Song continues until finished*

NICOLE

And so this is Christmas...tsk - better get going, guests will be here before you know it.

*Nicole picks up some of her unpacked bags and leaves stage, presumably going to kitchen.*

## SCENE 2

*Lights up on Lisa and Mat's living room. Mat is finishing wrapping a gift as the doorbell rings. He goes to door and opens it. There stands Harold.*

MAT

Harold? Hello. How are you? Come in.

HAROLD

Hi Mat. I know you must be surprised to see me. I don't usually show up on the doorstep of one of my employees - uh, ex employees. Could I have a word with you?

MAT

Of course Harold. Please come in. I told you to come by any time.

HAROLD

Thanks Mat.

*Enter Jenny*

JENNY

Hi Mr. Banks. Are you looking for Sebrina? She just left about half an hour ago.

HAROLD

Hello Jenny. Sebrina's probably at home by now then - thanks. Mat If it's all the same to you, could we maybe go sit at Tim's down on the corner and talk there? It's just that....

MAT

Sure, no problem. I'll get my coat. Jenny when your Mom gets back tell her I'm at Tim's. I shouldn't be too long.

JENNY

Yeah, sure Dad.

*Mat gets his coat and the two men leave. Jenny grabs her telephone and punches in number. Lights up on Sebrina's home. She is alone in the living room reading a movie magazine. Her phone rings and she picks it up..*

SEBRINA

Hey Jen, whatsup?

JENNY

Hey Rina.

SEBRINA

I just got in 10 minutes ago. Man, the buses were packed.

JENNY

Did you know your Dad was just here?

SEBRINA

At your place? Why, was he looking for me?

JENNY

No, that's the weird thing. I told him you already left and he didn't really say much. Then he and my Dad headed out to Tim Horton's.

SEBRINA

To Tim's? What for?

JENNY

Well, that's what I don't understand. Why would he come on a social call to see my Dad? I mean I know your Dad is his boss but he never comes here unless he's coming to pick you up to take you home or to drop you off.

SEBRINA

Oh, wow, that is weird.

JENNY

You don't think you're Dad is going to fire my Dad do you?

SEBRINA

Come on Jen, why would he do that? He's always raving about how your Dad is such a great employee.

JENNY

I was just wondering cause my Dad's been talking about the company not doing so well lately and how there was talk about lay offs. He doesn't say much but I think he's worried about it.

SEBRINA

Get a grip there girl. It's probably nothing like that at all. Besides my Dad wouldn't fire someone on Christmas eve. I know he's not a big fan of Christmas and he practically goes ballistic when my Mom spends so much money on it, but he's not Ebenezer Scrooge.

JENNY

I hope you're right. He wouldn't be upset because I talk to you about my faith in Jesus would he?

SEBRINA

Are you kidding me? I never talk to him about that. In fact I hardly ever talk to him about anything.

JENNY

Oh, okay. Well, maybe he just decided to be friendly to his staff and take them out for a coffee because it's Christmas?

SEBRINA

Or - maybe he's hiding some big gift for me at your place. Yes, I bet that's it. Your Dad probably offered to hide something at your place so I couldn't peek. Oh, remember that absolutely amazing outfit I tried on at Tommy Hilfiger's last week? Well, started a registry there and....

JENNY

What do you mean a registry? You aren't getting married.

SEBRINA

It's just new. You can pick out things you want for Christmas and tell everyone that you are registered at Tommy Hilfiger's - same as a bridal registry. Cool eh?

JENNY

Yeah, cool I guess. So you think it's nothing then, my Dad going out with your Dad to Tim Horton's?

SEBRINA

Relax. Like I said - he's hidden a gift at your place and to show his gratitude he's taking your Dad out for coffee. There all solved.

JENNY

Yeah, your probably right.

SEBRINA

Yeah, I am. Now how about having a look around your house to see if you can find that outfit I wanted. Call or text me when you find it. But be quick before they get back from Tim Horton's.

JENNY

Yeah, yeah. Okay, Bye.

### SCENE 3

*Harold and Mat are sitting at a table at Tim Horton's with coffee in hand. There are two employees behind the counter. Spotlight on Mat and Harold.*

MAT

How have you been Harold? I know it must have been devastating for you.

HAROLD

Yeah, you got that right. I still can't believe I'm unemployed. After all these years of climbing up the ladder - I finally get to the top and feel like I've got it made and then...they push me off like a piece of garbage. That's how I feel Mat - Like a piece of garbage.

MAT

I am so sorry Harold. I must tell you I was really surprised when they let you go. You've always been such a good boss. You were always so conscientious. You worked your tail off for them. I was sure I was going to be let go, not you.

HAROLD

Yeah well no one was more surprised than me. I gave my life to that company. I gave up my weekends and worked late every night. I did that for years, and yes, I made my way to the top, earned good money, but in the end no one is indispensable are they? Another coffee?

MAT

No, I'm fine Harold

HAROLD

I think I'll have another.

*Harold gets up and goes to counter.*

HAROLD

Coffee. Black.

**Song sung by Harold, Tim Horton's employees, and 4 customers – “FREE ADVICE”**

(Lyrics by Karen Cowley, Music & Arrangement by  
Lee Brubacher, 2011, band parts available upon request)

*During the first part of the song, 4 customers come in and line up. (these customers will sing the part of the chorus).*

TIM HORTON'S EMPLOYEE

Next in line please

*Harold goes back to table with his coffee.*

MAT

You haven't told your wife Harold?

HAROLD

No. I just can't bring myself to do it. I thought I'd wait until after Christmas. She has this big party planned for tonight and I don't want to ruin it for her and the kids.

MAT

But Harold it's been 3 weeks. What have you been doing every day?

HAROLD

What else? Looking for work. Wandering up and down the streets, the mall. They don't suspect.

MAT

But financially, are you okay?

HAROLD

Not really. I did get some severance pay and I have savings, but it can't last forever, not the way my wife spends money. To be honest with you Mat, we've overextended ourselves and have been walking on thin ice even before I lost my job.

MAT

You'll get another job. You have a lot of experience in your field.

HAROLD

Mat - I'm 45 - not so easy to get a job at my age. Hey, maybe I could work here. You know Mat, I've worked with you for 15 years, your daughter and my daughter are best

friends, but I don't really know you. I know you are a good employee. You are always willing to go the extra mile, never late, in fact you even come in an hour early every morning. You're a real whiz on the computer, never complain and the customers love you. But you would never work late or on the weekends. You missed out on promotions because of that, yet you're always so cheerful even when it's a lousy day. What's wrong with you?

MAT

Nothing is wrong with me. I still have stuff that happens in my life. I get discouraged just like everyone else. But you see Harold, I don't have to be depressed or angry at life's little bumps in the road because I have hope. I have hope and faith in Jesus Christ. When I am down and out, all I have to do is call on him. I can't explain it, but when I pray, things are better.

**Song Sung by Mat and choir – “WITH THE LORD, I CAN FLY”**

(Lyrical Adaptation by  
Lee Brubacher, to the tune of “I Believe I Can Fly”, by R. Kelly, 1996,  
distributed by Atlantic Records)

HAROLD

I wish I had your faith Mat. My life would be a lot easier - which gets me to the reason I asked you out here in the first place. You mentioned on that horrible day when I was escorted out of my office that your brother might need someone with my experience?

MAT

I asked him Harold. He's starting up this new investment firm but he won't be ready to open til May. I told him about you and he was very interested - said you should submit your resume around the first of April and he would be willing to consider you. The pay would be considerably less than what you are used to though.

HAROLD

Thanks Mat. Thanks for trying. I'll contact you later then.

MAT

Harold, why don't you and your family come to Christmas eve service at our church with us? We'd love to have you over afterwards. We usually have a little get together with friends and family.

HAROLD

Thanks Mat. I appreciate the invite. But like I said, Nicole has this very expensive, very boring party she holds every Christmas eve and guess who has to be the host or

should I say referee?

MAT

Okay Harold. Just so you know, I have been praying for you.

HAROLD

Thanks Mat. I appreciate the gesture. You know, the funniest thing happened to me as I was sitting on a bench at the Limeridge Mall today. Some kid sat down beside me and out of the blue asked me "where's the line to see Jesus?" I was taken aback but then I realized he probably meant where's the line to see Santa Claus so I pointed him in that direction. I turned around to get something out of my brief case and when I looked up he was just gone. It kind of threw me. I mean, that's kind of an odd thing to ask isn't it?

MAT

Well, not really, considering this is Christmas and it is Jesus' birthday we're supposed to be celebrating, not Santa Claus'.

HAROLD

It's just this kid seemed so sad. Funny, how I can't shake him from my mind. Well, have a happy holiday Mat.

MAT

Yeah, Merry Christmas Harold.

#### **SCENE 4**

*Living room of Lisa and Mat's home. Lisa enters from outside carrying packages and humming a Christmas carol. Jenny comes in.*

JENNY

Hi Mom. Did you get my donkey costume?

LISA

Yes, I did (she reaches into bag and hands it to her daughter).

JENNY

Yehhhh. I am going to be the cutest Miss Donkey ever. Thanks Mom.

*Enter Kyle*

KYLE

Hey Mom, did you get my Elvis outfit?

LISA

Yes, they had one left at the costume place. I can hardly wait to see this Christmas pageant.

JENNY

It's going to be so cool. I am Miss Donkey, the Christmas donkey, watching over baby Jesus in the stable.

KYLE

And I (*takes an Elvis stance*) am one of the 3 kings. Thank ya, thank ya very much.

LISA

Okay, Jenny would you help me with supper? Dad will be here soon and then we have to get to the church ahead of time.

JENNY

Oh, I forgot to tell you Mom, Dad was already home. Mr. Banks came by and he and Dad went to Tim Horton's for coffee.

LISA

Oh? Did he say what he wanted?

JENNY

No. I think he just wanted to wish Dad a Merry Christmas by taking him out for coffee.

LISA

Oh. Elvis would you get the punch bowl out for me please and take it down to the rec

room.

*Kyle gets punch bowl and exits.*

Just put it on the table. I'll make the punch as soon as we get home from the service. I'm glad this gathering is going to be potluck.

JENNY

I can hardly wait. It's Christmas eve, it's Christmas eve. Hurrah!!!

LISA

I saw Sebrina's Mom today. She was behind me in a line-up at the cashier in (name of store). You know the oddest thing happened. This little boy came almost out of nowhere and asked Sebrina's Mom "where's the line to see Jesus?" I think she was kind of shocked by the question and then she told him to go upstairs - way upstairs. She thought she was making a joke I'm sure. I wanted to say something to the little boy, but then I got distracted and when I turned back to him, he just seemed to disappear.

*During Lisa's dialogue above, Kyle returns and begins listening to what his mother is saying.*

KYLE

But isn't that the truth? We have big lines to see Santa Claus and exactly whose birthday are we celebrating anyway? Santa Claus'?

JENNY

No way, it's Jesus birthday. Wouldn't it be cool to stand in a line to see Jesus and sit on his lap?

KYLE

I am sure a number of people would disagree with you on that. Is Jesus going to look at your greed list and tell you that because you are such a good little girl or boy (which is probably very doubtful), you can surely have whatever you want.

JENNY

But Jesus gave us the greatest gift of all - himself.

*Lights fade out and actors leave stage.*

## SCENE 5

Nicole and Harold's living room. Harold is sitting in a chair with a remote in his hand. He is looking off towards audience, so it seems like he is actually watching a game on t.v.) Neil and Sebrina are sitting on the couch. Neil is playing video game on his cell phone and Sebrina is typing on her laptop. There is a buffet laden with punch bowl filled with apple cider, glasses, hor dourves, cutlery. Nicole enters from the kitchen with napkins, plates etc.

NICOLE

Okay, I've got the apple cider warming, plates, cutlery, napkins, um let me see (*notices Harold sitting in the chair*). For goodness sake Harold it's 7:00 o'clock and our guests will be arriving any minute. Go and get dressed for the party.

HAROLD

Okay, okay.

*He gets up and exits, leaving remote on the floor.*

NICOLE

And make sure you put on that new sweater I bought for you. Kids, stand up and let me look at you.

NEIL

Awww.

NICOLE

Uhh uh. Come on up you get.

*They get up and Nicole inspects them. She brushes Sebrina's hair behind her ear and when she heads over to Neil, Sebrina brushes her hair back the way it was.*

You both look really nice but make sure you don't go messing up your outfits before the guests arrive. They cost me a fortune. Here now Neil, is that a hair on your shirt?

*She picks the hair off and fusses with his clothes*

NEIL

Awwww.

NICOLE

Sebrina what are you eating?

SEBRINA

Just gum Mom.

NICOLE

Spit it out now - go on. I hate a child who chews gum.

*Sebrina gets up and moves towards the kitchen . On her way she takes the gum out of her mouth and sticks it in a centerpiece or under the buffet when Nicole is not looking.*

NEIL

Is Aunt Maddie coming this year?

NICOLE

Yes, she said she was.

*Nicole notices remote on floor and picks it up angrily and places it on the table then exits to kitchen.*

NEIL

Yes! She always brings us gifts.

SEBRINA

Yeah, I wonder what she is going to bring us this year. I've e-mailed her several times just to let her know what I really want.

NEIL

Which are tickets to see Justin Bieber - because you are in love with him.

SEBRINA

I am not. I just like his singing.

NEIL

You love Justin Beiber. Nah, nah, nah.

SEBRINA

*Hitting him*

I do not.

NEIL

Do so - and he's such a geek.

SEBRINA

*(getting angry)* He is not!

*She sits down and grabs laptop and begins typing*

**Song sung by Sebrina and Neil – “SOMETHING GOOD FOR CHRISTMAS”**

(Lyrics by Karen Cowley, Music and Arrangement by Lee Brubacher, 2011, band parts available upon request)

*As song ends Neil grabs a movie magazine that Sebrina has been looking at.*

SEBRINA

Hey, give me that!!

*She grabs for it and a tug of war ensues. Nicole comes in from the kitchen.*

NICOLE

Stop this right now. You kids are giving me a terrible headache. It's Christmas eve for heavens sake. Santa will bring you coal in your stocking if you don't stop this bickering.

NEIL

We always get gifts even if we fight. Santa doesn't care. Remember all the toys I got last year and look at all the stuff I did. I even spray painted Mr. Smith's car purple and yep, still got gifts.

NICOLE

That was a terrible thing you did to Mr. Smith's car and your father had to pay for a new paint job on it.

NEIL

Aw, I didn't think old Mr. Smith would mind. I heard him say he had to paint it anyway so I thought I'd paint all the rust spots purple. My teacher says purple and yellow are Easter colours and go really nice together. Well, his car being yellow and all, I thought it looked pretty nice.

NICOLE

I think I'm going to have to have a talk with Mr. Santa Claus about you young man.

*She begins fixing pillows on couch, fussing*

NEIL

Yeah, yeah.

SEBRINA

Mom, what's coal?

NICOLE

I don't have time for this. You two behave. I want you to greet everyone and then you can go into the den and play video games until we eat.

*Exit Nicole to kitchen*

NEIL

Aw, it's so boring.

SEBRINA

I hate these adult parties. They're just no fun. My friend Jenny has so much fun on Christmas eve. They go to Christmas eve service at their church and they even get to be in a play about Jesus. Isn't that cool? All their family and friends come over and they have a birthday cake for Jesus and they even sing happy birthday.

*Harold enters all dressed and Nicole enters at the same time*

NICOLE

Oh darling, you look fabulous. All the men will be so envious of your gorgeous sweater.

HAROLD

I'm sure the men won't even notice it, let alone care what I'm wearing...

NICOLE

It was only \$300, marked down from \$350. so I saved \$50. I know I shouldn't have but you look so amazing in it and that's what visa is for.

HAROLD

Nicole you have to stop using that visa card. We've almost reached our limit and we need new tires for the van and we had that expensive plumbing problem 2 weeks ago.

NICOLE

But I saved \$50.

HAROLD

You spent \$300. I want you to take it back.

NICOLE

I can't take it back Harold. It was a final sale.

HAROLD

Alright then, I'll take it back. We'll see how final this sale is.

NICOLE

You will not.

*She hands Harold tray of hor'dourves*

Besides I lost the receipt.

HAROLD

*Giving up he takes the tray and sets it on the coffee table, taking one of the hor*

*dourves to sample.*

Do you think your brother Martin will show up this year?

NICOLE

Are you kidding me? I sent him an invitation but ever since he's gotten religion he's too good for us.

HAROLD

He usually comes over Christmas day though.

NICOLE

Oh yeah, but he doesn't stay long, just long enough to preach all that churchy stuff to us.

HAROLD

He does bring the kids a gift though.

NICOLE

Last year he gave them bibles. Now really, what will the kids do with those? They're too young to be reading the Bible. I tried reading the Bible once, you know that one the Gilligan Society gave out in public school, and I couldn't understand a thing - all those thous and thees.

SEBRINA

Mom, how come we always have this party every Christmas eve? Is it because it's Jesus birthday?

NICOLE

Where did that come from?

SEBRINA

Just wondering.

NICOLE

Well, of course that's why people started celebrating Christmas in the first place. Jesus

was born in a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. But that was so long ago and nowadays we have Santa Claus and we like to think of Christmas as a time when we can reach out to others, helping those who are less fortunate than us, being kind to one another, peace on earth and all that stuff.

SEBRINA

But who was Jesus? My friend Jenny says God came to earth in the form of a man Jesus so he could save the world from their sins.

NICOLE

Really Sebrina, your friend Jenny and her family are what we in the real world call "bible thumpers".

SEBRINA

Well, she has a bible, but I've never seen her using it as a drum.

NICOLE

That's not really what I mean. Some people think that...

SEBRINA

Jenny says Jesus is always at their Christmas eve party.

NICOLE

Well, I'm sure not in bodily form.

NEIL

*He has been playing his video game but is half listening to the conversation.*

Do you think he would ever come to our party?

NICOLE

Well, I doubt it, although it would be handy to have him turn the water into wine. Harold did you get that extra jug of apple cider?

HAROLD

Oops, no, I guess I forgot.

NICOLE

You forgot? Really Harold I give you one measly thing to do and you can't even remember. I can't believe it. Now what will we do? You know we won't have enough. You've ruined everything.

*Neil pokes his sister*

SEBRINA

Stop it Neil. Mom, Neil won't move over and he hit me.

HAROLD

For crying out loud Nicole. Will you relax. Every Christmas it is always the same. You work yourself into a frenzy trying to make everything perfect. You spend all this money trying to impress everybody so they will think we are the most perfect couple, the most perfect happy family. And then once it's all over you complain about how you didn't like what this person did or what that person said and how I didn't say the right thing. Then you get depressed over all the bills and how nobody appreciated anything. I am sick of it! I am especially sick of you spending all this money we don't have.

SEBRINA

MOM! Neil stop it!

*She hits him and he hits her back etc.*

NICOLE

Well, if you would get off your duff and help me, maybe we could have a really nice Christmas for a change. I mean, you are the one who forgot the extra apple cider.

NEIL

Mom, she's hitting me.

HAROLD

Oh, and because I forgot the extra jug of apple cider we will now have a perfectly awful Christmas. Blame it on me. *(looks out window)* Oh great, our guests are here.

**Song sung by Harold and Nicole – “BREAK OUT THE CHEER”** (Lyrics by Karen Cowley,

Music and Arrangement by Lee Brubacher, 2011,  
band parts available upon request)

## SCENE 6

*Lisa and Mat's living room. Lisa, Jenny, Kyle and Mat all have their coats on ready to leave.*

MAT

Okay, everyone ready for Christmas eve service? Jenny do you have your donkey costume?

JENNY

Yes.

LISA

And Kyle do you have your Elvis costume.

KYLE

Yes, Mam. Thank ya, thank ya very much.

MAT

Lisa, do you have the Bibles?

LISA

Roger

MAT

Okay, we're all set. Let's have a prayer before we leave. Father God we just thank you for this wonderful night that we are about to celebrate your birth so many years ago. How blessed we are that you came to this earth as a man and that you died on the cross, paying the price for our sinfulness. We pray Lord for others in our midst who need you in their lives, but do not yet realize it. Please open their eyes to the truth. In Jesus name...

JENNY

And please Jesus, would you show up at Sebrina's house tonight. She really needs to get to know you.

## SCENE 7

*Nicole and Harold's living room.*

NICOLE

Now remember, be polite and no opening gifts until tomorrow morning except for maybe one at the party.

NEIL

Awwwww!

*Harold opens the door and enter Mitch and Susan in holiday attire. Mitch has his cell phone with him and is busy texting. Susan carries two gift bags for the kids. They greet one another - Happy holidays, great to see you, etc. etc.*

NICOLE

Susan, Mitch. How nice you were able to join us this year.

SUSAN

Well, we decided to slum it this year - stay home.

MITCH

Last year we were in Cancun and the year before that we were in Vegas and the year before that...

SUSAN

It was Paris darling. Don't you remember that terribly expensive Villa we stayed at? Oh if we were only there now...

NICOLE

Well, why did you stay in Hamilton this year?

SUSAN

Oh Mitch was working on this very lucrative criminal case and it just wound up yesterday so we'll be leaving on boxing day for Hawaii.

HAROLD

Here, let me take your coats. (*sarcastically*) Great to have the honour of your presence. Make yourself at home.

They give two gift bags to the kids who take them and put them under the tree. Susan and Mitch go into the living room area, Susan sitting and Mitch going to the punch bowl on the buffet. Door bell rings and enter Bob and Shirley. Lights are partially down in area where guests are seated. Entrance area is in full light.

HAROLD & NICOLE

Shirley, Bob, Happy Holidays.

BOB

Well, I'm afraid I'm not too happy right now. Can you believe this? Some old coot almost slammed into me as I was making a left on Mohawk and Upper Paradise. Idiot. A menace on the road. I tell you, I rolled down the window and let her have it. I had Shirley write her licence plate number down. I have half a mind to sue her for all the stress and anxiety she caused me. (*notices Mitch*) Hey, Mitch you're a lawyer, maybe you can tell me if I have a case...

*he goes over to buffet where Mitch is getting some punch.*

SHIRLEY

Sooooo. This is the famous sweater. Hmmmmm.

*She touches Bob's arm*

Cashmere eh?

NICOLE

*Obviously annoyed*

Have a seat Shirley.

*Shirley leaves and takes a place on couch.  
Aunt Doreen knocks and enters*

Aunt Doreen. I wasn't expecting you.

DOREEN

What? You think I'd miss one of your Christmas eve parties Nicole? Have I missed one yet?

NICOLE

Well, no, it's just that um we didn't think you would want to come after what happened last year.

DOREEN

Oh, is that why you never sent me an invitation? Because of that big fight I had with Bob? He has to get all ticked off just cause I told him I sent his name into Dr. Phil for a show on people with anger issues. And really, was it my fault Shirley's big humongous purse got in the way, making me trip and spill that cranberry punch all over Bob's brand new shirt?

NICOLE

Aunt Doreen - shhhh. He's right over there.

DOREEN

Oh is he now? Well, it's a shame he refused to go on that show. He would have learned something - like not to get all riled up over nothing. Speaking of which, some idiot almost hit me as I was driving on Mohawk and Upper Paradise earlier today. He turned left on a red light and then he had the nerve to roll down his window and start yelling at me. At me? It was his fault. A fool, that's what he is - a menace on the road. Why I...

HAROLD

Aunt Doreen, what do you have there?

DOREEN

It's my fruitcake. I know how much you all love it so I made it special.

NICOLE & HAROLD

Ohhhhh. Thank you.

*Harold takes fruitcake and takes it over to buffet. Aunt Doreen goes to couch and takes a seat beside Shirley.*

**Song sung by ladies' trio – "HOLIDAY LAMENT" (THE FRUITCAKE SONG)**

(From original Broadway production, "That Time of the Year". Lyrics by Laurence Holzman & Felicia Needleman; Music by Mark Wherry. Performed by Kerri Jill Garbis, Erin Maguire & Bridget Beirne. See [www.ThatTimeoftheYear.com](http://www.ThatTimeoftheYear.com). CD available for purchase at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/timeoftheyear>. That Time of the Year is available for licensing through Theatrical Rights Worldwide <http://www.theatricalrights.com/#/showdetail/?showid=TTOY/>

*During the song, cast on stage freeze, spotlight is on singers.*  
After song doorbell rings and Mavis enters. She carries a huge Kleenex box and a purse. Harold is still over by buffet - talking to Mitch and Bob.

NICOLE

Mavis, we haven't seen you for awhile (begins to give her a hug)

MAVIS

Oh, don't touch me Nicole. I'm not feeling so good. I don't want to spread germs. You aren't serving anything with shrimp in it are you?

NICOLE

Well, the dip but..

MAVIS

Oh noooooo. I'm allergic. Deathly allergic.

NICOLE

But you've always eaten my shrimp dip before. When did this allergy appear?

MAVIS

Just yesterday. I ate shrimp fried rice for supper and later I developed a severe headache. Had to be the shrimp. I'm allergic.

NICOLE

Oh, well it's just sitting there on the table with the other hor'dourves. Just don't eat any.

MAVIS

Oh no. I can't be in the same room with it. I could have a severe reaction. My throat