

ACT I

Scene 1

Nicole enters her home (living room) with parcels. Phone is ringing. (This could be cell phone in her pocket.)

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. 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 bared herself into my space - I saw if 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.

NICOLE

Oh, I don't need this. I am so stressed. 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 SUNG BY NICOLE - CHRISTMAS STRESS

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 which he is placing under the tree 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 get his coat and the two men leave. Jenny grabs her telephone and punches in number.

Hey Rina.

Lights up on Sebrina's home. She is alone in the living room and is on her cell phone.

SEBRINA

Hey Jen, whatsup? I just ot in 10 minutes ago. Man, the buses were packed.

JENNUY

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, I 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