

All is Bright

A One Act Play

by

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This is a one act play with only four spoken words. The "dialogue" of the characters is communicated solely through movement and expression, both to the audience and other characters.

A continuous musical medley of Christmas music emphasizes the story and plot points accordingly. Specific songs are noted, but these can be changed accordingly. If possible, the music score should be performed live, a pianist accompanied by a multi-instrumentalist would do nicely.

Scenery, costumes, lighting, props, sound effects should be colorful and exaggerated. The tone of the play is magical and imaginative - much like Christmas.

CAST: BRIGHT - 30's, living alone, but ever cheerful
HOMELESS - 30's, a homeless person, devious
POLICEMAN - 30's, handsome, single

NOTE: Policeman and Homeless can be the same actor.

At curtain, a tight-solo spot fades up downstage upon a single Christmas ornament, "The Golden Ornament," a gold round bulb that is lit from the inside.

MUSIC: "ORNAMENT MUSIC" VERY SIMPLE, TINKLING.

A string of multi-colored Christmas lights hanging upstage slowly illuminates. Lights up on the stage, colorful, Christmas-like. There are three main set pieces: a Christmas store, with brightly-wrapped packages and stand-up counter person attached; a trio of Christmas carolers in mid-song; and a Salvation Army Santa Claus in mid-bell ring. Large cutout snowflakes on poles complete the set.

MUSIC: "A SLEIGH RIDE" LIVELY.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT ENTERS, WRAPPED IN WARM OVERCOAT, BRIGHT SCARF, WEARING A

SANTA HAT. SHE CARRIES A BIG
SHOPPING BAG, LABELED "GIFTS."

BRIGHT

I love Christmas! It's my favorite time of year. The snow,
the gifts, the lights. Beautiful

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PACES THE STAGE, WAVING TO
IMAGINARY SHOPPERS.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello, hello. Merry Christmas.

LIGHTS: FLOOD LIGHT ON THE STORE.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT SPOTS THE STORE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Oh, this is my favorite store. They have the best gifts!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT ENTERS THE STORE, PROCEEDS
TO GREET THE COUNTER PERSON AND
ADMIRE THE GIFTS.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello, hello. Merry Christmas. I'm looking for some special
gifts for a special person!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT EXAMINES EACH PACKAGE,
ADMIRING EACH, PRETENDING NOT TO
LIKE IT, BUT SHE EVENTUALLY GETS
ALL THE GIFTS. AT ONE POINT, SHE
PULLS A DRESS FROM ONE OF THE
PACKAGES AND PRETENDS TO TRY IT ON.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

It's perfect! And they're all so beautiful, I'll take them
all!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PUTS ALL THE PACKAGES IN HER
BAG. SHE PAYS THE COUNTER PERSON.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Thank you so much. Merry Christmas!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT EXITS THE STORE.

LIGHTS: FLOOD LIGHT OUT ON THE STORE UP ON
THE CAROLERS.

MUSIC: "GOOD KING WENCESLAS" MID-TEMPO

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PACES. HOMELESS MAN ENTERS.
HE CROSSES PATHS WITH BRIGHT WHO

BECOMES UNEASY BUT NOT FRIGHTENED.
HE TAKES OUT A PLASTIC CUP FROM HIS
OVERCOAT AND SHAKES IT BRIGHT.
SOUND OF A FEW COINS.

HOMELESS

Got any change?

BRIGHT

No.

HOMELESS

Thanks for nothing.

MOVEMENT: HOMELESS MOVES AWAY. BRIGHT GETS
AN IDEA, TAPS HIM ON THE SHOULDER.
OFFERS HIM A CANDY CANE.

BRIGHT

Here's a candy cane. Merry Christmas.

MOVEMENT: HOMELESS TAKES THE CANDY CANE.
SNIFFS IT. PUTS IN HIS POCKET.

HOMELESS

Gee, thanks. Cheapskate.

MOVEMENT: HOMELESS EXITS. BRIGHT CONTINUES
PACING AND NOTICES THE CAROLERS.
SHE STOPS TO LISTEN. SHE TAPS HER
FOOT. THEY INVITE HER TO SING.
SHE RESISTS. THEY INVITE HER. SHE
RESISTS. THEY INVITE HER. SHE
JOINS IN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T KNOW
ALL THE WORDS.

BRIGHT

Good king Wenceslas came down, riding on a pony, and he blah,
blah, blah, da da, da, da da, da.

MOVEMENT: THE SONG ENDS, BRIGHT EXCHANGES
GREETINGS AND GOOD CHEER WITH THE
CAROLERS.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

It sounded wonderful! Thank you! You're great. Merry
Christmas.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT LEAVES THE CAROLERS.

LIGHTS: FLOOD OUT ON CAROLERS, UP ON
SALVATION SANTA.

MUSIC: "SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN"

LIVELY

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CROSSES TO SALVATION SANTA.
SHE PUTS DOWN HER PACKAGES AND DIGS
THRU HER PURSE FOR A FEW COINS.
SHE PLACES THEM IN THE POT.

SOUND: A BELL.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Oh thank you! We all got to do our part to help the
unfortunate. It's Christmas! Are you the real Santa? Of
course you are. Well, I've been very nice this year. I got
my Christmas list right here.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PULLS OUT A LARGE NOTEBOOK
WHICH SAYS "BRIGHT'S CHRISTMAS
LIST." SHE WILL FLIP THE PAGES TO
REVEAL SEVERAL ITEMS, EACH WITH A
REACTION FROM BRIGHT, AND WILL SHOW
IT TO SANTA. SHE WILL THEN PUT HER
HAND TO HER EAR TO LISTEN FOR THE
SOUND OF A BELL INDICATING SHE'LL
GET IT. EACH PICTURE IS FOLLOWED
BY THE BELL SOUND. THE ITEMS ARE:
A NECKLACE, A TOASTER, A PAIR OF
KNIT GLOVES, SEXY NEGLIGEE, EAR
MUFFS.

AFTER THE ITEMS, A SERIES OF IMAGES
WHICH SHOWS BRIGHT'S NUMBER ONE
GIFT: A DRAWING OF BRIGHT, A PLUS
SIGN, AN OUTLINE OF A MAN (OUTLINE
MAN WHO HAS A BIG QUESTION MARK ON
HIS CHEST), AN EQUALS SIGN, A BIG
HEART WITH LOVE ACROSS, AN ARROW
POINTING DOWN, BRIGHT AND OUTLINE
MAN AS BRIDE AND GROOM, AN ARROW
DOWN, BRIGHT AND OUTLINE MAN IN
PARIS, AN ARROW DOWN, BRIGHT
PREGNANT WITH OUTLINE MAN, AN ARROW
DOWN, BRIGHT AND OUTLINE MAN
HOLDING HANDS WITH THEIR BABY IN
FRONT OF A CHRISTMAS TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Oh, please, oh, please, Santa. Bring me a special someone so
I can share Christmas with. So I won't be alone anymore. He
doesn't have to have a lot of money or nothing, just nice and
kind and who loves me. Please, oh, please.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PUTS HER HAND TO HER EAR.
NO BELL SOUND. AGAIN. NO SOUND.
PUTS A COIN IN THE POT. NO SOUND.

ANOTHER COIN IN THE POT. ALAS, NO
BELL.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Oh well. Looks I'll get most of what I wanted for Christmas. I'm sad. But, it's Christmas so I can't be sad. But still, I wish I had someone to share my Christmas with. Thank you, Santa.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT GIVES SANTA A KISS ON THE
CHEEK. A BLUSH. SHE GATHERS HER
PACKAGES, FOLDS UP HER NOTEBOOK AND
EXITS SALVATION SANTA.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Goodbye! Stay warm. Merry Christmas.

LIGHTS: FLOOD OUT ON SALVATION SANTA.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PACES. HOMELESS ENTERS AND
PASS BRIGHT. BRIGHT IS UNEASY,
HOMELESS LOOKS HER OVER
SUSPICIOUSLY.

HOMELESS

You again. Cheapskate.

MOVEMENT: HOMELESS EXITS.

MUSIC: "ORNAMENT MUSIC" TINKLING

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PACES, NOTICES THE
SNOWFLAKES, THEN LOOKS DOWN AND
SPIES THE GOLDEN ORNAMENT.

LIGHTS: TIGHT SPOT ON THE GOLDEN ORNAMENT.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT REACTS.

BRIGHT

Wow! Look at how it shines! It's so beautiful! I wonder how it got here. It doesn't belong to anyone. It's all alone. An ornament this beautiful should never be alone on Christmas! It deserves a good home. I'm gonna take you home and put you my tree! This is going to be my best Christmas ever!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CAREFULLY PLACES THE GOLDEN
ORNAMENT INTO HER PURSE. SHE
EXITS.

MUSIC: "LET IT SNOW" UPTEMPO, LIVELY

LIGHTS: CROSS-FADE INTO BRIGHTER LIGHT,

CREATING BRIGHT'S ONE-BEDROOM
APARTMENT. WARM AND COZY.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT ENTERS HER APARTMENT. PUTS
HER PACKAGES DOWN IMMEDIATELY.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Boy, those are heavy! I'm exhausted! But I've got a lot to do! It's Christmas Eve! I want to make this my best Christmas ever! Especially for my new friend, Golden Ornament!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT TAKES OUT GOLDEN ORNAMENT AND WILL SHOW IT TO THE FOLLOWING SET CHANGES, AS IF INTRODUCING A FRIEND. BRIGHT CROSSES TO THE SALVATION SANTA, TURNS IT AROUND TO REVEAL A COAT RACK, FASHIONED LIKE FROSTY THE SNOWMAN. SHE TAKES OFF HER COAT, SCARF AND HANGS IT ON FROSTY.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Isn't he cute!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CROSSES TO THE CHRISTMAS SHOP, TURNS IT AROUND, REVEALING A FIREPLACE. SHE DETACHES THE COUNTER PERSON AND PLACES IT IN THE FIREPLACE - THE YULE LOG.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

I love a warm fire!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CROSSES TO THE CAROLERS, TURNS IT AROUND TO REVEAL A DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Almost perfect. Just some last minute decorations.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT EXITS QUICKLY AND ENTERS QUICKLY CARRYING A LARGE BOX LABELED, "CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS" AND PLACES IT CENTER STAGE. SHE REACHES INTO THE BOX AND TAKES OUT ONE STOCKING LABELED, "BRIGHT" AND HANGS IT ABOVE THE FIREPLACE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

That's me!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT TAKES OUT TINSEL AND WRAPS IT AROUND THE TREE; A GOLD STAR,

PLACES IT ON TOP OF THE TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Now it's perfect. Now for the finishing touch.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PLACES HER GIFT PACKAGES
UNDERNEATH THE TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

I love gifts! This is my best Christmas ever!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT BEGINS TO PUT THE BOX AWAY,
NOTICES SOMETHING INSIDE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Oh gosh! I almost forgot!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT QUICKLY REACHES INTO THE BOX
AND RETRIEVES A SPRIG OF MISTLETOE.
SHE HANGS IN THE DOORWAY. SHE ACTS
COY AS SHE THINKS GOLDEN ORNAMENT
IS ASKING HER FOR A KISS. SHE
DEMURS, DEMURS THEN GIVES IN AND
KISSES GOLDEN ORNAMENT. SHE THEN
TAKES GOLDEN ORNAMENT AND HANGS IT
ON THE TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Now, everything is perfect. Merry Christmas!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT EXITS WITH THE BOX.

MUSIC: "WHITE CHRISTMAS" MEDIUM TEMPO

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT QUICKLY RE-ENTERS WITH A MUG
LABELED "EGG NOG." SHE PACES HER
APARTMENT AND ADMIRES HER
HANDIWORK. THE STOCKING, THE TREE,
THE GIFTS, STOPPING UNDERNEATH THE
MISTLETOE AND BLUSHING. SHE KISSES
HER HAND. SHE RETRIEVES A CHAIR
FROM NEARBY AND SITS. SHE
REMEMBERS SOMETHING MISSING. A
PICTURE! BRIGHT RETRIEVES A FRAMED
PICTURE OF BRIGHT AND OUTLINE MAN
(WITH A QUESTION MARK ON HIS CHEST)
IN FRAME. SHE HANGS IT ABOVE THE
FIREPLACE. SHE SIGHS.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Boy, I wish I wasn't so alone. I wish I could share
Christmas with someone. Maybe one day.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT'S ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO

OUTLINE MAN, AS IF HE IS SAYING
SOMETHING, THEN TO THE GIFTS UNDER
THE TREE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Should I? No. Should I? No. Should I? Well. Okay, I'll
open just one!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CROSSES TO THE TREE AND GETS
A SMALL PACKAGE AND OPENS IT WITH
THE ENTHUSIASM OF A FIVE YEAR OLD
ON CHRISTMAS MORNING. SHE REACTS
AS IF OUTLINE MAN HAS GIVEN HER
EACH GIFT, SHOWING IT TO OUTLINE
MAN.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

It's a necklace. How beautiful! For me? Oh, you shouldn't
have.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT PUTS THE NECKLACE ON.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

It's perfect. Thank you!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT RETURNS TO HER CHAIR.
FIDDLES WITH HER NECKLACE. SHE
HEARS SOMETHING FROM OUTLINE MAN.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Should I? No. Should I? No. Should I? Okay, one more
present!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT GRABS ANOTHER GIFT, OPENS
IT.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

A pair of knit gloves!

MOVEMENT: SHE PUTS THEM ON.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

A perfect fit! Thank you!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT SITS AND SIPS EGG NOG. THEN
STANDS UP AND PACES THE ROOM.
LOOKS AT TREE, FROSTY, FIREPLACE.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

I wish I wasn't alone.

MUSIC: "CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE" MEDIUM,
PLAINTIVE

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT GETS AN IDEA.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

I don't have to be alone! I can call some friends. We can have a Christmas party! We can sing carols, drink egg nog, be together! I don't have to be alone on Christmas Eve!

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT RETRIEVES A PHONE. DIALS.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello! Merry Christmas! Come over. I have egg nog, a tree, we'll sing carols? Oh. You're visiting with family? No, I understand. Sure. Well, Merry Christmas.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT DIALS ANOTHER NUMBER.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello! Merry Christmas! Come over. I have egg nog, a tree, we'll sing carols. Oh, you're going to church. No, I understand. Well, Merry Christmas.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT DIALS ANOTHER NUMBER.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello! Merry Christmas! Come over. I have egg nog, a tree, we'll sing carols. Oh, you're picking up your mom and dad from the airport. No, I understand. Well, Merry Christmas.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT DIALS ONE MORE NUMBER.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

Hello! Merry Christmas! Come over. I have egg nog, a tree, we'll sing carols. Oh, a cold? Too bad. Well, I could come over there. I don't mind. No? I guess you're right. I understand. Well, Merry Christmas.

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CRUMPLES TO THE GROUND.
STARTS TO CRY.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

I don't want to be alone on Christmas Eve! Why am I always alone!

MUSIC: "ORNAMENT MUSIC" TINKLING AND
BRIGHT

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT SUDDENLY PERKS UP.

BRIGHT (CONT'D)

The Golden Ornament?

MOVEMENT: BRIGHT CROSSES TO THE GOLDEN
ORNAMENT, TAKES IT OFF THE TREE AND

Wonder what happens next?

For a copy of the full script, email me at:

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Thanks!