

# The Christmas Thieves

By  
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## SCENE 1

Setting: Typical family living room at Christmas-time. "Deck The Halls" music playing in the background. Mom is baking in the kitchen, Janie, Rita, Susie and Billy are tinseling the Christmas tree. Dad and Brad are watching a football game. Grandma rocking in her chair knitting.

Billy, whining.

Billy: I'm tired of tinseling. Janie, you guys can do the rest.

Billy throws his handful of tinsel onto one branch of the tree and walks over to the kitchen and snitches some raw cookie dough. Janie looks exasperated and the girls continue to tinsel the tree.

Mom, annoyed.

Mom: Billy! Get your fingers out of there!

Billy: Why?

Mom: Because raw cookie dough isn't good for your stomach.

Billy: But it's good for my mouth!

Mom stops and puts her hands on her hips and with frustration looks at Billy.

Mom: Here, Billy. Have one that's already baked. Grandma, do you want a warm cookie?

Grandma: No, Honey, I'm not cold.

Mom: Susie, would you take these over to Grandma, please?

Susie: Sure, mom.

Susie walks over to Grandma.

Susie: Here, Grandma, have a cookie while they're still warm.

Grandma: Thank you, my dear.

Grandma takes a bite of cookie.

Grandma: Susie, do you think I look cold?

Susie: No, Grandma, you don't look cold.

Dad stands up and starts yelling excitedly. Brad follows suit.

Dad: He's got the ball at the 30, the 20, 10! TOUCHDOWN SEAHAWKS! What a catch!

Billy runs over to join Dad and Brad to watch the game.

Dad: What a play. What a play!

Brad: Awesome!

Billy: Ah, I missed it.

Mom calls to Dad from the kitchen.

Mom: George?

Mom receives no response from Dad who is entranced in the football game.

Dad: Billy, watch the instant replay. Look at that! What a catch!

Billy copies Dad.

Billy: Yeah! What a catch!

Mom asks again a little louder.

Mom: George?

Brad: Look at that block!

Mom walks over to Dad and passes her hand up and down in front of Dad's face, interrupting his concentration.

Mom: GEORGE! Earth calling GEORGE!

Dad: Huh? What?

Mom: George, I need some things from the store.

Dad waves her off.

Dad: Sure, I'll go later this afternoon.

Mom: I really need them now.

Dad: Now?

Mom: Yes, George, NOW!

Dad: The game's almost over. You can wait till then?

Mom: Yes Dear, that will be fine.

Billy jumps up and walks back to the kitchen knocking something over in his exuberance.

Billy: Mom, I'm bored. Can I help you?

Mom: No! You're just in the way!

Billy looks rejected.

Mom: Look Billy, I have to get 24 dozen cookies done by tomorrow for the church bake sale...

Billy: But I want to help you!

Mom: I know how you can help.

Billy: You do?

Mom: Yes, Billy. You can go with your father! The game's over. Here's the shopping...

Dad: Listen!

Dad turns up the T.V..

T.V. And with just three weeks till Christmas, police are still searching for the those responsible for breaking into area homes and stealing their Christmas gifts. If you have any information on these Christmas Thieves please call the police hotline at 206-555-4556

Dad turns off the T.V..

Dad: I hope they catch those guys!

Mom: I can't believe anyone could be so terrible and at Christmas of all times!  
Here's the shopping list, George. Please hurry back.

Brad: I'll go with you, Dad.

Dad, Billy and Brad put on their coats and exit back door.

Mom: Susie, would you help Grandma up to her room for her afternoon nap?

Susie: Sure, Mom

Susie goes to help Grandma up out of her chair.

Grandma: Susie, do I look cold?

Susie: No, Grandma, you don't look cold.

Susie escorts Grandma off stage.

## SCENE 2

Setting Same as Scene 1

Mom continues with her baking and packing up the baked cookies. Janie and Rita continue tinseling the Christmas tree.

Janie: Rita, what are you doing this Christmas? Anything special?

Rita: No, just taking care of the house.

Janie: What do you mean?

Rita: My parents are going on vacation over the holidays.

Janie, in disbelief.

Janie: Without you?

Rita: Yeah, they go every year...it's not so bad but sometimes I wish I had a family like yours.

Janie: Really? They're not so great.

Rita: They're not?

Janie: Well, they're not so bad...it's just that Mom is always so busy and Dad...he never cares about anything but sports.

Rita: At least they'll be home. I'd better be going. Thanks for letting me help with the tree.

Rita and Janie walk to the front door. Rita puts on her coat and goes out the door.

Janie: See you later.

Rita: Okay. Bye.

Janie watches out the window as Rita leaves then turns and approaches Mom with hesitation.

Janie: Mom...

Mom: Yes, Janie?

Janie: I was wondering if...

Mom: Wondering what?

Janie: Well, I was wondering if Rita could come and stay overnight with us on Christmas Eve.

Mom: Won't her family mind?

Janie: No, her parents travel every Christmas. She'll be all alone.

Mom: By herself? I just don't know if it's such a good idea....Christmas is a family time.

Janie: But Mom...

Mom: I'll discuss it later with your father. I'm just too busy right now.

Telephone rings.

Mom: Would you please answer the phone?

Janie leaves kitchen to answer the phone.

Janie: Hello? Yes, here she is.

Janie walks over and hands the phone to her mother.

Mom: Oh, hi Judy...The church Christmas Dinner...I'm afraid not. I'm so far behind...I know it would be fun, Judy, but that's when I was planning to do my last minute shopping or we'll be short a few presents under the tree.

George, Billy and Brad reenter the kitchen with grocery bags.

Mom: Well, George is coming in. I'd better go. I hope it all goes well. Bye.

Dad takes off his jacket. Billy and Brad hang up their coats go to watch T.V..

Dad: Who was that?

Dad hands Mom the grocery bag.

Mom: Judy Johnson inviting us to the Christmas dinner.

Dad: When is it?

Mom: Monday night but I told her I was too busy.

Dad: Good! Denver plays Miami Monday night. I ran into Jerry Stevens at the store.

Mom: Jerry, the fireman?

Dad: Yes. He asked if we had any toys for tots. Do we?

Dad takes a cookie.

Mom: No, we don't and I have enough *other* problems to worry about right now.

Dad: What problems?

Mom: Janie asked if her friend, Rita, could spend Christmas Eve here, with us.

Dad: You mean the girl who was just here?

Mom: Yes. It seems her parents will be out of town. She'll be all alone.

Dad: What did you tell Janie?

Mom: That I'd talk to you about it. Well, should we say yes?

Dad: It's a shame the way some parents are so selfish but I don't think Rita is our responsibility. Besides, Christmas is a time for family.

Dad moves Billy over and starts watching T.V.. Mom returns to her baking.

Lights Out

Song: "Christmas Is The Time To Love" sung as solo or group of people.

### SCENE 3

Family living room. Dad and Brad watching T.V.. Mom helping put on and straighten Janie, Susie and Billy's Christmas pageant costumes. Billy as a shepherd. Janie and Susie as angels.

Mom: I can't believe the Christmas program is tonight!

Billy: That means only one more week till I get my presents!

Janie looks disgusted.

Billy: I hope "Santa" read my letter.

Brad: You mean your novel?

Billy: I can't help it if I need lots and lots of toys.

Janie: You're so selfish!

Billy: You're just mad because Rita can't spend Christmas Eve with us.

Mom: Stop it! All of you! Where's your Christmas spirit? George, Brad, time to go. Everyone out to the car.

Billy sticks his tongue out at Janie who sticks her tongue back out at Billy. Susie ignores them seeing them as childish. Susie helps Mom get Grandma out of her chair and put on her coat.

Grandma: Thank you, Susie.

To Janie.

Grandma: Janie, do I look cold?

All exit front door.

Lights Out.

Music: Silent Night as solo or sung by a group.

During the song, actors or stage hands, dressed in black remove the Christmas gifts, T.V. and lay the Christmas tree down on it's side.

### SCENE 3b (optional)

Your church Christmas program can be included in scene 4 with the different departments performing. Include Janie, Susie and Billy into the program. If you have space for both scenes to take place at the same time see options in Director's Notes.

### Scene 4

Family living room

Lights up

Family enters. They all look around the room in shock and disbelief.

Mom: Oh, no!

Janie: I can't believe it!

Brad: Wow!

Susie and Brad help Grandma to her chair.

Billy: The presents are all gone!

Police siren is heard in the background.

Dad: Someone must have already reported this to the police.

Officer(s) knock on the door. Dad answers the door. Janie, Susie, Brad, and Billy pick up the tree and redecorate it as best they can.



Officer: I'm officer Brent. We received a call from a Mrs Anderson about a possible break-in.

Dad: Yes, officer she's our neighbor. Come in.

Officer: Can you tell me what happened here?

Dad: No, not really we were all gone this evening.

Mom Interjects.

Mom: To our church Christmas program.

Dad: We just got home and this is what we found.

Officer: I'd better check upstairs then.

Officer(s) exit by kitchen.

Mom: George, they took all of our Christmas presents.

Dad plops down onto the couch.

Dad: And the T.V.

Mom: Now what are we going to do?

Dad stands up to console Mom.

Dad: We'll just have to buy some more.

Now Mom gets very upset.

Mom: We can't.

Dad is surprised.

Dad: Why not?

Mom: We don't have any money right now.

Dad: Fine, just use one of the credit cards.

Mom: I can't.

Dad: And why not?

Mom: I've already charged them over our limit.

Dad: What do you mean by *over* the limit? How could you *possibly* have spent that much money! It will take forever to pay it off!

Mom: Well, maybe if you'd quit watching so much T.V. and Christmas shop with me I wouldn't spend so much!

Officer(s) reenters. Realizing he is interrupting the conversation, he clears his throat to announce his presence in the room.

Officer: Ahem. No ones upstairs.

Dad: So what do we do now?

Officer: Not much you can do except fill out this paperwork and contact your insurance company in the morning.

Mom: Then there's no hope we'll get our things back?

Officer: No, not much, even if we do catch the thieves.

Mom starts to cry into Dad's shoulder.

Officer: I'm really sorry, ma'am. I'll let you know if we hear of something or if anything of yours is recovered.

Dad escorts Officer(s) to the door. Officer(s) exit.

Mom: Why would anyone do this?

Dad: I don't know, Dear.

Billy: Why are people so mean?

Dad: It's a terrible world we live in, Billy.

Mom: Yes, terrible!

Dad: I'll tell you one thing. If they catch those thieves we'll make sure they get put away for a long time.

Billy: Yeah! We'll put 'em away for life!

Mom: They certainly do deserve to be punished. I can't believe anyone could be so unkind. They robbed us of our Christmas.

Janie: I can't listen to any more of this. Those thieves didn't steal our Christmas.

Mom: Janie! How can you say that!

Janie talks slowly, without anger but with passion from her heart.

Janie: Christmas isn't presents or things. It's caring and sharing with people the hope we have in Christ. It's giving from the heart. We're robbed ourselves of the peace and joy by our busyness and our indifference to others. Like when we turned Rita away. We're ALL thieves.

Billy: I'm not a thief!

Janie: You're the worst one, of all! You steal from Jesus himself. All you talk about is Santa this and Santa that and what YOU want! What about what Jesus wants? Doesn't anyone think about Him anymore?

Janie exits to her room in frustrated tears.

Brad: Come on Susie, help me get Grandma up to her room.

Susie: Sure. Come on Grandma. It's time for bed.

Grandma: But I'm not cold.

Susie, Brad and Grandma exit.

Mom: Billy, I think you had better get ready for bed too.

Billy: But mom...

Dad: Billy, do what your mother says.

Billy: But...

Dad: NOW, Billy!

Billy exits to his room. Mom and Dad sit on the couch in silence.

Mom: Janie's right, you know.

Dad: I'm afraid so.

Mom: I've been so caught up in all the things to do, I've forgotten why we celebrate Christmas.

Dad: And I haven't gotten involved at all. I felt bringing home the paycheck was enough.

Mom sheepishly.

Mom: Enough for me to overspend it.

Dad: What makes you buy so much anyway?

Mom: I guess I feel the more gifts or more expensive the gift, the more love I'm showing.

Dad: Then you sure love us a lot!

Dad chuckles and puts his arm around Mom.

Mom: Now what will we do for Christmas?

Dad gets up and paces the floor while thinking.

Dad: Kids! Come down here, right now!

Mom: George, what are you doing?

Dad: What I should have been doing for years.

Mom: What's that?

Dad: Being the head of this family.

Janie and Billy enter in their robes. Susie and Brad come downstairs, still dressed.

Janie: Mom, Dad, I'm really sorry for blowing up like that.

Dad: Don't be sorry. Your mother and I have been talking and what you said is absolutely true. Come sit down. We've got some decisions to make.

All sit.

Brad: What decisions?

Dad: Well, we have one week until Christmas.

Billy: But no presents.

Brad: Or money.

Dad: Exactly! So we need to decide how we can remake Christmas without money or presents.

Brad: In one week?

Susie: Without any money or presents?

Dad: Right! So What can we do?

All pause to think to themselves.

Janie: I know! We can help people.

Dad: That's a great way to start. Who can we help?

Susie: We could visit those who are shut in or people in nursing homes.

Billy: I could draw pictures to give them when we visit.

Dad: Great idea, Billy!

Billy Beams.

Mom: I could always make some more cookies to give to the kids in the foster home.

Janie: And I could clean house or babysit for people.

Dad: I can do those house repairs for old Mrs. Smith.

Brad: I can help you, Dad.

Mom and Dad in unison.

Mom/Dad: And RITA!

Mom: Janie, you invite Rita to stay here with us for Christmas Eve.

Janie: Really?

Dad: Really. Now let's all get to sleep so we can start tomorrow.

All get up to go to bed.

Billy: But Dad? What about our presents to each other?

Dad: That will take some special consideration.

Dad walks across the stage with his arm around Billy and pats his hand on Billy's chest.

Dad: Think from your heart, Billy and I'm sure you'll come up with something.  
Now, up to bed.

Lights out.

#### SCENE 5

Living room after dinner on Christmas Eve. Mom and

Brad: Great dinner, Mom.

Billy: I can't believe Christmas Eve is finally here! When can we open presents?

Susie: Presents? What presents?

Billy: The ones I have to give.

Mom: We'll wait for Rita, she should be here soon.

Billy: Where did Dad go?

Dad enters carrying gifts.

Billy: No presents, huh Susie?

Rita knocks on the door.

Mom: That's probably Rita now.

Janie answers the door. Rita enters with bags of gifts.

Janie: Rita! What have you done?

Rita: Just a little shopping.

All sit and open her gifts to the family.

Rita: Here Billy, you can go first.

Billy: No, that's okay. Janie should go first.

Rita: All right.

Janie, opens an iPad.

Janie: Oh, Rita! An iPad! You shouldn't have!

Rita: But I did and you two get one too!

Rita passes out wrapped iPads to them and then hands out all the rest of her gifts.

Rita: Here you go.

Billy opens some video games. Mom gets a Kitchen Aid mixer for her baking.

Rita takes out a warm blanket or Snuggie and wraps it around Grandma.

Rita: And this polar fleece blanket will keep you nice and warm!

Rita: Oh, and your big screen T.V. will be here on Monday.

Dad: Oh, Rita!

Mom: Rita, what an amazing and generous thing you have done for us!

Rita: But you've given me the best present ever!

Mom: We have?

Rita: If people only knew how sad and lonely the Holidays are when they're spent alone. I don't need things. I need the love you and your family have shown me by having me here, tonight.

Reflective silence.

Grandma: Well then, we do have a few gifts to open. Here's one.

Grandma hands an extra large bag to Mom. Mom pulls out a large, hand knitted afghan.

Mom: An afghan!

Grandma: Yes, so you can quit worrying if I'm cold all the time!

All laugh.

Janie: Can Susie and I go next?

Dad: Sure.

Janie gets out her guitar from behind the couch.

Susie: It's a song we wrote.

Janie/Susie sings "God's Gift" by Karena Krull. Grandma/Grandpa tap her/his foot to the beat of the music. Everyone applauds when they finish.

Mom: Thank you, girls. That was very special.

Brad: Here's mine to all of you.

Brad takes his car keys out of his pocket, holds them up and jingles them.

Brad: I'll drive you guys around and run errands for Mom and Dad when needed.

All thank Brad. Billy jumps up.

Billy: Mine next!

Billy hands out his gifts to everyone.

Susie: Masking tape?

Billy: Yep! To use every time I argue or say unkind things!

Brad in jest while holding up his masking tape.

Brad: Are you sure this is enough?

All laugh. Mom hugs Billy.



Mom: That's a wonderful gift. Here's one for Rita.

Rita: For me?

Rita opens her gift.

Rita: The key to your home! Thank you!

Mom: You're always welcome in our home.

Dad: Guess it's my turn.

Dad stands up with his arms out, offering himself to them.

Dad: Here I am kids!

Janie: You mean it, Dad?

Dad: Yes. I'm going to quit watching so much T.V. and do more with you kids.

Billy jumps up.

Billy: Yippee!

Brad: Really, Dad?

Susie: Wow!

Janie: Thanks, Dad!

Mom: And here's mine to all of you.

Billy pulls a stop sign out of a large gift bag as the other siblings look on.

Brad: A stop sign?

Mom: Whenever I say I'm too busy, this sign will stop me!

Grandma: I need a green one to get me going!

Everyone laughs.

Janie: But what about Mom?

Dad: I haven't forgotten your mother.

Mom opens her gift and pauses looking at it.

Billy: What is it?

Mom chuckling.

Mom: It's your father's watch.

Mom holds up the watch and sees the note inside the box.

Mom: I haven't got a penny.  
No, not a single dime.  
And so this Christmas season  
I'm giving you my time!

Oh, how sweet!

Mom and Dad hug.

Mom: And here's mine to you, dear.

Dad opens gift.

Dad: Cut up...credit cards.

Dad holds up cut up credit cards for the audience to see.

Laughter.

Mom: I think this has been a very special Christmas.

Dad: Best one I can remember.

Billy: Wait! It's not over! I have one more present to give!

Billy exits.

Rita: I wonder what he's up to?

Susie: You never know with Billy.

Billy enters dressed as a present, carry a very large cardboard heart.

Brad:           What are you dressed like that for?

Billy:           I'm giving myself to Jesus as His birthday present.

Billy takes down his Christmas stocking and replaces it with the cardboard heart.

Billy:           And giving Him my heart so Santa Claus won't steal from His birthday anymore!

Knock on the front door. Dad goes to answer.

Officer:        I'm sorry to disturb your evening but I thought you'd be glad to know that we arrested the Christmas thieves who robbed you.

Mom:           Who is it, George?

Dad:           Officer Brent.

Mom:           Well, invite him in! Don't just let him stand out there in the cold.

Dad ushers Officer Brent into living room.

Officer:        As I was telling your husband, we've arrested the thieves who robbed you. If you'll just fill out these papers you can press charges.

Mom:           Press charges?

Officer:        Yes, Ma'am. So you can prosecute them.

Mom:           Prosecute them! Why, we should thank them!

Officer scratches his head.

Officer:        I'm afraid I don't understand.

Mom:           You see, Officer, those thieves didn't rob us of anything important. We robbed ourselves of the peace and joy of this season by our busyness and apathy.

Dad:           Every year we spend all our time and energy on traditional "things" of Christmas instead of Christ. Those were the real Christmas thieves.

Officer not quite understanding.

Officer: Well...I see... Merry Christmas then.

Officer walks to door scratching his head.

Dad: Merry Christmas!

Dad returns to living room, picks up Bible and slowly reads Luke 2:11-14.

Dad: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men

Finale song: "May This Be a Place"

Dad begins the finale song. Mom joins in, then the other cast members.

Audience can also join in by using an overhead projector with the words on it.

The End

## Director's Notes

Characters:	Dad/George	
	Mom	
	Janie	14-16 Year Teenage Daughter
	Susie	10-12 Year Old Daughter
	Brad	16-18 Year Old Son
	Billy	5-6 Year Old Son
	Rita	Janie's Goth Friend
	Police Officer(s)	1 or 2 Officers
	Grandma	
	Thieves	Actors or Stage Crew

Costumes: All actors wear current clothes styles. Coats for all characters, apron for Mom, all black Goth looking outfit for Rita, Police type outfit.

Characters: Children are all respectful.  
 Mom, although frazzled is sweet and kind.  
 Dad although oblivious to his lack of involvement works hard for his family.  
 Rita, who looks tough and hard, is a good teenager who lacks love at home.

### Scene 1

Prop List: Fake Christmas tree, tree stand, ornaments, small white lights, icicle tinsel, couch, end table, table lamp, fireplace with hearth, 6 Christmas stockings, TV, TV remote, Kitchen counter, cookie baking utensils, cookie sheets, cookies, cookie plate, rocking chair, knitting needles, knitted afghan, coat rack, telephone, wrapped gifts.

Costumes: Coats for all characters, apron for Mom, all black Goth looking outfit for Rita.

Music: Deck The Halls

## Scene 2

Prop List: Same as Scene 1

Costumes: Same as Scene 1

Music: Christmas Is a Time To Love

## Scene 3

Prop List: Same as Scene 1.

Costumes: 2 angel, one shepherd, Thieves or stage crew dressed in black.

Music: Silent Night

## Scene 4

Prop List: Police clipboard, papers, and pen.

Costumes: Police type hat, badge, blue shirt, black slacks.

Lights: Dimmed.

Music:

## Scene 5

Prop List 3 wrapped iPads, warm blanket or throw, several cut up credit cards, pocket or large wrist watch, poem on paper, finished afghan, guitar or two, sheet music "God's Gift", set of car keys, house key on key ring, 6 wrapped masking tape, large stop sign, large box for Billy to put on, large cardboard heart.

Costumes: Family and Rita same as Scene 1, Police type hat, badge, blue shirt, black slacks.

Music: God's Gift, May This Be a Place.

Notes: