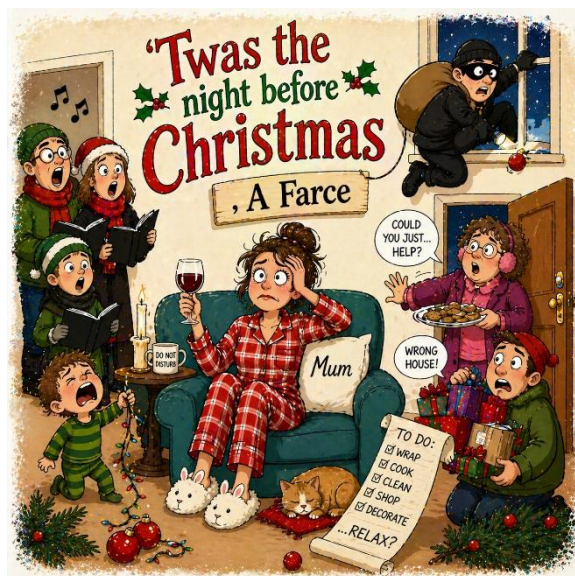


'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS – FREE PREVIEW PDF

'Twas The Night Before Christmas



Written By Jodie-Lee Wilde

Produced By The Script Locker

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Official Short Scene Pack

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WELCOME TO THE SCRIPT LOCKER

Thank you for checking out 'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas The Night Before Christmas' is a fast-paced comedy farce designed for schools, performing arts academies, youth theatres, and drama groups looking for a fun, engaging performance piece with plenty of larger-than-life characters and laugh-out-loud moments.

Created by performing arts teachers, this scene pack is designed to be flexible and easy to stage. Characters can be adapted, doubled, expanded, or adjusted to suit your cast size and production needs, allowing you to make the performance your own.

INCLUDED IN THE SCENE PACK

- Editable Script Document
- PDF Script Copy
- Synopsis
- Character Breakdown
- Character List & Approximate Line Count
- Logo & Promotional Artwork

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This scene has been written with simplicity and flexibility in mind. Minimal staging is required, making it ideal for showcases, drama festivals, classroom performances, youth theatre productions, and end-of-term presentations.

The scene can be performed with simple costume pieces and props or expanded into a larger production depending on your available resources.

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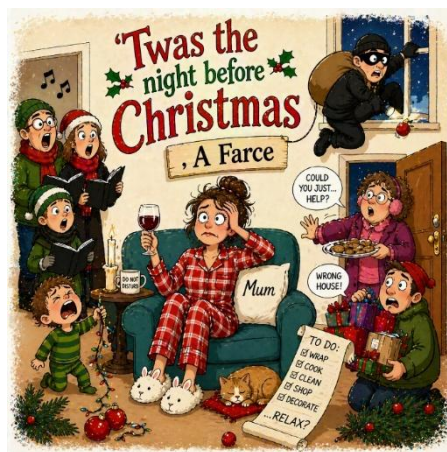
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'Twas The Night Before Christmas – A Farce

Synopsis

On Christmas Eve, Sharon is looking forward to a peaceful night: the presents are wrapped, the turkey is in the oven, the children are in bed, and all that's left to do is relax with a glass of wine. But her plans quickly unravel as a stream of unexpected visitors descend upon her home. From her vegan daughter Jemima and a neighbour's oversized turkey, to a drunken husband, a surprise family reunion, stranded carol singers, bungling burglars, over-enthusiastic firefighters, and an eccentric Australian sister, chaos erupts at every turn. As misunderstandings multiply, the neighbour's Christmas dinner catches fire, secrets are revealed, and the entire neighbourhood seems to end up crammed into Sharon's living room. Packed with mistaken identities, slapstick comedy, festive mishaps, and larger-than-life characters, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas is a heartwarming Christmas farce that celebrates family, friendship, and finding joy amid complete holiday mayhem.



CHARACTER OVERVIEW

The Family

Sharon - The organised but long-suffering mum who simply wants a quiet Christmas Eve. Calm, caring and endlessly patient... until the festive chaos finally pushes her to breaking point.

Danny - The charming and easy-going eldest son. A natural peacemaker who keeps everyone smiling, even when everything is falling apart.

Molly & Maisie - Two mischievous sisters full of energy, curiosity and festive excitement. Their playful antics and quick wit bring plenty of comedy throughout the show.

Jemima - The family's passionate new vegan. Fiercely committed to her beliefs, Jemima unintentionally creates some of the funniest moments with her unwavering determination.

Paula - Sharon's eccentric Australian sister. Larger than life, wonderfully unpredictable and bursting with personality wherever she goes.

Dad - Sharon's practical but slightly absent-minded husband, whose late arrival rounds off the evening's mayhem.

The Neighbours

Jackie - Highly strung, dramatic and never far from a crisis. When her Christmas dinner plans go wrong, everyone else gets swept into the chaos.

Mickey - Jackie's lovable but hopeless husband. More interested in the pub than problem-solving, Mickey somehow manages to make every situation even worse.



The Carol Singers - A lively group of neighbours, each with their own unique personality. From festive enthusiasts to reluctant cynics, they bring warmth, humour and plenty of Christmas spirit to the story.

Nick - A kind-hearted stranger who unexpectedly becomes part of the evening's events. Calm, thoughtful and quietly charming, Nick reminds everyone what Christmas is really about.

The Burglars & The Firefighters

Billy & Paul - An incompetent pair of burglars who choose the wrong house to rob. Their failed attempts at crime provide some of the play's biggest laughs.

Carla & Lorna - A comedy double act. Carla is calm, capable and professional, while Lorna's enthusiasm often outweighs her common sense.



SCRIPT SAMPLE

‘T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(A living room decorated ready for Christmas. A sofa is in the middle of the stage with a small table next to it. MOLLY and MAISIE enter in a strop shouting to SHARON who is off-stage)

MOLLY – Mum, Jemima’s ruining our fun AGAIN!!

MAISIE – All we wanted to do was watch the final of ‘I’m A Celebrity’ and she’s kicking off saying it’s as bad as watching a horror film!

(JEMIMA enters looking righteous)

JEMIMA – If you think watching a cockroach massacre is entertainment then you’re as sick as that awful Ant and Dec!

MOLLY – *(To MAISIE)* I’m so bored of this vegan, vegetarian, happy clappy phase Jemima’s going through.

JEMIMA – I heard that!

MOLLY – You were meant to.

JEMIMA – *(Defensively)* It’s really important to me and is certainly NOT a phase!!

MAISIE – Oh great!!!

MOLLY – Haven’t you got anything better to do than follow us around?

JEMIMA – Actually I need to go and check that Mum’s remembered that I’m not eating turkey anymore.

MAISIE – Ok you do that. *(To MOLLY)* Come on let’s go. If we’re lucky we might see someone throw up again!!

(MOLLY and MAISIE exit. SHARON enters)

JEMIMA – Mum, you have remembered that I’m a vegan now?

SHARON – *(Calmly)* Yes Jemima.



JEMIMA – So, no turkey for me.

SHARON – No turkey for you.

JEMIMA – Or cauliflower cheese.

SHARON – Or cauliflower cheese.

JEMIMA – Or Yorkshire pudding.

SHARON – Or Yorkshire pudding.

JEMIMA – And those ghastly *(She stops herself being sick)* pigs in blankets.
All these big corporate companies trying to make them sound
cute.... It's just disgusting.

SHARON – *(Winding her up)* So you don't want any of them...?

JEMIMA – *(Horried)* MUM! What a question!

SHARON – Jemima, I'm winding you up! I've got a nut roast, just for you.
(Thinking) Although I haven't got any vegetarian gravy...

JEMIMA - Mum! I need gravy!

SHARON – Well you'll have to pop up the shop and get some. If you go now,
you'll make it before they close.

JEMIMA – Oh, but Mum...

SHARON – 'Oh but Mum' what? You better get going! *(She gets some money
out of her purse and gives it to JEMIMA)* Here you go.

JEMIMA – Mum that had better not be one of those new five pound notes...?
They're made using animal fat don't you know!

SHARON – *(Getting tired with her)* Jemima, it's that or nothing.

(JEMIMA takes it huffing, putting her coat on)

JEMIMA – *(Mumbling to herself)* If you want something doing, do it yourself
(She exits)



SHARON – *(Shouting off to her)* Don't forget your key! *(She hears the door slam)* Kids... Honestly! *(She exits)*

...

(They hide behind the sofa but slowly stand listening to the singing. Off-stage we hear CAROL SINGERS)

CAROL SINGERS – *(Faintly in the background)*

*'Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in Heavenly peace'*

SHARON – *(Enters looking towards the door off-stage)* That was lovely. Let me just go and get some money for you.

(MOLLY and MAISIE duck behind the sofa. SHARON goes to her bag and gets some money out. She exits. MOLLY and MAISIE stand up.)

MOLLY & MAISIE – *(Looking at each other)* That was a close one!

(SHARON re-enters. MOLLY and MAISIE duck down again. SHARON sits on the sofa)

SHARON – Right, let's try this again. *(She puts the TV on. The doorbell goes)*
You have got to be joking! *(She pauses the TV and goes to the door)*

MICKEY – *(Entering looking worse for wear. He pushes past SHARON)* Hello there my favorite next door neighbor!

SHARON – Mickey, you've got the wrong house... AGAIN!

MICKEY – *(Amused, looking around)* I thought it looked a little different and then when you, the angel Gabriel answered the door I knew it was the wrong house... but I didn't care.



SHARON – Mickey, Jackie is going to kill you if she finds out you're here. You need to go straight home.

MICKEY – *(Sitting on the sofa)* Oh, who cares what she thinks the miserable old wench. *(SHARON looks horrified)* Well come on. Don't pretend like you don't all think it.

SHARON – Mickey, it's Christmas Eve you need to go home. Mickey... Mickey... *(MICKEY has fallen asleep on the sofa)* Oh give me strength. *(She goes off to get a glass of water)*

(MOLLY and MAISIE jump up and start tapping MICKEY on the head etc. MICKEY, still asleep bats their hands away)

MOLLY – Hahaha

MAISIE – Molly, stop, or he'll wake up.

MOLLY – So...

(They duck back down as SHARON re-enters holding a glass of water)

SHARON – Now Mickey, I'm going to need you to sit up and drink this water for me.

MICKEY – Water... I don't want water!

SHARON – I think you need it.

MICKEY – No, no, no. What I NEED is to use the bathroom.

SHARON – Well, let me help you to the downstairs one.

MICKEY – Fantastic. No stairs!!

SHARON – Exactly. Let's go.

(SHARON exits holding onto a very drunk MICKEY. MOLLY and MAISIE pop up)

MOLLY – Come on let's go back up to bed. Or Mum will seriously kill us!

MAISIE – Alright then. But I really did hear footsteps before.



(They both exit. The phone rings. SHARON runs in and picks up)

SHARON – *(Hopefully)* Hello... Oh hi. I thought you might be Danny. Whereabouts are you now? What do you mean the van's broken down? *(Annoyed)* Oh, this is just typical. Ok, ok. *(Looking off to where MICKEY is)* Well, I'm a bit tied up at the moment. Just keep me posted as to where you are. Yeah, ok. Bye.

MICKEY – *(Entering)* Something smells amazing. What is it?

SHARON – It's YOUR turkey Mickey. Jackie had a bit of a disaster earlier. Your oven broke so she's cooking it here.

...

MOLLY – Danny is everything ok?

(Silence)

MAISIE – Danny...

PAULA – *(From off-stage)* Duck *(She throws a foam boomerang onto the stage. It falls to the floor. Everyone ducks their heads. PAULA enters like a whirlwind and picks up the boomerang)* The damn thing never works. *(She throws it off. After a few seconds she looks around as the boomerang hits her in the head)* Well I'll be darned. Anyway, yoo-hoo family. *(She looks around and sees MAISIE and MOLLY)* Well, jump in my pouch and call me skippy I can't believe that's my little Molly and Maisie. Look at you pair. All grown up. Makes your Aunt Paula feel a hundred years old. *(She hugs them both)* Oooo don't squeeze too hard girlyies. Auntie P hasn't been to the dunny for quite some time. In fact, Danny I need to go and drop the kids off in the pool. Point me in the right direction hunny bun you know what Auntie P's like. I can't remember! *(DANNY and PAULA exits)*

DEBBIE – Who let Dame Edna in?

JENNY – I dunno. But I think she's FABULOUS!

KRISTY – I wish she were my Aunt.



LUCY – Really?

KRISTY – Really!

(SHARON enters looking at the phone, mumbling to herself)

SHARON – I can't believe how useless the AA are. It's Christmas Eve for....

PAULA – *(From behind SHARON)* Shaza...

(SHARON looks surprised and excited all at the same time)

SHARON – Paza...

(They both turn and run to each other. They hug. SAM starts to sniff the air and smells burning)

SHARON – What are you doing here?

PAULA – Thought I'd surprise you with a little cheeky visit. Call me an early Christmas prezzie. Although, I hope you've got a jumper I can borrow. I'm freezing my shrimps off here.

SAM – Sorry to interrupt the moment but *(Sniffs)* can anyone else smell burning?

CARRIE – I was thinking the same thing.

SHARON – Burning...? *(She realizes)* Oh no! *(She runs out)*

(The doorbell goes. DANNY goes to answer it. LORNA and CARLA run in)

LORNA – Move back, move back.

CARLA – Come on, get out of the way!

LORNA – Nobody panic. Get down on the floor!

(EVERYONE looks around and does as they're told. BILLY and PAUL enter)

PAUL – What's going on?

LORNA – GET DOWN!!!



BILLY – Just do as you’re told idiot!

CARLA – Where are we going?

(EVERYONE laying on the floor points to the kitchen. CARLA runs over)

CARLA – Lorna, pass me the water!!!

(LORNA looks around and grabs the glass of wine, hands it to CARLA who throws it off-stage)

CARLA – LORNA!!! That wasn’t water... it was WINE!!!!

LORNA – Sorry Carla. I just grabbed the first thing I saw.

CARLA – Alcohol and fire DO NOT MIX!!!! QUICK! We need water!

(SHARON enters holding the black turkey)

LORNA – Here!! *(She passes MICKEY’S glass of water to CARLA who throws it on the turkey but misses and covers SHARON. EVERYONE looks on in silence. The doorbell goes. EVERYONE looks at each other. PAUL gets up and goes to the door. JACKIE enters looking panicked)*

JACKIE – What on EARTH is going on in here? *(She sees the turkey)* MY TURKEY!!!!

MOLLY – Your turkey...? What about my Mum!!

DANNY – Are you ok Mum?

(SHARON nods her head looking bewildered)

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