

“The Junk Man's Christmas Dinner” Preview Sample #4

Announcer: Suddenly there was a knock at the door, surprising Andy for the second time today. Standing, he hoped that whoever it was didn't need food, because he was fresh out. The knocking was persistent, so he went to the door and opened it gingerly. The man and woman that were standing there, holding their coats tightly against the cold wind, told him they were looking for someone that was lost, and asked if he had seen a man recently wandering through the area. Nodding, and telling them that he had, Andy moved aside and indicated his guest, lying on the cot. With happiness the man and woman hurried in, rushing to the man and embracing him.

After the emotion and relief of the reunion, the man stood and made a call on his cell phone, After a brief conversation, he turned back to Frank, who told them how he had been lost, and how new new friend Andy had taken him in and saved his life. Turning to Andy with a grateful handshake and a warm thank-you, the man introduced himself, and told Andy that the man was his father. After an accident nearly a decade ago, he had some recurring health problems, and during these bouts he would become forgetful and occasionally confused, and had to go stay in an assisted living facility in the next town over. He had been reported missing this morning, and he and his wife and the authorities had been searching for him ever since. They had covered the roads and woods between the facility and their home, and hoped for the best when they saw the lights in the shed. They were going to take him to their home for Christmas, as they had promised him, but he had forgotten that and thought of the facility as a homeless shelter that he wanted to get out of.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) *When Frank is finally sitting upright, looking stronger and more alert than when he had come in, the woman goes to Andy and hugs him in appreciation. They talk a moment as the man helps his father put on a coat they had brought with them. The woman leans toward her husband and asks him something, and they look back at Andy. The man nods, and the wife goes back over to him, inviting him to come home with them for the holidays. Frank reinforces the notion, motioning for him to come with them. Andy is touched, wiping an appreciative tear from his eye as he nods and puts on his coat. As the man goes to help his father stand up, Andy stops him, and helps him up himself. Frank smiles as he stands, clapping his free hand on Andy's, as they are arm in arm. They walk toward the door, which the man's son opens for them, and they go out carefully. The man turns off a lamp, and then, taking his wife's hand, they look at each other with warmth as they see the friendship that has formed before them. Then they go out behind them, closing the door.*

Announcer: The man's wife then stood and gave Andy a grateful hug, thanking him for taking care of her father-in-law. Seeing that Frank was now sitting up, she went to her husband and whispered in his ear. Looking back at Andy, the man smiled and nodded in agreement. Coming back to his side, she put a hand on Andy's arm and asked if he would come home with them for the Christmas holidays. Supper was waiting on all of them, and they would love to have him join them. Frank, smiling now and in greater possession of his faculties, motioned to Andy, insisting that he come with them, and have a real Christmas dinner with all the fixings. It didn't take any consideration of the invitation to give an answer, as Andy knew now not to close the door on an answer to prayer, however it came about. So, as Frank's son went to lend him a hand in getting up, Andy put a hand on his arm and stopped him. Then, reaching down and putting an arm under Frank's, he pulled him to his feet, steadying him as the man smiled. Then, as the man's son opened the door, Andy and Frank walked out together, both strengthened by their new friendship.