

Sample Pages Set #2

"Mrs. Jolly's Christmas Guest"

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(Note: the original song by Heartflight "Through the Window" plays as she stands outside looking up at their happy scene, underscoring her sadness and loneliness.)

Actions during the song: *We see Matilda walk down in front of the stage portraying the living room, looking up at them and watching the happy scene through the window wistfully. After standing a few moments, Matilda puts her head down, her hands in her pockets, and slowly walks across the front of the audience floor level in front of the stage. Her loneliness is being contrasted to the love of the family and their happiness inside. After walking across the floor in front of the stage looking up at them, we see her reach her own home, where the table and chair are. She sits down sadly, and slowly adds some decorations to a very tiny Christmas tree on the table. She continues to do this as the action is seen onstage, but then, puts down the decoration in her hand and leans on her arm, obviously overcome with sadness and is crying, with her head down on her arms. After a few moments, she lifts her head, wipes her eyes, then folds her hands in her lap and sits quietly with her head bowed. This way, we never really forget her being alone there.*

Narrator: But for others, who are all alone, Christmas Eve can be one of the saddest. Especially when everywhere around them they see families rejoicing in each others company.

(As the song ends, with Matilda putting her head down on her arm, the focus shifts back to the main stage.)

Actions during the next paragraph: *Her Daughter-in-law brings out a wrapped present, and she and her son hand it to Mrs. Jolly, explaining as she sits down. Mrs. Jolly suddenly remembers that she has something on the stove that needs checked. She leaves to look after it, and the daughter-in-law's cell phone rings. As the kids are playing, she moves aside to take the call.*

NOTE: *No need to have anyone opening presents. Just visiting at this point. When the family leaves unexpectedly, they take their unopened presents with them.)*

Narrator: Before anyone opened any of their presents, her daughter-in-law gives Mrs. Jolly their present to her, and he son says that she gets to open her present first, As she does, removing the wrappings, she sees that they have bought her a fancy new Bible. Expressing her happiness over the thoughtful gift, she hugs both her son and her daughter-in-law. Amid the happy chattering as the kids began gathering the presents with their name on them from under the tree, Mrs. Jolly suddenly remembered that she had to check on the bird in the oven and other things cooking on the stove. Off she bustled, as the kids went back to trying to guess what was in each package. While she was gone, her daughter-in-law's cell phone began to ring, and she moved away from the chattering kids to take the call.

(NOTE: TRACK #2 BEGINS HERE.)

Actions during the piece of music: *As the music plays, the scene is carried by the actions, and **there is no narration needed.** We see her speaking on the phone with someone, and after a few moments, she hangs up with a resigned attitude. She takes her husband aside so that the kids won't hear, and discusses the call with him, causing him to get upset. They converse quietly, but you can tell by their attitudes and motions that they are tense and in disagreement over something. The wife is adamant, and it appears that the husband gives in, with slumped shoulders.*

(Actions during the next paragraph.) *Just then the grandmother comes back in wiping her hands on her apron, and announces that dinner will be ready before too long. The downcast son takes her aside, as his wife kneels down and begins to talk to the kids. The grandmother's face shows first concern, then confusion, then disbelief, as he gives her the bad news. The daughter-in-law's mother is insisting that they come spend Christmas Eve with her, instead of the next day.*

Narrator: As Mrs. Jolly came back into the room, smiling, she announced that the turkey was nearly done, and they could be eating in about half hour. But when she saw how her son and daughter-in-law were looking, she

knew something was up. Reluctantly, her son told her that the call had been from his wife's mother, who lived in an apartment in the city projects. She wanted them to spend Christmas Eve with her this year, instead of the next day as usual. She was insisting on it, said her son, and the daughter had been unable to tell her no, and he had lost the argument with her over going. Regretfully, he explained that they had to leave now, without eating Christmas dinner with her. Distressed over this unexpected development, and the unfair demand, Mrs. Jolly tried to persuade him to take up for her, but he just apologized and said that he had to go along with it to keep the peace over the holiday.

Actions during the next paragraph: *The children are disappointed also, but get up and move to where the mother helps them put on their coats. They pick up their presents to take them with them, as the son continues to try and reason with his mother, who is visibly upset. She crosses the room to confront the daughter-in-law, as the son tries to prevent her, and they have words. Both angry, the grandmother hugs the tearful children, herself in tears, before the mother hustles them all out the door without speaking to her any more. The son is apologetic, but his mother is angry, and he leaves sadly. As she stands in the open doorway watching them leave, Mrs. Jolly begins to cry, wiping her tears with the apron.*

Narrator: As the daughter-in-law got the children ready to go, over their protests, Mrs. Jolly pushed past her son and confronted his wife over her forcing them to all leave. The fact that her son tried to intervene and prevent her from doing so only upset her more, and angry words were exchanged. Both of them said things that were hurtful, and the children were starting to cry over the conflict

(A piece of music underscores the tense drama for a few moments.)