

What a Doll - A Christmas Comedy

A 5-minute play

By Michele Clarke

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOM, early 30s, tired but happy, she loves Christmas

DAD, early 30s, more tired, ready to be done

YOUNG DAUGHTER, 4, curious, cute, determined

OLDER SISTER, 10, loves bikes

SETTING

A softly lit living room on Christmas Eve.

Between 1 and 2 am.

SCENE: A LIVING ROOM ON CHRISTMAS EVE BETWEEN 1AM AND 2AM

AT RISE: A softly lit living room on Christmas Eve. MOM, visibly tired, sits waiting on a rug amidst wrapping supplies and paper remnants. A bike with a bow on it sits beside a tree. Wrapped gifts are under the tree. Christmas music plays quietly.

DAD enters with a box.

MOM

Did you find it okay? It took you a while.

DAD

Yeh, I forgot we put it in the attic over the garage. The girls okay?

MOM

Sound asleep.

DAD

Great.

MOM takes the box and lays it between them as DAD sits down.

MOM

Last one. I am so ready to be done.

DAD

Me too. Let's do this.

MOM opens the box and takes out a very large doll.

MOM

Hello Dancing Debbie. I had to go to four stores before I found you.

(to DAD)

Even Amazon was sold out.

DAD smiles, takes a battery pack and directions from the box and starts to read.

MOM

Do we really need to read the directions, honey? It's so late. Can't we just be put the batteries in and figure it out in the morning?

DAD

Well... sure. How complicated can it be?

DAD looks for a battery compartment. MOM chooses wrapping paper.

MOM

Next year, I think I'm going to start shopping in July. Do you think it's too soon to ask the kids to make their lists on the last day of school?

DAD

Are you kidding? They'd love that. *(beat)* Here it is.

DAD inserts the batteries. Loud electronic music fills the room.

MOM grabs the doll and searches frantically for a switch. DAD tries to help.

They fumble over each other and the toy.

MOM

Seriously?!... Where is it?!

DAD

I don't know-- I don't know!

As they fumble, DAD pulls his hand off the doll and accidentally slaps MOM across the face.

MOM grasps her cheek as she falls back.

MOM

Ow!

DAD lurches to help Mom. The doll flies out of his hands and lands on the floor.

With the impact, the music gets louder.

In the commotion, groggy YOUNG DAUGHTER, barefoot in a Christmas nightgown, appears in a doorway.

After a moment, she darts across the stage to hide behind a chair. She is not seen by MOM or DAD,

MOM crosses quickly to close an interior door. DAD picks up the doll.

MOM

Honey, oh my gosh, the girls are gonna wake up--

DAD

I know!--

YOUNG DAUGHTER backs up a little to hide further behind the chair.

DAD finds the switch up under the doll's clothes.

DAD

Found it!

He flips the switch. It's quiet except for the Christmas music.

Both pause - a little stunned.

YOUNG DAUGHTER quietly laughs, still hiding behind the chair.

MOM crosses back to DAD and sits close. They lean on each other, limp, for a beat.

MOM

Well, it could be worse. At least the girls didn't wake up.

DAD

Seriously. Okay, let's get this wrapped.

MOM smooths the doll's tousled hair and straightens its clothes. DAD gathers wrapping supplies.

They wrap the toy.

MOM

I've changed my mind. This doll is now from you and me. Santa will have to live with the disappointment.

DAD

Can you do that?

MOM writes something with a marker on the wrapped gift.

MOM

I just did. Hey, I was there when she told Mall Santa what she wanted. I'll just say I told him we'd take care of that one if she asks.

DAD

She's not gonna ask.

MOM

Exactly.

They smile as DAD puts the gift under the tree. MOM cleans up the remnant paper and tools.

They stand and gently kiss.

DAD

Let's get some sleep.

MOM

(looks at AD's watch)

Well, take a nap anyway.

They exit.

YOUNG DAUGHTER leans out from behind the chair. Seeing no one, she scurries to the gift, opens it, takes out the doll, and - yup - turns on the music.

Loud music begins. She's delighted.

OLDER SISTER appears in the doorway, squinting against the light. She spots a bike, lets out a squeal, and runs quickly to it.

MOM and DAD appear at the door.

Loud music continues to play.

OLDER SISTER

(yelling)

Mom! Dad! Santa was here! Can we open presents now?

SOUND OFF + BLACKOUT

CURTAIN