

## Remember Christmas?

By Teresa McClintock

### SCENE ONE: DRAWING A BLANK

*Stage is set like a Christmas Special TV Show stage, ready for dress rehearsal, with Christmas lights and many other Christmas decorations; a sign saying "Remember Christmas? - Dress Rehearsal Today at \_\_\_\_" (fill in the time of your performance); microphones, music stands, or any other instruments or sound equipment your singers/musicians will be using; a tall chair or stool DSL next to a tall desk or table with a laptop on it.*

*Just as the play is ready to begin, Mr. Christy seats the different acts that will be performing as part of this dress rehearsal, in the front area of the audience.*

#### **PLAY TRACK.** RC Intro

*As fast paced Christmas music starts, the director of the rehearsal, TONI Blank, enters stage and checks out the set, followed by her pleasant, highly intellectual, and organized secretary, MS. NOEL. She regularly consults her laptop for information on the songs and performers. Music fades as NOEL takes her place on the stool and opens up the laptop.*

*TONI paces around nervously, looking over her shoulder occasionally.*

TONI

Ms. Noel, are we anywhere near ready for this rehearsal? I don't really have time to waste. I have more important things to do.

NOEL

Yes, m'am, Ms. Blank. According to my calculations, all the winners of the National Hometown Christmas Talent Search have arrived from points across America - precisely on time, in spite of the holiday delays. If I'm not mistaken, they are all in the audience area of the studio right now, waiting for their stage calls.

TONI

(sarcastically)

Hometown talent. Oh boy.

(to himself)

How did I get stuck with this gig?! Just because my uncle owns the studio..... and I happen to owe him a little money...

NOEL

You owe him exactly sixty-two thousand, five hundred and ninety-two dollars...

TONI

(groan)

NOEL

AND thirty eight cents for wrecking his new corvette while trying to drive, drink eggnog, and talk on your cell phone all at the same time on the way home from last year's New Year's Eve party.

TONI

(shushing her)

Okay, okay, Ms. Noel. How do you know all this, anyway?

NOEL

It's my job to know everything that goes on around here, Ms. Blank.

TONI

Just Dandy. Let's get on with the torture - What's the name of this show anyway - "Yet Another Hokey Yuletide Special?".... Or, "More Holiday Hullabaloo," ..... Or, how about - "Survivor - Talent Show Island" ?

NOEL

"Remember Christmas?"

TONI

No, I haven't thought about it in years and really don't care to.

NOEL

(pointing to the sign up stage)

Uh, that's the name of the special, Ms. Blank. "Remember Christmas?"

TONI

(still sarcastic)

Terrific.

(looking at her watch)

Let's get this over with.

NOEL

It could be lots of fun.

TONI

Would that be fun spelled F.U.N. Like the FUN in FUN-ding denied?

NOEL

Budget's already been approved.

*MR. CHRISTY, stage manager, has entered from audience, where he has been checking in each act of performers, and silently moved to right behind BLANK when she yells.*

TONI

Too bad. There goes my way out...

(yelling)

Where's Mr. Christy?

CHRISTY

(smiling pleasantly)

Right here, Ms. Blank.

TONI

(startled, she jumps)

Ah! Don't do that!

CHRISTY

The acts are all ready to go, Ms. Blank. Would you like me to call up the first one?

TONI

Not really, but go ahead.

(aside)

Here we go with “Ted Mac's Amateur Hour - the Lost Episodes...” . “American I- do..n't like it!”

CHRISTY

(nice, loud voice)

Chattanooga Chanting Poetry Maiden, you're up.

*CHRISTY steps down to far DSR after each act he calls and watches pleasantly, occasionally making notes on his clipboard.*

TONI

(to Ms. Noel)

Tell me this isn't happening...

SCENE TWO: POETRY MAIDEN

NOEL

(always factual)

Oh but it is, Boss. First place winner, Chattanooga Christmas Story contest. First prize was a spot on our show.

(she smiles)

TONI

(groan)

*POETRY MAIDEN enters from audience, overly festive in her attire, and fussing about her appearance before she calms down to recites/sing this poem using the tunes from each song represented and blending the phrases together as if it were all one continuous song.*

*Any physical comedic shtick can be used here as she settles down. Changes leading into each new song phrase is marked by ^ .*