

This Thing Is Always in the Way!

A Christmas Skit

by
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Characters:

Sean, teen or young adult brother of Selah
Selah, teen or young adult sister of Sean
Mom or Dad
Two Narrators (optional)

Props:

A wooden manger with enough loose boards that can easily be detached or knocked out of the manger, with two screwed together that can then be formed into a cross at the end of the play.
Some "garage stuff" (box or tub of tangled Christmas garland, boxes, broom, shovel, etc.)
Winter Jackets, one with a hole (or patch that looks like a burnt hole)
Small department store Christmas tree
Ornament on tree in department store
Cell phone (camera)
Bag of groceries
Small table
Cookie mixing bowl, spoon,
Small Christmas Tree (can be same as Dept. Store)
A few wrapped Christmas presents
Whatever you need to make the wooden cross hold together (download sample pictures on this product page)

Scene Changes - can be very simple, can use projection, or make as elaborate as you like. The Narration will help the audience picture the scenes. Using anything that hints at these locations will work.

Shed or shed door (inferred) with junk and the old manger
Department store Christmas display window, interior
A wintry path
A kitchen
Around the Christmas Tree

This Thing Is Always in the Way

*Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of
“Walking in a Winter Wonderland” or other fun
Christmas song.*

Narration and Narrators are optional.

NARRATOR 1

With the coming Christmas Season just around the bend, We’ve a tale for you tonight, a tale of now, and then.

NARRATOR 2

Two kids trying their own way to make the season bright with Christmas decorations or a pretty string of lights.

NARRATOR 1

Picture a pretty little house – with a storage shed that ain’t!
Cluttered with ladders, shovels, and tubs, old broken bikes, and paint.

NARRATOR 2

Which makes the Christmas ornaments hard to find in all that mess.
Perhaps you have a shed like this? Puts your patience to the test!

SCENE 1 – OUTSIDE AUNT GRACIE’S SHED

SELAH

Now, all we have to do is find a few, nice decorations for Aunt Grouchy’s, I mean Aunt Gracie’s Christmas tree. Can’t be that hard, right?

SEAN

Are you kidding? She’s impossible to please! Last Christmas, I brought in everything but the ONE decoration she really wanted. Who knew?

SELAH AND SEAN

Aunt Gracie! That’s who!

SELAH

I remember that crazed “Ho, ho, ho, you’re in trouble now, boy!” look in her eyes.

SEAN

Last Christmas – The Winner of The “Un-Happy Holiday” Award.

SELAH

I almost forgot about that little incident.

SEAN

I didn't. I can't! I've still got the burn hole in my jacket from backing away from her and into the wood stove....

SEAN backs into the manger, re-enacting the incident, and accidentally breaks off a piece.

SEAN

Argh! This happens every Christmas! THIS THING IS ALWAYS IN THE WAY!

SELAH

Without fail.

SEAN

Do they even use whatever this thing is anymore?

SELAH

Who knows?

SELAH AND SEAN

Aunt Grouchy, that's who.

SEAN AND SELAH ad lib complaining but working together as they get the job of gathering decorations done. They move the box of decorations and the garden tools or whatever props were used out of the way and EXIT carrying them, SL.

Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of "a commonly heard retail store Christmas song, i.e. "Last Christmas."

Quick scene change to Department Store display.

NARRATOR 1

Off to Christmas shopping in the local department store, A place to feast your eyes on things and want them more and more.

NARRATOR 2

The siblings find a lovely sight, a special Christmas scene,
But will they even get the point? That remains to be seen.

SCENE 2 – IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE

*The Manger is part of a scene in a store window now.
SELAH and SEAN are shopping inside the store.*

SEAN

My favorite store. This window display is awesome!

SELAH

Don't get sucked in, now. It's just a gimmick to make you wanna buy more presents.

SEAN

Yeah.... Or make you feel bad because last year's tree was so bad...

SELAH

We did the best we could.

SEAN

Yeah, tell it to Aunt Gracie. Hey, look! Isn't that the exact same kind of ornament she was missing last year?

(Reaches for it)

SELAH

(Smacking Sean's hand away)

Hey! You can't just take that off the store tree!

SEAN

Sorry, I got momentarily lost in the Hope and Joy of what a perfect Christmas would be like...

SELAH

(Grabbing the sleeve of Sean's jacket)

You mean one where Aunt Gracie doesn't scare you into burning a hole in this old thing?

SEAN

Hey, I love this old thing. The color brings out the green in my eyes. And so does this tree! Hey, take a picture.

(He poses)

SELAH

Here? Now?

SEAN

Yeah, it's a perfectly Christmas-y spot.

SELAH

It's a store display!

SEAN

And very Christmas-y, like I said.

SELAH

(Looking around for someone who might
object)

You know, you're right. This is a perfect setting. Okay, I'm in too!

They ad lib as they get in place to pose for a selfie. In the process they bump hard into the manger, breaking off another piece.

SELAH

Oh, Man! THIS THING IS ALWAYS IN THE WAY!

VO

Good afternoon shoppers. Free present give-away at the Christmas Tree window display in one minute.

Panicked, SELAH AND SEAN scramble to get away before the store manager catches them. EXIT, SL.

Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of "Jingle Bells."

NARRATOR 1

Shocking.....

They made it through the grocery store without causing any trouble. They ran home bundled against the snow, watching out for puddles.

NARRATOR 2

They came home soon with all the stuff for yummy Christmas treats, caring less about Christmas than the sweets they'll get to eat.

SCENE 3 – ON THE WAY HOME WITH GROCERIES

SEAN and SELAH ENTER singing along. They carry a sack of groceries. They arrive near DSC, by the end of the song.

SEAN AND SELAH

...In a one horse open sleigh. Hey!

SEAN

All this running and shlusshing around is wearing me out.

SELAH

Yeah, running away from a mad department store manager will do that...
My "dogs" are tired.

(Looks down at her feet)

SELAH

Is that the growling I hear?

SEAN

No, that would be my stomach.

SELAH

Never fear my good fellow, we have everything we need to fix a fine, festive figgy pudding....

SEAN

Well, come on, then, let's put our pudding where our mouths are...

SELAH

Well, yeah that's kinda the idea...

*They ad lib talking excitedly about cooking as they exit
USL.*

***** NO NARRATION BETWEEN SCENE 3 AND 4 *****

SCENE 4 – IN THE KITCHEN

Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”

ENTER, SEAN and SELAH. SELAH takes off her jacket. They are singing the last line of the previous song.

SELAH AND SEAN

Oh bring us a figgy pudding, oh bring us a figgy pudding, oh bring us a figgy pudding, and bring it right here.

SEAN

Christmas cookies, egg nog, and figgy pudding! The perfectly balanced meal!

SELAH

How did figgy pudding ever get to be a Christmas thing, anyway?

SEAN

I don't know. Maybe we should ask –

SELAH

Aunt Gracie? Yeah, she was probably there when the first one was made.

SEAN

The first ... fig? That would not surprise me, actually...

SELAH

Get that jacket off and roll up your sleeves, Chef Boy-R-Duh!

SEAN

Sure.

(struggling with jacket)

.... Be... right... there.... Hey, can you help... my jacket seems to be.... stuck...

As SELAH tries to help SEAN get his jacket off, they get tangled up and fall into the manger again, breaking off another piece.

SEAN

Argh! THIS THING IS ALWAYS--

SELAH AND SEAN

--IN THE WAY!

(Looking at each other)

I KNOW!

SELAH is holding the loose board.

SEAN

Unless you plan on using that board as a frosting spatula, get rid of it and let's get to the baking!

SELAH tosses the board aside and they move to the kitchen table, preparing to cook.

SELAH

Don't forget to wrap up the special cookies we made for Mom and Dad.

SEAN

You mean don't forget to hide Mom and Dad's favorite cookies from Aunt Gracie?

SELAH

Oh – didn't they tell you she called and said she won't be coming to Christmas after all?

SEAN

You mean I almost stole that ornament for nothing.

(Starts to steal some cookie dough from the bowl)

SELAH

(Smacking Sean's hand a bit)

Thou shalt not–

SEAN

--Steal. I know, I know. What's the saying? Giving is better than stealing?

SELAH

Nah. It's more blessed to give than to receive.

SEAN

Right. Speaking of receiving, did you see all those presents under our tree?

SELAH

Yeah!

(Singing overly big Broadway ala the song
from *Annie*)

Tomorrow, tomorrow, it's Christmas tomorrow, it's only a day away. Tooooo—

SEAN

Okay, okay, you'll scare the reindeer off the roof. Let's get this cleaned up and get some shut-eye so we can get up bright and early to open gifts.

SELAH

Would that be in the morning?

SEAN

(Hesitantly)

Yes...

As SELAH starts singing, "Tomorrow" again, SEAN pulls her towards SR.

SEAN

Now all we need is some snow to make everything just right.

SELAH

You mean just white.

SEAN

Yeah, ok, whatever, Miss Creativity.

THEY ad lib as they EXIT, SR.

*Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of
"Silent Night"*

NARRATOR 1

Going to bed on Christmas Eve might cause some folks to ponder, How is the Father's gift so great? And should we be responders?

NARRATOR 2

Though some folks might, it's likely that these two don't share that wonder. Will someone come to help them to see, what's broken by their blunders?

NARRATOR 1

Christmas morning, gifts abound. Can they find the one so true?

NARRATOR 2

It's been right with them, all the time. It's been right with us, too!

SCENE 5 - CHRISTMAS MORNING

ENTER, SELAH and SEAN, rushing in to open gifts on Christmas day, they talk excitedly over each other.

SELAH

Check it out - snow!

SEAN

Looks like those reindeer liked your singing after all! Or they're deaf...

SELAH

I'm gonna wake up Dad!

SEAN

Are you a nutcracker? He said no earlier than 8am.

SELAH

What time is it?

SEAN

It's only a little after 0:Dark:30!

They look at each other and all at once the idea comes to both of them.

SELAH AND SEAN

Christmas elves! Start sorting!

SEAN

(Bumping into manger)

Why is this thing always in the way?

SELAH

We ought to just burn it once and for all.

SEAN

Oo, yeah, this old wood would go "poof." Perfect for –

SELAH

(Singing)

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire....

ENTER, DAD from Sl.

Kids! What are you guys up to?

SELAH AND SEAN

Oh, hi..... Uh... we were just being... Santa's little helpers?

DAD

Did I hear something break?

SELAH

Nothing important. Just this old wooden thing.

SEAN

We were thinking it would make great kindling.

SELAH

Right. We could start a cozy fire...

SEAN

Warm up our tootsies...

SELAH

Open a few presents...

SEAN

Which we can't really do with all this junk wood in the way.

DAD

Junk wood?

SELAH

Yeah, I still have a bruise from running into it on decorating day.

SEAN

Not as bad as the one I got from that stupid display at the store.

SELAH

Why do people even have these things sittin' around?

SEAN

No matter what we want to do, it just seems to show up and mess with our plans.

DAD

I see. Kids. . . Let me show you why that old manger is always in the way.

DAD reaches for the manger which becomes the base for a cross. Dad finds the cross piece and keeps it nearby until he's ready to make the cross stand in the manger.

DAD

You see kids . . . Sometimes God has to get in our way--disrupt our lives, maybe?-- So we don't forget him. That old manger is here every Christmas to remind us that Jesus came. It's made of simple wood because He didn't come to live in some fancy palace.

He came to a poor home, to a people in need. He came to give his life - and give *US* life in the process!

Kids, the wood of that original manger that held his tiny, infant form was just the first step in God's plan to give us the greatest gift of all time. He gave us his Son, Jesus. And Jesus gave everything for us so that we could be close to God.

DAD places the cross vertical piece into it's slot and rotates the cross piece, turning it into a cross.

God made that possible by dying on another kind of wood to forgive our sins. Seems God always starts the giving, huh? And with us needy humans in mind.

SELAH

I'm... I'm really sorry about the. . . we didn't mean to ignore that old manger.

SEAN

Well, if I'm being honest, we couldn't *actually* ignore it 'cause it kept getting in the way every time we--

SELAH

(Quieting Sean)

-- AND... we're really sorry it's all--

SEAN

--Ahem. Yeah. We are..... Sorry we broke it.

DAD

(Turning to the Cross)

It's alright, kids. Sometimes the broken things are the things God loves to use best.

SEAN AND SELAH

Amen.

NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2

And that's our tale of now and then, and kids who finally see
That in the wood, the bridge to God, is a priceless gift for you and me!

*Family or Audience participation - sing a verse of "Joy
to the World" or other joyful Christmas song.*

The End