

From 10 Ways to Survive the Holidays by Don Zolidis

Jean and May are long-time friends and radio DJs at a Christmas station.

JEAN, (F, a radio host), any age

MAY, (F, a radio host), any age

JEAN

And once again, we have taken over your radio dial and are playing all Christmas, all the time! Cozy up with your pumpkin spice latte, warm up by the fire and relax, we're going to guide you through this holiday season with a comforting deluge of yuletide classics. I'm Jean La Mer, and with me as always is May – my right-hand lady, my Christmas co-pilot.

MAY

Hey there.

JEAN

What do you have for us, May?

MAY

We're gonna start off with "Jolene," by Dolly Parton.

May hits play for Jolene.

Jean stops it immediately.

JEAN

Sorry about that, listeners! We're having a bit of technical difficulties there. My deepest apologies. May I'm sorry I think I heard you wrong. What song do you have for us?

MAY

The powerful sounds of Jolene, by Dolly Parton.

She hits play again.

Jean stops it.

JEAN

Sorry friends! May is having trouble at home.

MAY

I'm not having trouble at home I just –

JEAN

That's not a Christmas song.

MAY

It's a classic.

JEAN

It's not a classic Christmas song.

MAY

Oh. Does every song have to be a Christmas song?

Jean is agog.

JEAN

Excuse me?

MAY

I was just thinking maybe we could have a bit of variety.

Jean laughs derisively.

JEAN

Ha ha okay sure. We do have variety, we have both Mariah Carey and Paul McCartney. We have several different versions of Last Christmas. Ha ha ha if that's not variety I don't know what is.

MAY

Just seems like we play the same songs every year, for like months on end.

JEAN

Ha ha ha oh boy listeners – May has been replaced with a pod person I guess! Is this a cry for help? Are you in trouble? Do you need to talk to a therapist?

MAY

No I was just –

JEAN

We are a Christmas station! We play Christmas music!

MAY

Jolene –

JEAN

Is not Christmas Music! It's a powerful anthem about the dangerous charms of a younger woman! I don't feel festive when I listen to it! I feel like making sure that copper-haired enchantress isn't going to steal my husband! It is banished from this station!

MAY

But maybe we could –

JEAN

What is wrong with you?! Who are you?! We've been doing this twenty-two years, May!

MAY

I know.

JEAN

You're my only friend. But if we're just going to start playing any old thing on this station, then I don't know who I am anymore.

MAY

Maybe that's a good thing.

JEAN

What?!

MAY

I need a change, Jean! I get up, it's the same routine every day! And then I come to this station and spend eight hours with you cycling through White Christmas and Eartha Kitt's version of Santa Baby – in the same order! I need something more! I need to see what else is out there! Maybe music that was released in the past fifteen years or so!

JEAN

This is a betrayal.

MAY

It's an *evolution*. I was listening to this the other day –
She hands a record to Jean –

JEAN

Cardi B?!

MAY

It's fun.

JEAN

Is it about Christmas?

MAY

It's not.

JEAN

I don't think I can do this.

MAY

I want to try new things. I want to see what's out there. Jean, come with me.

JEAN

I don't know that I can change like you can.

Yes you can. MAY

I'm scared. JEAN

There's nothing to be scared of. We can play whatever we want. We can be free.
Jean starts to waver MAY

But Christmas music is all I've ever known. JEAN

I know that. MAY

And these times we've had together, playing the same songs every year, they're like a warm blanket for me. I cherish our time together, May. JEAN

I do too. But I want us to grow. MAY

Will there be chestnuts roasting over an open fire? JEAN

I don't honestly think anyone actually does that. Have you ever roasted chestnuts? MAY

No, it sounds kind of weird. JEAN

Let's try something new. Together.
Jean thinks about it MAY

But what if the music isn't good? JEAN

Then we play something else. Something we've never heard before. MAY

...okay. JEAN

Okay? MAY

Okay let's play Dolly Parton. JEAN

You mean it!? MAY

JEAN
 Listeners! This is Jean and May! We are going into uncharted waters! With a song from 1973 that *isn't about Christmas!* We've never played it on this station before! I am shaking, I am literally shaking right now.

I'm right here. MAY

We do this. Together. JEAN

MAY
 Carpe Diem! Live your best life out there, listeners! Do whatever you want! There are no rules! There is no law!

I'm not sure that – JEAN

MAY
 You want to adopt nine wild squirrels, do it! No one's stopping you! You want to wear pajamas all day and eat pizza out of a bowl with a spoon, go nuts! Dolly Parton! Jolene!
 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

The phone rings.
 Oh we have a caller.
She answers the phone.
 May and Jean, the Christmas Ladies.
 Yes? Yes, sir. Of course, sir. Right away, sir.
She hangs up.
 That was the owner of the station.

Oh. JEAN

We can't play that song. MAY

JEAN

Why not?

MAY

It's not our brand.

JEAN

Oh. Specifically Dolly Parton?

MAY

Yeah.

JEAN

Huh.

Well here's Cardi B with "Money!"