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A Christmas Scarol

A play in one act

By Don Zolidis

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One-act comedy
12-25 actors

When Tim can't think of a Christmas gift to get his high-maintenance girlfriend, he's visited by four terrifying spirits (actually five – they've been hiring) who whisk him away on a harrowing and hilarious journey into the past, present, future, and an alternate timeline. This wild and free-spirited adaptation of the holiday classic is a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas (getting awesome presents).

Cast of Characters

MAN
WOMAN
ANNOUNCER

TIM
MONIQUE, his girlfriend
DAD
MOM
BRIANNA, his sister

The Ghosts:

MARLI
THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT PAST, female
THE GHOST OF CHRISMTAS PRESENT PRESENT, either gender
THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT FUTURE, either gender
THE GHOST OF ALTERNATE TIMELINE CHRISTMAS PRESENT FUTURE, either gender

YOUNG TIM, 15, Tim from a previous year, who looks nothing like Present Tim
JEZEBEL, an employee at McDonald's
BREWSTER, a manager at McDonald's
EMPLOYEES

MONIQUE'S MOM
GRANT, Monique's ex-boyfriend
PEETA, Monique's ex-boyfriend
JOHNNY, Monique's ex-boyfriend

Interpreting the spirits: The spirits have been done a million different ways, so feel free to come up with your own interpretation of their personalities and appearances. Have fun with them.

Double-casting: Feel free to doublecast as many parts as necessary.

(Creepy music.)

(Lights up on a commercial, possibly in black and white. Romantic music.)
(An elegantly dressed MAN hands a small box to an elegantly dressed WOMAN.)

MAN

For you. Because you're worth it.

WOMAN

For me?
(She opens the box, revealing diamond earrings.)
Diamonds?!

MAN

Yes.

WOMAN

They're beautiful.

MAN

So are you. And let me tell you, these small rocks were totally worth the thousands and thousands of dollars I spent on them.

WOMAN

I'm sure they were.

MAN

I did have to sell all my worldly possessions to afford them.

WOMAN

They're shiny.

MAN

Like my car. Which I sold to afford these tiny stones.

WOMAN

I love this man.

ANNOUNCER

Love begins at Herzog Diamonds. This Holiday Season, doesn't your love deserve the very most you can possibly afford?

JINGLE *(singing)*

Love begins at Herzog.

ANNOUNCER

You owe it to her.

(Lights down on them and up on TIM and MONIQUE, in TIM's living room. TIM is staring in fear at the television.)

TIM

Wow.

MONIQUE

Isn't that romantic?

TIM

…yeah.

MONIQUE

Our first Christmas together as a couple. Oh my Gosh I am so emotional right now.

(MONIQUE has an emotional moment and puts her hands in front of her mouth.)

Don't say anything you'll ruin it.

(short pause)

Okay now you can talk.

TIM

I'm emotional too! Maybe not as emotional but pretty close.

MONIQUE

Everyone said it wouldn't last and here we are.

TIM

We've only been going out four weeks.

MONIQUE

I know. All my friends hate you.

TIM

Your friends are really nice to me.

MONIQUE

Yeah they hide their feelings. But whenever I see them they're like "you're making a terrible mistake! Dump him!" Ha ha ha ha. But they don't say it to your face. They're awesome.

TIM

Yeah…

MONIQUE

But we're still together! And you know what, Tim? I… heart you.

TIM

I heart you too.

MONIQUE

I'm getting emotional again!
(she turns away)
DON'T LOOK AT ME.

TIM

Okay.

MONIQUE

And I'm better. I can't wait for Christmas when I can open your present for me.

TIM

Yeah. It's gonna be… um… special.

MONIQUE

Oh! I love special! My last boyfriends have always gotten me really special presents at Christmas. It was so magical.

TIM

Have you had a lot of boyfriends at Christmas?

MONIQUE

Oh yeah. I usually start dating three or four guys in November to maximize my returns. But not this year! You're the only one!

TIM

Oh.

MONIQUE

So the pressure is on! Ha ha ha ha. Just kidding. But I've gotten some pretty awesome Christmas presents in the past. Like this –
(she shows TIM her necklace.)
This is from my ex-boyfriend Grant.

TIM

Is that a necklace with half a heart pendant on it?

MONIQUE

Yeah. He has the other half. And then you put them together and it makes one heart. Isn't that amazing?

TIM

You're still wearing it?

MONIQUE

It means a lot to me.

(She takes out her phone)

And then one of my other ex-boyfriends, Peeta –

TIM

Peeta?

MONIQUE

He got me these puppies.

TIM

Wow.

MONIQUE

I know, right? They're Christmas Pugs. It's a special breed. And then the most special present of all –

(she takes a gift certificate out of her pocket)

TIM

What's that?

MONIQUE

It's a gift certificate for a hundred dollars to the Broken Wings Tattoo Parlor. Awesome. When I turn eighteen I'm going to get something beautiful tattooed right on the side of my neck.

TIM

Oh.

MONIQUE

Anyway, I gotta run! I'll see you tomorrow and we can exchange our presents! I heart you. Oh my Gosh I can't believe I'm saying that!

TIM

I heart you.

MONIQUE

I heart you with a happy face emoji!

(She runs off.)

(DAD enters, dressed like a cool teen.)

DAD

Tim-may!

TIM

Hey Dad.

DAD

High five!

TIM

I'm not really in the mood.

DAD

High five! Do it. High five! Woo!
(TIM leaves him hanging.)
(DAD keeps holding up his hand.)

TIM

Can I talk to you seriously for a second?

DAD

I will talk to you, but you can't leave a bro hanging. High five!

TIM

We're not really bros, Dad.

DAD

Do not say that. Do not ever say that. That's not something a true bro would say.

TIM

Fine.
(TIM gives a half-hearted high-five.)

DAD

Boom.

TIM

I haven't gotten my girlfriend a present for Christmas yet.

DAD

Dude! Whoah. What are you thinking, bro?

TIM

Well, I wanted to get her something special and I can't think of anything.

DAD

Yeah.

TIM

And the television is telling me I should get diamonds, but I'm not sure I have anything I can sell to get diamonds.

DAD

Some of your organs might be worth enough. Ha! Kidding ya. You want my advice?

TIM

Yeah.

DAD

Dump her.

TIM

Dad.

DAD

Seriously, bro. Once I got a girl and she's getting up on me like that, I just gotta cut her loose. Not worth the trouble. Amiright? Other fish in the sea, bro.

(MOM enters. DAD instantly changes.)

MOM

What are you telling him?

DAD

Nothing, sweetheart. We're just having a conversation.

TIM

I'm trying to figure out what to get my girlfriend for Christmas.

MOM

You haven't gotten her a present yet?!

TIM

No.

MOM

What are you thinking? Christmas is in two days!

TIM

I know that.

MOM

I can't believe you would do something so inconsiderate. What is wrong with you?!

TIM

It's just a Christmas present.

MOM

Just a Christmas present? *Just a Christmas Present?!* No, this defines your entire love!

TIM

I don't know that I'm in love with her.

DAD

I think you'll know when the feeling overwhelms you. Just like my love for your mother. Right, honey?

MOM

A perfect Christmas present says so much about your feelings.

DAD

Your feelings. Yes your feelings.

MOM

It represents your thoughts about her. It says "I care and respect you."

DAD

Respect. Respect women.

MOM

Respect is very important.

DAD

So important.

TIM

What kind of present says "I respect you?"

MOM

I think, when you look in your heart, you'll find the answer.

DAD

That's what I was saying. Before you got here, that's what I was saying.

MOM

I love that you're giving our son such a good example.

DAD

It's because I care. In here. In my heart. Which is full.

MOM

I'm so lucky.

Skipping Forward

BRIANNA

Ooh can I guess?

TIM

I'll tell you –

BRIANNA

You're embarrassed by your appearance.

TIM

No.

BRIANNA

Oh. You should be. Okay let me guess again.

TIM

I'll tell you what's wrong with me.

BRIANNA

You think no one should ever love you.

TIM

That's not it.

BRIANNA

Mom and Dad are kicking you out.

TIM

No I need to know what to get my girlfriend for Christmas.

BRIANNA

Ohhh.

TIM

What do you think I should get her?

BRIANNA

A new boyfriend. Ha ha ha ha.

TIM

You're the worst sister ever!

BRIANNA

Seriously. Tim. Think about this. Don't you want her to be happy?

TIM

Of course.

BRIANNA

So get her a new boyfriend. Ha ha ha ha.

TIM

You're no help!

BRIANNA

Okay. All right. I'll help. Do you know any guys that are hotter and nicer than you? Ha ha ha ha.

TIM

Go away.

BRIANNA

I will. But first let me tell you this. If you mess up this present, your life is over. Over. I know Monique. She's dangerously insane. You know what happened to all her last boyfriends?

TIM

What?

BRIANNA

They're gone now.

TIM

Where are they?

BRIANNA

I'll give you a hint: they're dead

TIM

She killed them?

BRIANNA

No one can prove anything. Maybe it's just a coincidence that they all disappeared.

TIM

Now I'm really stressed out!

BRIANNA

Ha ha ha ha I'm kidding. Boy you are gullible.

TIM

What should I get her?

BRIANNA

I don't know, but it better be good. I'm going to bed.
(She leaves.)

TIM

You're no help!

BRIANNA *(off-stage)*

I didn't say I was!

TIM

I'll think of something on my own. Maybe I'll sleep on it.
(Lights change.)

(Night.)
(Dream sequence. Spooky music.)
(TIM tosses and turns in the bed as the voices assault him.)

MONIQUE

And then you put them together and it makes one heart. Isn't that amazing?

MOM *(overlapping)*

A perfect Christmas present says so much about your feelings.

BRIANNA *(overlapping)*

They're dead.

DAD *(overlapping)*

Dump her, bro.

MONIQUE *(overlapping)*

It makes one heart.

MOM *(overlapping)*

Perfect Christmas present

BRIANNA *(overlapping)*

Dead…

DAD *(overlapping)*

Bro…

TIM

No! No! You're not real! You're not real! IT'S A NIGHTMARE!
(He sits up in bed, freaking out.)
(Silence.)

(Spooky sounds. Chains rattling.)
What's that? Who's there? Is someone there?

MARLI *(off-stage)*

Tiiiiiiiim.

TIM

Who's there?

MARLI *(off-stage)*

Tiiiiiiiim.
(MARLI bursts into the room – (she rolls out from under the bed, or comes in through a window, or otherwise appears surprisingly. She's wrapped in chains.)

TIM

Who are you?

MARLI

Don't you remember me, Tim? It's your old friend, Marli.

TIM

Marli? But… why are you in my room?

MARLI

What I can't just hang out?

TIM

But… you're dead! I saw you die after you went swimming that time too soon after eating.

MARLI

I should have listened to my mother… who would have known the sharks would be attracted to the smell of Cheetos. But that's not why I'm here!
(She rattles her chains at him.)

TIM

Aaaaaah!

MARLI

Look on me Tim and know despair! I am Marli, risen from the grave, come to warn you.

TIM

About what?

MARLI

Tonight you will be visited by four spirits.

TIM

Four spirits?! Does that include you?

MARLI

Actually five then.

TIM

I thought there were supposed to be three.

MARLI

We've been hiring. Change your ways Tiiim. Before it's too late!

TIM

Change what ways?

MARLI

Chaaaaaange. Look on me! I wear the chains I forged in life. Every terrible Christmas present I bought is a link in these chains! Look here! This is from the homemade card I made for my mother.

TIM

Wasn't it more special since you made it?

MARLI

But I can't draw so it was mediocre. And here! This chain is from the gift certificate to Target. And here! Look at it!

TIM

I can't!

MARLI

Behold! The DVD of The Mindy Project Season One!

TIM

I don't even know they made that!

MARLI

It was on sale at Costco!

TIM

No! I can't look anymore!

MARLI

You must! This chain is very heavy. Here's the beef jerky I got for my older brother.

TIM

No!

MARLI

Beef jerky for Christmas! Don't be like me! Don't do it, Tim! I am being called back. I must go!

TIM

Tell me it will be okay!

MARLI

Four more spirits…
(She exits)

TIM

Well it's gonna be tough to sleep after that.
(He falls asleep immediately.)

(Gong.)

(Tinkly, spooky music.)
(The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST enters ethereally. She maybe has a magic wand and looks like an overgrown Tinkerbell.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST *(cheerfully)*

Wake up Tim!
(TIM doesn't wake up.)
Wake up! Wakey wakey!
(TIM doesn't wake up)
WAKE UP!!!!

TIM

Aaaaaah!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Hello.

TIM

Who are you?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

I am the Ghost of Christmas Presents Past.

TIM

What?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Christmas Presents Past.

TIM

The present past?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Presents past. Plural.

TIM

Presence? Like your presence?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! THE KIND YOU BUY!

TIM

Ohhhh.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

GET UP!

TIM

Aaaaaah!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

QUIT YOUR WHINING!

(She calms down)

Serenity now. I am here to show you the way. To a better Christmas present.

TIM

Hey can you give me a loan so I can buy diamonds?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

SILENCE! You are coming with me. On a journey…

(She makes a flourish)

Into the past! Oooooh.

TIM

Like to the dinosaurs?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

We're going to past Christmases. To another Christmas in the past. Without dinosaurs.

TIM

Could we maybe see some dinosaurs?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

No!

Skipping Forward

He was.

TIM

So full of life. So full of joy. Until he got arrested for suggesting Kari should take a bath in the deep frier. She never made good decisions.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

No. But I know someone who made good decisions.

(She points to JEZEBEL standing apart from the party.)

TIM

Jezebel.

(JEZEBEL finds YOUNG TIM.)

JEZEBEL

Hey Young Tim.

YOUNG TIM

Hello Jezebel.

JEZEBEL

Why ain't you dancing?

YOUNG TIM

I'm afraid that people will mock me, as I'm a terrible dancer.

JEZEBEL

Shoot. You gotta dance like no one's looking.

YOUNG TIM

Thank you.

JEZEBEL

Because no one would want to look at you.

YOUNG TIM

I'm not sure that makes me feel better.

JEZEBEL

I got you something. For Christmas. It's a present.

YOUNG TIM

Oh.

(She hands him a present.)

JEZEBEL

Open it.

YOUNG TIM

It's not Christmas yet.

JEZEBEL

Some things ain't worth waiting for.

YOUNG TIM

What?

JEZEBEL

You know what I mean. Sometimes you just gotta… make yer move.

YOUNG TIM

Very well.

(YOUNG TIM opens up the Christmas Present. Inside is a mouse stuffed animal.)

Oh it's um… it's… it's a mouse?

JEZEBEL

Cute, ain't it?

YOUNG TIM

Is it dead?

JEZEBEL

You're funny! It's a stuffed animal!

YOUNG TIM

Oh.

JEZEBEL

I got a cat. You know cats, right? Well they go out and kill things and then bring `em to you as a present. So this is me, killing something, and bringing it to you. Like a kitty.

YOUNG TIM

Except you didn't kill it.

JEZEBEL

Right. Cause it's not alive.

YOUNG TIM

Right. Well I must say… I never anticipated… such a thoughtful gift.

JEZEBEL

It's the thought that counts.

YOUNG TIM

Absolutely. Which is why I got you…
(He looks around)
This gift certificate for a free Big Mac when you buy one Big Mac at regular price.

JEZEBEL *(romantic)*

Is it for both of us?
(BREWESTER rushes over.)

BREWSTER

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A STORE ROMANCE BREWING!

EMPLOYEES

WOOOO!

BREWSTER

Who's got some Mistletoe? Anyone got some mistletoe?

EMPLOYEE 2

What if we used some of the lettuce in our freshmade salads?

BREWSTER

That's not lettuce.

EMPLOYEE 2

Oh.

EMPLOYEE 3 *(producing mistletoe)*

I got mistletoe here in my pocket.

BREWSTER *(Taking it)*

Woo!

EMPLOYEE 2

Why is that in your pocket?

EMPLOYEE 3

You never know when you're gonna need it.

BREWSTER

All right! Kiss! Kiss! Kiss!

EMPLOYEES

Kiss! Kiss! Kiss!

YOUNG TIM
Are you sure this doesn't violate the health code?

BREWSTER
Oh come on. We're McDonald's. No health codes rules apply to us.

YOUNG TIM
I can't do it! She – she – she – she gave me a mouse for a present!
(YOUNG TIM shows the mouse)

JEZEBEL
I could get something bigger if you want!

YOUNG TIM
I don't want any dead animals from you! I don't want anything anymore!
(YOUNG TIM runs off crying.)

BREWSTER
Mouse, huh?
(He hands it to EMPLOYEE 2.)
Put that in with the rest of the meat. No one will know the difference. I realize there's been an emotional trauma just now, and the only way to fix that… LIMBO!
(The other employees dance off to start a limbo as JEZEBEL sinks to her knees.)

JEZEBEL
I could have loved you!
(JEZEBEL cries.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST
Let's bring the lights down on that.

TIM
That was the biggest mistake of my life.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST
And what happened to Jezebel?

TIM
She got her own motorcycle and drove off to the west.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST
That could've been you on the back of that motorcycle.

TIM
Yeah. Jezebel! Jezebel I'm sorry! Take me with you on your hog!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

She can't hear you.

TIM

Spirit, show me no more!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Very well. Learned something, didn't ya?

TIM

Yes. I learned my entire lesson.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Not your *entire* lesson.

TIM

No I think I'm good now.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PAST

Two bad – you've got a contract for three more spirits. The next one will arrive shortly after two. He's always late.

(TIM gets in bed.)

Goooooodbyyyyye…

(She waves her wand and vanishes in a funny way.)

(Lights fade a bit.)

(Bong. Bong.)

TIM

What is it? Who's there? Another ghost?

(Nothing.)

What time is it?

(the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT rushes in.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Whoah! Crazy traffic out there ! I was trying to take the interstate but it's nuts! You have no idea how many people need to learn the true reason for Christmas tonight! There's like a traffic jam around Donald Trump's* place.

*(*feel free to adjust this reference as necessary)*

TIM

Who are you?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Behold! You are in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Presents Present! Come with me if you want to live.

TIM

Really?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Nah, I'm kidding! Ha ha ha ha! We are gonna have a crazy night, man! Take my robe, we'll fly.

TIM

You can fly?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Oh yeah. It's awesome.

(He takes out a can of Red Bull.)

Here. Drink this.

TIM

This actually works?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Ha ha ha ha!

(TIM drinks the can and takes the hand of the GHOST.)

(Lights change.)

(We hear the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT in the darkness.)

Hold on! Wooooooo!

TIM

Aaaaaaah!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Whoops!

(CRASH.)

Sorry about that. I use a lot of moisturizer on my hands to keep them baby soft. Makes them a little slippery.

(Lights up on another part of the stage.)

Here we are. A certain girl's house.

(The GHOST enters with TIM, who is limping.)

TIM

Oohhhh

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Good thing that nest of porcupines broke your fall.

TIM

Ooohhh.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Shhh! Look!

(MONIQUE enters with her MOM.)

MONIQUE

Oh Mom! I'm so excited for Christmas tomorrow! I'm so sure that Tim is going to get me the most amazing present ever!

MONIQUE'S MOM

I don't know, honey. He seems kinda lame.

MONIQUE

He isn't. You'll see. I think he might be the one.

MONIQUE'S MOM

What? Oh honey no.

MONIQUE

It's all gonna hinge on this present. If he's getting me what I think he's getting me, I'll be sure.

TIM

What do you think I'm getting you?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Shhh! She can't you hear you anyway.

TIM

Then why are you shushing me!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Cause I want to hear.

MONIQUE'S MOM

What do you think he's going to get you?

MONIQUE

Remember what I talked about yesterday?

MONIQUE'S MOM

Ohhh. Yeah.

TIM

What?

MONIQUE'S MOM

He's not getting you that.

MONIQUE

He will! I have faith in him. Sure he's not as attractive as the many, many other boys I've dated. And sure he's not as smart as they were, but I think there's something so… genuine in him. Like he's a wounded little bird who's fallen out of a nest and now he has a broken wing and other deformities. You just can't help but want to take care of him.

MONIQUE'S MOM

Or feed him to a cat.

MONIQUE

No! I want to help him.

MONIQUE'S MOM

Honey. I think it's time we had a talk about boys. They're losers.

MONIQUE

Mom.

MONIQUE'S MOM

And the sooner you dump him the better. Here I wrote out a text message for you.
(She hands MONIQUE her phone.)

MONIQUE

"Tim. You r a looser. Consider yrself dumped. K Bye."
You spelled loser wrong.

MONIQUE'S MOM

I wanted to make it sound like it was coming from you. Can I send it?

MONIQUE

No!

MONIQUE'S MOM

How about if he doesn't get you the right gift I send it?

TIM

No! Say no!

MONIQUE

Okay that sounds fair.

TIM

That's not fair!

Skipping Forward

Not so fast!

MONIQUE

Peeta? You're alive?!

GRANT

This dude's name is Peeta? That sounds like a girl.

PEETA

Monique. I'm alive!

GRANT

Monique. Good to know.

MONIQUE

I can't be with you, Peeta! I'm not the same girl I was when I fell for you!

PEETA

Maybe this Christmas present will change your mind.

(PEETA produces a Christmas present.)

It's an underwater breathing apparatus. With some antidotes for puffer fish poison. And a dartgun.

MONIQUE

Ohhh!

TIM

Is that what she wants?

PEETA

Because I'm taking you on an expedition to the Great Barrier Reef. We'll explore our underwater passions and take long walks on the beach.

MONIQUE

I don't know.

GRANT

Girl, can I mention that you complete me?

MONIQUE

This is so hard!

(JOHNNY runs in, wearing a black leather jacket.)

TIM

Who's this guy?

MONIQUE

Johnny! I thought you were still in prison!

JOHNNY

I got out early for good behavior. And I've come back for you.

GRANT

Hey I was here first.

PEETA

I will fight a government for you. Like a whole government.

MONIQUE

Guys. Guys. Please! I have a new boyfriend!

JOHNNY

What!

GRANT

No way, Girl!

PEETA

Where is he?

MONIQUE'S MOM

Everybody quiet please! I think we're forgetting the true meaning of Christmas!

MONIQUE

Thank you, Mom.

MONIQUE'S MOM

So has Monique. So the first person to find her boyfriend and beat him up gets to go out with her.

MONIQUE

What, no! What does that have to do with Christmas?!

MONIQUE'S MOM

I'm pretty sure the Three Wise Men did the same thing.

MONIQUE

No they didn't!

MONIQUE'S MOM

Well I can't know everything!

PEETA

Monique, with all the life and death skills I've learned in our time together, I will triumph over your current boyfriend and return.

JOHNNY

I've got a knife.

GRANT

Girl. That's it. Girl.

MONIQUE

Stop! No one needs to fight Tim!
(The boys start taking notes.)

PEETA

His name's Tim. Are there are any other weaknesses I should know about?

MONIQUE'S MOM

He lives on Mulberry Street. Blue house.

PEETA

Is his bedroom on the first floor?

MONIQUE

Guys!

GRANT

Girl.

MONIQUE

I'm not going to dump him just because you showed up! He's better than all of you!

TIM

All right!

MONIQUE

And I'm sure he could fight all of you at once! He's the toughest guy alive! He's incredible! He's like a ninja superhero! The only way you could defeat them would be for you to team up and attack him in his sleep!

TIM

Um…

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Let's leave this scene, shall we? All that happens now is an intricate plan for them to come over to your house and fight you in your sleep.

TIM

Should I be worried about that?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Ha ha ha ha yes! But – think about this way. If you have the right Christmas present, Monique will nurse you back to health.

TIM

What if I donated a lot of blood to her?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Ha ha ha ha! You're gonna need to get her something better than that!

TIM

Okay, well what else can you show me?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

That's pretty much it.

TIM

But this isn't helpful to me! This is just putting more pressure on me!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

Right. Boo ya! All right let's fly back. Hold on tight!

TIM

No no no! Is there like a loan department or something you could show me? So I could buy some diamonds?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PRESENT

All right. Here's your advice: Don't screw up. Ha ha ha ha!

(The GHOST takes TIM's hands as the lights change.)

TIM

Wait, don't leave!

(It's too late. He's gone.)

(Lights down.)

(Bong. Bong. Bong.)
(TIM wakes up startled.)

TIM

And you were there! And Auntie Em was there! And Toto was there! Oh it was just that dream again.

(Standing in front of him is the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE, who is cloaked in a death robe.)

Ah!

I suppose you're the Ghost of Christmas Presents Future? Well the first two ghosts were totally unhelpful. I'm gonna sit this one out, thanks.

(The Ghost stretches out a skeletal hand, beckons for him to come forward.)

Sorry. I'm not doing it. Unless you're going to show me what present I got.

(The Ghost motions for him to come again.)

Nope. Not doing it.

(The Ghost slaps her leg and whistles, like she's calling a dog.)

Oh come on I'm not going to respond to that.

(The song "In Your Eyes" begins to play.)

Okay I'm coming.

(TIM leaps up and grabs the ghost's hand.)

(Lights change.)

(A cemetery.)
(Gravestones.)
(The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE leads TIM to the graves.)

TIM

Where are we? The cemetery? Why are you showing me this?

(The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE points to one of the graves.)

No. It can't be! You're telling me – in the future… I'm dead?!

(The GHOST points again.)

No way! I can't die! I'm me! What does any of this have to do with Christmas?

(The GHOST points again.)

Fine.

(TIM looks at the gravestone.)

Justin Bieber. Oh thank goodness.

(The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE takes off her hood.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

You don't have a grave.

TIM

You can talk?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

Sure. It's scarier if I don't say anything. Plus it gets you to talk to yourself.

TIM

If I don't have a grave, what happens to me?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

You get cremated.

TIM

Oh.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

And then your ashes are sprinkled over the grave of Justin Bieber.

TIM

What? No! Noooooo! It can't be!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

In fact, everyone you know is dead now. Spoiler alert.

TIM

This is horrible! All because I didn't get the right present on Christmas?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

No. It's just how time works, actually. Two hundred years in the future everyone you know and care about is dead.

TIM

We're two hundred years in the future?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

Yeah.

TIM

So I wasn't killed because of getting the wrong Christmas present?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

No you were. You got the wrong thing and then Peeta stabbed you with a spear. It was really bloody. And yet awesome at the same time. I could show you the video.

TIM

No I'm cool.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

Sure. Check it out.

(The Ghost takes out a remote control and lights come up on another side of the stage. YOUNG TIM and PEETA square off.)

TIM

I can't believe I looked like that.

YOUNG TIM

Please! I'm nothing compared to you! I'm weasel droppings! Please! I'm too young to die! Pleeeeease.

(YOUNG TIM gets on his knees.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

Not your finest moment, by the way.

(PEETA enters with spear.)

PEETA

There can be only one. And you got Monique socks for Christmas. Your death is at hand.

YOUNG TIM

Nooooo! Pleeeease! Nooooo!

(Lights down on them.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

There's about five minutes of crying and sniveling before he gets annoyed with you and ends it.

TIM

So what can I do?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE

Change your ways! Socks are not a good gift!

TIM

But what should I get instead?

(Bong. Bong. Bong. Bong.)

(The GHOST OF ALTERNATE TIMELINE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FUTURE enters, also dressed in a dark robe.)

GHOST OF ALTERNATE TIMELINE CHRISTMAS PRESENT FUTURE

I can answer that for you.

End of Excerpt.
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com