

SOS: CHRISTMAS

By Renee Vinson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Overworked and over-committed, Jim and Mary McIntyre are frazzled! Their three kids are acting up and they've got a thousand and one things to do at the church for Christmas. Instead of feeling the joy of the season, they're feeling resentment.

Enter Mason Angel, a stranger whose car broke down at just the right time and just the right place. Taken in by the kind family, Mason shows them the perfect peace they all seek. He reminds them that serving the church is not the same as serving Christ, the savior who died for us. To follow their individual callings, instead of trying to do all things, will fill them with the true Christmas spirit.

This message play is filled with delightful humor added by the children and two other characters, a nutty brother and sister-in-law. Everyone in your congregation will appreciate this play.

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Playwright Renee Vinson is also the author of "A Christmas Rapture" and its sequel, "A Christmas Reunion."

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CAST

(3m, 2w, 1 boy, 2 teen girls)

MASON ANGEL: A young man in his 20s or 30s.

PAT MCINTYRE: A very busy middle-aged woman. A Christian, but has lost her joy.

JIM MCINTYRE: Husband of Pat. Also feels pressured and joyless this season.

JOSIAH: Their son. About 11 or 12.

MARY: Their middle child, 14 years old.

ESTHER: Their oldest, 16 years old.

BERT: Brother of Jim, a real character.

SARAH: Bert's wife. Sweet, but spacy.

PERFORMANCE TIME: About 30 minutes.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

SCENE 1: Two days before Christmas, late afternoon.

SCENE 2: Same evening, just after dinner.

SCENE 3: Next evening, Christmas Eve.

SCENE 4: Christmas day, about noon.

PLACE: McIntyres' living room.

PROPS: Telephone, cookies, TV with remote control, briefcase, newspaper, hair brush, dish towel, angel ornament, package of flour.

COSTUME NOTES: Mason needs a long white robe to wear over his clothing for the prelude scene. Coats are needed for all of the cast except Bert who needs a pair of coveralls and a cap. Minor changes in clothing can be made between Scenes 2 and 3.

SET DESIGN: Living room setting with couch flanked by two chairs CS. Should be decorated for Christmas including presents under the tree. Door to outside is SR and hallway to kitchen and rest of the home is SL.

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PRELUDE

(BEFORE CURTAIN: As the angel, MASON, walks out on stage wearing a long white robe. There should be a SPOTLIGHT on him. He walks to the center of the stage and begins to address the audience.)

MASON: Good evening. My name is ... well, my name this night is Mason. My given name is a real tongue twister for you mortal creatures. Mason is much simpler. Anyway, tonight I want to relate to you a story about one of my Christmas assignments a few years past. Up in heaven, we call this one SOS Christmas. *(HE smiles.)*

And don't look so surprised! Do you not believe the Father still intervenes in the lives of His chosen through His ministering spirits? We are sent forth to minister to those who will inherit salvation. If only you knew the times we intervened in your life! *(HE throws his hands up.)*

But, on with the story. The family I've come to tell you about, the McIntyres, were having some problems. You see, they became Christians many years ago, but over time they had lost their focus, their vision. Oh, they started out good in their walk with the Father, but things began to creep in. Their love was getting cold and the joy that once gave them such strength had all but gone. They knew something was wrong but felt hopeless about it ever changing. Yet still, they prayed. *(HE smiles again.)* And that's when the Lord sent me. You see, even the prayers born out of your weakest moments never go unheard. *(HE extends both hands upward.)* The Father is ever listening. Just call.
(LIGHTS out.)

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SCENE ONE

(AT RISE: Two days before Christmas. Late afternoon. ESTHER is sprawled on the couch talking on the telephone.)

ESTHER: *(Excited.)* Really? Are you sure? *(Pause.)* Maggie Johnson, you better not be pulling my leg! *(Pause, then a happy sigh.)* Benjamin Davis is interested in me! After all this time! *(Pause, then squeals.)* Ohhh! He asked for my phone number? Oh Maggie, I'm in heaven for sure! *(MARY enters SL and walks over to the couch to ESTHER and with much agitation mouths the words, "Get off the phone." Esther looks at her with disgust.)* Hold on a minute, Maggie. My little sister is being rude. *(SHE puts her hand over the receiver.)* What do you want, pest? Can't you see I'm talking on the phone?

MARY: *(Puts HER hands on her hips.)* You've been on the phone for the past hour, Esther. I need to make an important call. So, please, get off!

ESTHER: I find that hard to believe, Mary. Who do you know your age that's important? Besides, I'll be off in a minute.

MARY: That's what you said 15 minutes ago!

ESTHER: *(Rolls HER eyes.)* Really, Mary. Why don't you grow up and get a life! *(SHE takes her hand off the receiver and continues her conversation.)* Sorry, Maggie. But you know how bothersome younger siblings can be. Where were we?

MARY: *(Angry.)* If you're not off that phone in 5 minutes, you're going to be sorry! *(SHE then storms out SL. ESTHER sticks out her tongue as Mary exits.)*

ESTHER: And he's going to be at the church party, huh? *(Enter JOSIAH SL with a handful of cookies. ESTHER does not notice him. He begins to mock her as she is talking.)*

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ESTHER: *(Squeals again.)* Oh! I'm so nervous! *(For the first time SHE sits up on couch.)* What am I going to wear? *(SHE begins touching her hair.)* What am I going to do with my hair? It's so gross! *(JOSIAH stops mocking HER and shakes his head at her display. He goes over to the TV and turns it on. He then sits in chair SR.)*

ESTHER: Hold on a minute, Maggie. *(SHE puts her hand over the receiver.)* Josiah McIntyre, what do you think you're doing?

JOSIAH: *(Without looking at HER.)* Well, airhead, it looks to me like I'm watching TV.

ESTHER: Turn it off, Josiah! *(SHE takes her hand off the receiver.)* My little brother is being a pain. Just a minute. *(SHE puts her hand back on the receiver.)* Now, Josiah! Turn it off now! *(HE ignores HER. Esther gets the remote control off the coffee table and turns off TV. She then resumes her conversation.)* I'm back now.

JOSIAH: *(Angry.)* Hey! I was watching that! *(HE Then walks over to the TV and turns it back on. ESTHER turns it back off with the remote.)* One more time, Esther, and you'll be sorry! *(HE turns it back on. SHE turns it back off. At the same time MARY enters SL. She notices Esther still on the phone and makes a mad dash for the receiver. At the same time Josiah dashes for the remote control. Mary wrestles the receiver out of one hand and Josiah wrestles the remote out of the other.)*

MARY: *(As SHE victoriously gains the receiver.)* Good-bye, Maggie! *(SHE then hangs up the phone. ESTHER and JOSIAH are still wrestling for the remote control. He finally pries it from her hands.)*

ESTHER: *(Enraged.)* I can't believe this! You both are nothing but foul-mannered little brats! *(SHE reaches for the phone but MARY slaps her hand. Esther grabs a handful of Mary's hair and yanks it. About this time PAT MCINTYRE enters SR unnoticed. She is wearing an overcoat.)*

MARY: Ouch!

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JOSIAH: *(Excited.)* Get 'er, Mary! I wouldn't let her pull my hair! *(As soon as the words are out of HIS mouth, ESTHER gives his hair a yank. He lets out a yowl and starts to kick his sister.)*

PAT: *(In a threatening voice.)* I wouldn't do that if I were you, son! *(THEY all freeze!)* What's going on here? *(There is silence for a few moments, then THEY all begin to talk at once.)* Stop! All of you! *(THEY all get quiet.)* Let me begin with you, Mary. What's the story? *(PAT takes off her coat.)*

MARY: *(Points HER finger at her SISTER.)* It's all her fault, Mom! She's been on the phone with Maggie Johnson for over an hour and won't let anyone use it!

PAT: Is this true, Esther?

ESTHER: *(Sullen.)* We were discussing important matters, Mom.

JOSIAH: *(Folds HIS arms.)* Hmph! They were discussing boys, Mom! You should have heard her! *(HE begins to mock her and squeals.)* Ohhh! I'm so nervous! Ohhh! My hair is so gross! Ohh! He's going to be at the church party!

ESTHER: *(Pulls HIS hair again.)* Shut up, brat!

PAT: *(Angry.)* Esther! You tell your little brother you're sorry right now!

ESTHER: *(Indignant.)* But Mom!

PAT: Listen here, young lady, if you want to go to that party you had better straighten up. Now, do as I tell you!

ESTHER: *(Looks at HER little BROTHER and repeats with little emotion.)* I'm sorry, Josiah.

PAT: As for you, young man, give your sister a hug and tell her you're sorry for being a pest.

JOSIAH: *(Humiliated.)* Aw, Mom! Do I have to touch her?

PAT: *(With warning.)* One.

JOSIAH: But, Mom!

PAT: *(Louder.)* Two. *(JOSIAH grabs ESTHER in a quick hug and mumbles his apology.)* Now, Esther, apologize to your sister. You were very inconsiderate!

ESTHER: *(With little remorse.)* Sorry, Mary.

MARY: No you're not!

End of Freeview

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