

Decisions of a Carpenter

A Christmas Play

By Mark Anderson

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Dedication

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the first production of this play. The cast did a fantastic job. May God pour his blessings out on you. Mark.

Story of the Play

Ragan and Sabrina Carpenter are preparing for a family Christmas. Sabrina, her sister Kayla, and their mother are trying to get their grandmother moved into the garage apartment. During this confusion, Ragan is expecting his brothers to join him this year. Ryan is alone, due to marital problems, and Reed is a busy college student. The next door neighbors are the pastor's family of the local church and they need help with their Christmas drama. Ragan has an unexpected visit from someone who desperately needs his help and makes him face the mistakes of his past. The family is thrown into chaos, and it looks like Christmas will be ruined until Grandma Lois reminds them of the decision of Joseph that first Christmas. The decisions that these Carpenters make tonight will truly show the love of Christ to those around them and each other.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 6 w, 1 boy)

Ragan Carpenter: A new convert, has to face his past. Mid 30s.

Ryan Carpenter: Ragan's brother, has marital problems. Early 30s.

Reed Carpenter: College student, younger brother. Mid 20s.

Sabrina Carpenter: Ragan's wife, can not have children. Around 30.

Jessica Armstrong: Sabrina and Kayla's mother. Early 50s.

Lois Nichols: Jessica's mother, just moved in. Lovable and fun. Early 70s.

Kayla Sloane: Sabrina's sister. Late 30s.

R.J. Cooper: Ragan's son, has never met his father. About 10 years old.

Natalie Graham: Social worker. Late 20s.

Evelyn Meadows: Jessica's next door neighbor. Late 40s.

SYNOPSIS

Scene 1: Mid-morning, two days before Christmas, current year.

Scene 2: That afternoon.

Scene 3: That evening.

SETTING

The entire play takes place in the living room of Jessica's home. The room has two entrances, one at SR is a front door to the outside, and the other doorway SL is a hallway which leads to the rest of the house. Near the front door is a large window and place to hang coats. The room is filled with comfortable furniture and is decorated nicely for Christmas. On the coffee table is a TV remote control and a bowl of chocolate-covered peanuts.

PROPS

Cleaning supplies and moving boxes; cell phone and wallet with cash and credit cards for Ragan; knitting for Lois; costume for Evelyn; briefcase, files, pen and business card for Natalie; picture for R.J.; duffel bag; department store shopping bags; large load of gifts for Reed.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: JESSICA is cleaning house, KAYLA and SABRINA enter with boxes.)

KAYLA: Boy, Grandma sure had a bunch of stuff!

SABRINA: You're telling me. I feel like we have been moving nothing but boxes for two days.

KAYLA: We have.

JESSICA: Girls, your grandmother packed up over fifty years of memories. She accumulated a lot of things over the years.

KAYLA: And to think she sold most of her furniture.

SABRINA: She didn't need a lot of things. When Ragan and I bought our house, we left the apartment pretty well furnished.

JESSICA: Mother refused to keep the waterbed. She said she got seasick every time she sat on it. And she needs some things around her. Something familiar.

SABRINA: Mom, why didn't she move in here with you?

JESSICA: She's stubborn, that's why. She didn't want to be a burden. That's why she took the apartment over the garage.

KAYLA: Mom, have you thought about what we discussed earlier?

JESSICA: You mean the discussion of putting Grandma in a nursing home?

KAYLA: It's not a nursing home, Mom.

JESSICA: Absolutely not!

SABRINA: Mom, it is a retirement community, assisted living. She'll have people there to talk to and to take care of her!

JESSICA: I don't care what you call it. My mother is not going to a retirement community. I took care of your father before he died, and Mother took care of my father before he died. We are not feeble. We can manage, you know!

KAYLA: *(Hugs HER.)* Mom, no one said you were feeble. We are just looking out for your best interests.

JESSICA: I appreciate that.

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KAYLA: But you have to admit that Grandma is a little...

SABRINA: ...different! *(Catches JESSICA'S glare.)* In a good way, of course!

KAYLA: That's putting it mildly.

JESSICA: We'll be fine. End of discussion! Let's take these boxes to the garage. Mother is almost finished unpacking.

KAYLA: Thank goodness!

(JESSICA, KAYLA and SABRINA exit. RAGAN enters SR speaking on his cell phone.)

RAGAN: OK, Reed, be careful. See you soon. *(Sets phone on table.)* Kayla? Sabrina? Mother Jessica?

LOIS: *(Entering from SL.)* They are in my apartment, dear!

RAGAN: Grandma Lois! *(Hugs HER.)* Are you moved in?

LOIS: Oh my, yes! *(Sits on sofa.)* Jessie and the girls are putting the last of my things in. I'll unpack later. I hate moving during the holidays.

RAGAN: Yes, I know. As if things aren't busy enough.

LOIS: Jessie tells me that you are going to have your brothers home for Christmas.

RAGAN: Yes. They decided to join me here this year. Since we have plenty of room, with the new house and all.

LOIS: *(Looks at watch.)* Oh! It's time for Oprah. *(Picks up cell phone.)* Oh no! Jessie's remote isn't working. Dear, can you turn the TV on for me?

RAGAN: Oh, Grandma Lois, that's my cell phone! Here's the remote. *(Hands remote to HER.)*

LOIS: Oh dear! I'll never understand these newfangled gadgets!

RAGAN: That's OK, Grandma.

(JESSICA, KAYLA and SABRINA enter from SL.)

JESSICA: Ragan! When did you come in?

RAGAN: A few moments ago!

SABRINA: Have you heard from Ryan and Reed?

RAGAN: Ryan is on his way. Reed will be here later. Hello, Kayla!

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KAYLA: Hey, Ragan. How do you like your new home?
Sabrina said you bought the old Hawkins' house.

RAGAN: We did. We gave it a complete overhaul. It's beautiful.

KAYLA: So Bree told me.

SABRINA: Why don't you stay with us tonight? It will give us time to catch up on things.

JESSICA: Sabrina! Kayla is staying here with me!

KAYLA: If Mom starts getting on my nerves, I'll drop by. How's that?

LOIS: *(At window.)* Jessie! You don't have any lights outside! Your bushes are bare! I think I have some in those last boxes you brought in.

JESSICA: But Mother, there's no need--

LOIS: There's no need to thank me! You are more than welcome to use them. Come on!

(JESSICA and LOIS exit SL.)

KAYLA: I wish I lived closer, I'd be able to help Mom with Grandma.

RAGAN: Why? Your grandma is fine – she is as healthy as a horse!

KAYLA: Yes, Ragan, she is. But there are other things.

SABRINA: She is fine physically, but mentally is another story.

KAYLA: I wish Mom would just listen to us.

RAGAN: Your mother thinks for herself. A trait that both of you have. *(To KAYLA.)* Where are Nathan and the girls?

KAYLA: He had some family business to take care of. The girls went with him to ride the horses. Their grandfather gave them each a pony this year. They should be home by Christmas.

RAGAN: I hope nothing is wrong.

KAYLA: Oh no. Nathan's father is just rewriting his will, adding some things from his estate.

SABRINA: Maybe the girls will pick out your present.

KAYLA: I hope so. Nathan needs all the help he can get.

End of Freeview

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