

ChristmasTime

by

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The Future. Brightly lit, well maintained, nice looking.

There is a small box covered in a sheet at center, with a clock above. The date reads: "December 24th, 2268." There is an open box filled with presents on stage left. Altogether not so bad of a future, if you don't look too closely.

MAYOR JACOB enters and stands by the present box. Everyone else enters from stage left and crosses to the box. They look bored, everyone walking in a straight line and carrying a single wrapped present.

MAYOR JACOB

Alright, everyone stay in line. I want you all to drop off your gifts for Presentmas in the box and then go home to enjoy a day off while I open all my presents.

ALL

Of course, Mayor Jacob.

Each walk over to a large box and place the presents within as they sing Jingle Bells.

The last of the people drop off their presents and walk off towards their homes. Two girls, GABBY and MICHELLE, stop before walking off stage.

GABBY

I don't get it, Michelle. Why do we save up money all year, just to give a present to the Mayor?

MICHELLE

Because, Gabby, that is the way of Presentmas. It has always been that way and always will be.

GABBY

What is Mayor Jacob doing over there?

The Mayor walks over to the box, rubbing his hands together.

MAYOR

Alright, let's see what the haul is this year.

He digs through the box.

MAYOR

Man, every year it seems like less and less stuff. I think that I need to go back and make things better. How about two presents a year? I'll go as far back as I can.

Mayor Jacob walks over to the covered box, removing the sheet to reveal a box labeled "Time Machine." He climbs in, the lights flicker, and there is a dull boom.

GABBY

A time machine? We should see what he's up to.

MICHELLE

He's the Mayor, he probably knows best, right?

A look from Gabby.

MICHELLE

Okay, yeah, even I didn't believe that. Where could he be going? 2268 is the best year ever.

GABBY

I know a way to find out.

Gabby runs over and climbs into the time machine. Michelle goes chasing after her.

MICHELLE

Gabby, no, wait!

She dives after her, and the machine activates. The clock above spins backward, and a new time is read out: "December 24th, (current year)." They both fall out of the machine, along with several important looking parts.

GABBY

Okay, what happened there? Oh, cool, we are in the past!

MICHELLE

The past? Oh, look what you did now!

The time machine has several parts that have fallen off.

MICHELLE

You broke it. Now we don't have a way to get back.

GABBY

We'll be fine. We'll just find someone from around here to help us.

MICHELLE

To fix a time machine? We, in our time, didn't even know time travel was invented.

GABBY

We'll just go into the future and get someone to... Oh, I see our problem.

Michelle lets out an exasperated groan. A group of carolers come around the corner, led by Irene and Marcia. They lead the congregation in a song. Gabby and Michelle watch on confused.

Sing "Away in a Manger"

GABBY

Hey, what was that you were singing?

MICHELLE

Careful, you don't want to mess up the time stream!

GABBY

(to Michelle)

It'll be fine, I'm sure.

(to the carolers)

What were you singing?

MARCIA

That was Away in a Manger.

Gabby and Michelle both shrug and shake their heads. They don't know it.

IRENE

It's a Christmas song.

Gabby and Michelle both shrug again.

MICHELLE

What's Christmas?

MARCIA

December 25th, the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

GABBY

Oh, Presentmas. The day you give presents.

IRENE

Haven't you heard the Christmas story?

GABBY/MICHELLE

No.

Irene turns excitedly to the rest of the carolers.

IRENE

Ooh, ooh. Can we tell it them?

The carolers all shake their heads in agreement.

IRENE

Long ago, in a faraway land, there was a young woman named Mary who was expecting a child. Mary and Joseph, who was to be her husband, traveled to a town called Bethlehem. When they got there-

She is interrupted by Mayor Jacob loudly shouting as he walks in from stage right. Gabby and Michelle hide themselves.

MAYOR JACOB

Listen, everyone, I am here to tell you the joyous news of Presentmas. The holiday where you give not one, but two presents to your Mayor! Forget about going to church, singing songs, and spreading love and joy. The important part of the holiday season is giving presents to me!

CAROLER

We are a little busy here. Could you please not interrupt our singing?

MAYOR JACOB

Very well. In a few years, no one will sing your silly carols anyway.

(turns to look offstage)

Hey, you guys. I have something to tell you.

He walks off stage, shouting to an unseen group of people. Michelle and Gabby come out from their hiding spots.

MICHELLE

Thanks for not telling him we were there. We followed him here, and are sure he is up to no good. He would be very angry if he saw us.

CAROLER

Not a problem.

GABBY

So, this Mary was traveling to Bethlehem?

IRENE

Yes, she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. They were counting all the people, and that is where they were supposed to go. But, when they got there, all the inns were full. There was nowhere to stay! So, they settled in to the barn, where Mary had her baby: Jesus.

Sing O Little Town of Bethlehem

MICHELLE

Wait, you are celebrating a baby born in a barn?

MARCIA

Not just any baby. Jesus would grow up to save us, all of us. Right after he was born, not far away, there was a group of shepherds. They were watching their sheep when suddenly angels appeared and told them of Jesus' birth.

Sing The First Noel

MARCIA

The shepherds hurried off from the angels and found Jesus in the manger. But they were not the only ones traveling to see Jesus. There were also three wise men that followed a star in the sky.

Sing We Three Kings

Three of the carolers sing a trio.

MARCIA

So, it wasn't just a normal baby. This baby was worshiped by angels, shepherds, kings, and peasants.

IRENE

He is a savior, come in the form of a child.

GABBY

Why have we never heard this story?

MICHELLE

The Mayor! What if he's come back in time before?

MARCIA

Back in time?

MICHELLE

Uh, yeah, we are time travelers.

MARCIA

Oh. Okay.

GABBY

This is not good. The Mayor is trying to make Christmas about himself, instead of Jesus.

MICHELLE

And he is coming this way.

The Mayor walks in, wearing a big smile on his face. Gabby and Michelle dive for cover and hide.

MAYOR JACOB

More presents for me, more presents for me.

GABBY

What do we do?

MICHELLE

I don't know.

MAYOR JACOB

Hey, the time machine is broken!

He picks up the pieces, tosses them in, and dusts his hands off.

MAYOR JACOB

There, fixed.

He steps inside, and is transported back to the future.

MICHELLE

Oh, no, he's gone!

GABBY

So, we can't stop him.

MICHELLE

Whatever he did here will change the future. He'll get even more gifts and hide Christmas behind Presentmas.

GABBY

If he can, change things, can we change things?

MARCIA

Perhaps we can help? If this guy told everyone about Christmas, why don't we just sing even louder about Christmas?

MICHELLE

Do you have a song that will get everyone's attention?

MARCIA

We sure do.

Sing Joy to the World

GABBY

Did it work?

MICHELLE

I guess we won't know until we go back home.

IRENE

It was nice knowing you.

CAROLERS

Bye!

The girls climb into the machine, it goes off, and the clock spins forward until the date lands on "December 24th, 2268."

They climb out, and everything looks the same as before, except the empty present box.

GABBY

Did it work?

MICHELLE

I don't know.

Mayor Jacob walks in, carrying two presents.

MAYOR JACOB
Two presents, two presents.

MICHELLE
Oh, no.

Mayor Jacob stops in front of them.

MAYOR JACOB
Oh, thank goodness I found you. Here are your presents.

The Mayor hands them each one present.

MAYOR JACOB
Merry Christmas!
(turns to walk away)
I just love sharing.

Mayor Jacob walks off. Gabby and Michelle just look at each other for a moment.

MICHELLE
I think it worked.

GABBY
Merry Christmas, Michelle.

MICHELLE
Merry Christmas, Gabby.

Sing Silent Night.