

## The True Spirit of Christmas

*Scene: couple in party hats waving off friends at their front door following a Christmas get-together.*

**Eddie:** Bye!

**Miriam:** Bye! Thanks for coming!

*Shut front door. Eddie throws himself down on sofa, Miriam clearing up.*

**Eddie:** Thank goodness that's over! *Throws off party hat.*

**Miriam:** Eddie! Don't be so rude! That would have been a very successful dinner, if you hadn't been such a grump! I don't know what's the matter with you, you never enter into the spirit of things at Christmas any more, it seems to bring out the worst in you!

**Eddie:** I don't like Christmas! I've never liked Christmas! I don't know why you insist on making me celebrate it every year! Christmas is the time of year when the whole world goes mad, everyone frantically shopping for over-expensive presents that no-one will like anyway, having jolly get-togethers with people you can't stand, who drink every drop of alcohol in the house, pretending to have a good time, family rows, indigestion, getting away with endless repeats on TV by describing them as "classic viewing", charities hassling you trying to make you feel guilty about being comfortably off..... the only good thing about Christmas is extra bank holidays!

**Miriam:** You used to like Christmas, you used to really enjoy all the planning and getting things ready, I couldn't get you to go to sleep on Christmas Eve, you were so excited!

**Eddie:** Bah! What a load of nonsense!

**Miriam:** *sigh* Yes dear.... *Exit Miriam, taking dishes in to the kitchen (goes and takes a seat in the congregation for later)*

*Eddie picks up newspaper to read, but soon falls asleep, dropping the newspaper. Enter "The True Spirit of Christmas" (a mix of Scrooge's ghosts, the angel from "It's A Wonderful Life" and a pantomime fairy godmother). TSC touches Eddie on both shoulders with a wand*

**TSC:** Awake, oh sleeping cynic, and join me in my magical realm. We shall go on a journey to the heart of Christmas!

**Eddie:** *waking up, a bit groggy, yawns* I must have dropped off! *Sees TSC* Aah! Who are you? Miriam! A mad fancy dressing carol singer or something has broken through our defences into the living room! Miriam??

**TSC:** Miriam can't hear you from where we are now. As far as Miriam's concerned you are still asleep on the sofa. We have stepped out of time as you know it. You're in my world now.

**Eddie:** What?? Are you insane??!

**TSC:** No, I am The True Spirit of Christmas!

**Eddie:** You look like a fairy!

**TSC:** *annoyed* Well, what do you think The True Spirit of Christmas should look like?!

**Eddie:** A bottle of Jack Daniels??

**TSC:** *ignoring this* I am the True Spirit of Christmas...Fairy! I have come to reveal to you the heart of Christmas

**Eddie:** Why are you picking on me?

**TSC:** I'm not singling you out, I'm doing my rounds! You are Christmas Cynic Number 23!

**Eddie:** Miriam!!!!

**TSC:** Come with me now, and I will take you back to the heart of Christmas, to remind you why we celebrate Christmas and re-kindle your love for the festive season!

*TSC twirls round with her wand, hits Eddie with wand, Eddie is compelled to join in with the second twirl – they are whisked off to a new scene!*

**Eddie:** I know this place! It's my old school! It hasn't changed at all!

**TSC:** It hasn't changed because we are not there today, we are at your school in yesteryear, it is as it was because it is...

**Eddie:** *pause* You know that makes no sense, right?

**TSC:** And look! Who is that?

**Eddie:** It's me!!

*One of the boys from church walks out to the front and does a bible reading, Luke 2: 8-20. Eddie repeats the last line.*

**Eddie:** "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God!" I remember that!

**TSC:** Do you still believe it?

**Eddie:** Well....

**TSC:** I know deep down you do. But over the years you have learnt to be embarrassed by the story of the coming of Jesus, as though it were something that should be confined to your childhood. It's not a story made up simply to entertain children. You are still allowed to believe it now, even though you are getting on, because it's the truth! Come! Let us go to 2004!

*More twirling round!!*

**TSC:** Listen to the reading from Matthew

*Another child reads Matthew 2: 1-12. Then the whole church sings “We Three Kings” while TSC and Eddie look on. Carol ends, everyone sits down.*

**Eddie:** Look! There’s my neighbour, John! John! Hey, John! *Waving and trying to get his attention*

**TSC:** He can’t see you. You’re asleep at home on your sofa, and he’s at his church’s carol concert.

**Eddie:** I used to enjoy singing carols.

**TSC:** You can still enjoy singing Christmas carols! Listen to the words! They’re all about good news and great joy! God sent his only son to earth to live among us, teach us and to save us from a life and a death without knowing God! Let’s celebrate the birth of Jesus! Let’s sing with them!

*Whole church sings “Good Christian Men Rejoice!”, this time Eddie and TSC join in enthusiastically, dancing round! As carol finishes, Eddie and TSC, jumping up and down with excitement and clapping.*

**Eddie:** I’d forgotten how good Christmas is! There’s lots to celebrate!

**TSC:** We’re not finished yet! I must show you shadows of the things that have not yet happened, but will happen in the time before us!

**Eddie:** I have no idea what you are talking about!

**TSC:** Come on!

*Eddie and TSC twirl into another scene! Miriam walks out to the front from her seat in the congregation to say a Christmas prayer, thankful for the coming of Jesus.*

**Miriam:** Dear Lord, thank you for sending your son Jesus to us. Thank you that he lived on earth as a man so we know he can fully understand the ups and downs we experience in life. Thank you Lord that you are not a cold, distant god, but a loving father reaching out to us. Thank you for the gift of your son. Amen.

*Miriam exits church and nips round back to the stage entrance ready to come on stage again.*

**Eddie:** That’s Miriam! Praying in church! It’s not like Miriam to be in a church at all, never mind praying in front of people!

**TSC:** It is like Miriam. Don’t you remember when you two first met, how Miriam always went to church every Sunday, and on Christmas Day?

**Eddie:** That was a long time ago! I thought she’d given up on all that.

**TSC:** She only gave up church because you did.

**Eddie:** But she’s back there now?

**TSC:** Yes, now you’re dead, she feels free to go to church again and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

**Eddie:** I'm dead?! When did I die??

**TSC:** Not for a long time yet, which in a way is sad for Miriam, because she's got years of doing Christmas without Jesus stretching ahead of her, with you moaning and complaining about everything to do with Christmas!

**Eddie:** But I can still change, can't I?? I don't want to do Christmas without Jesus anymore! Really, you have shown me the True Spirit of Christmas! I'm a changed man! Please let me try again!

**TSC:** Very well! I will return you to your present life and trust you to change the course of it and celebrate Christmas with all your heart because it is the most precious gift from God!

*Twirl back to living room. Exit TSC. Eddie wakes up properly on sofa. Leaps up.*

**Eddie:** Miriam! Miriam!

*Enter Miriam*

**Miriam:** Yes Eddie?

**Eddie:** *sings* Hark! The Herald angels sing, glory to the new born king!

**Miriam:** Did you finish off the sherry??!

**Eddie:** I am a changed man! I want to celebrate Christmas for what it really is! I've just remembered that Christmas is exciting because it's about Jesus!

**Miriam:** You've just remembered that?

**Eddie:** Yes! Will you come to the carol service with me??

**Miriam:** Well, I don't know what's come over you, I'm sure, but I'd love to go to the carol service! We should leave right now, before you change your mind!

**Eddie:** *laughing* I won't change my mind! Come on!

*Exit Eddie and Miriam.*

*TSC from off stage*

**TSC:** Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them. His own heart laughed; and that was quite enough for him. And hence forth it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! God bless us, every one!

*Whole church sings "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".*

© Copyright Michelle Fogg, all rights reserved. This script may be performed free of charge, on the condition that copies are not sold for profit in any medium, including books, CDs and on the Internet. Authorship of Michelle Fogg should be acknowledged on any free copies made. <http://www.richmondparkchurch.org.uk/>  
This © Copyright notice must remain with this document at all times.