THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT
The Story of St. Nicholas
Script

ACT I
2 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Intro:
Rev. Chris Kindl enters by walking through a living room and ending at a fireplace.

Rev. Kindl: “Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there”… Ah yes, ‘tis the season... Christmas, that is…

There is nothing like Christmas here in Shropshire. There is a certain enchanted feeling that one gets when this festive season rolls around. I believe this is going to be an extra special Christmas here in the village. Who knows what miraculous event might just happen, if one truly believes…. Do you believe? ...

(Magical sounds run into the overture as Rev. Kindl enters the bustling city streets)

Opening:

MUSIC: Overture
(Victorian Villagers and children gather in the town square. Merchants are selling their Christmas wares. Frederick Pendry enters the town)

Frederick: (Greets Rev. Kindl) Top of the morning to you, Rev. Kindl.

Rev.: …and top of the morning to you, Frederick… and how is Abigail?

Frederick: Lovely. Absolutely, lovely.

Rev.: I am certain she is. Have a good day, sir. Blessings to you and your household.

Frederick: And to you as well. (He turns and is stopped by Ms. Kensington, the orphanage director.)

Scene 1:
“The Village Square”

Ms. Kensington: Frederick Pendry. You are the gentleman I have been looking for. I desperately need your help.

Frederick: Well of course, Ms. Kensington. Do you need something for the children at the orphanage? (He reaches inside his coat pocket)

Ms. Kensington: Oh, no… People have been so generous this season. You and your wife are so kind to us as well. I need a much larger favor.
Frederick: Oh really? How can I assist you?

Ms. Kensington: Well, my mother has taken ill. I am afraid this might be her last Christmas. I would like very much to visit her for a few days before Christmas. I know this is quite sudden, but I really need your help.

Frederick: Do you need money to travel?

Mrs. Kensington: No… You see, Mr. Pendry. I have all of the children taken care of. The townspeople have opened their homes for the next couple of days. Without me being at the orphanage, I just couldn’t leave such a large task to one person. I have been blessed by wonderful people who love and support the children. However, I have two new arrivals from the next town over. I have not had enough time to find a place for them to stay. I know that you and the Mrs. love children.

Frederick: Well, of course we do.

Mrs. Kensington: And I know that you lost your child a few years ago. I wouldn’t want to impose on Mrs. Pendry if she is still grieving, but maybe having a child in the home will bring some healing.

Frederick: Well, I would have to…

Mrs. Kensington: It would only be for a couple of days. I will be back by Christmas Day. I want to be here for the children.

Frederick: Of course. I understand.

Mrs. Kensington: I knew you would do it!

Frederick: I meant “of course”…..(confused)

Mrs. Kensington: I must be on my way. I will drop the children off on my way out of town in just a bit. Thank you…. Thank you so much, Mr. Pendry. I could never repay you. (Off she goes)

Frederick: That’s just spiffy… I always get in a fix. Hopefully Abigail will take this well. Children in our home… Yes!!!

MUSIC: “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” (Carolers)

Scene 2:
“The Pendry Home”

(Abigail is reading a book. The maids, Myrtle and Nettie are bustling around and cleaning.)

Nettie: (Bringing in tea) Time for a spot of tea, Mrs.
Abigail: Oh, thank you, Nettie. (To Myrtle) Myrtle, would you like to join us?

Myrtle: Certainly, Mrs. Pendry. I need a break from all this housekeeping.

Nettie: You only started an hour ago. You barely broke a sweat.

Myrtle: Well, at least I wasn’t sweating over the milk man.

Abigail: Do you have a fancy for Mr. Dover?

Myrtle: He is a widower, you know.

Nettie: His poor dead wife is barely cold in the grave.

Myrtle: That’s not true. She’s been dead for over a year.

Nettie: (Sarcastically) Oh, pardon me. I didn’t realize how long it had been.

Abigail: So, have you taken a liking to him?

Myrtle: A woman does have needs you know. I have lived to be an old maid. I don’t necessarily want to die one.

Nettie: May God have mercy on our souls.

Frederick: (Entering) Good afternoon, ladies. (He raises Abigail to her feet. He twirls her and kisses her. The maids giggle) What do you say about having guests for the next couple of days?

Nettie: (Under her breath) Oh, great. More housework to do...

Frederick: What did you say, Nettie?

Nettie: I said I have housework to do. (She stands and takes the tea set out. Myrtle starts straightening up)

Frederick: (To Abigail) What do you say, dear? Wouldn’t it be wonderful to open our home to celebrate the season with others?

Abigail: Well, I guess it would be okay. Who do you plan to invite for a visit?

Frederick: Well, I ran into Ms. Kensington today and she needs a place for 2 orphans to stay for a couple of days so she can visit her mother who has fallen ill and she has to leave this afternoon and will be dropping the children off any time now (He takes a breath and looks for approval).
Abigail: *(Turning away. Myrtle and Nettie around the corner eavesdropping)* Well, I…I…*(She turns)* I believe it is a lovely idea.

Frederick: Are you certain? I know that when we lost the baby, I thought I was going to lose you. Look, I know that the doctor told us that we could never have children. We can still love them and have them in our home. We have the extra room ready.

Abigail: I know that this will be good for us. I just don’t want to get too attached. It is only for a couple of days. We need to guard our hearts. Do you think we can do this? *(Tearfully excited)*

Myrtle: *(Outburst)* Of course, we can.


Frederick: The company will be good for all of us.

Abigail: Yes, we need a bit of good cheer around here.

Nettie: I will go up and get the children’s room ready. *(Door Bell. She exits)*

Myrtle: And I will get the door. *(She moves to the door)*

Scene 3:

“Welcome”

*(The door opens to Ms. Kensington. She steps in and to the side)*

Ms. Kensington: Children! *(Seth and Lily step in)* It’s okay, children. This is the home you will be staying in for a couple of days until I return. This is Frederick and Abigail Pendry. Mr. and Mrs. Pendry, this is Seth and Lily.

Abigail: Welcome Lily and Seth.

Frederick: Welcome indeed. It is our pleasure to have you here.

Lily: Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Pendry for allowing us to stay with you.

Seth: Lily, this is the biggest home that I have ever seen.

Myrtle: I will get their things and take them upstairs.

Lily: *(Holding a single bag)* These are our things.

Myrtle: Of course, deary. My name is Myrtle. I will take them right up for you and have Nettie, the housekeeper, come down to meet you. *(She exits)*
Ms. Kensington: *(Rushing)* I hate to be abrupt, but I have to go. I don’t want to miss my train. Please excuse me. *(She kneels)* Lily and Seth, be on your best behavior. We will get you settled in when I return on Christmas day. Mind your manners…

Seth and Lily: Yes, ma’am.

Ms. Kensington: *(To Pendry’s)* Thanks again. I am forever grateful. Seasons Greetings… *(She exits. The Pendry’s and children have an awkward silence)*

Seth: You have two maids?

Abigail: Yes, we have a large house, because we hoped to have a large family someday.

Lily: Do you have children?

Frederick: No, we cannot have children. But we do have lots of rooms.

Seth: Do you have toys?

Lily: *(Calling him out)* Seth!

Seth: Sorry…

Abigail: Oh, don’t be sorry. Indeed we do have toys in the children’s room.

Seth: Is that where we are staying?

Abigail: That is where I was going to put you, and your sister will be across the hallway. *(Seth drops his head)*

Lily: Would you mind if we stayed together in the children’s room? They separated us at the last orphanage. We never got to see each other much. It would just be while we stayed here.

Frederick: Of course, you can stay together. We will have it no other way.

Myrtle: *(Maids entering)* Seth and Lily, this is Nettie, the old maid.

Nettie: Careful, Myrtle. I am only one year your senior.

Seth: *(Laughing)* You two are funny…

Myrtle: Well, I find that laughter brings merriment to the heart.

Nettie: The Good Book says that it is like medicine for the soul.
Seth: I don’t like medicine…

Nettie: Then, why not laugh instead.

**MUSIC:** “*A Song of Laughter*”

*(Song ends in laughter)*

Frederick: Ladies, I am certain there are plans for a wonderful meal this evening?

Myrtle: Absolutely.

Abigail: After supper, we will gather in the children’s room for a nice bedtime story.

Frederick: And some milk and cookies?

Seth and Lily: Yes!!!!

Nettie: I will get the children settled in.* (She exits with Seth and Lily)

Myrtle: I will start supper.* (She exits to kitchen)

Abigail: Oh Frederick, they are lovely children.

Frederick: Indeed they are. And you are a lovely wife.* (He kisses her) This is going to be the best Christmas ever…

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**Scene 4:**

*“The Story Begins”*

**MUSIC:** “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” *(Carolers)*

*(Seth and Lily are in the children’s room with Myrtle & Nettie. Frederick and Abigail enter)*

Seth: This place is like a mansion.

Lily: It is so beautiful.

Abigail: We want you to make yourself at home.

Seth: Why do you have all of this children’s stuff?

Frederick: Well, we fixed this room in hopes of having children one day. Abigail lost a baby last year. That was when we found out that we couldn’t have children.

Abigail: We are so grateful to God that you are here to share our home with us.

Lily: *(To Frederick)* Will you read us a Christmas story?
Seth: Oh, please… *Myrtle and Nettie exit*

Frederick: Absolutely! Let’s see *Looking through some books.* Ah, yes… “Visit from St. Nicholas.” Let’s see here *Opens the book.* “Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house…not a creature as stirring…not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care…in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there…”

Lily: Do tell us about St. Nicholas.

Seth: I’m not certain I believe in St. Nicholas. Is he real?

Abigail: Is he real? Of course he is real. Frederick, please share with the children.

Frederick: *Pulling out an old book* Here’s the one. *Opens the book and begins to read* St. Nicholas was born in AD 270. That was a little over 200 years after Christ walked on the earth. He was born in the country of Patara. It is now known to be located on the coast of Turkey.

Abigail: *Sharing the book* Nicholas parents, Theophanes and Nona, were noble and wealthy. They used their money to help the less fortunate. They had been childless their whole married life. *Not reading* They prayed as we have with tears that God would grant them a child. God finally granted their request and Nicholas was born. *Reading again* Theophanes and Nona dedicated Nicholas to God for him to be used greatly.

*MUSIC: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

*We see the lights come up on Theophanes and Nona. Nona is holding a child* Nona: Theophanes, can you believe it? God has finally blessed us with a son.

Theophanes: We are so undeserving. *Looking at the child* He has your eyes, Nona.

Nona: But he has your strength. He will grow up to be a great man of God.

Theophanes: We will dedicate this child to God to be used for great purposes.

Nona: Who would ever think that we would or could have a child after all these years?

Theophanes: Only God alone.

*MUSIC: “Mother’s Song” (Abigail and Nona)*
Scene 5:  
“The Dowry”
(Scene opens back on the Pendry home.)

Lily: I certainly miss my mother. I used to sit next to her and watch her rock Seth to sleep. We would sing lullabies together.

Seth: Papa would always read us stories at bedtime.

Abigail: Do you mind me asking what happened to your parents?

Lily: There was an epidemic. For our safety, they sent us to a village church. We got word they were very sick. They sent this note. *(Pulls it out and reads)*

“Lily and Seth, you mean the world to us. We will be leaving here to be with Jesus. We will see you again someday. Remember that Jesus is always there for you. We love you…”

We had no other living relatives, so we were sent to the orphanage to live.

Seth: I know Mama and Papa are with Jesus, but I miss them terribly. *(He cries)*

Frederick: *(Comforting)* Come on, Champ. It will be alright. You had great parents who had wonderful children. God is taking very good care of them now.

Abigail: Did you know that young St. Nicholas’ parents died when he was a child?

Lily: Really?

Frederick: Yes. They died in an epidemic as well.

Seth: Just like ours?

Frederick: *(Reading)* After his parents died, Young St. Nicholas became orphaned. Unlike most orphans, Young Nicholas was left with a lot of money, which he used throughout his life to help others by giving it all away to the poor and orphaned. Young Nicholas went to live at a monastery with his uncle who was a Bishop. He was also named Nicholas.

*(The maids, Myrtle and Nettie, enter the children’s room with milk and cookies. They interrupt the story.)*

Nettie: Hello, children. How about some fresh baked cookies?

Myrtle: And some warm, fresh milk…

Nettie: Oh yes, we mustn’t forget the milk and who it came from.
Myrtle: Nettie, that is not necessary. Behave yourself.

Abigail: Thank you, ladies. We were telling the children about St. Nicholas. Do you have a favorite story?

Nettie: Well, of course we do. My favorite has to do with love.

Myrtle: Why am I not surprised?

Nettie: As you know, these days if a lady doesn’t marry by the time she is 20, she is considered an old maid.

Seth: Are you older than 20…

Myrtle: She’s well over twice that.

Nettie: Watch it, Myrtle; you are no spring chicken yourself.

Myrtle: Get back to your story.

Nettie: Well in Young Nicholas’ day, a young lady could not marry without a dowry. A dowry is a bit of money that was to be given by the parents of the bride at the time of marriage.

Myrtle: And young ladies from poor families who had no dowries couldn’t get married.

Nettie: In order to not be a burden on their families, they would have to become slaves or enter into prostitution.

Myrtle: Careful Myrtle, they are children.

Nettie: Oh, pardon me…

Myrtle: Get on with the story, and keep it clean.

Nettie: Well, the story goes that there were three daughters. Let’s refer to them as Shabah, Leyla, and Tanzel. Their parents, Devran and Hesna, were poor, but very hard working people. They could not save enough money to provide for their daughters’ dowries. Devran knew that with no dowry, his daughters could not marry and were destined to end up in slavery or…. (Myrtle clears her throat) or worse. All they needed was a little silver or gold, but where was it to come from?

MUSIC: “Silver and Gold” (Carolers)

Scene Split: (“The Dowry” scene is acted out. The scene opens with young Nicholas with his uncle, Bishop Nicholas.)
Young Nicholas: Uncle Nicholas, I know that there are less fortunate people than me. I have no need for the wealth that my parents have left for me. All that I own belongs to God. I have been praying for God to show me how to minister to others.

Bishop Nicholas: You are truly your parents’ son. They spent their wealth on helping others and showing people the love of Christ through their giving it away.

Young Nicholas: In my lifetime, I wish to give all that I have away for nothing in return. I already possess the greatest treasure. That is my faith in Christ. If I could use what God has entrusted to me to point others to Christ, that would indeed be a blessing.

Bishop Nicholas: Well, there is a family in the village that could use a little help. You know Devran and Hesna who attend church here?

Young Nicholas: Of course. They have three beautiful daughters.

Bishop Nicholas: That is correct. You see, Devran and Hesna are hard-working people. They have been careful to provide for their daughters, but they have not been able to save money for their daughters’ dowries. The young ladies so want to marry, but are unable to do so without a dowry. Perhaps, a bequest from you would make their dreams possible.

Young Nicholas: That is perfect, Uncle. But I would not want them to know. For I would never take credit for what God has provided. I wish for my left hand not to know what my right hand is doing...all glory to Christ and Him alone...

Bishop Nicholas: Yes, of course. God’s will be done.

*Split Scene:* (Scene opens on “The Dowry” family. Hesna is talking with Mrs. Yilmaz, the busybody.)

Mrs. Yilmaz: As I was saying, you should have had boys and not girls. Girls are so much trouble and so much responsibility. Now me, I have been blessed with sons. Dowries are not an issue. God be praised.

Hesna: But having daughters was God’s choice for us. I know that He will provide. He always has.

Mrs. Yilmaz: Look at you. You are scraping by.

Hesna: We have all that we need. No more, no less. Devran works hard to provide, and we have a wonderful family.

Mrs. Yilmaz: Your wonderful family will end in shame if your daughters don’t have a dowry. You know as well as I where they will end up. You better pray for your husband to have more work.
Hesna: You listen to me, Mrs.Yilmaz. I have great husband and… *(They are interrupted by Devran’s entrance)*

Devran: Hello, ladies. Everything okay?

Mrs. Yilmaz: Perfectly fine, Devran. I was just telling Hesna where your daughters are going to end up if you don’t come up with dowries very soon.

Devran: And perhaps, I should tell you what the good book says…It says, some among you are “idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.” I Timothy 5:13.

Mrs. Yilmaz: Well, I was just expressing my concern.

Devran: Then wander to another house and express it there.

Mrs. Yilmaz: I can see that I have worn my welcome out here. *(She exits. They laugh)*

Hesna: Oh, Devran. I am praying. I do believe that God will provide.

Devran: He has never failed us yet. We must have faith.

Shabah: *(Entering with Leyla carrying laundry)* Leyla and I have the last of the laundry. The stockings never seem to dry.

Hesna: Hang them by the chimney tonight as usual. They will dry by morning.

Tanzel: *(Entering)* Here is the firewood.

Devran: Girls, please sit. *(They sit)* I have wanted to talk with you. I know that you all have a desire to be married. Shabah you must marry first in order for the others to be able to.

Shabah: Oh, Papa. I will be married soon. I just know it.

Leyla: God has told me the same. He has a wonderful husband for me. He will be just like you, Papa.

Tanzel: Papa, I don’t know if you have noticed, but I am no longer a little girl. I too plan to marry. I have been talking to someone.

Hesna: Trust me, Tanzel. Your father knows all. The Good Lord tells him…

Devran: About your dowries…I know that you might be wondering. Your mother and I have tried to provide everything for you, but there has been nothing to save.

Shabah: Does that mean that we will end up…
Hesna: Don’t even think like that Shabah.

Leyla: But Mama, if we have no dowries, we…

Tanzel: We will have to…

Devran: Listen, my angels, God has always provided. We must never lose faith. I believe for a miracle, but I need you to believe as well. Let us pray…. *(They bow heads. Devran stands and looks to God).* Dear Father, I am blessed in so many ways—a good wife and three wonderful daughters. It is more than I deserve. I now trust you to provide what I cannot. You love them as much as I. Your will be done…. Amen

Hesna: Get ready for bed, girls. *(They exit and Tanzel turns back)*

Tanzel: I believe, Papa. *(Lights go down)*

**Split Scene:** *(Lights come up on the children’s room)*

Nettie: *(Reading from the book)* So Young Nicholas, led by God, came secretly by night. He tossed a bag of gold into the house. It sailed in through an open window, landing in a stocking that was left before the fire to dry. When morning came, the gold was found. What joy in the morning when the gold was discovered! Soon after, Sabah was married.

Time passed, and it was time for the second daughter to marry. Young Nicholas, led again by God, came again at night. Another bag of gold again appeared mysteriously. Leyla was able to marry as well. The father, Devran, was very curious to know who the secret benefactor was. And so, he kept watch during the night.

**Split Scene:** *(Lights come up on the “Dowry Home”. Hesna and Tanzel are fast asleep. Devran is snoring, but going in and out of sleep)*

*(We see Young Nicholas enter and toss a bag of gold inside. It lands in the house. Devran wakes and leaps to catch Young Nicholas. He pulls off Young Nicholas’ hood)*

Devran: Ah, Young Nicholas, it is you! You have saved my daughters from certain disaster.

Young Nicholas: *(Embarrassed)* Please, Devran. Tell no one what you saw. Please keep my identity a secret. You must thank God alone for providing these gifts in answer to your prayers for deliverance. I am nothing but a man.

**MUSIC: “Silver and Gold”**

*(Tanzel holding the bag of gold moves to her father and mother and they sing the first verse. We see Young Nicholas in the distance. The other two daughters emerge and join. There is a break in the music. Mrs. Yılmaz passes by.)*
Scene 6:
“The Pickle Barrel”

(Scene returns to the Pendry Home)

Seth: So, that is why we put stockings by the chimney?

Myrtle: That’s right, lad. And you can be certain that you and Lily will have one by our chimney here.

Nettie: I will see to that.

Lily: St. Nicholas was so generous…even when he was young. He truly loved the poor and wanted to help them.

Abigail: He certainly did.

Myrtle: He especially loved the children. I would like to share my favorite story of St. Nicholas if you don’t mind that is?

Seth: Oh, please, Ms. Myrtle …

Myrtle: (Opening the book) This story is entitled, “The Pickle Barrel.”

Abigail: I’m not so certain we should share that story with the children. It might frighten them. Frederick? (Frederick starts to respond, but is interrupted by Myrtle)

Myrtle: Oh, come now. A little fright is good for the heart.

Frederick: But, Myrtle. They are young.

Lily: I’m not afraid. I would like to hear the story.

Seth: Yes, we’re not afraid. Please, please…

Myrtle: With your permission, Mr. Pendry. (Frederick nods) Very well…. (She reads) There was a great famine that hit the region where Young Nicholas lived. Three small children were gleaning in the fields for any food that they might find. (Aside to the children) For your sakes, I shall call them: Phillipo, Yannis, and Theron Papadakis. (She goes back to the book) As they worked and played, they wandered off into the nearby town. During their exploration, the children forgot the time.
When evening came and the sun was setting, the children were hungry, tired and lost. They came to a lighted butcher's shop. It was owned by an evil butcher and his wife. 

*(Aside to the children)* Let’s call them, Mr. and Mrs. Kreopolis.

**MUSIC:** *“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”* *(Carolers)*

**Split Scene:** *(Opens on the “Butcher Shoppe”)*

Phillipo: *(Knocking on the door)* Hello. Is anyone there?

Mrs. Kreopolis: *(Opening the door)* Good evening.

Theron: We seemed to have gotten lost, and we are bit hungry.

Yannis: May we have somethin’ to eat and a place to rest for the night?

Mrs. Kreopolis: We really don’t have… *(Interrupted by her husband standing behind her)*

Mr. Kreopolis: Oh, yes, children. Do come in. *(giving them a pitcher and mugs)* You must be thirsty as well. Have something to drink.

Mrs. Kreopolis: *(Aside to her husband as they enter)* What are you thinking? We don’t have enough food for ourselves. Let alone for these street urchins. We can barely keep the shoppe open. We are a butcher shoppe, and we don’t even have meat.

Mr. Kreopolis: *(gesturing to the boys)* Looks to me that we have plenty of meat here. Enough to provide for us and to keep our butcher shoppe in business.

Mrs. Kreopolis: Ah, yes. I see your point. Tender morsels, too. *(They laugh diabolically. To her husband)* You go to the back. I will send them in for food. *(He starts to walk away, she pulls him back)* Use the sharp knife. We wouldn’t want to waste anything.

Mr. Kreopolis: Of course, dear. No waste. *(He exits)*

Mrs. Kreopolis: So, are you hungry?

Boys: Yes…

Mrs. Kreopolis: Mr. Kreopolis has gone to the back to prepare for a meal that you will never forget. *(yelling)* Oh dear, are you ready?

Mr. Kreopolis: *(Yelling)* Yes, dear. Send them back. *(The boys go to the back)*

**Split Scene:** *(Scene is up on the children’s room. Myrtle continues)*
Myrtle: You can imagine the horror that was next. After the butcher had done his evil deed, he put the boys in a large salting, pickling barrel.

Abigail: Children, are you okay?

Seth: Yes. Don’t just leave us hanging, finish the story.

Myrtle: Well, time passed. Mr. and Mrs. Kreopolis were ready for business. Little did they know that Young Nicholas was visiting their town and would soon be stopping by.

**MUSIC:** "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (Carolers Sing. “Bring us some figgy pudding. The song transitions to Mr. and Mrs. Kreopolis singing, “We won’t go until we get some...”)

**Scene Split:** (Scene opens on the “Butcher’s Shoppe”. As they sing, Mrs. Kreopolis is putting up signs out front of fresh tasty pickled meat for sale. Mr. Kreopolis rolls a barrel out into the shop with a sign that reads the same. They wait for customers. Young Nicholas enters and knocks.)

Mrs. Kreopolis: *(Opening the door)* Well, well, well, do come in. Do be seated. Perhaps you are interested in some fresh salted ham?

Young Nicholas: *(Senses something wrong)* Give me a moment. *(Another knock at the door. Mr. Kreopolis moves to the door joined by his wife)*

Mrs. Papadakis: *(Rushing into the room with Mr. Papadakis)* Please, can you help us?

Mr. Papadakis: Our boys have been missing for some time. Have you seen them?

Mrs. Papadakis: They are very young…sweet….and have tender hearts.

Mrs. Kreopolis: Yes…. Yes…. *(Licking her lips and looking at a distance)* I mean, no. No sign of them.

Mr. Kreopolis: Sorry, but no young children have been here. If you aren’t a paying customer, we will have to ask you to leave.

Young Nicholas: *(Stands without saying a word. We hear magical music. They all turn to him. Nicholas turns to Mr. Kreopolis)* Open your large salting, pickle barrel. *(Mr. and Mrs. Kreopolis refuse and back away. Nicholas moves to the pickle barrel. He raises one hand and places the other on the barrel)* In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ…Rise up, little children. *(The barrel supernaturally opens and each boy steps out. Young Nicholas presents the boys to their parents. They all rejoice.)*
**MUSIC:** “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” (Carolers sing and scene transitions back to the children’s room)

*Scene 7:*

**“Nicholas at Sea”**

(Scene opens on the children’s room again.)

Abigail: Perhaps that story was a bit scary for the little ones.

Seth: No it wasn’t. I’m not afraid of anything. My father used to call me, “a brave little man.”

Frederick: And that you are. I would like to tell you of a treacherous event that took place when Young Nicholas made his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Abigail: Don’t you think that the children have had enough for this evening?

Seth: Oh please, Ms. Abigail, one more story.

Lily: Oh, yes, please. We promise to go to bed after that.

Abigail: Very well. One more and I must insist that you get your rest.

Frederick: Thank you, Mrs. Pendry, for your kindness to the little people. *They all laugh*

Abigail: Oh Frederick, just read the story…

Frederick: *(Reading)* This is the story of Young St. Nicholas at Sea. Young Nicholas, led by the spirit of God, desired to make his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Wanting to worship in Palestine and follow the steps of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Saint Nicholas boarded an Egyptian ship.

During his voyage, Young Nicholas was given a dream. He tells the captain and the sailors that there would be a great storm; for he had dreamt that Satan boarded the ship to sink them into the sea. That same hour, a dark cloud covered the sky as a fierce storm rose on the horizon.

**MUSIC:** “I Saw Three Ships” (Carolers)

*Scene Split:* Scene opens on a ship at sea. A storm is brewing. “Young St. Nicholas at Sea” is acted out.

Young Nicholas: *(Capt. and sailors are standing near Nicholas. Passengers are at a distance in fear)* Capt. Iason, this is the storm that I spoke of earlier.

Passenger: *(Yelling)* Capt., tell us what to do.
Ariston: We are sure to perish. Look at these waves. Our sails will be ripped to shreds.

Capt. Iason: Sailors, baton down the hatches and secure all loose cargo. Make sure the passengers are holding to safety.

Passengers: (Adlib) Are we going to die? We will be tossed into the sea? Save us, God! Protect us, Lord! Have mercy on our souls!!

Ariston: (To Young Nicholas) Nicholas, you have heard from God. Please pray to Him for our salvation.

Capt. Iason: (To Aristeon) Aristeon, climb the mast and secure the sails.

Ariston: Aye, Capt. (He leaves the scene. We see him climb a rope ladder into the rafters and disappear. The storm increases)

Capt. Iason: (To Nicholas) Nicholas, you are a true servant of God. If you do not help us with your prayers, we will surely die. Please call on God.

Mocker: (To Capt.) Why do you ask a mere man for help? He is not the Savior.

Young Nicholas: Indeed, I am not. (Yelling) Everyone stay calm and trust in God.

Ariston: (Calling out) Capt., we are surrounded by the squall.

Capt.: (Calling to Aristeon) Aristeon, come down and find safety.

Young Nicholas: (Stands on a crate. Wind blowing against him. Storm is raging. Magical music begins. He raises his arms) In the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...Peace, be still!!! (Everything climaxes and we hear a scream as Aristeon’s body falls to the ground. Passengers scream. Music and storm subside and there is peace).

Sailors: (Adlib rejoicing) Praise be to God. Hallelujah! It’s a miracle!

Mocker: How can you praise the work of this heretic? (Turning to Nicholas) How dare you mock the Son of God? Do you think you are Jesus?

Nicholas: (Falling to his knees) I would never mock my Savior. I am but a servant. I claim no glory for God’s mighty hand in this. (Passengers pull the mocker away)

Voyager: (Screaming) He is dead. Aristeon has fallen to his death. (The sailors carry Aristeon to Nicholas)

Capt.: Please, Nicholas. Pray for him. We believe God can heal him.
Young Nicholas: I am not a miracle worker. I am just a man.

Capt.: Yes, but your faith is great… Please, pray…. Please.

Young Nicholas: *(Magical music starts. Nicholas moves to Ariston and kneels and prays)*

Dear God, in our brokenness and humility, would you touch this young man and restore him. *(He opens his eyes. All others are still praying. Mocker watches. He takes Ariston’s hand.)* Rise, Ariston, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ and Him alone. *(Ariston wakes up and stands with Nicholas. Mocker stands in awe)*

Mocker: It’s a miracle! *(Others open their eyes)*

Ariston: Is everyone okay? All I remember are your words, “Peace, be still.” I fell asleep and woke up here.

Capt.: No, Ariston. You fell from the mast to your death. Nicholas prayed for you.

Young Nicholas: God has great plans for you, Ariston. Put your faith in Him.

*MUSIC: “I Saw Three Ships” in ¾ time (Ariston and Crew) Starting with last two verses.*

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

*(The last chorus is repeated by the Carolers as a transition to the Pendry Home)*

**Scene 8:**

*“Home for Christmas”*

*(Scene opens back on the children’s bedroom.)*

Abigail: I think the children have had enough excitement for this evening. I think it is time for bed.

Myrtle: *(Assisting Seth)* Hop in, laddie.

Nettie: *(Assisting Lily)* Sweet dreams, missy.

Frederick: Let’s pray. *(He takes Abigail in his arms. The maids kneel by the children.)*

Dear Father in Heaven. Thank you for blessing our home this day. Be with Lily and
Seth and remind them that you are a father to the fatherless. We praise you, Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen…. Goodnight, children.

Lily & Seth: Goodnight…

(Abigail and Frederick go downstairs carrying the St. Nicholas book. The maids exit last. Myrtle trips over something and stumbles. Nettie shushes her and helps her out of the room)

**Split Scene: (The Pendry Parlor)**

Frederick: Oh, Abigail. What a joy it is to have Lily and Seth here with us.

Abigail: Yes, but we have to remember that it is only temporary. We mustn’t become too attached. They will have to go back to the orphanage on Christmas Day.

Frederick: Yes, of course. But let us enjoy every moment. This house finally feels like the home we have wanted. There is something magical about Christmas and children. *(They sing and the scene ends.)*

**MUSIC:** “Children Was Meant for Children” *(Frederick and Abigail)*

Abigail: Can we get a tree for the children?

Frederick: Are you sure?

Abigail: Absolutely.

Frederick: Of course, we can. *(Scene dims)*

**Scene Split:** *(Scene opens on the streets. Rev. Kindl is walking the street. He looks a bit more festive than before.)*

Rev. Kendl: “The children were nestled all snug in their beds…while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads...’

God has a plan for Lily and Seth to be in this home indeed…Perhaps to open the hearts of Frederick and Abigail to His divine will. Just like the miracles of Young Nicholas, God is getting ready to do something spectacular in the lives of those in the Pendry home.

**ACT II**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Prelude:**

*(Scene opens with Rev. Kindl dressed even more festive than before. He is walking the streets)*
Rev. Kindl: Tis the night before Christmas and all through the Pendry House unexpected surprises are ahead. The children are learning a great deal about St. Nicholas. Even greater truths are about to be revealed tonight. After all, it IS Christmas Eve. Why am I dressed this way? One should dress appropriately for such a special occasion. Shall we check in on our family? *(He motions toward the Pendry home and exits inside a village shoppe door)*

_Scene 1:  
“The Birth”_

*(The scene opens on the Pendry Parlor. A tree has been placed near the fireplace. The maids are prepping for the children.)*

Myrtle: The children are going to be so excited to have a tree. Mr. Pendry picked out a nice one.

Nettie: I am excited to have a tree in the house again. In the past, the Pendry’s didn’t want to have a tree without children.

Myrtle: *(Changing subject)* They should be back from the market soon. We have to hurry. Could you hand me that ornament?

Nettie: What do I look like?

Myrtle: A maid… Now hand it to me. *(Nettie does it with an attitude)*

Nettie: I would like to have children someday.

Myrtle: Face it, Nettie, our days are over. Besides, you don’t even have a husband.

Nettie: Maybe on Christmas morning, St. Nicholas could leave Mr. Dover under my tree.

Myrtle: Nettie! Behave yourself. But, you are right. St. Nick would have to leave Mr. Dover under your tree, because he certainly couldn’t fit in your stocking.

Nettie: What is that supposed to mean?

Myrtle: Let’s just say. It looks like Mr. Dover has eaten a lot of heavy cream pies.

Nettie: Stop it! The children are coming. *(Children enter blindfolded with Frederick and Abigail. Blindfolds removed)*

Nettie & Myrtle: Surprise!!!

Lily: It is beautiful.

Myrtle: Come on, Seth. Help me put on the popcorn and cranberry strings.
Seth: You mean, I can help?

Nettie: Absolutely. Come, missy. Help us. We worked on these garlands all morning.

Lily: (To Frederick. Handing him the St. Nicholas Book) Do you think you could read us another St. Nicholas story?

Frederick: My pleasure.

Abigail: No more scary stories….. please…

Frederick: Yes ma’am. (Picking up the book) Perhaps the most important thing about St. Nicholas was his faith in Jesus. Remember, where we left off last night? St. Nicholas was headed toward the Holy Land to learn more about Jesus. He wanted to visit the sacred places of Christ.

What better place to start, than where Jesus was born…in Bethlehem. St. Nicholas traveled to where Christ first came to this earth in the form of a little baby in a manger.

Seth: Papa used to read that story to us.

Frederick: I am certain he did. And I am certain, just as St. Nicholas, he read it from this (Holds up Bible. He turns in the Bible) I am certain as St. Nicholas visited Bethlehem that these scriptures came to life.

**MUSIC:** “What Child is This” (Carolers)

**Split Scene:** (“The Birth”: Young Nicholas enters the scene. All is dark. A light brings up the Nativity. The Birth of Christ is acted out as the scripture is read by Frederick and Abigail. We see Young Nicholas amazed as he kneels before the Christ child.)

Frederick: Luke 2:1-7 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed... And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; ...To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ...And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

(Young Nicholas watches the Shepherds and Angels scene)

Abigail: Luke 2:8-20 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ...And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

*MUSIC:*” The First Noel” *(Caroler)*

Young Nicholas: It’s the baby, Jesus. It seems so real.

*(Young Nicholas watches as the Wise men visit Jesus)*

Frederick: *Mat 2:1-12* Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ...Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Nicholas: *(Kneeling at manger)* Sweet, baby Jesus. *(The scene dissolves and Nicholas prays to God standing)* Father in Heaven, I am not worthy to even look upon this scene. What a precious gift you gave us in your son, Jesus. Emmanuel, God is with us. Thank you… *(Kneeling)* Thank you.

**Scene 2:**

*The Crucifixion*

*Scene opens on the “The Pendry Home”*

Seth: Can I put the star at the top of the tree?

Frederick: *(Putting Bible down)* Absolutely. *(Nettie hand star to Seth and Frederick helps him)*

Lily: It certainly is a beautiful tree.
Seth: Didn’t Jesus die on a tree?

Myrtle: Yes, He did, Seth. It was an old rugged tree.

Nettie: On a hill called Calvary at Golgotha. “The place of the skull.”

Lily: I thought you said, “No more scary stories.”

Abigail: I did. Even though the crucifixion was a horrible, scary event, it is also what gives every Christian hope and provides forgiveness for our sin. It was on Calvary that Jesus died for our sins.

Frederick: After visiting the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed before his crucifixion, Young Nicholas visited Calvary. He wanted to see the place where Jesus died for his sins.

**Split Scene:** *(Young Nicholas enters a dark stage).*

**MUSIC:**

Frederick: **Matthew 26:36** Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed,

*(Lights come up on Jesus in the Garden praying. Young Nicholas moves to watch)*

Jesus: O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not my will, but Your will be done.

*(Lights fade on Jesus. Nicholas stands)*

Young Nicholas: That is the prayer of my heart, Father. Not, my will, but your will. Use me, Oh God…

**MUSIC:**

Frederick: **John 19:17-18** And Jesus, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him…

**MUSIC:** “Crucifixion Song”

Attention turns to Christ’s Crucifixion. As the scene ends, Nicholas picks up the crown of thorns and weeps.

Young Nicholas: Father, forgive me. I did this to you. It was my sin. Thank you for dying for me….for me…
Scene 3:
“The Resurrection”
(Scene opens on the Pendry home.)

Lily: (Crying and comforted by Abigail) I remember asking Jesus to forgive me and inviting him into my heart.

Seth: (Crying and comforted by Frederick) Papa led me to Christ. I asked Jesus into my heart too.

Myrtle: That is the greatest decision that you will ever make. One day, you will see your Papa and Mama again.

Nettie: We have that promise through the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus rose from the dead to give us all eternal life.

Myrtle: It is said that St. Nicholas couldn’t wait to get to the place where Jesus was buried to see the empty tomb as evidence of Christ’s resurrection.

MUSIC: “The Resurrection Song”

Split Scene: Young Nicholas enters once more. Lights come up on the Tomb.

Nettie: Matthew 28:2 (NKJV) And behold, there was a great earthquake;

Myrtle: …for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,

Nettie and Myrtle: …And rolled back the stone from the Grave!

(The Resurrection is acted out. Young Nicholas is overwhelmed and investigates the Tomb)
Young Nicholas: Praise be to God for His resurrection power. From this day forward, I vow to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

Scene 4:
“For Faith”
(Scene opens on the Pendry Home.)

Frederick: (Reading) Once Young Nicholas returned home, he joined the brotherhood of a monastery founded by his uncle, Bishop Nicholas of Patara, known as Holy Zion. Drawn to a life of silence, Saint Nicholas hoped to stay there until his death. However, the Lord once again announced to him that a different path awaited him.

MUSIC: “O Come, Emmanuel” Verse only (Carolers)

Split Scene: (The scene opens with Nicholas praying in a chapel)
Nicholas: Yes, God, I will do as you ask. I will leave this place and work for the welfare of the world. I will share the truth of Jesus Christ that your name will be glorified.”

*Split Scene: (The Pendry Home)*

Abigail: *(Reading)* Called by God, Nicholas decided not to move back to his homeland of Patara, but wanted to go where no one knew him. Nicholas moved to the city of Myra in Lycia. There, he lived like a poor person without a place to sleep. His only place of refuge was the church.

Myrtle: At that time John, the Archbishop of Myra, died, and bishops gathered and prayed for God and not the people to decide who was to be the next Archbishop.

Nettie: So the bishops prayed and fasted. God opened His will to the oldest bishop. When the bishop was praying, an angel appeared to him and told him to go the door of the church and watch for the first man to enter it. God said: “He is my chosen one. Accept him and make him archbishop: his name is Nicholas.

Frederick: The aged bishop who saw the vision went to the place shown to him in the vision and waited for the man. When it was time for the morning service, Saint Nicholas was the first to come to the church, for he always woke up at midnight to pray and therefore came to the service before all the others.

*MUSIC:* “O Come, Emmanuel” *(Chorus Only by Carolers: “Rejoice…”)*

*Scene Split: (We see Young Nicholas enter the scene.)*

Old Bishop: Who are you, my son?

Young Nicholas: *(Silent)*

Old Bishop: My son, who are you?

Young Nicholas: Nicholas, the sinner. And I am your servant.

Old Bishop: You are chosen by the Lord. For God favors the meek, the silent, and those fearing His word. God be praised!

*Scene Split: (Scene opens on the Pendry Home.)*

Frederick: When the Old Bishop brought Nicholas before the other bishops and the people of Myra, they rejoiced in having their new Archbishop chosen by God himself.

Abigail: Nicholas who never liked praise, denied the post for a long time; but then yielded to the pleas of the council of bishops and all people, and accepted the post of
Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra. (Lights come up at a distance with Young Nicholas dressed in Archbishop clothing. Similar to Old World Santa clothing)

**Scene 5:**
**“Trials of Faith”**
*(Scene opens on the Pendry home once more)*

Lily: What happened next?

Seth: When did he become St. Nicholas?

Frederick: I am getting there. Nicholas led his congregation well. But Satan was out to destroy God’s work. Evil emperors began to persecute the Christian church. Emperors, Diocletian and Maximian, ordered that all citizens of the Roman Empire worship the idols. Nicholas refused and was thrown in prison and tortured. He was ready to die for the sake of Christ. He stayed in prison for a long time, enduring hardships, famine, and thirst.

**MUSIC:** “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” *(Carolers)*

**Scene Shifts:** *(Lights up on Older St. Nicholas in prison. There are other prisoners present.)*

Prisoner 1: Please pray for us, Pastor Nicholas. We will surely die in this place.

Prisoner 2: How much more must we suffer?

Older Nicholas: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. To truly know Christ, we must partake in His suffering. Do not lose heart. God will bring a deliverer to defeat our enemies.

**MUSIC:** *(The prisoners join Nicholas in a song. Scene transitions with Carolers.)*

**Scene 6:**
**“The Orphans & Broken”**
*(The scene opens on the Pendry Home.)*

Myrtle: That was when King Constantine the Great rose to power and placed his trust and faith in Jesus Christ. He restored the Christian Churches.

Nettie: That is when he set all the captives free.

Abigail: That is when Nicholas returned to his homeland once more.
Frederick: The people hardly recognized him as he passed through the streets except for those who had been children before he entered prison. They could never forget the one who showed them so much love.

**Scene Split:** *(Older St. Nicholas enters the village. People gather.)*

Villager 1: Bishop Nicholas? Is that you? *(Moves closer)* It is you.

Villager 2: Bishop Nicholas? *(Yelling)* It is Bishop Nicholas. He is alive. God has returned him to us. *(People gather)*

Older Nicholas: God indeed has delivered us from the hands of the enemy. To God be the glory. May He be praised. We must place our trust in Christ alone. We must “do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”

Christ Jesus is real. He is no fairy tale. You must believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and you too shall be saved. Receive Him as your Lord and Savior and follow Him all the days of your life….

**MUSIC:** “Salvation” *(Nicholas and villagers)*

**Scene 7:**

*“The Legacy”*

*(Scene opens on the Pendry Home.)*

Frederick: So there it is…The story of St. Nicholas. *(Closes the book)* His story has been passed down through the centuries. He has left a legacy of the love of Christ that will last forever.

Myrtle: St. Nicholas is also known around the world as Father Christmas, Sinterklaas, and St. Nick.

Nettie: St. Nicholas showed his love through giving gifts and everything he had.

Frederick: Just as our Heavenly Father gave the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, on that first Christmas morning over 1800 years ago. St. Nicholas left a legacy to share love for the poor and orphans.

Lily: St. Nick was an orphan just like us. He knows what it is like to be like us.

Abigail: Yes, indeed. But the indescribable gift that he shared was the good news of Jesus Christ and our need to know Jesus as our Savior.

Seth: Since our parents died, we have never had a better Christmas.

Abigail: I think it is bedtime. Tomorrow is Christmas.
Lily: …And our last day here.

Myrtle: Well then, let’s get going. Come on, you two. (They all hug and exit leaving Frederick and Abigail).

Abigail: I am really going to miss them. I think I have grown to love them. Oh, Frederick, I was afraid of this. What is God doing?

Frederick: I’m not sure, but I do know that He is opening our hearts to love again. (They sing.)

**MUSIC:** “Children’s Song” (Frederick & Abigail)

**Scene 8:**
*A Child’s Prayer*

(The scene opens on the Children’s bedroom. The maids tuck the children in and leave.)

Seth: (Crying) Lily, I really miss Mama and Papa.

Lily: (Calming him) It will be okay, Seth. I promise. We have made it this far. What do you want most for Christmas?

Seth: A home…

Lily: Me, too…Let’s pray and ask God for that…Dear God, we don’t want to be selfish. Thank you for bringing us to the Pendry’s home. We love them.

Seth: …And thank you for St. Nicholas, too.

Lily: Yes, Lord. Would it be too much to give us a home like this one? It doesn’t have to be this big. We just want to be together. Thank you…

Seth: …And thank you for St. Nicholas, too.

Lily: In Jesus Name, Amen.

Seth: Amen.

**MUSIC:**
*(Song transition to Christmas Day)*

**Scene Splits:** (We see Rev. Kindl in the street once more. He is dressed even more festive.)
Rev. Kindl: Do you like my cloak? It is Christmas Day you know. A lot of things can happen overnight. There is power in prayer, especially that of a child. I am certain that God in heaven has heard the prayers of Lily and Seth. Let’s see if St. Nicholas has paid this family a visit.

**Scene 9:**
“Christmas Gifts”

*(Scene opens on the Pendry Home.)*

Nettie: *(Crying)* It’s not fair. It’s Christmas. It’s supposed to be a joyful day.

Myrtle: *(Crying)* Stop it, Nettie. Don’t get me started again. It was a beautiful sight watching Seth and Lily open their gifts this morning.

Nettie: Why does it have to end? This house will be empty again.

Myrtle: I will still be here.

Nettie: Thanks for the reminder…

Myrtle: The Mrs. could barely sleep all night. I overheard her telling Mr. Pendry that they should never have brought the children in the first place and that it was too hard to let them go back to the orphanage.

Nettie: What are you doing eavesdropping? *(Looks around)* What else did you hear?

Myrtle: Mr. Pendry apologized for causing Abigail to hurt so badly. He told her that he would see to getting the children back to the orphanage this evening. He told her that she didn’t have to come down to say goodbye that he would do that for her.

*(Children enter. Myrtle and Nettie love on the children and help them get ready to leave.)*

Myrtle: Well there we are. The carriage is waiting outside. I don’t want to say goodbye. *(pulling out a hanky)*

Nettie: We will leave it with, “See you in a bit.” *(wiping eyes)*

Lily: *(Holding back tears)* Mr. Pendry says that we can come and visit again.

*(Frederick comes into the room. A bit upset. He kneels)*

Frederick: You know that you are welcome to come for visits. *(He kisses Lily)* You are a beautiful child, Lily…inside and out. *(He hugs Seth).* Now, you be a brave little man.

Seth: Yes sir, I will. I’m going to miss you, Mr. Pendry.

Frederick: …And I will miss you. I am sorry that you have to go. *(He breaks)*
Lily: Don’t cry, Mr. Pendry, you have made this the best Christmas ever. We will never forget it. Where is Ms. Abigail?

Frederick: She is feeling a bit ill this afternoon. She isn’t very good with goodbyes. *(The maids are crying)* I don’t think she will be joining us on the ride…

Abigail: *(Entering and interrupting)* Lily…Seth. *(They turn to her)*

Lily: Yes, Ms. Abigail?

Abigail: *(moving to them)* I have a little something I wanted to give you before you go. One last gift. If that is okay?

Children: Yes.

Abigail: I prayed a lot this afternoon for the right words to say. I put something in your stocking. You can check them if you like. *(The children go and look in their stockings. There is a note.)*

Seth: It’s a note.

Lily: I got the same thing.

Seth: I’m not good at reading. What does it say?

Lily: It says, ‘Welcome Home.” *(She turns to Abigail).* Do you mean it?

Abigail: Of course, I do. With all my heart.

Frederick: Abigail, are you sure?

Abigail: No question about it, Papa. *(The maids have an outburst of joy)*

*MUSIC:* “Family Song” *(Abigail & Frederick)*

**EPILOGUE**

*(Rev. Kindl outside the home. Dressed almost like St. Nicholas).*

Rev. Kindl: An indescribable gift indeed. Miracles still happen. Thank God for His Son, Jesus Christ, the giver of hope and life. May we never forget that we are called to share our faith with the ones who need it most. *(He walks as he talks. He pauses.)* I love happy endings…Just a moment while I get my hat. *(He steps inside transforming into St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas steps out)*

St. Nicholas: What did you expect? …Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

**THE END**