

LOVE SHONE THROUGH
A Christmas Play
by Amy Russell
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Cast

Joann Reynolds~Young to middle age woman
Greg Reynolds~Young to middle age man
Jillian Reynolds~ 9-11 year old girl
Syd Rogers~ Sloppy young man
Angie Roberts~Rough young lady
Mrs. Jennings
Pastor
Uncle John
Breanna Jenkins

SCENE 1

Reader:Dear Maggie,

Today is moving day. It seems I've been moving my whole life. Night after night I keep dreaming of belonging to a family where there is so much warmth and love. It seems so real and I wake up feeling so good, only to find myself in the same miserable home I went to sleep in. All I really want is to really belong to someone. I've got a feeling today might be the day my dream finally comes true.

Love, Breanna

(Scene opens on a young lady sitting with bills around her. House is a mess.)

Angie: Syd, you've got to find a steady job! This "a day here and a day there" thing just isn't cutting it! And you know my measly little tips and even measlier check from the restaurant aren't doing much, either! Those stingy old folks down there don't know a good waitress when they see one!

Syd: (Hair is messy, clothes sloppy; listening to music and bopping head to the beat) Hey, bring me the chips, will ya?

Angie: Get them yourself! My shift ended 2 hours ago!

Until you get a decent job and start paying me tips big enough to pay this rent payment that's due, you'll have to be your own waitress!

Syd: Aw, come on, Ang. Just consider it practice for when you have kids! You know what they say...a mother's job is never done...or something like that. Let's just pretend you're the mommy and I'm the baby...Waaaahhhh! I'm hungry, Mommy!

By the way, whatever happened with the foster care thing you checked into? No calls?

That was a horrible experience! I remember you made me comb my hair and shave. Then, I had to clean house to top it all off! Talk about kicking a man when he's down...

Ang: Haven't heard a word...Man, I wish we would. Not that I really want a snotty-nosed kid around to wait on. You're bad enough! But, it'd sure be a nice chunk of change to help fund Christmas. At the rate we're going, you're not getting a thing!

Syd: Aw, Ang! Why were you so eager to become a foster parent if you don't want "a snotty-nosed kid to wait on"?

Angie: Because it pays good, that's why! Maybe they somehow know I wasn't really interested the the kids...

(Phone rings)

Hello? (Tone of voice suddenly changes.) Oh, hello, Mrs. Jennings! My husband and I were just talking about how things were a little empty around here and we could use a child to fill the emptiness!

(Syd grabs his wallet and chuckles.)

You do?! Oh, please tell me about her!

(Syd mouths "her?!" and makes gagging motion.)

10 years old! How perfect! When will you be here? Oh, an hour! My, you don't waste any time, do you?...Oh no, That'll be fine! We'll be looking for you! Thanks so much! Goodbye!

Syd: (Looks at mess) An hour?!...Whooo! You'd better get busy or you can kiss that opportunity goodbye...I'll move my stuff to the bedroom so I won't be in your way! (starts backing out)

Angie: Nice try, Slick! Now get busy, quick!

(lights out)

(Light comes up on clean house. Knock on the door)

Angie: Oh, come in! We've been in quite a frenzy since we heard you were coming! It's been a long time since we've had something this exciting happen!

Mrs. J: Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts. This is Breanna. Breanna, these are your new foster parents.

Angie: Breanna! What a pretty name! Please make yourself at home. Would you like to have a seat, Mrs. Jennings?

Mrs. J: Actually, I have to go work on another case. But, please call me if you have any questions.

Angie: Oh, we will. Now tell me, when can we expect our first check? With Christmas coming, we'd like to get a start on shopping. Christmas is so important for children, you know...

Mrs. J: Oh, you should be getting it in about a week or so...Let me know if you haven't gotten it by Thanksgiving.

Angie: All right. Thanks so much for everything.

Mrs. J: No, thank you! Families like you are the sustenance of our program. Well, I trust you'll all enjoy the holiday season. Bye, now!

Angie: Goodbye!

(Mrs. Jennings leaves. Angie turns to Breanna sitting on the chair.)

Angie: Okay, Breanna. I've never had kids before, but I hear they're a lot of work...I just want you to know right now that I am NOT your maid. I expect you to do your part and we'll see that you're clothed and fed.

Breanna: Yes, Mrs. Roberts...Is that what I should call you?

Angie: Just call me Ang. I don't want you to get too attached because I doubt you'll be here very long...just long enough to get a few bills paid and save a little for Christmas.

Syd: And you can just call me Syd. And,...just for the record, that chair is MINE, so you can start out by parking somewhere else!

Breanna: Yes, sir... (stands)

Angie: (sighs) Okay, now that we've got the important stuff out of the way, grab your bags and let me show you to your room.

(Angie leads a sad-looking Breanna out of the room. Lights dim.)

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SCENE 5

Reader: Dear Maggie,

It's been a long time, I know. There's never a dull moment here. I'm really enjoying being here. I know Mom and Dad aren't really my mom and dad, but they're just what I always dreamed a mom and dad should be. Jill is great, too...even if she does talk a lot! They're all so different from the other people I've met. God is so important to them. They talk about Him like they actually know Him. It's kind of weird, but I like it. I wish I knew Him the way they do. This is

the closest I've ever felt to feeling like I belong. I actually think I know what love feels like and it feels really good! It might be a while before I write again with Christmas and all. Merry Christmas!

Love, Breanna

(Lights come up on Jill and Breanna walking up aisle with coats on)

Jill: That was a blast! I LOVE sled riding! This is a perfect snow—just in time for Christmas! Tonight we get to open a present!

Breanna: It's hard to believe tomorrow is Christmas already. It doesn't seem like I've been here six months.

Jill: Oh, hurry, Breanna! I think I just saw Uncle John through the window!

Breanna: Uncle John?

Jill: The best uncle, ever! Hurry!

Breanna: Okay, Okay!

(Jill and Breanna hurry to room where Uncle John, Greg and Joann are sitting)

Jill: Uncle John! When'd you get here? Did you see the snow? Wanna build a snowman with us tomorrow!?

John: (laughs) Whoa, girl! I see you haven't changed a bit since last time I saw you!! I also hear your mom and dad had to bring in a full-time, live-in companion to keep you out of trouble. Wanna introduce me?

Jill: Oh yeah, I forgot! Breanna, this is Uncle John. He's from Colorado. Uncle John, this is Breanna.

Joann: Well, now that we're all acquainted, why don't you take off your coats? It's almost time for presents!

Jill: Hurray!!

(Breanna and Jill take off coats and sit down.)

Greg: Since we're celebrating Jesus' birthday, let's pray before we start and thank Him for giving us a reason to celebrate. John, why don't you pray for us...

John: Father, we thank You for family and friends to share this wonderful time of year with. We're so thankful for Christmas and what it means. We're so glad that it's more than just gift and parties. It means more than just a baby born in a manger. We thank You, Father, for sending Your Son to be born and to die so that we would be able to have a personal relationship with You. Bless our time together. In Jesus Name, Amen.

So girls, would you like to open my gifts to you now or would you like to wait until tomorrow?

Jill: Now! Now!

(Breanna smiles. Uncle John gives each girl a gift.)

John: All right! Would you like to start, Jill?

Jill: Sure! (Opens package) My own diary?! Thanks!

John: That's to keep track of all the mischief you get into! Open it up.

Jill: Oh, there's money inside! Thank you, Uncle John! You're the best!

John: Well, thank you! You're very welcome. Okay, Breanna~Your turn!

Breanna: (opens package and pulls out a purse) Oh, how pretty! And there's money inside it, too!
Thank you, sir!

John: Please call me Uncle John. Umm...are you always this quiet or does it just look like your wheels are turning really fast?

Breanna: (smiles) Everything is just so different. That's all. Before, Christmas was all about Santa. If you were good, you got gifts. If you weren't, you didn't. But here...you could care less about Santa. You don't even know me and you gave me a present. Instead of threatening kids with Santa Claus, you tell them about Jesus and seem so happy to share what you have with others.

John: Yes, I suppose it IS different!

Joann: Jesus makes all the difference, Breanna. He's the reason we have Christmas. If you would ask most people what Christmas means, they would say presents or food or parties. But, if we believe what the Bible says, then we know that Christmas means God's love shining through to man. How long can you go without doing something you know is wrong?

Breanna: Not very long.

Joann: That's because there's something living inside of us called sin. No matter how hard we try to 'not sin,' we do it anyways because that thing living inside us makes us sin. The Bible says that what we do shows who our father is. Did you know that you're either a child of God or a child of the devil?

Breanna: No.

Joann: That's right. So, if we sin, then the devil is our father and, according to the Bible, we don't know God. God's law says that the punishment for sin is death.

Breanna: So, where does the love come in? So far, you've told me that I'm a child of the devil and that I'm supposed to die!

Joann: Well, this little Baby Jesus that we talk about every year at Christmas is just the beginning of God's plan to help us move from the devil's family to God's family. God sent His only Son so that He could die in our place. "God showed His love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He is God's gift to the world. We don't have to accept His gift. God will allow us to take our own punishment if we want to. But, if we do accept His gift, God adopts us into His family and we're no longer children of the devil. Jesus comes and lives inside of us and helps us not to sin anymore. We might make a mistake once in a while, but we won't purposely disobey God's law. There's no way we can do that on our own. We have to have Jesus living inside of us. And, He'll only live in a clean heart.

Breanna: So, how do I accept God's gift?

Joann: It's so simple. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That means just tell God all the sins you can remember and ask Him to come into your heart and help you not to sin anymore. If we really mean it and want Him to forgive us and help us, He will!

Greg: Would you like to receive God's gift and become God's child, Breanna?

Breanna: Yes, I would! I don't want to be the child of the devil!

Greg: Okay. Let's pray again and you tell God all your sins and ask Him to take it away and help you not to sin anymore, okay?

Breanna: Okay. (everyone bows head) Dear Jesus,... (music starts and lights dim)

(Lights come on with Breanna wiping tears and Jill hugging Breanna)

John: Welcome to God's family, Breanna!

Breanna: Thank you! That's the best gift I've ever gotten!

Joann: Speaking of gifts, you two still have one more gift to open.

Jill: Oh, I forgot! Did I ever tell you that I love Christmas?

Joann: (laughs) Yes, I think maybe I've heard that a time or two! Go ahead, Jill. You open yours first.

(Jill opens present)

Jill: Oh! A new sweater! I love it! Thank you!

Joann: You're welcome. All right...Breanna?

(Breanna opens present)

Breanna: Papers?

Greg: (smiling) Any idea what they might say?

Breanna: No, it looks like a bunch of legal mumbo jumbo.

Greg: This is another gift you can choose to accept or reject. But, we'll all hoping you'll say yes!

Mrs. Jennings contacted us earlier this month to let us know that you're eligible for adoption. We'd like to start the adoption process, but we wanted to make sure it was okay with you first.

Breanna: Okay?!?! Are you kidding?!?! This is what I've always dreamed of! I can't believe it's coming true! I think I'm going to cry!

Greg: Oh no, here we go again...

Jill: Dad, could you pass me the Kleenex? (Blows nose)

Joann: Pass them this way, too, please. (dabs eyes)

(Greg and John look at each other and shake heads)

John and Greg: Women!!

Greg: Then I take it you'll accept the gift?

Breanna: Yes! Yes! Yes! Not many people get the opportunity to be adopted once, but I get to be adopted twice. I couldn't be happier! Could you please pass the tissues, again?

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