

FOOLPROOF



A Time Traveller's Christmas (extract)

Scene 1: A living room, 2012

SFX: Christmas song playing in the background.

JESS, AMANDA and BRANDON are excitedly looking at a huge pile of wrapped presents round a Christmas tree. **SAM** is to one side, listening to music on headphones.

JESS Give me that.

BRANDON Ow. Get off! I saw it first.

JESS But it's not yours.

AMANDA It's not yours either. It's mine. It's got my name on it - look: "To Amanda, Happy Christmas! Love from Auntie Meg."

BRANDON Haha! If it's from Auntie Meg it's probably something really boring.

SAM I bet it's a jigsaw puzzle.

AMANDA But I like jigsaw puzzles.

SAM Auntie Meg told me she was going to buy me an iPad.

BRANDON Me too.

JESS And me.

AMANDA What about me?

Shakes the box

JESS Definitely a jigsaw puzzle.

AMANDA But why can't I have an iPad? That's not fair!

SAM It's because she likes us more than you.

AMANDA No she doesn't.

BRANDON Yes, she does.

JESS Give me that.

AMANDA No! Get off!

SAM Owwwwwww...Mum! Mum! Brandon just hit me!

*In the kerfuffle nobody notices **THE TIME TRAVELLER** arriving in the room.*

TT Excuse me. I don't mean to interrupt, but something seems to have gone wrong.

*The children leap up and circle **THE TIME TRAVELLER** threateningly.*

AMANDA Arrrrrrgh!

SAM What are you doing here?

BRANDON Why are you in our living room?

TT I'm terribly sorry. Something seems to have gone amiss.

JESS A what?

TT Amiss. Wrong. Wonky. I don't think I'm meant to be here. Maybe I need to restart iTunes. What time is it?

AMANDA Half past six.

TT No, I mean, what year is it?

SAM It's 2012, dummy.

BRANDON Where have you been?

TT Ah. Where have I been? That's a very good question. Perhaps it would be better to ask where I haven't been.

BRANDON Weird.

SAM So you've arrived here by mistake.

TT: I suppose so. Although one of the great joys of time travel is the unexpected friends one meets along the way.

BRANDON Whatever.

JESS Did you bring me a present?

TT Ah, the present. The present is always shifting to become the past as the future looms.

SAM Not **the** present. **A** present. It's rude to arrive without bringing a present.

AMANDA I want an iPad!

BRANDON I want a Wii!

JESS Ha ha! You need a wee!

BRANDON Not a wee, a Wii, stupid.

They start fighting again.

TT Hold on, hold on! Did you say iPad?

Everyone stops and looks.

AMANDA Yeah, did you bring me one?

TT Of course not. Where would I get one of those from?

BRANDON Duh! A shop?

TT A shop? Funny! Do you know, I was once allowed to view an iPad. In the British Museum.

SAM In the British Museum?

TT Yes, it was kept in a glass cabinet. I had to wear special gloves so I didn't damage it. I was very lucky.

JESS But, loads of people have iPads. You're not that lucky.

AMANDA I don't have one.

SAM Wait a minute. Why did you ask us about the year? And what are you doing in our living room? And did you say TIME travel??!

AMANDA What year do you think it is?

TT Where I come from, it's 2371.

AMANDA 2371?!?

BRANDON Woah.

SAM And you've come here just to visit us?

TT Awkward. No, actually. I'm part of an archeological team. We're on a mission to find out about a celebration that people used to have in the old days. I was also hoping to catch the London Olympics. I'm a big fan of the shot putt. Have you heard of these games?

JESS You missed them.

BRANDON They were last summer, mate.

AMANDA They were really good, though.

TT And the shot putt?

SAM Don't know.

TT Hm. Ah well, best get back to my quest, then. Maybe you can help me. All I know is that people used to give each other gifts. Wait a minute...why have you got all these presents? Is it your birthday?

AMANDA No, silly, it's Christmas!

TT Christmas?

SAM He's never heard of Christmas.

AMANDA Why not?? Everybody's heard of Christmas.

BRANDON Weird.

SAM Christmas is about presents.

AMANDA And snow.

JESS Snowmen.

BRANDON Reindeer.

SAM Eating lots of food.

AMANDA And even more presents.

JESS And it's all to celebrate Santa's birthday.

TT Aha! So it is about someone's birthday.

AMANDA Yeah, Santa's.

TT Santa?

SAM beard Santa brings us presents at Christmas if we've been good. He has a big white and a red coat.

JESS And reindeer. I love Santa.

TT Interesting. I'd like to find out a bit more about this Santa fellow. I'll have to travel further back for that. I'd best be off.

BRANDON Will you come back?

TT Who knows? Maybe our paths will cross again.

AMANDA Next time you could bring us that old iPad from the museum.

TT Perhaps I will! Now, I wish there was some way to wish you well on this special day.

SAM You can say Happy Christmas if you like.

TT Happy Christmas? I like it. Happy Christmas!

BRANDON Definitely weird.

Time travel occurs

Scene 2: An office, 1931

SFX: Sounds of typewriters etc.

SCHMIDDY and **ED** march in closely followed by **THE TIME TRAVELLER** who is now dressed as a secretary and carries a notebook. **TT** furiously scribbles throughout.

SCHMIDDY Hey Ed!

ED What's that, Schmiddy?

SCHMIDDY I got a big new idea!

ED An idea? What sort of an idea?

SCHMIDDY Wait and see. You're gonna love it.

ED You gonna tell the boss?

SCHMIDDY Sure am.

BOSS Did someone mention my name?

ED Sure did, boss. Schmiddy's got an idea.

BOSS You got an idea?

SCHMIDDY Sure have, boss. Picture the scene.

ED I'm picturing it.

SCHMIDDY I ain't told you what it is yet.

BOSS OK, OK. Just tell us already.

SCHMIDDY This whole Christmas thing is big news right?

ED People love the holidays.

BOSS They sure do.

SCHMIDDY And we want people to love us too.

BOSS We sure do.

SCHMIDDY So, the way I see it, we need to get ourselves associated with the whole holiday experience.

BOSS I like the way you're thinking, Schmiddy! But how can we get people to think Coca-Cola has anything to do with Christmas?

ED That's right, boss. Coca-Cola is just a brown fizzy drink!

BOSS Hey! Don't go dissing the brand! Especially when the "holidays are coming"!

SCHMIDDY Now what I'm thinking is this - Santa!

BOSS What about him?

SCHMIDDY I say we give him a make over! In our lovely Coca-Cola colours of red and white.

ED Amazing! Now everyone will think of us when they think of Santa!

BOSS You nailed it, Schmiddy. You're a genius. Say, why don't we go and crack open a few of bottles of the brown fizzy stuff to celebrate?

SCHMIDDY You bet, boss!

They exit.

TIME TRAVELLER This is strange. I don't understand it. Why would people celebrate an advertising gimmick? Was Santa invented to sell a brown fizzy drink? I need to find out more. Onwards and...er...backwards, I think.

Time travel occurs