MERRY CHRISTMAS MAYHEM

By Mindy Starns Clark

Performance Rights

To copy this text is an infringement of the federal copyright law as is to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for further scripts and licensing information.

On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice" "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

PUBLISHED BY

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com
©1995 by Eldridge Publishing Company

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/merry-christmas-mayhem

DEDICATION

For the members of the First Baptist Church of Red Bank, New Jersey, with affection and gratitude.

STORY OF THE PLAY:

It is the day of Eleanor's annual church Christmas dinner for the poor. She has brought along her new boyfriend, Leo, to meet her grown granddaughter, Jane, for the first time. Jane has also brought along her new boyfriend, Bobby, to meet her grandmother.

Unfortunately, they are so busy serving the dinner that the two couples do not get the chance for formal introductions. Through a series of misunderstandings, each person thinks the other is someone else entirely. *(Eleanor thinks Bobby is one of the homeless people; Bobby thinks Eleanor is a confused boozer and that Leo is her drunken boyfriend; Jane thinks Leo is an insane stalker; and Leo thinks Jane is a malicious thief.)* The confusion escalates - Leo even has Jane arrested, and Jane has Leo arrested - until the final confrontation when everyone realizes their mistakes and learns a lesson about tolerance.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(2 M, 3 W, 2 Flexible)

JANE: A young woman, dressed casually but nicely.

BOBBY: Jane's boyfriend, dressed very casually.

ELEANOR: Jane's grandmother.

LEO: Eleanor's boyfriend.

DOTTIE: The director of the Christmas Day Dinner.

OFFICER: Security guard

OFFICER 2: Security guard

RUNNING TIME: Approximately 30 minutes

SETTING

One end of a church fellowship hall. There are two tables, set at angles so that when a person is sitting at one of the tables, his back is to the other. There are two chairs at each table. On each table is a festive tablecloth and a small Christmas centerpiece, perhaps some bright balls and greenery on a Styrofoam ring.

PROPS

Clipboard, apron, tray of salad plates, tissue for DOTTIE; Coat, plate of food for BOBBY; Coat, apron, tray with several salad plates, butter for JANE; Coat, shattered pair of glasses, large piece of broken glass, hat for LEO; Coat, apron, napkins, cup of coffee, basket of bread for ELEANOR.

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: JANE and BOBBY enter from SL holding hands, talking. THEY are having a mild disagreement but are not too angry.)

JANE: I just can't believe you'd come here today dressed like this.
BOBBY: You said "casual".
JANE: Yeah, I said casual. Like, going-out-to-dinner casual. Having-some-friends-over casual. Not scrubbing-out-the-toilet casual!
BOBBY: I'm sorry. I said I was sorry.
JANE: I know, it's just that I'm nervous about your meeting Gram for the first time. This is very important to me. I'm sure she'll like you when she gets to know you, but first impressions are always crucial.
BOBBY: Honey, don't worry. Your grandmother and I are going to hit it off just great. And if she's as wonderful as you say she is, then she won't care how I'm dressed.
JANE: I suppose ... at least I know she'll be in a good mood today. This event is the highlight of Gram's holidays every year.
BOBBY: A community dinner for the poor? The highlight of her Christmas?
JANE: You have to know Gram. She loves the underdog, the indigent, loves to think she can go out and rehabilitate the world. She's big on these things. She's been doing this for years.
BOBBY: Well, I'm glad you invited me to your little church dinner. Maybe it'll even be fun.
JANE: Yeah, it is fun. A lot of work, but fun.

(BOBBY takes off his coat and looks around for the first time since they walked in.)

BOBBY: Whoa! It's so big!
JANE: *(Taking off HER coat.)* Yeah, I guess it is a pretty large building.

BOBBY: Well, that too, but I'm talking about all the people. There's just so many! Are we really going to feed them all? What a way to spend Christmas!
JANE: Last year we served over five hundred. It seems like a lot, but believe me, the time will fly.
BOBBY: I guess ...
JANE: Look at it this way. By helping out, you'll be bringing a little nourishment and cheer into some very needy lives. I'd say that's a nice way to spend Christmas.
BOBBY: Hmmm ...
JANE: At least we'll be together.
BOBBY: Yeah, you and me and five hundred of the city's most desperate homeless.
JANE: Don't feel bad, Bobby. At least with those clothes, you fit right in.
BOBBY: Ha ha. Are you calling me a bum?
JANE: If the shoe fits. But listen, seriously, don't use words like "bum" around Gram. She's very particular about things like that. You'll understand better when you meet her.
BOBBY: Whatever you say.

(DOTTIE enters from SR, waving and carrying a clipboard.)

DOTTIE: Jane! Oh, Jane!
JANE: Hi, Dottie. Merry Christmas.
DOTTIE: To you too, dear. Oh, and is this your new young man you were telling me about?
JANE: (*Nodding, smiling.)* This is Bobby.
DOTTIE: Bobby. How do you do?
BOBBY: Nice to meet you.
DOTTIE: I hope Jane warned you, we really work our volunteers to death.
BOBBY: I'm looking forward to it.
DOTTIE: Good. Well, no time to chat. *(Checking HER clipboard.)* Jane, you go report to Sue Wiggins. She's in charge of serving and she'll tell you what to do.
JANE: Okay.

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/merry-christmas-mayhem

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!