

CHRISTMAS IN ROOM 309

A One Act Musical for Middle School Students

about

Forgiveness and Belonging

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Faith Based Student Musicals

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SYNOPSIS

CHRISTMAS IN ROOM 309 is a one-act musical about forgiveness and belonging. It is designed for 5th to 8th Grade Students with option to include K-4th. When GRANDPA LONG ends up in the hospital on Christmas day, the family crowds into the hospital waiting room. But these quarters prove too close for some. Secrets surface and siblings must confront unresolved anger. Meanwhile, the LONG GRANDCHILDREN skip gleefully across the surface of this rocky undertow with songs like, "Hairy Uncle Jerry," "When You Belong to the Longs," and "Grandma's Christmas Wrappin." This musical features gender neutral characters and unlimited opportunity for ensemble cast to shine. Who knows? This little romp might even remind you of a family you know.

Christmas in Room 309 1.18.23.pdf

CAST

LONG GRANDKIDS: (Male and Female Ensemble) Flexible number with unlimited opportunity for vocal solo/duet/dance/tumbling features in full cast songs, plus opportunity for speaking parts. Beginner through advanced skills, K-8th Grade.

GRANDMA/KATHERINE: (Female) Nurturing, warm, engaging, drives transitions, strong actress, must sing and move well, and rap solo. May be played by adult, older student, or peer.

GRANDPA/OSCAR: (Male) Spends the entire play in a hospital bed. Has one closing punch line. May be played by adult, older student, or peer. Minimal rehearsal required.

ALEX: (Male or Female) Appealing, athletic, over-achieving, older cousin. Must carry off big ballad solo and weighty scenes.

GINA: Adult daughter of GRANDMA and GRANDPA, mother of ALEX. Non-singing role. May be played by adult, older student, or peer.

WAITING ROOM HOSTESS: (Female) Gum smacking, phone addicted, otherwise oblivious. Strong actress. Optional song.

FREDDY: (preferred Male but could be Female) Feather merchant, Goofy, enterprising cousin, always trying to make a buck. Strong actor. Optional song.

LEAH/LAURA/LARRY: (FOSTER CHILDREN) (1- 3 Actors, Male or Female, any age) Smaller and/or physically adept for movement/flying/tumbling. ONE of the FOSTER children has important dialogue. Other(s) are Non-speaking. All are non-singing.

FRANKIE: FREDDY'S SISTER/BROTHER (Male or Female)– Always trying to straighten FREDDY out. Could be older or younger than FREDDY. This is a small comic feature role, non-singing.

GALE: (Male or Female) Small featured speaking role, non-singing. Obsessed with gifts.

***YOUNG GRANDMA AND YOUNG GRANDPA:** OPTIONAL (Male and Female) Charleston 20's era dance feature for optional "RAGTIME SONG."

*If "RAGTIME SONG" is omitted, these characters are not needed.

SET

There are no scene or set changes in the show.

The following 3 areas are permanent:

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM – takes up the bulk of the stage and should be center. Chairs are needed, but not necessarily enough for all Grandkids.

GRANDPA'S HOSPITAL ROOM – Grandpa's private room can be a small area DL or DR. Bed can be real, or created with covers/linens on top of something else. Be certain to elevate the bed for all audience site lines so Grandpa is always in clear view. A rolling chair and small hospital table will be useful. Optional: white board with date (December 25) and standard hospital nurse/shift notes, an IV pole or monitor, Christmas decor. Focus on elevating items to be best seen from all sight lines.

HOSTESS COUNTER in WAITING ROOM – HOSTESS' permanent station is at her counter, DL or DR, opposite GRANDPA'S ROOM. A lectern or portable pulpit is a good height and base. Make the top flat with wedge shaped wood or styrofoam. A coffee pot and fixings might be on her counter? A sign should be at her counter such as, "INFORMATION" or "HERE TO HELP," large, visible from all site lines.

~Christmas tree and/or decorations - wherever you set can accommodate without sacrificing playing area.

SOUND AND LIGHTS

LIGHTS - can be produced without stage lighting. To pull off "private scenes," the audience must accept the illusion that what happens in one playing area is not seen/heard by characters in the other two playing areas. This works if characters who are not in focus do inconspicuous stage business.

SOUND - microphones are helpful but not necessary, assuming your soloist can project adequately in your performing space. If you have mics/stands to place along the downstage edge, students may play their scenes/songs into the mic. If you only have one mic, have Cast or Crew members move the mic downstage to the area needed.

PROPS AND COSTUMES

HOSTESS personal cell phone, quarters.

Ideally, FREDDY has a blazer with velcro stripes or other method of attaching "merchandise" in the liner. When he opens coat, we see his "showroom."

FREDDY's inner and outer coat pocket merchandise – fidget spinner (or other gadget,) coins, juice box, DVD case that passes for Grand Theft Auto, Kleenex pack,

Scrub pants, bed pans, big candy bars, face masks?

Box of Latex Gloves for GRANDKIDS to play invisible piano in "RAGTIME SONG"

General Christmas clothing.

SONG LIST

* Denotes OPTIONAL

01. Cannot Stop Loving You - GRANDMA (a cappella)
02. SFX Grandma's Phone
03. When You Belong to the Longs – GRANDKIDS and GRANDMA
04. Forgiveness Makes You Free – GRANDMA and ALEX
- 05a. *Cereal Song – GRANDKID features and/or
- 05b. *Gunnysack Song - GRANDKID features and/or ENSEMBLE
- *Jesus Loves Me - Optional YOUNGER GRANDKIDS feature (acapella)
06. SFX Hostess Phone
07. *Good Sense – FREDDY (optional)
08. *Grandma's Christmas Wrappin' – GRANDMA (optional)
09. SFX Hostess Phone
10. *E-Mo-GEE, I am a Good Friend! – HOSTESS (optional)
11. *Christmas Candy Chant - GRANDKIDS
12. *Ragtime Song – GRANDMA and GRANDKIDS (optional)
13. I Matter Because You Love Me – ALEX
14. Hairy Uncle Jerry – GRANDKIDS
15. SFX Underscore

16. I Cannot Stop Loving You – FULL CAST
17. Bows - FULL CAST

ACCOMPANIMENTS and SFX

01. Christmas in Room 309 Overture
02. Grandma's Phone, 6x
03. When You Belong to the Longs
04. Forgiveness Makes You Free
- 05A. Cereal Song
- 05B. Gunnysack Song
06. SFX Hostess phone 3x
07. Good Sense
08. Grandma's Christmas Wrappin'
09. SFX Grandma's Phone Rings 3x
10. E-mo-Gee, I am a Good Friend!
11. Christmas Candy Chant
12. Ragtime Song
13. I Matter Because You Love Me
14. Hairy Uncle Jerry
15. Underscore
16. I Cannot Stop Loving You
17. Bows - When You Belong to the Longs Reprise

ADDITIONAL NOTES

GRANDKID LINE # signifies any GRANDKID that fits your needs. There are 34 lines that may be distributed among cast as you see fit.

Further production support is found in DIRECTOR'S PRODUCTION GUIDE AND STAGING~MOVEMENT VIDEO upon purchase.

PERUSAL

SCENE ONE - GRANDPA'S ROOM

TRACK CUE #1 OVERTURE

At rise, GRANDPA lays asleep in his hospital bed. GRANDMA sits beside him in chair, Bible open in her lap. As HOSPITAL BEEPS fade, she will sing over him, a cappella.

"I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU" *a cappella*

I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.
AFTER ALL THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.
YOU'RE THE FAMILY GOD GAVE TO ME -
CHRISTMAS, MAY OR JUNE.
I CANNOT STOP LOVING -

GRANDMA

Crazy old man! Climbing that ladder without telling anyone! I'm just grateful you're gonna be OK. Crazy old man..It's a wonder you're still alive. Who do you think you are - Clark Griswold, etc.

TRACK CUE #2 GRANDMA'S CELL PHONE (6 Rings)

GRANDMA jumps out of chair, puts open Bible on the bed table, and searches for her phone. She follows the ring to the bed, listens at GRANDPA'S chest, then feet, untucks foot covers, lifts a leg, gently, comically. Follows sound to under bed. Bends over in an embarrassing position to answer.

During phone search, ALEX enters hospital room, unseen by GRANDMA.

GRANDMA finds and answers phone.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Hello?

Beat.

No thank you dear, I consolidated my student loans a few years ago.

ALEX

(Casually, from just behind her)

Merry Christmas, Grandma!

GRANDMA

(startled, then delighted)

Alex!

They embrace. They're close, and do not see each other nearly enough.

ALEX

How's Grandpa?

GRANDMA

Well, thankfully, the Doctor said he's recovering fine, just to let him sleep. He's got that down! He's been out cold for hours.

Beat.

He did wake up once to say,

Straight downstage, imitating Grandpa.
"Batman here. Robin, quick, get my cape."

Back to ALEX.

Then over and out.

They share the laugh.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Alex, honey, I'm so glad you made it home from school! Your Mom told us you were coming. That tyrant of a coach finally gave you a couple of days off, huh? He'll probably make you practice on your wedding day.

ALEX

Yeah! Well if he doesn't, my Mom will.

GRANDMA

Where is that daughter of mine?

ALEX

She's with the kids, corralling all the cousins.

GRANDMA

Oh that was good of her to stay home with that whole crew.

ALEX

Nope. Not at your house. They're here! - downstairs in the lobby.

GRANDMA

You brought the kids? Here? To the hospital?

ALEX

With Aunt Jill and Aunt Jessie stranded, what could we do? We couldn't get your neighbors to take them off our hands. Believe me, we tried.

Beat.

Mom said we needed to get everyone out of your house for a while. The kids went a little crazy last night after you and Grandpa left in the ambulance. Of course they were worried about Grandpa...but I think we were also worried they wouldn't get to open any presents on Christmas Eve. Riley organized a little protest...that turned into a little...riot...Don't worry, Grandma, I cleaned the eggs up off your carpet. And the baby wipes took most the purple sharpie off your dining room wall.

Beat for Grandma's response.
Just kidding.

They share the laugh.

GRANDMA

Well since they're all here, why don't we bring those kiddos up here with me! Take my mind off worrying about Grandpa.

ALEX

Don't you think there's too many of us?

On this line, HOSTESS, who has been frozen the entire play, snaps out of her freeze.

Throughout the show, be sure audience can see HOSTESS face when she looks at phone, not the top of her head.

HOSTESS

(face DS, responding to phone)

OOH, a party!

ALEX switches her focus to HOSTESS, who never once looks up from her scrolling.

ALEX

And what about her?

GRANDMA

What *about* her? From what I can tell, I'd say our little Surgery Waiting Room Hostess isn't gonna mind...or notice, for that matter. Now will you please go get those kids?

ALEX

OK, coming at ya!

ALEX exits to "Hospital Lobby" downstairs to retrieve GRANDKIDS.

GRANDMA crosses to HOSTESS at her Counter, who remains glued to her phone, oblivious.

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SCENE TWO - SURGERY WAITING ROOM**GRANDMA**

Excuse me. Hi! My name is Katherine Long. My husband, Oscar Long, is in Room 309? In this hospital? Where you

work?

(air quotes)

He fell off the roof hanging Christmas lights? Thinking he's Clark Grisword? Hello...

I'd like to have my Grandchildren come up for a bit – since it is Christmas and all. I'm wondering if that would be alright? They're waiting in the Lobby now and...

HOSTESS hasn't heard a thing. GRANDMA clears her throat.

(to Hostess)

Excuse me...I was asking about my Grandkids...

HOSTESS

(Still staring at phone, speaks straight downstage as she texts back in response to party invite.)

"Sure...invite them all...The more the merrier... right?"

GRANDMA

(aside to audience)

I don't know about anybody else, but I heard, "The more the merrier."

Beat.
Bring it on!!!

GRANDMA returns to GRANDPA's ROOM.

GRANDKIDS enter with an explosion of energy and ad libs. Lots of cousins surround ALEX since s/he is the favorite cousin. Maybe a kid on his/her back, one or two holding hands, etc.

GINA enters on the tail end and goes directly to GRANDPA's ROOM and bedside, not in focus.

GRANDKID LINE #1

Alex, can I sit by you at Christmas dinner?

GRANDKID LINE #2

No fair! I already asked to sit by our famous Cousin ALEX.

ALEX

You guys, stop! I'm not famous.

GRANDKID LINE #3

Our mom says you are, and you're gonna be even more – when you get to the Olympics! She made a book with all your internet and news stories and pictures. She says you're a soccer Superstar!!

ALEX

(humble, sad)

No I'm not.

FREDDY enters holding out a fidget spinner/latest small gadget, soliciting a younger cousin. Two GRANDKIDS are arguing over Freddy's item.

FREDDY

Ok well then how much will you give me for it? How about a dollar? I know you have a dollar, I saw it in your backpack.

FRANKIE

Leave him alone! What were you doing in his backpack anyway?

FREDDY

I wasn't IN his backpack, I saw money when s/he opened it. I can't help it, I notice these things.

He inhales deeply.

Ah, the fresh smell of a crisp dollar bill.

He jingles coins at his ear.

The sweet jingle of coins. It awakens the senses.

FRANKIE

(threatening)

I'll awaken your senses.

GRANDMA crosses out of GRANDPA'S Room and enters Waiting Room to greet GRANDKIDS.

GRANDMA

Well, how are all my little Longs?

A joyful burst of greetings, hugs and kisses between GRANDMA and kids. Kids land in a sort of messy semi-circle. GRANDMA goes down the line, greeting kids with personal ad lib comments, such as "Oh you!, hello sweetie, glad you're here, etc."

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

So many little Longs!

(to next kids)

Big Longs,

(to next kids)

small Longs,

(to next kids)

short Longs

(to next kids)

tall Longs.

FOSTER CHILDREN should be at far end of line to be the last kids GRANDMA encounters. GRANDKIDS anticipate how GRANDMA will react to FOSTERS - enjoying this joke on her.

GRANDMA hugs FOSTER child/ren and greets them in same rhythm, without missing a beat...

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
(struggling for a comment, then to audience)

You've grown so big I don't recognize you!

She hugs a second and/or third FOSTER child with similar game.

Wow! Look at you!?! I barely know you!

(Under her breath)

Looks like the old memory is already slipping.

GRANDKID LINE #4

No Grandma, this is Leah/Laura/Larry. They're our new foster brothers/sisters.

GRANDKIDS break into collective laughter, delighted at their joke.

GRANDKID LINE #5

Yeah! Aunt Jessie and Uncle Bill are taking care of them - at least for a while.

GRANDMA does double take to FOSTERS and then re-hugs.

GRANDMA

Oh good - scared me there for a minute!

GRANDKID LINE #6

(referring to Foster children)

Hey, Is he a **LONG**? And is she a **LONG**?

GRANDMA

Well, they've come a **LONG** way to be here, right? And they're **ALONG** for the ride, right? Sure as shootin' Leah/Laura/Larry are one of us now - for just as **LONG** as he/she/they can stand us. Right kids? See what I did there? Let's teach 'em our song.

TRACK CUE #3 WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS

Movement and staging must be focused on the Foster(s.) The Long Family is welcoming them.

CHORUS - *All join in to welcome fosters*
 WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
 THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
 AND YOU'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,
 WE CAN HELP YOU GET ALONG.
 LIFT YOU UP,UP,UP
 WHEN LIFE IS GOING WRONG.
 WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE OLD KING KONG.

WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
 THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
 AND WE'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,
 HELP EACH OTHER GET ALONG.
 WE ALWAYS HATE TO SAY "SO LONG,"
 CAUSE EVERYBODY SHOULD BELONG.

VERSE 1 - *LINES MAY BE DIVIDED AT DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.*
 WE ALL HAVE TROUBLE ON THE INSIDE AND OUT.
 SOME TROUBLES ARE HIDDEN - SOME GIVE A SHOUT!!!!
 EVEN THOUGH I SNORT WHEN I LAUGH,
 AND THOUGH MY CUTE LITTLE BRO' NEEDS A BATH!
 IT'S STRONGER THAN RIGHT, IT'S STRONGER THAN WRONG,
 WHEN WE ALL BELONG.

CHORUS
 WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
 THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
 AND YOU'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,
 WE CAN HELP YOU GET ALONG.
 LIFT YOU UP,UP,UP
 WHEN LIFE IS GOING WRONG.
 WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE OLD KING KONG.

WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
 THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
 AND WE'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,
 HELP EACH OTHER GET ALONG.
 WE ALWAYS HATE TO SAY "SO LONG,"
 CAUSE EVERYBODY SHOULD BELONG.

VERSE 2 - *LINES MAY BE DIVIDED AT DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.*
 WE ALL HAVE TRAITS THAT WE WISH WE COULD FIX.
 MY VOICE IS ANNOYING, MY LEGS LIKE TWO STICKS.
 THOUGH SOME PEOPLE SEEM PERFECT AT FIRST,
 HURTS ON THE INSIDE ARE HURTS THAT HURT WORSE.
 WE ALL FEEL MORE RIGHT, WE ALL FEEL MORE STRONG
 WHEN WE ALL BELONG.

CHORUS
 WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
 THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
 AND YOU'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,

WE CAN HELP YOU GET ALONG.
LIFT YOU UP,UP,UP
WHEN LIFE IS GOING WRONG.
WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE OLD KING KONG.

WHEN YOU BELONG TO THE LONGS
THEN YOU WILL SING OUR SONGS.
AND WE'LL BE STRONG IN OUR THRONG,
HELP EACH OTHER GET ALONG.
WE ALWAYS HATE TO SAY "SO LONG,"
CAUSE EVERYBODY SHOULD BELONG.
BUT EVERYBODY SHOULD,
IF EVERYBODY COULD,
EVERYBODY SHOULD BELONG.

Everyone hugging and laughing in aftermath of song as GRANDMA and ALEX join GINA in GRANDPA's room.

GRANDKIDS assume home position in Waiting Room.

GINA and GRANDMA greet/embrace. They see each other more often than GRANDMA and ALEX.

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SCENE THREE - GRANDPA'S ROOM

How's Dad doing? **GINA**

GRANDMA
Well the Doctor said he should be fine, thank the Lord. They got all the tests back. He just needs to sleep. I was telling Alex: He thinks he's Batman.

GINA
He looks so pale and banged up.

GINA studies her mom's face.

And you look exhausted. Why don't you go home and rest? I'll stay here with Dad today.

GRANDMA
That sounds tempting...

Beat.

GINA

Please Mom, you go on and enjoy a restful Christmas in your home. Let me stay today.

GRANDMA

Gina, I need to tell you something...(cautiously)...Jerry's on his way.

GINA

(This is a bomb drop.)

Here?

GRANDMA

Here.

GINA

To the hospital?

GRANDMA

Yes. I called him last night after Grandpa fell in case...you know...before we knew he was OK.

GINA

(amazed, with a hint of sarcasm)

Jerry. Wow! You finally reached Jerry. Where is he living now?

GRANDMA

I didn't ask. I'm always just grateful to talk to him. He'll always be part of this family - no matter what. He wants to come see Dad.

GINA

When?

GRANDMA

He says today. But you know Jerry...he likes to keep us guessing...

GINA

Beat to absorb.

I need to go then. I'll take the kids and wait at the house.

GINA gathers up to leave.

GRANDMA touches her arm, stopping her.

GRANDMA

Gina, I know Jerry has put you - put us all - through a lot, but we love him just the same as we love you, and Jessie, and Jill...all our children. He'll always belong.

GINA

Keeps moving.

Text me when he's gone - if he actually shows up, that is.

GRANDMA

(Calling after her.)

Gina, wait! I understand if you feel you need to go, but please don't take those kids. I think it will do Grandpa good to have them around. Alex will help me right, Alex?

Please? For your Dad?

TRACK CUE #4 FORGIVENESS MAKES YOU FREE

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

GINA exits.

And if you really want to give your Dad a Christmas gift this year, you'll find a way to forgive your brother.

VERSE 1 - GRANDMA

WHEN IT SEEMS THE ACHING IN YOUR HEART
WON'T STOP-IT'S HERE TO STAY.
AND LIFE BEFORE YOU KNEW THE PAIN
IS A DISTANT YESTERDAY.
ALLOW YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME,
THE SCARS WILL SOON REVEAL
THERE'S A PLAN, A GRAND DESIGN
FOR WOUNDED HEARTS TO HEAL.

CHORUS -GRANDMA SOLO
IF I COULDA' DONE IT FOR YOU

I'D HAVE DONE IT LONG AGO.
 CAUSE THERE'S NOTHIN' I WANT MORE
 THAN FOR YOUR TENDER HEART TO KNOW:
 SOMETIMES LOVIN' LEADS TO LOSING,
 THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
 BUT YOU WERE MADE TO LOVE AGAIN.
 FORGIVENESS MAKES YOU FREE!

Underscore continues under dialogue.

Alex, your mom is in pain. **GRANDMA (CONT'D)**

She's not the only one. **ALEX**

GRANDMA hugs ALEX.

I'm sorry to hear that. Hurt people hurt people.
 Just try to love her. She soften up. **GRANDMA**

Yeah, you don't know my mom... **ALEX**

GRANDMA does a comic take.

...oh...well, maybe you do. She wants people to think everything is just perfect. So when things don't go right, or there's a mistake...well, it's just really hard for her to forgive. It's a lot of pressure.

GRANDMA hugs ALEX again.

GRANDMA
 Forgiveness is hard for me too - for everybody I guess. But it's healing for our souls. I was singin' "Let it Go!" long before Disney got **Frozen**.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
 OPTIONAL OVER VERSE 2 INTRO: Forgiveness is a gift we give, and we get.

VERSE 2 GRANDMA SOLO
 "WE HURT THE ONES WHO LOVE US MOST,"

MY GRANDMA USED TO SAY.
 "THE SECRET'S NOT WHAT COMES TO YOU,
 BUT WHAT YOU GIVE AWAY."
 ALLOW YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME
 THE SCARS WILL SOON REVEAL,
 THERE'S A PLAN, A GRAND DESIGN
 FOR WOUNDED HEARTS TO HEAL.

As ALEX catches on, she joins in on choruses.

CHORUS -GRANDMA and ALEX
 IF I COULDA' DONE IT FOR YOU
 I'D HAVE DONE IT LONG AGO.
 CAUSE THERE'S NOTHIN' I WANT MORE
 THAN FOR YOUR TENDER HEART TO KNOW:
 SOMETIMES LOVIN' LEADS TO LOSING,
 THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
 BUT YOU WERE MADE TO LOVE AGAIN.
 FORGIVENESS MAKES YOU FREE!

CHORUS -GRANDMA AND ALEX
 IF I COULDA' DONE IT FOR YOU
 I'D HAVE DONE IT LONG AGO.
 CAUSE THERE'S NOTHIN' I WANT MORE
 THAN FOR YOUR TENDER HEART TO KNOW:
 SOMETIMES LOVIN' LEADS TO LOSING,
 THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
 BUT YOU WERE MADE TO LOVE AGAIN.
 FORGIVENESS MAKES YOU FREE!

GRANDMA and ALEX hug on final chord. On applause, they join
 GRANDKIDS in Waiting Room.

SCENE FOUR – WAITING ROOM

GRANDKID LINE #7

How's GRANDPA doing?

GRANKIDS join in with concern ad libs. Yeah, how's GRANDPA?,
 etc.

GRANDMA

Grandpa is gonna be alright, thank the Lord.

(under breath)

He'll be fine as soon as he finds his Bat Cape.

GAIL/KEVIN (GALE) runs up to GRANDMA, outshouts others.

GALE

Grandma this is important: Is Grandpa gonna wake up in time for us to open our gifts?

GRANDMA

Grandpa's still recovering - and we're gonna wait for him to wake up before we open our gifts.

BIG disappointed reaction ad libs from GRANDKIDS.

GALE

Not even one present?

GRANDMA

Grandpa's gift is the joy of watching you kids. We don't want him to miss that.

GRANDKID LINE #8

Can we go in and see him?

GRANDMA

Well maybe one or two at a time, for just a few minutes. We'll see how he does. Besides, the room is tiny, and you're a big clan!

GRANDKID LINE #9

Can he hear us?

GRANDMA

We don't know, so let's treat it like he can. Life is God's great mystery. People don't have to walk and talk and look like us to be fully alive. Life is far beyond what we can understand.

HOSTESS interrupts with sudden loud burst as she checks her phone, stealing all focus.

HOSTESS

Oh my gosh, a sale!

GRANDKID LINE #10

Referencing HOSTESS who is studying sale details on her phone.

Grandma, who's that?

GRANDMA

Speaking of life forms we don't always understand...she's the unsolved mystery of the Surgery Waiting Room. But I know there's a human in there somewhere, so why don't you go see if you can connect with her...

FREDDY jumps out, placing himself front and center. (Seizing opportunity for a potential new customer, or girlfriend, or both. Whatever works in your setting.)

FREDDY

I'm on it!

FREDDY crosses to HOSTESS at her counter.

GRANDKIDS assume "home position."

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Good day, Madame, and Merry Christmas to you.

HOSTESS stays glued to her phone. No response.

FREDDY clears throat and tries to sound more professional.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Good day, Madame. You seem like a woman who appreciates the finer things in life.

HOSTESS looks up, confused.

HOSTESS

Oh, hey.

(mystified)

Now how'd you get in here without me noticing?

FREDDY opens jacket to reveal multiple interior pockets full of merchandise.

FREDDY

May I interest you in this original heirloom copy of Grand Theft Auto?
That my parents never let me open?

HOSTESS

(back to phone)

Get lost, kid. I've got 3 minutes to cash in on these deep discounts.

FREDDY

Alright, you drive a tough bargain. But I'm a swag kinda guy.

Tell you what, how 'bout I THROW in this Wild Cherry Capri Sun?...and
my mom's Netflix password?

FRANKIE

She drags FREDDY away from HOSTESS.

Speaking of THROWING...

GRANDKIDS remain in home position as GRANDMA engages
ALEX.

GRANDMA

(to Alex)

Hey, I forgot to ask, how's your knee injury? We've got to get you healthy
before that scout shows up to watch your game.

ALEX

I don't know Grandma, it's been a rough semester, I wasn't su-

GRANDMA interrupts.

GRANDMA

-Oh, you're so modest, you always say that, then you go and-

ALEX interrupts.

ALEX

-I'm not being modest, Grandma. I'm just trying to be honest. In fact
there's something I need to talk to you about...I

GRANDKID LINE #11

Running from GRANDPA'S ROOM, MUST interrupt ALEX.

Grandma, I think I hear Grandpa calling for you. He tried to say, "Katherine." But it sounded more like "Cat Woman?"

GRANDMA *does a take and cougar purr toward audience.*

Can I go see him now? **GRANDKID LINE #12**

Me too? **GRANDKID LINE #13**

Can we go together? What should we say? **GRANDKID LINE #14**

GRANDMA
Hum, let's see...maybe you could **sing** something? You know how Grandpa feels about music. How 'bout one of Grandpa's special songs he taught you when you were little? Maybe it'll jog his memory.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: If not doing Cereal Song, skip to Gunnysack set up at GRANDKID LINE #18.

I know, I know, let's do the one about Cereal. **GRANDKID LINE #15**

The Cereal Song! The Cereal Song! **GRANDKID LINE #16**

That makes me hungry. Grandma do you have any cereal? **GRANDKID LINE #17**

GRANDMA
Sorry, I'm fresh out of Wheaties.
(under breath)
But I do keep a small box of All Bran in my purse.

GRANDMA *escorts CEREAL SONG kids into GRANDPA'S room.*

SCENE FIVE - GRANDPA'S ROOM**GRANDMA**

Oscar, the kids are here. It's CARA, and DANA, and ERIKA, etc. They're gonna sing for you.

No response.

Oscar, can you hear me? The kids are here.

Nothing.

GRANDMA bends over him, cat claws, and purrs in his ear.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(drops volume)

Batman, Catwoman here. Do you read me?

At this, GRANDPA rolls over.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(to kids)

OK, I got his attention for you now. Go ahead. Do your thing.

TRACK CUE #5A CEREAL SONG*VERSE 1 - SOLO**

HE'S MY CAPTAIN OF ALL CRUNCHES.
HE LOVES ME HONEY BUNCHES.
HE WON'T PLAY TRIX
WHEN LIFE GIVES ME KIX.
HE CAN MAKE ME CHEERIO,
AND THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW.
C HE'S- R-E-A-L,
HE'S REAL I LOVE HIM SO.

CHORUS - ALL

OH GOD IS REAL,
I WANT THE WORLD TO I KNOW,
C HE'S R-E-A-L,
HE'S REAL I LOVE HIM SO.

VERSE 2 - SOLO

WHEN COUNT CHOC-U-LA'S SEEM MORE TO YOU
LIKE DRACULAS SOMETIMES,
IT'S VERY SCARY WHEN YOUR FRANKENBERRIES
TURN TO FRANKENSTEINS.
YOU'RE HIS ALMOND DELIGHT,
HE WILL ALWAYS TREAT YOU RIGHT.
YOU'LL BE WITH THE LORD IN HEAVEN,

NOT WHERE CRISPY CRITTERS MIGHT GO.

CHORUS - ALL

OH GOD IS REAL,
I WANT THE WORLD TO I KNOW,
C HE'S R-E-A-L,
HE'S REAL I LOVE HIM SO.

VERSE 3 SOLO

SO IF YOU NEED A LUCKY CHARM,
THEN KABOOM, THIS GUY'S FOR YOU.
HE'S THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPS,
HE MAKES EACH DAY ALL BRAN NEW.
YOU'RE HIS HONEY CLUSTER BAKE,
NUTTIN' HONEY WILL HE TAKE.
NOT YOUR SUGAR PUFFS, SUGAR POPS, SUGAR SMACKS,
OR SUGAR FROSTED FLAKES.

CHORUS - ALL

OH GOD IS REAL,
I WANT THE WORLD TO I KNOW,
C HE'S R-E-A-L,
HE'S REAL I LOVE HIM SO.

TAG

C HE'S R-E-A-L,
HE'S REAL I LOVE HIM SO.

On applause, GRANDMA exits GRANDPA's ROOM escorting CEREAL SONG cast back to WAITING ROOM. She ad libs their praises.

GRANDKID LINE #18

I know, I know, {now} let's do the one about THE GUNNYSACK.

GRANDKID LINE #19

Yes! The GUNNYSACK SONG.

GRANDKID LINE #20

What's a gunnysack?

GRANDMA

You know, like a soldier's backpack? Where they put all their ammunition? We all keep our own "ammunition" in our own "gunnysack" in some way. When you have a Gunnysack, instead of working things out and forgiving, you keep track. Every time somebody does you wrong, you hold onto it, and save it in that gunnysack so you can fire it back.

LEAH/FOSTER CHILD

Oh...do we have to do this?

GRANDMA

Hmm...you don't want to sing about gunnysacks and forgiveness?

LEAH/FOSTER CHILD

Not really.

GRANDMA escorts FOSTER CHILD to a private spot.

GRANDMA

So what's going on? Can you tell me more?

LEAH/FOSTER CHILD

(hesitant to trust)

My birth mother makes me sad. And mad. And I don't know why God let everything happen to my family.

GRANDMA

Wow. That's a lot for a little heart to handle. I can see why you're struggling.

Beat.

You know, my birthmother hurt me too. In fact, she was hardly around. My Grandma raised me.

Beat.

How 'bout when all this hospital jazz is over, you and I go out for some hot chocolate? Maybe we can help each other. And you don't have to sing now...you can just listen.

FOSTER CHILD nods at this special connection as GRANDMA escorts the GUNNYSACK cast to GRANDPA's bedside.

TRACK CUE 5B: GUNNYSACK SONG**VERSE 1 - Solo**

NOW LONG AGO A BOY NAMED JOE
GREW UP NOT FAR FROM HERE.
DECIDED HE COULD NOT FORGIVE
AND HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR.

THE WRONG HE FOUND WITH FOLKS IN TOWN
HE'D SAVED 'EM IN HIS PACK.
AND EVERY TIME, THEY CROSSED A LINE
HE'D VOW TO PAY IT BACK.

CHORUS - All

GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK I'M TELLING YOU A FACT.
THAT EVERY WRONG THAT CAME HIS WAY,
HE VOWED TO PAY IT BACK.
GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK OLD JOE WAS KEEPIN TRACK.
YES EVERY WRONG THAT CAME HIS WAY
WENT IN HIS GUNNYSACK.

VERSE 2 - Solo

JOE WENT TO SCHOOL AND AS A RULE
THE KIDS WENT OUT TO PLAY.
BUT HE COULDN'T SLIDE OR SWING OR HIDE -
HIS PACK GOT IN THE WAY.
WHEN HE'D SWIM HE FOUND HE'D SINK RIGHT DOWN,
"I'M DROWNIN!" HE WOULD SHOUT!
AND EVERY DAY MORE BENT THIS WAY
SO AMUSEMENT RIDES WERE OUT!

CHORUS - ALL

GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK I'M TELLING YOU A FACT.
THAT EVERY WRONG THAT CAME HIS WAY,
HE VOWED TO PAY IT BACK.
GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK OLD JOE WAS KEEPIN TRACK.
YES EVERY WRONG THAT CAME HIS WAY
WENT IN HIS GUNNYSACK.

VERSE 3 - SOLO

NOW JOE GREW OLD, ALONE AND COLD,
WENT WALKIN' IN THE SNOW.
A LONELY MAN WITHOUT A FRIEND,
THINK HOW THAT PACK DID GROW.
HE'D LOST ALL LOVE AND PEACE AND JOY
FROM THE WEIGHT HE'D CARRIED ROUND.
ON CHRISTMAS DAY BENEATH THAT PACK
IS THE WAY OLD JOE WAS FOUND.

VERSE 3 - SOLO

"LET'S HELP THIS MAN, HE'S STILL ALIVE!"
THE CHILDREN GATHERED ROUND.
TOGETHER THEY USED CHRISTMAS LOVE
TO LIFT HIM FROM THE GROUND.
JOE TOOK THAT PACK FROM OFF HIS BACK,
RELIEVED THAT HE WOULD LIVE.

JOE

"NO MORE GUNNY SACK FOR ME,
I'M LEARNING TO FORGIVE."

CHORUS

GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK, I'M TELLING YOU A FACT.
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, JOE FOUND AWAY TO LOSE HIS GUNNYSACK.
GUNNYSACK, GUNNYSACK, T'WAS NO MORE KEEPIN TRACK.
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, JOE CHANGED HIS WAY.
NO MORE GUNNYSACK.

On applause, GRANDMA exits GRANDPA's ROOM escorting CEREAL SONG/GUNNYSACK GRANDKIDS back to WAITING ROOM. She ad libs their praises.

SCENE SIX - WAITING ROOM

FREDDY approaches HOSTESS again, who is still obsessed with phone.

FREDDY

Pardon me Ma'am, you may remember me? The enterprising young man from a few moments ago? I'm in dire need of sustenance of the sweet or salty variety. I'm embarking on an excursion to the vending machine. Might I trouble you for some change for this...
(whips out bill)

...dolla bill? Perhaps some quarters?

HOSTESS

(without looking up)

You need changing quarters? There's a closet down the hall.

FREDDY

(yelling politely)

Some change, please? Maybe some quarters?

TRACK CUE #6: HOSTESS PHONE RINGS (3 rings total)

HOSTESS perks up immediately to see who it is, reads screen.

(after first ring)

Oooohhh! Unknown caller! How mysterious.

(after second ring)
You like my "retro ring?"

(after third ring)
Hello?

HOSTESS, all the while holding phone with one hand, mindlessly opens desk drawer or grabs handful of quarters from change cup with the other hand. Throughout following dialogue, HOSTESS is focused on her phone survey, not on FREDDY or the money she's handing over.

HOSTESS

Oooooohhhh! What's your dating color quiz! Sounds like fun! Yes, I'll take your survey.

Looking up, reflecting.

There's like nothing going on around here, that's like, for sure.

Mindlessly dropping coins into FREDDY'S hand.

(Responding to survey)

My date of birth? Sure its March 2 of 2000.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Whatever makes sense.

(Responding)

Numerically? OK so that would be like 3 - 1 - 2000.

Mindlessly dropping quarters in Freddie's hand.

FREDDY does audience take.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

My social security number? Oh sure, no problem! Let me think...it's uh...

FREDDY does another take, slyly holds out palm.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

That's the one with all the numbers and dashes, right? I think it's like 222... uh...34 -

HOSTESS (CONT'D)*(to FREDDY)*

There's more numbers here, right? Uh...

FREDDY*(prompting her)*

I think it was all 9's, wasn't it? Yeah I think the ending's just 9999? That sounds right.

HOSTESS

Sorry, I like, can't remember the rest.

*FREDDY does a "drat" take at this and exits.***HOSTESS (CONT'D)***(How dare you!)*

What's my weight? WHAT'S MY WEIGHT!!

(NOW she's offended!)

Oh **now** you're getting like, personal. Hey, is this a scam? Well, then I might have to, like, call the police.

Hangs up. She yells off to FREDDY.

Hey dude, what's the number for 911?

*FREDDY runs back in, to the rescue.***FREDDY**

BREAK out your quarters, Madame, and I'll gladly assist you.

*FRANKIE crosses to intervene, fake threatening FREDDY with fist.***FRANKIE**

Speaking of BREAKING something...

FREDDY

Hey, sis/bro, relax, relax.

TRACK CUE #7 GOOD SENSE(over track intro)*

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Shaking coins in hand.

I know you wish I would CHANGE my ways. But maybe you could learn a thing or two,

I'M ABOUT TO **COIN** A PHRASE.

VERSE 1

GOOD SENSE, THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD SENSE.
HANG ON TO YOUR LOOT CAUSE
GOOD SENSE, GOOD SENSE IS ALL YOU NEED
IN THIS LIFE TO SUCCEED.

VERSE 2

BANK ROLL, WHAT'S THE USE IN FLYIN SO LOW?
LOW THE PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW WON'T
PAY YOU THE HEED YOU NEED?
IF YOU WANNA SUCCEED.

BRIDGE

WELL IF YOU GOT A PENNY, YOU AIN'T GOT TOO MANY.
YA ONLY GOT A NICKEL, THEN YOU'RE IN A PICKLE.
YA ONLY GOT A QUARTER, YOU SHOULD BE A HOARDER.
BUT IF YA WANNA THRILL ME, GO AHEAD AND "BILL" ME.(OPEN
COAT TO SHOW DOLLAR BILLS PINNED INSIDE.)

VERSE 3 MELODY IS DANCE BREAK

BRIDGE INTO ENDING

BUTTER ROLLS ARE YUMMY,
THEY CAN WARM YOUR TUMMY.
JELLY ROLL ARE PLEASING,
ALWAYS FUN FOR SQUEEZING.
BUT MY FAVORITE WAY TO ROLL KID,
IS ROLLING IN THE DOUGH KID.
TO GET THROUGH LIFE YOU GOTTA HAVE GOOD SENSE.

GRANDKID LINE #21

Can we go next, Grandma?

GRANDMA

Sure! Watcha gonna do in there?

GRANDKID LINE #22

We want to sing "JESUS LOVE ME" with the motions Grandpa taught us when we were little.

GRANDMA

Way back when you were little, huh?

GRANDMA escorts "Jesus Loves Me" GRANDKIDS into GRANDPA's Room.

-

SCENE SEVEN: GRANDPA'S ROOM**GRANDMA**

Oscar, HANNAH and HALLIE, etc. are wanting to see you.

While JESUS LOVES ME cast gets ready, GRANDMA speaks to GRANDPA in low volume.

And ALEX is here. S/he got 3 days off training camp for Christmas! Finally, a break from that evil coach! I guess that's what it's gonna take to get that kid to the Junior Olym...

GRANDMA cuts it short as JESUS LOVES ME cast is set. Volume back to normal...

...and here's HANNAH and HALLIE, etc. They want to sing one of their favorite songs you taught them.

JESUS LOVES ME w/ Motions (See Director's Guide.)

On applause, GRANDKIDS exit GRANDPA's ROOM for WAITING ROOM. (Older GRANDKIDS may help.)

ALEX goes to GRANDPA's room "door" again to engage GRANDMA.

ALEX

GRANDMA, I want to tell you something.

GRANDMA

Of course, dear.

ALEX

(haltingly)

OK, let me think how to start...it's kinda complicated...

GALE sticks head in GRANDPA'S curtain/door.

GALE

Can I go next? I promise it will be really quick.

GRANDMA looks at ALEX. They both know this is not the best time for privacy.

ALEX

(relieved for the diversion)

Sure, GAIL/KEVIN. Come on in.

GRANDMA

Come on in here GALE.

GALE joins GRANDMA in GRANDPA'S room as ALEX exits.

GALE

Grandpa, I just wanna say that I always remember that thing you used to tell us about being grateful. But I wanna get it right. Grandma, what was that quote by that guy? About yesterday and the future?

GRANDMA whispers in his/her ear.

GALE (CONT'D)

"Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present." – by Bill CLEAN

GRANDMA

Keene.

GALE

Keene.

GRANDMA

Thank you Gale. That was beautiful!

Hug exchange.

I'm proud of you.

GALE starts to exit, turns to GRANDMA.

GALE

...hey Grandma, speaking of gifts...

GRANDMA

Oh, you...I've got gifts for all of you. But we're gonna wait till Grandpa wakes up. Besides, I haven't had a chance to wrap 'em yet, with Grandpa's accident.

GALE

You don't need to wrap them, Grandma. We don't care.

GRANDMA

What are you sayin' child? The wrappin's half the fun! It's my favorite part of gift giving.

GALE

I'm just sayin'...

GRANDMA

Get, get, get! You'll get your gift when everything is *wrapped* and your Grandpa is awake to enjoy it!! Now get on out there and make sure Freddy isn't weaseling any money out of your unsuspecting cousins.

GALE exits GRANDPA's Room to Waiting Room.

TRACK CUE #8 GRANDMA'S CHRISTMAS WRAPPING*GRANDMA (CONT'D)**

Did you hear that, Grandpa? They think they know me...but do they?

Grandma makes sure she's alone.

VERSE 1

NOW GRANDMA HAS A SECRET
SHE'S ALWAYS KEPT FROM YOU.
YOU NEVER WOULD SUSPECT ME,
BUT HERE'S A LITTLE CLUE:
WHEN THE GIFTS HAVE ALL BEEN PURCHASED
AND THEY'RE SPREAD OUT ON THE TABLE,
I GATHER UP THE PAPER
AND THE SCISSORS, AND THE LABELS.
BUT A RHYTHM TAKES ME OVER
WHEN I ROLL THE PAPER OUT.
MY HEART STARTS TO LEAPING.
I THINK I'M GONNA SHOUT.
SO WHEN I PICK THE PAPER
AND THE RIBBONS AND THE BOWS,
MY ALTER EGO KICKS IN - IT'S THE ME NOBODY KNOWS.

CHORUS

IT'S MY CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN', MY CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'
 NO ONE SEES IT HAPPEN,
 GRANDMA'S CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'.
 MY FINGERS START TO SNAPPIN',
 MY TOES START TO TAPPIN',
 MY HANDS START TO CLAPPIN
 WHEN I'M CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'.

VERSE 2

NOW GRANDMAS HAVE BEEN RAPPING SINCE
 BEFORE THE DAWN OF TIME.
 WE BEEN MAKING UP THE RHYTHM,
 WE BEEN THINKIN' UP THE RHYME.
 YOU THINK THE FIRST RAPPER WAS A YOUNG AMERICAN?
 A YOUNG AMERICAN BY THE NAME OF HAMILTON?
 NO SON.

On last chorus, kids eavesdrop and mimic her movement from the Waiting Room.

CHORUS

IT'S MY CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN', MY CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'.
 NO ONE SEES IT HAPPEN,
 GRANDMA'S CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'.
 MY HEAD STARTS TO SNAPPIN',
 MY WINGS START TO FLAPPIN',
 YOU MIGHT THINK I'M IN THERE NAPPIN',
 BUT I'M CHRISTMAS WRAPPIN'!

GRANDMA walks into Waiting Room and catches them. Kids freeze, then all laugh/hug.

SCENE EIGHT - WAITING ROOM

GRANDMA approaches HOSTESS at her stand as GRANDKIDS settle back to "Home" position.

GRANDMA

Hello, my dear. Long time no see.
(under her breath)
 But same position, I see.

No response.

Hello!? Earth to Hostess...

HOSTESS

Huh?

Looks up at GRANDMA.
Oh, hey again! You still here?

GRANDMA

Well, only because my HUSBAND is still here...Oscar Long?...in Room 309?

HOSTESS remains blank.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I wanted to let you know that my SON is on his way here! We haven't seen him for over 4 years... so please be on the lookout for him, and send him our way - Room 3...

TRACK CUE #9 GRANDMA'S PHONE RINGS

GRANDMA IMMEDIATELY stops mid sentence, after first ring, scrambling to answer phone in room.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(excitedly)
...that might be him calling!

GRANDMA promptly finds her phone and proudly answers. She has cleverly placed where she could easily find it - maybe in the medical equipment?

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(to GRANDPA)
HA! Found it this time old man!

(to phone JERRY)
Hello?

GRANDMA freezes for E-MO-GEE, resumes movement after song.

HOSTESS

Ironically, HOSTESS marvels to herself, shaking her head as in "what a shame" at GRANDMA's dependence on her phone.

What would we do without our phones?

(pondering, repeating with concern)

We would we do without our phones?

(pondering, with new emphasis)

We **WOULD** we do without our phones?

(frantically)

Siri, Is it possible to survive without a phone?

Hits search, then waits.

Go. GO. GO! GO! SEND! SEND!

She sees it isn't sending. Panics.

WHAT?!?! No service?!? They should get better internet here...in case of emergencies.

She holds phone up in different directions for service. Checks phone. It sent. Big relief, wipes her brow. *It's been 4 seconds.*

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Finally!

*TRACK CUE #10 E-MO-GEE, I AM A GOOD FRIEND!

VERSE 1

I'D LIKE DIE, I'D BE A WRECK,
IF I COULD NOT CONNECT.

OH A TEXT!

WITH MY FRIENDS EVERYWHERE,
THOUGH I'M HERE, AND YOU'RE THERE,
I CAN SHOW YOU I CARE.
MY WHOLE LIFE IS IN THIS SQUAR-Y THING.

YOUR PAIN, I WON'T FORGET
A SALE AT THE MALL?! (TO PHONE/TEXTING)
PLEASE REMIND ME...(SPOKEN)"HAVE WE MET?"
I NEED A SMALL. (ALL DIALOGUE TO PHONE/TEXTING OR READING)
EITHER WAY, YOU WILL STAY
JUST GET THEM ALL!
IN MY HEART, SO DO NOT FRET!

CHORUS 1

E-MO-GEE, I AM A GOOD FRIEND!
I DIG DEEP WITH HOW I FEEL.

WOW, WHAT A DEAL!!
 LIKE, LIKE, DELETE, THAT'S DUMB, THAT'S SWEET.
 WITH MY THUMBS I KEEP IT REAL.
 THAT'S A STEAL!

HOW I LOVE TO BE A GOOD FRIEND,
 FEEL YOUR HEART AND BREATHE YOUR AIR,
 I SYMPATHIZE, I EMPATHIZE, I AGONIZE, I DRAMATIZE,
 I SHOW HOW MUCH I CARE,
 AND I NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAIR.

VERSE 2

I LIKE DIE - I'D BE FORLORN.
 THAT MEANS SAD.
 IF I COULD NOT STAY INFORMED.
 GET THE PLAID!
 AS THE ISSUES ARISE,
 I READ UP AND WEIGH ALL SIDES,
 OR, A STATUS, OR TWO FROM A
 MOVIE STAR WHO IS REALLY COOL.
 SCROLL, SCROLL, SCROLL, SCROLL, SCROLL, SCROLL, SCROLL

OK, ENOUGH, RETWEET, POST, SEND.
 IT GOES OUT TO ALL MY FRIENDS.
 HOW LOVE TO ENGAGE,
 IN A THOUGHTFUL DEEP EXCHANGE!

CHORUS 2

E-MO-GEE, I AM A GOOD FRIEND!
 I DIG DEEP WITH HOW I THINK.
 THEY HAVE IT IN PINK?
 LIKE, LIKE, DELETE, THAT'S DUMB, THAT'S SWEET.
 IF YOU DON'T AGREE, YOU STINK!
 SEND THE LINK.
 HOW I LOVE TO BE A GOOD FRIEND,
 STAY INFORMED, INVOLVED AND FAIR.
 I ANALYZE, I CRITICIZE, I ORGANIZE, I PLAGIARIZE,
 I SHOW HOW MUCH I CARE,
 AND I NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAIR.

TAG ENDING

MY PHONE, MY IPAD, MY INSTA-SPACE, MY SELFIE FACEBOOK,
 ALL FOR YOU I CARE.
 AND I NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAIR.
 I NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAIR!
 WISH I WERE THERE!

GRANDMA

Hello, Jerry!

Beat.

Did you make it to town? Oh my, it's gonna be so good to hug your neck, son.

GRANDMA continues miming conversation, as focus shifts to FREDDY in WAITING ROOM. He can interrupt loudly by bursting into WAITING ROOM carrying a stack of bedpans, medical scrubs and latex gloves, to be used in RAGTIME. Masks might be especially funny now. Candy bars are in top bed pan, standing up vertically so we can see FREDDY's "candy dishes."

FREDDY

(yelling)

Candy! Candy for sale! Get your fresh candy here!

GRANDKIDS ad lib, "OOOHHH I want some!" running to him.

FRANKIE

NO YOU DON'T!!! You goof ball! What are you doing? That's disgusting!

FREDDY

(to Frankie)

Now, now, now man/young lady, please sit down and wait your turn like the other customers - I mean cousins - while I pass out these handy dandy candy dishes.

During his speech below, FREDDY passes out bedpans and puts candy in them, trick-or-treat style.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have acquired these versatile, reusable, environmentally friendly recepticals so I can share this bountiful abundance of delectable treats that the Lord has provided.

GRANDKID LINE #23

Do we have to pay you like always? I don't have any money.

FREDDY

I'll keep an account for each of you. We'll settle up when you open your gifts and I see what you have. I obtained this and all other medical apparatus from the closet down the hall.

Disapproving look from FRANKIE.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

(referring to HOSTESS who is buried in her phone)

She willingly and consciously sent me to the closet.

Beat.

OK, maybe not consciously...

FRANKIE

(another threat/joke)

Speaking of conscious...

TRACK CUE #11 CHRISTMAS CANDY CHANT

All GRANDKIDS voice this cheer in a fugue of rhythm, starting small and ending obnoxious as they bang on bedpans in various rhythm.

GROUP 1: CANDY, CANDY, WE WANT CANDY. FINE AND DANDY CHRISTMAS CANDY.

GROUP 2: POPCORN BALLS AND A GINGERBREAD HOUSE. PRETTY ON THE TABLE, BETTER IN MY MOUTH.

GROUP 3: MMMM, I'M LOVIN' WHAT'S IN GRANDMA'S OVEN.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

STOOOOPPPPP! That's gross!! GRANDMA, will you make him stop?

FRANKIE calls for GRANDMA, then backs FREDDY into wings. His hands are full of props.

The "crash" we hear from offstage is FRANKIE "handling" the FREDDY problem.

GRANDMA, is still on her phone in Grandpa's room.

GRANDKIDS immediately "shush" each other and quiet down at the prospect of GRANDMA's authority.

SCENE NINE – GRANDPA’S ROOM

Shift focus to GRANDMA who indicates she’s on phone, will be out in a minute.

This is the time for GRANDKIDS to subtly get the latex gloves placed so everyone can turn upstage and put them on before "Ragtime."

GRANDMA

(concluding phone call)

OK, son, all your nieces and nephews will be just thrilled to see you, too. They have such good memories. Love you, too. Bye bye.

She hangs up, shifts focus to Grandpa, sitting by his bed, she speaks tenderly.

Oscar, I believe that boy’s gonna come around yet – and to think he’s only 34. It’s never too late to do the right thing.

When people ask me the secret to reaching a golden anniversary, I tell em’ it helps to have a kid like Jerry. I tell em’ we used the "Hands and Knees" system...we hold hands and get down on our knees - depending on the good Lord's love and wisdom.

What’s that verse? "A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken." You've been a fine "cord strand partner."

It’s just too bad you went and got so old and wrinkled:)

You taught me to forgive, you know that? I was so bitter and broken when we met. Thank you for helping me love again.

Beat.

And You sure were handsome when we met...you, a starving musician, and me...just starving. Remember how I used to show up every Sunday night when you played at Church?

I surely did notice you. And you could play those old songs like a pro – gospel, jazz, swing. You could play anything. Ragtime was my favorite.

***TRACK CUE #12 RAGTIME SONG**

MELODY A - GRANDMA ONLY
 PLAY A LITTLE RAGTIME SONG
 LIKE GRANDPA USED TO PLAY.
 LET YOUR FINGERS SLIDE ACROSS THE
 KEYBOARD JUST THIS WAY.
 YOU CAN PLAY A SONG OF JOY
 WHEN YOU GIVE LOVE AWAY.

IN YOUR HEART JUST PLAY THIS PART
LIKE GRANDPA USED TO PLAY.

"Flashback" sound/light effect vamp as we see "YOUNG GRANDMA" and "YOUNG GRANDPA" appear as if it's the night they met.

MELODY A - GRANDMA ONLY SINGS UPTEMPO, WHILE "YOUNG GRANDMA" AND "YOUNG GRANDPA" START TO DANCE.

PLAY A LITTLE RAGTIME SONG LIKE
GRANDPA USED TO PLAY.

LET YOUR FINGERS SLIDE ACROSS
THE KEYBOARD JUST THIS WAY.

YOU CAN PLAY A SONG OF JOY
WHEN YOU GIVE LOVE AWAY.

IN YOUR HEART JUST PLAY THIS PART
LIKE GRANDPA USED TO PLAY.

MELODY B - GRANDMA SINGS AS "YOUNG GRANDMA" AND "YOUNG GRANDPA" DO A CHARLESTON.

THEN WE'D DO CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON,
OUR FAVORITE SONG.

CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON, DANCE ALL DAY LONG.

SO FINE, SO FUN, SO JOIN IN EVERYONE.

CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON, OUR FAVORITE SONG.

HAND DANCE BREAK, NO VOCALS

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

MELODY B

Then we'd do Charleston,
Charleston, our favorite song.
Charleston, Charleston, dance all
day long.
So fine, so fun, so join in everyone.
So fun, my number one
You helped me find a way.
You showed me every day.
Forgiveness is the way.
I think you're ok.

GRANDKIDS

MELODY A

Play a little Ragtime song like
Grandpa used to play.
Let your fingers slide across the
keyboard just this way.
You can play a song of joy when
you give love away.
In your heart just play this part like
Grandpa used to play,
like Grandpa used to play,
like Grandpa used to play,
like Grandpa used to play.

GrandMA (CONT'D)

(now emotional)

Wow! I didn't see that coming! Whew, I need a break. Could use a spin in the Batmobile.

She grabs purse/coat to exit.

SCENE TEN – WAITING ROOM

As GRANDMA exits GRANDPA's room, she runs into ALEX who was headed in again.

ALEX

Oh Grandma, I'm glad you came out. I really need to talk to you about something...

GRANDMA

(still emotional, interrupting)

Sure! Alex, honey, can it wait a few minutes? I'm fine, I just need to get some fresh air. I'll be right back.

Listen, you can keep an eye on everybody here for a minute, right? Of course you can. You're about the most mature, responsible kid I know.

GRANDMA exits.

GRANDKID LINE #24

(sarcastically)

Yeah, ALEX. You're about the most mature, responsible kid I know. You're GREAT, Alexandra/Alexander.

GRANDKID LINE #25

Hey, she/he's ALEXANDRA/ALEXANDER THE GREAT!

She starts chant.

"Who could hate Alexandra the Great!" Who could hate Alexandra the Great!

Other GRANDKIDS join in gradually. Chant repeats, picks up energy, builds to all GRANDKIDS chanting loud and strong until...

ALEX loses it, very upset, jumps on a chair and yells at cousins.

ALEX

YOU GUYS, STOP IT!!! WILL YOU ALL JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?

ALEX escapes to GRANDPA's room.

SCENE ELEVEN – GRANDPA’S ROOM

ALEX

(upset, with urgency)

Grandpa, I don't know if you can hear me, but I need to talk to somebody. I can't stand it any longer. Something's happened...something bad...I did something bad...Grandpa, I got caught *cheating on a test. I'm gonna be suspended from school. And that means no travel team, no training team...I don't know how I'm gonna tell Mom.

I know better. It's so embarrassing. I'm so sorry I did it and I'm sorry to disappoint everybody.

I know I'll survive, but right now it seems like the end of the world.

You always help me remember what's important Grandpa. You and your wisdom...

TRACK CUE #13 I MATTER BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME

ALEX picks up GRANDPA's Bible from his bedside table, opened as GRANDMA left it.

ALEX CON'T

...and your Bible verses.

She reads this verse GRANDPA has highlighted:

ALEX

"Man looks on the outside, but God looks on the heart." Funny you marked that one, Grandpa. I feel like everybody's always watching me and I have to be perfect all the time.

VERSE 1

IT FEELS GOOD TO IMPRESS. WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO BE
NOTICED AND PRAISED? BASK IN THE GAZE?
BUT WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED? I'M ALONE ON THIS PEDESTAL
LOST IN A HAZE OF TRYING TO AMAZE.

PRECHORUS

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I GOT HERE.
BUT NOW I'M AFRAID TO LOOK DOWN.
LIFE HASN'T TURNED OUT LIKE I THOUGHT HERE.
THERE'S NO PLACE TO FALL DOWN
WITHOUT CRITICS AROUND.

CHORUS

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
 I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOIN'.
 I'M BARELY HERE TODAY.
 BUT I'LL KEEP PRESSING FORWARD
 TO BECOME ALL HE MADE ME TO BE.
 THEN FOR ONCE CAN I REST? NO MORE GOOD, BETTER, BEST?
 I MATTER BECAUSE HE LOVES ME.

VERSE 2

DO SOMETHING GREAT - MAGICALLY FRIENDS APPEAR
 SOON AS YOU WOW - TAKE TROPHY, TAKE BOW.
 BUT FALL ON YOUR FACE, FANS AND ADMIRERERS
 FADE OUT SOMEHOW. WHO'S WITH YOU NOW?

PRECHORUS

IT'S A BALANCING ACT JUST TO STAY HERE
 WHERE EVERY MISTAKE IS SO LOUD.
 MY VALUE IS WEIGHED BY THE DAY HERE.
 IF I GIVE UP THE RACE AND I FORFEIT MY PLACE
 WILL THEY STILL KNOW MY FACE IN THE CROWD?

CHORUS

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS.
 I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
 I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOIN'.
 I'M BARELY HERE TODAY.
 BUT I'LL KEEP PRESSING FORWARD
 TO BECOME ALL HE MADE ME TO BE.
 THEN FOR ONCE CAN I REST? NO MORE GOOD, BETTER, BEST?
 I MATTER BECAUSE HE LOVES ME.

BRIDGE *to God*

AND I KNOW YOU CAN SEE ME IN THIS
 CYCLE THAT KEEPS SPINNING 'ROUND.
 LORD, I KNOW YOU CAN FREE ME.
 IF YOU STILL HEAL THE HURTING AND LOOK FOR THE LOST,
 LORD FIND ME - I LONG TO BE FOUND.

CHORUS

LORD, YOU KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS.
 WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
 YOU KNOW WHERE I'M GOIN'.
 AS I'M STANDING HERE TODAY.
 SO I'LL KEEP PRESSING FORWARD
 TO BECOME ALL YOU MADE ME TO BE.

TAG

THERE'S NO END TO THIS RACE, TO THIS DREAM THAT I CHASE.
 TO BE SCARED AND STILL TRY, FREE TO FAIL, FREE TO FLY.
 BUT BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME, I CAN LEARN TO BE FREE.
 I MATTER BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME.

ALEX *kisses* GRANDPA.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It feels like you heard me.

ALEX exits to Waiting Room.

GRANDPA raises his finger or otherwise gives a sign.

SCENE TWELVE – WAITING ROOM

GRANDKIDS all freeze, nervous as ALEX returns to Waiting room.

ALEX

Will you guys stop staring at me?

Beat

I'm sorry I yelled.

FREDDY hands ALEX Kleenex pack from the "merchandise" in his inner jacket.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Thanks.

(to FREDDY)

What's this gonna cost me?

FREDDY

No charge.

Beat

Hmmm, I have a funny feeling in my chest...it's quite unfamiliar..."My heart is strangely warmed."

FRANKIE

It's called generosity, ya goof ball!

FREDDY

Ah, refreshing!

Beat

Candy's on me today folks!

GRANDKID LINE #27

Maybe your heart was 3 sizes too small!

FREDDY

Maybe I'll give this whole Forgiveness thing a try.. I forgive your debts. Merry Christmas everyone!

GRANDKIDS ad lib cheer response, thanking, hugging FREDDY.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

(basking in the praise)

I think I'll try this more often!

GRANDKID LINE #28

That's OK, Alex. Do you feel better? Talking to Grandpa always makes me feel better.

ALEX

Yes. Being with Grandpa reminded me I don't have to be perfect. I mean...I want to do good and please the Lord, but being with Grandpa reminded me how much God loves me. Just because.

GRANDKID LINE #29

You mean you think God loves you even when you do bad?

ALEX

Beat, pondering.

Yes. Yes, name, I think God loves us even when we do bad things. He wants us to be like Jesus, but when we mess up, he wants us to deal with it, ask for forgiveness, and forgive others. And ourselves.

He doesn't love everything we **do**, but He always loves **us**. We're still His children, and we always belong to Him.

GRANDKID LINE #30

Like our Mom says when she puts us to bed, "I love you, no matter what!"

ALEX

Right, I guess it's like a good parent...They love **you**, but not every single thing you **do**. Like when you get in trouble for telling a lie, your parents don't like that, right? But do they still love you?

Yes?

GRANDKID LINE #31

Yes, of course they do.

ALEX

ALEX tickles cousin.

GRANDMA re-enters, sees *the fun*.

What'd I miss?

GRANDMA

GRANDMA reacts to whatever crazy visual she sees with "What's going on here?"

OK kids, big surprise comin' at ya! I didn't wanna say anything until I was sure: **YOUR UNCLE JERRY WILL BE HERE IN 30 MINUTES!!** He's coming to see Grandpa, and visit YOU!!!

GRANDKIDS ad lib excitement.

GRANDKID LINE #32

Remember that time he put a lighted candle in his mouth?!

GRANDKID LINE #33

How about that time he stuck those quarters up his nose?

FREDDY

That seems a waste!

GRANDKIDS ad lib over intro.

TRACK CUE #14 HAIRY UNCLE JERRY**"HAIRY UNCLE JERRY"****VERSE 1 - SOLO EACH LINE**

WHO MAKES HIS HOME ON BEACHES OF SAND?
 CATCHES FISH WITH ONLY ONE HAND.
 WITH HIS BARE TEETH HE OPENED A CAN.

ALL

EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S UNCLE JERRY.

VERSE 2 - SOLO EACH LINE

HE SLEPT ALL NIGHT ON A RAFT IN OUR POOL.
 THEN RODE US ON HIS HARLEY TO SCHOOL.
 WHAT'S A WORD FOR WAY BEYOND COOL?

ALL (CONT'D)

EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S UNCLE JERRY.

BRIDGE

TELLS THE GREATEST STORIES THAT YOU'VE EVER HEARD.
 TELLS US P-L-A-N'S A FOUR LETTER WORD.
 HE'S THE MOST FUN GUY YOU COULD HOPE TO MEET.
 AND WHEN HE BURPS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

Loud burp in mic.

IT SOUNDS SO SWEET!

VERSE 3 - ALL SING

SO SANTA MIGHT BE COMING TO TOWN.
 BUT HERE'S A GUY AS RARE TO BE FOUND.
 HE'S OUR HAIRY UNCLE JERRY,
 HE'LL MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS MERRY
 WITH HAIRY UNCLE JERRY AROUND. YES SIR!
 WITH HAIRY UNCLE JERRY AROUND.

On Uncle Jerry song applause, kids return to cluster mime groups to talk about Jerry. Seeing that the kids are distracted, Grandma pulls ALEX into Grandpa's Room.

SCENE THIRTEEN - GRANDPA'S ROOM**GRANDMA**

Alex, honey, I know you've been trying to talk to me all day. I'm so sorry. What's up?

Beat.

ALEX

(still emotional)

...It can wait now...I'm feeling better since I talked to Grandpa.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Grandma does take to ALEX, curious.

It seems like he heard me. I feel like I can tell you and Grandpa anything. I mean, I know you'll be really sad and disappointed, but you guys will forgive me, and still love me the same.

I messed up, Grandma. Big time.

They hug, eyes closed, or positioned so neither sees GINA enter doorway, in earshot.

I'm scared my Mom will freak out. She expects me to be almost perfect. She's always posting about how great I am. It'll make her so sad - I wonder if she'll ever forgive me, or love me the same. I'm scared to tell her.

GINA

Tell me what?

ALEX AND GRANDMA

(startled)

Mom!

Gina! What are you doing here!?!

GINA

(Ignoring GRANDMA - concerned, scared)

Alex, you're scared to tell me something?

GRANDMA

Gina, your brother will be here any second. I thought you were gonna wait for my text when he was gone.

GINA

But you felt comfortable telling Grandma?

ALEX

GrandPA. I am working my way up.

GRANDMA

(to ALEX as she exits to Waiting Room to give them privacy)

If I were you, I'd cough it up now - while the gettin's good:)

ALEX stops GRANDMA.

ALEX

No, Grandma, please stay. I only want to do this once.

TRACK CUE #15 UNDERSCORE

ALEX draws them to huddle closer, in prayer-type circle. ALEX whispers, or low voice that we need not hear for the underscore. Appropriate mimed reactions from GRANDMA and GINA.

ALEX CON'T

I know I've got some tough consequences coming. I wanted to tell you sooner but I didn't know how. I couldn't stand to disappoint everyone. But Grandpa helped me find my courage. He helped me see...see that God still loves me, and He forgives me. And I'm asking you - both - to forgive me.

GINA

Beat for GINA to absorb.

You're right. I am sad. And disappointed.

Beat.

And you're right about tough consequences. But I want to understand you better - what were you thinking?

GINA hugs ALEX.

GINA (CONT'D)

Alex, you're my child. And there's nothing you've done - or can ever do - to make me love you any less. Even if you tried. I'll love you always and forever, no matter what.

GINA looks at GRANDMA, giving her permission to jump in with a hug and a word.

GRANDMA

And if *WE'RE* for you, think how much GOD is for you. Alex, We're all gonna make mistakes, and fall short, that's not news. The news is we can be forgiven! We can forgive others, and ourselves. And we always still belong to God, and to this family.

Beat.

And speaking of family, what *are* you doing here, GINA?

GINA

I've been thinking about it all day, and praying about it. I want to make peace with Jerry - to forgive him. I decided to make the first move. I was thinking this might be a good day to start. Now, I *KNOW* it is.

Motioning to ALEX.

C'mon. Let's go downstairs and wait for him.

GINA and ALEX exit to "Hospital Lobby" as GRANDMA heads to GRANDKIDS in Waiting Room.

When they're out of sight, before engaging GRANDKIDS, GRANDMA does some private "Celebration Gesture" such as Elbow Pull, High Five toward Grandpa, Praise Dance, Cartwheel, etc.

SCENE 14 - WAITING ROOM

GRANDMA

(Beckoning)

Children, gather 'round. Listen and learn. We're about to witness the miracle of God's love.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: OPTIONAL GOSPEL PRESENTATION, OR SKIP TO TRACK CUE.

Think about it...If God loves us enough to give up His Son for us after all we've done, how can we stop loving each other? And if forgiving us was so important to God that He sacrificed his Son, then shouldn't forgiving be very important to us? What? A holy and perfect God can forgive us, but we can't forgive each other? Does that seem right? Of course not. Because He forgives us, we must forgive each other.

TRACK CUE #16 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU

GRANDMA continues dialogue over 2 measure intro.

Since the Lord loves and forgives us, how can we not love and forgive each other?

No matter what?

GRANDKID LINE #34

No matter what.

GRANDMA

A1- GRANDMA ONLY
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.
 THOUGH WE MAY DISAGREE, IT'S TRUE.
 YOU'RE THE FAMILY GOD GAVE TO ME CHRISTMAS, MAY OR JUNE.
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.

A2 - GRANDMA AND GRANDKIDS
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.
 THOUGH WE MAY DISAGREE, IT'S TRUE.
 YOU'RE THE FAMILY GOD GAVE TO ME CHRISTMAS, MAY OR JUNE
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.

B1 - GRANDMA AND GRANDKIDS
 I'LL LOVE MY SISTERS AND MY BROTHERS
 STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
 IF I CLAIM TO LOVE THE FATHER
 AND HIS SON I'VE YET TO SEE.
 AND IF I THINK OF THEM AS "OTHER,"
 THEN THE "OTHER" COULD BE ME.
 WHEN ALL THE CLAMOR FADES AWAY
 THERE'S ONLY US AND WE.

A3 - GRANDMA AND GRANDKIDS WITH/TO AUDIENCE.
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.
 THOUGH WE MAY DISAGREE, IT'S TRUE.
 YOU'RE THE FAMILY GOD GAVE TO ME CHRISTMAS, MAY OR JUNE.
 I CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.

B2 - GRANDMA AND GRANDKIDS WITH/TO AUDIENCE.
 I'LL LOVE MY SISTERS AND MY BROTHERS
 STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
 IF I CLAIM TO LOVE THE FATHER
 AND HIS SON I'VE YET TO SEE.
 AND IF I THINK OF THEM AS "OTHER,"
 THEN THE "OTHER" COULD BE ME.
 WHEN ALL THE CLAMOR FADES AWAY
 THERE'S ONLY US AND WE.

A4 - GRANDMA AND GRANDKIDS A CAPPELLA (AUDIENCE optional)
 GOD CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.
 HE ALONE IS ALWAYS TRUE.
 WHEN WE DO WRONG, WE STILL BELONG -
 NO MATTER WHAT WE DO.
 GOD CANNOT STOP LOVING,
 GOD CANNOT STOP LOVING,
 GOD CANNOT STOP LOVING YOU.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

You know kids, I think this is a good time for us to go home. Let's let your Aunt Gina wait for Uncle Jerry - and have some time together.

GRANDKIDS admit disappointment.

GALE

Well if we have to wait to see Uncle Jerry, can we finally open our gifts now?

GRANDMA

Maybe we can think about that now...since your Grandpa is about to get the greatest gift a Father could ask for -

GALE

What? What gift is Grandpa getting?

GRANDMA

Children who love each other, who belong to each other, and forgive each other.

GRANDMA and GRANDKIDS exit. When stage is totally bare of actors except frozen HOSTESS, GRANDPA makes noise as he slowly stirs, struggles to sit up.

HOSTESS

(hearing rustling while talking on phone)

Hold on, there's a patient is interrupting...

GRANDPA get the last laugh when turns his head straight downstage to say to the audience...

GRANDPA

(with a wink)

"Let the wise man listen and add to his learning."

Has he been awake the whole show?

HOSTESS immediately looks up from phone to deliver this line straight DS.

HOSTESS

OK, I know I've never said this before but, I'm hanging up.

With great drama and flair.

A patient needs me!

BLACKOUT

TRACK CUE #17 BOWS

ENDING OPTION ONE:

Full Cast reenters singing and bows.

ENDING OPTION TWO:

If you want to include UNCLE JERRY, it will be funny if it's some well known/beloved person in your community...the Principal, a favorite Dad or Teacher, a Pastor, the Mayor, some "character" who can make this cameo. Dress him like Hell's Angels/Hippie with long beard, rolling out on a motorcycle. Girl posse optional. No acting/lines required.

The End
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