



BAH HUMBUG AND BREAK A LEG!

BY
LAVINIA ROBERTS



 **Pioneer**
DRAMA SERVICE

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By Lavinia Roberts

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2. Writing credit: By Lavinia Roberts
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For preview only

BAH HUMBUG AND BREAK A LEG!

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Inspired by Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

	<u># of lines</u>
EBBY SCROBBINS.....ill-tempered and perfectionist president of the Dickensville High School drama club; in need of a ghostly lesson	79
PARKER*.....talented dancer; plays Prancer	11
DANA*.....talented dancer; plays Dancer	12
BOBBIE CRATCHFIELD*.....trustworthy stage manager	32
TIM TEENY.....usually cheerful, upbeat singer	6
MARTHA CRATCHFIELD.....prop master; Bobbie's sister	11
FRED FAIRBANKS*.....costume designer	11
MARLA JACOBS.....a groovy ghost; founded the DHS drama club in the 1970s	11
GHOST OF DRESS	
REHEARSALS PAST.....into Shakespeare; very dramatic	8
FIFI FIZZYWICK.....past president of the High School drama club	9
YOUNG EBBY.....Ebby as a freshman	4
PRANCER*.....reindeer dancer from the past	1
DANCER*.....another	2
COSTUME DESIGNER*.....from the past	1
STAGE MANAGER*.....from the past	1
GHOST OF OPENING NIGHT.....very perky musical theatre drama kid	7
GHOST OF PRODUCTIONS	
YET TO COME.....goth theatre kid; a techie complete with gaffer's tape	n/a
EXTRAS.....as members of the drama club n/a performing in opening and closing numbers, and/or Ghost of Opening Night's back-up dancers	

*The past versions of these roles can easily double with the present versions. See PRODUCTION NOTES for additional casting suggestions.

SETTING

Time: A week before winter break this year.

Place: The Dickensville High School theatre stage.

SET DESCRIPTION

The Dickensville High School theatre stage is decorated for the big holiday show. While the décor doesn't need to be costly, it should appear garish and over-the-top to reflect Ebby's high standards.

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Scene One

- 1 AT RISE: TIM, dressed as an elf, sleeps on the side of the stage, his head resting on his backpack and his coat covering him like a blanket. MUSIC UP: An upbeat Christmas carol. PARKER and DANA dance ON and perform a high-energy holiday number, carrying too many holiday-
- 5 themed props (snowflakes, garland, candy canes, wrapped gifts, wreaths, small trees, etc.). They dance well but are clearly exhausted.
- EBBY:** (*Runs ON and calls out.*) Cut the carol! (*MUSIC OUT. To DANCERS.*) Is this the much-anticipated Dickensville High School drama club Holiday Extravaganza grand finale... or a funeral wake? Are you festive flying reindeer or not? Glide on those glissades, Dancer!
- 10 And I want to see more pep in that prancing, Prancer! Got it?
- PARKER:** (*Quietly, to DANA.*) I would have more pep in my step if I had some food in my belly. We never got a dinner break!
- DANA:** (*Quietly, to PARKER.*) Or a break of any kind!
- 15 **EBBY:** Dancer! Live up to your name. You have two left hooves tonight!
- DANA:** It's almost midnight, Ebby.
- EBBY:** Maybe if you had gotten your choreography right the first time we wouldn't have to keep running our finale. Now, out of my sight! I don't want to see you again until your pliés and pirouettes are
- 20 perfect! (*DANCERS start OFF angrily as BOBBIE ENTERS. PARKER whispers in BOBBIE'S ear as they pass, then DANCERS storm OFF.*)
- BOBBIE:** Now, Ebby—
- EBBY:** Bobbie Cratchfield! Thank goddess! You're the stage manager I've been needing to see.
- 25 **BOBBIE:** Look, Ebby—
- EBBY:** Go get me that calamity of a costume designer! (*Calls OFF.*) Fred? Fred Fairbanks!
- BOBBIE:** About that, Ebby. I know that this holiday show is important to you. After all, it's a treasured community tradition and brings in
- 30 food and money for the Dickensville Food Bank—
- EBBY:** Important?! Why, it's the most festive and fun event of the season! This Holiday Extravaganza is my chance to shine as the drama club's president this year.
- BOBBIE:** Don't you mean a chance for the drama club to shine?
- 35 **EBBY:** Whatever! Now where is my curse of a costume designer? (*Calls OFF.*) Fred! Fred Fairbanks!
- FRED:** (*ENTERS.*) What is it now, Ebby?
- EBBY:** I told you I wanted those reindeer to razzle dazzle!

- 1 **FRED:** Ebby, if I add any more sequins to their costumes, we'll need to provide the audience with protective eyewear.
- EBBY:** But the reindeer costumes are drab disasters!
- FRED:** Those same reindeer costumes were fine last year!
- 5 **EBBY:** Exactly. Those costumes are so last year. I want our reindeer to be breathtakingly brilliant glittering gems, not colorless calamities.
- FRED:** (*Sighs.*) I'll see if I can find some more sequins in the morning.
- EBBY:** Now, Fred! You can sleep tomorrow night after the show! (*FRED shakes his head, whispers in BOBBIE'S ear, and EXITS.*)
- 10 **BOBBIE:** Ebby, we've been rehearsing since three o'clock... The cast and crew—
- EBBY:** Where is your sister? (*Calls OFF.*) Martha! Malady of my existence, Martha!
- BOBBIE:** All of us have finals next week. And then it's winter break.
- 15 We're working on this show as a way to spread cheer to the community, bond as an ensemble, and help the food bank—
- EBBY:** Martha Cratchfield! You call yourself a props master?! (*MARTHA ENTERS, beleaguered.*) I want the final number to be a whimsical winter wonderland! That means more candy canes! Slather more
- 20 lights on the tree! And bring on the jingle bells! What does a director have to do to get a little jingle jangle?
- MARTHA:** The dancers only have so many hands to hold props with, Ebby.
- EBBY:** Bah humbug! I want prop perfection, not excuses!
- 25 **MARTHA:** This show already exceeds the props record for any DHS drama club production. (*Points OFF.*) We have more props tables than actors back there!
- EBBY:** Then you should be thankful you are working on a record-breaking, exceptional show.
- 30 **MARTHA:** (*Aside, to BOBBIE.*) Exceptionally exhausting! Have you told her yet, Bobbie?
- BOBBIE:** I'm working on it...
- EBBY:** Why is there a snoozing elf on my stage?
- BOBBIE:** Because it's almost midnight, Ebby!
- 35 **EBBY:** Tim Teeny! You should be singing, not snoozing!
- TIM:** (*Yawns awake.*) Wake me when the dress rehearsal is over. (*Tries to go back to sleep.*)
- EBBY:** This dress rehearsal isn't over until everything is perfect!
- 40 **TIM:** (*Sits up.*) But isn't our Holiday Extravaganza supposed to be a time for festivities and fun?

- 1 **EBBY:** What a load of bah humbug! I didn't cast you to soliloquize, I cast you to sing! (*TIM shakes his head, grabs his backpack and jacket, and scurries OFF.*) Hey! Get your pointy ears back here! We still need to run the grand finale!
- 5 **BOBBIE:** Look, Ebby. You can't run the grand finale.
EBBY: Get me the reindeer. This time I want to see some pep in their step!
MARTHA: There aren't any reindeer, elves, or Santa Claus. Nobody's here. All the actors went home.
- 10 **EBBY:** I guess I can have a production meeting! Get those dismal designers and that calamity of a stage crew in here!
BOBBIE: There are no other crew members or designers still here, Ebby, besides us. Everyone—the entire cast and crew of the Dickensville High School drama club—has left.
- 15 **EBBY:** They can't do that! Don't they know that this is the dress rehearsal? Our show is tomorrow!
BOBBIE: You should try apologizing to everyone tomorrow.
EBBY: Me?! Apologize? For what? Being a dedicated director?
BOBBIE: They're the dedicated ones to even show up tomorrow after
20 how you've been treating them.
MARTHA: Sleep on it, Ebby. I know I need a good night's sleep. I recommend you do the same.
EBBY: No way! There are sequins to sew and holiday lights to string! As our props master, you should know that!
- 25 **BOBBIE:** (*Shakes her head.*) You know, Ebby, I've heard that on dress rehearsal night, in a theater, the line between the spirit world and ours is mighty thin. I'd head home if I were you. And don't forget to put the ghost light on.
EBBY: (*Scoffs.*) Don't need a ghost light. I'm not leaving until this
30 stage is a sparkling sensation!
MARTHA: Good luck with that. (*EXITS.*)
BOBBIE: Night, Ebby. (*EXITS after MARTHA.*)
EBBY: (*Calls OFF.*) Bobbie! You can't go! You need to send out the rehearsal reports and tomorrow's rehearsal schedule! Remember,
35 8 a.m. call time! Bobbie! Martha! (*Beat. To herself.*) I'll just wait here. They'll be back. The Holiday Extravaganza is a Christmastime catastrophe! They'll have to come back. (*Yawns.*) I'll just sit and work on my director notes... (*Sits, sleepily.*) Maybe I'll lie down for just a minute... (*Lies down and immediately falls asleep. LIGHTS
40 FLICKER. SOUND EFFECT: COLD WIND, then CREAKING.*)
MARLA: (*From OFFSTAGE, in a slow, ghoulish moan.*) Zip...!

1 **EBBY:** (*Awakens and sits up.*) What was that? (*LIGHTS FLICKER.*) I'll have to talk to our lighting technicians—again. (*Annoyed.*) Bah humbug! (*Lies down.*)

MARLA: (*From OFFSTAGE.*) Zap...!

5 **EBBY:** (*Sits up, this time more afraid than annoyed.*) Who's there?

MARLA: (*From OFFSTAGE.*) Zop...! (*LIGHTS FLICKER* again as **MARLA** ENTERS. A theatre kid from the 1970s, **MARLA** wears chains made of various theatre items such as prompt books, costume pieces, tape measure, gaffer and glow tape, etc. She moans.)

10 Zip...! Zap...! Zop...!

EBBY: (*Rubs her eyes.*) I must be imagining things.

MARLA: Imagination is vital to the actor, according to Stanislavski. But no "Magic If" can save you now... (*Pause.*) Ebby Scrobbins, it is I, Marla Jacobs. (*Waits for a reaction. Nothing.*) The Marla Jacobs. (*EBBY shrugs and shakes her head.*) The inaugural drama club director of the DHS Holiday Extravaganza, Marla Jacobs.

15 **EBBY:** Oh! You're the dramatic diva who started the DHS Holiday Extravaganza?

MARLA: That's right. In 1973, when I was a junior. That first year, the

20 holiday show was all about bonding as an ensemble and working together to bring cheer to the community while supporting the food bank. But the next year, I became a tinsel tyrant! Endless rehearsals, nitpicking notes, and choreography catastrophizing.

EBBY: What's with dragging around all those prompt books?

25 **MARLA:** As a director, I made the lives of my stage managers, casts, and crews miserable with my micromanaging, monstrous ways. Now, I am doomed to carry their prompt books, costume pieces, and gaffer tape for all eternity. (*Long pause.*) You are making such a chain yourself, Ebby Scrobbins. You forge it every

30 time you are snarky with your stage manager or crabby and cruel to a cast or crew member.

EBBY: (*Scoffs.*) Bah humbug!

MARLA: Ebby, it is the job of every thespian to uplift the other members of the troupe. If you do not do this as a director, then

35 you are condemned to be weighed down by the burden of your cruelty. (*Moans and shakes her chains menacingly.*) Zip...! Zap...! Zop...! (*LIGHTS FLICKER.*) Ebby Scrobbins, tonight you will be haunted by three spirits!

EBBY: Three more? I've already reached my quota for ghostly

40 encounters, thanks.

MARLA: Expect the first ghost when the bell tolls midnight!

EBBY: What bell?

1 **MARLA:** The school bell.

EBBY: But why would the school bell be ringing late at night? Isn't it for in between classes?

MARLA: Are you going to let me deliver my spectral message or not?
5 (*EBBY shrugs.*) Expect the second phantom in the next hour. And the third, the following hour after that!

EBBY: I think I'll pass.

MARLA: Without these visits, you, Ebby Scrobbins, cannot hope to avoid my fate! (*LIGHTS FLICKER as MARLA starts OFF, moaning.*)
10 Zip... zap... zop! Zip... zap... zop! (*EXITS.*)

EBBY: Did I just see...? Maybe Fred was right about too many sequins. Could all the sparkling and twinkling be getting to me? (*Shakes her head.*) No, it must be indigestion. There was something sinister about the cafeteria meatloaf today... I think Marla Jacobs is more
15 gravy than grave. Bah humbug! (*Lies down again and tries to sleep.*)
SOUND EFFECT: SCHOOL BELL, followed by GHOSTLY MEDIEVAL MUSIC. EBBY sits up, startled, as GHOST OF DRESS REHEARSALS PAST does a jig as he ENTERS dressed in Shakespearean garb, including doublet, tights, large ruff, etc.) Whoa! Something's rotten
20 in the Dickensville High School drama club.

DRESS REHEARSALS PAST: Good even, gentlewoman. Hark! 'Tis I, the Ghost of Dress Rehearsals Past!

EBBY: Not in need of your services. Find another thespian to haunt, thank you very much. (*Tries to lie back down.*)

25 **DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** I am the apparition of bygone dress rehearsals. Cometh, hie thee! Thy hath much to see. (*LIGHTS FLASH as DRESS REHEARSALS PAST drags EBBY to her feet.*) 'Twas a DHS Holiday Extravaganza dress rehearsal just three years past... (*LIGHTS SHIFT to indicate a flashback as FIFI ENTERS, talking to PRANCER and DANCER.*)
30

EBBY: Fifi Fizzywick!

DRESS REHEARSALS PAST: These art only shadows of dress rehearsals of yesteryear. Those lads and lasses can neither see nor hear thee, Ebby.

35 **DANCER:** Fifi, you're sure we shouldn't run *Jingle Bells* again?

FIFI: No need. You dancers are a Christmastime marvel! A festive tour de force! Great work!

PRANCER: (*Hangs her head.*) I still haven't got the pliés right.

FIFI: It might not be perfect, but you've improved so much. I appreciate
40 your hard work and dedication. I want you to think about how much you've grown and feel proud about that. (*PRANCER nods gratefully.*)

DANCER: We could run the tap sequence again.

- 1 **FIFI:** No, I think you nailed that tap sequence just fine. What you dancers need is some... pizza. Which has just arrived! Join the rest of the cast and crew in the green room. Director's orders. (*PRANCER and DANCER EXIT happily.*)
- 5 **DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** (*To EBBY.*) Fifi Fizzywick. Ye remember the noble lady?
- EBBY:** She's unforgettable! She was the president of the drama club when I was a freshman. It was because of her that I fell in love with theatre.
- 10 **COSTUME DESIGNER:** (*ENTERS.*) Hey, Fifi, do these elf vests complement the choreography of *Jingle Bells*?
- FIFI:** A festive triumph, Fred! Great job. Now, get down to the green room and have some pizza. It's dinnertime! I ordered one with extra cheese, your favorite.
- 15 **COSTUMER DESIGNER:** Thanks, Fifi!
- EBBY:** Fifi Fizzywick was the most emphatic, encouraging, and generous student director you could ever hope for!
- YOUNG EBBY:** (*ENTERS dressed as a Christmas tree, struggling with the chorus of Deck the Halls.*) Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la... (*Beat.*) Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la... la?
- 20 **DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** Forsooth! Doth thee recognize yond visage?
- EBBY:** That's me in my first Holiday Extravaganza! I was cast as the Christmas tree—a very special honor for a freshman.
- FIFI:** Ebby! You are doing a “tree-riffic” job on those fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la's! “Fir” real!
- 25 **YOUNG EBBY:** You sure? Don't you think they need a little “oomph”? Maybe some vibrato? (*With vibrato.*) Fa, la, la, la, la— (*Beat.*) Wait! What if I “Fa, la, la, la, la” instead of “Fa, la, la, la, la”?
- EBBY:** (*To PAST.*) I felt like such an imposter. Like I didn't really belong. I needed to prove myself, you know? But Fifi always made me feel welcome.
- 30 **FIFI:** But you're already lighting up the room the way you “fa” and “la”!
- YOUNG EBBY:** It's just... it's a big responsibility being the Christmas tree. I want everything to be perfect.
- 35 **FIFI:** You know what would make this dress rehearsal perfect? Some pizza with the troupe! Let's head down to the green room.
- YOUNG EBBY:** What about perfecting my “fa, la, la, la, la's”?
- FIFI:** There are more important things than a “perfect” performance. Like trying our best. Getting better. Spending quality time together as an ensemble. Come on, Ebby. It's dinnertime. Let's eat some pizza.
- 40

- 1 **STAGE MANAGER:** (*ENTERS.*) Hey, Fifi. Any director's notes for the cast?
- FIFI:** Yes, I need feedback on the sugar cookies I baked for them, pronto. Too many sprinkles? Not enough M&M buttons on the snowman? Everyone needs to rejuvenate and rest up for
- 5 tomorrow's big performance. The cast and crew really put their hearts, talent, time, and energy into this show! I couldn't be more proud or grateful. Now, come on, you two! I have some tree-shaped sugar cookies with your name on them, Ebby! (*EXITS with STAGE MANAGER and YOUNG EBBY as LIGHTS SHIFT.*)
- 10 **EBBY:** After the sugar cookies, we did Christmas carol karaoke, pin the red nose on Rudolph, and holiday charades!
- DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** Zounds! You did all that even though those reindeer costumes were drab disasters? And those pliés and pirouettes were far from perfect? Egad!
- 15 **EBBY:** Well... I guess it wasn't perfect... but with Fifi's spirit, it was the best DHS Holiday Extravaganza ever! Everyone said so! We had so much fun! Fifi made sure of that.
- DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** So there's more to a holiday show than sequins on costumes or perfect pliés and pirouettes?
- 20 **EBBY:** (*Defensive.*) Look, don't you have other unfortunate thespians to haunt? I'm the president of the Dickensville High School drama club. And it's the night before the extravaganza! I need to work on my director's notes, thank you very much.
- DRESS REHEARSALS PAST:** Alas, 'tis true! My stage manager
- 25 hath organized a pretty tight haunting schedule for me. Prithee remember, ye shall be visited by two more apparitions, the next when the school bell tolls again. (*GHOSTLY MEDIEVAL MUSIC PLAYS as DRESS REHEARSALS PAST jigs OFF. MUSIC FADES OUT.*)
- EBBY:** (*Calls OFF.*) Couldn't I see them both at once and get it over
- 30 with? Like a ghost production meeting? Make sure you all have a unified haunting vision? No? Bah humbug! (*Lies down to sleep. SOUND EFFECT: SCHOOL BELL, followed by a LIVELY CHRISTMAS CAROL. LIGHTS SHIFT to FULL as GHOST OF OPENING NIGHT [and optional backup dancers] tap dances ON, much to the delight of*
- 35 *EBBY, who applauds when the performance is done. MUSIC OUT. [NOTE: If adding backup dancers, they EXIT now.]*) Bravo! Encore!
- OPENING NIGHT:** (*Blows kisses with bravado, then clutches her chest in over-the-top gratitude.*) Thank you! Thank you! But sorry, adoring fans, no autographs, please. As the Ghost of Opening Night, there simply
- 40 isn't the time. There are performance jitters to calm, a last minute curtain call to block, wigs to pin down, hair to spray, and warmups to lead! It's showtime all the time when you are the Ghost of Opening Night! And there's no business like spectral show business!

1 **EBBY:** Well, our opening night is also our closing night, but now that it's past midnight, it's today!

OPENING NIGHT: Ebby, darling! Opening Night is right now! (*LIGHTS SHIFT as PARKER and DANA ENTER, stretching.*) I love opening night!

5 A time of nerves, but also excitement, enthusiasm, and energy!

EBBY: My cast and crew will be full of excitement, enthusiasm, and energy, you'll see! I've worked hard to make sure we have the perfect holiday show this year.

PARKER: (*Mimics EBBY.*) "Glide on those glissades, Dancer! More pep in that prancing, Prancer."

10 **DANA:** At least your glissades are great.

PARKER: That's sweet of you to say, but I keep hearing her in my head over and over on loop. Her diatribes and putdowns... I can't concentrate on the dance moves anymore! She's really getting me

15 down. She takes all the joy out of dancing.

DANA: Forget about her. You've grown so much as a dancer during this rehearsal process. Think about all the joy you'll bring to the audience tonight! And how we're helping the food bank.

PARKER: Maybe she should try performing in the show for a change?

20 She's a natural for the role of Krampus! Or maybe a fearsome abominable snowman?

DANA: How about the Snow Queen? She does have a heart of ice. (*DANCERS laugh at Ebby's expense as they EXIT.*)

EBBY: Who could they be talking about? It can't be me! I only want

25 what's best for my show. They have to see that.

OPENING NIGHT: Your show? Don't you mean the drama club's show?

EBBY: Yeah. Of course. The drama club's show... (*Pause.*) I think I've seen enough.

OPENING NIGHT: Come, Ebby, there's still more to see.

30 **MARTHA:** (*ENTERS with BOBBIE and TIM.*) I've got the max amount of string lights that the electric grid can safely handle already. Will she ever be satisfied? Or will it take an electric fire to stop her yelling, "More lights! More lights!"?

TIM: Martha, it's a winter wonderland in here! Pure magic.

35 **BOBBIE:** Yes, you've outdone yourself again, Martha. The set is great.

MARTHA: I'm past exhausted. We've been rehearsing from three 'til practically midnight every night this past week! Nothing anyone does is ever right or enough for Ebby Scrobbins. She's so exacting, temperamental, and mean-spirited... Maybe we should just not do

40 the show? It would serve her right.

1 **BOBBIE:** But this show isn't about her. It's about the cast and crew,
our audience, and most importantly, our mission. Everyone has
worked really hard to create a great show. So even if she can't see
it, we do, and our audience will too. Besides, we're raising money
5 for the Dickensville Food Bank. And isn't that the reason for the
season? To be taking care of our neighbors?

TIM: Ebby might get us down, but we'll still bring the house down with
our holiday spirit! After all, Christmas is a time for miracles!

10 **MARTHA:** Fine. But if I hear one more word from her about the string
lights, I can't be held responsible for what happens next. (*EXITS
with BOBBIE and TIM.*)

EBBY: Wow... I mean... I didn't know.

OPENING NIGHT: The Holiday Extravaganza is your chance to shine as
the club's president, right?

15 **EBBY:** Yeah, I said that, but... at what cost?

OPENING NIGHT: The curtains are closing on my time here! You
should expect your next visitation from the Ghost of Productions
Yet to Come when the next school bell tolls.

EBBY: No way! I'm done! Cast someone else is your ghostly games.

20 **OPENING NIGHT:** (*LIVELY CHRISTMAS CAROL PLAYS.*) Break a leg,
Ebby! (*OPENING NIGHT tap dances OFF. MUSIC FADES OUT.*)

EBBY: Could that really be what's happening at our dress rehearsals?
The last few days, no one has been in the holiday spirit... What was
it that Marla said? A good theatre director should lift up their cast
and crew, not bring everyone down... (*LIGHTS FLICKER and DIM
25 as fog drifts ON. SOUND EFFECT: DISTORTED OMINOUS SCHOOL
BELL. EBBY shivers.*) It's cold in here. (*SOUND EFFECT: SPOOKY
NOISES. Startled, EBBY looks OFF as GHOST OF PRODUCTIONS YET
TO COME ENTERS.*) Are you the Ghost of Productions Yet to Come?
30 (*PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME nods. EBBY sighs, resigned.*) Lead
on, Spirit. (*PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME points OFF as DANA and
PARKER ENTER, dressed in regular clothes.*)

DANA: Never thought I would be back on this stage.

35 **PARKER:** Me neither, but quitting drama club was the best decision
I ever made.

DANA: Me too. Being a reporter for the school paper is way better. No
one shames you about your pliés and pirouettes. Or keeps you up
all night for rehearsals. (*Pause.*) Do you miss it?

40 **PARKER:** Dancing? (*Pause.*) Yeah. Yeah, I do. But I guess I wasn't
good enough, you know? (*Beat.*) Come on. Bobbie said that
everyone is in makeup and costumes already and that we could
head backstage to get some quotes from the cast. (*They EXIT.*)

1 **EBBY:** But they can't quit the DHS drama club! They're the best dancers in the school. I mean, I couldn't have possibly pushed them to quit for good... could I? (*PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME ominously points another finger OFF.*)

5 **BOBBIE:** (*ENTERS with FRED.*) All things considered, you've really pulled together a great holiday show.

EBBY: Wait, Fred Fairbanks is the president of the drama club in the future?

FRED: (*To BOBBIE.*) I did my best. Considering that almost everyone

10 quit drama club after last year's holiday show.

BOBBIE: Losing Tim Teeny was especially hard. He was so cheerful—on and off stage.

EBBY: Tim Teeny quit drama club too?

FRED: I thought she would never graduate!

15 **BOBBIE:** Tell me about it. Her graduation was the best thing that ever happened to the drama club. (*EXITS with FRED.*)

EBBY: Who is this senior whose graduation brought relief to so many? And who caused so many to leave the drama club? (*GHOST OF PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME pauses dramatically, then points emphatically to EBBY, who looks behind her, unbelieving.*) Me?

20 (*PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME nods.*) Oh, Spirit, tell me that this doesn't have to be the fate of the drama club! I can change, I know I can! I promise, I will show gratitude and be supportive to my troupe! I will be a team player! Please, Spirit, I beg you! Let me

25 undo this future! (*EBBY falls on the floor as LIGHTS FLICKER and PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME DISAPPEARS. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK. Then, LIGHTS RISE slowly as BOBBIE ENTERS with a broom and sweeps. EBBY stirs from her sleep.*)

BOBBIE: Yeah, yeah, don't start on me, Ebby. I'm cleaning the stage

30 after last night's rehearsal. But only so you don't text me a million times about it.

EBBY: (*Stands. She is a changed person, but BOBBIE doesn't know it yet. She goes to BOBBIE.*) Oh, Bobbie! My most hardworking and affable of stage managers! Let me do that!

35 **BOBBIE:** Excuse me?

EBBY: (*Takes the broom and looks around.*) Actually, the stage is fine. You do such a good job of keeping it clean. (*Puts the broom aside.*)

BOBBIE: What?! I thought that if you couldn't eat dinner off the stage then it wasn't clean enough?

40 **EBBY:** What day is it today, Bobbie?

BOBBIE: What day is it? Why, tonight is the Holiday Extravaganza! You okay, Ebby?

1 **EBBY:** It's our opening night! It's not too late! The spirits did it all in one night! They are remarkable, aren't they?

BOBBIE: Excuse me?

EBBY: Bobbie, most organized and amiable of stage managers, do we
5 have any money left in our production budget?

BOBBIE: No. You spent it all on sequins and props.

EBBY: Then I'll pay for a pizza party myself. There's more to a holiday show than sequins!

10 **BOBBIE:** Could you repeat that? I misheard you. Because I thought you said—

EBBY: Now, I need you to let the cast and crew know that call time is today at 3 p.m.! And they should come hungry!

BOBBIE: Last night you said call time was 8 a.m. for an all-day emergency rehearsal.

15 **EBBY:** No, no! Not when we already have a wonderful show!

BOBBIE: What did you say?

EBBY: I am going to send out an email apologizing to everyone, like you suggested.

20 **BOBBIE:** Who are you and what have you done with Ebby Scrobbins? (*EBBY grabs her coat and/or belongings.*) Where are you going?

EBBY: Me? I'm going home to bake sugar cookies! You should go home for now, too. Happy holidays, Bobbie!

BOBBIE: Uh... yeah. Happy holidays, Ebby. (*EBBY EXITS as LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

25 LIGHTS UP: DANCERS ENTER.

PARKER: What did you think of that email Ebby sent?

DANA: (*Air quotes.*) "I'm so sorry to not have been a team player and for any hurt I caused." I bet she's being sarcastic. She only sent that to lure us here to run the tap sequence again.

30 **PARKER:** Maybe she was being sincere. Maybe Ebby Scrobbins, our director, has been abducted by aliens and replaced by an extraterrestrial clone.

DANA: I'd believe an alien wrote that. It has more humanity than Ebby Scrobbins.

35 **MARTHA:** (*ENTERS with FRED and TIM. Air quotes.*) "I'm so blessed to have such a team of talented designers." (*Laughs incredulously.*) That's what her email said!

1 **FRED:** I know. I keep rereading that part of the email myself to make sure I'm not dreaming!

MARTHA: I know, but that's what it said.

FRED: She better mean it. I think I've developed a sequin allergy
5 from this production.

TIM: Maybe it's a Christmas miracle!

BOBBIE: (*ENTERS with EBBY.*) Good afternoon, everyone! Thanks for coming in! Ebby has a few words she would like to say to you.

DANA: Don't you mean a few words she'd like to yell at us?

10 **EBBY:** You're right, Dana. (*DANA is surprised.*) I never should have talked to any of you in that way.

PARKER: Whoa, what?

EBBY: I'm sorry for that. And I'm sorry for a lot of things. I never should have been so unkind and demanding. I had no business
15 micromanaging my cast, crew, or designers.

DANA: (*Aside to PARKER.*) Replaced by aliens. Called it.

EBBY: I never should have held long rehearsals with no breaks. Anything else I should add?

FRED: Or been so sequin-obsessed!

20 **EBBY:** Or that. I should have encouraged everyone and shown appreciation for all the great growth you've shown during this production! Deep down, I guess I felt insecure as the director of such a talented cast and crew, like an imposter. So I was a perfectionist to hide how insecure I felt. I'm very sorry. I hope you'll
25 give me the opportunity to earn your forgiveness.

DANA: So you're not going to make us run the tap sequence again?

EBBY: No, I'm not. In fact, the only thing I am going to make you do is... (*ALL hang their heads in anticipation of disappointment.*) ...lift your spirits with a well-earned cast party before tonight's
30 show! Pizza, anyone?

PARKER: It's a trap!

TIM: No, it's a Christmas miracle!

EBBY: (*To DANA and PARKER.*) I made some special reindeer sugar cookies, too.

35 **FRED:** Yep. This is a dream.

EBBY: And I've brought the Christmas carol karaoke machine, made some holiday theatre-themed bingo cards—oh, and I thought we could play holiday charades!

FRED: If this is a dream, let me sleep on!

40 **EBBY:** Please give me a chance to celebrate what a talented and hardworking team I have before you perform tonight.

1 **PARKER:** Pizza totally puts a pep into my prancing.

BOBBIE: To the green room then!

EBBY: Happy holidays, everyone! (*ALL EXIT excitedly as LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

5 **MUSIC UP: CHRISTMAS CAROL. LIGHTS UP:** TIM sings, either solo or with EXTRA ELVES. **MUSIC OUT** as bows and applause follow the performance. **TIM EXITS** with OTHER ELVES as **EBBY ENTERS**.

EBBY: Let's give another round of applause to our enchanting elf,
Tim Teeny! Thank you so much for coming tonight to our holiday
10 show. We are reaching the end of this evening's performance,
so I just want to take a moment to express my gratitude for
my wonderful cast and crew. I'm so blessed! (*Gestures OFF and
leads applause.*) I also want to thank you for donating money
and food to the Dickensville Food Bank [or insert name of your
15 local foodbank or other cause if your production is fundraising]!
We have one more song for you! Without further ado, let's give
a warm round of applause to the drama club! Happy holidays,
everyone! (*MUSIC UP: CHRISTMAS CAROL. ALL ENTER and sing
the final holiday number. MUSIC OUT. BLACKOUT.*)

END OF PLAY

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ONSTAGE

Christmas décor

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

Scene One:

Backpack, winter coat (TIM)

Holiday props (DANCERS)

Broom (BOBBIE)

SOUND EFFECTS

Wind, creaking, school bell, distorted school bell, spooky noises

MUSIC

Upbeat Christmas carol for opening dance number, ghostly medieval jig, lively Christmas Carol for Ghost of Opening Night's entrance, Christmas carol for Tim to sing, closing Christmas carol

COSTUMES

ALL dress as normal teens unless specified otherwise:

TIM wears at least a few pieces of an elf costume.

EBBY dresses tidily to reflect her perfectionist ways.

PARKER and DANA wear reindeer costumes or elaborately decorated leotards, tutus, and/or other dancewear. PRANCER and DANCER wear similar costumes, though not as elaborate.

BOBBIE CRATCHFIELD dresses in all black. STAGE MANAGER in the Christmas Past scene also wears all black, but adds a baseball cap or something similar to look slightly different.

FRED FAIRBANKS should dress fashionably and has a tailor's tape draped around his neck. COSTUME DESIGNER in the Christmas Past scene wears something similar, but slightly different.

MARLA JACOBS dresses in 1970s style and wears chains made of prompt books, costume pieces, gaffer tape, glow tape, tape measure, etc.

GHOST OF DRESS REHEARSAL PAST dresses in Shakespearian garb including a doublet, tights, large ruff, etc.

GHOST OF OPENING NIGHT can wear a glitzy tap dancing outfit.

GHOST OF PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME should wear a large black hooded cape that conceals their identity.

FLEXIBLE CASTING and CAST SIZE

Every role in this play, including EBBY, can be played by any gender with simple pronoun changes. Gendered names can be changed as follows:

BOBBIE/BOBBY
TIM/TINA
MARTHA/MARTY
FRED/FRANNIE
MARLA/MARLEY
FIFI/FEZZI

For a large cast, all parts can be cast individually with small roles also playing EXTRAS as members of the drama club performing in opening and closing numbers, and/or as Ghost of Opening Night back-up dancers.

For a cast as few as nine, double as follows:

TIM/GHOST OF DRESS REHEARSALS PAST
MARLA/GHOST OF OPENING NIGHT
FRED/COSTUME DESIGNER/PRODUCTIONS YET TO COME
BOBBIE/STAGE MANAGER
MARTHA/YOUNG EBBY
PARKER/PRANCER
DANA/DANCER
FIFI/EXTRA



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