

A Blue-Hooved Moosling Might Be Just Fine

by

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CAST

MARTA 8-12 GRUMPY. SOMETHING IS
BOTHERING HER.

LILLY 8-12 SASSY. HAS HER OWN WAY
OF DOING THINGS.

BARTON OLDER KID OR TEEN. THE
LEADER OF THE COUSING CREW.

(THE PARTS CAN BE PLAYED BY FEMALE
OR MALE ACTORS. NAMES CAN BE
CHANGED. AGES CAN BE CHANGED
ACCORDING TO AUDITIONS. IF THE BEST
COMBO IS TO TAKE ONE OF THE ACTORS
FROM *THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS* TO
PLAY BARTON--IT WILL WORK.

ACT IScene 1

Lights: Up on stage left CAROLERS and stage right KIDS who are entering down the audience aisle and up the stage right stairs to the main stage.

A bench is down stage right. Everyone is dressed in outdoor winter attire--hats, mufflers, mittens.

The Carolers are four of the actors from **The 12 Days of Christmas**. They are in the the midst of singing the final verse of "The 12 Days of Christmas." MARTA, an 8-11 old girl, enters down audience center aisle with her head down, definitely not into Christmas. Her cousin LILLY, an 8-11 year old, enters down audience center aisle. Stares up at the sky, searching for something. BARTON, their cousin, older than the girls, is searching too, but also into the carolers' music.

CAROLERS

On the twelfth day of Christmas

My true love gave to me

Twelve drummers drumming

Eleven pipers piping

Ten lords a-leaping

Barton quietly sings on and off with the Carolers. Marta becomes increasingly irritated by the caroling. Lilly tracks the sky.

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

Nine ladies dancing

Eight maids a-milking

Seven swans a-swimming

Six geese a-laying

Carolers--freeze frame.

BARTON

Cousin crew! Let's go. I want to see the Big Dipper.
(stepping on the stage, crossing to bench)
Come on up to the park bench. Look upward with the great
star gazer--and see the miraculous.

LILLY

(stepping on the stage, crossing to the
bench)
Cousin, you're a geek.

BARTON

Star gazer.

LILLY

Geek.

BARTON

Star gazer.

LILLY

(giving in)
Geek. (she's ignored) Ok. Star gazer.

MARTA

(stepping on stage)
I'm cold.

LILLY

It's winter.

BARTON

Those stars are lit! Tried to count 'em--couldn't. And no
rain!

LILLY

When the moon comes out--the magic begins. Just 10 days left
till the big day--you-know-the one--the time when all
cousins, grandpas, grandmas, and every relative know to man
and woman gather for--

MARTA

I'm freezing.

CAROLERS

(breaking their freeze)

Five golden rings.

The Carolers become more
enthusiastic and louder.

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

Four calling birds.

Three French hens.

Two Turtle doves

And a Partridge--

MARTA

(rushing a few steps closer to the Carolers)

Shut up!

The Carolers stop abruptly. Barton and Lilly, shocked and a bit embarrassed, back away from Marta. Silence.

MARTA (CONT'D)

(recovering)

Please...just stop. (She realizes what she's done, and sits quickly on the bench.)

The Carolers, understanding they're not wanted, exit.

LILLY

(clueless attempt to comfort Marta)

There's obviously something wrong. (beat) Seriously wrong. (beat) I mean those carolers were just a few innocent adults trying to bring a little joy to our world in a Christmas Season that's got a whole lot'a darkness going on.

BARTON

Lilly!

LILLY

(looking at Barton) What? Have you seen the news? We need those carolers. (crossing to Marta) You were...over-the-top. Waaaay over-the-top.

BARTON

(to Lilly)

Hush. (to Marta) Is this about the divorce? (sits by Marta)

MARTA

(moving to the other end of the bench away from Barton)

Of course it's about the divorce. It's all I ever think about.

LILLY

(clueless)

The divorce? Really? But my parents got divorced years ago.

BARTON

Not your parents, Lilly--Marta's parents.

LILLY

Ohhhhh. (beat) Sorry. (sits on Marta's end of of the two-person bench, squeezing Marta into Barton.)

MARTA

Seriously guys. (standing, moving left) I can't stand to hear a Christmas carol--let alone sing one. Nothing's going to be the same this year--nothing. (turning away) No carolers at our door. Grandma and grandpa won't be there. No snow. I'll be stuck.

LILLY

Ohhhh. You mean stuck in Arizona and not here in the good ol' PNW. (feeling she has to explain) Pacific Northwest?

MARTA

(turning back) Are you clueless? I'm going to be with a dad who has a new wife, a house that I've never set foot in before, a new baby brother and--a-a-a cat. Can you believe it? A cat.

LILLY

Are you saying you don't like my cat?

BARTON

This is not about you, Lilly. (crossing to Marta) Listen, life is unexpected--

MARTA

You mean vicious, cruel, and unfair?

LILLY

Yeah, that too.

BARTON

(throwing Lilly a dirty look) It can be. Look, my dog Oliver was really old last Christmas. He needed to cross the Rainbow Bridge--

LILLY

I loved Oliver.

BARTON

(to Lilly) Zip it! (to Marta) Christmas seemed empty without Ollie--so sad. He'd been our family dog for twelve years. Every Christmas we'd put a collar on Ollie with flashing

(MORE)

BARTON (CONT'D)

lights. (crossing behind bench) We'd stroll through the neighborhood, and all our neighbors would come out with Christmas treats for us--and Ollie.

MARTA

I remember.

LILLY

Those flashing lights on his collar were totally--

Barton covers Lilly's mouth.

BARTON

We'd come home after seeing all the amazing decorations on the houses. Mom would make hot chocolate. Then came the present wrapping, and Ollie would cause total chaos.

MARTA

That's what I'm talkin' about--miserable--cruel--unfair. Not worth celebrating anything.

LILLY

Yeah! You know that thing about (sings) "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." That's garbage! I've always wanted a lot more than my two front teeth for Christmas! Miserable, cruel--unfair.

Another dirty look from Barton, and now one from Marta.

BARTON

We made new traditions so we could still celebrate but our focus wouldn't be all on our loss of Ollie.

MARTA

You mean you ignored it.

BARTON

No--he was still in our hearts, and we still went on the Christmas walk, but we put the lights around our necks, singing all the Christmas carols with crazy new lyrics that we'd made up. Neighbors would all come out, laughing--making up some lyrics of their own. Then, we invited a neighborhood dog with his family to our house. I gave the dog pooch-treats in Christmas wrapping. He tore the paper off, and--yeah, it was still chaos--but a new tradition.

MARTA

Did it work? You know--changing it up?

BARTON

I still missed Oliver--but it helped.

LILLY

New traditions. It's kind of like when my grandma died, and I took her ashes and climbed up on the roof and dumped the ashes down the chimney. That was a new tradition. And when Dad lit the fire on Christmas Eve we got to celebrate grandma all over again.

(Barton and Marta stare in disbelief)

LILLY (CONT'D)

Mom was big-time mad when she discovered grandma and her ashes had disappeared.

BARTON

Not sure your helping, Lilly.

MARTA

Definitely not helping.

LILLY

But I--

BARTON

(losing patience with Lilly) Reality check! (to Marta) Life tosses surprises--some pleasant--some not.

MARTA

I'll say.

BARTON

So maybe traditions get turned upside down--its okay. The reasons for the celebrations can stay the same.

MARTAIT

I still can't sing those Christmas carols.

BARTON

That's just it--you don't have to.

Marta and Lilly stare at him.

BARTONTURT

Write your own song. Make a new tradition. Turn it on its head.

Singing to the tune of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Barton coaxes them to join.

BARTON (CONT'D)

Rhonda the blue-hooved...moosling--

LILLY

Moosling's not a word. A baby moose is a calf.

Gets "the look" from Barton.

LILLY (CONT'D)
 Okay--okay. "Moosling."

BARTON
 Rhonda the blue-hooved moosling had a very...

LILLY
 (shouts)
 Powerful kick.

BARTON
 (singing)
 Powerful kick.
 And if you ever saw it
 You would even say...

Lilly is fully engaged in the fun.
 Marta is still hesitant.

LILLY
 (suggesting an idea) That's slick.

BARTON
 (singing) That's slick.
 All of the other

ALL THREE
 (singing) Mooslings

BARTON
 (singing) Used to (points at Lilly)

LILLY
 (singing) ...cry...

MARTA
 (singing)...and shout...

MARTA/LILLY
 ..."please help."

BARTON
 (singing) They begged and begged poor

ALL THREE
 (singing) Rhonda.

MARTA
 (singing) To get the toys down off the shelf.

BARTON
(singing) Then one...

LILLY
(singing)...sunny winter day

All three are fully engaged now.
Fun.

MARTA
(singing) The teacher came to say...

BARTON
(singing) Rhonda with your hooves so strong...

LILLY
(singing) Can't you kick the toys right down.

All three take a beat--not sure
what comes next. Barton keeps the
song going.

BARTON
(singing) Then all the mooslings loved her
And they shouted out...

MARTA/LILLY
"Yippee!"

BARTON
(singing) Rhonda the blue-hooved moosling

ALL THREE
(singing) You'll go down in her-story.

High fives all around. They are
kids having fun.

MARTA
You know--A blue-hooved moosling might be just fine.

BARTON
Let's try it all the way through.

This time they sing the new song
all the way through with full
choreography. While they are
singing the Carolers enter, humming
"Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer".
They arrange themselves for another
try at caroling, keeping a cautious
eye on the kids. Some of the
Carolars think the kids are cute--

some think they are not-so-cute and
an all-out threat to Christmas.

ALL THREE

(singing) Rhonda the blue-hooved moosling

Had a very powerful kick.

And if you ever saw it

You would even say "that's slick."

All of the other mooslings

Used to cry and shout "please help"

They begged and begged sweet Rhonda

To get the toys down off the shelf.

Then one sunny winter day

The teacher came to say

"Rhonda with your hooves so strong

Can't you kick the toys right down.

Then all the mooslings loved her

And they shouted out "yippee"

Rhonda the blue-hooved moosling

You'll go down in her-story

CAROLER #1

(to others) That is so cute!

CAROLER #2

(sarcastic, to kids) We could teach you the real words.

LILLY

(defensive) Listen, bro, these are the real words.

Barton pulls Lilly back from
picking a fight.

MARTA

(trying for polite) We have our own words--thank you.

CAROLER #3

Suit yourself. But--you break with tradition--you're gonna
make a lot of people mad.

Really mad. CAROLER #4

We'll take that risk. BARTON

That's a pretty big risk. CAROLER #4

The Carolers proceed to start "Rudolph." The kids see it as a challenge--especially Lilly. A back-and-forth ensues, and ends up being much more contentious than a challenge.

CAROLERS
(singing) Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
Had a very shinny nose.

ALL THREE
(singing) Rhonda the blue-hooved moosling
Had a very powerful kick.

CAROLERS
And if you ever saw him
You would even say "it glows."

ALL THREE
And if you ever saw her
You would even say "that's slick."

Carolers move a few steps forward,
challenging the kids.

CAROLERS
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names.

Kids are not backing down from a
challenge and take a few deliberate
steps toward the Carolers

ALL THREE
All of the other mooslings
Used to cry and shout "please help."

The Carolers escalate the
challenge.

CAROLERS

They never let poor Rudolph

Join in any reindeer games.

The kids match the escalation.

ALL THREE

They begged and begged sweet Rhonda

To get the toys down off the shelf.

Still escalating.

CAROLERS

Then one cloudy Christmas Eve

Santa came to say

"Rudolph with your nose so bright

Won't you guide my sleigh tonight.

ALL THREE

Then one sunny winter day

The teacher came to say

"Rhonda with your hooves so strong

Can't you kick the toys right down?"

The Final Battle

ALL THREE

Then all the mooslings
loved her

And they shouted out
"yippee"

Rhonda the blue-hooved
moosling

You'll go down in her-
story.

CAROLERS

Then all the reindeer loved
him

And they shouted out with
glee

Rudolph the Red nose
reindeer

You'll go down in history.

Marta's cell phone rings. Other
Actors freeze. .

Lights fade from Kids and Carolers and follow Marta as she crosses down right.

MARTA

(talking on her cell phone) Hi, Dad. (beat) I love you too. (beat) Yeah, Mom's taking me to the airport pretty soon. (beat) What? That's awesome! (beat) Yeah, I know it won't be the same, but--(looking at Barton and Lilly) I'm ready to make some new traditions. See you soon.

Lights fade from Marta and, as she crosses back to the Kids, lights up on Kids.

The Kids break the freeze and turn to Marta.

BARTON

Everything okay?

MARTA

(beat) Dad says we're all going to Zoo Lights and then on a river cruise.

LILLY

That's a lot better than my two front teeth! Waaaaait. They've got rivers in Arizona?

MARTA

Yep--and new traditions.

BARTON

Let's go--your Mom's gonna want to make sure you're on time.

Marta and Barton exit, calling back.

MARTA

Come on Lilly.

The Carolers break the freeze. Some waving goodbye to the kids and others still getting over the battle. Lilly catches sight of something in the audience, center aisle. SHIRLEY THE PARTRIDGE is entering.

CAROLER #3

(exiting, calling over shoulder) You're taking a big risk--new song and all.

LILLY

(calling after Marta and Barton) Hey, guys. You need to see this.

BARTON (O.S)

Lilly--come on--Marta's gonna be late.

SHIRLEY THE PARTRIDGE climbs the left stairs to the stage, by this time the Carolers have exited.

LILLY

(focused now on Shirley) Yeah, but this is a bird.

MARTA

Let's go!

LILLY

A really-big-bird.

SHIRLEY

Hello.

LILLY

(stepping back) Hi.

SHIRLEY

(offering her wing) I'm Shirley, the partridge.

LILLY

(touching her wing with one finger) I'm----Lilly---the human.

SHIRLEY

Would you like to join us in "the song"?

LILLY

Oh, we have a new song.

SHIRLEY

(squawks)

LILLY

Sorry. Sorry about the song. I'm sure you'll have a lot of people to sing along. (backing out) I mean, all those birds and milking maids and drummers and stuff. Bye. (runs out right exit)

SHIRLEYRIG

Ahhhh--humans. (squak) So strange. Besides (looking at the audience a little offended) there's no such thing as a "new song."

Cut to the script for The 12 Days
of Christmas.

END