

A Charlie Brown Christmas

By Charles M. Schultz

Edited by Jonathan Harper, Revised 9/12/19

Characters:

Narrator- Strong reading voice, easy to hear. (Ben)

Charlie Brown- unsure, doubtful (Mark) / 20

Lucy- confident, bossy (Bobbie)

Linus- a good friend, helpful (David?)

Snoopy/ Woodstock- determined (Olivia)

Sally- Selfish, snooty (Maddie)

Pigpen- one line, Messy (Mary)

Shermie- one line, doesn't want to be a shepherd

Choir Members- Any kid who wants to make a joyful noise to Jesus!

Set pieces/Props:

Ice skating rink

Mailbox on coasters

Snowflakes via projector

Snowballs aka white Styrofoam balls

Snoopy's Doghouse on coasters

Commercial Flyer

Sally's letter, clipboard, pencil

CB's Megaphone

Bigger, flashy trees

Little Christmas Tree

Doghouse decorations

Telliscoping Light

Bible

Stand

Intro

Pianist: *Christmas Time is Here*

Narrator: A Charlie Brown Christmas, by Charles M. Schultz.

Lights come up. Choir starts singing. Some kids are "ice skating" on the stage. Snowflakes are falling. Everyone is happy.

Choir:

"Christmas time is here
Happiness and cheer
Fun for all that children call
Their favorite time of the year

Snowflakes in the air
Carols everywhere
Olden times and ancient rhymes
Of love and dreams to share

Solo- (Sleigh bells in the air
Beauty everywhere
Yuletide by the fireside
And joyful memories there)

Christmas time is here
We'll be drawing near
Oh, that we could always see
Such spirit through the year
Oh, that we could always see
Such spirit through the year"

Narrator: Christmas time was here- a time when snowflakes fell softly and Christmas carols rang through the air. For children everywhere, it was their favorite time of year.

Kids skate off stage. Charlie Brown and Linus walk on stage and sit down, leaning over a half-brick wall. Charlie Brown is pouting, upset.

Narrator: Not for Charlie Brown. He was feeling a little down.

Charlie Brown: I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel. I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I like getting presents and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I always end up feeling depressed.

Linus: Charlie Brown, you're the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem. Of all the Charlie Browns in the world, you're the Charlie Browniest.

Charlie Brown shrugs and both boys walk off stage. Mailbox is placed on stage.

Mailbox

Narrator: The next day, Charlie Brown checked his mailbox, hoping to find something to cheer him up.

Charlie Brown: (Leaning his head into the mailbox) Hello in there! (Takes his head out. Bummed.) Rats! Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I almost wish there weren't a holiday season. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?

Charlie Brown walks off stage, hanging his head and sad.

Snowflakes

Linus, Lucy, Pigpen, and Shermie walk onto the stage. They walk and jump around, trying to catch snowflakes on their tongues.

Narrator: Charlie Brown decided to go for a walk to see what the gang was doing. Some of the gang were catching snowflakes on their tongues.

Linus: (Mouth full of snowflakes) Mmmm... Needs sugar.

Lucy: It's too early. I never eat December snowflakes. I always wait 'til January.

Linus: They sure look ripe to me!

Linus, Lucy, Pigpen, and Shermie start throwing white "snowballs" at the audience.

Snowballs

Narrator: Everyone started throwing snowballs at a tin can on the fence.

Linus uses his blanket as a sling-shot to throw the "snowballs" into the audience.

Lucy: (To Linus) You think you're so smart with that blanket!

Linus starts throwing snowballs at the other kids and chases them off stage.

Lucy and her "Psychiatric Help 5 cents" stand come to center-stage. Lucy walks behind the stand, looking confident. Charlie Brown, sulking, starts walking up to the stand and sits down on a chair.

Lucy Helps Charlie Brown

Narrator: Charlie Brown decided to get some advice from Lucy.

Lucy: May I help you?

Charlie Brown: I'm in sad shape. Actually, Lucy-

Lucy cuts him off by ringing her 5 cent tin can.

Lucy: Ahem!

Charlie Brown reaches deep in his pocket for a nickel and drops it in the can.

Charlie Brown: My trouble is Christmas. I just don't understand it. Instead of feeling happy, I feel sort of let down.

Lucy: You need involvement. You need to get involved in some real Christmas project. How would you like to be the director of our Christmas play?

Charlie Brown: (Ecstatic, over the top) ME?! You want ME to be the director of the Christmas play?

Lucy: Sure, Charlie Brown. We need a director, you need involvement. Don't worry, I'll be there to help you. I'll meet you at the auditorium.

Charlie Brown walks off stage. Lucy pushes her stand off to the side and then follows him.

Snoopy Decorates His Dog House

Snoopy rolls his doghouse onto the stage and starts to get his decorations out. He also has his Neighborhood Competition Flyer nearby.

Narrator: On his way to the auditorium, Charlie Brown came across Snoopy decorating his doghouse.

Charlie Brown: What's going on here?

Snoopy: (Hands Charlie Brown the Competition Flyer and then goes back to frantically putting up decorations on his doghouse.)

Charlie Brown: What's this? (Starts to read flyer in disbelief) Find the true meaning of Christmas?! Win money, money, money? Spectacular, super-colossal neighborhood Christmas lights and display contest?! (Looks up from reading the flyer.) Lights and display contest?! Oh no! My own dog gone commercial! I can't stand it! Oh...

Charlie Brown shakes his head and walks to the opposite side of stage, in disgust. Snoopy moves his doghouse back to the side of the stage and then walks off stage.

Sally's Letter to Santa

Sally walks on stage holding a clipboard with paper and a pencil.

Narrator: Just then, Charlie Brown ran into his sister, Sally.

Sally: I've been looking for you, big brother. I want to read my letter to Santa Claus for you to see if he'll like it. I'll read what I have so far and you listen. (Starts to read) "Dear Santa Claus,

how is your wife? I have been extra good this year, so I have a long list of presents that I want. If it seems too complicated, make it easy on yourself. Just send money. How about tens and twenties?"

Charlie Brown: (Upset and disappointed) Tens and Twenties?! Aww, even my baby sister!

Sally: All I want is what I have coming to me. All I want is my fair share!

Play Practice

Pianist: (Starts playing "Linus and Lucy")

Lights go down. All kids except for Charlie Brown come onto the stage and start dancing in their own, weird way.

Narrator: At the auditorium, the gang was dancing around, waiting for Charlie Brown.

Kids dance for about 20 seconds.

Narrator: When Charlie Brown arrived, he took his job as director very seriously and got right down to business.

Charlie Brown: (Speaking into a megaphone) Stop the music! (Music stops) Alright, now. We're going to do this play and we're going to do it right. Lucy, get those costumes and scripts and pass them out.

Narrator: Lucy lined everyone up and handed out the parts.

Lucy: Pigpen, you're the innkeeper.

Pigpen: In spite of my outward appearance, I shall try to run a neat inn.

Lucy: Shermie, you're a shepherd.

Shermie: Every Christmas is the same. I always end up playing a shepherd.

Lucy: Snoopy, you'll have to be all of the animals in our play. Can you be a sheep?

Snoopy: (Like a sheep) BAAAAHHHH!

Lucy: How about a cow?

Snoopy: MOOOOOOO!

Lucy: How about a Penguun?

Snoopy: (Puts his arms to his sides and waddles around like a penguin.)

Lucy: Yes, he's even a good penguin.

Charlie Brown: Alright, now, there's no time for foolishness. We have to get on with our play!

Let's take it from the top. Places... Action!

Pianist: "Lucy and Linus"

The kids start messing around, dancing to the music and not paying attention to Charlie Brown.

Christmas Commercial

Narrator: Although he tried his best, Charlie Brown couldn't keep the gang focused on the play. They just kept fooling around. (Pause for 10 seconds and let them dance.) Charlie Brown couldn't take it anymore. In frustration, he threw down his megaphone.

Charlie Brown: (Throwing down the megaphone) Good grief! It's all wrong! Now, look, if we're ever going to get this play off the ground, we've got to have some cooperation.

Lucy: Look, Charlie Brown, let's face it. We all know Christmas is a big, commercial racket.

Charlie Brown: Well, this is one play that's not going to be commercial.

Lucy: Look, Charlie Brown. What do you want?

Charlie Brown: The proper mood! We need a Christmas tree.

Lucy: Hey! Perhaps a tree- A great, big, shiny, aluminum Christmas tree! Maybe painted pink!

Charlie Brown: (Annoyed) Ok, I'll take Linus with me. The rest of you practice your lines.

Charlie Brown and Linus march off the stage. Lights go down.

The Christmas Tree

Christmas trees are placed on stage, with the perfect Christmas tree in the middle. Lights up.

Narrator: Charlie Brown and Linus left for the Christmas tree lot. When they got there, they saw many bright, colorful trees. But only one little tree caught Charlie Brown's eye.

Charlie Brown: (Looking at the little tree) This little green one seems to need a home.

Linus: I don't know, Charlie Brown. Remember what Lucy said? This doesn't seem to fit the modern spirit.

Charlie Brown: (Picking up the little tree) I don't care. We'll decorate it and it will be just right for our play. Besides, I think it needs me.

Charlie Brown and Linus walk off stage with the tree. Lights down. Everyone except those two walk back on stage. Lights up.

What Christmas is All About

Charlie Brown and Linus walk on stage with the tree.

Narrator: When Charlie Brown and Linus returned, Charlie Brown placed the little tree on a box in the middle of the stage. Everyone starred at the little tree in surprise... this was not the tree they were expecting.

Sally: What kind of tree is that?

Lucy: You were supposed to get a good tree? Can't you even tell a good tree from a poor tree?

Sally: I told you he'd goof it up.

Charlie Brown: Rats. I guess you were right, Linus. I shouldn't have picked this little tree. I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about. (Looking up and yelling) Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?

Linus: Sure, Charlie Brown. I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

Linus picks up a Bible, places it on a stand and says,

Linus: Lights, please?

Spotlight hits Linus. All other lights are off.

Pianist: "Silent Night"

Linus: (From Luke 2, read from the Bible) And there were in the same country, shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men.

(Linus looks up from the Bible and says to Charlie Brown)

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

Linus walks out of the spot light. Charlie Brown walks into the spotlight, starts smiling, picks up the Christmas tree, gently pats the tree, looking it over. Everyone else walks off the stage.

Linus is Right

Narrator: Linus's words touched Charlie Brown and he felt a renewed Christmas Spirit. He picked up the little tree, walked out under the stars, and thought about what Linus had said.

Charlie Brown: Linus is right. I won't let all this commercialism ruin my Christmas. I'll take this little tree home and decorate it and I'll show them it really will work in our play.

Snoopy rolls his decorated house onto the stage with the 1st place ribbon on it.

Snoopy Gets 1st

Narrator: On the way home, Charlie Brown passed Snoopy's doghouse and was shocked to see that Snoopy had won the contest.

Charlie Brown: (Looking at the doghouse) First prize? Oh well, this commercial dog is not going to ruin my Christmas.

Narrator: Charlie Brown borrowed one of Snoopy's decorations for the little tree.

(Places a heavy ornament on top of the little Christmas tree. The tree falls over.) ... I've killed it.

(Looking up, sad) Oh! Everything I touch get's ruined!

The Tree is Fixed Up

Charlie Brown, sad and upset, walks off the stage. The rest of the kids and the choir kids walk on the stage.

Narrator: Charlie Brown had just left when the rest of the gang arrived. They saw the little tree and decided to help fix it up.

Linus: (Places his blanket around the base of the tree) I never thought it was such a bad, little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

All the kids take the decorations off Snoopy's doghouse and tastefully place them on the Christmas Tree.

Lucy: Charlie Brown is a blockhead, but he did get a nice tree.

Narrator: As the gang began to gather around the tree, they began to sing. Charlie Brown heard them and came running back.

Charlie Brown runs back on stage.

Charlie Brown: What's going on here?

All Kids: MERRY CHRISTMAS, CHARLIE BROWN!

Everybody sings "Christmas Medley" Key of D or C

"Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King"

Gloria, in excelsis deo!

Gloria, in excelsis de-eh

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

(Solo) Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
(Everyone) Sleep in heavenly peace
(Solo) Sleep in heavenly

(Everyone) Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Jesus is born today!

Narrator: The End.

