

A VERY PANTALONE CHRISTMAS (SAMPLE)

A Commedia Dell'arte

Christmas Carol

by

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and

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An Author's Note

This is an anti-christmas story. A play about terrible people, and a glimpse into the horrors of a toxic male psyche. A modern retelling of "A Christmas Carol" in the style of Commedia Dell'arte. Imagine Scrooge never learned his lesson from the three ghosts and instead had a doctor exorcize them to hell. The story should be framed as if Pantalone and Arlecchino are the bad guys, and jokes should be played at them. Inspiration for this kind of humour was taken from "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia".

Cast of Characters

Arlecchino:

A foolish servant for the scrooge-like Pantalone.

Piccolo Pedro:

A tragic boy who lost his home and father due to the actions of Pantalone.

Scene

Various locations in Venice.

Time

Christmas Eve, sometime in the Renaissance.

(Blackout. At rise, it's

nighttime, we are on a street in the slums. There is a box upstage left. Strewn about is a coin, a can, two boxes, and a sack. The sounds of the slums are heard. ARLECCHINO enters, with the bag slung over his shoulder. He is skipping and singing a song to himself.)

ARLECCHINO

(Singing) It's a good day, it's a Christmas day. It's a day when it's good to be not poor. The sun is shining... I really need to get a song for nighttime.

(Spots coin) A coin! A shiny silver coin. Now it's mine - my shiny silver coin. Hey look a bird - a bright blue bird. Where are you going Mr. Bir... Hey, it's my old neighborhood! *(Darkly)* Better keep moving.

(Angrily kicks can, then resumes smiling) Stupid can. Getting in my way. It's not your day. It's my day. Arlecchino! *(Grabs his crotch like a child)* I think I need to drain the wizard.

(ARLECCHINO looks around and spots the box. He turns around and drops trou to pee, as a child would with pants around ankles. He starts to pee on the crate. The crate lifts up and moves stage left. ARLECCHINO stops peeing, moves to its new location, and resumes peeing onto it. Crate moves stage right - repeat. Crate moves stage left - repeat. Crate starts to move continuously around the stage, and ARLECCHINO chases it, peeing wildly. The crate then tips over, revealing PICCOLO PEDRO inside. ARLECCHINO continues to pee on him. PICCOLO PEDRO bursts out of the box, sputtering.)

PICCOLO PEDRO

Hey, Arlecchino.

ARLECCHINO

(Continues peeing) Oh hi, Piccolo Pedro! Do you have a handkerchief?

(PICCOLO PEDRO hands ARLECCHINO a handkerchief from

under his cap. ARLECCHINO stops peeing and dabs his penis with the handkerchief before handing it back. PICCOLO PEDRO lifts his hat and places the handkerchief back under it.)

PICCOLO PEDRO

Have you seen a silver coin around here? It's my lucky coin, and I lost it and-

ARLECCHINO

(Sucks in air through teeth) No. Sorry. Anyways, better get going!

PICCOLO PEDRO

Where are you going?

ARLECCHINO

The docks!

PICCOLO PEDRO

Oh no, they're not safe anymore. After the Great Dock Fire... they moved the lepers there.

ARLECCHINO

I love leopards. All those spots. Did they bring them from the zoo?

PICCOLO PEDRO

From the leper colony...

ARLECCHINO

There's a leopard colony?! Where?

PICCOLO PEDRO

The Island. Across the Leper Sea.

ARLECCHINO

The island? But that's where the lepers live.

PICCOLO PEDRO

Not any more. They had to move them, because of the leopards.

ARLECCHINO

Wait, what's at the docks?

PICCOLO PEDRO

Lepers - people with leprosy with sadly no other place to go and the leopards that swam across the Leper Sea after them.

ARLECCHINO

How sad.

PICCOLO PEDRO

The way our society treats the poor and unfortunate? I know.

ARLECCHINO

No not that, I feel bad for those leopards, I don't imagine leprosy tasting very good, blegh!

PICCOLO PEDRO

Arlecchino! Those people aren't very different from me or you.

ARLECCHINO

That's not true, I'm sophisticated and civilized now. Ever since I moved in with and started working for Pantalone I-

PICCOLO PEDRO

Pantalone... You work for Pantalone?