

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

***Grandad's Big
Adventures***

by Charles Way

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Characters:

Tracy

Grandad

Tomtemor/Mum

Tomtefar/Dad

Sam/ Frost

The play was written for a cast of 4/5

NOT LICENSED FOR PRODUCTION

Scene One

Semi -darkness. A waltz by J. Strauss is heard. Enter three 'whitecoats' pushing/waltzing with a hospital bed on wheels. In the bed is Tracy asleep. The whitecoats exit as lights begin to rise and the music begins to fade. Tracy slowly wakes, aware of the music and the 'hospital radio' voice that follows it.

Sam Da Da Da Da-da Da-da Da-da; Da Da Da Da-da Da-da. And if that isn't the best music to wake up to in the whole wide world than I'm just a hospital porter pretending to be a rather fine disc jockey. Yes indeed it's, Sam Sam the rhyming man! Good morning hospital. High fives and cool vibes to you. Rub those eyes boys and girls, rub those sleepy eyes because the impossible has occurred, the just too good to be true news is falling outside.

Well don't just sit there half asleep!
Look out the window, take a peep.

Tracy Wow!

Sam Snow, snow all around
Lying soft on the ground
Who could dare, who'd believe
Such a sight on Christmas Eve?

Tracy It's snowing.

Sam Yes, yes, believe your eyes
I'm the Sam the man, I never lie
Tonight, tonight, I speak the truth,
The man in red lands on the roof.
Ohh I'm good-I'm good.
Who? Who am I talking about? You don't know?

Tracy Yes we know.

Sam Did I get you? Are you talking to the radio.

Tracy Yes. Got me.

Sam Good, cos I'm talking straight to all of you in the children's ward.
This is Sam, Sam the rhyming man.

Tracy The Rhyming man

Sam And we got snow man- snow.
Now all we need as it gets colder
is a little slice of Noddy Holder –

Song: Slade - 'Merry Christmas Everyone'

Tracy gets her writing pad out- as she writes the music fades.

Tracy It was the strangest Christmas ever.
For one thing I was in hospital.
For two things- for two things
snow had fallen,
real snow a foot deep.
If only I could run into it head first- headlong-
and slip and slide and and—

Enter Tracy's Mother. She is tired but a real battler.

Mum Alright love.

Tracy Mum? Your early.

Mum Thought I'd get a visit in before work. What are you writing?

Tracy Nothing.

Mum Seen the snow?

Tracy Yeah. Its' Brill

Mum Is it?

Tracy It's fantastic.

Mum Of course.

Tracy Mum?

Mum Of course it is -its brill. It's just it makes getting around on Christmas eve a little difficult. Transport. you know.

Tracy Transport?

Mum Lorries. Your dad's stuck up North somewhere. Miles away-

Tracy But its Xmas eve.

Mum He'll make it. Long as it doesn't snow anymore.

Tracy He promised.

Mum He'll do his best. But the lorries stuck- in a snowdrift. I worry for him sometimes- stuck in that cab- in the cold.

Tracy Is that why you came, to tell me that dad's not coming home for Christmas?

Mum No. But there is another reason.

Tracy What?

Mum Grandad.

Tracy What about Grandad?

Mum He'll be here with you.

Tracy Visiting?

Mum No. He'll be stopping over. Quite fortunate really. You can cheer him up- he's awfully down about it.

Tracy About what?

Mum His toe.

Tracy What's wrong with his toe?

Mum It's gone white- and- green--and purple.

Tracy Why ?

Mum Because the silly man was too proud to ask me to cut his toenails.
So now he's coming into hospital. They've got to be sure you see-
he hasn't got blood poisoning.

Tracy I don't understand.

Mum He's got a bad toe- end of story. Did you sleep alright?

Tracy Yeah.

Mum You've no worries then - you want to talk through - about Monday?

Tracy *[Shrugs]* I just want dad to come home. He's never home. Why does
he have to be a stupid lorry driver anyhow.

Mum Someone's got to earn the money Tracy. Oh look at that snow.

Tracy The snow is nice. I like the snow.

Mum I'll go and fetch your Grandad. *[Exit Mum. Tracy writes.]*

Tracy It was the strangest Christmas ever.
for one thing I was in hospital-
for two things, snow had fallen
and for three things Grandad had a bad toe.
[She writes now with more vigor]
Grandad came into Whychester Hospital at seven o'clock in the
morning; on Christmas eve. *[Enter Grandad in dressing gown, followed
by Mum.]* A date and time he'll never forget. The first thing he said
was –

Grandad I don't like this place.

Tracy And Mum said –

Mum Don't be such a baby.

Grandad What's that smell?

Mum Antiseptic.

Grandad I don't like it.

Mum Just get into bed.

Tracy Said Mum and huffed and puffed and crossed and uncrossed her arms.

Grandad That smell reminds me of something. Something not quite right.

Mum It's a nice smell, a clean smell, it's what hospitals are meant to smell like, nice and clean.

Grandad There's too much cleanliness goes on these days. When I was a boy I never used to wash from one week to the next, and I was happy enough.

Mum Just get into bed please.

Grandad I don't like that bed.

Mum What's wrong with the bed?

Grandad Its not natural.

Mum What are you talking about?

Grandad Its not natural for a bed to be so tidy. What's wrong with an untidy bed. When I was a boy I never made my bed from one week to the next - and I was happy enough.

Mum For Heaven's sake dad.

Grandad You can't feel at home in a bed like that. Sheets of ice-sheets of ice.

Mum Just get into bed!

Grandad There's no need to shout.

Mum I know you don't want to be here- but it's for the best.

Grandad I should be at home with my family, eating chocolates and nuts and Turkish delight, not stuck in here with a load of sick people. It's not natural.

Mum Well this Christmas is a bit different Dad. Alright? This Christmas I can't cope with any --any extra problems, I just can't.

Grandad Oh, I see, that's what I am- an extra problem.

Mum That isn't what I said. Grapes.

Grandad I don't like grapes. Where's that husband of yours?

Mum He's stuck in a snowdrift two hundred miles away.

Grandad In a snow drift?

Mum He's trying to get home for Christmas day. He promised Tracy. But you don't hear her complaining. Not like you.

Grandad But I'm not ill am I. Tracy's ill, not me. All I've got is a bad toe. I'm not meant to be here.

Mum I've got to go to work-

Grandad On Christmas eve?

Mum Of course-everyone wants a taxi Christmas Eve. You'll be alright?

Grandad You be careful, driving around in all this snow.

Mum I'm the best driver south of the North pole

Grandad Had the best teacher.

Mum Of course. If you get bored you can- [*She turns on the Hospital radio and gets some loud music.*]

Grandad What's that?

Mum That's the hospital radio- it's quite good. There's a chap on there speaks in Rhyme.

Grandad I don't like Rhymes-

Mum Surprise, surprise. [*Mum is about to go.*]

Grandad Hey. Where is she then?

Mum Who?

Grandad Our Tracy.

Mum She's in the children's ward. It's not far. It's on the other wing.

Grandad I'd never find it. This place is all corridors-and you can't tell one from the other.

Mum I'll tell her to come and see you.

Grandad Is she doing alright?

Mum She's fine. Funny really, you and she being in together. Christmas eve.

Grandad Very funny. [*She kisses him and goes.*]

Tracy Grandad sat in bed with a miserable expression, this was the worst Christmas ever. He looked out of the window, and saw the snow on the cars in the car park.

Grandad And I don't like snow. I used to like it. I used to slide down fields on sheets of corrugated steel. I was fast in those days- [*He turns the radio back on.*]

Sam The temperature is falling
 falling like a stone
 fingers of frost
 chill you to the bone

Grandad Shut up.

He turns the radio off. Tracy has carried on writing and is doing so as Mum enters.

Mum Still writing?

Tracy Is Grandad here?

Mum Only just- caw what a fuss. You'd think they were trying to kill
 him, not cure him.

Tracy I'll go and see him. I've been trying to phone dad- but there's no
 answer.

Mum No- must be the cold. And you're not meant to use that phone
 inside the hospital. Look I've got to get on - I've got things to do.
 [She winks heavily] Grandad's on ward D2W. it's all very strange-
 this Christmas. *[Suddenly upset]* Oh Tracy.

Tracy Don't Mum, please.

Mum Its' just not fair. Why you?

Tracy Mum please.

Mum I spoke to the doctor again.

Tracy What did she say?

Mum She's very confident-- very confident. I'll be with you all the time
 you know - on Monday. All the time.

Tracy It's still snowing. I hope dad'll be safe.

Mum He'll be fine. You sleep, as much as you can. Gather your strength.
I'll be back first thing in the morning.

Tracy I know.

Mum Happy Christmas then.

Tracy Don't forget your phone.

They wave their mobiles at each other in an illicit fashion. Exit. Music as Grandad gets out of bed. Tracy also gets out of bed and they go in search of \$a& other. The beds exit.

PURCHASE PERUSAL FOR FULL SCRIPT

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