Christmas duet & multi-cast scripts

25 practice scripts from VO Journey Academy. Free to record, free to use in your reel. Download the PDF to mark up in the booth, or print it straight from here.

Last Space on Level Three

Holiday rom-com, meet-cute · Adult (25-35) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: TESS SAM

A packed mall parking garage, December twenty-third. TESS, 30, and SAM, 32, have both nosed their cars toward the same empty space. They're out of their cars, facing each other

TESS I had my blinker on.

SAM I had my blinker on first.

TESS You can't prove that.

SAM Neither can you. That's how blinkers work.

TESS I've been circling for forty minutes.

SAM Fifty. I passed you twice. You were singing.

TESS I was not singing.

SAM You were doing the high part. With your hand.

TESS ...Okay, that's not fair.

SAM I'm just saying. It was committed.

TESS Look. I have one gift left. For my dad. And the store closes at nine.

SAM I have one gift left too.

TESS For who?

SAM My niece. She wants a unicorn that poops glitter. I don't know where to begin.

TESS Second floor. Toy place by the escalator. They had six this morning.

SAM You went to the toy store?

TESS I panicked and bought a unicorn for my dad.

SAM [laughs] What's on yours? Your list.

TESS A watch. I don't know anything about watches.

SAM I fix watches. For a living.

TESS You're kidding.

SAM Park your car. I'll show you which ones to avoid.

The Fake Boyfriend Briefing

Holiday rom-com, fake dating · Adult (25-35) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: MAYA LEO

A car parked outside a house covered in lights. MAYA, 29, holds index cards. LEO, 30, her best friend, eats a candy cane

MAYA Okay. Again. How did we meet?

LEO At a coffee shop. I spilled a latte on you.

MAYA Oat milk latte.

LEO Oat milk. Important detail.

MAYA My mom will ask. She asks about milk.

LEO How long have we been together?

MAYA Eight months. Since March.

LEO March is seven months.

MAYA Then since February. Don't argue with the cards.

LEO What do I do for work?

MAYA You're an architect.

LEO I'm a substitute teacher.

MAYA Tonight you're an architect.

LEO What if your uncle asks me about buildings?

MAYA Say "load-bearing" and look thoughtful.

LEO Load-bearing.

MAYA Less thoughtful. You look sick.

LEO Maya. Why are we doing this?

MAYA Because my sister is bringing her fiancé, and my cousin is bringing her twins, and I said I was bringing someone so my grandmother would stop lighting a candle for me at church.

LEO She does that?

MAYA Every Sunday. "For Maya, who is alone."

LEO That's actually beautiful.

MAYA It is not beautiful. There's a plaque.

LEO Okay. Last question. And why did we break up the first time?

MAYA We didn't. We've never...

LEO [beat] I know. I'm asking why we never tried.

MAYA ...That's not on the cards.

LEO I know. I didn't write it down.

A porch light flicks on. The front door opens

MAYA That's my mom. Load-bearing. Go.

Secret Santa, Times Two

Office comedy · Adult (25-45) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: JORDAN RILEY

The office break room, the day before the gift exchange. JORDAN and RILEY are both holding small wrapped boxes behind their backs

JORDAN Hey. Riley.

RILEY Jordan. Hi.

JORDAN Random question. Do you like cats?

RILEY Why?

JORDAN No reason. Just making conversation.

RILEY You asked me last week what my favorite color was.

JORDAN Did I?

RILEY And the week before, my shoe size.

JORDAN Okay. Small question. Did you drink out of my mug on Tuesday?

RILEY ...I needed to know what size it was.

JORDAN Why would you need to know the size of my mug?

RILEY Why would you need to know my shoe size?

JORDAN [beat] Did you draw me?

RILEY Did you draw me?

JORDAN You can't answer a question with a question.

RILEY You just did.

JORDAN ...Yes. I drew you. You're getting slippers. With cats on them.

RILEY I drew you. You're getting a mug.

JORDAN I have a mug.

RILEY It's a very good mug.

The Karaoke Report

Office comedy, aftermath · Adult (30-50) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: DIANE KIM

A small HR office, the Monday after the holiday party. DIANE, 50, from HR, with a notepad. KIM, 34, from accounting, in sunglasses

DIANE Thanks for coming in, Kim. This is just informal.

KIM There's a notepad.

DIANE I like notepads. Can you walk me through Friday night?

KIM Sure. Party. Snacks. Very nice snacks.

DIANE And then?

KIM And then the karaoke machine came out.

DIANE Who brought the karaoke machine?

KIM I don't know. It just appeared. Like a Christmas miracle.

DIANE It's registered to your home address.

KIM ...It appeared from my house.

DIANE Tell me about the song.

KIM It was a duet. A Christmas duet. A classic.

DIANE Who was your duet partner?

KIM Mr. Pruitt.

DIANE The regional director.

KIM He was very good. He has a real gift.

DIANE Was he aware he was singing?

KIM He was by the second chorus.

DIANE And the table?

KIM The table was structurally sound. I checked first. I knocked on it twice. That shows judgment, Diane.

DIANE And the reindeer antlers?

KIM Those were his idea. I have it on video.

DIANE [writes] Please don't send me the video.

KIM I already did. Everyone did.

DIANE Kim. Is there anything you'd like to add?

KIM Only that he hit the high note. Nobody's talking about that. He hit it clean.

DIANE Noted.

KIM In D minor.

Gate Fourteen, Delayed

Holiday comedy, airport · Adult (30-60) · Neutral American · 2 minutes

Cast: GUS FRANK

A crowded airport gate, Christmas Eve, 9pm. The board says DELAYED. FRANK, 62, in a good coat, stares at it. GUS, 34, in a reindeer sweater, sits next to him with a huge bag of pretzels

GUS Pretzel?

FRANK No.

GUS They're the good ones. The little twisty ones.

FRANK I said no.

GUS Cool, cool. First delay of the season?

FRANK Third. Today.

GUS Third! You're a pro. I've only had two. I'm hoping for a fourth. Then I get a meal voucher.

FRANK You want a fourth delay?

GUS Twelve dollars, Frank. That's a sandwich.

FRANK How do you know my name?

GUS It's on your bag tag. Frank Delvecchio. Great name. Sounds like a judge.

FRANK I was an accountant.

GUS Even better. You'd know what twelve dollars is worth.

SFX: a chime. ANNOUNCER: "Flight 1192 to Minneapolis is now delayed until eleven forty."

GUS Ooh. Four!

FRANK Unbelievable.

GUS Hey. Hey. It's still the twenty-fourth. Still counts.

FRANK Counts for what?

GUS For getting there. Where are you going?

FRANK My daughter's. In Duluth. She just had a baby.

GUS No way. Congratulations, Grandpa.

FRANK It's his first Christmas.

GUS [beat] That's a big one.

FRANK I told her I'd be there when he wakes up. First thing. I promised.

GUS Then you will be. Babies wake up at five. We land at two. That's three hours of nap for you.

FRANK You don't know that.

GUS I don't. But I've been delayed four times and I'm very optimistic. It's a skill.

FRANK What about you? Where are you going?

GUS Nowhere. I mean, Minneapolis. But nobody's waiting. I just like being somewhere with lots of people at Christmas.

FRANK ...At an airport.

GUS Best people-watching in the world. Everyone's going home.

beat

FRANK Give me a pretzel.

GUS Yes! The twisty one?

FRANK The twisty one. And when we land, you're coming to Duluth. My daughter makes too much food.

GUS Frank. Are you inviting me to Christmas?

FRANK I'm inviting you to eat. Don't make it weird.

Who Brought the Ham

Family drama, holiday dinner · Adult (35-50) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: JEN CAROL

A small, hot kitchen, Christmas Day. Voices and a football game from the next room. CAROL, 47, the oldest, at the oven. JEN, 41, holding a foil-covered tray

JEN Where do you want this?

CAROL What is it?

JEN Ham. Honey-glazed.

CAROL I made a ham.

JEN I know. I brought another ham.

CAROL Why would you bring another ham?

JEN Because Dad likes it with the pineapple and you never do the pineapple.

CAROL Dad can't have pineapple. It's on his list from the doctor.

JEN What list?

CAROL The list. From October. When he was in the hospital.

JEN He was in the hospital in October?

CAROL [beat] I called you.

JEN You left one voicemail.

CAROL I left four voicemails, Jen.

JEN You said it was nothing serious.

CAROL Because I didn't want you to panic and then not come anyway.

JEN That's not fair.

CAROL I drove him every Tuesday. I learned the list. I do the ham without pineapple. You were never here.

JEN I live four hundred miles away.

CAROL You've lived four hundred miles away for twenty years. That was a choice.

SFX: from the other room, DAD calls out: "Girls? Is it ready?"

CAROL [calling] Two minutes, Dad!

JEN [quietly] Is he okay? Now?

CAROL He's okay. He's slower.

JEN Why didn't you tell me how bad it was?

CAROL Because then you'd have come. And I'd have had to share him.

beat

JEN Put my ham back in the car.

CAROL No. Leave it. Take the pineapple off. He'll know you made it.

Dad's Toast

Family drama, father and son · Adult (30-65) · Neutral American · 2 minutes

Cast: DANNY RAY

A garage workshop, Christmas Eve, late. RAY, 64, is fixing a string of lights at the workbench. DANNY, 33, comes in with two beers

DANNY Mom says you're hiding.

RAY I'm not hiding. I'm fixing these.

DANNY Those lights are older than me.

RAY That's why they're worth fixing. Pass me the little screwdriver.

DANNY [hands it over] Brought you a beer.

RAY You bring me a beer, you want something.

DANNY Maybe I just want to drink a beer with my dad.

RAY Maybe. [beat] I was going to say something tomorrow. At dinner. A toast.

DANNY You don't do toasts.

RAY I'm doing one. Forty years of the store. Your grandfather opened it in eighty-five. I'm going to say it's yours now. From January.

DANNY Dad.

RAY I already talked to the bank. The paperwork's simple.

DANNY Dad. I got a job.

RAY You have a job. At the store.

DANNY In Portland. Teaching. High school shop. They called last week.

A long pause. Ray keeps working on the lights

RAY Shop.

DANNY Woodworking. Metal. All the stuff you taught me in here.

RAY In Portland.

DANNY I start the second week of January.

RAY And you were going to tell me when?

DANNY Tonight. Now. I was going to tell you now.

RAY Before the toast.

DANNY Before the toast.

SFX: the string of lights flickers, then comes on

RAY There she goes.

DANNY You're not going to say anything?

RAY [beat] I know.

DANNY You know what?

RAY That you didn't want it. I've known since you were sixteen. You'd stand behind that counter like it was a waiting room.

DANNY Then why the toast?

RAY Because I wanted you to have the choice. Not the store. The choice. You took it. Good.

DANNY You're not mad?

RAY I'm sad. That's different. [beat] Teach them to measure twice.

DANNY I will.

RAY And come home at Christmas. I'll need help with these lights.

Five Stockings

Holiday drama, grief · Adult (30-45) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: LUCY NATE

A living room, December twenty-third. A fireplace with five hooks. NATE, 38, and LUCY, 35, unpack an old cardboard box

LUCY Dad's. With the fish on it.

NATE Why is there a fish on it?

LUCY He caught one. Once. In nineteen ninety. She never let him forget it.

NATE [hangs it] Dad. Me. You.

LUCY Grandpa's?

NATE Mom kept it up every year. Even after he died.

LUCY I know. [beat] So what do we do with hers?

They both look at the last stocking in the box

NATE We could put it away.

LUCY She'd hate that.

NATE She'd hate us standing here staring at it, too. She hated standing still. She'd have hung all five by now and started on the tree.

LUCY She'd say, "Is somebody going to hang that, or are we having a meeting?"

NATE [laughs] "Are we having a meeting." She said that about everything.

LUCY She said it at my graduation. To the dean.

NATE She said it at Grandpa's funeral.

LUCY She did! To the priest!

NATE In fairness, he'd done three readings. Nobody asked for three readings.

LUCY He was taking forever.

beat

NATE Dad hasn't said anything about it.

LUCY He wouldn't. He'd wait for us.

NATE Okay. Then we decide.

LUCY We hang it.

NATE And put what in it?

LUCY The thing she always wanted and nobody ever got her.

NATE Peace and quiet.

LUCY [laughs] Peace and quiet.

NATE [hangs the stocking] Mom.

A long pause

LUCY Five hooks.

NATE Five hooks.

Last Shift Before Christmas

Holiday drama, hospital · Adult (25-80) · Neutral American · 2 minutes

Cast: ANA WALTER

A quiet hospital room, Christmas Eve, just after midnight. A small paper tree on the windowsill. ANA, 26, a nurse, checks a monitor. WALTER, 84, is awake in bed

ANA You're supposed to be asleep, Mr. Haines.

WALTER I'm supposed to be in Florida. Yet here we both are.

ANA Blood pressure looks good.

WALTER That's because a pretty nurse came in.

ANA Is that a line?

WALTER At my age, everything's a line. I only get so many.

ANA [laughs] You want some water?

WALTER I want to know why you're working Christmas Eve.

ANA Somebody has to.

WALTER That's not an answer. That's a greeting card.

ANA [beat] I'm new. New nurses get the holidays.

WALTER Where's your family?

ANA Ohio. My mom's doing the dinner without me this year. She sent a picture of the turkey. With a sad face drawn on it.

WALTER On the turkey?

ANA In ketchup.

WALTER I like her.

ANA Everyone likes her. Do you have family coming tomorrow?

WALTER My son. Probably. He's busy.

ANA Well, I'll be here till seven.

WALTER I was a mailman, you know. Forty-one years.

ANA Really?

WALTER Worked every Christmas Eve. Every one. The cards, the packages. People would wait at the door for me. Kids, mostly.

ANA That's lovely.

WALTER It was. Cold, but lovely. One lady, Mrs. Ortiz, left me a coffee on her mailbox every year. Thirty years. Never once met her.

ANA You never met her?

WALTER I always came at the same time. So did the coffee. Some things don't need a conversation.

beat

ANA I'll tell you what. I'm going to get you a coffee.

WALTER Decaf, I suppose.

ANA Decaf. You're in a hospital.

WALTER Leave it on the table. Don't wait for me to drink it.

ANA That's not how it works, Mr. Haines.

WALTER [smiles] Merry Christmas, Ana.

ANA Merry Christmas, Walter. Go to sleep.

The Missing Ring at the Christmas Market

Cozy mystery · Adult (30-70) · British (standard Southern) · 2 minutes

Cast: BECKY MARGARET

A village Christmas market at dusk. Stalls, lights, a brass band. MARGARET, 68, a retired schoolteacher, at the mulled wine stall run by BECKY, 34

BECKY You've heard, then.

MARGARET About Mrs. Pell's ring? The whole market's heard. She shouted it from the tombola.

BECKY She says she took it off to try the hand cream at the soap stall. Put it on the counter. Turned round. Gone.

MARGARET The soap stall. Run by the Drake girl?

BECKY Holly Drake. Nineteen. Everyone's looking at her, poor thing.

MARGARET Of course they are. She's the one who's new. [sips] This is very good, Becky. Is there orange in it?

BECKY Orange and clove. Margaret, focus.

MARGARET I am focusing. Who else was at the soap stall?

BECKY Mr. Fenwick, buying lavender for his sister. The vicar. And the man in the Father Christmas suit, handing out sweets.

MARGARET Which Father Christmas?

BECKY What do you mean, which?

MARGARET There are two this year. The one by the grotto has a real beard. The one handing out sweets has a cotton one. And a very nice watch.

BECKY How do you notice a watch under a Father Christmas suit?

MARGARET Thirty-five years teaching eleven-year-olds. You learn to look at hands.

BECKY So it's him? The cotton-beard one?

MARGARET Possibly. Or possibly not. Did you see him buy anything?

BECKY He bought a mulled wine from me. Twenty minutes ago. Paid with a twenty.

MARGARET And where's the twenty?

BECKY In the tin.

MARGARET Look at it.

BECKY [rustling] It's... there's something written on it. In biro. "Pell."

MARGARET Mrs. Pell writes her name on her banknotes. Has done since the nineteen-eighties. Everyone in the village knows that.

BECKY So he took her purse as well.

MARGARET Or she gave him the money and the ring together. Because he's her nephew, he's in debt, and she'd rather lose a ring at a Christmas market than say so.

BECKY Margaret. How on earth...

MARGARET She shouted from the tombola, Becky. People who are really robbed don't announce it. They go quiet.

BECKY So what do we do?

MARGARET We do nothing. We give her a mulled wine on the house. And tomorrow I'll take her a lemon cake and ask how she is.

The Gingerbread Witness

Cozy mystery, interrogation · Adult (30-60) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: HOLLIS QUINN

The back room of a church hall during the holiday craft fair. DEPUTY HOLLIS sits across from BAKER QUINN, who wears an apron covered in flour

HOLLIS Let's go over it one more time. When did you last see the house?

QUINN Eleven fifteen. It was on the judging table. Four floors. Working shutters. A sugar-glass greenhouse.

HOLLIS Working shutters.

QUINN They open and close. I used a hinge made of caramel.

HOLLIS And when you came back?

QUINN Gone. The plate was still there. Nothing on it but a few crumbs and a single gumdrop.

HOLLIS What color gumdrop?

QUINN Green.

HOLLIS Did your house have green gumdrops?

QUINN Red only. It was a theme.

HOLLIS [writes] So the green gumdrop came from the thief.

QUINN I suppose it did.

HOLLIS Who else entered the competition?

QUINN Doris Pemberton. A gingerbread lighthouse. With a lamp that turns.

HOLLIS Does Doris use green gumdrops?

QUINN Doris uses green gumdrops on everything. She's known for it. It's her signature.

HOLLIS Where's Doris now?

QUINN She left at eleven twenty. She said her lighthouse needed to rest.

HOLLIS Lighthouses don't need to rest.

QUINN That's what I said.

HOLLIS Did anybody see her leave?

QUINN Pastor Jim. He said she was carrying a very large box. Walking very slowly.

HOLLIS How slowly?

QUINN Like someone carrying four floors with working shutters.

HOLLIS [stands] Quinn. I'm going to need you to stay in town.

QUINN I live here.

HOLLIS Good. That makes it easier.

Are You the Real One?

Holiday comedy, mall Santa and child · Adult (50-70) and Child (7-9) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: SANTA ELLA

A mall Santa's chair, late afternoon. SANTA, 60, sweating in the suit. ELLA, 8, climbs up holding a folded piece of paper

SANTA Ho ho ho! And what's your name?

ELLA You should know that.

SANTA Ah. Of course. I... meet so many children.

ELLA You only have to meet me once. You've been watching me all year.

SANTA That's true. Ella!

ELLA [narrows eyes] Lucky guess. My name's on my backpack.

SANTA Is it?

ELLA First question. What's the name of your third reindeer?

SANTA Third... alphabetically?

ELLA In the order they fly.

SANTA Ah, well, the order changes. Weather conditions.

ELLA Hm. Second question. How many cookies did you eat at my house last year?

SANTA Three.

ELLA Two. And a half. You left half.

SANTA I was very full by then. Big night.

ELLA Third question. Why does your beard have a label?

SANTA [beat] That's... a very good question.

ELLA You're not the real one.

SANTA I'm one of his helpers. He can't be everywhere.

ELLA So you tell him things.

SANTA Everything.

ELLA Tell him I want a microscope. Not a toy one. A real one.

SANTA A real one. Got it.

ELLA [considers him] Fine. You can stay.

Reindeer Contract Negotiations

Holiday comedy, fantasy · Adult (any) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: TINSEL VIXEN COMET

The stables at the North Pole, December twenty-fourth, 11pm. Two reindeer, VIXEN and COMET, face TINSEL, the head elf, holding a clipboard

TINSEL Okay. We are one hour from takeoff. Why are you not in harness?

VIXEN We have some concerns.

TINSEL You have concerns. Now. An hour before Christmas.

COMET Leverage, Tinsel. It's about timing.

TINSEL What are the concerns?

VIXEN Item one. Carrots.

TINSEL What about the carrots?

VIXEN Children leave carrots. We never see them. Santa puts them in his pockets.

COMET He says he's saving them for us.

VIXEN We've never seen one carrot. Not in eleven years.

TINSEL I'll talk to him about the carrots. What's item two?

COMET Rooftops. Especially the steep ones.

VIXEN We want to skip any roof steeper than forty degrees.

TINSEL You can't skip houses.

COMET We don't want to skip houses. We want him to walk from the lawn.

TINSEL He's not going to walk.

VIXEN Then item three. Cocoa breaks.

TINSEL You're reindeer. You can't hold a mug.

COMET Through a straw, Tinsel. We're not animals.

TINSEL You are, literally, animals.

VIXEN Item four. Dasher flies at the front. Every year. We want a turn at the front.

COMET I can do a light thing with my tail. I've been practicing.

TINSEL [long beat] Fine. Carrots, cocoa, straws. Comet gets a tail thing over Kansas.

VIXEN And the roofs?

TINSEL Don't push it.

COMET Pleasure doing business, Tinsel.

TINSEL Harness. Now. Both of you.

Ugly Sweater Finals

Comedy, double act · Adult (30-50) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: PAT LOU

A community center, the end of the Christmas party. Two folding chairs. PAT and LOU, with clipboards, watch three finalists

PAT Number one. The reindeer with the real bells.

LOU Loud. Very loud. Points for volume.

PAT But the bells are store-bought. No craft.

LOU Pat, it's an ugly sweater contest.

PAT Ugly is a craft, Lou.

LOU Fine. Number two. The tree with the lights.

PAT Hand-stitched tinsel. Felt ornaments. Is that a cat?

LOU It's a cat in the tree. Knocking off an ornament.

PAT That's storytelling.

LOU That's a cat.

PAT Number three. The sweater with the fireplace.

LOU He sewed a stocking onto it. There's a real candy cane in the stocking.

PAT Real fabric flames.

LOU Can we just give it to the cat?

PAT You can't rush this.

LOU I've been here four hours. My car is in a tow zone.

PAT [beat] The fireplace.

LOU Why?

PAT Look closer.

LOU ...Is it flickering?

PAT It has a battery pack.

The Ex at the Gift Exchange

Holiday rom-com, second chance · Adult (28-40) · Neutral American · 90 seconds

Cast: MARCUS ELENA

A friend's crowded apartment, a white elephant gift exchange. ELENA, 33, and MARCUS, 34, find themselves side by side on the couch, each holding a wrapped gift

MARCUS Elena.

ELENA Marcus. Hi.

MARCUS Hi. I didn't know you'd be here.

ELENA I didn't know you'd be here either. Pri said "small group."

MARCUS There are forty people.

ELENA She's an optimist.

MARCUS So. How have you been?

ELENA Good. Great. I got a dog.

MARCUS You always wanted a dog.

ELENA You always said we weren't dog people.

MARCUS I said I wasn't a dog person. Turns out I was wrong. My neighbor has a beagle. I walk him on Saturdays.

ELENA You walk your neighbor's dog.

MARCUS He's a very good dog.

SFX: someone calls out: "Okay! Marcus, you're up! Pick one or steal one!"

MARCUS I'll take... the one Elena's holding.

ELENA You're stealing my gift?

MARCUS It's the rules. It's the whole point of the game.

ELENA [hands it over] Fine.

MARCUS [unwrapping] Okay. Let's see... oh.

ELENA What is it?

MARCUS It's the snow globe. With the little diner in it. From Vermont.

ELENA [beat] I didn't think anyone would know.

MARCUS You kept it?

ELENA I didn't keep it. I put it in a box. And then I didn't throw out the box.

MARCUS That's keeping it.

ELENA It's a white elephant, Marcus. You're supposed to give away something you don't want.

MARCUS Is that what this was?

ELENA [quietly] No.

beat

MARCUS Do you want to get coffee? After this? We could take the snow globe.

ELENA And the dog?

MARCUS Bring the dog.

Under the Mistletoe

Holiday rom-com, friends to lovers · Adult (25-35) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: THEO CAL

A friend's holiday party, near the front door. THEO, 29, and CAL, 30, best friends since college, are putting on their coats. A friend calls out: "Mistletoe!" They both look up

THEO Oh no.

CAL Who put that there?

THEO Priya. It's always Priya.

CAL Okay. There's rules about this, right?

THEO There are no rules. It's a plant.

CAL It's a parasitic plant, actually. It grows on trees and slowly kills them.

THEO Very romantic.

CAL I read it on a cracker box.

THEO You read cracker boxes?

CAL At your parties. When I'm avoiding your cousin Greg.

THEO So we just... walk out?

CAL We could. We could just walk out the door like normal people.

THEO Like normal people.

CAL Eleven years. Never once stood under mistletoe together.

THEO You've kept count?

CAL No. Yes. Maybe a little.

beat

THEO We don't have to.

CAL I know.

THEO Unless you want to.

A long pause

CAL Theo.

THEO Yeah?

CAL I've wanted to since about year three.

THEO [quietly] Year two, for me.

CAL You beat me.

THEO I usually do.

Grandma's Recipe, Over Video

Holiday drama, family · Child to adult (22-80) · Southern American (light) · 90 seconds

Cast: NANA JOSIE

A video call. JOSIE, 22, in a tiny city apartment kitchen. NANA, 80, in her kitchen in Georgia, holding the phone far too close to her face

NANA I can see your ceiling.

JOSIE Prop the phone up, Nana. Against the sugar jar.

NANA [shuffling] Is that better?

JOSIE Now I can see your ceiling.

NANA Well, it's a nice ceiling. Your granddaddy painted it. Now. Do you have the pecans?

JOSIE Yes.

NANA Toasted?

JOSIE The recipe doesn't say toasted.

NANA The recipe doesn't say a lot of things. Toast them. In a dry pan. Till they smell like Sunday.

JOSIE What does Sunday smell like?

NANA You'll know. Now, the syrup. A good pour.

JOSIE How much is a good pour?

NANA Till it looks right.

JOSIE Nana, I need a number.

NANA About a cup. And a little more if you're sad.

JOSIE [beat] Why would I be sad?

NANA First Christmas you're not here. Everybody's a little sad. Pour a little more.

JOSIE [quietly] Okay.

NANA Butter. Melted. Eggs. Three. Little bit of vanilla. Pinch of salt. And the secret.

JOSIE There's a secret?

NANA Little bit of bourbon. Don't tell your mother.

JOSIE Mom knows.

NANA Mom does not know. Mom thinks it's vanilla.

JOSIE [laughs] How long in the oven?

NANA Till the middle stops jiggling. About an hour. Call me when it comes out.

JOSIE Nana. Will it taste like yours?

NANA No, baby. It'll taste like yours. That's the whole point.

JOSIE [beat] I miss you.

NANA I know. Now go toast those pecans. I'll stay on the phone.

The Christmas Eve Help Line

Holiday comedy, phone call · Adult (30-50) · Neutral American · 2 minutes

Cast: ROBIN ALEX

Christmas Eve, 11:52pm. ALEX sits on a garage floor surrounded by bike parts, on the phone. ROBIN, a help-line agent, wears a headset in a quiet call center

ROBIN Thank you for calling the Zephyr Bikes holiday help line. This is Robin. How can I help you tonight?

ALEX Hi. Hello. I'm assembling a bike.

ROBIN Wonderful. Which model?

ALEX The Starlight Junior. Purple. With the streamers.

ROBIN Great choice. What seems to be the problem?

ALEX There are parts left over.

ROBIN How many parts?

ALEX Eleven.

ROBIN [beat] Is the bike assembled?

ALEX It looks like a bike. From a distance. In bad light.

ROBIN Can you tell me about the front wheel?

ALEX It's on. It's on backwards. I think. The little reflector is facing my face.

ROBIN Okay. That's actually very common.

ALEX Is it?

ROBIN Third one tonight.

ALEX Oh, thank goodness.

ROBIN Let's look at the bag of parts. Do you see a small silver bolt with a washer?

ALEX I see six small silver bolts with washers.

ROBIN The one with a little plastic cap.

ALEX There's no cap. Wait. Is the cap the thing the dog ate?

ROBIN What did the dog eat?

ALEX Something small and white. I assumed it was a packing peanut. He seemed confident.

ROBIN Okay. That's fine. The cap is decorative.

ALEX Is it really decorative, or are you just saying that because it's midnight?

ROBIN Little of both.

ALEX Robin. My daughter wakes up at five. She's going to come down those stairs, and she's going to see a bike with its handlebars on sideways.

ROBIN Can I tell you something?

ALEX Please.

ROBIN I have the same bike. In my garage. Unassembled. For my son.

ALEX You do?

ROBIN I get off at one. I'm going home to do exactly what you're doing.

ALEX Robin. Do you know how to do it?

ROBIN I do now. I've talked forty people through it.

ALEX Okay. Okay. Walk me through it. From the start.

ROBIN Take the front wheel off. We'll do it together.

ALEX Together.

ROBIN And Alex? Put the dog outside.

Snowed In at Platform Two

Holiday rom-com, stranded strangers · Adult (30-40) · Irish (female), Neutral American (male) · 90 seconds

Cast: PAUL SIOBHAN

A tiny rural train station in Ireland, Christmas Eve, 10pm. Snow outside. A broken vending machine. SIOBHAN, 34, sits on a bench. PAUL, 36, an American tourist with a large suitcase, stands reading the timetable

PAUL It says the next train is at seven.

SIOBHAN In the morning. Yeah.

PAUL Is there a hotel near here?

SIOBHAN There's a pub. With two rooms. Both taken. I asked.

PAUL A taxi?

SIOBHAN Tommy has the taxi. Tommy is at his sister's in Galway. Tommy is the taxi.

PAUL [sits down] So we're sleeping here.

SIOBHAN Looks like it.

PAUL Okay. I'm Paul.

SIOBHAN Siobhan.

PAUL I'm sorry, how do you spell that?

SIOBHAN You don't want to know.

PAUL Fair enough. [beat] Where were you headed?

SIOBHAN My mam's. Two stops down. Fifteen minutes away.

PAUL You could walk that.

SIOBHAN In this? In these boots? I'd be found in March.

PAUL [laughs] I was going to Dublin. Flight home tomorrow night.

SIOBHAN You'll make it. Seven o'clock train, you're in Dublin by ten.

PAUL That's what I'm worried about.

SIOBHAN Why?

PAUL Because nobody's waiting for me in Denver. I came here because I didn't want to be alone on Christmas. And now I'm alone on Christmas. In a train station.

SIOBHAN You're not alone. I'm here.

PAUL Who's waiting for you?

SIOBHAN [beat] My mam. My brothers. Fourteen people who all want to know why I haven't married the fella I've been with for six years.

PAUL Why haven't you?

SIOBHAN Because I broke up with him on Tuesday. And I haven't told them.

PAUL Ah.

SIOBHAN So this, right now? This is the most relaxing Christmas Eve I've had in years.

PAUL [reaching into his bag] I have chocolate. And a bottle of wine from the duty-free.

SIOBHAN Paul.

PAUL Yes?

SIOBHAN That's the most romantic thing anyone has said to me in six years.

Who Ate the Cookies

Family comedy, parents at midnight · Adult (30-45) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: JESS MARK

A living room, Christmas Eve, 12:15am. Lights low. JESS, 38, holds a plate with nothing on it but crumbs. MARK, 39, carries an armful of presents

JESS [whispering] Mark.

MARK [whispering] What?

JESS The plate.

MARK What about the plate?

JESS The cookies are gone.

MARK Good. Santa ate them. That's the system.

JESS Santa didn't eat them. Santa hasn't happened yet. We're Santa.

MARK [beat] Right.

JESS So who ate them?

MARK Maybe the kids came down.

JESS Then the kids would have seen the presents in the closet. Which you were supposed to bring down at eleven.

MARK I was resting my eyes.

JESS You were resting your eyes with cookie crumbs on your shirt.

MARK [looks down] That's... from earlier.

JESS From earlier.

MARK From a different cookie.

JESS Mark. Lily left a note. She drew a picture of Santa eating the cookies. She checks in the morning.

MARK Then we bake more.

JESS It's midnight.

MARK We have dough in the fridge.

JESS That dough was for Christmas Day.

MARK [beat] So was the eggnog.

JESS You drank the eggnog?

MARK Santa needed something to wash it down.

JESS You are not Santa. You're a man in pajamas who ate a child's cookies.

MARK I also ate the carrots.

JESS [beat] The carrots too?

The Advent Calendar Clue

Cozy mystery, family inheritance · Adult (30-45) · Neutral American · 3 minutes

Cast: NORA EVAN

A cluttered old house, December first. Boxes everywhere. Cousins NORA, 38, a lawyer, and EVAN, 35, who does something with bands, stand in front of a large wooden advent calendar with twenty-four tiny doors

NORA The lawyer said this is the only thing he left us.

EVAN An advent calendar.

NORA An advent calendar he built by hand. "To Nora and Evan, together. Open in order." Underlined twice.

EVAN Uncle Felix underlined everything.

NORA He underlined his grocery lists.

EVAN So we open door one?

NORA We open door one.

SFX: a tiny wooden door creaks open

EVAN There's a paper. Rolled up. [unrolls it] "Look where I kept the good scissors."

NORA The kitchen drawer. Second from the left. He'd yell if you used them on paper.

EVAN [crossing the room] Paper's the only thing scissors are for.

NORA Not according to Felix. Just open it.

SFX: a drawer slides open

EVAN Scissors. And a key. Small. Brass.

NORA Door two.

EVAN We're supposed to open one a day.

NORA Evan. The house sells on the twentieth.

EVAN Fine. Door two.

SFX: a tiny door

NORA [reads] "The key fits the box that plays the song your grandmother hated."

EVAN The music box. The one that plays the waltz.

NORA She said it sounded like a dentist's office.

EVAN It's on the top shelf in the study.

SFX: footsteps. A small key turns. A tinny waltz begins

NORA There's a false bottom.

EVAN Of course there is.

NORA Another paper. "You two haven't spoken since the funeral. I'd like that fixed. Door three."

beat

EVAN He knew about that?

NORA Everybody knew about that, Evan. You left in the middle of the eulogy.

EVAN Because you were reading a list. Of Grandpa's financial mistakes. At his funeral.

NORA I was being honest.

EVAN You were being a lawyer.

NORA [beat] Door three.

SFX: a tiny door

EVAN [reads] "Nora. Evan is not irresponsible. He's just never been asked to be responsible. Ask him."

NORA [reads over his shoulder] "Evan. Nora is not cold. She's the one who stayed. She drove me to every appointment. Thank her."

A long pause

EVAN You drove him?

NORA Every Thursday. For two years.

EVAN I didn't know.

NORA You didn't ask.

EVAN I'm asking now.

NORA [beat] He talked about you the whole way. Every week. Your band. Your terrible van.

EVAN The van is fine.

NORA He said the van was a death trap and a work of art.

EVAN [laughs] That's fair.

NORA Door four?

EVAN Together.

SFX: a tiny door

NORA It's a photograph. Us. At the lake. We must have been seven and four.

EVAN I'm wearing your swim cap.

NORA You stole my swim cap.

EVAN It had flowers on it. I liked the flowers.

NORA [turns it over] There's writing on the back. "The rest is under the floorboard where you hid from your mothers."

EVAN The attic. The loose board by the window.

NORA We used to hide up there for hours.

EVAN Until Felix found us with a flashlight and a plate of cookies.

NORA He never told on us.

EVAN [beat] Want to go see what's under the board?

NORA Twenty doors to go.

EVAN Then we'd better start talking.

The Kids' Table

Holiday comedy, full cast · Adult (28-40) · Neutral American · 2 minutes

Cast: ROB DANA KAT MIKE

A folding card table in a dining room doorway, Christmas Day. Tiny chairs. Four adult cousins: DANA, 38, ROB, 35, KAT, 31, and MIKE, 29. The adults' table is in the next room

ROB Every year.

DANA Rob.

ROB Every year. I'm thirty-five. I have a mortgage.

KAT You have a mortgage and a chair shaped like a frog.

ROB It's a toad. I checked.

MIKE [mouth full] These rolls are amazing.

DANA Okay. Listen. I have a plan.

KAT Here we go.

DANA Aunt Linda is going to do the speech before dessert. Like every year. Everyone stands up. That's our moment.

ROB Our moment for what?

DANA We bring our plates in. We stand by the big table. And we don't come back.

KAT That's not a plan. That's a hostage situation.

DANA It's a peaceful transfer of power.

MIKE Can I bring the rolls?

DANA Mike, focus.

MIKE I am focused. On the rolls.

ROB There's no room at the big table. There are fourteen chairs.

KAT Thirteen. Uncle Phil left. He's asleep in the den with the football on.

DANA Exactly! One empty chair. That's a foothold.

ROB One chair for four people?

DANA We take turns. We rotate. Like penguins.

KAT Penguins don't rotate around chairs.

DANA They rotate around warmth, Kat. The big table is warmth.

ROB How long have you been planning this?

DANA Since Thanksgiving.

KAT She made a diagram.

DANA It's not a diagram. It's a seating map.

ROB [looks] There are arrows.

MIKE There's a little drawing of me. With a roll.

DANA That's so you know where to stand.

SFX: a glass clinks in the next room. AUNT LINDA, off: "Everybody! A few words before pie!"

DANA That's it. Go. Go, go, go.

SFX: four tiny chairs scrape

KAT [whispering] Rob, you're holding the frog chair.

ROB [whispering] It's stuck to me.

KAT How is it stuck to you?

ROB There's cranberry sauce on it.

DANA Leave the chair!

SFX: a crash

Silence. Everyone in the next room has turned to look

KAT [quietly] Hi, Aunt Linda.

MIKE Merry Christmas.

DANA We just... wanted to hear the speech. Up close.

A long beat

ROB She's pointing.

KAT She's pointing back at the card table.

DANA She can't do that. We're adults.

MIKE She's also pointing at the rolls.

ROB She wants the rolls?

MIKE She wants us to bring the rolls back. To the card table.

SFX: shuffling footsteps. Four chairs scraping back into place

ROB Every year.

DANA Next year, I'm bringing my own table.

KAT You'll just be at your own kids' table.

DANA At least it'll be my kids' table.

MIKE Pass the rolls.

Carolers at Number Nine

Holiday comedy, three-hander · Adult (30-70) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: FAY MR. KOWALSKI BEN

A snowy porch, Christmas Eve. FAY and BEN, two neighborhood carolers with song sheets. The door opens. MR. KOWALSKI, 70, in a bathrobe

FAY Merry Christmas! Would you like a song?

MR. KOWALSKI No.

BEN Just one?

MR. KOWALSKI I'm watching a program.

FAY We'll be quick. We've been practicing.

MR. KOWALSKI I heard. Through the walls. For three weeks.

BEN Sorry. Fay lives next door to you.

FAY The acoustics in my bathroom are incredible.

MR. KOWALSKI I know. I've been listening. Every night. Seven o'clock. You go flat on the high part, by the way.

FAY Everyone goes flat on the high part.

BEN So... one song?

MR. KOWALSKI [beat] What songs do you know?

FAY All the usual ones.

MR. KOWALSKI Do you know the one about the snow? The quiet one. My wife used to sing it while she did the dishes.

FAY [softly] We know it.

MR. KOWALSKI Fine. One song.

BEN Okay. On three. Fay takes the melody, I take the low part.

FAY Ben doesn't really have a low part. He just hums.

MR. KOWALSKI Wait.

FAY What?

MR. KOWALSKI I'm getting my coat. I'll stand outside. Sound's better out here.

The Proposal Rehearsal

Holiday rom-com, sibling comedy · Adult (28-35) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: DANNY GWEN

A bedroom at their parents' house, Christmas Eve afternoon. DANNY, 30, on one knee in front of his sister GWEN, 33, who sits on the bed eating chips

DANNY Okay. Take five. Ready?

GWEN Born ready.

DANNY [clears throat] Maria. From the moment I first saw you, across a crowded room...

GWEN You met her at the dentist.

DANNY It was crowded!

GWEN It was a dentist. There were four people. One of them was drilling.

DANNY Okay. Take six. Maria. You are the sun, the moon, and the stars.

GWEN Pick one.

DANNY What?

GWEN Nobody is three space objects. Pick one.

DANNY The moon.

GWEN She's going to think you're calling her round.

DANNY Gwen.

GWEN I'm helping.

DANNY Take seven. [beat] Maria. You make Tuesdays good. Nobody's ever made Tuesdays good. I want every Tuesday with you. Will you marry me?

A pause

GWEN [quietly] Okay. That one.

DANNY Yeah?

GWEN Yeah. Do that one. Don't change a word.

DANNY Even the Tuesday bit?

GWEN Especially the Tuesday bit. [beat] I'm crying into my chips. Get out.

Returns, December Twenty-Sixth

Holiday comedy, customer service · Adult (25-50) · Neutral American · 1 minute

Cast: SAM CASEY

A department store returns desk, December twenty-sixth, 9am. A long line. SAM, the clerk, with a name tag. CASEY, a customer, places a gift-wrapped box on the counter

SAM Good morning. Returning something?

CASEY Yes. A gift. It's not really my style.

SAM Of course. Do you have a receipt?

CASEY A gift receipt. Right here.

SAM [looks at the box] Lovely wrapping.

CASEY Thank you. I mean, I didn't do it. Whoever gave it to me did.

SAM Green paper. Gold ribbon. Three loops on the bow.

CASEY Is that... a store thing?

SAM It's a me thing. I do three loops. Nobody else here does three.

CASEY Oh.

SAM I wrapped this. On the eighteenth.

CASEY That's a coincidence.

SAM Tall man. Plaid scarf. He took twenty minutes to choose it. He wanted it to be perfect.

CASEY [beat] That's my brother.

SAM He said it was for his favorite sibling.

CASEY He has one sibling.

SAM He said that too. He laughed at his own joke.

CASEY That's definitely my brother.

SAM Do you still want to return it?

CASEY [long pause] ...What is it?

SAM You haven't opened it?

CASEY I never open his gifts. They're always terrible.

SAM [quietly] Open this one.

Practice with these, record them, post them as demos or reels, use them in auditions. Please do not resell them as scripts. © VO Journey Academy · avosjourney.com