

A SIMPLY SCRIPTS CHRISTMAS

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FADE IN:

**INT. INTERNET FORUM - TIME UNKNOWN**

An odd room. No walls, windows, floors or ceilings - as if it existed only in some eerie, indescribable, hyperspace.

Odder than the room itself - those in attendance. Their actual physical characteristics are concealed by AVATARS of all shapes and sizes that they hold in front of them.

Their ages are beyond determination. They can in fact be any age they claim to be.

They sit in neatly aligned rows of chairs floating in this hyperspace forum.

We'll call them MEMBERS for lack of a better term.

MEMBER JEFF (O.S)

Hey, writer - I'm a dude, so I must be a male member - get it? Male member.

OUR WRITER (V.O)

Jeff, please - I'm trying to tell a story here.

MEMBER JEFF (O.S.)

C'mon - nobody thought that was funny!?

CRICKETS.....

The MEMBERS sit quietly as a entity called DON paces in hyperspace at the front of the Forum. It is clear that Don is the leader of this group. It is equally clear that he rues the day he assumed that role.

DON

Okay, so I am thinking that to celebrate the holiday season, we'll have an ornament making exercise.

MEMBER LIBBY

Ooh - fun. What did you have in mind?

DON

Each of you will create a holiday ornament. It should be --

MEMBER JEFF

Can we make it out of Tungston?

DON

I think you mean Tungsten - and yes, you can. Anyway, it should --

MEMBER JEFF

What about steel?

DON

Sure - whatever. As I was saying --

MEMBER JEFF

Air. Could I make it out of air?

DON

Well, no. That would make it invisible and there would be --

MEMBER JEFF

Then I'M OUT!

Member Jeff storms off. A door SLAMS somewhere in the distance.

MEMBER MATTHEW

Wow, you guys think he is okay?

MEMBER STEVIE

Don't worry. He'll be back. Believe me. He always comes back.

DON

As I was saying.... The size of the ornament should not exceed six inches.

MEMBER MARK

Could it be 6.2 inches?

ALL MEMBERS IN UNISON

Good question.

DON

No... 6.2 is more than six so --

MEMBER MARK

What about 6.1 inches?

ALL MEMBERS IN UNISON

Good question.

DON

No! No! Six inches. No more than six inches - exactly!

MEMBER ELDAVE

Creo que el señor Don se está  
volviendo loco!

DON

Stop pretending you're Hispanic.  
You're a sixty-three year old fat  
white dude!

MEMBER ELDAVE

(bowing)

Lo siento.

DON

Now, these should be low budget  
ornaments. Something simple to  
make.

MEMBER MARNIE

Expensive things can be simple to  
make.

DON

Yeah - sure. But my point was --

MEMBER ANTHONY

So as long as it costs less than a  
million dollars. No special effects  
on an ornament.

MEMBER PAUL

Special effects can be cheap these  
days. Just need a computer and --

DON

Never mind! Spend what you want.

MEMBER ZACK

I have a question.

DON

Yes, Zack.

MEMBER ZACK

Can the ornament have blood  
dripping from it?

DON

Why on earth would you want blood  
dripping from an ornament?

MEMBER ZACK

In case I want to make a horror  
ornament.

DON  
Fine - whatever.

MEMBER JEFF  
But I can't make one out of air!?

DON  
You're back...

STEVIE  
Told you.

DON  
Moving on. So, each of you will submit the ornament you created anonymously, then will vote to see which one we liked the best. Please, do not out yourself before the voting is complete.

MEMBER JEFF  
Stevie outed himself years ago.

MEMBER STEVIE  
Yeah, you wish.

MEMBER LIBBY  
Boys - please. Common courtesy.

MEMBER JEFF  
You're not the moderator of me!

DON  
Well, technically, she is.

MEMBER JEFF  
That does it! I'm out.

DON  
Yes, of course.

Member Jeff storms off. A door SLAMS somewhere in the distance.

MEMBER BARRY JOHN  
Why is the forum dying?

DON  
(confused)  
What...?

MEMBER WARREN  
What if it were a Billie Holiday ornament? Would that count?

MEMBER PAUL  
Ah, interesting....

MEMBER STATTS  
Hmm. So we're aiming for a  
musical theme?

DON  
NO!

MEMBER DUSTIN  
How can we be sure that the voting  
for the best ornament won't be  
rigged. You know, like the last  
election.

DON  
First of all, this is not a  
contest, it's a challenge and --

MEMBER ELDAVE  
I think this is the point in the  
story where I am supposed to  
arrogantly pontificate about some  
screenwriting rule I know nothing  
about. But you know, with an air of  
confidence.

DON  
Now you speak English?

MEMBER ELDAVE  
Si...

MEMBER PIA  
The election wasn't rigged.

MEMBER DUSTIN  
Yeah - right....

MEMBER ZACK  
So we can use blood. He said  
that - right?

MEMBER LIBBY  
You guys should really take this to  
another thread.

MEMBER ANTHONY  
Did we settle on a size limit for  
the ornament?

MEMBER MATTHEW  
It wasn't discussed.

MEMBER KHAM  
I think he said 6.2

DON  
That's it! I'm done. Make any  
ornament you want! Vote however --

MEMBER JEFF  
Hey - relax, dude.

DON  
You're back....

MEMBER JEFF  
Yeah, just had to check on Pun Li.

MEMBER BARRY JOHN  
Who's Pun Li?

MEMBER STEVIE  
You don't want to know....

MEMBER JEFF	MEMBER STEVIE (CONT'D)
Best character EVER!	In a pig's eye!

MEMBER LIBBY  
That really should be in another  
forum.

The MEMBERS murmur and chatter amongst themselves, none of them noticing that Don has slipped out the forum door into --

**EXT. UNIVERSE OUTSIDE THE FORUM**

Don, now with a relaxed smile on his face, hums SILENT NIGHT as he walks away from the insidious forum.

MEMBER ELDAVE (O.S.)  
(yelling out)  
Don, we got more questions.

Don puts his hand in the air - gives a wave and keeps walking.

MEMBER ELDAVE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Mi Amigo!

Don keeps walking, eventually fading away into the peaceful clouds.

FIRST FADE OUT:

MEMBER JEFF (V.O.)  
Dude! Did you just end this script  
with an orphan!

OUR WRITER (V.O.)  
Bugger off.

MEMBER JEFF (V.O.)

I also didn't care for the wrylies.  
You feeling me...?

MEMBER SPESH

I think we just over six pages. Is  
this a DQ?

MEMBER STATTS

No, he said 6.2.

FADE OUT.