

## HUNG ON A TREE

by RENE GUTTERIDGE

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** To take a different perspective on missing the true meaning of Christmas.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Sarah doesn't have a lot to do here, but we should feel her discomfort with Becky's comments. She's really trying to help Becky understand the true meaning of Christmas, but she doesn't want to get into a debate just before company arrives. We need to see her struggle. Becky is oblivious. She's not a ditz, she's just gotten so used to the celebration that she's forgotten what she's supposed to be celebrating. Don't play her as a know-it-all, either. The audience needs to feel some sympathy for her. Work with the actual props in rehearsal so the actresses are used to handling them. In a scene with so many props, it's easy for actors to stumble and forget their lines if they aren't used to working with the props.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Christmas

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Isaiah 9:6-7, Romans 5:6-8

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Christmas Service

**CHARACTERS:**

Becky-Somewhat self-absorbed; thinks she understands the meaning of Christmas but has completely missed the point  
Sarah-Becky's roommate; helping Becky trim her tree

**PROPS:** Colorful ornament, a handmade ornament, an ugly, old ornament, a 14-karat gold ornament, a dove ornament, an angel ornament, a world globe ornament, a baby Jesus ornament, a large box with the ornaments and other decorations in it, a small Christmas tree

**COSTUMES:** Becky and Sarah are dressed for a Christmas party.

**SOUND:** Two cordless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** We are at Becky's and Sarah's apartment, where they are trimming Becky's Christmas tree in preparation for a part with Becky's family.

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*BECKY ENTERS casually. SARAH follows her, carrying a large box of Christmas ornaments. They are getting ready to trim BECKY'S tree. Her family is coming over for a Christmas party, and SARAH has volunteered to help her get ready.*

**BECKY:** Thanks so much for helping me get everything ready, Sarah.

**SARAH:** *(Struggling with the box)* You're welcome. After all, what are roommates for?

**BECKY:** *(Oblivious to SARAH'S struggle)* Oh! I love Christmas! This is by far my favorite time of year. And I love putting the ornaments on the tree. It brings back so many memories. *(She reaches into the box)* Like this one! *(Pulls out a colorful ornament. To the ornament:)* I laugh every time I see you! *(She hangs it on the tree.)*

**SARAH:** What in the world is it?

**BECKY:** I got it when I went partying with my college sorority sisters at Padre. Man, was that a fun time ... what I remember of it, anyway. Whoo-hoo!

**SARAH:** *(Disappointed)* Oh. *(She reaches into the box and grabs another ornament.)*

**BECKY:** *(Taking it from SARAH)* Oh, yes. One of my favorites! From my nephew. Isn't it precious? He made it for me at school when he was just 6. Now that's what Christmas is all about: children. They are so sweet. *(She hangs it on the tree and gets another ornament.)*

**SARAH:** Well, children are great, but it's not exactly what Christma-

**BECKY:** Ah. *(Rolling her eyes)* The one my great, great Aunt Marge passed down. It's so incredibly ugly, it's hard for me to look at it! But it's *(quoting her mother, tone and all:)* "been in the family for years, and now it's your turn to have it." *(Sighs.)*

**SARAH:** It sure is an ugly thing ...

**BECKY:** Well, even though I didn't know my great, great Aunt Marge, and I heard she was quite mean, I've got to keep this silly thing to symbolize the spirit of Christmas: family and tradition.

**SARAH:** *(Under her breath:)* Personally, I'd toss it.

*BECKY hangs the ornament on the tree and gets another one.*

**BECKY:** One of my favorites! *(She holds it to the light and it sparkles magnificently.)* This ornament cost almost \$100, but it's worth it. It's 14 karat gold!

**SARAH:** You bought an ornament that cost \$100? Why?