

I MISS HIM SO MUCH (HER SECOND CHRISTMAS ALONE)

by Greg Sullivan

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Roger tries to sell Margaret a carpet cleaner but the pair soon realizes they have great personal tragedy in common. Margaret shares her faith, but Roger is reluctant to believe in a God who would let such a horrible tragedy happen in his life. He does finally accept Margaret's offer of dinner and the promise of looking at his tragedy in a new way.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This is a scene that could become static if the actors are not very aware of picking up their cues. One way to help with this is to give Roger activities (his cleaning is perfect) that will give him opportunities to turn away from Margaret. These turning away movements will emphasize his efforts to turn away Margaret's advances about God.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Loss, Death

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Job, James 5:11

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Senior Service, Christmas Banquet

CHARACTERS:

MARGARET BENSON— 65-year-old woman who is facing her second Christmas alone without her husband, who was killed in the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center. She has one son who is stationed overseas in the military. She is a quiet, introspective lady who continues to deal with a lot of the grief of losing her best friend and companion.

ROGER— middle-aged man who is a grocery store manager by day and a carpet cleaner salesman by night. We find out in the story that his daughter was killed by a drunk driver two years before and that his wife left him a few months ago. He is very energetic, peppy, and friendly, but we come to see that much of this is a cover for the grief he is dealing with.

PROPS: A bag in which to carry bottles of cleaning solution, Two or three spray bottles of cleaning solution, A scrub brush, A clipboard, A photo album, A piece of paper on which is written a note to Mrs. Benson, Living room furniture, A decorated Christmas tree and other Christmas decorations, Pictures in frames, particularly one of a soldier in uniform and one of a man about the same age as Mrs. Benson (her late husband)

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COSTUMES: MARGARET—casual, ROGER—suit and tie

SOUND: Two cordless mics

LIGHTING: General stage; holiday lights for Christmas tree

SETTING: Margaret's living room

It is the day before Christmas Eve. The stage serves as Margaret's living room. There is a rocking chair, a decorated Christmas tree, and other typical furniture, preferably of an older style. Pictures of a young man dressed in military attire and an older man (Margaret's late husband) are on an end table in view of the audience. A door is situated off to one side of the stage.

The scene opens with MARGARET sitting in her rocking chair, looking through a photo album. The decorated Christmas tree is off to one side and Christmas music is playing softly in the background. She has a sad, but somewhat content, look on her face. After she looks through the album for a short time, the doorbell rings. MARGARET slowly, and with some difficulty, gets up out of the chair and walks slowly to the door. Standing there, dressed in a heavy coat, is ROGER. He is carrying a bag of carpet cleaner bottles and a clipboard. He is obviously cold and very determined to make a sale.

MARGARET: May I help you, young man?

ROGER: *(Very perky, in a stereotypical salesman voice)* Oh, Ma'am, that's a great question, but I'm afraid it's the wrong question. The right question is, may I help you? How are you doing on this fine, yet chilly, day?

MARGARET: I'm sorry, but I'm really not interested in buying anything right now. *(She begins to close the door.)*

ROGER: Oh, but...*(He looks down at his clipboard.)*...Mrs. Benson, I believe your mailbox said, I'm not really selling anything right now. I'm here to give you an unbelievable, not-to-be-passed-up opportunity. Now, I know it's the day before Christmas Eve, but what better time to take advantage of this gem of a gift I have to offer you?

MARGARET: Really. *(She leans forward to look at his name tag.)* Roger. It's been kind of a busy day for me and I'd like to start...*(ROGER interrupts her.)*

ROGER: Then I have just the right thing for you, Mrs. B—may I call you Mrs. B? *(He goes on without waiting for an answer.)* If you'll just give me five minutes, I think your day will start looking better—I know your carpet will. You see, I'm here to offer you the deal of the century—hey, maybe even the deal of your lifetime. *(He takes a step forward.)*