

THE LISTS GO ON AND ON

by JOHN R. PLASTOW

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A wife describes her detailed plan for seasonal gift-giving to her husband.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Keep the tone light and the pace moving as the husband does his best to keep up.

TIME: 8 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2M, 2F

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 19:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

HUSBAND

WIFE

SON— 17 years old

DAUGHTER— 13 years old

PROPS: Newspaper, lots of lists and papers, an ugly nightshirt

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Living Room

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THE LISTS GO ON AND ON! *by John R. Plastow*

The husband and wife are seated near each other. The husband is reading the newspaper while his wife works over some papers.

WIFE: There! I'm finished with the lists.

HUSBAND: *(reading paper and not really paying attention)* That's nice.

WIFE: I thought I'd never finish! Now I want you to look at them with me.

HUSBAND: *(still not paying attention)* That's nice.

WIFE: Mark!

HUSBAND: *(snaps to attention)* Huh?

WIFE: I want you to go over our Christmas lists with me.

HUSBAND: All right. Shoot!

WIFE: I've divided our friends and acquaintances into several lists in order to help us know what is an appropriate gift this year. The lists range from various Christmas cards to moderately expensive gifts. Factors taken into consideration include family position, length of friendship, condition of friendship, desired condition of friendship, last year's gift from us, last year's gift to us, acknowledgement of other significant holidays from them to us, political affiliation, corporate position, potential damage and gain from giving a gift, and last, but not least, our personal budget.

HUSBAND: Oh. Sounds good to me.

Goes back to reading his paper.

WIFE: Mark!

HUSBAND: Huh?

WIFE: This is important! It will determine the entire next year for us, both socially and professionally.

HUSBAND: It will?

WIFE: Of course.

HUSBAND: Whatever happened to giving gifts just because you want to?

WIFE: Well, that's a part of it, but there are a lot of other things at stake here.

HUSBAND: Oh.