

## WRAPPED UP IN CHRISTMAS

by Carol Oyanagi

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** When Suzanne tries to write her annual Christmas letter, she finds that she has nothing interesting to write about. All her friends seem to have very exciting lives. In reality, they are busy with activities, decorating, and Santa Claus, and they realize something is missing. Suzanne discovers that even in an ordinary day, God is always doing something special. With this in mind, she writes her letter, and it touches the lives of her friends.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Have the characters perform in several different parts of the stage, possibly at different levels and use spotlights.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Christmas

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 1, Luke 2

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Women's Event

**CHARACTERS:**

SUZANNE - married mother of two

CHAR - married, one child"

ALEX - single woman

JESSIE - mother of three, one is a newborn

**PROPS:** Desk, chair, sheets of paper and a pen, 2 phones, Christmas tree with decorations, rolling pin and pastry sheet, table, laundry basket, baby clothes, Santa Claus decorations, wrapped gift

**COSTUMES:** Regular clothes according to each character's personality

**SOUND:** Four wireless microphones, background music

**LIGHTING:** General; spots to highlight each character

**SETTING:** General stage

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*Music up. Lights up. SUZANNE is sitting at a desk writing a letter. There are wadded up pieces of paper on the desk. Music fades.*

**SUZANNE:** *(As she writes)* December fifth, 2006. Merry Christmas! *(Pause)* No. Happy Holidays. Too generic. Seasons Greetings. Yuck! *(Wads up the paper)* Okay, when all else fails . . . *(Picks up a letter)* . . . steal somebody else's greeting. *(Reads)* Dear Bill, Suzanne, Michael, and Jackie. *(Looks up)* Oh. It's from Char. Char sends out about 200 letters every year, all handwritten, all personalized. *(Reads)* It was good to hear from you. We've almost finished remodeling . . .

*Lights up on CHAR.*

**CHAR:** *(Holding up a Christmas ornament)* We've almost finished remodeling our guest room. I wanted that new look—the stipple-painted pastels with the maroon trim. But Dave and I “compromised” on a more subtle color scheme... *(Bored)*... blue.

**SUZANNE:** Good ol' Char, voted Most Likely To Be Martha Stewart.

**CHAR:** *(Takes Christmas decorations from a box on the floor)* Dave's sister's family will be staying with us for Christmas. It'll be wonderful to have them! I just finished all my gift wrapping . . .

**SUZANNE:** Char makes her own wrapping paper and bows.

**CHAR:** . . . which gives me a lot more time to decorate. Oh, did I tell you we enrolled Richie in that new Masterson School for gifted children? We're so proud of him! *(Freezes)*

**SUZANNE:** Well, that's certainly a tough act to follow! *(Puts down the letter and picks up her pen.)* Okay. *(Writing)* Dear...whoever... Hope you're having a great holiday season. Not much has happened this year. Bill still works at Precision Tooling. Michael, 7th grade, still enjoys hockey. Jackie, 4th grade, still enjoys piano. My book club meets every Tuesday. The kids go to Sunday School...every Sunday. *(Balls up the paper and throws it on the floor)* Ugh! If I send that, everyone will call me and say, 'Suzanne, get a life!' Maybe I should just dash off an e-mail like Alex does. *(Rummages around and then picks up a piece of paper)* Here it is! *(Reads)* Holly Jolly everyone! Another year...

*Lights up on ALEX rolling out cookie dough.*

**ALEX:** Another year, another Christmas. Looking forward to my singles' annual ski trip up north — hiking, skiing, snowshoeing. I've been doing swing dancing every Wednesday and Saturday...

**SUZANNE:** Alex! So that's why we never hear from you!