

WOODROW, WITHOUT EVELYN

Written by

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Shooting Script

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A pair of aged hands carry a BABY through the room, flying her like an airplane, accompanied by a male voice imitating one. She flies past a Christmas tree and other holiday decor.

The aged hands belong to WOODROW, 60, who loves playing with his granddaughter.

WOODROW

Want to fly to mommy?

Near the front door, LAUREL, 25, readies for the cold weather. Her siblings STEVE and TINA and their three SPOUSES (all 20s) in the chaos of putting on coats.

STEVE

You know that tree's going to fall over, right?

WOODROW

It's not going to fall over.

He passes the Baby to Laurel.

LAUREL

Don't forget to turn the fireplace off before you go to bed.

WOODROW

I wish you weren't leaving so early.

TINA

Dave's uncle is expecting us.

WOODROW

What about our traditions?

LAUREL

It's only Christmas Eve.

WOODROW

It's Christmas Eve! We haven't sung any carols yet. What would your mother say?

Instant quiet. No one wants to break the silence.

STEVE

Mom's not here, dad. Do your own thing.

LAUREL
 (to her Spouse)
 You ready?

WOODROW
 You could all change your plans.

STEVE
 Yeah, right. See ya, pop.

Steve's spouse opens the door and they all exit, save Laurel.

VARIOUS
 Bye.

STEVE
 Fix the tree!

Laurel kisses Woodrow on the cheek.

LAUREL
 Merry Christmas, dad.

2 INT. TINA'S CAR - DAY 2

Tina turns to her spouse as she puts the key in the ignition.

TINA
 He'll be okay, right?

3 EXT. LAUREL'S VAN - DAY 3

Laurel's spouse opens the van, baby in arms. Laurel looks back at Woodrow in the doorway of his decorated house.

LAUREL'S SPOUSE
 What's with your dad and the
 carols?

LAUREL
 Mom would play piano and they
 always sing.

4 INT. STEVE'S CAR - DAY 4

Steve peers, head-cocked, at the house's front window.

STEVE
 Yeah, that tree's a goner.

STEVE'S SPOUSE
Enough about the tree!

STEVE
What?

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 5
Woodrow waits until the cars leave and closes the door.
He's alone.
The Christmas tree falls over. Woodrow's whole body sags.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 6
Woodrow shoves folded newspaper under one of the tree legs.

7 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 7
Woodrow hangs an ornament on his re-erected Christmas tree.

8 INT. DINING ROOM - DUSK 8
Woodrow meticulously wraps a present in blue wrapping paper.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 9
Woodrow hangs a stocking labelled "Woodrow".

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 10
Woodrow turns on electric tea lights.

11 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 11
Woodrow watches his frozen dinner spin in the microwave.

12 INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT 12
Woodrow slices a piece of turkey on his plate. Takes a bite.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 13

Woodrow enters, stands by the piano. The bench pushed in. Piano lid closed. He places a hand on top of the piano and closes his eyes. He begins to sing--

WOODROW

Joy to the world, the hmm hmm hmm.
Let men... hmm hmm...

He stops. He can't remember the words.

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 14

Woodrow stands before the piano. Two stockings hang above it: Woodrow's, empty, and one labelled "Evelyn", full of gifts.

He takes a gift out of Evelyn's stocking. Sits on the couch.

He contemplates the gift, then unwraps the blue wrapping carefully. A KNOCK at the door. Woodrow leaps up, excited.

15 INT. FRONT HALL - NIGHT 15

Woodrow opens the door, greeted by two Jehovah's Witness magazines held up by LUKE and PAUL, 20s, both immaculately groomed and dressed in near-identical shirts and ties.

LUKE

Good evening.

PAUL

Good evening.

WOODROW

Oh.

PAUL

Have you considered salvation?

WOODROW

I beg your pardon?

LUKE

Perhaps your wife?

WOODROW

She's passed.

An awkward beat.

PAUL
I'm sorry to hear that.

LUKE
Being a Jehovah's Witness means
never having to be alone.

PAUL
He's quite right.

Woodrow gets an idea.

WOODROW
Would you like to come in?

LUKE
Really?

16 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

16

Woodrow shows Paul and Luke to the couch.

LUKE
What do you know about God's will?

WOODROW
Before we talk, do you mind if we
sing some carols?

PAUL
Uh... we can't.

WOODROW
You'd make an old man happy.

PAUL
We don't recognize Christmas.

LUKE
It's not really a holiday.

PAUL
No.

Woodrow goes to the piano while they talk.

LUKE
Which means we're never alone on
Christmas.
(to Paul)
Can you imagine being alone on your
pagan holiday?

PAUL
That would be very disappointing.

LUKE
Very disappointing.

WOODROW
You must have traditions.

PAUL
Such as?

WOODROW
Let me give you something.

Woodrow pulls a gift out of Evelyn's stocking.

PAUL
I'm sorry but we can't.

LUKE
We'd really like to talk about
Jesus Christ. Did you know he died
on a stake?

Woodrow shakes the present. Luke eyes the present.

WOODROW
Are you sure?

LUKE
(to Paul)
We can give and receive gifts.

PAUL
As long as they aren't Christmas
gifts.

LUKE
Right.

WOODROW
These are just memories.

Woodrow hands a gift to each of them. Luke eagerly accepts.

PAUL
We offer you this complimentary
magazine.

LUKE
And life after Armageddon destroys
everyone else.

WOODROW

Open it.

Woodrow sits down to watch.

Paul opens his gift. It's a coffee mug that reads "*I Love My Grandma*". Paul's not sure how to react.

PAUL

It's very nice.

WOODROW

My daughter gave that to her last year, just after Susannah was born.

PAUL

A happy time.

WOODROW

It was.

Off Woodrow's glance, Luke tears into his gift. Looking at it in the paper, he puzzles over it.

LUKE

It's a table cloth, or--

He lifts white lace from the paper and holds it up with two hands. Granny panties. Pure lace granny panties, complete with control top. Luke's face turns ashen.

WOODROW

I forgot about those.

PAUL

We have to go.

LUKE

Yeah.

Paul hightails it, Luke thrusts the panties to Woodrow and follows suit. Woodrow rises, still clutching the panties--

WOODROW

Wait. Maybe we can sing a winter song. Frosty, or--

PAUL

Thank you for your time.

Paul goes out the front door, Luke follows.

WOODROW

Merry Christmas.

LUKE
Merry-- evening.

Luke quickly closes the door behind him.

Woodrow stands in his front hall. Alone.

17 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

17

Woodrow sits and picks up the gift he was opening before. Delicately, he unwraps a box. Opens the box. An antique pocket watch. He presses the button and the cover pops open.

Opposite the watch face, on the inside of the lid, is a photo of a younger Woodrow, smiling, posing with a beautiful woman.

Tears well in his eyes.

WOODROW
I miss our Christmases, Evelyn.

The Christmas tree falls over.

WOODROW (CONT'D)
Damn it.

He wipes his eyes and stoops down to the tree.

Somewhere outside, a voice sings:

VOICE
Joy to the world--

Other voices join in.

VOICES
The Lord has come / let earth
receive her king.

Woodrow tries to look out the window, but he can't see out.

18 EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

18

Woodrow opens the front door to see--

His children and their spouses, singing Joy to the World.

And a delighted Woodrow watches.

FADE OUT.