

NEEDS MORE CHRISTMAS  
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## NEEDS MORE CHRISTMAS

### Synopsis

A single mom is struggling with entering the dating pool after the mysterious death of her husband... but, thankfully, it's Christmas and cheesy Hallmark-magic is in the air.

### Notes

This is a parody of a Hallmark-style Christmas movie. It's cheesy, absurd, and a little bit raunchy.

### Cast of Characters:

- OLIVIA JONES - 35 years old, widow and mother to Johnathan-Jonathan. She gave up pottery but still owns and operates an art studio.
- JENNY DISCARGO - 32 years old, Olivia's roommate and best friend. She's an ornithologist, although she used to perform in porn films.
- STEAK GUNDERSON - 35 years old, a conflicted priest-in-training. He's super attractive.
- JUSTIN CRUSTING - 30 years old, live-in nanny, friend of Olivia and Jenny. He's maybe hopelessly in love with Olivia.  
Plays other characters, the Host, Barista, and police officer.
- SAM THE NEIGHBOR - Old man, bearded, jolly, no boundaries.
- JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN - A child whose age is not specific. He might appear to be around 12 or so, but he's treated much younger and wears diapers. Awkward in a way that makes you hate him and you think something is really wrong with this kid. Typical annoying theatre-kid character.  
Plays another character, Danny Devito.
- ALEX JONES - Olivia's husband who is \*spoiler alert\* not dead. He has a podcast. Is he the same Alex Jones you may know with a podcast? Not sure.  
Plays another character, the waiter, Seth.

### Place

Nondescript urban and modern

### Time

Early December, Present

ACT I  
Scene 1

Setting: OLIVIA and JENNY'S apartment, early evening - we see the living room. The entrance is stage left, with a window further left. Moving stage right, there is a closet door and a cabinet displaying ceramic jars and pottery. Then there are stairs that lead to bedrooms. There is a swinging door to the kitchen under the stairs. Stage right of the kitchen is a bathroom door.

At Rise: JENNY is pulling out Christmas decorations out of the closet next to the front door. She sets out a tree base downstage.  
Then, OLIVIA enters from the front door, hangs up her keys and purse.

OLIVIA

You're decorating already?

JENNY

Yep! Hey, do you wanna get a real tree this year?

OLIVIA

Nah, the fake tree is fine.

JENNY

Come on! I think our apartment NEEDS MORE CHRISTMAS. We only have a month!

OLIVIA

Ah.

(a moment as she prepares, dramatically:)

Twas the *month* before Christmas  
In this apartment of mine,  
And lo and behold...  
The fake tree is fine.

(flatly)

There, I made it extra Christmassy for ya.

JENNY

Jeez, alright.

(she goes back to the closet)

Help me carry?

(OLIVIA goes to the closet. They start to carry it out.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

This crappy MegaCorp tree is depressing plastic. Real trees smell so good!

OLIVIA

I just don't want one!

(They're getting closer to the base. JENNY looks behind her at the needles on the floor.)

JENNY

Is it because of the needles? Because honestly, this fake one sheds just as much-

OLIVIA

Can you *please* just DROP IT?!

(JENNY drops the tree on OLIVIA's foot. She writhes in pain on the floor.)

OLIVIA

OWWWW!

JENNY

Oh no! I'm so sorry!

OLIVIA

Why did you let go??

JENNY

You said to drop it!!

OLIVIA

I meant the stuff about a real tree!

JENNY

Ohhhh... Sorry.

OLIVIA

It's okay, I'm fine.

JENNY

Really? I can take a look at it if you're worried.

(OLIVIA helps herself up.)

OLIVIA

Nah, I'll be fine.

(JENNY lifts the tree easily with one hand and pops it into the base.)

JENNY

You sure? I *am* a doctor.

OLIVIA

You have your PhD in ornithology.

JENNY

Birds and humans have more in common than you'd think.

OLIVIA

Maybe you're right, but as an expert of my foot, I'm fine.

JENNY

You know your foot best. Unless there was a photo of your foot, floating around on a fetish forum.

OLIVIA

Ew, dude.

JENNY

Buncha sickos wanking it to your feet.

OLIVIA

I said *ew*.

(JENNY gets another box, hands it to OLIVIA. OLIVIA begins to unpack the other box and hands JENNY decorations to put on the tree or set out. The decorations are weird. See list at the end of the script.)

JENNY

You're in quite a mood, no?

OLIVIA

Yeah, sorry.

JENNY

Is it because of MegaCorp?

OLIVIA

Not MegaCorp, although... they're evil.

JENNY

Are they still trying to buy your studio?

OLIVIA

Not since I convinced them it's haunted. Don't you remember the Halloween special?

JENNY

Oh yeah, the Halloween special! Now that's what I call holiday entertainment. But now it's December, so why the mood?

OLIVIA

I'm just a little on edge about tonight.

JENNY

Oh yeah! What time's your date?

OLIVIA

Seven.

(JENNY starts pulling out a garland. She wraps it around the tree.)

JENNY

This is the guy you met at the grocery store, right?

OLIVIA

Yeah.

JENNY

How the hell did he pick you up at a grocery store?

OLIVIA

Actually, I picked him up.

(OLIVIA pulls out a decoration and sets it out on a table.)

JENNY

No way. You?

(one breath)

Miss "I'll never find a man 'cause I'm *afraid* to go on dates but I'm *afraid* to be alone but I'm *afraid* I'm not good enough or no one will ever be good enough 'cause I'm Miss 'Fraidy Cat Olivia"?

OLIVIA

How long have you been rehearsing that?

JENNY

You picked a guy up at the grocery store?

OLIVIA

I did. It's pretty cheesy actually.

JENNY

Wait, wait, wait-

(the cheesiest cheeser)

Were you in the cheese aisle?

OLIVIA

(not amused)

Ha. No, we were in the meat department.

JENNY

Ewwwwwwwww. The meat department stinks. There's dead stuff everywhere.

OLIVIA

Yeah. So ANYWAY, I went up to the counter and asked the butcher guy, "What's the best steak?"

JENNY

"Best steak", look at you.

OLIVIA

Look at me. So, ANYWAY, I asked for the best steak, and this really handsome guy steps up, and says,

(lowered voice, suavely)

"Actually, that would be me."

(Silence, OLIVIA waits for a reaction, JENNY is dumbfounded.)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

His name is Steak.

JENNY

OH mygod. He hangs out by the meat, ready to pounce on some hottie who says his name!?

OLIVIA

I was like super confused at first, but then after he explained that his name is Steak-

JENNY

Because of course he'd *have* to explain-

OLIVIA

I told him straight up, "That's the worst thing I've ever heard."

JENNY

Uh-huh.

OLIVIA

We laughed about it, and he said that he's actually never tried that before-

Mmm-hmm... JENNY

OLIVIA  
But, he said he thought I was really beautiful and... he took his moment. It was cringey, but then it was really sweet.

JENNY  
...He said he's the best steak?

OLIVIA  
Yeah, okay...

JENNY  
I thought you said *you* picked him up!

OLIVIA  
I did! After we chatted for a bit, I said, "Well *I'll* take an order of *you*."

(JENNY dry heaves.)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
I told you it was cheesy!

JENNY  
You watch too much Sex and the City, that sounds like some Samantha nonsense.

OLIVIA  
The show isn't the same without her, you know how I feel about this!

JENNY  
God, you're pathetic.

OLIVIA  
I am not!

JENNY  
I don't remember you being like this with Alex.

(OLIVIA is suddenly quiet and serious, the air leaves the room for a long moment.)

JENNY (CONT'D)  
Sorry. Are you okay?



OLIVIA

What do you think Alex would say about me going on a date?

JENNY

You knew him best... What do you think?

OLIVIA

(pulls out her phone)

Well, in this one podcast episode he says-

JENNY

Olivia... I thought you were done rehashing all that.

OLIVIA

I can't help it. It replays in my head, over and over. I should've never let him get on that plane. I knew something was wrong, I could feel it.

(breaking down)

I should've stopped him.

JENNY

You couldn't have known, he traveled for work all the time. No one could've stopped him. And, no one could have stopped the runaway blimp.

OLIVIA

I actually heard from the Coast Guard yesterday. They found more of the wreckage.

JENNY

Any sign of Alex?

OLIVIA

No. It's been two years, I'm not really expecting anything.

JENNY

But you never know-

OLIVIA

They said when the blimp collided with the plane, his whole row was either thrown out or-

(both hands karate chop violently)

chopped up in the engine.

(A long pause as they contemplate that tragic and depressing fact.)

JENNY

(instantly casual)

But you're moving on, you're meeting men at the meat counter!

OLIVIA

(bounced back)

Right, Steak! I think I really like him, I just have doubts.

JENNY

You'll be fine.

OLIVIA

Will anyone ever be as amazing as Alex? He made me feel like a princess trapped in a tall tower.

JENNY

Y'all did have a nice penthouse, but-

OLIVIA

He was so open, he always let me in.

JENNY

That was the doorman-

OLIVIA

Alex was my soulmate... maybe I don't deserve another.

JENNY

Come on now, that sounds like some bullshit from Lifetime channel.

OLIVIA

I have no life *or* time!

JENNY

Give yourself a break. You're busy! You have the studio, your family- OH, did you tell him about Johnathan?

OLIVIA

Jonathan or Johnathan-Jonathan?

JENNY

Johnathan-Jonathan.

OLIVIA

No, I didn't tell him about Johnathan-Jonathan. I *still* just *still* feel like it's *still* all too soon *still*.

JENNY

But you like this guy, he likes you, you should be upfront with him that you have a kid.

OLIVIA

Yeah. I just, it's such a buzzkill to feel all hot and sexy on a date, and then be like, "Oh yeah, there's a gremlin that busted out of my vagina."

(JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN and his nanny JUSTIN enter.)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Hi gremlin!

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

Look everyone! I got a goldfish!

(He shows a very dead goldfish floating in a plastic bag.)

OLIVIA

Oh boy, yes you did.

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

I named my goldfish Floaty because he loves to float!

OLIVIA  
(to JUSTIN)

Justin, how did Floaty... learn to float so well?

JUSTIN

Well, it's hard to say exactly how. Could have been the twirly ride-

(JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN swings the bag in giant arm circles.)

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

Look! So fun!

JUSTIN

It also could have been when he showed Floaty the hot tub at the clubhouse-

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

Floaty loved it! Look how relaxed he got!

OLIVIA

I guess Floaty can also enjoy the apartment's plumbing system. Anyway, my little gremlin, do you wanna help us set out the Christmas decorations?

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

No, Christmas is the worst.

OLIVIA

What! Don't say that.

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

There's overconsumption, fueled by consumerism... and breaking and entering!

OLIVIA

Santa isn't breaking and-

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

It's an obligation to give, mostly to those who don't need it! Plus, deforestation.

OLIVIA

Well, we don't have a *real* tree-

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

Even worse. It's from MegaCorp. They're evil! AND it's plastic. All the fossil fuels burned-

OLIVIA

That's enough! Why don't you go to the kitchen? Get a snack or something?

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

I'm doing an intermittent fast right now, but I'll go reorganize my supplements!

(JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN exits to the kitchen.)

OLIVIA

So, Justin, I have a date tonight-

JUSTIN

Really? Dang, lucky guy.

OLIVIA

Justin, you know-

JUSTIN

I know, I know, you are "not physically or emotionally or spiritually attracted to me." It's fine! I just want you to be happy.

OLIVIA

Well thank you. Yeah, so I have this date tonight-

JUSTIN

Ouch!! ...Ha ha just kidding!

OLIVIA

I was wondering if maybe you and Johnathan-Jonathan could hang out tonight while I'm gone?

JUSTIN

Yeah I'll hang! I'll hang ten, hang twenty, I'll do the hang, you do your thang.

OLIVIA

Thank you so much! Best nanny and best friend EVER.

(JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN enters from the kitchen.)

JENNY

Hey, *I'm* your best friend.

OLIVIA

You are!

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

You said last night that I was your best buddy.

OLIVIA

You are! I am so lucky to have my best friends, and we're all under one roof!

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

It's an apartment, Mommy. We share the roof with other people.

OLIVIA

Justin, why don't you take Johnathan-Jonathan and... Floaty, and find something fun to do.

JUSTIN

Alright, buddy, let's go show Floaty a fun ride in the toilet.

(JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN and JUSTIN begin to exit upstairs, but as they walk, we hear JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN:)

JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN

I hate to tell you, but I'm pretty sure Floaty is dead.

(They exit. A beat.)

JENNY

I don't know why you feel the need to hide that precious gremlin from your new man.

OLIVIA

I hate this, can we talk about *your* love life?

JENNY

I have sexual tension with everyone. If we started to talk about my love life, I'd go on for hours and you'd miss your date.

Uh-huh. OLIVIA

JENNY  
Anyway, this isn't about me, this is about you.

(OLIVIA rolls her eyes and starts up with the decorations again.)

JENNY  
You and *Steak*. Steak and Olivia... might as well be Steak and *Olives*!

OLIVIA  
That's so dumb.

(JENNY grabs a de-juiced jar of olives and starts throwing them at her.)

JENNY  
STEAK AND OLIVES, SITTING IN A TREE-

OLIVIA  
JENNY!

JENNY  
S-E-X-"ING"-I-N-G

OLIVIA  
STOP!

JENNY  
First comes searing, then comes resting, then comes steak medallions ready for digesting!

OLIVIA  
I hope you're happy. You wasted the good Christmas olives.

JENNY  
It was worth it. They were my family heirloom anyway.

(OLIVIA pulls out one very long stocking that lists all their names - OLIVIA, ~~ALEX~~, JOHNATHAN-JONATHAN, JUSTIN, JENNY.)

OLIVIA  
Well, you gotta clean all this up. And you're stuffing the Olive Stocking yourself.

JENNY  
Gladly.

(JENNY picks up olives and OLIVIA goes to get more boxes.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Maybe tonight you'll get *your* olive stuffed.

OLIVIA

Wait, wasn't that a line from that film you did?

JENNY

Yeah! That was an extremely quotable porno.

OLIVIA

It really was!

(They keep decorating.)

JENNY

So what does Steak do?

OLIVIA

He said he's a priest.

JENNY

Oh no... a priest?

OLIVIA

What?

JENNY

Are you gonna like, fuck him up or something?

OLIVIA

Ehhh... I'll probably wait for the third date.

JENNY

Not sexually!! I mean, beat his ass!

OLIVIA

Wha- Why would I do that?

JENNY

Priests are child molesters! God, Olivia, don't you watch the news?

OLIVIA

He's not a child molester.

JENNY

It's more likely than you'd expect. I mean, I saw the movie *Spotlight*.

OLIVIA

Well I didn't, but that doesn't mean he's a child molester.

JENNY

How can you know for sure? If you go on this date, you better make him pay for his crimes.

OLIVIA

I'm just hoping he'll pay for dinner.

(JENNY goes to a drawer and pulls out a bedazzled handgun.)

JENNY

Here, take this gun.

OLIVIA

WHAT!

JENNY

You don't have to *shoot* him, you could just point it at him and threaten him.

OLIVIA

Hell no! Jesus... And why is there just a casual gun in the drawer? My son could have found that!

JENNY

It's for protection.

OLIVIA

Get rid of it!

JENNY

...I never even got to use it. Come on, just take it for tonight.

OLIVIA

Hell no! I'm going on this date WITHOUT WEAPONS because he's NOT a child molester.

JENNY

Now I get why you don't wanna tell him about your son.

OLIVIA

I'm not acknowledging that. You know, he's not even a priest, he's like, in training or whatever.

JENNY



Don't priests have to take a vow of sexual silence or something?

OLIVIA

Celibacy? Yeah, I have no idea if that's still a thing.

JENNY

I don't trust the catholic church. They outlaw sex, but not with children?!

OLIVIA

Listen, I'm already freaked out about dating in general, I don't need you inside my head.

JENNY

Why go on a date with a priest who you can't fuck? You're not even religious!

OLIVIA

He seemed nice, okay? And he's hot. So.

JENNY

Whatever.

(JENNY pulls out a clock with a winking Santa, hangs it on the wall.)

OLIVIA

Is that the time?

(looks at her watch)

I gotta start getting ready.

JENNY

You better call or text me with updates, I don't wanna worry about you.

OLIVIA

I'll be fine!

JENNY

Yeah, you're right. He won't try anything, you're clearly not a minor.

(OLIVIA begins to exit when there's a knock on the door.)

OLIVIA

You expecting someone?

(JENNY shakes her head no. JENNY opens the door. We see an older man, SAM, and he has a very mysterious Santa-like quality to him.)

SAM

Well, hello young ladies! I'm new to the building and just wanted to introduce myself, HA HA HO, my name is Sam.

OLIVIA

Welcome to the building! I'm Olivia.

SAM

Wow, what an apartment! Stairs and everything, wow! I thought my apartment was fancy because I have a chimney, HA HO HO!

JENNY

Did you need something?

SAM

(ignores JENNY)

Look at those stairs. How many bedrooms you got up there?

OLIVIA

(counts on her fingers)

There's me, Jenny, Justin, Jonathan-Jonathan... four bedrooms!

SAM

Four bedrooms, wow!

OLIVIA

I know, you *never* see that in an apartment!

JENNY

So, Sam, we're actually busy right now-

SAM

Well miss, I'm sure you're probably busy, bet you have a big date you're getting ready for-

OLIVIA

How did you know that?

SAM

Oh, ho ho, just a lucky guess, I suppose!

JENNY

I bet he was listening through the door.

SAM

Well, I just wanted to introduce myself, but I can come back later. I hope your date is good, for goodness sake!

(SAM winks at the audience)

JENNY

Yeah okay goodbye.

(JENNY slams the door in his face.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Okay, now *there's* a child molester if I ever saw one.

OLIVIA

Not everyone is a child molester, GOD!

JENNY

You really have no radar for weirdos, huh?

OLIVIA

Well I know I'm living with one!

JENNY

And you have a date with one.

OLIVIA

He's not a weirdo!

(OLIVIA starts to go upstairs to her bedroom.)

JENNY

The red flag was his name. What kind of hillbilly, inbreeding, child-bridging parent names their kid Steak?

OLIVIA

(huge sigh, not even an attempt to disguise the frustration)

How did my life come to this?

JENNY

And how did my wife-

JENNY & OLIVIA

-Come on my tits?

OLIVIA

That really *was* a quotable porno.

JENNY

It really was!

(OLIVIA exits to her bedroom. JENNY unpacks one final decoration.)

BLACKOUT