

CS#9 Mother and Old Man

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A Christmas Story, The Musical

ACT II

(SANTA and the ELVES exit, perhaps ready to blow off some steam. RALPHIE, somewhat shaken, is comforted by JEAN.)

(#15a: “Up on Santa’s Lap [Playoff] & Transition to the Parker House”)

JEAN. Despite my near debacle with Santa and the elves at Higbee’s, I *had* managed to at least log my air rifle request with the big man. Who knows—maybe I’d get the air rifle *and* a football. It was Christmas Eve. I had renewed reason for optimism. But, of course, that’s always the moment when life plays tricks on you. Cruel, unexpected tricks.

SCENE 6

(The Parker family house. Christmas Eve. In low light, we hear sounds of THE OLD MAN grumbling and working on the furnace in the basement as MOTHER is rearranging decorations in the window. Suddenly, we hear crashing sounds. The lights come up to reveal MOTHER and the broken leg lamp on the floor.)

Start

THE OLD MAN *(from offstage)*. What broke?

(RALPHIE and RANDY retreat into hiding, fearing what may come next. THE OLD MAN emerges from the cellar.)

THE OLD MAN *(cont’d)*. What happened? What broke?

JEAN. At that moment, the old man knew. A thing he’d feared from the very first day had come to pass.

MOTHER *(softly, but overly dramatic)*. The lamp.

(THE OLD MAN is devastated. He rushes to the lamp. RALPHIE has come out of his room, and RANDY has now poked his head out of the below-the-sink door. THE OLD MAN drops to the floor beside the broken lamp.)