

A CaroliForniaRado Christmas

Cast: Carolina Husband: Bubba
Carolina Wife: Faye
California Husband: Tad
California Wife: Heather
Rescuers

Storyteller: (Plays a song on the guitar) Well, it's that time of year again. The lights are sparkling, the tinsel is twinkling, the carolers are caroling, and all the turkeys are hiding in fear hoping that they won't be the culinary guest on your table. Yes Sir, it's Christmas time again. And you know, the thing about Christmas is, it has this way of bringing people together. And I suppose that's entirely appropriate since Jesus, the real meaning of Christmas, came specifically for the purpose of bringing God and man together.

That kind of togetherness between God and man has a way of rubbing off on people. You can be short tempered and ill eleven months out of the year, but when people start singing Silent Night and Linus starts quoting the Christmas story, it's just hard not to get along.

But even as I say that, I can see that you yourself may be just a bit skeptical. Perhaps you remember some times during previous Christmas seasons when family dinners turned into family brawls, trips to the store turned into free-for-all's, and you had the overwhelming desire to set fire to somebody's coveralls!

Yeah, I suppose it can be like that from time to time, especially when you have laid out elaborate plans for the best Christmas ever, and the unexpected occurs. A thing like that can throw even the godliest person out of kilter for a little while.

But some things are better understood when they are seen rather than explained. So if you will pardon me, I'll just hush up for a while and let you sit back and enjoy our Christmas play this year. It is our privilege to present to you at this time, A CaroliForniaRado Christmas.

Opening Scene: Two Rooms in two houses. At stage left is a house in N. Carolina
At stage right is a house in California

As the two men sit at the table, reading the paper, the wives begin to sing. Heather takes the first line of each, non italicized. Faye takes the italicized. Both sing the bold parts in harmony.

(To the tune of “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”)

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go,

Take a look at mountain hills, all of the rocks and rills, covered in a fresh new powder snow,

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, Santa’s at the mall,

But the thing that you need to know as through the season you will go is the reason for it all...

A pair of new Prada shoes with some reds and some blues is my hope for Christmas this year,

Our Jesus has come a new life has begun one that has no worry or fear...

(Both) oh how I love this wondrous month, my favorite time of year,

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go,

There’s a tree in the formal den, it’s all lit up once again, and a pile of Christmas presents are below,

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, soon the sales will start,

But the thing that will make me sing and a smile to my face bring, is within my heart...

A pair of new Prada shoes with some reds and some blues is my hope for Christmas this year,

Our Jesus has come a new life has begun one that has no worry or fear...

(Both) oh how I love this wondrous month, my favorite time of year,

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, soon the sales will start,

But the thing that will make me sing and a smile to my face bring, is within my heart, is within... my... heart...

Wives: Bubba/Tad?

Husbands: (from behind paper) Yeah, Honey?

Wives: I've been thinking about Christmas.

Husbands: Uh huh. (Absent mindedly)

Wives: Why don't we do something different this year.

Husbands: Uh huh. (Absent mindedly)

Wives: Let's go to Colorado!

Husbands: (shocked, drops paper) Colorado!?!

Wives: Colorado!

Faye: I'm tired of Christmas in North Carolina. All it ever does is rain.

Heather: I'm tired of Christmas in California. It always feels like summer.

Wives: I wanna see snow for Christmas!

Husbands: But Honey, I don't know a thing about Colorado!

Wives: That's OK, I got this great brochure that tells all about it. See? "Have a White Christmas. Enjoy a view of snow capped mountains from the front porch of one of our rustic cabins. Sit by a roaring fire. Relax, and best of all, enjoy the privacy and total seclusion of our mountain paradise."

Husbands: (sounding interested) Privacy and total seclusion?

Wives: That's right!

Faye: No sister Earline bringing her seven bratty kids over to destroy our house!

Heather: No cousin Shirley bringing her transcendental meditation group over for the holiday seance.

Bubba: No brother Billy Bob bringing over his hunting beagles for us to board?

Faye: Nope

Tad: No calls from the "Out of Work Actors Guild" asking us for a donation?

Heather: Nope.

Wives: Total seclusion.

Tad: (stands) Honey that's a great idea!

Bubba: (stands) Sweetie that's plum brilliant!

Tad: Fresh mountain air

Bubba: New fallen snow.

Tad: We could be there.

Bubba: I'm ready to go!

Husbands: (grabbing brochure, sitting down, grabbing phone and dialing) I'll call right now!

Husbands: Hello? Mountain Rentals?

Tad: We'd like to rent a cabin.

Bubba: Just two of us.

Husbands: December 18th thru 25th

Bubba: What is the thing that made us choose you?

Husbands: The total seclusion. You have exactly one left? (each looks at his wife) We'll take it! (hangs up)

Faye: Oh honey, I'm so happy!

Heather: I can't believe it. We're going to Colorado.

Bubba: The snow

Tad: The clean air.

Faye: The fireplace.

Heather: The relaxation. But above all:

All: The Total seclusion!

(Fades to Black)

(An instrumental interlude)

Scene Two: Setting is a cabin in the woods. Both couples enter scene from different directions and shout.

All: Colorado!

(All move toward door. Husbands with key in hand. They move for the door together with their individual keys. They stop, an awkward moment ensues.)

Tad: Oh, you guys must be the janitorial service, could you make sure we're well supplied with fresh linens and mineral water?

Bubba: Janitorial service? We're the customers, we're stayin' here!

Heather: Excuse me? I don't think so. We came all the way from California. We have reservations for this cabin and we're staying here. (Holding up proof)

Faye: (Holding up her own proof) Oh no you're not. Cause I have our reservations for this cabin right here! We came all the way from North Carolina and we're staying here!

Husbands: (each grabbing the opposing wife's reservation card) We've been double booked!

Bubba: Well, we'll just fix that. I'll get on my cell phone and make this company give you guys another place to stay!

Tad: Make them give you another place to stay. We're already here!

Bubba: Hush. Hello? Mountain Rentals? Yeah, this is Bubba Stephens. We're up here at cabin 17, and there's another family here with us. It looks like you double booked this cabin. These folks need another cabin. Where should they go? . . . What do you mean all of the other cabins are full? . . . Well what are we supposed to do? . . . I don't care if it does have two rooms. We're not staying in the same cabin with a couple of obnoxious California Fruitcakes!

Tad: Fruitcakes! Why you uneducated, backwoods, Carolina bumpkins!

Bubba: Bumpkins! Why I ought to knock your ugly head off!

Tad: You and whose army? (At this point husbands grab each other and wrestle, grapple, fall down and roll around. At this point, wives intervene with various cries of enough! Stop! Will you two knock it off! Finally, husbands stop and slowly get up, mumbling and brushing themselves off)

Faye: Look, We both came over 1000 miles to be here. There's nowhere else to stay. We might as well make the best of this.

Bubba: She's right. If Mary, Joseph, and Jesus could spend the first Christmas sharing a cave with animals, I reckon we can spend this Christmas with y'all

Tad: Do you always talk like that?

Bubba: What, "Y'all"?

Tad: No, Mary, Joseph and Jesus! (Bubba and Faye exchange puzzled glances)

Heather: We're not used to people mentioning "religious figures." It's kind of taboo where we come from.

Faye: Well, where we come from, we're pretty serious about celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Bubba: Right. And normally, we try to think about Him all year long, except when I'm acting like a donkey, arguing and fighting with total strangers. Man, I want to apologize. It's not your fault this company double booked us. If you can stand spending a week with a couple of back woods bumpkins, we can stand spending a week with. . .

Tad: A couple of California fruitcakes. I suppose we can live with that, but don't expect us to sing Christmas carols with you or anything like that. We are definitely not the religious type, and we never will be.

Faye: Well, we can stay out here all night, or we can go inside and enjoy the uh, (holds up the brochure)

Wives: Total seclusion! (All go inside)

Scene fades to black. Musical interlude

Scene Three: Morning. All four come out from inside the cabin. Stop on porch to stretch and prepare to go their separate ways.

Bubba: Wow! It sure is easy to sleep out here with the wind whistling through the trees.

Tad: Is that what that was?

Heather: We thought it was some big, meat-eating creature! We didn't sleep all night!

Faye: Oh, sugar, I'm sorry.

Bubba: Yeah, that's a crying shame, I slept like a baby.

Tad: That's okay, man, we're actually used to not sleeping so well unless we have our medication, and we forgot it back home.

Faye: You have to take pills to sleep? Do you have some medical condition?

Heather: No, there's just so much to worry about.

Faye: Seriously? Like what?

Tad: All kinds of things! (Let each of these phrases escalate in panic and volume)
Global warming, fracking, ground water contamination, the loss of the rainforest, the Tea Party, home schoolers, creationists, genetically modified crops, and Justin Bieber! Oh, man, things are bad, bad, bad. We're going into town for a while to calm our nerves. I need an espresso (They turn to leave. Heather looks back as they walk away...)

Heather: Toodleoo!

Faye: Uh, yeah. See ya!

(After they leave, Bubba and Faye continue to talk)

Bubba: Wow, them folks are wound up tighter than the strang on a 90 pound compound bow.

Faye: I'll say. Why do ya reckon they're like that?

Bubba: Well, that one's easy. When people don't know the Lord, everything is gonna make em nervous. Christians have something lost folks don't have. Here, look at this (he pulls out a pocket new testament and opens it to Philippians 4:6-7)

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And

the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We Christians may not have much, but we do have something worth more than all the money and jewels on earth: peace that passes understanding, peace that isn't dependent on our circumstances.

Faye: You're right, as usual, and I love that verse. Tell ya what. While we're out and about, let's us pray for them folks.

Scene fades to black. Musical interlude.

Scene Four: Tad and Heather come back into scene carrying many shopping bags. Bubba and Faye come back into scene from other side, dragging a Christmas tree. They meet stage center)

Bubba: Howdy! D'jall have a good day?

Tad: Oh, just peachy. We found a quaint little coffee shop, browsed the antique market...

Heather: And found this darling little pair of shoes on sale for only \$490.00!

Faye: Four hundred and ninety dollars?!?

Bubba: I could buy a registered blue tick hound dog for that!

Tad: Blue tick hound. Riiiiiiight. Uh, hey, dude, what's with the foliage?

Bubba: This? This is going to be our Christmas tree. Cut it down m'self.

Tad: Christmas tree?

Faye: Sure! Don't y'all have Christmas trees in California?

Heather: Well, we did spray paint the coconuts on our palm tree one year.

Tad: Yeah, until the society for the prevention of cruelty to plant life threatened to sue us.

Bubba: Uh, right. Well why don't we go inside and find something to decorate the tree with.

(All go inside, scene fades to black. Musical interlude)

Scene Five:

Tad and Heather are backstage, Bubba and Faye are decorating the tree and singing “O Christmas Tree.” When they are done, the tree is decorated with strands of pop corn.

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging

Not only green when summer's here,
But also when it's cold and drear.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Such pleasure do you bring me!
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Such pleasure do you bring me!

For every year the Christmas tree,
Brings to us all both joy and glee.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Such pleasure do you bring me!

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You'll never be unchanging!
A symbol of goodwill and love
You'll ever be unchanging

Each shining light
Each silver bell
No one alive spreads cheer so well

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You'll ever be unchanging

Tad: Dude! You two sing great. And that is awfully creative to deck the tree with boughs of pop corn!

Bubba: Yeah, this is the way we did it when I was a little boy. Mama would decorate the tree and daddy would read to us from the Bible about the day God the Father decorated the first Christmas tree.

Heather: I beg your pardon? Like, I may not be a theologian, but I'm pretty sure that the Bible doesn't say anything about God decorating the first Christmas tree.

Bubba: Actually it does. Honey, hand me that Bible and I'll read it.

Faye: Sure. Here ya go. (Hands him a Bible)

Bubba: It's found several places in the Bible, but I like to start with Matthew 27:32-37. (He finds it and reads it) That was the day God the Father decorated the first Christmas tree.

Tad: Dude, this time, I think you have lost it. First of all, that cross can hardly be considered a Christmas tree. Second, where are the ornaments? Third, I see a bunch of nasty dudes crucifying your Jesus, but I don't see God the Father anywhere.

Bubba: Well, let's start from where you ended and work backwards. You say that a bunch of nasty dudes crucified Jesus, but you don't see God the Father involved. But Isaiah 53:10 says that it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. It was God the Father who gave His Son up on Calvary for our sins. You say you don't see any ornaments. The Father took the most beautiful and precious thing in all of Heaven, His Son, and hung Him on that tree. Anyone who wanted to could see the beauty of His sacrifice, His love, His meekness, and His determination. He is the most beautiful thing any tree has ever been decorated with. You say that you don't consider the cross as a Christmas tree. Every Christmas tree ever known has gifts under it. Well every drop of blood that fell from Jesus' veins onto the ground below that tree is a gift from the hand of God, a gift that never gets old, ineffective, or out of date. There has never been a more beautiful Christmas tree than the cross of Christ...

Tad: Whoa, man. You ought to be, like, a preacher or something.

Bubba: Well, I appreciate the compliment, but think real carefully about what I've said.

Heather: I think we have way too much life ahead of us to go thinking about all that religious stuff.

Faye: Heather, how do you know? You may not have as much time as you think. James 4:14 says, "Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." You never know when you may be out of time.

Tad: Oooh, the conversation is getting kind of gloomy. We're here for a vacation. Let's do something more uplifting. I know, let's all meditate and do some yoga!

Bubba: Um, you guys go ahead. I think we'll just slip off into our room and pray for awhile before hitting the hay.

Tad: Sure, dude. While you're at it, put in a good word for us!

Bubba: Oh, we will. We will ...

Scene fades to black on stage right, on stage left, Bubba and Faye are kneeling in prayer.

Bubba: Dear Lord, We see your hand at work so very clearly. We know that it's no accident that you brought us here along with Tad and Heather. Lord, these folks are precious souls for whom you died, but Lord, they don't think that they need you. Lord, I pray that you will do whatever is necessary to help them see just how badly they do need you. This we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Faye: Amen.

(Scene on left fades to black. Scene on right slowly lights to reveal Tad and Heather asleep on the couch with the TV on. They stay asleep throughout it)

Commercial 1: (Cellular mockup) Can you hear me now?

(Lights can go on and off on TV to Switch commercials)

Commercial 2: It's an embarrassing problem, but nobody wants to talk about it. We're talking about Nose Hair Itch! You can't scratch it, people think you're picking. What do you do? Get "Nostrilitis" Stops nose hair itch, fast!

Commercial 3: Howdy, there friends, and welcome to Tire Kingdom. You want tires, we got ties. Big tires, small tires, new tires, old tires. Tires, tires, tires. If you need 'em, we got 'em. Come on down to Tire Kingdom, we're dealing!

Commercial 4: I'm your pastor, and I've just had to endure the worst deacon meeting in the history of mankind, and now I'm a little bit, twitchy. So much so that I just preached a message on gossip, and I called out Bertha Blabber mouth by name. Now Bertha is body slamming every deacon, trustee, and Sunday school teacher, trying to get through them to get to me. In the process, she just broke seven pews, the baby grand piano, the communion table, and five collar bones. And if you have cut rate insurance, it may not pay for all this. So get Allstate, and get protected from Mayhem, like me...

News: And now, a special news bulletin. This is a severe weather alert. All residents of and visitors to the Colorado mountains should evacuate immediately. A massive snow storm is expected to drop 8 to 10 feet of snow before morning. Everyone in the Colorado mountains is advised to evacuate immediately. Every dwelling place in the path of the storm is expected to lose power with just a few...

(All lights go off. They come back up on the instrumentalist. Musical interlude.)

Scene Six: Both couples come out of their rooms, stretching and yawning)

Faye: Did you guys get some better sleep last night?

Heather: A little bit. It got very cold, though, and why is it so dark in here?

Bubba: Well, apparently, the power went off last night. It must have snowed nearby and knocked out some power lines. Let's light these candles. Wait a minute, if it snowed...

All: We may get our white Christmas!

Tad: Let's go see!

(All rush for the "door". When they get to it, they bounce off of it back into the room, falling over.)

Tad: What in the world? The door must have swollen during the night. We may have to crawl out the window and open it from the outside.

(The men go to the windows on the opposite side of the door. They "open the curtains" and step back, shocked)

Tad: Duuuuuuude. Like, what is all the white stuff covering the windows?

Bubba: That's about 10 feet of snow. We're snowed in! We're trapped!

Tad: Snowed in?!?

Heather: Trapped?!?

(Tad and Heather look at each other, then run around each other like idiots, screaming. Drag this out a bit. Then they try the phone.

Tad & Heather: The phone is dead! Agggghh! (They run around panicking again)

Bubba: Guys, Guys, GUYS!

(Bubba grabs Tad, Faye grabs Heather. They "synchronized smack" them and both shout.)

Bubba & Faye: SNAP OUT OF IT!

(Tad and Heather look at each other, and slink onto couch together, exhausted.)

Tad: Thanks, Dude. I needed that.

Bubba: O.K. Let's all keep calm. There is absolutely no need to panic.

Faye: Bubba's right. We don't have phone or power, but we have plenty of blankets, and turkey, ham, and chicken in the fridge.

(At that, Tad and Heather just look at each other sheepishly.)

Tad: Uh, we may have another problem.

Bubba: What do you mean?

Heather: Well, we're total vegans.

Faye: Well, Honey, it looks like you're about to learn the joys of eatin' meat.

Tad: It's not going to be quite that simple.

Bubba: Why not?

Tad: We, uh, we got offended at being in the same house as innocent slaughtered animals, and . . .

Bubba: And What?!?

Heather: We threw it all out last night!

Bubba & Faye: You WHAT?!?

Tad: (Stomping and whining) We threw it all owhouhout!

Faye: What did you expect us to eat?

Heather: Sprouts!

Bubba & Faye: Sprouts?!?

Tad: Sprouts. The woods around the cabin are filled with natural organic sprouts!

Bubba: Newsflash! We can't get outside to graze on them! What now?

Faye: Hold on, Honey. Let's be calm. Remember, God is still in control, even through this.

Bubba: I know, Honey. But we may be trapped in here for days or weeks. What are we going to eat?

Heather: POPCORN!

Bubba & Faye: What?

Tad: Popcorn! There are three strands of popcorn on the tree! Dude, we can eat your Christmas tree ornaments!

Bubba: (Laughing) Well, yeah, I suppose we can. If we share one strand a day, we can make it at least till Christmas. So! Let's eat ornaments!

(They take down one strand, congregate on the couch under a blanket and begin to munch. Lights go down, extinguish candles. Replace with shorter candles.)

Scene Seven: Lights come up to reveal another strand of popcorn gone. Shorter candles.

Scene Eight: "Last strand"

Scene Nine: Lights come up to reveal all strands gone. All four are shivering on the couch.

Tad: I can't take it anymore! We're snowed in. We're all gonna die here, and we don't even have any more ornaments to eat! We're gonna die on Christmas Day!

Bubba: Calm down!

Tad: Calm down! Calm Down?!? There's not enough Prozac in Hollywood to calm me down right now!

Faye: You're right.

Tad: What?

Faye: Prozac can't help you. It'll take something a lot stronger than Prozac.

Heather: Oh, and I suppose you know just the pill that'll do the trick.

Bubba: Just the pill? No. Just the person, yes.

Tad: Oh, please. This is definitely not the time to go all "Jesus Freak" on me, cause He sure hasn't helped you any. You're in the same boat we are.

Bubba: Really? Look again. We may be in the same cabin, but we're not in the same boat. The boat you're in is filled with fear, not the one we're in. Your boat is being tossed about, ours is anchored safely in Jesus. Most of all, your boat

doesn't have a captain. Jesus is the Captain of our boat, and whether He sails us through life or through death, as long as we are with Him, every thing will be fine. No, we're not in the same boat at all.

Tad: You really believe in Him, don't you?

Bubba: Yes.

Tad: No matter what happens, even if you know you'll end up dying in this cabin, you're satisfied just to be "saved"?

Bubba: Right.

(Tad and Heather look at each other)

Tad: Dude, do you have any more room in your boat? We'd like to come aboard...

(Have a singer sing Ship Ahoy while couples go through the Bible and pray in the Background)

Tad: Dude! This is great!

Heather: We should have done this years ago.

Tad: Bring on the starvation and the hypothermia. I may die of cold, but I'll never feel the flames of Hell! This is the best December 25th has ever been.

(All four weep, cry, and hug.)

(While this is going on a rescuer appears outside with a bullhorn, snow shoes, etc.)

Rescuer: Hello in the cabin. This is Mountain Rescue unit 45. We've come to save you.

Tad: Dude, you're too late! We just got saved!

(Rescuers just look at each other, perplexed. Scene fades to black.)