

Emma and the Winter Prince
or the Girl who saves Christmas

A Play in Two Acts

Written by

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ACT I

SCENE 1

At rise, we see the front of a McMansion:
Tans and Browns. And a sense of other
McMansions one after another.

Off stage, the sound of a moving truck
loading door rolling up.

In bursts EMMA, a feisty 12
year old girl. She is
wearing her pajamas. MOM
follows close behind,
carrying bed sheets.

EMMA

I know I put it in a box! Labeled Books!

Mom shakes her head at the
state of her room. She
checks to see if Emma has
put anything into the closet
It's empty.

MOM

I'm sure it's in here somewhere, Emma. I think you just need to
spend some time actually unpacking all these boxes.

In bursts ALEX, Emma's 9
year old brother swinging
a toy lightsaber, dressed
in his favorite pajamas,
with DAD right behind.

ALEX

I found my Star Wars stuff! Awesome!

DAD

We got some of Alex's things unpacked at the same time. Put away
is a whole other issue. What about you, Emma?

MOM

You want us to help you?

ALEX

I'll help! Use the force to lift these boxes!

EMMA

No. I don't want to unpack! I want to go back to Springfield!
I miss Becky, and Dori, and. And where's the SNOW! It's December,
and no SNOW!?

ALEX

I know! How can we play with my Tauntauns? Or fight the Wampa?

MOM

Or freeze in the wind?

EMMA

Or throw snowballs at Alex?

ALEX

Hey!

MOM

Or catch cold?

DAD

Or shovel the driveway?

EMMA AND ALEX

Good point.

DAD

C'mere, both of you.

Dad sits on the bed, and
hugs Alex and Emma close
to him.

DAD

I know this move is hard. And you two have been fantastic helping out.

MOM

Your dad and I really appreciate it.

DAD

Now, true, Sunnyslope might not be Springfield, and we might not have snow.

MOM

Thank goodness!

DAD

But we've got each other! And with Christmas around the corner, just think of the huge christmas tree we can get!

ALEX

Do they even have them here?

EMMA

Yeah, I bet here they use one of those cactus' or something.

MOM

Cacti.

EMMA

Cacti. Whatever. And all their needles will poke you as you try to decorate it and-

ALEX

No way! I want a REAL tree!

DAD

Cacti are trees.

ALEX

No they're not. Tree have leaves, and bark, and turn different colors in the fall.

MOM

Alex, we wont be having a cactus for our tree.

ALEX

How would Santa be able to put presents under it?

EMMA

You know that-

DAD

Ah-ah. None of that now.

MOM

It's time to make your bed before you hit the sack. Wanna help Alex?

ALEX

Nah.

Alex hops off the bed, and
shuffles through a half
open box labeled TOYS.
Mom and Dad start to make
the bed.

EMMA

Get out of there. Don't mess with my stuff.

ALEX

Do you even play with this stuff anymore? Can I have it?

EMMA

No! Leave that alone.

ALEX

Cool! Our radios! And a flashlight. And your bear!

EMMA

Give me that!

Emma snatches the bear from
Alex. Alex takes the
radios.

ALEX

Buzzzt. Come in Command. Captain Bonzi here. Come in Command!
Can you read me?

DAD

Buzzzt. Roger, Captain. Read you loud and clear.

EMMA

Mom!

ALEX

Planet Sunopolis is so hot! Mission Snowman is aborted. Heat
wave reaching over 5 gigabites.

EMMA

Mom, make them stop playing!

MOM

Alright, that's enough.

DAD

C'mon Captain!

Dad puts down his radio.
Alex grabs it.

ALEX

Oh no. Buzzzt! Power failing! Buzzt! Watch out. For. The Space.
Trooooooooool.

Alex "dies" on Emma's bed.
With a grin, he takes a
radio and hides it under
his sisters pillow, but
holds onto his.

DAD

Bed time, Captain! Time to brush the toothy pegs.

ALEX

And more Captain Bonzai?

DAD

Only if the Captain's toys are put away.

ALEX

Roger that!

MOM

Say good night to your sister.

ALEX
Good night sister!

DAD
Emma?

EMMA
Good night.

Mom moves some boxes around,
looking for something.
Dad tries to get Alex out
of the room.

ALEX
Cause I can't wait for the Space Troll to attack Captain Bonzai!

DAD
Space troll? Who said anything about that?!

ALEX
C'mon! There's always a troll! That's what they do. He can
jump from the Time Bridge and then Bonzai has to save the--

EMMA
Good night already!

ALEX
There's something very wrong with anyone who doesn't like Captain
Bonzai.

Dad and Alex finally leave.
Mom opens up another BOOK
box.

EMMA
Mom, why'd we have to move?

MOM
Sometimes life hands you difficult choices. You have to make the
best of it.

EMMA
Not like I have a choice.

MOM
We always have a choice, Emma. Well, look what we have here!

EMMA
What?

MOM
See if you can guess. I have leaves, yet I am not a tree.
(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

I have a spine, yet I am not a man. I have hinges yet I am not a door! I have no voice, yet I can speak. I also hold things that many seek. What am I?

EMMA

What? I don't know. Alex is way better at riddles than I am.

MOM

Maybe you should ask Bartelbee? Or not. Here.

Mom pulls out of the box
Emma's MEMORY BOOK. It is
a large three ring binder
filled with scrapbook pages,
article clippings, photos.
Anything that catches Emma's
imagination.

EMMA

You found it!

Mom sits down next to Emma.
Emma takes the book and
flips it open.

EMMA

See! Look at all that snow back home! Remember that snow fort
Dori and I made!

MOM

I think we really pummeled the boys, didn't we.

EMMA

Dad was frozen for a week!

MOM

And this camping trip?! Remember the bird nest we found?

EMMA

And that cool tree!? I climbed all the way to the top! I could
see forever. Almost see Springfield!

MOM

I know you miss your old friends, but think of all the new friends
you'll make here, and all the new pages we can put in your memory
book. Like these of last Christmas. Santa sure was good to you
that year.

DAD comes in and leans
against the door.

EMMA

Mom, you know there's no Santa. Sheesh.

DAD
Really? How do you know?

EMMA
Everyone knows.

DAD
Oh-ho! I wouldn't say that aloud. He might hear you!

ALEX (O.S.)
Mom!

EMMA
Whatever dad.

DAD
Oh ye of little faith! To say that tonight of all nights!

EMMA
Dad.

ALEX (O.S.)
MOM!!

MOM
I think I am being called! Good night, hon.

Mom kisses Emma on the cheek,
then looks askew at Dad.

MOM
No Captain Bonzai?

DAD
He wanted the Queen of the Universe to tell the story.

MOM
At least he got my title right. See you in a bit.

Mom leaves.

DAD
Tonight's the Solstice!

EMMA
I know.

DAD
So you know what happens.

EMMA
Saint Nicholas sends out his son, Prince Woden, to collect all
the Solstice Coins. You've told this one a million times.

DAD

So, you know if you place a Solstice Coin under your pillow, the toys make sure Woden comes and checks in with them. And it prevents Jack Frost from stealing you away and turning you into a Winter Goblin. Because if Jack Frost gets his hands on you, and the sun rises, you'll turn into a Winter Goblin!

EMMA

Dad, you know there's no Santa, or Jack Frost, or Winter Goblins. Especially out here in Sunnyslope! And I'm too old for all that.

DAD

No Solstice Coin?

EMMA

Nope.

DAD

Alex has one.

EMMA

He's a kid. And he still believes in Santa.

DAD

You're still a kid too, you know.

EMMA

No I'm not. I'm almost 13. I'm almost a teenager.

Dad pulls out an old,
tarnished coin.

DAD

Yes, yes, you are. You sure?

EMMA

No thanks, dad.

DAD

Alright. Bear?

EMMA

Sure.

Dad gives her her bear, and
puts the coin on the
nightstand. She rolls
over as he tries to kiss
her good night.

DAD

Good night, Emma.

EMMA

Night.

Dad turns off the light,
and leaves the door ever
so slightly cracked open.

EMMA

Good night Bartelbee.

Time passes.

A strange staticy noise
makes Emma's eyes pop open.

EMMA

What was that?

She looks around. Nothing.
She puts her head down.
The noise again. She bolts
upright.

EMMA

Who's there?

ALEX

(From the radio under the
pillow.)

Eeemmmmmaaaaaa!

EMMA

What?

ALEX

Eemmmmmaaaaaa!

EMMA

Wait a second...

ALEX

Come find me, or I'll find YOU!

Emma listens close, and
finds the radio under her
pillow.

EMMA

You should be asleep!

ALEX

Oh come on, sis! We haven't played Lost and Found for ever!

Alex tip toes into Emma's
room, holding a small
flashlight.

EMMA

You're are gonna be in big trouble when I tell Mom and Dad you're
up past your bedtime, and-

ALEX

BOO!

EMMA

Alex!

Alex flops on Emma's bed,
laughing. He is carrying
one of his favorite action
figures.

EMMA

Shhhhh! Mom and Dad are gonna hear you!

ALEX

Nah. They're watching TV. You put your coin under your pillow?

EMMA

Nope.

ALEX

What? Why not?

EMMA

Santa doesn't exist, silly.

ALEX

Does so!

EMMA

Nope.

ALEX

Does!

EMMA

Doesn't.

ALEX

DOES! Bet 'cha!

EMMA

Bet what?

ALEX
Chores. For a whole month. You do mine if I prove to you there
is Santa.

EMMA
All Month.

ALEX
All month?

EMMA
You're ON!

They pinkie swear. When
they do, a noise from the
closet makes them freeze.

EMMA
What was that?

ALEX
Wasn't me!

EMMA
Flashlight!

Emma grabs the flashlight
and points it at the closed
closet. They stare for a
moment. Then relax.

ALEX
Should we turn on the light?

EMMA
No way! Mom and dad will get angry if they see our lights on.

The door creaks. They point
the flashlight at it again.
It's OPEN!

ALEX
It's open!

A sound of boxes moving.

EMMA
Shhhh!

Emma frantically turns off
the flashlight. It is
eerily dark. They both
dive under the covers.