# SANTA COME HOME

By Michael Kimball

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# Cast of Characters

JOAN:	Housewife, 57. With her daughters
	grown and gone, Joan has been forging
	har independence

her independence.

PHILIP: Joan's husband, 59. Recently retired TV

Joan's husband, 59. Recently retired TV celebrity, Captain Zeus, the consummate entertainer

SUSANNA: Older daughter, 34, issue-wrestling

social worker

TOM: Susanna's husband, 35, handsome;

habitually unemployed

ATHENA: Younger daughter, 25, pretty,

wholesome, habitually happy

GORDON: Athena's friend, 60, white-hair, scruffy

and bearded

MORGAN: Susanna's friend, 20-25, small;

hyperactive

# ACT TWO, Scene One

# GRANGE HALL STAGE

Philip, in Santa outfit--sans beard, hair, and hat-crosses the stage as if behind the curtain.

The stage is decorated for a small-town Christmas show. A Christmas tree stands upstage center, with gifts underneath. A nativity manger sits close by.

#### **PHILIP**

Costumes are hanging in the dressing room, people. What happened to the chairs?

Philip heads for the wings as Athena and Gordon enter, Gordon carrying his gift box. Joan follows behind. Behind them, Susanna comes arm in arm with Morgan. They mount the stage...

From the wings Philip carries two big chairs (for Santa and Mrs. Claus) and sets them beside the tree.

# **SUSANNA**

(to Morgan)

That's right, one foot in front of the other.

# **PHILIP**

(peeking through the curtain)

See the equipment out there? Athena? All the lights? Twenty-three million people. That's what it's all about.

# ATHENA

(ignoring him)

Gordon, go ahead and put your gift under the tree.

Susanna leads Morgan offstage.

# **SUSANNA**

Come on, hon, you can sleep in the wings. It'll be over before you know it.

PHILIP

Costumes, people.

**SUSANNA** 

Mary does not need a half hour to pull a robe over her head.

**PHILIP** 

We need to be dressed so we can prepare.

**JOAN** 

We've had twenty-two years to prepare, Philip. Another minute isn't going to help.

**PHILIP** 

Mental preparation, Joan. Time to become one with our characters, quiet the nerves, sharpen the concentration.

**GORDON** 

Sounds like meditation.

**JOAN** 

Oh, yes, meditation.

(seeing her chance to expose Gordon)

Meditation. Yes. Oh, Philip? Why don't we let Athena's friend lead us? In meditation?

**PHILIP** 

Now? The film crew's all set up--

**JOAN** 

-- and share all that wisdom he acquired in the Himalayas--

**PHILIP** 

They're about to let the audience in--

**JOAN** 

Philip?

**ATHENA** 

(onto Joan's scheme)

I'll meditate with you, Gordon. Come on over here.

**PHILIP** 

Oh, really, Love, there's just no time--

**SUSANNA** 

(getting it, she pulls Philip along)

Daddy? Athena thinks a little meditation might be enlightening, don't you?

PHII IP

Oh. Well. On second thought, maybe a little...

**JOAN** 

If we all keep an open mind, isn't that right, Athena?

As they drag folding chairs from the wings.

**GORDON** 

I don't know, it's been such a long time--

**JOAN** 

A minute or two might be all the enlightenment we need.

**GORDON** 

(standing behind them)

Okay then... I guess we could begin by sitting--

Sitting.	JOAN
and closing our eyes.	GORDON
Closing our eyes. Of course.	JOAN
Momma? We're supposed to be quie	ATHENA et.
	Morgan drags a chair out from the wings.
Hey, can I get in on this?	MORGAN
We're meditating, Morgan.	SUSANNA
I thought only the cast	JOAN
Close your eyes, Mother.	SUSANNA
I don't know. Looks like a set-up to	MORGAN me.
Don't be silly.	JOAN
	MORGAN
(to Gordon) How'd you get 'em to go along with	you?
We're ready, Gordon.	ATHENA
Well, now, as I recall, I suppose we	GORDON should breathe
Breathe. Sorry.	JOAN
That's right	GORDON
That's right  (as Morgan slumps of See, you're more relaxed already.	over, asleep)
	Tom, dressed as Joseph, comes down the aisle, coffee mug in hand.

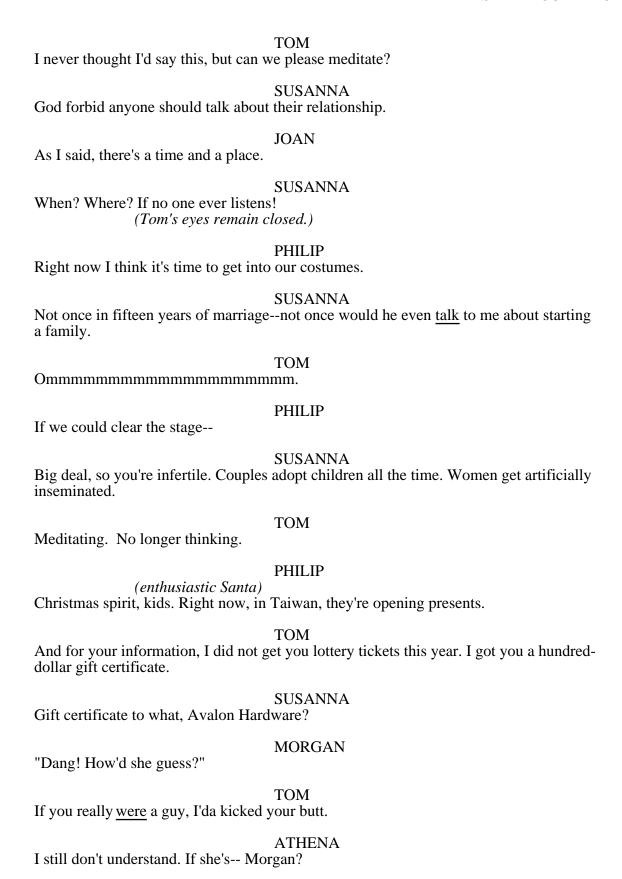
Joseph is in the house.	TOM
Asshole.	SUSANNA
Hey, Athena, the pie was delicious.	TOM Nice and moist, not too filling.
I thought it was great.	SUSANNA
Tommy, come join us. We're medita	PHILIP uting.
Bad back.	TOM
Ah, the back. After fifteen years, th	SUSANNA e medical world is still mystified.
(gently) Be nice.	JOAN
	TOM
(as Joseph) Lo, there was no room at the inn, so character.	they tried the grange hall. I am so into this
You won't hurt your back, Tom. All your mind.	ATHENA I you have to do is sit for two minutes and clear
	SUSANNA
That shouldn't be tough.	SOSTIVITI
(to Joan) I couldn't let it go.	
And now let's see if we can empty o	GORDON ur minds of all thoughts, all cares and concerns
Already doin' it.	TOM
No, you're not.	SUSANNA
How the hell do you know?	TOM
Because you're talking, numb-nuts.	SUSANNA



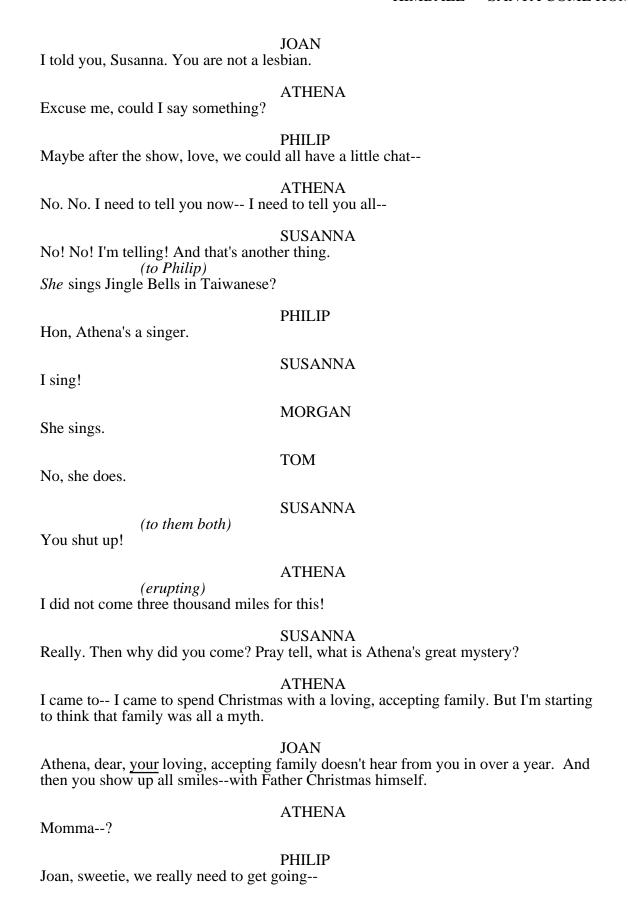
Tommy, how	do you know you wer	GORDON en't thinking?
Because I chec	cked. Am I thinking?	TOM No.
Isn't that a tho	ught?	ATHENA
No, it's a checl	k.	TOM
I'm gonna scre	am.	SUSANNA
	ld try another way. Le t one thing: say, a blu	GORDON et's see if we can go, oh, twenty seconds, without e football.
Twenty second	ds without thinking of	PHILIP a blue football? I've gone almost sixty years.
Thirty here.	(high five)	TOM
Okay, twenty s	seconds, here we go. I	PHILIP No blue footballs. Ready? Set?
Piece of cake.		TOM
Go!		PHILIP
		After three seconds, Tom begins struggling. Likewise Joan and Philip. And Susanna.
This is nuts!	(to his feet)	TOM
	(going to the mange	r, looking out through the curtain)
What's the ma	tter, big shot?	SUSANNA
He was just sh	owing you, Tom.	ATHENA
Yeah, sure. Bl	ue football. I told you	TOM , she followed me home.

You let her in!	SUSANNA
She was homeless!	TOM
I'm sorry, what are we talking about	ATHENA ?
God, you're stupid.	SUSANNA
You married me, what's that make y	TOM ou?
A woman who's been educated.  (Joan touches her an	SUSANNA (m)
I know. I know.	
Guys?	ATHENA
We really should get into our costum	PHILIP nes
Oh, Philip, shut up and meditate.	JOAN
We can do this! Come on!	SUSANNA
We're very close. Fifteen seconds. R	GORDON eady, everyone? Close your eyes
How am I doing, big guy?	MORGAN
You're doing splendidly, Morgan. Street Ten seconds of peaceful, quiet reflect	GORDON hhh. Fifteen seconds. Or how about ten? Why not? etion
There goes a green hockey puck.	TOM
Imbecile.	SUSANNA
Susanna?	JOAN
Yeah, can we hold it down? I'm tryi	TOM ng not to think. Trying not to think.

Or should we try for five seconds?	GORDON		
How about if music's playing in you	TOM r headyou know, no words, just the music		
God! See what I put up with? Fifte	SUSANNA en years.		
At least I never shacked up with a le	TOM esbian.		
Guys?	ATHENA		
Eyes closed, Susanna	GORDON		
SUSANNA Is it just me? He brings a woman home from a bar			
A lesbian! We were football buddie	TOM es! Were!		
	He shoots a look at Morgan. One by one, all eyes open and also turn to Morganwhose eyes open too.		
Hello, sports fans.	MORGAN		
You? You're the one he brought ho	JOAN me?		
Ironic, wouldn't you say?	SUSANNA		
Wait. He brought Morgan home	ATHENA		
She. Followed. Me.	TOM		
I followed him.	MORGAN		
And that's probably enough meditat	PHILIP ion		
We haven't <u>slept</u> together, if that's w staying in the guest room. She's give	SUSANNA hat you're all so concerned about. Morgan's been ing me time to adjust.		



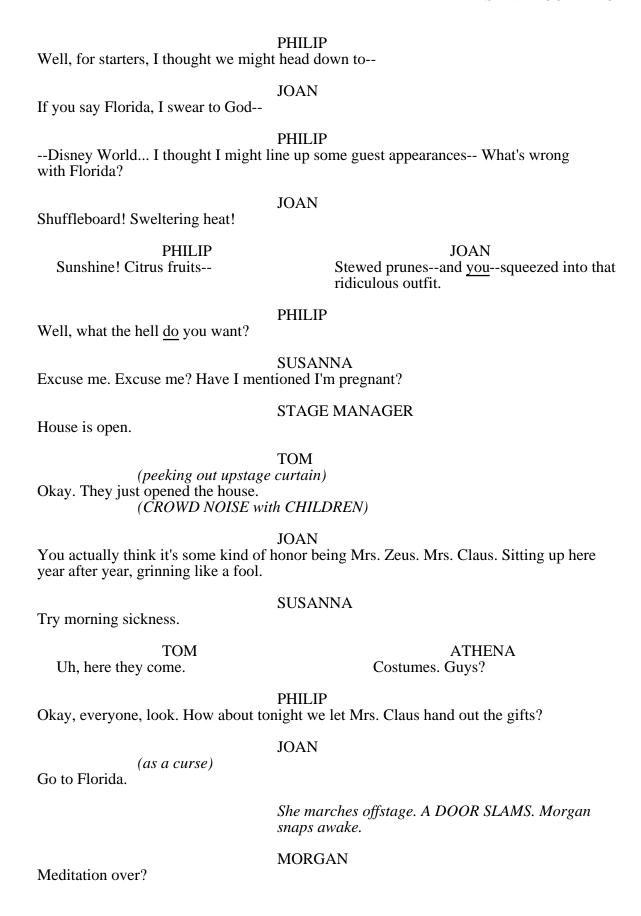
Question?	MORGAN
He's a guy. Why would you go home	ATHENA e with him?
Needed a bed. Something to eat.	MORGAN
	Susanna studies Morgan, hawklike.
	JOAN
(to Morgan) Excuse me, dear. You're not a lesbia	n, are you?
Lesbian?	MORGAN
(revelation) You're homeless?	SUSANNA
Was.	MORGAN
You're homeless. I'M PREGNANT!	SUSANNA
Woo-hoo!	MORGAN
Yeah! (on second thought) Well	TOM
You're homeless And I've been fee	SUSANNA eding you?
We really need to get a move on.	PHILIP
cooking you dinner when I get hon front of that TV!	SUSANNA ne from work, while you stretch your lazy ass in
I used to do all the cooking.	TOM
/. <b>1</b> /	SUSANNA
(to Morgan) For the last month, I've clean up afte. Wrestling? I bought you that slutty C	r you! Put up with your football, your hockey Christmas dress!



**JOAN** How dare you move to San Francisco? **PHILIP** Well, we're all together now. That's the important thing. That, and of course the show. **JOAN** Oh, yeah, everything's just Jim-friggin'-dandy with you! Spend the best years of our lives prancing around the world in a Halloween costume, and you come home every Christmas so the town can have their wonderful Captain Zeus, Santa Claus, or whoever the hell you're supposed to be. And now, thirty years later, you just decide to guit your job in a blaze of glory--**PHILIP** They were going to fire me, Joan. -- and come prancing back . . . home . . . ATHENA Daddy? **PHILIP** The company was filing for bankruptcy. Pulling the plug on my pension, my health plan. On me. So, yeah. Captain Zeus came home. JOAN Well, maybe I'm not ready for Captain Zeus. ATHENA Momma--? **JOAN** I have a life of my own now. Or maybe you haven't noticed. I had to make a life. What do you expect, when everyone leaves you? ATHENA I didn't leave you. **JOAN** Oh, Athena, you couldn't get farther away from me and still be in this country. TOM Hawaii. ATHENA It wasn't you, Momma. It wasn't anyone. It was me. That's what I've been trying to tell you--

JOAN

Philip, do you know what comes after retirement?



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Four minutes.

TOM

Umm . . . I think we're getting a countdown.

PHILIP

Costumes! Make-up!

ATHENA (O.S.)

(going after Joan)

Momma? Our costumes-- (returning)

She's locked in the dressing room.

Philip hurries to the wings.

**PHILIP** 

Joan, it's live TV! Twenty-three million people!

JOAN (O.S.)

You invited em, you entertain 'em!