

# **A Charlie Brown Christmas**

By Charles M. Schulz

## *Cast*

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Charlie Brown

Linus

Sally

Lucy

Frieda

Violet

Patti

Shermy

Pig Pen

Schroder

Snoopy (non speaking)

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***Scene One***

**Narrator 1:** It was finally Christmastime, the best time of the year. The houses were strung with tiny colored lights, their windows shining with warm yellow glow only Christmas could bring. The scents of pine needles and hot cocoa mingled together, wafting through the air, and the sweet sounds of Christmas could be heard in the distance.

(:19)

**Song – “CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE” (2:47) (3-5)**

**Narrator 2:** Fluffy white snowflakes tumbled from the sky onto a group of

joyful children as they sang and laughed, skating on the frozen pond in town.

(:12)

**Song – “WINTER WONDERLAND” (2:16) (4)**

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**Narrator 3:** Everyone was happy and full of holiday cheer. That is, everyone except for Charlie Brown.

**Charlie:** *(to Linus)* I think there must be something wrong with me. I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I might be getting presents and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel.

**Linus:** Charlie Brown, you are the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem. Maybe Lucy is right. Of all of the Charlie Browns in the world, you are the Charlie Browniest.

(:37)

Use Soundtrack music to change scenes (Skating)

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Scene Two

*Charlie walks through the snow, thoughtfully. Goes to his mailbox, pokes head inside. Looks disappointed because it is empty.*

**Charlie:** *Speaks into mailbox with echo effect* “Hello in There? (To audience, sad) Rats! . Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?

*Violet enters. Reading a Christmas card.*

**Charlie:** Thanks for the Christmas card you sent me Violet (sarcastic).

**Violet:** I didn’t send you a Christmas card!

*Charlie grumpily shoves his hands into pockets, makes face.*

**Charlie:** Don’t you know sarcasm when you hear it?

(:17)

**Song - “HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS” (2:11)**

(3-5)

-5-

Scene Three

**Narrator 3:** Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, but Charlie Brown was still sad. (*Charlie sits in front of Lucy's psychiatric booth.*)

**Schroder:** I think you have a customer. *Motions to psychiatric booth.*

**Charlie:** I am in sad shape...

**Lucy:** (interrupts) Hold up there Charlie Brown! I need 5 cents from you for my kind of advice! (*Charlie reaches in pocket, drops a nickel in her money can.*)

**Lucy:** Boy, oh Boy, I love the beautiful sound of cold, hard, cash. That beautiful, beautiful sound. Nickels, nickels, nickels. That beautiful sound of plunking nickels. Alright, now what seems to be your trouble?

**Charlie:** I feel depressed. I know I should be happy, but I'm not.

**Lucy:** (proudly) Well, as they say on TV, "the mere fact that you realize you need help indicates that you are not too far gone." I think we better pinpoint your fears. If we can find out what you're afraid of, we can label it. Are you afraid of responsibility? If you are, then you have hypengyophobia. How 'bout cats? If you're afraid of cats, you have ailurophasia. Are you afraid of staircases? If you are, then you have climachaphobia. Maybe you have thalassophobia. This is a fear of the ocean. Or gephyrobia, which is the fear of crossing bridges. Or maybe you have pantophobia. Do you think you have pantophobia?

**Charlie:** What's pantophobia?

**Lucy:** The fear of everything.

**Charlie:** That's it! Actually Lucy, my trouble is Christmas. I just don't understand it. Instead of feeling happy, I feel sort of let down.

(1:25)

**Song -** "WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?" (3:42) (5)

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(Scene Three continues after song)

**Lucy:** (*Lucy comes out from behind booth*) You need involvement. You need to get involved in some real Christmas project. How would you like to be the director of our Christmas play?

**Charlie:** Me? You want *me* to be the director of the Christmas play?

**Lucy:** Sure Charlie Brown, we need a director. You need involvement. We've got a Shepherd, musicians, animals, everyone we need. We've even got a Christmas Queen! (*Indicating herself.*) (*Charlie rolls his eyes in disgust*)

**Charlie:** I don't know anything about directing a Christmas play.

**Lucy:** Don't worry; I'll be there to help you. I'll meet you at the auditorium. (*pauses for a second*) Incidentally, I know how you feel about all this Christmas business, getting depressed and all that. It happens to me every year. I never get what I really want. I always get a lot of stupid toys, or a bicycle, or clothes, or something like that.

**Charlie:** What is it you want?

**Lucy:** Real Estate.

(1:07)

**Song -** "WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS"(1:36) (4-5)

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## ***Scene Four***

*Snoopy enters, hauling a large brown box overflowing with colorful holiday lights, etc. Charlie follows Snoopy to his house while Snoopy creates a large roof display.*

**Charlie:** What's going on here?

*Snoopy grins, hands Charlie a flyer.*

**Charlie:** FIND THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. WIN MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! SPECTACULAR! SUPER-COLOSSAL! NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DISPLAY CONTEST.

*Charlie looks into sky with dismay.*

**Narrator 1:** Even his very own dog had gone commercial. The thought of the contest made Charlie Brown feel positively sick. Was money all anyone cared about? Charlie Brown couldn't stand it.

*Charlie throws flyer in air, walks away.*

(:26)

**Song -**

**"IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS" (1:28)**

*-(4-5) possible replace with partner song "Holly Berries"*



## *Scene Five*

*Sally and Charlie enter*

**Sally:** I've been looking for you, big brother. Will you please write a letter to Santa Claus for me? You write it, and I'll tell you what I want to say.

**Narrator 2:** Charlie was in a hurry to get to the school auditorium on time to play rehearsal, but he couldn't say no to his sister.

*Charlie takes pen, clipboard from Sally.*

**Charlie:** Okay, shoot.

**Sally:** I have been extra good this year, so I have a long list of presents that I want.

**Charlie:** (sighs) Oh, brother.

**Sally:** Please note the size and color of each item, and send as many as possible. If it seems too complicated, make it easy on yourself: just send money. How 'bout tens and twenties?

**Charlie Brown:** (dismayed) Tens and Twenties. Oh, even my baby sister!

**Sally:** All I want is what I have coming to me. All I want is my fair share.

(:45)

**Song - "NOTHIN' FOR CHRISTMAS" (2:45) (3)**

## *Scene Six*

*Charlie rushes off to auditorium.*

*Lucy speaks as children are dancing around to music Schroder is playing.*

**Lucy:** Our director will be here any minute and we'll start rehearsal. Here he comes. (all clap) (Snoopy boos.)

**Charlie:** Man's best friend. We're going to do this play, and we're going to do it right!

**Lucy:** (*Lucy picks up scripts*) Alright, I'm here to assign roles. Frieda, you're playing the innkeeper's wife.

**Frieda:** Do inn keepers wife's have naturally curly hair?

**Lucy:** Pig Pen, you're the innkeeper.

**Pig Pen:** In spite of my outward appearance, I shall try to run a neat inn.

**Lucy:** And Shermy, you're the Shepherd.

**Shermy:** Every Christmas is the same. I always end up playing the shepherd.

**Narrator 3:** Snoopy was delighted to play the roles of all the different animals. From sheep, to cow, to penguin. (*Snoopy acts out each animal*)

**Lucy:** (*Lucy goes to Linus, hands him a script*). Memorize these lines, so you can recite them on cue.

**Linus:** (*Linus hugs blanket tight*) This is ridiculous! I can't memorize something like this so quickly! Why should I be put through such agony? Give me one good reason why I should have to memorize

this!

**Lucy:** (*Lucy mechanically makes fist.*) I'll give you five good reasons:  
One,  
two, three, four, five!

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(Scene Six continues)

**Linus:** Those are good reasons. Christmas is not only getting too commercial, it's getting too dangerous.

**Lucy:** (*Lucy frowns*) And get rid of that stupid blanket! What's a Christmas Shepherd going to look like holding a stupid blanket like that?

**Charlie:** Alright! Lets have it quiet! Places everybody. Schroeder set the mood for the first scene.

(*Schroeder begins to play piano Linus and Lucy*). Use sound track to dance to. Cast dances.

(1:23)

**Charlie:** Cut! Cut! It's all wrong! Lets rehearse another scene instead.

**Frieda:** Pig Pen's dust is ruining the style of my naturally curly hair!

*Sally watches Linus intently, rests head on shoulder occasionally.*

**Sally:** (*Sally watches Linus intently, rests head on shoulder occasionally.*) Isn't he the cutest thing?

**Lucy** (with snoopy): We want a lunch break!

**Charlie:** Good Grief... There's no time for foolishness. Lets take it from the top again! (*Schroeder plays piano [Linus and Lucy]. Everyone dances.*)

**Lucy** (to Charlie): What's the matter? Don't you think it's great?

*Charlie shakes head.*

**Lucy:** Look, let's face it. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket. It's ruined by a big eastern syndicate, ya know.

**Charlie:** Well, this is one play that's not going to be commercial. What our  
play needs is the proper Christmas mood. We need a Christmas tree.

**-11-**

**(Scene Six continues)**

**Lucy:** (*Lucy claps with excitement.*) Hey, perhaps a tree. A great big shiny aluminum Christmas tree! That's it! Get the biggest aluminum tree you can find. Maybe paint it pink!

**Narrator 3:** Charlie Brown left Lucy in charge of rehearsal, and set  
out with Linus to find the perfect tree for their play.  
(1:00)

**Keep? Or just do "O Christmas Tree" -Song – "ROCKIN' AROUND  
THE CHRISTMAS TREE" (1:38) (4-5)**

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***Scene Seven***

*Charlie and Linus enter tree lot. Go to small green pine tree,  
on a simple wooden stand. [O Tannenbaum]*

**Linus:** Gee, do they still make wooden Christmas trees?

**Charlie:** This one seems to need a home.

**Linus:** I don't know, remember what Lucy said? This doesn't seem to fit the modern spirit.

**Charlie:** I don't care! We'll decorate it, and it will be just right for our play. Besides, I think it needs me.  
(:19)

**Song – “O CHRISTMAS TREE” (3)**

(track continues to connect the next scene)

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### *Scene Eight*

[play Christmas Time is Here}

**Charlie:** (*Charlie and Linus return to auditorium.*) We're back!  
(*place tree on piano*) [needle sound].

**Violet:** Boy, are you stupid Charlie Brown. You were supposed to get a good tree. Can't you even tell a good tree from a poor tree?

**Patti:** (sighs) You're hopeless Charlie Brown.

**Lucy:** You've been dumb before, but this time you *really* did it. (*Children and snoopy laugh, exit. Charlie is alone by piano. Linus approaches*)

**Charlie:** I guess you were right Linus; I shouldn't have picked this little tree. Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I don't really know what Christmas is about. Isn't there anyone who understands what Christmas is all about?

**Linus:** Sure, I can tell you what Christmas is all about. (*Linus goes to center stage, spotlight.*)

**Linus:** "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ

the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger.' And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.'" (*Linus picks up blanket, walks back to piano*).

**Linus:** That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.  
(1:25)

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*Scene Nine*

[O Tannenbaum] *Charlie picks up tree, smiles. Walks outside, stares at sky.*

**Charlie** (to self): Linus is right; I won't let all this commercialism ruin my Christmas. I'll take this little tree home, and I'll decorate it, and I'll show them it really will work in our play.

*Walks home, finds Snoopy's doghouse with prize on it. [Oh Tannenbaum QUICK] Grabs ornament from house, puts on tree. Tree bends, Charlie is sad.*

**Charlie:** I killed it! Everything I touch gets ruined!

*Walks away from tree, slouching. Others circle tree.  
Linus straightens the branch.*

**Linus:** I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

*Children look at doghouse, tree.  
Take doghouse decorations, put on tree.*

**Lucy:** Charlie Brown is a blockhead, but he did get a nice tree.

*Children circle tree, hum "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".  
Charlie enters.*

**Charlie:** (*Charlie enters.*) What's going on here?

**Everyone:** Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!  
(1:00)



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(Scene Nine continues)

**Narrator 1:** His little tree that no one had wanted, and he could hardly believe his eyes. His friends' efforts had transformed it into something truly special. And everyone sang:

**SONG - "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING" (3-5)**

**Narrator 2:** Surrounded by his friends, Charlie Brown realized Linus had been right about the true meaning of Christmas. This was the Christmas spirit he had been looking for all along.

**Narrator 3:** At last, the season seemed 100 times brighter. And for Charlie Brown, it was truly the merriest Christmas ever.

Song : **"Sing We Now of Christmas" (3-5)**

The End



## Scenes and Props

*Scene One - (nothing!)*

*Scene Two – Mail Box  
Christmas card (Violet makes card)*

*Scene Three - Lucy's Booth  
Jar of nickels  
Two stools (from art room?)*

*Scene Four - Snoopy's House  
Box of Christmas Decorations  
Flyer for Competition*

*Scene Five - Clip Board and pen*

*Scene Six - Megaphone  
Director's Chair  
Blanket for Linus  
Shepherd's Crook  
Piano*

*Scene Seven - Charlie Brown Christmas Tree*

## *Decorated Tree*