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THE CHRISTMAS COFFEE

By

Ann Pugh

This comedy is easily mounted on a stage or in a recreation room. The actresses' clothing is what the women likely have in their personal wardrobes. The colorful attire for the male or the female Hip-Hop Rapper is described in Production Notes.

The Cast

RUBY – The Committee Chairman...impatient perfectionist and ego-centric head honcho

SANDRA – A Committee Member...loyal worker, sensitive and easily intimidated

LUCY – A Committee Member...more a joiner than a worker, vain, never intimidated

HIP-HOP RAPPER – 'Teenage' cameo role...M or F - African American or White -- cast from senior theatre group or staff, or borrowed from school or community theatre

Setting

The Day Room In a Senior Citizen Center

Time

A Morning In Late December

Pre-curtain music

Either a recording of 'White Christmas' or 'We Need A Little Christmas' from the musical "MAME." Song establishes the mood for the annual free "Christmas Coffee," and suggests the music comes from an unseen lobby, where guests are gathering to await the opening of the doors into the Day Room.

The Setting

The Day Room is just off the imaginary lobby, which would be out in the audience area. Imaginary double-doors downstage center open into the Day Room, but the imaginary doors are now closed. Offstage left leads to a kitchen, a parking lot, etc.

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At rise

The Day Room is empty except for three card tables with decks of playing cards, plus four metal chairs holding a cardboard box and three brown paper grocery sacks containing small props.

(RUBY enters hurriedly from left, followed closely by her assistants: SANDRA, and LUCY. Each wears a reindeer antler headdress, but is otherwise tastefully gussied up for the morning coffee in a best dress or slacks and sweater, etc. RUBY is in Christmas-red; practical SANDRA is in Christmas-green; LUCY, the most fashionable, is in white with jewelry. Each has a purse and a container holding small props. Music fades out as dialogue begins.)

RUBY: *(breathless)* Whew! That's it. The last load! *(sets box #1 and purse on chair)* Traffic was horrible! We have to be ready in twenty minutes!

SANDRA: *(cheerfully, sets box #2 and purse on chair)* I hope I remembered to lock my car.

LUCY: *(unhappily sets a boutique store shopping bag on card table and fusses with antler headdress)* Ruby, would you kindly tell me just why I have to wear these tacky reindeer antlers! *(disgusted)* I've ruined my hair-do!

RUBY: Our antlers are a tradition now because they were so popular at our Christmas Coffee last year. Remember the Living and Lifestyle photographer from The Post ran my picture on her front page and--

LUCY: *(interrupting)* I wasn't here last December. *(smugly)* I was on a cruise to Hawaii with my daughter, remember?

SANDRA: *(enthusiastically, to Ruby, while clearing tables of cards)* I remember! Lucy's daughter won the trip in the Elk's Club lottery!

LUCY: *(pointedly, correcting Sandra)* Lion's Club lottery.

SANDRA: *(apologetically)* I always forget which is which. Anyhow, Lucy showed our bridge club those cute snap shots of her in a grass skirt and that...uh, pretty...thing of orchids...*(embarrassed)* I forgot what it's called.

RUBY: *(impatiently)* It's a lei, Sandra. You should try taking ginkgo for your memory.

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SANDRA: Does it help?

RUBY: Let's hope. Now, back to these antlers. The photographer from The Post is Mary Blain's niece, and she told Mary she'll definitely be here today.

SANDRA: (*gasping, excitedly*) Really? For sure?

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