

## The Shoe Maker's Christmas

Characters:

Mr. Jenkins- A shrewd, unkind shoemaker

Mrs. Jenkins- a very kind, cheerful women and good cook

Tommy- a homeless street boy

Mr. Jackson- a customer

Mrs. Bert- another customer

Alice- a girl who sells Christmas cards

Scene 1 opens in the shoe shop. Mr. Jenkins is seated at his workbench surrounded with shoes of all kinds. He is sewing and fixing shoes (*A timid knock is heard*)

**Mr. Jenkins** (*in low voice*) Come in.

**Tommy** (*has very old shoes, holds them up*) Say mister, could you please fix my shoes? They are so torn the snow and cold come right in. I would like to have them done by Christmas.

**Mr. Jenkins** (*very harshly*) No, they are far to worn to be fixed, and beside, I haven't got time to fix shoes for you.

**Tommy** Please sir. It will only take a minute. It doesn't matter if it is not done neatly. As long as it keeps the snow out.

**Mr. Jenkins** I said no. So get out and don't bother me anymore.

**Tommy** (*looks surprised*) Oh alright sir (*Goes out and closes the door. Mr. Jenkins is still busy when Mrs. Jenkins enters*)

**Mrs. Jenkins** (*addresses her Husband*) Well Dan you are in your shop early this morning. You must have the Christmas spirit.

**Mr. Jenkins** (*looks at her crossly*) Christmas spirit, I have never had the Christmas spirit and I hope I never get it either. It's just because of all these people in the neighborhood, they are so fussy. They want new soles put on, new shoes ordered all before Christmas of course. Christmas Christmas, that's all I hear. Do me a favour and talk about something else, like my work or the weather.

**Mrs. Jenkins** Well well Dan, I do have the Christmas spirit- I must say that. I have been baking cookies, cakes and popcorn. And there's the turkey I have to get ready to.

**Mr. Jenkins** (*sighs*) Oh my, you really have the Christmas spirit. If that's what it is.

**Mrs. Jenkins** (*cheerful*) Yes, I must go now. I want to get these gloves finished that I want to give to this little Tommy whom we always see wandering around here. They say he is a homeless boy, who just wanders around on the streets. Sometimes I feel like taking him in to be our boy.

**Mr. Jenkins:** That good for nothing. No such thing. He was in the shop this morning, wanting his shoes fixed. I didn't have time to fix shoes for a boy like him.

**Mrs. Jenkins:** Dan, I hope you will change your mind someday. (*Walks out to the kitchen*)

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*Gets up and walks around with a shoe in his hand. Resumes work*) Well I guess I better go and get some lunch. (*Leaves, comes back and keeps working*)

**Mr. Jackson:** (*A customer enters, cheerfully*) Well good afternoon, Mr. Jenkins. You really are covered with shoes. I suppose you are getting ready for Christmas too.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I just finished telling my wife I have never had the Christmas spirit and I never hope to get it either. And that is that.

**Mr. Jackson:** Oh, I see- I want to pick up the shoes you ordered for me. Did you get them?

**Mr. Jenkins:** Yes, here they are. (*Hands them to him*) That will \$29.95.

**Mr. Jackson:** (*Hands him the money and takes the shoes*) Thank you. I better hurry to my office. I hope that you <sup>will</sup> change your mind about Christmas. If you don't, someday you will be sorry. Merry Christmas

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*disgusted*) Then she has the nerve to say Merry Christmas I wonder what is so Merry about it. (*Gets up and walks around the room uneasily*) For some reason or other I just haven't enjoyed my work at all today. I had a bad start right away this morning when Tommy came in. I would get a lot more work done if they wouldn't bother me about Christmas all the time. (*Cleans up the shop a bit. Tommy is seen looking in from the outside*) Well tomorrow is another day, and lets hope I will be able to get more work done. As far as I am concerned, I'm tired of always celebrating Christmas. All these years I have been able to control myself and I didn't have to mention it to anyone that I didn't like it. I want to go to sleep and forget about all this. I hope to have a better day tomorrow.

#### Curtain

(The same scene and the same time. Tommy is just seen going away from the window. On top is a sign, Jenkins Shoe Shop. Outside scene. Tommy sits down on the apple box he was standing on.)

**Tommy:** He surely is a strange man. I doubt if he has a soft spot in his heart. He doesn't even believe in Christmas or in the Christ that was born on this day. I am sure glad mom told me so much about Christ before she died. (*Removes an old cap and scratches head*) My! Isn't strange. A rich man, a nice house and a nice lady and yet he does not look happy. The lady is nice. She gave me a cookie this morning when I was playing. (*Gets up*) I should go and tell him about Christmas. (*Goes to the door and stops*) No I better not. He was so cross with me this morning and now he is tired. I will let him get a good nights sleep while I find a place to spend the night. (*Walks away*)

#### Curtain

Scene 2 (*next morning Mr. Jenkins is in his shop again, still not in a good mood. He is working hard when Mrs. Bert enters.*)

**Mrs. Bert:** Good morning Mr. Jenkins

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*not cheerful and doesn't look up*) Good morning.

**Mrs. Bert:** Could you sew these shoes for me while I wait. I want to leave on the train at noon.

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*harshly*) I do have a lot of work. Let's see them. (*Looks them over*) Yes I believe I will be able to. There is not much to sew. But I really don't like people coming in for last minute repairs.

**Mrs. Bert:** Hm-mm, it really does smell good in here. Your wife must be doing some Christmas baking.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Very likely.

**Mrs. Bert:** What about you, Mr. Jenkins? Are you almost ready for Christmas?

**Mr. Jenkins:** Ready (*very firmly*) As ready as will ever be! I'll tell you right now I just don't care for Christmas.

**Mrs. Bert:** But Mr. Jenkins, that is a yearly celebration.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Yes, and one I can do with out. There you are. That will be \$3.50.

**Mrs. Bert:** (*Takes shoes and hands him the money and goes to the door*) I really do wish you would care for Christmas. After all, it is his birthday we are celebrating. If it had not been for Christ being born and that he died for us, this world would be in still a darker condition. Merry Christmas, Mr. Jenkins. (*Leaves*)

**Mr. Jenkins:** What a gossiper. (*Goes back to work. After awhile the door opens very slowly and Tommy looks in.*)

**Tommy:** May-I-come in for awhile mister? I am cold and lonely.

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*looks at him very crossly, speaks loudly*) You again? All right, come in. Let's see what you want today.

**Tommy** (*walks around the room slowly and looks at all the shoes. Picks up a pair his size and admires them. Mr. Jenkins eyes him suspiciously.*) You really have a lot of shoe. (*walks over to Mr. Jenkins*) Say mister, next week we are having a singing evening at our school. We will be singing Christmas carols and then later there will be some visiting and a snack. Would you like to come?

**Mr. Jenkins:** No thank you. I am not interested and I don't have time.

**Tommy:** But sir, Christmas is such an important time of the year, and we should take time to celebrate the holiday. I am a homeless boy, but I am still glad for Christmas. I am sure you would.....

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*jumps up, grabs the boy and pushes him out the door*) How dare you talk to me like that! Get out and stay out.

**Mrs. Jenkins:** (*enters*) Why Dan, what's going on here?

**Mr. Jenkins:** Oh it's that homeless boy again! He had the nerve to come and preach to me and that is one thing I won't allow.

**Mrs. Jenkins:** But did you send him out?

**Mr. Jenkins:** I certainly did.

**Mrs. Jenkins:** (*speaks kindly*) But Dan, how can you be so hard? All the boy wanted was someone to talk to and a place to warm himself. He is a small homeless boy. You are going to spoil this Christmas for me and all the others that come into your shop. Yes, and for yourself too. (*goes to the kitchen. Mr. Jenkins continues working for a while, pauses puts head into hands.*)

**Mr. Jenkins:** I guess I am hard. (*gets up and walks around*) I wonder why? I never used to be so rude, even though I never did like Christmas. There is not one day that I am really happy even though I own profitable business and a nice big house. I can't continue like this. (*pauses*) Maybe it is true that happiness comes more from giving than from receiving.

**Alice:** (*Alice enters with a bunch of Christmas cards.*) Good morning sir. Would you like to buy some Christmas cards, please?

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*pauses, rather gruffly*) I usually don't buy Christmas cards. I get along well without them.

**Alice:** But these are very pretty, and they have a scripture verse written on the inside.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Let's see them. (*looks through the cards*) What are you going to do with the money that you get from all of these cards?

**Alice:** I don't keep the money. We will use the money to buy food and gifts for the children in the orphan home.

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*looks up sharply, surprised*) What, you are giving the money to poor children? (*digs into pocket for a handful of change*) How much are the cards? I will buy these 4.

**Alice:** They are \$ 0.75 a piece.

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*Hands Alice a five dollar bill*) Here, keep the change and Merry Christmas.

**Alice:** Thank you very much and Merry Christmas to you. (*leaves*)

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*reads through one or two cards, displays some in his shop*) That poor Tommy. He was so poorly clad and his shoes were full of holes. How could I have been so mean? I really should give him a new pair of shoes. (*opens door and calls Tommy*) Tommy Tommy, come here a minute. Ah there you are. (*As Tommy comes on stage on the opposite side.*)

**Tommy:** Yes sir, did you call my name?

**Mr. Jenkins:** Yes Tommy, I did call you.

**Tommy:** er-er- your nice lady asked me in for a cup of cocoa and some cookies. That's why I am here.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Tommy, after you left I started thinking how rude and hard I had been with you. I should have fixed your shoes right away and I should never have sent you out of my shop. Now I want to make up for it. Here are some new shoes that will fit you.

**Tommy:** Oh my! I can never pay for them. I have only 25 cents for fixing my old ones.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Oh no. Those shoes are no good any more. You take these. It feels good to give something to someone else.

**Tommy:** Oh thanks a lot mister. (*Goes to the corner and puts on shoes*)

**Mrs. Jenkins:** I am so glad you have changed your mind about Christmas. I am beginning to think we will have a wonderful celebration.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Yes, I believe so too. I feel so much better already. I also think that Tommy should have a place to stay. Would you still consider taking this boy to be our own?

**Mrs. Jenkins:** Oh yes, I certainly would Dan.

**Mr. Jenkins:** (*goes to Tommy*) Tommy, you were telling me that you had no home. Would you like to come and stay with us and be our boy from now on?

**Mrs. Jenkins:** We will take care of you. We would just love to have a boy of our own.

**Tommy:** Oh wouldn't that be great. The Lord has answered my prayers. I prayed for a home I can always stay in.

**Mr. Jenkins:** You can come and help me in my shop while mom is getting supper ready.

**Mrs. Jenkins:** And you two make sure you work up a good appetite because our supper will be real special.

