

A
Meerkat
Christmas

A Comedy in Two Acts
by Robert Joseph Ahola

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A Meerkat Christmas

Synopsis

It is late December and the Jacobsen family – a lovable if slightly neurotic bunch of overachievers – is preparing for yet another Christmas. Father, Remus, is a fallen Wizard of Wall Street who has lost his touch with portfolios and is out of touch with his wife. Ester Jacobsen is a Southern Belle and the consummate social climber who realizes too little too late that she married the wrong man (and often does too little to conceal her disappointment). Brother Julius is thirty-something and a workaholic. And his wife, Matty, is a seemingly simple-minded bimbo whose only talent seems to be the knack of making every man feel like a hero and every woman feel like she is the ultimate threat. In counterpart, Ester's sister-in-law Hydra (AKA Dragon Lady) is bitter about the world, especially men, and doesn't care who knows it.

Into this happy holiday comes youngest daughter, Erin who has informed the family that she's bringing her fiancé, someone she just met..."Someone older but quite magnificent in every way."

Since Erin is only twenty-three and a genius who redefines eccentricity, the entire family wonders just who this "older man" will be. Little do they know that her future husband will turn up at the door – charming, elegant, witty, well-mannered, well-traveled, Harvard-educated seventy and broke.

He is also someone who seems to anticipate everyone's hopes and dreams and knows how to farm them like winter wheat... and at what better time?

His name is Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III, and very much like his name he doesn't appear to have an enemy in the world. Or does he? Just who is this mysterious Christmas guest? And what kind of Christmas does he bring with him? Whatever it is, it will be one that no one will ever forget.

The perfect story for Christmas, *A Meerkat Christmas* is full of surprises. And in the end redemption is the final gift that it gives.

A Meerkat Christmas

Character Breakdown

Remus Jacobsen. A very likable entrepreneur and former stockbroker who lost all his money in the market crash of 2000. Now, he's making ends meet with panache, imagination, maxed out credit cards and the occasional monetary contributions of his wealthy sister-in-law.

Ester Jacobsen. A Southern belle and woman out of time, she is the epitome of the drama queen and seemingly proud of it. Her beauty, though fading, is an obsession with her as is her strict adherence to tradition and all the trappings of family pride.

Hydra Zeider. She is elegant but bitter. Abandoned, caustic, and utterly contemptuous of men. Ester, her former sister-in-law, keeps her around so that she may have someone else to complain to, and because she is very rich (and occasionally generous). She is also entirely suspicious of everyone... especially Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III, even though he apparently has nothing to hide.

Julius Jacobsen. He is a hard working, emotionally repressed but dutiful son who has never allowed himself to have a childhood. Always the responsible one, he also likes to swear, but is being penalized for it by contributions to the "Christmas Box" every time he does.

Mathilda Jacobsen. (Matty). Julius Jacobsen's surprisingly insightful wife, she seems and acts like a bimbo. Heaven only knows, her reputation precedes her. But isn't there so much more to this seemingly shallow sexpot that first meets the eye?

Erin Jacobsen. Remus and Ester Jacobsen's errant, unpredictable, beautiful, flighty, flower-child daughter who never does a single thing right and always manages to come out of it for the better. She is also a serial monogamist who has been engaged seven times. And has brought the last two fiancés home for Christmas. Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III is the third one.

Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III. Kris Elwing III, KME, (AKA Kris Kat) is seventy (on Christmas Day). Highly polished and utterly likable, he is the very essence of savoir-faire, and as such... impossible to dislike. He is spontaneous, witty, and always seems to speak his mind without reservation and inevitably to great effect. He is also occasionally disheveled, mischievous and apparently broke. Or is he? And where does he come from anyway? And is he a knight in shining armor or an eloquent down and outer?

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A Meerkat Christmas

Synopsis of Scenes

Act One

Scene 1. Jacobsen Living Room. Christmas Eve, Eve.

Scene 2. Jacobsen Dining Room. Christmas Eve Morning.

Act Two.

Scene 1. Jacobsen Living Room. Christmas Eve.

Scene 2. Jacobsen Dining Room. Christmas Eve.

Scene 3. Jacobsen Living Room. Christmas Morning. 2:00 a.m..

Scene 4. Jacobsen Front Porch. Christmas Morning. 2:30 a.m.

Scene 5. Jacobsen Living Room. Christmas Morning.

A Meerkat Christmas

Production Considerations

There are two sets for this play; both in bright festive holiday décor. (This is after all a play set in the Christmas Season.) And there is one pocket set (on fly space?) in the form of a front porch

There will be frequent costume changes to denote changes in time and emphasis as befits the season.

And there should be frequent use of candles, accents, and Christmas music to set the pace of the piece.

There would also be a number of presents that would have to be wrapped and re-wrapped during the life of the performance. So durable packaging with easily separated components is strongly recommended.

ESTER
(starts singing)

“Don we now our gay apparel...”

REMUS
(interrupts poses)

Gay?! I do not don “gay” apparel. There’s no way I’m donning “gay” apparel.

ESTER
Oh, for God’s sake Remus, “gay” used to be an acceptable word!

REMUS
You swore!

ESTER
I did not swear.

REMUS
You did swear. Taking Lord’s name in vain is swearing! No swearing at Christmas. Money in the box.

He leaves her struggling with the tree and goes over to a decorative box with gilded letters “Poor Box” on it.

ESTER
I will not. It’s not a swear word.

REMUS
Is!

ESTER
Is not! I said for “God’s” Sake. That makes it a kind of prayer. If I’d said for “Devil’s” sake would that be a curse word? No, of course not. Besides, they say it on network television.

REMUS
Hell, they say Sonofabitch on Network television.

ESTER
That’s one!

REMUS
And ass. And tits.

ESTER
That’s two and three. That’s three dollars!

REMUS

Tits are not a cuss word. There are tits on a cow. Some screws that you use with screwdrivers have tits. Carpenters have tits!

He holds up two one dollar bills, and very ceremoniously puts them into the poor box and sets it back on the shelf, then goes back to putting up the tree.

ESTER

It's all about intention.

REMUS

Wait a minute, if we're getting fined for intention, we're all in trouble. Especially the dragon lady.

ESTER

Hydra is not the dragon lady. She's a lovely elegant woman who's just a little bitter about men, that's all. And who can blame her?

REMUS

A little? A little?! The woman was named after that nine-headed dragon in Greek Mythology!

ESTER

She is not.

REMUS

Okay then. A sea plant with polyps and tentacles. She's a polyp!

He finishes righting the three in its pot and admires his handiwork. Ester starts pulling decorations out of the box.

ESTER

Her father named her after the Stars — after a beautiful and grand constellation!

REMUS

That's her side of the story.

ESTER

At least she never swears.

REMUS

That's because she's so tight, she'd rather not speak than spend the bucks saying something naughty...

ESTER

It is possible to speak without using profanity.

REMUS

Well shit! If you say so...

ESTER

Money! That awful word!

REMUS

(affects an accent)

Just havin' a bit o' fun. All for a good cause. Besides you say it often enough.

He goes over and puts another dollar in the box.

ESTER

Never! I never use that word.

REMUS

Oh, please. You think I don't hear you when you think no one's paying attention. You use it. And so does dragon lady.

ESTER

Shhh!! She's in the house. She did spend the night here. She is my sister-in-law.

REMUS

And Harold left her eight years ago. And is the happiest sonofabitch....

She motions. He puts another dollar into the Poor Box.

...I've ever seen.

ESTER

My brother is a scoundrel and a womanizer who deserved whatever he got.

REMUS

Or what she got, which was half his money and his home in the country. And you just like her because she's rich.

ESTER

Well, I'm glad somebody is.

REMUS

Enron at 12 bucks seemed like a good buy at the time.

ESTER

And General Motors at 51?

REMUS

Making a come back.

ESTER

Oh, Remus. Being poor that's an obscenity!

REMUS

We're not poor. We're just economically readjusting.

ESTER

Oh God, Remus. We're poor. We're so poor, I can't even afford a bell to ring for my servants!

He reaches into the box for a Christmas bell and brings in and jingles it.

REMUS

Creative solutions at your disposal.

ESTER

Well, aren't you just cute?! I mean it!

She goes drama queen. He shrugs and returns to putting up the decorations.

REMUS

Thank God, you never went into acting.

Ester drops her ornaments and goes again to the poor box, and rattles it. He regards her in horror.

For what?

ESTER

(shakes the box)

You know...

REMUS

For thanking God? I was thanking God. "Thank God!" That's a prayer.

ESTER

Not the way you say it.

REMUS

Oh, you can say it. But I can't. Talk about a double standard!

ESTER

It's the way you said it. It's all about intention. Everything's intention.

HYDRA

(off stage but enters with the line)

“A truth that’s told with bad intent beats any lie you could invent. “

By now Hydra Zeider has entered the room. She is a very attractive, impeccably dressed woman in her late fifties (but not looking it) with an armful of wrapped packages.

REMUS

William Blake. *Auguries of Innocence*. Everyone knows that one.

HYDRA

Besides, this whole season is an obscenity. Nothing but a scheme by Jewish merchants to exploit the rich, vain susceptible WASPS who’ll do anything to keep up with the Joneses because image is everything.

Struggling, she sets the packages down, Ester rushes over to help her, as they set them down on the coffee table.

And people are in such a lousy mood this time of year. And the malls are melting pots with no redeeming virtue and filled with fat, ugly, mean people They’re obese and pushy, rude and covered in tattoos.

ESTER

I know. Thank...

(thinks about it) Heaven for sweaters.

HYDRA

I saw a man with a cobra tattoo that ran all the way down his shaved head to a point on his forehead dotted with some pierced imbedded ruby for a tongue right at the bridge of his nose. Yecch!

REMUS

Make you want to make it with him? Sounds pretty cool when you think about it. I mean, if you’re going to get nasty. Get nasty. You know?

HYDRA

Disgusting. They’re all disgusting!. And you’re disgusting for even liking it.

REMUS

(aside)

“We see the world not as it is, but as we are...”

He goes back to his decorating.

Besides, I totally disagree with everything you say. The air is full of love and songs and sharing and people letting go of their pain and families reuniting and the smell of wassail and Christmas Goose and puddings!!

ESTER

When have you ever smelled wassail, may I ask?

REMUS

(ignores her)

And I just love every Christmas, because I know my son will come with his beautiful wife.

ESTER

Christmas is for bimbos too...

REMUS

(ignores her, continuing)

And my darling daughter will always show up, all full of life and bringing all kinds of gifts, including no doubt her umpteenth fiancé. And I get so filled with the spirit, I just want to hug everyone!

(He tosses the tinsel aside and hugs Ester)

Everyone!

He goes to hug Hydra Zeider who flinches but doesn't push him away entirely.

Even you, dragon lady! I love the dragon lady!

HYDRA

Stop it! Stop it! You just do it because you like to muss my hair.

He hugs her all the harder. The more he hugs the more she flinches.

Stop it!

Mock irritated and making a show of it, she shoves him away.

Men! And isn't it just typical that the only time they show affection is when they want to destroy your coiffure.

ESTER

Or have sex! Then do they get friendly!.

HYDRA

Well, that's a given!

Remus, undaunted, returns to the tree while Hydra straightens herself.

REMUS

I am affectionate all the time.

ESTER

Well? Point taken...

REMUS

Oh, quit sucking up. Every time dragon lady here comes around you just suck up.

ESTER

Besides, if you want any kind of sexual nuance, foreplay or whatever, Julius is coming any time now with his wife Mattress.

REMUS

(corrects her)

That is so bitchy! That is the bitchiest thing to say!

For the first time he's angry and walks away, while Ester holds the Poor Box up and shakes it.

REMUS

Oh no! "Bitch" is not a cuss word. Neither is "damn" or "hell". We decided that three years ago!

ESTER

I still think "damn" should be a cuss word. Look at the stink it caused when they did *Gone With the Wind*. They had to give the film a special code. Almost wrecked the Hays Office.

HYDRA

A more innocent time!

REMUS

A more hypocritical time, you mean. And talk about hypocrite. How can you be that way about Matty? Junior loves her. And she's maybe the sweetest woman I've ever met in my life.

ESTER

(starts singing)

She's just a girl who...

(Hydra joins her)

BOTH

...can't say no!"

REMUS

Unbelievable. Maybe more women should say yes. And maybe, just maybe they would be a little nicer.

Disgusted, he goes back to decorating while Ester moves to a small bar and pours Hydra an aperitif.

ESTER

Well, she is good-natured.

REMUS

And pretty. Very pretty.

ESTER

In a common showgirl sort of way. And Julius loves her... after a fashion.

REMUS

Damned with faint praise.

HYDRA

They haven't had sex in ages.

ESTER

How can you tell?

HYDRA

Women just know these things...

ESTER

Well, that explains it.

HYDRA

What?

ESTER

No babies.

REMUS

That's because Junior works his butt off. 24-7 at that new sports company he's started – *Socks to Jocks*.

HYDRA

(contemptuous)

Catchy name.

REMUS

Boy when Junior gets here, we'll really have money for the poor box. Good on Junior. Likes to dish...

ESTER

I hate it when he cusses like that.

REMUS

Just does it for the effect.

ESTER

Tell him to effect something else. It's disgusting. Shame on him.

REMUS

Good on him, you mean. I'm proud of that boy. Made a fortune in the last quarter. Doing an IPO on NASDAQ to start the New Year. That's my Junior!

ESTER

Every time you call him “Junior” I look for a black basketball player or something. His names is Julius!

REMUS

Your stupid family name!

ESTER

(gets sentimental)

My father’s name.

REMUS

Which sounds like a fruit drink, which sounds like a pretentious self-important twit of a name from which you can draw no logical sobriquet.

ESTER

Oh, but there are lots of Remuses out there.

REMUS

An exceptional name. A cardinal name. Founder of Rome!

HYDRA

Nursed by a lactating female wolf, which explains a great deal.

ESTER

(changes the subject)

And just look at these gifts. So many of them. So, beautifully wrapped. Oh, Hydra you are just too generous.

HYDRA

Well, you are family...

(Self-pitying) The only family I’ve got.

Hydra gets emotional. Ester goes over to console her.

ESTER

There, there, my dear. We’ll always be here for you.

And off to one side Remus looks on and very demonstratively sticks his finger down his throat. SFX. The doorbell rings — The First Noel.

REMUS

That would be my son and his beautiful bride.

Remus exits as the bell rings again. Ester looks up from hugging.

ESTER

I always feel like I should genuflect or something...

Hydra stops crying and dries her eyes, while Ester gets up and fixes her another aperitif. Almost immediately Julius and Matty come in. Both early thirties Julius is disheveled and tired and still in a business suit. Matty looks radiant if a bit overdressed. They also bear gifts but do not seem connected. There is a distance between them that is palpable. Thrilled to see them, Remus comes over and starts singing.

REMUS

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...

MATTY (*joins in*)

Jack Frost nipping at your nose. Yuletide carols being sung by a choir. And folks...

She coaxes Remus, who can't remember.

REMUS

Folks da, da, da, da, da...

MATTY

Dressed up like Eskimos!

They hug. Julius sets the packages down. Ester and Hydra aside to one another.

ESTER

(does a Marylyn)

She always sounds like she's singing "Happy Birthday Mr. President..."

HYDRA

Well it fits. She has moves like a pole dancer...

MATTY

(overhears)

Pole dancing is the new hot exercise for women. Frees them from their hang-ups. So they say...

JULIUS

(pats his stomach)

Maybe I should take it up. I could use some exercise. Not like body from hell, here.

He points to Matty.

ESTER

Oh, Julius, you're not going to start swearing are you?

JULIUS

Because I said hell? Hell no! Besides, this year I've found a loophole.

REMUS

No loopholes.

JULIUS

Foreign dirty words.

ESTER

You will not!

JULIUS

It's not the same in foreign languages. It's not offensive in a foreign tongue. Example: Merde! It's French. See doesn't offend anyone.

HYDRA

I speak French, and that offends me.

REMUS

Everything offends the dragon lady.

Very ceremonially, Hydra grabs the Poor Box and shoves it at Julius who complies by dropping in a five.

HYDRA

On deposit?

JULIUS

Okay, so that wasn't a good example. But Buggar! That's a great word! Buggar!

ESTER

That's a vile word!

REMUS

But it's a British curse word. And the Brits can say anything and get by with it. Because it sounds so... British. Buggar! Love it!

JULIUS

(kicks it off)

Buggar!

REMUS *(gets into it)*

Buggar! Buggar!

JULIUS

Buggar! Buggar! Buggar!

REMUS

Buggar! Buggar! Buggar! Buggar!

ESTER

Money! Money! Money! Money! And no one's exempt!

*(Ester grabs the poor books and shoves it at the two.
Remus kicks in).*

And it doesn't matter what language it's in, if it's profane, it's profane!

REMUS

Besa me coulo!

ESTER

I know what that means. It's Spanish. And it's awful!. Money!

REMUS

(forking over)

Are you sure this is going to the poor? Are you sure this isn't going into the Ester Jacobsen Boxing Day shopping spree?

ESTER

Money.

JULIUS.

Pascahoso!

Ester shoves the box at him.

ESTER

Money!

JULIUS

It's Finnish! How would you even know?

ESTER

It just sounds dirty. Money!

REMUS

I've run out. Will you take an IOU?

ESTER

No IOUs!

Julius ponies up for Remus and joins him at the tree to decorate. Matty takes a seat in a chair away from the other women.

MATTY

(chimes in)

Voulez vous couche avec moi? That's what they used to say to me when I was visiting France...

JULIUS

Well, we all know where that ended up.

MATTY

Did what?

HYDRA

Oh, dear, that's what a man says when he asks you to go to bed with him.

ESTER

(grabs the box)

That might be obscene.

REMUS

Not if you do it right.

MATTY

Anyway, Noel Coward never swore. He said it showed a lack of vocabulary.

JULIUS

Noel Coward was gay!

MATTY

That doesn't make him a bad person. Gay men have always been nice to me.

JULIUS

All men have been nice to you. That's because you've been nice to them.

MATTY

I'm nice to everybody.

HYDRA

(sings it)

Discretion! Players only love you when they're playing, sweetheart.

ESTER

Speaking of players... Erin's apparently bagged one this time, in the financial sense. Her new fiancé. Older. Established. Pedigree. She's finally done it!

HYDRA

Erin brings home a new fiancé every year it seems. Isn't this number three?

REMUS

Third time's a charm!

JULIUS

Well, anything would be better than number one. Mr. jobless, homeless, teenager. What was he eighteen or something?

MATTY

Erin was only twenty one!

REMUS

Young love. Pure folly. Nice kid though. Really decent.

ESTER

He was eighteen!

REMUS

And you took the pistol after him.

ESTER

It wasn't loaded.

JULIUS

(mocks it)

Oh no! Not the pistol!

ESTER

He was taking liberties.

REMUS

Raiding the refrigerator is hardly a federal offense.

ESTER

No manners. No sense of decorum. And last year's fiancé! My God!

REMUS

A Columbia honors graduate! Harvard Business School MBA! Great guy.

ESTER

(horrified to recall)

Remus! He was a...

In warning, Remus rattles the box.

Colored! He was a person of color, for God's sake!

REMUS

Victor! I liked Victor.

JULIUS

Yeah, I did too. But in this town? Good luck!

ESTER

You cannot be serious, you two!

REMUS

Southern Belles... Some things never change.

ESTER

It doesn't matter. What's past is prologue. This time she's gotten it right!. I think he's forty-something. Perfect age.

(Ester brings out a letter, reads.)

"Dearest Mom and Dad. I've finally found the man of my dreams. He is the most charming, poetic, sensitive, sensual [she would add that, of course] witty and amazing man I've ever met. He's older, established, well-educated Yale graduate! And rich in all the ways that truly matter. At last, I've found my soul mate. And let this be my Christmas present to you. We're getting married in three months. And I will be Mrs. Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III.

(She looks over her letter to the others.)

The Third! He's the Third!

JULIUS

What a bizarre middle name! Meerkat?! That's a desert mongoose, isn't it?

MATTY

But they're very cute. Very communal. Very nurturing.

JULIUS

And what makes you think this guy's forty-something? He could be twenty-something. Or fifty-something.

ESTER

Don't be ridiculous.

JULIUS

Hey, it's Erin. The Queen of Weird World.

REMUS

But never dull, my baby girl.

MATTY

He sounds lovely.

JULIUS

Of course, he does!

MATTY

And older men are such gentlemen.

Julius glances askance at Matty and then rubs his stomach.

JULIUS

Are we going to have dinner, or what?!

REMUS

Erin...

JULIUS

Erin will always be late, will always arrive about time for dessert, and will always keep everyone at the table for about an hour longer than they want to be while she fawns all over her new whatever...

HYDRA

Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III.

ESTER

You're right, I suppose. Hope always prevails over logic. Anyway... I still have some things to get ready. So, I'll be heading for the kitchen.

JULIUS

And I will be your faithful assistant and tireless apprentice.

ESTER

You! Will keep your fingers out of the dressing.

HYDRA

And I'll be taking a stroll. Kitchen's have always seemed foreign to me somehow.

MATTY

I can make a really great dessert.

JULIUS

Yeah, lemon tart.

Julius leaves Matty behind to join Ester in the kitchen. Hydra leaves for a stroll. Remus regards Matty.

REMUS

Why don't you help me finish the tree?

MATTY

It's beautiful.

He notes her sadness and gives her a hug.

REMUS

Julius doesn't mean anything. He just gets tired and grumpy. Tends to be hypoglycemic. Always has been.

MATTY

I know. He's just been working so hard. He needs to get some rest.

She starts decorating. Remus studies her.

REMUS

You know what, I'm dying for some hot punch.. How about it? I'll dig some out of the kitchen before Ester runs me off.

MATTY

Sounds lovely!

Remus gives her a kiss on the top of the head and leaves. Matty decorates the tree, but sadly, wiping tears as she does. While she stands in the room alone, Erin Jacobsen slips in behind, and tickles her. Matty starts but sees that it's Erin and squeals. They jump up and down, embracing one another. REMUS re-enters and sets down he drinks.

REMUS

Methinks I hear the sound of ladies on horseback!

(The two eye Remus, and then run over and engage him in a threesome, jumping up and down, something he enjoys but does not participate in.)

Why is it women who haven't seen each other for a while, always act like someone is drowning? Anyway, I've always been a little bit jealous of that talent women have for going straight over the top.

ERIN

My best friend!

MATTY *(simultaneous)*

My best friend!

BOTH

My best friend.

REMUS

Well, I'm glad we've unlocked that secret of the crypt. Speaking of secrets I'm sure your mother knows you're here by now. You two shattered some glass in all the adjacent houses and no doubt tripped the alarm in this one.

ERIN

I wanted to surprise you.

REMUS

Master of stealth that you are.

Almost instantaneously, Ester runs into the room, joined immediately by Julius who runs to hug Erin.

ESTER

You're here on time! Allah be praised!

ERIN

Just couldn't wait to have you meet Kris. Unfortunately the Bentley broke down about a block away.

ESTER

The Bentley! You hear that Remus. The Bentley!

REMUS

Got it.

JULIUS

Broken down?

ERIN

Oh, I think Kris will have it fixed by now. He's got a degree in Mechanical Engineering. One of three...

ESTER

(announces to the room)

A Bentley! Three degrees!

JULIUS

Broken down? Maybe he needs some help...

Julius goes to the window and looks out.

ERIN

Oh, he'll have it fixed. I think we ran the engine too much. We spent the last two nights in it, and we ran the heater too much.

ESTER

You didn't get a hotel?

ERIN

Well, he lives in his car.

ESTER

Figuratively.

No, actually.

ERIN

You mean that off white...

JULIUS (*peering through the window*)

Ivory.

ERIN
(*corrects*)

...Ivory colored '62 Bentley with the bald front tires and about three years off a complete rust out?

JULIUS

Isn't it beautiful?

ERIN

An eccentric!

REMUS
(*to himself*) Of course.

JULIUS
(*continues his vigil*)

It's stopping in front now...sort of. Ooohh! Nice high pitch on the brakes. Nice slide on the ice.

ERIN

See! He got it fixed already.

JULIUS

The one with the old geezer getting out? The chauffeur I presume.

ERIN

Kris wanted to get here early because tomorrow's his birthday. He's a Christmas Eve baby, isn't that exciting?

Finally realizing, Julius pulls back from the window, shaking his head.

JULIUS

Oh, sister. You are one of a kind.

ESTER

It's his birthday? On Christmas?

ERIN

Christmas Eve! Isn't that exciting?!

The doorbell rings. Erin jumps to it.

I'll get it. And even though it's not until tomorrow, let's sing him Happy Birthday when he comes in. Isn't that a great idea?!

Erin exits when Ester calls after. The others have already started to hum happy birthday.

ESTER

Birthday? It's his birthday?

Erin sticks her head back into the room.

ERIN

His seventieth! The big 7-0! It's a milestone. Isn't that just too much synchronicity for words?!

ESTER *(in shock)*

Seventy!? Seventy?! He's seventy and he lives in his car?!

THE REST

Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you...

They continue, humming. Erin enters with Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III. He is in a tattered sweater and slacks, covered with grease from head to toe.

He tracks in mud and snow. And his shocks of white hair flow like the mane from a wild horse.

ERIN

Ladies and Gentlemen. I proudly introduce my fiancé.

KRIS KAT

Kristoff Meerkat Elwing III at your service!

Ester falls back in her chair and faints as Hydra comes back into the room and notes the horror! She screams something like "Holy Shit!" that is drowned out by the others singing.

ALL

And a Partridge in a P-E-A-R Tree!!!

With that expletive, they keep on singing, and pass her the Poor Box for a contribution.

Blackout.

(To be continued...)

If you wish to read the complete script, please contact the playwright directly:

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