

“Stormy Night, Holy Night” Preview Page #3

Narrator: Although only lasting minutes, the storm had seemed to linger for hours.... but at last it was moving on, and the wind, rain and thunder was lessening steadily. Looking up, Caroline is helped to her feet by her father, and into the chair, she tells him that she is realizing that it took the storm to bring her closer to the Lord. and thanks him for being the kind of dad she needed. She says that, for the first time in over a year, that she feels the Christmas spirit deep within. With a smile, she leans over and begins looking through the box of Christmas books and decorations, to see what she kind find to take upstairs when the power returns. With a puzzled look, she brings out a wrapped present, and asks her father if he had hidden this and forgotten about it. Shaking his head no, he says that he's never seen it before. He didn't take out any decorations from that box last year or this one, so he has no idea what it might be. Holding the package near the light of the lantern, Caroline reads the gift tag attached... and gasps. Showing it to her father, she points to the words written on the tag: "To Caroline... From Mom." With wonder in his face, her father says that her mother must have hidden the present down here in the basement, to give to her last Christmas...and his voice trails off. Caroline finishes his unspoken thought.... and she never got to give it to me, she says. Quietly, Her father tells her to open it and see what it is. With trembling hands, she removes the wrapping slowly and reverently. Inside is a book, which she sees is a daily devotional, with an entry for each day of the coming year. As she opens it, she finds an envelope with her name written on it.

Actions during the next paragraph: *Caroline opens the card, and sees her mother's handwriting. Blinking back tears, she leans back in the chair and reads the note inside. Here is the text contents of that note to print out and attach inside the card for your performer. They should lip-sync with the soundtrack on this part.*

Narrator: Opening it with care, she takes out a Christmas card and stares at it with tear-filled and unbelieving eyes. She sits back, and begins to read her mother's handwriting out loud, with an awe-filled and unsteady voice. (Female voice:) "Dear Caroline, I have saved this gift to give to you last, because, although it might not be as flashy as the electronics or clothes you always get, it will hopefully become more special, and used every single day of the year. This book of daily devotionals is by the same author as the one I read, but made especially for young women. I know you will learn to treasure it, as you grow spiritually, and draw closer in your walk with the Lord. As you do, you will find peace in the occasional storms of life, as I have. And now a personal note... As you know, I am going away in a few days to spend some time with my mother, who has been ill for so long. While I am gone, be sure to keep up your studies, and listen to your father. Be sure to help him keep the house clean and with the cooking, since as you know few men are good at that kind of thing. I will miss you, but I will see you again soon. I will give your grandmother your love. Merry Christmas, with love, Mom."

Actions during the next paragraph: *Closing her eyes, she kisses the card and looks up to heaven, her lips forming the words, "Merry Christmas, Mom!" She tells her father how she feels, and he wipes his eyes, agreeing with her and quoting a line from an old book. Caroline expresses her wonderment at the situation and God's plan working out. They ended the conversation with a long hug.*

Narrator: Closing the card and pressing it to her lips as if giving her mother a kiss, she then looks up to Heaven and whispers "Merry Christmas, Mom!" Turning to her father, she says with a sob that it's just like opening a gift from her mother sent straight from Heaven. Wiping his own tears, Harold agrees that it is a miracle, one just for her, and is an example of how the Lord uses what seems like a bad situation to bless us and build our faith. He recalls a quote from an old book, and shares it... "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm." Caroline looks up with wonder and exclaims with a dawning realization that if they had not needed to take shelter from the storm, she might never have found the gift that her mother left behind. She says with happiness that she will never be afraid or doubt the Lord's care and compassion for her again. Then, leaning into one another, father and daughter share a long embrace that is the start of a new and closer relationship. *(continues...)*