

Christmas Eve

Characters

Andrew Thirty-one years old. Mature, thoughtful but kind of serious.
Lily Twenty-two years old. Sensitive and innocent.
John Sixty-one years old. Lily's father. Living alone after her mother's death.
Sergeant From the London police station.
Johnson A young man. He pretends as the volunteer in the lunatic asylum.

Scene I

(Andrew and Lily are in Andrew's apartment. The host on the talk show mentions about Christmas day. Andrew gets a bit of irritated by Lily's continuous questions.)

Andrew: I don't like Christmas.

Lily: How cynical! It's not your style. Do you mean that you hate the business atmosphere? Overpackaged presents, luxurious but extravagant decorations, hypocritical greeting Christmas cards.... Indeed, the original religious meanings and the sacred functions of Christmas day have been ignored year by year.....

Andrew: Whatsoever! I don't like Christmas day.

Lily: Bad childhood experiences, eh?

Andrew: Come on! Don't put too much thought in that.

Lily: So, we won't have a romantic Christmas dinner like other couples. Do you have other plans on that day?

Andrew: Dear, I want you to know. You can have a Christmas dinner and join a Christmas party if you want. I'm not forcing you, and you have no obligation to accompany me every single moment. Uh, I mean you are still young. Don't worry about me. Just do whatever you want.

Lily: Hey! Don't say that again! I love you. That's why I want to share every moment with you. I care about you, though I'm younger, and less experienced...Just don't say that again....

Andrew: (hugging Lily and patting her head) Oh, dear, I know. I care about you, too. We both had a great time on your birthday, New Year eve, anniversary, and thanksgiving.... As for Christmas day, maybe we should take a breath and hang out with our friends. And I'm occupied that day.

Lily: What is this?

Andrew: Kind of secret. It has been a long time.... I'll make up my mind and not involve in the annoying stuff. But can you promise me that no matter what, you will stand by my side as usual. No matter what I did and who I was. Our love will not change....

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(Lily puts her hands on Andrew's mouth.)

Lily: (smiling) Uh, I promise you. Then, can you tell me what it is?

(Andrew kisses Lily and holds tightly Lily's hands.)

Scene II

(The house is dark and in deep silence. An old man is sleeping. Andrew break into a house in the midnight.)

Old man: (in somniloquy) Are you crazy? I won't be responsible for that. Don't blame on me and scowl at me. It's always your own problem to poke your nose into others' business....

(Andrew moves silently and creeps into the room. Accidentally, he kicks a vase and makes a loud noise.)

Old man: (waking up with a start) Who is it?

Andrew: (turning on the light) Hello John, it's me, Andrew.

Old man: Oh! Andrew.

Andrew: I'm here to take Lily's shawl for the Christmas party. Sorry for disturbing your sleep.

Old man: Never mind! How's doing, Andrew? Is everything alright? I'm just not expecting your coming on the Christmas eve. Young couples are always busy in having romantic dinners and joining the parties. Who will think about the old man alone in the house?

Andrew: Don't say that. Lily and I have planned to visit you on the holidays. She misses you. But you know, it's really busy for us at the end of the year....

Old man: Oh, I appreciate for it. Lily became much more mature after seeing you. You are her leading guide. I'll give you guys my blessing....

(The old man gives Andrew a big and warm hug.)

Andrew: (throbbed the knife exactly into John's heart) Blessing?

Old man: Ah... An-d-rew...

Scene III

(Andrew and Lily just finished their Christmas dinner and had a chat in Andrew's house.)

(They sit in the couch and "The Way We Were" is heard.)

Lily: Dear, I'm so glad that you spare the special day with me. We don't need to care about others' views. It's important that we are both conscious and view our relationship seriously. It's really amazing that I met you and fall in love with you.

Andrew: Yeh, I love you so much, but....

(Andrew stands up.)

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Lily: That's enough for me. Old stuff is important, too. But everyone has his own past, and inconvenient memories. I'm different from those narrow-minded girls. It doesn't matter who you were and what you did, my love. (The phone rings.)
(Lily is on the phone) Yes, this is Lily, speaking...Ya, he is my father but we don't live together....Got murdered? (surprisingly and anxiously)

Scene IV

Sergeant: Andrew Dickenson, I'm Sergeant William of the London police station. The police have to arrest you as the suspect of the murder case on the Christmas Eve.

Andrew: (sighing) Okay, it's the day.

(Andrew goes with the police, but Lily yells out.)

Lily: What happened? Why do you go with the police? Stay with me! Don't leave me alone....

Sergeant: Miss, please calm down and do not obstruct our public duty.

Lily: Is that true, Andrew? Please tell me that you are not involved in the case.

Andrew: Listen, Lily, I'm very sorry.... I'm the murderer of John. Complicate situations are difficult to explain....

Lily: What murderer? Is that a joke or something? You killed my father? Andrew, are you insane? I'm on the verge of insanity.

Andrew: I'm sorry. I took revenge for my mother, who was the fiancée of your dad many years ago. However, he was really a selfish coward that he abandoned my mother after she got cancer. He threw away a frail, helpless and lonely woman like a trash simply because he met the daughter of the senator. He chose his business and wealth instead of the woman who loved him and devoted her youth to him. The indifference and cold blood of your father resulted in a series of miseries in my life.

Lily: Fiancée? My father? It's impossible! He is not that kind of irresponsible man. There must be some misunderstandings....

Andrew: No, I invested deeply many years ago. It's his unveiled past. No one knows....

Lily: My lover killed my father? How can it be? Oh! (mentally deranged) Where is my dad? Is he still in the old house? Do I need to call him to remind him of taking pills?

Andrew: (being panic) Lily, Lily, Lily, are you okay? Don't do that! Are you okay? Stay calm, please!

Lily: (acting like an innocent child) Stay calm? Okay, I will stay calm. Calm....

Andrew: (holding Lily tightly) I'm so sorry.... I'm so sorry....

Lily: Who are you? Why are you there? Why am I there?

Andrew: (bursting into tears) What have I done? Oh, god! What have I done?

(The Sergeant puts handcuffs on Andrew's hands. The police car is heard driving away after they get in the car. In her profound grief and anguish, no one but Lily is on

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the stage.)

(The siren of the police car fades away.)

Scene V

(After 15 years, Andrew is discharged from prison.)

(In the lunatic asylum, the atmosphere is silent and comfortable.)

Andrew: (seeing Lily, and hugging her tightly) Honey, how have you been these days? I'm really sorry about what I had done. I won't leave you alone again!

Lily: (smiling like a child) Haha! I just had a wonderful trip with my family. (Looking far away) Father, come here! One of my friends come visit us....

(A young man walks toward them.)

Young man: How do you do? My name is Johnson. I'm the volunteer of the lunatic asylum.

Andrew: How do you do? I'm Andrew, Lily's old friend. I just came back to the England. Thank you for taking care of her....

Young man: Lily had experienced a series of miserable stuff. She forgot everyone except her father, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend. It seems that she only wants to remember the carefree childhood....

Andrew: Childhood....

Young man: And we will hold a Christmas party on the Christmas Eve. Would you like to join the party?

Andrew: Christmas Eve? Okay! I will be there. Thank you for informing me.

(The young man goes away.)

Scene VI

(It's the Christmas Eve, Andrew dresses up for the party; however, he find that the whole lunatic asylum is vacant.)

Andrew: (confused) Hello! Is anyone there?

(A noise from the depository.)

Andrew: Is that you, Johnson?

(Andrew walks into the depository.)

(Johnson cleans out the staffs in the depository.)

Johnson: Oh! Hi! Andrew! You are so early. The party will begin at 9 o'clock.

Andrew: Really? I just can't wait.... What are you doing there? Maybe I can give you a hand....

Johnson: Yes, I have to decorate the great hall. Can you help me find the pictures?

The lunatic asylum collects a lot of pictures for our patients.

Andrew: Pictures..., like what?

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Johnson: (picking up a picture) Like that. Good old memories, uh?

(Andrew is astonished and left speechless when he sees the photo.)

Andrew: Haha! Who provided this photo? Lily? We were really close that time before the bad incident happened.

Johnson: You mean you killed her father? Or I should called him “grandpa”?

Andrew: What do you mean? Who on the earth are you? Did you know that at first?

Johnson: I’m your son. Living in poor conditions, being sneered by the classmates, thank to you, I had a wonderful childhood. Oh, I heard that you killed him to revenge for your biological mother, but indeed, you did that for your own interest. How selfish you are....

Andrew: My son? Are you serious? Lily never mentioned about that.

Johnson: You had a terrible childhood memories.... So do I! You had an irresponsible father. Guess what? SO DO I! And what should I do next? Can you tell me? What did you do then? Oh, I remember, you killed your own father....hahaha!

Andrew: I’m very sorry, both to Lily and you. I didn’t even know that I had a son....

How have you been these years? You must be suffering a lot....

Johnson: Ya, I suffered a lot... But I still had to be strong and indefatigable to take care of mother, day after day and year after year....

Andrew: I know, it’s a hectic task for a young man! I will do whatever I can to compensate for your laborious work.

Johnson: Making compensation?

(Johnson throbs the knife exactly into Andrew’s heart.)

You are definitely the worst son and the worst father in the world! What else can you do? The irreparable harm has been done...the mistake was made.... What else do you think you can do for me? What is done can't be undone....

Lily: (opening the door of the depository) Hey, Johnson, is the party going to begin? I can’t wait for any single moment. Christmas Eve is always my favorite holiday!

(Curtain)