

A DEVIL'S WISH FOR XMAS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: The devil offers his own sincere, heart-felt wishes for the holiday season.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The devil's tone should be pleasant, sincere, light. Except of course the moment where he loses control - but only for a moment.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 53:5

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon illustration; part of a Christmas program

CHARACTERS:

DEVIL

PROPS: A nice chair for the devil to sit in, a cup of eggnog, a nice holiday tree

COSTUMES: A festive turtleneck and sweater

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired;

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecified

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A DEVIL'S WISH FOR X-MAS *by John Cospier*

The stage should be set for the holidays, with a big tree, lots of lights, etc. Satan should be dressed like he's hosting a musical Christmas special with a festive holiday sweater and turtleneck and a cup of eggnog in his hand.

DEVIL: Hello. I'm the devil. And behalf of all of us here in Hell, we want to wish you the happiest of holiday seasons. I know you're probably surprised to hear that coming from the quote-unquote "father of lies". But the truth is, no one is a bigger fan of the season of lights than me. I love to see the lights on the city square. I love seeing shoppers with armloads of gifts in the malls.

I love the carols, too. Well, most of them. For me, there's nothing that compares to the dulcet tones of Bing Crosby as he sings that old classic. (sings) "I'm dreaming of a white X-mas." I am too. Seriously, we don't get any snow down here. That saying about a snowball's chance down here? Totally true.

And let's not forget the TV specials. Rudolph, and Frosty, and that old one with Kenny and Dolly that you don't see much these days. Oh, and I really like the one with the Heat Miser. Now there's a man after my own heart.

As you fill up on post-Thanksgiving turkey sandwiches and turn your attention toward December 25th, I hope you'll take the time to stop and look and enjoy this holiday season. Enjoy the beauty of snow on the ground, the twinkle of lights in the trees, and the jolly fat man taking photos by the mall food court. Enjoy the bargain hunting that comes with Black Friday and the never-ending search for just the right gift - especially those of you chasing that elusive hot toy of the season. Enjoy the office Christmas party and the hijinks sure to take place. You remember last year, right? Enjoy the release that comes from letting your road rage out as you navigate around all those idiots in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

As the big day approaches, I implore you to take in all the Santa and snow and holly and mistletoe you can stand. Why? Because the more you let these happy thoughts fill your mind, (*his anger and savagery come out as he says this next part*) the less likely you are to notice that interloper in the food trough. The one who left everything - everything! - all his power and glory for a life of poverty and a gruesome execution.

He smiles, bringing back the cheerful persona he started with.

After all, this is the season of joy and good cheer. No one should have to spend it thinking of the bloody price paid for a wretched and ungrateful people.

..... *Lights down.*