

KRIS: I got your note. It made me very happy.

DORIS: Oh, I'm so glad.

KRIS: We're having a big Christmas party at the Maplewood Home tomorrow morning. Breakfast, a beautiful tree. I'd like to have you and Susan.

DORIS: Oh, thank you. There's no one I'd rather spend Christmas with. Would you like to come to dinner tonight?

KRIS: Tonight? Oh, I can't. It's Christmas Eve.

DORIS: *(Smiling.)* Oh, I forgot.

KRIS: Bye. *(KRIS slips out as lights fade on Courtroom pandemonium.)*

SCENE NINE

SCENE: *A suburban street, the following day.*

(FRED, DORIS and SUSAN are walking along a street. In the background is the door of a house with a "For Sale" sign. They do not immediately notice.)

START → DORIS. Are you sure this is the way to the train?

FRED. I'm certain I followed Kris' directions. Carefully... *(Reading directions.)* Go along Maplewood until you get to Ashley, go straight for four blocks...

DORIS. Maybe we made a wrong turn.

FRED *(Still looking at directions)*. Maybe...

DORIS. Oh well. This is still the best Christmas I have ever had. It was wonderful having breakfast with Kris and Doctor Pierce.

SUSAN. *(Quietly, to herself)*. I believe, I believe...

DORIS. I've never had a feeling like this. Fred, for the first time I understand what you mean when you say, "Faith is believing in things..."

DORIS and FRED *(together)*. "...when common sense tells you not to."

SUSAN *(seeing the house)*. Oh, look! It's my house! It's my house! *(She dashes off into the house.)*

DORIS *(calling after her)*. Susan!

FRED. What does she mean "her house"?

DORIS. I don't know. She has never mentioned anything about a house to me.

FRED. It's a nice-looking house. Probably would be a good real estate investment for somebody.

DORIS. I suppose so.

FRED. Of course, it looks a little big for just two people. It might be a perfect size for three... don't you think? (*DORIS is beginning to get his point. They laugh.*) Doris, you know I've loved you for a long time. And I've loved Susan even longer. Now... don't you think it's time we...

DORIS. Yes, Fred. (*A long kiss.*)

FRED. Maybe we should get this house for Susan.

DORIS. For all of us.

SUSAN (*returning with a cane — very excited*). Mother!... It's got a swing in the backyard... Just like my Christmas wish — the one I told Mr. Kringle about!

DORIS. Susan, Fred and I have something to tell you.

SUSAN. That you're getting married. I know, because that was a part of my Christmas wish too.

FRED (*laughing*). She's way ahead of us!

SUSAN. And look what I found inside. It was right beside the fireplace. (*She shows Kris' cane.*)

DORIS: Oh, no. It can't be. It must have been left by the people that moved out.

FRED: Maybe. And maybe I didn't do anything so wonderful after all. (*Lights fade as the three of them huddle affectionately together.*)

✧ END

END OF PLAY.