

WHO TOOK ALL THE LOO ROLL?

Script Sample

Scene 1

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 9**) the eight members of the alien council sombrely enter and sit on the smaller side stage, in a semi-circle facing the audience. Each one intently watches an individual handheld tablet. We hear a **voiceover** (**track 10**) which can be played or spoken.)

Voiceover (in a serious tone) Nobody would have believed that at the start of the 21st century, our world was being watched. From far across the gulf of space, beings infinitely more intelligent than us, studied our behaviour and... (in a light-hearted tone)...couldn't for the life of them understand what the heck we humans were playing at!

(The aliens suddenly point at their screens and fall about in fits of laughter!)

Voiceover Yet still they wanted to reach out to us, to share their knowledge and, in the spirit of friendship, help us build a better universe together.

Alien #1 Fellow members of the council, I propose we visit planet Earth and make contact with the humans, but before we do that we should....

Alien #2 (interrupting) Blast them with lasers!

Alien #1 No Barry! Enough with the lasers! We've spoken about this, remember?

Alien #2 Oh yes....sorry.

Alien #1 Before we make contact, we should study more closely some of their funny ways, so we will feel less like strangers when we meet. What do we know about them so far?

Alien #3 Well, for starters (pointing at his/her screen), have you noticed that recently they have become obsessed with...oh, what is it...you know, they use it when they...(squatting slightly)...you know?

Alien #4 Ah yes, they call it 'loo roll'.

Alien #3 Loo roll, that's it! They've got loads of the stuff! You can't move in their houses for loo roll! Why is that?

- Alien #4** Well, our research shows it has been a difficult time for humans. When under pressure, these beings can behave in odd ways!
- Alien #1** Indeed they can! So, what else do we know about them?
- Alien #5** How about this (*pointing at screen*), some of them dress up in very tight clothing and gather in a large room to perform strange movements, all on the orders of a younger, slimmer human with a microphone headset!
- Alien #6** Ah yes, I believe they call that pastime ‘aerobics’. Now (*pointing at screen*), explain this one to me; there are humans who spend long periods of time walking, tied by a length of thin rope to a smaller, four-legged creature. What’s all that about?
- Alien #7** That’s ‘dog-walking’! Yes, very odd! What I’ve discovered (*pointing at screen*) is that humans always seem to be photographing themselves on primitive hand-held devices. What do they call it, taking a...oh, I forget.
- All Aliens** Taking a selfie!
- Alien #7** A selfie, of course! Quite bizarre!
- Alien #8** There’s so much to learn about this species, I don’t think we’ll ever be properly prepared to meet them.
- Alien #1** Well, we plan to make contact soon, whilst they are celebrating a festival they call ‘Christmas’. I propose we start learning about the traditions they have and the behaviour they display around *this* time.
- Alien #2** And then we blast them with lasers?
- Alien #1** No lasers, Barry! Right, members of the council, to work!

Song **We’ve Been Watching You**

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 11 - backing track
Lyrics p19

- Alien #8** (*pointing at screen*) Okay, I’ve found something. Humans seem to be a generous and caring species. At Christmas, they give presents.
- (*The other aliens gather round to watch his/her screen.*)
- Alien #4** They look so happy! Maybe, when we meet them, we should bring presents for them?
- Alien #8** But we must be careful that we bring the right kind of presents. Look.....
- (*The action moves to the main stage. A Christmas tree stands centrally with a selection of wrapped presents around its base. A mother and father sit on arm chairs – school chairs with throws over them - and two children, George and Daisy, kneel by the presents.*)
- Daisy** Mum, Dad, we’re so lucky! Look at all these presents round the tree!

George We didn’t expect so much! I can’t wait to open them tomorrow morning!

Mum Well Daisy, George, we all deserve a special treat this Christmas – it’s been a tough year for everyone.

Dad And there might be a couple more presents arriving soon. Uncle Jim and Aunty Sue are on their way round for a Christmas Eve drink – I bet they’ll bring you something special. *(We hear a knock)* And here they are!

(Jim and Sue enthusiastically enter, carrying four wrapped gifts, all identical in size and shape.)

Jim & Sue Merry Christmas!

Mum, Dad & Children Merry Christmas!

Sue How lovely to finally have a family get-together. What a year it’s been!

Jim And there’s no better way to celebrate than with presents!

(Jim and Sue hand out the four presents.)

Mum Presents for us too?! I thought you’d just be giving them to the children.

Jim Well, you know, *(looking nervously at Sue)* Sue and I are feeling particularly generous this Christmas, what with everything we’ve all been through.

Sue *(aside to Jim)* Plus we need to free-up some space in our cupboards!

Dad What did you say, Sue?

Sue Oh nothing! Right, come on then you lot, I know it’s still only Christmas Eve, but you might as well open these ones now.

(Mum, Dad and the children tear open their presents, each revealing a four-pack of loo roll!)

George & Daisy *(trying to hide their disappointment)* LOO ROLL?!

Sue *(slightly embarrassed)* Errr...yes. You can never have too much loo roll.

Daisy Well *you* clearly have!

George We could have done with this months ago, when there was a shortage!

Dad Come on now, it’s the thought that counts. Say thank you.

George & Daisy Thank you Uncle Jim. Thank you Aunty Sue.

Mum And anyway, all this extra loo roll may just come in useful tomorrow.

George & Daisy Why?

Mum *(holding her tummy)* Because your Dad’s cooking Christmas dinner!

*(As the **comedy fail motif** plays (**track 12**), the children look in horror at each other and clutch their loo-rolls. As the opening bars of the next song play (**track 13**), George and Daisy take presents from beneath the tree and, with smiles, hand them to the adults. They speak before they sing their first verse duet. NB - For verse 2, they could be joined by an ensemble of more children with gifts.)*

George There you are. Nothing much really – just some things we made for you.

Daisy But they’re made with love. Happy Christmas!

Song **From Me To You** *Track 2 - vocal demo*
Track 13 - backing track
Lyrics p20

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 14**), all exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 2

(Back on the side stage, the aliens resume their individual seats.)

Alien #3 Ah, that was most pleasant to watch. Christmas does seem to bring the best out in humans. But, what was that tall green plant in their room?

Alien #4 *(looking at own screen)* According to this, it’s called a ‘Christmas tree’. It seems every family has one in their house during this time.

Alien #5 I must say, I think the way they hang lights off it and put decorations on the branches makes it look very attractive.

Alien #2 Yes, I like those flashing, coloured lights too. They make me think of lasers! BIG, POWERFUL LASERS TO BLAST THE....

Alien #1 *(interrupting)* No lasers, Barry! Stop it now!

Alien #2 Oh yes, sorry!

Alien #6 *(looking at screen)* Well, these trees seem to make humans really cheerful. Look at the smiles on their faces as they gather round it.

Alien #1 Yes, Christmas trees are very important to them. Some choose an artificial one which they can use every year, while others prefer to put a real tree in their homes.

Alien #7 *(pointing at own screen)* Hmm. And others seem to not bother at all, like this family. Look, no tree.

(The other aliens gather round to watch his/her screen.)

Alien #8 Which might explain why that little girl is looking a little glum.....

(The action moves to the main stage, where the furniture has been moved around to represent a different family’s living room, and with different throws on the chairs. There is no tree however. A girl, Alice, sits cross-legged and looks sad. Mum sits on one of the chairs, wrapping a present.)

- Mum** Come on Alice, cheer up. It’s Christmas!
- Alice** I know, and I’m sorry. It’s just not the same without a tree.
- Mum** I feel awful about that, love. I can’t believe I left it in the loft when we moved house. And with it being Christmas Eve, there’ll be none left in the shops. We’d be lucky to get even a tatty bit of spruce now, not something worth decorating and putting a star on top of.
- Alice** Was there nothing when you went to look? Not anything we could cheer up with a bit of tinsel and a few fairy lights?
- Mum** Honestly, love, I tried.
- (We hear neighbour Sam’s voice from off-stage.)*
- Sam** ANYONE IN?
- (Sam enters with carrier bags and sits in the other chair.)*
- Mum** Hi Sam, come in. Been doing a bit of last-minute shopping?
- Sam** I have, but I wish I hadn’t! It’s chaos in town. I just panicked that we weren’t stocked-up enough on basics for Christmas, you know, bread, milk, snacks...loo roll!
- Mum** You’ve got plenty there! It’s going to be a good Christmas next door!
- Sam** Which made Chris and I think. Why don’t you and Alice join us for Christmas dinner tomorrow? It’s silly you two being on your own, when we’ve got plenty of food to go round. And we’ve got a beautiful tree!
- Mum** Oh, Sam! How very neighbourly of you! We’d be delighted. Did you hear that Alice? Sam has invited....
- (As Mum turns, but see’s Alice isn’t there. She has slipped out during the adults’ conversation.)*
- Mum** Alice! Alice! Oh that girl! Where’s she got to now?
- (Mum and Sam exit. A shopkeeper enters and stands behind a table in front of the main stage, with a till on it and a sign reading ‘Christmas Trees – last minute offers’. The Last Christmas tree character stands forlornly to one side – see costumes p29. We hear the **shop door** close (track 15) and the shopkeeper waves.)*
- Shopkeeper** Goodnight Madame, and merry Christmas. *(to the audience)* There goes another happy customer. I can’t believe the number of people who have left it until Christmas Eve to buy their tree. *(to the Last Christmas Tree)* Just me and you left in the shop, old fella. I doubt anyone will buy you though. Still, you’ll be good for firewood, I suppose. *(The tree shivers!)*

Song **The Last Christmas Tree**

*Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 16 - backing track
Lyrics below and p21*

Tree *(sung solo)* I am the last Christmas tree in the shop and you can see
Why nobody loves me.
There’s a little bit of rot where the star should be on top
And nobody loves me.
My needles will fall on the carpet in the hall
And I’m starting to believe
That nobody wants me, this Christmas Eve.

(We hear the shop door open and a customer enters.)

Customer *(spoken)* Ah yes, good evening. I know we’ve left it a little late, but we’d like to buy a Christmas tree please.

Shopkeeper *(spoken)* A little late? You can say that again! Well, I’m afraid we only have one left.

Customer *(spoken)* Well, let’s have a look. *(The shopkeeper points at the tree.)* Is that it?!
Oh dear, that won’t do at all! It’s awful! I’m afraid we’ll have to try somewhere else. Goodbye!

(The customer exits and we hear the shop door close.)

All *(sung)* He is the last Christmas tree in the shop and you can see
Why nobody loves him.
He’s moldy down below where the presents need to go
And nobody loves him.
His bark’s falling off and the smell will make you cough
And we’re starting to believe
That nobody wants him, this Christmas Eve.

Shopkeeper *(spoken)* Well, I don’t think I’ll be getting any more customers this late on Christmas Eve, so I might as well shut the shop.

(We hear the shop door open and Alice enters, now wearing a coat.)

Alice *(spoken)* Excuse me, I’ve not got a lot of money, but you wouldn’t happen to have a Christmas tree left, would you?

Shopkeeper *(spoken)* I’ve got this one. He’s a bit tatty, so I’ll tell you what, you can have him for nothing.

Alice *(spoken)* Oh, thank you! He’s just what I was looking for!

(She holds the hand/branch of the tree and brings it to the front.)

(sung solo) He is the last Christmas tree, he’s not perfect, just like me,
And that’s why I love him.
He’s the last Christmas tree and he’s coming home with me
And that’s why I love him.
The last Christmas tree and on this Christmas Eve
We’re as happy as can be,
Just me and my Christmas,
Me and my Christmas,
Me and my Christmas tree.

*(As the song finishes, we hear the **shop door** open (track 17) and Mum enters.)*

- Mum** Here you are! You had me worried sick!
- Alice** I’m sorry, Mum, but look....what do you think? Isn’t it just perfect?
- Mum** Oh, love, it’s beautiful! Come on, let’s get the two of you home.

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 18), all exit. The shop table is removed and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 3

(The aliens are still gathered round the same screen, all dabbing their eyes!)

- Alien #8** *(blubbing uncontrollably)* The little girl....she...she...she didn’t have a tree....that la..la..last tree was going to be firewood....the little girl gave hi...hi...him a home! These humans are so won...won...wonderful!

(The other Aliens gather round to give comfort.)

- Alien #1** There, there. Calm yourself. I do understand though – that was a lovely thing she did. But come on, back to work. Let’s see what else humans do at Christmas time.

(The aliens resume their individual seats and look at their own screens.)

- Alien #3** Now, here’s a strange thing! Humans like to show their affection for one another at Christmas time and it seems they use something called ‘mistletoe’ to help them do it! I’ve sent you all a link.

(In unison, the aliens click their own screens, stare for a second then react in shock!)

- All Aliens** Eurgh!!! What are they doing?!
- Alien #4** Ah, now I’ve seen this before. It’s called ‘kissing’. Our race stopped this practice aeons ago, thankfully.
- Alien #2** It’s horrible! Make it stop! How about, instead of this, we check out those clips I found, of them blasting each other with...
- Alien #1** Enough, Barry!
- Alien #2** *(sulking)* It’s not fair, we never get to watch what I want to watch.
- Alien #4** Maybe we should acquire some of this mistletoe, for when we make contact. It seems a useful tool for showing friendly intentions.
- Alien #5** Hmm, we need to think carefully about that. Look.....

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

Please note, a shorter, simpler version of this script is included in your production pack. Also, an editable version (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.