

WHO TOOK ALL THE LOO ROLL?

Script Sample – shorter, simplified version

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 We should visit these humans on planet Earth.

Alien #2 But first, let's see what we can find out about them.

Alien #3 For starters (pointing at his/her screen), many of them seem to enjoy buying this stuff...it's called 'loo roll'. They've got loads of it!

Alien #4 Well, it seems it has been a difficult time for humans, which can make them behave in odd ways!

Alien #5 How about this (pointing at screen)? What's happening here? Lots of sweaty humans in tight clothing, huffing and puffing! Eurgh!

Alien #6 They call that 'aerobics'. (pointing at screen) What are these ones doing, walking about with a four-legged creature on the end of a string?!

Alien #7 That's 'dog-walking'! (pointing at screen) And humans are always photographing themselves on hand-held devices and sharing the pictures!

Alien #8 Ah yes, selfies! Wow, there's so much to learn about this species. When are we visiting them?

Alien #1 Soon, whilst they are celebrating a festival they call ‘Christmas’. We must find out all about what happens during *this* time, so we won’t feel too much like strangers when we meet them. Right, to work!

Song **We’ve Been Watching You**

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

Alien #8 *(pointing at screen)* Here’s something. At Christmas, humans give presents.
(The other aliens gather round to watch his/her screen.)

Alien #4 We should bring presents for them when we visit?

Alien #8 But they must be 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 didn’t expect so many presents!

Mum Well Daisy, George, we thought you deserved an extra treat this Christmas – it’s been a funny year.

Dad And I bet Uncle Jim and Auntie Sue will bring you something special too.
(We hear a knock) Here they are!

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

Jim Merry Christmas! *(as they hand out the presents)* Here, presents for all.
(looking nervously at Sue) Sue and I are feeling generous this Christmas – it’s been a funny year.

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

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

George *(trying to hide his disappointment)* LOO ROLL?!

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

George We needed this nine months ago!

Dad Come on now, it’s the thought that counts. Thanks Jim, thanks Sue.

Mum And all this extra loo roll will 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 So, what was that tall green plant in their room?

Alien #4 *(looking at own screen)* It says here that it’s called a ‘Christmas tree’.

Alien #5 I do like the way they put decorations on the branches.

Alien #2 Yes, and those twinkly lights look lovely.

Alien #6 I liked the humans’ smiling faces as they gather round it.

Alien #7 *(pointing at own screen)* Hang on, look at this human family...no tree?

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

Alien #8 No wonder 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.)

Alice Oh Mum, Christmas just won’t be the same without a tree.

Mum I’m sorry, Alice. I can’t believe I left it in the loft when we moved house.

(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. Bit of last-minute shopping?

Sam Just some basics for Christmas; you know, bread, milk ...loo roll!

Mum You’ve got plenty there! It’s going to be a good Christmas next door!

Sam Well, why don't you and Alice join us for Christmas dinner tomorrow?
We've got plenty of food...*(seeing Alice's sad face)*... and a beautiful tree!

Mum Oh, thank you! Alice, did you hear? Sam has invited us next door for...
(Alice has slipped out during the adults' conversation.) 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 shop keeper waves.)*

Shopkeeper *(to the audience)* Another happy customer. *(to the Last Christmas Tree)* Just me and you left in the shop now, old fella, but nobody's going to buy you, especially not this late on Christmas Eve.

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!

Alice I’m sorry, Mum, but look.... 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...gave hi...hi...him a home! These humans are so won...won...wonderful!

(The other Aliens gather round to give comfort.)

Alien #1 Come on, calm yourself. There’s lots more to see yet.

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

Alien #3 Now, here’s a strange thing! 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. Humans refer to it as ‘kissing’.

Alien #2 And look, they’re holding a strange plant to do it under.

Alien #4

Yes, that's called 'mistletoe'. It's a Christmas tradition to kiss beneath it.

Alien #5

We should take some to show the humans we are friendly. But we need to be careful. Look.....

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE