

CHRISTMAS ON PROSPERITY LANE

By Susan Evans

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AUDITION -- for 3 m, 4 w, 1 boy

In this scene, Elaine discovers the lights are working and Broden does some snooping.

(AT RISE: The next morning. ELAINE enters SL with a cup of coffee. She crosses to the front door and gets morning paper. She sits on sofa and notices that the tree lights are on. She jumps up.)

ELAINE: Charles, Charles come quick. I want you to see something.

(CHARLES enters with a cup of coffee, dressed for work.)

CHARLES: What is it, dear?

ELAINE: The tree, the tree lights are on!

CHARLES: Why, yes, they are. Those electricians must know what they're doing.

ELAINE: You don't understand, honey. They weren't working when they left yesterday and they weren't on when we went to bed.

CHARLES: Maybe they jiggled a loose wire yesterday or something. You said they checked every room in the house.

(ELAINE walks to the window and looks out.)

ELAINE: Well the outside lights are still off. Oh well, Rex and Roxy will be back sometime today to fix them. At least the tree lights will be on for dinner this evening.

(THEY both sit down on sofa.)

CHARLES: Can you believe those kids wanting to host a dinner party for the misfits.

ELAINE: Charles, be kind. They're not misfits, they're just not as well off as we are.

CHARLES: I didn't really mean that, you know what I meant. It's just so out of character for them.

ELAINE: I know and now I have a lot of work to do today -- cleaning and getting dinner ready. I wasn't even planning to go to the church play. Now we'll have to. Maybe Frances will make that dessert the kids like. I need to get started right away. What was I thinking to agree to this dinner with everything else I have to do!?

CHARLES: I'm sure she will be glad to help. *(Standing, putting on coat.)* I've got to get to work. Call me later if you need me to pick up anything for tonight.

ELAINE: OK thanks, have a good day.

(CHARLES leaves. ELAINE pulls out her cell phone, dials.)

ELAINE: *(Cont'd. Speaking.)* Hello, Frances, this is Elaine. I know it's short notice, but we're planning a small dinner party tonight and we'd love for you to come. *(Pause.)* You can? Great. *(Beat.)* Well, yes, if you'd like to bring something that would be great. *(Pause.)* Your broccoli casserole and the dessert the kids like will be just fine. See you at 5. Bye.

(SFX: Knock at the door. ELAINE opens it.)

ELAINE: *(Cont'd.)* Rex and Roxy, come on in. I was so excited this morning when I came into the living room and the Christmas lights were on. I didn't think you had gotten them fixed yesterday before you left.

(BOTH look surprised as they look at the tree.)

ROXY: Neither did we!

REX: What she means is that we didn't realize that breaker we put in was going to work without the switch that we brought to put in today. I guess it did.

ELAINE: It appears so. I'll just let you all get to work. I have a lot to do myself today. I need to prepare some things for a little dinner party we're giving this evening.

REX: So, you're having a party this evening? What time? We'll try to get finished as soon as we can and get out of your way.

ELAINE: I'd really appreciate that. We're just having dinner for some friends of the children, and then we'll be going to the Christmas play at church.

ROXY: (*Looking at REX.*) So, you'll be gone later this evening for a while?

ELAINE: Yes, for several hours. Don't worry about bothering me today though. Just get those outdoor lights working.

REX: We sure will, ma'am, and I'd like to do one more walk-through on all the outlets and boxes in the house as well.

ELAINE: Whatever you need to do. I'll check with you later. (*ELAINE exits to inside of house.*)

REX: This is perfect. The family will be gone all evening. We can come back and rob them while they're at church.

ROXY: It just don't seem right to rob them while they're at church.

REX: Would you feel better robbing them if they were at the movies?

ROXY: I don't know...

REX: Roxy, most people would say it didn't seem right robbing them at all, but it's what we do. Look at all this stuff. They won't even miss it. Besides they have lots of money. They'll just replace it with new stuff. After all, this job did fall into our laps.

ROXY: You're right.

REX: I knew you'd see it my way.

ROXY: (*Walking over to the Christmas tree.*) How did you fix these lights, Rex? You didn't put any breaker in yesterday.

REX: That's really strange. I didn't do anything to 'em. I'm not gonna do anything to fix the outside ones either.

REX: *(Cont'd.)* Let's have another look at the rooms in the house and see exactly what we want to "pick up" tonight.

(THEY exit. Pause. BRODEN enters from outside with his camera and sees gifts under the tree. He picks up a flat box and shakes it.)

BRODEN: A shirt. *(Picks up another box and shakes it.)* Underwear! Gee whiz, Mom. *(He looks through boxes and reads names until he finds the big box his mother wrapped. He pulls it out and shakes it several times.)* My new gaming system. Nice job, Mom, on putting it in a bigger box. Tricky -- I like it. *(He puts box back under the tree and looks at the camera.)* What's this? Who are these..? I can't tell who they are. I wish this camera had sound.

(HE gets his remote car out and listens to his recorder. You can play a recording of Rex and Roxy's conversation or just pretend that Broden is listening to it. He's shocked.)

BRODEN: *(Cont'd.)* There's something funny going on here. *(Yelling.)* MOM!!

(ELAINE enters from kitchen.)

ELAINE: What's wrong, Broden? You know I'm really busy today.

BRODEN: I was looking at my spy stuff and there's something—

ELAINE: *(Puts her hand up to silence him.)* I don't have time for this nonsense now. I'm getting ready for the dinner tonight. You'll just have to wait until later to tell me.

BRODEN: But Mom—

(ELAINE turns and exits back to kitchen. TUCKER, PAIGE, and SYDNEY enter from outside.)

TUCKER: Hey, little bro. What's up?

BRODEN: I was looking at my spy camera and --
PAIGE: And you saw Big Foot, he was in our yard!

(The THREE laugh.)

SYDNEY: Did you get mama kissing Santa Claus or maybe Tucker kissing...

TUCKER: Watch it, Sydney, or I'll play one of your phone conversations over the intercom at school.

SYDNEY: You wouldn't dare.

PAIGE: What is it, Broden? What did you get on your camera, or were you eavesdropping with your recorder?

(THEY all laugh again and stand staring at Broden.)

BRODEN: *(Hesitantly.)* Well, I was looking at my...

TUCKER: Spit it out, we don't have all day.

(REX and ROXY enter from inside house.)

BRODEN: *(Looks at them and swallows.)* Nothing, it wasn't important.

TUCKER: Come on then, we have some things to do before the dinner.

(The KIDS exit into house except Broden.)

REX: *(Walking over to Broden.)* What ya got there, kid?

BRODEN: Just a camera and my remote car.

REX: I had a remote car when I was a kid too. Come on, Roxy, we gotta go. *(They exit to outside.)*

BRODEN: Great! No one wants to listen to me. Guess I'll have to take care of this myself.

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