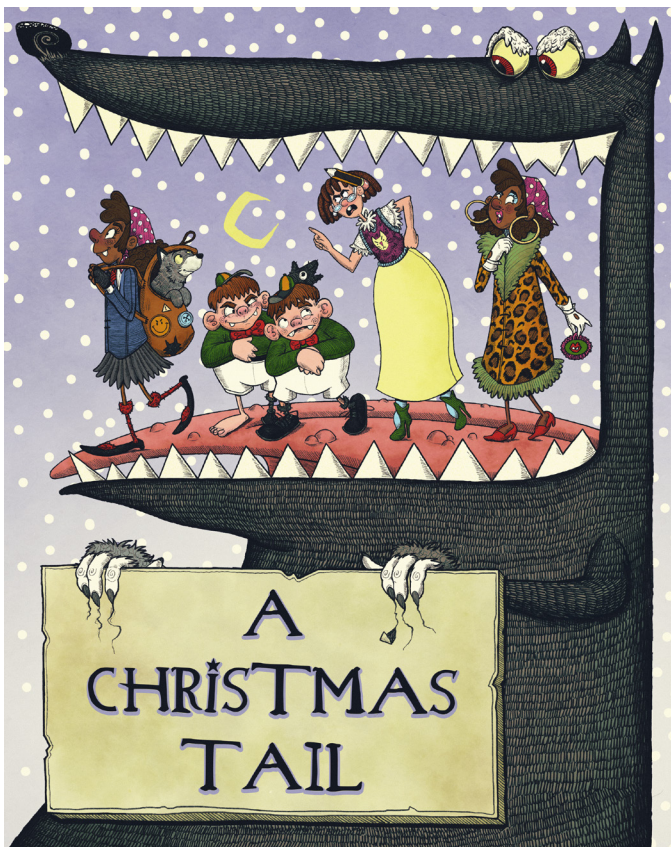




SAMPLES

RECORDING
SCRIPT

A CHRISTMAS TAIL.



CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Puppy (Eddie)

Mr Simmons

Lily

Girl

Teacher 2

Boy 1

Boy 2

Mum

Nan

Auntie

The Weird Twins

Wolf Pack Leader

School kids

Teachers

Wolves



SCENE 1**EXT. A FOREST.****AFTERNOON, LATE DECEMBER.**

SFX *Wind in leafless trees. Creaking of branches. Winter birds, such as the robin. The patter of four feet, sounds of snuffling and sniffing in the undergrowth.*

1 PUPPY: *(Sniffs) What's that? (Sniffs and snuffles - hopefully) No, not food. (Moves on... sniffs) What's that? (Big sniff) A dog came by here. A stranger - a female dog, not one of my pack. Oh, where are they? Where can they be? (Whimpers) It will be getting dark soon. I'll never find them.*

SFX *A howl in the distance - a wild dog.*

2 PUPPY: *What was that? Was that them? (A little puppy howl) Help! I'm hungry. So hungry! Please find me! Please...*

SFX *A school bell in the distance.*

CUT TO



SCENE 2**INT. A CLASSROOM, IN A HIGH SCHOOL**

SFX *School bell*

1 MR SIMMONS: Right everyone, that's it. Off you go – have a good Christmas.

SFX *Kids packing up, chattering.*

2 MR SIMMONS: Lily – don't forget, you've got detention.

3 LILY: Aw Sir – I thought you'd let me off.

4 MR SIMMONS: You were talking in my lesson.

5 LILY: You were teaching in my conversation!

6 MR SIMMONS: Detention, Lily.

7 LILY: It's so boring.

8 MR SIMMONS: Lily...

9 LILY: It's Christmas.

10 MR SIMMONS: Now!

Lily angrily storms out of the classroom.

CUT TO



SCENE 3**INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR.****CONTINUOUS**

SFX *A busy school corridor to detention. Lots of other kids around – saying goodbye for the holidays. Teachers' voices, wishing everyone Happy Christmas.*

1 LILY: (Bumping into someone) Oi – get out my way!

2 GIRL: (Calls over) Hey, Lily! We're going to get some chips. Wanna come?

3 LILY: Can't. Got detention.

4 GIRL: What? It's Christmas!

5 LILY: Tell me about it!

SFX *Lily arrives at the room for detention – knocks.*

SFX *Door opens.*

6 TEACHER: Ah – Lily.

7 LILY Miss (Mr) Simmons sent me.

8 TEACHER: What did you do?

9 LILY: Dunno.

10 TEACHER: In you come.

SFX *Lily goes into the detention room.*

CUT TO



SCENE 4**EXT. THE FOREST****A SHORT WHILE LATER.**

SFX *Puppy paws and snuffling.*

1 PUPPY: Almost dark. Lots of unfamiliar smells. I don't like it.
I'm scared. (*Whimpers and howls*)

CUT TO



SCENE 5**DETENTION****HALF AN HOUR LATER.**

SFX *Clock ticking.*

1 BOY #1: How much longer, Miss?

2 TEACHER: Not long,

3 LILY Miss, I'm BORED!

4 TEACHER: Be quiet Lily.

SFX *Rocking on chairs.*

5 LILY: Don't you want to get home too, Miss?

6 TEACHER: As a matter of fact, I do! Sitting in detention with you lot is not my idea of festive fun.

7 BOY #2: Can we go then?

8 BOY #1: Please!

9 TEACHER: Go on then. Off you go.

10 ALL: Yessss!

11 LILY: I'm out of here!

CUT TO



SCENE 6**FOREST.****A SHORT WHILE LATER.**

SFX *Wind, creaking branches.*

Lily walking, kicking up the leaves – she's cold.

SFX *Lily's phone rings, she answers.*

1 LILY: Hi Mum.

2 MUM: Lily, where are you?

3 LILY: I went for some chips.

4 MUM: Your Nan is here, with your Auntie. They've come to exchange Christmas presents.

5 LILY: Oh – not the weird twins too!

6 MUM: Yes, your cousins are here as well. Have you forgotten?

7 LILY No. I was just hungry and I wanted some chips. I'm coming home now. I've cut through the woods, so I won't be long.

8 MUM: How many times have I told you not to come through the woods after dark.

9 LILY: It's fine Mum. Stop fussing. I'll be home in a few minutes.

10 MUM: All right all right!

SFX *Lily puts the phone down, with a sigh of frustration.*

SFX *Lily sets off running.*

SFX *Lily trips.*

11 LILY: Woah!

SFX *Lily falls with a thump.*

CUT TO



SCENE 7**THE SAME.****A FEW MOMENTS LATER.**

SFX *Puppy panting and licking.*

- 1 LILY: (A bit dazed) What? Oh – hello little puppy! You’re cute. No – no – don’t lick my face.
- 2 PUPPY: Sorry.
- 3 LILY: What?
- 4 PUPPY: I saw you trip and fall. Are you hurt?
- 5 LILY: Y...eah! I must be.
- 6 PUPPY: Where does it hurt?
- 7 LILY: I think I banged my head. I must have banged my head; cos I think you’re talking to me.
- 8 PUPPY: I am.
- 9 LILY: You’re a dog.
- 10 PUPPY: Actually I’m a Torgo-Chien.
- 11 LILY: A what?
- 12 PUPPY: I got separated from my pack. (Whimpers) And now I’m all alone, and I’m scared, and I’m hungry.
- 13 LILY: I can get some food for you – at my house.
- 14 PUPPY: Can I come with you?
- 15 LILY: Yeah. I’ll have to sneak you in. Can you squeeze into my rucksack.
- 16 PUPPY: Thank you.

SFX *Puppy climbs in the ruck sack.*

- 17 LILY: All set?
- 18 PUPPY: Yes. (Woof)
- 19 LILY: Let’s go!

CUT TO

SCENE 8**INT. LILY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM.****10 MINUTES LATER.**

1 NAN: Where's Lily got to?

2 MUM: I phoned her. She's on her way.

3 TWINS: Lily's late!

4 AUNTIE: She forgot about us, didn't she.

5 MUM: Of course not. She was saying goodbye to her friends.

6 AUNTIE The twins always come straight home.

7 TWINS: We don't need any friends.

8 NAN: You have each other.

9 TWINS: Yes, Nanny. We do.

SFX *(Off) The sound of the front door opening.*

10 MUM: Ah – that's her now.

SFX *(Off) Door closes.*

11 MUM: In here, Lily!

12 LILY: *(Coming into the room)* Hi everyone. Happy Christmas!

13 TWINS / NAN / AUNTIE: Happy Christmas, Lily!

Pause.

14 MUM: Why don't you put your bag down, Lily, and come right in.

15 LILY: I'm hungry. I'm just gonna go make a pot noodle.

16 NAN: She's hungry.

17 AUNTIE: We brought mince pies.

18 TWINS We made them.

19 LILY: Sorry. Don't like mince pies. *(Exiting)* Won't be long.

20 AUNTIE: Well really.



- 1 NAN: How rude!
- 2 MUM: *(Exiting)* I'll go and get her.
- 3 TWINS: Doesn't like mince pies? That's weird.

CUT TO



SCENE 9**INT. THE KITCHEN.****CONTINUOUS.**

SFX *Lily flicks the kettle on and peels the lid back on a pot noodle.*

- 1 MUM: (Entering) Lily, what are you doing?
- 2 LILY: Making a pot noodle.
- 3 MUM: I thought you had some chips.
- 4 LILY: I lied. I got detention. Sorry.
- 5 MUM: Oh Lily.
- 6 LILY: Talking in maths. It was nothing. You go back to the living room, Mum. I won't be long.
- 7 MUM: (Little shriek) Lily! Your rucksack just moved.
- 8 LILY: No it didn't.
- 9 MUM: Look! Look! It did it again. It's alive. Is there something in there?
- 10 LILY: No Mum. Mum, don't...

SFX *Mum unzips the rucksack.*

- 11 PUPPY: Woof!
- 12 MUM: What's this?
- 13 LILY: It's not what it looks like.
- 14 MUM: It looks like a puppy.
- 15 LILY: A magical puppy.
- 16 TWINS: (Entering) Lily has a puppy.
- 17 PUPPY: (Whimpers and runs)
- 18 LILY: Don't scare him!
- 19 TWINS: We didn't.
- 20 LILY: Of course you did. You scare me!

CUT TO

SCENE 10**INT. LIVING ROOM.****CONTINUOUS.**

SFX *Puppy panting, whimpering.*

- 1 NAN Oh! There's a puppy.
- 2 LILY Here boy, don't be scared.
- 3 AUNTIE: I didn't know you had a puppy.
- 4 MUM: Neither did I!
- 5 LILY: I found him in the woods.
- 6 MUM: You can't keep him. We need to take him somewhere – to the RSPCA.
- 7 LILY: But he's special. He can talk.
- 8 AUNTIE: Oh really!
- 9 LILY: He can. *(To the puppy)* Go on, say something.
- 10 PUPPY: Woof!
- 11 LILY: No – talk! Like you did in the woods.
- 12 AUNTIE: This is ridiculous.
- 13 PUPPY: *(Whimpers)*
- 14 LILY: Go on. Say something.
- 15 PUPPY: *(Whimpers and builds up to a wine, then a full puppy howl)*
- SFX *The puppy's howl is met with a big wolf howl from the garden.*
- 16 MUM: What was that.
- 17 AUNTIE Look! Out there. On the front garden. In the road.
- 18 NAN: Wolves!
- SFX *More howling!*
- 19 LILY: It must be his pack.
- 20 PUPPY: *(Howls)*



1 LILY: They've come for him.

2 MUM: What do you mean?

3 TWINS: Let him out. Let him out.

SFX *The Twins run out of the room.*

4 MUM: No, stop! Don't open the front door!

SFX *(Off) Front door opening.*

SFX *(Off) A large wolf comes tearing in.*

5 TWINS: *(Off) Arrghh!!!*

SFX *General pandemonium in the room. The barking of the wolf, the yapping of the puppy. Crashing of glass.*

6 MUM: My best vase.

SFX *A rattling.*

7 MUM: No! Not the Christmas tree!

SFX *Christmas tree crashes to the floor.*

SFX *The wolf stands, snarling...*

8 LILY: I didn't hurt your puppy. See! I only wanted to feed him.
Please don't take him.

SFX: *Wolf howls. Puppy howls and yelps as he is grabbed by the wolf.*

9 LILY: Put him down!

SFX *Wolf turns and runs.*

10 LILY: Come back!

11 MUM: Let them go.

12 LILY: *(Chasing after them)* Come back!

13 MUM: Don't go after them – Lily! Just stay here, everyone. I'll go after her.

SFX *Mum runs off after Lily.*

14 TWINS: Would anyone like a mince pie?

CUT TO



SCENE 11**EXT. THE FOREST****A FEW MINUTES LATER**

SFX *Lily arrives in the forest, out of breath. Mum not far behind.*

- 1 MUM: (Off) Lily, wait! Come back.
- 2 LILY: Where did they go?
- 3 MUM: (Arriving, out of breath) Leave it, Lily. He's gone.
- 4 LILY: I just wanted to explain. I wouldn't have hurt him.
- 5 MUM: You can't explain to a pack of wolves.
- 6 LILY: But they weren't ordinary wolves.
- 7 MUM: Lily, you had a bang on the head. Dogs can't talk.
- 8 WOLF: Yes we can. But only in the forest.
- 9 MUM: Well, I never!
- 10 LILY: Do you believe me now, Mum?
- 11 WOLF: You stole our puppy!
- 12 LILY: He was lost and hungry. I only took him home for a pot noodle.
- 13 PUPPY: It's true. I asked if I could go with her.
- 14 LILY: I didn't kidnap him.
- 15 WOLF: So why have you followed us.
- 16 LILY: I just want to say a proper goodbye. I thought we were friends.
- 17 PUPPY: We are.
- 18 LILY: You are so cute!
- SFX *Puppy runs to Lily. She fusses him, laughing.*
- 19 MUM: Don't let him lick your face Lily. It's not hygienic.
- 20 PUPPY: I wish I could stay with you.
- 21 LILY: You belong with your pack in the forest.



- 1 PUPPY: But I feel at home with you. You're my friend.
- 2 WOLF: Do you really want to stay with the humans?
- 3 PUPPY: I do.
- 4 WOLF: You lose the power of speech in the town.
- 5 PUPPY: We can come for long walks in the forest.
- 6 LILY: Mum? What do you say?
- 7 MUM: I don't know...
- 8 PUPPY: Please!
- 9 MUM: How do you say no to a magical talking puppy?
- 10 WOLF: Are you sure, my son?
- 11 PUPPY: I'm sure.
- 12 WOLF: Very well then.
- 13 LILY: Oh - this is the best Christmas present ever.
- 14 MUM: Christmas! We need to get back. Your Auntie and your Nan are waiting.
- 15 PUPPY: And those strange children.
- 16 LILY: They're my cousins. You get used to them.
- 17 MUM: You can introduce your puppy properly this time.
- 18 LILY: Yes.
- 19 MUM: So you'd better give him a name.
- 20 PUPPY: I've got a name. It's (*dog noises*).
- 21 LILY: Sorry – you need a human name.
- 22 PUPPY: Then what shall I be called?
- 23 LILY: That's easy, I've known all along. Your name is... Eddie!
- 24 PUPPY: Eddie.
- 25 LILY: Yes. Happy Christmas, Eddie!

THE END

