

BEST FRIENDS

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ACT ONE

SCENE I

SCENE: Outside of Grace Christian Academy –Paul is carrying Katzi's suitcase . The Olivia, Katzi and Paul are walking up towards door.

OLIVIA: Are you sure you packed everything?

KATZI: Yes, Mom.

OLIVIA: Toothbrush?

KATZI; Yes, Mom.

OLIVIA: Heavy boots?

KATZI: Yes, Mom.

OLIVIA: Hairdryer?

KATZI: Yes, Mom.

PAUL: Kitchen sink?

KATZI: Daddy!

OLIVIA: *Straightening Katzi's collar.*

Honey, are you sure you're going to be all right?

KATZI:

Mom, I'll be fine.

OLIVIA:

You know that daddy and I would have brought you along If it was safe to take you, Katzi but that country is too dangerous right now.

KATZI:

You and dad have taken me to the mission field every year. I'm not complaining.

Besides, this will be a great opportunity for me to experience Grace Christian Academy – it’s supposed to be the best Christian boarding school around. But, the thing I’m looking forward to the most, Mom, is finally being in one place long enough to make best friends.

PAUL:

Katzi, you’re the kind of person anyone would love to have for a friend. Now, don’t forget that anywhere you are is your own personal mission field. You’ll meet all kinds of people here: some will be kind and some won’t. Remember we’re all “works in progress.” But, one thing we all have in common is our need for Jesus. When you bring his love with you and you treat people with kindness – not matter what they say or do – they will see the love of Jesus in action.

Song: Let Your Light Shine Paul, Olivia, and Katzi singing.

I

Let your light shine before men
 Let your light let your light shine before men
 That they may see the good that you do
 And give glory unto God

Chorus

For Jesus knows our sorrows
 And Jesus knows our souls
 He will never leave us
 He’ll help us overcome

II

In so much as you can
 Be at peace be at peace with all men
 Put your trust in God and obey the Lord
 Be at peace with all men.

III

Lift your needs to him in prayer
 Lift your needs; lift your needs to him in prayer
 And he will lift you up in his arms
 Lift your needs to him in prayer

At end of song family hugs.

OLIVIA:

You'll do great, honey.

Miss Finkle enters stage right walking briskly

MISS FINKLE:

Hello! Hello! Helloooo! You must be the Christianson family! I'm Miss Finkle, the Headmistress and this must be Katherine.

KATZI:

Pleased to meet you Miss Finkle, but all my friends call me Katzi – I could never pronounce Katherine when I was a baby – and the name stuck.

MISS FINKLE:

Yes, well Katzi, all the girls have been waiting to greet you. Please, *turns to parents*, let me show you around and then I'll take Katzi to meet the children, most of them are decorating our tree for Christmas. Katzi won't be the only one staying over the Christmas Holidays. Regina Newsome – who is in Katzi's class will also be with us.

OLIVIA:

I'm so glad she'll have a friend to share Christmas with.

MISS FINKLE:

Smiles wryly.

Hmmm.

Sighs

Oh, indeed.

Starts to lose concentration, starts looking off in the distance.

PAUL:

Miss Finkle?

MISS FINKLE:

Yes – that's right – rhymes with Tinkle.

PAUL:

We'll keep in close touch with Katzi by phone and e-mail .

MISS FINKLE:

Wonderful! Wonderful! Come along all.

Leads family off stage.

SCENE 2

Main room at Grace Christian Academy – some girls are decorating the Christmas tree, some are reading, some are playing a board game. Girls decorating the tree and the room are singing “Away In A Manger.”

Regina is sitting sullenly in a chair facing away from the tree.

Miss Finkle enters with Katzi

MISS FINKLE:

Ladies! Ladies!

Let me introduce our newest student. This is Katzi Christenson, she'll be with us for the rest of the academic year and even though she's come late in the semester I'm sure we'll all do everything we can to make her welcome.

MARISSA:

Hi, my name is Marissa. I hope you'll like it here. I'll be glad to help you carry your things to your room.

KATZI:

Smiling

Thanks, I'd appreciate that. *They shake hands*

MISS FINKLE:

We have a tradition of singing our special song of welcome to new students. Girls are you ready?

Girls form a line for Virginia Reel (two lines and facing each other) – type dance

Song: Welcome! Sung by Miss Finkle and all but Regina – who sits on sidelines sulking.

Chorus

Welcome, yes you are welcome
 Welcome to Grace Academy
 We want to tell you
 That your are welcome
 So come along and join our family

I

Jesus died upon the cross

So we could have new life
He shed his blood for all of us
So come and learn with us

II

Our Christian school is just a place
To live and love and share
To learn about the godly life
To turn our lives around.

MISS FINKLE:

Well, Katzi you can see we're all glad you're here.

MARISSA:

Has she been assigned a room yet, Miss Finkle?

MISS FINKLE:

She'll be in room 208, Marissa. Let's show her the way.

Marissa picks up Katzi's suitcase, Miss Finkle, Katzi, and Marissa exit. Girls return to previous activities, decorating the Christmas tree and the room.

REGINA:

Well, Angela, I'm glad that's over. I hate having to go around and welcome people.

ANGELA:

Regina, you hate everything.

REGINA:

No I don't. I love skiing in Switzerland; I love our houses in Bermuda and Bellaire. I just hate having to put on "Mr. Happy Face" just because a mission orphan is dropped on us.

ANGELA:

You know this is a Christian academy.

REGINA:

I happen to have a very Christian attitude. I just don't happen to have one at this moment.

ANGELA:

Well, please don't be as mean to this girl as you were to the last one.

REGINA:

You mean the crybaby that ran away last year? I was sweet to her!

ANGELA:

You were so sweet – she refused to come back here.

REGINA:

That's not my problem you know.

Song: It's Hard to Be Me – Sung by Regina

I

It's hard to be me
Above the rest
It's hard to be me
To be the best
I can hardly realize
The things I do to show
That I am the best

Chorus

And when I wake each morning just at noon
I know that I shall do good very soon
I'll show each missy, girl and every gal
That I'm the one they'll want for a new pal

II

It's hard to be me
To show the way
To be so excellent
In every way
The way I dress, speak, and walk
I set the standard here
It's hard to be me
It's hard to be me
It's hard to be me!

Miss Finkle enters at end of song.

MISS FINKLE:

Girls, I'm going to reassign a few rooms so three of you will get new roommates.

REGINA:

That sounds good – maybe I’ll get rid of that “goody two shoes”
Marissa.

ANGELA:

Oh, Regina!

SCENE 3

Katzi's dorm room – Katzi seated on bed, Marissa in a chair.

MARISSA:

So Katzi, tell me about yourself.

KATZI:

Well, there's not much to tell

Looks through some things in her suitcase. Pulls out a photo album.

Oh, here are my pictures of my family. They're probably the most precious things I have.

Showing Marissa her photos.

My parents are missionaries who always go to the most isolated peoples. People that live in hard to reach places.

I've always traveled with them – until now.

MARISSA:

A lot of us have parents who travel a lot and of course there are a few "problem" children here.

KATZI:

What do you mean?

MARISSA:

Kids that parents can't or won't control.

KATZI:

So they're sent away?

MARISSA:

That's right.

KATZI:

That's so sad.

MARISSA:

My parents sent me here so that I could get a great education – this is the best school in the region.

KATZI:

Are you staying over the holidays?

MARISSA:

No, we're all going to see my grandmother in New York. I think Regina will be here though. I think that girl need prayer.

KATZI:

Mom always says the best way to help people is to pray for them.
Would you like to start a prayer group with me?

MARISSA:

Aren't just you and I too small to be a group?

KATZI:

Not at all "where two or more are gathered in my name there I am
with them, and if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask
for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Two is perfect!

MARISSA:

Let's start tomorrow OK?

KATZI:

Sure.

MARISSA:

Oh, I forgot some of us are going to be assigned new roommates.
Maybe I'll get you!

KAZTI:

Oh, I hope so, Marissa.

MARISSA:

See you at supper.

KATZI:

OK, thanks, Marissa.

MARISSA:

For what?

KATZI:

For being so kind to me.

MARISSA:

I'm glad you're here Katzi.

Marissa exits.

KATZI:

Praying

Lord, I know that this is my mission field, please give me the right words for each person, let the love of Jesus shine through me and please send me the right roommate in Jesus' name, Amen.

SCENE 4

Dining table, seated is Miss Finkle at head of table, Katzi and Regina opposite each other, Marissa and Angela opposite each other, and other chorus members.

MISS FINKLE:

Katzi, did you get settled in properly?

KATZI:

Yes, Ma'am.

REGINA:

Katzi, I'm Regina. I just love that dress you're wearing; did you get it at a thrift store?

MISS FINKLE:

Regina!

KATZI:

No, *pauses*, my mother made it for me. She makes most of my clothes. It saves money.

REGINA:

My mother loves to shop in Paris for my clothes – she spoils me.

ANGELA:

She's done a great job.

REGINA:

She gives Angela a dirty look.

Yes, she's super, in fact she used to be a model until daddy found her – now she's busy running our homes.

KATZI:

You have more than one home?

REGINA:

Yes, one in France, one in Bermuda, and one in Bellaire. It takes up a lot of her time.

ANGELA:

When was the last time you saw them, Regina?

REGINA:

Getting flustered.

Well, I saw them this summer for two glorious weeks!

MARISSA:

Not to change the subject, Miss Finkle, but Katzi and I would like to start a prayer group here.

MISS FINKLE:

That sounds wonderful Katzi. Tell me about your idea.

KATZI:

Well Ma'am, I think that Marissa and I will pray together and if anyone would like to join us they're welcome.

REGINA:

Oh great, next she'll start her own church and we'll all have to join.

MISS FINKLE:

Regina – please be polite. I wish more of our students were interested in praying.

Now with Christmas only four weeks away we'll need to finish decorating and I'll need help baking some cookies to add to our food baskets for the needy – any volunteers?

All raise their hands except Regina.

Well that's wonderful! I'll put up the list tomorrow on the bulletin board. Good evening ladies, I'll be around to check on you all before bed.

ALL:

Good evening Miss Finkle.

Miss Finkle exits. Girls start to exit, all except Marissa, Katzi, and Regina.

REGINA:

Oh Katzi?

KATZI:

Yes?

REGINA:

Did you know that the last girl to live in your dorm room ran away and never came back?

KATZI:

No, I didn't know that. Maybe she needed someone to pray for her.

REGINA:

Maybe you'll need someone to pray for you.

Regina exits.

KATZI:

Goodnight Regina.

Katzi watches Regina exit.

MARISSA:

Come on Katzi, let's go.

KATZI:

I'll be there in a minute.

Marissa exits.

KATZI:

Looks up.

Father God, that girl Regina hates me. Lord, I haven't done anything to her. I just wanted to make friends. I know I'm supposed to love my enemies, Lord – but it isn't easy, sometimes I just want to say something back. I wish Mom was here. I need help Lord –and I just arrived! Please help me to stay kind and fill my heart with love for Regina.

Song: You Know All About Me – Sung by Katzi.

I

Father, you know all about me
 You know all my thoughts, Lord
 You know how I feel
 You see my desire to please you
 To bring a smile to your face
 To hug you with my heart

Chorus

You know my heart
 And I know you will help
 You can help me Lord to love

You can show your love through me.

II

Father, I want to obey you
To do the things that please you
To live your word today
Show me, lead me, and help me
Help me Lord to put
Your feelings first, not mine.

KATZI:

I love you, Lord.

Katzi exits.

SCENE 6

*Katzi's dorm room – Katzi is sitting on bed or at table reading her bible.
Knock at the door.*

MISS FINKLE:

Katzi, dear, it's me, Miss Finkle, may I come in?

KATZI:

Please Miss Finkle, come in.

MISS FINKLE:

I've reassigned the rooms and I've brought your new roommate.
*She reaches around and pulls Regina into the room.
Regina looks horrified – Katzi looks shocked.*

REGINA and KATZI : *together*

Oh. No!

MISS FINKLE:

Well, I'm sure you two girls will be very compatible – I'm a very, very good judge of character you know! Regina, please move your things into this room tonight.

KATZI:

Quietly to herself.

Help me Lord, help me Lord.

REGINA:

What are you muttering about?

KATZI:

Just praying. Come sit down for a minute and then I'll help you move your things in.

REGINA:

Why?

KATZI:

I just want to get to know you better.

Regina sits down.

REGINA:

All right – what do you want to know?

KATZI:

Where are you from? Do you have any brothers or sisters?

REGINA:

I'm originally from Washington, DC and I'm an only child.

KATZI:

So am I! I heard you're going to be staying here for Christmas.

REGINA:

Yes, I'm going to have to stay with that horrid Miss Finkle.

KATZI:

So am I!

Flustered.

I mean I don't think Miss Finkle is horrid, actually I think she's kind of sweet.

REGINA:

I'm sure you're a riot to have around – *Looks aside* – what a miserable Christmas. So – *Points to bible* – is this your whole life?

KATZI:

No – I mean yes, I mean serving Jesus is – and he is my Lord and Savior. I've been a born again Christian for the last five years of my life – so yes, I'd have to say the Lord is my whole life.

REGINA:

How boring!

KATZI:

But it's not. It's actually like an adventure – the most exciting adventure a person could ever go on because Jesus leads me every day.

REGINA:

For me God is somewhere far away. He's not any part of my life. I don't bother him –and he doesn't bother me.

KATZI:

Really Father God is never bothered when we talk to Him. That's all praying is – talking to God, thanking him, asking him for the help we need.

REGINA:

Stop! Are you going to help me move or not?

KATZI:

Sure. Let's get your things.

REGINA:

Stops to look at photo album.

Oh, what's this?

KATZI:

Photos of my family. I feel so much closer to Mom and Dad when I look at them. I miss them already.

Shows a page to Regina

This is us in China last year. That's my mom in the kitchen – she was baking me a birthday cake. That's my dad and me fishing.

REGINA:

Are these your only pictures?

KATZI:

Yes, I wish I had brought a few more.

REGINA:

Katzi, would you do me a favor? I'm in room 308 – could you go on ahead, I'll go get a couple of boxes for my things.

KATZI:

Sure, Regina – I'll meet you up there.

Katzi exits.

REGINA:

This is just perfect. This little album is going to disappear. Well Miss Katzi – let's see you keep your little Christian attitude now!

She exits holding album.

SCENE 7

Main room – girls and Miss Finkle are packing cookies into containers all present except Katzi.

MISS FINKLE:

Ladies, you are doing a wonderful job! I know that all our families will really enjoy all your delicious cookies. I have an idea! Let's sing a Christmas song while we work.

GIRLS:

All (various responses.)

OK, all right, I love Christmas.

MARISSA:

Let's sing "Christmas Is a Time for Giving."

MISS FINKLE:

A lovely choice, Marissa!

Song: Christmas Is a Time for Giving – Sung by all, except Regina.

Chorus

Christmas is a time for giving
It's a time for forgiving
It's a time for showing God's love
Jesus came to show us
He was God's present to us
To save us from our sins

I

For Christmas is the time we know
That Jesus came to earth
And gave his life that we might live
He gives his love to us.

II

For Christmas is the time of year
For opening our hearts
And giving those who need his love
The kindness of the Lord.

MISS FINKLE:

Girls that was beautiful. Christmas makes me remember the gift of eternal life and forgiveness of our sins that Jesus gives us when we accept him as our Lord and Savior.

Yes, well, let's sing that song when we go and deliver the food baskets. *Looking around.* Where's Katzi?

ANGELA:

Turning to Regina.
Where is she?

REGINA:

I have no idea – am I supposed to keep track of her?

MARISSA:

I'll go find her, Miss Finkle.

MISS FINKLE:

Thank you, Marissa; we do want her to feel welcome.

Angela and Regina look at each other.

SCENE 8

Katzi's room – she is searching for album.

KATZI:

I know I left the photo album right here – what did I do with it?

Knock on the door.

MARISSA:

Katzi are you in there? May I come in?

KATZI:

Come in.

MARISSA:

I thought I heard you talking to someone.

KATZI:

Just myself. Remember the photo album I showed you?

MARISSA:

Yes.

KATZI:

Well, I can't find it. I don't know where it's gone.

MARISSA:

Regina!

KATZI:

Regina, what?

MARISSA:

I'm sure this is one of Regina's little tricks. She's done this kind of thing before.

KATZI:

But why?

REGINA:

She likes trying to get rid of any new girls. It's a game to her.

Katzi looking thoughtful.

KATZI:

The bible says a man speaks out of the fullness of his or, in this case, her heart – in other words, what’s in there will come out. She must be miserable inside.

MARISSA:

That’s probably true.

KATZI:

What that girl needs is love.

MARISSA:

Amazed.
Love?

KATZI:

Yup. Jesus has clearly given us the recipe for making enemies into friends.

MARISSA:

This I definitely have to hear.

Song: You’ve Got To Love Your Enemies – Sung by Katzi. Marissa joins in last verse.

I

You’ve got to love, pray, bless, do good
You’ve got love your enemies
You’ve got to love, pray, bless, do good
Love them every day

Bridge

For Jesus makes a difference
So take it all to him
He will take your enemies
And make them into friends

II

You’ve got to love, pray bless, do good
You’ve got to love your enemies
You’ve got to love, pray, bless, do good
Love them every day

Chorus

When you wake up every morning
You've got to lift them up in prayer
He will heal their broken hearts
And fill your heart with love.

MARISSA:

OK. So what are you going to do?

KATZI:

This calls for operation love: number one, I'm going to pray daily for Regina – her health, peace and joy. Number two, do good – I'll look for chances to do kind things for her, and number three, no matter what she says or does – respond kindly.

MARISSA:

Oh, you are good – no, I mean you really are a good person. In the mean time, I'll pray for both of you.

KATZI:

Thanks, Marissa.

*They hug.
Regina enters*

REGINA:

Well, here are the holy twins.

MARISSA:

Katzi – I forgot to tell you we're boxing cookies in the main hall.

KATZI:

I'll be right there.

MARISSA:

See you later.
Gives thumbs up to Kazi

KATZI:

Hi, Regina, let me help you get settled.

REGINA:

Suspiciously.
Why?

KATZI:

Because that's what friends are for.

SCENE 9

Main hall, Angela is reading – Regina enters, stalks in, angry look on her face.

REGINA:

It's been two weeks and she's driving me nuts!

ANGELA:

By she, I assume you mean Katzi. What has she done?

REGINA:

Ticking off on her fingers.

Polished my shoes, helped me with my homework, made my bed, baked me cookies...

ANGELA:

Wait a minute, why would which drive you nuts?

REGINA:

Because...because...Oh, I don't know. No matter how rude or insulting I am she always says something nice back.

Katzi enters.

REGINA:

Watch! Hello, Katzi.

KATZI:

Looks happy to see her.

Hi Regina!

REGINA:

You look so happy – have you heard from your parents or have they forgotten to call again?

KATZI:

She pauses.

No, I'm just happy to see you.

REGINA:

Turns to Angela – hisses out.

You see?

ANGELA:

I just remembered I left some homework undone.

She exits quickly.

REGINA:

Listen you little...

KATZI:

Here, I made this for you.

Holds out small gift.

REGINA:

Oh!

KATZI:

Well, I'll see you later.

She exits.

REGINA:

Looks up.

I hate this! I hate her! Why can't she act like a normal person? Being mean was always so much fun. Oh, why did I take those stupid, stupid pictures? Now I'm stuck. She thinks she's my friend. No, I think what I'm really sick of is me. What's wrong with me? Why do I always have to hurt people?

I'm the one that needs help. Oh Lord, I need help. I'm so sorry I'm always mean. Forgive me Lord, ...please. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart and help me.

Starts to sing.

It's hard to be me.

Breaks off crying ..

SCENE 10

Katzi's room – she is reading her bible – taking notes. Regina enters – looking sad.

REGINA:

Katzi, can I speak with you?

KATZI:

Lays down bible, looks at her.

Sure. What's the matter?

REGINA:

Oh Katzi, you've been so nice to me and I've been so mean to you. I'm so sorry; I want to be your friend.

KATZI:

You are my friend and I am your friend Regina – I'll always be your friend.

Katzi hugs Regina.

REGINA:

Last night something wonderful happened – I talked to God and He listened. I invited Jesus to come into my heart!

KATZI:

That's so wonderful! I'm so happy for you! *she hugs Regina*

REGINA:

Wait here.

Regina exits – returns quickly with the album.

I took this just to make you go away – but Katzi, I really want you to stay.

KATZI:

Thank you, Regina. Since we're friends and sisters in the Lord now – that means we can do things together.

REGINA:

I'd like that.

Song: Friends In Jesus – Sung by Katzi and Regina.

I

We are friends in Jesus
We are friends we're getting along
For the Lord has given us his love
And shows us the way to go on

Chorus

For he has given us new hope
And gives us all of his love
So we can give it back to him
And others in this world

II

We are friends in Jesus
We are friends we're showing God's love
For the answer to the question is
Give his love away free

They hug at end of song.

SCENE 11

Two weeks later – main hall – Katzi and Regina working on a puzzle together, other girls reading, talking quietly etc.

KATZI:

What do you think about going caroling while we're here on winter break?

REGINA:

Maybe we should go caroling at that nursing home you were telling me about.

KATZI:

Sounds great – let's talk to Miss Finkle about it later.

REGINA:

I never realized how wonderful it is to have a best friend. I've had so much fun with you these past two weeks.

KATZI:

And just think – we've just started.

Miss Finkle stands stage center.

MISS FINKLE:

Well girls, in a few days we'll be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, so let's go around and share a scripture that means something special to you. Angela?

ANGELA:

Do you have to start with me?

MISS FINKLE:

Yes, Angela.

ANGELA:

OK – "God is love, whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him, I John 4:16", because I've had a chance to see God's love in action lately.

MISS FINKLE:

Marissa?

MARISSA:

“His love endures forever, Jeremiah 33:11”, because he never stops loving us no matter what.

MISS FINKLE:

Those are both good answers. Katzi?

KATZI:

“Nothing is impossible with God, Luke 1:37”, because God can overcome all our difficulties. He can do it all.

MISS FINKLE:

Regina?

REGINA:

“If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. Romans 10 9-10”, because yesterday I received Jesus as my Savior and I’m a new Christian.

Girls clapping, cheering, go to hug Regina.

Song starts: Christmas Is a Time for Giving – All sing.

Christmas is a time for giving
 It’s a time for forgiving
 It’s a time for showing God’s love
 Jesus came to show us
 He was God’s present to us
 To save us from our sins

For Christmas is the time we know
 That Jesus came to earth
 And gave his life that we might live
 He gives his love to us.

For Christmas is the time of year
 For opening our hearts
 And giving those who need his love
 The kindness of the Lord.

THE END