

How Long Does Christmas Last?

(All stage directions are in italics)

As the skit begins, Rich is pretending to take ornaments down from the Christmas tree. Kelly is seated and sipping tea.

Kelly: Are you taking the ornaments down already?

Rich: Not only am I taking the ornaments down, I'm taking all the Christmas decorations down and then I'm going to ask you to help me drag this tree out at the curb.

Kelly: I don't think we should be doing that yet.

Rich: Why not? Christmas is over. And in my side of the family we always said "It's bad luck to leave the tree up after New Year's."

Kelly: That's a silly tradition. You're actually supposed to leave it up until the Epiphany on January 6th, when the three wise men came.

Rich: Well, by that time the tree will be brown with all the pine needles falling off and getting stuck in the carpet. I say we do this now.

Kelly: Ok, suit yourself. But you're doing it yourself because I don't agree that we should take it down now.

Rich sighs : You know, maybe it's just that I want to be done with Christmas. Every year it seems like the whole Christmas season starts earlier and earlier. Did you know that this year I actually saw people on Facebook saying that they were ready for Christmas on the first of November? They were saying "Now that Halloween is over it's time to start playing Christmas

music.” Halloween! When I was a kid, people actually had the decency to wait until after Thanksgiving to start playing “Jingle Bells” and “Frosty the Snowman.”

Liam knocks at the door.

Kelly: Oh no, now someone’s knocking on the door! Do you remember four years ago when we had that weird couple knock on our door on Christmas Eve?

Rich: You don’t think they’re back, do you?

Kelly: I sure hope not.

Rich opens the door. Kelly rises from her seat. Rich sees Liam standing at the threshold and clutching a newspaper.

Liam: Greetings and Merry Christmas, sir!

Rich to Kelly: It’s not them.

Rich to Liam: Yes, Greetings and Merry.....now, hold on, don’t you know that Christmas is over? You do know it’s December 30th now, don’t you?

Liam: Yes, indeed. Yes, indeed. But please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Frank Repository. *Hands Rich a business card*

Kelly: Won’t you come in Mr. Repository? *Liam sits down*

Rich: Mr. Repository, before you begin, let me be Fran....let me be honest. We are not interested in converting to your religion whatever it may be. I am a Presbyterian minister.

Liam: Oh, no, no, that’s no problem because I am not here to convert you. And please call me Frank.....Sir, I will get straight to the point. I am here to sell you the paper. I don’t know how long you’ve been without the paper, my friend, but I want you to know that we are running a special right now.

Rich: Oh, well, Frank, I think you should know that we already take the paper. Shouldn't you all have records down at your office in Canton about who takes the paper and who doesn't?

Liam: Oh, well, I just assumed you didn't.

Kelly: Well, why would you assume such a thing about my husband? Does he look like the kind of person who isn't up on current events?

Liam: Forgive me for saying so ma'am, but yes, to me that is exactly how he looks.

Rich: Well, why?

Liam: You see, my friend, I see over there that you have all these Christmas decorations and so surely you are the kind of people who celebrate Christmas. In fact, sir, you told me that you are a Presbyterian minister, so I am *certain* that you celebrate Christmas. But I can also tell from the fact that you are taking these Christmas decorations down so quickly that you can't wait for Christmas to be over. In fact, when I came to the door, and I said "Merry Christmas" you said "Christmas is over."

Rich: Yes, that's exactly what I said.

Liam: So I just assumed that you didn't know the kinds of things that were going on in this world. *Liam opens the paper.* Why nearly every day the paper here tells us about break-ins, shootings, bomb threats, drug overdoses and all of that is to say nothing about the hunger and famine and oppression going on all over this world on any given day.

Rich: Yes, I know. There are a lot of bad things that go on in this world.

Liam: Well, I just assumed you didn't know about all these bad things. I assumed you thought this world was just peaches and cream....peaches and cream for everyone all the time!

You see, my friend, the world doesn't need to rush through Christmas and forget about it once December 25th is over. The world needs a season of peace on earth and goodwill toward men for as long as it can possibly last. All the Christmas carols we've sung for the past couple of months and all the presents we've given to our loved ones hasn't yet stopped this world from hurting. This world is hurting still. And this world still needs to hear the message of Jesus Christ. The message that Christ was born to bring this world hope and to show God's love. The world needs to hear this message every single day, not just on December 25th.

Kelly: And you thought that because we can't wait for Christmas to be over, my husband and I must not know about all these bad things that are going on in the world?

Liam: Naturally, yes.

Rich: Frank, I must say I'm ashamed of myself. I don't quite know what to say.

Liam: Well, I'm sure the three of us could talk all day, but since you already take the paper, I hope you'll forgive me, but I've got to be on my way. I've got plenty of other customers to see whom I am sure would like to subscribe to the paper. *Liam starts toward the door*

Rich: Wait a moment, Frank, before you go. Are there other people out there like us? That is, are there other people out there who take the paper and who know all about what kind of shape this world is in, but who also can't wait for Christmas to be over?

Liam: I don't mean to be curt, sir, but why do you want to know? If I said "yes" would that make you feel better about yourself? *Liam closes the door behind himself*

Kelly: Well, that was.....different.

Rich: Different....yes. *Rich sits*

Kelly: Are you still going to keep taking the decorations down?

Rich: No, I guess they can wait a few more days.

THE END