

Scene 5

Setting: The same corner of a house

LIGHTS DIMMED.

Match Girl: I really must get moving and sell these matches so I can go home...Well, maybe one more match first.

(Again, she lights a match and a scene appears. There is a table with lots of food, a huge, decorated tree and a family bustling about, excited and enjoying themselves.)

Match Girl: Oh, my. Look at that huge roast goose. I can almost smell it! I am so hungry!

Boy: Mother, please may we eat soon. I am so hungry, I could eat that whole goose by myself.

Mother: We will eat as soon as Father returns. It should only be a few moments longer.

Older Girl: And you have to share, little brother. Cook stuffed the goose with apples and plums. It will be delicious.

Younger Girl: My favorite is the fruitcake for dessert. Cook makes the best fruitcake in the world!

Mother: You mean no one is excited about the vegetables? We have potatoes, broccoli, and carrots.

(Father enters removing his coat.)

Father: I hope they are some candied yams there for me. I'm starving! That snow and wind are awful; I need food to warm me up.

Mother: Everyone sit, and we'll say grace.

Father: Dear Lord, thank you for this Christmas dinner you have so graciously provided...

Mother: Thank you for our family whom we love and hold dear to our hearts...

Older Girl: Thank you that we can be here to celebrate your birthday...

Younger Girl: Thank you for friends and a warm home...

Boy: And thank you for this roasted goose. Amen!

(The match goes out and the scene fades.)

Match Girl: What a lovely Christmas scene. They were so happy and all that food....They are so fortunate...I want to see more...I'll light one more match.

(She lights the match, and the family is now sitting around the tree, opening presents. The boy is ripping his open)

Match Girl: I have never seen such a beautiful tree before, with all the candles, and ornaments, and ribbons...We don't even have a Christmas tree, and if we did, I'm sure Pape would cut it up and burn it in the fire.

Father: Son, don't open all your presents at once. Take your time.

Boy: Sorry, Father...Oh, a sweater... and socks...how exciting.

Mother: There are more exciting presents, too.

Boy: Wow! A scooter! I have wanted one for as long as I can remember! Thank you.

Younger Girl: I love my new sweater and bonnet, and thank you so much for the drawing pad and pens and paints. I can't wait to start painting!

Older Girl: And I love my new cape and bonnet. But I especially love the new books you got me. Three new books. I am so fortunate!

Mother: I am so glad you all like your presents (*looks at boy*)...or most of them. Father, open your present.

Father: A new pipe...and a handsome one at that. Thank you, darling... Now open my present to you.

Mother: Oh, what a beautiful necklace. I love it and will wear it always.

Father: This has been a lovely Christmas!

(Match goes out, scene goes dark, and Match Girl is in her corner.)

Match Girl: I can't imagine such a lovely Christmas—the food, the tree, and so many amazing presents...And love...so much love...If only I belonged to such a loving family...And all that food and presents...