

MELISSA

Yes Brian mentioned his traditional sun, sand and salty water Christmas on the show today.

CHRISTY

Sounds amazing right?

MELISSA

You're just two partridges in a pear tree.

Mel smiles at her own joke as Christy and Brian exit.

INT. KATE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER SAME NIGHT

Mel and Kate wrap the last few presents.

KATE

You do know it's only one partridge in that pear tree, right?

MELISSA

Yes but two turtle doves didn't have the same jingle to it.

KATE

Why do you let him bother you?

MELISSA

Of all the qualified hosts they could've chosen, they picked an ex-football player who became insta-famous overnight from being on a reality dating show!

KATE

I could say sometimes opposites do attract (off her look) but I won't.

MELISSA

Christmastime is a golden marketing opportunity for us and it's like he doesn't care! If we can get out of our contracts? *Bright & Merry* ending is the best Christmas gift for both of us.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME TIME

A Christmas party is in full swing. Brian walks away from Christy. PETER, his best friend, sees him and follows.

START →

PETER

I'm your best friend so I feel like I can say you look like you just ate a big slice of bah-humbug pie.

BRIAN

She is always prepared. If I'm not fifteen minutes early then I'm late. If I try to be spontaneous?

PETER

You did say a gift card is the gift that keeps on giving on a best gift buying episode. That was not good.

BRIAN

That's all I know! I didn't grow up like Mel with memorable traditions!

PETER

I know that but does she? Maybe you should ask her to dinner and talk.

BRIAN

I have a girlfriend. And even if I didn't, I have nothing in common with Mel so why would I date her?

PETER

I didn't say date but funny that's what you heard. Look wouldn't it be nice to just talk to her? Civilly?

Peter's wife LAURA approaches. She puts an arm around both.

LAURA

Peter, I love you but your hogging my celebrity guest. (to Brian) You need to egnog up and give these guests your best mingle and jingle.

INT. JENNIFER'S OFFICE - NEW DAY

Mel and Brian sit in chairs. Jennifer stands.

JENNIFER

The town of Mistletoe won *Deck Your Town with Bright & Merry*. But this year you aren't filming there for a day. You'll be filming for a week!

BRIAN

There is no way!

MELISSA

We can't do that!

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access
← END

MELISSA

Oh I already did. See you later.

Brian frowns slightly as he watches them leave. His phone rings and he answers. INTERCUT with Peter, walking/shopping.

START →

BRIAN

Hey.

PETER

So how's the show going?

BRIAN

I think I'm watching Mel go on a date. Like right now. She's walking away with him.

PETER

Okay...not what I asked but we can start there. So Mel is on date. That's a good thing, right?

BRIAN

She never takes time off. She's always working. Even through dinner most nights so I'm happy for her.

PETER

You need to put a little ho ho ho in your pretend happy voice then.

BRIAN

Honestly? We don't know him and I'm just a little concerned. I should go make sure she's okay.

PETER

You might make Santa's nice list after all. Call me later.

BRIAN

Thanks buddy. Good talk.

Peter looks at his phone with a confused but smiling face.

Brian walks toward the Inn but quickly jumps back down the stairs and takes off toward the Town square.

END OF ACT THREE

← END