

BRIAN
Christmas Eve Eve?

MELISSA
As in the day before Christmas Eve.

BRIAN
I know what it is. I just didn't
think anyone actually said that.

MELISSA
My sister and I bake cookies on
Christmas Eve Eve. It's a
tradition.

BRIAN
Do you ever have fun?

MELISSA
Just because I plan and prepare
doesn't mean I don't have fun. I
have fun. I just have more fun when
it's planned and prepared.

Before Brian can answer, Mel returns to working. Brian sighs.

EXT. BARN STUDIO - NEW DAY

A huge wreath hangs on a massive red barn behind the Inn. A
handmade sign out of reclaimed wood says *Bright & Merry*. Lit
trees line a path to the barn. White lights are strung up
everywhere. Crews bring in the equipment.

INT. BARN STUDIO - SAME TIME

Controlled chaos. Set designers finish up the holiday set as
a few eager townspeople enter. Stan leads them to sit in
front of the set. The chairs are decorated with red bows.
Ginny sits in the front. Jennifer yells from center stage.

START →

JENNIFER
Five minutes people! *Five!* And can
someone please bring me a coffee!?

Mel and Brian, wearing ugly Christmas sweaters, approach her.

BRIAN
Jennifer, this sweater is too ugly
even for Christmas.

MELISSA
That's literally the entire point.

BRIAN

Thanks but I'm asking our producer.

JENNIFER

Mel's right. Welcome to your wardrobe for the day.

MELISSA

We're changing for the next segment though.

BRIAN

She just said we're shooting in these all day.

JENNIFER

Brian's right. Now go spread joy to the world!

As Jennifer turns to a cameraman, she sees TYLER, mid/late 20s, nice looking guy, holding a coffee.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You're late!

TYLER

I am?

JENNIFER

Aren't you the craft service guy?

TYLER

No, ma'am, I'm not. My name is Tyler Kirven and I'm a big fan.

JENNIFER

Two minutes people! (to Tyler) See me later this week and I'll introduce you to the hosts.

TYLER

Actually, I want to produce. Like you. I heard you ask for a coffee.

He hands her a coffee. Her frown lessens as she takes it.

JENNIFER

Hmm. Stay close and don't talk. Here we go folks! We're rolling!

He follows her as she walks to the main production area.

MELISSA

We are so excited to come to you
this week from Mistletoe!

BRIAN

Aside from our very ugly Christmas
sweaters, we'll be showing you many
Christmas traditions here. There
will be toboggan races, gingerbread
house building, a tree lighting
ceremony...

MELISSA

Mistletoe's very own St. Nick's
skate, the Festival of Lights and
of course, the very last *Today with
Bright & Merry* on Christmas Eve.

Melissa looks at Brian. For a beat, neither looks away. Then:

BRIAN

Yes! Our very last show in
Mistletoe will be coming to you
live on Christmas Eve morning!

Melissa gives Brian a small thank you look, then to camera:

MELISSA

Coming up, we're headed to the Bowl
Full of Jelly Bakery.

The audience claps.

P.A. (O.C.)

We're out, folks!

Stan steps up holding a schedule and addresses the people.

STAN

If you're in the gingerbread house
contest, head over to the bakery.
Everyone else, we'll see you later!

Girls holler to Brian. He waves to them. The audience exits.

MELISSA

Thanks for that. Covering for me.

BRIAN

You've done it for me. A lot.

MELISSA

True. Still.

Jennifer watches them talking politely. Tyler stands by her.

cont.

JENNIFER

First producing lesson, Todd. Get your co-hosts out of their comfort zones. That makes them agree with each other which makes them giddy and adorable. America loves them giddy and adorable at Christmas. Ratings go up when they're giddy and adorable. And *I* love it when ratings go up. It's a win win.

TYLER

Got it. Also? My name is Tyler.

Jennifer smiles and walks away. He quickly follows.

EXT. BOWL FULL OF JELLY BAKERY - LATER SAME DAY

A large picture of Santa chuckling and holding his belly hangs over the store sign. Townsfolk wait outside excitedly.

INT. BOWL FULL OF JELLY BAKERY - SAME TIME

A Santa picture hangs over a counter reading "*That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.*" Gingerbread pieces, icing, bag of candies sit on tables. The crew sets up.

Jennifer approaches Mel and Brian.

JENNIFER

So we're changing it up. We're going to have you two participate.

BRIAN

What? We can't. We're the judges.

JENNIFER

Now you're going to build a gingerbread house together.

MELISSA

It wasn't in the itinerary. I went over all the notes last night.

BRIAN

I was there. It was painful.

JENNIFER

It's a little Christmas surprise.

←END

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I know you just want this to be over with, but I can't walk away without making sure you know this last week with you has been the very best of my life. Maybe you'll believe me now. Merry Christmas, Mel. Love, Brian.

She opens the box. Inside is his Christmas wish ornament that reads: *I wish for Today with Bright & Merry to keep going...* Her mouth drops open in astonishment.

INT. SECOND STORY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mel runs out of her room and bangs loudly on Brian's door. No answer. She runs back in her room, grabs a scarf, throws on snow boots and runs out.

EXT. BARN STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

The crew waits, some play in the snow. Melissa runs up.

MELISSA

Has anyone seen Brian?

They shake their heads no.

INT. BARN STUDIO - SAME TIME

Jennifer is in the production area talking to a cameraman. Tyler stands by her, listening.

START →

JENNIFER

I want to capture the snow coming down. Can we get some of that?

He nods yes and exits. Jennifer looks at a monitors. It has Mel and Brian wrapping presents. Her eyes snap open wide!

CLOSE UP ON 2ND MONITOR: Melissa is running through the snow.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(into headset)

Sound department! Mel and Brian are already mic'd up, yes?

MALE (V.O.)

Yep. They're mic'd.

JENNIFER

Turn their mics on! Now!

MALE (V.O.)
Now?

JENNIFER
NOW!

ON MONITOR: Mel yells to a cameraman as Jennifer listens.

MELISSA
I need to find Brian! Have you seen
him?

Jennifer thinks for a long moment then YELLS:

JENNIFER
**ALL CAMERAS! ALL CAMERAS START
SHOOTING NOW!** Stay out of sight but
follow Mel! And for the love of
Christmas! Someone find me Brian!

CAMERAMAN (V.O.)
Copy that! We've got him!

EXT. MISTLETOE INN - FRONT ENTRWAY - SAME TIME

Brian sits on the front porch looking sad. He stands and
starts walking down the steps and into the snow.

INT. BARN STUDIO - SAME TIME

Jennifer watches the monitors and sees Brian. Tyler appears
behind her, getting excited. Jennifer, eyes wide, watches all
monitors now showing both Brian and Mel in different places.
Her eyes don't leave the monitors as she talks to Tyler.

cont.

JENNIFER
In a few seconds, our hosts of the
#1 talk show in America are going
to do something quite spectacular.

TYLER
How do you know that?

JENNIFER
You need to always listen to your
gut when you're producing. No
matter how absurd it be. My gut has
guided me through many years of
incredible shows and that same gut
is telling me to cut into the taped
segments and go live earlier than
planned.

TYLER

Is that--can you--I mean, are you allowed to just do that?

JENNIFER

(smiling)

No, but if something should happen and this was the very last show of Bright & Merry? Well, let's make it the best one ever! (into headset)
10 SECONDS, PEOPLE! WE'RE GOING LIVE! WE ARE GOING LIVE NOW!

She looks at Tyler who is beyond excited.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Take it away, Tyler.

TYLER

You know my name!?

JENNIFER

Of course. I was just testing you.

TYLER

Did I pass?

JENNIFER

(smiling to him)

On Tyler's count! WE ARE LIVE IN...

TYLER

FIVE, FOUR, THREE...

He throws his hand silently but dramatically in the air and looks at Jennifer, beaming. She gives a nod of approval.

EXT. MISTLETOE INN - SAME TIME

Mel runs along the side of the Inn.

MELISSA

Brian!

EXT. MISTLETOE INN - BACK DOOR - SAME TIME

Brian stops, listens. He takes a few more steps and then:

MELISSA (O.C.)

Brian!?

He smiles.

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

← END