

ZOOM 2000 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Written by

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INT. ZOOM STUDIO

All ZOOM cast with the exception of Caroline are standing in a row against the black studio backdrop. Dry ice fog .

CLAUDIO holds up a toy truck.

CLAUDIO

It's Christmas night, and the world is a runaway truck with no brakes. Someone needs to build a snowbank to catch it.

ZOE holds up a houseplant growing in a shoe.

ZOE

It's Christmas night. The world is a dying houseplant growing in a shoe. It needs to snow tonight, or else it will die.

RAY holds up a bucket of filth.

RAY

It's Christmas night. The world is a bucket of filth out by the back door, and it's almost my turn to drink up. We need some snow to come and water it down, or I might die of septic shock.

A loud clock strikes midnight, and FAKE SNOW begins to fall in the studio. The Zoomers rejoice.

From behind the Zoomers, a dazzling orange light shines through the fog. CAROLINE rises from the fog on the ten-foot Z from the ZOOM prop, until she is towering over them.

CAROLINE

So shines a good deed in a weary world.

(ALL)

Caroline!

OPENING CREDITS

RETURN TO INT. ZOOM STUDIO

CAROLINE and KENNY are situated at the ZOOMCafé table, which is decorated with tinsel and garland. Kenny is tossing a caesar salad using two television remotes.

He looks confused and tired. Caroline is carving a ham on a table using a butcher's knife.

CAROLINE

Welcome to ZOOMCafé! Today we're learning how to make a whole holiday meal together, using the power of teamwork. Right now, I'm carving a ham, while Kenny works on the salad.

KENNY

Why am I using television remotes instead of real utensils?

CAROLINE

In life, you must use the tools you choose to collect along the way, whether you want to or not.

KENNY

But I didn't bring these with me!

CAROLINE

Oh, but you did.

Zoe passes by, carrying a very small Christmas tree.

ZOE

That's coming along great, guys!

CAROLINE

Thanks, Zoe!

Kenny turns to Caroline.

KENNY

It's so late, Caroline. When do we get to go home?

Caroline turns to Kenny and presses the tip of her knife into his throat.

CAROLINE

(sweetly)

Do you know what today is?

KENNY

(laughing nervously)

Tuesday?

Caroline presses the knife into Kenny's throat, piercing his skin and causing blood to spurt forth. Kenny falls to the floor.

EXTREME CLOSEUP - CAROLINE'S FACE

A single tear falls from Caroline's eye as she mourns the loss of Kenny.

ALISA passes by the table, carrying a present.

ALISA  
I'm glad you did that, Caroline.

CAROLINE  
I know.

Caroline turns to the camera.

CAROLINE  
Always sterilize knives before using them, to avoid getting a nasty infection! If you're not sure how to do this, get an adult to help you.

RAY passes by the table, carrying a bucket of filth.

RAY  
But Caroline, I thought it was wrong to kill?

CAROLINE  
Sometimes, you have to do something that feels wrong, even though you know it's right.

RAY  
Like when I told my brother our big trip was cancelled, so we could surprise him later?

CAROLINE  
That's right!

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ZOOM PLAYHOUSE TITLE SCREEN

The studio is outfitted like an office. CAROLINE is seated at a large desk, dressed sharply in a bright red three-piece suit. RAY opens a pretend door and enters the room.

RAY  
Good afternoon Mrs. President! What are you writing?

CAROLINE

It's a secret.

RAY

I understand. Hey, want to play some tee ball later?

CAROLINE

Sorry, I can't—I have to finish this by tonight. It's very important. But you can leave early from work today to play ball with your friends!

RAY

Thank you so much!

Ray leaves the room, and ALISA enters.

ALISA

Good afternoon Mrs. President! What are you writing?

CAROLINE

It's a secret.

ALISA

I understand. Hey, do you want to go out drinking tonight?

CAROLINE

Sorry, I can't—I have to finish this by tonight. It's very important. But you can leave work early today and go grab a brewski with your friends!

ALISA

Wow Mrs. President, thanks! You won't regret it!

Alisa leaves the room, and CLAUDIO enters.

CLAUDIO

Good afternoon Mrs. President! What are you writing?

CAROLINE

It's a secret.

CLAUDIO

Oh. I see. Hey, Mrs. President... Me and the guys got you a present. It's in the break room.

CAROLINE

Wow, thanks! Can you bring it to me?

CLAUDIO

No, it's a... special kind of present. You have to go see it yourself.

CAROLINE

Okay!

Caroline walks off screen. Claudio peeks at the papers on Caroline's desk, and then steals a few, cramming them in his pockets before she returns. Caroline enters the room again.

CAROLINE

I didn't see anything in the break room. I'm confused.

CLAUDIO

That's weird. One of the guys must have moved it. I'll go figure it out.

Claudio runs off screen, laughing quietly to himself. The lights go dark.

When the lights come on again, Caroline is working quietly at her desk. Claudio is locked in a small cage next to the desk. He looks sad. Alisa enters the room holding a hot mug of coffee.

ALISA

Good morning Mrs. President! Oh my goodness, what happened here?

CAROLINE

Hi Alisa! I am sorry to say this man stole confidential information from my desk.

ALISA

Shame on him!

CLAUDIO

(grabbing the cage bars)  
I'm sorry!

ALISA

Shut up!

Alisa throws hot coffee in Claudio's face, scalding him badly. Claudio begins crying.

CAROLINE

Luckily, the guards were able to capture him before he got too far. I'm still waiting to hear back about if they were able to recover my papers, though.

ALISA

Gee, I hope they find them! Those were really important, right?

CAROLINE

They sure were.

A pair of GUARDS with black sunglasses, earpieces, and bright matching red and green striped suits and elf shoes enter the room. One is holding the stolen papers.

GUARD #1

We got 'em, chief!

CAROLINE

Oh thank heavens! I was worried sick. Now Christmas can go on after all! How can I ever repay you, guards?

GUARD #2

No need, Mrs. Claus. I'm just happy you got that naughty list back!

GUARD #1

(pointing to Claudio)

Now the question remains... what are we going to do with you?

ALISA

I'm not saying we should kill him... but we should kill him!

The Zoomers all smile and laugh as the camera pans out.

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ZOOM PHENOM TITLE SCREEN

INT. ZOOM STUDIO

Caroline is standing proudly beside a large iron tank with a small round window in it.

CLAUDIO

Hey Caroline! What's this?

CAROLINE  
Glad you asked! It's a sensory deprivation tank.

CLAUDIO  
A sensory what now?

CAROLINE  
A sensory deprivation tank! When you climb inside, you can't see, hear, feel, taste, or smell. Since your brain isn't getting any sensory information, it starts making up its own sensory input!

CLAUDIO  
That sounds crazy!

CAROLINE  
Boy, is it!

CUT TO WIDE ANGLE

Five sensory deprivation tanks are lined up in a row, with CAROLINE, CLAUDIO, ZOE, ALISA, and RAY'S faces visible behind the small round windows.

CLAUDIO  
I'm nervous!

CAROLINE  
Don't be nervous, Claudio. The only thing you have to fear are the monsters that have been hiding in your mind the whole time anyway.

CLAUDIO  
You mean there have been monsters in my head this whole time?

CAROLINE  
Everyone has monsters in their head. You just need to know how to speak to them properly!

ALISA  
I hope I see my cat again! I got really upset when she passed away last week. Maybe that's the monster in my head right now.



ZOE  
(laughing)  
I don't know about you guys, but I  
just hope I see some cool  
psychedelic patterns!

CAROLINE  
(looking at the camera)  
I hope to become God.

CUT TO 18-MINUTE ABSTRACT DREAM SEQUENCE

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INT. ZOOM STUDIO

The Zoomers have awoken from their dream states. Their ZOOM shirts, previously orange on blue, are now off-white on white.

RAY  
Whoa, that was weird. I feel...  
different.

ZOE  
Me too. I feel like my whole life  
I've been a giant wave coming  
towards a beautiful beach, and now  
I've finally crashed onto the  
shore.

ALISA  
I feel like candy... like if a  
candy bar ate me, instead of me  
eating the candy bar, and I was the  
candy bar the whole time.

CLAUDIO  
I think I pooped myself.

ALISA  
Caroline, you've christened us all  
tonight. Me, Claudio, Zoe, Ray, and  
the huddled masses at home! We  
should call this night... christ-  
mass... *Christmas!*

CAROLINE  
I think that's a wonderful idea.

EXTREME CLOSEUP - CAROLINE'S FACE

CAROLINE

There was no Christmas before this Christmas. This Christmas is the very first Christmas.

ZOE turns to the camera.

ZOE

Well Zoomers, I hope you all had a very merry first Christmas. I know I did! See you next year for the second Christmas ever!

RAY

But wait! Where is Jessie?

CUT TO WIDE SHOT FROM BEHIND ZOOM PROP

JESSIE is curled up in a ball in the shadows behind the huge ZOOM letters. She looks pale and tired.

ALISA

Jessie! Where were you?

Jessie begins to speak, but Caroline stoops down and puts a finger gently to her lips.

CAROLINE

Not everyone is able to see their loved ones on the holidays.

CUT TO Z-MAIL SONG AND CLOSING CREDITS