



Always take down the tree  
unless...

Part 1

A short story  
By  
Immanuel Best

It was the last day of the year in Los Angeles. "RING, RING, RING". "Honey I'll be there as soon as possible", said Dan. "Well can you just hurry, you're going to miss the birth of your son", Cassey said. Dan then replied "well the roads can be dangerous, I want to get the hospital safe as possible to". "Is being safe really worth missing your own child's birth?" Cassey asked. Dan answered, "I rather miss his birth than for him to grow up without a father like I did". Slightly frustrated Cassey then asked, "Have you even left work"!?

Dan was still at his job on the movie set. He told the directors to keep filming and that he doesn't know when he is going to be back, and happy New Year's. He went into his car and told Cassey that he's on his way then hung up. Meanwhile at the hospital their three other children, Don, Phoebe and Daisy, entered into the room where their mom was in labor.

Phoebe and Don are both 18 year old twins, and Daisy is 16. Dan and Cassey are both 38.

Phoebe approached Cassey and told her, "We drove here as fast as we could". "I wish your father can do the same", Cassey replied as she was simultaneously placing her phone on the desk next to her bed.

A few moments later Dan arrived at the hospital. As he was approaching the room he heard a painful scream from his wife. He rushed into the room and after a few moments, there was now a six member to the Kone's family.

The Kone family went back to their mansion where they will be hosting a new year's party and also celebrate the birth of Ron. Some of their friends and family started to arrive at 8:30 PM and the party was getting started.

Dan opened the door and instantly saw his mother, Leesa. She hugged him and told him, "congratulations". Dan replied, "Well it is kind of Cassey you should be congratulating, after all she kept Ron alive and healthy for 9 months". "I already know you're a good father, I seen you raise 3 kids already and you've done a tremendous job so congratulations".

Dan told his mom thank you and she went to go see the rest of the family. Before he could close the door he saw his 3 friends, George, Robert, and Steve. George is a football player, Robert's a race car driver, and Steve does stunts with motorcycles. They all gave him a hand shake and walked inside to join the party. As his three friends walked in they noticed that the party was kind of boring.

With an unsatisfied face George asked politely, "So is this it"? Dan answered well we just got more big TVs. "So can anyone with a checkbook", said Robert. "Not anyone can own millions of dollars and a huge mansion", Dan replied. Steve stepped into the debate and said, "That does not change the fact that this party is boring, a homeless man living in a 13 inch box can throw a party 13 times better. Dan replied again stating, "We could watch a movie in the theater room". Robert replied, "We can watch a movie at the actual theater"! "Calm down Robert", said George. "This is the last day of the year and we all came to do nothing"! "You guys can play football in the field in my backyard", Dan offered. Steve asked, "Why aren't you playing, it would be an even amount of players"? "Football along with any sport is not my thing, but Don loves football", dan answered.

Rory and the 3 guys went outside to play some football. They forgot to bring water so George and Steve went back inside to get some water bottles while Don and Robert stayed outside and had a little conversation.

"Do you ever wish for any new technology to be added to your car", Don asked. Robert jokingly answered, "Wheels that can travel faster than the speed of light". "I'll add that to my list of ideas, maybe it can help with space travel", Don said. "Maybe it will, lots of things that we use today were considered science fiction in the past, but it's people with creative minds like yours that make the word fiction loose it's meaning", said Robert. Don replied, "But it was your idea". Robert said, "But you will be the one to actually bring the idea to reality and not use it as a joke". George and Steve arrived back at the field with bags of cold water bottles. George put the bag of water bottle down and said, "Let's play ball"!

While the guys were out playing Football the ladies were inside the living room watching one of Dan's movies with Ron. Phoebe handed out to everyone necklaces and announced that she was starting a jewelry business. Leesa encouraged her, as always with everyone in the family, and knew that she was going to be successful the first year that she was in business. Leesa then asked Daisy, "So what are you going to be successful at"? "Making games, a lot of dad's movies seem like they can be turned into games if the plot was slightly changed, I even made a couple of games of my own".

Daisy went upstairs to her room to get her laptop to show Leesa the game. When she arrived back downstairs it was 2 minutes before New Year's. Everyone came back into the house and the rest of their friends and family finally arrived. After the countdown and it was officially new years the party really got started. The party lasted for 3 hours and everyone started going home to get some sleep.

The Kone's family stayed up an extra hour to clean up the house. The Christmas tree and all the other decorations in their Christmas room were still up. It was Don's responsibility to take the Christmas decorations down but, he was eager to go to sleep and the rest of the house was clean so he decided that he was going to do it tomorrow.

Don woke up the next day and completely forgot. The Christmas room is located in the basement beside the theater room. Since the mansion has a lot of rooms and everyone was occupied with something neither Don nor anyone knew that the decorations and the tree were still up.

6 months later into the New Year there were 6 presents under the tree and a letter. The family weren't aware of the presents or who sent them until one day when they were watching Dan's new movie. When the movie was finish and there was no light from the screen Don noticed that there was light coming from the Christmas room. Don started to remember it all and went into the room to finally take down the decorations. When he went in he noticed the presents and the letter. He was creeped out at first but then suspected it to be a prank by daisy. He walked over to read the letter and the letter said:

**Dear Kones family**

**I am a spirit of giving. Christmas was 6 months ago but you still have your tree up like you want something under it. So you guys are welcome that I am so kind enough to give you all presents of experience, REALISTIC experience. Please do not throw my presents away, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ANYWAY. today. Each present will have a note outside so it won't be much of a surprise.**

**Have a flaming Christmas and a HELLISH new year**  
**Sincerely A Spirit of giving**

Don took the letter and went to daisy's room. Don entered her room, held the letter up and asked "Do you have something to do with this"? Daisy replied, where did you even find that? Don answered, "On the Christmas tree where you put it". "I haven't even been down there in six months and shouldn't that tree be taken down", she replied. He replied, "I fell asleep and forgot, but this is serious, someone might have broken in and is probably living under our beds". Dan walked by and asked, "Who is living under our beds"? "Someone who wrote this letter and put it on the tree, and yes I forgot to take the tree down", Don answered.

Dan called Cassey and Phoebe and the whole family went down to the Christmas room and read the letter. There was a present for each member of the family including Ron. Each present had a note and their names on it. They all had a bad felling about opening the presents but, they didn't want to know what would happen if they didn't.

## **Don's Present**

Don went first to open his present since he felt guilty about getting the family into the trouble in the first place. He read the note and the note said, **"ENGINEER your way out of this"!**

Before Don could open the present everyone yelled at him to stop and he yelled back, "I have no choice, we have no choice"!

Don opened the present and found a wrench with an always symbol in the middle. The symbol started to glow red and a few seconds later he was in a dark bubble with pieces to a flying vehicle. The pieces were scattered around him frozen in black ice. His left foot was also frozen in the ice. To get out of the bubble he would need speed to break through the strong force of the bubble. He also only has 4 minutes before he runs out of air.

Don struggles to get his foot out of the ice since it's 7 inches deep in the ice. He finds a hammer in the ice, that's easier to pull out, right next to his foot. He pulled the hammer and spent a minute trying to get his foot out, but then realized that he was wasting time. In the ice he spotted a bicycle seat and a mini rocket. He smashed the 2 objects out of the ice in less than 30

seconds.

Don then placed the mini rocket diagonally at the bottom of the seat pointing up. Then he set the rocket off and busted out of the dark bubble. He saved his own life but painfully lost his left foot.

## Phoebe's Present

Cassey took Don to help his leg. Meanwhile Phoebe is getting ready to open her present to get it over with. Her note said, **Shiny and beautiful hurts**. She opened the present and it was a huge diamond with the always symbol inside. The diamond turned red and she was in a room filled with jewelry.

The room had a hole and a button that allows someone to close the ceiling in and crush and destroy all the jewelry. She didn't know why that section was right there but, she should have pushed the button as fast as she could. She decided to look around the room and she started hear things rolling on the floor. Then she felt something sharp stab her leg. She pulled it out and it was a diamond. Then she noticed that the jewelry was trying to attack her when she saw another diamond headed towards her head. She caught it with her hands and smashed it against the wall.

She tried to run back to the hole and destroy the jewelry but then 3 more diamonds attacked. One pierced her back while the other 2 went into her legs causing her to fall on her stomach. The 3 diamond started to drag her farther away from the hole while she was painfully screaming. Above her were 5 crystals lined up getting ready to drop and end her life.

She tilted the table beside her over on her so that she can smash the diamonds in her flesh to pieces. Then she quickly crawled out of the way back into the hole and pushed the button without hesitation.

The room was completely destroyed but revealed a door back to reality. Even after this incident she still loved jewelry and was going to continue with her business.

**To Be Continued.....**