

Semi-Synthetic Christmas Preview

By

Rachel Benjamin

[www.rachelbenjamin.org](http://www.rachelbenjamin.org)

PURPOSE

Christmas without Christ is merely a semi-synthetic replica of a 'religious' holiday.

SUMMARY

Olivia sets out in search of a real Christmas tree. Though she finds a close replica, she is determined to hold out for the real thing. During her search, Olivia discovers that her friend, Mary, is content with not only a fake tree but also a less-than authentic Christmas.

CHARACTERS

OLIVIA

Salesman

Mary

HOW TO

"Dickens Festival" can be substituted with a local Christmas event.

SALESMAN

Can I help you?

OLIVIA

Yes. I'm looking for a Christmas tree.

SALESMAN

You've come to the right place! All of our trees are 10% off from now until Christmas. Any particular style you're looking for?

OLIVIA

Tall, full, I don't know. I think I like the softer needles better. It doesn't really matter as long as it's a real tree.

SALESMAN

Of course.

OLIVIA

There's nothing like the smell of a real Christmas tree.

SALESMAN

What about this one here?

OLIVIA

Yeah it looks nice.

She spots another tree.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Wait! What about that one?

SALESMAN

Absolutely. That's a beautiful tree.

OLIVIA

It smells wonderful. Just like Christmas.

SALESMAN

We specialize in the evergreen scented trees.

OLIVIA

What?

SALESMAN

And feel those needles.

OLIVIA

Nice and soft.

SALESMAN

Took us years to master those! But they feel great don't they.

OLIVIA

(Confused)

Yeah. They do.

SALESMAN

You can water it right down here.

OLIVIA

How much water does it take a day?

SALESMAN

Well, this one won't actually soak up the water, but we have ones that are slightly higher priced that will absorb water slowly.

OLIVIA

Wait.

SALESMAN

If a tree that absorbs water is really important to you, but you don't want to spend the extra amount, you can sign up for our weekly email and get an additional 10% off the sale price.

OLIVIA

I'm confused. I thought trees needed water to survive.

SALESMAN

You're absolutely right.

Pause.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

So, can I bale this tree for you?

OLIVIA

She inspects the tree closely.

Is this a real tree?

SALESMAN

Real is a subjective word.

OLIVIA

It is?

SALESMAN

It smells real. It feels real. It looks real.

OLIVIA  
But it' s plastic isn't it?

SALESMAN  
Plastic isn't the term we prefer to use.

OLIVIA  
What do you call it?

SALESMAN  
This is a *REAL* semisynthetic polymerization Christmas tree.

OLIVIA  
Interesting.

Mary enters.

MARY  
Olivia!

OLIVIA  
Mary, hi! What are you doing here?

MARY  
Buying a Christmas tree. Aren't you?

OLIVIA  
Well, I wanted a real Christmas tree.

MARY  
But they look real.

SALESMAN  
They feel real.

OLIVIA  
But they're not.

MARY  
Hey, let me steal you for a minute. Did you get my text about Thursday?

OLIVIA  
Your Christmas party.

MARY  
Can you come?

OLIVIA  
I don't think so. My schedule is packed this week. Lunch with my dad, shopping with my mom, the Dickens Festival with my sisters, I don't have time to breathe. And I really wanted to make it to the service Thursday night. Why don't you come with me? You use to love coming to church with me.

MARY

I just can't fit in all that religious stuff anymore. I simply don't have enough room in my Christmas schedule for Jesus' birthday. Can't do everything, right?

OLIVIA

What? Christmas without Jesus isn't really Christmas.

MARY

Says who?

OLIVIA

How do you celebrate the birth of the Savior without Jesus?

...TO READ THE REST OF THE SCRIPT  
PLEASE PURCHASE AT:  
[WWW.RACHELBENJAMIN.ORG](http://WWW.RACHELBENJAMIN.ORG)