



# Chris Carole



# Meet Santa

By Nicholas Conti

Chris Carole is a street musician who's life has been a chapter out of the book of hard knocks. Married young, abandoned by her husband, and forced to place her three children in someone else's care, Chris makes a paltry living playing Christmas Music on a portable cassette player, tambourine and drum. Whenever extra is available, though, she gives her extra earnings to the soup kitchen where she volunteers. It's a life... not a great one, but it's hers and Chris lives with her lot. Imagine her surprise, though, when her children, now in their teens with adopted families, team up and start a search for their mother!

Enter Nick, who in addition to his job at Social Services, collects donations in his Santa suit during Christmastime, to help support the Homeless Shelter which redeemed him and saved him ten years earlier. Through Nick, Chris' children find a link and begin their quest with the aid of a woman hard on her luck, but great in heart. Much searching of records and investigating ensures, until finally... coincidentally (?), Chris is reunited with her own children after the children she is helping turn out to be her own.

From the start of this one-act, you feel the excitement of Christmas in the air, as well as the spirit of the holiday through the selfless acts of all of the characters involved.

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