

## PRESENT PERFECT

By Rod

*This sketch could be used at Christmas. It could lead on to discussion about the 'perfect' gift. The dog is used to show the idea of something lasting ... and . of course, a relationship with Jesus is EVERlasting. So an introductory style of sketch to get people thinking.*

*Could therefore be linked to John 3 v 16 or similar passages.*

### CAST

John            *Married to Sarah*

Sarah           *Married to John. They have two children.*

*Sarah is busy. Perhaps ironing, sorting clothes, preparing vegetables? John is seated at a table with a list and a pen.*

John            *(Writing on to list)* So that's decided then; it's socks for Cousin Bill, Dan Snow's book on General Woofe for my father, and some nice smelly stuff from Boots for your Mum.

Sarah           Who does that leave?

J                Let me see.... oh, just my uncles, Tony and Reg.

S                I never know what to get your family.

J                It's easy; chocolates! Tony loves Belgian truffles and Reg goes into ecstasy if he's offered Bendick's mints.

S                If you say so.

J                So that's it. The list is complete.

S                *(Knowingly)* Are you sure you haven't left anybody out?

J                *(Getting up and going over to Sarah to stand behind her)* Only one person, but I'm not going to tell you what your present is going to be. *(Puts his arms around her from behind)* That would spoil the surprise.

S                *(Setting herself free from his advances)* Yes, that's what bothers me; I was certainly surprised by the leaf blower you gave me last year, to follow the very romantic garden fork of the year before. No, I meant some other members of the family.

J                *(Looks at list)* Erm.... I think we've thought of everybody.

S                Except our children.

- J Oh, the children.
- S Yes, you know, Josh and Daisy.
- J Well, why don't we get them some chocolates as well; one of those big Cadbury's selection packs. They'll see that as a real treat.
- S We can't do that. You know what they're like. They'll have scoffed the lot by lunchtime on Christmas Day. Josh won't eat his Christmas dinner and Daisy will be sick.
- J Hmm. Maybe you're right.
- S I'd rather we got them something longer lasting.
- J We could get Daisy some jewellery. A nice pearl necklace. That would be long lasting.
- S Daisy is only three years old. What's she going to make of that as a present? She'll probably try to eat the pearls.  
It's got to be something interactive that they can appreciate now.
- H *(Getting excited. Acts out what follows.)* There's this brilliant remote controlled helicopter I saw. It's only £19.99. You can fly it forwards, backwards, up, down, left, right. It sounds great. Josh would love it.
- S Last time we gave him a remote controlled thing (a car) he tripped up my father, practically causing him to fall down the stairs. I cannot imagine the sort of havoc he would create in the house with an airborne set of high speed rotating blades at his fingertips.
- J Yeah, that's true.
- S And anyway, he'll probably run the batteries flat by Boxing Day – if he hasn't smashed it against the wall on Christmas Day.
- J What about a computer game – or something for their X-box? That's interactive and safe.
- S But it's not special or long lasting. They've got loads of computer games; they play them for a while and then they lose interest. *(Thinking)* Although I do like the idea of getting them something they could play with together.
- J To help forge the bond between older brother and younger sister you mean.
- S Yes. It's nice seeing them playing together on the computer.

- J            *(Cautiously)* I did see another advertisement .... for a 'Robodog'. Josh would enjoy the robotic aspects and Daisy could pretend to take it for walks, and feed it, and so on.
- S            Maybe.
- J            And it doesn't career around. It's quite big so your father would see it coming.
- S            I think you've got it, John.
- J            Oh, great, Robodog it is then. *(Goes to exit)* I'll get on line now and order it right away.
- S            No, John, not a Robodog. A real dog.
- J            A real dog!
- S            Yes, it's perfect. If we get a puppy they'll both adore it. They could take it for walks, John could play ball with it, Daisy could be in charge of feeding it. And it would become a real member of the family. You know what dogs are like. They are full of affection. A dog doesn't allow you to lose interest in it on Boxing Day.
- J            And its batteries don't run down. ... It might still trip your father up though.
- S            I think he'll cope when he sees the wide-eyed joy on their faces.
- J            *(Goes to write on list)* So, that's decided then. List complete. A dog it is for the children.
- S            Yes, the perfect present to fit in with the true meaning of the season; because a dog is for life and not just for Christmas.

*THE END*