

# Updates/Alternatives to *The Twelve Dates of Christmas*

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June 25, 2017

The *Twelve Dates of Christmas* is intended to be set in the present, but in just a few years, “modern” references can feel outdated. The alternatives below attempt to maintain a present-day setting. One need not use all the suggested changes, but if not, be sure to check for consistency of new references.

No other changes may be made to the script without permission from the playwright.

New text is highlighted in **green**. Page numbers reflect the hard-copy published Playscripts, Inc. version.

Thank you and Break a Leg!

1. **Page 10.** After Mary’s line, “Thirty-nine text messages”, insert:

**And of course, *(with a shudder)* “Tweets.”**

Revert to original script with: “(Pause.) I know what you're thinking. I know.”

2. **Page 13.** The reference to the movie “Mama Mia” may be replaced with another major motion picture that was first a Broadway musical. For example, ***Beauty and the Beast* (2017), *Les Misérables* (2012.)**

3. **Page 14.** The reference to the TV Show “The Dating Game” may be replaced with another matchmaking show like **“*The Bachelor*” or “*The Bachelorette*.”**

4. **Page 17.** In Mary’s line, “Sorting through my messages, I discover a job offer to play Lady Macbeth(!),” feel free to replace the phrase, “Sorting through my messages” with, **“*Among my emails.*”**

5. **Page 17.** In Mary’s line, “The invites I divide and compare,” one may replace “invites” with **“*e-vites.*”**

6. **Page 19.** After Mary’s line, “I barely notice he’s there until . . .” alter the following text as follows:

. . . a phone rings. Loud and clear, a telephone rings. He thinks it's my cell, I think it's his, but we quickly realize that there's a cell phone just sitting there on a bench on the subway platform.

*(Beat. Leaping into fantasy-thoughts:)*

Signs, people! A mysterious phone is ringing, and there is no one around but us! Whose phone? Who's calling? What is the Universe trying to tell us? I don't know, but I know a *sign* when I see it! And, as all New Yorkers know, "If you see something say something."

"Should I answer it?" . . . we say in unison. It stops. And we... start. Chatting. First we have to decide what to do about the phone. He offers to drop it at the police station on his way home. He's so neighborly! . . . And smart and funny and when I tell him I'm in Macbeth, he responds with -

Revert to original script with:

STRANGER IN THE SUBWAY

"A poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more."

7. **Page 20.** After Mary's line, "Why don't you write down your number?" I say," insert the phrase:

prudently keeping my phone tucked out of sight, and

Revert to original script with: "saving myself from breaking P.P. Number One."

8. **Page 20.** In Mary's line that begins, "So willingly in fact, that I immediately", alter the text as follows:

So willingly in fact, that I immediately take out my phone and "Airdrop" my number to his to his phone through the closing subway doors -

Revert to original script with:

(SOUND CUE: Bing-bong!)  
"Call me!"

9. **Page 20.** After Mary's line, "No, not luck . . . Destiny." alter the text as follows:

It was Destiny calling that cell phone that day.

Revert to original script with:

(Beat.)

Date number six is dinner and a Broadway show.

10. **Page 21.** The reference to the cost of Mary's outfit ("under \$80") may be changed to suit the times. The point is that she is far from wealthy.

11. **Page 21.** After Mary's line, "Date Number Seven" and the subsequent stage direction, "(Long pause)" feel free to alter the following dialogue as such:

Dr. John is an hour and a half late and hasn't responded to my calls or texts. There must have been an emergency! Now, I know he isn't on-call --I have his schedule in my calendar--

Revert to original script with:

"-- but surely something has come up and they needed to keep him at work."

12. **Page 22.** After Mary's line, "How could I have been so stupid? So naive?," alter the following text as such:

How could I fixate on the ringing of a random cell phone in the filthy fucking subway, yet ignore the "suspicious package or activity" right in front of me? And furthermore, who was calling that cell phone that day?

Revert to original script with:

"I loved believing it was some supernatural force bringing us together."

13. **Page 30.** In Mary's line that begins, "Yeah, it was Halloween night, my friends," alter the following text as such:

when the dark-eyed Joe cradled my cell phone in his hands admiring pictures of Sally's wedding, and then deftly slipped into my email and accepted his own invitation to the "Find My Friends" app. . . Geo tracking: a common gesture of affection, IF YOU'RE A STALKER!!!

Revert to original script with the following stage direction:

"(Mary hangs ornament #8. SOUND CUE: Ding!)"

14. **Page 32.** In Mary's line, "I start listening to my iPod everywhere I go to block out the ubiquitous carols with something brooding," replace "listening to my iPod" with "using headphones."

15. **Page 33.** After Mary's line, "But apart from Tim, my holiday scorn cannot be softened," the following alterations may be used:

and the moment his nanny collects him from me at the stage door, I have the **headphones on (or earbuds in)** and I make myself invisible to the holiday season. Thanksgiving is approaching but I am too stubborn to **answer** my parents' phone calls.

Revert to original script with:

"I volunteer to take a shift on Thanksgiving"

16. **Page 35.** In Mary's line, "My parents call four times, my sister calls once; I don't pick up," Replace "pick up" with "**answer.**"

17. **Page 36.** In Mary's line, "The minute he's out the door, I go to the phone to call my Mom," feel free to change "the phone" to "**my phone.**"

18. **Page 39.** After Mary's line, "'Silent Night' is barely recognizable, and when I go to unplug the lobby tree, I yank too hard, breaking its ancient chord and silencing it forever," change the following sentence to:

**I've gotten no call or text from Waiter Rob today.**

Revert to original script with:

"My mom, however, calls five times."

19. **Page 41.** In Mary's line "Mr. Tim walks me down to the sidewalk to see that I get a cab," feel free to replace "get a cab" with "**get my Uber,**" though both options are relevant as of 2017.

20. **Page 41.** In Mary's line, "Mr. Tim offers to pay for my cab, but that doesn't feel right and I politely argue out of it," feel free to replace "my cab" with "**my Uber,**" though both options are relevant as of 2017.

21. **Page 42.** In the line, "When I get back to my apartment I discover several messages from my family and although I know it's really too late, I call home," replace "discover several messages" with "**scroll through the many messages.**"