

Chadwick, Matthews, Walter, Buddy

CHADWICK

Little tomato people. They are busily preparing for Christmas, but little do they know, the mean tomato who lives on top of the mountain is planning to steal Christmas this year.

WALTER

You are describing the Grinch.

CHADWICK

But with tomatoes!

WALTER

Greenway is going to fire us all if we don't come up with something good, you understand that?

(MATTHEWS bursts in, carrying a small manuscript.)

MATTHEWS

I got it! You are familiar, of course, with Christopher Smith.

WALTER

Are you kidding? Christopher Smith was the greatest writer of Christmas stories who ever lived.

MATTHEWS

Mr. Hobbs, I met this guy who recently acquired a desk once owned by one Christopher Smith and in a secret drawer he finds a manuscript.

WALTER

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story?

MATTHEWS

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story!

(MATTHEWS hands WALTER a small, yellowing manuscript.)

MATTHEWS

Be careful. It is the only copy.

(Suddenly, BUDDY, in his business suit, bursts into the conference room, having just come from his date.)

BUDDY

I'm in love! And I don't care who knows it!

WALTER

Buddy, please. We're very busy.

BUDDY

Dad, I need a table for two at Tavern on the Green, seven o'clock, Christmas Eve. And four hundred dollars.

MATTHEWS

The guy is waiting in the lobby, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

(to BUDDY)

Buddy. We'll talk about this in a minute. Just, do me a favor and sit there in that chair. Amuse yourself.

BUDDY

Oh, okay, Dad.

WALTER

(to MATTHEWS)

Well, bring the guy up here. I want to thank him personally.

MATTHEWS

He's not waiting for a thank you. He's waiting for \$300,000.

(WALTER puts down the manuscript.)

WALTER

What?

CHADWICK

Mr. Hobbs, we've been trying to come up with an idea for a story but we got nothing.

MATTHEWS

We're idiots!

CHADWICK

And then this comes along: It's a gift from God!

MATTHEWS

And God gets mad when you don't accept his gifts.

WALTER

Fine. I'll write the guy a check.