

# MONOLOGUE – BEN

## FROM *STILL AS STONE*

by Lindsay Price

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<b>Play</b>	STILL AS STONE (DECK THE STAGE) by Lindsay Price
<b>Stats</b>	Drama - Simple set - 10 minutes
<b>Casting</b>	1M+1W
<b>Description</b>	Ben has just given his project partner, Shelley, a Christmas present. She is not pleased.
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OK, you caught me. I thought 'tis the season and we've been working on this project and after next week it'll be all over and I just wanted to give you a little something, a little present, a Christmas thing. Merry Christmas! Aren't you going to open it? Oh I understand. You're a traditionalist. A woman after my own heart. Christmas presents should be opened on Christmas day.

*SHELLEY tries to get him to take back the present. BEN backs away.*

Take it back? You're rejecting a present? You haven't even seen it yet! Take it back? I've never heard of this. Sure I've done the ugly sweater return, but at least I opened the box and saw it was a sweater and went "gee what a neat sweater" a couple of times. Are you trying to pulverize my heart into tiny bits?

Oh. (*A thought hits him.*) Oh! (*He hits himself on the head.*) I am such an idiot. Oh wow. I feel so stupid. What an idiot. I didn't know. I didn't clue in. Shelley Langford doesn't sound like a Jewish name. There I go making assumptions. I'm always doing that.

*SHELLEY tells him that she's not Jewish.*

Continued Over...



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Oh. (*a thought just hitting him*) Oh! Oh!! Oh!!! I get it now. That's what's missing here. There's no tree! There's no wreaths! There's no Christmas decorations of any kind. You'd never know it was December. It's the commercial thing isn't it? You seem like the kind of girl, um, woman, who would really shun all that money jive. I totally agree, people spending too much money, once a year, going totally crazy on things they don't need instead of spending good decent quality time with their families and...

*SHELLEY shouts at him to shut up.*

You don't have to shout. All I did was spend five minutes picking out something nice for you. I wrapped it myself. I thought I was doing a nice thing.

You know, I defend you a lot at school. I. Me. I have come to your defence. You've got a pretty messy reputation. "Cold fish" comes up a lot. So does "snob," "pretentious" and "stuck-up." "No, no," I say, "She's funny. She's OK. She's just new, she doesn't know many people. She's just shy." Obviously I've been the biggest fool 'cause obviously everyone is right about you and I just couldn't see it!

*SHELLEY has run from the room. BEN takes a deep breath.*

Damn. Merry Christmas. 🍷