

Carrie, Edith & Matthew (pg 48-49)

The following rules are disclosed to the audience for the duration of the scene:

Rule 1: Matthew must sit and eat to tell a lie

Rule 2: Carrie must stand and dance around to tell a joke

Rule 5. Edith must clean to keep calm

‘Dance around’ need not mean specifically to dance in the musical sense, but generally to move around, gesticulate and own the space around her.

CARRIE (remaining seated). Oh God... I’m sorry, you’re probably right. I have been selfish. Please don’t be mad at me. From now on I’m going to be completely here for you, all of you.

MATTHEW. Carrie, you don’t need -

CARRIE (standing, dancing around). If there’s one thing your family needs right now it’s a maximum dose of the old Christmas Cheer, and from now on I’m bringing it one hundred – and fifty – two hundred – ten hundred per cent! I’ll be Edith’s Christmas helper!

EDITH enters; she carries an ironed shirt on a hanger.

EDITH. Did I hear my name?

CARRIE (remaining standing and dancing around). Edie’s back! Edie, I needie a new job! Tell me what you want – anything. If you want me to go and get mistletoe from the wilds of Siberia, I’ll fetch it. If you need me to lasso a Canadian moose for your festive garden display, I’m your gal.

MATTHEW (ducking out the way of CARRIE’s exuberant gestures).

MATTHEW. Careful, sweetie

CARRIE. If it needs dusting, sweeping, polishing, scrubbing, I’ll be your little festive...

In her exuberance, CARRIE accidentally thwacks an antique. It falls to the ground and smashes.

CARRIE. Fuck!

EDITH. Oh no!

CARRIE (sitting). Oh my God.

MATTHEW. Oh Mum, oh dear...

CARRIE. Edith, I’m so, so sorry...! Was it an antique?

EDITH (cleaning). It was my father’s, but don’t worry, it’s not important. We place too much significance on material things.

MATTHEW. Mum, let me do that, you’ll cut yourself. Mum, don’t clean it up, let me do it.