

It's Thanksgiving Again, Charlie
Brown

Charles M Schulz

November 24, 1962

Charlie Brown

Linus and Others

Ghost of Thanksgiving Yet to Come

Ghost of Martin Luther King Day

Admiral Duke van Pelt

Narrator, Stage Directions

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Act One

Scene 1

EXT. UNSUPERVISED BRICK WALL. DAY.

It is November 22, 1962. We see an adult pounding down a wooden sign next to a large lake. The sign reads 'Due to recent drownings, ice skating is strictly OFF LIMITS'. Two little boys watch the man do his work

CHARLIE BROWN

Would you look at that, Linus. Good grief!
Isn't that just my luck.

LINUS

What?

CHARLIE BROWN

The lake! It's closed down! We won't be able to ice skate this Christmas! All because of a few lousy drownings?

LINUS

They're just trying to keep us safe, I guess.

CHARLIE BROWN

Are they going to refund the ice skates I bought with my money, Linus? Just another page in the novel entitled 'Charlie Brown Has The Worst Life Ever'. One of these days I'm really going to do it.

LINUS

I don't know how you can even think about ice skating right now, Charlie Brown. The lake isn't even frozen yet. Besides, today is the best holiday of all: Thanksgiving! Why don't you try thinking about the stuff you ARE grateful for?

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CHARLIE BROWN

What? The so called friends who never give me a fuckin break? My stupid sister who hates me? My bitch parents? My stupid dog who's always pulling crap doing crap doing his dog crap all over? I don't got one thing to be grateful for, Linus.

LINUS

(hurt) not one thing? Not even one friend you care for?

CHARLIE BROWN

I got nothing in my whole stinking life. This morning, when I was walking over here, to meet you, I passed by your sister Lucy. You know what she said to me?

LINUS

What.

CHARLIE BROWN

She held out a football, said I should come kick it. She offered to hold it so that I could kick it.

LINUS

Yeah but she was lying. You always fall for that.

CHARLIE BROWN

And I told her as much. I said no way, Lucy. I said 'you're just gonna pull it out from under me and I'm gonna fall down and kill myself' and she said some crap about some shit I don't know.

LINUS

Tell me you didn't fall for it again.

CHARLIE BROWN

I told her I'm serious Lucy. I said 'cut the crap Lucy'. I said 'I'm having a real bad day Lucy, I don't got time for this crap. I just got screamed at by my parents, I have a hard time around the holidays ever since my uncle offed himself, I'm just trying to go hang out with my boy Linus'.

LINUS

And what did she say

CHARLIE BROWN

She told me that sounded real rough.

(MORE)

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CHARLIE BROWN (CONT'D)

And she took my hand and she looked me in the eye and she apologized for all the times she's pulled the football away from me. She said 'oh shit Charlie Brown I had no idea. I thought we were just having fun but I can see that years of torment have caught up with you. I'm so fucking sorry oh my god Charlie Brown I'm so sorry. Please, don't say those horrible things, we want you around Charlie Brown, we want you to live.' And then she said she wanted to start a new chapter and offered to hold the football and let me kick it as a show of trust.

LINUS

Ok

CHARLIE BROWN

No I know what you're thinking. You're thinking 'good grief you fell for it again' aren't you. But I looked her in the eye, you know, and I told her 'Jesus Christ Lucy, I want to believe you, god knows I do. But I swear to god if you pull that ball out from under me I'm gonna kill myself. I swear. I'm gonna fucking kill myself I'm not joking. My uncle did it. It's in my blood. I know how I would do it. I am barely holding on here. You're a psychiatrist, you know how thin of ice I'm on here'

LINUS

Yeah, and she was like, on board

CHARLIE BROWN

She just kept apologizing and god Linus she starts crying and I start crying and she tells me she doesn't know if she even wants to keep practicing because she feels so ashamed that she didn't see how she's been making me feel, right? So I breathe and she breathes and we get calm and I say 'ok, I'm going to trust you.'

LINUS

Uh huh

CHARLIE BROWN

And then I take a running start and I go to kick the ball and she pulls it out from under me. And I fall on my back and I hit my head on the ground and I hear her say some crap like I don't even know.

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LINUS

Yeah, she does that every time man

CHARLIE BROWN

I wanted to fucking kill her

LINUS

You gotta stop trying to kick the ball, man. Is it about kicking a ball? I will hold the ball for you. You gotta stop letting her do that to you.

CHARLIE BROWN

I dunno man. I'm so fucked up.

LINUS

Listen, let's just have a chill thanksgiving this year, you know? Everybody will be there tonight, you won't even have to see Lucy. Me and you and my blanket and Franklin and whatever can like, cut out early and go play football or something, just have some solid bro time. It'd be good for you.

CHARLIE BROWN

Thanksgiving is canceled, Linus. I'm not doing it.

LINUS

(upset) WHAT!

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm serious, I'm done with this town, I'm done with these people. Everyone wants what I got. They want my food, they want my dog to set their table, they need me to bitch at and punch down at so they can feel better about their own shitty lives, and now I'm done, you know? They won. I'm serious I want to see them try and have a thanksgiving without me. They can't do it.

LINUS

But... it's Thanksgiving Charlie Brown! We need you! And we need thanksgiving! It's a time for friends to settle old scores! Time for peace, and food, and goodwill! We need it this year more than ever, you know, after the drownings.

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm not doing it. I'm out of here.

LINUS

Hey man, come on. Don't be like that.

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CHARLIE BROWN

Like what? Screw you Linus

LINUS

Screw me? Screw you! You can't cancel thanksgiving the day-of! You're not God! Some of us maybe need thanksgiving! What kind of a friend are you?

CHARLIE BROWN

What kind of a friend are you! Your sister has been tormenting me for years and you don't do anything or say anything! You don't care about me! You just needed the one person in this entire stinking town MORE fucked up than you!

LINUS

What!

CHARLIE BROWN

Always walking around with that stupid blanket like someday you'll find a personality inside it!

LINUS

What the hell Charlie Brown!

CHARLIE BROWN

You never liked me! You use me the same way everyone else does but at least they're honest about how much they hate me! You only want me around for thanksgiving because without me, you're just a fucked up loser with attachment issues. I'm done making you look better and I'm done doing these stupid holidays and I'm out of here.

LINUS

You're wrong! You're wrong Charlie Brown! Someday, you're gonna see the true spirit of Thanksgiving, and I pray to god HERself that it's not too late for you when you do.

Charlie Brown flips Linus off and walks away

LINUS

(to himself) dear god. Dear God. Dear anyone who can hear me. Show Charlie Brown the true spirit of Thanksgiving. And have mercy on our souls.

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Scene 2

INT. CHARLIE BROWN'S BEDROOM. DAY.

Charlie Brown comes home, angry. He slams his door shut and gets into bed even though it's only like 2 o'clock.

Sally, his little sister, enters the room

SALLY

Charlie Brown! You're getting into bed? But we are hosting Thanksgiving for all our friends soon!

CHARLIE BROWN

(angrily) Not anymore. Thanksgiving is canceled. You want it so bad, do it yourself.

SALLY

But, we can't do it without you! I don't even know how to make toast!

Charlie Brown throws a glass at her

CHARLIE BROWN

(Screaming) then maybe you should have thought of that sooner!!

Sally leaves, crying

CHARLIE BROWN

(balled up, under his blanket, into his pillow) God dammit. I'm so fucked up. I should just do it.

The dark bedroom becomes filled with an unearthly, blue light. The figure of a small child appears, this time weighed down with chains. Even in the dim light, fleas and dirt can be seen flying off the figure like an unending torrent of filth

CHARLIE BROWN

(screaming even louder) I said get out of here Sally!

PIGPEN

I am not Sally.

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CHARLIE BROWN

What the hell? What the hell? Pigpen? But you... You... You can't be here?

PIGPEN

I don't have long here, Charlie Brown. I have come back to warn you.

CHARLIE BROWN

But... you drowned Pigpen. You drowned in the lake. You're dead.

PIGPEN

You're right. I died. But I'm here now. Charlie, you need to know, you're going to be visited soon. I overheard them talking about it.

CHARLIE BROWN

Nice try. You're just some vision. You're a hallucination of my guilt ridden mind. We shouldn't have made so much fun of you. We should have seen the signs. You were clearly being neglected as a child. But I know you're not real. You're just a product of me hitting my head earlier trying to kick that football. You're more pigskin than pigpen. There's more of gravy than grave about you!

PIGPEN

What?

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm concussed! I don't know! Get out of here!

PIGPEN

Believe me or don't, Charlie Brown, but please listen. I forged these chains in life. But there is still time for you. You are going to be visited by three spirits!

CHARLIE BROWN

So you keep saying!

PIGPEN

You must listen to them! You must open your heart, Charlie Brown! I forged these chains in life!

CHARLIE BROWN

Stop saying that!

PIGPEN

I was bullied for my filth Charlie Brown.

(MORE)

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PIGPEN (CONT'D)

I died with resentment in my heart! It fills you up, it weighs you down. Even after my body stopped sinking, my soul did not! You mustn't hate your fellow man! Listen to the spirits, Charlie! Let them guide you!

Pigpen, in a cloud of filth, fades away

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief!

Charlie Brown is hit by a little boy dressed like a pilgrim who suddenly appears in his bed

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Don't swear!

CHARLIE BROWN

What the hell!

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

I am the Ghost of Thanksgiving Past!

CHARLIE BROWN

You're a little boy! You're wearing a hat with a buckle on it! Why are you tormenting me!

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

You will be given answers soon, Charles. First you must take my hand.

CHARLIE BROWN

Why? Where are you going to take me?

the little boy takes Charlie Browns hand and leads him to his bedroom window

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Not where, Charles, but WHEN!

They fly out the window and into the sky. They fly so high up that the world below disappears in the clouds

CHARLIE BROWN

(screaming, out of fear)

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Haha yes! Fun!

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CHARLIE BROWN
(screams more)

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST
Well, we're here!

Scene 3

**EXT. FOREST. DAY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PILGRIMS
PREPARING AN OUTDOOR FEAST OF TURKEY, EEL, SHELLFISH,
BOILED CORNMEAL, AND VEGETABLES**

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST
Here we are, Charles. 1621, Massachusetts. The
first Thanksgiving. See the humble pilgrims,
preparing their modest feast.

CHARLIE BROWN
This is bullshit.

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST
Yes, the feast may look meager compared to the
thanksgiving dinners you're used to in the
twentieth cent-

CHARLIE BROWN
No I mean this being the first Thanksgiving.
You're bullshitting me.

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST
Please, aha, please stop swearing young one.
The Indians have yet to arrive, but once they
do you'll get to see the peace and harmony
that sharing a dinner with-

CHARLIE BROWN
First of all, they're Wampanoag people. They
weren't even invited, they showed up because
they heard the colonists firing their guns.
Second of all, Thanksgiving was invented by
Abraham Lincoln 200 years later to ease
relations with native people and erase
generations of colonization and genocide.

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST
My my look at the time

CHARLIE BROWN
Also aren't you supposed to be showing me,
like, Thanksgivings in my past? What the hell
even is this? What kind of operation are you
running here?

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GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Listen buddy, we're just trying to show you the spirit of thanksgiving. How about I let you rot here for a few decades and come pick you up later. You want that?

CHARLIE BROWN

Like I'd even last that long. I'd be more likely to die from the freak diseases brought over here from Europeans that also contributed greatly to the diminishing numbers of the Wampanoag people might I add-

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Okay you know what fine I'll just take you back. I tried to do something nice.

CHARLIE BROWN

Well you did a bad job.

*The two children fly back to 1962
in silence*

Scene 4

INT. CHARLIE BROWNS BEDROOM

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

(looking at his shoes, kicking the ground idly) My brother will be here soon. Ghost of Thanksgiving Present.

CHARLIE BROWN

Thanksgiving doesn't have presents. You're thinking of Christmas.

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

I said "present" as in "now", asshole. You know you're really ruining this for me. I tried to do something nice for you.

CHARLIE BROWN

Yeah well I've had it up to here with people doing anything for me.

GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Great nice philosophy, jerk. Yeah just keep pushing people away. I'm sure that little strategy is so close to working out.

CHARLIE BROWN

Fuck you dude

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GHOST OF THANKSGIVING PAST

Fuck you! I hope you get smallpox! You bald fuck!

Ghost of Thanksgiving Past begins to walk out of the room, knocking a lamp over as he goes

CHARLIE BROWN

Push people away. What a dick. I don't push people away. Im the one that gets pushed. This is bullshit.

a teenager enters the room, floating. He is held aloft by holding onto balloons above him

CHARLIE BROWN
(screams)

BALLOON VENDOR

Don't fear, child! Come, get to know me better!

CHARLIE BROWN
(screams intensifies)

BALLOON VENDOR

Did my brother not introduce me? I am the Ghost of Thanksgiving Present! By now, you should be at least 1/3rd closer to learning the joys of Thanksgiving!

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief! I suppose you're going to take me through time now too? Oooh it's not someWHERE but someWHEN, huh?

BALLOON VENDOR

No, it's somewhere. I do not travel through time, I am eternally of the present. Every year I am born on Thanksgiving, and every year I die when it ends.

CHARLIE BROWN

Great. The sooner you take me away the sooner we can get this over with.

BALLOON VENDOR

No, Charlie Brown! I want you to help me! I don't want Thanksgiving to end, ever. I don't want to keep dying, I want to live! I want to live!

CHARLIE BROWN

What?

*The balloon vendor pulls out a gun
and begins trying to put it in
Charlie Browns hands*

BALLOON VENDOR

I'm going to take us to the White House,
Charlie Brown! I need you to force the
president to make it Thanksgiving every day! I
don't want to keep dying! I want to live!

CHARLIE BROWN

Stop! Get off of me! I'm not going to kill the
president!

BALLOON VENDOR

You don't need to kill him you just need to
threaten him. Maybe we can kill the vice
president to show him we're serious? I'd do it
myself but I can only appear to those with
hate in their hearts who don't know the true
spirit of Thanksgiving!

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm not going to threaten John F Kennedy! I
like his policies and he's going to be
president for a long long time!

*The Ghost accosts Charlie Brown,
grabbing him by the shoulders and
shaking him*

BALLOON VENDOR

You don't get it kid! I need you to do this or
you're no good to me! I can't keep going on
like this!

CHARLIE BROWN

Get off of me! You're crazy!

BALLOON VENDOR

Why don't I fly us up real high? Maybe you'll
feel different when I'm holding you off the
edge of the Under Dog balloon at the Macys day
parade huh?

*a gunshot is heard. The Ghost of
Thanksgiving Present pulls his hand
to his gut, then looks down at his
now crimson red hand*

BALLOON VENDOR

You... shot me?

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CHARLIE BROWN

Oh my god oh fuck

BALLOON VENDOR

I just wanted.... To live...

*the Ghost of Thanksgiving Present
falls to the ground, dead*

*Charlie Brown holds the gun away
from him like it was a pair of
someone else's underwear. He steps
away from the Ghost and sits on his
bed in a catatonic state. He
remains like this for the next 24
minutes while the body of the Ghost
occasionally spasms and gurgles*

*A hooded figure, the last of the
ghosts, enters the room silently.
It holds a scythe in one hand, and
holds out a bony hand for Charlie
Brown*

CHARLIE BROWN

I suppose you're the last of them.

*The Ghost of Thanksgiving Yet to
Come nods, and removes its hood,
revealing a mostly eaten, picked
clean turkey skull*

CHARLIE BROWN

Are you going to punish me for killing that
guy? You gotta know mister, it was an
accident.

the ghost looks down and shrugs

CHARLIE BROWN

I mean, listen, he was gonna die anyway right?
He said he dies every year? And he's already a
ghost so it's not like I did anything that bad
right?

*the ghost massages his temples and
gives a sort of 'what do you want
me to do?' gesture*

*Charlie Brown takes his hand and
they fly into the future*

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Scene 5

EXT. DARK NIGHT SKY

A city skyline is seen in the rain. The year is 3062. They pass harmlessly through flying cars and fly around floating hologram billboards. They fly through a skyscraper penthouse and into a dining room where a family are sitting around a floating table. The family does not notice them. The table is holding roast turkey, mashed potatoes, and fizzy drinks in weird shaped glassware.

INT. DINING ROOM

The Ghost of Thanksgiving Yet to Come holds out his arm to show Charlie Brown the scene

CHARLIE BROWN

Oh, I see, this is supposed to represent-

A squadron of heavily armored super soldiers kicks open the door. They are all wearing fascist looking space helmets, as if to say "the only lesson we learned from the nazis is that uniforms look fucking sick". Their leader holds a laser guided gun and is not wearing a helmet because he needs to be able to deliver dialogue.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Two time anomalies detected! Fire up the anti-incoporealizer, boys!

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief!

the squadron fires lasers past the family having thanksgiving dinner. The lasers collide with Charlie Brown and the Ghost of Thanksgiving Yet to Come. Charlie Brown and the ghost fall to the floor, writhing in agony

CHARLIE BROWN

I thought they couldn't see us, Spirit! I thought these were just shadows, visions of what was to come!

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GHOST OF THANKSGIVING YET TO COME
Gobble gobble! Oh shit! Oh shit! We are going
to die!

CHARLIE BROWN
You could talk this whole time?!

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT
Take this, you meddling, time traveling, son
of a bitch!

*Admiral Duke van Pelt takes his
side pistol and fires it into the
turkey skull head of the Ghost of
Thanksgiving Yet to Come. The head
explodes*

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT
Take the boy and put him with the others.
Sorry to disturb your dinner. Happy
Thanksgiving.

Act Two
Scene 6

INT. SPACE PRISON CELL

Charlie Brown is sitting,
unconscious in a cold, neon lit
cell. He has one cell mate who we
can't quite make out yet. There are
rows of other cells, some of which
can be seen. Instead of iron bars
though, the doors are lasers,
because it's the future.

CHARLIE BROWN
(waking up) ugh... good grief... where am I?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
Welcome to hell, brother. Looks like the
Admiral caught you too. Damn.

CHARLIE BROWN
What is going on? Why did they hit us with
those tingle sticks? Who are you?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
What the hell is a tingle stick?

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CHARLIE BROWN

You know, a tingle stick. The stuff they shot us with. Everyone knows what a tingle stick is.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Boy I do not know what you're saying.

CHARLIE BROWN

Tingle sticks! When you turn 5 and your parents send you to little boy camp! And they hit you with tingle sticks because you don't look people in the eye and go non-verbal some times!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Brother I think you just had autism

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief. Who are you anyway?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

I am the Ghost of Martin Luther King Day, not to be confused with the Ghost of Martin Luther King Jr. He is a different guy. A few weeks back, some guy in the 20th century was being a real curmudgeon about bank holidays. I took him throughout time to teach him the true spirit of the holiday I embody. I tried taking him here to this future to show him his own death, but these honkies busted in and threw our asses in jail.

CHARLIE BROWN

Nice to meet you. I'm Charlie Brown. I've never heard of Martin Luther King Jr Day. What is the meaning of it?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

You know how the bank is always open? You know how you can go to the bank and get your own money whenever you need it? The money you worked hard for and legally own?

CHARLIE BROWN

Yeah

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Well what if there was a day when you couldn't have it

CHARLIE BROWN

That seems sort of opaquely racist

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GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Well they also close the library and the post office. Basically, what I represent, is that we should celebrate civil liberty and freedom of an oppressed race by not being able to have your own money, read, or write.

CHARLIE BROWN

Now it sounds overtly racist

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Man shut your white ass up. You don't get to tell me, the Ghost of Martin Luther King Jr Day, what is and isn't racist, you cracker.

CHARLIE BROWN

No it's okay, I have a black friend, his name is Franklin

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Tell me one character trait about Franklin other than the fact that he is black

CHARLIE BROWN

We should get out of here.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

I thought so too. But we can't. They got us locked up tighter than well frankly, tighter than something that would be inappropriate to reference to a little boy such as yourself

CHARLIE BROWN

No its ok I swear and fuck and stuff

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Respect little man, in that case they got us locked up tighter than a butthole on butthole checking day. Admiral van Pelt keeps us locked up here in perpetuity, saying we are nuisances to the timestream and shouldn't be floating around teaching lessons to rich old fucks.

CHARLIE BROWN

But... I don't belong here! I don't want to be here anymore?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Well get used to it. You're never going to see your friends or family or dog again, Charlie Brown. But then again, that's what you wanted, right?

CHARLIE BROWN

What do you mean?

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GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

I'm a spirit, fool. I may not be able to read, due to the library being closed every day I exist, but that doesn't stop me from reading you like a book. You swore off Thanksgiving, but worse than that, you swore off your best friend. Lingus.

CHARLIE BROWN

We should teach you to read. But go on.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

You thought Thanksgiving was about what? People noticing you? People saying thank you? You're dumber than you are racist. You're mad that people forget to treat you a certain way? That's what thanksgiving is all about, N word. Forgetting. Forget the way your enemies been treating you. Forget about your trouble for a day. Forget to do the dishes. Sit down, eat a meal, forget that the whole thing was started from genocide, forget that you hate your life, and choose to remember you got people in your life who you care about and want to spend it with. You got it all wrong. You remembered the stuff that hurt you, and you forgot about Lingus who has been by your side this whole time.

CHARLIE BROWN

You're right. I wasn't a good friend to Linus when he needed me. Don't you see, MLK Day! I have to get back! I shouldn't have abandoned my friends!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

What are you not getting? We are trapped in here! This whole prison is contained in an anti-chronokinetic field! Us ghosts can't use our time travel powers to get in or out of here!

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief, MLK! Anything is possible if you believe!

*Charlie Brown begins pushing
himself through the laser cell door*

CHARLIE BROWN

(screams in pain)

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Oh my god! You're getting through! How is that possible!

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Charlie Brown slides out and lands on the ground, singed but alive. He presses the button on the door that turns off the laser cell door. An alarm immediately turns on

CHARLIE BROWN

My parents made me go to little boy get better camp like 4 times. I built up a tolerance to tingle sticks. They eventually had to upgrade to a car battery.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

That's great and all, little man, but we are we gonna do about... them!

MLK points to a squadron of fascist jailers coming down the hallway, responding to the alarm

CHARLIE BROWN

If we're gonna get out of here, we're all gonna have to work together! Come on! You have to... believe!!!

Charlie Brown begins hitting the buttons on all the cell doors, releasing all the other inmates. They rush into the hallway, grateful for Charlie Browns help

GHOST OF VALENTINES DAY PAST

Charlie Brown, I could KISS you!

GHOST OF CHRISTMASES THAT NEVER WERE

Things could be worse! Come on everyone, let's get Charlie Brown out of here!

GHOST OF VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER AT 1 AM ON THE NIGHT FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Vroom vroom! This is for you Charlie Brown!

The Ghost of Vehicular Manslaughter, a haunted car, drives through a wall and explodes, making a hole in the wall that goes somewhere else

CHARLIE BROWN

Come on MLK! Lets go!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

We'll never make it! There's too many!

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GHOST OF EUROPEAN ST PATRICK DAY
 (in an irish accent) maybe you just need... a
 bit of LUCK!

*Charlie Brown and MLK begin making
 their way down the hallway,
 narrowly missing the laser bolts
 that are being shot at them*

GHOST OF AMERICAN ST PATRICK DAY
 (in a boston accent) woah that wicked retarded
 car just parked for the last time. walk the
 dog, boys!

*Ghost of American St Patrick Day
 begins attacking the guards with a
 sock full of nickels*

*Charlie Brown climbs through the
 hall in the wall, but realizes MLK
 Day isn't following him

CHARLIE BROWN
 Come on MLK! Let's get out of here!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
 I can't leave my spirit brothers here to die,
 Charlie Brown. This isn't right.

*a new ghost, dressed in red black
 and green and holding a multi-
 headed candle, grabs MLK Day by the
 shoulders amidst the dust and
 debris from the laser gun fire*

GHOST OF KWANZAA
 Get out of here, Ghost of Martin Luther King
 Junior Day. Save yourself and save that boy.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
 Kwanzaa?? But, but... you hate me!

GHOST OF KWANZAA
 No, son, I hate what you represent. You are
 definitely overtly racist. Why would Martin
 Luther King Jr want to close a library? But
 that child sees something in you. If that
 autistic little boy could change his mind
 about Thanksgiving, then maybe the world can
 change its mind about what we dedicate to bank
 holidays. Now go! Go!!

MLK Day, through tears, climbs through the hole in the wall and follows Charlie Brown. The Ghost of Kwanzaa does a whole Gandalf thing to the wave of guards trying to follow them. They shoot him a bunch, but out of his fucking bullet wounds, pure kwanzaa energy pours out and its like light, man, its like pure energy and it burns them and its beautiful

Scene 6

INT. FUTURE STYLE WARDEN OFFICE.

Admiral van Pelt is staring at monitors showing chaos on every floor. The ghosts are out of control. Behind him, an air vent opens and Charlie Brown and MLK Day fall out.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

(slow clapping) Well done, you little bitch. You got a bunch of your friends killed and for what? Nothing.

CHARLIE BROWN

You're the bitch! You captured me! I'm just a little boy! You put me in a cage! You fucking pedophile!

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Don't say that! False accusations are very serious!

CHARLIE BROWN

You're right, I shouldn't have called you a pedophile, that was a gross abuse and just because someone is a bad person that doesn't justify doing something evil to them.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Your regret has been heard, but it won't be heeded. Any last words, meddler?

The Admiral pulls his trademark pistol out and aims it directly at Charlie Browns giant bald head

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Goddammit Charlie Brown, I'm sorry, goddammit I'm so sorry.

CHARLIE BROWN

There's nothing I can say that will make you lower the anti-time-travel field thing so that we can leave, huh.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

I'm afraid youre right. I founded this organization to capture and prevent people like you from changing the time stream in meaningful ways. The universe is too chaotic! I demand order! I will break the universe herself like a wild horse if that's what it takes!

CHARLIE BROWN

But these ghosts are good natured! They make changes in people, sure, but they make changes for the better! They made me a better person! Can't you see that!

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Your vision is as low as your stature, child. If I let these ghosts fly around through time changing history, sure, occasionally crochety old man might become kind, but don't you see? I might never be born. Don't you see how fragile time is? What if a young disabled child, meant to die on Christmas Eve from hunger, grows up to be Hitler 2? I might never be! Others are fine with that, but I'm not, and I have the will and the strength to make it so.

CHARLIE BROWN

You're a bully!

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

And you're history.

*the Admiral cocks his space pistol,
showing that he's really about to
blast this kid to death*

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Oh, and Charlie Brown, you should know... I AM a pedophile! I just don't like you!

CHARLIE BROWN

Wait! Wait! One last thing! Please!

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Ha, I see no way this could affect me adversely, sure. Spit it out.

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CHARLIE BROWN

I know I'm about to die, but are you related to someone named Lucy? It's probably nothing but I just noticed you have the same last name as my friend Lucy, from the 60s.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

(weakly) Lucy... You mean, Lucille van Pelt... that's my great grandmother... She taught me everything I know. My hate, my rage, my strength, my compulsion to charge the government 5 cents for my work... You knew Lucille?

CHARLIE BROWN

Yeah we hang out

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Then you have been blessed to be in her presence and know her when she was young. I only knew her as a jaded yet strong old titan of a woman.

CHARLIE BROWN

As one final act before I die, would you want to maybe... kick a football in her honor?

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Why would that honor her? What are you getting at?

CHARLIE BROWN

It's just an old tradition from when we were young. Besides, it's Thanksgiving. You wouldn't say no to kicking a football on the same day as the Super Bowl would you?

Charlie Brown wryly takes a signed football from atop the Admirals desk. He walks across the office to the balcony that overlooks the city. This is how we find out we're actually in a giant tower that looks over a whole Blade Runner style city. He kneels down and holds the football in kicking position.

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Of course not. Besides, I suppose I don't see the harm in it. I am, after all, an adult with a gun and you are a small bald child. If you tried to overpower me, I could simply shoot you. And yes, it IS a festive way to celebrate my success. Oh why not.

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*the Admiral runs across the room to
kick the ball as hard as he can off
the balcony*

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

Here I go!

CHARLIE BROWN

Whoops!

Charlie Brown does the thing

ADMIRAL DUKE VAN PELT

(while falling) Ahhhh! Good god! Good heavens!! No! I've gone to kick a football but found no purchase! The resistance I was expecting, and in fact, compensating for, was not found! I've wildly overextended my body! Good god the kinetic energy of my body has gone completely head over heels! My god now I'm careening over this balcony! I'm falling to my death! My god! I'm going to die! Quick! I know! I'll simply repent to the one true god! I'll offer a prayer of confession! My sins of violence, domination, wrath, and pedophilia will be forgotten and I'll be embraced into the arms of the one true god who art in heaven AND his son our lord! You sly old devil, Duke, you've wormed your way out of this one! Haha! Now then, here I go! To begin my prayer, I'll-

splat

CHARLIE BROWN

Good grief.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Look Charlie Brown! His desk! There's a button here that turns off the field that keeps us spirits tangible and trapped!

CHARLIE BROWN

Okay

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Should I press it?

CHARLIE BROWN

I just killed a guy, man. I don't know. I'm fucking like... I think I'm fucked up for a little bit. Damn.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

I'm going to press it. Then I'll take you back to January 20th, 1986, the first Martin Luther King Jr Day, so that you can take a nap.

CHARLIE BROWN

1986? That's the future, from my point of view! You have to get me to 1962!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

But I... I can't! I'm the ghost of Martin Luther King Jr Day! I can only travel within the bounds of my domain, don't you see?

CHARLIE BROWN

Then I'll never be able to get home?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

I'm sorry, Charlie Brown. I really am a useless ghost.

CHARLIE BROWN

But, I came all this way. I saved all the ghosts and realized I was being wrong to my friends who needed me. I learned my lesson. I'll never see Snoopy again?

a mysterious figure fades into view. He stands at 5 feet 7 inches and glows in a spectral blue light

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

Perhaps... I can be of some assistance?

CHARLIE BROWN, GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Martin Luther King Junior?????

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

That's right, Charlie Brown. It's me, Martin Luther King Jr. I've been a ghost ever since the CIA killed me in 1968. But since you lowered that anti-chronokinetic field, I was able to travel through time and appear to you.

CHARLIE BROWN

Wow!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

Wow indeed, Charlie Brown. Wow indeed. Take my hand, son. I'm going to use my ghost powers to take you to 1962. Specifically, September 12th, 1962, when I gave a speech commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. You know who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, don't you?

CHARLIE BROWN

No!

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GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
Why, Abraham Lincoln of course.

CHARLIE BROWN
The same guy who invented Thanksgiving??? Wow!
It's like, everything's connected and people
are complex tapestries and holidays are
important because they're like, they're like the
thread that weaves us all together through
time!

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
No Charlie Brown, it was all just a bunch of
coincidence. Come on. Let's go. And hey, Ghost
of Martin Luther King Jr Day?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
Yes, Ghost of Martin Luther King Jr?

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
It's like I always say. The function of
education is to teach one to think intensively
and to think critically. Intelligence plus
character-that is the goal of true
education... So how about you open those
libraries, my (says a new special word, a word
that only black people can say, but they can't
even say it to each other, it's a word only
black people can say to themselves or copies
of themselves)

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
(through tears) Okay. I will.

*Charlie Brown takes the ghost of
Martin Luther King Jr's hand and
they disappear through time in a
flash of light and it's really
beautiful and poignant*

Act Three
Scene 7

**EXT. CRAPPY ASS LOOKING OUTDOOR THANKSGIVING DINNER
THAT'S BEEN PUT TOGETHER BY CHILDREN AND ONE DOG AND A
ONE BIRD**

We see Charlie Brown get out of
some car. He's clearly been
hitchhiking for a month or two.

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Despite wearing his same stupid yellow shirt, he looks a little wiser than when his friends last saw him. Charlie Brown hears a rustling in the wind and looks behind him.

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
(whispering on the wind, unseen) Remember Charlie... Heroes get remembered... but legends never die...

Charlie Brown smiles to himself, knowing that's probably the last adventure he'll ever have with those ghosts and spirits

LINUS
Charlie Brown, you old bag! I thought you said you wasn't coming to Thanksgiving!

CHARLIE BROWN
Lingus!

LINUS
Huh!

CHARLIE BROWN
I mean Linus! Aren't you a sight for sore eyes!

LINUS
You just saw me.

CHARLIE BROWN
Linus, I'm sorry! You were a good friend to me today and I forgot about you like a jerk!

LINUS
Don't worry about it. Truth be told, I'm really glad you're here. Thanksgiving just isn't the same without you.

we pan to show that everyone is here at thanksgiving. Linus. Franklin. Peppermint Patty. Did I say Franklin? Franklin. Lucy. Schroeder. Snoopy. The Red Baron. Woodstock. Garfield. Heathcliff. The Ghost of Pigpen. The other one. Is there one who's a lesbian? I heard one of them was a lesbian. She's there. She has glasses. Franklin.

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CHARLIE BROWN

Everyone, I want you to know something. I started here and I ended here, but I changed in between. I was wrong to try and quit coming to Thanksgiving. Sure, you all abuse me. You all abuse my dog, Snoopy. You hassle me and give me shit and try to make my life hell. You all fuck me over every year in new and interesting ways. But this is the one day of the year when we get to forget about it all and be together and remember the good times. Because holidays are amazing and football is amazing and ghosts are amazing and I love all of you. God bless us, every one of us!

LUCY

You're not so bad Charlie Brown, and that was a rousing speech. Now that I've heard it, I've decided something too. Until this moment, I was planning to live for a thousand years, have many strong children, and raise them to dominate their fellow man. But now that I know the truth about holidays, I've decided... I'm going to devote my life to the church! That's right! I'm taking a vow of celibacy! Forever! God bless us! Every one of us!

*we pan up and out, knowing the
future is safe, knowing that this
little bald autistic boy learned a
lesson, and knowing he made his
life and his friends lives better
and that makes us feel a little
better about our own lives*

GHOST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

God bless us, every one of us!

END

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