SCENE 6 — On the Avenue

Christmas Eve and Rod.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Hey Rod, how it hanging?

ROD

Christmas Eve, I got your wedding invitation!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Are you coming?

ROD

Here's my RSVP!

He hands her an envelope. Brian appears in a window, holding an invitation.

BRIAN

Hey honey? What's all this about us getting married?

CHRISTMAS EVE

Think of it like a surprise party.

BRIAN

Cool!

He closes the window.

ROD

(A bit sad:)

I think it's wonderful that you have someone so special in your life.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Are you okay, Rod?

ROD

Christmas Eve, you're a therapist, right?

CHRISTMAS EVE

I have two Master degree!

ROD

So you help people who have all kinds of problems?

CHRISTMAS EVE

Nobody want to come to me for helping. I meet with people, we talking for an hour, then they go away and never come back. And I wonder: why? Am I fixing them in one appointment? Maybe I too efficient. Maybe I should spread my helping out! Why, Rod, do you need some helping?

ROD

Well — I have this friend —

CHRISTMAS EVE

Nicky?

ROD

No, no — another friend. And I think he has a very big problem. I think — I think my friend is

(whispers)

gay.

CHRISTMAS EVE

What wrong with that? You know, Rod, gay people make major contribution to art and philosophy and literature for many hundreds of years, now.

ROD

But my friend isn't an artist — he's a Republican. And an investment banker.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Ew, well, tell him to stay in closet, then. He good for nothing.

A moment.

ROD

Well, okay! Great! Thanks for the advice!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Yeah, I wouldn't want a friend like that.

ROD

Thanks again!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Bye, now.

She goes inside.

ROD

Bye bye!

(Beat. To the audience:)

Shit.