

The Day After Christmas

by Jenny Brauch, Jeremy Fyke and Steve Phipps
Version 1.6

Cast (in order of appearance)

Narrator	Helen Johnson
Mike Sloth	Mike Roth
News announcer	Helen Johnson
Andrew	Himself
Ed	Himself
IPCC Chair	Nathan Gillett
IPCC member 1	Steve Phipps
Other IPCC members	Hongyan Dang, Tim Woollings
Paul E O Climatologist	Jenny Brauch
Brownie-addicted modeller	Diane Lavoie
Beer-addicted modeller	Shannon Carto
Other modellers	Mike Roth, Ed, Kathleen
Heidi Rate	Jeremy Fyke
Wedding celebrant	Philippe Benoit

Crew

Producer	Jenny Brauch
Director	Steve Phipps
Prop co-ordinator	Jeremy Fyke
Stagehand	Alvaro Montenegro
Orchestra	Shannon McCallum
Cameraman	Ed, Steve

Scene 1

Location: Climate Lab, Christmas Eve, late at night

Characters: Mike Sloth, News announcer

Props: Desk, chair, "radio", bottle of Coke, Lego set, phone

Christmas music plays over the radio. Mike sits at his desk, sipping Coke and working away at his climate "model", which he is building out of Lego. He is completely exhausted after a long, hard day of modelling. He leans back in his chair, sighs and wipes his sweaty brow.

Narrator: It's Christmas Eve. Mike Sloth is working late into the night at the Climate Lab.

Mike: This modelling's such hard work! I wish I could just hike around and count rocks instead.

Suddenly, the music on the radio is interrupted by a newsflash.

News announcer: We interrupt this program to bring you an urgent newsflash. At a press conference at the North Pole, Santa Claus has just announced that he will be unable to deliver presents to the world's children tonight. Increased drilling for oil in the Arctic has disturbed the reindeer, who are now too stressed to fly his sleigh. World leaders have called an urgent meeting of the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Christmas Celebration, to decide how to respond to this sudden crisis.

Mike switches off the radio, and goes back to work on the model. The last piece of Lego snaps into place, and he suddenly reels back in amazement.

Mike: Oh my god, I've got to call Andrew right away!

He picks up the phone.

Mike: Hi Andrew, it's Mike Sloth. I've just finished that model of the Santa Claus Effect. I've discovered that Santa flying his sleigh ultra-fast around the world every year puts huge amounts of kinetic energy into the atmosphere. Without it, the entire global climate circulation would come grinding to a halt. If Santa doesn't fly tonight, the world will be plunged into a new ice age. We've got to save Christmas. We've got to save the world. You've got to take my model to tomorrow's IPCC meeting!

He hangs up the phone.

Scene 2

Location: Climate Lab/Emergency IPCC meeting, Christmas Day morning

Props: Desk and chair for Ed, table and chairs for IPCC meeting, cardboard cut-out car, the climate "model" from the previous scene

Characters: Ed, Andrew, IPCC members

Ed sits at his desk, to the left of the stage. To the right of the stage, only metres away, the IPCC are holding their meeting.

Narrator: It's Christmas Day. The IPCC are holding an emergency meeting at the Climate Lab.

Andrew storms onto the stage.

Andrew: Wanda?

He receives no response.

Andrew: Ed, where are you?

Ed: I'm over here.

Andrew walks up to Ed.

Andrew: Ed, I need to get to the IPCC meeting right away. Where is it?

Ed: Over there! (pointing at IPCC meeting)

Andrew: Damn, where's my car?

Ed hands Andrew the cardboard cut-out car. He "drives" to the IPCC meeting, which is about to end:

IPCC Chair: Well, that's agreed then. We don't have any choice but to cancel Christmas this year.

Andrew runs in, brandishing the model.

Andrew: But we've got to save Christmas! Look at the latest version of the UVic climate model: if Santa doesn't fly, the world will be plunged into a new ice age. You've got to do something!

IPCC member 1: But where's the observational evidence? You expect us to believe that the whole global climate system depends on Santa Claus and his reindeers? That's ridiculous!

Andrew: But this model was produced by Mike Roth, and he's one of the finest scientists we've got. I'd trust it with my life!

IPCC Chair: I'm sorry, but even if you were right, there's nothing we could do. There's no-one who could deliver presents to all the world's children in time, and save the climate.

Andrew storms out of the meeting.

Andrew: (mutters) Politicians...

He jumps into his car and speeds off the stage.

IPCC member 1: (mutters) Scientists...

Scene 3

Location: Climate Lab, Boxing Day morning

Props: Brazier, climate journals to "burn", rabbit on a stick

Characters: Paul E O Climatologist, Brownie-addicted modeller, Beer-addicted Other modellers

The next ice age is beginning. As temperatures plummet outside, the members of the Climate Modelling Group huddle around a brazier, dressed in jumpers, scarves, hats, gloves etc, shivering. They are burning the group's climate journals in order to stay alive. The radio is playing.

Narrator: It's Boxing Day. After the cancellation of Christmas, the next ice age is beginning already. The Climate Modelling group huddle around the fire, trying to stay alive.

Brownie-addicted modeller: The temperature outside's fallen five degrees in the past hour. It's getting so cold in here. I'm not sure how much longer I can go on. We're down to our last rabbit.

As she says this, she produces a rabbit on a stick, which she starts to cook over the fire.

Beer-addicted modeller: And we've almost run out of journals to burn.

She reaches for another journal, and is about to throw it onto the fire. Paul, who is the hero of this story and hence who looks very cool indeed, reaches out and stops her.

Paul: No, you can't burn that one. It's got one of Andrew's papers in it. We need to preserve his knowledge for future generations.

Beer-addicted modeller: But we'll freeze! That's it, our only hope now is to move to Brazil.

Paul: Wait, I have an idea. There's a way that we can save Christmas, and save the world!

Brownie-addicted modeller: But how are you going to do that?

Paul: The climate mobile!

Beer-addicted modeller: You mean the massively-parallel super-cool 32-cylinder NEC climate mobile that we just purchased for twelve million dollars from Japan? It's certainly fast enough, but we don't have any fuel!

Paul: But we can power it using our plentiful local supply of gas hydrates! Then we can fly around the world, deliver everyone's presents and restore the global climate circulation. The climate mobile's over at PETCH, and the gas hydrates are over at E-Hut. It's a long way, and it's cold outside, but I think we can make it. Do I have any volunteers to come with me?

Brownie-addicted modeller/Beer-addicted modeller: If you're going, we're coming too!

(Both these modellers should look very geeky, like the disposable characters that they are. If this was a movie, you'd know that they'd be dead way before the end.)

Scene 4

Location: UVic campus, later on Boxing Day

Props: "Finnertys" sign, "Grad Centre" sign, "E-hut" sign, "PETCH" sign, someone to hold the signs up, bucket of "gas hydrates", brownie, pint of beer, climate mobile, presents

Characters: Paul E O Climatologist, Brownie-addicted modeller, Beer-addicted modeller, Heidi Rate

The three modellers, dressed in Arctic gear, fight their way through a blizzard.

Narrator: Our modellers fight their way across the UVic campus.

Brownie-addicted modeller: Brownies! Brownies! I need brownies!

They reach Finnertys. The brownie-addicted modeller lunges for a brownie and devours it.

Brownie-addicted modeller: Paul, I'm sorry. I can't go any further. I'll just slow you down. You'll have to leave me here.

Paul: But I can't leave you here to die!

Brownie-addicted modeller: It's OK, there are enough brownies here to keep me going.

Paul: OK then. But we'll come back for you as soon as we've saved the world!

He takes off one of his jackets, and places it over the modeller like a blanket. The two remaining modellers fight their way further across campus, passing the Grad Centre.

Beer-addicted modeller: I can't go any further. Beer! I need beer!

They reach the Grad Centre. Beer-addicted modeller skulls a pint, and promptly collapses into an alcoholic coma. Paul tries to rouse him, but without effect. He takes off another jacket, and again places it over the modeller like a blanket. As he removes the jacket, he reveals a porn-star style shirt, which displays his ample chest hair and a huge gold medallion.

Paul: Farewell then. I'll have to press on by myself. But I promise to come back for you as soon as I've saved the world!

He goes outside, and fights his way through the blizzard to E-Hut. Entering the hut, he encounters Heidi, a beautiful gas hydrate specialist, who just happens to be played by an ugly guy in drag. This scene should be played like something out of a 1970s James Bond movie.

Paul: (seductively) Well, hello there gorgeous. The name's Paul, Paul E O Climatologist. And you are?

Heidi nervously flutters her eyelashes.

Heidi: I'm Heidi, Heidi Rate. I'm a gas hydrate specialist.

Paul: Just the person I'm after: I need all the gas hydrates you've got! With them, I can power my climate mobile, fly around the world, deliver all the children's christmas presents and restore the global climate circulation.

Heidi: What a hero! What hair! Here, take my hydrates!

She passes him a bucket of gas hydrates.

Heidi: But surely you need someone to help you. Can I come too?

Paul: Of course. But there's no time to lose, let's go!

They run outside, and fight their way through the blizzard to PETCH, where they find the climate mobile. This should look really unimpressive, like a child's scooter or a rusty old bicycle.

Heidi: That's it? We're going to save the world with that?

Paul: Ah, but it's a vector machine!

They fuel the climate mobile with the gas hydrates and jump aboard. The "gas hydrates" should be dry ice, which we add to a bucket of water on the climate mobile. This should make impressive amounts of steam.

Paul: Let's go!

Our two heroes travel through the audience, throwing presents as they go.

Paul/Heidi: Merry Christmas everyone!

After distributing the presents, they stop, having just saved the world.

Paul: Well, that's the last of the presents. And look at that, the sun's shining again!
It's feeling warmer already!

As the temperature starts to increase, our two heroes begin to remove their clothes - but only the winter ones! After all, there'll be children present.

Heidi: Paul, you're such a hero. You just saved Christmas! You just saved the world!

Paul gets down on his knee and proposes to her.

Paul: Oh Heidi, I couldn't have done it without you and your gas hydrates. Will you marry me?

Heidi: Of course!

She swoons into his arms.

Scene 5

Location: The wedding, Climate Lab

Props: None!

Characters: Paul E O Climatologist, Heidi Rate, Wedding celebrant, Wedding guests (rest of cast)

Our two heroes are getting married. The entire cast are present on stage.

Narrator: Back at the Climate Lab, our two heroes are getting married.

Wedding celebrant: I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the bride.

They kiss, and everyone cheers. The cast then finish by singing "Jingle Bells".

THE END