

**G'NOO THE BABY ROO'S  
FIRST MERRY HAPPINESS**

Cast:

**NARRATOR**, the one who tells the story.

**G'NOO**, a girl baby kangaroo, otherwise known as a "Joey"

**G'HAPPY**, G'Noo's friend.

**MOTHER**, a human.

**FATHER**, a human.

**CHILD**, a human.

**G'DAD**, G'Noo's Father.

**G'MOM**, G'Noo's Mother.

Setting: A kangaroo habitat the Millborough Zoo.

(At the start of the scene, **G'NOO**, a baby kangaroo, is hopping around in a kangaroo habitat at a zoo. The **NARRATOR** enters and begins the story)

**NARRATOR** - G'Noo the Baby Roo was hopping around one day, just as all the kangaroos did in the Millborough Zoo kangaroo habitat

**G'NOO** – (Mildly) Bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce...

**NARRATOR** - The baby kangaroo, which is sometimes called a "joey", stopped suddenly when G'Noo saw her best friend G'Happy bouncing around like he usually did, all happy and cheerful. G'Happy bounced higher and faster than any kangaroo the baby roo G'Noo knew.

**G'HAPPY** – (Fast) Bouncybouncybouncybouncybouncybouncy...

**NARRATOR** – G'Happy saw G'Noo and went over to greet her best friend.

(**G'HAPPY** stops and smiles, then hops over to **G'NOO**. Stops and says)

**G'HAPPY** – G'day, G'Noo... What's new with you?

**G'NOO** – G'day, G'Happy... What's going on?

**G'HAPPY** – (Talking really fast) Well, this morning I got up and I bounced over to the zebra side of the habitat. You know they're a funny looking lot. I can't figure them out. Are they white animals with black stripes or black animals with white stripes?

**G'NOO** – You know, I'm not sure. Maybe they're both?

**G'HAPPY** – Maybe. Well, anyway, then I hopped over to the other side of the habitat where those creatures with the really long necks stay. What are they called again?

**G'NOO** – I believe they are called G'Raffes, G'Happy. Why?

**G'HAPPY** – Well, one of the "graffs" seemed to have lost part of herself.

**G'NOO** – What?

**G'HAPPY** – Yeah. She was on the ground and it just fell right out of her. Funny thing was, the part that she lost? It looked like a smaller version of the bigger graff and then it just got up and walked away.

**G'NOO** – Really? Hmmm... G'Mom and G'Dad should hear this. That's amazing.

**G'HAPPY** – Would you like to come over to the "graffs" and see it with me?

**G'NOO** – Sure. Let's go. C'mon, G'Happy. (The two start hopping around)

**NARRATOR** – So, G'Noo and G'Happy started to hop on over to see the new “giraffe” when all of a sudden, about half way to their destination, G'Happy stopped. G'Noo bumped into her friend and they toppled over one another. (G'NOO and G'HAPPY tumble, NARRATOR exits)

**G'NOO** – Ouch! Why did you stop, G'Happy?

**G'HAPPY** – G'Noo. (G'HAPPY points out to the audience) Look over there. (BOTH look out at the audience) All those human people near the human eating ground.

**G'NOO** – The ones who throw us food on occasion? Looks like they're having a party of some kind.

**G'HAPPY** – What is that music they are playing and singing to?

(The music of Christmas carols is heard)

**G'NOO** – I don't know. Sounds pretty, though.

**G'HAPPY** – They all seem to be having so much fun.

**G'NOO** – What are all those boxes on the tables?

**G'HAPPY** – You mean the ones with all the ribbons and paper around them?

**G'NOO** – Yes.

**G'HAPPY** – I don't know. But the bigger humans keep giving the boxes to the smaller humans. I wonder why?

**G'NOO** – Look out. Here comes two of the big ones with one of the smaller ones. (BOTH hop out of site for a moment.)

(TWO PARENTS and CHILD walk on, one of the PARENTS holding a wrapped present for the CHILD. As they walk on, the MOTHER hands the CHILD the present)

**MOTHER** – Merry Christmas, Micky.

**CHILD** – Oh, boy! (Hugs gift tight) Thanks a lot, Mom. Dad.

**FATHER** – We better get going if we want to beat the traffic out of the zoo. (ALL start to exit and say the following on their way offstage)

**MOTHER** – I'm glad we decided to have the annual office family Christmas party here at the zoo. It was so much fun.

**FATHER** – Yes. Merry Christmas, sweetheart.

**MOTHER** – Happy Holidays, honey. (Exit. Once they're gone, G'NOO and G'HAPPY re-emerge, obviously having listened to the previous dialogue)

**G'NOO** – (Stunned) I...I think I understood them.

**G'HAPPY** – (Speaking very fast) I think I did, too. I really, really do. But I only heard part of what they were talking about. What is...”Holl-ee-days”?

**G'NOO** – I don't know, G'Happy. And, what is...”Criss-mass”?

**G'HAPPY** – I don't know.

**G'NOO** – You know, I think that the smaller human was the child of the larger ones, just from the way they were talking.

**G'HAPPY** – You think so?

**G'NOO** – Yes. And I'll bet the thing you saw today at the G'Raffe's place was probably a baby G'Raffe being born.

**G'HAPPY** – Born? (Considers) It was? How can you be sure?

**G'NOO** – Something G'Dad was trying to explain to me once, while he was over visiting G'Mom and me.

**G'HAPPY** – Wow. So it was a baby “graff”?

**G'NOO** – I think so. But I still don't know what this “Holl-ee-day” is all about.

**G'HAPPY** – Maybe we should ask our parents?

**G'NOO** – Maybe. It looks like a lot of fun. In all the time I've seen them, I've never seen the humans exchange brightly colored boxes before.

**G'HAPPY** – Must be a special occasion. Maybe they only do it once in awhile?

**G'NOO** – Yes, and maybe there's something really special inside those brightly colored boxes.

**G'HAPPY** – You think so, G'Noo?

**G'NOO** – (Nodding) Why else would they hand them over to their children like that? And did you see how happy the child was?

**G'HAPPY** – Maybe we should celebrate this “Holl-ee-day”, too?

**G'NOO** – Perhaps. I would like to make my parents happy like the child was happy...But where do we find boxes?

**G'HAPPY** – Over near our own feeding area. We can take some of the boxes the humans use off the walls and put them in our pouches to carry home to our parents.

**G'NOO** – Sure. C'mon, G'Happy. Let's go. (They **BOTH** start hopping around as the **NARRATOR** continues. They **PANTOMIME** the following)

**NARRATOR** – So, the two started their journey over to the feeding area, where they found two boxes of food, left by the human visitors. They picked the boxes up with their teeth and put them into their pouches. Then, G'Noo said “G'bye” to her friend, G'Happy.

**G'NOO** – G'bye, G'Happy.

**G'HAPPY** – G'day, G'Noo.

(**EACH** hops off in a separate direction, but only **G'NOO** remains on stage, supposedly hopping on her way “home”)

**NARRATOR** – Eventually, G'Noo returned to her G'Mom. Her G'Dad was also there. She entered the dwelling very excited. (**NARRATOR** exits)

**G'NOO** – G'day, G'Mom! G'day, G'Dad! Guess what I did today?

**G'MOM** – G'day, G'Noo.

**G'DAD** – G'day, G'Noo. How are you?

**G'NOO** – Oh, wonderful, G'Dad. (Very excited) I had a very exciting day, today.

**G'MOM** – Were you with your friend, G'Happy today?

**G'NOO** – Yes. And we were hopping over to the G'Raffe's Area, because one of the G'Raffes...

**G'DAD** – (Correcting) That's "Giraffes", G'Noo.

**G'NOO** – What? (Realizing) Oh. Well, we were hopping over to the "jerraffe's" area, when all of a sudden we spotted some humans having a party.

**G'MOM** – Really?

**G'NOO** – Yes, and G'Happy and I heard some of the older humans talking to one of the younger ones, and I guess they were it's parents. And, they gave the younger one a brightly colored box. Like this (Pulls out crushed food box from pouch. Tries to fix it but can't) Awww...

**G'DAD** – (Laughing) That's very interesting, G'Noo. But, I'm afraid I don't understand why we'd want a box, even if it wasn't crushed.

**G'NOO** – They mentioned something else. It seems they exchange these boxes on something called a "holleeday". What is that?

**G'MOM** – (Thinks) Why, I don't know, Roo.

**G'DAD** – I'm not sure, either. What else did these humans say or do, G'Noo?

**G'NOO** – Well, they were all handing over these boxes to one another and saying things like "Merry" this, and "Happy" that. It was all very confusing, but they seemed to be having such fun, so G'Happy and I thought we might try doing that here at home. So, we went over to the feeding area and got these boxes to bring home to you. But... (despondent) But my box got crushed inside my pouch. I'm sorry.

**G'MOM** – Why? That was very thoughtful of you, G'Noo.

**G'DAD** – Yes. Your G'Mom and I both appreciate your effort and thoughtfulness very much. As a matter of fact, why don't we all try it? I'll go get a box, and G'Mom, you go get one, too.

**G'MOM** – Very well. Sounds like fun. Let's go.

(**BOTH** exit in opposite directions, leaving **G'NOO** alone on stage, hopping first to one end of the stage to see where her **G'DAD** went, and then to the other to see where her **G'MOM** went. **NARRATOR** enters)

**NARRATOR** – So, G'Noo's G'Mom and G'Dad each went off in separate directions to find their gifts for G'Noo. G'Noo, hopped to one side, to see where her G'Dad went to, then to the other to see where her G'Mom went to. (They **BOTH** return, **EACH** with a box, which they place with **G'NOO's** box in the middle of the stage. **ALL** surround the boxes.)

**ALL** – (Adlib) Here we go. Oh boy! Ah.

**NARRATOR** – But, once they returned and placed their boxes down on the ground, the three kangaroos, none of whom had ever experienced a holiday like the human one before, didn't know quite what to do next. (**NARRATOR** exits)

**G'MOM** – So, now what are we supposed to do, G'Noo?

**G'NOO** – I'm not sure. (Thinks) Oh, now I remember. They kept saying those things like "Merry" something or "Happy" something to each other.

**G'DAD** – Merry...Happy?

**G'MOM** – “Happy...Merriness”, perhaps?

**G'DAD** – Or, maybe it was “Merry Happiness”, G'Noo?

**G'NOO** – Well, the humans called it “Cris-mass”, but I think I like what you called it, G'Dad. Merry Happiness.

**G'MOM** – “Merry Happiness”. I do like the sound of that.

**G'DAD** – I do, too. So, Merry Happiness, everyone.

**G'MOM** – Merry Happiness.

**G'NOO** – Merry Happiness. Sounds silly. But...nice.

(**ALL THREE** stare at the boxes for a moment, then)

**G'DAD** – Yes. (Long pause) So...now what?

**G'NOO** – Oh, well, (Long pause) I don't know.

**G'MOM** – G'Noo, is there supposed to be something IN the boxes? These boxes are all empty.

**G'NOO** – Some of the boxes HAD things inside, but I didn't recognize anything. The humans seemed to be more excited about the getting of these brightly colored boxes than about what was in them. I don't know why.

**G'DAD** – Perhaps it is not the boxes themselves that they are really exchanging.

**G'MOM** – Oh?

**G'NOO** – What do you mean, G'Dad?

**G'DAD** – (Thinking) Well, perhaps the boxes are merely a symbol, of some sort. Meaning, they represent something else to the humans.

**G'MOM** – (Concurring) Yes. Something more important or significant.

**G'NOO** – But what could that be?

**G'DAD** – I'm going to guess...perhaps...values.

**G'NOO** – Values? What are those, G'Dad?

**G'MOM** – Values are what we as adults pass on to our children, G'Noo.

**G'DAD** – Yes. You said the boxes were being passed mostly from the adult humans to their children, right?

**G'NOO** – From what I could see, yes. But, some of the bigger humans were exchanging boxes between themselves, as well.

**G'DAD** – Then, that's it. They must be exchanging their values with one another.

**G'MOM** – And the boxes must just be a symbol of this event. How wonderful! What a simply marvelous event. I guess these boxes aren't really “empty” after all.

**G'NOO** – But, I still don't understand what values are.

**G'MOM** – (Explaining) G'Noo, do you intentionally hurt others?

**G'NOO** – No, G'Mom. That would be wrong.

**G'DAD** – Do you steal food from the other kangaroos at the feeding ground?

**G'NOO** – No, G'Dad. That wouldn't be wrong, too.

**G'DAD** – In fact, don't you share whatever is yours with others, and help them when you see they are in need?

**G'NOO** – Yes, G'Dad. I always try to do that.

**G'MOM** – Then, those are your values. And you receive them from your G'Dad and from myself. We have taught these things to you, G'Noo.

**G'DAD** – And I guess these boxes, or gifts, that the humans exchange, are really just symbols of that greater gift. The gift of a parent's values passed down to their children.

**G'MOM** – And I suppose the bigger humans may exchange their own values with one another, if they find another human in need of them.

**G'NOO** – (Amazed) Wow! That must be the best gift one can receive from another.

**G'MOM** – I would think so, G'Noo. I think I like this holiday that the humans celebrate.

**G'DAD** – (Nodding) Me, too. And, now that we better understand this holiday the humans celebrate, maybe we should try and celebrate it ourselves, when we are together. Just so we may reflect upon all our good fortune, and upon our values.

**G'NOO** – Can G'Happy's family come celebrate this as well?

**G'MOM** – Why not? Maybe we can get all the animals to celebrate as the humans do. Wouldn't it be nice if we all shared in such a holiday?

**G'DAD** – Well, then, perhaps we all shall someday, if it begins here with the three of us. (**THEY ALL** hold hands)

**NARRATOR** – (Enters) And so it began. Soon, the kangaroos told the zebras, who told the giraffes, who told the monkeys, who told the elephants. And, soon, all across the zoo, in every habitat and every exhibit, all the animals shared in what became an annual event. Merry Happiness. A symbolic gesture. The animals exchanging the gifts of good values with one another. And, it all began with a small baby kangaroo, named G'Noo.

**G'NOO** – Merry Happiness, G'Dad. G'Mom.

**G'DAD** – Merry Happiness, G'Noo. G'Mom.

**G'MOM** – Merry Happiness, G'Noo. G'Dad.

**NARRATOR** – And Merry Happiness to us all...everyone.

(BLACKOUT)