

From a few rows over... a mother, SARAH and her young son BRIAN are searching among the rows of trees, trailing with a wagon. Their VOICES attract Cassie's attention.

Start

BRIAN
(excitedly)
Here it is, Mom... here's the one!
The king of the trees!

On the ground, a large tree.

SARAH
That is a beauty, son... but I
think we need to keep looking.

BRIAN
(puzzled)
Why? Why do we need to keep
looking? This is it... this is the
one.

Cassie and James watch from their row.

SARAH
I know and I'm sorry, Brian, but we
can't afford a big tree this
year... I'd like to, son, but we
just can't. You have to understand.
(sad)
We need to keep looking for one
that doesn't cost so much... We
just don't have it.

BRIAN
(defeated)
All right, mom... I understand.

James has seen enough and starts to take a step in their
direction before Cassie's hand on his shoulder stops him.
They look at each other.

CASSIE
(to James)
Who's farm is this anyway?

He bows slightly and waves her past him.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(to the boy)
I see you guys looking around.
Did you find a tree you really
like?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
(excited)
I sure did!

CASSIE
Well, this one's a real beauty.

BRIAN
(looks down)
I know, but we have to keep
looking.

SARAH
(placing her hand gently
on his shoulder)
I'm sorry, son..

James joins Cassie.

CASSIE
Why start all over again? You do
know we have a special promotion
going on today only...
(thinking)
Did you pick this tree all by
yourself?

The boy looks the tree up and down.

BRIAN
I sure did... I'm almost an expert
on Christmas trees.

CASSIE
I can see that...

Cassie takes out a paper tag and ties it to a branch.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Wow. I don't know how you did it,
but this is the seventh tree from
the right in the fourth row.

BRIAN
Yeah?

Cassie pulls out a small notepad and pen from her bag and
writes something on it.

CASSIE
Yes... and you've won our contest
of the day...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CASSIE (CONT'D)
contest rules say if you pick the
seventh tree from the right in the
fourth row it's yours for free.

SARAH
(stunned)
What?

BRIAN
Wow! Really?!

Cassie hands the mother the slip of paper.

CASSIE
I don't make the rules...
(beat)
Just show this at the register and
we'll get it cut for you.
(to Brian)
And enjoy your free tree.

SARAH
I don't know what to say...

CASSIE
Say you'll come to our Christmas
kids party at the community center
Saturday. It'll be a lot of fun and
it doesn't cost anything.

The mother starts rolling the wagon away.

SARAH
Thank you. We will.

The boy gives Cassie a big hug.

BRIAN
That's the best tree ever!

CASSIE
I think you're right... Now do a
good job decorating it, okay?

The boy backs away.

BRIAN
I'll try...
(looks at James)
Who are you, Mister?

James leans down towards him.

JAMES
Well, I'm a prince from a far off
land.

BRIAN
(laughs)
Yeah, right. See you!

He runs off to join his mother as James steps next to Cassie.

End

JAMES
(watching him go)
What a magnanimous gesture. I am
positively gobsmacked.

Cassie looks at James curiously.

CASSIE
Really, James. What's that even
supposed to mean? Please cut to the
chase.

JAMES
(looks in her eyes)
It means... I think you're
absolutely wonderful.

END OF ACT FOUR