



Miss Perkins Gets A Present

Characters: Headmistress, Miss Perkins, Miss Ho, Daisy, Anita, Iris, Li Bin, Alysha, Ricky, Ted, Big Dollar, Hammer

Synopsis: Miss Perkins is furious that Miss Ho intervened in a playground incident when Miss Perkins was on playground duty (Daisy, Anita and Emily tried to suffocate Emily for telling the Head that Daisy locked Li Bin in the store room). Miss Ho believes Li Bin and Alysha when they told her Daisy and friends were trying to suffocate Emily, Daisy, Iris and Anita buy Miss Perkins an X'mas present to butter her up. Miss Perkins is thrilled and she vigorously defends Daisy and girls in front of the Head. Tension erupts between Miss P and Miss H in the Head's office. Miss P thinks Miss H resents her as a NET. Meanwhile Li Bin is so happy that the Headmistress has decided not to expel Ricky that she almost kisses him. Ricky nearly has a heart attack!

Scene 1 Reprise

Daisy: What stinky food Alysha's eating!

Iris & Anita: Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

Alysha: It's curry.

Daisy: And look at the colour!

Both: Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

Alysha: Daisy Chiu..... would you just go away and leave me alone.

All: Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!

Daisy: And look at Li Bin's shoes.

Anita: So old.

Iris: And ugly.

Anita: Mainland shoes.

Daisy: I bet she shares them with her grandmother!

All: (Laugh nastily)

Alysha: Daisy just go away... go away and leave us BOTH alone!

Li Bin: Why are they so nasty to us? Why?

Brief music

Emily: Headmistress.

Head: Yes girl.

Emily: Daisy, Anita and Iris DID lock Li Bin in the store room and Ricky Chiu DID try to help Li Bin escape.

Head: What's your name girl?

Emily: Emily Lam Headmistress.

Head: Daisy... Anita.... Iris... a brave witness has stepped forward with new information... I now know that you lied to me... you DID lock Li Bin in the store room!

Daisy: (Angry) Who told you that Headmistress? Tell me....who?

Head: That is no concern of yours Daisy Chiu.

Anita & Iris: (Together, plaintively) We didn't do it Miss..., Daisy did!

Daisy: (Furious) What? I

A & I: Daisy told us to do it Headmistress.

Brief music

Daisy: (angry) Anita... Iris... why did you tell the Headmistress I locked that mainland girl in the store room?

Both: (Nervous) S...s... sorry Daisy.

Iris: We were frightened.

Anita: We were scared.

Both: S...S... sorry.

Daisy: Okay, okay... Urn, Anita... What do you want for Christmas?

Anita: (Excited) Christmas?! Um... I don't know.... anything... I love presents whatever they are.

Daisy: Good, because I've got your Christmas present right here Anita

Anita: Really Daisy!! A present for me!! Thank you. Thank you!

Daisy: Ready?

Anita: Yes Daisy Yes!

Daisy: Close your eyes.

Anita: How exciting! I wonder what it is?

Daisy: Are your eyes closed ?

Anita: Yes... oh quickly Daisy... let me have my present now!

Daisy: Okay Anita... here it is. (SFX: Loud sharp smack)
Anita: Ouch! That hurt!
Daisy: And a present for you Iris.
Iris: (Terrified) A present?!... f... f... for... for mE! (trembly voice)
Nnnn... no thank you Daisy... pppppplease... give it to someone
Else.
Daisy: Close your eyes Iris.
Iris: (Terrified) Why Daisy? Why?
Daisy: (Furious) I said CLOSE THEM!
Iris: Pppplease Daisy.
Daisy: Now Iris...here's your present...and a Happy Christmas! (SFX:
Sharp smack)
Iris: Ouch!
Daisy: Hmm... and you'll both get more 'presents' like that if you dare
tell the Headmistress I locked Li Bin in the store room.
Both: (Subdued) Yes Daisy.
Daisy: Now come on.... I've got more 'presents to deliver
Iris: (Worried) More presents?
Anita: Presents for who Daisy?
Daisy: For Emily Lam... that bitch told the Headmistress that we locked
Li Bin in the store room..... and now she's gonna pay for opening
her big mouth!

Brief music

Head: Boys I'm disappointed in you... you told me you had NOT asked
Li Bin for money... but I have fresh evidence that, in fact you did.
Big Dollar: It wasn't me Headmistress... it was HIM.
Hammer: Huh?! Me?!
Big Dollar: (Threatening, under his breath) Yes Hammer... it was YOU... get
it?
Hammer: You want me to say it was ME Boss?
Big Dollar: (Under breath) Yes.
Head: Now then... did you or did you not extort money from Li Bin?
Hammer: Um... um...
Big Dollar: (Under breath) Go on! Tell her! Say it was YOU.
Hammer: It was me Headmistress, Big Dollar is innocent.
Head: Big Dollar?! And who on earth is Big Dollar?!

Hammer: Him Miss.
Big Dollar: Shut up Hammer you idiot.
Head: Hammer? Hammer?! And who on earth is Hammer?!

Brief music

Hammer: Hey Big Dollar... why did I have to say I took money from that mainland girl.
Big Dollar: Why? Because Hammer, I told you too and I'm the Boss.
Hammer: But now I'm in trouble... big trouble.
Big Dollar: So what?
Hammer: It's not fair!
Big Dollar: Look Hammer, you do as I say okay?
Hammer: Not fair!
Big Dollar: Hammer?!... are you challenging me?!
Hammer: It's not fair! Not fair! YOU took the money not ME but I'M going to get into trouble!
Big Dollar: Hammer. . . I think YOU need teaching a LESSON. . . now lick my boots.
Hammer: What?!
Big Dollar: You heard.... I said LICK MY BOOTS and if you don't I'm going to stick holes in you with this knife!
Hammer: (Gasps in fear) Okay Boss, okay. . .
Big Dollar: Now get licking.

(SFX: Slurp slurp slurp)

Hammer: Okay Boss?
Big Dollar: Let me see. No, those boots aren't clean yet! Do it some more.
Hammer: But Boss....
Big Dollar: Some more I say!

(SFX: slurp... slurp... slurp... fade)

Brief music

Daisy: Look! There's Emily! Come on girls! Let's teach the bitch a lesson.

Emily: Hello Daisy... hello Iris... hello Anita.
Daisy: (Threatening) So Emily... we hear you've been telling stories about us.
Emily: Stories? No I haven't. What stories?
Daisy: I didn't think it was true,
Emily: It isn't... I haven't said anything about you Daisy to anyone.
Daisy: Hey don't look so worried Emily... we've come to give you're your Christmas present haven't we girls.
A & I: (Giggle nastily)
Daisy: What do you think girls? How can we give Emily her Christmas present without any marks showing?
Anita: I know!... pinch her nose and put you hand over her mouth for a whole minute.
Emily: What?!
Daisy: Great idea Anita.
Emily: (Terrified) Sorry, I'm late for class... I've got to go.
Daisy: Oh no Emily... you're not going anywhere. Okay... Iris... pinch her nose... Anita... put your hand over mouth and Emily... no biting! !
Emily: (Desperate muffled sounds as she tries to shout for help)
Alysha: (Emily's muffled cries heard in the distance) Look over there Li Bin... look!... Daisy and the others are hurting that girl!
Li Bin: It's Emily! Daisy and the others are trying to suffocate her! We'd better get a teacher!
Alysha: You get a teacher... and I'll try to stop them!

Brief pause

Alysha: (Emily's muffled cries heard) Daisy Chiu... leave that girl alone!
Daisy: Mind your own business curry girl...
Anita: Yes, go back and eat your stinky curry.
All (Laugh nastily)
Iris: Curry girl.
All: (Laugh nastily)
Miss Ho: What is going on here?
Daisy: Miss Ho! (girls release Emily who gasps for air) Um... we're trying to help Emily Miss... she wasn't feeling well.
I & A: Yes Miss Ho... we were helping Emily.

Alysha: HELPING Emily?! You were trying to SUFFOCATE her!
Daisy: Shut your big mouth curry girl.
Miss Ho: Daisy! That was a very rude and nasty thing to say to Alysha... now apologize.
Miss P: Wanda... what are you doing here?... I thought I was supposed to be on playground duty not YOU.
Miss Ho: I know Miss Perkins... but there was some trouble and Li Bin ...
Miss P: (Interrupting, annoyed) Li Bin?.... I see... well Li Bin in future kindly report to the teacher on duty!
Li Bin: I couldn't find you Miss Perkins so I ran into the school and I found Miss Ho.
Miss P: Ran into the school?!... but Li Bin, you know you're not allowed to go into the school building at lunchtime!
Miss Ho: But there was an emergency Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Emergency?! What emergency? I see no emergency here, none whatsoever.
Daisy: Emily felt unwell Miss Perkins... so Iris and Anita and me were looking after her.
Miss P: Was it an emergency Daisy?
Daisy: No Miss Perkins.
Miss P: There, you see... a lot of fuss over nothing.... Now Wanda, why don't YOU go back and enjoy your lunch break while I deal with the playground.
Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... I think there's more here than meets the eye.
Alysha: Yes Miss Perkins... ask Emily what happened!
Miss P: Alysha... I don't need YOU telling me how to do my job thank you very much.
Li Bin: But Miss Perkins she's right... if....
Miss P: (Interrupting) Or you Li Bin,
Emily: I want to speak to the Headmistress.
Miss P: The Headmistress? Dear oh dear... the Headmistress is a very busy lady Emily... far too busy to speak to the likes of you
Emily: But I...
Miss P: (Interrupting) You can speak to ME instead.

Scene 2

(SFX: Knock on the door)

Head: Come in, (SFX: Door opens) Ah, Ricky Chiu... come in.
Ricky: You want to see me Miss?
Head: Yes, Sit down Ricky.
Ricky: Sit down?! you want me to sit down?!
Head: Yes.
Ricky: Thank you, thank you.
Head: Would you care for a biscuit Ricky?
Ricky: A biscuit?! You're offering me a biscuit?! Me?!
Head: Try a chocolate one... the chocolate biscuits are really rather nice.
Ricky: Chocolate?! You're offering me a chocolate biscuit?!
Head: Yes Ricky... I am.
Ricky: Thank you Headmistress, thank you, thank you.

(SFX: Noisily eating and demolishing a chocolate biscuit)

Head: Another one.
Ricky: (Mouth full) Yes, yes, thank you, thank you Headmistress.

(SFX: Noisily eating another biscuit)

Ricky: Mmmm... very good... very very good.... Did you make them?
Head: I bought them in a shop... or rather my secretary, Miss Lim did.
Ricky: (Mouth full of biscuit, crunching and scoffing) Very good... very very good. Mmmmm.
Head: Ricky the reason I have invited you to my office is to tell you that.... um... another biscuit?
Ricky: (Mouth full) Yeth Headmithtreth.
Head: Is to tell you that...(SFX: Ricky munching noisily on the new biscuit)... a witness has stepped forward and has been prepared to testify that... you did NOT intend to steal anything from the store room and that you WERE in fact trying to set Li Bin free... So Ricky Chiu... what do you say to that?
Ricky: (Very full mouth) Say? Say? Um. Can I have another chocolate biscuit please?
Head: (Little laugh) I'm afraid..., there aren't any left. Um... (calling shrilly) Miss Lim! Miss Lim?

Miss L: You called Headmistress?
Head: Yes Miss Lim I did. I would like you to fetch me another packet of these excellent chocolate biscuits.
Ricky: (Mouth full of biscuit) Thank you, thank you.

Scene 3

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins.... did you manage to sort everything out?
Miss P: (Uptight) Yes Wanda, I did thank you very much.
Miss Ho: I hope you didn't think I was interfering but Li Bin came to me in great distress... I HAD to do something.
Miss P: But Wanda you KNEW I was on playground duty.... you should have told her to come and find ME not rush out and take over as if I didn't exist!
Miss Ho: But Li Bin said the reason she ran into the school was that she couldn't find a teacher on duty in the playground!
Miss P: Nonsense.
Miss Ho: But Miss Perkins, I'm sorry, when I came out I couldn't see you either!
Miss P: I was on duty and I was THERE.
Miss Ho: Well I looked very thoroughly but I couldn't see you anywhere and clearly there was something amiss ... Li Bin was very upset and according to Alysha.
Miss P: Alysha?! Li Bin?! Huh! don't listen to those two... Alysha and Li Bin hate Daisy Chiu... all they were trying to do was make trouble for her... believe me.. Li Bin can be quite cunning .
Miss Ho: Cunning?
Miss P: She told the Headmistress that Daisy had locked her in the store room... but all the time she was with Ricky Chiu in the store room... trying to Steal school property!
Miss H: I'm sorry Miss Perkins but I find that very hard to believe... Li Bin is a quiet, decent girl... she would never consort with a rough bully like Ricky Chiu,
Miss P: There... that's surprised you hasn't it... she acts so innocent but she does keep company with Ricky Chiu.... you can often see them talking together in the playground.
Miss Ho: Miss Perkins, Alysha, a trust worthy girl, told me that Daisy and the other two girls were trying to suffocate Emily Lam!

- Miss P: (Dismissive laugh) Suffocate Emily Lam? Emily Lam has asthma... she was having an asthma attack... Daisy Iris and Anita were only trying to HELP her!
- Miss H: That's not what Li Bin and Alysha said.
- Miss P: Pah, Li Bin and Alysha... I've already told you... all they want to do is get Daisy into trouble.
- Miss Ho: Li Bin and Alysha are excellent students Miss Perkins.... quite frankly I would far rather believe them than Daisy Chiu or Iris or Anita.
- Miss P: I'm sorry Wanda... you're wrong., anyway I was on playground duty, not you... so would you kindly let ME deal with all this... now I'm sure you've got a lot of marking to do.
- Miss Ho: Yes Miss Perkins you were SUPPOSED to be on playground duty but the fact is neither Li Bin NOR I could find you... and had Li Bin NOT come into the school to get me... then... I think there could have been a very nasty incident in the playground this lunch time.
- Miss P: Nonsense Wanda... absolute nonsense... there was no incident... I was on duty and I saw nothing.... nothing at all.

Break

- Iris: Daisy, what are we going to do if Emily tells the Headmistress we tried to suffocate her?
- Anita: We could be in BIG trouble.
- Iris: And if Miss Ho supports Alysha and Li Bin then...
- Anita: We could get expelled!
- Daisy: Stop clucking like chickens... it's alright... Miss Perkins believed us and Miss Perkins was on playground duty
- Anita: But Miss Ho might have seen us.
- Iris: (Worried) Yes Daisy... when Miss Ho came along with Li Bin I had my hand over Emily's mouth.
- Anita: (Worried) And I was pinching her nose.
- Daisy: You were helping her.,. she was having an asthma attack.... remember?
- Anita: But what if Miss Ho reports us to the Headmistress.
- Daisy: Miss Perkins will save us.
- Iris: How can you be so sure Daisy?
- Daisy: Because... look... I've bought Miss Perkins a Christmas present.

Iris: A Christmas present?
Anita: Already?
Iris: There's still another three weeks to go before Christmas.
Daisy: Never mind... I want to give it to her now... to show our...
appreciation... do you understand?
Iris: Yes... yes I think so.
Anita: You mean give Miss Perkins a present so she'll be on our side?
Daisy: Precisely, Now Iris, Anita, sign the card.

(SFX: Musical Xmas card)

Daisy: (Card plays an X'mas tune) Wa... it plays, music!
Anita: And what nice words you've written Daisy....
Iris: (Reading) To our dear Miss Perkins... the best teacher we have
ever had.
Anita: But she's not nice... she's boring.
Iris: I always fall asleep in her lessons.
Daisy: Listen girls... hey, I don't really MEAN all this rubbish... I'm just
writing it so Miss Perkins will help us... okay? Now sign!
Both: Okay Daisy.
Daisy: Quick...hurry...Miss Perkins is coming (slight pause)
Miss P: Hello Daisy... Anita... Iris.
All: (Sweet) Hello Miss Perkins.
Daisy: Miss Perkins.... this is for you... from us.
Miss P: A Christmas present and a card! How nice! You know girls this is
the first card and present I've received.
Daisy: Open it Miss.
I & A: Yes open it Miss.
Miss P: Can I?
All: Yes.
Miss P: Okay, How exciting!... Card first (SFX Opening card, X'mas
music) Music! I say! And oh look, Father Christmas and all his
reindeers... how nice.... and let's see what's written inside...
(reading) 'Christmas is a time of Joy'... Ahhh... 'To Miss Perkins...
the best teacher we've ever had. Oh girls... that's so nice of you...
You know.. (tearful with emotional)... no one's ever given me a
card as nice as this before. (snuffles with emotion)
Anita: (Under her breath to Iris) Huh! She believed it!

Iris: (Suppressed giggle) She's so stupid!
Miss P: And my prezzie... Can I open that too?
All: Yes Miss.
Miss P: Thank you.

(SFX: Opening present)

Miss P: Oh how lovely! A scarf!
Anita: (Under her breath to Iris) It's for her to tie over her mouth so she won't bore us with her stupid lessons.
Iris: (Suppressed giggle)
Miss P: And I love the colours... red, white and blue... OH thank you girls... thank you so much.
All: (In the same sing song voice) You're welcome Miss Perkins. Happy Christmas Miss Perkins. Don't believe Li Bin and Alysha Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Believe Alysha and Li Bin? You mean about the terrible things they said about you trying to suffocate Emily Lam? Of course not!
All: Thank you Miss Perkins. We really like you Miss Perkins. Happy Christmas Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Oh what a lovely scarf! I shall wear it on Christmas day and think of you dear girls,
Iris: (Under her breath) Silly fool.
Miss P: And what beautiful words in my card!
Anita: (Under her breath) All lies.
Miss P: What very very good girls you all are.
All: Thank you Miss. Thank you Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Good bye Daisy
Daisy: (Sweet) Goodbye Miss.
Miss P: Iris.
Iris: Goodbye Miss.
Miss P: Anita.
Anita: Good bye Miss.
Miss P: I'll see you late in class.
All: Good bye Miss Perkins.
Miss P: I feel so... touched... I really do.... thank you girls.... you've made my Christmas very... very.... happy. Bye....
Iris: (Pause and then they burst into giggles) What an idiot!

Anita: She really thinks we like her!
Iris: She thinks we really MEANT those icky words.

(Giggling nastily)

Daisy: Let her believe it...Miss Perkins can be very useful to us... very useful.

(All giggle nastily)

Iris: Idiot!
Anita: Fool.
Daisy: The most boring teacher in the school.

(Giggle nastily)

Scene 5

Head: Miss Ho... Miss Perkins... I have called you here to discuss a serious matter.
Miss Ho: Yes Headmistress.
Miss P: What's it about Headmistress?
Head: Correct me if I am wrong but were not YOU, Miss Perkins, on playground duty to-day?
Miss P: Yes, yes I was.
Head: A girl came to see me... Emily Lam.
Miss P: I'm sorry Headmistress I told her not to but she completely....
Head: (Interrupting) Miss Perkins..., I am glad she DID come to see me.
Miss P: Oh.
Head: It seems there was an incident.
Miss P: Emily Lam suffers from asthma... she had a mild attack... Daisy Chiu , Anita and Iris were helping her... that new girl, Li Bin, got the wrong end of the stick and ran off to find Wanda and then the whole thing got blown out of all proportion!
Head: Miss Ho? What have you to say to all this?
Miss Ho: Li Bin came to see me in some considerable distress Headmistress... I went into the playground to see what was happening and I saw what looked like Daisy, Iris and Anita

suffocating Emily Lam.

Miss P: Ridiculous... Emily Lam was having an asthma attack, that's all.

Miss Ho: And Alysha saw it happen too.

Miss P: Alysha hates Daisy... so does Li Bin... they would do anything to get them into trouble.

Head: Miss Perkins... you were on playground duty... why could you not be found in an emergency.

Miss P: I was there! I... I'd maybe, just popped over the road for a few seconds....

Head: You were on duty Miss Perkins and yet you say you....'popped' over the road?

Miss P: To the chemist shop... to get some throat lozenges... I... I had a sore throat... from talking too much in class.

Head: I see. So the incident did take place when you were not there Miss Perkins.

Miss P: I was gone two minutes.

Head: A lot can happen in two minutes Miss Perkins.

Miss Ho: If Li Bin hadn't got me... I don't know what would have happened to Emily Lam Headmistress.

Miss P: (Losing her cool) Wanda! I've told you a thousand times but you will not listen! Emily Lam was having an asthma attack!

Miss Ho: I'm sorry Miss Perkins but I beg to differ... Emily Lam was being suffocated by Daisy Chiu and her friends.

Miss P: Well Wanda, think what you like... but you know what I think?... I think you are deliberately trying to embarrass me in front of the Headmistress.

Miss Ho: What?! I'm sorry Miss Perkins, but that is outrageous,

Head: Why should Miss Ho wish to embarrass you Miss Perkins.

Miss Ho: Because Miss Ho, from the very start, AND some of the others, have resented me from the minute I walked into this building.

Miss Ho: That is NOT true.

Miss P: Isn't it? You saw me as an intruder... brought in from outside to show you how to teach.... that's what you thought didn't you?

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins, I don't need anyone to show me how to teach thank you very much... particularly NOT YOU!

Head: Miss Ho... please... let us remain calm.

Miss Ho: (Furious) Calm! I am calm! It's... it's Miss Perkins!!... saying those things about...

Miss P: You see you DO resent me... you resent the whole Native English Teacher Scheme... admit it.

Head: Is this true Miss Ho?

Miss Ho: Categorically not Headmistress! I... I...

Miss P: And this lunchtime thing with Emily Lam is just an excuse to smear my good reputation!

Miss Ho: How dare you accuse me of something so petty and base!

Miss P: Just because I'm a NET doesn't mean I can't call a spade a spade.

Miss Ho: Are you calling me a spade Miss Perkins?!

Miss P: I'm saying Wanda... that you resent me and it's coming out in this silly NON-incident. I had a sore throat, I popped out to get some medicine and you saw your chance and swooped!

Miss Ho: Headmistress... this is unfair... totally unfair.... Emily Lam was being suffocated by three vile and pernicious girls...

Miss P: Daisy, Iris and Anita? Vile? Pernicious?! They are three of the nicest, sweetest girls I have ever had the pleasure to teach.

Miss Ho: Daisy Chiu is a liar and a cheat.

Miss P: Li Bin is the cheat and the liar Wanda... not Daisy... and that Alysha is no better... you've been fooled.

Miss Ho: Me? You mean YOU have Miss Perkins.

Head: Miss Perkins... At this point I would like to reveal to you that Emily Lam also reported to me on a separate occasion, that Li Bin WAS locked in the store room by Daisy Chiu.

Miss Ho: Ha! There you are! Daisy was getting her revenge on Emily for telling the Headmistress the truth!

Miss P: But how did she know? Was she told Emily said that?

Head: No, of course not.

Miss P: My point exactly. No Wanda... you're trying to make excuses to get at me and Daisy but it's all tissue paper... it tears at the very first tug.

Head: So... I face a dilemma,, what do I believe? That Daisy is innocent? Or that she is a cunning, ruthless girl who has no place in this school.

Miss P: Daisy is innocent.

Miss Ho: Daisy is dangerous Headmistress...violent, vengeful and totally unpredictable.

Scene 6

Ricky: Li Bin... Li Bin.
Li Bin: Oh hello Ricky.
Ricky: You want a chocolate biscuit?
Li Bin: Oh yes please... thank you Ricky. Where do you get them from?
Ricky: The Headmistress gave them to me.
Li Bin: The Headmistress? Gave you chocolate biscuits? Why Ricky? I thought she hated you.
Ricky: No, she likes me now, Why has she changed?
Ricky: Some girl told her I was helping you get out of the store room not trying to steal things from it.
Li Bin: And she believed her.
Ricky: I think so.
Li Bin: Fantastic! Oh I'm so happy Ricky! I could... I could kiss you?!
Ricky: Kiss me?! Kiss me?! (groans)
Li Bin: What is it Ricky? Are you alright? You're not in pain are you? My chest! Ouch! It's hurting me.
Li Bin: Maybe you should see a doctor
Ted: (To himself) Hmm... a love doctor if you ask me.
Li Bin: What kind of doctor Ted?
Ted: Um, nothing! Nothing!
Ricky: Oh my heart! Ouch, ouch... my heart, my heart, my heart (fade)

Music

The End