

WRITTEN BY  
STEVE SHANAFELT

# A JAM-MAS CAROL

DRAWINGS  
BY  
WILLIAM MORRAY

JERRY WAS DEAD. TO BEGIN WITH.

ASHEVEGA

**CITIZEN-1**

GRATEFUL DEAD?

GARCIA DIES OF HEART FAILURE

MILLIONS APPLAUSE

THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

TODAY'S WEATHER: Partly Sunny & Pleasant

DID SCRUGGS KNOW IT? OF COURSE. HE'D READ IT IN THE PAPER IN '95.

I'LL NEVER LOVE AGAIN

IN THE ELEVEN YEARS SINCE JERRY'S DEATH, SCRUGGS' HEART HAD TURNED COLD. NO LONGER DID THE SWEET SOUNDS OF THE JAM MOVE HIS SOUL.

IN FACT, SCRUGGS WAS AS TIGHT AND TENSE AS AN OVERWOUND GUITAR STRING FROM WHICH NO PICK HAD EVER STRUCK AN UNSOUR NOTE.

NO FRIENDS, NO WELL-WISHERS. EVEN PANHANDLERS NODDED HIM.

MASHY QUESTION

BUS TICKET.

MECHANIC.

er...

BREVARD.

DANG.

DUDE JUST GIVE UP.

HIS ONLY HUMAN CONTACT WAS TINY JIM, WHO DID DATA ENTRY AT SCRUGGS' CONDO SALES FIRM.

HIYA BOSS!

GET BACK TO WORK.

MAIL CALL! BILLZ BILLZ... WHATS THIS? COMP TICKETS TO THE WARREN HAYNES CHRISTMAS JAM? HM! (from that FLA. couple who bought the condo.)

WOW!

THAT'S BEEN SOLD OUT FOR WEEKS!

I WANNA GO.

YOU'LL BE GOING NOWHERE! I HAVE A LITTLE OVERTIME FOR YOU!!

BUT... BUT

THE JAM'S TONITE

AND WITH THAT, SCRUGGS LEFT THE OFFICE FOR HIS GLOOMY MONTFORD HOME, PASSING BY THE CIVIC CENTER... WHICH WAS ALREADY BUSTLING WITH ANTICIPATION!

DUDE MAN. THESE SCALPERS ARE KILLIN' ME!

DUDE

KNOW WHATCHA MEAN, BRAN! WE NEED A MIRACLE!

YOU NEED A JOB.

LATER THAT NIGHT

AFTER HE'D TAKEN HIS DINNER, SCRUGGS FELL INTO A CURIOUS AND UNEASY SLEEP!

ZZ JAM

ZZ SNURK

KIDS: ZZ NO MONEY ZZ

FREE ZZ

STUPID ZZ SNURK

WUZZUH

HEY, MAN WAKE UP!

AW, MOM, DON' WANNA GO T' SCHOOL... WHA?

AHH!

STAY BACK

WINDO THE DO

DUDE. RELAX.

WHO..?

JERRY GARCIA!!

(I WAS YOUR BIGGEST FAN)

BUT... BUT... YOU'RE DEAD!

YEAH.

PRETTY MUCH.

BUT CHECK IT OUT! I'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO TEACH YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!

WHAT IS THIS? A FLASHBACK?

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY UNCOOL LATELY. TURNING DOWN TICKETS TO THE CHRISTMAS JAM?

NOT COOL AT ALL.

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE JAM!

BUT HERE, TOUCH MY MAGIC GOLDEN TICKET AND ALL WILL BE REVEALED!

ZAP!



WHERE ARE WE?  
WHERE'S MY HOUSE?

WE'RE IN ASHEVILLE  
IN 1989, THIS IS  
45 CHERRY, SITE  
OF THE VERY FIRST  
CHRISTMAS JAM!

ZAP.

KINDA A DUMP, HUH?

OPEN

SURE, IT HAD  
A HUMBLE START.  
NO ONE WAS  
RICH AND FAMOUS  
YET. BUT WARREN  
HAYNES AND HIS  
PALS THOUGHT  
THIS WAS A  
GOOD WAY TO  
GIVE BACK TO  
THE COMMUNITY.

GOTDAM!

PLAY SUM  
DANG 'OL  
SKYNARD!

SEE?

THAT'S WARREN  
OVER THERE, JUST  
JAMMIN' OUT  
WITH HIS BUDS  
FROM THE  
CRYSTAL  
ZOO.  
THEY KNOW  
WHAT MUSIC'S  
ABOUT!

THEY SOUND PRETTY GOOD (I GUESS.)

WAAAITAMINIT. I  
THOUGHT YOU WERE  
SHOWING ME THE  
ERROR OF MY WAYS!

1989?

I MOVED  
HERE LAST  
YEAR!

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?  
BUT LET'S KEEP ON TRUCKIN'.

ZING!

NOW WHAT? THIS IS BE HERE NOW.  
YOU MIGHT NOT GET THIS,  
BUT YOU'RE LOOKING AT  
THE END OF AN ERA.

LOOK OVER  
THERE!

SEE THAT? SOMEONE'S STEALING DEREK TRUCKS' GUITAR!

GURL, U STEAL  
MY HEART.

WAAH HAW HAW.

Y'SEE, WARREN'S IN THE ALLMAN  
BROTHERS BAND, AND THE  
CELEBRITY FACTOR IS  
GETTING TO BE A BIG  
PROBLEM. THE JAM IS  
GETTING TOO LARGE,  
AND THEY'VE HAD TO  
TURN FANS AWAY.

SO?? IT'S JUST A STOOPID SHOW!

LOOK, THESE PEOPLE ARE  
WILLING TO STAND FOR  
HOURS IN THE COLD!

JUST TO HEAR  
THE MUSIC  
THEY LOVE!

THAT SOUND 'STOOPID' TO YOU?

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DIDN'T GET TO  
SEE THE JAM... RECOGNIZE HIM?

TINY JIM  
HAS NEVER SEEN  
A SINGLE JAM.

SOLD  
OUT

WELL.

THAT'S  
ER... NOT...  
UH...  
'GROOVY.'  
(SO TO SPEAK)

NOT GROOVY AT ALL.

BLING!

YA KNOW...  
WARREN'S GOT SOME  
REAL TALENT PLAYIN'  
WITH HIM.

YES INDEED.  
GREG ALLMAN,  
KELLER WILLIAMS,  
EDWIN MCCAIN...

DAVE SCHOOLS  
AND  
COL. BRUCE HAMPTON

AND MANY MORE!

THEY MUST BE LINING THEIR POCKETS!  
THIS PLACE IS PACKED!

NOPE!

THEY'RE ALL PLAYING  
FOR FREE! ALL PROCEEDS  
GO TO CHARITY.

IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE CHRISTMAS JAM!

MAGIC?  
NO SUCH THING!  
ABSURD.

OH REALLY?  
FOLLOW ME!

TH' VERY  
IDEA

BLAOW!



AHH? WHERE--? WHERE'S WARREN? WHERE'S THE JAM?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY FAMILIES THAT WOULD BE HELPED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, WITH MONEY RAISED BY THE CHRISTMAS JAM!

WOTS FER DIN-DIN?

RAT!

IT IS THE FINEST RAT EVER.

THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, THEY COULD BE LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME, INSTEAD OF RENTING THIS SCUZZY DUMP.

DIDJA KNOW THAT IN THE LAST 18 YEARS, THEY'VE RAISED NEARLY A HALF MILLION DOLLARS FOR NEW HOMES!?

FUNNY... THAT'S ALMOST WHAT I CHARGE FOR EACH OF MY NEW DOWNTOWN CONDOS...

OK, I GET IT! THE JAM IS 'GOOD'. AND I'M 'BAD', CUZ I'M A HEARTLESS REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER...

RIGHT??

MORE OR LESS, YEAN.

BAH! WHATEVER! IT'S MY LIFE, AND I CAN LIVE IT WITHOUT THE JAM!

BUT IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LIFE.

DUDE. WE ARE ALL ONE, BRO.

POW! ONE!

VOOOM

TINY JIM! WHY ISN'T HE WORKING?

HE'S DOWNLOADING LAST YEAR'S JAM.

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE JAM'S TAPER-FRIENDLY POLICY, HE WOULD NEVER HEAR A JAM.

AND IF THINGS REMAIN UNCHANGED...

I SEE A HALF-EMPTY IPOD WITH NOTHING ON THE PLAYLIST BUT PHIL COLLINS AND K-FED!

...NO...

YOU'RE LYING.

SCREEEEEEEECH!

YOU'RE A LIAR!!

ALL CUZ YOU THOUGHT DATA ENTRY WUZ MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE JAM!

MAJOR BUMMER, DUDE.

JERRY! I SEE NOW! (sob?)

I GET IT!

BOOH-OOH. (snuffle)

PLEASE! GIMME SOME HOPE!!

HEY, MAN, I'M JUST THE GHOST OF A GUY WHO WAS IN A BAND YOU USED TO LIKE. I CAN'T OFFER SOLUTIONS.

PLUS... UM.

THERE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD CHANCE THIS IS A FLASHBACK.

BUT-- BUT--

THE MAGIC OF THE JAM!

I'LL SUPPORT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WITH 10%... uh... MAKE THAT 5% OF MY CONDO PROFITS!

...JERRY?

AND SO, SEEING THAT HE STILL HAD AN HOUR, BEFORE THE JAM, SCRUGGS WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD.

WOOT!

EIGHT O'CLOCK! THERE'S STILL TIME!

KICK OUT THE JAM!!

TINY JIM! WORK CAN WAIT!

WHAT IPOD???

SCRUGGS!

BASH!

THE CHRISTMAS JAM IS ONLY ONCE A YEAR!

uh...

WHATCHA DOIN'?

OH, NOTHIN' SPECIAL. JUST WRITING AN ABSURDLY LARGE CHECK TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOWNLOADING KC AND THE SUNSHINE BAND, HAVE YOU?

UM, NO.

GOOD! THERE'S STILL TIME!

AND SO IT WAS... TINY JIM FINALLY GOT TO A WARREN HAYNES SHOW... AND SCRUGGS STOPPED GROUCHIN AND FOUND THE MAGIC OF THE JAM!

IT WAS A TRUE JAM-MAS MIRACLE!

BUT WE STILL NEED TICKETS.

THE END