

The Code of the Candy Cane

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The bottom of two wake boards soar overhead in slow motion.

MANDY (V.O.)

The French existential philosopher
Jean Paul Sartre said, "Ultimately,
what life is about is freedom.
Freedom to choose."

The wake boards land on the water revealing MANDY and SANDI being pulled by a speedboat. They display outrageous skills; jumping, spinning, etc. They are dressed in green shorts, red hats and candy-stripped vests. They are, after all, elves.

MANDY (V.O.)

And my choice in life is to be best
friends with Sandi. I would do
anything for her and I know she
would do anything for me.

From her shorts, Mandy pulls out a large pair of scissors and cuts Sandi's line, sending her crashing into the water. Mandy chuckles to herself.

INT. FITNESS GYM - DAY

Mandy and Sandi run side-by-side on treadmills.

SANDI (V.O.)

Best friends are like candy. When
they're good, they're really good.
When they aren't... they're still
pretty good.

Sandi turns up her own treadmill and smiles at Mandy. Mandy turns up her's and the race is on.

SANDI (V.O.)

Being a good friend means
understanding the word "respect."
To get it, you have to give it.

Sandi smacks Mandy's treadmill control which then spins at top speed. Mandy smashes down on her face and spins off the machine. Sandi laughs.

EXT. SAND DUNES - DAY

Mandy and Sandi race on Quad Runners, spraying sand high in the air.

MANDY (V.O.)

If we were on a sinking ship with only one life preserver. I would give it to Sandi. Totally, I would.

They race the machines down along the seashore.

MANDY (V.O.)

Sandi is one of Santa's favorites. Santa says she is one of the few elves who understand the true meaning of Christmas. But I don't let that bother me.

Mandy takes an oversized candy cane and jams it into Sandi's front tire. Sandi goes sailing over the Quad Runner into the waves.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Mandy and Sandi play on opposite volleyball teams. Mandy's team is full of gorgeous, hunky men. Sandi's team is an odd assortment of Florida tourists.

SANDI (V.O.)

A plane going down with one parachute? I'd give it to Mandy. Hey, that's what best friends do.

The volleyball flies high above the net. The tourists lift Sandi up for the spike. The hunky guys lift Mandy up to block the shot.

SANDI (V.O.)

Guys really love Mandy because, as you can see, she has really rosie cheeks. But I'm not jealous. Really, I'm not.

Sandi spikes the ball which smashes into Mandy's face and she cascades down into a herd of studly men.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Mandy and Sandi, snuggled under a blanket, sleep with peaceful smiles on their faces.

MANDY (V.O.)
 Sandi and I will be best friends
 forever. You can tell just by
 looking at us.

The blanket slips down to reveal their small bodies covered
 with an assortment of bandages, casts and band-aids.

SANDI (V.O.)
 Having Mandy as a best friend is
 like having Christmas 365 days a
 year.

The flight attendant picks up the blanket and tucks-in the
 sleeping elves.

SANDI (V.O.)
 And Christmas? Well, we know a
 thing or two about Christmas.

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INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Mandy and Sandi strut through the front door of the workshop
 and are greeted by excited ELVES as they work their way past
 various toy stations.

SKEETER
 Hey! Look who's back!

SPANKY
 Sandi! Sandi! I made a rocking
 chair! What color should I paint
 it?

SANDI
 That's real nice Spanky. How about
 red?

SPANKY
 That's a great idea! Red! Thanks
 Sandi!

WIENER
 How was Florida Mandy?

MANDY
 Almost as hot as we are buddy-boy.

WIENER
 You two are awesome!

MANDY
(muttering)
Tell us something we don't know.

SANDI
(whispering)
Shh, stop that. Be polite.

PINKY
Mandy! Mandy! Check out this
laser gun! I call it The Handy
Mandy!

MANDY
Handy? You can do better than that.

SANDI
I think that's really nice Pinky.
Santa's really going to like that
one.

PINKY
She talked to me! She talked to
me!

TWEETER
Mandy! What's this year's hot toy?

SANDI
It doesn't matter. As long as it
brings cheer to children.

MANDY
Whatever. I'm thinking voice
recognition kinetic cyber surfing.

TWEETER
Did you hear that?! Hey everybody!
Cyber, um, stuff!

Mandy and Sandi arrive at their toy station where a stuffy,
clipboard wielding elf (LESTER) waits.

SANDI
Happy new year Lester.

LESTER
You're late.

MANDY
Come on Les, you missed us. Admit
it.

LESTER

I most certainly did not. Now get ready for Santa's yearly address. You almost missed it.

SANDI

Oh boy. We're just in time.

LESTER

Three days late. You threw off my whole schedule.

MANDY

Hold up. You're going to tell the four-time production champs about the schedule? How do you think we win the Florida trip each year?

BILLY (O.C.)

Well, this year you're going down!

A hush comes over the workshop. Rival elves (BILLY and WILLIE) stand nearby with folded arms.

MANDY

Well, well. If it isn't... what do they call you? Oh yeah, Second Place.

The four elves meet in the center of the workshop and square-off.

WILLIE

You two think you're all that and a bag of Thin Mints, but, you, you...

MANDY

Yeah? Spit it out Willie.

WILLIE

You're not! Ha!

SANDI

All right, all right. Let's remember the code. We can all --

BILLY

Oh, Little Miss Sweet Knees is here. (mocking) Hi, I'm Santa's little pet. Christmas cheer wee, wee, wee.

Sandi and Mandy glance at each other.

MANDY
You wanna piece of this?

SANDI
Mandy relax. Save it for tonight.

MANDY
I think they want it now.

SANDI
Save it. They'll learn their lesson.

WILLIE
What's the matter?

BILLY
Yeah, you two get a sunburn in Florida or something?

Suddenly a collective gasp fills the air. All of the elves stare upwards.

Santa's POV as he looks over the workshop and sees his elves.
(Throughout the script, we never see his face).

SANTA
Ho, ho, ho. Welcome back to all the elves! I hope you all had a nice vacation!

All the elves relax.

SANTA
We're you naughty or nice?!

Everyone laughs. Sandi glances back and forth and Mandy taps her on the shoulder.

MANDY
(whispering)
He's over there.

Sandi stares a boy elf (TWINKLE) who gives her a shy smile.

SANDI
Did you see that?

MANDY
Yes, Shh... here it comes.

SANTA
It was a great Christmas, but let's make this one even better!

SANTA (CONT'D)
New toys for a new year! And
remember the code!

Santa exits.

LESTER
Okay people, you heard the big guy.
I want to see some really fun toys
invented and please; nothing that
will get us sued. We might be
Santa's Workshop, but there's more
lawyers on the naughty list than
anyone else. Let's move!

An elf whispers in Lester's ear.

LESTER
Oh, yeah. Remember the
code..."Christmas comes with
Christmas cheer and, blah, blah,
blah." Hit the stations!

Mandy and Sandi approach their workstation.

SANDI
I don't know why he doesn't say the
whole thing. Santa thinks everyone
knows the whole code. Lester sets
a bad example.

MANDY
(rolling her eyes)
Yeah, that's rough. Speaking of
code, did you look at the new
software platform for the Slayer
Sleigh?

SANDI
And I don't think it's fair that
only two elves out of over a
hundred go on the January Sunshine
trip. Why can't we all go?

MANDY
Because we kick butt every year.
We deserve it. Now, the Slayer
Sleigh. Check this out.

Mandy turns on a monitor that brings up an X-BOXish looking
Sleigh with a mounted machine gun.

SANDI

Mandy! You can't have a gun, you know the code. Santa will never approve this.

MANDY

Check it out.

Mandy grabs a joy stick and starts up the game. The video Sleigh races around shooting cream pies at scared reindeer. Sandi is horrified.

SANDI

Are you out of your mind?

MANDY

What? This is going to be the big thing this year.

SANDI

Turn that off. Now, look at this.

Sandi places a wooden contraption on the table.

MANDY

What in the world is that?

SANDI

It's a space station.

Mandy tries not to laugh.

MANDY

A wooden space station?

SANDI

Look at the way these levers move. And with the tension of this balsa wood spring board, kids can launch these little rockets.

Sandi brings out a collection of wooden rockets.

MANDY

You're kidding right? You think kids are going to like this thing?

SANDI

Why not? It has room for imagination, remember imagination? No, I don't suppose you do.

MANDY
Whatever. Let's get to work.
Here.

Mandy hands a joy stick to Sandi.

SANDI
I'm serious. I think kids will
love this. I've got a whole line
of wooden toys. It's called...

MANDY
What?

SANDI
Nevermind. There's no talking to
you.

MANDY
Come on. Say it.

SANDI
I'm ignoring you.

MANDY
Come on. I won't laugh.

SANDI
(reluctantly)
It's called... *The World of Walnut
Wonders.*

Mandy bursts out laughing.

MANDY
Walnut Wonders?! That's hilarious!

SANDI
Well, kids would like handmade toys
better than your stupid video
games.

MANDY
Yeah, right.

SANDI
Wanna bet?

A slow smile grows on Mandy's face. Sandi realizes what she
has done as she bites her bottom lip.

MANDY
Sure. You won't chicken-out will
you?

SANDI
No.

MANDY
Stakes?

SANDI
Um, you decide.

MANDY
(thinking)
Um... got it. Loser has to make
whatever toy the winner says.

SANDI
Okay.

MANDY
Not only agree to make the winner's
toy, but actually make them. All
of them. For the whole season.

SANDI
(gulping)
Fine.

MANDY
Shake.

In the distance, a minor roar of laughter is heard. Sandi and Mandy see Billy and Willie posing with cheesy 80's rapper stances.

SANDI
Before we compete with each
other...

MANDY
Yeah?

SANDI
Let's take care of those two.

MANDY
By tonight, they will be wishing
they worked for the Easter Bunny.

Sandi and Mandy glare at their rivals.

INT. NORTH POLE GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Taffy-thick tension fills the gym as Sandi, Mandy, Billy and Willie come to the center of the court. The crowd places bets and then quiets down.

BILLY

I got a case of Snicker Doodles
that says you don't make it to the
end!

Oohs and aahs from the crowd.

SANDI

No problem.

WILLIE

I got a stash of Lemon Drops that
says you don't make it past the
first round!

Oohs and aahs.

SANDI

No problem.

BILLY

I got --

MANDY

You got nothin! I got a case of 90
proof egg nog that says you guys
are going to get torched in the
next five minutes!

The crowd roars as the four elves whip off their vests and march to their corners. Someone presses "play" on a boombox and the workshop is filled with Old School funk music.

Billy and Willie hit the floor, busting-out stylin' break dance moves. Mandy and Sandy eyeball them carefully. The CROWD starts to chant...

CROWD

Go Billy! Go Willie! Go Billy! Go
Willie!

After some choice moves, Billy and Willie relinquish the floor as Mandy and Sandi take over with their own set of awesome steps.

CROWD

Go Mandy! Go Sandi! Go Mandy! Go
Sandi!

Billy and Willie watch while panting heavily.

BILLY
Man, do you think this was good
idea?

WILLIE
Relax, we're doing fine.

BILLY
Will you look at the cheeks on
Mandy? She's pretty hot.

WILLIE
You need to focus.

BILLY
Okay, okay.

WILLIE
Come on, let's go.

Billy and Willie take the floor again, but Mandy and Sandi haven't even broken a sweat. Both teams continue to battle it out, setting a new standard for elf break dancing. Eventually, an exhausted Billy and Willie fall to the ground. Mandy and Sandi relish their victory and dance all around them.

CROWD
IT'S SANDI! IT'S MANDY! THAT'S
WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! IT'S SANDI!
IT'S MANDY! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL
ABOUT!

Sandi and Mandy never stop dancing.

INT. NORTH POLE GYMNASIUM - LATER

Mandy, Sandi, Billy and Willie sit on the bleachers. They pass a bottle of "NOG."

BILLY
It's impossible to win. You two
are like... Batman and Robin.

WILLIE
Goose and Maverick.

BILLY
The Lone Ranger and Tonto.

WILLIE
Like peanut butter and jelly.

BILLY
Like... Christmas and, um...

WILLIE
Chanukah?

BILLY
Huh?

WILLIE
You know what I'm trying to say.
Gimme that bottle.

BILLY
Quasar!

WILLIE
What?

MANDY
Kwanza?

BILLY
That's it! You two are like, um,
queasy and... uh oh, I'm think I'm
getting a little... Kwanza. Excuse
me.

Billy rushes off to the bathroom.

WILLIE
He's right. As a team, you two are
unbeatable. I'd hate to see. What
would happen if you ever competed
against each other.

MANDY
Well, you wont have to wait long.

WILLIE
Huh?

SANDI
Don't mind her.

MANDY
(toasting)
Walnut Wonders. Yeah, right.

WILLIE
 Wonder? Oh, that's good, like
 Wonder Woman and... who's her
 sidekick?

MANDY
 Women don't need sidekicks Sweetie.
 Men do.

Willie stands, albeit, a little wobbly.

WILLIE
 Speaking of sidekicks... I better
 go check on Billy. Nog gives him
 an upset stomach.

Willie stumbles away. Mandy slugs the last of the nog.

MANDY
 Well, I hope you're ready. I've
 got gigs, gadgets and graphics
 coming to this competition.

SANDI
 I've got the power of imagination.
 Who wouldn't love that?

BILLY (O.C.)
 Dude, leave me alone! I think I'm
 gonna Chanukah!

WILLIE (O.C.)
 You mean Kwanza.

BILLY (O.C.)
 Bluaaaaaah!

WILLIE (O.C.)
 Not on my shoes! Oh, man!

Mandy and Sandi grab their things and leave giggling.

INT. GRANDPA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandi sits by a fire with GRANDPA while GRANDMA places tea on the table. Grandpa sits motionless in a wheelchair with a distant look in his eyes not entirely knowing to whom he is speaking.

SANDI
 But Grandpa, was it better in the
 old village?

GRANDPA
Better for who?

SANDI
It's not that I don't like video
games, but --

GRANDPA
Are the children happy?

SANDI
Sure, but --

GRANDPA
Do the elves follow the code?

SANDI
Um, I do.

GRANDPA
Good for you! When I was
production coordinator...

GRANDMA
Poppy, settle down. Sandi came for
a nice visit.

SANDI
But, I like to hear about the old
days.

GRANDPA
We made four million, six hundred
and...

GRANDMA
Poppy, take it easy.

GRANDPA
...ninty-two thousand and fifty
six...

GRANDMA
That was four hundred years ago!

SANDI
Say it Grandpa!

GRANDPA
Yowie Zowies!

Suddenly exhausted, Grandpa instantly falls asleep.

GRANDMA

Sandra, I've asked you not to do that.

SANDI

But, it was the Golden Age of Christmas! Kids today just want to blow things up.

GRANDMA

That was the Golden Age of Christmas and so is today.

SANDI

Did you have one?

GRANDMA

One what?

SANDI

A Yowie Zowie.

GRANDMA

Your grandfather is, well, confused.

SANDI

Are you sure he doesn't have an extra copy of the plans here in the new village? You see, I, really need to make a great toy.

GRANDMA

You always make great toys.

SANDI

No, I need to make a Yowie Zowie. Trust me, I need it more than ever.

GRANDMA

Sandi, Yowie Zowie... You need to remember the code.

SANDI

I do! There has to be a copy of the blueprints around here.

GRANDMA

Even if there was a copy, they'd be written in Elfnik. And you kids can't speak...

SANDI

I know, I know.

GRANDMA

You know where the blueprints are
and that's where they will stay.
It's too dangerous.

Grandma clears the table and exits. Sandi sighs and stares
out the window. In the distance, Sugar Candy Mountain looms.

INT. MANDY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Mandy sits in a chair wearing all black with mirrored aviator
glasses. She is surrounded by video screens.

MANDY

Ready? Engage!

A virtual, high-tech sleigh appears around her with a logo
that reads "Slayer Sleigh."

MANDY

Boot reindeer!

In an instant, eight rather dangerous looking reindeer appear
in front of the sleigh. The video screens come to life
showing a snowy wilderness scene.

MANDY

Now Slasher! Now Smasher!
Egg Nog we be sippin'!
On Vomit and Putrid!
Cause we ain't be trippin'!
Fire in the hole!

The sleigh rips down a video path where frightened animals
pop out of the woods. As they do, Mandy plasters them with
video cream pies from a virtual machine gun.

Momentarily, a red-nosed reindeer wanders onto the path.
Mandy nails Rudolf with a cream pie and the sleigh runs over
him. The screen goes blank and the basement lights come on.

MANDY

Whoa! What happened?!

Two elves (TWEEDLE AND SPEEDLE) hurry into the room.

TWEEDLE

You ran over Rudolf!

MANDY

So? That means I lose twenty five
points on my score. Did you guys
mess with the software?

SPEEDLE

No. It just won't accept the coding.

MANDY

This is ridiculous. I programed it myself.

Mandy marches to a mainframe computer with Tweedle and Speedle close behind. She raps on a keyboard and the coding comes up on a screen.

MANDY

There. Who changed this? This line right here.

SPEEDLE

Maybe the code isn't following the code.

TWEEDLE

I'm not sure this game will bring cheer to children.

MANDY

Are you kidding? This game rocks. Now, who changed this line of coding?

LESTER (O.C.)

Maybe your computer knows that guns are against the code.

Lester meanders out from a corner.

MANDY

How did you get in here?

LESTER

Listen, its none of by business what kind of bet you and Sandi have, but Santa will never approve of this.

SPEEDLE

Yeah, Mandy. I was worried about the gun.

MANDY

It's not a gun.

TWEEDLE

What is it?

MANDY
A non-lethal cream-pie launching
device.

LESTER
Mandy, you ran over Rudolf.

MANDY
Rudolf is kind of a wuss anyhow.

Everyone gasps.

MANDY
Okay! Fine, I'll take him out.

Lester starts to leave.

LESTER
Do what you want, but you and
Sandi's little game needs to wrap
up before production starts.

MANDY
Peace-out Les. (to Twinke and
Speedle) Okay, let's take a look at
the code.

TWEEDLE
Which one?

SPEEDLE
The Candy Cane Code? You're
supposed to have it memorized.

MANDY
No, the programming code for the
Slayer Sleigh.

TWEEDLE
Does anyone really know the code?

They give each other blank stares.

MANDY
Come on. Let's resurrect Rudolf.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Mandy and Sandi make their way past all the well-wishing
elves toward their work station.

SKEETER

Mandy! Mandy! Can I be on your Tech Team?!

MANDY

I am the team Kiddo.

SPANKY

Mandy! I learned to program in BASIC! How cool is that?

MANDY

Get into the 21st Century, Spanky.

SANDI

That's nice, Spanky. Keep up the good work.

WIENER

Mandy! I invented a new laser gun!

Sandi spins around and gives a dirty look.

SANDI

Tell me something; Does anyone remember the code?! It doesn't say anything about laser guns!

All the elves look at each other. Disgusted, Sandi spins back around. She and Mandy arrive at their station.

MANDY

Forget it. Nobody can recite the code, but they've all got it inside, where it counts.

SANDI

Do you know it?

MANDY

Do you?

SANDI

Yeah.

MANDY

Let's hear it.

Sandi gives a nervous look.

MANDY

Well?

Sandi suddenly looks stunned and shuffles her feet.

MANDY

Sandi? Hey, what's wrong with you?

Mandy turns to see what Sandi is staring at. She spots Twinkle coming toward the station in SLOW MOTION. He is suave and cool with a bit of a strut acknowledging other female elves as he passes. He runs his fingers through his perfect green hair.

Sandi starts to hyperventilate.

MANDY

Relax, relax. Breathe deep.
That's it. Now's your chance.

SANDI

Oh no. What am I going to say?

MANDY

Just make small talk. That should
be easy... we're elves. Get it?

Sandi starts to faint and Mandy props her up.

MANDY

By the end of the small talk, you
need to have a date on Mistletoe
Lane.

SANDI

What?! I barely know him! Oh, I
can't do this. He's coming. Let's
run!

MANDY

Stop that. Just flirt with him a
little.

SANDI

Listen, I don't have big, rosy
cheeks like you.

MANDY

Don't make this about my cheeks.

SANDI

Shhhh!

Twinkle arrives. Mandy looks cool while Sandi looks petrified.

TWINKLE

(to Mandy)

Hey.

MANDY

Hey.

TWINKLE

(to Sandi)

Hey.

SANDI

Um...

TWINKLE

So, I hear you two are having a toy battle. High Tech vs Handmade.

SANDI

Er, I...

MANDY

Yeah! But, Sandi is going to win. She's the best at everything. Aren't you San-Fran?

SANDI

Well, um...

MANDY

She is Santa's favorite because she keeps to the code. I mean who doesn't right?

TWINKLE

That's totally cool.

MANDY

Hear that S-Bomb? He says you are totally cool. Well, tell her something she doesn't know, ya know.

SANDI

Uh...

MANDY

You two should go to Mistletoe Lane sometime. What do you think Sandstorm? Mistletoe Lane? I'll bet you've never been there.

TWINKLE

Sure I have, a bunch of times. What do you think Sandi? I mean San-Fran?

SANDI

Er...uh...

MANDY

Great. How is next Friday? Week from today. You free? Of course you are, this is the North Pole. Pizza first at Yuletide?

SANDI

I, uh...

MANDY

Ooooookay. I'm sure you've got a lot of work to do. She'll be there next Friday. See ya, wouldn't wanna be ya. Don't let the bed bugs bite. Remember the code, blah, blah, blah.

Mandy pushes Twinkle away.

TWINKLE

(on exit)

Bye Sandi, uh Sandstorm!

SANDI

B...b...b...

Twinkle exits. Sandi collapses onto a chair. Mandy fans her with a giant chocolate chip cookie.

MANDY

You were awesome!

SANDI

You think?

MANDY

He's crazy about you!

SANDI

Really? How do I look?

MANDY

Hello? Like a super model! Like, Gisele, like Katy Perry... only a lot shorter.

SANDI

Oh my Gosh, I'm a wreck.

MANDY

Hey! You got a date with him!
You're going to Mistletoe Lane!
You rule!

SANDI

You really think he likes me?

MANDY

You had him at... "Uh..."

SANDI

You are the best friend an elf can
have.

They hug.

MANDY

Sandi?

SANDI

Yes, Best Friend?

MANDY

I'm gonna crush you on this
contest.

SANDI

Not a chance.

They both take a bite out of the cookie.

INT. SANTA'S SCREENING ROOM - NIGHT

All of the elves wait excitedly as Mandy and Sandi stand in
front of the screen. Lester comes to a podium.

LESTER

Okay people. Quiet down. It's not
as if you haven't a market test
before. Did everyone get a
response card? Alright, let's get
this... partridge in the pear tree!

The crowd groans at the corny joke.

LESTER

That's just, you know, a little
Christmas humor... forget it.
Flipper! You ready?

FLIPPER (O.C.)

Ready!

LESTER

Let's see it.

Mandy and Sandi take their seats in front along with Lester. The screen lights up and shows two rooms.

One room has children sitting at a table waiting quietly. The other has children sitting in high-tech chairs. After a moment, an assistant in a lab coat brings in Sandi's Walnut Wonders.

The children eagerly play with the toys, making them fly in the air and roll around the floor.

SPANKY

See?! They love it! Handmade toys will always bring cheer to children!

LESTER

A little decorum please. Save your comments for the response card.

The elves eagerly write on the cards.

Soon, another lab assistant walks into the high-tech room. She flips a switch and Mandy's Slayer Sleigh comes to life.

The children focus and race the sleigh down an animated forest. They jump the sleigh, skid the sleigh and then take the animated machine gun and start blowing away everything fuzzy creature that moves.

The video game makes a tremendous amount of noise and soon the kids from the other room put down the Walnut Wonders and go to the wall to listen.

SKEETER

See! Those kids put down Sandi's toys. They want to the Slayer Sleigh!

WINKY

No they don't. They can't hear themselves think! They're just distracted!

PINKY

Yeah! The Walnut Wonders win!

TWEETER

Are you crazy?! The video kids are having way more fun! Just look at them!

PINKY
Look at all that action! It must
be more fun!

SLINKY
Yeah, Sandi's toy made kids smile
and laugh!

All the elves start to argue.

LESTER
Flipper! Shut it down! Shut it
down!

SANDI
Please! Please stop shouting! This
isn't what Christmas is about!

Mandy stands behind Sandi flexing her muscles. Elves start
pushing and shoving each other.

LESTER
Hey! Knock it off!

Lester blows on a whistle and the crowd calms down.

LESTER
We've done these focus groups a
hundred times. What makes this one
so different?

WINKY
Sandi wins! Handmade forever!

Cheers and boos.

SPEEKER
High-tech is the future! Mandy
wins!

Cheers and boos.

Everyone starts to move. The high-tech elves go out one door
and the handmade elves go out the other. The comment cards
are thrown away or left behind. Lester, Sandi and Mandy
watch them all leave.

LESTER
Well, this is first.

SANDI
What are we going to do? Santa
will be furious.

MANDY

I don't know about you, but I've got some Slayer Sleights to make. Catch you later, elf-peeps. I'm out.

Mandy exits.

SANDI

What should we do?

LESTER

We?

SANDI

What should I do?

LESTER

Well, there's no clear winner here. I'm just glad it didn't come to blows. Look at this mess!

Lester starts picking up the comment cards. Sandi plops down on a chair.

SANDI

(to self)

I need a toy that can compete with lasers and video projection. I need...

She looks out the window. Sugar Candy Mountain looms and a smile creeps onto Sandi's face.

EXT. NORTH POLE OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

Sandi stands by the road adjusting a backpack.

SANDI (V.O.)

The great thing about best friends is that they know how to let bygones be bygones.

She checks her map which clearly shows Sugar Candy Mountain and a large X marked "Yowie Zowie."

SANDI (V.O.)

Because there's nothing worse than friends who hold grudges. I mean, it's such a waste of energy.

Sandi glances over to Mandy's house. A glow comes from the basement window along with the sound of cheers from happy gamers.

SANDI (V.O.)
 Yep, best friends know how to rise above petty differences. That's what makes best friends... the best.

Sandi puts on her backpack and marches toward the mountain.

INT. MANDY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Mandy hustles from one game station to another serving candy, popcorn and the like.

MANDY (V.O.)
 The 13th Century theologian Thomas Aquinas said, "There is nothing more to be prized than true friendship."

Mandy grabs a joy stick and proceeds to get high score on the game.

MANDY (V.O.)
 When a friend is down, you've got to be there for them... no matter what.

A crowd gathers around Mandy as she shows off her video skills.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN BASE - NIGHT

Sandi starts the perilous climb up Sugar Candy Mountain with wind and snow blowing on her face.

MANDY (V.O.)
 If your friend is in need, then you are in need. If your friend is all alone, then you should be there. That's just how it works.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Santa looks out of his window and sees Sandi walking toward Sugar Candy Mountain.

He hears music and glances at Mandy's pulsating basement. He puts his hands on his hips and then exits his office.

INT. SANTA'S CHEMICAL ROOM - NIGHT

An industrious looking elf (SKIPPER) drives a forklift loading boxes labeled "HYDROCHEERFULOUS." After the last box is loaded, he hops down and climbs the latter of a huge, bubbling vat. He dips his finger into the goo and tastes it and then calls out to SPLINTER.

SKIPPER

Hey Splinter! I think we're in good shape! Let's get this year's cheer into the tanks! For once we're going to be ahead of schedule.

SPLINTER (O.C.)

How is that possible?! Have we cut down on cheer this year?!

SKIPPER

Christmas cheer isn't as important as it used to be!

Skipper slides down the latter and spins around. He bumps into Santa's fat belly.

SKIPPER

Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry, sir. I, uh, the cheer is really powerful this year. I was just telling Splinter...

SANTA

Ho, ho. That's just what I wanted to talk to you about.

SKIPPER

Uh, yes sir?

SANTA

Ho, ho. I think we're going to need a little more Christmas cheer this year, ho, ho. Can we double that batch?

SKIPPER

Uh, well of course. If you say we need more cheer this year, then we'll make it. You are always right sir.

SANTA

As long as we have a merry
Christmas ho, ho! Just remember the
code.

SKIPPER

Yes Sir. The code...(trying to
recite) Christmas cheer is here and
it's, um, clear that it's not beer,
no wait... Have no fear...

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! I think you get the
idea. Ho, ho. Okay, twice as much
cheer. I'll be back to check on
you.

SKIPPER

Yes Sir. Hey Splinter! I wanna
double this batch! I told you this
wasn't enough! Hurry it up!

Santa exits. In a huff, Skipper throws his cap on the ground
and climbs on the forklift. He takes down more
Hydrocheerfulous.

EXT. SUGAR CANDY MOUNTAIN - DAY

Sandi struggles to climb the mountain with a grappling hook.
She glances down at the village and then up at the distance
yet to be conquered.

SANDI

If there aren't plans for a Yowie
Zowie at the top of this mountain
you are in big trouble grandpa.

She continues to climbing.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY

Mandy sits in the waiting area outside of Santa's office
nervously tapping her foot. Lester comes out of Santa's
office and sits next to Mandy. Lester looks annoyed.

MANDY

What?

LESTER

I don't like that you put me in
this position.

MANDY

What are you talking about dude?

LESTER

First of all, don't call me dude.
Second of all, the only reason I'm
letting you meet with Santa Claus,
The Santa Claus, is because I need
peace on the workshop floor.

MANDY

I'm gonna smooth everything out
Daddy-O.

LESTER

Third, don't call me Daddy-O.
Fourth, you will be respectful at
all times and tell him that what
you want is to restore Christmas
cheer.

Mandy stands up.

MANDY

Piece of cake Lestorama.

Lester rolls his eyes. Mandy walks into Santa's office.

Lester starts for the door and then...

LESTER

(to self)

Lestorama... kind of like the sound
of that.

Lester exits.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Mandy slouches in a chair in front of Santa's desk. Santa's
large head looms in the foreground.

SANTA

So, ho, ho. I heard there was quite
a ruckus in the theater the other
night. Are spirits still high?

MANDY

Oh yeah. Everything is cool.
Sandi and I are still a team.

SANTA
That's wonderful. I'm sure you two
will create a great toy this year.

MANDY
It's gonna be spectacular! Laser
guided gun, um, gum drops.
Explosions, um, explosive fun for
all kids!

SANTA
That's great! Sandi has decided to
go high tech? That's very
interesting.

Mandy pauses for a moment and then...

MANDY
Heck, she loves it. She was going
to go old school, but we talked and
she totally wants to make my toy.

SANTA
Still a team?

MANDY
Still a team.

SANTA
Ho, ho! I knew I could count on
you two! Ho, ho!

Mandy shuffles nervously in her chair and glances out the
window.

EXT. SUGAR CANDY MOUNTAIN - DAY

Sandi slowly scales the mountain side and finally stops to
rest. She can barely go on. She glances down at Santa's
Village.

SANDI
I am NOT going to let Christmas
become high tech!

She jabs the grappling hook into the mountain and steps up.

SANDI
I will NOT give in to joy sticks!

Another jab and step.

SANDI
I will NOT give in to video
screens!

Jab, step.

SANDI
I will NOT give in to explosions!

Jab, step.

SANDI
Or guns!

Jab.

SANDI
Or 3D!

Jab.

SANDI
Or Mandy!

Sandi slips on the ice and slides down the mountain. She slides and slides all the way down toward the village.

SANDI
Stocking-stuffers! This hurts!

She slides into the center of the village and crashes into the reindeer pen and is covered in reindeer poo. A reindeer snorts indignantly.

SANDI
Shut up, Prancer!

EXT. SANTA'S VILLAGE - SIDE STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Sandi, covered in reindeer muck, walks to her house. She hears booming music and turns to see Mandy's basement window lit up and pulsating with excitement. As she turns in disgust, she comes face to face with Lester.

SANDI
Oh, hey Lester.

LESTER
Did you have...an accident?

SANDI
You could say that.

LESTER
Doesn't leave you much time does
it?

SANDI
For what?

LESTER
Aren't you having a date with that
Twinkle tonight? Not that I see
what the attraction is.

SANDI
Oh my gosh! Is that tonight? What
time is it?

LESTER
Quarter to eight.

SANDI
Ahhhh!

Sandi darts into her house.

LESTER
(wafting his nose)
I hope she takes a shower.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

Sandi and Twinkle sit at a table in a romantic corner. Sandi
fidgets nervously.

TWINKLE
Are you okay?

SANDI
Sure, yeah. I'm great. How are
you?

TWINKLE
I'm fine. Soooo, what kind of
pizza do you like?

SANDI
You know, the usual; jelly beans,
sprinkles, extra crunchy chunks of
candy cane. What about you?

TWINKLE
Uh, cheese.

SANDI
 (rapid-fire)
 Sure, cheese is good. I mean, who doesn't like cheese on pizza right? In fact, we can just order some cheese. I mean, why bother with all that other stuff like... crust. So, do you have a girlfriend?

TWINKLE
 I, uh...

The waiter (TATER) arrives.

TATER
 (bored)
 Hi, my name is Tater and I'll be your waiter. Would you like to try our new Naughty Pops as an appetizer? They're sinfully delicious but we won't tell Santa.

TWINKLE
 No thanks.

TATER
 Do you know what you'd like for dinner?

SANDI
 Cheese.

TATER
 Cheese pizza.

SANDI
 Just cheese. Thanks, you can go.

Awkward moment.

TWINKLE
 We'll have a large pizza with jelly beans, sprinkles and extra crunchy chunks of candy canes. Anything else Sandi?

Sandi smiles and shakes her head.

TWINKLE
 And some cream soda.

TATER
 You got it.

Tater exits. Beat.

TWINKLE

No.

SANDI

No what?

TWINKLE

No... I don't have a girlfriend.

SANDI

Oh.

Sandi covers her smile.

EXT. MISTLETOE LANE - NIGHT

Sandi beams at Twinkle as they walk down the lane.

TWINKLE

I invented a marshmallow slingshot once. You know, kids try to shoot marshmallows into each other's mouths. But it was nothing like you and Mandy. How long have you two been a team?

Sandi doesn't answer and stays dreamy-eyed.

TWINKLE

Hello?

SANDI

Huh? Oh, I'm sorry. What did you say?

TWINKLE

Mandy. How long have you been a team?

SANDI

Oh, maybe a hundred, hundred and twenty five years. Ever since we were kids.

She leads him to the edge of the path with a magnificent view of Sugar Candy Mountain.

TWINKLE

We should go up there sometime and check it out. It's probably like a ghost town.

SANDI
Trust me, it's harder to get to
than you think. You can see it
from here.

TWINKLE
It's legendary and all, but today's
toys are cooler. Don't you think?

SANDI
I like handmade toys.

TWINKLE
Come on, Mandy's video game was
pretty awesome.

SANDI
I think...

They hear the sound of giggles and turn to see two elves
running into the bushes.

SANDI
(rolling her eyes)
That's were they grow the
mistletoe.

TWINKLE
They don't look like they need it.

SANDI
I hope they are careful. It is a
gateway shrub after all.

Twinkle moves closer to Sandi.

TWINKLE
(smarmy)
What about you? Do you need a
gateway shrub?

Twinkle plants a slow kiss on Sandi's cheek. Sandi covers
her cheek and starts to hiccup.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Mandy and Sandi tidy up their workstation.

MANDY
You did not!

SANDI
Yep.

MANDY
That's the biggest fib ever.

SANDI
Nope.

MANDY
How much mistletoe?

SANDI
Some of us don't need mistletoe.

MANDY
Double fib!

SANDI
Believe what you want.

MANDY
Where? On the hand like a medieval
knight or something?

Sandi locks her lips with her fingers.

MANDY
Girl, you better start dishin'.

No response.

MANDY
Sandi I'm your best friend! You
know, Friedrich Nietzsche the
philosopher said --

SANDI
Friedrich Nietzsche the philosopher
never went to Mistletoe Lane.

MANDY
Come on San Fran! Best friends
don't keep secrets!

Lester arrives with a box of joy sticks.

LESTER
Mandy, Santa said that any of these
joy sticks are fine as long as they
are painted either green or red.
He is very pleased you two decided
on a toy. He wants to see a
prototype next week. And take
Rudolf out of the line of fire.

SANDI
What are you talking about?

MANDY
He's confused. Lester, don't you have to go starch your underwear or something?

LESTER
Sandi, thanks for being a team player. I love hand made toys too, but no one wants to see you two split up. You made the right choice.

SANDI
(to Mandy)
Hold on. You met with Santa behind my back?

MANDY
Sand Castle let me explain.

SANDI
Don't call me Sand Castle! I hate your stupid nick names for me!

MANDY
Sandi, listen.

SANDI
Best friends don't keep secrets?
Is that right? You traitor!

LESTER
Whoa, I thought you two worked this out.

MANDY
We're still a team. Next year we can make all handmade toys. Okay? How's that?

SANDI
We are not a team. No way. I'm working solo now and my toy will blow your's away.

A crowd starts to gather around the workstation.

MANDY
Sandi, hold on.

SANDI
I'm going to make...

LESTER
This doesn't feel like Christmas.

SANDI
...make a...

MANDY
What? A hula hoop?

Chuckles from the crowd spill out.

MANDY
A doll house?

More laughter.

MANDY
A wooden bicycle?!

Uproarious laughter.

SANDI
A Yowie Zowie!

A hush goes over the crowd.

SANDI
We're through Mandy!

Sandi grabs a joy stick, smashes it on the ground and then storms out with a handful of elves in tow.

SKEETER
Forget it, Mandy. You don't need her.

SPANKY
Yeah, let's go high tech.

WIENER
We're with you Mandy. Let's set up across the shop. Our own space in the corner.

Mandy folds her arms and watches Sandi leave. She glances up at Santa's office and then at the incredulous Lester.

MANDY
You know what? I'm not even going to talk about this.

Mandy and a few elevs leave the shop.

LESTER

Looks like we're a little short on
Christmas cheer this year.

EXT. SUGAR CANDY MOUNTAIN - DAY

Sandi stands at the base of the mountain looking up.

SANDI

Failure is not an option this time
Sandi. Christmas needs you.

She starts the climb again.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY

Santa sits at his desk reviewing the naughty and nice list.
Lester sits nervously in front of him.

SANTA

Lester! I want to know who is
responsible for all this... un-
merriness.

Lester crosses the office and opens the door. Mandy enters.

SANTA

Hello! Come in!

MANDY

Wassup?

Santa takes out a large Christmas cookie and holds it up.
Mandy shakes her head.

SANTA

Now, did I hear that an elf
actually told a lie?

MANDY

Look, I don't have a lot of time --

LESTER

Santa Claus, not A Santa Claus, but
THE Santa Claus just asked you a
question.

MANDY

Yeah, listen, the vibe on the floor
sucks. I'm thinking --

LESTER

Again, not some department store
Santa or something you see on T.V.

MANDY

So, you said that my team could go
high tech and --

LESTER

What Santa said... was that you and
Sandi need to stick to the code of
the Candy Cane and --

MANDY

Come off it, Les. Nobody even
knows the code anymore. Here's
what we do; the whole shop goes
digital. A one hundred percent
high tech Christmas. Talk about
uploading some cheer! This is it!

LESTER

(desperate)

The man is two thousand years old
and you are going to lecture Santa
on Christmas cheer?! He's the
boss! The Big Kahuna! We're
talking Jam Master Kringle over
here!

Santa puts his hand up to stop Lester's babbling.

SANTA

(to Mandy)

Are you saying Christmas cheer is
not as important as... video games?

MANDY

Bing! He makes it to the bonus
round!

Lester flops into a chair and puts his face in his hands.

MANDY

Check it out: we convert all the
old work stations into an assembly
line with soldering benches and
circuit board construction. I'll
do all the programing of course...

SANTA

And what about the rocking horses,
doll houses and Lincoln Logs?

MANDY

Well, since we don't have bulk pick
up at the North Pole, we could
just, you know, burn 'em.

Lester falls to his knees and starts to hyperventilate.

SANTA

Oh dear, this is all new to me.

MANDY

Of course it is because you're
stuck in like, year Zero.

SANTA

The first year of the naughty list.

MANDY

That's another thing, the whole
naughty-slash-nice thing is pretty
stale. If we just start charging
for toys, we could actually compete
with other retailers and get off
this silly not-for-profit status.

Lester gets up and lunges at Mandy.

LESTER

Enough!

Mandy ducks out of the way.

MANDY

Lester take it easy! I'm trying to
get us into the 21st Century!

Lester takes a huge candy cane off the wall and brandishes it
like a sword.

MANDY

Heck! Make that the 19th Century!
Ever hear of the Industrial
Revolution?!

SANTA

Mandy! Lester! You two are being
very naughty!

Lester tries to slash Mandy with the candy cane and it hits a
book case smashing into pieces.

MANDY

Anyone could run Christmas better
than this!

Lester freezes.

Beat.

SANTA
What did you say?

MANDY
What I'm saying is; if someone was
going to start another Christmas,
it would blow this one away.

SANTA
I'm going to say a word I don't
like to use very often, but here it
is... no.

Mandy glares at Santa.

MANDY
Fine.

Mandy spins on her heels and leaves. Lester stands panting
and exhausted.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Mandy bursts into the shop and worried looking elves come up
to her.

WEINER
Mandy what happened?

MANDY
We're out of here! Pack up, we're
hitting the road.

Mandy marches toward the exit.

SKEETER
Where are we going to go?

MANDY
I got plans! I know people! Stick
with me and you can be part of the
future!

Mandy exits with a crew of bewildered elves behind her.
Lester shows up to see part of his crew leave.

Twinkle arrives by his side with a sly smile.

TWINKLE
You hear that?

LESTER
Hear what?

TWINKLE
That's the sound of opportunity
knocking.

EXT. SUGAR CANDY MOUNTAIN - DAY

Sandi struggles to get to the summit. When she does, she looks down at the old village, abandoned and creepy. She starts down into the valley.

EXT. CANADIAN BUS STOP - DAY

Mandy and her disheveled elves approach the ticket counter where a cheery CASHIER counts money.

CASHIER
Hello, may I, maple syrup! Look at
you!

MANDY
Hi, we need ten tickets on your bus
through New York.

SKEETER
We're going to New York?

MANDY
Not exactly.

CASHIER
Well, I'd love to charge you all
the kids' price, but my boss is
watching.

MANDY
(sarcastic)
You're hilarious.

WEINER
Mandy, how are we going to pay for
this. We never needed money at the
North Pole.

MANDY
Don't worry about it.

Mandy takes out a credit card and hands it to the cashier.

CASHIER
So, are you all going to costume party or something?

WEINER
We're inventing Christmas.

Mandy slugs him in the stomach.

CASHIER
Well, I think you're a little late on that one. Okay, here you go. Ten tickets to New York City and then you transfer --

MANDY
Yeah, yeah. Thank you.

CASHIER
Here's your card back. Thanks Lester.

Mandy takes the stuff and they all walk toward the bus.

SKEETER
Hey, she called you Lester. That's kinda weird. Do you th --

Mandy slugs him in the stomach.

EXT. SANTA'S OLD VILLAGE - DAY

Sandi wanders the ghost town walking past abandon sleighs, shops with broken windows and broken toys

She spots what looks like the old workshop. She pushes the rusty door open and goes inside.

OLD WORKSHOP

Sandi wanders around the shop which is disheveled and broken-down. She opens a cabinet and broken toys fall on top of her.

SANDI
(to self)
How am I supposed to find a Yowie Zowie after an avalanche?

She walks and accidentally kicks a long leather document tube. She bends down, picks it up and pulls out a huge set of plans. Her eyes light up as she reads.

SANDI
 (to self)
 Well, ho, ho, ho. Just what I was
 looking for.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Mandy and her elves sit riding the bus. They sleep soundly
 when a LITTLE GIRL starts tugging on Skeeter's pointy shoe.

GIRL
 Psst. Excuse me.

Skeeter opens one eye.

GIRL
 Excuse me. But are you an elf?

SKEETER
 Yeah.

GIRL
 Why aren't you at the North Pole
 getting ready for Christmas?

SKEETER
 It's complicated.

Mandy and the others start to stir.

GIRL
 Won't there be Christmas this year?

SKEETER
 Sure. But something cooler is
 coming.

GIRL
 What's better than Christmas?

MANDY
 Let me ask you something kid. What
 would you rather have, a virtual
 reality, high speed, kinetically
 modulated video game or a wooden
 space ship?

GIRL
 I don't care.

WEINER
 What do you mean you don't care?
 What kind of kid are you?

GIRL
 Christmas isn't about toys. No offense, I know you make them.

SKEETER
 Well, we're going to keep making them, but they are going to be cooler.

WEINER
 Yeah, and forget the North Pole. We're coming straight out of the Big Apple... New York City!

GIRL
 But New York is back there. We past it about half an hour ago.

All the elves look back to see the skyline of New York.

WEINER
 Hey, you said we were going to New York!

MANDY
 What I meant was we were going through New York.

SKEETER
 Where are we going to make the toys, er, virtual reality, high speed, kinetically modulated video games?

The bus comes to a stop and the DRIVER announces...

DRIVER
 New Jersey! The Garden State! Last stop!

All the elves glare at Mandy.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Sandi dances down the street triumphantly with the leather tube over he shoulder. Two excited elves run up to her.

SPANKY
 Sandi! Where have you been?

SANDI
 Dance with me! Check it out!

Sandi attempts to moonwalk and falls in the snow laughing.

SANDI
How does he do that?

PINKY
Who?

SANDI
Michael Jackson. Hey, we should
have a talent show!

SPANKY
Sandi, you don't understand!

Sandi gets up and they all move toward the workshop.

SANDI
Oh, I understand everything. Hey,
we should have a party tonight.

PINKY
A party? There's nothing to
celebrate.

Sandi gives a maniacal laugh and shows the tube. She gets to
her feet.

SANDI
Oh, yes there is.

SPANKY
But things have changed.

SANDI
You said it. Things are going to
be different around here.

They walk up the door of the workshop.

SPANKY
No, we've got trouble.

SANDI
Whatever the problem is, the
solution is right here. Even Mandy
is going to be impressed.

PINKY
I don't think she is going to be
impressed.

They enter the workshop.

SANDI
Are you kidding? Why not?

Sandi sees the half-empty workshop.

SPANKY
Because she's gone. And so are
half the elves.

INT. LESTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lester sits at his desk watching Sandi who paces back and forth.

SANDI
How could you let this happen?

LESTER
Me?

SANDI
Yeah, you! Aren't you in charge of
the elves?

LESTER
I believe what you are doing, a
psychologist would call,
"projecting."

SANDI
Well, what did she say?

LESTER
Essentially, she told us all to go
to the South Pole if you know what
I mean.

SANDI
Well, what did you do to her?!

LESTER
You know what? I'm going to start
having the conversation we should
be having. What did you do?

SANDI
Me? What?

LESTER
You two are best friends. You tell
me how something like this happens.

Sandi let's this sink in. Then she folds her arms and pouts.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Mandy and the crew stand staring at an abandoned warehouse.

SKEETER

That's it? That's your big plan?
We could have just gone to the old,
post-avalanche village on Sugar
Candy Mountain. Look at that
place!

MANDY

Everything is going to be fine.
I've got some servers being
delivered soon... and furniture
too.

SKEETER

You also said we would be in
Manhattan.

MANDY

No, I didn't. Now listen, we're
going to --

A sexy woman (CANDY) wearing hot pants and high heels
approaches.

CANDY

(to Weiner)

Hey there. My, don't you look
cute. Wanna go have some fun?

WEINER

Oh, yes. We always have fun.

CANDY

I'll bet I can help you have more
fun than you've ever had.

MANDY

Miss, I don't think he understands -
-

WEINER

No, we always have the most fun.
Look at us, we're elves! Let me
ask you something, do you like
virtual reality, high speed,
kinetically modulated video games?

CANDY

Are you busting my chops?

WEINER

I don't think so. Do they break easily?

MANDY

Wiener, be quiet. Listen, I'm sorry, what was your name?

CANDY

Candy.

All the elves get excited.

SKEETER

We love candy!

CANDY

Well, Candy loves you too. What do you say we all --

A hot rod screeches to a stop and out comes a TOUGH GUY brandishing a gun.

TOUGH GUY

Candy! Get your butt in this car or I'm gonna start busting caps.

WEINER

Everything is busted around here. They must not have good quality control in New Jersey.

MANDY

Run!

All the elves run and scramble into the warehouse.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - MANDY AND SANDI'S STATION - DAY

Sandi stands at the head of the table surrounded by the remaining elves.

SANDI

Okay, we're going to make the best of this situation.

PINKY

How?

SLINKY

Yeah, we've got half the elves we need to be ready for Christmas.

SANDI
Well, we've got a few ideas.
First, we're going to cut down the
number of toy-styles this year.

WINKY
What do you mean?

SANDI
Instead of fifty different toys,
we're going to have five.

PINKY
Five different toys? That's it?

SANDI
That way we can get the volume we
need by December 31st.

SPANKY
Are the toys going to be fun?

ELVES
Yeah!

SANDI
Tell you the truth, we only need
one.

WINKY
Which one?

SANDI
All we need for a great
Christmas...

Sandi whips-out the leather tube.

SANDI
...is this.

Silence.

SANDI
I know, I'm speechless too.

SLINKY
Let's see it.

SANDI
Get a load of this!

Sandi takes the plans out of the tube and rolls it out on the table. Sandi waits for the oohs and ahhs, but she sees only blank faces.

SPANKY
Um, what is it?

Sandi looks down and sees a whole sheet of instructions written in Elfnik.

SANDI
Uh, it's instructions for a Yowie Zowie.

SPANKY
A Yowie Zowie?

SANDI
A Yowie Zowie.

PINKY
Read it to us Sandi. You understand it right?

Everyone cheers.

SANDI
Uh, well, I just wanted to show you guys that Christmas is not doomed. We'll get to work on this later. Okay, let's get all those stations lined up. We're going to do a good old fashioned, Henry Ford assembly line.

The elves reluctantly walk away. Sandi exhales.

INT. GRANDPA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandi, Grandma and Grandpa sit in front of the fireplace drinking tea.

SANDI
Say it, Grandpa!

GRANDMA
Sandi, this is borderline naughty.

SANDI
Just one time!

GRANDMA
This is irresponsible.

GRANDPA

Yowie Zowie!

Grandpa instantly falls asleep.

SANDI

I love that! That must have been a great toy. Look at him, he's out like a light.

GRANDMA

Do you come to visit just so you can send your grandfather into a deep sleep.

SANDI

No. I wanted to see you. I, um...

GRANDMA

Spit it out, Sandi.

SANDI

Elfnik

GRANDMA

Why in the world would you want to learn Elfnik?

SANDI

I'm interested in my, you know, my heritage.

GRANDMA

What are you up to Sandi?

SANDI

Nothing.

GRANDMA

Why does your nothing always end up something?

SANDI

I, uh...

She goes to the cabinet and takes a book off the shelf and hands it to Sandi. It reads, The McGuffey Reader - Elfnik Basics.

GRANDMA

Here. Learn some yourself, and if you are serious, I might just help you.

Sandi grabs the book.

SANDI
Wow! That's awesome! You are the
best!

Sandi kisses Grandma on the cheek and gets up to leave.

SANDI
Bye, Grandpa.

Sandi kisses him on the cheek.

GRANDPA
(talking in his sleep)
Yowie Zowie...

Sandi rushes out of the house leaving Grandma shaking her head skeptically.

INT. SANDI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandi and Twinkle sit at a table drinking Nog, looking at the plans and the elfnik primer.

TWINKLE
What? You went up the mountain!?

SANDI
Shh. Will you knock it off?!
Nobody needs to know that. Listen,
we translate these plans, make this
toy and then prove once and for all
that handmade toys will always be
better than high tech.

TWINKLE
I don't know.

SANDI
You got a better idea?

TWINKLE
Why don't we just go high tech and
then Mandy and the rest of the
elves might come back.

SANDI
Did you really just say that?

TWINKLE
I mean, Mandy is a real leader. We
need her.

SANDI
We need to follow the code.

TWINKLE
Yeah, I know, but --

SANDI
(getting up)
There's more to the North Pole than
Mandy you know.

TWINKLE
I know, I'm just saying...

SANDI
(holding the flask)
You want anymore of this?

TWINKLE
No, I'm on a sled tonight.

Sandi picks up the plans and book, stands at the cabinet and performs an elaborate knock and the cabinet pops open. Twinkle watches and listens closely.

SANDI
Here's the bottom line. These plans are the keys to thousands of years of great Christmases and I've got them and plan to use them. So just get Mandy out of your mind. (suddenly sweet) Now, can I interest you in a stroll down Mistletoe Lane? Oh yeah, some of us don't need gateway shrubs?

TWINKLE
Uh, no. I better get going. Gotta be up early if we're going get those five models ready for the Henry Ford assembly line thing.

Twinkle gets up and walks to the door.

SANDI
(hurt)
Oh, um, thanks for coming by. You can come over anytime you know.

TWINKLE
Yeah.

They have an awkward hug.

SANDI
Um, well, sled safely.

TWINKLE
See ya around.

Twinkle exits and Sandi closes the door behind him.

SANDI
(to self)
Maybe we need mistletoe afterall.

EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Twinkle pulls his sled down the street. As he passes an alley, he hears a "psst". Twinkle see two shadowy figures and walks over casually.

ALLEY

Willie and Billy stand with their arms folded.

TWINKLE
Fellas.

BILLY
What's the skinny?

WILLIE
Yeah, what's the rumpus?

Twinkle raps Sandi's secret knock on his sled.

BILLY
What's that all about?

TWINKLE
It's the meaning of Christmas.
Come on, let's get some nog.

WILLIE
Sounds good.

They walk down the dark alley.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The werehouse teems with activity as elves and hired hands clean and straighten. Mandy uses bullhorn.

MANDY
Skeet! Tell those guys to move those tables against the wall where the electrical sockets are. Hey, you! Get those hard drives unpacked and set up by the display screens.

Weiner approaches carrying a box. He plops it on the ground by Sandi.

WEINER
They're here!

MANDY
What?

WEINER
The new shirts.

MANDY
Let's see them.

Weiner takes out a shirt and shows it to Mandy. The front of it reads X-MAS in a cool font.

MANDY
Cool.

He turns it around to show the slogan which reads: X-MAS...
The Future is Tomorrow.

MANDY
What is that?

WEINER
The slogan.

MANDY
It's supposed to say, *The Future is Today* you moron.

WEINER
But that's wrong. Technically, the future is not the present. Think about it. Who's the moron now?

Mandy smacks her forehead and walks away.

WEINER
Hey, the truth hurts.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Sandi and Lester sit at a table watching the hustle and bustle of the shop.

LESTER

I'm giving you one week to get this together.

SANDI

Don't worry.

LESTER

Whatever it is you've got up your sleeve better work because we are running out of time.

SANDI

I just need a little more time to transla... transfer some material.

LESTER

Sandi, I want to see more than tools being moved. Starting tomorrow, I want to see some toys.

SANDI

Got it.

Lester exits.

SANDI

(to self)

Okay North Pole... show me what you got.

MONTAGE

A) Sandi approaches a workstation where three elves proudly hold up a wooden ferris wheel. Sandi shrugs. An elf turns a knob and the ferris wheel doesn't spin, but wiggles. Sandi shrugs again. The contraption falls to pieces, Sandi looks at the Yowie Zowie plans, shakes her head and leaves.

B) Sandi comes upon two elves about to launch a wooden airplane with a giant rubber band. They release and the airplane flies in the air only to return and knock out an elf. Sandi shakes her head and walks away.

C) Lester watches with folded arms while a group of elves crank a handle attached to a three foot high volcano. It erupts with pink goo and covers Lester. All the elves run.

D) Sandi and Lester look at an enormous, Rube Goldberg-type contraption. There are levers and slides and cogs. An elf puts a steel ball at the top and the ball rolls through an elaborate maze of gears and such. The ball gains speed, flies off a ramp across the shop and hits the fire alarm. The shop sprinklers come on and soak everyone. Sandi, looks at her plans and walks away. Lester fumes.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Santa marches down the hallway while Lester tries to keep up.

LESTER

Sir, I don't mean to be alarmist,
but a situation like this --

SANTA

Do you know how many Christmases
I've had?

LESTER

I, I in no way am suggesting --

SANTA

There is one thing Christmas needs.
Ho, ho! Come on!

They burst through the doors of the Chemical Room.

INT. SANTA'S CHEMICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Santa waves to Skipper.

SANTA

Ho, ho Skipper! How are you today?
You'll never guess why I'm here!

Skipper, sitting on his forklift, sees Santa and starts banging his head on the steering wheel.

SANTA

You guessed it! We need twice as
much. (to Lester). Ta-da!
Christmas has been saved. Now get
production up as soon as possible.
Ho, ho! I love Christmas!

Santa exits. Lester looks over to Skipper who now is on the ground stomping on his hat.

SKIPPER
 (to self)
 Stupid...fat...jolly...overgrown...
 old...fat...

LESTER
 You already said fat.

SKIPPER
 Arrrrrrh!

Skipper climbs onto the forklift and fires it up.

LESTER
 Okay, no more surprises, please. I
 don't think I can handle it.

He starts to leave and takes a swig of E-NOG.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Mandy stands in front of a huge video screen as WORKERS put
 on the final touches.

MANDY
 We good?

WORKER
 Yep.

MANDY
 HD?

WORKER
 Yep.

MANDY
 Where's the remote?

A worker hands the remote to Mandy. She talks into the
 bullhorn.

MANDY
 Okay crew, gather over here. I
 need all elves and people from the
 temp agency over here on the
 double.

Everyone gathers around Mandy and looks at the giant screen.
 Weiner arrives wearing one of the new shirts.

WEINER
You wouldn't say, "The future is
yesterday, right?"

MANDY
Be quiet.

WEINER
I mean, if the future is today, we
wouldn't have anything to look
forward to. Am I right?

MANDY
Will you knock it off? Forget the
shirts.

WEINER
(to self - sarcastic)
X-MAZ, tomorrow is yesterday.
Friday is Monday. June is actually
January. Sheez.

MANDY
Okay everyone, you've all done a
great job so far, we've a long way
to go. Let me show you where we
are headed.

Mandy presses play on the remote and the giant screen lights-
up with a logo that says... X-MAZ!

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP -PINKY WORKSTATION - CONTINUOUS

PINKY's face shows a horrified look.

PINKY
Sandi! Come quick! Christmas has
competition!

Sandi and the rest of the elves rush over and gape at a t.v.
screen as an ANNOUNCER advertises X-MAZ!

ANNOUNCER
Hey kids! Tired of the same old
Christmas year after year? Sign up
today for the all new X-MAZ
holiday! Go to www.XMAZ.com, have
your parents put in a credit card
number and you will get the coolest
toys you've ever had!

The t.v. shows a blistering array of video games with guns, speeding cars and explosions.

ANNOUNCER

For a minimum cost, you can enjoy all the latest video and kinetic games for all your favorite game systems... rolled into one!

Lester arrives.

LESTER

What in the world?

ELVES

Shhhhh!

ANNOUNCER

No more hand written letters! No more socks and sweaters that you never wanted in the first place! Nothing and we mean nothing made of wood!

Collective gasp.

ANNOUNCER

An here's the best part: no more waiting until Christmas because X-MAZ will be on December 24th!

Lester faints.

ANNOUNCER

It doesn't matter if you've been naughty, nice or even a brat. Don't delay kids, because all of your friends have signed-up. Don't get left behind!

SPANKY

This is awful! Who would do such a thing?!

ANNOUNCER

Remember kids, it was the great American president John F. Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask your parents for X-MAZ today!"

SANDI
(disgusted)
Mandy.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The X-MAZ crew all applaud as the commercial ends.

SKEETER
Great job Mandy!

MANDY
Thanks Skeet. (into bullhorn) Okay
people, we've set the standard.
Let's get to work on meeting it.

Everyone scatters back to work. Wiener hangs back.

WEINER
I was wondering...

MANDY
If you are about to tell me about
future tense vs past tense, I'm
gonna smack you.

WEINER
No, it's just that --

MANDY
What, are you going to explain the
proper succession of days of the
week?

WEINER
No, I was wondering --

MANDY
Positive vs negative numbers?

WEINER
I was wondering what Sandi would
say about all this.

This strikes a chord with Mandy.

WEINER
I guess I kind of miss her.

MANDY

Yeah, well, me too Weiner. Come on, let's get those game stations set up.

They walk away.

INT. SANDI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lester and Sandi sit at the table with a large bottle of Nog.

LESTER

What?! You did NOT climb that mountain!

SANDI

I did. I got the plans and I want to save Christmas. But we're running out of time and I need you to --

LESTER

Translate them.

SANDI

Yes.

LESTER

I haven't spoken elfnik in a hundred years.

SANDI

But you could translate the plans enough for us to make a prototype.

LESTER

Why should I help you?

SANDI

Because together, you and I could be better than me and Mandy.

LESTER

You and I will be a team?

SANDI

Exactly.

LESTER

Well, I, uh...

SANDI

S&L productions. Good name?

LESTER
Yes, I suppose it is. Let's do it!

SANDI
Yes! You are not going to regret
this!

Sandi jumps up from the table and gets on the step stool next to the cabinet.

LESTER
Well, this is first for me. I
wonder what Santa will say.

SANDI
Santa will be so happy to see a
Y.Z. he will probably give you and
me an extra trip to Miami!

Sandi raps the secret knock on the cabinet and it pops open.

LESTER
Those plans are ancient. They're
legendary. They're --

SANDI
Gone!

LESTER
Who else knew about the plans?

SANDI
(disgusted)
Twinkle.

Lester climbs onto the step stool and they both stare into the empty cabinet.

LESTER
What kind of dark power is working
against Christmas this year?

SANDI
Mistletoe.

LESTER
Huh?

EXT. SANTA'S VILLAGE - MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Sandi and Lester rush down Main Street in search of Twinkle.

LESTER
Sandra, you know perfectly well
that Mistletoe Lane is off limits.

SANDI
Oh, come off it Lester. Everyone
does it. Twinkle! Get out here
you pig!

LESTER
When I was your age, I would never
dream of going someplace like
Mistletoe Lane.

SANDI
Why doesn't that surprise me?
Twinkle, you jerk... get out here!

LESTER
I don't even want to know what
happens up there.

SANDI
Good, then we can change the
subject. Twinkle!

LESTER
I mean, what two consenting elves
do is their own business. I'm
hardly prudish, it's just that --

SANDI
Lester will you be quiet. Listen,
all kinds of things happen on
Mistletoe Land. Holding hands, big
sloppy kisses, it's totally out of
control. But what is more
important right now is finding
Twinkle so we can get those plans
back. Come on.

Sandi marches on as Lester stands with his hands on his hips.

LESTER
You mean, kissing... on the lips?
Oh, dear.

Lester follows Sandi.

EXT. TWINKLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandi arrives at the door and starts pounding away.

SANDI

Twinkle you, you lousy chauvinist elf! Open this door and I'll put that mistletoe where the snow don't fall!

Lester arrives.

LESTER

Okay, let's say on any given night, how many elves go to Mistletoe Lane?

SANDI

Will you forget that. If you are so interested in Mistletoe Lane why don't you go there! Now help me break this door down.

Sandi starts bashing into the door with her tiny shoulder.

LESTER

Me?! I, uh, I wouldn't go there. Why? Can I go, like, stag or do you have to bring a date?

SANDI

(rubbing her shoulder)
Ouch. Oh, well Tuesday nights are Mistletoe Multi-Kiss-Fest. You have to come with two people.

LESTER

Three? Why would... oh, my. Do elves really hook up with --

SANDI

It was a joke you moron! Now get out of the way, I'm going to get a running start.

Sandi crosses the street and gets ready to run.

LESTER

(to self)
This is silly. I've got the master key to all of the houses.

Lester starts to unlock the door. Sandi starts to run at top speed.

SANDI
 Okay, Twinkle! You know where you
 are? You're in the jungle baby!
 Here come the pain!

Lester opens the door and Sandi flies inside and a huge crash
 is heard.

LESTER
 (to self)
 I wonder what I should wear?(to
 Sandi) Sandi, what's the dress code
 for Mistletoe Lane?

SANDI (O.C.)
 Little help?!

LESTER
 (to self - on exit)
 Ooh, I've got that taffeta
 lederhosen. I wonder if that's too
 formal.

INT. GRANDPA'S HOUSE - DAY

Sandi sits in a chair while Grandma wraps a bandage around
 Sandi's head. Her arm is already in a sling. Grandpa eats
 cookies.

GRANDMA
 You know you are going to have to
 explain this to Santa.

SANDI
 I know, you told me two billion
 times.

GRANDMA
 What's wrong with you? Mandy is
 your best friend.

SANDI
Was by best friend.

GRANDMA
 Well, if you don't make this right
 with Santa you won't have any
 friends at all.

SANDI
 Do I have to?

Grandma pulls on the bandage.

SANDI
Ouch! Okay, okay.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY

Sandi sits in front of Santa's large desk wearing her bandages and an arm sling.

SANDI
You see, things just got out of control. Mandy and I are best, were best friends. And this stupid competition drove her away. I thought I could save Christmas by making a Yowie Zowie.

SANTA
A what?

SANDI
A Yowie Zowie. The most funnest toy in the history of Christmas.

SANTA
Hmmm, sounds familiar. But what about Christmas cheer? What about the code? Ho, ho!

SANDI
Honestly, Sir I don't know if anyone follows the code anymore. With X-MAZ coming the day before Christmas, this might be the end.

SANTA
Are you saying you don't believe... in Christmas?

SANDI
I'm saying, I don't know what to believe in anymore.

SANTA
Well, you work with Lester and come up with one good toy. Make it a really fun one. Christmas cheer will take care of the rest. But we are already behind schedule.

SANDI
But what about X-MAZ?

SANTA

Oh, don't worry about that.
Nothing will get in the way of
Christmas. Don't you think I know
a thing or two about Christmas?

Sandi gets up dejected.

SANDI

Yes Sir. Um, merry Christmas.

SANTA

Merry Christmas! Ho, ho, ho!

Sandi shakes her head and exits.

INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sandi stops and looks out the window.

SANDI

(to self)

One good toy. Mandy, where are you
when I need you?

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Willie, Billy and Twinkle ride in the back of a cab cruising
down the New Jersey Turnpike.

WILLIE

No way! You and Mandy? Where?

BILLY

Mistletoe Lane?

TWINKLE

Some of us don't need mistletoe.

BILLY

Dude! Between that and giving her
these plans, you two will get, like
married or something.

TWINKLE

No doubt. Now where is it?

WILLIE

(looking at map)

Hey! Take this next turn!

The cab makes an abrupt turn and all three elves smash into each other.

EXT. FACTORY DOOR - NIGHT

Willie, Billy and Twinkle stand in front of a rusty old door with a sign that reads "X-MAZ" on a paper plate.

TWINKLE

Dude, are you sure this is it? New Jersey? With all the guidas and guidos and stuff?

WILLIE

I'm telling you, Wiener gave me the directions.

BILLY

And there's a sign written on a paper plate with, um, really nice masking tape.

TWINKLE

Just knock on the door.

Willie tentatively knocks on the door. The door slowly opens to reveal a kid with a distant look in his eyes... almost trance-like.

KID

Welcome to... X-MAZ. We're having... so much... fun.

TWINKLE

Hey, kid you okay?

KID

You must be... friends of... Mandy.

BILLY

Yeah man, let us in. It's colder in Jersey than at the North Pole.

KID

But of course... you are all welcome at... X-MAZ.

The kid opens the door and lets them in.

INT. X-MAZ WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The trio is led by the kid through the shabby warehouse with video stations all around. The stations each have one kid in them looking like a zombie, playing some sort of shoot 'em up game.

WILLIE

Hey Kid, is this supposed to be... fun?

KID

(deadpan)

X-MAZ rules. Can't you tell?

TWINKLE

Are these kids okay?

BILLY

They seem to like the video games. I think.

WILLIE

Look! There's Mandy!

In the distance, Mandy hovers over a kid playing a game.

INT. WAREHOUSE - ANOTHER AREA - CONTINUOUS

Mandy leans over a kid with a worried look on her face.

MANDY

Come on! Smile! That game kicks butt! You should look like you're having a fun time!

KID 2

Shhh. I'm concentrating.

MANDY

Don't shh me you little brat! I programmed that game!

The trio approaches Mandy.

MANDY

Whoa! Look who decided to join the winning team. December 24th is right around the corner.

WILLIE

Hey Mandy, how come all these kids look, um, weird?

MANDY

You mean wired! These kids are jacked-in my friend. This is the new generation of holiday celebration!

BILLY

But, they don't look like they are celebrating. They look hypnotized.

MANDY

Come over here. This will change your mind.

They all walk by loads of kids who stare comatose into video screens mindlessly shooting animated creatures. Willie stops to talk to one of the PLAYERS.

WILLIE

So, are you have a merry Christmas?

PLAYER

No... more... Christmas. Only X-MAZ.

WILLIE

Is it fun?

PLAYER

Must... shoot... animals.

Willie catches up with the group at a new video game.

BILLY

This looks pretty serious.

MANDY

X-MAZ is serious business. Have a seat.

Billy shakes his head.

MANDY

Willie? What do you say? Wanna be a part of the new wave of excitement? We've got five hundred thousand kids signed up from all over the world. I've subcontracted with Fed Ex for delivery and Pay Pal is giving a discount for family subscriptions. Try it, Willie.

Willie reluctantly sits down at the video console.

WILLIE
Um, I'm not sure about this.

MANDY
Relax. Now, when you see anything
that moves... shoot it.

Mandy hands Willie a ridiculously large laser gun.

MANDY
Okay, get ready for X-MAZ with hot
sauce! That's the new slogan.

Mandy hits a button and the screen is filled with wild
animals rushing the screen. Willie closes his eyes and
screams.

WILLIE
I don't like this! I hate this!

MANDY
Shoot Willie! You have to kill
something!

Billy winces and Twinkle looks enthused.

WILLIE
Make it stop! I don't like X-MAZ!
No mas X-MAZ!

BILLY
Mandy, he's not going to make it.
Turn it off.

MANDY
Are you kidding? Look at all those
kids. Their having a blast.

Billy looks across the warehouse and see hundreds of kids
with zombie stares on their faces.

BILLY
What have you done to these kids
Mandy? Are they on drugs?

MANDY
It's the magic of X-MAZ.

WILLIE
Ex-na on the azme! I'm think I'm
gonna Chanukah!

Willie closes his eyes and fires the gun. He hits a video
giraffe and it explodes in an array of blood and guts.

Its head lands in the foreground of the screen. Willie instantly barfs all over the screen.

MANDY

What are you doing! That's a prototype! Get off of that you idiot.

BILLY

Hey, don't talk to him like that! Your stupid machine made him Kwanza! What's wrong with you?!

MANDY

I thought you guys were serious. Look, if you can't handle the future, you can just go back to the North Pole and make see-saws.

BILLY

Maybe we will. It's better than being stuck in Jersey with you.

MANDY

Well, don't let the door hit your Cinnabuns on the way out!

BILLY

Fine!

Billy takes Willie and heads for the door.

MANDY

Get them out of here!

KID

(zombie voice)

Yes, Mandy. X-MAZ is the wave of the future.

The kid follows Billy and Willie out.

MANDY

What about you?

TWINKLE

Oh, I think I've got something you want.

MANDY

And what might that be?

TWINKLE

Can't we go someplace private?

MANDY

Sure. Let's go to my office.

They walk past more video stations with kids transfixed by violent video games.

MANDY

Smile people! This is supposed to be fun! If you're not having fun then fake it! I've got reporters coming at three! I said smile!

Twinkle follows Mandy up to her office.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Lester and Sandi stand over a table with all the elves around them. On the table is a simple, wooden toy car.

LESTER

Well, that's it then. One toy for Christmas.

PINKY

It looks fun to me.

SPANKY

Yeah, you could roll it down a hill.

LESTER

Now that's the spirit. What do you say Sandi.

SANDI

Yeah, sure. Race car. Whatever.

SLINKY

What color should we paint them Lester?

LESTER

Sandi?

SANDI

(reluctantly)

You could have, like, four basic colors. Red, green, blue and purple. Then --

SPANKY

What about yellow?

LESTER
That's a great idea. What do you think Sandi? Yellow?

PINKY
What if some of them had racing stripes and others had stars.

SANDI
Sure, as long as we have the assembly line.

LESTER
Now we're talking! It's going to take a couple of days to get the shop re-tooled and get all the paint ready, but I think Christmas will survive!

All the elves cheer... except Sandi.

LESTER
Okay gang, let's start moving those stations! Sandi would you go help mix the paint?

SANDI
Sure.

Sandi slinks away. Lester slides up to a cute elf while she plays with the race car.

LESTER
That car looks like it belongs in the fast lane.

CUTE ELF
It sure does. Christmas will be great this year.

LESTER
In fact, I know just the lane for going fast.

CUTE ELF
Yeah?

LESTER
Sure. Mistletoe Lane. Shall we go and... rev our engines?

Shocked, the cute elf socks Lester in the stomach and storms off.

LESTER
 (in pain - to self)
 This is going to be harder than I
 thought.

Lester exits.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MANDY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mandy's office is shabby and dusty. She plops behind the desk and her chair collapses under her.

MANDY
 For crying out loud!

Twinkle sits on a disgusting couch and dust flies up as he sits.

TWINKLE
 Why don't you sit next to me?

Mandy comes over and sits down on the couch.

MANDY
 Whew. I haven't relaxed in weeks.

TWINKLE
 Here, let me rub your shoulders.
 Whoa, you are tense! How's that
 feel?

MANDY
 I tell ya, Twinkle, there are days
 I wonder if it was the right thing
 to do.

TWINKLE
 Of course you did the right thing.
 And I'm going to cheer you up right
 now.

Tweedle and Speedle burst into the office.

TWEEDLE
 Mandy those kids testing the
 prototype are losing it. The laser
 guns are still way too hot and...
 Twinkle! Waassup home-slush!?

Twinkle and Mandy stand up. Twinkle looks annoyed.

SPEEDLE

Whoa, Twinkster, we, uh,
interrupting something?

TWINKLE

Actually you did. Would you fellas
mind...

MANDY

What's going on guys? I don't need
anymore bad news.

SPEEDLE

You okay Mandy? You look a little
flushed.

MANDY

What is it guys?

TWEEDLE

Those kids are brain-dead. They
keep leaving the laser guns on and
the screens are getting burnt.

MANDY

I thought we fixed that? We can't
send dangerous toys to kids.

SPEEDLE

The temperature gauges aren't
working. Maybe handmade toys
aren't so bad.

TWINKLE

Don't be an idiot! Mandy, are you
going to put up with that?

MANDY

Don't talk to him like that. He's
an elf. Have some respect.

TWINKLE

He's a moron.

The three elves square off.

TWEEDLE

Dude, you are climbing down the
wrong chimney my friend.

SPEEDLE

You know, you got some nerve
walking in here and --

Mandy gets between all of them.

MANDY

Okay! Guys, just make sure the kids don't break any equipment.

TWEEDLE

Mandy, those kids are brain-dead. They've been testing the betas for like, forty-eight hours straight. I'm not sure all this video stuff is good for them.

MANDY

Just, just get out there and try to be... merry.

TWEEDLE AND SPEEDLE

Merry?

MANDY

Yeah. You know, Christmas?

TWEEDLE

You're talking like you want to go back to the North Pole.

MANDY

Just get going.

Speedle and Tweedle glare at Twinkle as they exit.

TWINKLE

Okay, where we're we?

MANDY

I don't remember. Man, this is harder than I thought. How does Santa do this?

TWINKLE

Soon you won't have to worry about it. I was talking to Sandi and --

Mandy suddenly perks up.

MANDY

Sandi? How is she? I sent her a letter trying to explain, but it got returned. The mail system here is, well, its New Jersey. How is she?

TWINKLE

She's fine, but they are only making one toy this year.

MANDY

Really? What is it? Is it fun. I'll bet if Sandi makes a toy it will be great. You know we've been friends for, oh gosh, I can't count the years. I feel so bad about --

TWINKLE

Forget Sandi! Listen, in her desperation to win the contest, she climbed Sugar Candy Mountain to get --

MANDY

What?! She could have been killed! This is all my fault. If I wasn't so competitive --

TWINKLE

Listen! She got the plans for the Yowie Zowie.

MANDY

She did? Are they going to make it? That will be the best Christmas ever!

TWINKLE

No, they are not going to make it. You are.

MANDY

What are you talking about?

TWINKLE

A high-tech Yowie Zowie!

MANDY

How? I don't have the plans.

Twinkle takes out the tube.

TWINKLE

You do now.

MANDY

She gave them to you? Why would she do that?

TWINKLE

She didn't exactly give them to me.
I stole them.

MANDY

What?! You stole! But, but,
that's dishonest!

TWINKLE

You know what? I'm starting to
think you aren't up to this whole X-
MAZ thing.

MANDY

You stole from my best friend? Who
do you think you are?

TWINKLE

Don't you want to impress all the
elves who came with you?

MANDY

Those elves came with me because
they wanted kids to be happy!

TWINKLE

Whatever. They came here because
they think Christmas is stupid!

MANDY

You're a fraud!

TWINKLE

You're an idiot!

MANDY

You... you... ARRRGH!

Mandy rushes toward Twinkle.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mandy runs after Twinkle and tackles him amid zombie-like
kids playing video games. She snatches the tube and starts
whacking him over the head with it.

MANDY

You will not disrespect me or
Christmas! (whack) And you will
certainly not disrespect my best
friend! (whack).

TWINKLE

Let me go! Keep the stupid plans!
I don't want any part of this!

Twinkle breaks free. Mandy regards the tube for a moment and then chucks it at Twinkle nailing him in the head. He holds his head but keeps running. Mandy chases him.

MANDY

That's right! I'm gonna rain down
yuletide! It's Kringle-palooza, my
friend!

As Mandy runs, she bumps into one of the zombie kids knocking the laser gun out of his hand. The laser continues to fire onto the tube which has fallen to the ground. Mandy jumps over the tube after Twinkle.

TWINKLE

I'm going back to the North Pole to
tell Santa what you're doing!

Twinkle runs out of the door. Mandy comes to the door and shouts.

MANDY

Yeah? I hope you get eaten by a
polar bear!

Mandy slams the door and turns around. She sees that the tube has now caught on fire from the intense laser heat.

MANDY

The Yowie Zowie... save it!

Mandy runs to save the tube, but the fire soon lights up a video game. Zombie kids start to slowly move toward the door, bumping into Mandy along the way.

MANDY

Out of the way! Everyone move
quietly to the exit!

Speedle, Tweedle and all the other elves come running toward Mandy.

SPEEDLE

Mandy we have to get out of here!

MANDY

But the plans! Sandi needs them
for Christmas!

Speedle and Tweedle hold Mandy back.

TWEEDLE

Forget it! This place is going to
blow!

MANDY

But Sandi needs...

SPEEDLE

The only thing Sandi needs it you!
Let's roll!

They all run for the exit. Mandy glances over her shoulder
to see the tube burn to a crisp.

EXT. NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE - MOMENTS LATER

Mandy and elves watch the X-MAZ factory burn from a distance.

SANDI (V.O.)

Someone can tell when their best
friend is in trouble. It's kind of
like, well, it's like magic.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Sandi coordinates the building of the race car. She gets a
distant look in her eye and gazes out the window.

MANDY (V.O.)

Someone once said that love means
not having to say your sorry. I
don't know much about love, but
when a best friend messes up, she
better say sorry. At least that's
what I plan to do.

EXT. NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE - NIGHT

Mandy and the elves stick out their thumbs to try to hitch a
ride. It's cold, rainy and no one stops.

SANDI (V.O.)

If you really miss your best
friend, I guess that means you're
still best friends. As least, I
hope we are.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Sandi comes out of the workshop, shivers and buttons her coat. She slowly walks down Main Street.

MANDY (V.O.)

The great feminist philosopher Gloria Steinem once said, "I woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." And if I had a bicycle, I'd run over Twinkle's head. Then I'd ride it right to Sandi's house.

In the distance, Sandi sees a collection of bedraggled elves coming up the street. They spot Sandi and rush toward her and soon jump up and down with joy.

ELVES

Sandi, Sandi! North Pole, North Pole! Yeah!

All the elves run into the workshop. A bewildered Sandi watches them go. As she turns back, she sees a dirty, exhausted Mandy standing in the middle of the snow covered street.

Sandi walks slowly toward her and then breaks into a run. They embrace in the street as tears roll down their cheeks.

INT. SANDI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mandy and Sandi sit at the table polishing off some Nog.

MANDY

He's a p.i.g. pig!

SANDI

How could I have fallen for him?

MANDY

A complete ego maniac. When he told me that he actually stole the plans for the Y.Z. from you I threw a tea pot at him.

SANDI

You did?

MANDY

And other assorted dish ware.

SANDI
How can he call him self and elf?
Caveman.

MANDY
He's disturbed. Truly.

SANDI
He's a self-hating elf. What are
you gonna do?

MANDY
Your toy would have rocked. All
your toys rule.

SANDI
No, you had the tech advantage.
You're the best. Everybody knows
it.

MANDY
You are the heart and soul of
Christmas! I'm in awe of you.

SANDI
Oh come on. You keep things fresh.
The North Pole needs you... I need
you.

They smile at each other.

MANDY
Are we a team again?

SANDI
Yep. We just have to get through
this Christmas. Oh! I almost
forgot!

MANDY
What?!

SANDI
Guess who is all amped up for
Mistletoe Lane?

MANDY
Who?

SANDI
I'll give you one hundred guesses
and you'll never guess.

MANDY
Just tell me! Dish it, girl!

SANDI
Lester!

There is a brief silence and then they both burst into laughter.

MANDY
Get out!

SANDI
He's going to wear lederhosen!

More laughter.

MANDY
You're lying!

SANDI
It's true!

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Santa strolls down the street. He stops to listen to the laughter. He likes what he hears.

SANTA
(under his breath)
Ho, ho, ho.

He walks away with a skip in his step.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Mandy and Sandi strut through the front door of the workshop and are greeted by excited elves as they work their way past various toy stations.

SPANKY
Hey! Look who's back!

SANDI
That's right folks. The yuletide twosome is back!

PINKY
Mandy! Are we going to tech-up the shop? Go digital?

MANDY

What for? Sandi's got everything we need to rock this Christmas.

WIENER

Do we have enough time?

SANDI

Are you kidding? Mandy's back. Time is no longer a concern. She's a production monster!

WINKY

How are we possibly going to finish?

MANDY

Together my man. A shop full of elves, rocking the code, we can't fail.

Sandi and Mandy stop and high five.

TWINKLE

Yeah? Well what if you've lost the touch? If you two can't save Christmas, I guess we'll have to get jobs somewhere else.

The crowd waits for a response.

MANDY

Because it's not about us my little emotionally challenged male. It's about Christmas and all the elves who make it happen.

TWINKLE

Prove it.

MANDY

You asked for it. Hit it Pinky!

Again the workshop is filled with Old School funk music. Mandy and Sandi grab Billy and Willie and take them to the center of the workshop.

Suddenly, all four elves bust out the same dance moves in perfect synchronization.

Soon the rest of the shop joins in with a perfect dance sequence. Twinkle sulks and walks away.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

All the elves stand gathered around on table with a race car.

SANDI
Well, there it is. The only toy
this year.

MANDY
Wow! Who painted it red?

SPANKY
I did.

MANDY
That's radical! Red cars are
always super fast!

SPANKY
She likes it! Hey, thanks Mandy.

MANDY
You're the bomb SPANKY.

SPANKY
(embarrassed)
Wow... a bomb. Cool.

SANDI
I'm thinking it just needs
something else. I just can't
figure it out.

MANDY
Hold up. Tweeter, get my tool box.
I've got an idea.

TWEETER
Roger!

TWEETER exits.

SANDI
What's up?

MANDY
I've got something that might help.

TWEETER returns with the toolbox. Mandy opens it.

MANDY
I had a bunch of these extra lights
left over from a game I was working
on.

Mandy wires up the car and then takes out a remote control

MANDY

Now, let's see how this looks.

Mandy presses a button and a few cheesy lights come on the car. There is a silence and then a sudden scream from behind.

GRANDPA

That's it! You did it!

Grandma pushes Grandpa on his chair through the crowd.

GRANDPA

You did it!

MANDY

Uh, did what?

GRANDPA

Yowie Zowie! Yowie Zowie!

SANDI

Grandpa what are you talking about?

GRANDPA

Look at that toy! Yowie Zowie!

SANDI

We made a Yowie Zowie?

MANDY

That's a Y.Z?

Grandma just smiles patiently.

SANDI

Grandma what's going on?

GRANDMA

Don't you understand? Yowie Zowie is what you say when toy fills a heart with joy. And your Grandfather knows this toy was made with love.

SANDI

You knew that the whole time?

GRANDMA

And now you know.

Sandi and Grandma hug. Lester arrives.

LESTER

Well, now that we have that settled, we better get to work! Three days until Christmas! Let's go!

MANDY

And remember the code!

Everyone looks at Mandy.

MANDY

Um, don't be naughty, try to be nice... because you want a cool toy... not fried rice.

Everyone cheers and rushes to their stations.

MANDY

(to self)

That can't be right.

INT. MAIN STREET - EVENING

All of Santa's village gathers as the sleigh is loaded up with the blinking race cars. Skipper lashes a huge container of hydrocheerfulous to the bottom. Santa climbs onto the sleigh and the crowd cheers.

SANTA

I want to thank all of you for working so hard. Ho, ho! I have a feeling this is going to be the best Christmas ever! And now, off to bring happiness to kids everywhere! On Dasher, on Blitzen! On, um, let's go!

The sleigh takes off in a rush and the whole village waves goodbye. Sandi and Mandy watch hopefully.

SANDI

What do you think?

MANDY

I don't know. One toy for every kid? It's gonna take a miracle.

SANDI

We did our best. And we did it together.

MANDY

That's right. Hey, look at that.

They glance over to see Lester chatting up another cute elf. He pulls out his flask of nog and offers some to her. She hits his hand and a nog splashes all over his face.

SANDI

That's the spirit Les!

MANDY

Yeah, don't give up on miracles!

Sandi and Mandy exit laughing.

MONTAGE

(A) Santa's sleigh travels over a small town and barnstorms down the main street. Santa pulls a lever and the tank of hydrocheerfulous sprays out like a crop duster.

(B) Santa places toy cars under a Christmas tree. He wears a huge tank on his back labeled "X-tra Cheer." Before he heads up the chimney, he takes a nozzle off the tank and blasts the room with the cheer.

(C) The sleigh sits parked next to the town water reservoir. Santa unloads a stack of huge round tablets labeled "Pepto Cheer." He flings them into the water one by one.

(D) Santa pushes a cart filled with yellow boxes down a supermarket aisle. He stops at the cereal section and then clears out all of the Cherrios and replaces them with his own boxes of "Cheer-os." On his way out, he spots some Cheer laundry detergent. He scratches his head, shrugs and leaves.

(E) Santa sits next to a chimney. From his belt, he takes out a hand grenade labeled, "cheerboom." He pulls the pin with his teeth, throws it down the chimney and they yell, "Fire in the HO, HO, HO!"

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - MORNING

All of the elves sleep on the floor of the shop awaiting Santa's return.

Sandi sits watching the sun come up. She nudges Mandy.

MANDY

Huh? What's going on?

SANDI
Sun's up.

MANDY
Where's Santa?

The sound of the sleigh landing is heard.

SANDI
Come on!

They get up and run out the door.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Mandy and Sandy see Santa getting off his sleigh and run to him.

MANDY
Santa what happened!?

SANTA
Well, it was a little extra work this year, but all of the nice children got the toy. A few of the naughty ones too, but that will be our secret.

SANDI
But did the toys make it a merry Christmas?! It was only one toy.

Santa gives Sandi a curious look.

SANTA
You think Christmas is about toys?
Hmm, that's interesting.

Shouts and cheers are heard from the workshop. Mandy and Sandi rush back inside.

INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

The elves stand gathered by a television set. Mandy and Sandi arrive to watch as a REPORTER explains the atmosphere of Christmas Day.

REPORTER
As you can see, these kids are having a wonderful time despite the fact that they all received the same gift from Santa.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Let's talk to little BOBBY and SALLY here. Hey kids, aren't you disappointed that you got the same present?

SALLY

No way! This is the best toy ever!

All the elves clap enthusiastically.

REPORTER

Bobby, what do you have to say about the sudden disappearance of the holiday known as X-MAZ? Don't you think that those toys would have been more fun?

BOBBY

What? Christmas isn't about the toys. What's wrong with you? You're a grown up, don't you know that?

SALLY

Yeah, didn't Santa bring you some Christmas cheer?

REPORTER

No, it's just that --

BOBBY

Do you want to play with my race car? I'll share.

REPORTER

Oh no, I... Yowie Zowie that is a cool looking car!

SALLY

Hey everybody! This grown up just learned about Christmas cheer!

The news camera swings around to show a suburban neighborhood with people making snowmen, caroling and so on. All the people wave for the camera.

REPORTER

Well, there you have it. This confirms all the reports we've heard from our affiliate stations around the globe. This has been the best Christmas in history.

SALLY
Come on Mister! Yowie Zowie!

REPORTER
Oh boy! Okay, I gotta go. Peace
out and peace on Earth!

The reporter drops his mic and runs over to play with the kids. The t.v. shuts off and all of the elves dance and sing.

Suddenly everyone stares up to the balcony where Santa has appeared. A hush, and then...

SANTA
Ho, ho! I wanted to say, you did a
great job this year!

Cheers and hoots.

SANTA
What you all proved was... if you
follow the code, Christmas will
live for ever!

The elves start to cheer and then it peters-out
embarrassingly.

LESTER
Sir, if you don't mind, do you
think maybe, uh...

SANTA
Ho, ho! Tell us Lester!

LESTER
Do you think maybe, um, you could
give us a little refresher on the
code. I think that, uh, we'd all
love to hear you say it... for old
time's sake.

SANTA
The Code of the Candy Cane? Sure!

All the elves perk up. Some take out note pads, microphones and laptops to record the code. The anticipation is thick. Santa clears his throat, puts his hands high in the air and...

SANTA
MERRY CHRISTMAS! HO, HO HO! See?
It's easy!

There is a stunning silence and then a burst of celebration.

SANTA
Now, let's hit the beach!

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - DAY

All of the elves play beach volleyball. Lester serves as the referee being persnickety about rules and such.

LESTER
No, that was out! I saw it! Are you going to argue? Get over there and serve the ball before I put coal in your stockings. Oh, you don't think I will?

The ball is served again. After an intense rally, it's hit high above the net. Mandy puts Sandi on her shoulders for the spike. Willie and Billy put Twinkle up for the block and Sandi smashes the ball into Twinkle's face.

LESTER
That's game!

Lester jumps down from the referee stand and puts his arm around a cute elf. She pecks him on the cheek.

LESTER
Mistletoe? Who needs mistletoe?

The walk away hand in hand.

EXT. BEACH BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Mandy and Sandi jump up onto bar stools.

SANDI
Hey Mack! Can we get the usual?

MACK (O.C.)
You got it!

Mandy and Sandi watch the beach scene with satisfied smiles on their faces. Two tropical drinks and two hamburgers arrive on the bar and they eagerly start to slurp.

MANDY (V.O.)
All I can say is, if you don't have a best friend... get one. A best friend will be there for all of life's little surprises.

Mandy begins to salt her burger when the lid comes off the shaker covering her burger with salt. Sandi giggles to herself.

SANDI (V.O.)

You may already have a best friend
and you just don't know it. You
just need to look closely. She
might be there right in front of
your face.

Mandy takes out a large remote control and presses a big red button. A mechanical arm flies up from behind the bar smashing Sandi in the face with a cream pie.

Mandy and Sandi look at each other, burst into laughter and then hug.

FADE OUT.