

Naughty and Nice

Example Draft - Lorenzo Antonio Hall

Six Pages

Page One (4 panels)

Panel 1 - Establishing the scene is the image of a pair of figures walking through the snow, towards the reader. Leading is a taller, goat-horned young woman in her early 20s, wearing a cloak that is buttoned up, covering her from the mouth down, only parting at her legs. Her outfit is red and coal black with black boots, with only white fur trim near the top of her collar. Her expression is understated, to communicate a lack of interest in the cold or her surroundings. She is carrying a large sack. Behind her is a young woman with white hair, dressed in a white and red trimmed outfit. She is shorter with blue eyes and bearing a snow globe in one hand and a staff with a lantern in the other, though she has a weary expression and hunched over. Her breath is seen as clouds.

(A) **SFX**
 Pant *Pant* *Huff*

Panel 2 - Same as Panel 1, but the girl in the foreground, Berch, has stopped walking. She's turned her head to look at and talk to Holly, who has gotten closer.

Berch
You okay?

Holly
Y-yeah, I just need a minute to catch my breath.

Panel 3- The image is Berch looking back, next to her is three periods and a look of exasperation is on her face at seeing how far Holly is pushing herself.

Panel 4- The same as the previous, though Berch's eyes are closed and she's sighing.

Berch
How about we set up camp instead?

Page Two (7 panels)

Panel 1 - Holly is to the left, now closer to Berch. She's leaning against her staff, her face illuminated by the lantern. She is dismayed and insistent while Berch is as calm as before.

(A) **Holly**

Are you sure? What about Yukon Village? We're just two hours away.

(B) **Berch**

We're ahead of schedule. One night's wait won't harm the villagers.

Panel 2 - We see Berch putting the sack down on the icy ground before opening it up, speaking as she does..

(C) **Berch**

I'll start us a fire and make some drinks.

Panel 3 - Close up of Holly's face. She seems a little dismayed, looking down in disappointment.

(D) **Holly**

You're right, Berch. I'll get our tents set up.

Panel 4- Berch is leaving the sack as Holly heads towards it. From the panel one can see Berch holding a single piece of coal in one hand and a smaller bag of twigs and sticks in the other.

Panel 5 - Berch is shown staring at the coal in her hand.

Panel 6 - The panel only shows her hand, the coal glows red and orange before it is set aflame, her hand and gloves unaffected.

Panel 7 - Berch drops the coal onto the sticks and leaves over a silver tarp, now with a fire starting.

Page Three (5 panels)

Panel 1 - Berch is seen sitting against a small snowbank atop a stool, her fire in front of her. There is another stool next to her. In her hands are two coffee mugs while she looks at the fire in front of her. The snow globe is close to the fire while Holly's staff is behind her.

Panel 2 - Shows Holly walking in from the left, with Berch facing her. Berch's arm is extended with one mug in hand.

(A) **Holly**
Phew! All done with the tents!

(B) **Berch**
Good. Have this.

Panel 3 - Holly is holding the mug in her hands, her eyes starry as she looks at it, two large marshmallows floating in the cocoa.

(C) **Holly**
Oooh, thank you! You even added marshmallows! Thanks, Berch!

(D) **Berch, from Off Panel**
No problem.

(E) **Holly**
So how's your cocoa?

Panel 4 - Shows Berch drinking from her mug, the drink still steaming. She's facing forward, the aurora above her visible in the sky.

(F) **Berch**
It's coffee. I'm keeping watch first.

Panel 5 - Shows Holly with a hand raised, about to speak.

(G) **Holly**
But-

(H) **Berch, from Off Panel**
No buts.

Page Four (5 panels)

Panel 1 - Shows Holly with a sheepish, almost pleading expression, trying to be helpful.

(A) **Holly**
Are you su-

(B) **Berch**
Yes. .

Panel 2 - Berch is looking at Holly seriously, her mug removed from her lips, revealing her black lipstick. Steam is still rising from her mug

(C) **Berch**
You have to learn to pace yourself.

Panel 3 - Showing Holly looking down, an apologetic look on her face. Her gaze is on her drink, looking at the brown surface.

(D) **Holly**
Sorry. It's just I want to make sure everyone can get what they asked for. What if one of them leaves town tomorrow? It'd be my fault if they missed their present.

Panel 4 - Berch is giving Holly a knowing, slightly amused look. Her stern expression has been replaced by one of faint amusement.

(E) **Berch**
All things in time. For now, worry about yourself. Though I have to ask, why are you so worried about them getting their gifts so soon?

Panel 5 - Holly is looking upwards, her face hopeful, illuminated by the aurora above. She's remembering something tender. Berch is still looking at her, feeling curious.

(F) **Holly**
Do you remember when Papa gave me my first real gift in the workshop?

(G) **Berch**
The wooden train?

Page Five - (4 panels)

Panel 1- Panel shows Holly looking skyward still, with Berch looking at her too, a smile on her face as Holly speaks.

(A) **Holly**

"Mhm! I just remember how nice it felt. He told me how he spent all year carving it himself. The elves helped and made sure to check his work twice, but it was nice he made it just for me. It was the first thing he gave me, and I remember how glad I was...Mama told me just how he did the same thing for everyone else. I always think about the time it took and the hard work, but in the end it was worth it."

Panel 2- Berch is also looking upwards, her own smile genuine, warm memories of Mr. Claus in mind too

(B) **Berch**

Mr. Claus is pretty special. He'll be proud when he finds out how much you're doing.

Panel 3- Holly is looking at Berch, visibly excited. She's leaning towards her, focused with tender warmth on her friend. Berch is looking at her in surprise, not expecting any words of kindness.

(C) **Holly**

You too! After all your letters you wrote to the kids on the naughty list, almost none of them were on there the next year.

Panel 4- Berch is blushing, her expression bashful as she tries not to look at Holly, unable to handle praise as Holly leans in, pointing to her.

(D) **Berch**

Sometimes a little sternness goes a long way.

(E) **Holly**

No way! Papa told me you made sure to remind them they can be better. Even if you didn't give them a gift, the fact someone cared is a present. I bet some of them hung on to the coal you used to hold down their letters.

(F) **Berch**

"...You're too nice, Holly."

Page Six - (5 Panels)

Panel 1 - A close up of Holly hugging Berch, Holly's eyes are closed as she embraces Berch, who is looking down with a faint smile.

(A) **Holly**
I try! And tomorrow I hope everyone in Yukon Village will have the same cheer!"

(B) **Berch**
I hope so too...Just promise me one present too.

Panel 2 - Holly looks up at Berch, curiosity in her eyes as she stares at her friend's face.

(C) **Holly**
Wait, a present? I'm not sure it'll be in the sack, but if I can get it for you, then of course!

Panel 3 - Holly looks up at Berch, curiosity in her eyes as she stares at her friend's face.

(D) **Berch**
Promise me you won't push yourself too hard. I'll be there with you, but I want my friend to be healthy and make people happy.

Panel 4 - Holly has stopped hugging Berch, but is still close to her, a genuine, reassuring smile on her face.

(E) **Holly**
Okay, I'll go a little easier. I'll rest up after I finish this cocoa. Then I can be up bright and early for tomorrow!"

Panel 5 - The final image shows both Holly and Berch in front of the fire, staring onward, the aurora above them and a twinkling star in the distance.

(F) **Berch**
That's all I can ask for.