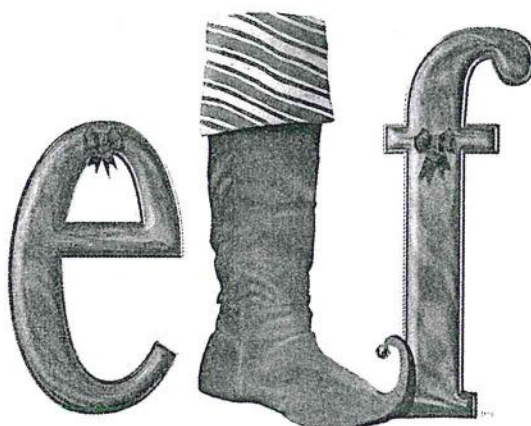


Master

LIBRETTO VOCAL BOOK



The Musical

Book by **Thomas Meehan** and **Bob Martin**

Music by **Matthew Sklar**

Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by **David Berenbaum**



MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL

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(Last Revised – July 2019)

CHARACTERS

BUDDY

JOVIE

WALTER HOBBS

EMILY HOBBS

MICHAEL HOBBS

DEB

MANAGER

MR. GREENWAY

SANTA CLAUS

ENSEMBLE:

ELVES, CUSTOMERS, FAKE SANTAS,

SECURITY GUARDS, EMPLOYEES, etc.

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**ACT ONE
PRELUDE**

#0 – Overture

The OVERTURE ends and the CURTAIN RISES on the living room of a snowy cottage at the North Pole. A large, inviting easy chair and a television dominate the room. SANTA CLAUS is discovered sitting in the easy chair beside a TV table on which there is a pitcher of eggnog and a bowl of Doritos. He looks slightly disheveled. His jacket and boots are off; he is wearing his red pants, a t-shirt and suspenders. He picks up the remote and clicks it.

SANTA

I don't believe it.
(calling off stage)
It happened again!

MRS. CLAUS

(off stage)
What happened again?

SANTA

The DVR thing. It didn't tape the football game I was gonna watch. East Carolina vs. Boise state.

MRS. CLAUS

(off stage)
Oh.

SANTA

(calling off stage)
What did I do wrong?

MRS. CLAUS

(off stage)
I don't know, dear.

SANTA

(calling off stage)
I mean, I can fly around the world in one night but I can't set the DVR! What's wrong with me?

MRS. CLAUS

(off stage)

I don't know, dear.

He turns off the TV.

Hey. They'll be here at six.

SANTA

(to audience)

In-laws. They come every year on Christmas day. I finish my rounds, just start to unwind, then the door bursts open and the kids run in, start dancing with the elves and the elves get into the eggnog and start riding the reindeer. Now, don't get me wrong; I'm a big fan of Christmas. It's just, well, I had fifty bucks on Boise. What am I complaining about? It's Christmas! Let's read a Christmas story.

(He picks up a large book)

Ah. Here's one. The story of Buddy the Elf—

#1 – *Happy All The Time**

—well, he *thought* he was an elf—we'll get to that part. Oh! You know what? Before we start I'm going to turn off my cell phone. It's pretty irritating when one of these things goes off in the middle of a story. Gonna unwrap my candies now too. Okay. It begins once upon a time, in a little village here at the North Pole called Christmas Town. Now this town is unique for two reasons: One, there's no Starbucks; and two: everyone who lives here is a elf.

ACT ONE
SCENE 1

(SANTA)

CHRISTMAS ELVES ENJOY THEMSELVES BY DONNING GAY APPAREL
OR BY SINGING SONGS IN SANTA'S SHOP

ELVES

FA LA LA LA LA!

SANTA

OF COURSE I ALWAYS LIKE IT WHEN THEY SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL
I LIKE IT EVEN BETTER WHEN THEY STOP

NIGHT AND DAY THEY DANCE AND PLAY,
THEY NEVER SLEEP MUCH EITHER
WOULD SOME PEACE AND QUIET BE A CRIME?
OF COURSE I LOVE EACH ONE OF THEM,
BUT SANTA NEEDS A BREATHER
BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST SO HAPPY ALL THE TIME

THEY'RE ODDLY

SANTA & ELVES

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

UNGODLY

SANTA & ELVES

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

WHEN THEY SING UNTIL THEIR BLUISH
SANTA WISHES HE WERE JEWISH

CAUSE THEY'RE

SANTA & ELVES

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

I SWEAR THEY'RE

SANTA & ELVES

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

BIZARRELY HAPPY ALL THE TIME!

(Reveal ELVES. They yell, "Hi, Santa! We love you, Santa!" Etc.)

ELF #1

WE'VE BEEN KNOWN TO SMILE SO WIDE THAT YOU CAN SEE EACH MOLAR

SANTA

SOMETIMES THEY PREFER TO SPEAK IN RHYME

ELF #2

It's sublime!

ELF #1

WE'VE ONLY BEEN TO ONE POLE

SANTA

BUT THEY STILL MIGHT BE BIPOLAR

ELVES

BECAUSE WE'RE CRAZY HAPPY ALL THE TIME!

IT'S STRANGE WE'RE
HAPPY ALL THE TIME
BALL-CHANGE! WE'RE
HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

AND EVERY SINGLE ELF THAT HAS HANDS
HAS TO TURN THEM INTO JAZZ HANDS

ELVES

CAUSE WE'RE
HAPPY ALL THE TIME
IT'S CLEAR WE'RE
HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

THEY'RE JUST SO HAPPY

ELVES

ALL THE TIME

SANTA

BUT THERE'S AN ELF CALLED BUDDY
WHO MAKES THEM LOOK APATHETIC

ELVES

IF HE WERE ANY SWEETER WE MIGHT END UP DIABETIC

SANTA

HE'S EVERYBODY'S BUDDY,
BUT HE'LL LEAVE YOUR EAR DRUMS RINGING

SANTA & ELVES

'CAUSE EVERYWHERE HE GOES HE HAS TO
TELL THE WORLD HE'S SINGING!

BUDDY bursts cheerfully on upstage center and runs down to join SANTA and the assembled ELVES.

BUDDY

ELVES

I'M SINGING!

Buddy!

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS AND

I'M SINGING!

FA LA LA LA LA

AND I LOVE SANTA SO

I'M SINGING!

SINGING

BUDDY

Santa!

SANTA

You know Buddy, that just cuts through my brain like a knife.

BUDDY

I'm sorry.

(hugs him hard)

Can I give you a hug?

SANTA

You ask first, then hug. Remember?

BUDDY

Sorry.

SANTA

Just...

(gestures for him to step away)

...personal space. Take a breath.

BUDDY

(takes a breath)

Can I sing now?

SANTA

Sure.

BUDDY

(Loudly into SANTA's face)

YOU KNOW I'M
HAPPY ALL THE TIME
HELLO? I'M
HAPPY ALL THE TIME
AND CHRISTMASTOWN IS HEAVEN
SO HELLO FROM CLOUD ELEVEN

I'M SO

ALL

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

GUNG HO AND

ALL

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

SANTA

HE'S FREAKY HAPPY

ALL

ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

MY LIPS ARE HAPPY
MY THUMBS ARE HAPPY
MY HIPS ARE HAPPY
MY GUMS ARE HAPPY

MY CRANIUM AND MY SPLEEN ARE HAPPY
AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN IS HAPPY
I'M HAPPY DOWN TO THE FOOD I EAT
LIKE A PENGUIN I'VE GOT HAPPY FEET

BUDDY starts tap dancing. The Toy Factory whistles goes off, signalling the start of the work day.

SANTA

Buddy. Enough with the dancing. You've got toys to make. We're in the home stretch. The big day is only two weeks away! Let's pick up the pace!

(as he exits)

Don't forget: every child in the world is depending on you! No pressure...

BUDDY

Yay! Time to go to work! Yay!

DID I MENTION I'M

ELVES

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

I LIKE ATTENTION!

ELVES

HE'S HAPPY ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

MAKING TOYS IS SO APPEALING
THAT I SPEND EACH MORNING SQUEALING

ELVES

TRUE HE'S

ALL

HAPPY ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

WHO KNEW? I'M

ALL

HAPPY ALL THE TIME
HE'S UNNATURALLY HAPPY ALL THE TIME

BUDDY

(Under the last note)

HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, ETC.

ALL

HAPPY ALL THE TIME!

ACT ONE

SCENE 2

BUDDY and the other elves are at Santa's Workshop, an assembly line on which the elves make all of Santa's toys.

#1a - Let's Make Toys!

The hands of a large clock move to indicate the passage of time - it's soon later in the day.

BUDDY is making Etch-A-Sketches clumsily. Pieces fly from his table. CHARLIE walks along the line.

CHARLIE

How you doing, Buddy?

BUDDY

Um, fine Charlie, but....I guess I'm gonna be a little short on today's quota.

CHARLIE

That's all right, Buddy. Just tell me, how many Etch-A-Sketches did you get finished?

(BUDDY embarrassed, fights back tears)

C'mon, Buddy, how many?

BUDDY

I made, uh, eighty-five!

MUSIC out as all ELVES gasp and stare at BUDDY

CHARLIE

(snaps open his work schedule scroll)

Eighty-five? It's ten a.m. and you've only made eighty-five?

BUDDY

Why don't you just say it? I'm the worst toy maker in the whole wide world. I'm a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins.

CHARLIE

You're not a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins. You have lots of talents, uh, special talents in fact, like, uh...

(to the OTHERS)

...special talents?

BOY ELF

You're the best Basketball player in the whole North Pole!

ELF #1

Even better than Santa!

ELF #2

And you're the only baritone in the Jinglesingers! You bring us down a whole octave.

ELF #3

In a good way!

CHARLIE

See, Buddy? You're not a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins. You're just....special.

THE ELVES

Yes, special!

CHARLIE

Hey, these elves are getting pretty thirsty. Would you mind doing a round with the cocoa cart?

BUDDY

Yay! Cocoa cart! Cocoa cart!

BUDDY leaves. CHARLIE motions to TIARA to join him.

CHARLIE

Hey, Tiara.

TIARA

Yeah, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I hate to do this to you but do you think you could pick up the slack with those Etch-A-Sketches?

BUDDY returns immediately with the cocoa cart. He listens, unnoticed by CHARLIE and TIARA.

TIARA

No problem.

CHARLIE

I appreciate it. Buddy's killing me.

TIARA

Hey, that was quick thinking with that 'special talents' thing.

CHARLIE

I feel bad for the big guy. I just hope he doesn't get wise.

TIARA

Well, if he hasn't figured out by now that he's a human I don't think he ever will.

BUDDY

Human?!? I'm human?

CHARLIE

Oh no.

(to another elf)

Get Santa!

BUDDY

You said I'm human!

CHARLIE

No. No.

TIARA

No, not you Buddy. We we're talking about some other Buddy. Some Buddy....else.

BUDDY

(not believing them)

No you weren't! I'm not happy!

BUDDY exits. TIARA and CHARLIE are left alone on stage.

CHARLIE

Way to go, Tiara. You broke his heart.

TIARA

What, you think I meant to do that?

CHARLIE

Well, it is kind of a hobby of yours, isn't it?

CHARLIE storms off, obviously upset.

TIARA

(following him)

Charlie! Do *not* make this about us!

ACT ONE

SCENE 3

BUDDY runs outside. He's clearly upset.

#1b – Not Happy All The Time

BUDDY

(singing sadly)

MY LIPS AREN'T HAPPY
MY THUMBS AREN'T HAPPY
MY HIPS AREN'T HAPPY
MY GUMS AREN'T HAPPY

SANTA arrives, accompanied by panicky elves.

SANTA

Buddy...

BUDDY

Santa? Is it true what they said? Am I human.

SANTA

Good question.

SANTA walks BUDDY over to a snow drift.

Here. Sit on Santa's lap.

#1c – Sit on Santa's Lap

I have to tell you a story

(reacting to his weight)

Oh. You're a big boy. Once upon a time there was this young woman, Susan Welles she had a baby, but she passed away soon after he was born. That baby was put in an orphanage and one Christmas night he crawled into my toy sack and I brought him back here by mistake. The Elves took him in, raised him as one of their own.

BUDDY

Really? Where is he? Is it Charlie?

SANTA

Buddy, it's you! It's your story!

BUDDY

I'm not an elf; I'm a human. And I'm an orphan. Just like Annie!

SANTA

Not exactly. You have a human father, but he never knew that you were born. He lives in a far-away land called New York City.

SANTA takes out a New York city snow globe and hands it to BUDDY.

And he works...

(points to the globe)

...right there, in the Empire State Building.

BUDDY

In there? He must be teeny-tiny!

SANTA

Trust me, it's actually a very tall building.

BUDDY tries to give the snow globe back but SANTA stops him.

Keep it. It's a gift from me.

BUDDY

Thank you, Santa.

ELVES

Awwwwwww.

SANTA turns to the gathered elves.

SANTA

All right, break it up. Nothing to see here. Back to work.

BUDDY

What's my dad like?

SANTA

Oh. Well, he's a very successful man. An executive. He publishes children's books.

BUDDY

Oh!

SANTA

But I should tell you, he, uh....well, he's on the Naughty List.

BUDDY

No! What did he do? Did he wet the bed?

SANTA

No, he didn't wet the —look, he just doesn't believe in me anymore.

BUDDY

Doesn't believe in you? Is he insane?

SANTA

No, like a lot of human beings these days, he's just lost the Christmas Spirit.

BUDDY

But Christmas Spirit is what makes your sleigh fly!

SANTA

I know. It's becoming a problem.

He looks into the snow globe.

Buddy, it's time you went there to meet him. I'm going to miss you, that's for sure, but you're like a bird; a big hairy bird and it's time that you left the nest.

BUDDY

But I don't want to go to New York. I'm scared.

SANTA

There's nothing to be scared of. New York's a great place. But there's one thing that should know. And it's very important.

BUDDY

What?

SANTA

There are like seven Ray's pizzas and they all say they are the original, but the real one's on Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street.

BUDDY

Okay. Which direction is New York?

SANTA walks BUDDY upstage to an iceberg.

SANTA

It's south. We're at the North Pole, Buddy; everything is South. Just head south until you find yourself in a big, smelly, industrial wasteland.

BUDDY

And that's New York?

SANTA

No, that's New Jersey. Then you just go through the Lincoln Tunnel and you're there.

BUDDY steps onto a small ice floe. MUSIC begins under as BUDDY begins to float away.

#2 - World's Greatest Dad

(SANTA)

Bye, Buddy. Take care.

BUDDY

Bye, Santa. Oh, hey, what's my Dad's name?

SANTA

Hobbs. Walter Hobbs.

BUDDY

Hobbs? Then I must be Buddy Hobbs!

(uncertain)

Yay!

Scene 3 ends as BUDDY remains on stage while the set changes around him and we transition into...

ACT ONE
SCENE 4

BUDDY stands alone on the ice floe at the edge of a body of water. He travels from the North Pole to midtown Manhattan.

(BUDDY)

(at first tentative, frightened, shivering; then gradually gaining confidence as he goes)

A DAD WHO'S A MILLION MILES AWAY
WHEN HE MEETS ME, WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL SEE
BUT DEEP DOWN I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID
'CAUSE HE'S BOUND TO BE A LOT LIKE ME

AND WE'LL MAKE ANGELS IN THE SNOW
TILL THE SNOW BEGINS TO BLOW
THEN WE'LL RUN INSIDE AND START A TICKLE FIGHT

AND IF IT'S TOO COLD TO SLED
WE'LL EAT GINGERBREAD INSTEAD
AND THEN CUDDLE TILL HE TUCKS ME IN AT NIGHT

AND WE'LL HAVE OUR PICTURES TAKEN
FOR THE CHRISTMAS CARDS WE'RE MAKIN'
HIM AND ME IN SUITS OF MATCHING PLAID

AND WHEN PEOPLE SEE US WALKING
THEY'LL BE GOOGLE-EYED AND GAWKING
AT BUDDY AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

Now, as BUDDY sings, we first have the illusion that he is traveling on an ice floe, then walking through a snow forest filled with giant candy canes, then walking along the top of a mountain, then through a forest, then along a suburban highway, then through the Lincoln Tunnel. All the while, HE continues to sing.

WE'LL SPEND MORNINGS HOLDING HANDS
HOLDING HANDS AND MAKING PLANS
ON WHETHER TO PLAY JACKS OR KICK-THE-CAN

THEN FOR LUNCH A GINGERSNAP
THEN A NAP TO FILL THE GAP
BETWEEN BUILDING FORTS AND PLAYING SUPERMAN

(BUDDY)

AND IF HIS BACK GIVES HIM A SPASM
WELL, EVERY GOOD DAD HAS 'EM
I'LL BRING HIM COCOA AND A HEATING PAD

IT'S A SCENE INSIDE A SNOW GLOBE
IT'S A VERY APROPOS GLOBE
JUST BUDDY AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

BUDDY has now arrived in a full-scale mid-town Manhattan set with the Empire State Building looming upstage in the distance. The set is bustling with New York street characters. He takes out his snow globe and compares it to the buildings around him.

I'm here! I'm going to meet my dad!

A MAN hails a cab.

MAN

Taxi! Taxi!

BUDDY waves at him.

A large jogger passes him. BUDDY mistakes him for SANTA.

BUDDY

Santa! Santa! Not Santa. Sorry.

FLYER GUYS

Check it out! Check it out.

BUDDY gathers the flyers. He spots a souvlaki cart.

BUDDY

(reading the sign)

World's best souvlaki! Congratulations—

(handing him a flyer)

And check it out!

(singing)

WE'LL SHARE A WHOLE FRUIT CAKE SLICE BY SLICE
MAKING SURE NOT ONE SINGLE CRUMB DROPS

BUSINESS MAN

Get outta here, freak.

BUDDY

AND IF I WERE TO SAY, "I'M IN A CHRISTMAS PLAY"
HE WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR A MILLION GUMDROPS

WHEN I FALL AND SCRAPE MY KNEE
HE'LL KISS THAT KNEE FOR ME
AND MAKE THAT BOOBOO BETTER IN A JIFF

A PASSERBY sneezes.

AND IF I SHOULD GET A COLD
OR JUST ALLERGIES FROM MOLD
HE'LL GAZOONTITE-ME WITH HIS OWN HANDKERCHIEF

AND IF EVER THINGS TURN GLOOMFUL
I'LL KNOW THAT THERE'S A ROOMFUL
OF HUGS AND JOKES TO MAKE IT SEEM LESS BAD

I CAN'T HIDE MY ADMIRATION
FOR THAT PERFECT COMBINATION
OF BUDDY AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAD!

AND I'M GONNA TRY MY BEST TO BE
EVERYTHING YOU'D EXPECT OF ME
AND I PROMISE THAT I WON'T STOP UNTIL I'M DONE
AND SOME DAY YOU CAN SAY I'M THE WORLD'S GREATEST SON

#2a – Whatta Ya Think That Is?

BUDDY stops a teenager in the crowd.

I am lost. Can you tell me how to get to the Empire State Building?

TEENAGER

Whatta ya think that is?

TEENAGER points at the Empire State Building, which looms behind him.

BUDDY

Wow! Santa was right, it's much bigger than I thought it was! That's where my Dad works! Dad!!!

LIGHTS blackout as the vignettes end and Scene 4 ends. We transition into...

ACT ONE

SCENE 5

The Greenway Press offices on an upper floor of the Empire State Building. Later the same day, shortly after noon. A sign in a reception area, stage right, indicates that we are in the offices of Greenway Press, "Children's Books Your Child Can Trust." A secretary, DEB, is seated at a reception desk. There is a large office area with EMPLOYEES working in cubicles. Stage center there's a door to a private office which opens as the scene begins. WALTER HOBBS appears in the door, he has a children's book in hand and a sheaf of papers.

SAM

We got a problem, Mr. Hobbs. "Jingles The Jolly Christmas Puppy" is tanking in every bookstore in the country.

WALTER

Why?

SAM

Because two whole pages are missing from the last chapter.

WALTER

What?

SAM

Without them the end of the book makes no sense.

WALTER

How did that happen?

SAM

I don't know but you yourself okayed the final proofs. We'll have to recall all copies and reprint.

WALTER

No, we won't. Kids don't read the books, anyway, they just look at the pictures. No recall!

SAM

You really want to do that?

WALTER

No, I want to go to Greenway and say we're taking a fifty-thousand dollar bath so some stupid five-year-old can find out what happened to Jingles the friggin' Puppy on Christmas Eve.

SAM

But...?

WALTER

But nothing!

SAM

Whatever you say, boss.

WALTER

(calling to DEB)

Deb!

DEB

Yes, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

Coffee! Now!

DEB

Right away.

EMILY and 12-year-old MICHAEL enter.

EMILY

Hi, darling.

MICHAEL

Hi, Dad.

EMILY

Ready to go?

WALTER

Go where?

EMILY

I don't believe it. Christmas shopping, remember?

WALTER

Emily, you always do this to me.

EMILY

We planned this weeks ago! I took the day off—

WALTER

Well, I can't. I'm swamped. This is my busiest time of the year!

MICHAEL

Dad, it is well documented that the children of workaholics are prone to self-esteem issues.

WALTER stares at EMILY, baffled.

EMILY

What can I say; the kid likes NPR.

WALTER

Could we please continue this delightful conversation in my office. Away from the staff.

MICHAEL, EMILY and WALTER disappear into WALTER's office.

BUDDY enters the reception area and goes up to DEB.

BUDDY

Excuse me? I'm here to see a Walter Hobbs. I'm Buddy the Elf.

DEB

Buddy the Elf? Oh, what a riot! You look hilarious. Who sent you?

BUDDY

Santa.

DEB

Santa?!

BUDDY

Uh-huh, from the North Pole.

DEB

From the North Pole!

BUDDY

Yes.

DEB

I'm sure Mr. Hobbs will be delighted to meet you, but he's in a meeting right now, would you mind waiting for a few minutes? Sit. Stay here.

BUDDY

Sure.

BUDDY sits.

DEB

Can I get you anything? A coffee?

BUDDY

Chocolate milk would be fantastic...

WALTER, EMILY and MICHAEL burst out of WALTER's office.

WALTER

Emily. You're making it sound like it's my fault. I just can't. Today is impossible, isn't it Deb?

DEB leaves BUDDY and rushes over to WALTER.

#3 – In The Way

During the following scene, various other EMPLOYEES come out of their cubicles with papers in hand to speak to their boss. THEY then end up joining in the song. Among them would be SAM and the two staff writers. Eventually BUDDY gets swept up in the choreography himself, but is unnoticed by anyone.

DEB

Oh, yes, Mr. Hobbs, you have a very busy day...

(reading from a clipboard)

ONE P.M. MEETING WITH THE STAFF
LECTURE THEM ON THE BOARD'S BEHALF
AND CONDEMN GIVING WORKERS CARTE BLANCHE

WALTER

(To EMILY and MICHAEL)

MY JOB HAS MANY FACETS

DEB

ONE FIFTEEN CUT OUR PENSION SIZE
RECONVENE WITH THE UNION GUYS
IN BETWEEN CLOSE OUR DELAWARE BRANCH

WALTER

AND LIQUIDIZE OUR ASSETS

DEB

CHOOSE A DATE FOR THE MEETING WITH
GLOBAL FREIGHT

WALTER

TRY THE TWENTY-FIFTH

EMILY

WALTER, WAIT!

ALL

NO ONE WORKS ON THAT DAY

WALTER

See?!

CHRISTMAS ALWAYS GETS IN THE WAY

MUSIC continues under during the following lines.

MICHAEL

You've got it backwards!

EMILY

He's right! It's you who are getting in the way of Christmas, Walter.

DEB

Honestly, Mrs. Hobbs, it's out of his hands.

HALF PAST TWO, LEGAL WANTS A CHAT
WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH, LECTURE OVER AT
N.Y.U. ON OUTBIDDING TAIWAN

WALTER

(To EMILY and MICHAEL)

WELL, IT'S MY ALMA MATER

DEB

IN THE CAR, MEET NEW SALE DEMANDS
AU REVOIR TO YOUR DINNER PLANS
TELL H.R. THEY'LL BE WORKING TILL DAWN

WALTER

OR ELSE THEY'RE IN HOT WATER

EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES UNDER MR. HOBBS
LEARN TO PLEASE JUST TO KEEP THEIR JOBS
WE KNOW HE'S MORE CONTENT WHEN WE SAY

WALTER

All together now!

ALL

CHRISTMAS ALWAYS GETS IN THE WAY

EMILY

Walter, it's five days away and we don't even have a tree.

WALTER

WHAT'S THE BIG BROUHAHA
OVER "FA LA LA LA"
IT'S A CHILDISH ORDEAL
I MEAN FLYING REINDEER? LET'S GET REAL

OLD SANTA'S SLEIGH
JUST BRINGS MORE BILLS TO PAY
SO I GOTTA WORK OR FEEL THE SQUEEZE
MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON CHRISTMAS TREES

EMILY

Give me that calendar! If not today, how about tomorrow? Let's see ...

HALF PAST ONE, BUY A TREE TO TRIM
HE'S YOUR SON

WALTER

I REMEMBER HIM

EMILY

DON'T MAKE FUN, THERE'S TOO MUCH TO DISCUSS

WALTER

MY BUDGET NEEDS REWRITING

EMILY

TWO O'CLOCK, SKATING IN THE PARK
THEN A WALK UNTIL AFTER DARK
HERE'S A SHOCK, SPEND AN EVENING WITH US

MICHAEL

YAY, MOM AND DAD ARE FIGHTING

WALTER

HAVE NO DOUBT, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR
THINK ABOUT HOW I'M BURIED HERE

(To OTHERS)

HELP ME OUT

EMPLOYEES

IT'S ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

BUDDY joins the choir and sings loudly.

WALTER & EMPLOYEES

(conducts them like a choir)

CAUSE CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS

WALTER

What does it always get?

BUDDY sings louder and more elaborately than anyone else. He is suddenly the centre of attention.

ALL

IN THE WAY!!

WALTER

All right, everyone back to work!

*All EMPLOYEES go back to their cubicles as DEB returns to her reception desk.
BUDDY is left standing centre stage.*

BUDDY

Dad! ! !

WALTER

Who the heck are you?

DEB rushes over.

DEB

Oh. Isn't this a scream? Looks like someone sent you a Christmas Gram, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

What?

DEB

Meet Buddy the Elf.

WALTER

(playing along)

So...I guess you came from the North Pole.

BUDDY

Yes! That's exactly where I came from!

WALTER

So, go on.

BUDDY

Go on with what?

WALTER

Well, aren't you going to sing a song or something? Or can we all just get back to work?

BUDDY

A song? Uh, yeah. Anything for you Dad, uh, I, uh...

(stammering, singing off-pitch)

I'm here with my Dad and we never met, and, um, I was adopted but you didn't know I was born, so I'm here now....I found you....Daddy. And guess what? I love you, I love you, I love you!

WALTER

(whisper to DEB)

Call security.

(DEB picks up a phone and whispers into it)

BUDDY

It's me, your son. Susan Welles had me and she didn't tell you, but now I'm here, it's me, Buddy.

WALTER

Susan Welles? You said Susan Welles?

EMILY

Isn't she the girl you went with in college?

WALTER

Susan passed away years ago. If this is supposed to be funny, it's not!

EMILY

He said he's your son. Deb, who sent this Christmas Gram?

DEB

I don't know, Mrs. Hobbs, he came without a gift card.

BUDDY

Mrs. Hobbs! Are you married to my Dad?

EMILY

I'm married to Mr. Hobbs.

BUDDY

Then you're my step-mommy! Would you like a hug?

EMILY

(steps back)

No, thanks.

MICHAEL

(to EMILY)

Wait. He's my brother?

EMILY

Shh. No, of course not.

WALTER

Listen, Buddy, some nice men are going to take you away from here.

BUDDY

But I want to stay with you, Dad. Hey! Look! We've got the same color eyes!

EMILY scrutinizes them.

EMILY

You do.

WALTER

Oh come on! They're brown. Deb has brown eyes too, does that make her my daughter?

DEB

Mine are blue, actually.

EMILY yanks a strand of BUDDY's hair.

BUDDY

Ouch, Mom! You pulled my hair.

EMILY

I did? Oh, sorry.

*She takes an envelope from DEB's desk and carefully places the hair inside.
She puts the envelope in her purse.*

Two SECURITY GUARDS enter.

SECURITY GUARD #1

You got a problem here, Mr. Hobbs?

WALTER

Yes! Get this elf out of here!

SECURITY GUARD #2

Will do, sir. Let's go, buddy.

BUDDY

That's me!

SECURITY GUARD #1

Where do you want us to take him?

WALTER

I don't know. Take him to the North Pole.

#3a – *Buddy Goes To Macy's*

SECURITY GUARD #1

Sure thing.

(to SECURITY GUARD #2)

The North Pole?

SECURITY GUARD #2

No problem. They got one at Macy's.

They drag him out.

BUDDY

I just came from the North Pole. I walked. It's 3,408 miles. I took the tunnel but if you take the George Washington bridge it's a mile shorter.

MUSIC of "In The Way" plays off as Scene 5 ends, we transition to...

ACT ONE

SCENE 6

The two SECURITY GUARDS escort BUDDY down 34th street and drop him off at MACY's.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Here you go. There's a North Pole right in there.

BUDDY

There's another one?

SECURITY GUARD #1

Have fun.

A SALESWOMAN greets people as they pass.

SALESWOMAN

Welcome to Macy's! How are you today?

CUSTOMER #1

Fine.

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous! Welcome to Macy's! Jungle Passion Fruit Spray?

CUSTOMER #2

No.

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous!

She sees BUDDY and immediately accosts him.

(with practiced enthusiasm)

Welcome to Macy's! How are you today?

BUDDY

I'm great! I just met my human dad!

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous! Are you an out-of-state visitor?

BUDDY

Yes! I'm from Christmas town!

SALESWOMAN

Then be sure to stop at our visitor's services department to pick up your discount card.

BUDDY

Oh, I won't be buying anything. I only have chocolate money. And most of it melted when I—

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous!

(holding up a perfume spray bottle)

Jungle Passion fruit spray?

BUDDY

Fruit spray? Sure.

BUDDY takes the bottle from her and sprays it into his mouth. HE instantly goes into a child-like fit, loudly whining and jumping all over the place. The SALESWOMAN takes the bottle away from him, gives a look and hurries off. The toy department MANAGER, a heavy-set black man comes up to BUDDY. MUSIC out.

MANAGER

Hey you! Get back to work! What section I assign you to?

BUDDY

I don't know.

MANAGER

You don't know? All right, you work right over here, the North Pole.

The sliders part to reveal Macy's, the toy department. Minimally decorated for Christmas, with a large sign saying, "The North Pole." A large, sparsely decorated Christmas tree stands nearby. CUSTOMERS, including a number of children with parents, and sales clerks dressed as STORE ELVES are on stage as the scene begins. Christmas MUSIC and ringing bells under.

BUDDY

That's not the North Pole.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it isn't.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it isn't.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No it's not. Where's the snow?!

(BUDDY grins happily and the MANAGER scowls)

MANAGER

Why you smilin' like that?

BUDDY

I just like to smile. Smiling's my favorite.

MANAGER

Make work your favorite, that's your new favorite, okay? Work is your new favorite.

BUDDY

Yay! I love to work.

MANAGER

Good.

BUDDY

Nothing makes the big guy happier than to see all his little people working hard.

MANAGER

Wait a minute. The big guy?

BUDDY

Yeah.

MANAGER

The big guy from up north?

BUDDY

That's the one.

MANAGER

Did he send you down here?

BUDDY

He sure did!

MANAGER

Corporate! Always checking up on me. Okay. Fine. We'll work together, me and you, be good pals, okay?

BUDDY

Okay!

MANAGER

Okay. Now, I have to make a little announcement, if that's alright with you?

BUDDY

Of course!

MANAGER

Thanks.

(loudly to ALL)

Attention Macy's shoppers! We'll be closing in five minutes, but tomorrow mornin', ten a.m., Santa Claus is comin' to town!

BUDDY

Santa!!! Oh, my gosh! Santa here? I know him! I know him!

MANAGER

He'll be here to take pictures with all the children. Ten a.m. tomorrow...

BUDDY

Ten a.m. tomorrow!

MANAGER

Santa Claus is comin' to town!

BUDDY

Santa Claus is comin' to town!

MANAGER

You. If you don't mind, could you go help that girl over there decorate that tree?

BUDDY

Yay! Santa always likes it when I help decorate the tree at the North Pole!

(seeing JOVIE for the first time)

Oh! She's beautiful!

MANAGER

Yeah, but try talkin' to her, she's nuts.

BUDDY

She is? I love nuts!

The MANAGER exits, shaking his head as BUDDY walks over to the Christmas Tree, where JOVIE has been up on a ladder with her back to the audience.

Hi. I'm Buddy the Elf and we're going to have fun together.

JOVIE

(turning to face the audience)

Hi. I'm Jovie the elf and I seriously doubt it. Enjoying the view?

BUDDY

Yes. You're very pretty. Like a glittery angel. I'd like to stick you on top of the tree!

JOVIE

Classy. You know what? I'm not a Christmas person, so dial down the elf speak, okay?

BUDDY

Uh oh. Sounds like someone needs to sing a Christmas Carol! Don't you know, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

JOVIE

I don't sing.

BUDDY

Oh, come on. It's fun!

I'M SINGING!

I'M IN A STORE AND I'M SINGING!

I'M IN A STORE AND I'M SINGING!

The MANAGER re-enters in a huff.

MANAGER

Hey! There's no singing at the North Pole!

BUDDY

Yes, there is!

MANAGER

No, there isn't.

BUDDY

The big guy likes it when we sing.

MANAGER

He does?

I'M SINGING,

I'M IN A STORE AND I'M SINGING –

As BUDDY continues to assist JOVIE in decorating the tree, the MANAGER beckons all of the other STORE ELVES over to him.

All right, listen up everybody. Like I told ya, you all gotta stay late tonight to get this place decorated for the Christmas rush tomorrow.

(conspiratorially, indicating BUDDY)

Listen, see that elf over there, home office sent him, he's a professional. So do whatever he says, okay? Even if it means bein' here 'til midnight.

STORE ELF #1

Midnight? We've got lives you know?

MANAGER

Oh yeah? Then why are you here wearin' an elf suit?

BUDDY looks around in horror as the STORE ELVES hastily and sloppily toss decorations about the toy department.

BUDDY

Wait! Stop! This isn't the right way to decorate for Christmas!!! Don't you care whether Santa likes it or not?

STORE ELF #2

Hey. Take your meds and get to work!

BUDDY

Decorating for Santa isn't work, it's fun! You just have to get into the Christmas Spirit!

MANAGER

Yeah, yeah, let's see some Christmas spirit!

BUDDY

We can do it,

(MUSIC begins under)

#4 – Sparklejollytwinklejingley (Part 1)

All of us together!

MANAGER

All of us together!

BUDDY begins singing and starting to decorate the toy department. The OTHERS, join in helping him decorate in order both not to be fired and to get the Christmas bonus. As the number builds, ALL sing, dance and miraculously decorate the entire stage, dancing up and down the escalators, etc., etc. The STORE ELVES, the MANAGER, and JOVIE (who chooses not to sing), however, never really get into the spirit of the song and cynically perform it with false enthusiasm.

BUDDY

THERE'S A SAYING WE HAVE UP NORTH
THAT HELPS US PUT OUR BEST FOOT FORTH
IF YOU WANT TO DECK THE HALLS FOR MISTER C
MAKE SURE THEY'RE SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY

STORE ELF #1

What the heck's that s'posed to mean?

MANAGER

Just more of the usual home office bull dickey.

BUDDY

WHEN A ROOM IS GLOOMY ITS ATMOSPHERE HAS CALLED IT QUILTS
THEN YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT DECEMBER IS A TIME FOR GLITZ
NEVER STOP UNTIL EACH LIMB ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE
IS SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

PICK UP EVERY ORNAMENT THAT'S SITTING, WAITING ON A SHELF
WHILE YOU'RE BUSY DECORATING WHY NOT DECORATE YOURSELF?
SOON YOU'LL BRING A SMILE TO EVERY PERSON YOU SEE

BUDDY puts a garland around JOVIE.

JOVIE

(Unsure)

I'm sparkle-twinkle-jolly-what?

BUDDY

Close enough!

AND IF YOU'RE AT A LOSS REMEMBER THE PHRASE
THAT SAYS, "TO THINE OWN ELF BE TRUE"

MANAGER

TO THINE OWN ELF BE TRUE!

BUDDY

FOR WHEN IT COMES TO CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS
LOOK INSIDE AND YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO

MANAGER

YOU'LL KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!

BUDDY & MANAGER

PUT SOME CHEERY FOLDEROL ON EVERY WALL AND EVERY NOOK
TINSEL UP EACH CORNER TILL IT'S CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK
GIVE THE WORLD A HOLIDAY THAT'S BRIGHT AS CAN BE
MAKE IT SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

#4a – SparkleJolly Dance

ALL sing, building, decorating and finally coming together.

ALL

PUT SOME CHEERY FOLDEROL ON EVERY WALL AND EVERY NOOK
TINSEL UP EACH CORNER TILL IT'S CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK
GIVE THE WORLD A HOLIDAY THAT'S BRIGHT AS CAN BE
MAKE IT SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLE
SHINYSHOWYCHEERYKRINGLE
RAZZLE-DAZZLE-RING-A-LINGLE

MANAGER

I CAN'T LIE IT MAKES ME TINGLE!

ALL

SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

When the number comes to a big finish, to applause, the entire toy department and the big Christmas tree is amazingly and glitteringly decorated. A big banner is strung across the stage saying, "WELCOME SANTA CLAUS!" ALL celebrate, shake hands, exchange high-fives with BUDDY, while saying things like, ad lib, "Wow, we did it!", "Beautiful", "Who'd of thought", etc.

BUDDY

Yay! Wasn't that fun!

MANAGER

You all did one heckuva good job. Nice work. You can go home now. All of you.

The STORE ELVES all say, ad lib, "All right," "Yes," etc.

The MANAGER and ALL then exit except for the STORE ELF #1, STORE ELF #2, BUDDY and JOVIE. JOVIE is at one side putting on her coat. BUDDY is smiling and sucking on a candy cane.

BUDDY

(staring at JOVIE)

Gee, she's so pretty.

MANAGER

Well, why don't you ask her out?

BUDDY

Out?

MANAGER

On a date. Take her to dinner...

BUDDY

Eat food with her?

MANAGER

You know. Show her a good time, dance with her, take her home...

BUDDY

(continuing the list)

....snuggle under the covers, get out the flashlights, eat fluffernutter...

MANAGER

Whatever turns your crank, Buddy.

STORE ELVES #1 and #2 exit, as JOVIE starts to leave.

JOVIE

Good night.

BUDDY

Hey, wait a second. Would somebody like a hug?

JOVIE

No, would somebody like a punch in the throat?

BUDDY

No.

JOVIE

So, good night.

BUDDY

Wait. Do you....wanna eat food?

JOVIE

Do I want to eat food?

BUDDY

Um-hmm. You know...

JOVIE

Are you asking me out on a date?

BUDDY

Yes, right, that's it. A date!

JOVIE

Oh, you don't want to go out with me.

BUDDY

Yes, I do!

JOVIE

No, you don't.

BUDDY

Yes, I do!

JOVIE

Why?

BUDDY

Well, because I like you. I feel really warm when I'm around you. And, um, my tongue swells up.

JOVIE

Your tongue swells up?

BUDDY

(with a swollen tongue)

Yeth, it doth. See?

JOVIE

Well, it's weirdly nice that I make your tongue swell up, but I just don't see this date happening.

BUDDY

Oh, of course. I'm sure you already have a date tonight. Obviously. You probably have guys wanting to eat food with you all the time. Lunch, dinner....I bet you have a different guy for breakfast every morning. It was dumb of me to ask.

JOVIE

What the hell. I'm free Thursday.

BUDDY

Thursday? Thursday! Yessss!!! This is going to be the best Thursday ever in the history of Thursdays!

JOVIE

You know what? I find if you lower your expectations in life, you avoid a lot of disappointment.

She starts to leave and notices he isn't moving.

Don't you have a home to go to?

BUDDY

Sure. I have a home to go. A nice home, with a big bed. And walls and a ceiling and everything. I'm just going to stay here and put up a little more tinsel.

JOVIE

Seriously? Okay. Well. Good night.

BUDDY

G'night, Jovie.

#4b – Goodnight, Jovie

JOVIE exits. MUSIC underscores as LIGHTS change and BUDDY, alone on stage, lies down covered by a Christmassy-looking quilt. BUDDY sings himself a lullaby.

AND IF IT'S TOO COLD TO SLED
WE'LL EAT GINGERBREAD INSTEAD
AND THEN CUDDLE TILL HE TUCKS ME IN AT NIGHT

BUDDY snores loudly.

Fade to black.

Lights up. The following morning. Buddy wakes to see The MANAGER arriving for work followed by a department store FAKE SANTA who takes his place in Santa's big red chair. CHILDREN and PARENTS stream into the toy department along with the other STORE ELVES (except for JOVIE). MUSIC out.

MANAGER

Santa! Santa's here! We're open! Send in the kids.

A MOTHER leads a small BOY to the FAKE SANTA.

FAKE SANTA

(in a heavy New York accent)

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

BUDDY rushes over to SANTA.

BUDDY

Santa! Yea! Yea! It's me, Buddy! It's me!

FAKE SANTA

Yo, Buddy, how ya doin'?

An elf places the BOY on Santa's lap.

BUDDY

It's me! Who the heck are you?

FAKE SANTA

Whadda ya talkin' about? I'm Santa Claus.

BUDDY

No, you're not.

FAKE SANTA

Yes, I am. Ho, ho, ho!

BUDDY

No, you're not.

FAKE SANTA

(to the BOY)

What can I get you for Christmas, sonny?

BOY

I want Zombie Apocalypse Four: Rivers of Blood.

BUDDY

(whispers to YOUNG BOY)

Don't tell him what you want, he's a liar!

FAKE SANTA

Let the kid talk.

BOY

I want Zombie Apocalypse Four: Rivers of Blood.

MOTHER

You can't have that. It's too violent.

BOY

(yelling at the mother)

I'm not talking to you!

BUDDY

(to FAKE SANTA)

You disgust me. You don't smell like Santa. You smell like beef and cheese.

FAKE SANTA

Just cool it, Zippy.

BUDDY

You sit on a throne of lies.

FAKE SANTA

Look, I'm not kiddin'. Get outta here!

(to the BOY)

You were saying, kid?

BOY

I want Zombie Apocalypse Four: Rivers of Blood.

MOTHER

It's reprehensible.

BOY

(to MOTHER)

You're reprehensible!

BUDDY

You're a fake.

FAKE SANTA

I'm a fake? How'd you like to be dead? Huh?

#4c - Fake Santa Fight

BUDDY

(pulling off FAKE SANTA's beard)

Look, he's not really Santa!

FAKE SANTA

I'm not, huh?

MUSIC underscores as the CHILDREN and PARENTS all scream and FAKE SANTA lunges at BUDDY, starting a fight and rolling all over the stage. BUDDY keeps shouting, "He's a fake! He's a fake!" The MOTHER of the boy yells off stage.

MOTHER

Help! Someone's beating up Santa Claus!

Two POLICEMEN (VINNIE and DOUG) appear. They wrestle BUDDY off the FAKE SANTA.

MANAGER

(to BUDDY)

You're not corporate, you're crazy!

(to the POLICEMEN)

Arrest this nut.

(to the FAKE SANTA)

And you! Get outta my store!

(grabbing his hat and beard)

I'm Santa now.

(putting on the Santa Claus beard and approaching the boy)

Ho, ho, ho!

The BOY runs off screaming. The MANAGER follows him.

Wait! Wait! Santa can't run that fast!

The POLICEMEN take BUDDY stage left.

BUDDY

He isn't Santa! He's a liar and a fake!

POLICEMAN #1

Calm down. Tell us your name.

BUDDY

Buddy the Elf.

POLICEMAN #2

You got a last name, Buddy the Elf?

BUDDY

Hey! I do! I'm Buddy Hobbs. Do you know my dad, Walter Hobbs?

POLICEMAN #1

No, but we'll locate him while you're sitting in a cell cooling your heels.

Leading him off.

BUDDY

Thanks. My heels are incredibly sweaty. How did you know?

MUSIC of "Sparkle..." plays off as Scene 6 ends and we transition into...

ACT ONE
SCENE 7

MUSIC underscores, "In the Way". The living room of the Hobbs Central Park West apartment. Later the same day, early evening. LIGHTS up on MICHAEL and EMILY in the living room working on an elaborate science project — a large, weird-looking contraption that's supposed to be a model of a turbine electricity-producing wind machine. There is a small electric fan on the table along with myriad parts strewn about; an upright light bulb is attached to the contraption. MICHAEL switches on the fan and the contraption makes a lot of clanking noise but obviously doesn't work.

MICHAEL

Ah, heck, it still doesn't work.

EMILY

Maybe you've got these spinny things on backwards.

MICHAEL

I don't know. Dad said he'd help me but he's not around. Again. He's basically not a dad.

EMILY

Michael, don't talk like that. Your father loves you. He's a caring man, but he—

Doorbell chimes.

Hold that thought.

EMILY opens the door and we see BUDDY standing between two POLICEMEN.

BUDDY

(arms out-stretched to hug EMILY)

Hi, Mom, I'm home!

EMILY

(stepping back)

Excuse me?

POLICEMAN #1

This the Walter Hobbs residence?

EMILY

Yes?

POLICEMAN #2

Our pal Buddy here says Mr. Hobbs is his Dad.

EMILY

Yes, Officer, we're aware that Buddy thinks he's Mr. Hobbs' son, but...

POLICEMAN #1

Good. Guess we came to the right place.

(to POLICEMAN #2)

Let's go.

EMILY

Wait a second, you can't just leave him here!

POLICEMAN #2

Hey lady, have a heart. It's almost Christmas and he's homeless.

EMILY

Well...

POLICEMAN #1

Okay, bye Buddy.

BUDDY

(as he hugs the two POLICEMAN)

Bye, Vinny. Bye, Doug! Thanks a whole lot. And Merry Christmas!

POLICEMAN #1 & #2

Merry Christmas!

(The two POLICEMEN exit with a wave.)

BUDDY

I can stay here! Yay, I can stay here!

EMILY

Well, yes, but just for tonight. Then you'll have to find a place of your own.

BUDDY

But I like it here.

(notices the contraption on the table)

Oh, wow, a model of a turbine wind machine!

MICHAEL

You know what it is?

BUDDY

Sure. I've built a few of them at Santa's workshop.

MICHAEL

A *few* of them? How many?

BUDDY

Only about seven thousand. This one is kinda weird-looking. You'd never get Santa to okay it.

EMILY

So, you know Santa pretty well, do you?

BUDDY

Yes! Santa's, like, my best friend!

MICHAEL

You still believe in all that flying reindeer stuff?

BUDDY

No! Of course not. Santa hasn't used reindeer for years and years. Ever since he got that nasty letter from PETA. Nowadays the sleigh is powered by Christmas spirit alone. Which is a problem because of people like you. I mean, look at this place; no tinsel, no tree—have you even written your letter to Santa Claus yet?

EMILY

Buddy, I'm sorry, but I'm too old to write to Santa Claus.

MICHAEL

Me, too. Way too old. Anyhow...

(indicating the contraption)

I'm gonna flunk if I can't get this stupid science project working.

BUDDY

Tell you what, if you get into the Christmas spirit and write that letter to Santa right now, I'll fix your wind machine.

MICHAEL

You will? Well....okay, it's a deal. Okay, Mom?

BUDDY

Okay, Mom?

EMILY

(shrugging)

Okay.

BUDDY goes upstage to the contraption and begins fiddling with it. EMILY and MICHAEL sit down together. EMILY takes out a pen and paper.

(EMILY)

So, how do we do this?

MICHAEL

You're asking your 12 year old son how to write a letter to Santa Claus? What does that say about this family, mom?

EMILY

Okay, Dr. Drew. Settle down. Well, in the spirit of Christmas, what do you want for Christmas?

#5 – *I'll Believe In You*

MICHAEL

I don't know. I know what I *don't* want for Christmas.

I DON'T WANT A CHECK
THAT'S MADE OUT TO CASH
OR A CORPORATE RE-GIFT
FROM SOME SECRET STASH

I'D LIKE A DAY WITH MY DAD

EMILY

JUST A DAY?

MICHAEL

MAKE THAT TWO
IF YOU CAN DO THAT SANTA
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU

EMILY

I DON'T WANT A TRIP
TO SOME HIP SALON
OR TRENDY PERFUME
I'LL NEVER PUT ON
I'D LIKE TO FEEL LIKE HE CARES

MICHAEL

EVEN IF IT'S NOT TRUE

MICHAEL & EMILY

IF YOU CAN DO THAT SANTA
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU

(MICHAEL & EMILY)

EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU'VE HEARD FROM ME
I THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH A SHOT
IF IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE MAGIC, I GUARANTEE
WE COULD USE ALL THE MAGIC YOU'VE GOT

MICHAEL

I CAN GET YOU SOME COOKIES
IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES
I'VE HEARD STORIES AND I KNOW THE DEAL

MICHAEL & EMILY

YOU JUST SLIDE DOWN THE CHIMNEY
AND FIX OUR MISTAKES
NOW IF ONLY I THOUGHT YOU WERE REAL

MICHAEL

IF YOU WERE REAL

EMILY

I GUESS THAT'S OUR LIST
OUR LETTER IS DONE

MICHAEL

IS IT REALLY A LIST
IF IT ADDS UP TO ONE?

MICHAEL & EMILY

MAKE HIM PART OF OUR LIVES
NOT JUST PASSING THROUGH
IF YOU CAN DO THAT SANTA
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU

YES IF YOU DO THAT SANTA
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU
SO GOOD LUCK SANTA
HERE'S HOPING YOU COME THROUGH

EMILY

SIGNED EMILY

MICHAEL

AND MICHAEL, TOO

On the button of the song, BUDDY turns on the electric fan and the wind machine springs to life with a lot of flashing colored lights and beeping sounds. The light bulb comes brightly on.

BUDDY

All fixed!

MICHAEL

Yay, Buddy!

(hugs BUDDY)

You're the man!

EMILY

(hugs BUDDY and MICHAEL)

Nice going, Buddy.

The door opens and WALTER enters, carrying his briefcase and weary after a long day of work. HE stops short upon seeing BUDDY, MICHAEL and EMILY all happily hugging each other.

WALTER

What in the devil is going on here?!

MICHAEL

It's Buddy...

EMILY

He's stayin' with us!

BUDDY

Hi, Dad!

MICHAEL

Look, Buddy fixed my wind machine!

(turns on the wind machine)

BUDDY

See!

WALTER

Staying with us? What do you mean, Emily, he's staying with us?

(to MICHAEL)

Turn that noise off!

EMILY

Just for overnight. The police showed up with him.

WALTER

Oh, for God's sake!

MICHAEL

Hey Dad, please, look at this, I just switch on the fan and...

WALTER

Not now!

EMILY

Michael, why don't you show Buddy the spare room.

(to BUDDY)

You can sleep there. It has a futon.

Leaving with MICHAEL

BUDDY

A futon?

MICHAEL

It's a kind of bed.

BUDDY

Oh! I thought it was a robot, like "I am futon".

BUDDY & MICHAEL

(doing robot voices)

"I am futon! I am futon!"

MICHAEL and BUDDY exit.

WALTER

Emily, there's no way –

EMILY

Walter, he's homeless and it's freezing out. We couldn't just let him sleep in the street.

WALTER

Okay. There's a youth hostel over by the west side highway. He can stay there.

EMILY

Good idea. We'll stick him in a cab and send him to a youth hostel in his elf suit. Or, we could save the cab fare and just beat him up here.

WALTER

All right. One night and that's it. I want him out of here by 8 a.m.

#5a – *The Next Morning*

LIGHTS blackout and *MUSIC* of "I'll Believe In You" plays off as Scene 7 ends and we transition into...

ACT ONE

SCENE 8

Hobbs apartment, the following morning. BUDDY and MICHAEL are having cold spaghetti for breakfast together.

MICHAEL

Wow, Buddy. Left over spaghetti for breakfast is the best, huh?

BUDDY

I've never had spaghetti before.

MICHAEL

No way!

BUDDY

Yes way. At the North Pole, we only eat from the five major food groups; cookies, candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup. Something's missing....

(HE takes a bottle of syrup from his sleeve)

Syrup! I never leave home without it!

MICHAEL

You like sugar, huh?

BUDDY

Is there sugar in maple syrup?

MICHAEL

Yes.

BUDDY

Then yes!

MICHAEL

You do know that sugar's bad for your teeth right?

BUDDY

Of course, that's why it's important to chew your sugar carefully, drink lots of syrup and see your dentist twice a day.

BUDDY now pours maple syrup all over his spaghetti, and hungrily starts eating.

Meanwhile, stage left, in the living room, we hear the SOUND of a door CHIME as EMILY, in a bathrobe, enters and answers the door. She takes a Fed-Ex envelope from a uniformed DOORMAN, closes the door and crosses to sit down in an easy chair. SHE opens the Fed-Ex envelope and begins reading its contents.

EMILY

Oh, my God...

WALTER enters stage left. He spots BUDDY.

WALTER

Emily. That lunatic is still here.

EMILY

Yes he is. And he's not going anywhere.

WALTER

What are you talking about?

EMILY

Walter, I've been, uh, very busy the last couple of days. You see, I had to...

#6 – In The Way – Reprise

YANK A STRAND OUT OF BUDDY'S HAIR
THEN AS PLANNED, WAIT TILL YOU'RE NOT THERE
SNEAK IN AND FIND YOUR HAIR ON THE SINK

WALTER

SOMEONE'S BEEN MULTI-TASKING

EMILY

THEN I CHECK WITH MY COUSIN MEL
HE'S A TECH AT BETH ISRAEL

WALTER

WAIT A SEC, SHOULD I CALL YOU A SHRINK?

EMILY

NO, DEAR, BUT THANKS FOR ASKING
MELVIN CHECKS ALL THE DNA
IT'S COMPLEX, BUT HE WORKS ALL DAY
THIS FED-EX SHOWS UP HERE WHEN HE'S DONE

WALTER

(worried)

And?

EMILY

(hands WALTER the DNA report)

WALTER HAS AN ELF FOR A SON!

WALTER

Oh, no.

During the above, we see BUDDY and MICHAEL get up from the kitchen table and go toward the living room to eavesdrop. Now, BUDDY races into the living room to hug WALTER. MICHAEL follows right behind BUDDY.

BUDDY

Yay! I knew it! I knew it! Dad!!! Dad!!! Dad!!!

MICHAEL

I got a big brother! This is so cool! I can't believe it!

WALTER

(to EMILY)

He can't believe it? Now what are we gonna do? He can't live here with us, he's insane.

BUDDY

I planned out our whole first day, Dad. Just you and me. We'll start by making snow angels for two hours, then we'll go ice skating and after that we'll eat a log of Toll House cookie dough as fast as we can and then we'll come back home here and snuggle.

WALTER

(to himself)

Oh, my God.

(aloud)

We'll have to snuggle some other time, Buddy, because today I've got to go to work. You'll be staying here with your, uh, step-mommy.

EMILY

Oh, no, he won't! I have my annual planning meeting this morning. Your father will stay here with you.

WALTER

(to EMILY)

Dammit, I'm this close to getting fired.

EMILY

Then take him to work. I bet he could be very helpful around the office.

WALTER

I can't believe this is happening.

(WALTER)

(stares at BUDDY)

All right, but if you're coming with me you'll have to lose that costume. We'll stop at Brooks Brother's on the way and get you a suit.

BUDDY

Oh! Can it be red like Santa's?

WALTER

No.

MICHAEL

Can I come? You can drop me off at school on the way.

WALTER

Fine. That's half the morning shot.

MICHAEL

(to BUDDY)

Come on! We'll go tell Francisco the doorman to flag us a cab.

BUDDY

"Francisco". That's a fun name to say.

(as they exit)

Fran-cis-co.

MICHAEL and BUDDY exit. WALTER watches them go. He turns to EMILY.

WALTER

He's an idiot. My son is an idiot.

EMILY

Walter, tell me something. Was Susan a bright girl?

WALTER

The brightest. Phi Beta Kappa.

EMILY

Then we know where he got the idiot gene, don't we Darling?

#6a – Phi Beta Kappa

EMILY pats him on the back and leaves.

BLACKOUT

ACT ONE
SCENE 9

WALTER HOBBS' office in the Empire State Building, as in Scene 5. DEB is at her desk, talking on the phone. Other EMPLOYEES are bustling about the office. MUSIC of "In The Way" under.

DEB

(into phone)

Anyway....it seems that he had this secret love affair when he was in college... I know! Walter "the-ice-man" Hobbs! And, get this, there were "consequences"! Yep. He's six foot two, he's incredibly sweet which is bizarre considering the bloodline, but here's the kicker, he thinks he's an...

WALTER and BUDDY enter together wearing matching overcoats, over matching business suits.

(into the phone)

Uh-oh! The ice man cometh.

#6b - Buddy and Walter

SAM

Morning, Walter.

WALTER

Morning, Sam.

BUDDY

Morning, Sam!

WALTER

(continuing to walk toward his office)

Sara.

SARA

Oh, good morning, Mr. Hobbs.

BUDDY

Good morning, Sara. That's a nice purple dress. Very purplie.

DEB

(getting up from her desk)

Buddy! Congratulations! I hear it turns out you really are Mr. Hobbs' son.

BUDDY

Hi, Deb! Yes, I am! And you have such a pretty face. You should be on a Christmas card!

DEB

Oh, stop it! I hardly recognize you!

#7 – Just Like Him

BUDDY

That's because I'm wearing human work clothes. Isn't it exciting?

(singing)

LOOK AT ME
I'M WEARING A SUIT
APPROXIMATELY LIKE MY DAD'S

AND YOU'LL SEE
SUSPENDERS TO BOOT
MY DAD'S UP ON THE LATEST FADS

WE'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD
SO DON'T THINK IT ODD
IF I SHOULD GO OUT ON A LIMB
AND SAY WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GONNA BE JUST LIKE HIM

DEB

Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Greenway got in from Chicago an hour ago and should be here any minute.

WALTER

Today of all days.

BUDDY

(mimicking him)

Today of all days.

WALTER

I'm going to need coffee. Now.

BUDDY

Let me do it! Me, me me!

BUDDY makes a coffee for WALTER, pouring an endless stream of sugar into the cup.

(BUDDY)

(singing)

WELL, I KNEW
I'D NEVER REGRET
COMING FROM SO FAR AWAY

THOUGH IT'S TRUE
WE'VE NOT CUDDLED YET
IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN ANY DAY

IT'S MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO
I FOLLOW HIS CUE

WALTER

GOOD MORNING TED, HI JIM

BUDDY

Hi Jim!

(Hugging JIM, not letting go.)

YUP WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GONNA BE JUST LIKE HIM

WALTER

Put Jim down!

JIM

Yeah. I already have a boyfriend.

BUDDY

Well, you can't have too many boy friends!

WALTER takes a sip of coffee and spits it out. He hands the cup to DEB.

WALTER

Deb! Please! Be useful.

BUDDY

Where you going, Dad?

DEB

Why don't you come help me put these documents through the shredder?

BUDDY

What's a shredder?

DEB

It's a machine that makes snow.

BUDDY

No way!

WE GO TOGETHER LIKE "SUGAR" AND "PLUM"

DEB

A PERFECT DUO LIKE RUM CAKE AND RUM

BUDDY

I'VE FOUND A ROCK OF GIBRALTAR
CALLED MISTER WALTER HOBBS

DEB

WHY DON'T WE MAKE HIM SOME SNOW?

DEB throws "snow" into Buddy's face.

BUDDY

WHY MAKE HIM SOME? MAKE HIM GOBS!

Back to work!

Dance break.

BUDDY throws "snow" in DEB's face.

Snow! Snow! Snow!

WE GO TOGETHER LIKE CRUMPETS AND TEA

EMPLOYEES

IT'S TWO FOR TEA!

DEB

A PERFECT DUO LIKE VODKA AND ME

EMPLOYEES

SHE LIKES HER VODKA LIKE ME!

BUDDY

HE'S LIKE A BIG DOUGHY PRESENT THAT ONLY SANTA COULD MAKE

EMPLOYEES

SANTA!

BUDDY

(to the others)

LET'S ALL GO HUG HIM RIGHT NOW!

ALL

SORRY, BUT I'M ON MY BREAK!

BUDDY

I CAN'T EXPLAIN
WHY I LOSE MY COOL
EVERY TIME THAT HE COMES NEAR

I GO INSANE
AND SCAT LIKE A FOOL
SHOOBIE-DOOBIE-DADDY-DEAR!

WALTER

Buddy! Shut up!

BUDDY

I GUESS BY NOW YOU KNOW WHY
MY FAVORITE GUY
CAN TRIGGER SUCH VIGOR AND VIM
'CAUSE WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GONNA BE JUST LIKE HIM

I love my dad!

BUDDY sits in a chair beside WALTER's desk. The phone rings. He quickly answers.

(into the phone)

Buddy the Elf. What's your favorite color?

WALTER hangs up the phone, and moves the chair further away from the desk.

WALTER

Sit down here...

(handing him a children's book)

Read this. I've got a lot of work to do. Please don't talk.

BUDDY

Dad?

WALTER

What?

BUDDY

Why is the sky blue?

WALTER

I don't know. It has something to do with the sun, and ultraviolet....I don't know.

More silence.

BUDDY

Dad?

WALTER

What?

BUDDY

What does a rainbow feel like?

WALTER

I don't know. Soft...

BUDDY

Dad?

WALTER

Buddy!

BUDDY

What was my mom like? Susan Welles?

WALTER

That was a long time ago, Buddy.

BUDDY looks dejected. WALTER softens.

What I mean is, we were just kids in college. We drifted apart. She never told me about....Susan was fun, full of life. You would have liked her.

DEB enters, leading in MR. GREENWAY, a gruff elderly businessman carrying a bulky briefcase.

DEB

Mr. Greenway, sir.

GREENWAY

Hobbs! My phone has been ringing off the hook. Angry mothers, kids crying, "What happened to Jingles, the Jolly Christmas Puppy"? "Did he make it to the North Pole?" "Did he ever get his magic bone?"

WALTER

It was an unfortunate oversight, Mr. Greenway. I'm fully prepared to blame my staff—

GREENWAY

(opening his brief case and slapping some papers on the desk)

Don't try to pass the buck. It's your name on these proofs. And I'll tell you something else; even if those two missing pages were in there, the book still would have sucked! You're hanging by a thread Hobbs!

BUDDY

Hi, Mr. Greenway, I'm Buddy the Elf!

GREENWAY

What? Who the devil is that?

WALTER

Well, he's, uh, he's my, son.

GREENWAY

I thought your son was twelve years old?

BUDDY

I'm thirty. That's this many.

(indicating 30 with his fingers)

GREENWAY

What?!

WALTER

(shouting to DEB)

Deb! Buddy needs a break, take him downstairs for some hot chocolate.

BUDDY

Oh! Can I have a Chocolate Monster?

DEB

A Chocolate Monster?

BUDDY

It's hot chocolate with a chocolate bar on top. That way, when the chocolate bar melts it makes it more chocolatey.

DEB

(leading BUDDY off)

Works for me.

GREENWAY

Hobbs, you're out of a job unless you can come up with a blockbuster idea for a new Christmas book. I mean a through-the-roof national best-seller!

WALTER

Well, sir, that's easier said than done—

GREENWAY

Yes, it is. So you better get your top writers on it, because I will be back in New York on the evening of December twenty-fourth. At that time, you will present to me, in exact detail, your plans for the book! Happy Holidays, Hobbs.

GREENWAY exits. WALTER is in despair.

WALTER

God? I'm a good guy. Basically. Could you....could you throw me a bone?

Suddenly, BUDDY runs back in and throws shredded paper in Walter's face.

BUDDY

Snow!

DEB rushes in after him, carrying a cup of hot chocolate. BUDDY rushes past her. DEB stares at WALTER, who sits at his desk covered in shredded paper looking miserable.

DEB

(to WALTER, awkwardly)

Chocolate Monster?

ACT ONE
SCENE 10

#7a - Greasy Souvlaki

Early evening of the same day. BUDDY and JOVIE stroll along 5th Avenue. JOVIE is sweetly dressed up for her date; BUDDY is wearing his new overcoat. PASSERSBY pass by during the scene. MUSIC under all of the following. They are both eating Souvlaki on a stick. Behind them, we see a cart with a sign that reads: "World's greatest souvlaki."

BUDDY

How did you like your dinner?

JOVIE

Greasy souvlaki on a stick is not dinner.

BUDDY

But it's the world's best souvlaki...

JOVIE

No. It's the world's crappiest souvlaki.

She drops it in the trash and apologizes to the vender.

Sorry.

VENDOR

No. Thank you for the feedback. I'll go home right now and change the sign.

VENDOR exits.

JOVIE

(to BUDDY)

Look, how about we just call it a night?

BUDDY

No! We've still got so much to do on our date. It's too early to take you home and get you into bed. Oh! How about dancing?

JOVIE

Uh, no...

BUDDY

I'll go first! Ein zwei drei vier!

#7a2 – Buddy Clogs

BUDDY hums and scats a Christmas-y tune, while dancing an elaborate, acrobatic, solo Elf jig.

(BUDDY)

(gestures for JOVIE to take over)

Take it, Jovie!

JOVIE

I am so not going to take that.

Suddenly, BUDDY spies a SALVATION ARMY bell ringer standing on the street with the collection receptacle at her feet.

BUDDY

Oh! Bells!

BUDDY rushes over to her.

May I try?

SALVATION ARMY LADY

Oh...

#7aa – The Tintinabulation of the Bells

BUDDY takes the bells and with small, effortless gestures plays a stunning rendition of Carol of the Bells.

BUDDY

(handing them back)

Thank you. This one's a little flat.

The SALVATION ARMY lady leaves, a little frightened.

JOVIE

You are amazing on those things!

BUDDY

Well, I used to be in a band; it was me on bells, Charlie on toy piano and Tiara on lead vocals and glockenspiel. We had a good thing going there for a while, but then Charlie started hitting the syrup pretty hard and we had to call it quits. Those were crazy, crazy days. Hey, did I tell you? You look miraculous.

JOVIE

Miraculous, huh? Okay, well you look miraculous too. That elf getup made you look incredibly dorky.

BUDDY

Thanks!

JOVIE

That wasn't a compli—

BUDDY

I know! It's the night before the night before Christmas. Let's do something Christmas-y!

#7b - Big Tree Music

MUSIC begins under.

JOVIE

You want Christmas-y? Okay. Follow me!

JOVIE runs off playfully. BUDDY follows. When they return, the set has changed. We see Rockefeller Center and its enormous Christmas tree, up stage center, decorated but unlit. Down stage is the skating rink, with many CHILDREN and ADULTS skating about.

BUDDY

(staring, gob-smacked, at the Christmas tree)

Oh! Let's go skating!

JOVIE

I'm not a very good skater

BUDDY

That's okay, Neither am I. Santa says I'm a hazard. He calls me "Edward Scissor feet".

JOVIE

Stop. Let's make a pact. If you try to be less elf-y, I'll try to be less crabby.

BUDDY

Okay. I'd like it if you'd be less crabby.

During the following dialogue, THEY rent skates and put them on.

JOVIE

I came here last year too, my first Christmas in New York.

#7c – Rockefeller Center Skating

BUDDY

Oh, where'd you come from?

JOVIE

L.A.

BUDDY

L.A.? Never heard of that place. I don't think Santa goes there.

JOVIE

He doesn't. Christmases there are surreal. No snow.

BUDDY

No snow?!?

JOVIE

I've never even seen snow. I've always wanted to.

BUDDY

That's the saddest thing I've ever heard.

JOVIE

Yeah, I've been here for almost two years and it hasn't snowed once. You know, when I was a kid I dreamed of having a snowy Christmas Eve dinner at Tavern on the Green with Billy Crystal. That sounds so stupid.

BUDDY

No it doesn't! Who's Billy Crystal? He sounds magical.

JOVIE

He's an actor. He was in my favorite movie of all time: "City Slickers". Anyway, last year I spent Christmas Eve in a 400 square foot studio apartment with no heat binge watching "Gilmore Girls" on Netflix. Sad, huh?

BUDDY

You know what? We are going to have Christmas Eve Dinner at Tavern on the Green!

JOVIE

I don't think so. For one thing, it's been closed for months. It just re-opened, now it's even harder to get in.

BUDDY

My dad can get us a table! He can do anything!

JOVIE

Buddy, don't promise things you can't deliver.

BUDDY

Jovie, I will make your dream come true. I promise.

JOVIE

Wow, I might actually have a real Christmas.

BUDDY

You see? You do have Christmas Spirit!

JOVIE

I guess I do. A little.

BUDDY

Now you have to spread it around and remember the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

#8 - A Christmas Song

JOVIE

I told you, I don't sing.

BUDDY

What do you mean, you don't sing?

JOVIE

I mean I don't sing for anyone, at anytime, under any circumstances, and that includes birthdays, Bar Mitzvahs and especially Christmas. Okay?

MUSIC begins. BUDDY leads JOVIE onto the ice and they start skating, and continue throughout the number.

BUDDY

COME ON, JOVIE, SINGING CAN BE EASY

JOVIE

Please stop.

BUDDY

IT'S FUN, IT'S FREE AND BEST OF ALL IT'S ...

JOVIE

Totally cheesy?

BUDDY

C'mon!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MOVE YOUR VOICE MUCH HIGHER
HIGH, LOW, HIGH, LOW

(Very high.)

HIGH

(Drawing it out.)

IT'S JUST LIKE TALKING ONLY YOU SUSTAIN IT
AND MAKE IT SOUND PRETTY

JOVIE

No.

BUDDY

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG
JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

JOVIE

People are staring.

BUDDY

That's the point!

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG
THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SING

AND IF YOU'RE SHORT ON CHEER
THINK ABOUT THAT YEAR
YOU WOKE UP TO FIND A BRAND NEW SNOW HAD FALLEN
THE ORNAMENTS YOU MADE
WAY BACK IN SECOND GRADE

UNTANGLING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
TOOK YOUR FATHER SEVERAL NIGHTS
YOUR MOTHER CLAIMED THAT SHE HAD PROOF
THERE WERE REINDEER ON THE ROOF

(BUDDY)

REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE BACK THEN?
LET THOSE MOMENTS LIVE AGAIN

Come on, Jovie! Try it for me!

(JOVIE closes her eyes and sings, tentatively at first, but growing more confident.)

JOVIE

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG

BUDDY

That's it!

JOVIE

IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG

BUDDY

Keep going!

JOVIE

JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO...

ALL on stage now join in the song as they skate.

JOVIE, BUDDY & COMPANY

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG

THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES...
AND SING!!

On the applause for this number, JOVIE kisses BUDDY and the Rockefeller Christmas Tree lights up. End of Scene.

ACT ONE
SCENE 11

WALTER's office. WALTER confers with CHADWICK. It's obvious that the meeting has been going on for hours. MATTHEWS is conspicuously absent.

CHADWICK

Okay. How about this: a town populated only by tomatoes—

WALTER

Tomatoes.

CHADWICK

Little tomato people. They are busily preparing for Christmas, but little do they know, the mean tomato who lives on top of the mountain is planning to steal Christmas this year.

WALTER

You are describing the Grinch.

CHADWICK

But with tomatoes!

WALTER

You're an idiot, Chadwick. Greenway is going to fire us all if we don't come up with something good, you understand that? Can you grasp the seriousness of this situation? Where is Matthews?

CHADWICK

He's working a lead.

WALTER

He's what?

MATTHEWS bursts in carrying a small manuscript.

MATTHEWS

I got it!

CHADWICK

You got it?

WALTER

An original idea I hope?

MATTHEWS

We got something better than an idea.

CHADWICK

We got a book.

MATTHEWS

You are familiar, of course, with Christopher Smith.

WALTER

Are you kidding? Christopher Smith was the greatest writer of Christmas stories who ever lived. When you think of Christmas you think of Chris Smith.

CHADWICK

So, you would be happy if we brought him in?

WALTER

He's dead, you morons.

MATTHEWS

Mr. Hobbs, I met this guy who deals in used furniture; high end stuff, from the homes of prominent dead writers. So, he recently acquired a desk once owned by one Christopher Smith.

CHADWICK

And in this desk he finds a secret drawer —

MATTHEWS

— and in this secret drawer he finds a manuscript.

CHADWICK

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story!

WALTER

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story?

MATTHEWS

It's a Chris Smith Christmas for Walter Hobbs!

MATTHEWS hands WALTER a small, yellowing manuscript.

WALTER

My God. It's beautiful!

MATTHEWS

Isn't it? The illustrations —

CHADWICK

And the story will make you cry.

WALTER

I can't believe I'm actually holding an original Christopher Smith in my hands.

MATTHEWS

Careful. It's the only copy.

CHADWICK

Are you nuts? What if someone spills coffee on it? Make a copy!

MATTHEWS

Relax. The machine's out of toner. Deb's changing it now. Just be careful with it, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

(handling it gingerly)

This could be huge!

Suddenly BUDDY, in his business suit, bursts into the conference room, having just come from his date.

BUDDY

I'm in love! I'm in love! And I don't care who knows it!

WALTER

Buddy, please. We're very busy.

BUDDY

Dad, I need a table for two at Tavern on The Green, seven o'clock, Christmas Eve. And four hundred dollars.

MATTHEWS

The guy's waiting in the lobby, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

(to BUDDY)

Buddy. We'll talk about this in a minute. Just, do me a favour and sit there in that chair. Amuse yourself.

BUDDY

Oh, okay, dad.

WALTER

(to MATTHEWS)

Well, bring the guy up here. I want to thank him personally.

MATTHEWS

He's not waiting for a thank you. He's waiting for \$300,000.

WALTER

What?

CHADWICK

It's a small price to pay, Mr. Hobbs. This is a modern classic.

MATTHEWS

We'll make it back on the film rights alone.

WALTER

I don't know. That's a lot of money.

WALTER puts down the manuscript.

CHADWICK

Mr. Hobbs, we've been trying to come up with an idea for a story but we got nothing.

MATTHEWS

We're idiots!

CHADWICK

And then this comes along: It's a gift from God!

MATTHEWS

And God gets mad when you don't accept his gifts.

WALTER

Fine. I'll write the guy a check.

WALTER walks behind his desk and takes out his checkbook.

BUDDY notices the shredder. HE picks up the manuscript and wanders over to it.

Greenway will understand, right? In fact he'll be thrilled! There'll be Christmas bonuses for everyone! I mean, this is going to make us millions!

WALTER fills out the check and hands it to MATTHEWS. At that moment BUDDY drops the manuscript into the shredder. WALTER, MATTHEWS and CHADWICK freeze when they hear the sound. They slowly turn to face BUDDY.

He picks up the pieces of the shredded manuscript and throws them in the air.

BUDDY

Snow! Snow! Snow!

MATTHEWS and CHADWICK scramble to pick up the shredded pieces of paper. They soon realize the futility of the exercise. They look back to WALTER forlornly.

WALTER

What have you done?

(WALTER)

(to BUDDY)

That was the only copy!

BUDDY

(scared)

What?

WALTER

I cannot deal with this anymore. Just go back to the apartment, get your things and leave!

BUDDY

For where?

WALTER

I don't care! I don't care where you go! I don't care that you're an elf! I don't care that you're my son! Just get out of my life! Forever!

Scene ends as BUDDY walks unhappily out of the conference room, and we transition...

ACT ONE

SCENE 12

A little later the same night, December 23rd. We find BUDDY alone downstage in limbo as the MUSIC of "I'll Believe in You" begins quietly under.

#8b – World's Greatest Dad – Reprise

BUDDY

I ONLY TRIED MY BEST TO BE
EVERYTHING YOU'D EXPECT OF ME
BUT I LET YOU DOWN AND SO I GUESS WE'RE DONE
AND NOW HOW CAN I SAY I'M THE WORLD'S GREATEST SON

ENSEMBLE

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG
THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SING

CURTAIN – END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO
PROLOGUE

#8c – Entr'acte

SANTA's chair sits at the side of the stage, with the book resting on it.

#8d – After Entr'acte

SANTA rushes in with a cup of cocoa.

SANTA

Sorry. Sorry. Just made a quick trip to the cocoa cart, if you know what I mean.

SANTA settles, and takes a sip of cocoa.

Oh. Single malt cocoa. That'll curl your shoes. Okay. Where were we?

(opening the book.)

Ah, yes. Buddy was not having a very merry Christmas. In fact, it was the worst he could remember, even worse than that year all the elves had winter vomiting disease. After Walter said all those terrible things to him, Buddy went back to the apartment, got back into his elf suit and wrote a note.

We see a projection of Buddy's farewell message, which is written on an Etch-a-Sketch.

BUDDY

(speaking the words we see projected)

Dear Dad and Mom and Michael: I'm sorry I ruined your lives....and I also feel real upset about pouring that bottle of maple syrup into your DVD player. My bad. Anyway, thanks for the nifty suit and coat but I won't be needing them anymore. I don't belong here with you. I don't belong at the North Pole, either. I'll never forget you, love and goodbye forever, Buddy. P. S. Merry Christmas.

SANTA (O.S.)

After that, Buddy wandered all night and all the next day, cold and alone, through the streets of the city.

BUDDY, now once again in his elf costume, enters and trudges forlornly alone through a projected Manhattan street.

By then he was hungry, and he happened to stumble upon the only place in New York where a sad Elf can get a cheap meal on Christmas Eve...

He comes upon the exterior of a Chinese restaurant, the Chung Fu Palace. As we segue into the next scene, the time is a day later, early on the evening of the 24th.

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

The interior of the Chung Fu Palace Christmas Eve. It is early evening. All of the customers are dressed as Santa Claus since each is now an out-of-work department store or Salvation Army street-corner Santa. They pick at their food and commiserate.

FAKE SANTA #1

This is one Christmas season I thought would never end.

FAKE SANTA #2

It gets longer every year.

MANAGER

You're telling me. I got a bruise on my thigh in the shape of a kid's butt!

Another bedraggled Santa walks in.

FAKE SANTA #3

Am I too late?

FAKE SANTA #2

Nah, we still got chow mein, moo goo guy pan...

FAKE SANTA #3

Oy, may I never put on this suit again.

FAKE SANTA #1

Tough year.

FAKE SANTA #3

What a meshugena Christmas.

The FAKE SANTAs clink glasses. Upstage, we see a despondent BUDDY, in his elf outfit, peering through the window. The WAITRESS notices him and waves him in.

BUDDY

Is this a Chinese restaurant?

WAITRESS

No. I got a thing for dragons.

BUDDY

Sorry. I'll keep looking...

WAITRESS

Oh, you too depressed for sarcasm, huh? Come on in, honey, we've got a special on for out of work Christmas temps. You like hot and sour soup?

BUDDY

(disgusted)

No!

MANAGER

Hey! That's the crazy elf I was telling you about.

FAKE SANTA #1

The guy that beat up Larry Spinoli?

MANAGER

Hey! Buddy. Come sit next to Santa Claus.

BUDDY joins them.

BUDDY

I know none of you are real Santas. But don't worry, I'm not going to hit you. Mom explained to me that you guys pretend to be Santa for the kids who can't make it to the North Pole to see the real Santa. I get it now. You make a lot of kids happy.

FAKE SANTA #2

Not anymore.

FAKE SANTA #1

Years ago kids would light up when they saw you. You felt special, you know?

MANAGER

Now they just sit on your lap and text each other.

FAKE SANTA #1

People got no respect.

FAKE SANTA #3

No respect at all.

WAITRESS

No respect.

BUDDY

No respect for Santa Claus.

#9 – Nobody Cares About Santa

FAKE SANTA #1

USED TO BE

I'D STAND ON THE BUSIEST CORNER

(FAKE SANTA #1)

RING MY BELL
AND MAKE THE PEOPLE SMILE

NOWADAYS
THEY PASS ME BY, AND WHO KNOWS WHY
COULD IT BE THAT OLD SAINT NICK'S GONE OUT OF STYLE?

ALL FAKE SANTAS

WELL, NOBODY CARES
NOBODY CARES
NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTA

THEY READ THEIR LIST
THEN YOU GET DISMISSED
CAUSE NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTA CLAUS

FAKE SANTA #2

USED TO BE
THE KIDS WAITED HOURS TO SEE ME
ALL THAT JOY COULD ALMOST MAKE YOU CRY

MANAGER

NOW THEY THINK
I'M JUST PASSÉ, SOME DUMB CLICHÉ
AND IT MAKES ME WONDER WHY I EVEN TRY

ALL FAKE SANTAS

WELL, NOBODY CARES
NOBODY CARES
NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTA

YOU ONCE WERE REVERED

FAKE SANTA #1

NOW THEY YANK OFF YOUR BEARD!

ALL FAKE SANTAS

CAUSE NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTA CLAUS

IS THIS ALL A SIGN?

BUDDY

(IS THIS ALL AN AWFUL SIGN?)

ALL FAKE SANTAS

OF A SAD DECLINE?

BUDDY

(A MISERABLE, SAD DECLINE!)

I NEVER KNEW SUCH DISRESPECT
COULD EVER HAVE EXISTED
NO WONDER THIS WHOLE CITY
HAS BEEN NAUGHTY LISTED!

FAKE SANTA #1

HO!

FAKE SANTA #3 & #4

HO!

FAKE SANTA #2

HO! HO!

FAKE SANTA #5

HO! HO!

MANAGER & FAKE SANTA #6

HO! HO! HO!

(Dance break.)

NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTAS CLAUS

NOBODY CARES ABOUT SANTAS CLAUS

NO-BODY!

NO-BODY!

NO-BODY!

BUDDY

NOBODY, NOBODY

MANAGER

WHOA, BUDDY

ALL FAKE SANTAS

NO-BODY! NO-BODY!

NOBODY CARES, NOBODY CARES

NOBODY CARES, NOBODY CARES

NOBODY CARES!

BUDDY

HOW CAN SANTA CLAUS

ALL FAKE SANTAS

(HOW CAN GOOD OLD SANTA CLAUS)

BUDDY

BE A HOPELESS CAUSE?

ALL FAKE SANTAS

(A TOTALLY HOPELESS CAUSE!)

BUDDY

EVEN LITTLE CHILDREN THINK
THAT SANTA'S OVERRATED
I KINDA GET THE FEELING
THAT NEW YORK IS JADED!

SANTAS

(I KINDA GET THAT FEELING, TOO)

ALL

WELL, NOBODY CARES NOBODY CARES
NOBODY CARES
ABOUT SANTA

THE BRINGER OF BLISS

BUDDY

WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS THIS?!

ALL

WHERE NOBODY CARES ABOUT
WEARY, FED UP
READY TO HANG THE SLED UP
SANTA CLAUS
HO? HO? HO?
NO! NO! NO!

As the song ends, the FAKE SANTAS begin to exit, saying good night to each other.

FAKE SANTA #2

Well, that's it for me. I gotta get home.

MANAGER

Me, too.

BUDDY

Wait. Don't you guys want to hang out some more? Sing songs? Complain?

MANAGER

Don't you have a family to go home to?

BUDDY

I had a fight with my dad. He said he never wants to see me again.

FAKE SANTA #1

Ah, forget about it. Christmas is all about fighting with your family.

FAKE SANTA #2

Yeah, but that's what presents are for. Making up.

MANAGER

Listen to the Santas. Go get your old man a present.

BUDDY

A present?

MANAGER

Sure. That's the thing about Christmas. When you're a kid, it's all about what you're gonna get, but when you grow up, well, it's about giving people stuff: socks, a snuggie. It's the one day a year everybody gets to be Santa Claus.

BUDDY

A present. Thanks, guys.

MANAGER

That reminds me. It's Christmas Eve and I got to get something for the wife. I hope Duane Reade's still open.

BUDDY

Christmas eve! Oh, my gosh! Jovie! I forgot all about Jovie!

(Buddy jumps to his feet)

Merry Christmas!

MANAGER & SANTAS

Merry Christmas!

BUDDY rushes out as Scene 1 ends and we transition into...

ACT TWO

SCENE 2

JOVIE, dressed to the nines, stands forlornly in front of Tavern on the Green. It's a little later on Christmas Eve. MUSIC under of "Never Fall In Love (With An Elf)."
JOVIE looks at her watch, sighs and sings.

#10 - *Never Fall In Love (With An Elf)*

JOVIE

HE'S SEVERAL HOURS LATE
THE SKYLINE'S GROWING DIM
WHILE OTHERS DECK THE HALLS
YOU DREAM OF DECKING HIM

MY CHOICE IN MEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN
PATHETIC, I SUPPOSE
THE GUY WHO STOLE MY CREDIT CARDS
THE GUY WHO TRIED ON MY CLOTHES

AND SO A ROW OF SELF-HELP BOOKS
LINE MY BEDROOM SHELF
BUT THERE'S ONE RULE THOSE BOOKS FORGOT
YOU NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ELF

HIS ENDLESS TALK OF CHRISTMASTOWN
WILL TEST YOUR EVERY NERVE
STILL HE'S KIND OF CUTE, I GUESS
WELL, IF YOU GRADE ON A CURVE

AND THOUGH YOU VOWED YOU'D NEVER SING
JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF
YOU'RE HALFWAY THROUGH A CHRISTMAS SONG
CALLED NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ELF

THE HOLIDAYS WILL SEEM BITTERSWEET
WHILE YOU'RE ALONE IN BED
CAUSE HOW CAN ONE GIRL EVER COMPETE
WITH A MAGIC FAT GUY IN A FLYING SLED

(JOVIE)

GO ASK A HUNDRED SINGLE GIRLS
FROM HERE TO PHILADELPH (-IA)
THEY'LL SAY IT'S CLEAR AS DAY
YOU'RE IN FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS
IF YOU DATE A GUY
WHO HAS A THING FOR TIGHTS

OH, NEVER FALL IN LOVE
NEVER FALL IN LOVE
NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ELF

IT'S AS CLEAR AS A JINGLE BELL
IF YOU ARE SINGLE, WELL, DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ELF

At the end of the song, on the applause, BUDDY enters and runs up to JOVIE.

BUDDY

Jovie! I know you are super mad right now.

(noticing her dress)

Wow. You look more miraculous than ever.

JOVIE

And you look....seasonally appropriate.

BUDDY

Thanks!

JOVIE

You are two and a half hours late.

BUDDY

I have a really good explanation.

JOVIE

Go ahead.

BUDDY

I forgot about our date.

JOVIE

That's your explanation? You forgot?

BUDDY

I remembered it eventually, but for a long time I forgot, which is why I'm late. Oh!
Is this Tavern on the Green? With all the lights? Pretty.

JOVIE

Yes, I'm sure some lucky couple had a wonderful evening sitting at our table.

BUDDY

No they didn't.

JOVIE

Why not?

BUDDY

Because we didn't have a table. I was going to ask my Dad to get us one —

JOVIE

But you forgot.

BUDDY

No. I remembered, but he got really mad at me for making it snow in his office —

JOVIE

Stop. Just. Stop. I can't take any more of your crazy stories.

BUDDY

But it's true! And, oh, Jovie, I am so, so sorry I ruined your Christmas dream.

JOVIE

Forget it. It's my fault. I knew you couldn't get a table. But still, I got all dressed up and came here. And then an hour went by, then another hour and I waited. I didn't leave. Why? Because our date on Thursday was the only good time I've had in the last year and a half. How sad is that?

BUDDY

That is sad. But it's nice, too.

JOVIE

I just thought that if anyone could give me a real Christmas it would be you. "Lower your expectations, so you don't get disappointed". I should have that tattooed on my forehead.

BUDDY

Jovie I feel so bad about this, sick in my stomach, like I swallowed a zillion sticks of Juicy Fruit. The last thing in the whole wide world I wanted to do was hurt you.

JOVIE

I don't want to talk about it anymore. I'm cold, and my feet are killing me in these heels...

BUDDY

Can I just give you a Christmas present?

JOVIE

This is the worst possible time—

(BUDDY takes out the snow globe)

BUDDY

Here. This is what New York city looks like when it snows.

(he hands it to her)

Shake it.

(as SHE takes the globe and shakes it)

Pretty, huh? Real snowflakes are smaller than buildings.

JOVIE tries to hand it back to him.

Keep it, and look at it later when you're not furious. It's real special. I mean, I know you're not going to believe me, but Santa Claus gave it to me when I left the North Pole.

JOVIE

Oh, Buddy. I so, so wish that were true. Goodbye.

#10a – Goodbye

JOVIE leaves. BUDDY stands alone on stage. MUSIC of "I'll Believe In You" plays under as we transition to scene 3.

ACT TWO

SCENE 3

The living room in the Hobbs' apartment, as in Act One, Scene 8. MICHAEL and EMILY are reading BUDDY'S note on the Etch-a-sketch.

EMILY

(reading the note)

"...I don't belong at the North Pole, either. Nobody wants me, Nobody needs me." Poor thing, wandering the streets in that dorky elf suit.

MICHAEL

Why did he do it?

EMILY

He had a fight with your father.

(examining the Etch-a-sketch more closely)

This really is amazing. I can barely draw a straight line on one of these things.

MICHAEL

We have to find him! We have to bring him home!

EMILY

We will find him, but after that I think we need to get him some help.

MICHAEL

What do you mean "help"?

EMILY

Professional help. Honey, Buddy is crazy.

MICHAEL

Mom.

EMILY

No, he is. We have to accept that.

MICHAEL

He's my brother.

EMILY

I know. You have a crazy brother. Lot's of people do.

MICHAEL

Just because somebody believes in Santa Claus, doesn't mean they're crazy.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

MICHAEL

No, it doesn't.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

MICHAEL

What about little kids? Are they crazy too?

EMILY

It's different. If a little kid believes in a talking purple dinosaur, it's delightful. If he still believes when he's thirty, it's profoundly disturbing. Look, just because Buddy is crazy, doesn't mean we should love him any less. I have a friend who's a psychiatrist. You remember Barry? With the Ferrari? I'm going to give him a call right now. Maybe he can tell us where we should look for Buddy.

EMILY leaves the room.

MICHAEL wanders over to an upstage window. He stares out forlornly.

MICHAEL

(to himself)

Buddy. Where did you go?

#11 – There Is A Santa Claus

SUDDENLY a bright flash of light appears outside. MICHAEL stares in disbelief.

Mom! Mom!

EMILY runs back into the room.

EMILY

What?

MICHAEL

I SAW A TINY SLEIGH
MAKE ITS TINY WAY
RIGHT ACROSS THE SKY

THERE WASN'T TIME TO THINK
THERE WASN'T TIME TO BLINK
BEFORE IT ZOOMED RIGHT BY

(MICHAEL)

AND EVERYTHING I KNEW I KNEW
AND EVERYTHING THAT YOU KNEW, TOO
IS ABSOLUTELY NOW UNTRUE BECAUSE
WITHOUT A DOUBT THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

Through the window EMILY sees Santa's sleigh passing by.

EMILY

Oh, my God...

I JUST SAW HIM TOO
YET MY WHOLE LIFE THROUGH
HE SEEMED FAKE TO ME

COULDN'T SANTA SEE
WHAT A FANTASY
HE APPEARS TO BE

AND EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I THOUGHT
IS TANGLED UP IN ONE BIG KNOT
THE WORLD OUT THERE HAS CLEARLY GOT ITS FLAWS
IF THEY CAN'T SAY THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!

MICHAEL

AND RUDOLPH'S NOSE
REALLY GLOWS
AND GUIDES HIM THROUGH THE NIGHT

EMILY

THE BEARD LIKE SNOW
THE "HO HO HO"

MICHAEL

I TOLD YOU I WAS RIGHT!

EMILY

AND DOES THIS MEAN THAT EASTER EGGS
ARE HIDDEN BY A RABBIT?
I JUST THOUGHT THAT I'D BEEN HOCUS POCUS-ED

AND DOES THIS MEAN THERE'S ANY TRUTH
TO A FAIRY WHO MIGHT BUY YOUR TOOTH?

MICHAEL

COME ON MOTHER, LET'S STAY FOCUSED

EMILY

IT'S HARD TO BE SEDATE
OR KEEP YOUR HEAD ON STRAIGHT

MICHAEL & EMILY

WHEN FAIRY TALES COME TRUE

THOUGH I CAN'T COMPLAIN
CAUSE IF I'M INSANE
THAT MEANS YOU ARE, TOO
SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE A PACT
A SOLEMN PLEDGE TO BE EXACT
THAT SANTA'S REAL, IN FACT HE ALWAYS WAS

I KNOW I'VE HAD MY DOUBTS BEFORE
BUT NOW THERE'S PROOF I CAN'T IGNORE
SO WHY DENY IT ANYMORE
THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!!

#11a – Into the Asparagus Patch

MUSIC plays off and we transition into...

ACT TWO
SCENE 4

The Greenway Press offices on an upper floor of the Empire State Building, as in Act One, Scene 5. Later on Christmas Eve.

WALTER

You have to work on Christmas Eve, tough luck, so do I. Get it through your heads, Greenway's on his way and if he doesn't buy our pitch, we're all fired.

CHADWICK

But we've been trying all night.

MATTHEWS

We don't have a pitch.

WALTER

I'm painfully aware of that! Just keep thinking.

Pause.

CHADWICK

What about this: a poor family of asparagus children, eagerly awaiting Santa, but they're self-conscious about the way their pee smells.

WALTER

I want your resignation on my desk in the morning. In the meantime, keep thinking.

They are all silent.

DEB

May I make a suggestion?

WALTER

Anything.

DEB

Whenever we visited my Grammy in Budapest, she would tell us the story of little Palko, the one-legged boy. He wished and he wished every year for a leg and then one Christmas morning there it was, under the tree. From Santa.

WALTER

A leg?

DEB

Yes. A leg.

WALTER

A human leg?

DEB

Yes, because he'd been a very good boy.

WALTER

That's the most disgusting story I've ever heard.

DEB

(defensively)

Well, it's incredibly touching when you hear it in Hungarian.

EMILY and MICHAEL burst in.

EMILY

Walter—

MICHAEL

Dad. You're not gonna believe what we just saw—

WALTER

Emily, for God sakes, you have no idea how important it is that I continue working on this pitch.

EMILY

No. We have to talk, Walter. Right now.

WALTER

Fine. Deb, keep an eye out for Greenway, will you?

DEB steps out of the office.

What?

EMILY

First of all, Buddy is missing.

MICHAEL

He ran away. He left a note on an Etch-a-sketch.

EMILY

I brought it in the cab, but, you know, the slightest shake and those darn things erase themselves.

WALTER

Emily, you know that tonight of all nights, I have to—

MICHAEL

I knew it. He's not going to help us.

WALTER

Michael, you don't understand...

MICHAEL

No, you don't understand! It's not just Buddy. Me and Mom both saw —

DEB speaks loudly from outside the office.

DEB

Oh! Mr. Greenway, how lovely to see you. Can I get you a hot buttered rum?
Maybe a double?

GREENWAY

No. Where's Hobbs?

WALTER

(to EMILY)

Please. I'm begging you. Just give me ten minutes to make this pitch and then I'll look for Buddy with you. I'll look for any elf you want.

GREENWAY enters.

GREENWAY

Okay. Make it quick. I've got to catch a plane back to Chicago.

WALTER

Christmas party?

GREENWAY

Hardly. You remember Marczenko in acquisitions? He gave some con artist 300,000 dollars of company money for a fake Chris Smith.

WALTER looks to CHADWICK and MATTHEWS.

MATTHEWS

(nervously)

What a loser.

CHADWICK

(to MATTHEWS)

You should fire that guy.

GREENWAY

Now, let's hear your pitch, Hobbs! And it better be good!

WALTER

Okay. Okay. Let's start with the cover. Picture this: Under a Christmas tree, a little boy's leg...

BUDDY enters.

BUDDY

(tentatively, nervously)

Hi, Dad. Everybody. I'm sorry that I...

MICHAEL

Buddy!

EMILY

We were so worried! Are you okay?

BUDDY

Well, I think I just broke up with my girlfriend.

EMILY

(Sympathetically)

Oh.

(thinking about it)

You have a girlfriend??

MICHAEL

Buddy! The most amazing thing happened!

WALTER

Can we just do this later. Please?

BUDDY

Dad, I know you're mad at me, and I want to fix that.

GREENWAY

Hobbs, what is your family doing here? This is a business meeting.

BUDDY

(ignoring GREENWAY and going on)

I want to give you a Christmas present, but I don't have any money, so which would you prefer: a thousand butterfly kisses or a bracelet made of my hair?

WALTER

Neither. You want to give me a Christmas present? Give me a story to pitch!

GREENWAY

What? Are you telling me, Hobbs, that you don't have a story to pitch?

BUDDY

Dad!

WALTER

Oh, no, sir. Of course I have a story to pitch.

BUDDY

Dad! Oh!

WALTER

It's about, uh, little Palko, a one-legged boy who lives in an asparagus patch and...

BUDDY

Dad! I have a great story! Oh, this is a way better present than a bracelet made of hair!

WALTER

Hold it, Buddy, you can't...

GREENWAY

Yes, he can. Go ahead. It can't be any worse than little Palko the one-legged asparagus boy.

BUDDY

Yes, sir. It starts on Christmas morning about thirty years ago...

#12 - The Story of Buddy

PAGE ONE

FRESH OUT OF TOYS

SANTA MAKES HIS WAY BACK

WHEN HE HEARS A SMALL NOISE
FROM INSIDE HIS PACK

A SOUND THAT'S NOT UNLIKE A BABY'S CRY
IT'S ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE JOLLY GUY PERPLEXED

GREENWAY

AND?

WALTER

AND?

BUDDY

AND?

DEB, CHADWICK & MATTHEWS

AND?

MICHAEL

COME ON, BUDDY, WHAT COMES NEXT?!

GREENWAY

A baby inside Santa's bag? It's not a bad start...

WALTER

He's buying it! Keep going!

BUDDY

PAGE TWO
BACK FROM HIS RIDE
SANTA GATHERS HIS ELVES

MICHAEL

HE GATHERS HIS ELVES

BUDDY

AND THEY
QUICKLY DECIDE
THEY'LL RAISE THE BABY THEMSELVES
THE NORTH POLE ISN'T MADE FOR HUMANS, THOUGH
AND SOON THE PHONY ELF BEGINS TO GROW SO TALL

(Stuck)

HE ...

GREENWAY

HE?

DEB, CHADWICK & MATTHEWS

HE?

BUDDY

HE?

WALTER

LEARNS HE'S HUMAN AFTER ALL!

BUDDY

Right!

MICHAEL

Good one, dad!

BUDDY & MICHAEL

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF

BUDDY

IT'S KIND OF BRILLIANT IF I SAY SO MYSELF.

BUDDY, MICHAEL & WALTER

IT'S THE STORY OF BUDDY THE ELF!

GREENWAY

So the baby finds out he's a human! Then what?

BUDDY

Well, uh, he goes to New York, and, uh...

WALTER

PAGE THREE

HIS FATHER'S AT WORK

WHEN BUDDY WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR

HIS DAD

IS SORT OF A JERK

AND BUDDY'S BANNED FROM THE FLOOR

BUDDY

HIS FATHER'S NOT PREPARED TO BE A DAD

TO A SON HE NEVER KNEW HE HAD

WALTER

BUT SOON

HE'LL BE FORCED TO CHANGE HIS TUNE

BUDDY & MICHAEL

HE'LL BE FORCED TO CHANGE HIS TUNE!

WALTER

IT'S THE STORY OF

WALTER, BUDDY & MICHAEL

BUDDY THE ELF

IT'S THE STORY OF

BUDDY THE ELF

IT'S THE STORY OF

IT'S KIND OF BRILLIANT IF HE SAYS / I SAY SO HIMSELF.

IT'S THE STORY OF BUDDY THE ELF

BUDDY

AND MAYBE BUDDY HELPS HIS DAD

IN A SETTING MUCH LIKE THIS

WALTER

AND MAYBE HIS FATHER LEARNS A SON
IS SOMETHING HE CAN'T DISMISS

BUDDY & WALTER

THEY MIGHT LEARN THEY NEED EACH OTHER
MUCH MORE THAN THEY KNOW

WALTER

MAYBE THE POINT OF THE STORY IS
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GROW

BUDDY

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GROW!

**DEB, EMILY, MICHAEL, WALTER,
BUDDY, MATTHEWS, CHADWICK**

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF

MATTHEWS & CHADWICK

AND THE BOOKS WILL FLY RIGHT OFF OF THE SHELF

EMILY, MICHAEL & DEB

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

GREENWAY

I LOVE IT, I LOVE IT, I DO!
I LOVE IT, I LOVE IT, I DO!
I LOVE THAT STORY, LOVE THAT STORY, LOVE THAT STORY

**DEB, EMILY, MICHAEL, WALTER,
BUDDY, MATTHEWS, CHADWICK**

HE LOVES THAT STORY, LOVES THAT STORY, LOVES THAT STORY

ALL

HE LOVES THAT STORY, LOVES THAT STORY, LOVES THAT STORY

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

(ALL)

IT'S THE STORY OF

DEB, EMILY, MICHAEL, WALTER,
BUDDY, MATTHEWS, CHADWICK

AND THE BOOKS WILL FLY
RIGHT OFF OF THE SHELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY AND THE POINT
OF THE STORY IS
MAYBE THAT IT'S
NEVER TOO LATE TO GROW
AND THE BOOKS WILL FLY RIGHT
OFF OF THE SHELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

GREENWAY

I LOVE IT I
LOVE IT I DO
I LOVE IT I
LOVE IT I DO

DEB, EMILY, MICHAEL, WALTER,
BUDDY, MATTHEWS, CHADWICK

I LOVE THAT STORY
LOVE THAT STORY
LOVE THAT STORY

ALL

THAT'S THE STORY OF BUDDY THE ELF!

The song ends. Playoff begins.

OTHERS

OOO
OOO
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY LOVE THAT BUDDY BUDDY
THE ELF
THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

ALL

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

#12a - The Story of Buddy - Playoff

IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF
IT'S THE STORY OF
AND THE BOOKS WILL FLY RIGHT OFF OF THE SHELF

(ALL)

THAT'S THE STORY OF
BUDDY THE ELF

Playoff ends, GREENWAY gets up and shakes WALTER's hand.

GREENWAY

I love it! It's perfect!

The STAFF all react happily, ad lib.

WALTER

Thanks, Mr. Greenway. Thanks a lot.

GREENWAY

Just one little thing. Instead of an elf, let's make it a horse.

WALTER

Excuse me?

GREENWAY

I want to make it a horse instead of an elf.

CHADWICK

You mean, a horse, like—

MATTHEWS

With a saddle and a tail...?

GREENWAY

Yeah. A horse.

WALTER

Interesting....Why?

GREENWAY

Market research. Horses score really big with gweens.

EMILY

Gweens?

GREENWAY

Girl tweens.

WALTER

So, you want our Christmas story to be about a horse who grows up at the North Pole...

GREENWAY

Yeah. Obviously, it's going to take a little tweaking...

MATTHEWS

(to CHADWICK)

Genius!

CHADWICK

(to MATTHEWS)

It's outside the box.

MATTHEWS

There is no box!

MICHAEL

That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard!

WALTER

Michael...

MICHAEL

You're an idiot.

GREENWAY

That's it. Hobbs, what's up with these sons of yours?

WALTER

Mr. Greenway —

MICHAEL

Oh, come on. Buddy the Christmas horse?

BUDDY

Sir, I am not a horse.

GREENWAY

I've had enough of this. I don't need to be lectured by kids on how to sell kids books to kids!

(to MICHAEL and BUDDY)

You two, take your smart aleck remarks and get out of here!

MICHAEL

Sorry.

BUDDY

Sorry.

WALTER

Wait.

(WALTER)

(to GREENWAY)

Mr. Greenway, Michael and Buddy are my sons. I'd prefer that you didn't insult them.

GREENWAY

And I'd prefer that you keep your wife and your whole weirdo family out of the office and do your job! Now you got a good idea here, Hobbs. With work, it could be a million seller, so this is what we're going to do: I'm going to cancel my flight, we're going to work all night and all day tomorrow until we—

WALTER

(interrupting him)

Tomorrow? Tomorrow's Christmas.

GREENWAY

You got a problem with that?

WALTER

Yes. Mr. Greenway? I quit.

GREENWAY

What?

WALTER

I quit.

GREENWAY

Let me get this straight. You want to spend Christmas on the unemployment line?

WALTER

No I want to spend Christmas with my family, but I'd be happy to spend it anywhere, as long as it's not with you.

WALTER gives MICHAEL and BUDDY a high five.

MICHAEL

All right, Dad!

BUDDY

Yes, Dad!

GREENWAY

(packing up his things and storming out)

You're weak, Hobbs! I haven't spent Christmas with my family in 30 years! That's why I'm president of this company and you're nobody!

BUDDY

Mr. Greenway?

GREENWAY

What?

BUDDY

Merry Christmas!

GREENWAY exits.

WALTER

I quit. I actually quit my job.

EMILY

I've never been more proud of you, Walter.

MICHAEL

Buddy! We saw him! We saw Santa Claus!

BUDDY

You did?

EMILY

He was flying around in his sleigh, with the red suit and the big sack of toys! The whole bit! And then he landed in Central Park! Walter, it was the most incredible—

BUDDY

He landed?

MICHAEL

Yeah. Right by the boathouse.

BUDDY

Why would he do that? Unless....the sleigh couldn't fly anymore! Oh, Santa was afraid this would happen! We have to go help him! Come on!

#12b - We Have To Help Santa!

BUDDY and MICHAEL rush off.

WALTER runs after them.

WALTER

Buddy! Michael! Wait for your dad!

EMILY hesitates, touched by WALTER's transformation, and hurries after them.

ACT TWO

SCENE 5

The woods near the Boathouse. SANTA CLAUS stands glumly beside his sleigh.

#13 – Nobody Cares...(Santa's Reprise)

SANTA

USED TO BE
I COULD DEPEND ON THE CHILDREN
THEY'D BELIEVE
AND I'D BE SKYWARD BOUND

NOW IT SEEMS
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH BELIEF AROUND
TO GET ME AND MY SLEIGH UP OFF THE GROUND

I GAVE IT A TRY
BUT HOW CAN I FLY
WHEN NOBODY CARES ABOUT....

BUDDY

(rushing on)

Santa!

SANTA

Buddy, am I ever glad to see you! The darn sleigh won't fly.

BUDDY

I know!

SANTA

In this whole city, there's not enough Christmas spirit?

BUDDY

Tell me about it!

SANTA

8 Million people who don't believe in me. A guy can't help but take that personally.

BUDDY

I believe in you! And my little brother –

SANTA

It's the same thing every year: I get a boost over Vermont, but as soon as I hit the Tri-State area, it's lights out. Like I'm entering a black hole.

(looking at the sleigh)

But I've never crashed before.

BUDDY

Santa I have so much to tell you -

WALTER, MICHAEL and EMILY appear.

WALTER

Buddy, you shouldn't have run off -

They stop and stare in stunned silence.

BUDDY

Dad, Mom, Michael? I'd like you to meet my really, really good friend, Santa Claus.

WALTER

Oh, my God.

EMILY

(to WALTER)

That's the guy! That's the guy we saw in the sleigh! Flying! Right past our window! That's him! Right there!

MICHAEL

Santa Claus!

Bending down to greet MICHAEL.

SANTA

Hello, Michael. I got your letter.

MICHAEL

You did?!

SANTA

Sure.

(retrieving his iPad)

It's in my iPad. I used to schlepp around this huge book of Christmas Wishes. Not anymore.

(SANTA)

(stabbing at the iPad)

Let's see....No, that's "Fruit Ninja". Okay, here we are. Letters to Santa....Michael Hobbs: "All I want for Christmas is a day with my dad." A real tear-jerker.

MICHAEL

Oh, man! I can't wait to tell the guys at school about this. They'll freak!

EMILY

(grabbing his hand, flustered)

Mr. Claus? I have to tell you, I'm a huge, huge fan. At least I was. And now I am again! I loved you in Miracle on 34th Street.

BUDDY

And....this is my dad.

SANTA turns to WALTER.

SANTA

So, Walter. Can I take you off the naughty list, or not?

Everyone stares at him.

WALTER

You know what? It's been a crazy week. I found out I have a son, who was raised by elves; I told off my boss, I quit my job....I'm a little disoriented right now.

BUDDY

Come on, dad! Santa's standing right in front of you!

WALTER

I'm just saying....it doesn't matter if I can't wrap my head around all of this. The important thing is; Buddy, if you believe in Santa Claus, then I believe in Santa Claus.

SANTA

That's good enough for me. You're off the naughty list.

#13a – Thank You, Santa

BUDDY

(with great enthusiasm)

Yes!

The sleigh slightly rises and then settles back on the ground.

MICHAEL

Look! Look at the sleigh!

SANTA

It's not enough. Sure could use a few magic reindeer about now. Thank you PETA!
Well, that's it.

BUDDY

What do you mean?

SANTA

I mean it's over. No more Christmas. I guess it's time I considered another line of business. My Brother-in-law owns a Chipotle in Boca.

BUDDY

Santa!

SANTA

I'm not talking about working there, I'm talking about a franchise. Well, don't look at me like that. If nobody believes in Santa anymore, what can I do? Oh, it breaks my heart to disappoint all those kids.

BUDDY

I'm not gonna give up. I know I can get you all the Christmas spirit you need, I've just got to find enough people to talk to....

(grabbing SANTA's iPad)

I have to borrow this!

SANTA

What?! Wait! I haven't backed it up yet!

BUDDY, MICHAEL, EMILY and WALTER hurry off. The lights go slowly down on SANTA and we transition into...

ACT TWO**SCENE 6**

Central Park West, just outside Central Park. A few minutes later. A New York 1 remote news telecast is on the air live. Microphone in hand, CHARLOTTE DENNON stands in the midst of a large crowd of onlookers. MICHAEL runs on, followed by BUDDY, EMILY and WALTER.

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Dennon, NY1, continuing our live coverage from Central Park. No evidence has yet been found of the UFO that apparently crashed in the Park earlier this evening. But could there be another explanation? Perhaps what you millions of New York One viewers saw was Santa Claus making his rounds in the skies above Manhattan, delivering toys to all good little boys and girls—

BUDDY

(grabbing the microphone and looking into the camera)

That's exactly what people saw, only the sleigh crashed because there isn't enough Christmas spirit.

CHARLOTTE

It seems that one of Santa's Elves has joined us.

BUDDY

I know, I know everybody in New York thinks I'm crazy. But I've come here to tell you that Santa is real.

CHARLOTTE

Well, I'm afraid that's all the time we have for...

BUDDY

(pointing to a man in the crowd)

Look! I have Santa's iPad right here! You, sir, what's your name?

MAN #1

David Lambert.

BUDDY

(leafing through the book)

David Lambert. On Christmas 1979, Santa brought you a red Schwinn bicycle with a bell shaped like Miss Piggy.

MAN #1

What? How did you know that?

BUDDY

And you are, ma'am?

WOMAN

Emma Van Brocklin.

BUDDY

Christmas. 1960. A Bobby Rydell Lunchbox.

WOMAN

I loved Bobby Rydell!

CHARLOTTE

What is this, some kind of a trick?

BUDDY

What's your name?

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Dennon, New York 1.

BUDDY

Charlotte Dennon, New York 1. Yeah, right, here you are. This year you want a Tiffany engagement ring and your boy friend Dwayne to stop dragging his feet and pop the question.

CHARLOTTE

Who told you to say that? My mother?

BUDDY

No, it's right here!

CHARLOTTE

(losing her cool)

Okay. That's it. I don't know how you're doing this, but I'm not an idiot. Everybody knows that there is no Santa Claus.

(realizing what she has just said.)

Omigod! I ruined Christmas.

BUDDY

You didn't ruin Christmas. No one can!

(turning to the crowd)

Oh, I could stand here all night reading names out of this thing and you still wouldn't believe in him, would you? Well, it doesn't matter, because Christmas is a lot more than just Santa Claus. Christmas is....is....sleeping on a futon. Having cold spaghetti for breakfast with your little brother. Right? It's going ice skating with your girlfriend and kissing her for the very first time under a big, glittery Christmas tree. It's travelling miles and miles to be with your family, walking through the Lincoln tunnel with cars blowing their horns the whole time and truck drivers yelling things that no person should say to another human being, let alone to an elf.

(BUDDY)

It's hoping that when you wake up on Christmas morning all the cars, and all the big grey office buildings, and all the piles of garbage will be covered in snow.

#13b – Snow Music

A light snow begins to fall.

You see? You can't ruin Christmas! It's all around you. You just got to get into the spirit of it. And the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! Everybody! Sing! Sing! Anybody?

Silence

#13b – A Christmas Song – Reprise

JOVIE

(stepping out of the crowd and singing)

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG
JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

Come on people! Get into it!

BUDDY

Jovie? You're here! I thought you were mad at me.

JOVIE

I was, but then you made it snow!

JOVIE & BUDDY

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG
THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SING

Now, gradually, as LIGHTS come up all around the stage, we see SANTA sitting in his sleigh with his reindeer, at stage left. One by one, ALL join in the song, including such former Scrooges as WALTER.

JOVIE, BUDDY & EMILY

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG

JOVIE, BUDDY, EMILY & MICHAEL

JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

WALTER

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG

JOVIE, BUDDY, EMILY, MICHAEL & WALTER

THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SING

PART OF THE ENSEMBLE

AND IF YOU'RE SHORT ON CHEER
THINK ABOUT THAT YEAR
YOU WOKE UP TO FIND A BRAND NEW SNOW HAD FALLEN

ENSEMBLE

THE ORNAMENTS YOU MADE
WAY BACK IN SECOND GRADE

MICHAEL & WALTER

UNTANGLING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
TOOK YOUR FATHER SEVERAL NIGHTS

JOVIE & EMILY

YOUR MOTHER CLAIMED THAT SHE HAD PROOF
THERE WERE REINDEER ON THE ROOF

WALTER, EMILY & MICHAEL

REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE BACK THEN
LET THOSE MOMENTS LIVE AGAIN

JOVIE & BUDDY

LET THOSE MOMENTS LIVE AGAIN

BUDDY, JOVIE & THE HOBBS

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG
JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

ENSEMBLE

OOOOOO OOOOOO

During all of the above, SANTA CLAUS and his sleigh slowly begin to rise in the mist of the falling snow higher and higher above the stage.

EMSEMBLE

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL
SEASON LONG

SANTA

(Calling to BUDDY)

You did it, Buddy! You saved Christmas.
Hey! You wanna a ride back to the North Pole?

BUDDY

No, thanks Santa. I'm happy right here.

Ultimately, SANTA disappears up into the flies as ALL continue to sing.

ALL

THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES...

We finally see SANTA CLAUS and his sleigh projected above in the upstage sky and then vanish into the night as SANTA calls out.

SANTA

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

ALL

AND SING!!

As the song ends to applause, MUSIC plays off, Scene 6 ends and we transition into...

EPILOGUE

We transition to the living room of a snowy cottage at the North Pole. SANTA is reading the final page of the book "Elf". MUSIC under all of the following.

SANTA

(reading)

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night" I proclaimed, as I continued on my rounds.

(looking up from the book)

Funny story; in all the excitement I forgot the New Zealand that year. Completely slipped my mind! I popped by on the 26th and made good. Anyway...

(reading)

It wasn't long after that Walter started his own publishing company, Hobbs and Sons, and Buddy's story went on to become the bestselling children's book in the world! And it probably won't come as a surprise to you that they all lived happily ever after.

(closing the book)

And that's it. That's the end of our story.

The doorbell rings.

MRS. CLAUS

They're here!

SANTA

Well, it's not quite the end. There is one last, little chapter...

MRS. CLAUS opens the door. BUDDY and JOVIE are dressed as elves and JOVIE is pushing a baby carriage. WALTER follows. CHARLIE and the other ELVES from the workshop are right behind them, carrying bowls of food, presents, eggnog, etc. It's a chaotic scene.

BUDDY

Merry Christmas, Santa!

SANTA

Merry Christmas, kids!

BUDDY

Merry Christmas everybody!

(BUDDY)

I'M SINGING!
 I'M AT THE NORTH POLE AND I'M SINGING!
 I'VE GOT A WIFE AND I'M SINGING!
 AND WE DID A SPECIAL KIND OF HUG I'D NEVER HEARD ABOUT BEFORE
 AND WHEN IT WAS OVER I WAS SINGING
 AND NOW WE'VE GOT A KID SO I'M SIIIIINGGGGINNNNGGG!

WALTER

Shhh! Buddy! You'll wake the baby!

JOVIE

It's okay, Papa Hobbs. The baby loves Buddy's singing!

BUDDY

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SING TO STOP A STRING OF SLEEPY SOBS

BUDDY & JOVIE

CAUSE NOBODY LIKES A CHRISTMAS SONG LIKE LITTLE BUDDY HOBBS!

BUDDY, JOVIE & WALTER

AND THAT'S WHY HIS MIDDLE NAME JUST HAPPENS TO BE

ALL

SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

EMILY and MICHAEL enter in elf-like costumes.

EMILY & MICHAEL

NOW WE SPEND EACH CHRISTMAS HERE
 DRESSED UP IN NORTH POLE FESTIVE WEAR

BUDDY

AND MY SON HAS JOVIE'S EYES

JOVIE

AND BUDDY'S BRIGHT RED CURLY HAIR!

WALTER

BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT BUDDY JUNIOR TAKES AFTER ME
 I'M SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

EMILY

No, you're not!

WALTER

Yes, I am!

No, you're not!

EMILY

Yes, I am!

WALTER

No, you're not!

ALL

Yes, I am!

WALTER

SANTA

AND WHEN THE BABY'S GROWN HE'LL RIDE ON MY SLEIGH

SANTA & BUDDY

AND HELP DELIVER GIFTS GALORE

WALTER

WE'LL TEACH HIM CHRISTMAS NEVER GETS IN THE WAY

Knock at the door.

BUDDY

GUESS WHO'S AT THE FRONT DOOR!

#15a - Finale - Part 2 (Dance)

The rest of the cast, including DEB, the STORE MANAGER, etc. Tap dance their way on to the stage. Big finale and dance break.

ALL

EVERYTHING SEEMS BETTER WITH OUR
FRIENDS AND FAMILY INTERTWINED
AND WE KNOW A HAPPY ENDING ISN'T VERY FAR BEHIND
ONCE WE TURN THE WORLD INTO ONE BIG FAMILY
WE'LL BE

BUDDY

SPARKLE

JOVIE

JOLLY

SANTA

TWINKLE

WALTER

JINGLE

EMILY

SHINY

MICHAEL

SHOWY

MRS. CLAUS

CHEERY

GREENWAY

KRINGLE

CHADWICK

RAZZLE

MATTHEWS

DAZZLE

DEB

RING-A-LINGLE

The MANAGER pops up dressed as an elf.

MANAGER

I CAN'T LIE IT MAKES ME TINGLE!

ALL

SPARKLEJOLLYTWINKLEJINGLEY!

CURTAIN

THE END

#16 – Bows

#17 – Exit Music

