

Who Will
Be the Next
NORTH POLE
STAR?

By
Alexi Alfieri



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WHO WILL BE THE NEXT NORTH POLE STAR?

By ALEXI ALFIERI

CAST OF CHARACTERS (In Order of Appearance)

of lines

MRS. CLAUS	aspiring holiday home decorator	27
SANTA CLAUS	the big guy himself	44
JACK FROST	North Pole Network TV producer	92
BUD	North Pole Network cameraman	24

Elves

JEWEL	fashion designer	23
PEARL	Jewel's assistant	12
MODEL ONE*	a fashion model	n/a
MODEL TWO*	another model	n/a
MODEL THREE*	another	n/a
MODEL FOUR*	another	n/a
MODEL FIVE*	another	n/a
SUGAR	baker	22
HONEY	another baker	15
BABYCAKES	another	15
RIBBON	gift wrapping mentor	18
TWINE	gift wrapping student	2
STRING	another student	2

Reindeer

DANCER	a dancing reindeer	9
DASHER	another dancer	4
PRANCER	another	3
VIXEN	another	3
COMET	another	3
CUPID	another	3

*MODELS should double as REINDEER



SETTING

Time: Almost Christmastime.

Place: Santa's office at the North Pole.

SET DESCRIPTION

Santa's office is a large space decked out for Christmas, including a Christmas tree and other holiday decorations. There is a large desk and desk chair, plus an additional chair next to the desk. The chairs should be lightweight and on casters to make them easy to move around the stage.



WHO WILL BE THE NEXT NORTH POLE STAR?

- 1 AT RISE: Santa's office. MRS. CLAUS ENTERS and paces nervously, tugging at her dress and fluffing her hair.
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(To herself.)* Oh, I'm so nervous! I can't believe he's going to be here any minute! *(Takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly.)* But I have to stay calm. I have to be ready to talk to him. *(Muses to herself as SANTA ENTERS without her noticing.)* I wonder what he likes to be called.
- SANTA:** My dear Mrs. Claus, you know I love it when you call me your "Mr. Plumpkins."
- 10 **MRS. CLAUS:** *(Startled, then slightly exasperated.)* Oh, Santa, I wasn't talking about you!
- SANTA:** *(Mock bewilderment.)* You weren't?
- MRS. CLAUS:** Of course not.
- SANTA:** Well, who then?
- 15 **MRS. CLAUS:** Oh, you know very well who. Everyone's been talking about this for weeks!
- SANTA:** *(Pretends to think hard.)* Hmmm...
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Prompts him.)* The most famous person here at the North Pole...?
- 20 **SANTA:** Ho, ho, ho! Definitely not me then?
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Scoffs.)* Of course not! You're only famous in December. I'm talking year-round.
- SANTA:** Well then, let's see. It must be...
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Unable to contain herself.)* Mr. Jack Frost!
- 25 **SANTA:** *(Pretends to remember.)* Oh, yes. Now I remember.
- MRS. CLAUS:** Of course you remember Mr. Frost is coming here! He's the president of North Pole Network! And he's looking for his next big television star!
- SANTA:** Hard to believe good ol' Jack is now the head honcho of the NPN.
- 30 **MRS. CLAUS:** You're lucky to be on a first name basis with everybody. I don't know what to call him.
- SANTA:** My dear, I never told you this before, but I went to school with Jack. We snuck a snowball into the teacher's desk and were sent to the principal's office together.
- 35 **MRS. CLAUS:** *(Hands on hips.)* I thought you told me you were the perfect student and never got into trouble?
- SANTA:** He made me do it!
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Frowns briefly.)* Well, never mind that now. Does my hair look alright?

1 **SANTA:** (*Shrugs.*) It looks like it always does.
MRS. CLAUS: (*Slightly irritated.*) Well, what does that mean?
SANTA: (*Recovers.*) Oh! Beautiful, of course.
MRS. CLAUS: (*Sighs in relief.*) Oh, good. I know Mr. Frost is going to
5 ask me a lot of tough questions, and he's going to be interviewing
plenty of others around here, too. Everyone wants to be the star of
their own television show!
SANTA: Everyone?
MRS. CLAUS: Of course! The elves, the reindeer—I think there's even
10 a group of snowmen signed up to talk to him. (*A loud KNOCK is
heard from OFF. MRS. CLAUS panics.*) Oh, my icicles! He's here!
Mr. Jack Frost is here! (*Bustles about nervously, patting at her hair.*)
SANTA: Now calm down, my dear...
MRS. CLAUS: Oh, I feel faint! (*Puts her hand to her forehead and
15 swoons a bit.*)
SANTA: (*Calmly.*) It's just Jack. He puts his long winter underwear on
one leg at a time—just like the rest of us.
JACK: (*ENTERS smiling broadly, followed by BUD, a few steps behind
and holding a video camera on his shoulder. JACK sees SANTA.*)
20 Nicholas! Good to see you!
SANTA: Jack! My old friend! (*Shakes hands warmly with JACK as MRS.
CLAUS stands by nervously.*)
JACK: Nick, this is my cameraman, Bud. He's the best in the business.
SANTA: Pleased to meet you, Bud.
25 **BUD:** (*Shakes SANTA'S hand.*) Santa.
SANTA: (*Gestures to MRS. CLAUS.*) And this is...
JACK: (*Steps to MRS. CLAUS with his arms out.*) Mrs. Claus, of course!
Well, I'd know you anywhere! I've heard so much about you! (*MRS.
CLAUS giggles nervously.*) Now, I understand you're on my list.
30 (*MRS. CLAUS nods nervously and giggles again. SANTA smiles and
shakes his head.*) Yes, yes. You'd like to host your own... let's
see... (*Pulls out a sheet of paper—a list—and checks it.*) ...a
holiday home decorating show? (*MRS. CLAUS nods enthusiastically
but silently as JACK returns the list to his pocket.*)
35 **SANTA:** Jack, what do you need from me? I know you're conducting a
lot of interviews today.
JACK: You've already been a big help, my friend. I appreciate you
letting me borrow your office for the afternoon.
SANTA: Of course! Make yourself comfortable. Anything for the big
40 cheese of NPN!

- 1 **JACK:** And how about you and me get together later, Nick? We can catch up!
- SANTA:** Sounds good, Jack! Well, I'll leave you to it. (*Looks over at MRS. CLAUS, who stands frozen in place.*) Good luck, my dear!
- 5 (*MRS. CLAUS nods nervously and smiles wide. EXITS.*)
- JACK:** (*Brings a chair out from behind the desk and places it CENTER. Gestures for MRS. CLAUS to sit and then sits across from MRS. CLAUS. BUD stands nearby with the camera.*) Now, Mrs. Claus, I have a few questions for you. As you know, I'm looking for my next
- 10 big North Pole star!
- MRS. CLAUS:** Mr. Frost, I—
- JACK:** Now, now, none of this "Mr. Frost" business. Please, call me Jack.
- MRS. CLAUS:** Jack.
- JACK:** That's better. Are we rolling, Bud?
- 15 **BUD:** (*Points the camera at MRS. CLAUS and her eyes grow very wide.*) Rolling.
- JACK:** Now, Mrs. Claus, I understand you are passionate about holiday home decorating. Tell us, what inspires you this time of year? (*MRS. CLAUS stares in fear at the camera and doesn't*
- 20 *answer.*) It's alright, Mrs. Claus. Just pretend like the camera isn't even there. Tell us, what creative touches do you like to add to your home at Christmastime?
- MRS. CLAUS:** (*Remains very still staring straight into the camera, clearly anxious about being recorded. Smiles weakly and answers in a shaky voice.*) Red.
- 25 **JACK:** (*Encouraging.*) Red! Wonderful! Tell us more. What else?
- MRS. CLAUS:** (*Pause, still in fear of the camera.*) Green.
- JACK:** And green! Lovely! Isn't that lovely, Bud?
- BUD:** (*Monotone.*) Lovely.
- 30 **JACK:** And with those cheerful colors in mind, what elements of design do you like to focus on? (*MRS. CLAUS continues to stare at the camera with a frozen smile.*) Again, Mrs. Claus, just a reminder to ignore the camera as much as possible. (*MRS. CLAUS nods but can't snap out of it.*) So, tell us everything. For
- 35 example, what decorations are on your tree this year? (*Indicates tree, trying to be helpful.*)
- MRS. CLAUS:** (*Still frozen, staring and smiling.*) Tinsel.
- JACK:** (*Beat.*) Tinsel! Delightful! (*Turns to BUD with raised eyebrows.*)
- BUD:** (*Monotone.*) Delightful.
- 40 **JACK:** Is that all, Mrs. Claus?
- MRS. CLAUS:** Yes.

- 1 **JACK:** Nothing else you can think of?
MRS. CLAUS: No.
JACK: Alright then... Bud, I think that wraps things up, don't you?
BUD: Yup. (*Lowers the camera and MRS. CLAUS is suddenly herself again.*)
- 5 **JACK:** Mrs. Claus, it was a true pleasure.
MRS. CLAUS: (*Warm and chatty.*) Oh, the pleasure was all mine, Mr. Fr— I mean, Jack. I have so many wonderful ideas to share. And I didn't even mention how many things one can do with pine cones and potpourri. Oh, and candles add such warmth to a home, and—
- 10 **JACK:** Thank you, Mrs. Claus. I'll let you know about the holiday home decorating show, shall I? (*Stands as MRS. CLAUS also rises, nodding enthusiastically.*) Would you mind sending in... (*Pulls out the list and checks it.*) ...Jewel and Pearl on your way out?
- MRS. CLAUS:** Yes, of course. And it was such a pleasure to meet both
15 of you. Thank you for the opportunity. (*EXITS.*)
- JEWEL/PEARL:** (*JACK puts the list back in his pocket and moves the chairs beside the desk and out of the way as BUD stands by. JEWEL and PEARL ENTER. In sing-song voices.*) Hellooo!
- JACK:** Good afternoon, ladies! (*Shakes their hands.*) I'm Jack Frost.
- 20 **JEWEL:** It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Frost! I'm Jewel, and this is my assistant, Pearl. (*PEARL smiles and curtsies.*)
JACK: And this is Bud. (*Gestures to BUD beside him.*)
PEARL: (*Bats her eyes, in a flirty voice.*) Hello, Bud.
JACK: Ladies, I'm looking for the next stars of the North Pole Network!
- 25 **JEWEL:** Oh, we know, Mr. Frost! So, Pearl and I have been working all morning on some great ideas.
JACK: Excellent! I understand you'd like to host a show that features the latest in... (*Checks list.*) ...elf fashion?
- JEWEL:** That's right. Pearl and I are big fans of *Project Runway*! You
30 know, that series where all the fashion designers compete? But we're ready to blow the sequined socks off that show!
- JACK:** Well, that's encouraging. NPN is always looking to outshine the other networks!
- JEWEL:** Are you ready to see some of our designs?
- 35 **JACK:** (*To BUD.*) Are you ready, Bud?
BUD: Rolling. (*Points the camera at JEWEL and PEARL. PEARL bats her eyes and makes a kissy face.*)
JEWEL: Our first design demonstrates how the right accessory makes all the difference when it comes to elf fashion.

- 1 **PEARL:** *(Calls OFF in a gruff, commanding tone. [NOTE: Each time PEARL calls on a MODEL, her tone of voice will be quite opposite the cute, almost sing-song voice she uses with JACK and BUD.])* Elf model number one! *(MODEL ONE ENTERS wearing various*
5 *accessories—necklaces, tiara, scarf, eyeglasses, belt, fancy shoes, bracelets, etc. [See PRODUCTION NOTES.] As he will with all the models, BUD tracks MODEL ONE with the camera. MODEL ONE spins and strikes a dramatic pose.)*
- JEWEL:** Our fashion motto is “more is more!”
- 10 **JACK:** *(Raises his eyebrows.)* I can see that.
- JEWEL:** We call this design “Accessories Are an Elf’s Best Friend.”
- PEARL:** *(Directly to the camera in a sing-song voice.)* Love it!
- JEWEL:** Ready for our next idea, Mr. Frost?
- JACK:** Yes, I am.
- 15 **JEWEL:** *(Nods to MODEL ONE, who EXITS.)* Alright, in a burst of inspiration, Pearl and I took our very favorite accessory and went all the way with it!
- PEARL:** *(Calls OFF gruffly.)* Elf model number two! *(MODEL TWO ENTERS in a multi-colored, outrageously feathered costume. There*
20 *are feathers from head to toe. MODEL TWO spins and strikes a dramatic pose.)*
- JEWEL:** *(Enthusiastically.)* We were going for something light and magical here, Mr. Frost! We call it “Elf in Flight.” Doesn’t it look like they could just float away on the breeze at any moment?
- 25 **JACK:** I would say so.
- JEWEL:** *(Waves gracefully to MODEL TWO, who EXITS, flapping her arms gently. As this is happening, PEARL drifts toward BUD and gazes at him adoringly as he points the camera lens on JEWEL.)* Shall we move on? Pearl? *(Looks around and spots PEARL, frowns, and*
30 *claps her hands to get PEARL’S attention.)* Pearl, I need you your attention here.
- PEARL:** *(Snaps out of it and darts back over to JEWEL.)* Of course. Sorry, Jewel.
- JEWEL:** For our third design, we wanted to embrace a more casual
35 look. We feel that every elf at the North Pole should be able to dress casually and look good at the same time.
- PEARL:** *(Calls OFF.)* Elf model number three! *(MODEL THREE ENTERS dressed in a Hawaiian shirt, sunglasses, shorts, flip-flops, and—quite conspicuously—an elf hat. MODEL THREE carries a boogie*
40 *board and poses with feet apart and a hand on the hip.)*
- JACK:** Is that a boogie board?

1 **JEWEL:** Yes, it is! We call this look “Surf It Up at the North Pole... Dude.”
JACK: I see.
PEARL: (*Sweetly to BUD.*) I think this outfit would look positively dreamy on you, Bud. (*BUD raises his eyebrows but is otherwise expressionless.*)

5 **JEWEL:** (*Firmly.*) Moving on! (*Gestures to MODEL THREE, who EXITS.*) Now, Mr. Frost, you must know the old saying “what goes around, comes around”?

JACK: Of course.

JEWEL: Well, that statement holds very true in the fashion world. Pearl
 10 and I are confident our next look will come back around any time now and be more popular than ever!

PEARL: (*Calls OFF.*) Elf model number four! (*MODEL FOUR ENTERS dressed in a tie-dyed shirt, a head band, and 60s style hippie glasses. MODEL FOUR spins and flashes the peace sign with both hands. JACK is speechless. Looks to BUD affectionately.*)
 15 Groovy, isn’t it?

BUD: (*Monotone.*) Groovy.

JEWEL: We like to call this “Give Peace on Earth a Chance.”

JACK: I see...

20 **JEWEL:** (*Gestures firmly to MODEL FOUR, who EXITS.*) And finally, our last design, Mr. Frost.

PEARL: It’s our most dramatic look of all.

JACK: Really?

JEWEL: Pearl and I spent almost half an hour trying to decide what an
 25 elf could wear during the workday that could successfully transition into evening wear.

PEARL: (*Shakes her head seriously.*) Such a fashion problem.

JEWEL: And we came up with the perfect fashion solution!

PEARL: (*Calls OFF.*) Elf model number five! (*MODEL FIVE ENTERS dressed entirely in black. MODEL FIVE spins slowly and then stands stiffly, arms down.*)
 30

JEWEL: We call it “Back to Black.” Good for weddings, anniversaries, funerals, a walk in a snowstorm, a day at the office, or a night out on the town!

35 **PEARL:** Perfect for any occasion, don’t you think, Bud?

BUD: (*Monotone.*) Perfect. (*JEWEL gestures to MODEL FIVE, who EXITS in a slow, clumsy march. BUD lowers the camera.*)

JEWEL: Well, Mr. Frost? What do you think?

JACK: (*After a thoughtful pause.*) Ladies, I’ll have to think about it and
 40 give you a call.

1 **JEWEL:** (*Confidently, as PEARL moves close to BUD.*) Alright then,
we'll wait to hear from you! Won't we, Pearl? (*Looks around
and sees PEARL leaning in close to BUD, who stands without
expression. JEWEL sighs heavily.*) Time to go, Pearl! (*PEARL
5 reluctantly leaves BUD'S side, gives him a little wink and a wave,
and follows JEWEL OFF.*)

JACK: (*Pulls out his list and checks it.*) Well, Bud, next up is a group
of three elves from Santa's kitchen. Looks like they're sisters.
(*SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES ENTER. SUGAR carries bags of
10 flour and sugar. HONEY carries a whisk, a bowl, and a dishrag.
BABYCAKES carries a measuring cup and measuring spoons.*) Good
afternoon, ladies, I'm Jack Frost.

SUGAR: Good afternoon, Mr. Frost. My sisters and I are pleased to
meet you! I'm Sugar, and I'm the oldest sister.

15 **HONEY:** I'm Honey, and I'm the middle sister.

BABYCAKES: And I'm Babycakes, the baby sister. But I'm not a baby!
Let's get that straight right now!

SUGAR: Oh, Babycakes, shush!

BABYCAKES: And you're not the boss of me! (*Crosses her arms and
20 looks fiercely at HONEY, who rolls her eyes.*)

JACK: (*Awkward pause.*) Well, now, I'm looking for the next star—or
three—of the North Pole! And you ladies would like to host your
own holiday cooking show?

SUGAR: Baking, Mr. Frost. We'd like to host a holiday baking show.
25 Our mother always said there are cooks and there are bakers.
Don't trust a cook.

HONEY: I thought she said don't trust a crook.

BABYCAKES: I thought she said don't trust a book.

SUGAR: Now, Babycakes, why in heavens would she say that? You
30 know every good baker depends on the exact measurements in a
recipe book.

HONEY: That's not true. I change the amounts of things all the time.

SUGAR: And may I remind you of the sugar cookies you made the
other day that were hard as hockey pucks?

35 **BABYCAKES:** (*Folds her arms and pouts.*) Hey! I didn't get to taste any
sugar cookies!

SUGAR: (*Hands on hips.*) Oh, stop being so immature, Babycakes!

HONEY: (*Puts her finger to her lips and shushes her SISTERS.*) Hush!
Both of you! I'm tired of being in the middle and always having
40 to mediate.

- 1 **JACK:** *(Interrupts.)* So, ladies, what are you going to bake for us today?
(SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES turn back to JACK.)
- SUGAR:** We want to show the television audience how to make our famous gingerbread cookies!
- 5 **JACK:** Wonderful! Please use the desk over there as your kitchen counter, and we're ready when you are. I love gingerbread, don't you, Bud?
- BUD:** *(Monotone.)* Love it. *(Points the camera at SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES, who step behind the desk, rudely jostling each other a bit to make room and set down their supplies.)*
- 10 **SUGAR:** *(Looks directly into the camera.)* Happy holidays, everyone! My name's Sugar, and today we're going to show you how to make—
- HONEY:** *(Scowls at SUGAR.)* Hey! Aren't you going to introduce us?
- BABYCAKES:** Yeah, and who said you get to talk first?
- 15 **SUGAR:** I'm talking first because I'm the oldest. *(HONEY and BABYCAKES look at each other and roll their eyes.)*
- JACK:** Feel free to begin again.
- SUGAR:** *(Takes a deep exasperated breath.)* Happy holidays, everyone! My name's Sugar and this is my sister, and this is my other sister.
- 20 *(Gestures quickly to HONEY and BABYCAKES.)*
- HONEY:** Hey! Why aren't you telling them our names?
- BABYCAKES:** *(Sarcastically.)* Or are we too... *(Air quote.)* ...“immature” to be mentioned?
- SUGAR:** Honestly, if you two keep interrupting me, how are we
- 25 supposed to get on with the recipe?
- HONEY:** Fine.
- BABYCAKES:** Whatever.
- SUGAR:** *(Looks back at the camera with a forced smile.)* To make our famous gingerbread cookies, you first start by creaming the butter
- 30 with the sugar.
- HONEY:** Or you could say the sugar with the butter.
- BABYCAKES:** I think you cream the butter first and then add the sugar.
- SUGAR:** *(With forced calm, still speaking to the camera.)* Then you add two eggs.
- 35 **HONEY:** One at a time.
- SUGAR:** Both at once.
- HONEY:** One at a time!
- SUGAR:** Both at once!
- BABYCAKES:** Oh, who cares?
- 40 **SUGAR:** Next, you add a teaspoon of vanilla extract.

1 **HONEY:** Or almond extract.

BABYCAKES: Or ginger extract.

SUGAR: Babycakes, there is no such thing as ginger extract, and you know it!

5 **BABYCAKES:** (*Pouts.*) Well, there should be if we're making gingerbread cookies.

SUGAR: (*Sighs frustratedly.*) I just know both of you were adopted. You couldn't possibly be my real sisters. If you were, you would know this recipe by heart!

10 **HONEY:** (*Taunts.*) But I thought you said, "Every good baker follows the exact measurements in the written recipe."

BABYCAKES: Yeah, where's the recipe card, Sugar?

SUGAR: It's right here! (*Reaches into the pocket of her apron but finds nothing.*) Well, it was here! Honey! Babycakes! What did you

15 do with it?

HONEY: Why would we want your stinky ol' recipe card?

BABYCAKES: (*Taunts.*) Yeah! And why do you need it? Don't you know the recipe... (*Air quotes.*) "by heart"?

SUGAR: (*Slowly turns to the camera with another forced smile.*) After the

20 vanilla extract, you carefully add two cups of flour to your mixture.

HONEY: Two and a half.

BABYCAKES: Actually, it's two and three-quarters.

SUGAR: (*Sweetly.*) Oh, pardon me. Two... (*Takes a small handful of flour from the bag and throws it at HONEY.*) ...and a half! (*HONEY squeals angrily as BABYCAKES laughs.*) Or maybe it was two... (*Takes another small handful of flour from the bag and throws it at BABYCAKES.*) ...and three quarters! (*BABYCAKES squeals angrily as SUGAR celebrates triumphantly.*)

25 **JACK:** (*Moves forward and gestures to SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES to calm down.*) Ladies, ladies! Calm down! (*SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES all cross their arms and stare angrily at one another.*) It's true I'm looking for an exciting television show, but we're not trying to compete with Jerry Springer [*or other show that reveals the ugly side of humanity*]. (*SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES are still silent, staring each other down. In a soft, calming voice.*) Now, stop

35 this, you three. You're sisters. You shouldn't be fighting like this. You're family and you love one another, don't you? (*Encouragingly.*) Don't you? (*SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES silently stare at each other a moment longer and then all three burst into tears and begin hugging.*) Alright, that's better. Now I want you to gather up your

40 things, go get cleaned up, and have a nice cup of hot chocolate together. (*SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES pick up their supplies*

1 *from the desk, sniffing. HONEY uses the dishrag to clean up the desk. BUD lowers the camera.)*
SUGAR: *(With a deep sigh.)* Alright, Mr. Frost.
HONEY: *(Sniffs.)* Thank you, Mr. Frost.
5 **BABYCAKES:** *(In a small voice.)* Sorry, Mr. Frost.
JACK: That's quite alright. *(SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES EXIT. Pauses thoughtfully and turns to BUD.)* I could consider them for a reality show. How about "The Real Elves of the North Pole Kitchen"? *(BUD shrugs indifferently. If necessary, moves the desk and chairs UPSTAGE to create more room.)* Bud?
10 **BUD:** Yeah?
JACK: You ever heard of that show *Dancing with the Stars*?
BUD: Nope.
JACK: It's a television show where couples compete on the dance
15 floor, and they pair professional dancers with famous stars.
BUD: Yeah?
JACK: Yeah. Well, you're never going to guess who wants to have a similar show. *(DASHER, DANCER, PRANCER, VIXEN, COMET, and CUPID ENTER. DASHER has a music player that she sets to the side.)* Hello there, reindeer! I'm Jack Frost, and I'm looking for—
20 **DASHER:** Some famous stars, of course! *(Strikes a pose.)* Well, here we are, Mr. Frost! I'm Dasher!
DANCER: *(Strikes a pose.)* Dancer!
PRANCER: *(Strikes a pose.)* Prancer!
25 **VIXEN:** *(Strikes a pose.)* Vixen!
COMET: *(Strikes a pose.)* Comet!
CUPID: *(Strikes a pose.)* Cupid!
DASHER: I'm sure you've heard of us, of course.
JACK: Your names are very familiar. And where are Donder and Blitzen,
30 may I ask?
DASHER: Donder threw out a knee, and Blitzen has a mild concussion. They were practicing the tango and got a little crazy in the turn.
JACK: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.
DASHER: But you know about our idea for a show, right, Mr. Frost? We
35 want to call it *Dancing with the Reindeer Stars*!
JACK: Yes, I know. Which I have to say was a bit of a surprise. I had no idea reindeer could dance.
DANCER: Duh, my name is Dancer.
JACK: Oh yes, of course. Well, tell me, what style of dance is your favorite?
40 **DASHER:** I love the cha-cha!

- 1 **DANCER:** The mambo!
PRANCER: The jive!
VIXEN: Definitely the samba!
COMET: The swing!
- 5 **CUPID:** And I can pull off one mean foxtrot!
JACK: Really? Bud, are you ready?
BUD: Rolling. *(Points the camera at REINDEER.)*
JACK: May I see a quick demonstration of your dancing talent?
- 10 **DASHER:** Does a reindeer tap dance in the woods? Of course! *(Hits play and MUSIC PLAYS. REINDEER do some form of dancing in place—any style they can come up with that looks ridiculous. After several seconds, DASHER hits the stop button. BUD lowers the camera.)* See there, Mr. Frost? Everyone will want to watch *Dancing with the Reindeer Stars*!
- 15 **JACK:** Well, I appreciate your confidence.
DASHER: So where do we sign?
DANCER: Yeah, and how much do we get per episode?
PRANCER: Do you offer health insurance benefits?
VIXEN: Will we get to choose our own costumes?
- 20 **COMET:** And how about sick days?
CUPID: When should I call my lawyer to have him look over the contract?
JACK: *(A bit startled.)* I'm not sure if I can answer all of your questions right now. Tell me, who will be your dance partners?
- 25 **DASHER:** Anybody who's interested in spinning around the dance floor with a reindeer superstar—and who doesn't mind the occasional stab of an antler, of course.
JACK: Of course! *(Beat.)* But are you sure you wouldn't be more interested in doing some sort of documentary instead? How about a series that features the everyday life of reindeer living at the
- 30 North Pole?
DASHER: Like what you see on the Animal Planet channel? *(REINDEER look at one another dismissively and then at JACK.)*
REINDEER: Bor-ing!
JACK: Well, give me some time to consider this, and I'll let you know. *(REINDEER shrug and EXIT. Pulls out his list and examines it once again.)* Okay, Bud, next up will be three elves from the gift-wrapping department. Ribbon, Twine, and String. Clever names, don't you think?
- BUD:** *(Monotone.)* Clever.
- 40 **JACK:** If they're good, and I suspect they are, considering their

1 experience, then Martha Stewart might have some real competition on her hands. Right, Bud?

BUD: Right.

JACK: I was never very good at gift wrapping—all that creasing and
5 folding and taping. I always talked my mom into doing it for me every Christmas. Are you good at gift wrapping, Bud?

BUD: Nope.

JACK: You know, Bud, it's nice we're getting a chance to talk like this. I feel I'm really getting to know you. (*RIBBON, TWINE, and*
10 *STRING ENTER. RIBBON carries a small box, TWINE has a sheet of wrapping paper and a long ribbon, and STRING has a roll of tape and scissors.*)

RIBBON: Hello there! You must be Mr. Frost. (*Reaches out and shakes JACK'S hand enthusiastically.*) I'm Ribbon!

15 **JACK:** Hello, Ribbon!

RIBBON: I'm the mentor of the North Pole gift wrapping department, and these are my students, Twine and String.

JACK: It's a pleasure to meet all of you. I'm sure you're interested in being North Pole television stars! Were you going to do a
20 demonstration for me today?

RIBBON: That's right! We'd like to have a television series completely devoted to gift wrapping! (*TWINE and STRING nod their heads enthusiastically.*)

JACK: Well, I have to confess I had no idea there would be so much
25 to say about gift wrapping!

RIBBON: Oh, that doesn't surprise me. Most people have no idea what it takes to achieve a perfectly wrapped present. We could fill hours and hours of television programming for the North Pole Network!

30 **JACK:** Well, let's see a short demonstration then! Ready, Bud?

BUD: Rolling. (*Points the camera at RIBBON, TWINE, and STRING as they move into position behind the desk and set down their supplies.*)

RIBBON: When you begin wrapping a gift, you must first consider its size and shape. (*Picks up the small box and holds it in the air.*) This,
35 for example, is a... (*Prompts TWINE for the answer.*) ...Twine?

TWINE: Rectangular prism!

RIBBON: (*As if speaking to a child.*) That's right! A rectangular prism! And how many corners does a rectangular prism have? String?

STRING: Eight!

40 **RIBBON:** Yes! Eight corners! Very good! (*TWINE and STRING beam in delight. RIBBON sets down the box proudly. JACK and BUD glance at each other. There's a long pause.*)

1 **JACK:** That's a great introduction... you can skip ahead to wrapping the gift now, if you'd like.

RIBBON: *(Chuckles.)* Oh, no, no, Mr. Frost! We're not anywhere near that point yet. Next, we have to consider the choice of wrapping paper. There are, literally, thousands of options. Twine, can you name just a few?

TWINE: Paper! Tissue! Foil!

RIBBON: And the possible texture options, String?

STRING: Shiny! Glittery! Metallic!

10 **RIBBON:** Brilliant, you two! I'm really proud of you! *(TWINE and STRING beam in delight once again as RIBBON looks at them fondly. JACK and BUD glance at each other again. Another long pause.)*

JACK: Please, go on.

RIBBON: Well, from here, Mr. Frost, we can talk about creasing, which is something I feel takes a great deal of practice.

JACK: Is that right? *(Stifles a yawn.)*

RIBBON: Oh, yes! Before you even consider wrapping a gift—any gift—you must practice creasing many, many times over. So here we have this piece of wrapping paper. *(Holds up a sheet of wrapping paper.)* And I'm going to have Twine fold it... *(Draws out the word as TWINE slowly folds the paper in half.)* ...very carefully in half. Notice the care she's taking here, Mr. Frost.

JACK: Yes, I see that. *(Another yawn.)*

RIBBON: Now, Twine is going to run her fingernail... *(Draws out the word.)* ...gently down the crease. *(TWINE very slowly and gently runs her fingernail down the fold in the paper. STRING is leaned over and observing TWINE'S movements closely.)* Now, Twine is going to run her fingernail... *(Draws out the word.)* ...down the crease a second time, applying just a teensy bit more pressure. *(TWINE repeats the movement, this time with her tongue sticking out of her mouth in concentration.)* Now, she's going to run her fingernail... *(Draws out the word.)* ...down the crease a third time, with real confidence, to make sure it is perfect. *(TWINE determinedly runs her fingernail down the crease a third time and smiles proudly. STRING bursts into applause.)* Bravo, Twine! Good for you! *(Joins STRING in applause.)*

JACK: *(Applauds politely and glances at BUD, then back to ELVES.)* So that was for... practice?

RIBBON: Yes! That was just practice. And even though Ribbon did a terrific job, we definitely aren't ready to do any real wrapping yet.

40 **JACK:** Oh, no?

RIBBON: No, we need to discuss our adhesive options.

JACK: Adhesive options?

- 1 **RIBBON:** (*STRING holds up a roll of tape.*) Mr. Frost, we could easily spend an hour on double-stick tape.
- JACK:** I'm sure you could.
- RIBBON:** Shall we continue?
- 5 **JACK:** I don't think that's going to be necessary. I really have a good sense of how well this gift-wrapping program will do. Don't you, Bud?
- BUD:** (*Lowers the camera.*) Yup.
- RIBBON:** (*Sadly.*) So that has to be the end of our demonstration?
- JACK:** I'm afraid so. (*RIBBON, TWINE, and STRING look disappointed.*
- 10 *Apologetically.*) There was so much... information, you see. I just need some time to absorb it all. I'm sure you understand. (*RIBBON, TWINE, and STRING nod sympathetically, gather up their supplies, and EXIT. Pulls a chair back to CENTER and collapses into it, looking tired. Pulls out his list one last time and looks it over. BUD*
- 15 *watches him patiently.*) Well, that's it, Bud.
- BUD:** Yeah?
- JACK:** We're at the end of my list. I was going to interview a few snowmen, but they cancelled at the last minute. (*Beat.*) Said they were suffering some sort of meltdown.
- 20 **BUD:** Huh.
- JACK:** I'm going to be honest with you. Despite all those interviews, I still don't feel like we've found our next North Pole star.
- SANTA:** (*ENTERS.*) Jack! How did everything go?
- JACK:** It was a long afternoon, I'm afraid.
- 25 **SANTA:** Tough decision, huh?
- JACK:** You can say that again.
- SANTA:** How about a glass of eggnog for old time's sake?
- JACK:** Make it a double.
- SANTA:** Bud?
- 30 **BUD:** Thanks. (*SANTA pulls out three mugs from a desk drawer and a carton of eggnog. He pours eggnog into the three mugs and hands one each to JACK and BUD. He pulls out the second chair and settles into it. BUD sets the camera down on the desk and positions himself slightly behind SANTA. ALL drink simultaneously.*)
- 35 **JACK:** So, how have you been, Nick? Last time I saw you, we were graduating from the North Pole Academy together.
- SANTA:** And we've both made a name for ourselves since then, haven't we?
- JACK:** Yeah, who would have guessed the two kids who spent more
- 40 time in detention than out would have done this well?

- 1 **SANTA:** Now, don't tell Mrs. Claus about that. She thinks I never got into trouble.
- JACK:** So she has no idea about the stink bomb you put in the school sleigh?
- 5 **SANTA:** Absolutely not.
- JACK:** Now, seriously, what have you been up to these days?
- SANTA:** Oh, the usual, Jack. Managing the toy workshop, working with the reindeer, making the deliveries—yada, yada. 'Course, every Christmas Eve it seems like something unexpected happens.
- 10 **JACK:** Like what?
- SANTA:** Well, last year Rudolph's nose went out over *[enter your home state]*. We couldn't see more than ten feet in front of us, and I had to land on the roof of this crazy school called *[fill in a local school name]*. Talk about being lost!
- 15 **JACK:** Go on.
- SANTA:** Then there was the year I got stuck in a chimney. I mean, really stuck, Jacky. It took the reindeer forty-five minutes to tug me back out, and we got dangerously behind schedule. That was a real nail-biter.
- 20 **JACK:** Really? *(Looks at BUD meaningfully, and BUD quietly picks up the camera and points it at SANTA.)*
- SANTA:** *(Chuckles.)* One Christmas Eve we stopped off for a snack in the middle of our deliveries, and Prancer got jammed in the slide at the McDonald's PlayPlace. He still gets nervous in tight spaces!
- 25 **JACK:** That's hilarious!
- SANTA:** Oh, and then there was the time I crash landed in a jungle, and the natives had to help me repair the sleigh with bark and vines.
- JACK:** Unbelievable!
- 30 **SANTA:** Oh, I could go on and on, Jack. Blizzards, mix-ups, a run in with the tooth fairy—I tell you, the job's never boring!
- JACK:** Sounds like great entertainment to me!
- SANTA:** You can say that again!
- JACK:** *(Thoughtful.)* So... Nick. I think I've found my next North
- 35 Pole star.
- SANTA:** Excellent! Who's it going to be?
- JACK:** You.
- SANTA:** Me?!
- JACK:** You! I don't know why I didn't think of it before! You're perfect!
- 40 Am I right, Bud?



- 1 **BUD:** Perfect.
- JACK:** You're famous, you've got an extremely interesting job, and I think you'd be a natural on camera.
- SANTA:** Are you sure?
- 5 **JACK:** No doubt about it! What do you say?
- SANTA:** Well, I don't know.
- JACK:** I really want you to consider this, Nick. What do you think, Bud?
- BUD:** *(Puts the camera down and pauses. In a thoughtful and philosophical tone.)* To be a star is not for the faint of heart. It takes courage and humility. But if you have something to offer that enriches and entertains an audience, then it may be the most important work you ever do.
- 10 **JACK:** *(Looks in awe at BUD.)* Wow, Bud. That was deep.
- BUD:** *(Shrugs.)* Part of the job.
- 15 **SANTA:** *(Pauses thoughtfully, then slaps his knee.)* I'll do it, Jack! You and me working together will be a lot of fun! I just hope everyone else isn't too disappointed. *(ALL OTHERS run ON, cheering. JACK and SANTA stand up, surprised.)* What's all this? Have all of you been eavesdropping?
- 20 **MRS. CLAUS:** Of course! And Santa, dear, we are thrilled!
- SANTA:** So, none of you are upset that you aren't going to have your own television show? I thought everyone wanted to be a star.
- MRS. CLAUS:** You've always been the real star around here, Santa, and we're fine with things staying that way because...
- 25 *(Glances around at the OTHERS.) ...we love you! (ALL nod and ad-lib in agreement.)*
- JACK:** Well, that's definitely the Christmas spirit!
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Narrows her eyes and crosses arms.)* So, "Mr. Plumpkins," detention, snowballs in your teacher's desk drawer and stink bombs in the school sleigh?
- 30 **SANTA:** *(Stalls.)* Oh, well... I'd tell you more about that... but we really should be getting ready for my new show...
- MRS. CLAUS:** *(Scolds.)* Santa...
- SANTA:** I think we should call it "Santa's Funniest Home Bloopers."
- 35 **MRS. CLAUS:** We need to talk.
- SANTA:** And here's how I want to end each episode so you can all be a part of the show. *(Quickly whispers something to ALL.)* Ho, ho, ho!
- ALL:** *(To AUDIENCE.)* Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night! *(ALL bow. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)*

END OF PLAY

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ONSTAGE

Desk, two chairs, Christmas tree and other Christmas decorations, three mugs, a carton of eggnog.

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

List (JACK)

Video camera (BUD)

Boogie board (MODEL THREE)

Flour, sugar (SUGAR)

Bowl, whisk, dishrag (HONEY)

Measuring cups, measuring spoons (BABYCAKES)

Unwrapped box (RIBBON)

Sheet of wrapping paper, long ribbon (TWINE)

Scissors, roll of tape (STRING)

Music player (DASHER)

FLEXIBLE CASTING AND CAST SIZE

REINDEER and most of the ELVES can be played by any gender with simple pronoun changes.

This play can be done with as few as 14 players with MODELS doubling as REINDEER and other doubling. Additional MODELS or REINDEER can be added for a larger cast.

COSTUMES

MRS. CLAUS is dressed in festive holiday fashion and wears an apron.

SANTA can be in his traditional costume or could be dressed more casually in Santa pants with black boots and suspenders and a white undershirt.

JACK wears a trendy sports jacket and tie.

BUD wears jeans and an untucked flannel shirt.

ALL ELVES should have some consistent feature(s) of an elf costume—such as an elf hat, pointed ears, or curled shoes—in addition to specific costume requirements listed below.

JEWEL and PEARL dress very fashionably. One might have a feather boa.

MODELS dress as described in the script or in other over-the-top, ridiculous fashions. (Permission is granted to alter Jewel's lines to describe the costumes you create.)

SUGAR, HONEY, and BABYCAKES each wear an apron, possibly with their initial on it.

RIBBON, TWINE, and STRING can wear large bows on their hats or have other elements of gift-wrapping incorporated into their costumes.

REINDEER wear brown shirts, brown or black pants, gray socks, and antlers.

ABOUT BUD'S CAMERA

If an actual video camera is unavailable, the camera can simply be made from cardboard. It should have an NPN label on it (for North Pole Network).



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