

***For Every Child.  
How Santa  
Claus got his  
Elves!***

An Original Screen Play

by

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# *For Every Child*

*By Ron Mumford*

Every child that goes away  
Takes a ride on Santa's sleigh.  
Every child that lives to grow  
Has a friend to get to know.

Special girls and special boys,  
Special kids that make the toys.  
A little brother with pointy ears,  
A little sister who always hears.

With magic powers from Santa Claus  
They keep the watch, just because...  
They send the dreams and hear the prayers  
Of the kids that now are theirs.

To guide through life and light the path,  
To help them learn to take a bath.  
To study hard and do their chores,  
To be polite and open doors.

Little friends that never leave.  
Guardian Angels, not make believe.  
The little ones who have gone away  
Come back again another day.

To keep the watch and make the toys  
To wipe the tears and share the joys.  
To tell St. Nick when you've been good,  
To help you do the things you should.

And when you're alone and full of fear,  
You'll hear a whisper saying, "I am here."  
It's the little kids who have gone away,  
That took a ride on Santa's sleigh...

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SWISS ALPS; SMALL VILLAGE -- DAY

1

People scurrying about in the snowy village. Horses, wagons go back and forth on the only street in the village. People go about their work preparing for Christmas.

ANNOUNCER V.O.

Once upon a time, long ago, in the little Swiss village of Zura-Loche, there was a small orphanage for boys. Mr. Hetzer was the stern schoolmaster and overseer of the orphanage. He didn't believe in Christmas or Santa Claus...

2 INT. ORPHANAGE CLASSROOM DAY

2

MR. HETZER, a grumpy man in his 50's stands in front of a blackboard. Closing his book, he looks over his half glasses at his five students.

MR. HETZER

That concludes the lesson for today. Now, it is time to do your chores.

LAUN, the oldest, age 6, raises his hand.

MR. HETZER (CONT'D)

What is it this time, Laun?

LAUN

Sir, it's only a week until Christmas. We were hoping that you would let us go into the forest and cut down a Christmas tree.

MR. HETZER

Don't mention that word to me again, any of you. Christmas and this silly talk about Santa Claus is for imbeciles and illiterates. Now do as I have told you.

3 EXT. SCHOOLYARD -- DAY

3

The five boys walk out into the snow and begin their chores; chopping wood, sweeping the porch, getting buckets of snow for water, feeding the horse and cow, cleaning the small stable. MICHAEL, smartest, age 5, picks up wood for the fireplace.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Mr. Hetzer is the meanest ole man I know. Won't even let us get a Christmas tree.

KIRK, pessimist, age 5, carries a bucket of snow.

KIRK

I knew it. Just like last year. Santa probably won't come to see us if we don't have a Christmas tree and I won't get my hammer and saw that I asked him for.

JON JON, youngest, age 4, has only been at the orphanage for a month. Has trouble pronouncing "r's" and "l's".

JON JON

Santa isn't coming to see us? Evan, you pwomised me I could see Santa Caus.

Jon Jon begins to cry. EVAN, mischievous, age 5, comforts Jon Jon.

EVAN

Don't listen to Kirk, little buddy. He thinks the sky is going to fall on us any second. We'll have a Christmas tree and you will get to see Santa. Just like I promised.

LAUN

Yeah, Evan. This time you clean the stalls if you're going to steal another Christmas tree Like you did last year.

EVAN

I didn't steal it. I jus borrowed it.

MICHAEL

But you cut down Mr. Klinkfelder's favorite tree that he was growing in front of his house. That makes it stealing.

EVAN

Uh Uh. Does not. I jus borrowed it for Christmas. I was going to take it back later.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

JON JON

So, is Santa Caus coming or not?  
And, can I stiaw ask him for anything  
in the whoe wide wuld?

LAUN

Sure you can, Jon Jon. What do you  
want Santa to bring you?

Jon Jon looks off into the sky.

JON JON

A widow fuwwy puppy. A St. Basnad  
puppy that wiah wick the meok off my  
face after bwefkas ewewy moning.

Mr. Hetzer walks out of the schoolhouse toward the boys.

MR. HETZER

Enough of this idle chatter. If you  
don't finish your chores by nightfall,  
there will be no supper for any of  
you. Now get to work.

MICHAEL

(Sotto)

Mean ole man.

4 INT. ORPHANAGE MAIN ROOM NIGHT

4

Chores finished, Mr. Hetzer gathers the boys at the supper  
table.

MR. HETZER

Lord, thank you for this food we are  
about to receive. Amen.

JON JON

Suh, what do St. Basnads eat fa suppa?

MR. HETZER

Say it correctly, Jon. St. Bernard.

JON JON

St. B-a-s-n-a-d.

MR. HETZER

No. No. You will never get it right  
if you don't try harder. St. Bernard  
dogs grow to be bigger than you.  
They must have a heavy diet of meat  
and grain. They eat more than we  
do. Why do you ask, Jon?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

JON JON

Caus Santa is going to bwing me one  
for Cwistmas...Oops, I said it again.

MR. HETZER

Go to your room. That is all the  
supper for you, Jon.

LAUN

But, Mr. Hetzer..

MR. HETZER

And you can join him, Laun. All of  
you go to your room. I'll not ruin  
my supper with this talk. Go.

Still hungry, the boys go to their room in the attic.

5 INT. ATTIC BEDROOM -- NIGHT

5

The five boys prepare for bed without supper.

KIRK

I'm still hungry. It's your fault,  
Jon Jon.

MICHAEL

It's no one's fault, Kirk. You've  
been here long enough to know that  
Mr. Hetzer does this all the time so  
he can have more to eat.

JON JON

I want my puppy. He can eat my food.

LAUN

What do you want Santa to bring you,  
Evan?

EVAN

Rock candy. Lots and lots of rock  
candy. I'm gonna eat rock candy  
till I bust wide open.

KIRK

Quit talking about food, Evan.

LAUN

I want a new ax. Yep, a new ax would  
sure make wood chopping a lot easie .  
What do you want from Santa, Michael?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Magic tricks. Just like the gypsies do when they come through here. I want to be a master magician and dazzle all the people when I grow up.

KIRK

Yeah? Well then, turn these old socks into some bread and butter for starters, Michael.

JON JON

So, when does Santa Caus come?

EVAN

We told you. Christmas Eve.

JON JON

And we get to see him and tawk to him?

LAUN

After he takes toys to all the other kids in the world, he always stops here last and gives us our presents and plays with us for awhile. Every Christmas Eve.

KIRK

We're always last. I wish we could be first. Just once. First for anything. We get all the hand-me-down clothes, books, slates...

MICHAEL

Quit griping.

JON JON

Laun, teaw me again what Santa wooks wike.

LAUN

He's a jolly ole fat guy dressed up in a red snowsuit. He's got long white hair and a beard to match.

MICHAEL

Yeah, and when he laughs, his big belly shakes like a bowl of jelly.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

KIRK

There you go talking about food,  
again. I'm hungry.

6 INT. ORPHANAGE CLASSROOM -- DAY

6

Christmas Eve finally arrives. There is a bad BLIZZARD  
blowing in the Swiss Alps.

MR. HETZER

Since the blizzard is so bad outside,  
just feed the horse and cow, then go  
to your room and study. And, don't  
mention a Christmas tree to me again.  
I don't want everyone in the village  
yelling at me again for your  
mischievous behavior of last year.  
Go.

JON JON

Can't we have jus a widow twee, Suh?

MR. HETZER

That does it. No supper tonight.

7 INT. ATTIC BEDROOM -- NIGHT

7

Chores finished, the boys huddle. Excitement and anticipation  
is rampant among them at their yearly visit with Santa.

MICHAEL

I hope Santa can find us in this  
blizzard, Laun.

LAUN

Nothing stops Santa on Christmas  
Eve. Besides, Rudolph's red nose  
will show him the way.

MICHAEL

I hope so. For Jon Jon's sake. He  
sure is counting on that puppy.  
Have you got the tree ready?

LAUN

Yeah. Evan promised me he didn't  
chop down another one of Mr.  
Klinkfelder's trees this year. But  
I don't know where he got it. It's  
in the stable underneath some hay.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

LAUN (CONT'D)

When Mr. Hetzer goes to sleep, we'll sneak out and get it set up like we do every Christmas. I sure hope this blizzard dies down...

8 INT. ORPHANAGE MAIN ROOM -- LATER

8

The boys have the Christmas tree decorated and have waited for hours for Santa to arrive. It is much later than Santa usually arrives.

EVAN

I wonder what happened to Santa?

LAUN

He's just late. He'll be here.

MICHAEL

The blizzard is getting worse, Laun.

KIRK

I'll bet he's not coming.

EVAN

He will too come. If he can...

MICHAEL

The blizzard is really bad...

KIRK

What if he crashed or something?

Kirk's words strike fear into the faces of all the boys. Jon Jon begins to CRY.

LAUN

Get your coats on. We've got to go out and find him.

9 INT. ORPHANAGE MAIN ROOM -- NIGHT

9

A hairy, jolly fat man in a red snowsuit, SANTA, drops down the chimney of the orphanage. A St. Bernard puppy sticks his head out of the top of the big bag carried by the fat man.

SANTA

Ho Ho Ho! Where's my favorite little boys?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Santa becomes concerned when he does not see the five boys. He stands over Mr. Hetzer's bed to wake him and inquire as to where the boys are.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Mr. Hetzer. Wake up. Where are the boys? Wake up, man.

Waking from a dead sleep, Mr. Hetzer is STARTLED to see such a figure cowering over him.

MR. HETZER

I...I...Don't hurt me! Who are you? What do you want?

SANTA

I'm the one that only imbeciles and illiterates believe in. I'm Santa Claus. Where are the boys?

MR. HETZER

Asleep in their room. They're asleep...

SANTA

No, they are not in their room. Their coats are gone. Now, where are they, Mr. Hetzer?

MR. HETZER

I...I don't know where they could be.

Santa picks up his big sack and laying his finger beside his nose, goes back up the chimney to his sleigh and reindeer floating just above the roof of the orphanage.

10 EXT. SLEIGH -- NIGHT

10

The sleigh takes off into the blizzard, into the darkness. After several hours of searching, aided by Rudolph's shiney nose, Santa sees specks in the snow below. Santa loads the five lifeless, frozen bodies of the orphan boys into his sleigh and returns them to the orphanage.

11 INT. MAIN ROOM OF ORPHANAGE NIGHT

11

SANTA

I'm so sorry, Mr. Hetzer. They must have thought that the blizzard forced me down. I guess they went out looking for me. I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 11

Mr. Hetzer, still HORRIFIED at the sight of Santa, can say nothing. Santa leaves for his journey back to the North Pole.

12 INT. NORTH POLE -- MORNING 12

Santa enters his workshop and is greeted by his wife, MRS. CLAUS.

MRS. CLAUS  
How was your trip, Dear?

She could see the long look on her husband's face.

SANTA  
Not so good this year.

MRS. CLAUS  
You look exhausted. Did you have trouble with the sleigh?

SANTA  
Not with the sleigh. Dear, could you get my halo out of the closet. I've got one more trip to make before the day is done.

Mrs. Claus gets Santa's halo and white robe from the closet, knowing that Santa is going to Heaven to speak with God. As he dons them, he becomes RADIANT, not noticing that he has not put on his sandals, he is still wearing his heavy black boots.

13 EXT. SKY -- MORNING 13

Santa drives his sleigh higher and higher into the sky.

14 EXT. PEARLY GATES -- LATER 14

ST. PETER sits behind a desk and writes in a big book with a feather quill.

ST. PETER  
St. Nicholas, what brings you here after your big night?

SANTA  
If it's possible on such short notice...If HE's not too busy creating things...Uh, could I speak with God for just a minute?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

ST. PETER

Go right in, St. Nicholas. HE is  
always happy to see you.

15 EXT. HEAVEN LATER

15

Santa walks up and kneels down in front of GOD'S throne.

GOD

ST. NICHOLAS. HOW GOOD TO SEE ONE  
OF MY FAVORITE ANGELS. HOW IS YOUR  
WORK ON EARTH COMING ALONG?

SANTA

Fine, sir. Uh, well, not so fine,  
uh. That's what I've come here to  
talk to you about.

GOD

IS THERE A PROBLEM, ST. NICHOLAS?

SANTA

Well, uh, Sir, just a small problem.  
Nothing that you cannot handle.

GOD

OF COURSE. I CAN HANDLE ALL THE  
PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD. HOW CAN I  
HELP YOUR PROBLEM?

SANTA

Well, Sir, it's about all those babies  
you have been sending to Earth. So  
many babies...So many letters...So  
many toys...

GOD

ARE YOU COMPLAINING, ST. NICHOLAS?

SANTA

Oh no, Sir. It's just that, er, uh,  
I could use some help making all the  
toys and answering all those letters.  
I'm not getting any younger, you  
know, Sir and...

GOD

WOULD THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH  
THE BOYS FROM ZURA-LOCHE?

(CONTINUED)

SANTA

Well, Sir, uh, now that you mention it. They would be perfect. They're good little boys and they would be a big help to me and Mrs. Claus...

GOD

LET ME SEE...LAUN IS JUST ABOUT TO CHOP DOWN EVERY TREE IN HEAVEN WITH HIS NEW AX. MICHAEL IS PLAYING TRICKS ON THE ANGELS WITH HIS MAGIC SET. EVAN'S MADE HEAVEN A STICKY PLACE TO BE WITH HIS ROCK CANDY. WE'RE WORKING ON KIRK'S GENERALLY BAD ATTITUDE AND LITTLE JON JON AND HIS PUPPY ARE ABOUT TO EAT US OUT OF HOUSE AND HEAVEN. ARE YOU SURE THESE ARE THE HELPERS YOU WANT AT THE NORTH POLE, ST. NICHOLAS?

SANTA

Sir, that's why you are the Great I AM. You always think of everything. Yes Sir. I am sure.

GOD

I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD BE HERE. IT IS PART OF MY NEW PLAN. YOU WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THE TOYS AND LIVE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF EVERY CHILD, HOWEVER, ALL THOSE BABIES I AM SENDING TO EARTH NEED SPECIAL WATCHING OVER. THE BOYS FROM ZURALOCHE WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL POWERS TO MAKE THE TOYS AND THEY WILL ACT AS GUARDIAN ANGELS FOR THE LITTLE ONES OF THE EARTH. IN THE FUTURE, WHEN I DECIDE TO BRING SOME OF THE CHILDREN HOME, YOU WILL PICK THEM UP IN YOUR SLEIGH. THEY WILL ALSO JOIN LAUN AND MICHAEL AND EVAN AND KIRK AND LITTLE JON JON. HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU, ST. NICHOLAS?

SANTA

Wonderful, Sir. Just wonderful.

GOD

TAKE THE BOYS AND GO.

SANTA

Thank you sir. Oh, thank you.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

SANTA (CONT'D)

Come on, boys. Load all your toys  
and tricks and little critters in  
the sleigh. We're going to the North  
Pole.

EVAN

See, Jon Jon. I told you that Santa  
would be here.

The St. Bernard puppy is licking the milk mustache from Jon  
Jon's face.

JON JON

And, I got my St. Besnad puppy, too.  
Come on, Tippie, We'ah going fow a  
sweigh wide with Santa.

16 EXT. SKY LATER

16

Santa wings his way Earthward with a sleigh full of his new  
helpers.

CUT TO:

17 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE--ANYWHERE, USA--PRESENT -- DAY

17

Two weeks until Christmas. Kids are in line at the local  
department store to see Santa Claus, sit on his knee and  
tell him what they want for Christmas. Parents trying to  
keep their kids quiet and in line. CHRISTINA BENNETT, a  
woman in her early 30's, Annie and Anthony's pregnant mom,  
ANNIE, little girl twin age 5, and Anthony, nicknamed TONY  
little boy twin age 5, are in line. General mass havoc  
waiting to see Santa Claus.

CHRISTINA

Annie, Tony, just settle down. You  
have to wait your turn in line.  
When you go to school next year you  
will have to get used to lines.

ANNIE

But, Mommy, I have to go to the  
bathroom.

TONY

And I want a drink of water, Mom.

CHRISTINA

We'll lose our place in line if we  
go to the bathroom, Annie.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Just be patient. We'll go after  
you've seen Santa.

ANNIE

That may be too late, Mommy.

Annie and Tony are next in line.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho. Come on up and sit on  
Santa's knee, Annie and Tony.

ANNIE

How did you know my name?

TONY

Yeah. Me too.

SANTA

I know all the little girls and boys  
by name.

TONY

Betcha don't.

SANTA

What do you want for Christmas, Annie?

Annie gets a distant, frightening look on her face. Morn  
knows what is going to happen. Annie wets on Santa's knee.

ANNIE

I'm sorry, Santa. I told Mommy that  
I needed to go.

TONY

Ewwwww, you didn't. Did you really  
wet on Santa's knee, Annie?

ANNIE

I couldn't help it. Be quiet, Tony.

SANTA

Don't you worry about that one bit,  
dear. It happens all the time. Now  
what was it you wanted for Christmas,  
Annie.

ANNIE

Well...I want a pretty angel to go  
on the top of our Christmas tree.  
One that lights up.

(CONTINUED)

SANTA

I believe that I can arrange that.  
Anything else?

TONY

Hey. When do I get to tell you what  
I want?

SANTA

In a minute, Tony.

TONY

Mom says that about everything. Now  
you're doing it too, Santa.

ANNIE

Could I see your elves?

SANTA

Sure you can see my elves.

ANNIE

Could I go for a ride on your sleigh?

SANTA

Well, yes you can. But you have to  
wait until Christmas Eve.

ANNIE

I can? I can! When's Christmas Eve  
gonna be?

TONY

Can I go too? Canna? Canna?

SANTA

Sure, Tony. You can go too.

TONY

Promise?

SANTA

Promise.

Mom, in an effort to listen to what Annie and Tony want for  
Christmas, overhears Santa's promises and is very disturbed.  
She approaches the department store Santa and whispers in  
his ear.

CHRISTINA

How could you?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

## CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

You can't tell these children that they are going for a ride in your sleigh. You'll disappoint them too badly. It will affect them for life. Now tell them something to let them know you won't be giving them a ride. I've never...

Christina Bennett is livid. Santa whispers back in her ear.

## SANTA

I never make a promise that I cannot keep, Christina. Remember when I promised you that I would bring you that Barbie doll when you were six?

Christina is startled. She remembers the time she spoke to a department store Santa when she was six.

## CHRISTINA

How did you know about that?

## SANTA

Santa knows, Christina.

## CHRISTINA

I'm going to the manager right now if you don't tell these children that you will not be giving them a ride on your sleigh.

## SANTA

I can't do that, Christina. A promise is a promise. Santa never breaks a promise.

Santa turns to Tony, still sitting impatiently on his knee.

## SANTA (CONT'D)

Now, what was it you wanted for Christmas, Tony?

## TONY

A puppy...

Christina pulls her two kids off of Santa's knee hurriedly.

## CHRISTINA

I'm going to see the manager right now.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

SANTA

Bye, bye, kids. See you Christmas  
Eve. Be sure and get some candy on  
your way out.

Annie and Tony, being dragged through the crowded department  
store, through all the other kids, wave back to Santa.

18 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE MANAGER'S OFFICE DAY

18

Christina asks the manager's secretary in the front office  
to watch her kids while she goes in to talk to the MANAGER  
in private.

MANAGER

Yes, Mrs. Bennett is it? What seems  
to be the problem?

CHRISTINA

It's that Santa of yours. Do you  
know what he just promised my five  
year old twins a few minutes ago?

MANAGER

No, Mrs. Bennett? What did he promise  
them?

The manager rolls his eyes in anticipation. He has obviously  
heard similar complaints recently.

CHRISTINA

He promised to take them on a ride  
in his sleigh on Christmas Eve. Now  
what is a mother supposed to do when  
a department store Santa promises  
something like that? I've been a  
customer here for...

MANAGER

Mrs. Bennett. I can only apologize  
on behalf of...

CHRISTINA

I want more than an apology. That  
Santa's got to tell those two children  
that he is NOT going to give them a  
ride on Christmas Eve or they will  
never believe anything anyone tells  
them ever again. Do you understand?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

MANAGER

Mrs. Bennett, I'll have a talk with our Santa on his next break. If you can wait until then...

CHRISTINA

No way. I can't keep these two children of mine occupied until then. I've got to fight traffic to get back home and fix dinner. They haven't had their naps today, I've still got to do my shopping when they're not around...

MANAGER

Mrs. Bennett. Please calm down. I'm doing the best I can to accommodate you. Would you like to bring your children back later in the week after I've had a talk with our Santa?

CHRISTINA

I'll try. We have to get this problem resolved, for the children's sake.

19 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE MANAGERS OFFICE -- LATER

19

The manager calls Santa into his office.

MANAGER

For some reason I cannot find your employment application. What is your name, Mr....?

SANTA

You can just call me, Kris, Sir.

MANAGER

Well, Kris, why don't we have an application on file for you?

SANTA

Oh, I'm just filling in for one of your other employees who has been sick for a few days. I just borrowed his suit.

MANAGER

You mean, we have no file on you? How do you expect to get paid?

(CONTINUED)

SANTA

Sir, that's not important to me.  
I'm just doing a friend a favor.

MANAGER

Now, Kris, there's this matter about  
promising those five year old twins  
a ride on your sleigh on Christmas  
Eve...

SANTA

Oh, I was glad to be able to grant  
their wishes, sir. They were so  
cute and sincere in their Christmas  
wishes. I couldn't turn them down.

MANAGER

But, Kris, you can't do that...

SANTA

Of course, I can, Sir.

MANAGER

How do you propose to make good on  
such an outrageous promise?

SANTA

Steven. Do you mind if I call you  
by your first name? I'm Santa Claus.  
I make promises like that all the

time and I keep every one.

MANAGER

Santa Claus? I thought you said  
your name was Kris...

SANTA

That's short for Kris Kringle. You  
know, another name for Santa Claus.

MANAGER

Well, Kris, or whoever you think you  
are, you cannot go making promises  
to little kids like that. It gives  
the store a bad name. I must insist  
that you...

SANTA

Steven. Did I not keep my promise  
to you when you were just a little  
boy and sat on my knee in this very  
store?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

MANAGER

What do you mean?

SANTA

You asked me for a red Radio Flyer wagon. Didn't I bring it to you like I said I would?

The manager is temporarily at a loss for words.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Steven, my break is just about over. The line to see Santa is getting pretty long. I'd better get back to work. Nice seeing you again.

20 INT. CAR -- AFTERNOON

20

WILL BENNETT, a man in his late 30's, Christina's ad account executive husband and the father of Annie and Tony, drives his car home from work, early. He's just been fired for losing his huge, only account, World Toys. He is talking to himself.

WILL

How am I going to tell Christina and the kids I've been fired? Just before Christmas? With a baby on the way? No insurance. What'll we do? I can't believe Mr. Bigelow fired me.

21 INT. THE BENNETT HOUSE -- EVENING

21

Will is just arriving home.

TONY

Mom! Annie's throwing up.

Annie is in her bedroom laying across her bed. Mom walks in as Will comes in the front door of their house.

CHRISTINA

Oh, dear. Annie, don't worry, Mommy will clean this up. Here, let me wash your face.

ANNIE

I don't feel good, mommy.

CHRISTINA

I know you don't, precious. Mommy will take care of you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Everything's going to be just fine.  
I'll call the doctor.

TONY

Not that ole Dr. Spencer. All he  
ever does is give us shots.

CHRISTINA

Tony, hush!

ANNIE

I don't want a shot, mommy. Please  
don't let him give me a shot.

WILL

What's wrong, dear?

CHRISTINA

Annie's just had too much excitement  
for one day. She didn't get her nap  
and the Santa down at the department  
store promised them a ride on his  
sleigh...It's been a bad day, Will.

WILL

Yes it has. You just don't know  
what a bad day this has been.

CHRISTINA

Is there anything wrong, dear?

WILL

No, no. Everythings fine. Let's  
get Annie's bed changed. Here, I'll  
help you. You shouldn't be bending  
and stooping. How are you and the  
baby feeling?

CHRISTINA

Oh, we're fine. Considering.

CUT TO:

Final preparations are being made to get all the toys ready  
for Christmas Eve. Much commotion in the tremendously huge,  
busy workshop. ELVES (little kids with pointy ears) scurry  
doing their various tasks. New kids ARRIVING in sleighs.  
Assignments being given to them by Laun, the head elf.  
Michael, elf first class, is also Annie's guardian angel.  
He hears the commotion in the Bennett house.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

You assigned me to Annie and Jon Jon has Tony. Don't you think that Annie is going to want to be Tony's guardian when she gets here on the 24th?

LAUN

Probably.

MICHAEL

So, what are Jon Jon and I going to do? It's almost Christmas Eve. We've got to get the toys loaded, check the list...

LAUN

Check it twice.

MICHAEL

But when are we going to get our new assignments?

LAUN

I'll think about that Michael. In the meantime, go clean out the reindeer stalls while I decide.

MICHAEL

I'm a Guardian Angel first class and a heck of a toymaker. Whoever heard of an angel first class cleaning out reindeer stalls?

LAUN

Just do it, Michael, and do it right. No Magic. Mr. Clean is only make believe.

MICHAEL

Bummer!

Christina calls DR. SPENCER. Annie is worse.

CHRISTINA

Dr. Spencer? This is Christina Bennett again. Annie is getting worse. She's had this fever for almost a week and it's getting higher. What should we do? She is so weak.

DR. SPENCER V.O.

Mrs. Bennett, what is her temperature?

CHRISTINA

One hundred and four degrees.

DR. SPENCER V.O.

You'd better take her to the emergency room at Lindsay Memorial. I'll call ahead and make sure that the doctors are aware of her condition.

CHRISTINA

We're on our way, doctor. And thanks.

WILL

What did the doctor say?

CHRISTINA

He said for us to get Annie to the emergency room at Lindsay Memorial. Thank you, dear, for staying with us this week. I know you must be getting behind at work. We all appreciate it.

WILL

It's Christmas and the baby is almost due. With Annie as sick as she is, I figured you could use the help and support.

CHRISTINA

I really can.

24 INT. BENNETT CAR -- DAY

24

The Bennetts load up in the car to take Annie to the emergency room.

TONY

I'll betcha the candy that Santa Claus gave Annie made her sick.

WILL

I doubt that the candy had anything to do with it, Tony. Annie's probably got one of those viruses going around. The doctors will tell us what's wrong and make her feel good as new.

ANNIE

Mommy. I feel soooo bad.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Annie slips into unconsciousness before they arrive at the hospital.

CHRISTINA

Oh, hurry, Will. I think Annie just fainted. Please hurry.

25 INT. NORTH POLE -- AFTERNOON

25

Michael is dirty from cleaning out the reindeer stalls. He stays in touch with what is happening to Annie through his magical powers as a Guardian. He goes to see Laun.

MICHAEL

Laun, its beginning with Annie. I'm outta here. Got to go to the hospital and check things out.

Michael puts both index fingers to his nose and blinks himself to the hospital.

26 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-ANNIE'S ROOM-- AFTERNOON

26

Annie's hospital room is a typical septic, drab, gloomy room. Annie has completed her tests and lays unconscious on the bed. Tony is asleep in a chair. Christina and Will are talking with doctors outside in the hall when Michael arrives UNSEEN by anyone.

MICHAEL

The perfect setting. Kids asleep, parents in the hall. Now I can brighten up this room. It's Christmas. It's showtime!

Again, laying both fingers beside his nose, Michael begins blinking in a fully decorated Christmas tree, multi-colored lights around the window, door decorations. The room is dazzling.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That's better. Now it looks like Christmas around here.

Will and Christina enter the hospital room.

CHRISTINA

Oh. How beautiful. These nurses are so kind to do this for the kids. Isn't this room wonderful, Will?

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Beautiful. But, how did they, I mean, when did they? There hasn't been time to do all of this.

Still invisible and feeling quite proud of himself, Michael gives an unheard answer to Will's question.

MICHAEL

Guardian power, pops. Solid genius if I do say so myself.

WILL

Christina, now may not be the time to tell you this, but, we've always been honest with each other.

CHRISTINA

What's wrong, Will?

WILL

I lost the World Toys account.

CHRISTINA

Oh, Will. I'm so sorry. But, dear, you will get another big account. I know you will.

WILL

There's more. Mr. Bigelow fired me a week ago. That's why I was able to be with you. I don't know what we are going to do. No insurance, the baby's due soon. I just don't know what we are going to do.

Christina puts her arms around Will for comfort as she stares blankly into space, wondering what they will do. Michael overhears the conversation.

MICHAEL

Bummer. This is worse than I thought. I need a huddle on this one.

Michael blinks back to the North Pole.

27 INT. NORTH POLE, LAUN'S WORKSHOP -- EVENING

27

Michael appears right in front of Laun.

LAUN

I wish you wouldn't do that, Michael. One of these days we're gonna collide.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

MICHAEL

More problems, chief. Will Bennett lost his big World Toys account and got himself fired. They've got no insurance and a baby is on the way. Speak to me O Mighty One. What shall we do?

LAUN

Don't call me that. The big boss is the Mighty One, not me. He'll take away your powers and put you in the reindeer stalls permanently.

MICHAEL

Merely a slip of the tongue. So, what's the plan?

LAUN

Let's toss this one around with Santa. He'll think of something. He always does.

28 INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP -- EVENING

28

Santa, Laun and Michael discuss the problem.

SANTA

That's too bad, Michael. The timing's terrible with everything else going on. Let me see...I've got it.

Santa huddles with Laun and Michael explaining his plan to get the World Toys account back for Will Bennett.

LAUN

Far out! That's going to be fun.

MICHAEL

I didn't know we could do things like that. We do have our rules, ya know. That's really stretching things.

LAUN

This falls under elastic guardianship 102, Michael. I think you were absent for that class. Now, let's get to work.

29 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL--ANNIE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

29

Tony wakes up. Will and Christina sit near Annie's bed awaiting the results of her tests.

TONY

Annie. Wake up. It's your brudder,  
Tony.

He reaches in his bluejeans pocket and pulls out some candy.

TONY (CONT'D)

Here, have some of my candy. Oops,  
guess that's not such a good idea is  
it dad?

WILL

Like I told you son, it has nothing  
to do with the candy. The doctors  
are still running tests on Annie.  
So far, they don't know what is wrong  
with her.

Tony cannot accept the fact that doctors don't know what is wrong. He forms his own opinion in the absence of a doctor's opinion.

TONY

Dad. I still betcha it's that candy  
that Santa gave her. Annie was jus  
fine until she ate that candy.  
Besides, Santa ain't real anyway.

CHRISTINA

Isn't real, Tony. Not ain't.

TONY

See, dad, mommy even said so.

CHRISTINA

I was just correcting your bad  
grammar, Tony. I didn't say that  
Santa isn't real.

TONY

You didn't say he was, either.  
Besides, I heard some first graders  
talking and they said Santa was really  
our mom and dads. I never liked  
that ole hairy fat man, anyway.  
Specially when he made Annie sick  
with his stupid candy.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

WILL

Don't you believe the first graders,  
Tony. Santa would never do anything  
to make Annie sick.

Tony is confused and sleepy. He begins to cry.

TONY

I got my doubts, dad. I betcha he  
doesn't take me for a ride on his  
stupid ole sleigh either. And Santa  
promised!

30 INT. NORTH POLE -- NIGHT

30

Michael looks around the huge main workshop for Jon Jon,  
Tony's guardian.

MICHAEL

Jon Jon, where are you?

JON JON

I'm ova heah painting the wagons.

MICHAEL

You'd better be paying attention to  
your kid, Tony. He's blaming Santa  
for what's wrong with Annie.

JON JON

I auways get the tuff cases. Heah  
we go again. I'ah go fis it, Michael.

Jon Jon blinks himself to the hospital room.

31 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, ANNIE'S ROOM NIGHT

31

Jon Jon arrives UNSEEN and whispers good thoughts into Tony's  
ear. Tony, not knowing where the voice is coming from, isn't  
buying what he is hearing and shakes his head vigorously.  
Jon Jon needs help and blinks back to the North Pole.

32 INT. NORTH POLE, LARGE WORKSHOP -- LATER

32

He meets with Michael as he pulls his guardian's handbook  
from his back pocket.

JON JON

This gweat thoughts thing isn't  
wuking, Michael. I think this heah  
book is wong.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Just get back there and keep doing what you are doing. Jon Jon, I really think you've got one of those attention disorders they talk about nowadays.

JON JON

Michael, this generation X is tuff to get through to. Twice as bad as the Baby Boomer. Suah was different when I was a kid.

MICHAEL

Jon Jon, you're still a kid.

JON JON

Who ever had of a 220 year old kid? I jus wook wike one.

MICHAEL

And talk like one. Let's go see Santa. Maybe he has some better ideas.

33 INT. NORTH POLE, SANTA'S WORKSHOP -- NIGHT

33

Michael and Jon Jon enter Santa's workshop.

MICHAEL

Santa, Jon Jon's got a big problem. We need your help.

SANTA

I can sure tell it is getting closer to Christmas Eve. All these little problems. Somehow, we always seem to make things work out. Don't we Jon Jon? Tell me about it.

JON JON

Tony thinks you made Annie sick and he doesn't believe in you anymore. And he said you probably wouldn't give him a sweigh wide on Christmas Eve, either.

SANTA

Little Tony is just sleepy and confused right about now, Jon Jon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

## SANTA (CONT'D)

When you've been around kids for as long as I have, you get to know these things. Just be patient with him. Now go back there and comfort little Tony. That's all he needs. Give him lots of love.

JON JON

Yoah the boss. I hope it wuks.

## 34 INT. NORTH POLE, MAIN WORKSHOP -- NIGHT

The main workshop is buzzing with activity. Toys being made and wrapped for all the little kids of the world in preparation for Christmas Eve. All the elves happily go about their work. Laun has a video camera, filming. ELF 1 confronts Laun.

ELF 1

Laun, little Natasha in Moscow changed her mind. Now she wants a kitten instead of a puppy.

LAUN

So, send the puppy to Hakeem in Somalia. Natasha isn't the only little girl who wants a kitten for Christmas, at the last minute. I've got kittens coming out my ears and we can't make live things with magic. Now I've got to put in an order for more. The BOSS isn't going to like this. What ever happened to dolls for little girls? Man, women and kittens, I just don't understand it.

ELF 1

Laun, we're outta kittens. That's what I have been trying to tell you. The BOSS sent every single kitten that has been put to sleep at every animal pound in the world. They're ain't no more kittens.

LAUN

Then call the pixie, Tinkerbell, in Never Neverland. She's always got kittens. Afterall, she's a woman.

ELF 1

She's pretty shrewd for a pixie,  
Laun. She's gonna want something in  
return.

LAUN

Try to trade her the kittens for  
some old wind-up alarm clocks. Those  
old clocks are big in Never Neverland,  
although I sure don't know why.  
Nowadays, everyone wants digital  
clock alarm radios. Maybe they  
haven't discovered electricity in  
Never Neverland yet. Just call her  
and make the trade. See if she's  
got 20,000 kittens. We're bound to  
need'em.

ELF 1

Could I ask you a quick question  
that I've been wondering about for  
centuries, Laun?

LAUN

Make it quick.

ELF 1

How come a pixie watches over the  
Lost Boys and we watch over the kids  
of earth?

LAUN

Politics.

ELF 1

Whadaya mean, politics?

LAUN

Don't you ever read the papers? It  
was some kind of arrangement Santa  
made with the BOSS sometimes after  
Tinkerbell was assigned to the Lost  
Boys. I was part of that arrangement.  
I don't know the details. Now go  
order those blasted cats. I've got  
creative work to do.

35 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, HALLWAY -- MORNING

35

Will and Christina Bennett talk to the DOCTOR 1 about Annie's  
test results.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

DOCTOR 1

We still don't know what is causing Annie to remain unconscious. The tests we've run so far are inconclusive.

CHRISTINA

But, Doctor, she's getting so weak. She's been unconscious for a week now. You've got to do something. That's my little girl in there.

Christina BREAKS DOWN from the strain. Will comforts her.

WILL

Dear, I'm sure that the doctors are doing everything they can.

Will turns to the doctor in he hallway.

WILL (CONT'D)

Are you going to run more tests? What are you going to do next? When are we going to find out what is wrong with our little girl?

Will is close to breaking down, himself. Now the doctor tries to comfort him.

DOCTOR 1

Mr. Bennett, we still have other tests to run. We've been running specific tests for specific known viruses. Now we will test for a wide range of rare viruses. Hopefully they will reveal what we are up against. Until the results are finished, we'll continue to feed Annie intravenously. That's all we can do.

36 INT. MR. BIGELOW'S HOUSE --AFTERNOON

36

Preparing for a big Christmas, MRS. BIGELOW, a woman in her mid sixties, and her husband, MR. BIGELOW, a man in his late sixties, Will's former boss, who is haunted by having to fire Will just before Christmas.

MR. BIGELOW

The tree is beautiful, dear. We're going to have a great Christmas, especially when the grand kids arrive.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. BIGELOW

They should be here tomorrow. Everything's ready except a few more presents that I have to wrap. You seem a little down. What's wrong?

MR. BIGELOW

Oh, I just keep thinking about having to fire Will Bennett. I guess he and his family aren't having such a grand Christmas this year.

MRS. BIGELOW

I heard that his little girl is in the hospital. We should at least inquire as to how she is doing.

MR. BIGELOW

Just ask the nurses station about her condition. I don't want to talk to Will. I still can't believe that Wickhamton over at World Toys went with Ligget, Brown and Company on their Baby Doll Rides the Space Shuttle ad campaign. Will's campaign centered around family values, not high tech schemes. I just don't understand it.

MRS. BIGELOW

It's a sign of the times, dear. This generation X is all about high tech.

MR. BIGELOW

But this country needs to get back to the family unit. That's why all the crime is up. Even the President said that in a speech some months back. Will Bennett based his ad campaign upon that speech.

MRS. BIGELOW

But the big toy makers want dazzle and glitz. Family values are politically incorrect nowadays.

MR. BIGELOW

It's the almighty dollar, dear. Sell more toys even if it is at the expense of family values.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

MR. BIGELOW (CONT'D)

Oh, well, we'll try to get the World Toys account back next year. I'll assign it to one of the younger, computer literate, account executives.

37 INT. THE NORTH POLE, MAIN WORKSHOP -- AFTERNOON

37

Laun hears the comments of Mr. Bigelow and continues his filming.

LAUN

Mr. Wickhamton at World Toys ain't seen high tech until he see's what I've got in store for him. Evan, go, borrow one of World Toys Baby Dolls and get it back to me quick.

EVAN

Back in a flash, Laun. Borrowing is my specialty.

Evan is gone only milliseconds and returns with the headliner of the World Toys line, BABY DOLL.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Laun, may I introduce, Baby Doll, the Not So Impressive star of the World Toys line. She's made from rubber and plastic, not the old fashioned way, with elf magic.

LAUN

Thank's, Evan. I'll show you magic.

Laun points at Baby Doll and instantly, she begins to WALK around in front of them. With a second point from Laun, she is FLYING around the workshop.

EVAN

What are you doing, Laun?

LAUN

Making a Chloe award winning ad campaign for Will Bennett and World Toys. O.K. Baby Doll, zoom around the workshop. Evan, add glitz and glitter. Smile, all you elves, you're about to become famous.

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

You mean that Santa is allowing you to actually film the North Pole Workshop?

LAUN

Yep. First time ever. No one will really know this is the real thing. Santa believes that Mr. Wickhamton at World Toys will think that Will's firm just went all out on a second try at the account. Are they in for a surprise. This will be stupendous.

Michael and Jon Jon enter the main workshop. It is all aglow from Laun's filming magic. Baby Doll is flying in and out of every workstation, leaving a trail of glitz and glitter as she streaks in front of Laun's camera. Laun is dressed as an old timey director.

MICHAEL

Far out, Laun. When's the video gonna be finished?

LAUN

Don't push this creative mind into a deadline, Michael. I've got to have my space.

MICHAEL

You even sound like a director. Hey, Jon Jon and I have to go back to the hospital room. Things are getting gloomy again.

LAUN

Don't stay too long, you two. Christmas eve is tomorrow. We've still got to pack the sleigh, not to mention, delivering this video to Mr. Wickhamton in England.

Michael and Jon Jon arrive in the room. Jon Jon has his puppy, TIPPIE, with him. Annie is still unconscious. Tony is asleep in a chair. Will and Christina are outside in the hallway.

JON JON

Time to wake up, pwecious. Wake up now, Annie.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

Annie slowly opens her eyes and sees all the Christmas lights in the room. She is very weak.

ANNIE

Is...is Christmas over, Tony?

Tony hears Annie's voice and wakes up.

TONY

Annie! You're awake. Mom! Dad!

Michael lays both index fingers beside his nose and blinks allowing Tony and Annie to SEE himself, Jon Jon and Tippie floating above them, radiantly.

JON JON

No, Annie, Cwismas is not over yet.  
It hasn't even begun.

Tony is surprised to see them floating above him. Annie is still very drowsy. Jon Jon puts Tippie in the bed with Annie. Tippie begins licking her face.

TONY

Who are you? Am I still asleep? Is this a dream.

MICHAEL

Something like that, Tony. What's this I hear about you thinking Santa had anything to do with Annie being sick?

TONY

I didn't say that. She did.

MICHAEL

This is Jon Jon. I'm Michael and that is Tippie, Jon Jon's St. Bernard puppy. We work for Santa.

TONY

No fooling!

JON JON

Stwait fwom the Noth Pole.

TONY

Are you elves.

MICHAEL

How did you guess?  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Of course we're elves and we're here to tell you that Santa never makes a promise he doesn't keep.

TONY

You mean that Santa didn't make Annie sick and I'm going to get a ride on the sleigh and Annie is going to get well?

MICHAEL

No. Yes. And,...I didn't say that.

ANNIE

Do I get to ride on the sleigh?

JON JON

Be weady tornowah night. Cwistrnas Eve. Just wike Santa pwornised. Weaw pick both of you up wight outside the window in Santa's sweigh.

Will and Christina rush into the room to find Annie awake, smiling, batting her eyes a lot and acting like she is holding something. Tony is talking a hundred miles an hour to no one that they can see.

CHRISTINA

Oh, baby, you're awake.

Still UNSEEN, UNHEARD by Will and Christina.

MICHAEL

You're welcome, Mrs. Bennett.

TONY

See'urn, Dad? Do you see'ern, Morn?

WILL

See who, Tony?

TONY

Michael and Jon Jon. Santa's elves. And Tippie. They're right up there. Can't you see'urn?

Michael tips his hat toward Will. Will cannot see anything.

WILL

You've been dreaming, Tony. But, that's O.K. How do you feel, Annie?

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (3)

38

In a weak voice, Annie answers.

ANNIE

We're still going to get a ride on Santa's sleigh, Dad.

CHRISTINA

I'm so thankful that you're awake, darling. Who told you that you were going on Santa's sleigh.

ANNIE

Jon Jon.

WILL

I've always known that twins are close, but I've never heard of them having the same dreams.

TONY

Dad. I'm telling ya. Michael and Jon Jon are right there. Can't you even see them?

WILL

No, Tony. But, it's only important that you do.

Doctor 1 and NURSES rush into the room.

DOCTOR 1

Well, young lady, I see that you're awake. You've been asleep for a long time. How do you feel?

ANNIE

O.K. I'm going to ride on Santa's sleigh tomorrow night. Jon Jon and Michael said so.

Christina is still concerned and looks towards Doctor 1 for an explanation.

DOCTOR 1

Don't be too concerned, Mrs. Bennett. Annie is still a little woosy from her long nap. It is not uncommon for children that age to have invisible make-believe friends. Eventually, they will grow out of it.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Are you hungry, dear?

ANNIE

No, ma'am. Michael and Jon Jon are waving at you and Dad. Right over there. See? Bye, Tippie.

Michael and Jon Jon WAVE goodbye to Tony and Annie.

MICHAEL

We'll see you two tomorrow night.

JON JON

Be weady.

ANNIE

We will.

Tony and Annie wave at them. Will, Christina, Doctor 1 and the nurses in the room are puzzled at both of the twins doing the same thing.

CHRISTINA

Sweetie, please try to stay awake. Mommy and daddy love you so much.

ANNIE

I love you mommy. I love you daddy.

Annie goes back to sleep and again slips back into unconsciousness.

39 INT. NORTH POLE, FILM EDITING ROOM, CHRISTMAS EVE -- MORNING 39

Laun is knee deep in film clippings. He has finished the editing on the ad tape. Michael and Jon Jon walk in.

LAUN

Masterpiece! Absolute genius if I do say so. If Mr. Wickhamton doesn't go for this, I'll clean out the reindeer stalls for the next year.

MICHAEL

You heard that, Jon Jon. You're my witness.

JON JON

What did I heah?

LAUN

How are things with Annie and Tony?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Back on track. They're both waiting for us to arrive tonight for their sleigh ride.

LAUN

K-i-r-k.

KIRK

Yes, your chiefship. You rang?

LAUN

Wrap this video tape and take it to England. Put it under Mr. Wickhamton's Christmas tree. Wait till he get's a load of this. Mr. Bennett's contract with World Toys is in the bag. Hurry, we have a lot of work to do.

The door opens. Elf 1 enters.

ELF 1

Laun. We've got trouble with the reindeer again.

LAUN

What now?

ELF 1

Blitzen wants to be lead reindeer this Christmas. Rudolph is acting stuck up again. Prancer and Dancer aren't talking to each other. Should I go on?

LAUN

So what's different about this year? They pull this every Christmas Eve. I'll take care of it.

40 EXT. NORTH POLE, REINDEER STALLS -- DAY

40

Laun deals with the reindeer petty problems.

LAUN

Blitzen, you are not the lead reindeer, that's Rudolph's job.

Rudolph sticks his tongue out at Blitzen.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

LAUN (CONT'D)

Rudolph, that lead position can be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Now act your age. Quit being so stuck on yourself. Prancer and Dancer, why can't you two be more like Cupid and Vixen. They never argue. Now let's stop this quibbling or I'll tell Santa.

All the reindeer stick their tongues out at Laun.

41 INT. NORTH POLE, SANTA'S SLEIGH -- DAY

41

Laun goes back to the workshop where all the presents are being put into a huge sack. Kittens, puppies, dolls, toys of every kind are being brought by the HUNDREDS OF ELVES to the central gathering point, Santa's sleigh.

ELF 1

Laun, I got the kittens from Tinkerbell. All 20,000, but she didn't want those old alarm clocks.

LAUN

What did she want?

ELF 1

She wants to be big.

LAUN

Big? Whatdaya mean, Big?

ELF 1

Taller. She wants to be taller.

LAUN

Why?

ELF 1

She really didn't say, but I think she is sorta sweet on Peter Pan and besides, there is no one else her size in all of Neverland. I think she's just being a girl and is lonely for companionship. Someone her own size. Know what I mean?

LAUN

Women!

(CONTINUED)

ELF 1

I looked in the Elf Handbook and  
couldn't find anything to cover this.  
Got any ideas?

LAUN

I'll take care of this, too. S-A-N-  
T-A?

Santa responds to Laun's call for help.

SANTA

I really wish you wouldn't yell,  
Laun. What can I do for you?

LAUN

I had to get another 20,000 kittens.  
Earth was out. I got'em from  
Tinkerbell in Neverland.

SANTA

That was sweet of the little pixie.

LAUN

Not so sweet. She wants to be big  
in return for the kittens.

SANTA

Big?

LAUN

Big.

SANTA

Why?

LAUN

This is deja vu. She's got no one  
her size and we think she's getting  
sweet on Peter Pan.

SANTA

Oh, dear. That would make Wendy  
very unhappy.

LAUN

You can see my problem. Got any  
ideas? We owe her.

SANTA

That's a tough one, Laun. I'll think  
of something. How's the loading of  
my sleigh coming along?

(CONTINUED)

LAUN  
Right on schedule.

SANTA  
And, Annie's situation?

LAUN  
Michael and Jon Jon have the  
appointment set for tonight.

SANTA  
The reindeer?

LAUN  
Nothing unusual, Sir. They are just  
like they always are.

SANTA  
They are feuding again.

LAUN  
You got it. Nothing unusual about  
this Christmas Eve. Oh, yeah, Kirk  
is sending the video tape to Mr.  
Wickhamton of World Toys in England.

SANTA  
I saw it before he left. Good job,  
Laun.

LAUN  
It'll win Mr. Bigelow a Chloe award  
for sure, not to mention the contract.  
I still can't believe you let me  
film the workshop.

SANTA  
I got special permission.

Mrs. Claus walks into the workshop carrying a cup of hot  
tea.

MRS. CLAUS  
I thought you could use some hot  
tea, dear. Is everything set for  
tonight?

SANTA  
For the most part. I've got a bit  
of a girl problem.

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

MRS. CLAUS

Girl problem? I thought I was your favorite girl.

SANTA

Oh yes, dear, you are. It has to do with Tinkerbell in Neverland. She's lonesome for someone her size. She wants to be bigger. Could you help?

MRS. CLAUS

Not a problem, dear. Us girls will just have to work this out.

42 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ANNIE'S ROOM-- AFTERNOON

42

Doctor 1 and a nurse enter Annie's room where Will and Christina sit by her bedside. Annie is still unconscious.

DOCTOR 1

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett?

WILL

Hello, Doctor. Have Annie's tests come back?

DOCTOR 1

Yes they have. That's why I want to talk to you and your wife. Could we step out into the hallway?

CHRISTINA

Is it bad. Doctor?

43 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, HALLWAY -- AFTERNOON

43

The doctor has a stern look on his face. The nurse is holding a clipboard. Will and Christina await the doctor's comment with guarded anticipation.

DOCTOR 1

I really wish I could say the news is good, however, it isn't. The tests reveal that Annie has a very rare virus that we sometimes call a super virus.

CHRISTINA

What is a super virus? Will Annie be alright?

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR 1

Unfortunately, Mrs. Bennett, uh...a super virus is a virus that is resistant to all known antibiotics. This particular strain has a very high mortality rate, especially in children under the age of twelve.

CHRISTINA

Oh my God! You're not saying that Annie is going to...

Christina weeps, before the doctor can give any further explanation. Will comforts her, fighting back his own tears.

DOCTOR 1

I'm so sorry. We'll continue to do the best we can, but the prognosis is not good. You may want to call your family members to be here with you.

WILL

How long until we know something, doctor?

DOCTOR 1

There's really no way of telling. It could happen very quickly. I'm so sorry, folks. We're doing everything we can possibly do.

44 INT. MR. WICKHAMTON'S HOME, ENGLAND -- EVENING

44

MR. AND MRS. WICKHAMTON have their FAMILY around their Christmas tree and are about to open gifts on Christmas Eve.

MR. WICKHAMTON

And here is a gift for you dear. Be careful with it, it may break. John, here's one for you, lad. Mary, I believe this gift is for you...

In the midst of the opening of gifts by all the family members and grandkids, MRS. WICKHAMTON finds a small, beautifully wrapped present with her husband's name on it. She does not recognize it. Laun has blinked into their home, INVISIBLY, to see Mr. Wickhamton's reaction to the video he has prepared.

MRS. WICKHAMTON

Dear, this one has your name on it.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

MRS. WICKHAMTON (CONT'D)

I don't know who it is from or how  
it got here. It wasn't here

yesterday.

Mr. Wickhamton opens the present.

MR. WICKHAMTON

It's a video tape. I wonder who  
sent it or how it got here?

MRS. WICKHAMTON

Why don't you put it into the VCR?  
Maybe that will explain the mystery.  
This is exciting.

Mr. Wickhamton walks into his study and inserts the video  
tape into the VCR. Mrs. Wickhamton and the rest of the family  
follow him.

45 INT. WICKHAMTON STUDY -- EVENING

45

The very rich, highly educated Wickhamton family gathers  
around the tele to see the tape. The THREE GRANDCHILDREN  
(1, age 8; 2, age 6; 3, age 5), DAUGHTER, a woman in her late  
twenties DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, a woman in her early thirties, and  
son, WICKHAMTON JUNIOR, a man in his mid thirties, marvel  
at the sight of the North Pole, Santa's sleigh, Baby Doll  
flying around the workshop, World Toys being delivered by  
Santa, his reindeer and elves into the homes of thousands of  
children around the world.

MR. WICKHAMTON

This is astounding.

GRANDCHILD 1

Grandfather, I've never seen Santa's  
workshop, but I have always endeavored  
to.

GRANDCHILD 2

Grandmama, look! There's Baby Doll  
flying all around the North Pole.  
How clever.

GRANDCHILD 3

Look at all your toys being delivered  
to kids homes in every country in  
the world, Grandfather. This is so  
exciting.

(CONTINUED)

DAUGHTER

This is colossal, father. Who is the ad agency?

MR. WICKHAMTON

I can't wait to find out. This is magnificent.

Laun sits invisibly and unheard, atop Mr. Wickhamton's easy chair, quite pleased with himself.

LAUN

Bigelow and Associates. Indirectly, Laun, Santa and Elf. The masters of toy advertising, manufacturing and distribution. Make the call to Bigelow.

Laun has placed a verbal message into Mr. Wickhamton's ear as the tape ends and the credits roll.

MR. WICKHAMTON

That ole dog! Bigelow and Associates. I knew Will Bennett wasn't showing me his best effort with that lame presentation we got from him.

MRS. WICKHAMTON Dearest,

just look at our grandchildren's faces. See the excitement in their eyes. Baby Doll is not only at the North Pole, she's all over the world in that presentation.

You know that I never tell you how to run your business dear, however...

MR. WICKHAMTON

Thank you for your valued opinion, dear. I believe a couple of phone calls are in order.

MRS. WICKHAMTON

Why two calls, dear?

MR. WICKHAMTON

The first to Liggett, Brown and Company to tell them I have had a last minute change of heart. And, the second to Bigelow & Associates to award the ad contract to them. Do you agree, Junior?

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

WICKHAMTON, JR.

Whole heartedly, father. As your executive vice president in charge of advertising, I certainly concur with your superb judgment.

MR. WICKHAMTON

Then it is settled. I hope ole Bigelow gives Will Bennett a tremendous raise. That must have cost them a fortune to make.

MRS. WICKHAMTON

It will possibly cost you a fortune in media time to air this stupendous ad in every country in the world where World Toys are sold. You really must, you know.

MR. WICKHAMTON Junior,  
whatever Bigelow and Associates wants, give it to them. After next Christmas, with these ads, we'll surely be number one in the toy business.

Laun laughs as he rocks back on Mr. Wickhamton's easy chair.

LAUN

Maybe a distant second, pops. Never number one. Santa's workshop will always be number one in the toymaking business.

Laun blinks back to the North Pole.

46 EXT. NORTH POLE, SANTA'S SLEIGH --NIGHT

46

Elves clamor around Santa's sleigh, hitching up all the reindeer, putting last minute toy orders into Santa's big sack in the back seat of the sleigh. Santa is walking out into the snow along with Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS

It looks like a great night for a sleigh ride, dear.

SANTA

It's a wonderful night! Not a cloud to be seen. Great flying weather. Michael. Jon Jon. Load up. You two are going with me this year.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTA (CONT'D)

I believe we have a very important

stop to make before we get started  
delivering all the toys.

Michael and Jon Jon approach the sleigh carrying clipboards with the names of every child in the world, what they want and where they live.

MICHAEL

First stop, Lindsay Memorial Hospital to pick up Annie and Tony. I've charted the course, Santa.

SANTA

Have you got the list?

JON JON

I've got the list, Santa, and I've check it thwee times.

SANTA

I'll see you soon, dear. Please prepare all of Annie's things. She will be staying with us now, you know.

MRS. CLAUS

I just love to get little girls here in our rather large family. I can't wait for her to arrive. Everything will be ready as usual, dear. Have a good trip. Bye Bye.

Santa's sleigh takes off into the starry night.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho. On Donner, On Dasher,  
On Prancer and Vixen. Up Cornet, up  
Cupid, Up Dancer and Blitzen.

JON JON

Get the wead out, Woodolph!

47 EXT. OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM, LINDSAY MEMORIAL -- NIGHT

47

Santa's sleigh pulls up outside of Annie's room and floats in thin air by the windows.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho. Anyone interested in  
a sleigh ride?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

JON JON

Auah you two weady?

48 INT./EXT. ANNIE'S ROOM, LINDSAY MEMORIAL -- EVENING

48

Annie and Tony are asleep on her bed. Their SPIRITS raise from their bodies. Excited to see Jon Jon, Michael and Santa, their spirits float through the windows and into Santa's hovering sleigh. They sit on each side of Santa. Will and Christina are just outside the room in the hallway, greeting family members who have gathered to give them support in their time of impending devastation.

ANNIE

Oh, Santa. I get to take a ride on your sleigh.

SANTA

Just like I promised, Annie.

TONY

Wow. Look at the reindeer. They really can fly. Santa, you really are real. Those first graders don't know nuthin. Far out! Annie! We're on Santa's sleigh. Can you believe this?

SANTA

That's what Santa Claus is all about, Tony. Belief.

TONY

But, Santa, when Jon Jon and Michael were in Annie's room, I heard the Doctor tell my parents that they were just make-believe friends that we dreamed up with our imaginations. Mommy and Dad couldn't see Michael or Jon Jon. They said we would eventually grow out of seeing them. Is that true?

SANTA

Jon Jon and Michael are not only my helpers that we call elves, they are also Guardian Angels. Jon Jon is your guardian and Michael is Annie's. They only make themselves visible to whoever they want to see them. But you have to believe in order to see them.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

TONY

I guess Mommy and Dad don't believe,  
huh, Santa?

SANTA

They did once, Tony. Laun was your  
Dad's Guardian Angel when he was a  
little boy and Evan was your Mom's  
guardian. Life just has a way of  
taking your beliefs away sometimes,  
especially the older you get.

TONY

So, how long will I be able to see  
Jon Jon?

SANTA

That depends on you, Tony. As long  
as you believe. Now, I believe that  
we have a lot of toys to deliver.  
Let's get to it .

The sleigh streaks off into the night.

49 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, HALLWAY -- NIGHT

49

Will's MOTHER AND FATHER, along with CHRISTINA'S MOTHER AND  
FATHER, are huddled in the hallway. Christina is CRYING as  
she buries her head on her mother's shoulder. The mood is  
very somber.

CHRISTINA

She's still in a coma, momma. My  
little girl. My precious little  
Annie. She may not wake up. Oh, my  
God, momma, please help us. What  
can we do?

CHRISTINA'S MOTHER

We can pray, Christina. We can pray.

50 EXT. SKY, SANTA'S SLEIGH-- NIGHT

50

Time is frozen as Santa, Annie, Tony, Jon Jon and Michael  
begin to deliver toys to all of Earth's children.

MICHAEL

Who's next on the list, Annie. You  
have the clipboard.

ANNIE

Abdul, Abdul, Abdul. How many Abdul's  
are there on this list, anyway?

(CONTINUED)

JON JON

One miayon, one hundwed and tudy  
twee.

MICHAEL

In this part of the world, Abdul is  
just as popular of a name as Tony or  
Annie is in the United States.

TONY

But, how do you keep track of which  
Abdul wants what?

MICHAEL

Oh. That's Evan's job. He's the  
smart one. Somehow he keeps  
everything straight.

SANTA

There's the first little Abdul's  
house. Whoa!

The sleigh comes to a hovering landing just above a house in  
the Mid East.

TONY

But, Santa, how are you going to get  
into that house? They don't even  
have a chimney.

SANTA

Then, I guess I'll just have to make  
one.

Santa's eyes twinkle. A chimney appears on the roof of the  
house.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Hand me my sack, Jon Jon. I'll be  
back in a flash.

Santa disappears down the chimney while the others wait in  
the sleigh.

ANNIE

Look how long this list is, Tony.  
It's going to take us twenty years  
to stop at all these kids' houses.

TONY

How long is this going to take, Jon  
Jon?

(CONTINUED)

JON JON

It onwy takes the twinkwing of an eye, Tony.

TONY

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

Jon Jon means that time is frozen. You know, standing still. Time does not exist while Santa is delivering all the toys.

ANNIE

But, what if you're not asleep when Santa freezes time?

JON JON

So what. Makes no diffwence. You just get fwozen standing up.

MICHAEL

Now you know why moms and dads all over the world want their children to go to bed early on Christmas Eve.

TONY

So we can be frozen ln our beds?

MICHAEL

You're not frozen, Tony. Time is frozen. Only Santa, all his helpers, and tonight, you and Annie, are stirring around.

TONY

You mean, even the airliners in the sky are frozen in mid air?

JON JON

Shuah. You don't want Woodolph to have to dodge aiahpwanes, do you?

ANNIE

But our weatherman on TV always says that he follows Santa's sleigh on radar. How can he do that if he is frozen?

JON JON

That's just a twick to get aw the kids to go to bed uhly. It's a gwonup thing.

(CONTINUED)

Santa appears back to the sleigh with his sack full of toys.

SANTA

Where to next, little navigator?

ANNIE

Foosball.

TONY

I didn't know that a foosball had a house.

MICHAEL

No, Annie. That's Foo's house. He wants a ball.

ANNIE

Where's Foo's house?

SANTA

In China. We've got Foo's and Su's and Moo's and Lu's.

MICHAEL

In Russia we've got Galena's, Svetlana's, Natasha's and Misha's.

JON JON

In Japan we've got Hakido's, Meisho's Sumo's and...

ANNIE

Oreo's!

SANTA

In Mexico we've got Mario's, and Pedro's, Julio's and...

TONY

Spaghetti-O's.

MICHAEL

Tony. The Spaghetti-O's are mostly in Italy along with Romeo's, Aurturo's and...

ANNIE

Pinnocchio.

SANTA

Very good, Annie. Are you having fun?

(CONTINUED)

ANNIE

The most fun I've had in my entire life, Santa. I want to be your little helper forever.

SANTA

That's just what I had in mind, Annie. Now let's get on to Canada. We're burning time.

TONY

But, Santa, how can we burn time if it's frozen?

SANTA

Who's next on the list, Annie?

ANNIE

A whole bunch of kids in Canada.

SANTA

Off we go to Canada. Take us there, Rudolph.

Santa's sleigh takes a left turn in the night sky heading for the North American continent and comes to rest over the next house.

ANNIE

Can I go down the chimney with you, Santa?

SANTA

Sure, Annie. I was going to ask you to, anyway. There's a little girl named Margaux that I want you to meet.

51 INT. MARGAUX'S HOUSE, CANADA -- NIGHT

51

Santa and Annie go down the chimney into MARGAUX's house. There is a little girl asleep in a WHEELCHAIR in front of the fireplace.

SANTA

Margaux. Hey, pretty girl. Wake up. There is someone I want you to meet.

MARGAUX, age 6, slowly awakes and speaks in French. She has a smile on her face.

(CONTINUED)

MARGAUX

Oh, Santa. I've been waiting for you. I knew you wouldn't forget me.

ANNIE

What language is that, Santa?

SANTA

It's French. I've used a little magic so that you can understand her and even speak back to her. Margaux, this is Annie from the United States. She's going to be one of my helpers.

MARGAUX

Mais oui. Enchante', Annie, glad to meet you.

ANNIE

Me too, Margaux. What happened to you?

MARGAUX

I've been very sick. I too will become one of Santa's helpers, soon. Won't I Santa?

SANTA

That you will, Margaux. But, for now, I have brought you the most beautiful doll I could find.

Annie reaches into the big sack and pulls out a doll dressed in a frilly purple and white ball gown and hands it to Margaux.

MARGAUX

Elle est tres belle, Santa. Merci.

SANTA

You are so very welcome, Margaux. Is that just what you wanted.

MARGAUX

Oui, Santa.

SANTA

Now you be a good little, girl, Margaux. I'll see you again soon.

Santa kisses Margaux on the forehead. Annie waves goodbye to her new friend.

52 EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH -- NIGHT

52

Tony, Jon Jon and Michael are drinking a cup of hot chocolate when Santa and Annie return.

TONY

This is great hot chocolate. Why does it taste so good?

JON JON

It's made with Waindeeah meok.

SANTA

After we finish with all the kids in Canada, we're off for the United States. I think we'll start with the Bronx in New York City, just to change things up a little.

Santa's sleigh goes at lightning speed to all the kids' houses in Canada and then turns towards the Bronx. The sleigh comes to rest in an alley behind an old abandoned building. There are many LARGE PACKING BOXES pushed together. The boxes are the home of street kid, MARTIN, age 5, black, streetname Blaze. It is very cold inside the boxes.

53 INT. THE BRONX, INSIDE THE BOXES -- NIGHT

53

Tony goes with Santa as he sticks his head inside the opening of the boxes.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho. Merry Christmas, Martin.

MARTIN

The name's Blaze. Who are you?

SANTA

Can't you tell by my red suit and white beard? I'm Santa Claus.

MARTIN

Right. And I'm the Sandman.

SANTA

Martin, you've just given me an idea. I really am Santa Claus.

MARTIN

Hey, fat man.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

There's one of you on every street corner in town with their hand out for money. I don't got no money and I wouldn't give it to you if I did.

SANTA

Hold on, there, Martin...

MARTIN

Said, the name's Blaze.

SANTA

Well, Blaze, I'm not here to ask you for anything. I'm here to give you what you wanted for Christmas. Do you remember what that is?

MARTIN

I ain't axed no one for nuthin.

SANTA

Blaze, do you mind if me and my friend here, Tony, come in. It sure is cold outside.

MARTIN

No big. Get on in.

SANTA

Blaze, I'd like you to meet my little buddy, Tony. Tony, this is Martin, er, uh, I mean, Blaze.

TONY

Glad to meet you Blaze.

MARTIN

What it is?

TONY

What is what?

SANTA

Tony, that's street talk for hello.

MARTIN

What you know 'bout street talk?

SANTA

I speak all languages, Blaze. Even street talk. What's bangin, bro?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTA (CONT'D)

Chill's on. Hittin on empty. Button  
an backbone gettin too friendly.  
Lay some munchies on me, home.

MARTIN

You cool, pops. So where's your  
sleigh if you da man?

SANTA

Come out and see for yourself.

54 EXT. THE BRONX, IN THE ALLEY -- NIGHT

54

Martin follows Santa and Tony out of the box to the alley.

MARTIN

Heavy, Pops. Those really are  
reindeer. Where'd you steal them?

SANTA

Oh, I didn't steal them, Blaze.  
I've raised them at the North Pole.  
They pull my sleigh. The one in  
front with the shiney red nose is  
Rudolph.

TONY

That's my twin sister, Annie in the  
sleigh along with two of Santa's  
helpers, Michael and Jon Jon.

Jon Jon jumps down out of the sleigh with his arm extended  
over his head.

JON JON

Gimme five, bwo.

MARTIN

What kinda talk's dat?

MICHAEL

That's Jon Jon talk. What's hapnin?

MARTIN

Daman's hapnin. Are you for real?

SANTA

Santa never lies, Blaze. I'd really  
like to call you by your real name.  
Did you know that you were named  
after a very famous man.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

My name's famous?

SANTA

Yes it is. You should be proud of your name.

MARTIN

I guess you can call me Martin. Now what it is you gonna give me?

SANTA

Just what you asked for about three hours ago.

MARTIN

What you know what I axed for?

SANTA

Kimba told me. I've got it written right here on my list.

MARTIN

Who's dis Kimba?

SANTA

Martin, Kimba is your Guardian Angel, who just happens to work for me.

MARTIN

I got a Guardian Angel?

SANTA

Every child has a Guardian Angel.

MARTIN

Can I see this Kimba?

SANTA

You can when he thinks you really believe, Martin. But for now, he can see you and he hears everything you say. Especially when you say your prayers at night.

MARTIN

I don't say no prayers, fool.

SANTA

Oh, yes you do. You are just too tough to admit it. Kimba hears everything you say and pray.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTA (CONT'D)

That's why we're here tonight on  
Christmas Eve.

MARTIN

Well, if I did pray, what did I pray  
for?

SANTA

For a warm coat and a horne.

MARTIN

How'd you know dat?

SANTA

I told you, Martin, Kirnba heard you  
and told me. I'm here to give you  
both of the things that you pray...uh,  
asked for. Here's your coat.

MARTIN

But how you gonna do the other thang.  
No one wants me.

MICHAEL

Wanna make a bet?

MARTIN

I ain't bettin. You dudes got me  
messed up. So how do I get a horne?  
I don't even know my papa and my  
momma's dead.

SANTA

You've got an Aunt Rowanda across  
town that's been looking for you for  
the last three weeks since your momma  
got shot. She loves you, Martin.

MARTIN

Ain't nobody loves me, Santa Claus,  
or whatever your name is. I gots no  
one.

SANTA

How would you like to take a little  
sleigh ride.

MARTIN

Are we cornin back?

SANTA

That's up to you.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED: (3)

54

MARTIN

Could I get some of my thangs out of my house before we hit da sky? We are going up in the sky I take it?

TONY

Man, this sleigh takes off like a shot. You're gonna love this ride.

MARTIN

I be right back.

Martin, wearing his new coat, gathers a few things from the boxes and returns to the sleigh. They take off for AUNT ROWANDA'S house across town.

55 EXT. QUEENS, NEW YORK, AUNT ROWANDA'S ROOF -- NIGHT

55

Santa's sleigh hovers over the house.

MARTIN

How we gonna git in her house. I bet she's got forty-seven burglar alarms on that place.

SANTA

Now, Martin, you're a smart young man. How does Santa usually go into houses?

MARTIN

No way. We ain't going down no chimney are we?

SANTA

Stand close to me. Here we go.

Santa lays his finger beside his nose, gives a nod and he and Martin whiz down the chimney.

56 INT. THE BRONX, AUNT ROWANDA'S LIVING ROOM-- NIGHT

56

Martin's eyes are wide open from the trip down the chimney. Santa puts some presents by the fire, then turns to Martin.

SANTA

See there on the table, Martin. Aunt Rowanda still leaves some cookies for me. I don't believe she would mind if you ate them for a midnight snack and then curled up on her couch there by the fireplace until morning.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

I could use some cookies and a good warm bed. It's been a long time, Santa. Are you sure she's been looking for me?

SANTA

What do you think? Remember what I told you?

MARTIN

Yeah. Santa never lies.

SANTA

That's right. She will be so surprised in the morning when you're here in her living room. She used to baby sit you when you were little, before she and your mother had a little misunderstanding.

MARTIN

About what?

SANTA

Nothing important. Now, Martin, tell Aunt Rowanda I said hello when you see her in the morning. We've got to go and deliver some more toys.

MARTIN

I will, Santa. And, thanks. Oh, Santa? I lied when I said I didn't pray for a coat and a home. I really did. Tell Kimba to keep listnin. I may need him again.

57 EXT. THE BRONX, AUNT ROWANDA'S ROOF -- NIGHT

57

As Santa loads his sack back in the sleigh, he remembers that Aunt Rowanda had no Christmas tree.

SANTA

Michael. Do some of that elf magic and blink down a beautiful Christmas tree for Martin and Aunt Rowanda to wake up to in the morning.

MICHAEL

Consider it done. They'll have the most beautiful tree in Queens.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

SANTA

After we finish the northern part of the U.S., I think we'll swing down south to that big orphanage in Houston. We'll have a ball down there gang. I love to see all the smiles we're going to put on those long faces. On Dasher...

58 EXT. THE SKY -- NIGHT

58

Santa, Jon Jon, Michael, Annie and Tony finish their midnight ride to deliver toys to all the children of the world.

JON JON

That's a wap, Santa. All done for this yeah.

SANTA

Michael, did you save all those cookies that I didn't eat?

MICHAEL

Sure did. You're sack is full with'em. All the helpers back at the North Pole will have enough cookies to keep us going for the whole next year.

TONY

But, Santa, I thought you ate all the cookies that kids leave for you.

SANTA

Tony, that would be piggish on my part to eat'em all and not share them with my helpers. What do you think elf food is, anyway?

ANNIE

Cookies?

SANTA

Of course. Lot's of cookies We all eat cookies and drink reindeer milk the whole year round.

ANNIE

But mommy said cookies were bad for little kids.

(CONTINUED)

JON JON

She's wight. But cookies awh gweat  
foah widow elves wike me. Cookies,  
cookies, I wuv cookies. Big ones,  
smw ones, I wuv cookies.

MICHAEL

We like'em when they're hot, we  
like'em when they're cold. We like'em  
in the cupboard...

ANNIE

Nine days old...

JON JON

We wuv'em by the dozen, we wuv'em  
one by one. We wuv'em when thah waw  
and we wuv'em when thah done.

MICHAEL

We love'em from the north and we  
love'em from the south. But the  
cookies that we love the most are  
cookies in our mouth.

As the sleigh makes it way back to the North Pole, Jon Jon, Michael, Annie and Tony, giggling all the way, throw cookies out of the big sack and into the homes of children along the way that have no cookies leaving a trail of cookies behind them as they speed across the sky.

SANTA

And to all, a good night...

59 EXT. NORTH POLE -- NIGHT

59

Santa's sleigh arrives at the North Pole to the cheers and the applause of all the helpers who have been anxiously awaiting their return.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho.

ELF 1

I love it when he does that.

SANTA

Annie, you go with Jon Jon. Tony,  
go with Michael. He'll give you a  
guided tour around the workshop.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

TONY

I'll see ya later, Annie. I love you.

ANNIE

I love you too, Tony.

Many of the helpers swarm around the sleigh to unhitch, feed and bed down the reindeer and push the sleigh into the stables. Tony and Annie go off in different directions.

60 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, ANNIE'S ROOM -- EVENING

60

Will and Christina put presents under the Christmas tree while Annie and Tony sleep, hoping Annie will awaken in the morning to celebrate Christmas Day.

CHRISTINA

We don't even know if she'll regain consciousness, Will. We don't even know if she'll ever play with these toys.

WILL

You've got to be strong, dear, for Tony's sake. Whether or not our prayers are answered tonight, we still have to have a Christmas for our little boy.

CHRISTINA

It's so hard...

61 INT. NORTH POLE, MAIN WORKSHOP -- NIGHT

61

Michael is showing Tony around the humongous workshop.

MICHAEL

This is the little boys' section.

TONY

Look at all the trucks and footballs and, and puppies. Where do all these puppies come from? There's every kind of puppy in the whole wide world here. How do you ever feed'em all?

MICHAEL

Cookies! We feed'em cookies. It makes 'em soft and cuddly. But I wouldn't recommend this at home. Cookies only work at the North Pole.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It's part of the magic. C'mon, let's go over to the car and truck section. You'll love this...

Jon Jon is at the reception center with Annie. Little sleighs are arriving from all over the world with children destined to be Santa's little helpers.

JON JON

If you weawy want to be a widow helpa, foeva, you have to go thwoo oweeintation.

ANNIE

I never never want to leave this place. I don't feel bad anymore.

JON JON

That's paut of the deaw, Annie. You auways feeaw gweat heah. Aw we do is have fun, waff au the time and feeaw wondrous. I've been heah two hundwed and twenty yeahs and it seems wike yesteday.

ANNIE

Can I still see my family?

JON JON

Shua. You can even be youah bwudda's guadian angel. That's been my job, but you can have him.

ANNIE

I'm going to be a guardian angel, too?

JON JON

That's wight.

ANNIE

Do I get big white wings and a halo like the angel on the top of a Christmas tree?

JON JON

Yes, but you jus weah youah wings when you do gaudian stuff. You don't weah them heah at the wokshop.

ANNIE

What do I do when I'm at the workshop?

(CONTINUED)

JON JON

Fun stuff. You get magicaw powahs to make pwesents foah widow guls. We have to go to the magic shop foah that. Then we go to the hawo shop to get yoah hawo and so on and so on.

ANNIE

Hey, Jon Jon. Where are all those sleighs full of little kids coming from.

JON JON

Fwom aw ova. It's the widow kids who have gone away that get to wide on Santa's sweigh. Now, wet's go get you some pointy eah's. That's shows that you auwa an elf. If you have noticed, we aw have pointy eahs.

ANNIE

Can I get mine pierced and put little star earrings in my ears.

JON JON

Staws auah vevy popuwa with the guls. If staws auah what you want, staws is what you get. We get to choose ouah own costumes. But get something you weally wike, you have to weah it a wong time.

ANNIE

When I get my wings, will I really be able to fly?

JON JON

Oh, you have to take fwing wessons foah that. It's fun. I wuv to fwy.

ANNIE

Yessir. I'm gonna like it here.

JON JON

It's a bwast! You wiau wuv it.

Meanwhile, Michael is still showing Tony around the workshop.

MICHAEL

This is where we get all the letters from all the little kids.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

I've never seen so many letters.  
Not even at the Post Office. How do  
you know who sent which letter and

MICHAEL

More magic. We're full of neat magic.  
We've got magic for toys and magic  
for boys. We've got magic for kittens  
and magic for mittens. Magic for  
laughs and magic for cries, magic  
for lows and magic for highs. Magic,  
magic everywhere. Magic for toys  
and teddy bears...

ELF 1

Blinking this and blinking that.  
Blinking up dolls with feathery hats.  
We blink up trucks and we blink up  
cars. On gloomy wintry nights we  
even blink up stars.

TONY

When do I get to blink?

MICHAEL

When you get your little puppy and  
he licks you in the face.

TONY

I'm gettin a little puppy?

MICHAEL

Didn't you ask Santa for one?

TONY

Yeah, but...

MICHAEL

No buts. Santa is better than U-P-  
S. He always delivers.

TONY

So, when do I get the puppy?

MICHAEL

Soon.

TONY

What's Annie doing?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Getting her ears pierced.

TONY

Oh, no. Mom's gonna get mad at my sister.

MICHAEL

Somehow, Tony, I don't think so...

Meanwhile, Jon Jon is still taking Annie through helper orientation.

JON JON

Annie, I want you to meet Missus Santa Cwaus. She's evwybodies mommy awond heah.

ANNIE

Pleased to meet you, ma'am.

MRS. CLAUS

Oh sweet Annie. We are so glad to have you come stay with us. How do you like it so far?

ANNIE

Well, did you notice my new star earrings?

MRS. CLAUS

I did, precious. They look great on you. Did you pick them out all by yourself.

ANNIE

Yes ma'am, I did. I feel like a big girl, now.

MRS. CLAUS

Oh, you sure do, Annie. I believe everythings going to work out fine. If you ever need to, you know, just have a girl talk, I'm here for you all the time.

ANNIE

Thank you, Mrs. Santa.

JON JON

How bout wet's getting you fitted with some wings and take a fwying wesson or two, Annie.

(CONTINUED)

ANNIE

I can't wait to fly, Jon Jon. Lets get started. I'll be so pretty in my long white gown.

JON JON

You want a wong white gown?

ANNIE

Of course. All angels have long white gowns with a gold rope belt to go around it. Don't you know anything about angels?

JON JON

I thought I did. Wet's go to the gown shop. It suah didn't take you vevy wong to get the hang of things awond heah. Bye, Missus Cwaus. I want Annie to meet aw huh new gulfwiends. They can't wait to show huh awond.

62 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, HALLWAY -- NIGHT

62

A nurse tells Will that he has a phone call.

WILL

This is Will Bennett.

MR. BIGELOW

Will, this is Mr. Bigelow. How is your daughter doing.

WILL

I'm afraid not so good, Mr. Bigelow. She's got one of those super viruses and the doctors said they can do nothing. I may just be a matter of time...

MR. BIGELOW

I'm so sorry, Will. I wish there was something I could do.

WILL

It's out of our hands now.

MR. BIGELOW

I do have some news that may cheer you up a little.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MR. BIGELOW (CONT'D)

Mr. Wickhamton called from England and changed his mind about the World Toys contract. He said that he got your new ad video and absolutely loved it. I didn't know that you did a second presentation.

WILL

I didn't know I did either.

MR. BIGELOW

What was that, Will? I couldn't hear all of that.

WILL

Oh, well, it was just a little something...

MR. BIGELOW

Never you mind, Will. What is important is that Mr. Wickhamton was pleased. When Annie gets better, I'll expect you back at work...in your new office. I'm giving you a big promotion. And, don't worry about the doctor bills, our company insurance will take care of everything. How's Christina and the new baby doing?

WILL

Just fine, Mr. Bigelow. The baby is due in about two weeks and thank you. Thank you so much.

MR. BIGELOW

You've earned it, Will. Somehow, I found a copy of your new ad video under our Christmas tree tonight. I must say, it was spectacular.

WILL

It was?

Laun enters to talk to Mrs. Claus.

LAUN

Mrs. Claus, Tinkerbelle is bugging me about making her big. Have you figured out what we can do?

(CONTINUED)

MRS. CLAUS

Laun, usually problems work themselves out if we are patient. Little Martin in the Bronx came up with the solution.

LAUN

Martin? You mean Blaze? How did he figure it out? I didn't know that he knew Tinkerbell.

MRS. CLAUS

That little pixie sure gets around, Laun. She has a special place in her heart for lost boys.

LAUN

So, what are we going to do?

MRS. CLAUS

I'm going to play cupid and fix her up with the Sandman. I should have thought of that myself. He is such a fine young gentleman.

LAUN

Now, why didn't I think of that.

MRS. CLAUS

He's a bit of a night owl... However, he seems a little lonesome at times... I think he and Tinkerbell will be perfect for each other.

64 EXT. NORTH POLE -- NIGHT

64

Santa, Michael, Jon Jon, Tippie and Tony load up into Santa's sleigh for the return trip back to Annie's room at Lindsay Memorial Hospital. It is a couple of hours before sunrise on Christmas morning.

TONY

Santa, we can't leave without Annie. Where is she, anyway?

SANTA

Don't worry about Annie. Besides, this sleigh is kinda full. She'll be along shortly in another sleigh.

65 EXT. OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM, LINDSAY MEMORIAL -- NIGHT

65

Santa's sleigh hovers just outside Annie's room.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

SANTA

Tony, give me a big hug. I sure did appreciate all of your help delivering the toys.

TONY

I loved it, Santa. Any time you need more help, just give me a call. I want to do that again. I had the best time of my entire life.

MICHAEL

Thanks for all of your help, little buddy.

JON JON

See ya waiter, awigator.

TONY

Bye, everyone.

Santa lays his finger beside his nose, resuming time.

66 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, ANNIE'S ROOM-- NIGHT

66

Tony's spirit floats back into his sleeping body at the foot of Annie's bed. Will and Christina walk back into the room with a nurse. The NURSE leans over Annie with a stethoscope to LISTEN to her heartbeat.

NURSE

I'd better go get the doctor.

CHRISTINA

What's wrong? Is Annie all right?

NURSE

I'll be right back.

The nurse leaves the room and returns within seconds with Doctor 1. He also uses his stethoscope to check for a heartbeat.

WILL

Is she O.K., Doctor?

DOCTOR 1

I'm sorry, Will. She's gone...

Christina SHRIEKS LOUD SCREAMS of sorrow, waking Tony. Christina pulls Annie's lifeless body close to her one last time.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

No. No. Annie, my precious baby.  
You can't be gone. Please talk to  
mommy.

TONY

Mom! Dad! You should've seen that  
place! What a ride! We got to  
deliver toys in Santa's sleigh.

Will holds the excited Tony next to him as he speaks between  
sobs.

WILL

Son...Annie's gone.

TONY

We went to the North Pole with Michael  
and Jon Jon.

WILL

You've been having sweet dreams,  
son. Your little sister is gone.

TONY

I wasn't dreaming. Annie's not gone.  
She's coming on the next sleigh.  
Ours was sorta full.

DOCTOR 1

Will, it may take a while for Tony  
to accept his sister's loss. I'm so  
sorry.

The Grandparents rush into the room after HEARING Christina's  
screams.

TONY

But, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, I'm  
telling ya. Annie's on the next  
sleigh. We really did go to the  
North Pole. Mom, she got her ears  
pierced.

WILL

Oh, Tony. You've got to be a big  
man today. You've got to accept it.  
Annie's dead.

TONY

Bullfeathers, Dad. You and mommy  
just keep looking out that window.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TONY (CONT'D)

Annie's on the next sleigh. You've got to believe me.

WILL

Don't ever lose that great imagination of yours, son. Don't ever let go of it.

Will releases Tony and goes over to comfort Christina. Tony rushes to the window to look for Annie. The room is in chaos from the grief.

TONY

See. I told you she was on the next sleigh. There she is and she's got all the elves with her. Look out the window. Quick. Just look at her.

Grandma goes over to the window to comfort Tony. She looks out the window and GASPS.

GRANDMA

Oh, Christina. Will. Come quick. There's Annie.

Everyone in the room goes to the window. Just outside, hovering in thin air, are a multitude of Santa's helpers, floating in the shape of a huge Christmas tree. Laun, Michael, Jon Jon, Evan and Kirk are among the helpers forming the tree. Annie is radiantly dressed in an all-white robe. She is the angel atop the tree. She is HOLDING a white kitty cat.

CHRISTINA

Oh, Will. There's our baby. She's beautiful...

TONY

I told you she was on the next sleight. She's not dead. She's an angel.

67 EXT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

67

Santa's sleigh pulls up just outside Annie's room and speaks to the crowd just inside the room.

SANTA

I'm sorry, Christina, dear. I'm so sorry, Will. I don't make the rules.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTA (CONT'D)

I've come to take little Annie home with us. I promise she'll be happy. We'll take real good care of her.

With the exception of Tony, the group looking out of the window is completely mystified. They are torn between tears of sorrow and tears of joy at the spectacle they are witnessing.

SANTA (CONT'D)

I did clear it with The Almighty for you all to witness Annie taking her vows. She's going to be Tony's Guardian Angel from now on. Laun, do you want to start the ceremony?

LAUN

Annie Bennett, it is now time for you to recite the Guardian's Vow. Just say what Jon Jon taught you.

Annie is smiling back at everyone inside of her hospital room. As she says her vows, she begins to GLOW brighter and brighter.

ANNIE

Every child that goes away. Takes a ride on Santa's sleigh. Every child that lives to grow, has a friend to get to know. Special girls and special boys. Special kids that make the toys.

She hesitates and looks directly at her twin brother, Tony.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

A little brother with pointy ears.  
A little sister that always hears...

Annie forgets some of the words. Evan, one of the members forming the Christmas tree, helps her.

EVAN

With magic powers from Santa Claus, we keep the watch just because...

ANNIE

We send the dreams and hear the prayers, of the kids that now are ours...

Laun, a member of the group forming the tree, helps her.

(CONTINUED)

LAUN

To guide through life and light the  
path. To help you learn to take a  
bath...

Kirk, part of the Christmas tree, joins in.

KIRK

To study hard and do your chores.  
To be polite and open doors...

ANNIE

Little friends that never leave.  
Guardian Angels, not make believe...

Jon Jon, holding Tippie, also part of the Christmas tree,  
assists Annie.

JON JON

The widow ones that have gone away,  
come back again anudder day...

Tippie begins licking Jon Jon in the face as Michael prompts  
Annie.

MICHAEL

To keep the watch and make the toys.  
To wipe your tears and share your  
joys...

Laun again assists.

LAUN

To tell St. Nick when you've been  
good. To help you do the things you  
should...

Annie remembers more of her lines.

ANNIE

And when you're alone and full of  
fear. You'll hear a whisper saying,  
"I am here".

ALL the HELPERS in the Christmas tree, including Annie,  
recite.

ALL

We're the little kids that have gone  
away. That took a ride on Santa's  
sleigh.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (3)

67

A cheer goes up from all the helpers forming the tree. Annie has completed her vows as a Guardian Angel. Tinkerbell arrives bringing fireworks that light up the night sky as she flies circles around the tree of helpers, leaving behind a trail of pixie dust resembling gold laurel around the tree. She is being chased by the Sandman who leaves an equally brilliant trail of silver. Jon Jon pushes Tippie through the air, wagging his tail and slobbering, towards Tony.

68 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, ANNIE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

68

Christina's and Will's remorse is mixed with the most wonderful feeling they have ever experienced in their entire lives. Tippie comes to rest in Tony's lap.

CHRISTINA

Oh, my dear God, thank you. Oh,  
Will...I think I recognize one of  
the elves from my childhood days.  
Annie's so beautiful.

69 EXT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM-- NIGHT

69

Evan waves directly at Christina.

70 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, INSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

70

Will focuses on Laun.

WILL

I think I know one of them, too.

71 EXT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM EVENING

71

Laun looks directly at Will and TIPS his HAT.

72 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, INSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM NIGHT

72

Tippie is licking Tony in the face causing him to blink a lot.

TONY

Gee, mom. Annie always gets to do  
all the neat stuff. Now will you  
believe me? Please.

CUT TO:

73 INT. LINDSAY MEMORIAL, ANNIE'S ROOM, INSIDE CHRISTINA'S WOMB - 3 NIGHT

Christina's unborn baby kicks, smiles, then WAVES to all the elves.

74 INT./EXT. TOTAL SCENE-- NIGHT

74

Tears and smiles on both sides of the window at Lindsay Memorial.

ANNOUNCER V.O.

And so it came to pass of how Santa Claus, one of God's favorite angels, got all his little helpers up at the North Pole. As for the word, "ELF", well, ELF is really a heavenly acronym for Everyones' Little Friend. So, the next time you see your child talking and playing with an imaginary playmate, just remember...It may be their Guardian Angel they are talking to. Now, go way back to your own childhood. Did you ever talk to your Guardian Angel? And don't forget what Santa said, "You've got to believe."

**FADE TO BLACK**

**ROLL CREDITS**