

#1 - BUDDY & SANTA

ELF - THE MUSICAL

- 11 -

ACT ONE

SCENE 3

BUDDY runs outside. He's clearly upset.

#1b - Not Happy All The Time

BUDDY

(singing sadly)

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

SANTA arrives, accompanied by panicky elves.

SANTA

Buddy...

BUDDY

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

SANTA

Good question.

SANTA walks BUDDY over to a snow drift.

Here. Sit on Santa's lap.

#1c - Sit on Santa's Lap

I have to tell you a story

(reacting to his weight)

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

BUDDY

Really? Where is he? Is it Charlie?

SANTA

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

BUDDY

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

SANTA

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

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

And he works...

(points to the globe)

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

BUDDY

In there? He must be teeny-tiny!

SANTA

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

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

Keep it. It's a gift from me.

BUDDY

Thank you, Santa.

ELVES

Awwwwwww.

SANTA turns to the gathered elves.

SANTA

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

BUDDY

What's my dad like?

SANTA

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

BUDDY

Oh!

SANTA

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

BUDDY

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

SANTA

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

BUDDY

Doesn't believe in you? Is he insane?

SANTA

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

BUDDY

But Christmas Spirit is what makes your sleigh fly!

SANTA

I know. It's becoming a problem.

He looks into the snow globe.

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

BUDDY

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

SANTA

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

BUDDY

What?

SANTA

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

BUDDY

Okay. Which direction is New York?

SANTA walks BUDDY upstage to an iceberg.

SANTA

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

BUDDY

And that's New York?

SANTA

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

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

#2 - World's Greatest Dad

(SANTA)

Bye, Buddy. Take care.

BUDDY

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

SANTA

Hobbs. Walter Hobbs.

BUDDY

Hobbs? Then I must be Buddy Hobbs!

(uncertain)

Yay!

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



7- BUDDY & JOVIE

ELF - THE MUSICAL

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(JOVIE)

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

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

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

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

BUDDY

Jovie! I know you are super mad right now.

(noticing her dress)

Wow. You look more miraculous than ever.

JOVIE

And you look....seasonally appropriate.

BUDDY

Thanks!

JOVIE

You are two and a half hours late.

BUDDY

I have a really good explanation.

JOVIE

Go ahead.

BUDDY

I forgot about our date.

JOVIE

That's your explanation? You forgot?

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

No they didn't.

JOVIE

Why not?

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

But you forgot.

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

Can I just give you a Christmas present?

JOVIE

This is the worst possible time—

(BUDDY takes out the snow globe)

BUDDY

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

(he hands it to her)

Shake it.

(as SHE takes the globe and shakes it)

Pretty, huh? Real snowflakes are smaller than buildings.

JOVIE tries to hand it back to him.

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

JOVIE

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

#10a - Goodbye

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

#3 MANAGER, BUDDY & JOVIE

ELF - THE MUSICAL

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BUDDY

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

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous!

(holding up a perfume spray bottle)

Jungle Passion fruit spray?

BUDDY

Fruit spray? Sure.

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

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

I don't know.

MANAGER

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

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

BUDDY

That's not the North Pole.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it isn't.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it isn't.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

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

(BUDDY grins happily and the MANAGER scowls)

MANAGER

Why you smilin' like that?

BUDDY

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

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

Yay! I love to work.

MANAGER

Good.

BUDDY

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

MANAGER

Wait a minute. The big guy?

BUDDY

Yeah.

MANAGER

The big guy from up north?

BUDDY

That's the one.

MANAGER

Did he send you down here?

BUDDY

He sure did!

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

Okay!

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

Of course!

MANAGER

Thanks.

(loudly to ALL)

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

BUDDY

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

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

Ten a.m. tomorrow!

MANAGER

Santa Claus is comin' to town!

BUDDY

Santa Claus is comin' to town!

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

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

(seeing JOVIE for the first time)

Oh! She's beautiful!

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

She is? I love nuts!

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

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

JOVIE

(turning to face the audience)

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

I don't sing.

BUDDY

Oh, come on. It's fun!

I'M SINGING!

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

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

The MANAGER re-enters in a huff.

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

Yes, there is!

MANAGER

No, there isn't.

BUDDY

The big guy likes it when we sing.

