

#5- BUDDY, WALTER, DEB & GREENWAY

ELF - THE MUSICAL

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Why is the sky blue?

BUDDY

WALTER

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

More silence.

BUDDY

Dad?

WALTER

What?

BUDDY

What does a rainbow feel like?

WALTER

I don't know. Soft...

BUDDY

Dad?

WALTER

Buddy!

BUDDY

What was my mom like? Susan Welles?

WALTER

That was a long time ago, Buddy.

BUDDY looks dejected. WALTER softens.

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

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

DEB

Mr. Greenway, sir.

GREENWAY

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

WALTER

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

GREENWAY

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

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

BUDDY

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

GREENWAY

What? Who the devil is that?

WALTER

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

GREENWAY

I thought your son was twelve years old?

BUDDY

I'm thirty. That's this many.

(indicating 30 with his fingers)

GREENWAY

What?!

WALTER

(shouting to DEB)

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

BUDDY

Oh! Can I have a Chocolate Monster?

DEB

A Chocolate Monster?

BUDDY

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

DEB

(leading BUDDY off)

Works for me.

GREENWAY

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

WALTER

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

GREENWAY

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

GREENWAY exits. WALTER is in despair.

WALTER

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

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

BUDDY

Snow!

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

DEB

(to WALTER, awkwardly)

Chocolate Monster?

