

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

BUDDY

(staring at JOVIE)

Gee, she's so pretty.

MANAGER

Well, why don't you ask her out?

BUDDY

Out?

MANAGER

On a date. Take her to dinner...

BUDDY

Eat food with her?

MANAGER

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

BUDDY

(continuing the list)

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

MANAGER

Whatever turns your crank, Buddy.

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

JOVIE

Good night.

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

No, would somebody like a punch in the throat?

BUDDY

No.

JOVIE

So, good night.

BUDDY

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

Do I want to eat food?

JOVIE

Um-hmm. You know...

BUDDY

Are you asking me out on a date?

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

Yes, I do!

BUDDY

No, you don't.

JOVIE

Yes, I do!

BUDDY

Why?

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

Your tongue swells up?

JOVIE

(with a swollen tongue)

Yeth, it doth. See?

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

BUDDY

What the hell. I'm free Thursday.

JOVIE

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

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

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

Don't you have a home to go to?

BUDDY

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

JOVIE

Seriously? Okay. Well. Good night.

BUDDY

G'night, Jovie.

#4b - *Goodnight, Jovie*

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

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

BUDDY snores loudly.

Fade to black.

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

MANAGER

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

A MOTHER leads a small BOY to the FAKE SANTA.

FAKE SANTA

(in a heavy New York accent)

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

7- BUDDY & JOVIE

ELF - THE MUSICAL

- 83 -

(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.