BUDDY

Oh, I won't be buying anything. I only have chocolate money. And most of it 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 instantity sees 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!

TOVIE

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.

