

SANTA'S SCHOOL FOR SANTAS

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - DAY

"SANTA CLAUS" is seated on glittery, tacky-looking throne. And this "Santa" is a little thin, a little young, and his beard looks fake.

Nonetheless, TIMMY (a chubby boy of 9) sits on "Santa's" lap.

"SANTA CLAUS"

And what do you want for Christmas
this year, Timmy?

But Timmy just crosses his arms and stares down "Santa."

TIMMY

Why should I tell you?

"SANTA CLAUS"

So that I can bring it to you on
Christmas, of course! Ho, ho, ho!

TIMMY

You're not going to bring me
anything. You're not the real
Santa.

"SANTA CLAUS"

What?!

TIMMY

I said: You're. Not. Real.

"Santa" is flustered. This kid means business.

"SANTA CLAUS"

But-but-but... of course, I am!

TIMMY

NO! YOU'RE LYING!

Timmy's temper tantrum freaks out "Santa." He's shaken.

"SANTA CLAUS"

Quiet, Timmy... Shhhh... Here have
a candy cane!

"Santa" tries to force a candy cane into Timmy's hand.

Timmy slaps it away.

TIMMY

I want the REAL SANTA!

"SANTA CLAUS"

Uh... You can't... You just...
can't...

TIMMY

Why not?!?!?!?

"SANTA CLAUS"

Because...

(panics)

He's not real! There is no Santa!

Timmy bursts into tears. Noooo!

"SANTA CLAUS" (CONT'D)

Aw, c'mon, Timmy, stop crying! You
would've figured it out some day!

TIMMY

I'm gonna throw up!

Timmy coughs loudly, the kind of coughing that sounds like
it's gonna bring up lunch any second.

"SANTA CLAUS"

Don't do it, Timmy. This is a
rented suit!

But Timmy is facing right at "Santa" and he's dry heaving
like crazy. It's gonna be any second...

"Santa" braces for impact, but...

NICHOLAS (O.S.)

I think that'll do.

Timmy instantly stops coughing and composes himself.

NICHOLAS KRINGLE steps up next to "Santa Claus" and Timmy.
And Nicholas really looks like Santa. Thick around the
middle, bushy white beard, rosy cheeks, the whole bit.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Thanks, Timmy. Let's all give him
a round of applause. He'll be
quite the improv-er one day.

A smattering of applause breaks out.

Nicholas turns to a room filled with SANTA TRAINEES. Twenty to thirty men dressed in Santa Claus suits have been watching the whole interaction.

Timmy hops off of "Santa's lap" takes a bow, and hurries off.

Nicholas steps up next to "Santa Claus" aka PAUL. Paul is slumped forward in defeat.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Now, Paul, where you got tripped up is by a child who believes in Santa, but doesn't believe that you're the real Santa.

(to the class of Santas)

What should Paul have done?

FAKE SANTA #1

Gotten his mom!

FAKE SANTA #2

Told him to stop crying... Or else!

FAKE SANTA #3

Kick him!

Nicholas shoots a look of disbelief at the class.

NICHOLAS

No, no, no!

(kinda sounds like "Ho, ho, ho!")

In this case, you whisper to them quietly, like you're going to tell them a secret and you say...

(in a whisper)

"You're right. I might not be the real Santa. But I work for him."

CLASS OF SANTAS

Ohhhhhhhhh.

Many the Fake Santa's quickly scratch down notes.

A BELL RINGS.

Nicholas looks at his watch.

NICHOLAS

Well, I think that's all the time we have today. Excellent work everyone. And remember...

The entire class speaks with Nicholas in unison.

NICHOLAS & THE CLASS
If you love Christmas, then you can
be Santa Claus!

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - LATER

The Fake Santa's have all filed out.

As soon as the last one exits, Nicholas peers down the hallway to see that it's empty. Then he sneaks away.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Nicholas quietly creeps through a thick forest of trees.

He comes into a small clearing, pulls out a small pinch of magic dust and tosses it.

Out of thin air, a sleek, shiny red Christmas sleigh appears.

An elf sits in the sleigh waiting for him. But he's not short, instead he's like the elves from *Lord of the Rings* - thin, blonde and strikingly handsome. This is TINKERTOYTIN.

TINKERTOYTIN
I stand at the ready for you, Santa
the Claus.

Magically, Nicholas has changed clothes. He's now in a red velvet suit, shiny black boots, and furry red hat.

He's now THE REAL SANTA CLAUS.

NICHOLAS
Ho, ho, ho! Thank you, my friend.
Hope you weren't waiting too long.

TINKERTOYTIN
The minutes of the night crept
steadily like beetles on leaves.

NICHOLAS
So...? Not long? Or really long?

TINKERTOYTIN
It wasn't bad.

NICHOLAS
You could just say that, you know?

TINKERTOYTIN
 Apologies, King of Christmas. How
 goes the shaping of new recruits?

NICHOLAS
 Oh... Pretty well. Very good.
 Excellent batch this year.

Tinkertoytin gazes at Nicholas with piercing blue eyes.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 They'll be fine! All I have to do
 is make them believe in themselves,
 and they can achieve anything.

TINKERTOYTIN
 I sense a shift in the winds. I
 fear for Christmas this year.

NICHOLAS
 Elves. You say that every year.

TINKERTOYTIN
 This year is different. Toy
 production drags at a pace. We may
 not finish by the Eve.

NICHOLAS
 Tinkertoytin, if you're behind, you
 know who to call. I'm sure he'd
 come back-

TINKERTOYTIN
 No! Do not speak of he who left us.

Tinkertoytin crosses his arms and sulks like a child.

NICHOLAS
 Look, I'm sure we're both just over
 reacting. You'll finish the toys
 in time. You always do. And I'll
 manage with my Santas-in-training.
 There's no one I can't turn into
 Santa Claus!

And with that, Nicholas presses a button on the sleigh, and
 it rises into the sky and flies away.

INT. WHITE DALE COMMUNITY CENTER - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - DAY

BRYAN DEETS (mid 30s, with a huge heart and a huge, clumsy
 body to match) perches at the top of a wobbly ladder.

He's attempting to put a star at the top of a Christmas tree.

The rest of the Community Center Multi-purpose Room is made up like a winter wonderland. Long strands of multi-colored lights. Paper snowflakes. Silver garland.

KIDS watch Bryan as he stretches to place the star. Two of them are rambunctious, 10-year-old twins, COREY and CARRIE.

CARRIE

Mr. Deets, this doesn't look like a good idea.

COREY

Yeah, Mr. Deets, I'm not sure that ladder's working for you!

But Deets just stretches as far as he can.

DEETS

Don't worry, kids. I got this.
Just. A. Little. Bit. Further...

With tremendous effort, he places the star atop the tree.

Deets sighs in relief... until the ladder tips over.

Deets crashes into the tree. He topples it over, and as it comes down, it rips strands of lights off of the walls.

Sparks fly everywhere, as tiny light bulbs explode.

The paper snowflakes catch fire. Hanging balls of fire.

Corey, Carrie, and the other kids scream!

Deets hits the ground with a painful thud.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Ugghhh!! I'm gonna feel that in the morning!

CARRIE

Mr. Deets! Look!

The room has erupted in flames.

Deets leaps to his feet and quickly takes stock of the chaos that's erupting. He yells:

DEETS

Not again. Move it, kids! Run for your lives!

He scoops up several of the kids in his arms, and herds the rest of them out of the room as the blaze overtakes the room.

EXT. WHITE DALE COMMUNITY CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

Deets and all of the children run out of the building.

They converge in the parking lot.

DEETS

Don't worry, kids, everything's going to be fine.

CARRIE

But Sylvester's still in there!

DEETS

Sylvester?! Who's Sylvester?

COREY

You know, Deets! The pet snake!

Deets winces at the mere word.

DEETS

Snnnnaaaa... Ssssnnnnnn...
Snnnooo... I'm sure he's fine.

CARRIE

You've got to save him!

Deets wrestles with the decision, then:

DEETS

Alright!

Deets turns and runs back toward the burning building.

INT. WHITE DALE COMMUNITY CENTER - HALLWAY - DAY

Deets rushes down the hallway. Ahead of him, thick black smoke pours out of the Multipurpose Room.

He stops as he sees a Fire Extinguisher Case. He tries to open the case, but the door won't open.

Finally, he clenches his jaw, makes a fist, and rears back.

DEETS

Arrrrgggghhhh!!!

He punches the glass.

It doesn't break.

But it hurts like hell.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhhhhh!!! My poor hand!!

Deets cradles his hand in pain. Then he sees a small, metal bar attached to a chain swinging from the case.

He grabs the little bar. He barely taps the glass case and it shatters. He snatches the extinguisher.

INT. WHITE DALE COMMUNITY CENTER - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - DAY

The room is ablaze. Utter chaos.

Deets points the fire extinguisher and squeezes the trigger.

Thick, white dust sprays everywhere. It coats the Christmas tree. It covers the walls and decorations.

But there's too much fire. The extinguisher runs out of spray and sputters.

In the corner, he sees a glass aquarium with a SNAKE in it. Deets looks revolted and terrified, but he rushes over to it.

Sylvester the Snake hisses and slithers wildly.

DEETS
You're okay, right, Sylvester?

The Snake hisses wildly.

DEETS (CONT'D)
You don't need me.

Hiss!

DEETS (CONT'D)
Alright!

Deets shudders as he reaches into the aquarium.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Blaaahhh!!

BAM! Suddenly a half-dozen FIREFIGHTERS burst into the room.

Two of them grab Deets. The rest fight the fire.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Wait! We have to help Sylvester!

FIREFIGHTER

Who?

Deets pulls away from the Firefighters, takes a deep breath, then reaches into the aquarium. He pulls out the snake clutches it to his chest.

DEETS

Got him!

And Deets passes out in fear.

EXT. WHITE DALE COMMUNITY CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

Smoke billows out of the windows of the Community Center.

Deets sits on the curb and sadly watches the Community Center burn. He's covered with sweat, soot, and extinguisher dust.

Corey and Carrie come up to him.

CARRIE

Thanks for saving us, Mr. Deets.

COREY

Yeah, Mr. Deets. Sorry your Christmas decorations got destroyed.

DEETS

I was just trying to give us all a Merry Christmas.

A car comes squealing into the parking lot.

JULIE KEMP (a middle aged mother, dressed in nurse's scrubs, who would be pretty if she had time), bursts out of her car.

She spots Corey and Carrie with Deets.

JULIE KEMP

That's them! That's my kids. Oh, thank goodness!

The Firefighters let her through, and she grabs Corey and Carrie and squeezes them in her arms.

COREY

Jeez, Mom! Relax! We're fine.

CARRIE

Yeah, Mr. Deets saved us.

JULIE KEMP

Oh, thank you, Mr. Deets. You are a hero. A good, wonderful man.

Julie lets her kids go and hugs Deets. Then she gives him a big kiss on the cheek. Deets turns bright red.

DEETS

I... I... Well... Well, you know, I just did what anyone would do.

JULIE KEMP

What happened? What started the fire?

COREY

Well, Mr. Deets did.

Julie lets go of Deets. No more Ms. Nice-Mom.

She slaps the hell out of Deets.

JULIE KEMP

These are my children! My children! You are a monster! An awful, terrible man! C'mon, kids.

Julie ushers her kids into the car. Corey and Carrie give Deets a sad wave as they drive away.

DEETS

How could this day get any worse?

Suddenly, MRS. SABERS (the stern coordinator of the Community Center) storms up to Deets. She's a mess of ash and burns.

MRS. SABERS

DEETS! You! Are! Fired!

DEETS

Oh.

Deets is left alone.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Santa's house is just how you'd imagine. Warm, cheery, red and green colors everywhere.

MRS. CLAUS (with white hair and plenty of plump) is putting in a tray of ginger bread cookies.

A hard rock version of "Jingle Bell Rock" is blaring. Mrs. Claus happily shakes her booty to the music.

MRS. CLAUS
(singing along)
Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle
bell... Rock!

She dances along as she kicks the oven door shut.

Then she really gets into the music. Bobbing her hips, shaking her butt, bouncing her jugs.

NICHOLAS (O.S.)
Honey!? Honey, you in there?!

Nicholas comes into the kitchen. Mrs. Claus composes herself.

MRS. CLAUS
Yes, dear! Just baking your
favorite.

She turns down the music and gives Nicholas a kiss.

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)
Gingerbread cookies with mint
chocolate chips!

She says it proudly, but Nicholas doesn't notice.

He just settles down into a chair with a sigh.

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)
What's the problem, dear?

NICHOLAS
Oh, it's the elves. Tinkertoytin,
Lincolnloglin, Bigwheelsan. They
say this could be the last
Christmas.

MRS. CLAUS
Oh that! They say that every year.
This Christmas will be wonderful.

NICHOLAS

I don't know. Maybe they're right. It's getting to be too much. Even for me! Every year there's more deliveries to make. More kids. More houses. More toys. We barely pulled it off last year.

MRS. CLAUS

But you did! And you'll do it again this year!

NICHOLAS

I'm just one man! I'm not sure I can do this on my own anymore.

MRS. CLAUS

Well, you've always thought about bringing on an apprentice. Why not teach one of your Santa students to help you?

NICHOLAS

Ha! I'll be lucky to prepare them for the mall! This is shaping up to be the worst Christmas yet!

MRS. CLAUS

Oh really? Worse than the year that you had to conquer the Martians?

NICHOLAS

Well, probably not, but...

MRS. CLAUS

Or worse than when the Central Park Rangers attacked you?

NICHOLAS

Not really, but...

MRS. CLAUS

Or when that awful Skeleton Man kidnapped you and tried to take over Christmas?

NICHOLAS

I did do a good job of saving Christmas that year, didn't I?

MRS. CLAUS

You sure did. And you'll have a perfect Christmas this year too. Now stop worrying.

(MORE)

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)
And get out of the kitchen so I can
dance... I mean, finish your
cookies.

Nicholas (now much cheerier) heads for the door.

NICHOLAS
I can whip those trainees into
shape, can't I?

MRS. CLAUS
Of course you can. You can turn
anyone into Santa as long as...

NICHOLAS
...They love Christmas!

INT. DEET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Deets is at home alone.

He's a sad mess. And his apartment is a mess too. Clothes
are strewn about. Mail is piled up. Dirty dishes everywhere.

But it's also thoroughly decorated for Christmas. Several
stockings hang from ledges. There's a tree in the corner.

The apartment is dark except for the flickering light from
the television. A generic cop show is playing.

DETECTIVE
(on television)
Our killer didn't take one thing
into account.
(dramatic pause)
We just need to figure out what
that one thing is.

Deets trudges over to the refrigerator. He opens the freezer
and stares at a large tub of ice cream.

DEETS
I can have one bite. I had a bad
day. I'm in control. In control.

He takes out the ice cream. Grabs a spoon. And takes an
enormous heaping scoop of ice cream. He eats it.

Bliss! He digs in.

As he's eating, Deets gazes at his little Christmas tree.

KID'S VOICE
It's almost Christmas... But I'm
sooooo sad.

Deets spins toward the T.V.

ON T.V. - A CHEAP COMMERCIAL

Timmy (the chubby kid from the training) sitting on the floor
in front of Christmas Tree. His DAD stands next to him.

To say the commercial sounds cheesy and forced would be an
understatement.

DAD
Why, son? Why are you so sad, son?

TIMMY
I just want to meet Santa Claus.

DEEDLE LEEDLE POOF! Nicholas (in full Santa Claus outfit)
appears... courtesy of cheap, late-night infomercial effects.

NICHOLAS
Did someone call for Santa Claus?!

TIMMY & DAD
Yay!

Timmy jumps up and hugs Nicholas.

Nicholas turns to the camera and talks directly into it.

NICHOLAS
Would you like to bring joy to the
faces of children just like this?

DEETS

Is totally engulfed in the commercial. He nods.

ON T.V.

Nicholas continues with his sales pitch.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Then share the Christmas spirit at:
Nicholas Kringle's Yuletide Santa
Training School!

DEETS

Is thrilled. He wants to be a part of the magic.

ON T.V.

Nicholas smiles and does a little song and dance jingle.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 (singing - to "Here Comes
 Santa Claus")
 You'll be Santa Claus,
 You'll be Santa Claus,
 Come be trained by me!
 Children laughing, Parents smiling,
 Make people happy and bright!
 So call right now if you love
 Christmas,
 Become Santa Claus tonight!

A Disclaimer appears at the bottom of the screen:

"WILL NOT ACTUALLY BECOME SANTA CLAUS TONIGHT. MUST GO THROUGH TRAINING."

DEETS

is totally in! He smiles from ear to ear.

ON T.V.

Nicholas finishes up.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 And remember: If you love
 Christmas, then you can be Santa!

DEETS

dances around in glee. He grabs his phone, ready to dial.

TELEVISION ANNOUNCER
 To register for Santa School simply
 call 555-1607. Sign up today!

The fine print has appeared on the television screen:

CLASSES ARE ONGOING - EVERY MONDAY!

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Nicholas has convened a new class full of middle-aged guys dressed to varying degrees as Santa Claus.

NICHOLAS

Now, this is a question that kids
ask all of the time... Who can name
all the reindeer?

A few hands shoot up. Nicholas points to one of the them.

FAKE SANTA #1

Dasher, Dancer, Vixen... um...
Candy, Destiny... no wait, I'm
thinking of a different group.

Another Fake Santa tries.

FAKE SANTA #2

I've got it.
(singing)
You know, Dasher and Dancer and
Pringle and Vixen...
(less confident)
And Dunner and Summer and Prummer
and...
(low and mumbly)
Bloop-bloop...

NICHOLAS

That was close. You're all off to
the right start. It's Dasher and
Dancer and PRANCER-

The whole class goes "Oh yeah!" in unison.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

-And Vixen. And we all know
Rudolph. Who can name one of the
last four?

FAKE SANTA #1

Bo Bo!

FAKE SANTA #2

Lightning!

FAKE SANTA #3

Trap Door!

Trap Door? Nicholas sighs in disappointment.

NICHOLAS

Doesn't anyone know the names of
the reindeer?

BAM, BAM, BAM! There's a sudden pounding on the door. It
rattles then swings open, as Deets bursts into the room.

He's dressed in a bright green suit with a red bow-tie and plenty of Christmas flare.

DEETS

Sorry! Sorry, I'm late! I couldn't decide what to wear. I just threw this together. I love Christmas. Please, let me stay! I'm sorry I'm late.

Nicholas is flabbergasted. He looks at his watch.

NICHOLAS

We started over an hour ago, son.

DEETS

Deets.

NICHOLAS

I'm sorry?

DEETS

My name. Deets. Bryan Deets.

NICHOLAS

Deets. We start a fresh group each week. Maybe you can come back-

DEETS

No, please! I'm ready now! Please, Santa, I need this.

NICHOLAS

Nicholas. Call me, Nicholas.

DEETS

Nicholas, please. I love Christmas. I know can be a great Santa Claus.

Nicholas sighs. Then something occurs to him:

NICHOLAS

What're the names of the reindeer?

Deets answers without hesitation.

DEETS

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph, of course.

Nicholas smiles.

Several of the Santa Wannabes scratch down notes.

NICHOLAS

What gift do you give on the sixth
day of Christmas?

DEETS

Six geese a-laying!
(singing)
Five golden rings! Four calling
birds! Three french hens! Two
turtle doves-

DEETS & NICHOLAS

(singing together)
-And a partridge in a pear tree!

NICHOLAS

Alright, here's a tough one. In
the poem, "The Night Before
Christmas" how many times is the
name Santa Claus used?

Deets thinks for a second, then:

DEETS

That's a trick question! It's
never used!

The Santa Wannabes look to Nicholas. Is it the right answer?

Nicholas laughs with glee.

NICHOLAS

Correct! Ho, ho, ho! Bryan Deets, I
couldn't possibly turn away someone
who loves Christmas so much!

DEETS

REALLY?!

NICHOLAS

Of course! You already know so
much.

DEETS

Thanks, Santa! I mean, Nicholas.
You won't regret this. I'll be the
best Santa you've ever seen!

NICHOLAS

Very good. Go take a seat.

Deets takes a seat along with everyone else.

Next to Deets is a really tall and skinny guy - QUINCE.

DEETS

This is so great, huh?!

QUINCE

Oh yeah. This should be a lot of fun. I'm Quince.

DEETS

Deets. Nice to meet ya. Say, you're a little skinny for a Santa Claus, huh?

QUINCE

Yeah, yeah, everyone says I should put on a few pounds. I figured this'll be the perfect opportunity.

Nicholas takes control of the class.

NICHOLAS

Now, let's get to work. Christmas is right around the corner, and I'm going to turn you all into rosy cheeked, bowl-full-of-jelly Santa Clauses!

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - LATER

Nicholas is leading the class. A large, powerfully built man stands next to Nicholas. This is GOLDMAN. And he's cool.

NICHOLAS

Alright, the most important part is a good: Ho Ho Ho! So let's hear what you've got.

But Goldman is almost too cool. He's smooth and monotone.

GOLDMAN

ho. ho. ho.

NICHOLAS

Not bad. But make it a little more full throated.

GOLDMAN

(still cool and monotone)
ho. ho. ho.

JUMP CUT TO:

A hippy-looking Santa with a full beard and dreadlocks but plenty of bulk (BERT) happily gives his best Ho Ho Ho!

BERT

Ho Ho Ho!
 (giggles uncontrollably)
 Hee hee hee! Ha ha ha! Alright,
 man! Alright! Righteous!

JUMP CUT TO:

Skinny, little Quince is now trying.

QUINCE

Ho! Ho! Ho!

NICHOLAS

Wonderful, Quince! Wonderful!

Nicholas looks Quince up and down.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

We'll have to order some extra
 pillows for you. Those kids'll
 fall right off your knees.

Quince's head drops. Then he pulls out a bag of cookies.

JUMP CUT TO:

Deets is taking deep, nervous breaths preparing for his turn.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Deets, give it your best shot.

DEETS

HHHOOOOO! HHHHOOOO! HHHHOOO!!!

It's so loud and jarring, it's terrifying.

Nicholas shakes his head.

NICHOLAS

Nice start, Deets. But let's take
 it down a notch.

But Deets is just as loud as before.

DEETS

HHHHOOO!!! HHHOOO!!! HHHHOOO!!!

NICHOLAS

Better. We'll work on it.

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - LATER

Nicholas is holding a full Santa costume.

NICHOLAS

Sometimes you're going to have to
change really quickly so as not to
ruin the illusion for the children.

(beat)

Bert, why don't you give it a shot?

Bert (smiling from ear to ear) takes off his rainbow beanie
and takes the Santa Costume.

BERT

Radical. Totally radical.

Bert goes into a closet.

NICHOLAS

And begin!

Nicholas clicks a stop watch. He waits a second then hears:

BERT

(from inside closet)

Hehehehe! This is so sweet! So rad!

Nicholas looks uneasily at the stop watch.

JUMP CUT TO:

Goldman emerges from the closet fully dressed as Santa. His
face is cool as a cucumber as always.

GOLDMAN

I look good, right? Tell me how
good I look.

NICHOLAS

Nice work, Goldman. Now give us a
big, hearty Ho! Ho! Ho!

Goldman shoots Nicholas a deadpan stare.

GOLDMAN

ho. ho. ho.

JUMP CUT TO:

Quince emerges in costume. But it's practically hanging off
his skinny frame.

NICHOLAS

I'm not sure there's enough pillows
in the world.

Quince picks up a Big Gulp and slurps.

JUMP CUT TO:

Nicholas is staring at his stop watch.

Bert's giggling is coming from the closet.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

How you doing in there, Bert?

BERT

(from closet)

Right on, man! Right on!

JUMP CUT TO:

There's LOUD RATTLING from the closet. Some TEARING NOISES.

DEETS

(from the closet)

C'mon! Pull it together! Errrgh!

Suddenly, Deets crashes through the door, and collapses. His pants are down around his ankles. He isn't ready at all.

Nicholas clicks the stop watch.

JUMP CUT TO:

Nicholas clicks the stop watch.

NICHOLAS

Bert! Bert, why don't you just come
on out of there!?

BERT

(from closet)

I see the light, man! I see it!

Nicholas shakes his head.

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - LATER

The large Santa throne is set up at the front of the class. Deets (dressed in full Santa outfit) is seated.

Nicholas leads the class.

NICHOLAS

Alright, now we've got a special
guest to help us prepare.
Everyone, say "Hello" to Timmy.

Timmy (the chubby kid from the opening scene) enters.

CLASS OF SANTAS

Hello, Timmy!

Deets smiles and puts on his best Santa Claus impression as
Timmy walks up to him.

DEETS

Hi, Timmy. It's me! Santa Claus!
HHHHOOOO!!! HHHOOOO!!! HHHOOOO!!!

Nicholas and Timmy wince at the hugeness of the Ho! Ho! Ho!

NICHOLAS

(whispering to Deets)
Take the "Ho, Ho, Ho" down just a
bit. You're doing great.

DEETS

Come sit on my lap, Timmy! I'm
Santa Claus!

TIMMY

Okay.

Timmy climbs into Deets's lap.

DEETS

Now, what can I get for you? Since
I'm Santa Claus!

NICHOLAS

(whispering)
You don't have to keep saying
you're Santa Claus. He knows that.

Deets slaps himself in the head.

DEETS

Of course, he knows who I am. I'm
Santa Claus! Oops...

NICHOLAS

(whispering)
It's okay. Just keep going.

TIMMY

I want a big screen T.V., and a GameStation 3000, with 20 video games to play.

DEETS

You got it!

TIMMY

Really?! You promise?

DEETS

Of course! Anything you want! I'm Santa Claus!

(beat)

Which you already know.

Deets and Timmy shake hands.

Nicholas steps in.

NICHOLAS

Alright, that was a good start.

Deets has a mini-celebration.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

But...

Deets's spirits drop. He slumps.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

You promised him an awful lot.
What if he doesn't get it all?
He'll be devastated. That's why we can't promise anything.

Deets practically cries out in pain.

DEETS

I just got so nervous! I'm sorry!
Let me try again! Please!

NICHOLAS

Oh, oh, oh...

(sounds like Ho, Ho, Ho)

Don't worry, you did fine. But let's give some one else a try. Quince-

DEETS

No, wait! I can do this! Timmy, one more time! And... go.

Deets switches to his Santa voice.

DEETS (CONT'D)
And what can I get you for
Christmas, Timmy?

Timmy looks to Nicholas with confusion. Nicholas sighs and nods, giving the go-ahead.

TIMMY
I want a laser blaster game with
twelve guns and the chest plates!

DEETS
Uhh... Well, you see... Doesn't
that seem like a little too much?

TIMMY
Are you saying you can't do it?

DEETS
No! I mean, maybe I could do it,
but... It just seems like a lot.

TIMMY
But, but, but... I've been so good.
(welling up with tears)
I... thought... you... were magic.

DEETS
Don't cry, Timmy! I want to get it
for you! I do! But...

Deets points at Nicholas.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Him! He won't let me!

NICHOLAS
Let's stop there, Deets. Nice try.

Deets knows he screwed up big time. He looks majorly bummed.

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - LATER

Everyone is exiting. Nicholas hands them each a Phone Tree.

NICHOLAS
Great work today, gentlemen. Now,
this has everyone's names and phone
numbers on it. Remember, you are
each other's best resources.
(in his best Santa Claus)
(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Now... Merry Christmas to all! And
 to all a good night!

Deets takes a Phone Tree from Nicholas.

DEETS
 Thanks, Santa. I mean, Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
 Hey, you're doing great. You'll
 get this.

Nicholas winks at Deets. Deets forces a smile.

EXT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

Deets leaves the building heading toward his car. His head
 is stooped and he mutters sadly to himself.

DEETS
 Don't promise anything. Especially
 not puppies. Never promise a puppy.

Deets smacks himself on the forehead, when:

GOLDMAN
 Hey, Deets!

Deets spins to see Goldman coolly strolling up to him.

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)
 Nice job in there.

DEETS
 Really?! I mean, thanks, Goldman.
 That means a lot. I mean, you're
 like the gold standard around here.

GOLDMAN
 Yeah, I am. I'm pretty great. But
 you are too. Keep it up.

Goldman leaves. Deets is perking up.

Bert walks past to his car.

BERT
 Oh yeah, man! The Deets Man!
 Riding the Deets wave. Deets a
 leets a doots a dats!

Bert flashes Deets a peace sign and leaves.

Then Quince walks by.

QUINCE

Catch ya later, Deets! By next class my goal is to have put on five pounds!

DEETS

And my goal is to get a handle on the HOOO HHHHOOOO HHHOOOooooOOO!!

QUINCE

You're close, Deets! You'll get it. Chicken Hut here I come!

And Quince is gone.

Deets is smiling ear to ear.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out his PHONE TREE.

He scratches out a word and changes it to:

FRIEND TREE.

INT. DEET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Deets has on a fake white beard. He practices in the mirror.

DEETS

HHHHHOOOOO!!! HHHOOOO!!! HOOOOO!!!

He shakes his head.

DEETS (CONT'D)

No, too loud. Quieter.

(again - too quiet)

ho ho ho.

(beat)

C'mon, you can do better than that.

(again)

HHHHHOOOOO ho Ho!

(pauses)

That last one was pretty good.

Okay, try 'em all like that.

(again)

Ho! Ho! Ho! That was it! Ho! Ho!

Ho! Look at me! Santa Claus right here! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Deets dances in glee, until THERE'S A BANGING ON THE WALL.

NEIGHBOR
 (through the wall)
 Shaddup!!

DEETS
 Sorry! I was practicing!

NEIGHBOR
 (through the wall)
 Well, keep it down! I'm trying to
 watch Garage Sale Treasure Hunters!

Deets forces a smile into the mirror.

DEETS
 I can do this. I can be Santa.
 Right?

INT. MALL - DAY

The Mall is bustling with hundreds of people. Moms are herding along their kids. Kids are staring at toys they want in store windows. Fathers are buying gifts.

INT. MALL - "MEET SANTA" SET-UP - CONTINUOUS

Set-up in the middle of the mall is a grand Santa Display. There's a red carpet leading up to an ornate Santa Throne.

Behind it is a tiny "Workshop."

INT. MALL - INSIDE FAKE SANTA'S WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Nicholas is in full Santa Claus get-up. Crowded into the small "Workshop" is Deets, Quince, Goldman, and Bert.

NICHOLAS
 Alright, guys. There's nothing to
 worry about. I'm going to go out
 there and interact with some of the
 kids. Just watch and learn. And
 then I'll give you each a chance.

DEETS
 Sounds great!

GOLDMAN
 Cool.

BERT
 Righteous. Right on.

QUINCE
 Let's do it!

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Let's get out there!

They all try to turn and move. But it's four grown men in a tiny Workshop. They awkwardly try to exit. Not easy.

INT. MALL - "MEET SANTA" SET-UP - DAY

Nicholas is working his way up to the Santa Throne. Deets, Goldman, Quince, and Bert watch from the side.

NICHOLAS
Ho, ho, ho! Hello, kids! Merry
Christmas to all!

The kids that have gathered squeal with excitement.

Nicholas works the crowd giving hi-fives, hugs, and ruffling hair. He's amazing with the children.

Deets watches with big eyes.

Nicholas settles into the Santa Throne. A LITTLE GIRL gets into his lap.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Why hello there, Little Girl!
What's your name?

She just stares at Nicholas with wide eyes.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Why don't you whisper it to me?

He leans in close and cups his ear. The Little Girl whispers her name. Nicholas laughs. He and the Little Girl talk.

Off to the side, Deets and the other guys are impressed.

QUINCE
Wow! He's good.

DEETS
Oh yeah. Amazing.

BERT
Like totally. He's the man with
the red tan, man.

GOLDMAN
I'll be that good. You guys just
watch. I'm gonna go suit up.

Goldman goes into the tiny Workshop.

Deets watches Nicholas laughing and joking with the kids.
But then he spots:

Julie Kemp walking through the mall.

DEETS

Hey, you guys go first, okay? I'm
gonna go talk to a... friend.

Deets rushes off.

INT. MALL - IN FRONT OF CINNABUN - DAY

Julie (dressed in her hospital scrubs and a jacket) is at a
Cinnabun in the food court. She's staring up at the menu.

In front of her, a CUSTOMER is buying a Cinnabun just as if
they were doing a drug deal.

CINNABUN EMPLOYEE

Welcome to Cinnabun! What can I...

CUSTOMER

Shhh!! Keep your voice down!! Did
anyone see me? Let's do this quick.

The Customer slips money to the Cinnabun Employee. The
Employee hands over a greasy bag.

Deet runs up to Julie.

DEETS

Hey, Mrs. Kemp!

JULIE KEMP

Nothing! I wasn't ordering! I
wasn't going to... Ugh! It's too
rich!

DEETS

What? It's just Cinnabun. They're
delicious.

JULIE KEMP

Oh no. I wouldn't. It's not
healthy. Bad for you.

Behind them, a GUY IN SUNGLASSES AND TRENCH COAT slips some
money to the Cinnabun Employee. The Guy gets a greasy bag.

DEETS

Okay... So what're you doing at the
mall?

JULIE KEMP

Christmas shopping. I ducked out of the hospital on my lunch break.

DEETS

Right. Look, I didn't get a chance to say it before, but I'm sooo sorry about everything that happened at the Community Center.

JULIE KEMP

Oh... um...

DEETS

I would never do anything to hurt Corey and Carrie. Or any of the kids. I'm sorry.

JULIE KEMP

That's alright. I guess it was no harm done.

DEETS

Except to the Community Center.

JULIE KEMP

Yeah. Except to the Community Center.

Awkward silence between them. To break it:

DEETS

Isn't it great around here?

He looks around at all the Christmas decorations everywhere.

DEETS (CONT'D)

All the music and decorations. I just love Christmas, don't you?

JULIE KEMP

Eh. Yeah. I guess so.

DEETS

Doesn't sound like you have the Jingle Bell spirit.

JULIE KEMP

It's not that. I mean, I do love Christmas, it's just...

Another Customer does a quick hand off of cash and gets a greasy Cinnabun bag.

JULIE KEMP (CONT'D)
 ...You know what? I don't. I
 don't like Christmas!

DEETS
 What?! What's not to love?
 Presents. Cookies. Caroling.

JULIE KEMP
 And decorations and hot chocolate
 and wrapping paper. And guess who
 does it all? Me. I have to find
 time to shop for presents. And
 find time to wrap them. And find a
 place to hide them.

DEETS
 But that's all part of the fun!

JULIE KEMP
 It's exhausting, Mr. Deets. It's
 not like I have a ton of time to
 begin with. Two kids, a full time
 job. Christmas can feel like just
 another hassle.

Another Cinnabun drug deal goes down.

DEETS
 You know what it sounds like to me?
 Sounds like you need a night off.

JULIE KEMP
 Oh yeah? Are you offering to take
 me out, Mr. Deets?

DEETS
 What? No! I meant, I'd help... I
 didn't mean... I mean, you're
 great. I'd love to take you out.
 If you want... I just meant...

JULIE KEMP
 No. Oh, no. I mean, sure. If you
 want. I wasn't trying to...

DEETS
 No, me neither. But yeah, let's do
 it. Friday night?

JULIE KEMP
 Sure. Sure. Friday's great. I'll
 get a baby sitter.

Deets and Julie are all smiles. Until:

DEETS

Oh shoot! I gotta go! It's my
turn to be Santa! See you Friday,
Ms. Kemp!

JULIE KEMP

Julie. Call me Julie.

DEETS

Okay. And you can call me Deets.

JULIE KEMP

Deets, then.

(laughs)

No, I'm not going to call you that!

DEETS

How about Bryan?

JULIE KEMP

Okay. Bryan. I'll see you Friday.

DEETS

Friday!

Deets rushes off. Julie shakes her head in disbelief, but there's no denying she's got a big smile on her face.

Behind her, a BIG GUY is finishing his purchase:

BIG GUY

And if anybody asks, who did you
see here today?

CINNABUN EMPLOYEE

A couple of young women on their
lunch break.

The Big Guy Customer slips extra money in the tip jar.

INT. MALL - INSIDE FAKE SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Deets rushes into the tiny cramped Workshop.

Quince is pulling off the Santa Claus costume.

DEETS

Sorry, I'm late!

QUINCE

No worries. Here!

Quince hands Deets the costume. Beneath the costume, Quince is strapped with many, many pillows.

Deets struggles to quickly pull on the Santa costume.

QUINCE (CONT'D)

I had two kids fall asleep on my chest. Maybe it's too many pillows.

DEETS

I'm sure you're bulking up.

QUINCE

Yeah. You should've seen Goldman. That guy's so cool. Kids never knew what hit 'em.

Deets is pants-less but is trying to strap on the beard. It's all askew. Quince helps to straighten it.

QUINCE (CONT'D)

And the kids loved Bert. He kept telling them how awesome they were.

DEETS

Sounds like you all did great.

QUINCE

And you will too! See ya out there!

Quince exits the Workshop.

Deets takes some deep breaths.

DEETS

I can do this. I can do this.

But he struggles to put on the pants. But he trips.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Oh nooooo!!!

INT. MALL - "MEET SANTA" SET-UP - CONTINUOUS

Deets (only half-dressed) crashes out of Santa's Workshop.

DEETS

Ahhh!!! My bowl full of jelly!

He slams to the ground. Several kids scream and gasp.

But Deets leaps to his feet. He pulls up his pants, and does his best to straighten his clothes.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Hey, kids! It's me: Santa Claus!
 (pause)
 But you already knew that!
 (deep breath)
 HHHHOOOOO!!! HHHOOOO!! HHHHHHOOOO!!

Off to the side, Nicholas winces at Deets's terrible display.

Deets settles down into the Santa Throne.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Now, who's first?! C'mon, leap up
 onto Santa's lap. Anybody...?

None of the kids steps up.

Deets slumps in the Santa throne.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Mrs. Claus in the kitchen. A hard rock version of "Rocking
 Around The Christmas Tree" is playing.

She shows off her dance moves as she mixes up egg nog.

Once she finishes the drink, she pours a glass for Nicholas.

He's seated at the table surrounded by crumpled up pieces of
 paper. He angrily crumples up another.

NICHOLAS
 No, no, no! It won't work!

MRS. CLAUS
 Calm down, dear. Have some egg nog.

Nicholas takes a drink and sighs.

NICHOLAS
 It's hopeless. I just don't know
 what I can do to help Deets.

MRS. CLAUS
 Role playing?

NICHOLAS
 Didn't help.

MRS. CLAUS
 Note cards?

NICHOLAS
He swallowed them.

MRS. CLAUS
An earpiece with you whispering
tips?

NICHOLAS
When I tried that, somehow he got
an entire airport runway shut down!

MRS. CLAUS
Well, you'll figure something out.

NICHOLAS
It's such a shame. He really loves
Christmas. Maybe more than anyone
I've ever trained.

Mrs. Claus pauses for a second.

MRS. CLAUS
There might be a way.
(pause)
But the elves aren't going to like
it.

EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets walks up to front door of a small, but charming
suburban house. He's nicely dressed in a suit, and has a
small bouquet of flowers.

DEETS
Hi, Ms. Kemp. Julie. Duh. Call her
Julie. Pull it together, Deets.

He takes couple deep breaths, then knocks on the door.

After a moment, Julie opens the door.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Hi, Ms. Kemp. Julie!

But Julie isn't ready. She's a mess, and Deets peers into
the house. It's a mess too.

JULIE KEMP
Hi, Bryan. I'm sorry I'm not ready.
I got held up at the hospital. Then
my baby sitter cancelled.

DEETS

Oh. Well, that's okay.

JULIE KEMP

I'm not sure tonight will work.

DEETS

Oh. Maybe we can reschedule, or-

But Corey and Carrie come running around the corner.

COREY & CARRIE

Mr. Deets!

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deets steps into the living room. He hi-fives the kids.

DEETS

Hey, kids!

COREY

What're you doing here, Deets?!

Deets shoots a look at Julie. She shoots back a frantic "I didn't know what to say" look.

DEETS

I wanted to... Um... say "Hi" to your mom.

CARRIE

You brought her flowers?!

COREY

Mom! Mr. Deets! What do you think you're up to?

Julie blushes then recomposes herself.

JULIE KEMP

Yes, me and Bryan- Mr. Deets- were going to have an adult dinner. But, but, but that's none of you kids's business, okay?

Corey and Carrie make kissing faces at their mom and Deets.

COREY

Alright, Deets!

Corey slaps Deets with a hi-five.

JULIE KEMP

Knock it off. Cuz it's not happening. Now, you two! Finish your homework. I'll make dinner, then you're going to bed.

CARRIE

But, mom...

JULIE KEMP

Homework. Now.

The kids leave. Julie spins to Deets.

JULIE KEMP (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. Maybe we can try another night. If you want...

Deets gets an idea.

DEETS

No. You know what? I'll take care of things. That's what this was really about, right? You deserve a night off.

JULIE KEMP

That's very sweet, Bryan. But I couldn't.

DEETS

I insist. Now, sit.

Deets sits Julie down on the couch. Then Deets rushes out of the room.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Deets digs around in Julie's kitchen. He opens the fridge and pulls out some vegetables. Then notices:

Hot dogs.

He opens a cabinet and finds a box of macaroni and cheese.

DEETS

Score.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Deets bangs on a pot with a fork.

DEETS
Come and get it while it's hot!

Julie enters.

JULIE KEMP
Smells good. What're we having?

Deets dishes out macaroni and cheese with hot dogs, but with vegetables and spices mixed throughout.

DEETS
For the adults, it's the Deets
Special Casserole. For the kids...

COREY & CARRIE
Mac n cheese!

Deets hands the kids plates full of the exact same food with mac and cheese and veggies. The kids dig in.

Deets winks at Julie.

DEETS
Add enough cheese and hot dogs and
kids'll eat anything.

Deets sits down next to Corey and Carrie who chow down.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Corey, no digging around the
veggies. Eat 'em!

Julie watches how good Deets is with her kids. She smiles.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Corey and Carrie are brushing their teeth over the sink.
Deets urges them on as he sings an impromptu song.

DEETS
(singing)
Brush, brush, brush!
Brush the front! Brush the front!
Now, the back! Now the back!
Now, stop!
Spit!

The kids happily spit their toothpaste into the sink.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Corey and Carrie are in their beds. Deets looks through their bookshelf of books.

COREY

Deets, we don't need a story we're not little kids.

CARRIE

If he doesn't want one, then I get to pick!

COREY

What?! No fair!

DEETS

She's got you there, Corey.

CARRIE

Will you tell us a Christmas story, Mr. Deets? About a beautiful Christmas Elf.

COREY

Ugh! A girl story!

DEETS

Hey, hey, hey, just give me a chance. You might like this.

The kids seem intrigued.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Once upon a time, there was the most beautiful Elf Princess in all the world.

CARRIE

Ooohh.

COREY

Ugh.

DEETS

And she was also a ninja.

Corey perks up. He's listening.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KID'S BEDROOM - LATER

The kids are listening intently as Deets continues on.

DEETS

And after she finished karate chopping the trolls in the neck she went back to the North Pole. But she got attacked by the sneaky Snow Queen, who put the Ninja Elf Princess into a deep, deep sleep.

From the doorway, Julie peers in and watches as Deets finishes his story.

She smiles and walks away.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KID'S BEDROOM - LATER

The kids hang on Deets's every word.

DEETS

So Super Spy Elf used the last rocket from his rocket launcher to blow off the dragon's head. But now he had to figure out how to wake up the Ninja Elf Princess.

CARRIE

What did he do, Mr. Deets?

DEETS

You tell me. What's the only way to wake up someone that's in that deep of a sleep?

CARRIE

A beautiful kiss!

DEETS

Bingo!

CARRIE

Did it work?

DEETS

Of course the kiss worked. The Ninja Elf Princess woke right up.

COREY

But what about the army of vampires made out of ice?

DEETS

Well the Ninja Princess and Rocket-Toting Elf went and melted them all and saved the kingdom.

(MORE)

DEETS (CONT'D)

And they all lived happily ever
after. Except for the Snow Queen
who they crushed with a bodyslam.
The end.

The kids yawn and fight to keep their eyes open.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Now, lights out. Night, kids.

COREY & CARRIE

Night, Mr. Deets.

Deets clicks off the lights and leaves.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Deets comes back into the living room.

DEETS

Operation: Kids in Bed was a
success and now...

But Deets falls silent.

Julie is asleep on the couch.

Deets finds a blanket and covers her up.

Then he clicks off the lights and exits.

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Nicholas is at the front of the class. All of the Santa
Wannabes listen as Nicholas reads off of a clip board.

Deets is in his seat looking especially anxious.

NICHOLAS

Bert. You're assigned to The Zoo!

BERT

Right on! Animals! Mangers!
Fresh air! Righteous!

Nicholas nods.

NICHOLAS

Quince. You'll be at the Valley
Mall. It's a little smaller but
you'll be near the food court.

Quince is chewing on a large sandwich.

QUINCE
Sounds great!

NICHOLAS
And the big show. The city mall.
Will be covered by...

Deets is on the edge of his seat.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Goldman.

GOLDMAN
Cool.

NICHOLAS
Well, that does it for the Santa
assignments.

Deets's face drops. How could things be worse?

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
You've all done great. Go out and
be Jolly St. Nick's. Bring a Merry
Christmas to all - the large and
the small!

The Class gets up and mills around.

Deets is heartbroken.

DEETS
He didn't give me an assignment.

BERT
Hold your head high, Deets. Rock
on. Rock on. Never stop the rock.

DEETS
Thanks, Bert.

But then Nicholas walks up to Deets.

NICHOLAS
Deets. Can I talk to you?

EXT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

The parking lot is mostly empty. Quince heads for his car.

QUINCE

Don't let it get you down, Deets.
Let's get together for dinner
sometime. I know an all-you-can-
eat buffet with great desserts.

DEETS

Sounds good.

Nicholas walks up to Deets.

NICHOLAS

Deets? Sorry to keep you waiting.
Look, I wanted to offer you-

But Deets bursts out all at once.

DEETS

Nicholas, I know I wasn't great
during training. But I can do
this! I just need one more chance!
I can be a great Santa Claus!

NICHOLAS

I know, I know, Deets. I believe
you're right. And I believe you
can be a great Santa Claus. So I'm
not giving up on you. I've got
something special in mind for you.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Nicholas leads Deets through the thick trees into the
clearing in the wood.

NICHOLAS

Deets, I'm going to show you
something I've never shown any
other Santa that I've trained.

Nicholas pulls out his little bag and blows the magic dust.

Out of now where, the sleigh appears with Tinkertoysin (as
blonde and handsome as ever) sitting in it.

Deets gazes in amazement, then turns to see that Nicholas has
magically transformed into full Santa mode.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I'm the real Santa Claus.

DEETS

I KNEW IT! Well, not knew it in the sense of having any idea. But I had a suspicion.

NICHOLAS

Ho, ho, ho! And Deets I promised that as long as you loved Christmas I can turn you into Santa Claus. But there's only one place to do it. We're going to the North Pole!

Deets's passes out in disbelief.

Tinkertoytin whispers to Nicholas.

TINKERTOYTIN

Santa, are you sure this is a good idea? No human has set foot on the North Pole since J.R.R. Tolkien?

NICHOLAS

Tinkertoytin, it'll be fine. Now, help me get him in the sleigh.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

The sleigh zooms through the air. Leaving streaks of red light behind it.

Inside the sleigh, Deets finally stirs awake. He looks around and watches as the sleigh zips through the sky.

He can't hold it in. He shouts out in glee.

DEETS

Waaaaahoooooooo!!!!

Nicholas (still in full Santa outfit) laughs. Tinkertoytin scowls in disapproval.

NICHOLAS

Enjoying your first ride in the sleigh, Deets?

DEETS

It's amazing! But where's the reindeer?

TINKERTOYTIN

The beasts with furry horns only pull the sleigh on the Eve of the Mass of the Christ.

NICHOLAS

This sleigh is just for quick trips to and from the North Pole. There's a much larger sleigh that carries all the toys.

DEETS

Soooo cool!

Deets then sets his attention to Tinkertoynet.

DEETS (CONT'D)

And who's this?

NICHOLAS

This is Tinkertoynet. My head toymaker.

DEETS

But I thought the elves made toys.

TINKERTOYNET

I am from the noble race of elves.

DEETS

Nuh uh. Elves are small and green.

TINKERTOYNET

THAT'S JUST A MYTH!

NICHOLAS

Calm down, Tinkertoynet!

TINKERTOYNET

The Lord of the Rings made 3 billion dollars and still everyone thinks we're tiny with pointy ears!

DEETS

I saw that movie! Elves were short in that too. With hairy feet.

TINKERTOYNET

Those were hobbits! HOBBITS!

Nicholas signals for Deets to shut up. Deets does.

NICHOLAS

Touchy subject.

TINKERTOYNET

We're tall and handsome!

Tinkertoynet mopes as Nicholas points down to earth.

NICHOLAS
 Hold on, Deets! We're coming in
 for a landing!

The Sleigh drops down quickly. Deets holds on tight.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

The Sleigh touches down in the parking garage.

Deets, Nicholas, and Tinkertoynet climb out of the sleigh.

NICHOLAS
 Deets, welcome to the North Pole!

Nicholas opens a large door leading out to...

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

Deets steps out of the garage and into the small town of the North Pole.

It's spectacular. Thick fluffy snowflakes fall, but the snow never builds on the ground. Buildings are made of gingerbread and gumdrops. A few reindeer trot down the street. FROSTY THE SNOWMAN trudges along the sidewalk.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 (with a tough guy accent)
 Hey! Santa! Who's the bum!?

NICHOLAS
 Everyone, this is Bryan Deets! I
 promised to make him a Santa Claus.
 And we're going to work together.

Everyone (elves, snowmen, other magical creatures) all clap and cheer. They shout "Welcome" to Deets.

Deets can't believe it and spins to Nicholas.

DEETS
 Santa, I don't deserve this!

NICHOLAS
 Deets, Deets, Deets...

Nicholas clears his throat and...

BEGINS TO SING!

Music rises out of nowhere to accompany him.

The song starts out slow and peaceful.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

(singing)

You may think you don't belong,
But I vow to prove you wrong.
You may think you're just a klutz,
But we're all here to show that
that's just nuts!

Suddenly, the music picks up, and... Nicholas begins to rock!

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

We got Elves right here,
We've got 9 reindeer,
And they're all rootin' for you!
Frosty the Man of Snow,
And my wife, you know,
Are cheering for you too!

MRS. CLAUS

And let's not forget,
The man in red velvet,
Mr. Santa Claus it's true!

NICHOLAS

But the most important one,
Is you there, son,
I'll deliver, if you do too!
(refrain)
What I'm talkin' 'bout is...
Santa Claus delivers for you!
Old St. Nick, Father Christmas too,
Just believe in me
And I guarantee
Santa Claus delivers for you!

2nd VERSE:

Deets joins in the singing, but he's not a believer.

DEETS

This is great!
And I just can't wait!
But there's one thing you might
have missed.
I never get things right,
Try hard as I might,
I always make the Naughty List.

NICHOLAS

Lift your head up, son,
You're not the only one,
To have some trouble, it is true!

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 But that's what Santa's about
 To hand the magic out
 Just ask the others I've delivered
 to!

LINCOLNLOGLIN (an Elf) steps forward.

LINCOLNLOGLIN
 I once was the saddest elf.
 I couldn't make toys,
 I was too hard on myself.
 But then Santa Claus helped me,
 He was so brave and so true...

NICHOLAS
 And Santa Claus delivered for you!

Then the hulky, furry ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN leaps forward.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
 Abominable! Smash! Sad!
 But now Happy!

NICHOLAS
 'Cuz Santa Claus delivered for you!

A REINDEER trots forward.

REINDEER
 (making reindeer sounds)
 Aaaarrrrggggghhhhhooooooo!!

Everyone falls silent for a second. Nicholas rallies...

NICHOLAS
 Santa Claus delivered for you...

Deets leaps in. He's convinced as he shouts:

DEETS
 Alright, big guy! I'm in! Let's
 bring it home!

BIG FINISH OF REFRAIN:

NICHOLAS
 What I'm sayin' now is...
 Santa Claus delivers for you!

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
 Old St. Nick!

MRS. CLAUS
 Father Christmas too!

NICHOLAS
 If you believe in me,
 Then I guarantee,
 Santa Claus will deliver for you!

DEETS
 Oh yeah!

NICHOLAS
 Santa Claus delivers for you!

DEETS
 For me!?

NICHOLAS
 Indeed!

EVERYONE
 Santa Claus Delivers for Youuuuuu!!

THE SONG ENDS

All of the residents of the North Pole disperse.

Deets is on top of the world (figuratively and kinda literally).

DEETS
 Alright, I'm in! This is going to
 be the best Christmas ever!

NICHOLAS
 C'mon, I'll introduce you to the
 people who will be helping you.

EXT. FROZEN FIELD OF CANDY CANES - DAY

Deets is knee deep in snow in a wide field. But scattered about are tall Candy Canes protruding from the ground. Each candy cane is at an odd angle and stands 5 to 10 feet tall.

BIGWHEELSAN walks up to Deets, but Bigwheelsan is able to walk on top of the snow.

BIGWHEELSAN
 Welcome, Bryan Deets. To be a
 great Santa Claus you must be
 lighter than the snow itself. Able
 to twist and bob like a flake upon
 the chill breeze.

DEETS

Um... okay?

BIGWHEELSAN

Observe.

Bigwheelsan leaps high into the air. He grabs a hold of one of the giant candy canes. He spins on it. Again and again, Bigwheelsan performs gymnastic marvels until he lands gracefully once again on top of the snow.

DEETS

Whoa! That was awesome!

BIGWHEELSAN

Now, you do it.

DEETS

I'm not sure that's gonna work. I mean, I'd like to but I just ate a big dinner, and...

BIGWHEELSAN

Feel the magic of Christmas. Leap!

Deets grits his jaw and leaps!

He lands face down in the snow.

BIGWHEELSAN (CONT'D)

It's a start.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Deets is sitting at the dinner table in Nicholas's house. He is face-to-face with Mrs. Claus.

DEETS

It's just I get flustered when the kids think I'm Santa. Then I get tongue-tied and I can barely talk.

MRS. CLAUS

Oh my, that's nothing a little practice can't take care of. Now try on me. We'll start easy.

DEETS

Thanks, Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS

(in a kid voice)
Santa, I want a doll for Christmas!

DEETS

No problem, kid! I'll tell your parents for you. Wait, no! I mean, I'll get it for you! Cuz I'm Santa Claus! Unless it's too expensive. Or you know what? It's a doll. I can do that. But no promises. Merry Christmas?

Mrs. Claus just stares at him.

DEETS (CONT'D)

How'd I do?

MRS. CLAUS

It's the not the worst I've seen.

DEETS

Really?

MRS. CLAUS

No. It's the worst I've seen.

Deets bangs his head on the table.

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)

Just relax. Here! I've got just the thing! Eat!

She grabs a plate of cookies and a glass of milk. Deets grabs a cookie, but he's not convinced.

DEETS

C'mon, Mrs. Claus. I don't think a plate of...

Deets takes a bite.

DEETS (CONT'D)

...Oooohhh, that's good!

Mrs. Claus smiles.

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - DAY

In a large gym, there's treadmills, weight machines, and punching bags. And working on all the machines are...

The Reindeer. They jog on the treadmills. They do leg-lift exercises. They hit the boxing bags with their heads.

And overseeing it all is Frosty the Snowman.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 C'mon, ya bums! I wanna see some
 sweat! Christmas is coming, and
 you're all getting old!

Deets enters and walks up to Frosty.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)
 Well, well, well, what do we have
 here? What's the matter, kid, no
 one ever explain a push-up to ya?

DEETS
 Uh... I guess it's been a while
 since I last exercised.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 I'm guessing the last time you
 exercised I was still an 80 percent
 chance of precipitation.

Deets winces.

DEETS
 I was thinking I could start with
 some light stretching. Maybe some
 yoga. Then work up to...

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 Incoming!

Frosty grabs a dumbbell and tosses it to Deets.

It hits Deets in the chest and knocks him to the floor.

DEETS
 Ugggghhhh!! My lungs!

Frosty puts his head in his stick hands.

One of the Reindeers trots by, and eats Frosty's carrot nose
 right off his face.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 Blitzen, knock it off!!

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - DAY

The Elves are working furiously to prepare all of the toys
 for Christmas. It's quite the operation. Long lines of
 Elves work as a part of a long assembly line.

Tinkertoytin is at the front of the room. He has a large map of the world which he points at for Deets.

TINKERTOYTIN

Confidence rises from knowledge. I will teach you the course that Santa takes in order to reach every child in one night.

He points at the map as he names places.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

First, New Zealand into Australia. Up to Japan. Then the expansive nations of Russia and China.

Deets watches and nods.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

Now, repeat what I just said.

Deets cringes.

DEETS

Um... uh... sorry but all this talk of other countries made me hungry. I could go for Chinese food. How 'bout you?

Tinkertoytin shakes his head in disappointment.

INT. FROZEN FIELD OF CANDY CANES - DAY

Deets is awkwardly spinning around a candy cane. It's a mix of athleticism and terrible pole dancing.

BIGWHEELSAN

Now, release!

Deets does and lands in the snow. But he only sinks in a little bit.

DEETS

Hey, look! I didn't sink all...

POOF! He suddenly crashes down into the snow.

DEETS (CONT'D)

...the way...

Bigwheelsan helps Deets to his feet.

BIGWHEELSAN

You are much improved, though,
Brother Deets.

DEETS

Thanks, Bigwheelsan. Hey, how come
you guys are all named after toys?

BIGWHEELSAN

How do you know the toys weren't
named after us?

DEETS

Oooohhh. So is that where legos
got their name? From Lego...

BIGWHEELSAN

Ssshhhh. We do not speak his name.
He who is lost to the Darkness.

Things got awkward real fast.

DEETS

Sorry.

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Deets is on a bench press. He's pounding out reps as Frosty
spots the weight. Frosty now has a cucumber for a nose.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Get two more, ya slob! C'mon!
Push through that bowl full of
jelly you call abs!

Deets gets the weight up and places it back on the rack.
Deets is sweating and panting but looks proud.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)

Not bad, kid. Not bad at all, and
here's your reward.

Frosty holds up a tub of ice cream.

DEETS

Oh yes! Thank you, Frosty. Are
you sure? This isn't like your
brother?

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Nah. Go ahead. Dig in.

Deets greedily reaches for the ice cream, but...

SLAP!

Frosty smacks Deets with his stick hands.

DEETS

Owww!!

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Sorry, eat up.

Deets reaches for the ice cream again. SLAP!

DEETS

Stop it!

Deets reaches again. Another SLAP!

DEETS (CONT'D)

Why're you doing this? You told me
I could have it!

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

I was testing you! You don't need
this poison! It's making you soft.

DEETS

But it's so creamy.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

So are your biceps. You wanna
really show me something? Take
this ice cream, and get rid of it!

Deets hesitantly takes the ice cream (a little worried he'll
be slapped again). Then he goes to the garbage can.

He struggles with the decision, but tosses out the ice cream.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)

There ya go, kid!

Frosty pats Deets on the back.

Suddenly a reindeer walks past and eats Frosty's cucumber
nose off his face.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)

Not again! Blitzen... You just
made my list of things to do!

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - DAY

Deets is pointing at the large map of the world.
Tinkertoyn watches.

DEETS

New Zealand. Australia. Russian.
China. India. More Russian. Middle
East. Africa. Europe. American
East Coast. South America.
Midwest America. Canada. West
Coast. Hawaii and Pacific Islands!

(pause)

Right...?

After a long moment of pause, Tinkertoyn nods in approval.

Deets dances in celebration.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - DAY

Deets takes a big bite of cookie.

DEETS

Alright, hit me!

Mrs. Claus does her little kid voice.

MRS. CLAUS

All I want for Christmas is a
beautiful, pretty pony!

DEETS

(in a Santa voice)

Sally, ponies love to roam free in
the sunshine and fresh air. So
maybe I'll bring you a little
something else. I bet you'd love a
Betsy Wetsy, wouldn't you?

MRS. CLAUS

I sure would! Thanks, Santa!

DEETS

Merry Christmas! Ho, ho, ho!

Deets suddenly leaps up.

DEETS (CONT'D)

I did it! I "Ho, ho, ho!"-ed! Ho,
ho, ho! I can do it!

Mrs. Claus jumps up and gives Deets a hi-five.

Nicholas (as full Santa Claus) enters looking impressed.

NICHOLAS

I think you might be ready, Deets.
Let's go see some kids.

Deets gets a terrified look on his face.

MRS. CLAUS

You better take these.

Mrs. Claus hands him a ziplock bag full of cookies.

INT. MALL - "MEET SANTA" SET-UP - DAY

Goldman (in full Santa outfit) is upon the Santa Throne in the midst of the busy mall. Nicholas (in street clothes) whispers in Goldman's ear.

Goldman nods.

Nicholas rushes off to the little Santa's Workshop.

Goldman stands up and addresses the crowd of children.

GOLDMAN

Hey, kids. Santa needs just a
minute. But I'll be back. Trust
me. I will. Be cool.

Then Goldman goes into the little Santa's Workshop.

INT. MALL - INSIDE FAKE SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Goldman enters the cramped workshop. Nicholas is with Deets (who is in full Santa costume) and looking really jittery.

GOLDMAN

They're all yours, Deets. Nothing
to worry about. Those kids are
basically amateurs. Easy.

Deets, takes a deep breath, nods, and goes out the door.

INT. MALL - "MEET SANTA" SET-UP - DAY

Deets (in full costume) waves at the kids as he exits the Workshop. The kids cheer and wave back.

DEETS
 Hey, kids! Merry Christmas! Ho,
 ho... whoaaaaa!!

Deets trips over the red carpet, but...

Instead of face painting, he does a barrel roll and miraculously lands on his feet.

The crowd watches stunned for a second, then cheers for him.

Deets smiles and sits on the Santa Throne.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Alright, who's first to see Santa?
 Me! I'm Santa.

A dorky kid with huge glasses (WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT) walks up and sits on Deets lap.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Why, hello there, young man?
 What's your name?

William Frederick Walnut just stares with mouth agape.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Maybe you can whisper your name.

William whispers inaudibly.

DEETS (CONT'D)
 Just a little louder, kid.

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT
 WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT!

Deets jolts in surprise.

DEETS
 Ho, ho, ho! That's some voice
 you've got there, William.

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT
 My name's not William.

DEETS
 But that's what you just told me.

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT
 William's my real name. It's not
 what people call me.

DEETS

Then what do they call you?

William just stares with mouth agape.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Sheesh, kid, you're not making this easy. Maybe I can guess. Will?

William shakes his head.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Willy?

Another head shake.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Do you go by your middle name?
Frederick? Freddy? Fred? Willy
Freddy? Walnuts?! C'mon, kid,
gimme a break!

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

Billy. It's Billy.

DEETS

Alright, Billy, thanks for joining
the conversation. Now, what can I
get you for Christmas?

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

A snake.

Deets recoils at the word. Snake!

DEETS

A ssssnnnnaaaa... A ssssnnooo....
A snniiiiii... Why would you want
a.... A reptile, Billy?

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

I like snakes.

DEETS

Of course, you do. Well, let me
chat with your parents and if they
think you're ready for a sssnnaa..
a sssnnnn... a pet. Then I'll see
what I can do. Okay?

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

Thanks, Santa.

William jumps off of Deets's lap, and starts to walk away. But then he stops, turns, and gives Deets a big hug.

DEETS
Merry Christmas, Billy.

William Frederick Walnut leaves.

DEETS (CONT'D)
I did it. I got through a whole kid! Whoo Hoo!

He looks over to Santa's Workshop, where Nicholas and Goldman peer out and give him thumbs up.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Bring on the next kid! Ho, ho, ho!

INT. MALL - INSIDE FAKE SANTA'S WORKSHOP - LATER

Deets reenters the cramped workshop. He's thrilled.

DEETS
I did it! I did it! I didn't sit on a single kid!

GOLDMAN
Nice work, Deets. You can share my throne anytime.

NICHOLAS
Let's get you some more practice!

EXT. ZOO - SANTA'S THRONE - DAY

It's another big Santa Claus set-up at the Zoo. Deets (in Santa get-up) is seated on the Santa Throne. There's a CHILD in his lap.

DEETS
What do you mean where are the reindeer? I couldn't have them right here! Ho, ho, ho! The lions might've gotten upset! Rooaaarrr!

The Child laughs.

Deets smiles and looks off the side. Nicholas is smiling.

Bert is hidden too, but flashes Deets a "Hang Ten" sign.

INT. SMALLER MALL - SANTA'S THRONE - DAY

In a smaller mall with a slightly less fancy Santa Set-up, Deets is on the Santa Throne.

A MOTHER walks up.

MOTHER

Excuse me, Santa? But could you take a picture with all of my kids?

DEETS

Of course I can! How many are there?

MOTHER

Fourteen!

Deets shoots a look of disbelief. She rubs her stomach.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

This time next year I'll have Number 15!

DEETS

This time next year you'll have your own show on Lifetime.

All fourteen kids file up to Deets and clamber onto his lap.

Off to the side, Quince (who is also dressed as Santa with heavy padding) is hidden out of view.

QUINCE

I don't know how he's gonna pull this one off.

But he turns and, sure enough, Deets has all 14 kids sitting on him. Some are stacked on top of each other. He's got a couple of his shoulders. One sits on his head. He balances another in the air in the palm of his hand. It's impressive.

The picture flashes.

Deets hurries over to Quince.

DEETS

Did you see that, Quince?!

QUINCE

That was amazing, Deets! How'd you get so good?

DEETS

I had some special training with Santa! I mean, Nicholas!

QUINCE

None of us got special training.

DEETS

I'm gonna get back out there. You don't mind, right, Quince? Gotta put the A-Team out there!

Deets ignores Quince, and dances back toward the kids.

Quince calls after him.

QUINCE

Did you notice? I put on 10 pounds?

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Deets is boxing with Frosty the Snowman. Deets jabs and ducks, doing some showboat moves.

He dips and gives a huge uppercut knocking off Frosty's head.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Ya bum! Get me up off this floor!

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - DAY

Deets points at the map of Europe. Tinkertoysin looks on.

DEETS

(rapid fire)

...Belgium, France, U.K., Ireland, Monaco, Spain, Portugal.

Tinkertoysin nods.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Give me a challenge next time!

EXT. FROZEN FIELD OF CANDY CANES - DAY

Deets expertly spins and flips around the Field of Candy Canes.

With a huge back flip, Deets flies through the air, and lands perfectly on top of the snow.

DEETS
Yeeeeaaaaahhhhhh!!!

BIGWHEELSAN
Not bad.

DEETS
"Not Bad"? That was amazing! I
could be in and out of a house
without anyone even knowing. Hmm...

EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets is perched upon the roof of Julie, Corey, and Carrie's house. He's got a big bag of goodies over his shoulder.

He hangs from the gutter and peers inside where he sees:

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie is on the floor with Corey and Carrie. They are all working on homework.

EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets smiles.

DEETS
Here we go!

Deets reaches into his bag and pulls out a long strand of Christmas lights.

He goes into action. Flipping, jumping, soaring.

Deets snakes the Christmas lights along the gutters. He places plastic reindeer in a perfect line on the roof. He places inflatable elves in the front yard. He pounds "MERRY CHRISTMAS" signs in the ground.

Once he's done, the house look like a Winter Wonderland.

Deets creeps up to the door and rings the doorbell. Then he rushes away.

The door opens.

JULIE KEMP
Hello?

COREY

No way!!!

Suddenly Corey and Carrie run out of the house and look at all the decorations.

CARRIE

This is amazing!

WWHHHRRRRR!!! Suddenly a fan kicks into life and fake snow blows through the air.

Corey and Carrie play in the snow flakes.

COREY

Mom, who did this!?

JULIE KEMP

I don't know...

But she finds a little note stuck to the front door:

MERRY CHRISTMAS! FROM: SANTA CLAUS!

But Julie doesn't smile - she frowns.

INT. SANTA'S TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

The classroom in Santa's training center is dark, but the door to the classroom opens.

Goldman, Quince, and Bert enter.

They flip on the lights.

QUINCE

Hello? Anybody in here?

BERT

Weird, man. Very trippy.

But the three of them hold up slips of paper.

QUINCE

Why'd Nicholas ask us to come?

GOLDMAN

Very strange. Not cool at all.

Suddenly, Deets comes rushing in.

BERT

Deets-meister. Whaddup, Deetaling?!

QUINCE

You got an invite from Nicholas too?

Deets shrugs.

DEETS

Actually, guys, I sent those. I wasn't sure you'd come other wise.

QUINCE

Are you kidding? Sure we would.

GOLDMAN

What's going on, Deets?

DEETS

Well, as you know, I've gotten really good at this Santa thing lately. Like crazy good at it.

QUINCE

Yeah, those private lessons with Nicholas really paid off.

BERT

Right on, man. Right on.

DEETS

So I was thinking... I should probably take over as the Lead Santa at the mall.

GOLDMAN

Wait. What?

DEETS

I know it's your turf right now, Goldman. But it's clear I've surpassed you. So maybe you should bump over to the smaller mall, and Quince can take over at the Zoo.

BERT

The Zoo's my digs, mister!

DEETS

We'll figure out something for you, Bert. Maybe you can do special events at the Old Folks Home.

QUINCE

Where's this coming from, Deets? Did Nicholas okay this?

GOLDMAN

We want to hear this from him.

DEETS

Well, I'm pretty much his right
hand man now. His favorite.
Soooo...

Quince, Goldman, and Bert give Deets a death stare.

GOLDMAN

Look me in the eyes, Deets.

Deets does.

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

Not. Cool.

Goldman stares dead into Deets's eyes.

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to stay right where I am.
You tell your buddy to call me.
Then we'll talk.

Goldman, Quince, and Bert turn and head for the door.

DEETS

Wait a minute, guys! It's only
fair, right? I'm so much better at
this now! This is my big moment!

Quince shakes his head at Deets.

QUINCE

What happened to you, Deets?

BERT

Burn. Wicked burn, dude.

Goldman, Quince, and Bert leave Deets alone.

After a moment, he reaches into his pocket and pulls out his
wallet. He takes out the folded piece of paper that reads:

FRIEND TREE.

Deets crumbles it up angrily.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets is back at the North Pole. He and Mrs. Claus have a
final cramming session. But Deets is in a funk.

MRS. CLAUS
(as a child)
Sorry I peed in your lap, Santa!

DEETS
(in a bored Santa voice)
Don't worry. It'll be our little
secret.
(as Deets)
Then change into the extra pants
that I have stashed away.

MRS. CLAUS
I want a pink Schwinn 600!

DEETS
That's model's been discontinued
but I'll see what I can do.

MRS. CLAUS
Tell the truth! You're not the
real Santa Claus.

DEETS
(super bummed out)
Okay, you're right. But I'll tell
you a secret. I work for the real
Santa Claus. I'm his number one
helper.

MRS. CLAUS
Deets, that was perfect! What's
the matter with you?!

Deets just shrugs and ignores her.

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)
Well, I know what'll cheer you up.
Fresh cookies!

But Deets just sulks like a stubborn kid.

DEETS
No. It. Won't.

MRS. CLAUS
That's enough moping. I know just
how to get you out of it.

Mrs. Claus goes over to her radio. She turns on:

A hard rock version of "Rudolph of the Red Nosed Reindeer."

Deets immediately perks up.

MRS. CLAUS (CONT'D)
C'mon, Deets. Have a little fun!

DEETS
No way! You like the Classic
Christmas Carols as covered by
"Vixen & Blitzen with the Little
Drummer Boy"?!

MRS. CLAUS
Does this answer your question?

Mrs. Claus cranks up the radio, then head bangs along with the music. She really shakes her money maker.

Deets jumps up and grabs Mrs. Claus. He spins her around and around. She laughs and hoots in delight.

Then Deets jumps to do a high kick. He lands in the kitchen and bends over to play air guitar, but when he leans over...

His butt presses against the stove.

DEETS
My chestnuts are roasting!

Deets leaps in the air and pats at his burning butt.

He looks to see that his pants are smoldering.

DEETS (CONT'D)
My buns are burning!

In one swift movement, Deets yanks down his pants.

The front door opens, Nicholas enters.

NICHOLAS
What in the name of Jack Frost is
going on here!?

Deets sees Nicholas and freaks out. He stumbles backward and trips over a chair which sends him crashing through a window!

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

Deets falls from the window of Santa's house into the main street of The North Pole.

But he doesn't hit the ground, he crashes onto...

The Abominable Snowman.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
Aaarrrggghh!!!

In a rage, the Abominable Snowman lifts Deets over his head.

DEETS
Hold on, hold on, I didn't mean it!

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
Smash!!

The Abominable Snowman tosses Deets.

Deets flies through the air and crashes into...

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

Deets smashes through the wall of the Reindeer Training Center. The Reindeer get startled and rear up in terror.

Frosty the Snowman tries to contain them.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
Whoa, Reindeer! Whoa!

But one of them kicks Frosty's head off.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)
Are ya kiddin' me here?!

The Reindeer rise up into the air as they fly madly around.

Deets tries to wave them down.

DEETS
Down, Dasher! Down, Dancer! Down,
Prancer and Vixen! Down,
Commmmmeeeeettt!!!

But Comet catches a hold of Deets and drags him into the air.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Comet, put me down!

But Comet flies toward two large steel doors.

Comet suddenly turns shaking Deets loose, but Deets soars forward and hits the steel door knocking them open.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Deets soars into the Sleigh Parking Garage. He lands with a thud behind the wheel of the smaller Mechanical Sleigh.

DEETS

Ugh! That is definitely going to
leave a mark tomorroooooooooowww!!

As Deets sits up, he hits a button on the Mechanical Sleigh.
It roars to life and shoots forward.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

The Sleigh bursts out of its garage and down the street.

DEETS

Everyone, get out of the way!!!

Elves and other magical creatures dive out of the way.
But standing in the middle of the street is-
Nicholas!

NICHOLAS

Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!
(sounds like Ho, Ho, Ho!)
STOP!!!

But there's no stopping it! The sleigh runs right over
Nicholas!

Deets is holding on for dear life.

The Sleigh smashes into another building.

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - NIGHT

The Sleigh careens about the Toy Workshop destroying toys and
the entire assembly line.

Tinkertoysin ducks and then shouts orders.

TINKERTOYTIN

Bigwheelsan, protect the Workshop!

Bigwheelsan deftly leaps and grabs the bottom of the sleigh.
He swings himself into the driver's seat. He expertly steers
the sleigh out of the workshop.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

Bigwheelsan easily sets the Sleigh down in the middle of the main street of the North Pole.

Everything is finally calm. But the damage is done.

Elves and other magical creatures pour into the street to yell at Deets.

Frosty the Snowman has his head under his stick arm.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
 Hey, ya clod! I don't know who's
 more scared! My big brother or the
 reindeer!

Frosty gestures to The Abominable Snowman who's sitting on the ground crying like a little girl.

An elf (ERECTORSETAN) rushes out of the Workshop.

ERECTORSETAN
 So many of the toys! Destroyed!
 We'll never finish them now!

Mrs. Claus comes running out of her house.

MRS. CLAUS
 Santa!!

She rushes over to Nicholas who is lying flat on the ground in the middle of the street.

Deets jumps out of the sleigh and runs to Nicholas's side.

DEETS
 Is he okay?

MRS. CLAUS
 He's out cold. Santa? Can you hear
 me?

She shakes Nicholas, but he doesn't respond.

DEETS
 I'm so so sorry! I didn't mean for
 any of this to happen.

Tinkertoysin steps up next to Deets.

TINKERTOYTIN

But it did, Deets. Like smoke
surrounding the mouth of a volcano,
darkness now surrounds...

DEETS

Speak English, would ya?!

TINKERTOYTIN

You've ruined Christmas, Deets!

(pause)

Santa's hurt. The toys destroyed.
The reindeer frightened. This may
be the end of Christmas!

All the Elves, Frosty, and everyone glare at Deets.

DEETS

I- I- I didn't mean to! It was an
accident!

TINKERTOYTIN

You better go, Bryan Deets. Go
back to your world. Let us try to
fix the mess you've left in ours!

Everyone nods in agreement.

Deets looks to Mrs. Claus who is crouched by the unconscious
Nicholas. She nods sadly.

With no other choice, Deets turns and walks away.

DEETS

I'll just walk back. All the way
to North America.

Tinkertoytin sighs.

TINKERTOYTIN

Bigwheelsan. Give him a ride.

EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets trudges up to Julie's front door. He's carrying a
large bag full of decorations and small Christmas tree.

He forces a smile then knocks. After a moment, Julie answers.

JULIE KEMP

Bryan?

DEETS

Hey, Julie! Ms. Kemp... Julie.
I... Um... Your house looks great.

Deets gestures to the spectacular Christmas display.

JULIE KEMP

Thanks. It was a big surprise.

DEETS

Well, you know, it was nothing.

JULIE KEMP

So it was you? You did all this?

DEETS

Yeah. And I was thinking... We
could make your house into a
Christmas Land next.

Deets holds up his bag of decorations and his small tree.

Deets takes a step toward the house, but Julie doesn't move
aside to let him in.

JULIE KEMP

I don't think so, Bryan.

DEETS

What...? But the kids'll love it.

JULIE KEMP

I know. And I appreciate what
you're doing here. I really do.
But Corey and Carrie have been
talking non-stop for the last week
about how lucky they are that Santa
Claus came and decorated our house.

(beat)

Cuz their mom couldn't do it.

DEETS

That's not what I meant to-

JULIE KEMP

Sorry, Bryan. Thanks, but I need
my kids to know that I can take
care of them. You better go.

Julie goes back into the house and closes the door on Deets.

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - DAY

Tinkertoysin is pacing through the destroyed Toy Workshop.

He finds Bigwheelsan sifting through the rubble of toys.

BIGWHEELSAN

The time of hope has fled. Too many toys have gone like sand in the wind.

TINKERTOYSIN

Work on, Bigwheelsan. We Elves have performed miracles before.

BIGWHEELSAN

Not this time. The Eve is nearly upon us.

Tinkertoysin pounds his fist upon the broken assembly line.

BIGWHEELSAN (CONT'D)

Maybe if we called... Him. He was the greatest toymaker-

TINKERTOYSIN

No! He has gone into Darkness. This is no time for false wishes.

Tinkertoysin storms out.

INT. DEET'S APARTMENT - DAY

Deets sits alone in his dark apartment. He pulls out a crumpled piece of paper and smooths it out. It's his:

FRIEND TREE

He picks up the phone and dials. He waits as it rings. But no answer. Just a BEEP.

DEETS

(into phone)

Hey, Quince. It's Deets. Just wanted to see if you wanted to hit up that All-You-Can-Eat Buffet soon? Give me a call back.

JUMP CUT TO:

Deets is on the phone again.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Goldman! Hey! Sorry about that confusion with the Santa thing. You're the man! You're the Goldman. I hope we can still hang.

JUMP CUT TO:

Deets is on the phone one final time.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Right on, Bert. Right on, man. Hope you're doing... righteous. Call me back.

Deets hangs up the phone. He looks miserable.

He stares at the freezer on his refrigerator. He licks his lips hungrily. But then he pulls away.

DEETS (CONT'D)

No! Think of how much you've accomplished! Don't backslide now!

Deets turns away from the freezer. But:

FREEZER

C'mon, Deets!

Deets turns back to see that The Freezer door is now swinging open to talk to him in a deep, sassy voice.

FREEZER (CONT'D)

Haven't I always been here for you?

DEETS

You can't talk!

FREEZER

I can talk. And I'm speaking your language. Now come and get some delicious icy treats!

DEETS

No! It's been weeks since I've touched the stuff. I don't want to give up all my progress.

FREEZER

Haven't I always been there for you? Why deny yourself something that tastes soooo good?

Deets stares at the freezer. It stares back.

FREEZER (CONT'D)
C'mon. Just one scoop.

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Tinkertoysin is talking with Frosty.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
This is as bad as I've seen 'em.
Usually I can whip those flabby
reindeer into shape, but...

Frosty points to the ceiling of the Training Center.

The Reindeer are upside-down, huddled in the corner shaking.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (CONT'D)
Reindeer PTSD. I think they'd feel
better if they saw the Big Man.
How's he doin'?

Tinkertoysin looks away and doesn't answer.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Nicholas lays in his bed. He's still unconscious.

Mrs. Claus is at his side.

MRS. CLAUS
C'mon, Nicholas. This isn't any
worse than when that green guy with
the small heart tried to steal
Christmas. You came through that.
You can pull through this. Or there
won't be a Christmas this year.

But Nicholas doesn't respond. He's out.

INT. DEETS'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Deets wakes up laying in the middle of his kitchen floor.
He's surrounded by empty ice cream cartons.

His belly grumbles ominously.

DEETS
A belly is not supposed to make
that sound.

He staggers to his feet. He rifles through the ice cream cartons. All empty. He opens the freezer door. Nothing.

He grabs his keys.

INT. SUPERMARKET - ICE CREAM AISLE - DAY

Deets pushes a shopping cart down the ice cream aisle at the supermarket. He opens the glass door, and begins filling his cart with an obscene amount of ice cream. Until:

COREY & CARRIE

Hey, Mr. Deets!

Deets spins to see Corey and Carrie running up to him. Julie follows with a cart.

Deets tries to hide his ridiculous amount of ice cream.

CARRIE

Are you having a party or something, Mr. Deets?

COREY

Can I come, Deets!?

DEETS

(tries to laugh it off)

Uh... No, kids, I just like to try all the flavors. Guess I got a little carried away.

Deets puts back several of the ice cream containers.

Julie steps in and helps.

JULIE KEMP

Good thing. Cuz I see a lot of diabetes at the hospital. Not as fun as you'd think.

CARRIE

We're getting stuff to make Christmas cookies!

COREY

Yeah! We want to thank Santa for decorating our house!

DEETS

It's nothing. Those inflatable snowmen are really a piece of cake and they take care of themselves.

Julie shoots Deets a look. Deets mouths "Sorry" to her.

COREY

Yeah, it's awesome but there's this weird sign that says "Noel." I mean, what's a "Noel"?

DEETS

"Noel" is one of the words to mean "Christmas" in France.

CARRIE

Ooh. Cool, Mr. Deets. We wish Santa had decorated our tree too. But we've got a fake tree. Everyone else has real trees.

JULIE KEMP

Carrie!

DEETS

Actually, Carrie, according to a study in 2002 about 48% of households have artificial trees. Only 21% have real trees. 31% have no trees at all.

JULIE KEMP

See, Carrie. Besides we don't want a real tree. They can start fires.

DEETS

That's a myth. Christmas trees cause less than 1 tenth of 1 percent of residential fires. They're pretty safe.

CARRIE

You know a lot, Mr. Deets.

COREY

Yeah, I bet you know more about Christmas than anyone, Deets.

DEETS

Probably.

He says it sadly at first, but then it hits him.

DEETS (CONT'D)

You're right! I gotta go, kids! I gotta save Christmas!

Deets races off leaving his cart of ice cream. Julie, Corey, and Carrie look extremely confused.

INT. WOODS - DAY

Deets is in the clearing in the wood.

DEETS
C'mon, c'mon, c'mon!

WHOOSH!

The Mechanical Sleigh swoops in and lands. Tinkertoysin looks at Deets with deep disapproval.

TINKERTOYSIN
Your call whispered through the winds but was deafening-

DEETS
Yeah, yeah, yeah, there's no time for this. You gotta take me back to the North Pole.

TINKERTOYSIN
Why in the name of the White Wizard would I do that?

DEETS
Because right now, I know more about Christmas than anyone. I've been trained for this. And I've got a Santa suit to fill.

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - DAY

Deets bursts into the Toy Workshop with Tinkertoysin following. They approach Erectorsetan and Bigwheelsan.

TINKERTOYSIN
I told you, the damage was too extensive.

ERECTORSETAN
The toys today are so much more complicated.

BIGWHEELSAN
If it were Furbies or Tickle-Me-Elmos we might be able to repair them. But today's toys. Impossible.

DEETS

But that's what you do! You achieve the impossible, right? You can't just give up, and let this be the end of Christmas!

BIGWHEELSAN

It's hopeless. Darkness has beset us on all sides.

ERECTORSETAN

It is the end of Christmas.

TINKERTOYTIN

NOOOO!!!

Tinkertoytin has heard enough.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

I will not believe this is the end.

He strides to the front of the Toy Workshop.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

Elves. Brothers. Noble Toymakers. Lend me your pointed ears!

The other elves stop what they're doing and look to him.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

It is true, these are dark times. Shadows swirl about our destiny, threatening to blot out this time we call Christmas. But we will beat back the darkness!

(rising in intensity)

There will come a night when this night is not Christmas Eve Night. But that night is not this night!

Deets has to think. Yup, that's right.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

Now! Who's with me?!

ELF VOICE

I'm with you!

They all turn to see... LEGOLAS has arrived! (*Preferably played by Orlando Bloom*)

LEGOLAS

I will build toys with you, Tinkertoytin!

ELVES

Legolas... He's back... He's
returned from the darkness...

Legolas takes his place beside Tinkertoytin.

LEGOLAS

I will help you save Christmas!

TINKERTOYTIN

Who else?

Deets steps up.

DEETS

I'm with you!

BIGWHEELSAN

I too!

ERECTORSETAN

As am I!

All of the Elves join in.

ALL THE ELVES

Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

TINKERTOYTIN

Noble Elves, push your nimble
fingers to the breaking point!
Bring on the majesty of Christmas!

Everyone cheers and the Elves work at a frenzied pace.

Tinkertoytin turns to Legolas.

TINKERTOYTIN (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming, brother. Can
you lead the elves? Bring in the
crop of gifts.

LEGOLAS

My skills are at your command!

They hug, then Legolas hurries off to help the other elves.

Tinkertoytin turns to Deets.

TINKERTOYTIN

Come, Deets. There's much to do.

INT. REINDEER TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Deets and Tinkertoytin are conferring with Frosty. But Frosty is shaking his head.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
There's no way, I tell ya! Those
reindeer will never fly for him!

Frosty slaps Deets across the face.

DEETS
Owww!! What was that for!? I'm
gonna have splinters in my cheek!

TINKERTOYTIN
Enough! Frosty, is there nothing
that can be done to coax them?

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
Not in the next few hours.

TINKERTOYTIN
Very well. Come with me, Deets.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Tinkertoytin and Deets inspect the smaller Mechanical Sleigh.

TINKERTOYTIN
We'll fill the smaller sleigh to
capacity. But it won't be large
enough to carry all the presents.
You'll have to come back to refill.

DEETS
Is there time to do that all in one
night?

TINKERTOYTIN
It's never been tried before. We
must confer with the maps.

INT. MAP ROOM - DAY

Deets is looking over Tinkertoytin's shoulder as the elf pours over a series of complex maps and calculations.

After a moment, Tinkertoytin slams his fist on the table.

TINKERTOYTIN
There's not enough time!

DEETS

But there has to be! Santa always pulls it off.

TINKERTOYTIN

Even the true Santa Claus struggles to fit it all in. And he has had centuries of practice. To ask you to come back and refill. Plus make sure the elves are completing the order of toys in time. It's folly!

DEETS

You're saying there's no way I can't pull this off?

TINKERTOYTIN

No one could.
(beat)
Maybe Tim Allen.

DEETS

Then we need the real Santa Claus.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Deets enters into Santa's bedroom. Nicholas is still unconscious in bed. Deets goes to his bedside.

DEETS

Santa, it's me. Deets. Look, I know it's my fault you're in this bed. But it's time for you to get up. So, do it! GET UP!!!

Not even a little response out of Nicholas.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Alright, alright, I get it. You're out, but... maybe you'll wakey.

Deets tickles Nicholas.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Wakey. Wakey. Wakey! Tickle, tickle, tickle!

Still nothing.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Fine. I don't want to do this, but I will. I'll do it.

Deets leans over Nicholas's face. He hocks up a big loogie.

DEETS (CONT'D)
I'll do it, Santa. Make this easy
on yourself.

Nothing.

Deets drips the loogie, hanging it right over Nicholas's face. Nothing. Deets makes it hang really low. Nothing.

Several times, Deets drips the loogie and sucks it back up. Nicholas doesn't respond...

Even when Deets loses control of the loogie and it drips on Nicholas's face. Deets quickly sucks up the rest.

DEETS (CONT'D)
Ooopps!!! Sorry! Sorry!

He hastily wipes the loogie off Nicholas's face.

DEETS (CONT'D)
C'mon, Santa. I need you. No one
else has ever believed in me like
you. What can I do to wake you up?

But then Deets remembers:

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KID'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

Deets is telling Corey and Carrie their bed time story.

DEETS
You tell me. What's the only way
to wake up someone that's in that
deep of a sleep?

CARRIE
A beautiful kiss!

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BACK TO SCENE

Carrie's words ring in Deets's head as he looks at Nicholas still asleep in the bed.

DEETS
Whatever it takes...

Deets leans in slowly. He gets face-to-face with Nicholas.

Then he lays a big wet kiss right on Nicholas's lips.

Nicholas's eyes almost immediately pop open in surprise.

NICHOLAS
Ahhhhhh!!!

DEETS
Ahhhhhh!!!

Nicholas sits bolt upright.

NICHOLAS
What're you doing?!

DEETS
I was trying to wake you up! It
was the only way!

Mrs. Claus bursts in.

MRS. CLAUS
I thought I heard... He's awake!

NICHOLAS & DEETS
Nothing happened!

NICHOLAS
Just don't ask, okay!

Mrs. Claus looks confused, but nods.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Now, how long have I been out? Did
I miss it? Did I miss Christmas?

Mrs. Claus shakes her head.

DEETS
It's time to go to work.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

Directly down the center of Main Street, Deets and Nicholas
are strutting side-by-side. Nicholas is in full Santa mode.

And Deets is dressed head-to-toe as Santa too.

Two Santas to the rescue.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Several Elves are loading up the two sleighs: The larger
Reindeer-drawn Sleigh and the smaller Mechanical Sleigh.

Tinkertoytin is directing the elves.

TINKERTOYTIN

Load the Reindeer Sleigh for China
and Russia. Load the Mechanical
Sleigh for Australia and New
Zealand.

Nicholas turns to Deets.

NICHOLAS

You ready for the Big Show?

Deets loses his nerve.

DEETS

No. I can't do this. Look, Santa,
you go on without me.

NICHOLAS

Listen, Deets. I can't do this by
myself anymore. It's gotten too
big for one man. I need a partner.

DEETS

We can find someone else who-

NICHOLAS

No. I choose you. You can do
this, Deets. I believe in you.
But what really matter is... Do you
believe in you?

It takes a second, but Deets lets this sink in. He nods.

DEETS

I can do this.

Tinkertoytin walks up to them.

TINKERTOYTIN

You'll both be loaded any moment
now. You'll have to come back
several times to refill. We'll
have the toys at the ready.

Legolas rushes up to them.

LEGOLAS

The Sleighs are ready. Unleash
Christmas!

Everyone nods.

Nicholas climbs into his Reindeer-drawn Sleigh.

Deets climbs into his Mechanical Sleigh.

They salute each other.

NICHOLAS

On Dasher! On Dancer! On Prancer
and Vixen! On Comet and Cupid!
Donner and Blitzen! Rudolph, make
me proud!

The Reindeer take off and they zoom into the sky.

Deets takes the steering wheel of his Sleigh.

DEETS

On... Mechanical Engine... Go!

He presses a button and it roars forward, Deets lurches backward, but the Sleigh rises and flies away.

Legolas turns to Tinkertoytin.

LEGOLAS

Do you really think they can pull
this off?

TINKERTOYTIN

If not, I'm coming back with you to
"The Darkness."

(beat)

How is Hollywood anyway?

EXT. THE WORLD - NIGHT

Beams of light zip all over the earth.

There's a Red Beam that shows the path of Nicholas and his Reindeer-drawn Sleigh.

It zooms over to China.

EXT. CHINA - NIGHT

Nicholas's sleigh lands upon a house in China.

The epitome of smooth, Nicholas leaps out of the sleigh and nimbly bounds into the house.

EXT. THE WORLD - NIGHT

A Green Beam of light shows the path of Deets in his Mechanical Sleigh.

He flies to Australia.

EXT. AUSTRALIA - NIGHT

Deets's sleigh lands in Australia.

Trying to be smooth, Deets leaps out of his sleigh, but he trips and lands flat on his face.

DEETS

Uggghhhh!!! Not a g'day, mate!

He scrambles to his feet, and sees a Kangaroo staring at him.

DEETS (CONT'D)

It's my first night!

EXT. THE WORLD - NIGHT

Nicholas's Red Beam and Deets's Green Beam crisscross all around the world.

From time to time they bounce back up to the North Pole.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Nicholas touches down in the Sleigh Parking Garage. Tinkertoysin leads several Elves as they refill the Sleigh.

Nicholas hops out of the Sleigh.

NICHOLAS

Great job, Elves! Fill 'er up! I want to be back in the sky in the next five minutes!

Mrs. Claus enters with cookies and a glass of milk.

MRS. CLAUS

Need a recharge?

Nicholas pats his belly.

NICHOLAS

Not right now. I've got no shortage of cookies tonight.

MRS. CLAUS
It's your favorite.

NICHOLAS
Gingerbread with mint chocolate
chips?

Mrs. Claus nods. Nicholas takes a cookie.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
How's Deets doing on his end?

MRS. CLAUS
Marvelous. You trained him
perfectly. Just like I knew you
would.

NICHOLAS
I could never do it without you.

Nicholas leans in and gives his wife a big ole kiss.

TINKERTOYTIN
Santa! You're ready to go!

Nicholas pulls out of the kiss for a second.

NICHOLAS
Give me just a second, will ya!

He locks lips with Mrs. Claus just a bit longer.

INT. TOY WORKSHOP - NIGHT

The Elves are working at a furious pace to finish all of the
toys. Legolas urges them on.

LEGOLAS
The end is in sight! Proud race of
elves! This is our finest hour!

Erectorsetan puts the final touches on a toy.

ERECTORSETAN
Done!

ALL THE ELVES
Hurrah! Hurrah!

The Toy Shop erupts into a wild party.

LEGOLAS
Onward! Get the toys to the Sleigh!

A couple of Elves grab the last few toys and rush out.

INT. SLEIGH PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Deets is sitting in the Mechanical Sleigh as the Elves run in and toss the last few presents on board.

Tinkertoysin gives Deets the thumbs up.

TINKERTOYTIN

Santa has the entire of the South Pacific covered. That means all you have left is California.

DEETS

My home turf. I'm on it.

TINKERTOYTIN

And, Deets... Great job.

Tinkertoysin smiles at Deets, as Deets takes off!

EXT. THE SKY - NIGHT

Deets is zipping through the sky toward Southern California.

His face is set and determined but he doesn't see behind him:

One of the boxes is rattling around.

On the box is written- To: WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

Suddenly, a SNAKE bursts out of the box. At first, Deets doesn't notice, but then he does a double take and sees it.

Deets freaks out.

DEETS

SSSnnnnnaaaaa....

SSSSnnnnniiii...

SSSSnnnnnoooooo!!!!

He torques the steering wheel and flies out of control.

The Sleigh plunges to the earth!

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

The Sleigh crashes into a large, open stretch of desert.

Deets jumps out. He's okay, but...

The Sleigh is totalled.

There's a SCREECHING sound from the Sleigh.

TINKERTOYTIN
(scratchy radio voice)
Deets! Deets?! What happened?!

Deets reaches into the Sleigh and pulls out a walkie talkie.

DEETS
I crashed the sleigh.

TINKERTOYTIN
What?! How?!

DEETS
No one told me there was a
Snnnaa... a Snnniii... a Snnnooo...
a slithery reptile on board!

TINKERTOYTIN
Where are you?

DEETS
In the desert. Outside Los
Angeles. Can Santa get here?

TINKERTOYTIN
No time. You'll have to deliver
those toys by hand.

DEETS
By myself?! I'll never make it!

TINKERTOYTIN
You've got to figure out something.

Deets paces for a moment. Then stops.

He digs into his suit, and finds a crumpled piece of paper.

He smooths it out to read: FRIEND TREE.

EXT. DESERT - LATER

Deets paces even more nervously.

DEETS
C'mon, c'mon, c'mon...

He looks at his watch. His head drops in disappointment.

DEETS (CONT'D)

I guess, it's up to me...

He rushes to the Sleigh, and grabs a handful of presents.

But almost immediately, Deets stumbles and drops them all.

VOICE

Hey, Deets!

Deets turns to see:

GOLDMAN

We heard you needed a Santa Claus.

Goldman, Quince, Bert, and all the other middle aged men from Santa class walk up.

They're all in full Santa Claus costumes.

A small army of Santas to the rescue.

DEETS

Oh, thank Christmas! You came!

GOLDMAN

Of course, we did. We're all Santas, right?

BERT

A Santa Army, man. Right on.
Right on.

Deets rushes over to the Sleigh. He hands out presents.

DEETS

All the kids' names and addresses
are on the presents. We don't have
much time. We gotta hurry!

Deets quickly hands presents to the Santa Wannabes.

EXT. DESERT - LATER

Finally Deets gives some presents to Quince.

DEETS

Quince, thanks for getting them all
together. I owe you big time!

But Quince isn't his normal cheerful self.

QUINCE

We didn't do this for you, Deets.
We did it for Santa. The real
Santa.

Quince takes his toys and rushes off.

There's only a few toys left. Deets turns to grab them, but
The snake is still in there!

DEETS

Wait! Wait, guys! I need someone
to take this one! Guys?!

But everyone is gone.

DEETS (CONT'D)

Blaaaahhhh!!!

Deets pulls himself together, then grabs the snake and the
last few presents. He rushes off.

INT. WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets is wrestling with the snake, and throws it in the
corner with the Christmas tree.

DEETS

Ugh! Never again!

He spins to see William Frederick Walnut staring at him
through those big, magnifying glasses with mouth agape.

DEETS (CONT'D)

I got your snaaa... snni...
snnoo... your snake for you, Billy.

And Deets rushes out, leaving William slack-jawed.

WILLIAM FREDERICK WALNUT

Thanks, Santa!

EXT. ANOTHER HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT

Quince (in full padding) is on a roof staring at a chimney.
He tries a few times to fit in the chimney, but he can't
possibly squeeze down it, until...

He strips off the padding down to his glorious skinny self.

Then he easily slips down the chimney. Perfect!

INT. ANOTHER HOUSE - NIGHT

Goldman coolly drops off some presents.

A couple of KIDS spot Goldman. He winks at them.

GOLDMAN
Be good. Play it cool.

INT. ANOTHER HOUSE - NIGHT

Bert drops off some presents. He finds a plate of cookies.

BERT
Niiiiice!

Bert digs in.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deets creeps into Julie's house. The living room is nicely decorated with the tree and trimmings that Deets left her.

Deets smiles as he quietly places several presents under the small Christmas tree.

He turns to leave.

But then a light clicks on.

Julie is sitting in a chair in the corner. She's drowsy like she just woke up.

DEETS
Julie!
(catches himself - puts on
a Santa voice)
I mean, Ms. Kemp. I mean, ma'am!
Merry Christmas! I didn't mean to
wake you.

JULIE KEMP
Santa? Is it really you?

DEETS
Um... Yup. And I should get going-

Deets turns to leave, but Julie looks him over.

JULIE KEMP

Wait!
 (she looks real close)
 Deets?!

Deets's head drops. Busted.

DEETS

Yeah.

JULIE KEMP

What're you doing here? Why're you
 dressed like Santa? I told you, I
 don't want Corey and Carrie to-

But Deets has heard enough.

DEETS

I know! You want to prove to your
 kids that you can give them a great
 Christmas! And you are. And
 that's great. But you deserve a
 great Christmas too.

JULIE KEMP

Me?

DEETS

Yes! I wanted you to feel the
 magic again.
 (beat)
 Two kids, a full time job. I
 didn't want Christmas to be just
 another hassle.

Julie lets this sink in for a moment. Then she smiles.

JULIE KEMP

Thank you.

DEETS

Merry Christmas.
 (pause)
 Now I gotta get back out there.
 Lots of houses still.

JULIE KEMP

Of course... But first, Deets...

Julie grabs Deets and kisses him. A big ole kiss on the lips.

Unseen to them, Carrie is standing right around the corner.
 She sees her mom kissing Santa Claus and gasps!

Carrie rushes away.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - KID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carrie creeps back into bed.

She giggles a little too loud. Corey wakes up.

COREY

What's going on? Is it Christmas?

CARRIE

I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie finishes kissing Deets.

DEETS

Well, I gotta... I gotta get going.

Deets heads for the door and runs head first into it.

JULIE KEMP

Deets!

DEETS

Yeah?

JULIE KEMP

I'm cooking Christmas dinner tomorrow. Um... Later today. If you'd like to come.

DEETS

I'll be there.

And Deets leaves.

Julie turns and looks at the small Christmas tree, the decorations, the presents. She smiles.

EXT. DESERT - SUNRISE

As the sun appears on the horizon, Deets and all of the other Santa wannabes reconvene in the desert by the busted Sleigh.

They look tired and dirty, but they did it.

Goldman steps up to Deets. At first, Goldman just gives his deadpan stare... but then he smiles and gives Deets a hug.

GOLDMAN

This was pretty cool, Deets.
Really cool. You're a good guy.

DEETS

I couldn't have done it without you
all.

QUINCE

Hey, who believes in you more than
us?

GOLDMAN

But what're we supposed to tell our
wives we were doing all night?

BERT

Or girlfriends? What?! I could
have a girlfriend...

QUINCE

Are we supposed to just tell them
that we were out working for you?

DEETS

Nah, tell them you were working for
the real Santa Claus.

Just then, Nicholas flies up in the Reindeer-drawn Sleigh.

NICHOLAS

Someone need a lift!? Ho, ho, ho!

The Sleigh touches down to earth.

All of the Santa Wannabes stare in disbelief.

Deets winks at the Santa Wannabes, then climbs into the
Sleigh with Nicholas and they zoom off.

BERT

I'm definitely doing this again
next year.

EXT. SKY - SUNRISE

The Reindeer-drawn Sleigh zips through the sky.

INT. SLEIGH - SUNRISE

Nicholas turns to Deets.

Deets is carefully smoothing out his sheet of paper that reads: FRIEND TREE. Deets gently folds it and puts in his pocket.

Nicholas smiles.

EXT. NORTH POLE - DAY

All of Main Street at the North Pole is partying!

Elves are dancing in the streets. Frosty is pumping his arms in the air in triumph (ala "Rocky").

Mrs. Claus cranks up some rock 'n roll Christmas music. She leaps into the center of the party and shakes her booty.

The Reindeer-drawn Sleigh lands and the crowd erupts into cheers!

Deets and Nicholas climb out of the sleigh and are treated like conquering heroes.

Nicholas turns to Deets.

NICHOLAS

What're your plans for Christmas, Deets? We throw quite a party here! Ho, ho, ho!

DEETS

I'd love to. But I've got a Christmas dinner to get to.

NICHOLAS

You sure? We've got some pretty amazing ice cream here.

DEETS

Nah! I wouldn't miss that dinner for the world.

Nicholas laughs and gives Deets a big hug.

NICHOLAS

Great job, Deets. I always believed you could do it.

DEETS

I know. It just took a while for me to believe it too.

NICHOLAS

Keep in touch, Deets! I could use some help training next years batch of Santas.

DEETS

Really?! Oh yeah! I'm in!
 HHHHOOOOOO!!! HHhhhoOOOOOO!!!
 HHHooooOOOO!!! Sorry, I got a little excited there. Old habits die hard.

Tinkertoysin steps up.

TINKERTOYTIN

Maybe next year, though, keep him away from the North Pole.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Julie, Corey, and Carrie are on the floor surrounded by torn up wrapping paper and empty boxes.

The door opens and Deets enters.

DEETS

I heard there was gonna be some food here.

COREY & CARRIE

Deets! Look what I got! So cool! Best Christmas ever!

The kids crowd around Deets to show him their cool gifts.

JULIE KEMP

Guys, calm down. Bryan knows all about the gifts you got!

CARRIE

Really?! How?!

COREY

Yeah? Do you know Santa or something, Deets?!

JULIE KEMP

Deets kinda works for him.

Deets and Julie share a knowing glance.

Then they all settle back to the floor and play with the toys.

A perfect Christmas day.

FADE OUT

THE END