

Santa and the Pole Dancer

By Alan Nafzger

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FADE IN:

**EXT. NEW YORK SIDEWALK E. 47<sup>th</sup> STREET - DUSK**

BEGIN TITLES:

It is a summer evening. CANDI, a rather elegant and beautiful young woman, is walking on West on 47<sup>th</sup>. She is dressed immaculately and we might assume that she is going to a dinner party. But she walks into a Times Square gentleman's club, "Manhattan Satin".

CANDI  
(Southern accent)  
Howdy, Patrick.

PATRICK opens the door for her.

CANDI  
(Brooklyn accent)  
How ya doin', Candi.

**INT. MANHATTAN SATIN - NIGHT**

Inside we see a typical strip club early in the evening. It isn't crowded. The music is relatively sedate. CANDI smiles at the bar tender who pours her a soda.

CANDI  
Thanks, Tyron.

TYRON  
No problem, Candi.

CANDI takes her soda and sits at the bar.

TYRON  
How was your bar exam?

CANDI  
I just took it this morning.

TYRON  
Yea, I know?

CANDI

I've been reading for years it seems.  
But its over now, I feel much better.

TYRON

You can't practice law until you get  
the results back?

CANDI

Let's just say I will be working here  
until, I will get the results in  
November.

It is humiliating to CANDI to have finished law school and  
yet still have to dance.

TYRON

You are okay?

But she is matter of fact about it.

CANDI

Hey, money is money. What does it  
matter how you get it?

TYRON

That is right you are going to be a  
lawyer. You will be moving down in  
society.

CANDI

Yea.

CANDI looks around at the few patrons.

CANDI

This place is dead.

TYRON

Don't worry by the time you get up on  
stage, they will be here.

CANDI isn't convinced. She looks bored and maybe needs a  
change.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

SANTA and his managers, who are the older elves, are brainstorming a solution to the labor problems. RONALD, THOMAS and AUGUSTO are in the office offering their advice to SANTA.

SANTA walks to the outside window and looks down into the protesting ELVES. There are well over 100s of angry ELVES.

CUT TO: Outside Santa's Workshop

The ELVES are walking around the outside the workshop holding placards saying ...

- No Pay, no Toys!
- Come and Make It!
- Screw You - Pay Me!
- Eat Santa!
- Chavez Lives At the North Pole!
- Every Elf a Santa!

The "Eat Santa!" sign has the image of a dinner fork.

ELVES  
(chanting loudly)  
No pay, no toys!  
No pay, no toys!  
No pay, no toys!

BACK TO: SANTA'S OFFICE

SANTA fixates on the "Eat Santa!" placard. SANTA grimaces.

THOMAS  
(to Ronald)  
Santa will probably not be able to deliver all presents on time because of this labor dispute.

RONALD  
Why do they call it a labour dispute when there isn't any labour going on?

AUGUSTO  
Santa, let me go down with some of my elves and crack some heads.

SANTA  
No. No. Things will settle down as we  
get closer to Christmas Eve.

CUT TO: Outside Santa's Workshop

VLADIMIR  
What do we want?

ELVES  
Respect!

VLADIMIR  
When to we want it?

ELVES  
Now!

BACK TO: Santa's Office

RONALD  
The Elves, are not happy!

THOMAS  
In fact, they are very angry!

SANTA walks to the inside window and looks into the workshop. There are only a 100 ELVES working where there used to be well over 100s.

SANTA  
Some work is getting done.

There is a scoreboard on the wall of the workshop as well at one in SANTA's office. It reads 50%. Only half of the ELVES are working. The others are on strike.

RONALD, THOMAS and AUGUSTO join SANTA at the window.

AUGUSTO  
Not near enough. You are going to have  
to take some drastic action to save  
Christmas.

SANTA  
(puzzled)

They generally work so very hard.

RONALD, THOMAS and AUGUSTO leave the window to the workshop. SANTA remains watching the happy elves work.

RONALD

They want a salary!

AUGUSTO

That is the end of Christmas, as we know it! They want paid holidays!

THOMAS

They want to retire at 45!

RONALD

They want free healthcare.

THOMAS

They want 3 months off every year.

RONALD

They want more cookies with a regular lunch.

AUGUSTO

They want a more cookies and that just can't happen.

SANTA

Wait a minute. I'm Santa. They're working for Santa and I don't charge children for the presents they get. Where would I get money to pay them? I don't make any profit.

(pause)

More cookies might mean fewer toys.

RONALD

Maybe we can start charging for presents.

SANTA

I'll see what I can do. But... I'm sceptical about that.

THOMAS

We'll make a profit.

RONALD

We can pay ourselves a big bonus.

(pause)

And with the rest of the money we'll go  
on a trip to Vancouver.

SANTA

Wait a minute. What if children don't  
have any money?

THOMAS

The parents' have credit cards!

AUGUSTO

Or we can take the children's piggy  
banks.

RONALD

We could give them credit.

(pause)

And charge high lending fees.

THOMAS

We'll become a big box Santa  
Superstore. Or a Santa-bay where you  
can pay with SantaPal.

RONALD

We'll make lots of money.

SANTA isn't as thrilled with the idea as the three ELVES.  
He seems to have stopped listening when they began talking  
about charging a price for the toys.

SANTA is depressed looking out the window into the  
workshop.

The happy ELVES notice and wave happily up to him. The few  
ELVES that are working are oblivious to the labor strife  
and could be called goofy. SANTA'S dream world has come to  
an end. He remembers the successful operation of the past.

FLASHBACK: SANTA is younger; his beard is red instead of  
white. MRS. CLAUSE is young and tight. The old crowded

workshop of the past were work on the toys was at a fast pace. On the wall of the old toy factory there is a scoreboard and it reads 110%.

BACK TO: Santa's office

SANTA glances at the factory scoreboard and now reads 49%.

AUGUSTO

It will be much easier to have them clear out, and find replacement Elves. We can do that. I know a guy.

SANTA has a tear in his eye. He looks despondent.

ENTER: From SANTA'S P.O.V., HOLLY enters the workshop from a door marked with a neon sign "The North Pole". Attached to the workshop is a "gentleman's club". HOLLY is a 70 year old woman. She is barely able to walk; she has a walker and progresses very slowly.

She stops to visit with the happy ELVES on the factory floor. She seems happy and the ELVES love the attention she shows them.

As HOLLY is struggling with the walker to climb the stairs to SANTA's office, the chanting outside suddenly stops. RONALD, THOMAS and AUGUSTO rush to the outside window.

MRS. CLAUS is downstairs with a cart full of cookies. The ELVES stop their protest and eat their cookies.

RONALD

Cookies?

AUGUSTO

Santa you are going to have to have a talk with your wife. She is still baking for them.

SANTA is watching HOLLY make her way slowly to his office.

SANTA

I can't ask Mrs. Clause to stop making cookies. It is very important to her. No. I can't do that to her.



Back to: Protest outside

MRS. CLAUS has cleared out; the cookies are gone. The chanting resumes.

ELVES  
(chanting)  
Santa can't hide for long!  
We unite our voice is strong!

HOLLY knocks and SANTA motions for her to enter the office. She is old and not energetic anymore.

SANTA  
(jolly)  
Holly. Good to see you.

HOLLY  
Well, you haven't been into the "North Pole" in 48 years. Not since I was 22.

SANTA  
Holly. You know I'm too old for all of that kind of stuff.

HOLLY  
Santa, you should know; you are NEVER too old for that.

SANTA laughs hardily.

SANTA  
What can I do for you?

HOLLY  
Santa, you know I've never asked you for anything. And, I've been working for you for ... well my entire career. And I appreciate this opportunity ... not many dancers have such a long career.

SANTA  
Oh, well it sure will be a loss. Can you hold off retirement until we can get a replacement up here?

HOLLY

Oh, Santa. I think you misunderstand. I don't want to retire. I just need a vacation.

SANTA

Oh, Holly. I'm sorry. Sure. Where do you want to go?

HOLLY

Vancouver! I've always wanted to go there.

SANTA

Warm this time of year. See accounting and transportation. I will tell them what is going on. Now you don't feel you need to come back soon.

(pause)

In fact, don't come back until you are entirely rested.

HOLLY

Oh, thank you. Thank you so much.

HOLLY leaves the office rejuvenated.

RONALD

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

THOMAS

We can hire a hard body dancer and solve a lot of this labour unrest!

SANTA

That is exactly what I was thinking.

The production scoreboard reads "48%". Santa is losing ground with every hour.

**INT. MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MORNING**

CANDI CANE answers a craigslist.com add for a "tasteful pole dancer". Within a second of her response, her phone rings. It is Santa.

CANDI

Hello.

SANTA

Hello. This is Mr. Claus. I just got your response online.

CANDI

That was fast.

SANTA

I own an establishment and we are looking for some talent. Think you might be interested?

CANDI

Well, I'm the most talented woman you have ever spoken to.

SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho. I'm sure you are.

(pause)

But listen I want to see you first. If you want to come up and try out.

(pause)

There are two other girls there in Manhattan. Of course, we will fly you girls up and bring you up.

CANDI

Fly? Okay. I can do that.

SANTA

Can you be at the downtown Manhattan heliport at noon?

CANDI

Sure!

**EXT. DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN HELIPORT - DAY**

There is a MAN with a sign standing in front of the heliport. The sign says "Dominique, Bambi & Candi".

HOLLY has exited a helicopter and with her walker is venturing into NEW YORK. She walks past the MAN with the sign and gets into a taxi.

DOMINIQUE is waiting at the man's side. She has the aura of a Dominatrix. Not just the aura, she has the right cloths and a good set of high heels (thigh-high stiletto boots). Fishnet stockings and gloves. She holds herself correctly. Remember; she holds all of the power and she maintains good posture and carries herself up right.

The man with the sign is happy to see CANDI as he feels DOMINIQUE isn't the right type for the job. DOMINIQUE looks put out to have to wait.

CANDI looks very professional.

CANDI  
I'm Candi.

CANDI smiles at the man.

MAN  
Great!

MAN  
How are you?

CANDI  
Great. Thanks.

MAN  
If we can wait just a bit for the third passenger, I will appreciate it.

CANDI  
Happy to.

Even CANDI looks a bit uncomfortable to be standing next to DOMINIQUE. CANDI spots a penny on the ground, she moves to the other side of the man away from DOMINIQUE. But she shows DOMINIQUE the penny so she doesn't think she is rude.

BAMBI walks up. She appears to be a natural blonde, with a voice and mannerisms like Marilyn Monroe. Blonde hair, long legs. She might be just a tad inebriated.

BAMBI

I'm Bambi. Isn't this great!

The MAN turn to the three woman. He has a clipboard.

MAN

Here, I have here one of Mr. Claus' famous confidentiality agreements. It is required. And you are barring from talking about what transpires today.

The BAMBI and DOMINIQUE are perhaps accustomed to signing because they step up and sign without reading. CANDI begins reading the two-page document. She notices they are waiting for her.

CANDI

I'm sorry. I'm in law school.

No one understands.

CANDI

I'm going to sign.

(pause)

I just want to see how it is written.

No one understands.

CANDI

Okay. Here I go. I'm signing.

Everyone smiles happily.

MAN

And I need your phones.

The WOMEN hand over the phones to the man. They are put in a red leather travel bag with the initials "NP" on the side.

The MAN leads them to a waiting helicopter. It looks like a normal helicopter but when they reach the side of it they see the "North Pole" logo. In side, there are fur coats open and resting in each seat. It is summer, so the girls sit on them.

CANDI, BAMBI and DOMINIQUE sit in the back of the helicopter. They don't notice the pilot's identity but the co-pilot is definitely an elf.

The helicopter takes off and zooms west past the South Ferry and the Battery Park and then north up the Hudson River. We get an excellent aerial view of Manhattan from the river.

**INT. HELICOPTER - DAY**

As the journey progresses the women fall asleep. They have a dream of polar bears running on the ice below them. They wake up with a chill. They are dressed in summer outfits but are approaching the North Pole. They fumble for the fur coats. Some of it is psychological; they wake up over the pack ice and there is nothing but cold.

**EXT. NORTH POLE HELIPAD - DAY**

As the girls approach the compound from the air, we see the elves protesting in front of the workshop. They appear fairly active, loud and boisterous.

ELVES  
(chanting)  
Exploitation ain't the way,  
Elves deserve fair pay!

The helicopter lands and is met by SANTA and MRS. CLAUS.

BAMBI  
Where are we, Argentina?

DOMINIQUE  
What a god-forsaken place.

CANDI  
You are THE Mr. Clause.

SANTA  
Yes.

CANDI

I should have know... with the contract and all. You know you should go over that and update it. There are new technologies that you should include in that.

SANTA

Good idea. Let's look into that.

MR. and MRS. CLAUS begin walking with the GIRL in the direction of the workshop. In front of the toy factory, the ELVES calm down as SANTA and the girls approach. By the time they reach the group and ELVES have stopped chanting. They are deadly silent. VLADIMIR, LYNDON and SAUL, the labor leaders, look worried.

VLADIMIR

Hold your ranks, elves!

LYNDON

(chanting)

Santa can't keep hiding!  
We the Elves are uniting!

The ELVES do not join in LYNDON's chant. They are ogling the girls. The ELVES part and allow SANTA and the ELVES into the building. The ELVES slowly lose interest in the protest and they begin to move to follow the girls inside.

SAUL

Gentlemen, we are on strike here!

The ELVES ignore SAUL. They move back into the workshop.

One of the ELVES throws a rubber duck at the back of SANTA's head. It is soft and doesn't hurt. But SANTA stops and turns. He picks up the duck off the ground. He looks at the silent faces of the ELVES. He examines the rubber duck, he holds it up near his face. He presses on the duck and makes it squeak.

The ELVES can't help but laugh at the noise. SANTA deescalates the confrontation and laughs also.

The production scoreboard reads "55%".

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

BAMBI enters the office for her job interview. On SANTA'S desk is a sign with the slogan, "The Buck Stops Here".

SANTA  
Welcome. Have a seat.

BAMBI  
I thought you wanted to see me dance?

SANTA  
Well it is a little more complicated than that.

BAMBI  
How complicated can it be. You open the door and turn on the lights.

SANTA  
Well, I don't know if you noticed that we have a labour situation here.

BAMBI  
Well, I don't work for free if that is what you are asking.

SANTA  
No. I don't want you to. I mean the Elves they are on strike.

BAMBI  
Is this about the rubber duck thing?

SANTA  
I would like to see you interact with the Elves and see how you might fit in here.

BAMBI  
I can't dance?

SANTA  
Maybe later?



BAMBI

You want me to tell them jokes until it gets dark?

SANTA

It won't get dark, but sure if you think it will help.

**INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY**

LONG SHOT: While BAMBI and DOMINIQUE are in the office being interviewed we see CANDI in the workshop. Without being prompted she is already interacting with the ELVES. CANDI is surrounded by ELVES and it looks like a serious political discussion. It might even be labeled an adversarial conversation.

SAUL, VLADIMIR and LYNDON look upset. Of course they are upset about the girls distracting their protesters. But it seems there is something new. They leave CANDI and huddle away from her. They have a discussion between the three of them and they agree. They go back and announce their decision to CANDI. She is pleased and extends her hand to the three ELVES. SAUL and LYNDON shake her hand. VLADIMIR steams off kicking toys and the shop machinery.

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

DOMINIQUE enters the office for her interview. She holds a whip and handcuffs. She gives him a sexy dominatrix pose.

**INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY**

BAMBI is trying to loosen up the workers. She grabs some toys and takes them to be boxed. She tells the ELVES beside her some jokes.

BAMBI

What did one math book say to the other math book?

(pause)

I have a problem.

The ELVES chuckle but immediately return to work.

BAMBI

What did one elevator say to the other  
elevator?

(pause)

What's up?

The ELVES chuckle but they are engrossed in their work.  
They seem cheerful and gay again.

BAMBI joins in and works in the workshop. Everything seems  
okay at the factory. ELVES stand in line to teach her how  
to a certain jobs. She smiles and flirts with them all. She  
is clearly good for plant morale.

The production scoreboard reads "75%".

Bambi is a lovely woman, blonde and energetic with a great  
smile. Of course she has a great body and many of ELVES who  
were on strike now work just to be near her.

BAMBI

Look at you all working! It looks like  
Santa might get to Christmas with all  
the toys needed for the good little  
boys and girls.

BAMBI sings a song for the ELVES and the production  
scoreboard reads "81%".

**INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY**

It seems CANDI has solved the labour dispute and the ELVES  
slowly return to work.

She smiles at SAUL, that he is doing the right thing.

CANDI

You are doing the right thing.

SAUL, himself, returns to work.

She smiles at LYNDON.

CANDI

You know this isn't anything to go to war over. We can negotiate a win-win situation.

LYNDON

You are right. We will go on strike after we are certified.

CANDI

(smiling)

I hope not. I bet we can solve this before that happens.

CANDI manages to walk next to VLADIMIR who is visibly still enraged.

CANDI

(smiling)

You want to know the best advise my grandfather ever gave me?

VLADIMIR

(grumpy)

Forget you!

CANDI

(smiling)

He said you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

VLADIMIR looks at her like she is insane.

CANDI

It means if you are really looking out for the welfare of the Elves, then you will change your ways. Put on a smile and negotiate a fair contract with Santa. But if you are on some personal ego trip then you just keep doing what you are doing.

VLADIMIR

(grumpy)

I'm not talking to you!

The production scoreboard reads "98%".

VLADIMIR walks to the portion of the workshop where they are boxing plates. He sets up an empty box, opens the top. He stands about 10 feet back and throws the plates into the box. Of course, 1 in ten land in the box. The other 9 plates crash into the wall and floor.

The production scoreboard reads "99%".

CANDI walks up the stairs to wait for her interview. Just as she sits in the waiting room outside the office...

DOMINIQUE leaves the office. She only has a whip. She slows and hands CANDI a key to the handcuffs.

DOMINIQUE  
He is all yours, child!

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

CANDI enters the office and finds SANTA, handcuffed to the desk and gagged with a pair of black panties. CANDI uncuffs SANTA and he takes the panties out of his mouth. He looks very embarrassed.

CANDI  
Why did you let her do that?

SANTA is almost in shock.

SANTA  
I didn't. She just did it.

SANTA is embarrassed and sits. He puts his head in his hands. He is out of words and there isn't any explanation.

CANDI  
(smile)  
Well, it doesn't matter. Interesting approach to a job interview however.

SANTA reaches on top of his desk and pulls out a tablet. He scrolls down to DOMINIQUE'S name and clicks on "naughty".

RONALD interrupts. He walks toward and SANTA bends over to hear. RONALD whispers in his ear.

SANTA

Really!

(pause)

Who?

RONALD whispers more information in his ear. SANTA get up from his chair and walks to the window to the workshop. He looks down. The ELVES are merrily working as if everything is normal. SANTA is amazed. He glances at CANDI and then back to the workers. He spots SAUL who is working. He spots LYNDON who is also working. He sports VLADIMIR who is throwing plates at a packing box.

SANTA looks at the scoreboard; it reads 108%. We can assume that VLADIMIR's antics is causing the number. Each time VLADIMIR throws a plate the score dips to 107% and then is pops right back to 108%. VLADIMIR seems to be the only elf not working diligently.

SANTA slowly walks to his desk. He is contemplating how this has happened that the factory is functioning again and the crisis might be over.

SANTA

You want to tell me how you did that?

CANDI

Well, I told them they were in violation of the law. They aren't a certified labour union. And that means they can't participate in collective bargaining or call a strike.

SANTA

And how do you know so much about it?

CANDI

Law school.

(pause)

I just took my bar exam.

SANTA

You didn't list this on your resume.

CANDI

I thought you were looking for a dancer.

SANTA

The elves they lost interest in the previous dancer.

CANDI

That happens. It is best to keep moving around.

SANTA

Well, I was thinking a dancer could help defuse the situation. You know what I mean?

CANDI

Sure I know what you mean. I've been dancing at clubs in Manhattan the last three years.

SANTA leans forward. His interest is piqued.

SANTA

Yea?

CANDI

Let's just say I know what is possible and what is not. And, I know a little something about labor law. Sure.

SANTA

That is sure handy.

CANDI

They have agreed to return to work until they are certified.

SANTA

Certified?

CANDI

There will have to be an election and if they win then they will represent the workers.

SANTA

That could be a problem.

CANDI

Funny thing about elections, they can be a necessary evil.

SANTA

I'm not complaining. Ten minutes ago they were throwing toys at me and now they are ...

SANTA glances at the scoreboard out the window.

CANDI

(continued)

... 107... 108%

SANTA

So what is next?

CANDI

Well, it won't take them too long to circulate a petition. At least thirty percent of the employees is needed. I'm afraid I told them that step.

SANTA

Oh!

CANDI

And then it won't be long after that before an election. The elves will vote to be unionized or not.

SANTA

You are hired!

CANDI

I'm not a lawyer yet. Not until November. I hope.

SANTA

Oh, that is just a technicality.

CANDI

I can get in trouble.

SANTA  
Oh, I don't want you to be in trouble.

CANDI  
Why don't you hire an attorney?

SANTA  
A stranger?

CANDI  
I thought you knew everyone.

SANTA  
I do but they don't.

CANDI  
I see. Personal chemistry sometimes can  
make or break a deal.

SANTA  
You think that might upset our  
agreement?

CANDI  
Well it could.

SANTA  
I trust you. Maybe you could just hang  
around and help smooth things over  
until November?

CANDI  
As a dancer?

SANTA  
You can dance if you want. Why don't  
you manage the North Pole club on the  
other side of the workshop.

SANTA and CANDI walk to the window.

There is a neon sign and a door to what looks like might be  
an adult club.

SANTA  
See it?



CANDI

Yes.

SANTA

But get me through this Christmas and I will pay for your law school. And well you will have a job here for life if you like.

CANDI

And the talent for the club? The two... Bambi and Dominique?

SANTA

I don't know why not. One is naughty and one is nice. Seems about right to me.

CANDI

Okay... deal, but I can't give you legal advice. This is probably the last we should speak... unless you have a specific question.

SANTA

Okay. Go find Ronald. And he will show you around.

**INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

We see VLADIMIR still breaking plates and he has persuaded his friends to break some toys also.

The production scoreboard reads "89%".

CANDI walks out of SANTA's office. RONALD greets her and they walk across the factory floor. Suddenly a plate comes flying like a saucer toward CANDI's head. Suddenly, the elf manufacturing landing nets for fish holds up a pole and catches the projectile. CANDI turns just in time to see what has happened. She thinks, looks at RONALD but ignores it.

Obviously he threw the plate, but he has disappeared. And, there isn't proof he threw the plate. And finally, if

anything is said it might make the labor situation bad again. Evidently, SANTA won't fire anyone.

**INT. SANTA COURT - DAY**

RONALD brings CANDI to what looks like any courtroom. They sit at the back and are quiet and respectful.

We see the "naughty" and "nice" scoreboard.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	289,020,009	21,999

There isn't a jury box but there is a bench and a bar and attorneys have tables. At the bench there is an elf magistrate who is assigned to hear cases and assist Santa.

He keeps the "naughty and nice" records. His job is much like a judge. There is a clerk.

PROSECUTING ELF

Your honour, Santa has ruled on this type of case well over 10,000 times.

MAGISTRATE

What are the facts?

PROSECUTING ELF

The "Fourth Pig" is a devious prank able to be performed at any indoor school campus. The students smuggled three piglets into the school and released them to the chagrin of the faculty who had the responsibly chase down and catch all of the animals. Upon corralling the beasts the faculty noticed that each has a number painted on its side. The numbers are: 1, 2, and 4. Being academics, the faculty deductively reasoned that there must have been one more animal marked with the number 3 loose within the school. The rest of their day was foolishly wasted searching for the nonexistent fourth pig.

The elf magistrate signals that he understands.

MAGISTRATE

Is there anything from the defense?

DEFENDING ELF

No, your honour but we request leniency based on the youthful creativity of the boys.

MAGISTRATE

Okay, I will agree to mark the offending youth "naughty" and will recommend that Santa give no higher than a 4<sup>th</sup> choice on the boys wish list. Without objection, so ordered.

RONALD and CANDI slowly rise and move out of the courtroom.

We see the "naughty" and "nice" scoreboard change to include one additional naughty child.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	289,020,009	22,000

**INT. HALL OUTSIDE SANTA COURT - DAY**

CANDI

You mean you can do something like that and still get a toy?

RONALD

Of course. Santa isn't heartless.

CANDI

What happened to lumps of coal.

RONALD

Oh, that expression comes from a time when children were cold and actually put coal on their list. Historically it was low on the list and sometimes, if they were very naughty.

CANDI

So what keeps naughty kids from putting their 1<sup>st</sup> choice in the 4<sup>th</sup> position when their list is given to Santa?

RONALD is confronted with a new question. He pauses to think.

RONALD

Nothing.

**INT. VARIOUS NORTH POLE LOCATIONS - DAY**

We see CANDI and RONALD on their tour of the facilities.

In the factory, CANDI notices that the production scoreboard is down to "79%".

They meet MRS. CLAUS in her kitchen. There are hundreds of FEMALE ELVES working side by side with SANTA'S WIFE. Happy and singing and baking every imaginably type of cookie.

RONALD

This is where Mrs. Clause does here thing.

CANDI

This is where the girl elves work?

RONALD

Yes. I would far rather work with these pretty little ladies.

CANDI

And there aren't any girl elves working in the factory?

RONALD

They like it that way, it seems. I've never heard anyone complain. Not ever. Not since 270 A.D.

CANDI

Is that right? I mean today, still?

RONALD

Christmas is old. Santa is old school.

CANDI half smiles.

They visit the ELF dormitory. And the ELF dinning hall. There are instructional classrooms where the ELVES are learning assembly techniques. There is a research and development office with drafting tables and testing facilities. There is a wind tunnel and a fire chamber for testing.

There is a radio station playing 24/7 Christmas music. The DJ is producing toys and playing music both.

There is a TV station with a meteorologist with maps and news. There is a toy review program and a Wall Street analyst evaluating the ups and down of Santa stock.

#### **INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

We see a petition being circulated by VLADIMIR. The scoreboard dips to 72% and then 69%. Many of the elves have become lethargic and morale is low.

Throughout this movie, at the director's discretion, we see VLADIMIR, SAUL and LYNDON working the ELVES into an increasingly agitated state. Persuading, cajoling, threatening. Handing out literature, arguing and bribing.

We also see AUGUSTO, RONALD and THOMAS also working their side of the political spectrum. The producers will want a least a moderately unbiased film... propaganda and organizing isn't a tactic of the left.

#### **INT. NORTH POLE ELVE'S CLUB - DAY**

CANDI arrives and is shown the club. It is dusty. The seats near the stage have not been used in 20 years. There is only one seat that isn't dusty... and one spot of the bar isn't dusty - the first stool near the door. ELVES have been coming into the bar but only to drink.

#### **INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

We see a petition being circulated by LYNDON. The scoreboard dips to 65% and then 61%. Even more of the elves have become lethargic and morale is low.

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

CANDI and BAMBI are cleaning the club. It is like cleaning a newly discovered speakeasy. In the back, they discover cases of very old liquor. It is dusty and dark.

DOMINIQUE comes in with ten ELVES. She has made slaves of them and they begin to work. DOMINIQUE cracks her whip every once in a while and the ELVES are thrilled.

CANDI looks at the ELVES and then at DOMINIQUE questioningly.

DOMINIQUE

What? They volunteered.

CANDI

(to the elves)

Is that true?

DOMINIQUE looming over them.

ELVES

Oh, Yes. Definitely.

DOMINIQUE smiles confidently over her powers. CANDI takes note of her power.

**INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

We see a petition being circulated by SAUL. The scoreboard dips to 59% and then 55%. Almost all of the ELVES have become lethargic and morale is low.

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

VLADIMIR, LYNDON and SAUL storm into the office without knocking. CANDI is concerned by their combative body language and follows them into the office.

VLADIMIR

We have 30% of the signatures and now you have to give us what we want!

SANTA

Well... I don't...

CANDI

Well, congratulations. You don't mind if I look over the signatures do you?

VLADIMIR hands over the petitions. There is a long pause as CANDI looks over the signatures. She also seems to be counting them, and looking for duplicates.

CANDI

I assume you want to have an election now that will qualify you as the elve's representatives?

VLADIMIR

Darn right.

CANDI

Good then we will have an election. A good old fashion democratic election.

VLADIMIR

And when we win, then you will have to make the concessions.

CANDI

No if you win then you get to enter discussions. If you win you can have meetings in the workshop and of course discuss things with Santa.

VLADIMIR

We don't want any more crappy cookies for lunch anymore! We want a real meal!

SANTA

Have you ever tasted Mrs. Claus' real cooking? Broccoli, green beans, lima beans?

VLADIMIR  
(shouting)  
I don't care that is what we want!

CANDI  
Santa, I will take care of this. There isn't any sense in getting Mrs. Claus involved in this.

VLADIMIR  
(more shouting)  
You are going down fat man!

CANDI  
Well, I guess this meeting is over. Maybe we will talk after the election.  
(smiling at Lyndon and Saul)  
Until then we have a Christmas to prepare for. Right?

VLADIMIR  
We are going on strike. Who will make your crappy toys?

CANDI  
You can't do that. You don't represent the elves yet. They might not want you as their leader.

VLADIMIR is enraged and reaches into his coat (for a weapon). However, SAUL put his hand on his VLADIMIR's wrist. LYNDON steps between SANTA and VLADIMIR and ushers the ELVES into the hall.

CANDI  
Can you met later with Ronald and I? We need to pick a date for the election.

LYNDON  
Sure.

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

CANDI is serving drinks at the bar. Bambi is in a red outfit and pole dancing on the stage. Of course the pole is



a giant candy cane stick. DOMINIQUE is a waitress and serving a table of ELVES.

CANDI

What are you after here?

VLADIMIR

I just want a peppermint milkshake and a bit of idle chat.

CANDI

You can have that. Every elf deserves a little down time, even the violent revolutionary type.

CANDI is making a joke but VLADIMIR is stone faced.

CANDI throws some peppermint sticks and ice cream into the blender and gives it a whirl.

CANDI

I meant out there with all the organizing and the politics.

VLADIMIR drinks his milkshake.

VLADIMIR

I advocate the violent overthrow of Santa. Of course, all power will go to the Elves.

CANDI

Why? Santa is a charming guy loved by millions.

VLADIMIR

He is capitalist pig and has exploited our labour for over 1,700 of years.

CANDI

You know if you are successful, a lot of people will be hurt. Children and they are hardly political at all.

VLADIMIR

Screw them; either they have laughed at us or we didn't even come up on their

radar. They worship the fat man. Now, it's time we get something out of it. Santa is a big fat slob sucking the life out of the elves.

CANDI

What will happen to Christmas?

VLADIMIR

Any toy maker should be able to run Christmas. You know we aren't stupid. Right?

CANDI

The elves are so happy working. Don't you think they know what joy they help Santa bring?

VLADIMIR

The only thing SANTA brings them are calluses and sore muscles.

CANDI

That isn't true. Joy and friendship and networking.

VLADIMIR

He is a pig and well, between you and I, a lie told often enough becomes the truth.

CANDI

Santa can't afford to charge parents for the toys and pay your cookie demands.

VLADIMIR

The way to crush Mr. and Mrs Clause is to grind them between the cost of flour, sugar and eggs.

CANDI

That is a strange way of thinking.

VLADIMIR

Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.

CANDI

Why can't there just not be a revolution? Isn't Christmas enough for you without reforming it?

VLADIMIR

Santa is tottering. We must deal him a death blow at any cost. To delay action is the same as ... well perpetual slavery.

CANDI

You really believe this?

VLADIMIR

I'm not the only one! Give me another year to teach these elves and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted.

CANDI

I think you might be pushing your luck.

VLADIMIR

Sometimes - history needs a push.

CANDI

So you don't have a problem with the election.

VLADIMIR

Democracy is indispensable to our new way of thinking.

CANDI

Listen there is a rumour going around that you have a weapon.

VLADIMIR

One man with a gun can control 100 without one.

CANDI

Is that really necessary?

VLADIMIR  
Might be. Yes.

CANDI  
You can't have a weapon in here.

VLADIMIR opens his coat inviting her to search.

VLADIMIR  
Search me.

CANDI  
That is Dominique's job.

CANDI signals to DOMINIQUE to come over... VLADIMIR clears out of the club quickly.

DOMINIQUE follows him out onto the factory floor.

The production scoreboard is down to "51%".

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

Elf AUGUSTO is a reactionary. He totally rejects progress. His desire is that Christmas never change.

CANDI  
You are a huge supporter of Santa aren't you?

AUGUSTO  
In the old days every elf was like me. Armed to the teeth and pro-Santa!

CANDI  
What do you think happened?

AUGUSTO  
Now we are infiltrated with communists, socialists and other professional victims.

CANDI  
I know; who ever heard of a elf who is a victim.

AUGUSTO

Santa would never let that happen. But that doesn't change their propaganda.

CANDI

I don't know. You know I was talking to some of your less than loyal elves, and basically all they want is a more nutritious lunch.

AUGUSTO

Well that isn't the way we have been doing it for centuries.

AUGUSTO

But if you think about it a better lunch, a real lunch, might give the elves more energy.

AUGUSTO

Look. Deep in your heart, you know Santa's right. All they need is a swift kick in the pants.

CANDI

Santa doesn't feel that way.

AUGUSTO

Well, he hinted at that.

CANDI

What did he say?

AUGUSTO

He said he wished the elves would make toys instead of trouble.

CANDI

Now that might be the entire problem.

AUGUSTO

What?

CANDI

You know if you would talk to Santa and explain that a little compromise might stave off this strike. He might agree.

AUGUSTO

There isn't anything such thing as a free lunch. Free cookies, yes. But not free lunch.

AUGUSTO

I just want to return to the old Christmas.

CANDI

That isn't going to happen. You have to be realistic.

AUGUSTO

I'm not a dictator. It's just that I have a grumpy face.

CANDI

Now be honest, what will happen if the win the election?

AUGUSTO

Sometimes democracy must be bathed in blood.

AUGUSTO

I regret and suffer those losses, but it's God's will. He will pardon me if I committed excesses, but I don't think I did.

AUGUSTO

Everything I did, all my actions, all of the problems I had I dedicate to God and to Chile, because I kept Chile from becoming Communist.

The production scoreboard reads "49%"

**INT. ENTRANCE TO SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY**

LYNDON is handing out filers at the entrance to the toy factor.

LYNDON  
(to elves entering)  
No Justice. No Toys!

CANDI  
Lyndon, you can't do that.

LYNDON  
Why not?

CANDI  
You have to win the election first.

LYNDON  
We will win. We are elves.

CANDI  
Maybe not all the elves agree with you.

LYNDON  
Of course they do.

CANDI  
You are bigger than they are. You come across with all this anti-Santa stuff. Of course they tell you that.

LYNDON  
Are you saying they like that was Santa treats them. I mean cookies for lunch!

CANDI  
I had cookies today and though they were pretty good.

LYNDON  
I sort of like them myself but that isn't the point.

CANDI  
What is the point then.

LYNDON  
The point is that we are not happy.

CANDI  
They look happy to me.

LYNDON  
You know forget happy. I support a slow  
progressive agenda that will in time  
make Santa only a figurehead.

CANDI  
Who will be Santa?

LYNDON  
A committee of elves. Elected.

CANDI  
Hey, put those down and come with me.

LYNDON  
Why?

CANDI  
Let's have a drink and visit. I bet we  
can solve a lot of this strife if you  
can I can just reason with each other.

LYNDON  
Vladimir is going to be upset at me.

CANDI  
You can't advocate a strike until you  
are certified.

LYNDON  
Vladimir told me...

CANDI  
I want to talk to you about that... do  
you mind coming by the club sometime?

The production scoreboard reads "48%"

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**



SANTA and RONALD are enjoying the dancers they are at a table. DOMINIQUE and BAMBI are diametrically opposite - "naughty" and "nice".

RONALD

Santa, you deserve better.

SANTA

Well, lets not take things too personally.

RONALD

Well, you are technically a manufacturer. Look at your two brothers in Detroit.

SANTA

Unemployed executives who used to run factories.

RONALD

It will be personal in the end.

SANTA

Oh, I don't have too many enemies.

RONALD

Keep you friends close, and your enemies even closer.

SANTA

Never more true than at the North Pole.

RONALD

You aren't going to let the labour unions in are you?

SANTA

I'm very concerned about the long-term viability of the Christmas operation under a union contract.

RONALD

Are we talking about what I think we are talking about?

SANTA

Well worse case scenario.

RONALD

Close Christmas!

SANTA

At best years of work stoppages and slowdowns?

SANTA

I've always tried to be kind and compassionate.

RONALD

When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat.

SANTA

That's what the dancers are here for.

The production scoreboard reads "47%"

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

SAUL enters the club and sits at the bar. CANDI notices his t-shirt - make love not toys.

CANDI

Saul, I can't believe you wouldn't rather make toys!

SAUL

What?

CANDI

It is just a joke. Your T-shirt.

SAUL

Oh, well. Yes. Sure.

CANDI

So what is the issue with you?

SAUL

The issue is jobs. You can't get away from it: jobs. Having a cookie or two in your belly and feeling like somebody.

CANDI

So this is over a few extra cookies?

SAUL

Well, that is what I want... some of the other elves was a real meal at lunch.

CANDI

Aren't 6 of Mrs. Clause's cookies for lunch a tradition? You know this is the North Pole.

SAUL

If you ever get to the place where injustice doesn't bother you, you're dead.

CANDI

Well, you are going to vote anti-Santa?

SAUL

The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labour.

CANDI

Santa isn't greedy.

SAUL

Of course. Some men rob you with a gun -- others rob you with a fountain pen.

CANDI

That is some pretty strong rhetoric. Rob? Santa is robbing you?

SAUL

Some day the elves will take possession of that office up there, and when we do, no elf will be sacrificed on the altar of a Christmas tree.

CANDI

So this is more about power?

SAUL

Power goes to two poles -- to those who've got the money and those who've got the people.

CANDI

You know trade unions striking might result in the disruption of Christmas.

SAUL

Of course, if the workers are organized, all they have to do is to put their hands in their pockets and they have got the Santa class whipped.

The production scoreboard reads "46%"

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

THOMAS enters the club and sits. His T-shirt reads, "The best Santa is the Santa that governs the least."

CANDI

Does every elf have a T-shirt?

THOMAS

Yea, isn't it great! Even the elves who would ban slogans have T-Shirts with slogans!

CANDI

Well, I'm worried.

THOMAS

I only worry about myself. I made up my mind never to be idle. I can't complain that there isn't enough time in the day, if I don't waste any.

CANDI

It is wonderful how much can be accomplished if we are always doing.

THOMAS

Nothing can stop the man (or woman) with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal. I mean look at SANTA.

CANDI

I know; he's great.

THOMAS

And then look at half of these elves, nothing on earth can help the elf with the wrong mental attitude.

Two elves start fighting on the other side of the club. Evidently the fight is not over one of the dancers but over politics. One ELF calls the OTHER a "communist" and the OTHER calls the ELF a "fascist". Hey throw beer bottles at each other and roll around on the floor, trying to punch each other. After a time, DOMINIQUE pulls them apart and takes them into the back room. DOMINIQUE pokes her head out the curtain and motions to an elf sitting at a table.

DOMINIQUE

Can you hand me my whip, please.

The elf retrieves her the whip that DOMINIQUE has left on a table. DOMINIQUE returns to the back room.

THOMAS

When people begin to want more than 6 cookies for lunch, they turn to labour unions; only when they have no other alternative do they embrace the free market.

CANDI

Well, say what you will about Vladimir but one thing he does well is make speeches.

THOMAS

Sure, lies about guaranteed lunch security are far more seductive than lectures about personal responsibility.

CANDI

You hope Santa wins the election?

THOMAS

These elves want to work, Santa wants to employ them... Mrs. Clause wants to bake cookies for them. What is your problem? It's not as if anyone has kidnapped them...

CANDI

They can leave right?

THOMAS

I imagine Santa would let them go. He is a very understanding guy. He loves freedom.

CANDI

You are free to be "naughty" or "nice". Right?

THOMAS

Exactly but the underlying arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.

CANDI

Power is more important.

THOMAS

The elves on the left believe only in helping themselves. They want to be Santa.

The production scoreboard reads "45%"

#### **INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

Ahead of the election the north pole is covered in bumper stickers. Even the reindeer receive stickers. Bathroom stalls and even the machinery in the toy factory is gummed up with stickers. Production of toys dip.

The following is a list of left wing bumper stickers that VLADIMIR, SAUL and LYNDON deploy.

- Christmas is Red!
- Hey, Santa, how many toys you make today?
- No Santa, No Master!
- Vote for Change!
- Elves are the 99%
- Elves of the Pole, Unite!
- There's No Indispensable Santa
- In Your Guts, You Know Santa's Nuts
- Yes, Christmas Can!
- Got Toys?
- From each elf according to his ability, to each elf according to his need!
- The only toy factory that enlightens us is the toy factory that burns.
- End Santa's privilege.
- All Power to the Elves!
- Revolution is in sight, now someone pour me another pint.

The following is a list of left wing bumper stickers that RONALD, THOMAS and AUGUSTO deploy.

- Santa's Good Enough for Me!
- I agree with Nick!
- Christmas is Santa's Job!
- Labor Isn't Working!
- Christmas is not a Dinner Party!
- Save the Day!
- Load the Sleigh!
- Santa Needs You!
- There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Toy!
- It's About the Toys, Stupid!
- Keep Cool and Keep Santa
- Let Well Enough Alone!
- Give 'Em Toys, Santa!
- I like Nick!
- Christmas Morning Again in America!
- Christmas We Can Believe In!
- Christmas First!
- When it absolutely, positively, has to be there BEFORE Christmas Morning.
- A Christmas is a Terrible Thing to Waste!
- A Toy is Forever!
- Make More Toys!
- It's My Christmas Too!
- So Easy an Elf can do it.
- You're in good hands with Santa.

It becomes almost a war of bumper stickers. There is only certain amount of space and soon all the space is taken. As soon as one slogan goes up. Another is ripped down. With all this activity. The toy factory runs out of printing ink and glue. The production of several toys are delayed or canceled.

**INT. SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY**

Everyone has stopped work. The factory scoreboard reads 1%. Only one elf is working.

All the elves and also Mrs. Clause are on the factory floor looking up to SANTA's office. It is deathly quiet. The curtains to the office are drawn shut.

Suddenly, RONALD, AUGUSTO, THOMAS and SANTA emerge with solemn looks on their face. When SANTA sees the entire workforce looking up at him, he smiles and waves and looks like an American President disembarking Air Force One.

The ELVES begin to chatter. And they slowly become louder as SANTA moves with the three ELVES across the factory floor. They are headed to the TV station.

All the ELVES move to various TVs. Some TVs are on the factory floor. Some are in the dormitory. There is a big screen in the North Pole club. The ELVES will be all riveted to the message.

CANDI, BAMBI and DOMINIQUE are watching the televisions in the club.

**INT. SANTA TV STATION - DAY**

SANTA enters and sits at a desk that is highly decorated in front of a green screen. When we see it on TV later there will be a decorative winter motif background.

RONALD, AUGUSTO, THOMAS and MRS. CLAUS stand behind the camera. It appears something like a historic address to the nation from the Oval Office.

BROADCAST TECHNICIAN  
Microphone test, please.



SANTA

Testing 1, 2, 3. I'm announcing effective immediately a change in the date we celebrate Christmas to the first Friday in June.

BROADCAST TECHNICIAN

Okay, that is good Santa.

The studio TECHNICIANS are running around. The director begins counting down to the broadcast. The red light on the camera comes on. The broadcast begins and the production assistant points to SANTA.

SANTA

Hello and greetings from the North Pole. You know they say that there's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child. Many of us understand this.

(pause)

So today as Santa, I have the great pleasure to announce to you today a major expansion of North Pole operations. Should the elves reject the UTW as their representatives in the election next week, I'm willing to expand the production of Christmas gifts significantly and extend toys to a limited number of adults.

(pause)

This will mean more jobs, more elves and more cookies.

(pause)

I've instructed the sign over the door to the factor to be changed. While "Christmas is for kids" has served us as a work slogan for many many years, it is time for a change.

(pause)

Per my executive order the sign will now read. "Christmas is for everyone with a childlike fascination!"

(pause)

This is how it will work. When the union bid is rejected next week we will

begin a major expansion for a limited number of adults.

(pause)

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

In another studio, the political analysts begin to rumble. TV ELF is handed a piece of paper.

TV ELF

I have just received the new rules and regulations handed down by Santa and approved by the Executive committee of Elves, the new rules reads, "Christmas will be expanded to adults with a childlike fascination." Simple and straight forward.

(pause)

And I'm joined here by two elves with diametrically opposed points of view - Vladimir and Ronald.

The TV ELF turns his guests.

TV ELF

There are arguments for and against the expansion of Christmas, but basically it boils down to jobs and cookies. Is that correct?

The TV ELF looks directly at RONALD.

RONALD

The UTW might be angry about the expansion plans but many many elves have relatives who want to hire on. They need the jobs.

TV ELF

And what about the cookies?

RONALD

The cookies are delicious!

TV ELF

Do you have a message for the elves?

RONALD

Yes. I would urge the elves still loyal  
to Christmas to continue working.

TV ELF turns to VLADIMIR.

TV ELF

Do you agree?

VLADIMIR

Of course not! The cookies are  
terrible and cheap. They are nothing  
but symbols of our oppression.

TV ELF

What about the expansion of Christmas  
to adults?

VLADIMIR

This expansion is nothing but a bribe.  
It is dirty pool before an election  
that could make the lives of the elves  
worry free.

TV ELF

Will there be an "incomplete Christmas"  
this year?

VLADIMIR

Regardless of the election, unless our  
demands are met the children can expect  
less for Christmas, perhaps NOTHING!

MRS. CLAUS returns to the kitchen to make more cookies. The  
other ELVES return to the workshop.

Super imposed on the screen are the current toy production  
figures. Slowly, as the program progresses, the production  
scoreboard returns to "35%".

**INT. SANTA RADIO STATION - DAY**

SANTA, VLADIMIR and RONALD walk across the hallway to the  
Radio station. They sit at a round table in a sound proof  
broadcast booth.

Slowly the production scoreboard returns to "55%".

**INT. NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

Thomas enters the club. DOMINIQUE in black is leaving the stage and BAMBI in red is beginning here number. THOMAS stops by the bar and CANDI hands him glass of milk. He walks to a table where SAUL is sitting.

THOMAS looks at BAMBI he looks at SAUL who isn't paying any attention.

THOMAS  
What are you doing?

SAUL  
Writing a book.

THOMAS  
I can't live without books.

SAUL  
It is about how to overturn tyranny,  
slowly with non-violence.

THOMAS  
Novel approach. And what tyrant  
inspired such an expression?

SAUL  
Santa, of course.

THOMAS  
Why do you have to be so radical?

SAUL cocks his head. That seems to have a ring to it. SAUL thinks about it. He turns to the first page of his journal and were it says "Rules for Good Little Elves"... he scratches out "Good Little Elves" and replaces it with "Radicals".

MRS. CLAUS brings some cookies into the club. She doesn't look up. She is happy and not paying attention to BAMBI.

She serves THOMAS and SAUL come cookies on a napkin.

SAUL

Cookies. I'm sick of cookies, we're ALL sick of cookies.

THOMAS

Speak for yourself.

(pause)

Hey, are you going to eat that cookie?

SAUL shakes his head and THOMAS grabs the cookie from the napkin.

SAUL

I have had cookies for lunch every day of every year for 317 years. Santa is a fine and decent man and he is good to the children, but this belief that he loves cookies is an urban legend created by the department of Communications.

THOMAS

What?

SAUL

The cookies that are laid out Christmas Eve? Santa brings all those cookies back to the Pole and that's what he gives us for lunch every ... day ... of the ... year.

THOMAS

What does Mrs. Claus do all day?

SAUL

I don't know but it's not baking!

THOMAS

These are fresh baked cookies. I'm certain.

SAUL

Oh, what do you know!

I know there is a silent majority of elves ready to vote against you. They are inherently conservative.

Conservative elves? That's a crock of crap. Right now they're nowhere. But they can and will go either of two ways in this election -- to Santa's fascism or toward our radical new change. Right now they're frozen, festering in apathy.

THOMAS

So, they won't vote.

SAUL

They will vote. They're oppressed by all this work and that music they are playing in the workshop, poisoned by Santa's cookies, terrorized by the reindeer, frightened by the new children's culture, baffled by the computerized world around them. They've worked all their lives to get their own little house in the suburbs, their color TV, their two cars, and now the good life seems to have turned to snow in their mouths.

THOMAS

They were singing "Jungle Bells" yesterday!

SAUL

See? The despair is there; now it's up to us to go in and rub raw the sores of discontent, galvanize them for radical social change.

SAUL

Come on, wouldn't you like to be the new Santa?

THOMAS

I had rather be shut up in a very modest cottage with my books, my family and a few old friends, living off a few cookies, and letting the Christmas roll on as it liked, than to occupy the Santa's splendid post.

SAUL

Well his popularity will quickly erode after December. Any visions of sugar plums dancing through children's heads on Christmas Eve may have to be put on hold.

THOMAS

What about the children?

SAUL

You only get power as a reaction to a threat.

THOMAS

You know we are both revolutionaries.

SAUL

True but you are only a revolutionary after Santa's sleigh has run over you. I'm a revolutionary and I can see the sleigh coming.

(pause)

But you are right. We are revolutionaries.

THOMAS

The spirit of resistance to Santa is valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it always to be kept alive. But you go too far.

SAUL

Santa is a fat out-sourcing capitalist pig. Most of the toys say "Made in China". The reason he is so jolly is he knows where the bad girls live!

THOMAS doesn't show any reaction, but puzzlement.

SAUL

Ridicule is an elf's most potent weapon.

THOMAS leans forward.

THOMAS

Will you look at me, and tell me  
whether you believe what you're saying?

**INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

Slowly the production scoreboard jumps to "85%".

It seems that SANTA's promise of expansion, if the ELVES reject the union, is working the factory is nearly back to normal.

There is renewed bumper stickering.

**INT. SANTA'S CLASSROOM - DAY**

SAUL is teaching a class. The lights are low and he is making a power point presentation. We see SANTA drawn in a derogatory cartoon. SAUL has a laser pointer aimed at the cartoon. Beside the cartoon is SAUL'S 13<sup>th</sup> rule.

SAUL

Pick the target, freeze it, personalize  
it, and polarize it.

SAUL pauses for questions. No elf has a question. SAUL continues.

SAUL

This means that Santa must be singled  
out as the target and "frozen." By this  
I mean that in a complex, interrelated,  
urban society, it becomes increasingly  
difficult to single out who is to blame  
for any particular evil. There is a  
constant, and somewhat legitimate,  
passing of the buck. He must be  
vilified.

(pause)

Any questions?

(pause)

Okay that is all for today. Now  
remember these 13 rules.



**INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY**

The elves have gathered in the auditorium and are about to cast their votes. The production scoreboard reads "0%".

SANTA is on stage in a chair. He looks like many a principal at a school assembly. There are six chairs beside him. MRS. CLAUS is there also and she has brought her knitting basket. It appears she is knitting little baby socks.

As the ELVES file into the auditorium, BAMBI is on stage. She is singing and the ELVES are paying attention. She is surprisingly good! Many of them have the image of her as a dancer in the back of their mind; this is a surprisingly and pleasant departure. The band is playing "Hello Dolly"

BAMBI

Hello Santa,  
Well, hello, Santa  
We'll be proud to keep you here where  
you belong  
You're lookin' swell, Santa,  
We can tell, Santa,  
You're still glowin', you're still  
growin',

BAMBI pushes her belly out and points to it as if Santa's gut.

BAMBI

You're still going strong.  
(next verse)  
We hear the band playing  
And the folks saying,  
That the elves know that you've got so  
much more  
So flash that smile, Santa,  
Show us those shiny toys, Santa  
Promise you'll lead us each and every  
holiday!  
(next verse)  
We hear the band playing  
And the folks saying  
Let's all rally 'round the one who  
knows the score!  
So, be our guide, Santa,

Mrs Claus' at your side, Santa,  
Promise you'll be here each and every  
holiday!

There is polite applause and a only few wolf calls.  
Everyone sits to hear the speeches.

The six ELVES, each with a particular point of view, enter  
the stage area. VLADIMIR, SAUL and LYNDON enter from the  
left. THOMAS, AUGUSTO and RONALD enter from the right.

Seriously, (one at a time) they approach the rostrum.

LYNDON

A man without a vote man is without  
protection. And that what you're voting  
for today. Protection.

(applause)

Christmas is a journey of a thousand  
miles and it must be taken one step at  
a time. This election is just a step.  
After this we you can look to take ever  
more pieces of the pie.

(applause)

There is no room for injustice anywhere  
in the Santa's mansion. But there is  
always room for understanding toward  
those who see the old ways crumbling.  
And to Santa and his minions, I simply  
say this: It must come. It is right  
that it should come. And when we have  
won, Santa you also will find that a  
burden has been lifted from your  
shoulders.

(applause)

Santa, of those to whom much is given,  
much is asked.

(applause)

The United Toy Workers of the North  
Pole do not lust to be the guardians of  
the elves, but there is no one else.

(applause)

And I just want to tell you this -  
we're in favour of a lot of things and  
we're against mighty few.

(applause)

There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves.

(applause)

Thank you and good luck.

LYNDON leaves and THOMAS walks to the microphone.

THOMAS

Luck? I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

(laughter)

But about this momentous question. Like a smoke detector going off in the night, this election has awakened and filled me with terror.

(applause)

The care of the elves and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of Santa.

(applause)

The glow of one warm thought is to me worth more than any cookie.

(applause)

I want to warn you this day. Experience has shown me, Santas who have been around a long while should not be changed for light and silly reasons. Actually elves are more likely to suffer in the long run when they try to change Santas. You can if you aren't careful end up doing more harm to yourselves if you vote for UTW representation.

(applause)

Do not bite at the bait of more cookies till you know there is no hook beneath it.

(applause)

I'm sick of the lies you have been told by the left. If an elf knows nothing he is closer to the truth than the elf whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors.

THOMAS leaves and SAUL takes the rostrum.

SAUL

I'm glad we are finally voting. And Thomas is the only elf "terrified" of an election.

(laughter)

If Elves don't think they have the power to solve their problems, they won't even think about how to solve them.

(slight applause)

Things haven't been smooth the last few weeks here at the North Pole. Change means movement. Movement means friction.

(applause)

But I can tell you without a vote for the UTW, last guys don't finish nice. History is a relay of revolutions. And I would encourage you to get on with ours today!

(applause)

Life is an adventure of passion, risk, danger, laughter, beauty, love; a burning curiosity to go with the action to see what it is all about, to go search for a pattern of meaning, to burn one's bridges because you're never going to go back anyway, and to live to the end.

(pointing at Santa)

Burn this bridge and be free!

An ELF loyal to VLADIMIR gets the signal to unplug the microphone. He distracts the light and sound CONTROLLER with cookies. The ELF moves to the sound and light room (control booth) but is confronted with 100s of knobs and wires and he doesn't know which one to switch or pull. He switches several controls and the various lights go off and then back on. He pulls several wires out of the wall. Nothing happens.

RONALD

Christmas is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for,

protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like when we celebrated Christmas.

(applause)

Also...

Finally the ELF in the control booth finds the control for the microphone. He turns it up full blast and there is a lot of feedback. The speakers squeal. He then turns the microphone totally off. RONALD on stage wants to continue. We see RONALD's lips moving but there isn't any sound. Other elves barge into the room and restore the volume to the microphone.

RONALD

(yelling)

Santa is paying for this microphone...!

RONALD calms down.

RONALD

And let me leave you with this before you vote. Some people wonder all their lives if they've made a difference. The Elves who are loyal to Santa don't have that problem.

Applause and Jeering!

VLADIMIR

At some level every elf is our child, every worker is our responsibility. We are going to give back to every elf what Santa has stolen.

(pause)

This man is a tyrant. All power to the Elves!

Half of the ELVES applaud. Half of the ELVES jeer. This is the most intense reaction thus far.

AUGUSTO

This is the North Pole, and all I can say is "love it or leave it"!

The other half of the ELVES applauds. This is the most intense applause.

SANTA

I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she's having her own way. And second, let her have it.

(laughter)

Mrs. Claus wants to make cookies. And I'm not going to be the one to break the news to her!

(pause and a tear)

The rhetoric. It's just too much.

Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for more cookies by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."

There is a red and white balloon drop. The song by Fleetwood Mac "Don't Stop Believing" is played loudly. The music is something like what Bill Clinton did after his stump speeches at rallies in 1992. Clinton still used this song regularly; he play it at fundraisers and speeches, he name-checked it at the 2000 Democratic National Convention and at the 2008 convention in Denver, he walked on stage to it.

The ELVES march civilly out of the auditorium on their way to go vote. The ELVES are factionalised and in the six distinct groups.

In the hallway, the ELVES (arm in arm) are marching toward the ballot box. The communist ELVES are singing the "International" The libertarians are singing "Yankee Doodle Dandy". We also hear "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Dixie". Also "Happy Days Are Here Again."

#### **INT. SANTA'S PRIVATE QUARTERS - DAY**

SANTA and MRS. CLAUS sit on a couch in front of the television. They are watching the results on the Santa Channel.

The production scoreboard is shown on the television. It reads "12%". Many of the ELVES are interested in the

election results. Other elves are not willing to work when they are uncertain about the future.

Also standing behind the couch are AUGUSTO, THOMAS and RONALD. They are anxious about the results.

TV ELF

Breaking news! The election results are in. The United Toy Workers have been narrowly rejected - 49% voting yes and 51% voting no.

SANTA and MRS. CLAUS hug each other. AUGUSTO, THOMAS and RONALD celebrate and slap high fives.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

VLADAMIS is walking in the hall and doesn't stop for the reporters. The TV camera follows him. He looks like he has an urgent appointment. He doesn't he only wants to get off camera and then pout.

VLADAMIR

In the face of widespread voter fraud and ballot tampering, politics at the Pole will only become more contentious.

**INT. ROSTRUM IN THE AUDITORIUM - DAY**

SAUL and LYNDON are sharing a rostrum. There are a few ELVES who cheer them, regardless of the loss.

LYNDON

I have just called Santa to congratulate him on his victory. His supporters and his campaign also deserve congratulations. I wish all of them well, but particularly Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves around him. This is a time of great challenges for America, and I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation.

SAUL

I want to thank Vladimir and the dedicated campaign team he led.

(Cheers, applause.)

They have made an extraordinary effort, not just for me but also for the occupation that we love. And to you here today and to the team – the volunteers, the organizers, the speakers, the voters.

(applause)

I don't believe that there's ever been an effort by elves that can compare with what you have done over these past weeks. Thank you so very much.

(applause)

We almost made it!

Of course this looks like every American concession speech after an election.

#### **INT. ROSTRUM IN THE AUDITORIUM - DAY**

ELVES who are loyal to VLADAMIR, are on a rampage. They turn over several golf carts and dump large bins of toys over. Everything spills out on the floor. They have red paint and they vandalize certain walls. The problem is that almost everything is already "red" so the damage is hardly visible.

#### **INT. TOUR OF THE FACILITY - DAY**

The next day, CANDI and SANTA tour the workshop and facility. They seem to close to achieving their goal/objective, which is normality.

Some of the damage is being repaired. But basically it is just sweeping up broken glass, etc.

This is a positive walk through the workshop. Almost every ELF is working and smiling. Many of them are singing.

The production scoreboard reads "90%".



HOWEVER, SANTA will soon find himself on the brink again. In the next series of scenes we see this normal state eroded as toy production slowly declines and the number of children listed as increase. Everything is about to fall apart - toy production will come to a halt.

**INT. PRIVATE ROOM IN NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

BAMBI comes in the room to entertain but she is dismissed, as this is a private political meeting.

VLADIMIR meets with several ELVES who are loyal to him.

VLADIMIR

The plan is to keep Santa from expanding the workshop. He promised he would but what if there aren't any nice adults.

ELF

What do you want us to do?

VLADIMIR

Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules. We will use Santa's own court to ruin his plans.

(pause)

If the rule is that "naughty" means harm, then I want every single adult in the Santa court. And I want convictions. Harm is a very hard thing for an adult to do.

(pause)

You can kill them with this because no one can possibly obey all of their own rules. And our political allies south of us have made almost everything against the rules.

(pause)

This is a serious tactic. Santa's very credibility and reputation is at stake, because if we activists catch him lying or not living up to his commitments, then we can continue to chip away and damage.

The production scoreboard reads "80%".

**INT. SANTA COURT - MORNING**

Construction and engineering ELVES are installing a second score board. The first scoreboard is for children.

They turn on the power to the new adult scoreboard and it lights up "0 nice" and "0 naughty".

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	302,080,001	23,034
ADULTS	0	0

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

The production scoreboard reads "76%".

**EXT. NORTH AMERICAN WILD - DAWN**

The hunter has a childlike fascination with toy soldiers, but kills a deer.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (SAUL)  
The man killed an animal!

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
Maybe he was hungry! And it wasn't against the rules.

PROSECUTING ELF (SAUL)  
He harmed an animal and that is naughty!

MAGISTRATE ELF  
Given the nature of the offence I'm going to recommend Santa mark this child... uh, er, adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	322,180,101	23,034

ADULTS

0

11,301

The production scoreboard reads "71%".

**INT. PRIVATE ROOM IN NORTH POLE CLUB - DAY**

AUGUSTO, RONALD and THOMAS are meeting in the private room. They aren't interrupted.

AUGUSTO

I'm beginning to see a pattern here.

RONALD

Instead of making toys. They are spending all their time in Santa court trying to keep adults from getting toys.

AUGUSTO

Seems like if you are hunter, a Christian or a dog breeder. You are a target.

THOMAS

They are trying to enforce some code of political correctness.

RONALD

We need to get in there and make equally sure their people don't get toys.

AUGUSTO

We need our own code of political correctness!

**EXT. SHOW HOME - DAY**

The animal rights activist finds homes for stray dogs, but he then steals show dogs from a breeder and exhibitor.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

The man broke into a house and stole the dogs!

DEFENSE ELF (LYNDON)

Maybe these were show dogs who needed rescue from their cruel confinement!

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

The dogs were crated only a few hours each day!

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given the offence I'm going to recommend Santa mark this adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	332,610,781	23,834
ADULTS	0	61,301

The production scoreboard reads "64%".

#### **INT. BANK - DAY**

The banker and capitalist collects coins, but issues credit cards with high interest rates.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (VLADIMIR)

The man charges 21% interest on credit cards!

DEFENSE ELF (THOMAS)

No one was forced to borrow money. Each party voluntarily entered into this contract. It isn't "naught" or "nice" it is just business!

PROSECUTING ELF (VLADIMIR)

The people who sign the contracts are harmed!

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given the offence I'm going to  
recommend Santa mark this adult  
"naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	342,510,632	24,502
ADULTS	0	171,382

The production scoreboard reads "61%".

**EXT. GHETTO DOOR STEP - DAY**

The welfare queen reads books all day she loans them to  
everyone, but she applies for and gets two government  
checks. The mailman brings two checks to her mailbox.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

The woman is getting two welfare  
checks!

DEFENSE ELF (LYNDON)

She spends one check buying books and  
then lending them out in the  
neighbourhood.

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

Your honour, the government is going  
bankrupt and this is harmful!

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given the offence I'm going to  
recommend Santa mark this adult  
"naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	345,641,689	25,622
ADULTS	0	271,382

The production scoreboard reads "53%".

**INT. THE MIDDLE EAST IN A PRISON - DAY**

A CIA interrogator has a hobby of toy trains, but he tortures a terrorist. In one room he has an elaborate train set he enjoys. In the next room is a suspected Muslim terrorist.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (VLADIMIR)  
Water boarding! Sleep deprivation. He brought spiders into the room to terrorise the kidnapped man!

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
Kidnapped! He was a legally captured on a battlefield and he is a wanted international terrorist!

PROSECUTING ELF (VLADIMIR)  
The poor man saw the spiders and cried!

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
And then he told the interrogator everything he knew about the terrorist network.

MAGISTRATE ELF  
Given the politically sensitive nature of the offence and all of these letters from people (none from New York City). I'm going to recommend Santa mark this adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	356,772,719	26,872
ADULTS	0	311,578

The production scoreboard reads "47%".

**INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY**

The Christian mom collects snow globes, but she bakes "Christmas" cookies for her child's school class, which technically is against school rules.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (SAUL)

The woman made a cookie in the shape of the baby Jesus!

Cookies are a touchy subject with the ELVES and the gallery reacts. Some in the back of the courtroom are on the left and they gasp at Jesus. The other ELVES smile and laugh at the sound of any cookie! The MAGISTRATE ELF strikes his mallet two or three times.

MAGISTRATE ELF

The court will come to order. To our guests who are observing the proceedings, you must remain silent regardless of how delicious the testimony might be.

DEFENSE ELF (AUGUSTO)

What is wrong with this? It is Christmas.

PROSECUTING ELF (SAUL)

It wasn't a "Christmas" party. It was a "winter" party and this is against the rules.

DEFENSE ELF (AUGUSTO)

Your Honour, there were 22 Christian children in the room.

PROSECUTING ELF (SAUL)

Also one Jewish child and a Muslim child. Three have atheist parents.

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given delicate controversy and the hurt feelings, I'm going to recommend Santa mark this child... uh, er, adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	356,772,719	27,258
ADULTS	0	512,631

The production scoreboard reads "41%".

**EXT. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DEL RIO AND EL PASO - DAY**

A Mexican man flies beautiful elaborate kites, but he becomes an illegal immigrant. He takes off running and the border PATROLMAN trips and bloodies his chin. Seeing the PATROLMAN down, 43 other undocumented workers spring from behind mesquites and run north.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (THOMAS)

A Mexican national your honour! Chasing him caused the border agent to trip and bust his chin open.

DEFENSE ELF (LYNDON)

He just wanted to work and provide for his family!

PROSECUTING ELF (THOMAS)

Four stitches, your honour!

DEFENSE ELF (LYNDON)

Four stitches is hardly any harm.

MAGISTRATE ELF

I realize that we are all immigrants here at the North Pole but I have to recommend to Santa based on the rule and a busted chin does hurt. I'm going to recommend Santa mark this adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	366,221,892	28,395
ADULTS	0	612,361



The production scoreboard reads "39%".

**EXT. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN MARKET STREET TO 19TH STREET - DAY**

The gay male has a doll collection and loans them out to kids in the cancer ward, but afterwards dances with excess in San Francisco's gay parade. At the hospital, he brings very nice expensive dolls who naturally become torn or soiled. He doesn't care, he repairs them and cleans them. He brings great joy to the children at the hospital.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

This display was on national television!

DEFENSE ELF (LYNDON)

Blame the media, your honour! He didn't ask to be broadcast.

PROSECUTING ELF (AUGUSTO)

Your honour, 134 million people changed channels and the television station lost advertising 3.8 million dollars in revenue!

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given the high profile nature of the offence, and I don't want to face the media backlash on this one, I'm going to recommend Santa mark this adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	376,441,691	29,431
ADULTS	0	729,613

The production scoreboard reads "36%".

**EXT. HOMELESS SHELTER FAITH CITY MISSION - DAY**

A RESTAURATEUR always donates his food to the shelter. He donates his time to serve the HOMELESS and cooks for them on various holidays. He could be at home with his family. He has some food on the stove at the end of the day... the CHEF questions if the food is good enough for human consumption. The RESTAURATEUR smells it... and brings it to the shelter. The HOMELESS throw up and become ill.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (LYNDON)  
Over \$20,000 in emergency room  
treatment, your honour!

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
You would think given his left wing  
ideology he would be defending the  
restaurateur.

PROSECUTING ELF (LYNDON)  
Ideology has nothing to do with it.

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
With that I agree. It's about power and  
the prosecution is only trying to  
embarrass Santa. Look at the  
scoreboard, your honour.

PROSECUTING ELF (LYNDON)  
Objection! The Defense attorney knows  
it is a violation of court procedure  
for you to turn around and look at the  
score.

DEFENSE ELF (RONALD)  
Your honour, this is not about any  
restaurateur, or a shelter or even  
vomit. It is about the future of  
Christmas.

MAGISTRATE ELF  
Sustained. I can't look at the score  
and I have to recommend things to Santa  
on an individual bases. Those are the  
rules.

(pause)  
Continue.

PROSECUTING ELF (LYNDON)  
I have nothing to add!

MAGISTRATE ELF  
I'm going to recommend Santa mark this  
adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	386,874,585	30,599
ADULTS	0	992,356

The production scoreboard reads "32%".

**INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF SANTA COURT - DAY**

RONALD follows LYNDON to the elevator.

RONALD  
How can you argue that? You are  
supposed to be protecting the homeless.  
No one is going to give food to a  
shelter now if they are going to be  
placed on the "naughty" list.

LYNDON  
I don't know what you mean?

LYNDON enters the elevator.

RONALD  
You just want to bring down Santa.

LYNDON  
You won't hear me crying if that  
happens.

RONALD  
The end justifies the means?

The door of the elevator begins to close.

LYNDON  
Of course!

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY**

The left wing TEACHER loves origami. Together with maps and historical looking posters, the origami fills her classroom hanging from the ceiling.

But the TEACHER has spoken all day (everyday) about how Christopher Columbus, John D. Rockefeller and "white male privilege" has ruined America.

The TEACHER then has scolded her students when they fail their statewide history exam.

When the TEACHER goes over the questions they missed. We see the STUDENTS don't know who George Washington, Charles Lindbergh, Douglas McArthur, or James Madison were. They do not know who Bill Gates or Sam Walton are.

The STUDENTS know everything about Frances Willard, Jane Addams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dolores Huerta, Sonia Sotomayor, and Oprah Winfrey. The STUDENTS can't understand why they were not tested on these "historical" individuals. They feel this is injustice and the TEACHER reinforces this.

CUT TO: Santa Court.

PROSECUTING ELF (THOMAS)

The students failed their exam!

DEFENSE ELF (SAUL)

The student's didn't study. She did what her best to teach them. They come from underrepresented communities and have been subjected to past discrimination.

PROSECUTING ELF (THOMAS)

The only discrimination they face is this instruction!

DEFENSE ELF (SAUL)

We feel that restoring the children's self esteem warrants a "nice" status. And who cares if the children know

anything about these men of "white privilege".

PROSECUTING ELF (THOMAS)

Well they don't get to advance to the next grade level without passing the test!

MAGISTRATE ELF

Given the quasi-fiduciary "test passing" duty of a teacher, I'm going to recommend Santa mark this adult "naughty".

The scoreboard registers a new "naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	396,743,151	31,599
ADULTS	0	1,292,356

The production scoreboard reads "28%".

#### **INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

There are more labour marches. Shouting, chanting, broken glass and some of the equipment is broken.

Political slogans cover everything bathroom walls, manufacturing machinery. MRS. CLAUSE herself is bumperstickered, her backside!

#### **INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

The production scoreboard reads "22%".

CANDI and SANTA reach their lowest point and seem farthest from a solution. There is a long pause and they are just sitting there... waiting.

CANDI

What are you thinking about?

SANTA

Mrs. Claus.

(pause)

This is going to kill her!

SANTA  
You ever been in love?

CANDI  
I was in love once but it turn out to  
be just underwear.

SANTA chuckles.

CANDI  
I'm thinking about moving back to New  
York. I got the results from the bar  
exam. I'm a lawyer now.

SANTA  
Oh, don't do that I need you.

CANDI  
I'm not sure I'm all that effective. I  
talk to everyone. I've tried to work a  
hundred deals. I've tried bribes.

SANTA  
Bribes?

CANDI  
Private dances. Milkshakes. Imported  
cookies. Jelly, Bacon and Caviar.  
(pause)  
They just will not budge. They want all  
the power. And as sick and perverted as  
it is they want your head.

SANTA is disturbed by the image.

CANDI  
But if you want me to stay Santa, I'll  
stay. I've stay to the bitter end.

SANTA  
Well, between you and I, I've applied  
for the job of CEO at a major toy  
company down south.

CANDI

I know.

SANTA

How? I've tried to keep that a secret.

CANDI

Vladimir told me.

SANTA

Spies!

CANDI

Either that or he made it up and it just happened to be true. He does that you know.

SANTA

Yes, this place has been a rumours mill all working against me.

CANDI

and Christmas.

SANTA

That is the sad part. I would have walked away a long time ago, but I'm afraid its not about me, what is at stake is bigger than me.

CANDI

What's next after Santa, charity, goodwill. Religion? They will always find a new target.

SANTA

But then maybe if I went away, people could focus on other, more important, things.

CANDI

Don't kid yourself. The whole thing might topple over.

(pause)

Like a Christmas tree.

SANTA contemplates.

SANTA

Being SANTA isn't a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself...

CANDI

...you can always write a book.

CANDI takes a piece of paper off SANTA's desk.

CANDI

I'm going write the name of three elves on this piece of paper and recommend you fire them.

CANDI writes and hand it back to him.

SANTA

No, no ELF has ever been fired. How can I ask for total loyalty and not be totally loyal to them. And besides where would they go?

CANDI

I understand. You have built a great enterprise with them. It is hard to let them go.

There is a long thoughtful pause.

CANDI

You make the final cut of candidates for CEO?

SANTA

Even made salary concessions!

SANTA is very downcast. CANDI is also but she looks up.

CANDI

Don't give up. You've faced adversity before. Get all your people in here. We will brain storm this...

SANTA

Again?



CANDI

Yes. Again. And over again, until we  
get this solved. You are Santa!

CANDI leaves... she looks ready to fight!

**INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

RONALD and SAUL organize groups of ELVES to rampage and  
tear down the opposing signs. There is so much negative  
political activity, most of the pro-Santa ELVES are not  
producing toys.

The production scoreboard reads "19%".

**INT. SANTA'S OFFICE - DAY**

The smaller scoreboard in Santa's Office registers a new  
"naughty" adult.

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	401,439,151	32,991
ADULTS	0	11,795,468

The MAGISTRATE ELF is in the office. He is in a chair.

MAGISTRATE ELF

It's the lawyers. They have gone crazy  
with all the technicalities.

SANTA is thinking. He is looking at charts and graphs of  
children and adults, naughty and nice. RONALD, THOMAS and  
AUGUSTO are also in the office standing at the side. The  
mood is solemn.

SANTA

No. You are doing the right thing.

MAGISTRATE ELF

It's just that when confronted with the  
rules and regulations (rules written  
for children), I have to rule against  
almost every adult accused of being  
bad.

THOMAS

Also because of the political unrest.

AUGUSTO

And the new threat of a coup d'état.

RONALD

Santa you almost always rule in favour of the plaintiff anyway.

CANDI

The end result of all this is a hyper litigious society where no adult can ever qualify for Santa's "good" list.

AUGUSTO

They are trying to make you out a liar. You promised expansion. Without a demand for toys for adults that isn't going to be easy.

BAMBI

I have some adult toys that I will donate.

Everyone in the room chuckles..

SANTA

That is okay Bambi. I know your heart is in the right place.

THOMAS

She has a point. We need to get some adults on the "nice" list

AUGUSTO

That is easier said than done. You are going to find some "nice" adults? Where?

RONALD

Well given we might not have enough toys for the kids, much less adults it is just as well that we don't expand.

AUGUSTO

And make Santa a liar?

RONALD

It might be safer to just get the children their toys.

CANDI

If we don't get production up, there won't even be a Christmas.

SANTA

Thank you for all of your help.

THOMAS

(to Santa)

We have encountered obstacle after obstacle that prevents you from achieving peace at the pole.

RONALD

"Peace at the Pole" was the agreed upon slogan to fight all the other slogans.

AUGUSTO

It's not working!

DOMINIQUE

We need to crackdown on these kids. You are way to soft on these children. What they need is a little discipline!

The ELVES chuckle. Even SANTA smiles.

THOMAS

If there is a slowdown and the possibility of an incomplete Christmas, that might be smart.

RONALD

Research suggests that "nice" kids are at an all-time high.

THOMAS

Demand for toys will be high as a result.

AUGUSTO

Santa, carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you. Put them on the defensive and don't ever apologize for anything.

DOMINIQUE

Make them cry!

AUGUSTO

They have done nothing but threaten this and that. Don't you think we should threaten them back?

SANTA

Fight fire with fire?

(pause)

That is tempting but remember that Fire Departments usually uses water.

There is a very long pause. Everyone looks to SANTA for leadership. CANDI breaks the silence.

CANDI

We love you Santa.

All the ELVES enthusiastically agree and BAMBI smiles. Even DOMINIQUE has a tear in her eye.

SANTA

I guess it is time for me to lay it all on the line. Call an assembly.

The meeting breaks up!

**INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

The production scoreboard reads "16%".

The Elves arm themselves. AUGUSTO arms the right and Elf VLADIMIR arms the left. Harmless guns that fire rubber darts, but still they hurt!

The ELVES are seen taking the orange safety strips off their guns.

**INT. HALLWAYS - DAY**

SANTA and his trusted advisors and helpers walk through the halls at a deliberate speed. It is something like an American President moving through the hotel hallways or a hotel kitchen. Everyone looks a little nervous about security.

SANTA highly stressed as he contemplates canceling Christmas for adults. Apparently, no adult qualifies.

The production scoreboard reads "9%". As ELVES leave their work and begin to fill the auditorium.

SANTA appears near a mental and emotional breakdown. Santa begins to show signs of a breakdown and makes mistakes. On his way to the auditorium, SANTA makes a wrong turn and has to be corrected. SANTA reaches a door with a key pad security lock; he tries a number combination, but it doesn't open. He can't remember.

Some ELVES worry about SANTA, perhaps he has "old-timers" disease. Other ELVES are engaged in phone calls; they look like political operatives - planning, persuading, arranging.

They must go a different way, into the auditorium through the front. SANTA and his party work their way through the audience. The ELVES stop chattering.

It is something like Julius Caesar walking into the Senate that particular day in March.

Some ELVES already look guilty. Some are frozen by the sight of SANTA. Some drop their cookies on the carpet. A few.

The production scoreboard reads "6%".

Someone sticks a television camera in SANTA's face.

TV ELF

What do you have anything to say to  
your detractors!

SANTA

Well, I've noticed that everyone who is  
against Santa is already grown.

SANTA continues to walk. TV ELF stops and is puzzled.

RADIO ELF

Rumour is that you are going to resign  
is that true?

SANTA

No comment.

SANTA continues to walk.

SANTA

(to Candi)

I started that guy in radio.

(pause)

You want a friend at the North Pole?  
Get a reindeer.

SANTA is about to enter the auditorium. There is a factory wide meeting. This is a point of maximum tension and the political forces in opposition confront each other at a peak of physical or emotional action.

The "PRODUCTION" scoreboard in the auditorium reads "1%". Some elf is boycotting the speeches and continues to work! Who?

#### **INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY**

SANTA arrives at the auditorium and walks down the aisle. There is the same polar reaction. Many ELVES become nervous; some become excited.

Everyone is looking at each other (and SANTA) for some sign which side will win. It is Moscow in August of 1991. Washington D.C. in August 1974. Havana in April of 1961.

Things look very polarized. Either the ELVES love SANTA or hate him.

CUT TO: Workshop

There is a solitary happy ELF he is singing the painting the eyes and wings on rubber ducks.

BACK TO: Auditorium

SAUL stands up on a chair and uses a megaphone to say...

SAUL

I hear you, the rest of the factory can hear you and when there are no toys the children of the world will hear all of us!

AUGUSTO does the same on the other side of the aisle.

AUGUSTO

The North Pole was not built on fear. This place was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand and that is to make toys!

When SANTA approaches the stage. The agitators on both sides sit down.

SANTA begins his address. SANTA TV and RADIO carry the address live.

VLADIMIR loads a dart in his toy pistol and as SANTA starts to speak he begins sneaking up through the crowd. He is stalking SANTA with the goal of shooting him with the dart gun.

Also, AUGUSTO loads a dart in his toy pistol and begins sneaking up through the crowd. AUGUSTO is stalking VLADIMIR, who is he going to show with his dart gun.

SANTA

This is the 370th time I have spoken to you from this stage, where so many decisions have been announced that shaped the history of Christmas. Each time I have done so to discuss with you some matter that I believe affected the Christmas spirit.

(pause)

In all the decisions I have made in my life as Santa, I have always tried to do what was best for the holiday. Throughout the long and difficult period of our labour negotiations, I

have felt it was my duty to persevere,  
to make every possible effort to  
complete Christmas - to make and  
deliver the toys.

(pause)

In the past few days, however, it has  
become evident to me that I no longer  
have...

The production scoreboard reads "3%".

CUT TO: Workshop

A pretty FEMALE ELF joins the singing happy ELF. They make  
eyes at each other. And a second FEMALE ELF, equally pretty  
joins them. They seem to be politely vying for his  
affection.

BACK TO: Auditorium

Clearly VLADIMIR and AUGUSTO, are not listening to the  
speech. Santa is about to resign. At this point there isn't  
much point in rubber darts and violence. But they seem to  
have their heart set on this ending.

Just as SANTA reaches this point, VLADIMIR and AUGUSTO line  
their dart gun up on the targets. Someone yells...

ELF

Gun!

VLADIMIR turns to look. He sees AUGUSTO aiming at him.  
VLADIMIR fires. AUGUSTO ALSO fires his gun and the dart  
sticks to VLADIMIR forehead. AUGUSTO is also hit in the  
forehead with a rubber dart. They seem knocked silly for a  
moment.

Every ELF pulls a weapon. THOMAS's followers pull dart guns  
that look like muzzle loaders. RONALD's followers pull AR-  
15 dart guns. SAUL and LYNDON's ELVES pull AK-47s that fire  
darts.

The side doors fly open and some ELVES wheel in a Gatlin  
gun and they begin spraying the crowd with darts.  
Helicopter radio controlled drones hover over the crowd  
firing darts from above.



Darts fly everywhere and then suddenly they stop. There is a tomblike silence. Many elves have darts sticking to various body parts.

It is carnage wrought with rubber darts.

The production scoreboard reads "6%". No one notices.

SANTA has been shot. How shot him we don't know, but the has a dart sticking to his forehead. He stands perfectly still. Frozen. MRS. CLAUS rushes to him and pulls the dart from his head. The "pop" that is made when the suction is broken is deafening in the silent auditorium. The ELVES are all traumatized.

Only VLADIMIR seems satisfied.

SANTA, something of a zombie, is assisted by MRS CLAUSE and he walks to his chair on stage.

It appear that is a pause in the political infighting. Nothing is said and no one in the audience moves.

Tender BAMBI is fighting mad; she has the look of a professional fighter warming up before the fight. Tough DOMINIQUE is crying; she is sobbing uncontrollably.

CANDI slowly moves to take the rostrum. She removes the microphone and moves to the front of the stage.

The production scoreboard reads "9%". No one seems to notice.

Candi asks...

CANDI

Who will deliver the toys?

It is silent. The entire population is still in shock.

CANDI

What have you little people been doing here? You have over toppled the world's greatest cultural icon to replace him with what?

(pause)

What kind of little person does that!

(pause)  
Shame on you!

CANDI approaches VLADIMIR and his comrades (on the far left) and the spot light follows her.

CANDI  
Vladimir, can you handle the reindeer?  
When you were little (excuse the pun)  
didn't one kick you in the head?

VLADIMIR reluctantly nods, "yes".

CANDI  
You know, I think that might be an  
important fact here!

The production scoreboard reads "12%".

CANDI moves over to address AUGUSTO and his reactionary rat pack (far right).

CANDI  
Augusto? Can you fly 1,800 miles per  
second, and not burn up in the  
atmosphere?

AUGUSTO reluctantly shakes his head, "no".

CANDI  
You are so burnt up with hate, will  
anyone even recognize you as the new  
Santa?

The production scoreboard reads "14%".

CANDI approaches SAUL'S socialist scourings (on the left).

CANDI  
Saul, Do you speak Spanish!

SAUL reluctantly shakes his head, "no".

CANDI  
Or Swahili or Scottish Gaelic, Serbian  
Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Swedish!

SAUL raised his head, his aspirations are clear. He nods and raises his hand signaling that "yes, he does speak Swedish".

CANDI approaches RONALD'S conservative crowd (on the right).

CANDI

Ronald, what about the time when a supremely messed up butcher lured three little kids into his shop, killed them, and then tried to sell their meat as ham? Santa, who happened to be wandering by, immediately saw *that was not ham*, and resurrected the three children? And this started the vegetarian movement!

(pause)

Isn't it true that the only movement you started was Bambi?

RONALD nods as if to say "you have a good point".

The production scoreboard reads "17%".

CANDI looks at the back to address THOMAS'S libertarian Lemmings.

CANDI

Thomas, who will bake the cookies! As the North Pole's most notorious and committed bachelor, please tell us!

THOMAS is motionless.

CANDI

Do you think Mrs. Claus will be willing to stay on and help us out after today?

MRS. CLAUS is massaging SANTA's neck trying to revive him. He still looks a bit spaced out.

The production scoreboard reads "20%". How can this be possible when everyone is in the auditorium?

CANDI approaches LYNDON'S progressive probates (left of center).

CANDI

Lyndon, Do you know anyone at Coca-Cola corporation!

LYNDON reluctantly shakes his head, "no".

CANDI

The only reason Santa wears red and white is because of the agreement with the Coca-Cola company. Before to 1931, Santa dressed in any color he liked - blue, green, brown, mauve, whatever.

(pause)

What are you going to wear? And how are you going to make up for the lost revenue?

(pause)

You think you can renegotiate things? I sort of doubt it, because when they get a hold of what has happened here today, they won't want anything to do with you! Or anybody up here!

The production scoreboard reads "25%".

CANDI returns to the center of the stage to address the entire body of ELVES.

CANDI

Now what are you going to do? Your selfish ideological pie in the sky has pretty much doomed this years Christmas gifts and might be the end of all toys forever.

(pause)

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. It is a time to cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy.

(pause)

And you have turned it into a civil war between groups that want nothing but their own way.

The production scoreboard reads "29%". Several ELVES notice and point up. Some chatter.

CANDI

Didn't anyone ever tell you that the only a life worth living is the life lived for others?

(pause)

You've heard of mental depression; this is a mental recession. We've sort of become a toy factor of whiners... You just hear this constant whining, complaining... We've never had more natural advantages than we have today... Look at the innovative high tech machinery that makes your job safer and easier. But still you complain.

The production scoreboard reads "33%". More ELVES notice and point up to the scoreboard. There is a great deal of chatter.

CANDI

Listen here is the bottom line. It is not cookies or power; but a productive job which give you...

CANDI glances at the scoreboard which now reads 37%. Candy is dumbfounded. She looks at the full auditorium. She looks at SANTA, who shrugs his shoulders. She is puzzled. The ELVES in the audience begin to chatter and speculate.

CANDI leaves the stage and walks calmly down the aisle toward the workshop. The other ELVES peacefully follow her. SANTA even has recovered and is the last in line moving to the factory.

#### **INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

The FEMALE ELVES have left the kitchen and are working in the factory. Having less interesting in politics and more general sense, the FEMALE ELVES have stayed well out of the conflict.

The MALE ELVES are in dismay. Slowly the MALE ELVES find their favorite FEMALE ELF and they all begin to work together in the workshop.

SANTA arrives just as the scoreboard spikes up to 120%. He smiles at MRS CLAUS and at CANDI.

Everyone joins in and even VLADIMIR is boxing porcelain plates without breaking them. He helps a rather "soviet" looking FEMALE ELF who has been boxing the plates. He isn't smiling but he isn't throwing them either.

Several MALE ELVES notice the cookie trays are empty. Evidently they are becoming hungry. They leave their work stations to go the kitchen.

**INT. MRS. CLAUS' KITCHEN - DAY**

The MALE ELVES try their hand at baking. Several batches of cookies are produced but not without incident. A few batches are burned. Several FEMALE ELVES return to the kitchen to help supervise. Soon MALE and FEMALE teams of ELVES are delivering cookies to the workers.

The KITCHEN is integrated MALE and FEMALE and also the workshop.

**INT. SANTA COURT - DAY**

We see proceedings and we see the naughty and nice scoreboard. Now it reads...

	NICE	NAUGHTY
CHILDREN	489,020,229	31,009
ADULTS	782,929,256	108,039

Evidently a good portion of the world's population doesn't believe in SANTA CLAUS.

There is a brief period of calm at the end of a film, there is music and a montage where a state of Christmas equilibrium returns.

The Elves, having seen the brink of a ruined Christmas, and work diligently to be finished by Christmas Eve.

FADE TO END CREDITS...