

EVE'S CHRISTMAS  
A PLAY IN THREE ACTS

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## CHARACTERS

Eve.....	A woman in her early thirties
Mindy.....	Her daughter, 11 years old
Jenny.....	Her second daughter, 6 years old
Paul.....	Eve's husband. Also in his early thirties
Santa Claus (James).....	A man in his early thirties
Officer Mary.....	A female police officer in her thirties
911.....	A voice on the phone

EVE'S CHRISTMAS

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE

A small apartment. Eve, a pretty woman in her early thirties is getting ready for Christmas. She was once beautiful, now she looks considerably beaten down by life. She wears a white blouse and a fifties style, red malt-shop skirt. She's nearly four months pregnant. Dancing happily in front of her are her two daughters, Jenny, (6), and Mindy, (11).

EVE

Okay, one more time, then bed. Kay?

MINDY AND JENNY

Kay.

EVE

We'rrrrrrrrrrrrrrreeeee...

(They sing and dance)

MINDY, JENNY AND EVE

Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Christmas, Christmas Cheeeeeer...

EVE

Okay, kiss then bed.

JENNY

When's Santa coming?

EVE

When you're asleep. You know that.

MINDY

If Santa hasn't come yet, what's  
with all the gifts in the closet?

EVE

Smart aleck.

JENNY

Has he come already?

EVE

I love you two. My mighty Mindy  
Mouse and Jen-Jen. Now go to bed.

She kisses them.

JENNY

Love you mommy.

MINDY

Night mom.

They run off. Eve takes a deep breath, runs off and comes back with a huge arm full of gifts and arranges them under the tree. Then she runs around getting everything as perfect as she can. She stirs gravy on the stove, checks the oven, lights candles on the table, uncorks a bottle of wine, gathers up a stack of Christmas Cards with colorful children's drawings on them and tapes them up on the walls.

MINDY AND JENNY (O.S.)

Jingle bells. Jingle bells.

EVE

Stop bouncing on the bed and go to sleep or Santa won't come.

MINDY AND JENNY (O.S.)

Kay mom.

Eve goes back to taping up cards. Paul Cochran, also in his early thirties, tall, muscular, once a talented athlete now showing a pot belly, a bad slouch, and the wear and tear of working a hard labor job, enters. He is covered with snow. He takes off his shoes and coat and brushes off the snow. He has the mail. Eve is taping the cards onto the wall.

PAUL

What are you doing?

EVE

Putting up the girl's Christmas cards.

PAUL

Make sure that crap doesn't pull the paint off. Last thing I need is to hav'ta pay for a paint job.

EVE

It's just scotch tape.

PAUL

(sarcastically)  
Yeah. Right. You got it all under control, doncha?

EVE

Hi Paul!

She runs over and kisses him on the cheek. He puts the mail down on the kitchen table where he sees the wine.

PAUL

What's this? We starting a book club?

EVE

I thought we'd have wine with dinner tonight.

PAUL

Get me a beer.

She gets a beer from the refrigerator and brings it to him. He opens it and takes a long drag.

EVE

Long day?

PAUL

What do you think?

EVE

Well, you have tomorrow off.

Paul opens mail.

EVE (CONT'D)

The girls are so excited. You should've seen em. Bouncing up and down. Running around singing carols. They are beside themselves.

PAUL

Why weren't they in school?

EVE

(mystified)

Huh?... I got the girls to bed early so we can have some us time. I doubt they'll sleep much. They're over-flowing with Christmas Cheer - we made a song out of it.

(sings)

Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Christmas cheer -

PAUL

Knock it off.

She stops singing and walks over to the window and looks out.

EVE

We were watching out the window for Santa Claus. Remember doing that when you were a kid?

PAUL

No.

EVE

The snow is really coming down.

PAUL

I noticed when I was driving in it.

EVE

Not lotsa cars out there now.

He finishes the beer and starts opening the mail.

EVE (CONT'D)

When I was little I used to think the night before Christmas was named after me. You know, Eve. Like it was Eve's Christmas. Christmas Eve, get it?

She looks at him. He's reading the mail ignoring her.

EVE (CONT'D)

It was mine. My night. Every year. It was special. Better than my birthday...Snow and the promise of tomorrow... You wanna another beer?

PAUL

*Yeah, that would be nice.*

She gets him a beer.

EVE

Here you go.

She kisses him on the cheek.

EVE (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas Eve. Or should I say, merry Eve's Christmas.

She laughs.

EVE (CONT'D)

Gonna be hard for them to sleep tonight.

(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)

Last I peeked in they were jumping  
up and down on the bed singing  
jingle bells.

PAUL

They bust that bed I'm not buying  
another one. They can sleep on the  
floor.

EVE

Fine. You tell them.

PAUL

**GIRLS YOU BUST THAT BED YOU OWN IT!**

MINDY AND JENNY (O.S.)

Hi Daddy! Merry Christmas!

PAUL

**GO TO SLEEP!**

MINDY AND JENNY (O.S.)

Yes Daddy.

There's silence. Eve stares at Paul.

EVE

You hungry?

PAUL

No.

EVE

I made Turkey and mashed with  
gravy. The girls ate. I'm reheating  
it for us. It'll just be a minute.

PAUL

I said I wasn't hungry.

EVE

Oh. Okay...

She runs to the Christmas tree.

EVE (CONT'D)

Look what the girls did. We made  
chains from construction paper, we  
cut all these decorations, strung  
popcorn. We've been working on it  
all day. What do you think?

PAUL

How much all that cost?

EVE

Nothing.

PAUL

Nothing?

EVE

They're scraps I collected from the trash at work. *And so what if they aren't.* Some construction paper and glue gonna bust your beer budget?

He opens another letter. She takes the turkey from the oven.

EVE (CONT'D)

The turkey's ready. Let's have some. It'll make you feel better.

PAUL

I said no!

EVE

Okay, I guess we can eat it tomorrow.

PAUL

They had a big spread at the plant.

EVE

Was there a Christmas bonus?

PAUL

*NO! JUST THE PARTY! NO BONUSES!  
JUST PARTY! GOT IT!*

EVE

*Oh. Okay.*

PAUL

You already spent it didn't you?

EVE

I know how much you were looking forward to the Christmas bonus.

PAUL

So we didn't get one this year.  
*That all right with you?*

Paul finishes reading a letter. He folds the letter and stares into space, his face filled with rage. There's the noise of girls laughing in the other room.

PAUL (CONT'D)

**JENNY! MINDY! KNOCK IT OFF OR ELSE!**

GIRLS (O.S.)

Yes daddy.

He points to the packages under the tree.

PAUL

What's all that?

EVE

What?

PAUL

Under the tree?

EVE

Presents.

PAUL

Really?

EVE

Most of them are for you. The girls made them themselves. You should've seen them working on them. Giggling away the whole time saying, daddy's gonna love this. The rest are from my parents.

PAUL

Your parents?

EVE

Yeah. My parents. For their grandchildren.

PAUL

I said, we don't take squat from them.

EVE

They have the right to buy presents for their granddaughters. They love them too you know.

PAUL

Yeah.

EVE

Don't worry, there's nothing there for you.

He goes over to the tree.

PAUL  
Which ones are from them?

EVE  
I don't remember.

He lifts his foot. She gasps.

PAUL  
This one?

EVE  
No.

PAUL  
Liar.

He stomps on it, crushing it.

EVE  
What is the matter with you?

PAUL  
This one?

EVE  
I'm not telling you!

He stomps another one.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Quit it!

Mindy comes out of the bedroom.

MINDY  
*Mom?*

EVE  
Go back to bed honey.

MINDY  
What's going on?

PAUL  
**GO TO BED NOW!**

MINDY  
Yes daddy.

She runs away.

PAUL

See. They listen to me.

EVE

You terrify them.

PAUL

You spoil them.

EVE

You gonna rip up their cards now too?

PAUL

I got a nice Christmas card filled with holiday cheer, here, read.

He hands her the letter.

EVE

What is this?

PAUL

A letter. *What's it look like?* Go ahead, read it. Merry Christmas.

EVE

Just tell me what it says.

PAUL

It's from Mike's dad.

EVE

Crowley?

PAUL

Yeah. Tha's what I said didn't I, Mike's dad.

EVE

Oh no! You've been fired!

PAUL

I haven't been fired, you idiot! He ain't gonna fire me. I'm the best man on the floor. No, he wants us to start payin' rent.

EVE

What?

PAUL

That's right! Merry Christmas!

EVE

Rent? Why?

PAUL

Causa you.

EVE

Causa me?

PAUL

Yeah, you and your little trip  
Grace.

EVE

My trip?

PAUL

Your fall. Your accident. Your trip  
to the hospital.

EVE

That was weeks ago? Why now? And  
what's it got to do with him?

PAUL

Well-

EVE

We're the caretakers. We take care  
of the place for free rent. That's  
the deal. He can't charge us.

PAUL

Done?

EVE

I don't get it, what's my accident  
got to do with rent?

PAUL

Stop talking and I'll tell you!

EVE

No need to be rude.

She stands silent waiting.

EVE (CONT'D)

So, tell me.

PAUL

Your parents are suing him.

EVE

What?

PAUL

Your parents are suing him.

EVE

My parents? Suing?

PAUL

Your hearing okay or should I say it again? Your parents, daddy Laddy and granny Jen-Jen are suing Crowley for negligence.

EVE

Negligence. But that wasn't Crowley that was-

She looks at him and realizes what it means.

PAUL

That's right.

EVE

Can they do that? How can they do that? What's it got to do with my fall? I'm covered.

PAUL

Insurance companies never cover everything you idiot. They obviously hit them up for the deductible so they're suing Crowley for the difference. Six thousand dollars.

EVE

Six thousand dollars!

PAUL

I told you not to let them cover you and the girls, didn't I? I knew this would happen.

EVE

Six thousand dollars!

PAUL

Yeah... and now that I think of it... its probably why we didn't get our Christmas Bonuses this year. I can't wait till everyone finds out.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

Mike can't keep his big trap shut. They're gonna kill me. He might as well've fired me.

EVE

Six thousand dollars!

PAUL

You see what's going on here? Your parents cover you and the girls.

EVE

It's a better policy and saves us a lotta money.

PAUL

You go tits up and then they sue Crowley just to screw me over. They been waiting years for this, any excuse just to stick the knife in.

EVE

Six thousand dollars?

PAUL

Six thousand and Crowley's gonna make us pay. He can easily get eight a month for this place.

EVE

Eight hundred!

She laughs.

PAUL

What's so funny?

EVE

Eight hundred? For this?

PAUL

Yeah. Easy eight.

EVE

Is that what the letter says?

PAUL

Read it.

He waves it at her.

EVE

I can't read, Paul.

PAUL

What are you talking about? Since when?

EVE

Since the fall. I can't read. It gives me a terrible headache. I think I need to see an eye doctor.

PAUL

What else do I need to pay for?

EVE

What does the letter say? Is he asking eight hundred? Maybe we can negotiate.

PAUL

You negotiate. He wants eight.

EVE

Did he say that?

PAUL

Said he's gonna start charging in January.

EVE

So negotiate.

PAUL

He gets least eight hundred for every apartment in this place. Why would he charge us less?

EVE

It's half the size of the other apartments and we're in the basement. These are the servants quarters. We've got a useless dumbwaiter the girls like to crawl into for hide and seek and a staircase that goes nowhere. And... a boiler room full of rats. Eight hundred! For this dump. No way.

PAUL

I'm telling yah, eight a month.

EVE

Talk to him about it.

PAUL

Why don't you talk to your parents,  
tell them drop the suit. After all  
I didn't tell you to spaz out.

EVE

SPAZ OUT! Those steps were solid  
black ice.

PAUL

So stay off 'em.

EVE

Clean the steps. That's all you had  
to do.

PAUL

It was a snow day. I didn't think  
you'd be stupid enough to go out  
the front door. Everyone else goes  
out the back.

EVE

Everyone else has a car. We hav'ta  
walk and we needed food.

PAUL

Everything was closed.

EVE

Quick Stop's never closed. We  
hadn't been shopping in days. I  
took the girls, we went and looked,  
there was no snow on the top steps.

PAUL

Snow never lands on the top steps.  
The roof hangs over them, but the  
gutter leaks onto the steps. How  
long we been living here you don't  
know that.

EVE

When'd the gutter start leaking?  
Last spring as I recall. Another  
job you didn't fix.

PAUL

And who told you to take an  
ambulance to the hospital?

EVE

I was unconscious.

PAUL

Ooooo! Look at me I'm riding to the hospital in style like the Queen of England.

EVE

How was I supposed to get there?

PAUL

You got any idea how much EMT service costs?

EVE

I was lucky Mrs. Driscoll saw me at the bottom of the stairs, blood pouring outa my head. Jen screaming. Mindy holding my head. Mrs. Driscoll called the ambulance. Thank God. Twelve stitches.

PAUL

I know. I'm paying for 'em.

EVE

Good.

PAUL

Good?

EVE

Yeah. Good. About time. I been paying for your moronic mishaps forever. Now it's your turn.

PAUL

Is that right?

EVE

Yeah, that's right.

PAUL

How you figure that?

EVE

The coaches warned you?

PAUL

This again?

EVE

Told you to lay low, get a few  
plays in, don't test 'em, they'll  
kill you, but you had to prove  
yourself, the Pick, Mr. Superstar.  
Shredded your knees first day out.

PAUL

It was a low shot.

EVE

Season one on the DL, two  
operations later you lost the  
scholarship and we had to come  
home. And you know what? I liked it  
there.

PAUL

Blah, blah, blah.

EVE

I was gonna go into Psychology,  
have a career. But no, you had to  
prove yourself.

PAUL

Yeah, well, I'm not the clumsy  
bitch thinks she's an airline  
stewardess. Wee! Look at me girls,  
I'm flying. Coffee, tea or me.

EVE

Yah, I fell. Cracked my skull open.  
Bled all over the place. Still  
can't see right.

PAUL

You never saw right.

EVE

You're right about that. I never  
saw you for what you are.

PAUL

Oh really? And what am I?

EVE

I fell cause some lazy ass couldn't  
do his job.

PAUL

That the best you got? Lazy Ass.

EVE

Ten minutes it would've taken to salt down the stairs. But you're too busy getting plowed with your buds every night.

PAUL

WHAT AM I? COME ON! I WANNA HEAR IT!

EVE

Everyday dragging your hung-over ass into work late. "Here I am boys, The Pick is in the house!"

PAUL

COME ON. SAY IT. I DARE YOU.

EVE

Yeah. You wanna hear it?

PAUL

You have the balls to say it. SO YEAH! SAY IT!

She acts it out.

EVE

**AND THE MUSTANGS HAVE THE BALL. BIG QB MIKEY CROWLEY TAKES THE SNAP. PAUL THE ICEPICK COCHRAN DASHES DOWN THE SIDELINE. HE'S GOT MAJOR SEPARATION AND HE'S GOING LONG, LONG, SPRINTING DOWN THE FIELD. MIKEY LOFTS THE BALL, THIRTY, FORTY, FIFTY YARDS AND THE PICK HAS IT IN HIS MITTS AND! OH NO! HE JUGGLES IT. TRIES TO HOLD ON TO IT, BUT NO! HE'S JUST DROPPED WHAT WAS A CERTAIN TOUCHDOWN. HE JUST COULDN'T HANDLE IT. A PERFECT PASS RIGHT IN HIS HANDS AND HE FUMBLES IT. WHAT A LOSER. THE PICK IS A LOSER! A MASSIVE, UNRELENTING LIFELONG LOSER. A BIG, MASSIVE LOSER! A BIGGER LOSER I HAVE NEVER SEEN. LOSER! YOU'RE A LOSER. I MARRIED A LOSING LOSER. SO YOU'RE RIGHT IT IS MY FAULT - YOUR KNEES - MY STITCHES. THE HOSPITAL BILLS. ALL MY FAULT CAUSE I MARRIED A HUGE LOSING LOSER IDIOT. LOSER!!!**

He lunges towards her, she screams.

BLACK OUT

## ACT ONE, SCENE TWO

PAUL IS IN THE LOUNGE CHAIR SNORING, A BEER IN HAND. EVE'S AT THE KITCHEN SINK WITH A BOTTLE OF BOURBON. SHE TAKES A BIG SLUG OF BOURBON, SWISHES IT AROUND HER MOUTH, MOANS AND SPITS IT OUT. SHE TAKES ANOTHER HUGE SLUG AND DRINKS IT THIS TIME. SHE PICKS UP A WASH CLOTH AND WASHES BLOOD OFF HER FACE. SHE RINSES HER FACE IN THE SINK, THEN SHE STAGGERS OVER TO THE KITCHEN TABLE AND PLOPS DOWN INTO A CHAIR. SHE HAS A SWOLLEN LIP, A BLACK EYE, BRUISES. SHE HOLDS A BAG OF ICE UP TO HER EYE AS SHE TOUCHES THE TOP OF HER HEAD. SHE IS BLEEDING THERE TO. MINDY COMES OUT OF HER ROOM FULLY DRESSED, COAT ON. SHE TAKES HER MOTHER BY THE HAND.

MINDY

Mom.

EVE

Hon? What're you doing up? Santa won't come if you're not asleep. I know. We didn't put out the cookies and milk. Let's do it now.

MINDY

Come on. Let's go.

EVE

Go?

MINDY

Gramp's and Nana's house. Come on.

EVE

You're so beautiful, honey. Give me a hug.

Mindy hugs her mother tight and tries to pull her to her feet. She can't do it.

EVE (CONT'D)

Why're you dressed?

MINDY

We gotta go. Nanna and grandpa's house.

EVE

They're outa town for the holidays dear. Michigan. Remember?

MINDY

Anywhere then. C'mon, le's go.

EVE

I got my licks in. You'd be proud  
of me Mighty Mindy Mouse. I kicked  
him in the knee. Brought tears to  
his eyes. Just made him madder.  
POW!

MINDY

Mom, we gotta go.

EVE

I saw fireworks.

MINDY

C'mon Mom, it's Christmas Eve,  
let's you, me and Jenny go find  
Santa Claus.

EVE

You need to go to bed for Santa to  
come.

MINDY

He won't come here.

EVE

No? Why?

MINDY

Daddy smashed all the presents.

Eve looks at the presents.

EVE

You think Santa minds?

MINDY

He's afraid of daddy.

EVE

Really? You think? Nah. Not Santa.  
Santa's a superhero.

MINDY

Santa wants us to go. Daddy smashed  
all the presents so Santa's gonna  
bring us new presents somewhere  
else. C'mon. We gotta go somewhere  
else for Santa to find us.

Mindy takes her mother's hands and pulls her to her feet.

EVE

See this dear.

She points to her cheek.

EVE (CONT'D)  
His school ring. POW! Fireworks.

She leans down.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Do I need stitches?

Mindy looks carefully.

MINDY  
No.

EVE  
(sings)  
Did you know that knuckles taste  
like stars? Who'da thunk. Don't  
argue with a drunk.

MINDY  
Mom, we gotta go.

She runs off and comes back with Jenny asleep in her arms.  
She sets her in a chair.

MINDY (CONT'D)  
Jenny, you, me, we gotta go, before  
he wakes up.

EVE  
POW! WOW! STARS AND METAL!

Paul stirs slightly.

MINDY  
Time to go.

EVE  
To Lizzy's house.

MINDY  
Aunt Lizzy's dead Mom.

EVE  
I'm tired now James.

MINDY  
Huh? Sherry maybe?

EVE

Not Sherry. Remember last time. She ratted us out, day one and he came by begging me to come back. **Yo baby, yo so fine yo blow my mind, yo baby, yo baby yo baby yo! Yo so Tight.** Sherry said I had to go back to him. "He's a changed man. And 'sides, he's the father of your children."

She puts up her fists and dances around snoring Paul.

EVE (CONT'D)

You ready for a fight. Come on.

Paul turns and talks in his sleep.

PAUL

Just one more hit boys. I'm wiped.

Mindy and Eve stand frozen. When it's clear he won't be getting up Mindy runs and grabs Eve's coat and helps her on with it. Once Eve has her coat on Mindy grabs one for Jenny. Mindy grabs her mom's phone and puts it into her coat pocket.

EVE

I try with all my might. I did as I was told, considering my height.

Paul stirs.

MINDY

Mom, stop talking.

EVE

Mindy, look, my stitches are bleeding.

MINDY

Hospital?

EVE

No! No more bills. No, please. We can't afford it.

Mindy pulls Eve out the door. Mindy runs back in and picks up Jenny and runs out the door carrying her.

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO, SCENE ONE

AN ALLEY. EVE IS HUDDLED WITH THE GIRLS. JENNY IS ASLEEP.  
MINDY IS WATCHING AS EVE LOOKS AT HER CELL PHONE.

EVE

Dead.

Eve puts it in her pocket.

MINDY

No one?

EVE

DV shelter says they'll have room  
for us in a few days. They're busy.  
'Tis the season.

MINDY

Great.

EVE

There's an emergency shelter about  
ten miles that way.

She points.

EVE (CONT'D)

No wait. That way. Or...

MINDY

How would we get there?

EVE

Walk.

MINDY

How much is ten miles?

EVE

A lot.

MINDY

Uber?

EVE

Phone is dead.

MINDY

Taxi-Cab?

EVE

You know about cabs?

MINDY

TV.

EVE

They'll want money.

MINDY

That's it?

EVE

Like?

MINDY

Friends.

EVE

No one.

MINDY

I'm sorry mom.

EVE

Bout what?

MINDY

I made you leave.

EVE

Oh honey, you were right. We had to go. Oh! I think Little Crissy's kicking. Guess she doesn't like this cold. Funny... You didn't start kicking till much later.

Mindy puts her coat over her mom's belly.

EVE (CONT'D)

Mindy, you don't have to do that.

MINDY

I don't mind... Think we'll see Santa out here?

EVE

Santa? Sure he'll find us. But you know you're not supposed to see Santa. You have to go to sleep and when you wake up he'll have found you and everything.

MINDY

Sing me a song.

EVE

A song?

MINDY

Yeah.

EVE

What kinda song?

MINDY

Christmas song.

EVE

Christmas song? Okay.

She starts singing softly.

EVE (CONT'D)

Good King Wens-

MINDY

No... Make one up - one of ours.

EVE

Good King Applesauce went-

MINDY

No. For real.

EVE

Make up a Christmas song?

MINDY

Yeah.

EVE

About today?

MINDY

No. About tomorrow. About  
Christmas. Make it happy.

EVE

Wow. Tall order young lady.

Mindy puts her head on Eve's shoulder and gives her big puppy  
dog eyes.

MINDY

Pleeeeeease.

EVE

Okay... I'll try... For you...  
Ahm... Okay... How about this?

She sings.

EVE (CONT'D)

Here we are together.  
 Out here in nasty weather.  
 Without our chapstick.  
 Without the Icepick.  
 Icepick needle-dick.  
 Freezing in the snow.

Mindy nudges her.

MINDY

Mom. No. A Christmas song. Sing our  
 lullaby. Only make it Christmasy.

EVE

Oh... Okay... I can do that - a  
 Christmas Eve lullaby. Good idea.

She thinks and then starts to sing.

EVE (CONT'D)

(sings)

Sun set long time ago  
 Now it's time to go to sleep.  
 Moon rose a long time ago  
 And the winter night is deep.  
 Wind whistles through the trees  
 Night sails in on a breeze.  
 You know I love you dears  
 When morning comes I'll be here  
 When sunlight fills the air  
 A new day we will share

She stops and looks around.

EVE (CONT'D)

Do you hear guitars?

MINDY

No mommy.

EVE

Mommy. You haven't called me that  
 in years.

MINDY

C'mon Sing.

EVE

If you sing with me. Like carolers  
 in the snow.

EVE AND MINDY

(sing)

Moon rose a long time ago  
Now it's time to rest your head.  
Night fell a long time ago.

Eve takes the lead.

EVE

(sings)

And I know you miss your bed.

EVE AND MINDY

(sings)

Snow falls from the skies  
Dreams fill your eyes  
You know I'm always here  
There's nothing you need fear  
When morning time shines clear  
A new day we will share.  
Sun set a long time ago  
It's time to go to sleep.  
Night fell long time ago  
And the snow is falling steep.  
Moon Hides behind clouds  
The cold winter wind growls.

MINDY

You forgot Santa Claus.

EVE

Santa Claus? Right.

MINDY

I'll do it.

(sings)

You know I love you dear.  
Santa will find us here.  
He'll bring us all good cheer.  
To carry through the year.

They sing together.

EVE AND MINDY.

(sings)

Sun set on Christmas Eve  
Now it's time to go to sleep  
Santa flies around the world  
Through the winter night so deep.

Eve falls asleep.

MINDY

(sings)

Sun brings Christmas Day  
To our alleyway.  
Sunset, a long time ago.  
Soon Christmas Day will dawn.

Mindy covers Eve and herself and falls asleep.

Santa comes staggering down the street. He is tall and thin. His red Santa coat hangs loose. He is clearly drunk. He comes to the alley stops, sees the coats, thinks they're a pile of garbage, unzips and pees. Eve stirs looks up, sees what's going on and screams scrambling to her feet. Santa is startled but can't stop.

EVE

What are doing?

He stares at her in disbelief.

SANTA

What does it look like?

EVE

Stop!

SANTA

Take it easy lady.

He stops.

EVE

Ew. You - you piddled on me!

SANTA

I didn't tell you to be there.

EVE

Didn't you see me?

SANTA

You looked like a pile of garbage.

EVE

Would you put it away please.

He does.

SANTA

What are you doing there?

EVE

What does it look like?

SANTA

Like a pile of garbage. I just said that.

EVE

I was trying to sleep.

SANTA

Isn't that against the law?

EVE

Against the law? Why?

SANTA

Loitering. Vagrancy.

EVE

Go away Santa Claus.

SANTA

You go away. I'm gotta relieve myself whether you like it or not.

EVE

Can't you go somewhere else.

SANTA

FINE! M'lady! I'll go down here.

He bows and stumbles down the alley. He props himself up against a wall and does his business.

EVE

Can't you find another alley?

SANTA

Why don't you find another alley? I live here. This is my neighborhood.

EVE

You live in this alley.

SANTA

Not likely. I'm not a bum like you. Two blocks down and over one. Third floor huge loft space.

EVE

I wouldn't call that living here. You don't even park your car here.

SANTA

Close enough for Jazz.

EVE  
You're drunk.

SANTA  
So what?

EVE  
You know that actually *is* against  
the law.

SANTA  
What? I'm not driving.

EVE  
Public indecency.

SANTA  
Just marking my territory. I own  
this town!

He holds his hands up triumphantly.

EVE  
I know you.

SANTA  
Excuse me?

EVE  
I know you.

SANTA  
You don't know me.

EVE  
I know that voice. I know you.

He puts it away and walks away.

SANTA  
Well, I don't know you. And you  
look pretty messed up you ask me.  
Rode hard, beat down and hung out  
to dry.

EVE  
I didn't.

SANTA  
**What?**

EVE  
Ask you - anything, **Santa.**

SANTA

Whatever.

EVE

I know you. How do I know you?

SANTA

I'm Santa Claus. Everyone knows Santa Claus. What do you want for Christmas little homeless girl? Let me guess. A home?

He laughs.

EVE

Take off that beard.

SANTA

I don't strip for just anyone lady.

EVE

Under all that crap I know you. You're an actor?

SANTA

Believe me this is no act. I really am Santa Claus.

EVE

Stop it. Who are you?

SANTA

I'm Santa Claus. Has being a worthless, homeless bum made you a cynical little wretch.

EVE

I am not worthless. And I am not a bum. You're a jerk.

SANTA

Whatever. Goodnight homeless lady. Nice peeing on you.

He staggers away.

EVE

James!

He stops.

JAMES

**DAMN!**

EVE  
James Peters.

JAMES  
Damn! Damn! Damn!

He hangs his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Little Eve Little. Not looking so  
hot are you?

EVE  
No one's called me that in forever.

He holds up his hands and frames her in his sight.

JAMES  
And thus people! Observe the  
decline of a cheerleader. Can we  
make a documentary of it?

He pulls out his phone and points it at her.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Wave to your fans.

He takes a snap of her.

EVE  
James Peters. You stood me up.

JAMES  
What?

EVE  
You stood me up.

JAMES  
What are talking about?

EVE  
Senior year, you asked me out, I  
said yes and you stood me up.

JAMES  
No I didn't.

EVE  
Did.

JAMES  
Did not.

EVE  
Did.

JAMES  
Didn't.

EVE  
Did.

JAMES  
How hard the Pick been smashing you  
round anyway.

EVE  
You know?

JAMES  
I can put two and two morons  
together to conclude one messed up  
marriage.

EVE  
You're right about that.

JAMES  
And you want me to believe you  
don't remember?

EVE  
Remember what?

JAMES  
I didn't stand you up. You set me  
up -

EVE  
Set you up?

JAMES  
Yeah! Set me up. Like a bowling  
pin. Strike!

EVE  
I did no such thing. We had a date  
and you never showed.

JAMES  
Well you know I'd love to stay and  
argue with you all night but I'm  
cold and it's time for bed. Night  
little Eve Little.

EVE  
I did not set you up.

JAMES

You calling Santa a liar.

EVE

No. I'm calling you a drunken fool.  
How's that? Drunk fool.

JAMES

*Drunk. I can live with that.  
Difference is tomorrow I'll wake up  
sober and you - you'll wake up  
still here. If you wake up at all.*

EVE

I never set you up. I don't know  
what you mean.

He turns to go.

EVE (CONT'D)

James. Please.

She is on the verge of tears. He swings back angry.

JAMES

LOOK!

She steps back, scared a little.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I don't feel like talking about it.  
You set me up and the Pick took me  
down. Done.

He slaps his hands together.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Over. Now, I'm going home.

EVE

I didn't set you up.

JAMES

Fine.

He turns to go.

EVE

I didn't.

JAMES

Okay.

He starts to walk away.

EVE

I swear.

She starts to cry. He swings back angry.

JAMES

Stop it! Stop crying!

EVE

But I didn't. I swear I didn't set you up.

JAMES

You saying you didn't send your little girlfriend Lizzy in to talk to me?!

James imitates Lizzy.

JAMES (CONT'D)

***"Eve has a crush on you. You should ask her out. She and Paul are done. She's free and she wants to go out with you. Go ahead, ask her out. She'll say yes, guaranteed."*** You saying you didn't tell her to tell me all that?

EVE

No, I did.

JAMES

***Je accuse! Guilty as charged. You're honor, I say the guillotine is too good for her. Drawn and quartered.***

EVE

But it was true.

JAMES

The sad part is, I knew I was being set up.

EVE

I didn't set you up.

JAMES

But there you were. A vision, all alone. Only time I'd ever seen you alone without your coven of cows.

EVE

Wednesdays, I had lunch alone.

JAMES

Far end of the cafeteria. The Cheerleader table. The Queen, alone, a vision in blue. God you were gorgeous. How far the Goddess has fallen. Hardly gorgeous now.

He laughs. She doesn't react.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So... against my better judgement, I caved. I crossed the long cafeteria, and I asked you out and you said...

EVE

Yes. I said yes. I said **YES**. Cause I wanted to go out with you. I'd seen you in that show - what was it?

JAMES

Senior year. Blithe Spirit. Stupid play.

EVE

I loved it. I'd seen you before, in other plays, but not like that one. **I loved you in it**. You were so sophisticated, so charming. I had such a crush on you. You had me. I wanted to be one of those wives.

JAMES

You mean dead. Looks like you're working on it.

EVE

Drinking martinis. Sitting on a settee. Gossiping about the neighbors, wearing long sheer silk evening gowns for an elegant dinner and a seance.

JAMES

Go to a Brothel, I'm sure they'll accommodate you.

EVE

It was silly, I know, but you were so beautiful and so wonderful in the part.

(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)

Some of it had to be real and I wanted it to be real and I wanted it to be you and I wanted it to be me and I said yes. I was ready to leave Paul. I'd had enough... You know... Him screwing all my girlfriends.

JAMES

Really? All?

She nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

He banged the whole squad?

EVE

Yeah.

JAMES

Wow.

EVE

So I told you I'd meet you.

JAMES

Friday at 4:00.

EVE

At the theater door.

JAMES

Pizza and a movie.

EVE

Pizza and a movie.

JAMES

And there I was - waiting for you on a beautiful day.

EVE

It really was.

JAMES

Hills of pure white snow under a crystal blue sky. I ran lines for my college audition. I was gonna do them for you over pizza, see what you thought.

EVE

Really?

JAMES

"A fool, a fool, I met a fool in the forest. A motley fool. Ah miserable world."

EVE

What's that from?

JAMES

I looked up from the blinding white snow and what do I see coming towards me? Not you. Not Little Eve Little the Cheerleader who said she would meet me at the stage door at four. No, I see The Icepick. Four on the dot. Mister **He's Too Cool not to be a Fool**, coming my way with his boys. Like he needed them to handle me. I grabbed my pack to go but Pick and his boys are on me.

EVE

I didn't tell him anything-

He moves in on her menacingly doing an imitation of Paul. He moves inches from her face. She backs up into the wall.

JAMES

"Where yah goin' actor? We heard you talking to yerself? Din't we boys? Out here in the snow? You cracked? You a Cracked Actor."

EVE

James you're scaring me.

He leans in threateningly.

JAMES

"Heard you're a good acta."

EVE

James.

JAMES

"That's what my girlfriend says. Says your a good Aca. She saw you actin' in some show."

EVE

James.

JAMES

"She said you were good. You saying no? You saying my girlfriend a liar?"

She takes out her phone. He grabs it and looks at it.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Dead.

He hands it back and leans in again like Paul.

JAMES (CONT'D)

"**SO?** You calling my girlfriend a liar?"

EVE

No! You are a good actor.

This throws him a little, but he regains his composure and continues the story being Paul.

JAMES

"Okay... Then go ahead, Ac aca. We'd like to hear your lines. Ones you were saying out here before. Le's hear, we'll let you know what we think. Right boys?"

He does the boys.

JAMES (CONT'D)

**"RIGHT PICK!"**

He goes back to being The Pick.

JAMES (CONT'D)

"So what's it from? These lines you sayin'?"

He turns his head, like he's listening. He laughs and as Paul he imitates James stuttering.

JAMES (CONT'D)

"A-A-A-A-As You Like It?" **"Never heard of it. Shakespeare huh? Who's he?"**

EVE

He still doesn't know who he is.

JAMES

**"Go on Aca. AC!"**

She jumps startled.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So, I start my monologue, "**A fool, I met a,**" and **BOOM!**

He jumps at her, his fist held high scaring her.

JAMES (CONT'D)

He punches me in the nose. "**You calling me a fool? I ain't no fool, am I boys?**"

James does the boys.

JAMES (CONT'D)

**"PICK AIN'T NO FOOL!"**

He goes back to being the Pick.

JAMES (CONT'D)

**"Stay away from my girl, aca."** He busted my nose. Doctor said he literally shattered it.

EVE

Oh no!

JAMES

Blood spurting all over the clean white snow. Like a clown with a seltzer bottle squirting blood instead of seltzer. His boys saw the blood spreading everywhere and ran. Not The Pick. "**You stay away from my girl. Got me?**" One of his boys had to run back and pull him away from me. My ex, Lauren, found me stumbling down the halls trying to find the boy's room. I couldn't see. Everything was a blur. I thought he mighta blinded me. She dragged me to the hospital. Stayed with me all day and drove me home that night.

EVE

She loved you.

JAMES

I went to Juilliard the following Saturday - to audition.

EVE

Oh no.

JAMES

Oh yes I did. It'd been set for months. I had to go or lose my slot. So I went. Shattered sinuses and all. So there I am on stage at Juilliard auditioning with, '**A thool, a thool, I met a thool in da foriss. A mothey thool. Ah mitherable worl.**'

Eve laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You think it's funny?

EVE

No... I'm sorry... I didn't... I don't. It isn't funny at all.

JAMES

**A thool, a thool, I met a thool in the forest and a tool in the snow.**

He laughs and backs off.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I was a fool, he was a tool and you set me up.

EVE

I didn't tell him anything. I had no idea. I was waiting for you. I thought you stood me up.

JAMES

Waiting for me? Where?

EVE

The theater door.

JAMES

What theater?

EVE

Around the back. You know the little alcove, near room 220.

JAMES

The Black Box?

EVE

I guess.

JAMES

Why were you at that door?

EVE

What door was I supposed to be at?

JAMES

Hecate street. The back door to the main stage, you idiot.

EVE

I am not an idiot. How was I supposed to know? You should've made that clear.

JAMES

So then you didn't set me up?

EVE

No.

JAMES

Oh good. Wow. That's a relief. Then all is forgiven and forgotten...

He starts to walk away but turns back suddenly.

JAMES (CONT'D)

**BUT WAIT!**

*She jumps.*

**JAMES (CONT'D)**

***The Icepick knew right where to find me. How did he know?*** Let's think about this. You didn't tell him. So, maybe he's a mind reader?

She shakes her head afraid of him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Psychic?

She shakes her head.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Tarot cards? Tea leaves? **I KNOW!**

She jumps.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Time Traveler? He's a time traveler  
and this is the darkest time-line.

She shakes her head.

JAMES (CONT'D)

No? Okay... Well... How about this...  
maybe... **just maybe**... He heard it from  
someone else.

EVE

I guess.

JAMES

So, who'd you tell?

EVE

I don't know. That was a long time  
ago.

JAMES

But you told someone didn't you?

EVE

Well... yeah... I guess I told  
Lizzy... Megan and Alicia...

JAMES

That all?

EVE

I was excited. I was going out with  
a new boy. I'd had done with the  
Pick. I'd been with him for three  
years. He's the only boyfriend I  
ever had.

She stops and thinks about this.

EVE (CONT'D)

You were gonna be my second  
boyfriend.

Eve stares into space lost to another world.

JAMES

So you told all your friends.

He snaps his fingers at her.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Little Eve.

EVE

Yea... I guess... But I swore them all to secrecy. I knew how they were. **Blah, blah, blah.** And I knew how the Pick was. So I swore them all to secrecy. They had to swear on a bible not to tell Pick.

JAMES

Not to tell The Pick? That's it? What about their boyfriends. His posse?

EVE

No. They swore that too.

JAMES

And these great friends of yours kept your secret because they were looking out for your best interest - right?

EVE

Yeah?

*She nods.*

**JAMES**

***Admit it, you wanted him to know. You really wanted to stick it in his face you were moving on. You knew they'd tell the boys and the boys would tell him and then what'd you think would happen? Did you think he'd just let it go?***

EVE

We'd broken up. I told him I was gonna date other guys. He agreed. Said okay.

JAMES

WOW! You still don't get it. You're not a person to him. You never were. You're a trophy, the game ball, a prize, a collectible. A thing to have. And I was about to take that away from him. He was never gonna let that happen. I mean look at your face. Even you don't get to take you away from him.

EVE

Wow. Thanks. I didn't think I could feel any lower.

JAMES

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas! My work here is done.

He turns to go.

EVE

I never knew any of this, James. No one ever told me.

He shakes his head and turns back.

JAMES

How could you not know? Everyone knew. The whole school knew. It became school legend over night. The idiot who bled all over the back of the school. Blood in the snow. Everyone called it the raspberry snow cone. Then it turned into the blueberry snow cone, then the blackberry snow cone till it finally melted.

EVE

That was you. I remember that. I didn't know it was you.

JAMES

Well it was.

EVE

I didn't mean for all that to happen to you.

JAMES

All what? The fact that you ruined my life?

EVE

Ruined your life?

JAMES

Yeah. Ruined my life.

EVE

You look fine to me. You live in a nice neighborhood.

JAMES

You too.

He laughs.

EVE

It must be nice to have someone else to blame for everything wrong with your life.

JAMES

Yeah! Actually, it is! And here you are. To blame. I love Christmas. You're the unexpected gift under the tree.

EVE

I only have myself to blame for my messed up life.

JAMES

The gift that keeps giving.

EVE

Happy to be here for you.

He laughs.

JAMES

Wow! This was better than I expected. I mean when you jumped up from the garbage heap I thought, **Wow. That's Little Eve Little. How cool is that? I just peed on Little Eve Little on Christmas Eve and she's living in an alley. Does it get any better than this? How could it? But then it did. It got better. Your misery is like the orange sauce on the crispy duck of life. What a delight this has been. Best Christmas ever!**

EVE

Good night James.

He turns to leave and turns back.

JAMES

Here. Take the bag. It's cotton. It'll help keep you warm.

He takes his Santa bag and goes over to her.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Your hair is wet too.

He wipes her hair carefully. They get close and he pulls away.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Good God! You're a mess. There's a hospital about five blocks that way. Can you make it on your own?

EVE

Obviously Not.

JAMES

Want me to call an ambulance?

EVE

I can't afford an ambulance.

JAMES

They can't charge you if you're homeless.

EVE

I'm not homeless!

JAMES

Right. The world is your home. The sky is your roof. Garbage your pillow, snow your blanket... *and breakfast too I suppose.* This is a lifestyle choice... Forget about it.

He turns away disgusted but turns back.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You know what's funny.

EVE

What?

JAMES

A fool. A fool. I met a fool in the snow on Christmas Eve. A fool! A homeless fool; ah miserable world! As I do live by food, I met a fool. Who wept her plight in the winter chill and bitterly railed on Lady Fortune. In one hour 'twill be Christmas day. And so, from hour to hour, we ripe and ripen.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

And then, from hour to hour, we freeze and freeze like frozen peas, and thereby hangs an icy tale.' I met a Fool in the snow.

EVE

What does that mean?

JAMES

Figure it out.

He walks away.

EVE

Don't go.

He turns back.

JAMES

Why?

EVE

Are you still an actor?

JAMES

No. I'm in publishing now.

EVE

Really? I write children's books.

JAMES

Who doesn't? I did for a while too. Decided I wanted to do the rejecting instead of getting rejected. I like it better.

EVE

So why are you Santa?

JAMES

Office Party.

EVE

You don't even look like Santa.

JAMES

Anyone can be Santa - just need to rent a suit. And it has its perks. Everyone sits in your lap and asks for presents. Some of my lady coworkers got so plowed they made out with old Sinter Klaus for more than just a while.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

So right now I got me blue  
snowballs cause no one would come  
home with me tonight.

EVE

That's what you meant. I'm a fool  
cause I could go home and sleep  
**with you. Really James?**

JAMES

I didn't say that. And I didn't  
mean that. But if you're so  
inclined.

EVE

Charming offer. Don't you have a  
wife or a something?

JAMES

No. Just me... well...? Get you out of  
the cold and into a warm shower and  
then, who knows, if you're lucky,  
maybe my fourposter m'lady-

EVE

You're a liar. You wouldn't touch  
me with a ten foot pole right now  
and you know it.

JAMES

You give me too much credit.

EVE

You're just being the hard-guy  
cause you can. You're still just an  
actor showing off.

JAMES

You sussed me out woman. Fine, stay  
here and freeze to death. Tomorrow  
I'll read about some lady frozen  
dead in an alley on Christmas day.

Mindy pops up.

MINDY

Christmas? Is it Christmas? Mom!  
Look it's Santa Claus! I knew he'd  
find us.

JAMES

**DAMN!** You got a kid.

LINDAY

Kids.

MINDY

Look Jenny. Santa's here.

She wakes up Jenny.

JENNY

Santa. You came. I knew you would.

MINDY

I told you he would.

They run over and hug his legs.

JAMES

Get them off me.

EVE

You don't like kids.

JAMES

I don't like Pick kids.

EVE

***Their mine. Not his.***

JAMES

Really?

EVE

No. I mean-

JAMES

Got it.

Eve nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

OH GOD! And look. Another one on the way or are you fat?

EVE

Four months along. Crissy.

She pats her belly.

JAMES

Great. How drunk am I that I missed that?

Eve laughs.

EVE

So - what do you say about the four poster now. Now that the cats are out of the bag - that offer still stand? You got room for all of us.

JAMES

You'll be fine. Huddle together.

EVE

C'mon James. You might let me die out here but you won't let these two little angels die in the snow.

JAMES

Try me.

EVE

Okay. Fine. Leave us here to freeze to death. Mindy, Jenny, Santa doesn't love you. You must've been bad this year.

JENNY

I'm six Santa and I haven't been bad.

MINDY

I have. It's all my fault.

JAMES

Really?

MINDY

Sorry Santa. Can you forgive me?

JAMES

What did do little girl?

MINDY

I beat up Bobby Kurts in the playground after school.

EVE

Mindy!

JAMES

Why did you do that?

MINDY

Cause she's a bully. She was picking on Johnny and I didn't like it so I met her after school and told her to leave him alone or else. She said, you and what army, so I punched her in the kisser. She went down like a sack of bricks and hasn't picked on anyone since.

EVE

Mindy, how could you?

MINDY

You always told me to stand up to bullies. So I did.

EVE

I didn't say punch them. Now you sound like your father. We'll talk about this later.

MINDY

I didn't think we were gonna see you tonight Santa. Mom was real bad off. I had to drag her from the house. I made her come here. Then I thought, *oh no, now I've done it, Santa's never gonna find us here. What are we going to do? So I prayed and prayed and look Santa, you found us.*

JENNY

It's magic!

MINDY

What did you bring us for Christmas?

JAMES

Good tidings and cheer for a happy New Year.

MINDY

Lamo.

JAMES

Okay... Fine...

He pats his pockets. Finds his wallet, takes it out and gives them each a dollar.

JENNY

Thanks.

MINDY

Really? A buck? That's it?

EVE

Mindy, mind your manners. He's not Santa. He's an old friend of mommy's.

MINDY

(Gasping)

***You're not really Santa Claus?***

JAMES

You found me out.

MINDY

Fraud.

EVE

His name is James Peters. We had a date in high school and he stood me up.

JAMES

Oh we're back to that.

EVE

I waited for him and he never showed. I was crushed.

JAMES

Really? Gonna play it that way?  
Mindy? Jenny? Wanna hear a story?

MINDY AND JENNY

Yeah.

JAMES

I was once a great actor. I was going to an audition for the greatest acting school in all the world, Juilliard, and your daddy, Paul, the Ice Pick, Cochran, found me a week before my audition and busted my nose.

MINDY

He punched you cause he thought mom was in love with you.

JAMES

He does this a lot?

MINDY AND EVE

Oh yeah.

EVE

Lost a lot of friends over the years.

MINDY

Go on Santa. Dad punched you, and...

JAMES

Broke my nose. Right before the audition that was going to change my life. Busted up my face. I could barely talk. So I blew my audition and wound up going to community college. Mindy, Jenny you have any idea what happens to people who get into Juilliard?

MINDY

No, what?

JAMES

They're set for life. Not me. I had to have surgery three times to repair my sinuses.

JENNY

That's sad.

JAMES

But wait. There's more. You see, it was all your mother's fault. She set me up.

JENNY

But daddy punches everyone.

JAMES

Your mommy wanted to make your daddy jealous so she told everyone about our date so your daddy'd get all bent outa shape and pound me.

MINDY

That sounds right.

EVE

Mindy?!

JAMES

And now Mindy, she's trying tell me she never knew what happened.

MINDY

Mom?

EVE

I didn't.

JAMES

How is that? I had this huge bandage on my nose. Looked like Jack Nicholson in Chinatown.

MINDY

What's that?

JAMES

A movie.

MINDY

Can we watch it?

JAMES

Sure. I got it on blu-ray.

EVE

No!

MINDY

Mom.

EVE

I don't remember seeing you again. And you weren't in anymore plays. I checked.

JAMES

I couldn't. I could barely talk for months. You ruined my life.

EVE

All right, that's enough. Good night Santa Claus. Come on Mindy, Jenny. Lets go find another alley to sleep in.

JENNY

Night Santa. We gotta go.

Jenny hugs him. Mindy shakes his hand.

MINDY

She's not bad when you get to know her.

EVE

Mindy!

JAMES

Come on. I'm not gonna leave you out here in the snow.

EVE

We're fine, thank you.

JAMES

I won't let you guys freeze. Come on? Two blocks down.

EVE

No girls. We'll find another place to sleep.

MINDY

Where? You tried.

JAMES

It's a walk up. Can you handle it.

MINDY

I'll help Mom if you get Jenny for me.

EVE

I said no.

Jenny puts her arms up. James picks her up. She wraps her arms around his neck.

JAMES

You've been out voted.

He starts to walk away with Jenny in his arms and Mindy walking beside him. Eve stands there stunned.

EVE

James.

JAMES

Yeah?

EVE

I'm sorry. About everything.

JAMES

There you go. About time!

MINDY

Mom. You're bleeding.

EVE

I know honey.

MINDY

No mom.

She points to the ground. Eve looks down and screams.

JAMES

My car's around the corner. I'll  
get you to a hospital.

He runs off with Jenny in his arms.

EVE

Seat-belts!

Mindy sits with her and holds her hand.

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO SCENE TWO

PAUL IS ON THE FLOOR WITH A RED BAG OVER HIS HEAD. HE WRESTLES HIS WAY OUT OF IT, SMELLS IT AND THROWS IT ON THE FLOOR. THERE ARE A LOT OF EMPTY BOTTLES ON THE TABLE. HE PULLS HIMSELF UP, FINDS HIS PHONE, DIALS AND PUTS THE PHONE ON SPEAKER.

911  
911, what is your emergency?

PAUL  
I need help.

911  
Yes sir. What is your emergency?

PAUL  
Help me.

911  
Tell me what happened, sir.

PAUL  
Santa Claus beat me up.

911  
Excuse me?

PAUL  
I think he broke my nose.

He touches his nose.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Ow! Yeah it's broken.

911  
Santa Claus? Broke your nose?

PAUL  
Yeah. Santa Claus. He came to my door, said, Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas, I have something for you, opened up his big red bag and when I looked in he yanked it over my head and WHAM! I think he kneed me in the face two, three times.

911  
Santa?

PAUL

Yeah. Santa! He broke my nose. And then... I think he peed on me.

911

What?

PAUL

While I was on the floor he peed on me. I can smell it on the bag.

911

He left a bag?

PAUL

Yeah, you know, his big red Santa Bag.

911

You do know it's against the law to make a false call to 911.

PAUL

I'm not kidding? Santa beat the crap outa me and then he peed on me when I was down. HEY! You can get DNA off it.

911

Yeah. We'll do that. Santa DNA.

PAUL

Obviously not the real Santa. Just some D-bag dressed as Santa. For all I know he's some kinda bum or something. You know Salvation Army uses homeless people as Santa. He could have peed some bum disease on me. I could be sick. BUMAIDS or something.

911

We'll get right on that. Can you get yourself to an emergency room.

PAUL

What? No! No way. I've kinda had a lot to drink today and now I'm seeing double. Can you send an ambulance it's -

There's a loud bang at the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Santa? That you again?

Another bang.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
I'm not home.

POLICE AT THE DOOR  
Paul Cochran.

PAUL  
Yeah?

POLICE AT THE DOOR  
Police. Open up. I need to talk to  
you.

PAUL  
Man that was fast.

He gets up and answers the door. Officer Mary, (30s), is at  
the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You sent a meter maid?

911  
We didn't send anyone.

OFFICER MARY  
I'm not a meter maid. I'm an  
officer.

911  
What you got there officer?

OFFICER MARY  
One messed up dude.

PAUL  
I was just telling your 911 lady  
Santa Claus broke my nose. You here  
to take me to the hospital?

OFFICER MARY  
Let me see.

He holds his head back. She looks.

OFFICER MARY (CONT'D)  
Not bleeding.

He touches it.

PAUL  
Guess it stopped.

OFFICER MARY  
We got a complaint from your wife.  
Said you beat her up last night.

She holds up a picture.

OFFICER MARY (CONT'D)  
Nasty. This your work?

PAUL  
She messed up my knees. I can  
barely walk.

He raises his pant legs to show the officer the scars.

OFFICER MARY  
She's in the hospital.

PAUL  
She gives as good as she gets.

OFFICER MARY  
We can talk about it down at the  
station.

PAUL  
I need a doctor.

OFFICER MARY  
We'll get to that.

PAUL  
I'm not going anywhere.

911  
Should I send an ambulance.

OFFICER MARY  
No. I'll get him a doctor.

PAUL  
Doctor first, talk later.

OFFICER MARY  
Do I have to insist?

PAUL  
You and what army?

He gets in her face. She grabs his arm twists it behind his  
back and cuff's him.

OFFICER MARY

You ready now?

PAUL

What about Santa? Santa broke my damn nose.

OFFICER MARY

I'll put an all points bulletin out for Santa Claus. Don't worry. We'll catch him.

911 and Officer Mary both laugh.

PAUL

Funny.

Officer Mary grabs a coat off the chair and drapes it over Paul.

OFFICER MARY

You drink all that?

PAUL

Yeah. That a crime too?

OFFICER MARY

No, but it explains a lot.

PAUL

Shouldn't you be reading me my rights?

OFFICER MARY

You have the right to remain silent.

BLACKOUT

## ACT THREE, SCENE ONE

A HOSPITAL ROOM. EVE IS IN A HOSPITAL BED. SHE IS SINGING TO HERSELF.

EVE

Sun set long time ago  
And the winter night is deep.  
You know I love you dears  
When morning comes I'll be there.  
When Christmas fills the air. A new  
day we will share

James enters. He's not Santa Claus anymore.

EVE (CONT'D)

Do you hear guitars?

He listens.

JAMES

No. You look better.

EVE

Really?

JAMES

Not really.

EVE

I feel awful. Where you been?

JAMES

Delivering presents. After all I am  
Santa Claus.

EVE

Not anymore.

JAMES

Glad to see you're finally awake.

EVE

Finally?

JAMES

You been out for hours.

EVE

What time is it?

JAMES

Eight.

EVE  
In the morning?

JAMES  
Night.

EVE  
That's...

JAMES  
Twenty hours? It's good though -  
you needed the sleep.

EVE  
Where are the girls?

JAMES  
My place.

EVE  
Alone?

JAMES  
***SURE. They're old enough to be on  
their own aren't they?***

EVE  
James.

JAMES  
I got a friend watching them.

EVE  
A girl friend?

JAMES  
A neighbor. Miss Smith. Retired  
teacher. She can handle them.  
Taught Kinder for like thirty  
years. They were making cookies  
when I left.

EVE  
Oh, good. You got toys or anything  
for them?

JAMES  
Yeah, big time. I got like five  
thousand channels, a Wi, an Xbox  
and a ton of porn. They'll be fine.

EVE  
Okay. Thanks.

JAMES

Just hope they don't find the  
bondage room. That could be bad.  
And I think Mindy might like it.

EVE

I wouldn't put it past her.

She laughs. He stares at her.

EVE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

He shuffles his feet.

EVE (CONT'D)

What is it?

JAMES

So, I take it they haven't told you  
anything yet?

EVE

I haven't seen anyone in hours.

JAMES

They're busy. Christmas. A nurse  
stopped me in the hall. Asked if I  
was family. I told her I was your  
brother.

EVE

I don't have a brother.

JAMES

And that's relevant how?

EVE

Just spit it out already.

JAMES

Okay. Good news first. You're gonna  
be fine.

EVE

And the bad news is?

She holds her hand up to stop him.

EVE (CONT'D)

I know, I lost Crissy?

She bursts into tears and puts her head on his chest. He  
holds her as she sobs.

EVE (CONT'D)

That's the first time I said it out loud.

He holds her as she sobs on his chest.

EVE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I messed up your coat.

JAMES

It's okay.

He gets her a box of Kleenex and she blows her nose and wipes her face.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Heard you filed a police report.

EVE

They wanted to know what happened. I didn't want them to think it was you.

JAMES

What did you tell them?

EVE

The truth.

JAMES

No, about me?

EVE

Told them I didn't even know you. You're just some stray Santa out doing good deeds on Christmas Eve.

JAMES

Stray Santa? That's all I am to you, some stray Santa, huh?

EVE

No.

JAMES

There's more news.

EVE

**More?**

JAMES

They want their bed back.

EVE

So soon?

JAMES

You've been here all day. And it's Christmas. Place is full and they say you can walk.

EVE

Really?

JAMES

Can you?

EVE

I haven't tried.

JAMES

Maybe you better try.

He steps back a few paces. She stands up and walks to him. She is unsteady but she can do it. He helps her back to bed.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Okay then. Clothes and we'll get you outa here.

EVE

To where?

JAMES

Did you call your parents?

EVE

What?

JAMES

Mindy plugged your phone in last night to charge.

He points at the phone by the bedside.

EVE

Oh.

JAMES

She said when it's charged you should call Gram and Gramps so they can come home to take care of you.

EVE

Right.

JAMES

You didn't call them.

EVE

I don't wanna bother them. Bad time of the year to change flights. Christmas.

JAMES

Right.

EVE

My dad hates Paul.

JAMES

Can't blame him.

EVE

He's hated Paul since day one.

JAMES

Ah-huh.

EVE

When Paul got me pregnant I thought he was gonna disown me. He's been looking forward to this day for years.

JAMES

Christmas?

EVE

Just to gloat. And if he knew what really happened... the abuse... the miscarriage... he might kill him.

JAMES

So... You got anyone you can stay with?

EVE

I...

JAMES

You?

EVE

I called everyone I know last night.

JAMES

Everyone?

EVE

Yes everyone.

JAMES

Everyone?... Really?

EVE

No one would take us in.

JAMES

No one?

EVE

***Fine! I get it. I thought maybe we could stay with you for a few days. But no. Fine. I don't want to mess up your bachelors pad. Just drive us to a motel. We'll rent a room. Happy?... Can I borrow some money.***

JAMES

Look...

EVE

Yeah I get it. You've done a lot for us already, we'll go. Get out of your hair.

JAMES

It's a small place.

EVE

Last night it wasn't small when you were bragging on your big loft space.

JAMES

I might have hyperbolized.

EVE

And you don't really know me anyway.

She turns away from him and cries softly.

JAMES

Come on.

EVE

What?

JAMES

You didn't really think?

EVE  
Apparently I don't know what to think. I don't even know if I like you and here I am practically throwing myself at you bruised and...

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Just say you're sorry and you and your girls can move in with me indefinitely - that easy.

EVE  
EASY! Did you say easy? Nothing's been easy for years. Easy. God forbid anything be easy. Don't worry. I'll call the shelters with my newly charged phone and make arrangements for me and my girls.

JAMES  
Don't do that. Don't you guilt me. I don't owe you anything.

EVE  
You're right, you don't.

JAMES  
You can stay at my place tonight. Tomorrow I'll take back to your place. Pick's not there. Cops got him up.

EVE  
How do you know?

He laughs.

EVE (CONT'D)  
What did you do?

JAMES  
I am proud to say I have tinkled on the entire Pick family. At least the adults.

EVE  
You didn't?

JAMES  
I broke his nose first.

EVE  
You broke his nose?

JAMES

I did. Then when I was leaving I saw a cop pull up and take him away. SO... You can go home. It's safe now.

EVE

I can't go back there. He's gone now but he'll be back. Give me a few days. Get things sorted. My parents'll be back in a week. If I don't have any place else to go by then I'll move back home. Okay?

JAMES

We'll see.

EVE

I know I'm imposing.

JAMES

Yeah you are.

EVE

I'm sorry.

JAMES

Yes, you are.

She lies back and stares at the ceiling.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You all right.

EVE

You know... before you came I was just lying here thinking about last night. How everything was going wrong... and then you arrived... Santa Claus, and it all changed. Even before I knew it was you.

JAMES

Getting peed on'll do that to you.

EVE

And then... when I recognized you, for a minute it was like...

JAMES

**Magic!**

EVE

Like we'd finally made that date after all. Pizza and a movie after ten years.

JAMES

**Ten!**

EVE

Like we had a chance to fix it. Make it right.

JAMES

It doesn't work that way.

EVE

What do you mean?

JAMES

There are no worm holes to the past. No alternate reality where we got together and lived happily ever after. It is what it is. Reality here and now.

EVE

Right... reality... You know how hard it is to remember the good days, I have to force myself to think of happy times. But misery, bad times, pain, humiliation, embarrassing moments and all the mistakes I've ever made, they stick to me like my shadow and I can't shake them, except by turning out the lights and trying to sleep and even then I wake up reliving the mistakes. Over and over. Like you, you're this dot on the map from years ago, go this way - go that way - and stupid me I made the wrong choice. I should have looked for you. I should have tried to find you. Find out what happened to you. I should've known Paul'd done something stupid, something to stop you, to hurt you. I should've known it was his fault when you weren't there. And if I had found you I could have been there for you. Like you were there for me last night. Maybe I did know. Maybe I knew he'd stopped you and I couldn't do anything about it. I don't know.

(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)

I was a stupid little middle class girl dating the football hero. I did as I was told and never thought on my own till I said **yes to you. First independent decision I'd made in my life.** And then I gave up too easy when you didn't show. I didn't ask questions. I never asked questions. It was easier not to ask questions or to think. I didn't track you down. I didn't ask you why you stood me up.

JAMES

Wuda shoulda coulda. We all make bad choices, we just have to live with them.

EVE

And you're no white knight.

JAMES

No, I'm Santa Claus.

EVE

And you can't save me.

JAMES

We'll, I kinda did last night.

EVE

That's true. Thank you.

JAMES

You're welcome... Look... They want their room... we can talk about this later. For now you're staying with me. Come on, lets go. Where are your clothes?

She points to closet. He gets her clothes and hands them to her.

EVE

Can you help me please?

James holds her up while she changes. He tries not to look.

JAMES

Good God. What'd he do to you? You got more bruises then a ten year old banana.

She cries a little. He holds her up as she fumbles to put on her shirt.

EVE  
How did you know where I live?

JAMES  
Excuse me?

EVE  
To beat up Paul.

JAMES  
Mindy.

EVE  
Oh. My little chatterbox.

He helps her on with her skirt.

JAMES  
Can you stand on your own? I'll get your coat.

She braces herself on the bed as he gets her coat.

EVE  
You did it for me. Breaking his nose.

JAMES  
Stop fishing. Shoes?

Eve shrugs. James looks around.

EVE  
So... You did it for you?

JAMES  
What difference does it make. He had it coming.

He finds her shoes.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Heals. Really? On the run?

EVE  
I didn't have time.

JAMES  
Right.

EVE

He's had it rough too you know.

JAMES

I know. He blew out his knees first year at VT. I heard... Come on. Time to go.

EVE

How many girlfriends you got?

JAMES

Enough.

EVE

You don't have any do you?

He starts to walk her out. He holds her up.

JAMES

Should I find you a wheel chair.

EVE

No. I'm fine.

JAMES

Still...

EVE

What are their names?

JAMES

What?

EVE

All your girlfriends. What are their names?

JAMES

Gerty.

EVE

Gerty?

JAMES

Yes. Gerty.

EVE

All of them are named Gerty?

JAMES

I only date Gertys.

EVE  
Where's my phone?

JAMES  
In your coat.

She reaches in and feels it.

EVE  
You know what you said about  
alternate universes?

JAMES  
No.

EVE  
Go this way - go that way -  
everything changes.

JAMES  
And...

EVE  
Why can't that be true?

JAMES  
Who said it isn't?

EVE  
You.

JAMES  
No I didn't. I just said it doesn't  
work that way.

EVE  
How do you know?

JAMES  
What's your point?

EVE  
I read this book - where these  
scientists theorized that if you  
can accurately - down to every last  
detail - no matter how small -  
recreate the past in a controlled  
environment you could actually step  
into the past and, once there, you  
could alter future events.

JAMES  
**Okay.**

EVE

Why don't we try it?

JAMES

Try what?

EVE

Change the past. We go back to the day you asked me out and we make it right.

JAMES

Excuse me.

EVE

Go over there. Walk to me, across the cafeteria, past all the staring eyes and ask me, the stupid little girl who loved you in that play -

JAMES

Blithe Spirit.

EVE

- and ask me out again, like you did that day.

JAMES

Damn. How hard did he hit you?

EVE

I think if we do it right the stars will align and we'll go back in time to when we were young.

JAMES

So, in this experiment I'm 17 again?

EVE

Right.

He laughs.

EVE (CONT'D)

You're an actor. You can do it.

JAMES

I'm not an actor anymore.

EVE

Like riding a bike.

JAMES

Not really.

EVE

Please, James.

JAMES

Okay. Fine. But then we have to give them their room back.

EVE

Yes.

JAMES

If you'll promise that's it. I'll reenact the past with you and then we'll go. Okay?

EVE

I promise.

JAMES

Okay.

EVE

Thank you.

He gets ready to let go of her when she slips slightly. He grabs her. She looks up at him and smiles.

EVE (CONT'D)

I can stand.

JAMES

You sure.

EVE

I got it.

He lets her go and goes to the other side of the room. Once there he walks back to her slowly.

EVE (CONT'D)

What's the matter with you?

JAMES

What do you mean?

EVE

You're no trying. Go back and do it again.

JAMES

Yes sir, ma'am, sir.

He salutes, goes back and starts again.

EVE

What are you thinking?

JAMES

This is stupid.

EVE

No. 17 year old James? What's on your mind?

JAMES

This is stupid. What kind of idiot am I to even think of asking out The Pick's girlfriend.

EVE

So you're nervous?

JAMES

Okay.

EVE

You don't look nervous. I thought you were an actor.

JAMES

Oh! You really want a show?

EVE

It has to be exact if it's going to work.

JAMES

I got it.

EVE

Okay, start again.

JAMES

I need some kinda sense memory thing to make this happen.

EVE

How does that work?

JAMES

I need to feel that pang in the pit of my stomach again.

EVE

How do we do that?

JAMES

I don't know. Something to scare  
the ever loving-

EVE

The Pick is gonna figure out who  
broke his nose and come after you.

JAMES

Pick doesn't scare me. I saw him  
this morning - he's a mess. Oh. And  
by the way, who's Shirl?

EVE

What? Why!

JAMES

When I knocked on the door he said,  
Shirl, that you? Who's Shirl?

EVE

Shirl? Shirl! Shirley! She...  
They... OH MY GOD! Then what'd he  
say?

JAMES

I knocked again and he said  
something like, Eve if that's you  
don't bother. I told Crowley I'd  
pay your parents the deductible so  
he's not charging us rent.

EVE

Really?

JAMES

Really.

EVE

I told him he'd negotiate. What  
else did he say? And then.

JAMES

I knocked again. That time he came  
to the door. Boy was he plowed.  
Smelled like a distillery.

EVE

So you broke his nose?

JAMES

No. I said Ho Ho Ho! Merry Christmas, then I pulled the bag over his head and introduced his face to my knee. I heard a crack and a low growl like a wounded animal. He went down.

EVE

And that's when you - you know - tinkled on him.

JAMES

I had to go anyway and I didn't feel like asking to use the restroom. So I just... you know, went wee Willy Winkle on his head.

EVE

Did he say anything?

JAMES

***Santa why?***

EVE

Wow. Really?

JAMES

Yeah.

EVE

How did you feel before you knocked on the door.

JAMES

Scared. Nervous. Excited. Never done anything like that before.

EVE

There you go. Sense memory - Go!

JAMES

Oh you're good.

He goes back to where he started and walks back slowly acting like a teen about to ask a girl out.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Eve, would you like to go out with me?

EVE

Sometime...

JAMES

**What?**

EVE

You said would you like to go out with me sometime.

JAMES

Really? Do I have to go back and do it again?

EVE

No. Just ask again.

JAMES

Right. Got it. Eve would you like to go out with me... **Sometime?**

EVE

No.

JAMES

**WHAT?**

EVE

No.

JAMES

**No? NO! I went through all that for NO! Are you nuts.**

EVE

SSSSHHHH! They might hear you.

JAMES

NO! You lose a wing nut?

EVE

James, I can't go out with you. You see I have this idiot boy friend who, if he knows we're going out will try to kill you. So, we can't go out. Not yet.

JAMES

Oh My God. All that for that?

EVE

You said it, there is no wormhole to the past. You can't back. But if we could...

JAMES

You set me up. Again! You're unbelievable.

He goes to the door.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Let's go.

EVE

Wait. It's my turn.

JAMES

You're turn? Oh good lord why?

EVE

Go over there.

She points across the room.

JAMES

Oh for-

EVE

Just do it.

He goes to the other side of the room. She starts to cross to him very slowly because of all the pain she is in.

JAMES

They are going to kick us out.

She continues.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Any day now.

EVE

I'm wounded.

JAMES

I would say.

EVE

Sing me a song, help set the mood.

JAMES

I would not be just a nuffin...

EVE

No. You hav'ta make it up.

JAMES

**Really, okay.** Once upon a time there was a silly little girl, her heart was in a swirl, her head was full of churl, she married her bo from school, turned out to be the town fool, she was surprised when she found out he was-

She gets to him puts her hand up to his mouth.

EVE

James?

JAMES

Eve.

EVE

Last night the doctor visited me around four in the morning.

JAMES

Oh. Really. You didn't mention.

EVE

He told me the reason I didn't know I was having a miscarriage was because I was drunk and about an hour away from dying of hypothermia.

JAMES

I didn't know you were drunk.

EVE

I have to know, if you hadn't seen the girls, were you going to leave me out there to die?

JAMES

Thought crossed my mind.

EVE

James.

JAMES

Oooo shockerooni! To you it was a dot on the map - go this way - go that - to me it was a punch in the face that determined my fate - and I blamed you. Not Pick. To me he was just another whipped fool doing what his tiny brain and his Little Eve Little told him to do.

EVE

Boys - you always find excuses for each other's bad behavior.

JAMES

*And there you were! My high school bully, my nemesis, my Little Eve Little who set me up for the hardest fall of my life and I had just peed on you and you were a mess - so leaving you to die in the snow, a homeless bum, struck me as poetic justice.*

EVE

James!

JAMES

But I didn't. I couldn't tear myself away.

EVE

I'm glad.

JAMES

Eve, I was never gonna let you die. I'm not that person.

EVE

That's what I thought.

JAMES

I was gonna call the cops. Tell them some chick was out in the snow about to Popsicle herself.

EVE

Nice.

JAMES

Then I went to dry your hair you looked up at me and a snow flake landed on your eyelash. Right there.

He touches the tip of her eyelash.

JAMES (CONT'D)

And sparkled. That day you said yes in the cafeteria I literally walked on air for two days. Nothing could bother me. Nothing could touch me. I was in heaven.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

Dancing on air from place to place,  
room to room, class to class, a  
silly smile plastered on my face. I  
was perfect. The world was perfect.  
I had a date with the most  
beautiful girl in the world and I  
was gonna nail that audition. Last  
night that little snowflake  
glistened in the streetlight like a  
perfect jewel and it brought me  
back to something I hadn't felt in  
years. Like a lost souvenir long  
gone and forgotten, suddenly found.  
And at that moment I just had to  
know - what happens next.

EVE

This.

She pulls him down and kisses him.

EVE (CONT'D)

Ouch.

JAMES

Idiot. You're all busted up.

EVE

James, would you go out with me?

JAMES

I just asked you out and you said  
no.

EVE

You were right, you never should  
have asked me out. I should've  
asked you out.

JAMES

How would that have played out any  
better?

EVE

No one would have known. When I  
asked Lizzy to talk to you there  
was no way of keeping the cat in  
the bag. If I had just man upped  
and or lady upped and asked you out  
myself we could've pulled it off  
without anyone being the wiser.

JAMES

Woulda shoulda coulda.

EVE

James? I want to go out with you on a date. Like we should have ten years ago when I'm feeling and looking better...

JAMES

What'd you have in mind?

EVE

Movie and a pizza. That was the plan, right?

JAMES

So, I'm a cheap date?

EVE

A nice restaurant and a bottle of wine.

JAMES

What am I, an escort?

EVE

A museum. The zoo?

JAMES

Now we're twelve.

EVE

Good lord. I don't care. You name it. Anything.

JAMES

A strip joint?

EVE

If that's what you want.

JAMES

Bring a lot of ones.

EVE

Will do.

JAMES

Okay. You got a date.

He looks her over.

JAMES (CONT'D)

In two months.

EVE

Two months!

JAMES

Three.

EVE

Help me out.

She puts her arms up for support. He takes her in his arms and kisses her gently.

EVE (CONT'D)

Home?

JAMES

Aren't we?

EVE

The girls like your place?

JAMES

First thing they did when they got there was jump up and down on my bed singing something about overflowing with Christmas. But don't worry they eventually fell asleep.

EVE

Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Overflowing with Christmas Cheer -  
Christmas, Christmas, Christmas  
Cheeeeeer...

JAMES

That's it.

EVE

That's our song. We made it up last night... Last night... That was so long ago... OH NO! I'm sorry.

JAMES

Why? What?

EVE

They were jumping on your bed. They know better. I'm sorry.

JAMES

They were just having fun.

EVE

But what if they break it?

JAMES

It's just a bed, not a person.

She grabs him and kisses him.

EVE AND JAMES

Ow!

JAMES

Here.

He takes her to him slowly and gently and they kiss gently.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Better?

EVE

Much.

JAMES

You can jump up and down on the bed  
too if you want.

She puts her head on his shoulder and they start out the  
door.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey.

EVE

What?

JAMES

Merry Christmas, Eve.

EVE

It's still Christmas Day! I haven't  
missed it. The Spirits have done it  
all in one night. And who are you?  
Are you a ghost too?

JAMES

I'm Santa Claus.

EVE

Yes you are.

She kisses him.

BLACKOUT