

ACT I SCENE 1

(Present Time, a few days before Thanksgiving. As the lights come up, LEONIDAS stands in the center of the common room of SANTA'S workshop. TINKER and the EXTRA ELVES, some standing and some sitting in groups of two or three, engage in private discussions around the stage)

(PUDDIN and two EXTRA ELVES enter stage right)

PUDDIN

(PUDDIN shivers as if coming in from the cold)

Brrr! I know we're elves and this is the North Pole, but it's still cold out there.

Let's go over by the fire and sit on that soft warm rug made of camel hair.

LEONIDAS

Well Puddin, when the icy winds blow, the temperature drops, and the first snow falls, we all know that we are just around the corner from the most magical time of all.

(LEONIDAS pauses as song number 1 begins)

LEONIDAS

THE FIRST TWINKLING LIGHTS ON A YULE TREE

I-1-2

MEANS THE STREETS WILL SOON ABOUND

WITH A WONDERFUL CACOPHONY

OF HOLIDAY SIGHTS AND SOUNDS.

LIKE SANTA CLAUS, THE MONITOR ELVES, MANGER SCENES,

AND CHURCH CHOIRS SINGING,

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN, CHRISTMAS PARADES, REINDEER

AND SLEIGH BELLS RINGING.

IT GIVES A JOYFUL FEELING,

A FEELING AS WARM AS NEW CASHMERE

THAT CAN ONLY BE EXPLAINED BY SAYING

CHRISTMAS IS DRAWING NEAR.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, AND EXTRA ELVES

WHEN CHRISTMAS DRAWS NEAR,

THERE'S A FEEL-GOOD KIND OF CHEER.

CAROLS ARE SUNG OUT IN THE STREET.

THERE'S A LOT OF CHRISTMAS GOODIES TO EAT.

PUDDIN

TINSEL ADORNS EACH WINDOW AND PORTAL,

AND TEMPERS REMAIN UNFURLED.

THE WORDS PEACE ON EARTH SOUND MUCH MORE HOPEFUL,

AND ALL SEEMS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.

IT'S A TIME TO FEEL THE LOVE,

FOR BOTH MAN AND THE SON ABOVE.

I-1-3

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, AND EXTRA ELVES

IT'S THAT WONDROUS TIME OF YEAR
WHEN CHRISTMAS IS DRAWING NEAR.

PUDDIN

CHILDREN WILL DON THEIR ANGEL WINGS AND
ACT THEIR BEST IN SANTA'S SIGHT,
AND THEY DREAM OF GIFTS THEY HOPE HE BRINGS
ON THAT MUCH AWAITED NIGHT.

PEOPLE SAY HI, HUG ONE ANOTHER, AND THE WHOLE
FAMILY COMES IN.

THEN MEMORIES OF SOME CHRISTMAS PAST TAKE YOU
TO A TIME BACK WHEN
YOU HAD THAT SPECIAL FEELING
THAT CHILDREN HAVE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR
THAT CAN ONLY BE EXPLAINED BY SAYING
CHRISTMAS IS DRAWING NEAR.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, AND EXTRA ELVES

WHEN CHRISTMAS DRAWS NEAR,
THERE'S A FEEL-GOOD KIND OF CHEER.
CAROLS ARE SUNG OUT IN THE STREET.
THERE'S A LOT OF CHRISTMAS GOODIES TO EAT

LEONIDAS

TINSEL ADORNS EACH WINDOW AND PORTAL,
AND TEMPERS REMAIN UNFURLED.

I-1-4

THE WORDS PEACE ON EARTH SOUND MUCH MORE HOPEFUL,
AND ALL SEEMS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.
IT'S A TIME TO FEEL THE LOVE,
FOR BOTH MAN AND THE SON ABOVE.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, AND EXTRA ELVES

IT'S THAT WONDROUS TIME OF YEAR
WHEN CHRISTMAS IS DRAWING NEAR.
WHAT A WONDROUS TIME OF YEAR
WHEN CHRISTMAS DRAWS NEAR.

PUDDIN

That song reminds me that it's nearly time for the monitor elves
to take their leave,
and go to where they can listen to children until Christmas Eve.

TINKER

I would like to know just who are these monitor elves we heard
the song mention.

I know that each year they leave around Thanksgiving, but what
is their intention?

LEONIDAS

The monitor elves are a fairly new designation, and they have an important role to play.

Believe it or not, some of you may just might to become monitor elves someday.

I-1-5

PUDDIN

Leonidas, why don't we tell them how the Monitor Corps Elves came to be,
and while we're at it, we will tell them about Jingles because I think we can all agree,
that he became a hero when he fought against what can be only called discrimination
from those who thought that because he didn't make toys, he was below their station.

LEONIDAS

Well, well glory be and gracious high!
What about it? Would you like to hear this story from Puddin and I?

TINKER

Yes, yes! We have all heard the story about the family of elves called Kringles,
so, now please tell us about the Monitor Corps and this elf called Jingles.

(The elves all move in around LEONIDAS)

LEONIDAS

The formation of the Monitor Corps Elves created a new class of elf, that's for sure, and I think it also made some of the more traditional elves feel less secure.

I-1-6

It all began a few years ago. The North Pole was busier than a hive full of bees.

Yet, there were more elves than jobs, and this was causing a certain amount of unease.

(Lights go down)

ACT I SCENE 2

(Mid-January, a little less than six years earlier than the present time. As the lights come up, SANTA and the ELVEN COUNCIL of six senior elves, including OBADIAH and JEDEDIAH, sit around a table in the common room of SANTA'S workshop)

SANTA

(SANTA bangs a gavel on the table)

Obadiah, since this past Christmas is behind us, I would like to open this meeting with a discussion of a problem I've mentioned before, and that is we have a lot of young elves who have been left idle since I modernized the toy factory.

OBADIAH

Like you Santa, we older elves think this will never do since idle hands tend to make idle minds,

so Jedediah will tell you about another task to which we think these skillful but jobless elves can be assigned.

JEDEDIAH

We know you've racked your brain and even asked us elven elders to put our minds to the test,

I-2-8

and we focused our attention on the amount of time you spend checking on each child's Christmas list.

(The ELVEN COUNCIL stands and pauses as song
Number 2 starts)

OBADIAH, JEDEDIAH, AND COUNCIL

WHAT WOULD THEY LIKE?

OH WHAT WOULD THEY LIKE?

JEDEDIAH

WE KNOW EACH YEAR THAT YOU CHECK THEIR LIST

TO SEE IF IT'S DOLL OR BIKE.

EACH YEAR THIS BECOMES

AN EVEN MORE DAUNTING CHORE,

SINCE THERE'S ALWAYS MORE CHILDREN

THAN THE YEAR BEFORE.

OH THE ELVES COULD BE A HELP

OR PERHAPS TO BE MORE EXACT,

OBADIAH, JEDEDIAH, AND COUNCIL

THEY COULD TELL YOU WHO WANTS THIS
AND WHO MIGHT WANT THAT.

OBADIAH

EVERY YEAR YOU SPEND
A LOT OF YOUR TIME
CHECKING ON WHO WANTS WHAT
AND WHO HAS CHANGED THEIR MIND.

I-2-9

IT WOULD SURE HELP YOU
GET OUT OF A JAM,
IF THE ELVES WOULD TAKE OVER
CONTROL OF THE PROGRAM.
THEY COULD WATCH THE CHILDREN
AND GIVE YOU SOME CHIT CHAT

OBADIAH, JEDEDIAH, AND COUNCIL

ON JUST WHO MIGHT WANT THIS
AND JUST WHO MIGHT WANT THAT.
WHAT WOULD THEY LIKE?
OH WHAT WOULD THEY LIKE?

JEDEDIAH

WE KNOW EACH YEAR THAT YOU CHECK THEIR LIST
TO SEE IF IT'S DOLL OR BIKE.
EACH YEAR THIS BECOMES
AN EVEN MORE DAUNTING CHORE,

SINCE THERE'S ALWAYS MORE CHILDREN
THAN THE YEAR BEFORE

OH THE ELVES COULD BE A HELP
OR PERHAPS TO BE MORE EXACT,

OBADIAH, JEDEDIAH, AND COUNCIL

THEY COULD TELL YOU WHO WANTS THIS
AND WHO MIGHT WANT THAT.

YES THE ELVES COULD BE A HELP

I-2-10

OR PERHAPS TO BE MORE EXACT,
THEY COULD TELL YOU WHO WANTS THIS
AND WHO WANTS THAT.

(The ELVEN COUNCIL take their seats)

SANTA

I do spend a lot of time checking their lists, and I like the
idea that the idle elves would have something to do, but in
order to watch the children, won't they have to be gone from the
North Pole?

OBADIAH

Yes, for a few weeks, but we will send only young adults who
have the disposition
to hang around in places where children can be found and just
watch and listen.

JEDEDIAH

We will contact the owners of these places, and once we've received their okay, the elves will then be assigned to spots where they can hear what the children say.

OBADIAH

We will call them Santa's Monitor Corps because they will be visible but nonchalant, and then monitor what the children say in order to advise you on the toys that the children really want.

I-2-11

SANTA

But what about tradition? For years, children have written me letters telling me what they want for Christmas.

JEDEDIAH

They can still write their letters and let you know about their favorite gift, but as you well know, for many different reasons, their wishes sometimes shift.

OBADIAH

With your Monitor Corps elves stationed in places where children gather, shop, or play, they can see what the children really want as their minds change from day to day.

JEDEDIAH

Then, rather than spending so much time reading so many letters to see if they changed their request, you can rely on the reports of these monitor elves to let you know which gift each child likes the best .

SANTA

I can see how this could be better than out of date letters, but how will these elves let me know which gifts to pack?

I-2-12

JEDEDIAH

We have WiFi, and the IT elves developed an App so messages can be sent any time up to the day of Christmas Eve; therefore we should have exactly the right gift loaded in your bag before you have to leave.

SANTA

I like it. It will make life easier for me, the children are more likely to receive the gift they really want, and the idle elves will have a role to play. My only question now is when do we start?

OBADIAH

Give us ten months to prepare, and we think four weeks should be enough time for them to weave their spell,

so they should go in during the festivities next Thanksgiving
and return home on the eve of the next Noel.

(Lights go down)

1-3-13

ACT I SCENE 3

(Present time. As the lights come up
LEONIDAS and PUDDIN are seated center
stage in the common area of SANTA'S
workshop with TINKER and the EXTRA
ELVES gathered around them)

LEONIDAS

So it was decided by a majority faction,
that come Thanksgiving, they would put the plan in action.
That November as people ate turkey and watched their favorite
team score a touch-down,

the monitor elves entered stores and other places where children were likely to be found.

PUDDIN

We older elves know the answer, but perhaps it's time we cleared the air and let the young ones know just how the Monitor Corps elves get from here to there.

(LEONIDAS and PUDDIN stand and pause as song number 3 starts)

LEONIDAS

AS NOVEMBER CLOSES AND AUTUMN'S
NEARLY FADED OUT,
WE HEAR THE HORNS, SEE THE FLOATS, AND HEAR

1-3-14

AN OLD FAMILIAR SHOUT.
HERE IT COMES. IT'S ON ITS WAY SOMEONE
YELLS WITH THE SOUND OF GLEE,
AND WE KNOW THE THANKSGIVING PARADE
HAS REACHED THE SPOT WE CAN SEE.
IT MIGHT BE ON THE UPPER END
OR IT MIGHT BE RIGHT DOWN TOWN,

LEONIDAS AND PUDDIN

AND WHILE YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT,
THIS IS WHEN THE ELVES COME TO TOWN.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, AND EXTRA ELVES

THE ELVES COME TO TOWN WITH SANTA.
THEY HITCH A RIDE IN HIS SLEIGH
AS HE COMES DOWN FROM THE NORTH POLE
TO RIDE IN THE BIG PARADE.

PUDDIN

THEY ENTER THE STORES AS QUIETLY
AS THE NEW FALLEN SNOW,
AND THEY MAKE THE CHILDREN HAPPY
WHERE EVER THEY HAPPEN TO GO.
OH HOW QUICKLY THEY CAN MAKE A CHILD
SMILE INSTEAD OF FROWN.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, and EXTRA ELVES

YES, EVERYONE IS ELATED

I-3-15

WHEN THE ELVES COME TO TOWN.

PUDDIN

FOR THE NEXT MONTH THEY ARE SEEN EARLY
AND THEY STAY UP LATE,
AS THEY LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN'S WANTS
AND KEEP SANTA UP TO DATE.
THEY HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, BUT
THEY KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN,
AND THEIR TIME HERE SEEMS LIKE IT'S OVER

BEFORE IT'S EVEN BEGUN.

YES WHEN THE TIME COMES, THE CHILDREN
SURE DO HATE TO SEE THEM GO

LEONIDAS AND PUDDIN

ON CHRISTMAS EVE WHEN SANTA
TAKES THE ELVES BACK TO THE NORTH POLE.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, and EXTRA ELVES

THE ELVES COME TO TOWN WITH SANTA.

THEY HITCH A RIDE IN HIS SLEIGH
AS HE COMES DOWN FROM THE NORTH POLE
TO RIDE IN THE BIG PARADE.

LEONIDAS

THEY ENTER THE STORES AS QUIETLY
AS THE NEW FALLEN SNOW,
AND THEY MAKE THE CHILDREN HAPPY

I-3-16

WHERE EVER THEY HAPPEN TO GO.

OH HOW QUICKLY THEY CAN MAKE A CHILD
SMILE INSTEAD OF FROWN.

LEONIDAS, PUDDIN, and EXTRA ELVES

YES, EVERYONE IS ELATED
WHEN THE ELVES COME TO TOWN.
YES, EVERYONE IS ELATED
WHEN THE ELVES COME TO TOWN.

(KNOCK KNOCK enters stage right)

KNOCK KNOCK

I heard you singing about the sleigh, and I have to say that the
song really rocks,
but I think you need another knock knock joke from Knock Knock.
Knock knock!

LEONIDAS

Who's there?

KNOCK KNOCK

Lettuce.

LEONIDIAS

Lettuce who?

KNOCK KNOCK

Lettuce, be sure Santa knows what he can get us.

(KNOCK KNOCK laughs to himself as HE exits stage
left)

1-3-17

PUDDIN

I swear that if that elf's brains were a wind you could
dispatch,
the breeze wouldn't be enough to blow out even a small match.

(LEONIDAS and PUDDIN sit down. The EXTRA ELVES
move in around LEONIDAS again)

LEONIDAS

Now, back to our story. No one saw it coming, but a problem did arise.

The toy making elves considered the monitor elves to be of a lower class than themselves, at least in their own eyes.

PUDDIN

It just so happened that one of the decisions of the elven brass was to assign an orphan elf named Jingles to this new class.

LEONIDAS

Jingles had lost his parents before he was the age of two, so several of us older elves helped him along as he grew. Anyone who took the time to know him well at all knew that someday, even for an elf, he would stand tall.

PUDDIN

Jingles was happy, friendly, and had good rapport;

I-4-18

therefore he was readily welcomed into the Monitor Corps. He never thought about class or his particular station, and he had no idea this would later cause him aggravation.

LEONIDAS

So, on that Thanksgiving nearly five years ago, Jingles was assigned to hang out in a Mrs. Elsten's pet store. Then each year, Jingles, like the other Monitor elves, would go to the same place as the year before,

(Lights fade out)

I-4-19

ACT I SCENE 4

(Five years earlier than present time,
on the day after Thanksgiving at MRS.
ELSTEN'S pet store. As the lights
come up, CEO and PEARCE ELSTEN stand by
a Christmas tree and look at JINGLES
sitting by the tree)

(MRS. ELSTEN enters stage right)

MRS. ELSTEN

Well, I see you've found Jingles. He is one of Santa's Monitor Corps elves.

CEO

Look Pearce! He is cuter than a kitten playing with ball of twine. Where did he come from Nonna?

MRS. ELSTEN

He came down from the North Pole yesterday, and he will be here until Christmas.

PEARCE

Ceo, look at how his shoes curl up at the toes. I think we should change his name to Krinkletoes.

MRS: ELSTEN

No, I think we better keep the name Jingles, but you can call him Jingles Krinkletoes if you like.

(Lights Fade out))