

The MANAGER and ALL then exit except for the STORE ELF #1, STORE ELF #2, BUDDY and JOVIE. JOVIE is at one side putting on her coat. BUDDY is smiling and sucking on a candy cane.

BUDDY

(staring at JOVIE)

Gee, she's so pretty.

BUDDY  
JOVIE

MANAGER

Well, why don't you ask her out?

BUDDY

Out?

MANAGER

On a date. Take her to dinner...

BUDDY

Eat food with her?

MANAGER

You know. Show her a good time, dance with her, take her home, get her into bed...

BUDDY

(continuing the list)

....snuggle under the covers, get out the flashlights, eat fluffernutter ...

MANAGER

Whatever turns your crank, Buddy.

STORE ELVES #1 and #2 exit, as JOVIE starts to leave.

JOVIE

Good night.

BUDDY

Hey, wait a second. Would somebody like a hug?

JOVIE

No, would somebody like a punch in the throat?

BUDDY

No.

JOVIE

So, good night.

BUDDY

Wait. Do you....wanna eat food?

START



JOVIE  
 Do I want to eat food?

BUDDY  
 Um-hmm. You know...

JOVIE  
 Are you asking me out on a date?

BUDDY  
 Yes, right, that's it. A date!

JOVIE  
 Oh, you don't want to go out with me.

BUDDY  
 Yes, I do!

JOVIE  
 No, you don't.

BUDDY  
 Yes, I do!

JOVIE  
 Why?

BUDDY  
 Well, because I like you. I feel really warm when I'm around you. And, um, my tongue swells up.

JOVIE  
 Your tongue swells up?

BUDDY  
*(with a swollen tongue)*  
 Yeth, it doth. See?

JOVIE  
 Well, it's weirdly nice that I make your tongue swell up, but I just don't see this date happening.

BUDDY  
 Oh, of course. I'm sure you already have a date tonight. Obviously. You probably have guys wanting to eat food with you all the time. Lunch, dinner....I bet you have a different guy for breakfast every morning. It was dumb of me to ask.

JOVIE  
 What the hell. I'm free Thursday.

BUDDY  
 JOVIE

BUDDY  
JOVIE

**BUDDY**

Thursday? Thursday! Yessss!!! This is going to be the best Thursday ever in the history of Thursdays!

**JOVIE**

You know what? I find if you lower your expectations in life, you avoid a lot of disappointment.

*She starts to leave and notices he isn't moving.*

Don't you have a home to go to?

**BUDDY**

Sure. I have a home to go. A nice home, with a big bed. And walls and a ceiling and everything. I'm just going to stay here and put up a little more tinsel.

**JOVIE**

Seriously? Okay. Well. Good night.

**BUDDY**

G'night, Jovie.

END



*JOVIE exits. MUSIC underscores as LIGHTS change and BUDDY, alone on stage, lies down covered by a Christmassy-looking quilt. BUDDY sings himself a lullaby.*

AND IF IT'S TOO COLD TO SLED  
WE'LL EAT GINGERBREAD INSTEAD  
AND THEN CUDDLE TILL HE TUCKS ME IN AT NIGHT

*BUDDY snores loudly.*

*Fade to black.*

*Lights up. The following morning. Buddy wakes to see The MANAGER arriving for work followed by a department store FAKE SANTA who takes his place in Santa's big red chair. CHILDREN and PARENTS stream into the toy department along with the other STORE ELVES (except for JOVIE). MUSIC out.*

**MANAGER**

Santa! Santa's here! We're open! Send in the kids.

*A MOTHER leads a small BOY to the FAKE SANTA.*

**FAKE SANTA**

*(in a heavy New York accent)*

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

BUDDY  
JOVIE

JOVIE

Miraculous, huh? Okay, well you look miraculous too. That elf getup made you look incredibly dorky.

BUDDY

Thanks!

JOVIE

That wasn't a compli-

BUDDY

I know! It's the night before the night before Christmas. Let's do something Christmas-y!

#7b - Big Tree Music

MUSIC begins under.

JOVIE

You want Christmas-y? Okay. Follow me!

*JOVIE runs off playfully. BUDDY follows. When they return, the set has changed. We see Rockefeller Center and its enormous Christmas tree, up stage center, decorated but unlit. Down stage is the skating rink, with many CHILDREN and ADULTS skating about.*

START

BUDDY

*(staring, gob-smacked, at the Christmas tree)*

Oh! Let's go skating!

JOVIE

I'm not a very good skater

BUDDY

That's okay, Neither am I. Santa says I'm a hazard. He calls me "Edward Scissor feet".

JOVIE

Stop. Let's make a pact. If you try to be less elf-y, I'll try to be less bitchy.

BUDDY

Okay. I'd like it if you'd be less bitchy.

*During the following dialogue, THEY rent skates and put them on.*

JOVIE

I came here last year too, my first Christmas in New York.

#7c – Rockefeller Center Skating

BUDDY  
JOVIE

**BUDDY**

Oh, where'd you come from?

**JOVIE**

L.A.

**BUDDY**

L.A.? Never heard of that place. I don't think Santa goes there.

**JOVIE**

He doesn't. Christmases there are surreal. No snow.

**BUDDY**

No snow?!?

**JOVIE**

I've never even seen snow. I've always wanted to.

**BUDDY**

That's the saddest thing I've ever heard.

**JOVIE**

Yeah, I've been here for almost two years and it hasn't snowed once. You know, when I was a kid I dreamed of having a snowy Christmas Eve dinner at Tavern on the Green with Billy Crystal. That sounds so stupid.

**BUDDY**

No it doesn't! Who's Billy Crystal? He sounds magical.

**JOVIE**

He's an actor. He was in my favorite movie of all time: "City Slickers". Anyway, last year I spent Christmas Eve in a 400 square foot studio apartment with no heat watching a "Law and Order" marathon on TNT. Sad, huh?

**BUDDY**

You know what? We are going to have Christmas Eve Dinner at Tavern on the Green!

**JOVIE**

I don't think so. For one thing, it's been closed for months. It just re-opened, now it's even harder to get in.

**BUDDY**

My dad can get us a table! He can do anything!

**JOVIE**

Buddy, don't promise things you can't deliver.

*BUDDY  
JOVIE*

**BUDDY**

Jovie, I will make your dream come true. I promise.

**JOVIE**

Wow, I might actually have a real Christmas.

**BUDDY**

You see? You do have Christmas Spirit!

**JOVIE**

I guess I do. A little.

**BUDDY**

Now you have to spread it around and remember the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

#8 - A Christmas Song

**JOVIE**

I told you, I don't sing.

**BUDDY**

What do you mean, you don't sing?

**JOVIE**

I mean I don't sing for anyone, at anytime, under any circumstances, and that includes birthdays, Bar Mitzvahs and especially Christmas. Okay?

*END* 

*MUSIC begins. BUDDY leads JOVIE onto the ice and they start skating, and continue throughout the number.*

**BUDDY**

COME ON, JOVIE, SINGING CAN BE EASY

**JOVIE**

Please stop.

**BUDDY**

IT'S FUN, IT'S FREE AND BEST OF ALL IT'S ...

**JOVIE**

Totally cheesy?