

On the button of the song, BUDDY turns on the electric fan and the wind machine springs to life with a lot of flashing colored lights and beeping sounds. The light bulb comes brightly on.

BUDDY

All fixed!

MICHAEL

Yay, Buddy!

(hugs BUDDY)

You're the man!

EMILY

(hugs BUDDY and MICHAEL)

Nice going, Buddy.

The door opens and WALTER enters, carrying his briefcase and weary after a long day of work. HE stops short upon seeing BUDDY, MICHAEL and EMILY all happily hugging each other.

START

WALTER

What in the devil is going on here?!

MICHAEL

It's Buddy...

EMILY

He's stayin' with us!

BUDDY

Hi, Dad!

MICHAEL

Look, Buddy fixed my wind machine!

(turns on the wind machine)

BUDDY

See!

WALTER

Staying with us? What do you mean, Emily, he's staying with us?

(to MICHAEL)

Turn that noise off!

WALTER
MICHAEL
EMILY
BUDDY

WALTER
MICHAEL
EMILY
BUDDY

EMILY

Just for overnight. The police showed up with him.

WALTER

Oh, for God's sake!

MICHAEL

Hey Dad, please, look at this, I just switch on the fan and...

WALTER

Not now!

EMILY

Michael, why don't you show Buddy the spare room.

(to BUDDY)

You can sleep there. It has a futon.

Leaving with MICHAEL

BUDDY

A futon?

MICHAEL

It's a kind of bed.

BUDDY

Oh! I thought it was a robot, like "I am futon".

BUDDY & MICHAEL

(doing robot voices)

"I am futon! I am futon!"

MICHAEL and BUDDY exit.

WALTER

Emily, there's no way—

EMILY

Walter, he's homeless and it's freezing out. We couldn't just let him sleep in the street.

WALTER

Okay. There's a youth hostel over by the west side highway. He can stay there.

EMILY

Good idea. We'll stick him in a cab and send him to a youth hostel in his elf suit. Or, we could save the cab fare and just beat him up here.

WALTER
MICHAEL - 49 -

WALTER

EMILY
BUDDY

END L

All right. One night and that's it. I want him out of here by 8 a.m.

#5a - The Next Morning

LIGHTS blackout and MUSIC of "I'll Believe In You" plays off as Scene 7 ends and we transition into...

MICHAEL
BUDDY

ACT ONE
SCENE 8

Hobbs apartment, the following morning. BUDDY and MICHAEL are having cold spaghetti for breakfast together.

MICHAEL

Wow, Buddy. Left over spaghetti for breakfast is the best, huh?

BUDDY

I've never had spaghetti before.

MICHAEL

No way!

BUDDY

Yes way. At the North Pole, we only eat from the five major food groups; cookies, candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup. Something's missing....

(HE takes a bottle of syrup from his sleeve)

Syrup! I never leave home without it!

MICHAEL

You like sugar, huh?

BUDDY

Is there sugar in maple syrup?

MICHAEL

Yes.

BUDDY

Then yes!

MICHAEL

You do know that sugar's bad for your teeth right?

BUDDY

Of course, that's why it's important to chew your sugar carefully, drink lots of syrup and see your dentist twice a day.

BUDDY now pours maple syrup all over his spaghetti, and hungrily starts eating.

Meanwhile, stage left, in the living room, we hear the SOUND of a door CHIME as EMILY, in a bathrobe, enters and answers the door. She takes a Fed-Ex envelope from a uniformed DOORMAN, closes the door and crosses to sit down in an easy chair. SHE opens the Fed-Ex envelope and begins reading its contents.

START

END

ACT TWO

SCENE 3

The living room in the Hobbs' apartment, as in Act One, Scene 8. MICHAEL and EMILY are reading BUDDY'S note on the Etch-a-sketch.

START

EMILY

(reading the note)

"...I don't belong at the North Pole, either. Nobody wants me, Nobody needs me."
Poor thing, wandering the streets in that dorky elf suit.

MICHAEL

Why did he do it?

EMILY

He had a fight with your father.

(examining the Etch-a-sketch more closely)

This really is amazing. I can barely draw a straight line on one of these things.

MICHAEL

We have to find him! We have to bring him home!

EMILY

We will find him, but after that I think we need to get him some help.

MICHAEL

What do you mean "help"?

EMILY

Professional help. Honey, Buddy is crazy.

MICHAEL

Mom.

EMILY

No, he is. We have to accept that.

MICHAEL

He's my brother.

EMILY

I know. You have a crazy brother. Lot's of people do.

MICHAEL

Just because somebody believes in Santa Claus, doesn't mean they're crazy.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

EMILY
MICHAEL

MICHAEL

No, it doesn't.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

MICHAEL

What about little kids? Are they crazy too?

EMILY

It's different. If a little kid believes in a talking purple dinosaur, it's delightful. If he still believes when he's thirty, it's profoundly disturbing. Look, just because Buddy is crazy, doesn't mean we should love him any less. I have a friend who's a psychiatrist. You remember Barry? With the Ferrari? I'm going to give him a call right now. Maybe he can tell us where we should look for Buddy.

EMILY leaves the room.

MICHAEL wanders over to an upstage window. He stares out forlornly.

MICHAEL

(to himself)

Buddy. Where did you go?

#11 - There Is A Santa Claus

SUDDENLY a bright flash of light appears outside. MICHAEL stares in disbelief.

Mom! Mom!

EMILY runs back into the room.

EMILY

What?

MICHAEL

I SAW A TINY SLEIGH
MAKE ITS TINY WAY
RIGHT ACROSS THE SKY

THERE WASN'T TIME TO THINK
THERE WASN'T TIME TO BLINK
BEFORE IT ZOOMED RIGHT BY