

"The Christmas Clauset"

written by

Brian Neal

5750 W. Superior St.  
Chicago, IL 60644  
708-769-2142  
BrianNeal88@aol.com

WGAw #2261970

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

1

A big wooden door slowly opens.

START AT BOTTOM OF DOOR.

Snow covered boots exit out the door. They stomp on the carpet to shake the snow off.

SLOWLY RAISE CAMERA UP.

Big snow pants, a winter coat and gloves fill the screen. A hood is covering their face. They reach up to pull off their hood.

MARTHA (Caucasian, 60's, motherly) shivers at the warmth of her home. She takes off her boots and exits the room straight ahead.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHICAGO TRAIN STATION - DAY

2

DAVID (Caucasian, 30's, not a "bro") exits the train while on the phone. He is wearing a big winter coat, with earmuffs and gloves, black pants and is carrying a suitcase in his other hand. He is walking pretty fast as he weaves through the pedestrians on the street.

DAVID

I'm not sure mom. Work has me pretty swamped.

MARTHA (O.C.)

But you have to come home for Christmas.

He steps out into the crosswalk, not paying attention to the "do not walk" sign, but gets pulled back just in time before the cars start driving.

He half-way turns and thanks the pedestrian that pulled him back, never fully looking at the person, and then continues his conversation.

DAVID

I'll see what I can do, but no promises.

MARTHA (O.C.)  
You know your dad has been sick and  
we would love to see you.

The light changes and he crosses the street and heads towards  
a big building.

DAVID  
Ok mom, I'll do my best, but I have  
to go, I'm already late.

MARTHA (O.C.)  
Ok hunny. Talk to you soon.

DAVID  
Bye mom.

He walks inside the building.

INT. BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

3

The building is open and has a security desk in the middle  
and elevators in the back. There are all types of people  
going every direction. David heads towards the security desk.

DAVID  
What's going on?

The DESK OFFICER (African American, 40's, bald) looks up at  
David.

DESK OFFICER  
It's the holidays.  
You have your badge?

David reaches in his pocket and takes out his work badge. The  
officer scans it.

DESK OFFICER (CONT'D)  
You're good to go.

David starts to walk towards the elevators.

DESK OFFICER (CONT'D)  
And Happy Holidays!!

David turns to the officer.

DAVID  
Same to you.

David continues walking towards the elevators. He presses the  
button to call the elevator down.

The elevator dings to his right and the door opens. He goes to the open door and bumps into a woman. She spills the coffee she was holding on herself.

NOELLE (African American, 30's, goal-oriented) is surprised and shocked. She looks at herself and then at David, as he enters the elevator. He turns towards her and pushes the button to close the elevator door.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
I'm sorry.

As the elevator doors close.

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

4

The elevator doors reopen and David steps out. BENJAMIN (Caucasian, 30's, short) wears jeans and a button-down shirt is waiting for him by the elevator. They begin walking down the hallway.

BENJAMIN  
You're late again.

DAVID  
I know. I tried to get here as fast as I could.

BENJAMIN  
What was the holdup this time?

The hallway opens to a big room filled with cubicles. Many workers are walking around with headsets on.

DAVID  
My mom called, I almost walked into traffic and then I bumped into this girl downstairs, and she spilled coffee on herself.

BENJAMIN  
And you just left her there?

They turn left and enter David's cubicle. It has a corner desk, work chair, coat rack, garbage can and has Christmas decorations.

DAVID  
What else was I supposed to do? I'm already late as it is.

Benjamin nods his head in agreement.

David takes off his coat, earmuffs and gloves. Places them on the coat rack. He is wearing a black suit coat underneath.

BENJAMIN

So, did you get it finished?

David sits in his chair and puts his suitcase on the desk. He opens it and takes out a bunch of rolled up blueprints.

Benjamin walks over and un-rolls the papers to look at them.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Dude, these look great.

DAVID

I hope the rep thinks so.

A knock comes from behind them. They turn around. GARY (Caucasian, 50's, graying hair), David's boss, is standing at the entrance to his cubicle.

GARY

I sure hope you're ready.

DAVID

I've got everything ready to go.

GARY

Then let's go. I've already had to stall them.  
We really need this one David.

David scoops all the blueprints up and grabs his suitcase.

They walk out of the cubicle and go straight ahead.

On the other side of the room, there are big glass windows with offices inside.

They turn right and through the window of the first room you can see a big table with people sitting around it.

Gary opens the door and enters the room. Benjamin holds the door and turns to David.

BENJAMIN

Go get'em.

He gives him a fist bump as David enters the room. Benjamin walks away.

INT. WORK FLOOR - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

5

GARY

Sorry for the delay. We are ready  
to begin.

Gary closes the blinds on the window. He sits in the first  
chair at the table.

David sits his suitcase and blueprints on the table. He is  
starting to set things up for his presentation.

A REPRESENTATIVE (Male, Asian) leans forward.

REPRESENTATIVE

Just another moment. Our partner is  
apparently running late as well.

As the representative sits back in his chair. The door opens  
and someone walks in and goes around to the back of the  
table.

David has set up an easel and is putting his blueprints on  
it.

NOELLE (O.S.)

Sorry I'm late.

REPRESENTATIVE

It's alright. They were just about  
to begin.

PAN OVER TO SEE ITS NOELLE.

NOELLE

Some idiot ran into me, and I  
spilled coffee on myself. Luckily,  
I brought an extra shirt.

David turns around and sees Noelle. He looks like he's seen a  
ghost.

Noelle gives a little smirk.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

Found him.

DAVID

First, I would like to say that I  
am extremely sorry for earlier.

NOELLE

We will deal with that later. Can  
you start the presentation please?

DAVID

Yes ma'am.

David turns towards the easel and takes a deep breath.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

6

The big wooden door opens. STEVE (Caucasian, 60's, portly, short gray beard) enters the house. He is wearing boots, snow pants, a big winter jacket, gloves and a hat. He takes off his boots and exits the room straight ahead.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

The living room is big and full of Christmas decorations. There are two couches in front of the windows in the back, a fireplace on the right side with a Christmas tree next to it, and a coat closet on the left next to the hallway.

Steve walks in and takes off his coat, hat and gloves. He puts the hat and gloves inside his coat and goes to the coat closet. He opens the closet to hang up his coat.

STEVE

(yelling)

Martha!!

Martha enters the living room.

Steve closes the closet.

MARTHA

Yes dear.

He turns to her.

STEVE

Did you talk to David?

MARTHA

I did.

STEVE

Is he coming home?

Martha goes and sits on the couch.

MARTHA  
He didn't say yes.

Steve looks disappointed.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
But, he didn't say no.

Steve comes and sits next to her. He places his hand on her knee.

STEVE  
What are we going to do?

MARTHA  
I have one final idea that should work.

STEVE  
Ok. There isn't much time left.

She kisses him on his cheek.

MARTHA  
This will work.

CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

8

The office door opens. Noelle and her partners exit the office. Gary comes out right after them.

GARY  
I am so sorry. If we can reschedule.

Noelle stops and turns toward him.

NOELLE  
That was really bad.

GARY  
Yes, I know. David is, is just not himself today.

NOELLE  
We are on a tight deadline.

GARY  
(desperately)  
A week. Everything will be perfect in a week.



Noelle thinks for a second. She shrugs her shoulders.

NOELLE

Why not. It's the holidays. You have one week to get everything in order.

GARY

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Noelle turns and walks away with her partners.

Gary turns and goes back into the office.

INT. WORK FLOOR - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

9

David is sitting in the first chair at the table. He looks distraught. He places his hands on his head to cover his face.

Gary walks over.

GARY

What was that?

DAVID

I, I don't know what happened. I had everything down and it just wouldn't come out.

GARY

Is something going on?

DAVID

I don't know. My mom called and said my dad is sick. Then, I worked so hard on this presentation and just blew it.

GARY

When's the last time you've seen your parents?

DAVID

I think a few Christmases ago. It was our thing, but it's been so crazy here, I haven't had the time to visit.

GARY

Well, maybe you should go see them this weekend.

David takes his hands off his face and looks up at Gary.

DAVID

But, what about the presentation.

GARY

She gave us a week. Take some time and be with your parents this weekend and we will pick back up on the presentation on Monday.

Gary turns and exits the office.

David watches him leave.

Benjamin comes into the office and sits across from David.

BENJAMIN

So, how did it go?

DAVID

Dude, I blew it.

Benjamin looks disappointed.

BENJAMIN

I'm sorry man.

DAVID

It's ok. Gary got us another shot next week.

BENJAMIN

You gonna be up for it?

DAVID

We will see.  
I think I'm going to go to my parents tonight.

BENJAMIN

Oh yeah? You mind if I hitch a ride with ya?  
I haven't been back home in a while either.

DAVID

Definitely.

David gets up and gathers his things. Benjamin gets up as well.

BENJAMIN

What time you planning on leaving?

DAVID

Whenever you get to my place. I'm about to head home now, since I don't have anything else to do.

BENJAMIN

Copy that. I'll wrap up the rest of my work and head out as well. Give me an hour at most.

DAVID

Sounds good.

FADE OUT.

EXT. CHICAGO TRAIN STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

10

The doors of the train open. David steps out in his winter coat, earmuffs and gloves, while carrying his suitcase. He begins to walk away from the train platform and go down the stairs.

At the bottom of the stairs, he reaches into his coat pocket and takes out his cellphone. He presses a few buttons and then he places the phone to his ear.

We hear the phone ring. He starts to walk down the street. Someone picks up.

MARTHA (O.C.)

Hello.

DAVID

Hey mom.

MARTHA (O.C.)

Ohh, it's David.

(yelling)

Honey, it's David.

Steve runs into the room.

MARTHA (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'm going to put you on speaker phone.

STEVE (O.C.)

Hey David.

SHOW MARTHA AND STEVE

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

11

Martha and Steve are sitting on the couch. Martha whispers to Steve.

MARTHA  
(whispering)  
You're supposed to be sick.

Steve nods.

DAVID (O.C.)  
Hey Dad.

STEVE  
(sickly)  
How are you doing?

Martha gives Steve a thumbs up.

SHOW STEVE WALKING DOWN THE STREET

EXT. CHICAGO STREET - CONTINUOUS

12

DAVID  
I'm good dad, but you don't sound  
to good.

STEVE (O.C.)  
(sickly)  
I'm alright. It's just a little  
cold.

Steve coughs a little.

DAVID  
Well, I just wanted to tell you  
guys that I'll be coming home  
tonight and stay the weekend.

David walks past a coffee shop and sees Noelle through the window. He stops and looks at her.

MARTHA (O.C.)  
Oh, that's splendid dear. We will  
get things ready for your arrival.

DAVID  
Ok. I have to go. I'll see you this  
evening.

MARTHA AND STEVE (O.C.)  
See you soon.

David places the phone back in his pocket and he enters the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

13

The coffee shop is very spacious, with plenty of room to sit. It has the counter to take your order in the back and you move to the left to pick up your order. There is a restroom to the right of the counter.

David sneakily walks past Noelle to see what she's drinking, by reading what's on her cup.

Noelle is sitting at a table with her laptop open and headphones on.

David goes to the counter and orders her drink and a drink for himself. He turns and watches her to make sure she doesn't see him.

Noelle is very invested in the work she's doing on her laptop.

David grabs the drinks and walks over to Noelle. She doesn't realize at first, but then she notices someone standing by her.

She pulls off her headphones and turns towards David.

NOELLE  
Can I help you?  
Oh, it's you.

David holds up the drinks.

DAVID  
I come in peace.

NOELLE  
What are you doing here?

DAVID  
I actually live right over there.

He points out the window.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I was on my way home and stopped  
for a coffee. That's when I saw you  
and thought you might need another.

He points to her empty coffee cup.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I also truly wanted to apologize  
for earlier at the elevator.

She thinks for a second.

NOELLE  
It's fine.

DAVID  
May I join you?

NOELLE  
Sure.

David walks around and sits on the other side of her.

DAVID  
What are you working on?

She looks up at him and thinks about telling him.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
It's alright if you can't say.  
Especially if it's for a competing  
company.

NOELLE  
No. It's not that work.  
Outside of the company, I work with  
a local orphanage.  
We are trying to put together a  
gingerbread house making contest  
and one of our funders just backed  
out.

DAVID  
I'm sorry.

NOELLE  
I'm sorry for the kids, but I will  
figure something out.

DAVID  
If there is anything that I can do.

NOELLE  
Oh no. I have it handled.

DAVID  
It's the least I can do, plus, it  
is the holidays.

NOELLE

I love this time of year. Something about it is magical.

DAVID

I definitely agree.  
What are you doing in this part of town?

NOELLE

I just moved back. I'm about a block away, that way.

She points in a different direction than David.

DAVID

Good to know.  
Unfortunately, I have to go.  
I'm going to visit my parents for the weekend.  
My dad's been sick.

NOELLE

That's nice of you.

DAVID

Yea. I haven't been home in a while and my parents always loved the holidays, so this is good timing.

He stands up from the table.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It also gives me a chance to relax before the presentation next week.

NOELLE

Don't worry so much about the presentation. Spend this time with your family. You never know how much time you have left.

DAVID

Good point.  
Will I see you later?

She shrugs.

NOELLE

Maybe.

He smiles and turns to walk away.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
And David...

He partially turns back to her.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the coffee.

He smiles, then turns and walks away. Noelle puts her headphones back on.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

14

David is walking towards his car with a suitcase. He is wearing the same clothes from earlier. He takes out his key fob and pushes the button to open the trunk.

He lifts the trunk up and puts his suitcase in.

BENJAMIN (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
I'm here, I'm here.

Benjamin comes running up to David with a suitcase. David turns to him. Benjamin is wearing a winter coat, hat and jeans.

DAVID  
I told you I wasn't leaving until  
you got here. What took so long?

BENJAMIN  
I called my parents to tell them I  
would be coming home. I guess I  
lost track of time.

DAVID  
No worries.

David unlocks the car and walks toward the driver door. Benjamin walks toward the passenger door. David looks over at Benjamin.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I have to tell you about my run in  
with Noelle.

Benjamin opens the passenger door.

BENJAMIN  
Can't wait to hear this.



David opens the driver door.

DAVID  
Shut up. It actually wasn't bad.

DAVID AND BENJAMIN GET INSIDE THE CAR. DAVID PULLS OUT AND DRIVES AWAY.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEQUON WISCONSIN - WINTER - LATER

15

DAVID'S CAR PULLS UP TO THE CURB

David and Benjamin get out of the car. David opens the trunk and starts to take out the suitcases.

BENJAMIN  
I thought it would've snowed more up here.

DAVID  
Yea, me to.

BENJAMIN  
Global Warming is real.

David laughs.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
Well, thanks for the ride.

Benjamin grabs his suitcase and starts to walk up the street. He turns around.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
I'll tell my parents you say hello.

DAVID  
You better.

Benjamin continues to walk up the street.

David grabs his suitcase and walks up the sidewalk to his parents' house.

He stops in the front and stares at it.

The house is a classic ranch style, with the lawn covered in light snow. You can see Christmas decorations in the windows and a big wreath on the front door.

As he approaches, the front door opens. His mom and dad stand at the door. His mom steps aside so he can enter.

Martha and Steve are wearing matching Christmas sweaters and jeans.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

16

David walks into the house with his suitcase. He gives his mom a hug and then his dad.

MARTHA

How was the drive?

DAVID

It was alright. Benjamin rode up with me.

MARTHA

Oh Benjamin. You two have always been such good friends.

Steve walks over to grab David's suitcase.

STEVE

I'll put this in your room.

As he grabs the handle, David quickly grabs the suitcase.

DAVID

I got it dad.

Steve let's go and turns and walks into the living room.

David looks at his mom.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(whispering)

How is he?

MARTHA

He's alright. Let's get you in and settled.

David takes off his boots and they walk into the living room.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

17

Steve is sitting on the couch.

David takes off his coat, earmuffs and gloves and puts them into the coat closet.

MARTHA  
Oh, you look nice.

Martha goes and sits on the couch next to Steve.

David turns to his parents.

DAVID  
I had a big presentation today that  
I bombed, hence the clothes.

MARTHA  
I'm sorry dear.

DAVID  
It's alright. The important thing  
is that I made it up here to see  
you guys.

Martha and Steve exchange a smile.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I'm going to put my suitcase in my  
room.

MARTHA & STEVE  
Okay.

David walks out of the living room with his suitcase.

Steve turns to Martha.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
We have to tell him now, before  
it's too late.

MARTHA  
I know, I know. But we don't want  
to scare him. We have to do it  
right.

David re-enters the living room.

His parents straighten up.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
David come sit down.

He walks over to the other couch and sits facing his parents.

DAVID  
What's going on?

MARTHA

Well...

STEVE

I'm not sick.

David looks surprised.

DAVID

What? Mom, why would you tell me he was sick?

MARTHA

We needed you to come home quick.  
We have something important to tell you.

David looks nervous.

DAVID

Am I like adopted or something?

MARTHA

Goodness no. You are our child.

STEVE

And because you are my son, I want you to take over the family business.

David looks confused.

DAVID

What family business? You've been working at the candy factory for years.

STEVE

That was just a cover son.

DAVID

(frantic)

A cover? Are you like, part of the FBI or CIA?  
Are we under witness protection?

Steve begins to chuckle.

STEVE

No son, it's much worse than that.

Martha hits Steve on the leg.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Ok, ok, it's not bad at all.

MARTHA  
Honey, you know how we feel about  
the Christmas holiday.

David nods his head.

DAVID  
Yes.

MARTHA  
Well, it's because Christmas is a  
very important day for me and your  
dad.  
Especially your dad.

DAVID  
It's important to me too, but it's  
not like he's Santa Claus.

Martha slowly looks at Steve. Steve doesn't say a word.

David stares at both of his parents. He starts to laugh.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
You're trying to tell me that dad's  
Santa Claus?

STEVE  
We aren't trying son. I am Santa  
Claus.

David frowns as he stands up.

DAVID  
(yelling)  
First, you trick me into coming  
here by saying you're sick and then  
you come up with this nonsense.  
That's sick. You both are sick.

STEVE  
If we're so sick, why don't you  
take a look in the closet outside  
our room.

DAVID  
What??

Steve points out the door towards the closet in the hallway.

STEVE  
Go look in the closet.

David walks out of the living room.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

18

David walks up to the big wooden door. He reaches for the knob and slowly opens the door.

SHOW THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENING TO REVEAL A REGULAR CLOSET

The closet has a couple of shelves with big towels and washcloths on them.

David angrily slams the door shut and turns around to walk back into the living room.

When he turns, his parents are standing right behind him in the hallway.

DAVID  
I can't believe I actually looked  
in the closet.

STEVE  
(chuckling)  
Honestly, I can't either.

Martha punches Steve in the arm.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Ok, ok. I'll stop messing with him.

MARTHA  
Try the door again sweetheart.

David stares at his mother.

DAVID  
I'll do this for you mom, but if  
you guys are just messing with me,  
I'm leaving.

David turns back and faces the door. He opens it quickly this time.

A snowball hits him in the face and a gust of cold air slams into his body. He wipes the snow off and stares in amazement.

SHOW A TON OF SNOW ON THE GROUND WITH A HOUSE CLOSE BY, IN THE CLOSET

MARTHA (O.S.)  
Did you have to hit him in the face?

STEVE (O.S.)  
He can't say it's not real now, can he?

David slowly turns around to look at his parents.

Martha has on a green and red blouse with gingerbread men on it. Steve has a full white beard and is wearing a red suit.

He stares at them.

MARTHA  
Are you going to say anything?

He points at the closet.

DAVID  
(stuttering)  
There's a house in the closet and...

He points at them.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Your clothes are different.  
What is going on?

MARTHA  
You're going to need your coat for this next part.

DAVID  
(nervously)  
Oh, okay.

David slowly walks past his parents into the living room.

FADE OUT.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

19

A big door full of Christmas decorations opens.

Martha walks in and shakes off her boots. Steve walks in next and shakes off his boots. David walks in last and as he enters, he stares around the house.

The house is huge. It has a grand staircase with a table in the center. Behind the table, down the middle is a closed door. There are Christmas decorations all over.

MARTHA (O.S.)

Don't forget to shake off your boots honey. Don't want to track the snow inside.

David shakes off his boots.

STEVE

I guess we should give you the grand tour.

Martha and Steve go over to the door. Steve opens the door and walks inside, with Martha following behind him. David takes a second and then he walks through the door after his mom.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - TOP FLOOR TOY WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS 20

STEVE

This is the toy workshop.

The workshop is huge. They are on the second level of the shop. It's a giant grand staircase. David walks over to the railing and looks down.

TURN CAMERA TO SHOW THE SHOP

There is floor to ceiling pillars made of candy canes.

The lower level is filled with elves of all kinds of nationalities. They look like kids. They all are dressed alike.

It's stables on the left for the reindeer. The lower-level center floor has various tables that the elves are working at.

To the right is an open area with a giant door on the wall.

PAN BACK TO DAVID

DAVID

(stuttering)

Are those, are those elves?

He turns and looks at his dad.



STEVE

Yes son, and I think it's something  
you ought to know.

DAVID

What's that?

BENJAMIN (O.S.)

Sir, we are right on track in our  
preparations for Christmas this  
year.

David hears a familiar voice and turns to see Benjamin  
walking towards them.

He is wearing the same clothes as the elves below. He is  
looking down at a clipboard.

He approaches and looks up. He looks surprised and drops the  
clipboard on the floor.

David bends down and grabs the clipboard, then stands up.

David stares at Benjamin.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Stop staring.

DAVID

I can't help it.

He chuckles and points.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You look ridiculous.

Benjamin is taken back.

BENJAMIN

Well, your mom picked these  
outfits.

David quickly turns and looks at his mother.

Martha has started walking down the staircase.

David looks over at his dad.

STEVE

You should probably follow her. Me  
and Benjamin have some things to  
take care of.

Steve and Benjamin go back through the door.

David turns around to take in the toy shop again. Then he turns and follows his mother down the stairs.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - BOTTOM TOY WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS 21

David catches up with his mom.

DAVID  
Hey ma, I didn't mean anything  
by...

She cuts him off.

MARTHA  
It's alright.

She turns and faces him.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
We have a lot to discuss.

She grabs him around the arm, and they begin to walk around the toy shop.

FADE OUT.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER 22

The wooden door opens.

David, Steve and Martha walk back through the door. They take off their boots and walk into the living room.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 23

Steve and Martha sit on the couch on the left and David sits on the couch to the right.

David looks shocked.

Steve looks over at him.

STEVE  
So, what do you think?

David just turns his head to look towards him.

DAVID  
I'm still trying to process it all.

STEVE  
I know it's a lot.

DAVID  
I have so many questions.

MARTHA  
Like what dear?

David leans forward.

DAVID  
First, why the hallway closet?

STEVE  
Well, simply, it's easier.

DAVID  
What do you mean?

STEVE  
Doors can lead you anywhere. A turn of the knob and I'm in Hawaii or I can turn the knob and be in Paris.

DAVID  
Wait, wait, wait. Do you deliver the presents through closet doors?

STEVE  
Well, yeah. Like I said, it's easier.

DAVID  
What about the reindeer and chimneys?

STEVE  
The guy before me believed in that tradition. We're magic. I just choose to use my powers differently.

MARTHA  
But, on certain occasions, your dad will fly the reindeer around. He doesn't do the chimney thing.

STEVE  
I don't like it. I think it's weird. All the other magical creatures use chimney's and automatically I'm supposed to.

DAVID  
What other magical creatures?

MARTHA  
Well, you have the good ones, like the Easter Bunny and then you have the bad ones like Krampus.

STEVE  
He wants to be me so bad. Such a shame.

Martha shakes her head.

DAVID  
(dry)  
Krampus is real?

STEVE  
Of course he is. I'm real. Why can't he be?

DAVID  
This is insane.

STEVE  
And I digress. The hall closet is just for easy access because it's right there.

David takes it all in.

MARTHA  
Any more questions dear?

DAVID  
Who is Benjamin to you?

MARTHA  
Well dear, he's our head elf. He's always been our head elf.

DAVID  
I've known him my entire life.

STEVE  
As you should have. He's over one hundred years old.

DAVID  
Wait, what?

STEVE

He's magical. He doesn't age like you.

DAVID

What about you and mom?

STEVE

The same goes for us. It's all part of the clause.

DAVID

There's a clause?

STEVE

Of course. It's rules to everything.

MARTHA

Even magic.

DAVID

What does the clause say?

STEVE

You'll have plenty of time to fully read it when you take over for me.

DAVID

Why do I need to take over?

STEVE

I'm at my limit son. We've been at this for a long time, and I thought it could be something cool that I could pass on to you.

DAVID

Something cool?

(pause)

I'm just finding out that I'm the son of Santa Claus and my best friend, who I've known literally forever, is an elf and now you're actually asking ME to become Santa Claus because it's something cool?

MARTHA

Well, we aren't asking quite yet.

DAVID

You're not?

MARTHA

No. There's a very important part of the clause that we have to talk about first.

David sits back into the couch.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

When your dad first told me that he was Santa Claus, I thought he was nuts. We had been dating for a while, and I really liked him. It wasn't until he told me about this particular part of the clause, and showed me a little magic, that I fell in love with him.

DAVID

What's this particular part of the clause?

Steve takes a deep breath.

STEVE

It's basically a trial of benevolence. You must perform three selfless acts of kindness that are pure of heart before you can become Santa Claus.

MARTHA

Don't forget about the other part dear.

STEVE

Oh, and you will eventually need a Mrs. Claus.

David puts his hands on his head. He takes a deep breath in his hands. He sits forward on the couch.

DAVID

What qualifies as a selfless act of kindness?

STEVE

Can't tell you that son. You have to figure it out on your own. And remember, it must be pure of heart.

David puts his hands on his face and talks through his hands.

DAVID

So, I will also need to find a Mrs. Claus?

STEVE

Yes, but that's like an optional part. You will have time for that.

MARTHA

Have you been seeing anyone though?

David takes his hands off his face.

DAVID

No. I haven't had time. Work has been keeping me very busy.

MARTHA

I understand.

Steve sits forward.

STEVE

I know we've just thrown a lot at you son, but this has to be done by Christmas Eve.

DAVID

Christmas Eve? I will need time to think about this.

Steve frowns.

MARTHA

Take all the time you need dear.

David leans back into the couch and takes a deep breath.

He gets up and walks out of the room.

Steve and Martha look at each other.

STEVE

Do you think he will do it?

MARTHA

I'm sure he will.

(pause)

Remember, you can assist him with some parts.

STEVE

I'll get Benjamin to help too.

MARTHA

Good idea.

Steve puts his arm around Martha and kisses her on the cheek.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MEQUON WISCONSIN - WINTER - DAY

24

David is carrying his suitcase to his car. He opens the trunk and throws it inside. He goes around to the driver's side and gets in. He puts the car in drive and takes off.

FADE TO:

EXT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

25

David pulls into the parking lot of his apartment complex. He grabs his suitcase out of the trunk and walks over to the buildings.

He walks through the courtyard and goes up the stairs. He turns right and goes to the first door. He takes out his keys and opens the door.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

26

David's apartment is small. Inside the front door is the living room. It has a futon in front of a flatscreen TV. Past the living room is the kitchen. There are three doors past the kitchen. The door on the right is to his bedroom, the door to the left is the bathroom and the door straight ahead is a back exit.

David walks into his apartment and goes straight to his bedroom.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

27

There is a two-door closet on the left side of the room. A king size bed by the windows on the right side. There is a work desk and chair, with a computer, on the wall of the same side as the bedroom door.

David walks into his bedroom and throws his suitcase on the bed. He sits at his work desk and turns on the computer.

He logs into his work email. He searches through a few emails. He makes a surprised face.



SHOW THE COMPUTER SCREEN

David opens up his Facebook page. He types into the search bar "Noelle Nicholas". Her face pops up on the screen. He scrolls through a few pictures, then closes out of Facebook.

He leans back in his chair and turns to look out the window. A bird flies by the window.

ZOOM IN ON THE BIRD

ZOOM OUT INTO AN OFFICE

INT. WORK FLOOR - GARY'S OFFICE - MORNING

28

Gary is sitting behind his desk in front of his computer. David is sitting across from him on the other side of the desk.

GARY

How was your weekend?

DAVID

It was good.

GARY

Did you go see your parents?

DAVID

I did. I had a nice time.

GARY

I'm glad to hear that.  
So, the firm moved up the  
presentation date to Wednesday.

David looks surprised.

DAVID

Wait, what?

GARY

They called and said because of the  
tight deadline, they couldn't wait  
until Friday.  
We're good though, right?

DAVID

What do you mean?

GARY

You said the project was one hundred percent complete and ready to go.  
You just fumbled in your presentation.

DAVID

Yeah, that's true.

GARY

So, it should be no problem that it's on Wednesday now?

David stands up.

DAVID

No, not at all.

Gary's intercom cuts on. His SECRETARY speaks.

SECRETARY (O.C.)

Sir, your next appointment has arrived.

Gary presses a button to speak back.

GARY

Good. Let her in.

Gary stands up.

GARY (CONT'D)

Now you go work on that presentation.

DAVID

Will do.

David turns to leave, as the door opens. Noelle walks into the office. They lock eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hi.

NOELLE

Hi yourself.  
How was your weekend?

DAVID

Do you want to get a coffee sometime?

David looks a little embarrassed.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
My weekend was great.

NOELLE  
Good. Did you visit your parents?

DAVID  
I did. They are doing good as well.

NOELLE  
Excellent.

David tries to quickly walk past her and leave the office.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
And David...

David stops and turns around.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
We can grab that coffee after I'm  
done with this meeting.

A smile crosses his face.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
As long as you promise not to make  
me spill it on myself.

DAVID  
I promise. So, so sorry again for  
that.

David slowly backs out of the office and closes the door. He  
places his back against the door and lets out a long sigh.

He goes back to his cubicle and sits at his desk. A knock is  
heard from behind him. He spins around in his chair to see  
Benjamin.

BENJAMIN  
Hey. What was that about?

DAVID  
(awkwardly)  
Oh, hey Benjamin.

David gets quiet.

BENJAMIN  
What's up? Something wrong?

David stares at Benjamin.

DAVID  
Who are your parents?

Benjamin is surprised at the comment.

BENJAMIN  
Your mom and dad, but technically,  
I don't have any.

DAVID  
So where do elves come from?

BENJAMIN  
I can answer that and more later.  
For now, let's get back to the  
normal.

Benjamin takes a second.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
So, why were you called into the  
office?

David continues to stare, then he finally blinks and answers  
the question.

DAVID  
The deadline was moved up to  
Wednesday.

BENJAMIN  
You're kidding.

DAVID  
Nope and I have to make sure the  
presentation is perfect this time.

BENJAMIN  
Is that why Noelle is here?

DAVID  
I assume so. We are going to get  
coffee once she's done with her  
meeting with Gary.

BENJAMIN  
Oh, coffee huh?  
Is she...

Benjamin looks around and then whispers.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Gonna be Mrs. Claus.

David begins to blush.

DAVID

We will see. I have three selfless  
acts of kindness to do first.

(pause)

However, I'm supposed to do those.

BENJAMIN

Well, if you need any extra help,  
let me know.

Benjamin looks over the top of the cubicle.

The door to Gary's office has opened and Noelle is walking  
towards David's cubicle.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

She's heading this way. Good luck.

DAVID

What do you mean by extra help?

Benjamin quickly ducks out of the cubicle as Noelle gets to  
the opening.

NOELLE

Ready for some coffee?

David stands.

DAVID

Yes, ma'am and I know the perfect  
spot.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

29

The door opens and David and Noelle enter. The shop is pretty  
empty since it's the middle of the day.

They walk up and look at the menu.

DAVID

What would you like?

NOELLE

The same thing I had last time.

Noelle walks away to go find a place for them to sit. He  
turns and looks at her as she walks away. She picks a spot by  
the windows.

David is trying to remember what she had to drink. He turns to the counter and orders two coffees. He walks to the left, to wait for them to be made.

The bathroom door opens and out comes Steve and Benjamin.

David looks and notices them come out of a house instead of a bathroom.

He quickly walks over to them.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
What are you guys doing?

BENJAMIN  
We're here to help.

DAVID  
Help how?

STEVE  
Do you need anything?  
Benjamin told me that you're here  
with your future Mrs. Claus.

David gives a stern look to Benjamin.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Don't be upset with him. Do you  
need anything?

DAVID  
Anything like what?

STEVE  
It doesn't matter. We're magic.

David thinks for a second.

DAVID  
Well, I can't remember what drink  
she ordered the last time we were  
here and that's what she wants.

The barista places two drinks at the end of the counter.

Steve starts rubbing his hands together. Benjamin stops him.

BENJAMIN  
I got this one.

Benjamin snaps his fingers.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
You're all good now.

DAVID  
Just like that?

BENJAMIN  
Yeah. Now go get your drinks.

DAVID  
How do I know which one to give  
her.

BENJAMIN  
You'll know.

David walks back to the counter and grabs the drinks. He looks back over at his dad and Benjamin. They motion for him to go to Noelle.

He turns and walks towards Noelle.

SHOW STEVE AND BENJAMIN

STEVE  
How will he know which one to give?

BENJAMIN  
I made both of them the same, so he  
can't be wrong.

STEVE  
Good job.

BENJAMIN  
Thank you, sir.

STEVE  
What was the drink?

BENJAMIN  
I have no idea. Hoping the magic  
just does its thing.

They turn and walk back towards the bathroom. Steve grabs the handle and opens the door to a house inside. They both walk through.

SHOW DAVID

He gets to the table with Noelle. She is on her cell phone. He sets the drinks down in the middle of the table.

She looks up at him and sets her phone down. He sits down at the table across from her.

NOELLE  
So, which one is mine?

He looks at both cups and pushes the one on the right closer to her.

She reaches and grabs the cup on the left and drinks it. She slowly puts it down on the table.

David has a panicked look on his face.

DAVID  
Is everything alright?

Noelle raises an eyebrow.

NOELLE  
No, it's not.

David is worried.

DAVID  
Did I get it wrong?

She pauses.

NOELLE  
Did you know I would grab the other cup?

David looks confused.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
You pushed your cup forward,  
because you knew I would pick the  
other.

She picks up her cup again and takes another sip.

David just smiles and shrugs.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
You did get the drink wrong.

David looks flabbergasted.

DAVID  
I did?



NOELLE

Oh yeah, but this is my favorite. I  
get the other when I'm stressed.

A sigh of relief exits David's mouth.

David casually grabs the other cup and takes a sip. He  
realizes that it isn't the drink he ordered.

DAVID

Okay, you got me.  
I didn't remember, but I ordered  
two of my favorite drinks instead.

NOELLE

Oh really? So, no matter which one  
I picked, you would've been right?

DAVID

Yes.

NOELLE

Your little plan would've worked,  
if only it had been the right  
drink.

He takes a sip of the coffee.

Noelle doesn't look pleased as she sips her coffee.

David quickly tries to change the subject.

DAVID

How is the setup for the  
gingerbread house contest going?

NOELLE

We still are in need of one last  
funder, so we can lock in the  
location and provide all of the  
materials for the kids.

DAVID

If I can help in any way, please  
let me know.

NOELLE

That's nice of you, but I can't ask  
that.  
We have a professional  
relationship, and I don't want to  
mix that with a personal one.

David is taken aback.

DAVID  
Couldn't I help out and we still  
only have a professional  
relationship?

She looks at him sternly.

NOELLE  
I guess that could work.

A smile crosses his face.

DAVID  
Good. Just let me know what I need  
to do, and I'll make it happen.

She looks down at her coffee and a gentle smile crosses her  
face.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
But, sorry to cut our professional  
coffee date short.

He scoots his chair back and stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I have to practice my presentation  
for a client.  
It's going to knock her socks off.

NOELLE  
What if she doesn't wear socks?

David is surprised at the response.

DAVID  
Then I will bring her some.

Noelle shakes her head.

NOELLE  
I'll be sure to wear some socks  
then.

DAVID  
Good, because they'll be knocked  
off.

He smiles and heads towards the door to exit.

NOELLE  
Oh, and David!

He stops and turns to her.

She picks up the coffee cup.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the coffee...again.

He smiles and turns and exits the coffee shop.

FADE OUT.

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - MORNING

30

David exits the elevator and begins to walk down the hallway. He nods at a couple of coworkers and makes his way to his cubicle.

He takes off his coat, earmuffs and gloves and sits at his desk.

Benjamin appears behind him.

BENJAMIN  
She's here early today.

David is startled. He turns and sees Benjamin.

DAVID  
Dude!! Don't do that.

BENJAMIN  
Do what?

DAVID  
Just keep popping up.

BENJAMIN  
It never bothered you before.

David just stares at him. Then shakes his head.

DAVID  
Who's here early today?

Benjamin points in the direction of Gary's office.

BENJAMIN  
Noelle.

David raises himself a little to see over his cubicle and looks over in the direction of Gary's office. He can see Noelle through the office window.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
Dude! You totally almost screwed me  
with the coffees.

BENJAMIN  
How?

David looks over at him.

DAVID  
You magic'd or whatever the wrong  
coffee.

Benjamin looks surprised.

BENJAMIN  
I'm sorry.

David turns back to look at Noelle.

She turns her head to look in his direction.

He drops back down into his chair and rolls over to Benjamin  
and pulls him down into the cubicle.

DAVID  
Why were you just standing there?

BENJAMIN  
What else was I supposed to do?

DAVID  
Duck down like I did, so she  
doesn't see us staring.

BENJAMIN  
She didn't see.  
Can I stand now?

David lets Benjamin stand up. Benjamin looks towards Gary's  
office.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
Oh snap, she's coming this way.

Benjamin quickly ducks out of David's cubicle.

David quickly turns to act like he was doing something on his  
computer.

He hears a light knock behind him. He slowly turns to see  
Noelle standing there.

NOELLE  
Hey there.

DAVID  
Oh, hey. Didn't know you were going  
to be here today.

NOELLE  
You didn't?

David shakes his head no.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
I didn't just see your friend  
pointing at me?

DAVID  
Friend?

He looks around.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
What friend?

She begins to smirk.

NOELLE  
That little guy who always runs  
away when I come around.

DAVID  
Ohhh, Benjamin. That little guy.

She nods her head.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
He wasn't pointing. He was dancing.

NOELLE  
He was dancing?

DAVID  
Yea.

David stands up and starts dancing while pointing.

Noelle begins to laugh.

NOELLE  
(laughing)  
I see you got jokes.

He shrugs and continues dancing.

DAVID

A few.

He stops dancing and sits back down in his chair.

NOELLE

Well anyways, I wanted to see if you wanted to grab some coffee and talk about the contest.

She pauses for a moment.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

Unless you're busy and have something else to do, which I totally understand.

David smiles.

DAVID

I've got some time, but not that much. I've got to practice for my big presentation tomorrow.

NOELLE

Well, I'll try not to keep you to long then.

DAVID

It'll be ok. I'm prepared and I heard the representative is nice.

A smile crosses Noelle's face.

NOELLE

Shall we?

DAVID

Yes, we shall.

David stands and grabs his coat off the rack and follows Noelle out of his cubicle.

FADE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

31

David and Noelle walk into the coffee shop.

NOELLE

I'll grab the coffees this time.  
What would you like?

DAVID  
I'll just have a hot chocolate with  
whipped cream.

Noelle turns to go order the drinks. David walks over to sit at a table by the window.

David's cell phone begins to ring. He takes it out and looks at it. His dad is calling. He answers.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Hey dad.

STEVE (O.C.)  
David! Have you completed any  
selfless acts yet?

David rolls his eyes.

DAVID  
No dad.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Don't think too much about it.  
You're a great son; it will happen.

DAVID  
Thanks dad. I have to go. I'll talk  
to you later.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Ok. Bye son.

DAVID  
Bye dad.

David hangs up the phone as Noelle walks up to the table.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Sorry about that.

NOELLE  
Don't be sorry.

She hands him his drink and she sits across from him.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
I heard you say dad. How's he  
doing?

DAVID  
He's doing much better actually.

NOELLE  
Oh good. I'm glad.

DAVID  
Almost like he was never sick at all.

NOELLE  
Even better.

They take sips of their drinks.

DAVID  
Anyway, about the contest.

NOELLE  
Oh yes, the contest. We almost have everything taken care of. We just need to get the supplies.

DAVID  
I can get them.

Noelle reaches in her pocket and takes out her phone. She pulls up a photo and shows David.

NOELLE  
These are the supplies we need and the final price.

David looks at the photo.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Is that too much?

David looks up at her.

DAVID  
Not at all. This is perfect. I can totally take care of this.

NOELLE  
Oh good. So, we can count on you to get the supplies?

DAVID  
You can definitely count on me.

Noelle smiles at him.

NOELLE  
I'll airdrop you the photo. It also has my contact information on it.



She pauses.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Just in case you have any issues  
with getting the supplies.

David smiles.

DAVID  
Got it.

He takes a last sip of his drink.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Well, I should probably head out.  
You know, big presentation  
tomorrow.

NOELLE  
Yeah, yeah, yeah. Go prepare.

David stands up from the table.

Outside of the window, a HOMELESS MAN (50's) walks by and enters the coffee shop. He addresses the coffee shop.

HOMELESS MAN  
(yelling)  
Can anybody spare some change?

The coffee shop is quiet.

David looks around and then at the Homeless Man. He walks over to him.

He reaches in his pocket and takes out his wallet and gives him a twenty-dollar bill.

The Homeless Man takes it and looks thankful.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)  
Thank you. God bless you.

David pats him on the shoulder.

DAVID  
Get yourself some food and  
something to drink.

The Homeless Man walks towards the counter.

David walks back over to Noelle.

NOELLE  
That was kind of you.

DAVID  
Yea, it was. It just felt right.

He stares off out the window for a moment. He snaps back.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
But I should go actually prepare  
now.

NOELLE  
Yes, go prepare.

David turns to walk to the exit.

Noelle watches him. He gets to the door and quickly turns  
around to face Noelle.

DAVID  
And Noelle. Thanks for the hot  
chocolate.

He gives her a wink and he exits.

FADE OUT.

INT. WORK FLOOR - OFFICE - MORNING

32

Gary sits at the front of the table. There are other people  
sitting around the rest of the table.

David walks in looking sharp and starts to set up for his  
presentation.

He quickly scans the room and notices that Noelle isn't  
there. He turns to face everyone.

DAVID  
Is everyone here?

REPRESENTATIVE  
Yes. We are ready to begin.

David looks a bit disappointed but starts his presentation.

FADE TO:

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

33

The office door opens and people start to walk out. The Representative is the last to exit. David runs out behind him.

DAVID

Excuse me?  
Hey!

The Representative stops and turns towards David.

REPRESENTATIVE

Good job in there Mr. Collins.

DAVID

Thank you. Um, Noelle wasn't in today.

REPRESENTATIVE

No. She no longer works for our company.

David looks surprised.

DAVID

If I may ask, what happened?

REPRESENTATIVE

She said she had more important things to take care of, than come for the presentation today.

DAVID

Oh!

REPRESENTATIVE

She's also been missing a lot of work recently and we need someone that's more dedicated.

David balls his hands into fists but takes a deep breath before responding.

DAVID

Do you know that she's been helping out at an orphanage? While still working for your company.

REPRESENTATIVE

Previously working for our company. As I stated earlier, good job in there. I must be going now.

The Representative turns and walks away from David.

Gary comes out of the office and over to David.

GARY  
What was that about?

DAVID  
It was nothing.

GARY  
Great job in there. I think the  
clients really liked your  
presentation.

DAVID  
Thank you. You think I can take the  
rest of the day off?

GARY  
Sure. I'll follow up with the  
clients and keep you posted.

Gary turns and walks towards his office.

FADE TO:

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER 34

David is walking by the coffee shop, and he looks in and sees  
Noelle. He enters the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS 35

Noelle is at a table working on her laptop with headphones  
on. David walks over to her.

She looks up just as David gets to her table. She has been  
crying. She pulls off her headphones and wipes her eyes.

NOELLE  
Hey!

DAVID  
Hey!  
Is everything okay?

NOELLE  
No. Everything is falling apart.

DAVID  
Would you like something to drink?

NOELLE

No. I can't drink anything right now.

DAVID

Mind if I sit?

NOELLE

Sure. I need to get my mind off this for a bit.

(pause)

How did the presentation go?

DAVID

It went well. Gary thinks the company is going to move forward with us.

NOELLE

Amazing. I'm so glad to hear that.

DAVID

Thank you.  
I wasn't happy to hear that they let you go.

NOELLE

You know about that?

DAVID

When I didn't see you there, I asked the other rep where you were, and he told me everything.

NOELLE

I'm sorry you had to hear that from him.

DAVID

It's okay, but what was so important that you'd risk your job?

NOELLE

We lost the location for the contest and since it's supposed to be this weekend, it may be too late to find another venue.

DAVID

I'm so sorry to hear that.

NOELLE

Me too. I found out this morning  
and have just been trying to find a  
new location.

She pauses for a second.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

I can find a new job; I just don't  
want to disappoint these kids.

DAVID

I totally get that.

NOELLE

I didn't get along with the people  
at that company anyways. I'd rather  
do more work with the kids.

David begins to smile. Noelle notices.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

Why are you smiling?

DAVID

What if I told you that I could  
find you a place for the contest.

NOELLE

Please don't get my hopes up. This  
is super important to me.

DAVID

I can find you a place.

NOELLE

Oh my god. I would owe you big  
time.

(pause)

Have you gotten the supplies yet?

DAVID

Not yet, but I will.

NOELLE

If this is too much, just let me  
know. I have other people that can  
get the supplies or help me look  
for a new venue.

DAVID

I can handle it. Trust me.

David gets up from the table and walks towards the exit.

He feels a tap on his shoulder, and he turns around.

Noelle is standing there. She leans forward and gives him a kiss on his cheek.

NOELLE  
Thank you so much!!

He smiles and exits.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

36

David takes out his phone and calls his dad.

DAVID  
Hey dad.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Hey David.

DAVID  
I need your help.

FADE TO:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

37

David walks into his bedroom still on the phone with his dad and sits on his bed.

STEVE (O.C.)  
So, you like this girl?

DAVID  
I think so, but I just really want to help her out.

STEVE (O.C.)  
You know, you don't have to worry about the Mrs. Clause thing yet. The selfless acts are more important.

DAVID  
I know dad, but I still want to help her out.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Ok.  
Where are you right now?

David looks confused.

DAVID  
I just walked into my bedroom.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Close the door.

DAVID  
What?

STEVE (O.C.)  
Close your bedroom door.

David walks over and closes the door.

DAVID  
It's closed.

The door reopens and his dad walks through.

David stumbles backwards and looks surprised.

Steve is still talking on his phone.

STEVE  
Hey David. Thought this would be  
easier.

David still looks surprised. He answers on the phone.

DAVID  
Hey dad.

He realizes he doesn't need to talk to him on the phone anymore and exits the call and tosses his phone on the bed.

Steve takes his phone and puts it in his pocket.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
A little bit of a warning next  
time.

STEVE  
Warning about what?

DAVID  
That you were going to come through  
my door.

STEVE  
You should get used to it. You'll  
probably be traveling this way as  
well.



DAVID  
We will see.

STEVE  
So, you said you need a big venue  
for some gingerbread house making,  
right?

DAVID  
Yeah! Is that possible to do?

STEVE  
Is it possible? I'm Santa, of  
course it's possible.

David walks over to his desk.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
So, what type of venue do you have  
in mind? Should we create a place?

DAVID  
We can create a place?

STEVE  
Oh yeah. Get on your computer and  
look up vacant properties.

David sits down at his desk and turns on the computer. He  
starts typing and clicking his mouse. He scans the screen.

DAVID  
I think I found the one.

Steve walks over behind him and bends down to look at the  
screen.

STEVE  
Let's make it happen.

He stands up, claps his hands and then rubs them together.

David turns around to look at him.

DAVID  
So how does this work?

STEVE  
Just like this.

He snaps his fingers. Nothing happens and was kind of a  
letdown for David.

DAVID  
That was it? No magic sparks or  
noises?

Steve gives him a stern look.

STEVE  
You've got a lot to learn kid.

Steve walks back over to the bedroom door and closes it.

He turns to David.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
You ready to go?

DAVID  
Go where?

STEVE  
To see your building.

David looks surprised.

DAVID  
Yeah. I guess.

STEVE  
Let's go then.

Steve opens the door, and it is the inside of a dark  
warehouse.

Steve walks through the doorway. David gets up and grabs his  
phone and follows his dad through the door.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

38

Steve and David are standing in an empty dark room.

DAVID  
That was kind of cool.

STEVE  
I get excited every time I do it.

DAVID  
Maybe we should turn on the lights.

STEVE  
I got it.

Steve snaps his fingers and the warehouse illuminates.

David looks around the warehouse.

DAVID  
This is incredible.

Steve walks behind David and closes the door.

STEVE  
Now, what shall we put in here to  
get ready for the event?

DAVID  
It's Christmas themed, so lots of  
Christmas decorations.

STEVE  
Hmmm. I may need a little help.

Steve reopens the door. Inside is the workshop.

Benjamin is walking by with a clipboard.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Hey Benjamin!

Benjamin turns towards the door.

BENJAMIN  
Yes sir.

STEVE  
I'll need some assistance with  
setting this place up.  
You and a few elves come help.

Benjamin places his clipboard on a nearby workstation. He  
goes over and talks to a few elves.

They gather their things and come through the door.

David stares at Benjamin. He pulls Benjamin to the side.

DAVID  
You weren't surprised when my dad  
just randomly started talking to  
you through the door.

BENJAMIN  
Not at all. He does it all the  
time. You'll get used to it.  
Or rather, you'll be doing it soon  
enough.

Benjamin walks away from David.

Steve closes the door. He reopens the door and inside is David's apartment.

STEVE

Why don't you head back and let us take care of the rest.

DAVID

Are you sure?

STEVE

Christmas theme is kind of my specialty. We're good. You go get some rest.

DAVID

Okay. If you need anything, let me know.

STEVE

Will do son. See you later.

DAVID

Later dad.

David turns and waves goodbye to Benjamin. Benjamin waves back.

David goes through the door into his apartment.

Steve closes it behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - MORNING

39

David is typing at his computer. Benjamin enters his cubicle.

BENJAMIN

Are you excited for tonight.

DAVID

I'm a little nervous.

He turns towards Benjamin.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You sure you guys did a good job.

Benjamin looks offended.

BENJAMIN

Am I sure? We've been doing  
Christmas longer than you've been  
alive.  
You're good!!

David stands and walks over to Benjamin and places a hand on  
his shoulder.

DAVID

I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like  
that. I'm just so nervous and I  
know what's at stake.  
I really want this to work out.

BENJAMIN

I get it. I want this to work out  
too. Being able to work with my  
best bud at both jobs will be  
amazing.

David thinks for a moment.

DAVID

That would be cool. If I'm Santa, I  
wouldn't work here anymore though.  
But I still need to do my three  
acts of kindness.

BENJAMIN

I think you'll be okay.  
Remember, if you need anything, let  
me know.

Benjamin leaves David's cubicle.

David grabs his phone and pulls up the list of supplies with  
Noelle's number on it.

He sends her a message and sets his phone down on his desk.

He paces nervously back and forth.

His phone lights up and dings. He looks at the message.

He grabs his coat and leaves the cubicle.

FADE TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

40

David is standing outside of the warehouse.

A car pulls up and Noelle exits the vehicle.

She smiles when she sees him. She walks over and gives him a hug.

NOELLE

I can't believe you found a place  
in such a short time.

DAVID

I told you I would. And we're  
standing right in front of it.  
I wanted to show you ahead of time  
to see how you'd like it.

NOELLE

I can't wait to see it.

David under his breath.

DAVID

Me too.

NOELLE

What was that?

DAVID

Nothing. Let's go in.

They walk towards the warehouse. David opens the door, and  
they walk inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

41

The warehouse is pitch black. David walks over to the side  
and lifts a lever and the building illuminates.

David and Noelle's eyes get big with excitement.

The warehouse has Christmas decorations everywhere.

There are Christmas trees of different colors in every  
corner. There are tables with five-foot candy canes attached  
to each side, in the middle of the warehouse. Every beam has  
a Christmas wreath attached to it. There are life size  
Nutcrackers on each side of the door. And lastly, a small ice  
sculpture of a polar bear sits in the back on a small stage.

Noelle walks up to the tables.

There are bags on every table. She looks in.

It contains all the supplies needed to make a gingerbread house.

She turns and looks at David.

David walks over to her.

NOELLE

I don't know how you did all of this, but the kids are going to love it.

DAVID

I told you; you could trust me.

She stares at him with a glimmer in her eye.

FADE OUT.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

42

It looks like a red-carpet event outside the warehouse. Local news stations have come to cover the event.

Noelle is standing by the door in a red dress.

Photographers are taking pictures of the kids as they exit the van and make their way down the red carpet to the doors.

Noelle opens the doors and lets everyone inside.

Christmas music is playing.

The kids are all excited. They run to the tables, where all of the items to build the gingerbread houses are set up.

The volunteers, news crews and media come inside and take pictures of the inside.

Noelle looks around and has a disappointed look on her face.

She walks over to the stage, that has a single microphone on it. She begins to speak.

NOELLE

May I have everyone's attention please.

The music stops, the crowd quiets and everyone looks at Noelle.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

I am so pleased that we are able to have this event tonight. Each table has all of the items you will need to make a gingerbread house. We have volunteers that will assist you in building your perfect gingerbread houses.

The kids start to look around.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

When you hear the buzzer go off, the contest will be finished, and we have selected volunteers to judge the best gingerbread house. Each table has a number, and that number will be called to announce the winner.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for helping to make this night so special.

The front door slowly opens, and David enters the warehouse. He's wearing a black suit, with a green and red striped tie.

A big smile comes across Noelle's face as she sees him.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

I would especially like to thank David Collins...

She points towards him.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

For finding this wonderful space for us to host this event.

The crowd starts to applaud.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

With that said, let the contest begin.

The Christmas music starts back up.

She walks off of the stage and walks over to David.

Behind her, the kids are starting to build the gingerbread houses with the volunteers.

She gives David a hug.



NOELLE (CONT'D)

I thought you weren't going to make it.

DAVID

I wouldn't have missed this for anything, but sorry that I cut it pretty close. I couldn't figure out what to wear.

She looks him up and down.

NOELLE

I think you made a great choice.

David smiles.

DAVID

Shall we see how these gingerbread houses are looking?

NOELLE

Yes, we shall. Do you want to announce the winner?

DAVID

Sure.

They walk by a few of the tables and look at the different gingerbread houses.

DAVID (CONT'D)

How are you going to decide who wins?

NOELLE

If you were on time, you would know.

David looks embarrassed.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

Relax, I'm just messing with you. Some of the volunteers are judges and will tally up their votes.

DAVID

Awesome.

They walk by more tables. The buzzer goes off and they head up to the stage. The music stops. Noelle speaks in the microphone.

NOELLE

And that was the buzzer. Okay  
judges, walk around and look at the  
houses and write down which one you  
think is best.  
We will tally up the votes and  
David will read off the winner.

The judges start to walk around the tables with their  
clipboards. Some whisper to each other, others go in closer  
to inspect the gingerbread houses.

They make marks on their papers and bring them to the front  
and drop them in a hat.

A judge walks over to the hat and begins to tally all of the  
votes.

The judge then makes one final mark on their paper and walks  
over to David and hands it to him.

David goes to the microphone and reads the paper.

DAVID

And the winner is.... Table 4!!

SHOW TABLE 4

The kid and the volunteer begin to cheer. We see their  
amazing gingerbread house.

Everyone claps and cheers for them.

Noelle steps up to the microphone.

NOELLE

What an amazing gingerbread house.  
Come on up and claim your prize.

The little kid runs up to the stage and Noelle hands them an  
envelope. The kid returns to the table.

David goes to the microphone.

DAVID

That was an amazing gingerbread  
house, but you all have amazing  
gingerbread houses and there is a  
surprise for all of you underneath  
your tables.

The kids go into a frenzy and drop to the floor to look under  
the tables.

They each come out with wrapped Christmas presents.

Noelle's face drops.

She pulls David aside.

NOELLE

How? When? That's so nice of you.

DAVID

It's the least I could do. I love  
this time of year and happy I could  
help out.

She stares at David lovingly.

FADE TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - LATER

43

Noelle, David and some volunteers have been cleaning up after  
the event.

The volunteers are carrying big trash bags to the door.

David comes over.

DAVID

I can take these out. You guys get  
home.

The volunteers place the bags down. They open the door and  
exit.

Noelle walks over to the door.

NOELLE

Thanks, you guys. See you later.

She waves at the volunteers.

She comes back in and lets the door close behind her.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

That was nice of you.

DAVID

What can I say? I've been really  
feeling the holiday spirit lately.

NOELLE

Well, I'm going to help you take  
this out.

She bends down to grab a garbage bag.

David grabs the others, and they exit out the door.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

44

They toss the bags into the garbage can and turn to walk back.

DAVID

Can I ask you something?

Noelle smiles.

NOELLE

Sure.

DAVID

If you had the opportunity to really do something great with your life, would you drop everything to take it.

Noelle turns to look at him.

NOELLE

Absolutely. I mean, I kinda already did.

David thinks for a moment.

DAVID

Ok then.

As they are walking towards the front of the warehouse, a car is coming up the street.

The driver loses control and is headed for David and Noelle.

Noelle freezes in panic, but David safely tackles her out of the way, and they land in a pile of snow.

The car keeps going.

NOELLE

Oh my god, thank you.

DAVID

No problem.

He stands up and then he helps Noelle up.

She wipes the snow off herself.

NOELLE  
That was crazy, he didn't even  
stop.

David looks down the street and the car is gone.

DAVID  
Where did he even go?

NOELLE  
I don't know, but let's get back  
inside before another car tries to  
hit us.

They walk back to the entrance to the warehouse and go  
inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

45

David walks to the stage and grabs a box.

NOELLE  
I'm getting a taxi; do you need a  
ride home?

He comes back to the door where Noelle is.

DAVID  
No. I'm going to clean up a little  
bit more, then I'll be on my way.

He places the box on the ground and stands up.

NOELLE  
The taxi is close by.

DAVID  
Ok. I'll carry this out when it  
arrives.

We hear a car pull up outside. Noelle opens the door to peek  
out.

She turns her head towards David.

NOELLE  
This is me.

David bends down to pick up the box and walks towards Noelle.  
They are splitting the doorway.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Tonight was amazing.

DAVID

Yes, it was. I see why you do this.  
The look on those kids faces was  
priceless.

NOELLE

We can always use more help at the  
orphanage. At least that's where  
I'll be until I can find another  
job.

DAVID

I may be able to help you with  
that.

NOELLE

Oh really?

DAVID

Yea. Meet me at our usual spot  
tomorrow morning and I'll tell you  
about it.

NOELLE

Ok. Thank you again for everything.

DAVID

It was my pleasure.

They look at each other for a moment. They start to lean in  
closer, but then Noelle turns to leave.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Wait!

Noelle turns back around. David points up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mistletoe.

A fresh piece of mistletoe has grown in between the doorway.

Noelle looks up confused.

NOELLE

When did that...was that always  
there?

David shrugs his shoulders.

DAVID

Might just be the holiday spirit.

Noelle smiles and she leans in, and they kiss.

They both smile and walk out the door to the car.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

46

Noelle walks to the back passenger side of the car and gets in. David goes and places the box in the open trunk of the car. He closes the trunk then walks by the back passenger window.

The car starts to pull away.

He waves.

DAVID

See you tomorrow.

He watches the car disappear in the distance. He turns and goes back inside the warehouse.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

47

As the door closes behind him, the back door opens and out comes Steve and Benjamin.

They walk towards each other and meet in the middle.

STEVE

So, how did it go?

DAVID

It went great.

STEVE

Amazing.

BENJAMIN

Maybe a little more heads up before having to make presents appear under each table.

DAVID

I'm sorry and thank you so much for that.

BENJAMIN

I'm just happy that no one saw me.

DAVID

No kidding.

(pause)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

I know you said that it's something I shouldn't worry about right now, but I asked Noelle out for coffee tomorrow and I'm going to ask her to be my Mrs. Clause.

STEVE

This is way too soon. You barely even know the girl. Give it more time son. Focus on the selfless acts.

David balls his fists.

DAVID

I am focused on them dad. I'm sure I completed one by saving her from the car.

BENJAMIN

What car?

David turns to Benjamin.

DAVID

A car lost control and was heading straight for us and I got us out the way, just in time. Then the car disappeared.

Benjamin looks at Steve. Steve is looking in the air.

BENJAMIN

I bet it did.

David walks a little around the room to calm down.

DAVID

So, what happens to this place?

STEVE

We put it back like we found it and relist it for sale again.

DAVID

Awesome.

He turns to Steve and Benjamin.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Thank you both again for doing this. Tonight was amazing and I'm sure she had a wonderful time. Now I need to get some sleep



STEVE  
Alright. Good night son.

BENJAMIN  
See you later David.

David turns to walk back to the front door, then he stops and turns back towards them

DAVID  
Oh, and whoever did the mistletoe,  
that was a nice touch.

BENJAMIN  
What mistletoe?

DAVID  
The mistletoe in between the  
doorway.

He points towards the doors.

BENJAMIN  
I didn't do that.

David looks at his dad.

STEVE  
It wasn't me.

David looks confused.

DAVID  
Then how did it get there? It was  
like, I thought it and it happened.

STEVE  
Oh really?

DAVID  
Yea.

Benjamin looks at Steve.

BENJAMIN  
What does this mean sir?

Steve grabs Benjamin and brings him close.

STEVE  
(whispering)  
He must have completed two selfless  
acts, if he's starting to get  
magic.

Steve thinks of an idea. He let's go of Benjamin and closes the door they came out of. He turns to David.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hey David. I want you to think only about our house, then open this door.

DAVID

Huh?

STEVE

Come over here, think about our house and open this door.

David shrugs.

DAVID

Ok.

David slowly walks towards them. He reaches out his hand and turns the doorknob and opens the door.

Inside is just a plain room of the warehouse.

He turns and looks at his dad and Benjamin.

STEVE

Hmmm.

Well, I thought you may have started to gain some magic.

DAVID

Can that happen?

STEVE

Sometimes. I gained a little bit of magic before I fully took on the role, which is what I used to fully win over your mother.

DAVID

Good to know.

Well, I should be getting out of here. I'll talk with you both soon.

David walks to the front doors and exits the building.

FADE OUT.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

48

David is sitting at a table by the window alone, drinking his hot chocolate.

The door to the coffee shop opens and he looks, but it isn't Noelle.

He starts to feel a little disappointed.

The door opens again and it's Noelle. She goes up to the counter and orders herself a drink, then she comes to the table and sits down.

NOELLE

I hope you weren't waiting long.

DAVID

Not at all.  
Glad you could make it.

NOELLE

Of course. I'm having a great morning.

The barista calls out Noelle's order and she gets up and grabs her drink and returns to the table.

DAVID

What's made this morning so great?

NOELLE

I got the best news earlier.

Noelle pauses cause she's so excited.

DAVID

Please share.

NOELLE

Oh sorry. The founder of the orphanage has asked me to be their event planner.

She pauses.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

For all of their orphanages.

DAVID

Oh wow!! That's amazing.

NOELLE

Right! I haven't given them an answer yet.

DAVID

Why not?

NOELLE

Because you said you could help me, and I want to know what my options are.

DAVID

That's fair.

NOELLE

So, what's this job?

DAVID

Well, I'm not sure you're going to believe me, but I also have a way that you can help millions, maybe billions of kids each year.

Noelle looks excited.

NOELLE

And how will I be able to do that?

David starts to look nervous.

DAVID

By becoming Mrs. Claus. My Mrs. Claus.

Noelle's smile fades.

NOELLE

You want me to take some mall job as Mrs. Claus?

DAVID

No, no, no.

NOELLE

I just told you that I was given the opportunity to help a lot of orphans, and you make fun of me by suggesting I take a mall job?

Noelle stands up angrily and gathers her things.

David is trying to get Noelle to stay.

DAVID  
(stuttering)  
No, no, wait, my, my, dad, let me.

David stands.

She ignores him and leaves.

David is now able to talk.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I was trying to tell you that my  
dad is Santa.  
Now I can get it out when she's  
gone.

He thinks for a moment.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Now that I've said it out loud, it  
does sound crazier than being a  
mall Claus.

David gathers his things and leaves the coffee shop.

FADE TO:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - LATER

49

David is laying on his bed staring at the ceiling. His phone rings.

INSERT PHONE

His dad is calling. The call ends and he has two missed calls and several messages from his dad.

Suddenly his bedroom door opens, and Benjamin peeks his head inside.

BENJAMIN  
Hey! You doing okay?

David is unphased and keeps staring at the ceiling.

Benjamin walks into the room and closes the door behind him.

He goes over and sits next to David on the bed.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
What happened?

David turns his head to look at Benjamin.

DAVID

I should have listened to my dad.  
(frantic)  
I freaked out Noelle and I still  
have to get two more selfless acts  
of kindness to become Santa.

BENJAMIN

Woah, woah, woah, slow down. Start  
with Noelle?

David lets out a deep sigh.

DAVID

Coffee didn't go well and I'm sure  
she will probably never want to  
talk to me again.

BENJAMIN

What happened?

DAVID

She told me she just got a really  
cool offer from the orphanage to be  
an event planner.  
I thought it would be cool to tell  
her about becoming Mrs. Claus and  
being able to help a lot more kids,  
but it didn't come out that way.  
Then I couldn't talk and kept  
stuttering.

BENJAMIN

Sounds like how the first  
presentation went.

DAVID

I don't know man. I get nervous  
around her sometimes.

BENJAMIN

That's because you like her.

David stands up from the bed. He looks at Benjamin.

DAVID

You're right. I do. But what about  
the selfless acts.

Benjamin stands up from the bed as well.

BENJAMIN  
Well, you can't do anything from in  
here.

DAVID  
True.

David puts his hand on his chin to think.  
His eyes get big, and he looks at Benjamin.

BENJAMIN  
Looks like you have a plan.

DAVID  
I do. I'll need a couple of favors.

BENJAMIN  
Let's get to work.

They both walk towards his bedroom door and exit the room.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - MORNING

50

David is sitting in his cubicle typing on his computer.  
Benjamin enters the cubicle. David turns around in his chair  
to look at him.

DAVID  
Everything ready?

BENJAMIN  
Oh yeah. She should be coming out  
of his office at any minute.

Just as he finishes his last word, Gary's office door opens  
and out comes Noelle.

She is walking directly towards David's cubicle.

Benjamin looks over and sees her almost at the cubicle.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
She's here.

Benjamin looks panicked since he couldn't get out of the  
cubicle in time before she got there, so he pretends to be  
doing some work.

Noelle knocks at the entryway to the cubicle.

They both turn and see her and act surprised.

She enters the cubicle.

NOELLE  
You must be Benjamin?

She extends her hand out to shake.

BENJAMIN  
Yes, I'm Benjamin.

He reaches to shake her hand.

NOELLE  
Glad I could catch you before you  
snuck away.

BENJAMIN  
(panicked)  
I haven't been sneaking away. I  
just move very briskly.

He imitates a brisk movement.

NOELLE  
I hear you're also quite the  
dancer.

Benjamin looks at David. David motions for him to show her.

BENJAMIN  
Sometimes.

Benjamin starts to do a dance with pointing his finger.

NOELLE  
Oh, so you really do dance like  
that.

Benjamin looks back at David.

BENJAMIN  
(panicked)  
Sometimes. I have to go now. Nice  
to meet you.

Benjamin briskly leaves the cubicle and it's just Noelle and  
David in an awkward silence.

Finally, David decides to talk.



DAVID

I'm sorry about the other day. I  
couldn't get out what I was really  
trying to say.

NOELLE

No, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have  
left and let you have a chance to  
say what you had to say.

They both chuckle.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

So, what did you have to say?

DAVID

Since I apparently get nervous  
around you and it makes it hard to  
speak, I'm going to try and show  
you.

David reaches under his desk and pulls out a bunch of big,  
folded papers and an easel.

He stands up from his chair.

DAVID (CONT'D)

If you will follow me.

He leaves the cubicle with Noelle in tow and walks towards  
the meeting office.

He opens the door for her, and she enters and then he enters.

INT. WORK FLOOR - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

51

Noelle takes a seat at the front of the table. David closes  
the door behind him.

David starts to set up his things like he's about to give a  
presentation.

He then goes and closes all of the blinds in the room.

He goes and stands next to the easel and looks at Noelle.

DAVID

Just one more moment.

Suddenly, the door to the office opens and Benjamin walks  
through wearing his elf outfit. He leaves the door ajar.

Noelle sees him and chuckles.

NOELLE  
That's a great outfit.

BENJAMIN  
Thank you so much. Some people have  
good taste.

David rolls his eyes, then he clears his throat.

Noelle looks at David.

DAVID  
What I was trying to say the other  
day was that I really love  
Christmas and I know you love  
Christmas too, so I had a little  
help drawing up what I need to tell  
you.

He places the folded-up papers on the easel.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Benjamin is going to assist me,  
when I get a little choked up.

NOELLE  
Ok.

David flips over the first piece of paper. It shows the North Pole.

Then he flips over the second piece of paper, and it shows Santa and Mrs. Claus.

David turns and looks at Noelle.

DAVID  
This was as far as I got the other  
day, so I will continue.

He flips to the next page, and it shows a baby.

He then flips to the next page, and it shows an exact image of him.

Noelle stares at the picture with her mouth open.

NOELLE  
Are you, are you saying that you're  
Santa's baby?

He looks at her.

DAVID

Yes, but I just found out the weekend of the presentation.

Noelle gets angry. She squeezes the handles on the chair.

NOELLE

You're really taking this too far.  
You expect me to believe this?

BENJAMIN

He's telling the truth.

Noelle gets up and goes to the door.

Through the door, isn't the work floor they had left, but instead, it's the bottom floor of Santa's workshop.

Curious, she slowly goes through the door and into the workshop.

Benjamin follows right behind her.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - BOTTOM TOY WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS 52

Noelle is looking around at all of the elves and decorations and toys.

She turns around and David is setting back up his easel inside the workshop, next to Benjamin.

NOELLE

Is this real?  
How did y'all do this?

BENJAMIN

Just a little bit of magic.

Noelle starts to smile.

NOELLE

So, you said you have a way for me to help thousands of kids, right?

DAVID

Yes. If I become Santa and we got married, that would make you?

NOELLE

Mrs. Claus.

Noelle puts her hand on her head.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
I get it now.

There is an awkward silence in the room.

BENJAMIN  
So, what is your answer?

David hits Benjamin.

DAVID  
Don't rush her. This is a lot to  
take in.

David brings Benjamin in close.

BENJAMIN  
(whispering)  
Sorry, but the time limit.

Noelle looks up as she overhears.

NOELLE  
What time limit?

BENJAMIN  
He has to complete his tasks by  
Christmas Eve. So, about a week.

NOELLE  
Tasks?

DAVID  
Just three selfless acts.

NOELLE  
Was I a task?

BENJAMIN  
Technically no. He can become Santa  
without a Mrs. Claus. That part is  
optional. He just likes you.

NOELLE  
Ok. So, Christmas Eve, right? You  
will have my answer then.  
Now, how do I get back to the  
office?

BENJAMIN  
You just walk back through the  
door.

David and Benjamin stand aside as Noelle walks past them and back through the door.

Benjamin reaches out and closes the door behind her.

INT. WORK FLOOR - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

53

Noelle stands there for a moment. She turns around and is hesitant to open the door.

She slowly walks towards the door and opens it. The work floor is on the other side.

She lets out a deep sigh and exits the office.

INT. BUILDING - WORK FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

54

As Noelle leaves the office, she walks past Gary. Gary goes into the office and quickly comes back out and tries to catch up with Noelle.

GARY

Hey Noelle.

He catches her at the elevator.

She turns to face him.

GARY (CONT'D)

Weren't Benjamin and David in the office with you?

The elevator door opens, and she steps back into the elevator.

NOELLE

No sir. I was in the room by myself.

The elevator doors close.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

55

David is slumped on the couch. His mother walks into the room with a tray of food.

MARTHA

Are you going to eat something today dear.

He slowly looks at her.

DAVID

Just leave it. I'll pick at it  
later.

His phone is sitting on the arm of the couch next to him and  
it keeps lighting up.

MARTHA

You have to eat something. You've  
been in the same spot for almost a  
week.

DAVID

She probably thinks I'm crazy.

MARTHA

I'm starting to think you're crazy.  
But we didn't raise you to be down  
on yourself and sulk.

She places the tray of food down on the couch next to him and  
turns to leave the room.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

When I come back in here, some of  
that food better be gone. And you  
should probably answer your phone,  
could be important.

Martha sniffs the air.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

And for heaven's sake, take a  
shower.

She leaves the room.

He looks over at his phone. The screen lights up again.

He grabs it and looks at it.

INSERT PHONE

He has twelve missed work calls, six messages from Benjamin  
and one message from Noelle, that was just sent.

He swipes away the missed work calls and starts to read the  
messages from Benjamin.

BENJAMIN (V.O.)

Dude!! You have to come to work.

He deletes it.

BENJAMIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Gary is losing his mind because you  
haven't come in.

He deletes it.

BENJAMIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
You need me to stop by, so we can  
talk?

He deletes it.

BENJAMIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Gary fired you.

He deletes it.

BENJAMIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Noelle came in today.

He skips over to the last message.

BENJAMIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Call me ASAP!!

BACK TO DAVID

He turns the phone over and looks down into his lap. We hear his stomach growl.

He looks over at the tray of food and grabs a piece of bacon off of it. He devours the bacon. He reaches over and grabs a piece of toast and starts eating it.

He raises his arm and smells his armpit. Makes a disgusted face.

BENJAMIN  
Wow. I do need a shower.

He turns back over the phone and goes to Noelle's message.

His eyes get big, he looks at the time and hops off the couch and runs out the room.

FADE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

56

David enters the coffee shop. He looks around and then spots Noelle sitting at a table near the window. He walks over to her.

DAVID

Hi.

She looks up at him and a small smile crosses her face.

NOELLE

Hey.

He pulls out the chair and starts to sit down.

NOELLE (CONT'D)

Did you want to get a drink or something?

DAVID

I'm ok. I can get you something if you like.

NOELLE

I'm ok too.

They sit in silence.

They start to speak at the same time.

BOTH

How have you...

They stop talking and smile.

DAVID

You can go first.

NOELLE

How have you been?

DAVID

I've been ok.

NOELLE

Benjamin told me you got fired.

DAVID

Well, there's that.  
I've been meaning to ask. Why have you been at the office so much?



NOELLE

Gary originally called me in to see if I would give him some extra insight into my old company that he could use to fully win them over.

David starts to laugh.

DAVID

Makes sense. That definitely sounds like something he would do.

NOELLE

This last time, I ran into Benjamin, and we had a nice little chat.

DAVID

Benjamin is great.

(pause)

I don't want you to be Mrs. Claus.

NOELLE

(surprised)

You don't?

DAVID

I've been worried this past week about what your answer was going to be, and I didn't realize until right now, that I was being selfish.

NOELLE

How were you being selfish?

DAVID

I was only thinking of myself and not about you.  
I think you should take the job at the orphanage because that will make you happy.

Noelle reaches across the table and grabs David's hand.

NOELLE

While talking to Benjamin, he was able to better explain things to me.  
I know you have three selfless acts to accomplish before you can become Santa.

(MORE)

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
I also know that you weren't  
supposed to try and get a Mrs.  
Claus.

David looks down.

DAVID  
I didn't think I would be able to  
complete the three selfless acts.

NOELLE  
But you have.

David looks at up her.

DAVID  
Huh?

The bathroom door opens and Steve, Martha and Benjamin walk  
out.

NOELLE  
Think about it.  
You helped the homeless man.

David puts up one finger.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
You saved me from the car.

David puts up another finger.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
And now, you chose to let me have  
my own happiness over something you  
wanted.

Steve, Martha and Benjamin walk over to the table.

Noelle notices them coming over. She begins to smile.

David puts up another finger.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
Three. I got three.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Yes, you did son.

David quickly turns to see his parents and Benjamin standing  
there.

A smile crosses his face.

DAVID  
I did it. I really did it.

He stands up from the table. He gives his mom a hug. He goes to Benjamin next.

BENJAMIN  
I knew you would do it.

Benjamin turns to Steve.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)  
Do I have to call him sir, sir?

DAVID  
Not a chance. David will always be fine.

Benjamin extends his fist, and they fist bump.

David moves to his dad. They stare at each other.

STEVE  
I'm proud of you son.

DAVID  
Thank you, dad.

Steve looks over at Noelle.

STEVE  
And who is this?

David frantically walks over to Noelle.

DAVID  
This is Noelle.  
Noelle, these are my parents, and you already know Benjamin.

Noelle awkwardly waves.

NOELLE  
Hello.

Steve looks at Martha and then back at David and Noelle.

STEVE  
I think we should properly meet.  
Noelle, if you have a little time to spare.

NOELLE  
I do.

STEVE

Great.

Steve, Martha and Benjamin turn and head back to the bathroom door.

Steve puts his hand on the door. Martha turns back.

MARTHA

Come along dears.

David and Noelle grab their things and walk over to the door.

Steve opens the door, inside is the toy shop.

STEVE

After you two.

He motions for David and Noelle to go through first.

They walk through the door, then Benjamin, followed by Martha and Steve. He closes the door behind him.

The barista slowly walks over to the bathroom door. They open it and inside is just a regular bathroom.

They close the door and open it again really fast. They look inside at the bathroom.

They walk out and close the door behind them.

CUT TO.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - TOP FLOOR TOY WORKSHOP - NIGHT 58

The workshop has new decorations, celebrating David, all over.

David and Noelle walk through the door. Followed by Benjamin, who is now in his elf gear. Then Martha and Steve as Mr. and Mrs. Claus come through the door, with Steve closing it behind him.

David and Noelle are looking at all of the decorations. Steve and Martha walk over to them.

STEVE

Now, to officially meet.

David and Noelle turn to face them.

Noelle lights up at the site of Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

He clears his throat.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Hello Noelle.

Immediately.

NOELLE  
Hi Santa.

She catches herself before she said more.

She takes a deep breath.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
Hello Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

MARTHA  
I hope you don't mind staying to  
see something magical.

Noelle smiles.

NOELLE  
Not at all.

David steps forward.

DAVID  
There is still something I have to  
know.

MARTHA  
What is it dear?

DAVID  
I said that I didn't want you to be  
Mrs. Claus, but you never said what  
your answer was.

Everyone turns to look at Noelle.

She has a smile on her face.

NOELLE  
My answer was not No.

Everyone looks surprised.

NOELLE (CONT'D)  
But it wasn't Yes either.  
We just met and have only gone out  
a handful of times.  
(MORE)

NOELLE (CONT'D)

I want to go on more dates, become  
engaged, then I'll be your Mrs.  
Claus.

David smiles.

DAVID

Deal.

MARTHA

Excellent.

STEVE

It's time. Are you ready son?

David looks at Noelle, then his mom, then around the shop.

DAVID

Yes, I'm ready.

Steve walks over to the railing.

He taps his throat. His voice sounds like it's coming through  
a megaphone.

STEVE

Attention everyone. David has  
completed his three acts of  
kindness and is now ready for the  
transfer of magic to become your  
new Santa Claus.

Steve walks over to David and extends his hand out.

David grabs it and shakes it. On the third shake, we hear a  
zap and then a puff of smoke covers them.

When the smoke clears, David has a beer belly and a long  
white beard. Steve is clean shaven and slim.

David turns to look at Noelle. She is smiling from ear to  
ear.

He walks over to the railing and looks down at all the elves.

He spots Benjamin.

Benjamin steps forward.

BENJAMIN

I now present to you... Santa  
Claus.

All of the elves erupt in cheers.

Steve, Martha and Noelle are clapping.

David waves to the elves down below.

FADE OUT.

INT. NEIGHBOR LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

59

The closet door slowly creaks open. David's head comes out and looks both ways.

No one is in the room. He opens the door more and he comes through with a big red bag full of presents.

Inside the door, you can see the toy workshop.

David walks over to the Christmas tree and starts to place presents underneath.

As he turns back to walk into the closet, he sees a photo sitting on the table. He walks closer to look at it.

It's a picture of Benjamin with his head out the door in the warehouse and you can see the toy shop behind him.

David quickly looks up.

DAVID

Oh no!!!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.