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Santa Claus Might Not Be Coming to Town

A comedic adventure in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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One-Act Comedy
20 any gender

Dipsy the Elf is fed up with the way Santa's Workshop is run. And she's not the only one—tired of an increasingly long Christmas season and the demand for more complicated toys, Santa Claus leaves the North Pole, escaping to a glacier with a legion of penguins who worship him. Now, it's up to Dipsy and her misfit friends to find Santa and teach him the true meaning of Christmas: good working conditions for all.

Cast of Characters

DIPSY, one of Santa's elves, on her third tour of duty (any gender)
SERGEANT FLOOPER, a sergeant, tough-as-candy-canes
BEEBLE, Flooper's assistant, very eager

ROMI, a sleigh-driver, tough and seasoned
DONDER, a reindeer, old and bitter
BLITZEN, a reindeer, old but not quite as bitter
MOONLY, an elf who truly believes in Christmas

BURGERMEISTER MEISTERBURGER, the mayor of Sombertown
JIM, a security guard

WINTER WARLOCK, a powerful wizard
YETI, his best friend

The Misfit Toys:
NARF GUN
MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
NINTENDO SPLOTCH
HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET
MONOPOLY

PENGUINS
PENGUIN SHAMAN
MEGA-PENGUIN
SANTA CLAUS

Gender of the characters: I've assigned pronouns to each character, but every character could be played by an actor of any gender. Feel free to change pronouns accordingly.

Double casting: Sergeant Flooper, Beeble, and the Burgermeister could all play penguins as well.

Distant Christmas music.
Part of Santa's Workshop.
DISPY, a disheveled elf on the shelf, is writing in her journal.

DISPY *(grimly, to the audience)*

The North Pole. I'm back at the North Pole again. After a year on the shelf. Sometimes when I close my eyes I can still see where I was: watching the kids all day and night to see if they were naughty. Reporting back here. Then doing hijinks in the middle of the night. Rearranging Christmas ornaments on the tree. Hiding from the cat. Spelling out "GET ME OUT OF HERE" in Hershey's kisses. Well I got my wish. I'm out.

The echoing sound of a happy Christmas song reverberates.

Back to the workshop. Making more toys. It used to be fun. But now it's just work – so many kids, so many presents to make – 24/7. I'm getting too old for this.

There's a knock at the door.

Let me sleep a little longer please!

BEEBLE *(off-stage)*

Wakey-wakey, elf!

DISPY

I said I'm sleeping! Today's my day off!

BEEBLE *(off-stage)*

Sergeant wants to see you!

Dipsy staggers over, puts on her hat, and opens the door.

DIPSY

Fine fine fine.

BEEBLE, dressed in a crisp elf outfit, enters.

What.

BEEBLE

This is your Christmas spirit? Where's your smile? Where's your zest for life?

DIPSY

It's my day off.

BEEBLE

Santa sees you on your days off, you know. He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows if –

DIPSY

Yeah yeah I got it. What do you want?

BEEBLE

Sergeant wants to see you right now. Probably because of your lack of spirit. Where's the tinsel? Where's the joyful song in your heart?

DIPSY

It's on vacation.

BEEBLE

Come on come on come on come on time is wasting!

Beeble ushers Dipsy off-stage.

Lights change to SERGEANT FLOOPER, on a cell phone.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Get me Roblox support. I don't care if you're having supply chain problems, we need those Robucks ready to go for Christmas! You get on it and you get on it now!

He clicks over to another line on his phone –

Is this the Lego department? I was promised four hundred thousand Batman Sea-Adventure Lego sets by noon and I don't see `em! Christmas doesn't wait! It's a steamroller and it's going to flatten you into a pancake if you don't get your elf keister in gear! FLATTEN. YOU. INTO. PANCAKE.

Beeble and Dipsy enter.

You don't need to cry. Seriously. Just get me those Legos!

He hangs up.

BEEBLE

Dispatch me, sir. I will spread joy and cheer that will get those elves working double-time!

SERGEANT FLOOPER

No thanks. You found her? Good. Close the door.

BEEBLE

Happily, sir!

Beeble closes the door.

Sergeant Flooper sighs.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

The young ones have so much energy.

DIPSY

What's going on?

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Dispy, right?

He takes out Dipsy's file.

You spent last season on the Henderson's shelf.

DIPSY

Look if this is about the incident with the cat I can explain that. I had no choice but to defend myself –

SERGEANT FLOOPER

You've had incidents at the last three houses you've been at. Candy cane snorting. Climbing in Christmas trees. Painting "Merry Christmas" in egg yolk. I got a list of complaints here half as long as the naughty list.

DIPSY

I don't want to go back to the workshop, sir.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

At the Hendersons you set up a little umbrella in the litter box and sunbathed.

DIPSY

I can explain that.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

The litter box is not a beach!

DIPSY

I know that now.

BEEBLE

I love cats. So adorable. Frisky.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

You understand why I can't send you back to the shelf. You're a loose cannon. An elf that doesn't play by the rules.

DIPSY

I'll do better. I hate working on the line –

Beeble gasps

BEEBLE

No!

DIPSY

I mean it. It's terrible. You work your fingers to the bone for twenty hours a day – all you eat is candy canes, they're blaring the music at you constantly –

BEEBLE

Christmas music?!

DIPSY

I can't do it. I'll crack up. I'll lose my mind.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Relax. That's not what you're here for. Can I trust you?

DIPSY

What?

BEEBLE

You can trust me, sir!

SERGEANT FLOOPER

I know. Dipsy?

DIPSY

Of course you can trust me.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Because I could use an elf like you.

DIPSY

Like me?

SERGEANT FLOOPER

A screw-up. A loser. Someone who isn't afraid to break a few rules and make a lasso out of licorice and ride a housecat into the dirt. An elf that can get punched in the face by a toddler and punch `em right back.

DIPSY

Again. Sorry about that. I didn't know about that rule.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

I don't need a rule-follower. I need a maniac.

DIPSY

What's going on?

SERGEANT FLOOPER

This is top secret. You do a little job for us and you won't have to go back on the shelf or in the workshop. You won't even have to make shoes on that side hustle.

DIPSY

You mean… retirement?

SERGEANT FLOOPER

All expenses paid trip to the Bahamas.

DIPSY

I'm in. I won't say anything.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

About two weeks ago we got word that an overseer in toy production went AWOL. Vanished into the glacier without a trace. He may be insane. Word is – he's recruiting a legion of penguins to his side. They worship him like some kind of prophet. We need you to find him – and bring him back.

DIPSY

With all honestly sir, I'm sure that's not the first toy overseer that's burned out. We work too much.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

I didn't tell you who it is.

DIPSY

Who is it?

Dramatic pause.

SERGEANT FLOOPER

The Big Guy. Santa.

Beeble gasps in horror.

BEEBLE

THE HORROR! Aaaaaaah!

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Oh yeah I should've given you a head's up.

BEEBLE

It can't be! Not Santa!

SERGEANT FLOOPER

Relax, Beeble.

BEEBLE

I'll find him, sir! I'll bring him back! I'll beg him! I'll cry! I'll weep! There will be so many tears spurting out of my face he'll need a rowboat!

SERGEANT FLOOPER
This is why you're not going. Dipsy – you're the one I need.

DIPSY
What do you need me to do?

SERGEANT FLOOPER
Your mission is to make your way across the frozen tundra on a sleigh – reach the glacier, and bring Santa back. With extreme prejudice.

DIPSY
I'm sorry what?

SERGEANT FLOOPER
Extreme prejudice.

DIPSY
What does that mean?

SERGEANT FLOOPER
Nobody knows. But we say it because it sounds important. At no point in your mission are you to reveal that this is official Santa's Workshop business. No insignias. No name tags.

DIPSY
What about my pointy hat?

SERGEANT FLOOPER
Yeah that's okay. If you are killed we will disavow any knowledge of this mission.
Beeble grabs hold of Dipsy.

BEEBLE
Dipsy – this is Santa!

DIPSY
I know.

BEEBLE
Saint Nick. The jolly fat man. Kris Kringle! Without him the spirit of Christmas is lost!

DIPSY
Well…

BEEBLE
I will be with you in spirit!

SEARGENT FLOOPER

Dipsy?

DIPSY

Yes, sir?

SERGEANT FLOOPER

We're counting on you. Save Christmas.

DIPSY

Will do, sir.

BEEBLE

Godspeed.

Lights change.

DONDER and BLITZEN, two reindeer, are chewing on some alfalfa.

DONDER

So I says to her, I'm not eating that. You think I'm an animal? I'm a professional, all right? I'm named in the poem.

BLITZEN

I hear that.

DONDER

No respect. They ain't got no respect.

BLITZEN

Kids.

DONDER

You know what she calls me? *Donner.*

BLITZEN

NO.

DONDER

Donner?! My name's Donner now? Don*der*. It rhymes with "wild blue yonder." Donder, king of the wild blue yonder.

BLITZEN

Nobody says that, dude.

DONDER

They should! If I got the credit I deserved!

Dipsy enters.

DIPSY

Excuse me is the sleigh commander around?

DONDER

Oh I can't be the sleigh commander? Cause I'm a reindeer?

BLITZEN

You're not the sleigh commander –

DONDER

I'm proving a point. Put some respect on my name. You don't think I can be commander?

DIPSY

I thought the commander was an elf.

DONDER

Can elves fly? Have you ever seen an elf fly? I pull Santa's sleigh.

DIPSY

I thought Santa wasn't even using the sleigh these days.

DONDER

That's it. I'm teaching you some manners.

BLITZEN

Donder, settle down.

DONDER

I was the HEART of that operation! And I get replaced by some new-fangled robots!? They took our jobs! I'm a hundred times faster than any jet-powered drones!

BLITZEN

Oh you are not, relax.

DONDER

They send the rest of us reindeer out here to grow old and fade away while Rudolph starts a Youtube channel and thinks he's an influencer! I'm sick of it!

DIPSY

So is your commander around?

DONDER

Gimme a sugar cube and I'll tell you.

BLITZEN

You know what they do to your blood pressure.

DONDER

Who are you, my doctor? Just gimme one.

DIPSY

Fine. Here ya go.

Dipsy gives Donder a sugar cube.

DONDER

Oh yeah that's the stuff. So much better than alfalfa. She's right there. Fair warning, she's a little weird.

Romi enters.

ROMI *(clapping hands and inhaling deeply)*

I love the smell of reindeer in the morning. Smells like… Christmas.

She looks around.

All right look alive! We ride at oh eight hundred! Let's get them harnesses ready! Where's Moonly? Y'all seen Moonly?

Dipsy goes up to her.

DIPSY

Ma'am. New orders from HQ.

Dipsy hands her an envelope.

ROMI

Are you kidding me? Get an Uber. I got things to do.

DIPSY

Just look at the orders, Ma'am.

ROMI

Who are you supposed to be?

DIPSY

Special Agent Dipsy –

ROMI

I don't care. I got two people I listen to: Me, Myself, and I. And I got better things to do than babysit you on a secret mission to get new diapers.

DIPSY

This is serious.

ROMI

So is my love of reindeer. Look at these guys. Majestic beasts. Almost no fleas on `em at all. Just adorable.

She inhales again.

That's right. Inhale their musk. Ahhhhh oh yeah. Mmm.

DIPSY

Okay look um –

ROMI

Romi – Captain Romi.

DIPSY

Time is important here. Look at the orders.

Romi takes the orders out of the envelope.

ROMI

Whoa. This is legit?

DIPSY

Straight from HQ.

ROMI

Dang it. Moonly! We gotta go! Suit up!

MOONLY, a rather crazed-looking elf, sprints across the stage while singly tunelessly

MOONLY *(singing loudly)*

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS WE WISH YOU A MERRY –

She's gone.

DIPSY

That's your crew?

ROMI

Don't say nothing. But between you and me: that elf ain't right.

DIPSY

What happened to her?

ROMI

What happens to anyone who works in the workshop too long? The shakes. The quivers. The crack-ups. They eventually had to send her to me.

Moonly enters, wide-eyed.

MOONLY
I love you Christmas. I love you so much. Every night when I go to bed I think about all the good girls and boys out there unwrapping the Ipads I made – tried to make – I wasn't very good at making them. Which I guess was kind of the problem. But it didn't matter that most of them caught on fire, it's the spirit that counts! Right?! Right?

ROMI
Sure, Moonly.

MOONLY
Happy elves make happy toys!

ROMI
We're heading for the glacier. Get the reindeer ready.

MOONLY
Reindeer are you ready?!

BLITZEN *(overlapping)*
Yes!

DONDER *(overlapping)*
Nope.

MOONLY
They're ready.

ROMI
All right let's ride out!

DIPSY
Ride out? Aren't we flying?

ROMI
Well –

DONDER
You want me to fly? Do I see six other tiny reindeer around here? No.

BLITZEN
We're really not in flying shape honestly.

DONDER
Excuse me? I am in flying shape! I am just not in "pulling three elves on a sleigh" flying shape!

ROMI

We ride.

Lights change.
Dipsy approaches the audience.

DIPSY *(to the audience)*

Personal log: So we're riding, not flying. As the reindeer pulled the sleigh towards the glacier, I became acquainted with my fellow elves. Romi seems decent enough. Moonly is an enigma. One minute she seems full of Christmas spirit, the next she's poking herself in the face with a stick.

Moonly enters in the background and pokes herself in the face with a stick.

MOONLY

Ouch.

She looks at the stick. Pokes herself again.

Ouch.

She looks at the stick. Walks off.

DIPSY *(to the audience)*

All that's out here is snow. Still, it's preferable to being on the shelf. At least I can move again without being blamed for every darn thing in the house. Or forced to report to Santa over and over again about whether the kids are being naughty.

He sees you when you're sleeping.
I think of that.
I am no longer sleeping.
Does he still see me?
Am I sheltered from his unblinking eye?
Does he know if I'm naughty or nice?
And does he care?

Donder enters, chewing on something.

DONDER

Who you talking to?

DIPSY

I'm collecting my thoughts and narrating them for the audience.

DONDER

Carry on.

DIPSY

I'm basically done.

DONDER

Nope, go ahead. Don't mind me.
Donder stands right next to Dipsy, chewing on cud.

DIPSY
Anyway, I'm troubled by memories of my time on the shelf –
He notices Donder getting closer –
All right I'm done.

DONDER
Can I talk to the audience then?
Personal log: Donder the Reindeer. They have more sugar cubes they aren't giving me. I know it. I will have them. Donder out.
Moonly and Romi enter.

MOONLY *(looking through binoculars)*
There's a town up there! Ooh. Maybe they need some Christmas cheer!

ROMI
You're probably just imaging things.

MOONLY
No I can see it! It looks really… unhappy.

ROMI *(grabbing the binoculars)*
Let me see that! Well I'll be tied up and boxed under a tree.

DIPSY
They're not part of our mission, let's avoid them.

ROMI
I'll decide what's part of our mission and what ain't. That's gotta be the ugliest place I ever seen. No colors. No nothing. It's like they ain't got no Christmas spirit at all.

MOONLY
Cold. It feels cold!

DIPSY
We're near the North Pole. It's all cold.

MOONLY
No! I…
Starts singing to herself
JINGLE BELLS
JINGLE BELLS
JINGLE ALL THE WAY…

DIPSY

What's she doing?

ROMI

When Moonly freaks out, she likes to sing. Calms her down.

MOONLY

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

DIPSY

That's not even the same song.

ROMI

Shh. She's got enough problems.

We hear evil chuckling from off-stage

BURGERMEISTER *(off-stage)*

Ho ho ho.

MOONLY

Santa?!

The Burgermeister enters, evilly.

BURGERMEISTER

There's no Santa here. Ho ho ho.

ROMI

Then why are you laughing?

BURGERMEISTER

I just laugh like that. Kind of an evil villain laugh. Ho ho ho.

DIPSY

That's really confusing.

BURGERMEISTER

I am the Burgermeister Meisterburger! Welcome to Sombertown, the town without… Christmas.

Moonly shrieks

MOONLY

Noooooooo!

ROMI

Shut it. We got no problem with you. Just passing through.

BURGERMEISTER

I'm afraid no one just "passes through" Sombertown! Ho ho ho. Once you're here, you never leave. Guards! Seize them!

Nothing happens. The elves look around.

Just a second. We're having a bit of a labor shortage. I said "Guards! Seize them!"

JIM enters, lackadaisically, in a guard uniform.

JIM

Hey there.

BURGERMEISTER

What are you waiting for? Seize them!

JIM

First of all, my name is Jim. Sometimes I feel like you don't know my name.

BURGERMEISTER

I know your name!

JIM

You just called me "Guard." That's really impersonal. Second, you didn't say please. Would it hurt to say- "Jim could you come in here please?" If all I hear is "Guards! Seize them!" I'm not going to react well.

BURGERMEISTER

I am the Burgermeister and I run this town! And when I need someone seized, I say seize them!

JIM

Do I ever get a birthday card from you? Do you ever ask about my family? I'm just supposed to be waiting here –

BURGERMEISTER

That's what a guard does!

JIM

Yes I'm a guard. I'm guarding. I'm not seizing. Seizing is an entirely different skill set. My talents lie in the standing and watching zones. Seizing involves physical hand-eye coordination as well as a certain reckless spirit that is incompatible with my personality. It's actually outlined here in our contract –

Jim takes out his contract for employment.

If you look in appendix B on acceptable guard actions –

BURGERMEISTER

I'm not looking at that! This is Sombertown! We're mean to everyone!

JIM

Look if you don't want to abide by the conditions in the contract, then I can go find other work. You're paying me minimum wage to stand out there all day – I'm not feeling emotionally fulfilled, honestly.

DIPSY

Oh yeah I know how that goes.

JIM

I want a job that inspires me, you know?

BURGERMEISTER

Fine. Get the other guards!

JIM

They didn't feel like coming in to work today.

BURGERMEISTER

What?!

JIM

I think one of them is taking a yoga class that conflicts with his work schedule.

BURGERMEISTER

How are we supposed to be the most miserable town on earth without any intimidating guards?! My whole government is based on having mean-looking people dressed in black enforcing a strict code of unhappiness!

JIM

About that. I was wondering if we could change the uniforms to yellow.

BURGERMEISTER

No!

JIM

I look fantastic in yellow.

BURGERMEISTER

No one wears yellow in Sombertown! No one does yoga! No one feels fulfilled! There's no Christmas either!

JIM

What about Arbor Day?

BURGERMEISTER

Absolutely not!

ROMI *(to Dispy)*

Maybe we should just uh… skedaddle?

Dipsy nods. Motions to Moonly.

MOONLY

What?

DIPSY

Back away slowly.

They start sidling off-stage while the argument continues.

JIM

You know what might help? Therapy.

BURGERMEISTER

The Meisterburger Burgermeister does not need therapy! That's what Sombertown is for!

JIM

Oh snap. I think you just said it, man.

BURGERMEISTER

Sombertown… is my therapy?

JIM

Maybe you're just trying to work out your personal issues by making everyone else miserable.

BURGERMEISTER

You know, when I was eight I didn't get the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle I wanted for Christmas.

JIM

And how did that make you feel?

BURGERMEISTER

Like I wanted revenge on the whole world.

JIM

Hence… Sombertown.

BURGERMEISTER

So you're saying it's all about that Ninja Turtle?

JIM

I didn't say it. You said it.

BURGERMEISTER

Wow. It all makes sense now. Thank you, Jim.

JIM

No problem.

BURGERMEISTER

Now will you please imprison those elves below the courthouse?

JIM

Since you asked nicely – of course.

He looks around. There's no one there.

Oh shoot.

Lights change.

Dipsy speaks to the audience while the scene changes.

DIPSY *(to the audience)*

He's out there somewhere. Santa. I can feel us getting closer. Sometimes, when I think about Christmas – every year at the same time – more and more toys, more and more good girls and boys – I understand why he left.

Do I even want to find him?

And if I find him, what will I say to bring him back?

Donder and Blitzen pull the sleigh in.

BLITZEN *(singing)*

THEN ONE FOGGY CHRISTMAS EVE
SANTA CAME TO SAY
RUDOLPH WITH YOUR –

DONDER

Would you stop?

BLITZEN

I'm just trying to spread a little cheer.

Moonly darts in.

MOONLY

Ooh! Christmas cheer?! Let me join!

DONDER

That song is historically inaccurate. And you know it! And they spelled my name wrong!

BLITZEN

Whatever, Donder.

DONDER

You know who wrote that song? A PR Firm for Rudolph's reality show!

BLITZEN

Oh they did not.

DONDER

I was there! I was on that flight.

MOONLY

You were?!

BLITZEN

So was I. His nose was very bright.

DONDER

Bright enough to navigate through fog?! Really? You believe that?! You've really swallowed the kool-aid, haven't you? Question everything. You were in the front – I was in the back! Santa was navigating with radar! The whole glowing nose thing was just a cover-up for his experimental technology!

BLITZEN

You've been on this for a hundred years. Let it go.

DONDER

It was all a stunt! They needed a hero so they INVENTED Rudolph!

BLITZEN

I'm not talking about this anymore. Rudolph is sweet –

DONDER

Does he even send you Christmas cards?

BLITZEN

He's busy –

DONDER

Being too famous for his old friends. Face the truth, Blitzen. You've been played.

Romi enters and walks to Dipsy, consulting a chart.

ROMI

I can take you as far as that ridge – but the sleigh ain't making it over that glacier wall.

DIPSY

I can set out on foot from there.

MOONLY

Are you sure we can't go with you? I want to see Santa!

DIPSY

It's too dangerous.

MOONLY

I would brave any polar bear attack to find him. To see his belly quiver like a bowlful of jelly. Sir – you are the wind beneath my wings! I am a happy elf!

DIPSY

Um… all right. I think this mission needs a little stealth –

MOONLY

I'll just sing really loud! ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS –

ROMI

Stop it. I hear something.

A howling wind begins.

Aw dang it. I was hopin' to get out of this without a blizzard.

DIPSY

You think it's going to get bad?

ROMI

I been doin this four hundred years. It's always bad. Let's get them tents up! We need to take shelter!

The wind gets worse.

On the other side of the stage, the WINTER WARLOCK enters, casting a spell.

WINTER WARLOCK

Blow, winds, blow! No one passes through the domain of the Winter Warlock! Ha ha ha ha!

ROMI

Aw man, looks like we got another crazy.

DIPSY

That seems to happen frequently up here on the North Pole.

MOONLY

At least his laugh is different.

WINTER WARLOCK

I will bury all intruders under an avalanche of snow! Ah ha ha ha ha!

A YETI enters near him.

YETI

RAARRRRRGHGH!

WINTER WARLOCK

Yes my furry friend! Soon you will have all the popsicles you want!

MOONLY

Is he talking about… us?

YETI

ELF POPSICLES!!!

DIPSY

Yes.

WINTER WARLOCK

Ha ha ha ha! All the terrors of winter are mine to command! Snow! Ice! Freezing rain! Those little moments where you think spring is coming and then winter shows up again in April! Ha ha ha! Also – that day when you think a snowstorm is coming, but it doesn't snow, and you have to go to school anyway! Ha ha ha ha!

DIPSY

Oh he's the worst!

ROMI

That tears it!

Romi jumps up.

MOONLY

Commander what are you doing?

ROMI

This guy's in charge of the weather? Then I got something to say.

WINTER WARLOCK

Ha ha ha!

YETI

Hoo hoo hoo! Can I tell you something from my abominable heart? You're my warlock.

WINTER WARLOCK

And you're my Yeti.

ROMI

HEY! You there! Winter Wizard!

WINTER WARLOCK

Warlock. I'm a Warlock.

ROMI

What's the difference?

WINTER WARLOCK

Style.

YETI

Yeti smash!

WINTER WARLOCK

Yes soon you will have elf popsicles.

YETI

YAY.

ROMI

HEY! I'm talking to you!

WINTER WARLOCK

What's your problem?

ROMI

You're the person in charge of winter?

WINTER WARLOCK

Sure.

ROMI

Well you been doing a terrible job lately! I mean it! Worst winter ever.

WINTER WARLOCK

Heh heh heh –

ROMI

The winters we've had lately have been PATHETIC.

WINTER WARLOCK

What?

ROMI

Barely any snow! There's a ski resort near us making their own snow cause you don't bother making enough of the real stuff! I got a bunch of polar bear friends that can't even find any ice floes! Half of Greenland is actually GREEN!

WINTER WARLOCK

Well um –

ROMI

You been spending so much time making Polar Vortexes and sending them to Texas that you forgot about winter for the rest of us!

YETI

You have seemed distracted lately. I mean… Rar.

WINTER WARLOCK

I've got a lot on my mind!

ROMI

Get it together!

WINTER WARLOCK

It's not my fault! I – There's been a lot of stress at home! I've got two kids in school and they need help with their homework all the time and there's this new way of doing math! I have to do most of their projects for them! It really saps my concentration!

YETI

Yeti sympathizes. Yeti's cubs are ungrateful as well.

ROMI

Instead of worrying about us – how `bout you do your dang job!?

WINTER WARLOCK

Very well! I shall create the worst blizzard in the history of the world!

ROMI

That's not actually what –

The winds start up again.

WINTER WARLOCK

Howl, Wind! Swirl, Clouds! Let the ice crack and the snow rage! BURY THEM ALL!

The winds get louder.

MOONLY

Good job Commander!

DONDER

Now we're all dead. Way to go. Nice work.

DIPSY

RUN!

The elves run as more and more snow falls.

WINTER WARLOCK

YES! OH MAN IT FEELS GOOD TO REALLY LET LOOSE AGAIN!

YETI

Yeti is proud of you.

Lights change.

Swirl of winds.

DIPSY *(to the audience)*

Personal log: The blizzard threw us off course. I don't know how long we ran.

DONDER *(to the audience)*

Personal log: The reindeer saved the elves. Again.

DIPSY

I don't know where we are anymore. An island somewhere.

DONDER *(to the audience)*

Did they ask for directions? No. Did they thank the reindeer who can FLY? Nope.

DIPSY

We may die here.

DONDER *(to the audience)*

When they die, I will be free to pursue my own hobbies. Knitting. Watercolors. Telling kids to get off my lawn. It won't be long now.

Romi and Moonly hobble in with Blitzen, huddling.

MOONLY

Don't worry about it Commander! I screw up all the time! I could never make the Ipads right! Like that time I made a screen out of marshmallow. Or when I made the buttons from cherries.

DIPSY

Everyone makes mistakes.

MOONLY
Or when I made an iPad out of a live mouse I found.

ROMI
Yeah I really messed up back there.

DIPSY
We don't have time to worry about that, we have to –
MISS CUCUMBER HEAD enters, holding a sword.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
Who goes there?!

ROMI
Oh great more nutjobs.

DIPSY
Just a humble traveler with a couple of flying reindeer.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
You're not from the workshop, are you?!
NARF GUN enters, nearby.

NARF GUN
Don't hurt them!

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
Don't tell me what to do, Narf! Because I haven't seen elves in a long time, and I'm still angry.

NARF GUN
Your anger isn't helpful.

DONDER
Hey what are you supposed to be?

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
Rude.

NARF GUN
She's Miss Cucumber Head. And I'm the Narf Gun!

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
Hey! Shut your mouth! We don't need to tell them anything!

BLITZEN

Aren't you supposed to be a potato?

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

I didn't ask to be made a cucumber!

NARF GUN

She's filled with rage cause she wasn't made right.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

I am not! And you need more rage! What kind of Narf Gun doesn't believe in violence?

NARF GUN

I'm a pacifist by nature.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

Narf darts don't hurt anyone!

NARF GUN

Actually, if you get hit directly in the eye it can really hurt –

DIPSY

Wait a minute – you guys are the misfit toys, aren't you? I think I know where we are.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

Well you're the misfit elves!

MOONLY

Kind of yeah.

ROMI

Can't argue that. You got a leader?

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

We don't have a leader! We're a loose federation of independent agents!

NARF GUN

Sure, follow us to the leader.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

You always do this! Arrgh.

DONDER

Cucumber, huh? Interesting.

ROMI

Cool it, Donder.

DONDER

You don't know what I'm thinking.

ROMI

You're thinking of eating Miss Cucumber Head.

DONDER

Maybe.

Other misfit toys gather.
NINTENDO SPLOTCH, HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET, and MONOPOLY enter.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

Hello! I am the Nintendo Splotch! I only have one button! This one right here!

ROMI

I can see why this is a problem -

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

I AM AMAZING. Everyone else is just jealous.

NARF GUN

You have one button, Splotch.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

It is the best button! Press it! Press my button!

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

Hey there. I'm the leader of this group –

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

We are a federation of independent –

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

I'm the leader. Horace.

MOONLY

What are you supposed to be?

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

I'm a foot puppet. People put me on their feet and – well, the concept was flawed from the beginning. Apparently toe mobility is poor compared to fingers so –

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

That's discrimination.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

Yeah I know.

DIPSY

And who are you?

MONOPOLY

Monopoly.

DIPSY

And what is wrong with you?

MONOPOLY

I'm Monopoly.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

If you want to know true existential hate, play Monopoly with someone.

MONOPOLY

Anyone up for a game of Monopoly?

Everyone shakes their head.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

What brings you to the island of misfit toys?

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

They're spies for the workshop! I say we have the Narf Gun Narf `em!

NARF GUN

Why would they send spies here?

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

I know they've been trying to put me in vinegar forever! I will not become MISS PICKLEHEAD.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

Relax. Nobody cares about you. Nobody cares about any of us.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

Not true! They're jealous of me!

HORCE THE FOOT PUPPET

No one wants a foot puppet. Or a narf gun. Or a miss cucumber head.

DONDER

Or an old reindeer.

MOONLY

Or an elf that screws up all the time.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

Hey wait a minute? Are you Moonly the elf?

MOONLY

Yes?

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

You…. Made me.

MOONLY

Oh.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

Mother. Look upon your creation.

MOONLY

Um…

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

I am GLORIOUS. Thank you.

MOONLY

You think so?

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

I have one button and it is INCREDIBLE. Press it.

MOONLY

Okay.

Moonly presses it. Nothing happens.

Is something supposed to happen?

NINTENDO SPLOTCH

I have become even more awesome. Quietly.

DIPSY

Not to interrupt the family reunion, but we're on a quest and we need to get off this island.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

A quest, eh?! Why didn't you say so? Would you require a noble foot puppet on this quest?

DIPSY

Um –

MONOPOLY

Or a game of Monopoly? I only take eight to ten hours to play.

DIPSY

We just need to keep going, actually. There's an important mission I need to complete.

ROMI

Or there won't be no Christmas this year.

MOONLY

Or ever.

Moonly breaks down.

It's so sad I can't even think about it!
YOU BETTER WATCH OUT
YOU BETTER NOT CRY…
YOU BETTER NOT POUT
I'M TELLING YOU WHY…

She can barely continue.

SANTA CLAUS – IS – COMING…. TO TOWN…

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

No Christmas? But what has Christmas ever done for us? Does anyone ask for foot puppets? Or cucumber heads? Or Monopoly?

MONOPOLY

I am a curse upon your family.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

No one wants us. Why should we let anyone else have Christmas?

DONDER

I can answer that. Let people have Christmas or we'll bite you.

BLITZEN

Hey hey hey –

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

Bring it on!

DONDER

I'm starting with you!

NARF GUN

No violence! I can't handle violence!

MONOPOLY

YES! MONOPOLY ALWAYS ENDS IN VIOLENCE!

DIPSY

Stop!

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

Never!

She grabs Narf Gun –

NARF GUN

What are you doing?!

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

Blam blam blam!

Dipsy crumples over.

DIPSY

Ow! My eye!

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

Everyone stop! Christmas isn't supposed to be like this!

Everyone stops.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

My bad.

NARF GUN

That was my worst nightmare.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

Are you okay, elf?

DIPSY

I think so.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET

I was trying to create a utopia where weird and unusual things can be valued, but instead it's all gone wrong. I've failed.

DONDER
If it makes you feel any better, these guys are failing too.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET
That does make feel a little better.

DONDER
Oh yeah. Total disaster.

ROMI
Can we be on our way?

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET
Go. The island of misfit toys needs to do some self-reflection.

MONOPOLY
How about a game of Monopoly?

NINTENDO SPLOTCH
I think it might bring our deep-seated issues to the front.

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET
Very well. Monopoly for everyone.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
I get to be the dog!

NARF GUN
No I'm the dog!

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD
You were the dog last time!

NARF GUN
I deserve to be the dog! I didn't shoot anyone!

HORACE THE FOOT PUPPET
Go now while you still can, elves. I beg you.

NINTENDO SPLOTCH
It says in the rules that you don't get any money for Free Parking.

MISS CUCUMBER HEAD

What?! That's ridiculous!

Lights fade on them.

DIPSY *(the audience)*

I said goodbye to my companions at the edge of the glacier.

MOONLY is sad.

MOONLY

I'll miss you so much.

ROMI

You ain't that bad.

BLITZEN

You are a friend to reindeer.

DONDER

I will poop in your memory.*

They look at him.

WHAT. It's something I do. I think of someone and then –

ROMI

Not the time, Donder.

DONDER

I've pooped while thinking of you many many times.

**These lines may be cut.*

ROMI

Stay safe out there.

They exit.

DIPSY *(back to the audience)*

And now – on top of the glacier – things grow strange. I hear noises in the distance. Then I see my first one:

A PENGUIN enters, waves, and runs off stage.

A penguin. Then another. And another. They draw me in. They want me to go further. I can sense it.

End of Excerpt
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com