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THE TRIAL OF SANTA

by Don Zolidis

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The Trial of Santa by Don Zolidis
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One-act Comedy
15+actors, gender flexible

The trial of the century: Santa Claus (aka Kris Kringle) v. Emily Worthington (aka bratty nine-year-old girl). In the TV courtroom of Judge Trudy, Santa is charged with delivering the wrong present on Christmas Day. Will Santa be convicted of this heinous crime? Or will Santa's Elven lawyer prove beyond a doubt that Emily was naughty, not nice?

Cast of Characters

SHIRLEY, Television Personality
JUDGE TRUDY, Television Judge
BAILIFF, her cool bailiff

The Accuser:
EMILY WORTHINGTON, age 9
MR. WICKERSHAM, her attorney
MRS. WORTHINGTON, her mother
RUFFLESNIFFER, a renegade elf
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

The Defendant:
SANTA CLAUS
MICKEY WINKLEBOTTOM, his lawyer
RUDOLPH, a character witness
BARRY, a mall santa
JENNY, a 9 year old girl
ELVES

This play was originally performer at North Oaks Middle School in Haltom City, Texas on January 12th, 2010. The original cast was as follows:

WICKERSHAM – Matthew Rodriguez
WINKLEBOTTOM – Tanner Roten
JUDGE TRUDY – Ahlaizha Brown
SANTA – Charles Brooks
SHIRLEY – Hanna Elder
EMILY – Meghan White
MRS. WORTHINTON – Jamie Brisson
RUFFLESNIFFER – Jacob Ivey
RUDOLPH – Rachel Neese
BAILIFF – Travis James
BARRY – Addison Fraustro

JENNY – Rebekkah Sandoval
ELVES – Ashlie Ruiz, Teresa Cantu, Destiny Weast, William Swanson, Tyler, Crystal, Victoria Ybarra

AUDIENCE MEMBERS – Caron Pryor, Cheyenne Eddins, Kianna Kelly

(the courtroom. At rise, the court is empty except for the visitors in the gallery, which are neatly divided into two sections. A large group of ELVES sits stage right behind the defendant's table, and a much smaller group of normal VISITORS sits behind the plaintiff's table. SHIRLEY, the court reporter, enters with a microphone.)

SHIRLEY

And here we are for the trial of the millennium, the momentous, earth-shattering trial all of our viewers have been anxiously awaiting for, brought to you today by the good people at motorized wheelchairs, giving mobility to the injured, elderly and lazy for nearly twenty years. Also brought to you by the Denifixil, the anti-depression medication for the injured, elderly, and too lazy to move. As always stay tuned after the show for the Jerry Springer show – today's program: my wife is injured, elderly, and too lazy to move. And I am your guide, Shirlay, or just Shirley if you want to be accurate about it, and I will be providing the color commentary for the most amazing trial every brought to the Judge Trudy show.

(EMILY, EMILY'S MOTHER, and WICKERSHAM enter, carrying briefcases.)

And here come the plaintiffs – there's Emily Worthington there in the center, her mother, and their attorney.

(SHIRLEY runs up to them and shoves the microphone at them.)

Emily! Emily why are you bringing this lawsuit!

EMILY

Well I –

WICKERSHAM

First of all, Emily loves Christmas. No one is disputing that.

SHIRLEY

I didn't really say that –

WICKERSHAM

Emily believes in fair play and honesty and that is what America is built on.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Yeah! America! Woooooo!

(he's looked at strangely, and sits down.)

WICKERSHAM

And we're here today to do a service to all the children out there who have been lied to – they have been lied to by people they thought they could trust, and we're going to put a stop to that today.

SHIRLEY

And that is why you are suing Santa Claus?

WICKERSHAM

Yes.

SHIRLEY

A controversial action to be sure. Let's here from some of the gallery.

(Shirley heads into the gallery. An ELF leaps up.)

And what is your name, sir?

ELF

My name is Muffins!

SHIRLEY

Okay, and what is your opinion about what's going on here today?

ELF

This is a travesty of justice! I am ashamed, I tell you, ashamed, that we are sitting here today and have to watch an honest man, a true man like Santa Claus dragged in front of this court because of some spoiled little brat! Yeah, you heard me! You're a brat!

(the ELVES in the audience become unruly. EMILY tries not to look at them.)

Next time I make you a toy, I'm gonna spit in it! You hear me! Santa is an innocent man! And all us elves feel the same way!

SHIRLEY

Strong words.

ELF

You like getting presents for Christmas?! Next year you're getting a basket full of reindeer droppings!

(more whoops from the elves.)

SHIRLEY

Okay, and now the defendant is entering the courtroom.

(SANTA CLAUS enters, accompanied by WINKLEBOTTOM, his lawyer.)

Santa Claus, accompanied by his lawyer, Mickey Winklebottom.

ELVES *(chanting)*

Santa! Santa! Santa!

ANOTHER ELF

Santa! I love you! I love you Santa!

(Santa raises his hands like a boxer entering the ring and acknowledging applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER *(chanting by himself)*

USA! USA! USA!

(he looks embarrassed and sits down.)

SHIRLEY

Mister Claus, may we have a word?

SANTA

Ho ho ho of course.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Santa will not be answering any questions at this time.

SHIRLEY

Is it true you didn't give that little girl what she asked for?

WINKLEBOTTOM

No comment!

SANTA

Ho ho ho.

SHIRLEY

What about the allegations you weren't actually present at the mall that day?

WINKLEBOTTOM

I said no comment! Now get that thing out of his face before I put you in a world of hurt.

SHIRLEY *(to the audience)*

I must say this is the most tense I have ever seen Santa Claus. His cheeks look downright pale.

(the BAILIFF enters.)

BAILIFF

All rise.

(everyone stands up as JUDGE TRUDY enters.)

The honorable television judge, Judge Trudy is in the house. Give her some props, y'all.

JUDGE TRUDY

Okay okay I don't need any props. Have a seat folks.

(everyone sits down. JUDGE TRUDY puts on some glasses and goes through the papers.)

All right then. Worthington versus Claus. You are suing for emotional distress, have I got that right?

EMILY

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

To the tune of ten million dollars.

(shocked gasps from the Elves.)

ELF

He's innocent!

JUDGE TRUDY

HEY! I'm the judge here, twinkletoes, not you. I decide who's guilty and innocent.

SANTA

And I know who's been bad or good.

WICKERSHAM

Objection! Defendant is claiming omniscience. It is clearly established that Santa Claus does not know everything!

SANTA

I know that when you were nine you wanted got three Pound Puppies for Christmas. You cried tears of joy. What has happened to your heart, Jimmy?

JUDGE TRUDY

HEY! Santa – I would appreciate it if you kept your magical comments to yourself, all right? And for the record, Mister Fancy Pants, I don't want to hear any objections during the opening statement. We're gonna sort this corndoodle out in twenty-two minutes and I don't want any special lawyer talk to get in the way of it. I'm no nonsense, you got me?

WICKERSHAM

Yes, your honor.

SANTA

Ho ho ho.

JUDGE TRUDY

Shut your trap, Claus.

SANTA

Sorry.

JUDGE TRUDY

Now Emily – ten million dollars, is that it? For emotional distress?

EMILY

I have the papers right here to prove it.

JUDGE TRUDY

Let me see those.

(WICKERSHAM takes more papers up to the judge.)

These are crayon drawings.

WICKERSHAM

Indeed they are, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

And this proves what exactly?

WICKERSHAM

If you notice, your honor, they are all black. Clearly, Emily is highly depressed.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Objection! The black crayon is used for a lot of things, not just to show depression.

WICKERHSAM

I will give you expert testimony in just a minute, if you'll let me your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

Hold your horses, bozo. We'll get to the testimony when I'm good and ready to get to the testimony. I'm the lead dog in this sled.

SANTA

You are indeed a dog, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

What was that?

SANTA

Ho ho ho. What?

JUDGE TRUDY

I'm getting a little sick of the ho ho hos. Find a new way to laugh.

SANTA

I'm sorry it's my thing.

JUDGE TRUDY

Moving on. What's your defense, twinklebottom?

WINKLEBOTTOM

Winklebottom, your honor. It's a distinguished elven name.

JUDGE TRUDY

I'm sure it is. All right, what's the deal?

WINKLEBOTTOM

We will show that this girl is a fraud and a liar and we know that she's been bad.

EMILY

You're the fraud and the liar!

JUDGE TRUDY

HEY! Shut your mouth when your elders are speaking, tween. Go watch High School Musical or something and drool over Zac Efron and let the rest of us talk. All right, well this is quite the case isn't it?

BAILIFF

Judge Trudy is getting ready with the justice!

JUDGE TRUDY

Well I gotta hear everybody first.

BAILIFF

First she's got to hear everybody!

JUDGE TRUDY

Do you mind? Let's start with the plaintiff.

WICKERSHAM

Thank you, your honor. Let's get all the facts shall, we? I call Emily Worthington to the stand.

(EMILY hops up to the stand.)

BAILIFF

Place your right hand on the Bible and repeat after me.

EMILY

After me.

BAILIFF

Don't you get smart or I'll smack you.

EMILY

Don't you get smart or I'll smack you.

BAILIFF

I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Skipping Forward

EMILY
I wanted a My Little Pony Grooming Center and Stable.

WICKERSHAM
Perfectly understandable. What happened next?

EMILY
He said okay.

WICKERSHAM
So he agreed to bring you that?

EMILY
Yes he did.

WICKERSHAM
And on Christmas morning did you receive a My Little Pony Grooming Center and Stable?

EMILY
No I did not.
(shocks of horror and outrage from the elves.)

ELF 3
SHE LIES! SHE'S A LIAR!

JUDGE TRUDY
ORDER! ORDER!

ELF 3
Lying brat! You better watch your back if you ever come to the North Pole!

JUDGE TRUDY
ORDER IN THE COURT!

ELF 3
Santa loves all the little children!

JUDGE TRUDY
Bailiff!
(the BAILIFF charges into the audience and grabs Elf 3, dragging him off. Elf 3 continues to scream as he is removed from the court.)

ELF 3
I love you Santa! I believe in you Santa!
(screams and beating sounds from off-stage.)

JUDGE TRUDY

I will have order in this court or all you munchkins are getting thrown out of here!

WINKLEBOTTOM

Elves, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

I don't care if you're garden gnomes, if you don't behave, I will clear you out of here and hold you all in contempt of court!

WINKLEBOTTOM

No earthly prison can hold us, your honor.

WICKERSHAM

So you did not get what you wanted for Christmas?

EMILY

No, sir.

WICKERSHAM

And then what happened to you?

EMILY

I fell into a deep well of depression that I have never escaped. Life has no meaning to me now. I cannot taste food. My dreams are nightmares. I've lost sleep, my hair is falling out, and I can't even enjoy the company of my dog. In short, my entire life has been completely destroyed.

WICKERSHAM

That's terrible.

EMILY

I know. My life is an unending slog of misery and torment. I believe I will die alone.

WICKERSHAM

I'm sure you will. No further questions.

(he sits down.)

(WINKLEBOTTOM gets up. He begins a slow courtroom walks towards EMILY.)

WINKLEBOTTOM

So… Emily Worthington, is that your real name?

EMILY

Yes.

WINKLEBOTTOM

No further questions.

(he sits down.)

SANTA

What are you doing?

WINKLEBOTTOM

It's called strategy, Claus.

JUDGE TRUDY

You've got to be the dumbest lawyer that's ever been on this show.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Am I? Or am I the least dumbest?

JUDGE TRUDY

What?

WINKLEBOTTOM

Exactly.

WICKERSHAM

I call Mrs. Worthington to the stand.

(MRS. WORTHINGTON gets up.)

JUDGE TRUDY

Where's the Bailiff?

WINKLEBOTTOM

I believe he's still fighting the elf in the hall.

(more screams and fighting sounds from off-stage.)

JUDGE TRUDY

I don't have time for this! Are you gonna lie?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

No.

JUDGE TRUDY

Good. Sit down.

WICKERSHAM

So you are Emily's mother?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

That's correct.

WICKERSHAM

And you were with her that fateful day in the mall?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I was.

WICKERSHAM

And did you hear what this… Santa Claus said to your daughter?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I did.

WICKERSHAM

Could you please repeat it for us here?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

He said that if she was a good little girl she would get what she wanted.

WICKERSHAM

And who would have a better idea if she was a good little girl than her own mother?

SANTA

Santa would!

JUDGE TRUDY

HEY!

MRS. WORTHINGTON

No one would have a better idea if she was a good little girl.

SANTA

Oh wake up Jessica! She's been lying to you! I know! I know who's been bad or good! I see her when she's sleeping!

(shocks from the audience.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Stalker! He's a stalker!

ELVES *(chanting)*

Santa! Santa! Santa!

JUDGE TRUDY

Order in the court! Order in the court! Where is that Bailiff! No more outbursts from anybody! Now, Mrs. Worthington – this joker over here is claiming to know your daughter better than you do.

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I'm her mother and I'm tell you she was a good little girl this year. Very good. She always did her chores and said please and thank you. She was a perfect little angel, but apparently that wasn't good enough for Santa Claus because you didn't bring her the present she wanted more than anything! Oh you should have seen her little heart break that day! She's never been the same! Never! If only this whole thing never would have happened…

(she dissolves in tears.)

WICKERSHAM

There, there, Mrs. Worthington, you couldn't have known.

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I've tried to be a good mother! You try to protect your child and then this happens! I only want justice!

WICKERSHAM

No further questions.

(WINKLEBOTTOM begins a slow courtroom walk towards MRS. WORTHINGTON.)

WINKLEBOTTOM

Is it true that your name is Mrs. Wickersham?

MRS. WICKERSHAM

Yes.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Thank you.

(he walks away.)

JUDGE TRUDY

Is that it?

WINKLEBOTTOM

If I may, you are the girl's mother.

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Yes.

JUDGE TRUDY

Are you going anywhere with this line of questioning?

WINKLEBOTTOM
We'll find out. So you are the girl's mother?

MRS. WORTHINGTON
Yes!

WINKLEBOTTOM
No further questions.
(he begins to walk away again.)
Oh wait wait can I take that back?

WICKERSHAM
He said no further questions! I heard him!

JUDGE TRUDY
I'll allow it cause you're a moron.

WICKERSHAM
Aw man!

WINKLEBOTTOM
Okay then – are you a good mother?

WICKERSHAM
Objection!

JUDGE JUDY
I'll allow it.

MRS. WORTHINGTON
I think I am.

WINKLEBOTTOM
You think you are?

MRS. WORTHINGTON
Yes.

WINKLEBOTTOM
A good mother takes care of their child, correct?

WICKERSHAM
Objection! Where is this going?

JUDGE TRUDY

I'm curious too, but I'd like to find out if this elf has anything in mind. Answer the question.

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Yes. A good mother takes care of her child.

WINKLEBOTTOM

So why would a good mother allow her daughter to sit on a stranger's lap in the mall?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I thought it was safe.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Why would you think that?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Because everyone else was doing it.

WINKLEBOTTOM

If everyone else decided not to buckle their kid's seatbelt, would you do that too? If everyone else decided it would be fun to drop their children off of cliffs to see if they could fly, would you do that too?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

No.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Let me ask you another question: you say your daughter didn't receive the present she wanted on Christmas, but isn't it standard practice for parents to get presents for their children as well? Shouldn't you have gotten this present for Emily instead of Santa?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Santa said he was going to do it.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Isn't it true that you ate Doritos while you were pregnant?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

What?

WINKLEBOTTOM

And other snacks packed with preservatives and artificial flavoring? Isn't that true, Mrs. Worthington!?

MRS. WORTHINGTON

I guess that's true.

WINKLEBOTTOM

You guess?! Don't you know?!

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Yes I did then!

WINKLEBOTTOM

And isn't it also true that you let Emily stay up until eleven p.m. on weeknights?!

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Maybe I have.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Maybe?! Maybe?! On Weeknights?! Eleven p period m period?! Do you think that's being a good mother?!

MRS. WORTHINGTON

Well I mean –

WINKLEBOTTOM

IS IT??

MRS. WORTHINGTON

No. It's not.

WINKLEBOTTOM

THAT'S NOT BEING A GOOD MOTHER, IS IT?!

MRS. WORTHINGTON

No it's not!

WINKLEBOTTOM

The truth is you're not a very good mother at all, are you?! You're a dorito-munching staying-up-lating selfish bad mother, aren't you?! You could have gotten that present! You could have prevented this but instead you sat back because you just want to get on T.V.! Well you're on T.V. now missy and it's going to be a world of pain! You're going to wish you were never born I will tear apart your soul and eat it for breakfast!

(short pause. Then happily -)

No further questions.

(MRS. WORTHINGTON cries horribly and gets down from the stand. WINKLEBOTTOM turns to Santa and whispers loudly.)

It's going well!

JUDGE TRUDY

I haven't seen a mother taken apart like that since Christmas at my house.

WICKERSHAM
Could I have a few moments to get my case together?

JUDGE TRUDY
No.

WICKERSHAM
Uh… well then I call…

WINKLEBOTTOM
Objection!

WICKERSHAM
I haven't called anyone yet!

WINKLEBOTTOM
I still object!

JUDGE TRUDY
Hold your ponies, Winklebottom.

WICKERSHAM
I would like to call Rufflesniffer to the stand!
(shocked gasps from everyone.)

JUDGE TRUDY
Who the heck is that?!

WINKLEBOTTOM
Double objection!
(RUFFLESNIFFER, an elf, enters.)

RUFFLESNIFFER
I'm Rufflesniffer, your honor.
(the ELVES in the gallery shout at him.)

ELVES
Traitor! Traitor! We'll get you!

JUDGE TRUDY
Settle down! I said settle down! You may take the stand, Mister Rufflesniffer.

RUFFLESNIFFER
Thank you, your honor.

Skipping Forward

And isn't it true that you're a lying lying liar!? Isn't that also true?!

RUFFLESNIFFER

No it's –

WINKLEBOTTOM

Answer the question!

RUFFLESNIFFER

What question?

WICKERSHAM

Objection! He's badgering the witness!

JUDGE TRUDY

I'll allow it. This is fun.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And isn't it also true that you smell bad and that you're a nasty stupid toad and I'm going to strangle you with my bare hands?!

RUFFLESNIFFER

No that's not true.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Yes it is!

(WINKLEBOTTOM leaps across the stand and starts to strangle RIFFLESNIFFER)

JUDGE TRUDY

Whoah! I do the strangling in this court!

(WINKLEBOTTOM backs off and straightens his outfit.)

WINKLEBOTTOM

All right. Fair enough.

RUFFLESNIFFER

My throat hurts.

WINKLEBOTTOM

How much is this guy paying you to sell out Santa?

RUFFLESNIFFER

A little candy.

WINKLEBOTTOM

A little candy? That's all it takes to take the man who loved you, who took you in, who gave you fancy clothes and a roof over your head and betray him! To betray him!

RUFFLESNIFFER

Santa never paid us! He worked us to the bone! We were slaves, I tell you! slaves!

(the elves boo him.)

JUDGE TRUDY

Do you actually have a question?

WINKLEBOTTOM

No I'm too disgusted. No further questions.

RUFFELSNIFFER

Do I get my candy canes now?

WICKERSHAM

Later. The plaintiff rests, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY

Defense? Your witness.

WINKLEBOTTOM

I would like to call Rudolph to the stand!

(general hubbub in the audience. RUDOLPH enters.)

JUDGE TRUDY

All right, shiny face –

RUDOLPH

That's shiny nose –

JUDGE TRUDY

Let's keep this quick, all right? Don't play any games, don't sing any songs, let's get down to the skinny on this fish. Do you swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

BAILIFF

That's my job!

JUDGE TRUDY

And if you were any good at it, you'd still have it. Answer the question, venison.

RUDOLPH

I never tell a lie, your honor.

(WINKLEBOTTOM begins a slow courtroom walk.)

WINKLEBOTTOM
Is your name Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer?

RUDOLPH
It sure is!

WINKLEBOTTOM
And how long have you known Santa?

RUDOLPH
Ten years.

WINKLEBOTTOM
That's a pretty long time in reindeer years, isn't it?

RUDOLPH
It sure is!

WICKERSHAM
Objection! Where is this going?

JUDGE TRUDY
I'm wondering too, Winkleface.

WINKLEBOTTOM
That's Winklebottom, your honor.

JUDGE TRUDY
Well I can't see the winkles on your bottom, I can only see the winkles on your face. Ha!

WINKLEBOTTOM
Your honor, this is a key character witness in my case.

SANTA
My character isn't it doubt here.

WINKLEBOTTOM
With all due respect, this little girl's entire suit depends on the fact that Santa has been naughty. So it's only fair that I establish he's not naughty.

JUDGE TRUDY
Eh… nah.

WINKLEBOTTOM
Oh come on!

ELF 4

You're a racist against elves!

JUDGE TRUDY

Hey! I happen to be very good friends with those guys who make cookies, all right? Nobody calls me a racist!

ELF 4

The Keeblers are sell-outs!

WICKERSHAM

May I cross-examine the witness, your honor?

JUDGE TRUDY

Sure, why not?

WINKLEBOTTOM

But I haven't even been able to front examine him! I mean… you know… in the lawyer kinda way.

WICKERSHAM

What is your relationship with the defendant?

RUDOLPH

He took me in.

WICKERSHAM

So he adopted you?

RUDOLPH

Not officially.

WICKERSHAM

So he hasn't officially adopted you?

RUDOLPH

No.

WICKERSHAM

Is he your employer?

RUDOLPH

I guess you could call it that. I help guide his sleigh.

WICKERSHAM

That's a pretty important job, isn't it, Rudolph?

RUDOLPH

It's the most important job! I'm very proud of my work.

WICKERSHAM

It's a very important job. You work long hours?

RUDOLPH

I fly all around the world.

WICKERSHAM

So you must get paid pretty well then?
(pause)
I said you must get paid pretty well then. What does Santa pay you?

RUDOLPH

He doesn't pay me anything.

WICKERSHAM

Wait a minute. So Santa hasn't adopted you, he doesn't paid you anything, and yet you work for him. They've got a word for that, you know. It's called slave.

RUDOLPH

I'm not a slave!

WICKERSHAM

Is that a collar around your neck? Why aren't you wearing any clothes? Isn't it true that Santa is exploiting you, forcing you to work for no money, keeping you in poverty, and treating you like an animal?!

RUDOLPH

I'm not an animal!

WICKERSHAM

Isn't it true that the only reason Santa tolerates your existence is your mutant ability to glow? Isn't that true?

RUDOLPH

I'm so confused!

WICKERSHAM

Why do you defend him?!

RUDOLPH

I'm not an animal!

WICKERSHAM
Does Santa ever… whip you to get you to go faster?

RUDOLPH
I don't know! I don't remember!

WICKERSHAM
You don't remember or you don't want to remember?!

RUDOLPH
He beats me! He's a bad man!

WINKLEBOTTOM
Objection!

RUDOLPH
I'm like a slave to him!

WINKLEBOTTOM
Objection!

WICKERSHAM
No further questions.

RUDOLPH
Santa why?!

JUDGE TRUDY
You may leave the stand, Rudolph.

RUDOLPH
Please don't call me names. I can't stand being called names.

SANTA
Get out of my sight, traitor.

RUDOLPH
I didn't mean to say that, Santa!

SANTA
I'm going to have to get someone else to guide my sleigh tonight.

RUDOLPH
No! please!

BAILIFF

Let's go, reindeer.

(the bailiff escorts Rudolph out.)

JUDGE TRUDY

Your Christmas goose looks like it's been plucked, baked, and eaten, Santa.

WINKLEBOTTOM

I call to the stand… Jenny Loenstein!

EMILY

What!

(JENNY, a little girl of about nine enters.)

JENNY

Hi there! My name's Jenny!

JUDGE TRUDY

Aren't you sweet?

JENNY

I sure am!

WINKLEBOTTOM

Now Jenny, if that is your real name, do you happen to know the plaintiff?

JENNY

Sure I do!

EMILY

You better not say anything Jenny.

JUDGE TRUDY

Hush your mouth, child.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And how do you know her?

JENNY

She sits next to me in school.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And would you say she was a good little girl?

JENNY

No I would not.

(the elves cheer.)

ELF 5

Boo ya! In your face!

WINKLEBOTTOM

Can you say anything specific about that? And seriously, go on for as long as you want.

JENNY

Okay, um… well, she's always passing notes to this boy Micah, who she's totally in love with –

EMILY

What?!

JENNY

But he doesn't like her cause he likes this other girl but I think they're all gross. And she always copies my homework and when we have a spelling test or anything she cheats off me, and she calls our teacher names behind her back –

WINKLEBOTTOM

What is your teacher's name?

JENNY

Mrs. Daganheart.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And what does Emily call her?

JENNY

Mrs. Dragon Fart. And she draws pictures of the other girls in class and puts zits on them and then draws them on fire and stuff which I think is pretty messed up. And this one time I took her diary and looked in it and she said mean stuff about everybody, I mean, she said her Mom looked like Frankenstein – and then she totally downloads music for free off the internet and steals aps for her Iphone and then –

JUDGE TRUDY

We get the picture.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Thanks. Thank you very much.

WICKERSHAM

Are you a good little girl, Jenny?

JENNY

I'm not perfect. But I'm certainly a lot better than her. She's evil.

WICKERSHAM
So you're an expert in naughty children, is that it?

JENNY
I've been hall monitor for three straight years, my Mom is an assistant principal and my Dad is a psychologist. I have a pretty good handle on this.

WICKERSHAM
So you wouldn't be a liar than, would you? What if I said that everything this little girl said is a flat-out lie!

JENNY
I'd say that when I looked at her diary I photocopied all the pages which I have here to back up my story.
(she produces pages.)

ELF 6 *(standing up)*
Ohhhhhh! You just got schooled!
(cheers from the elves)

WICKERSHAM
No further questions.

JENNY
Hi Emily!

EMILY
I hate you!

JENNY
I know! I read it in your diary! It's exhibit A! You're going down!

EMILY
I hope you get run over by a truck!

JENNY
I'm tape-recording this conversation for more evidence against you! Have a nice day!

WINKLEBOTTOM
All right then – I call Kris Kringle, A.K.A. Santa Claus, A.K.A. the jolly fat man, to the stand.

ELVES *(chanting)*
Santa! Santa! Santa!

SANTA

Ho ho ho. Would you like to sit on my lap?

JUDGE TRUDY

No lapsitting in the courtroom!

SANTA

You're no fun at all. Go ahead, talk to Santa.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Dear Santa, first question: are you real?

SANTA

Yes.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Good to know. Do you know this girl, Emily Worthington?

SANTA

Santa loves all the little children. Especially the good ones.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And is she a good little girl?

SANTA

Not a chance. She's about as bad as they come.

WICKERSHAM *(butting in)*

On what evidence do you base this?!

SANTA

I have here a tiny supercomputer which is able to calculate a person's actions for an entire year and determine if they've been naughty or nice. Santa's gone digital. That way we can take the guesswork out of it. And Emily scored a very very naughty.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And what do naughty children get for Christmas?

SANTA

They used to get coal, but apparently we can't do that any more because it traumatizes them, so we just get them less cool toys.

WINKLEBOTTOM

Such as?

SANTA

Anything Barney related. Barney sing-a-long tapes, Barney stuffed animals. Kids hate that stuff.

EMILY

I hate Barney!

SANTA

See? We also give them cell phones that can only dial their parents, that sort of thing. Just to mess with the little rugrats.

WINKLEBOTTOM

And did you promise to give Emily a my little pony stable and grooming center?

SANTA

No.

WINKLEBOTTOM

You didn't promise to get her that?

SANTA

Santa only makes promises he can keep.

WINKLEBOTTOM

So in your mind, you don't owe Emily anything?

SANTA

Nope.

WINKLEBOTTOM

No further questions.

(he sits down as WICKERSHAM gets up.)

End of Except.
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