

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

Within the dark clouds and snow flurries we hear refrains from ' FLYING HIGH '.

EXT. ELF TOWN - NIGHT

Elf town is a maze of small streets. Every STREET LIGHT is striped red and white and shaped like a candy cane. The tiny homes are painted in the colors of the rainbow and designed in circles, pyramids, triangles and squares.

Trickles of smoke escape from oddly shaped chimneys. YELLOW, ORANGE and BLUE LIGHTS flicker behind the decorated Christmas Trees in windows.

NO elves are outside in tonight's storm.

EXT. ELF TOWN - NIGHT

The main road leads out and up a long hill into a dell to

EXT. SANTA'S TOY SHOPPE - NIGHT

ONE MULT-PANED WINDOW - through the glass

INT. SANTA'S TOY SHOPPE - NIGHT

Inside the roar of the STORM subsides. Though the Toy Shoppe is empty of Elves, here is a place of high industry. Elve's work stations are everywhere. Small stools ring tables littered with scissors, glue, paste, thread, needles and a wide assortment of tools.

BAY WINDOW - WORK TABLE this TABLE is larger and taller than the others. Two human sized CHAIRS rest on opposite sides of the table. Here the hammers, scissors, screw drivers all fit human hands. We don't have to be told this is where Santa and Mrs. Claus make toys and wrap presents.

TOYS in different stages of assembly are everywhere. Toy soldiers, in bright blue uniforms. Boxes of Legos and crayons. Unicorns and dolls in sequined dresses line the shelves.

ONE ELF'S WORK STATION

It's immaculate. A clean white mat rests on the table, surrounded by tools and various materials. Everything is in its place. A small sign identifies this station as TWINKLE'S.

STARLIGHT and TWISTER signs are to the left and right. These areas are NOT as tidy.

NEAR THE FRONT DOOR - BURLAP SACKS

Dolls, Teddy Bears, unicorns, and a monkey's head peek out of the tops of various sacks.

ONE WALL - Bicycles, scooters, wagons, baseball bats, snowshoes and doll houses are neatly arranged.

ANOTHER WALL - Boxes wrapped in a kaleidoscope of colors and bows are stacked to the ceiling - NEON BLUE signs on each pile show destinations: SPAIN - CHINA - GUATAMALA - U.S.A. - FRANCE - ENGLAND - KOKOMO

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - NIGHT THE STORM CONTINUES LOUDER

We leave the Toy Shoppe and pan up a long, narrow road to a

EXT. HIGH MEADOW - NIGHT

Dappled with trees and piles of boulders. The STORM rages and snow falls.

INT. FOX LAIR

A FOX sleeps restlessly. The sounds of the STORM echo down the tunnels of his warren.

FOX

Noise. Noise too much noise.

CUT TO:

INT. POLAR BEAR'S CAVE

The polar bear covers his ears with two mammoth paws.

POLAR BEAR

Hey, trying to get a little sleep here.
Trying to hibernate.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT - FAR BELOW THE MEADOW

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - NIGHT - THE STORM RAGES ON

SANTA'S SLEIGH is slowly being covered in a blanket of snow.

SANTA'S CHALET with its wide projecting roofs, facades and richly decorated wooden balconies and carved ornaments cries for Heidi or the Swiss Family Robinson to appear.

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET THROUGH KITCHEN WINDOW

INT. SANTA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The windows RATTLE. The glass BUCKLES. The STORM RAGES ON.

SANTA enters with his arms pumping like the connecting-rods on the wheels of a diesel train. Santa is all systems GO! Except for his cap and jacket, he's dressed in his RED Santa Suit. He gives his white suspenders a snap and when ever he "Ho, Ho, Ho's," Santa gestures with an extended index finger and a raised thumb.

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho, listen to the North Wind blow.
(we hear the first strains of Santa's song)
Just what we need, a little more snow.

Santa, for a big man, moves about deftly. This man has rhythm. HE CAN DANCE. Santa moves like John Travolta with a Michael Jackson shuffle thrown in. He spins and deftly drops a piece of bread in the toaster.

SANTA (CONT)


Just kidding. But I better watch it or my nose
will grow...
(he PINCHES his nose and sings nasally)
and the elves and reindeer will call me Pinocchio.
Ho. Ho. Ho. Pinocchio.

Santa pours a cup of HOT CHOCOLATE and plops a MARSHMALLOW on the top. Takes a long SIP, rubs his TUMMY then sets the mug on the kitchen table next to a

GOLDEN SCROLL

Santa lifts the SCROLL high in the air, flips a TAB on the side and there's WOOSH as paper flows out like printer gone mad. Sheet after sheet cascades down gathering in an ever growing pile on the kitchen floor. We see . . .

NAMES-ADDRESSES-TOYS neatly printed on line after line after line.

Santa flips the tab stopping the flow of paper and points to the list and begins to sing *Santa's song* .

SANTA (CONT)

Two days before Christmas and I've got so much
to do. And this Christmas is going to be a hullaballo.

(glances at the list)

Look at my list. It's almost twenty miles long.
Last year's was shorter and I still got things wrong.
Girls got boy's toys and boys got girl's toys.
I'm embarrassed to say I gave a dog's toy to a cat.
I still don't know what to think of that.

Santa takes a bite of toast and a sip of hot chocolate. His fingers tap the
table in a rhythmic tempo.

SANTA (CONT)

And Ho. Ho. Ho. Maybe a little drum roll,
And then I made mistakes with ten lumps coal.
Not to mention the crayons or the gold fish bowl.
Though I had great fun hanging mistletoe.

Santa stands and walks past a stove and a huge REFRIGERATOR.

SANTA (CONT)

This year will be better just wait and see.
Yesterday I checked every name from A to P.
Tonight I'll get down to the X, Y's and Z's.

Santa stands and walks through a door into

INT. DARK - LIVING ROOM OF SANTA'S CHALET

There's a fire in the fireplace and a tall, decorated Christmas Tree in the corner
The lights from the fireplace and Christmas tree bounce and shimmer casting a
thousand rays around the room.

Santa flicks on a switch and VOILA! Taped to the fire place mantel a sign reads.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR FELLOW TOY MAKERS
WHO GIVE SO MUCH TO SO MANY
TO OUR ELVES

LIVING ROOM - the room looks like the interior of a music store. There are
saxophones, bassoons, trombones, oboes, a grand piano, bongo drums, snare

drums, violins, cellos, ukuleles, guitars and sitars to mention a few. Each instrument has ribbons and bows. And is tagged with a From: Santa and Mrs. Claus - To: various names.

The DRUM SET From: Santa and Mrs. Claus To: TWISTER.

A SILVER FLUTE From: Santa and Mrs. Claus To: TWINKLE.

A TINY GOLDEN HARP From: Santa and Mrs. Claus To: STARLIGHT.

Santa picks up a TUBA and sings

SANTA (CONT)

And this Christmas day we're going to par-tee!
Which is why I got a tuba for me.

GIFT TAG ON THE TUBA reads From: Santa Claus To: Santa

Santa blows out a couple of OOMPAH-PAHS then sings

SANTA (CONT)

After delivering presents all night long,
it's time for food, music and song.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANTA'S KITCHEN

Santa peers out the kitchen window

SANTA (CONT)

A little snack before dinner. I better get going,
Time to roll up my sleeves. Only two days
before Christmas Eve.

HUGE TWO DOOR REFRIGERATOR

Santa opens the door and pulls out large bunches of GREENS and puts them in a clear plastic bag.

SANTA (CONT)

If I get a snack, so do the reindeer team I love.

Santa puts on his cap, jacket and gloves and opens the door. OVER HIS SHOULDER. . .
He shouts

SANTA (CONT)

I'm going to feed the reindeer and check the
Toy Shoppe. Be back shortly, Dear.

But the OPEN DOOR and the ferocity of the storm drowns out his message.

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - NIGHT - LIGHTNING FLASHES - THUNDER 'BOOMS'

SANTA trudges, head bent, down a slope, through a grove of trees patting the
bag of greens.

SANTA (CONT)

Ho. Ho. Ho. Tomorrow a reindeer feast.
They can't fly round the world with nothing to eat.
I've got fresh ferns, grass, and greens.
Wild oats, barley and huckleberry leafs.
And special surprise I know won't hurt,
Chocolate ice cream and apples for desert.

EXT. REINDEER PEN - NIGHT - STORM HOWLING

SANTA slogs across the pen and opens the door to

EXT. THE REINDEERS STABLE/CHALET LIGHTNING FLASHES, THUNDER FOLLOWS

It is an almost an exact replica of Santa's Chalet. There are no stairs and no porch;
the front door is huge. There are nine good sized windows for nine good size
reindeer heads.

INT. REINDEER STABLE/ CHALET

Santa's reindeer live in style. In the common room are nine doors to nine
well-appointed reindeer stalls. Each stall with a window to the outside world;
each with a water trough; each has a large bed stuffed with hay and covered in
blankets with fancy, personal pillows.

INT. REINDEER STABLE/ CHALET DOOR - NIGHT

RUDOLPH, DASHER, DANCER, PRANCER, VIXEN, COMET, CUPID, DONNER AND
BLITZEN greet Santa with SNORTS and nuzzles of affection. Santa reaches into
the bag of greens making sure each reindeer gets an equal handful of greens.

SANTA (CONT)

You, my friends, have been cooped up far too long.

AT THE STABLE DOOR the REINDEER shuffle into two lines and peer out at the storm.

SANTA (CONT)

Come along, come along there's nothing to fear.
Time to stretch your legs and get some fresh air.
We'll all be up and flying soon.

THE REINDEER, that's all they needed to hear. RUDOLPH paws the ground then bolts outside. There's a RUBBLE of hooves as the rest of the Reindeer follow.

SANTA clasps his hand behind his back. And as the snow falls, he strolls through the pen among his reindeer family acknowledging each in turn.

Rudolph and Comet playfully, rear high in the air.

Dasher, Dancer and Blitzen play reindeer tag.

SANTA (CONT)

Dasher and Dancer, you're quite a pair.

Vixen stands on her hind legs trying to catch snowflakes with her tongue.

Two FLASHES of lightning followed THREE beats later by two BOOMS of thunder.

CUT TO:

EXT. REINDEER PEN - LATER

Santa drags a burlap sack of fresh hay from deer to deer. Taking time to pat each nose and rub each flank.

SANTA (CONT)

Ah, Prancer, Vixen are you thirsty?

Santa whacks the outside water-trough with a hammer. The top layer of ICE SHATTERS allowing water to pour freely.

A FLASH of lightening. This time followed TWO beats later by a BOOM of thunder.

SANTA looks upward to DARK FOREBODING CLOUDS

VIXEN approaches neighing nervously. Santa strokes her nose.

SANTA (CONT)
Nothing's wrong, Sweetheart. Just Old
Man North Wind blowing his song.

A FLASH of lightning followed almost instantly by a loud CLAP of thunder.

Santa glances upward again. His carefree demeanor changes to worry. The storm rages LOUDER and CLOSER. Santa brings two fingers to his lips and whistles shrilly.

SANTA (CONT)
Maybe, it's best we all go back inside.

LIGHTNING FLASHES - Simultaneously we hear two DEAFENING CRACKS. One from a CLAP of thunder, the second from a

HUGE TREE in the grove surrounding the Reindeer Pen where a

BOLT of lightning severs a large BRANCH.

SANTA looks upward.

The BRANCH torpedoes down aimed directly at SANTA and COMET and CUPID. Santa shoves the two safety away from certain death. But it's too late for Santa.

THE DEADLY BRANCH whacks him on his back and head. SANTA tumbles sideways into a bank of snow.

The Reindeer pace frantically then STOP. In SILENCE, BIG BROWN EYES exchange glances covering a gamut of emotions until

They come together, snorting, grunting and pawing the snow, in a sort of secret, reindeer communication. Then

They jockey for position near Santa, rearing a tight circle around his body. Then in perfect unison, one by one the REINDEER kneel to the ground and form a zipper-tight protective wall around SANTA CLAUS.

All except RUDOLPH who has raced to the gate of the pen. His nose BLINKS like the lights on a police car. He rears on his haunches in frustration and POUNDS the wooden gate with his hooves.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REINDEER PEN AND THE STABLE /CHALET - FROM ABOVE - NIGHT

While the STORM rages on far below, we can see Rudolph's legs moving but no longer hear the sound of his hooves pounding the gate. His nose BLINKS ON and OFF in silence.

EXT. REINDEER PEN – SANTA AND THE REINDEER

SANTA'S RED COAT is being slowly covered in snow along with his reindeer family who completely surround him.

The last refrains of SANTA'S SONG fades

GO TO BLACK

EXT. ELF TOWN - NIGHT

WIND HOWLS - SNOW FALLS - LIGHTNING FLASHES - THUNDER CLAPS

The streets are empty. Smoke trickles from a few chimneys. Especially, on one tiny green home, designed in circles and triangles, half way up a side street.

EXT. TINY GREEN CIRCLE AND TRIANGLE HOME - SECOND STORY WINDOW

One shutter is unsecured. It THUDS against the window pane.

INT. A FEMALE ELF'S BEDROOM

STARLIGHT the Elf slips a blue and green pajama top over her head. The blue and green of her pajamas almost match her eyes perfectly. Her P.J.s are covered with pictures of BOYS and GIRLS. When the shutter BANGS again she blinks, terrified. Then she almost jumps out of her skin to a

Loud RAP on the bedroom door behind her. With another BANG from the shutter, Starlight holds her hands to her ears and shouts.

STARLIGHT
Come in, Daddy.

ERASMUS - Starlight's father in a dark blue jacket with bright gold buttons steps into room and sizes up the situation in a beat. He closes the shutter and lifts his daughter into his arms. Erasmus has warm grey eyes, grey eye brows and gray hair and rosy cheeks that would make a cherry blush with envy.

ERASMUS

That's a bad storm all right. A real bad one.
I'm scared too, little one.

STARLIGHT

I'm just a little bit scared.

ERASMUS

Uh huh. Me too. Just a little bit.

Erasmus pulls back the covers and puts Starlight to bed.

ERASMUS

Is there anything I can do?

STARLIGHT

Will you sing me a story?

ERASMUS

What kind of a story?

STARLIGHT

You know the kind of stories I like.

ERASMUS

I do? Do I. How about you start?

Erasmus pulls a ukulele from behind his back and starts strumming as
Starlight sings the "*STORY SONG.* 🎶"

STARLIGHT

Daddy, sing me a story. Make it a bit scary, and
I promise I'll go right to sleep. Maybe with a
dragon and magical fairies and a unicorn or two
if you please.

Starlight pauses adjust her night cap.

STARLIGHT (CONT)

A wild adventure in a place I've never been. A magical
world with wild blue oceans. A world I'd love to visit again.

(she stretches her arms)

I dream of waterfalls. I dream of rainbows, sunsets,
laughter and song. People dancing. People listening
to a story I'll sing all day long.

Starlight looks up at her father as he joins the song.

ERASMUS

Oh, I'll sing you a story. I know you like 'em scary.
If you promise to go right to sleep.

Starlight raises her arm in a silent promise.

ERASMUS (CONT)

And of course with a dragon and magical fairies and
a unicorn or two just to please.

Erasmus tussles Starlight's hair lovingly.

ERASMUS (CONT)

A wild adventure, in a place you've never been. A
magical world of wild blue oceans; a world you'll
want to visit again.

Starlight's EYES are getting heavy.

ERASMUS (CONT)

Yes, dream of waterfalls. And please dream of
rainbows, sunsets, laughter, and songs. And who
wouldn't dance. And who wouldn't listen to a story
you'll sing all day long.

STARLIGHT

Daddy.

(struggling to keep her eyes open. . .)

Oh, I know my eyes will grow tired long before your
story ends. And I'll have to wait 'til tomorrow, when
you'll sing me a story again.

STARLIGHT'S EYES CLOSE

ERASMUS

Yes, I know your eyes will grow tired, before our story
ends. And I promise you tomorrow, I'll sing you a story
again.

Just as the song ends the shutter BANGS again. Startled, Starlight's EYES open wide.
The storm seems LOUDER.

ERASMUS (CONT)

Sorry, thought I fixed that.

Erasmus returns to the window and latches the shutter. This time with special effort.

STARLIGHT

Daddy?

ERASMUS

What honey?

STARLIGHT

Can I have a drink of water?

ERASMUS

And then you'll go right to sleep. Eh.

STARLIGHT

Of course.

Erasmus, always attentive, sees something else going on behind Starlight's eyes.

ERASMUS

Beside the storm, is there something else bothering you, little one?

STARLIGHT

... At the toy shop today. . . well, Twinkle said. . . that boys and girls aren't real. They're only make believe. Daddy, are boys and girls pretend?

ERASMUS

Pretend? Ha. Why do you think we make all those toys? Where do you think Santa goes every Christmas Eve? What do you think he does with all those toys? Do you think he just drops them in an ocean?

STARLIGHT

How big is the biggest ocean?

ERASMUS

They're big. Really big. 'Em, right, you've only seen pictures of oceans. How about a volcano?

(off Starlight's puzzlement)

You don't think Santa would drop all the toys we make into a volcano? Do You?

STARLIGHT

What's a volcano?

ERASMUS

Well it's a big hole in the ground and hot rocks
explode out and...

STARLIGHT

Why would Santa drop all of the toys into a big hole?

ERASMUS

Exactly, now off to sleep.

The storm rages on as ERASMUS blows out a candle and eases the bedroom door shut.

STARLIGHT on her pillow stares at the ceiling.

STARLIGHT

A big hole in the ground that spits out hot rocks ...?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REINDEER PEN - REINDEER STABLE/CHALET -- NIGHT

Below EIGHT REINDEER lay beside Santa in the snow.

RUDOLPH still stands at the gate. His nose BLINKS RED on and off. .

EXT. PORCH OF SANTA'S CHALET

MRS. CLAUS cups her hands to her mouth - but we can barely hear her cry
because of the storm.

MRS. CLAUS

Santa? Santa? Sweetheart, where are you?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - DAY - CALM WITH SUNLIGHT

Santa's sleigh is almost completely covered in snow from last night's storm.

INT. SANTA'S CHALET

On the sofa, Mrs. Claus tosses and turns in a restless sleep. Her eyes open wide. She bolts upright; exhausted, disorientated. Frantically, she yells as she ambles upstairs.

MRS. CLAUS

Santa? Santa are you home? Are you all right?

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN AND MEADOW ABOVE THE TOY SHOPPE - DAY

TWINKLE and TWISTER two elves frolic in the snow. (Over the first strains of "THE TOY SHOPPE" song.) They hold hands, spin round and round then fall to the ground LAUGHING and GIGGLING LOUDLY!

TWINKLE is the tiniest elf, with purple eyes. She is observant, charming, naïve and a neat-nik.

TWISTER is an elfin bundle of **TNT!** Though a bit clumsy, he is almost always in motion and almost always speaks in rhyme - though inner demons of self-doubt haunt him.

On a BOULDER not far away, Starlight sits pensive, watching her two friends play.

CUT TO:

INT. FOX'S LAIR - SAME TIME

We were here briefly during last night's storm. This is the home of KALLIK the fox. Nick-named LECK (pronounced with a CLICK) In Tlingit, KALLIK - means lighting. And this fox is fast.

O.S. O.S. = OFF SCREEN

GIGGLES and LAUGHTER continue from above careening down the tunnel into Leck's den.

LECK opens one very disapproving eye. Then the other pops open. His pointy ears twitch. (Leck can do amazing things with his ears.) Then both ears make an abrupt right turn to the sound of GIGGLES and SHRIEKS OF LAUGHTER.

LECK
 (with a high, light southern drawl)
 Noise. A different noise. But noise just the same.
 And too much noise it is.

LECK rises and races up the tunnel toward the surface.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF A POLAR BEAR CAVE - DAY

We were here last night during the storm. Our Polar Bear - TEHORONIANHEN - nick named Teho - stands at the mouth of his cave. His massive paws cover his ears. Teho peers down to

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Twinkle and Twister zig-zag up a huge hill of snow. Stop, catch their breath, then dive belly first down the mountain. Elfin sleds. ROOSTER TAILS of snow shoot up behind them as they bullet downward SHRIEKING, GIGGLING, LAUGHING, and ending up at the pointy toed shoes of

Starlight still on the boulder. Her hands on her cheeks, musing.

TWINKLE
 Starlight, come join us.

TWISTER
 Yeah, don't be a dope. Don't sit there and mope.
 We'll be inside the Toy Shoppe singing and
 creating the rest of the day.

STARLIGHT
 (to Twinkle)
 Yesterday you said boys and girls aren't real.
 They're just pretend.

Twinkle slaps her forehead.

TWINKLE

Ah, so that's what this about. I was kidding.
Jeez, I was just kidding, Starlight.

STARLIGHT

Are you sure?

TWINKLE

Of course. I'm sorry. Please, come play with us.

Twister spins round and round. Does a cartwheel and a forward flip landing at Starlight's toes. In a beat, he's up and spinning round so fast his body almost HUMS.

TWISTER

I'm a whirling Dervish catch me if you can.

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN MEADOW - DAY

The GAME IS ON - Twister flips, cartwheels, spinning out of the grasp of Twinkle and Starlight. They GIGGLE and SHRIEK.

Our Trio races up hill and down again. They zip around trees. In between boulders, ever LOUDER and LOUDER.

Our Trio wrestles in the snow. Elf GLOVES, CAP and POINTY SHOES fly in the air. Twister pops out of the pile of elfin bodies.

TWISTER

Do not have a fit. You're it. You're it.

STARLIGHT

No, you're it.

TWINKLE

You're it.

Twister grins from ear to ear. This is exactly what he wanted. He does a back-flip and a front- flip.

TWISTER

Okay, sports fans. Do you remember the
Ginger Bread Man? Then catch me, catch
me, catch me if you can.

Twister is off in a blur of speed with Twinkle and Starlight in hot pursuit.

Twister races in and out of the piles of boulders. He twists and zags round tree trunks. He's going so fast, he tumbles head first, but, doesn't miss a beat as he summersaults back to his feet and continues at full speed until he risks a quick look over his shoulder and . . .

THUDS head-first into a very large, very hairy, very WHITE LEG of a very large and angry, polar bear name Teho.

Twister FLIES into the air from the contact, summersaults and CRASHES back to the ground at Teho's huge feet barely conscious.

Cross-eyed, Twister looks up at Teho, blurry, in double vision, moving in and out of Twister's focus.

TEHO

Well, what have we here? My little noisy one.

Twister stares up at the giant above him. Through Twister's eyes, Teho appears ripply, as he takes a long slow pan upward from Teho's feet, knees all the way to his head.

TWISTER

Wow! You . . . ARE . . . big. Really . . . big.

TEHO

And you are really noisy. Real noisy.

Twinkle and Starlight peek warily around the trunk of a tree.

LECK O.S.

(Light southern drawl)

And I do believe, these accomplices . . .

Twinkle and Starlight jump from their hiding place, startled from the voice of Leck the fox who has snuck up behind them.

LECK (CONT)

Are guilty also.

HOOT O.S.

(with a hint of an Oxford accent)

I concur with misters polar bear and fox. You are a rambunctious lot.

Now everyone is confused. Teho, Leck, Twinkle, Twister and Starlight look around trying to find the source of these latest complaints.

HOOT (CONT) O.S.
You elves are most inconsiderate. After last night's storm...

Teho, Leck, Twinkle, Twister and Starlight continue searching for the speaker.

HOOT (CONT) O.S.
Yoo-hoo. Yoo-hoo. This way. Up here.
Up here, mates.

Twinkle, Twister, Starlight, Teho and Leck crane their necks upward and see

HOOT THE OWL - his talons are wrapped around a tree branch as he preen his feathers and peers down with huge owl eyes.

HOOT (CONT)
Well, well I've finally got your attention. Ta,da.
Dear elves, for your information I hunt and eat at night. During the day I like to ... No, let's me see if you can guess what I like to do during the day. What I like to do after staying up all night. After flying around in a horrible storm. . .Would anyone like to guess? . . . Anyone?

Hoot hams it up a bit. Strolling up and down the tree branch humming the theme from Jeopardy.

HOOT (CONT)
Da,da,da,da / da da da / da da da da / DAH DA DA DA
DAH/ DAH -

Starlight raises her hand sheepishly.

HOOT (CONT)
Yes, Miss Elf?

STARLIGHT
Sleep?

HOOT
By Jove, I think you've got it. Sleep. An act I'd almost achieved until the three of you. . .

Hoot points his wing downward in accusation

Our TRIO bends their heads in embarrassment. They shuffle their feet. Hands clasp together.

Teho and Leck standing on either side of our Trio, nodding in agreement with everything Hoot says . . .until

HOOT (CONT)

Which is exactly what I intended to do. But you where so thoughtless. So self-absorbed. . . So selfish. . . Well, I've never . . .

Tears well in the eyes of Twinkle and Starlight. Twister, dark as he is turns beet red. His shoulders droop. His knees fold.

Teho and Leck pick up on Our Trio's utter despair.

TEHO

I think that's enough, Mr. Owl.

Leck's ears twitch pointing up to Hoot then back at Our Trio

LECK

A bit much. Over the top, really.

On the tree branch, Hoot fluffs his feathers and wraps his wings around his breast.

HOOT

Quite right. Quite right. Rude. I was definitely rude. Sorry, I'm usually not like that. Rough night and all. . .My name is Ahnah, which means 'Wise One.' Though, obviously my little speech this morning did not demonstrate much wisdom on my part.

Our Trio, Leck and Teho nod in agreement.

HOOT (CONT)

I prefer to be called Hoot.

Hoot sweeps a wing that includes everyone watching from below.

HOOT (CONT)

Let's start all over again, shall we? Let's get off on the right foot. . . or paw, claw or in my case, alons... Okay?

Teho looks up to Hoot and around to Twinkle, Twister, Starlight, and Lech.

TEHO

I'm Tehoronianhen. In Tlingit it means clouds.
I'm soft, white and fluffy like a cloud. Of course,
I'm a rather large cloud. All my friends call me Teho.
I hope we all can be friends?

LECK

I do declare. Friends with a polar bear. Interesting.
Most interesting.

The whole group laughs. Especially, Twister who has climbed to his feet; still staring up in awe at Teho.

TWISTER

Make friends with a polar bear? An incredible
idea to be sure.

Twister pistons his arms gathering momentum and whirls round and round like a spinning top.

TWISTER

I like to spin. I like to flip.
(Twister flips)
Most of the time I like to talk in rhyme and do the
twist. Everyone calls me Twister cause I like to
twist round. But I also like to stay very close to
the ground.

Twister slows touches his palm to the snow covered ground and smiles broadly.

Starlight steps forward and looks up at Hoot pointing to Twinkle and Twister.

STARLIGHT

Hi Hoot and Teho. I'm Starlight. Twinkle
and Twister are my very best-est friends.
Sorry we were so loud. We love to play. We
love new adventures. . .

Twinkle and Twister do a little dance step and interrupt.

TWINKLE AND TWISTER

We sure do.

Starlight smiles at the interruption.

STARLIGHT

Sorry, but when we get excited we get loud.
I love making toys and singing. Oh, and
I'd love to meet a real girl and boy.

Twinkle takes in the situation with a slow purple eyed glance.

TWINKLE

Nice to meet you. I'm Twinkle. I love making toys...
(shoots Starlight an apologetic glance)
For good girls and boys. I especially like things in
order. I don't like messes. I don't like change.

Leck the fox moves closer to Twinkle in a flash.

LECK

Twinkle, I'm like you. I love neatness.
(to the group as a whole)
Hi, I'm Kallik. But please call me Leck .
Pronounced Leck. Leck with a 'CLICK'.

Leck twitches his ears, left and right. Then pinches them close and opens them wide. Leck mouth opens, a tiny pink tongue licks his lip.

LECK (CONT)

Click. Click. Leck with a click. Charmed to
meet you. Charmed to meet you all. Leck
means lightning in Tlingit. Watch this.

And this fox is fast. Leck's a blur as he whips around the group then stops right next to Twinkle again. Leck's ears wave as he looks at Twinkle.

LECK (CONT)

Everything in it's place. I like you Twinkle.
I like you all.
(looking at each elf)
But, I'd like you even more if you would
stop making so much noise.

HOOT glides silently down from the branch circles the group once and lands next to Starlight.

HOOT

When you sing would you mind if I
hooted along?

Hoot hoots a little made-up Owl tune of hoots that turns into “Dashing through the Snow.” Our Trio laughs. Starlight turns to Twinkle and Twister.

STARLIGHT

Of course Hoot, we'd love to have you hoot along.
Right my friends?

Twinkle and Twister give Starlight a reluctant nod.

TEHO

Hey, I'd like to join the group.

Teho does a little two step and hums a variation of “Jingle Bells” in a deep basso.

Not to be left out, Leck joins in with a high falsetto voice.

LECK

You must have room for an extremely neat,
and talented fox.

Hoot joins Teho and Leck and the Trio hums and hoots in harmony that is ALMOST in tune.

Our Trio exchange glances of approval and hum along.

Teho, Leck and Hoot get into the groove. Hoot uses his **BEAK** to rata tat tat on the trunk of a tree.

Teho's FOOT THUMPS the ground providing some cool base riffs. He claps his paws, softly, creating a pillowy, cymbal sound. This Bear is a one Bear rhythm machine.

Leck has discovered a rusty, old aluminum pie tin. Using his ears and whiskers, Leck uses plays the pie pan as a snare drum.

This cool, jazzy Jingle Bell sound continues, then changes dramatically as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Mrs. Claus exits awkwardly looking left and right in desperation then hurriedly crosses the porch, down the stairs and struggles past SANTA'S SLEIGH which is tilted on its side and covered in snow.

Mrs. Claus trudges through the deep snow with great difficulty as she makes her way toward

EXT. ELF TOWN - FAR AWAY - Mrs. Claus' s P.O.V [POV = point of view]

Elves are out and about. Several small groups head up to

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - DAY

Erasmus unlocks the door. Turns, shields his eyes searching and calls out

ERASMUS

Starlight? Twinkle, Twister where are you rascals?
You're always up to something. . .

Erasmus scratches his chin and smiling slyly.

ERASMUS (CONT)

What are you three up to this time? Starlight?
Twinkle? Twister? Ah, . . . wish I was still young.

Hearing no response, Erasmus enters the Toy Shoppe followed by a group of HAPPY ELVES humming the 'Doup Do, Diddly Doup Dee Dee, Do' refrain from the "Toy Shoppe Song."

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - HIGH ABOVE THE TOY SHOPPE - DAY

Our Sextet has formed into three teams: Twinkle & Leck, Twister and Teho, Starlight and Hoot.

SERIES OF SHOTS AND GAMES

A)HIDE AND SEEK - Hoot and Starlight try to find the others. It doesn't take long. Hoot points down from the sky to Twister and Teho tucked in a pile of boulders. Just as quick, Hoot discovers Twinkle and Leck peeking out from Leck's warren.

On being discovered, Leck GIGGLES LOUDLY. Twinkle gestures dramatically covering her mouth with her hand in feigned shock.

TWINKLE

Well, well, well. Welcome to the C.C.C.

LECK

The C.C.C.?

TWINKLE

Yes, the C.C.C. We are a very exclusive club.
Since you have such a LOUD giggle and laugh
you may qualify for membership.

LECK

THE C.C.C. Club?

TWINKLE

C.C.C. stands for Clamor, Chatter and Commotion.
You may have to work on the last part.

They laugh and HIGH-FIVE paw to hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH ON A SNOW MOUND - THE BELLY RACE

Hoot is perched on Starlight's cape, talons cling to the collar.

Twister is on Teho's back with his fingers buried in BEAR fur.

Twinkle lays face down in the snow. Leck lays on her back with his face almost parallel to Twinkle's. Leck's whiskers tickle Twinkle's nose. Twinkle brushes them away and gives Leck a look.

LECK

Sorry, I can't do much about those.

They adjust their position becoming a Fox/Elf projectile aimed down the mound.

Starlight raises her arm in the air.

STARLIGHT

On three... One... Two... Three!

EXT. HUGE SNOW MOUND - DAY

Our sextet TEAMS are a blur. First one duo is ahead then the other. They cross paths, pick up speed, down, down they hurl.

At the bottom, LAUGHING loudly they collide in a heap of bodies, snow, caps, and shoes.

TWISTER

That was fun. But who won? Who won?

STARLIGHT

Who cares?

TEHO

Not us bears.

Their LAUGHTER and GIGGLES are interrupted by the far away BLASTS from an ALPINE HORN.

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Erasmus stands at the mouth piece end of a ten foot Alpine Horn. He inhales deeply. His freckled cheeks puff out and he blows twice. We can almost SEE the sound from the horn as it travels up the mountain to

EXT. MEADOW HIGH ABOVE THE TOY SHOPPE

Our Sextet peers over the edge of a cliff.

STARLIGHT

We have to go.

TWINKLE

(to Leck)

That was fun.

LECK

Though a bit noisy.

(teasing)

But great fun. Even for the newest member of the C.C.C club.

TWINKLE

Hey, you're not a member yet, but I may become your sponsor.

TEHO

(to Twister)

I hope to see you soon little buddy.

TWISTER

Yeah, me too. Me too.

As they start across the meadow they hear two more BLASTS from the Alpine Horn.

LECK

Before you go, I have one question. What do you
all do down there?

TEHO

Yeah, and how do you do it?

HOOT

And who taught you how, to do what you do?

In a deep BEAR BASSO, Teho begins singing the "WHAT DO YOU DO AND HOW
DO YOU DO IT?🎧" song.

TEHO

What do you do? And how do you do it?

LECK

(with a country twang)

What do you do? And why do you do it?

HOOT

(singing British accent)

What do you do? And who do you do it for?

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Various shots and angles as we follow OUR SEXTET across the meadow and down the
mountain

TEHO

What do you do? And how'd you learn to do it?

LECK

Who taught you how to do what you do?

HOOT

Do you need needles or thread?

LECK

Can you sit in a chair? Can you do it in bed?

TEHO

Is it hard to do when you do it? Or is it easy and really nothing to it?

HOOT

Do you laugh? Do you sing when you do it?

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight do a little shuffle right and left and pointing to Teho, Leck and Hoot.

OUR TRIO

Of course we sing. Of course we laugh.

LECK

Do people cheer when you do it? Or do they take a dim view of it?

TEHO

Why couldn't someone teach us how to do it?

TEHO, LECK AND HOOT

YEAH?!

Teho, Leck and Hoot give each other a high paw, claw and wing.

TEHO, LECK AND HOOT (CONT)

And why couldn't we do it too?

(smile smugly)

Then maybe we could do it with you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HALF WAY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN SIDE – DAY

Our SEXTET has come to a halt. Teho, Leck and Hoot on one side of the path and Our Trio on the other. Almost in a huddle Starlight whispers to her friends.

STARLIGHT

How do we respond to that?

When Twinkle and Twister shrug. Starlight points to the Toy Shoppe far below.

STARLIGHT

Well, we make toys

Starlight starts clapping in a rhythmic calypso beat. Twister then Twinkle pick it up. One, two. Pause. Three, four. One two. Pause. Three four.

Starlight begins by talking and then singing "At the Toy Shoppe.🔊"

STARLIGHT (CONT)
At the toy shop, little trains are chugging.

TWISTER
There are Teddy Bears . . .
(points to Teho)
waiting for some huggin.'

TWINKLE
And beautiful dolls sitting in row after row
in sequined dress and bright yellow bows.

STARLIGHT
We make toy soldiers in bright blue uniforms.

TWISTER
Toy dogs and cats and flying unicorns.

TWINKLE
Games of chess, checkers and boxes of Play Doh,

TWINKLE AND TWISTER
(clapping to the beat)
Legos, Rubik Cubes and super heroes.

STARLIGHT TWISTER AND TWINKLE
Singing Doup do, diddly, doup dee dee, do.
Doup do, diddly doup dee do.

When they repeat the refrain everyone's on it. Starlight and Twinkle link arms. Twister twists and flips. Hoot, 'hoots' and hovers like a humming bird next to Starlight.

Teho and Leck do a little two step, no one misses a beat as they continue down the hill singing and dancing . . . until interrupted by a single, long, loud BLAST from the Alpine horn.

EXT. TOY SHOPPE / BOTTOM MOUNTAIN MOMENTS LATER

Our Trio dashes down the last part of the mountain to the Toy Shoppe where

Erasmus gives them a look of disapproval laying aside the Alpine Horn.

But when Twinkle, Twister and Starlight turn to wave good-bye to their new friends. . .

THE HILL AND PATH UP TO THE MEADOW

Teho, Leck and Hoot have disappeared.

ERASMUS O.S.

Well, you finally heard me. It's almost Christmas Eve.
What have you been up to? We have toys to finish.
A sleigh to load with presents and . . .

Starlight, Twinkle and slip around Erasmus.

STARLIGHT

Sorry, Daddy.

TWINKLE

Promise. Won't happen again.

TWISTER

Sorry Sir, didn't mean to cause a stir. Though
I slid down a hill on the back of a polar bear.

Twister is through the door before his comments register with Erasmus.

ERASMUS

A polar bear. Yes, of course. . .
A WHAT?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOY SHOPPE - LATER

SERIES OF SHOTS over the refrain from the "Toy Shoppe" song.

A) The Elves are busy, stacking toys, painting, sewing, hammering, and cutting cloth fragments into different patterns.

B) A FOUR ARMED ROBOT goes **PHSSST, CLICK-CLACK** moving about the Toy Shoppe offering the elves ginger bread cookies for a snack.

- C) Starlight pulls a pan of fresh candy canes from an oven.
- D) Twister holds open a bright red stocking and places a Rubik Cube and a box of crayons inside.
- E) Twinkle puts pink fairy wings and a tiara in a box, wraps it quickly and adds a pink bow.

INT. TOY SHOPPE - LATER

Our Trio work together at a table. They speak softly as they share their recent adventure in conspiratorial tones.

TWISTER

Can you believe it! I met a polar bear. Met him! I rode on his back. Just think of that. A polar bear's back. He's my friend... at least I think he's my friend. I hope to meet him again.

STARLIGHT

Teho is your friend alright. He likes us all, but he likes you best.

TWINKLE

And Hoot likes you best. That's okay cause I have Leck. Leck with a 'click'. He sounds like our robot.

Our Trio starts 'CLICKING ' like mad getting strange looks from those around them.

TWINKLE (CONT)

(rubs her cheek)

But boy, those whiskers sure itch. Did I tell you he showed me his den. Oh, I hope I get to . . .

INT. TOY SHOPPE - FRONT DOOR

It flies open and THUDS against the wall. Utterly exhausted Mrs. Claus enters and as loud and frantic as possible

MRS. CLAUS

He's gone! Santa Claus is gone. I can't find him anywhere.

MONTAGE OF SHOTS - A SLOW-MO PAN OF THE TOY SHOPPE

- A) Erasmus and all the elves stand in stunned silence.
- B) The trains stop chuggin'.
- C) The robot drops the tray of cookies.
- D) Several flowers in a pot on the window sill droop.

BACK TO SCENE:

MRS. CLAUS (CONT)

Erasmus, all of you, please, help me. Santa's gone.

ERASMUS - Hops on a table turns to all the elves and in an magnified sense of urgency begins singing the "Santa's Gone Missing Song." The Elves and Mrs. Claus join in 'Call and Response.'

ERASMUS

Santa's gone!

SEVERAL ELVES

Mrs. Claus said... Santa's missing.

STARLIGHT & ERASMUS

Santa's gone!

TWINKLE AND TWISTER

You have to be kidding?

OTHER ELVES

Santa's gone! But how can that be?

STARLIGHT & ERASMUS

Santa's gone and it's almost Christmas Eve.

A VARIETY OF SHOTS AND ANGLES OF THE TOY SHOPPE

As our song continues Mrs. Claus to points to various elves.

MRS. CLAUS

Has anyone one seen him?
Have you, you, or you?

Erasmus searches the room for a single response. NOTHING. He shrugs.

ERASMUS

No one has seen him.
And sadly, I don't have clue.

Our Trio huddle.

STARLIGHT

If no one has seen him, where can he be?

TWINKLE

No one has seen Santa and it's almost
Christmas Eve.

During all the commotion Our Trio quietly heads for the door. They're still singing, but softer now...

STARLIGHT

We must try to find him.

Twister points to himself and Twinkle.

TWISTER

Who? You, me and she?

STARLIGHT

Who knows the North Pole better than we?
We know every nook and cranny, don't you see?
We must find him, it's almost Christmas Eve.

TWINKLE

I'll get our parkas and our snow shoes

TWISTER

Right. We have to hurry, there's no time to lose.

TWINKLE

I hope Santa's not injured an arm or a knee.

OUR TRIO

We've only two days before Christmas Eve.

Loaded with gear, Twinkle, Twister and Starlight bolt out of the front door.

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - DAY

Our Trio goes into another huddle. Arms around each-others neck. Breaking the huddle to point this way and that and continue the "Santa's Missing" song.

STARLIGHT

Why would Santa leave home in the middle of a storm?

TWINKLE

Where did he go?

TWISTER

Where would he roam?

STARLIGHT

I'm not certain, but I think that's the key.

OUR TRIO

We've got to find Santa, it's almost Christmas Eve.

As the song concludes Twinkle offers

TWISTER

West might be best.

TWINKLE

Or Elf Town?

STARLIGHT

Let's climb back up to the meadow. We'll have a perfect view from up there.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGH MEADOW - LATER

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight debate a course of action.

TWINKLE

I have a bad feeling.

TWISTER

That's true. I do too. We all do.

Starlight leads the way to the edge of a cliff atop the meadow and points down to

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - ELF TOWN AND SANTA'S CHALET in the distance.

Still further we see the Gabled Roof of the reindeer STABLE/ CHALET peeking out from a grove of trees.

STARLIGHT

You know Santa loves music. Let's see if he
can hear a song from way up here? Okay?

Our Trio cup their hands to their mouths and sing to the tune of Jingle Bells.

TRIO SINGING

Santa Claus, Santa Claus, have you run away? We
need you so. Where did you go? It's almost
Christmas Eve. A BEAT...
Santa Claus, Santa Claus can you hear our song?
Are you hiding? Please stop hiding. Or is there
something wrong?

Just a subtle breeze breaks the ABSOLUTE SILENCE

On the edge of the cliff, Twinkle, Twister and Starlight stare off in different
directions cupping their ears and listening for any response. NOTHING.

STARLIGHT

Let's try again.

TRIO SINGING

Santa Claus, Santa Claus. . .

Our Trio STOP singing. From OFF SCREEN do they hear an ECHO from below?
Behind? The Heavens above?

Then just as they start to sing the last verse a second time. . . from out of
no where they are joined by Teho, Leck and Hoot. This time the harmony
is darn good. They exchange smiles and high five and as ONE they sing.

SEXTET

Can you hear our song? Are you hiding? Please stop
hiding. Is there something wrong?

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight celebrate in disbelief at the return of their friends.

STARLIGHT

How did you know?

Leck and Teho point their paws at Hoot.

LECK

Hoot was sitting on the roof of the Toy Shoppe listening to you all singing inside.

TEHO

When Mrs. Claus came in Hoot listened for awhile and flew back to tell us.

HOOT

We're here to help. That is. . . If you want us to.

STARLIGHT

You bet we do. We need all the help we can get.

TWISTER

I have a scheme. Let's split into teams. Teho and I could search the valley and stream.

TWINKLE

Leck and I could look in the boulder piles and in the tunnels and caves.

STARLIGHT

Hoot and I could give a closer look around the Toy Shoppe, Elf Town and Santa's Chalet. Okay?

TWISTER & TEHO

Deal.

TWINKLE & LECK

Deal.

Our Sextet forms a circle. The Elves join hands and are immediately joined by two fox paws and two owl wings.

Teho drops to one knee and adds his paw's which just about cover all the rest.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) EXT. TOY SHOPPE

Starlight and Hoot are not alone; other elves have joined the search. A few elves are surprised to see Hoot flying about. One elf asks

ONE ELF

Starlight, where did you get the bird?

Hoot lands on Starlight's shoulder and with an insulted look at the elf who made the comment.

HOOT

Bird? That elf is an ignoramus. I believe there are enough searchers here. Let's go elsewhere.

B) EXT. LECK'S LAIR

Leck ventures in. Twinkle follows warily.

TWINKLE

Pretty dark in there.

LECK

You get to like the dark and quiet . . .
(shouting down the tunnel)
Santa. Mr. Santa Claus are you in here?

LECK 'S VOICE ECHOS BACK

Santa. Mr. Santa Claus are you in here?

c) EXT. RIM OF A VALLEY

At the top, Twister and Teho peer down as they walk toward a waterfall spilling crystal clear ice cold water into the valley below.

TWISTER

Lots of places down there to get lost. An ice cold stream, snow and frost.

D) EXT. ELF TOWN

Starlight and Hoot hot-foot it through the small streets and alleys looking over, under and behind various objects.

E) EXT. HIGH MEADOW

Twinkle and Leck in a pile of huge boulders. Leck is a blur as he speeds from rock to rock. Twinkle tries to follow suit. Giving up she scales a particularly large granite boulder and directs Leck.

TWINKLE

Go between those two. No, the other two.

Leck looks up from between to large rocks and using his ears, he points to the boulders on his left.

TWINKLE

Yes, yes. Those two.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VALLEY FLOOR - RUSHING STREAM

Twister and Teho make their way slowly along the side of wide stream. Beside them the water rushes by in a torrent. Icy water cascades over various cataracts filling the valley with a low OCEANS ROAR like sound.

Twister leads the way leaping over stones and small rivets of water.

Teho follows walking on his two back feet. His front legs behind his back as he searches left and right for Santa.

Our duo is doing okay until they come upon a wall of rocks and stone blocking their progress.

TEHO

There may have been an avalanche.

To no avail, Twister, rises tippy-toe, straining his neck to look to the other side.

On a sudden impulse, Teho picks up Twister and lifts him high in the air. And we mean HIGH.

Teho is over eight feet tall and holding Twister with his arms extended we see

Twister is TERRIFIED twelve feet off the ground. His little elfin feet kicking and flailing as they dangle in air.

TEHO (CONT) O.S.

What do you see from up there, little buddy?

Twisters eyes water. He tries to look down. He can't. He tries to speak normally. Instead he stammers. **NO RHYME THIS TIME!** He stutters.

TWISTER

Teho, pla . . . please. Pu . . . pu . . . please, put
me down. I am scared, Teho. I'm really, really . . .
a lot scared.

Immediately Teho lowers Twister to the ground.

Twister plops down on a boulder grasping both sides for dear life. He inhales
and exhales deeply.

TEHO

Sorry, little buddy. I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to . . .
Can we still be friends? Please, can we still be friends?

Twister looks up at Teho looming contritely above him.. Twister hesitates then

TWISTER

Of course. Teho. . . We'll always be friends. Let me
explain. This is a bit embarrassing. Though I love
to spin round and round, I like to stay close to the
ground. I know I'm small. Not very tall. But, I'm
happy, you see because I never have to far to fall.

Teho nods as Twister looks right and left to make sure they're alone then whispers.

TWISTER (CONT)

I'm a little bit scared of heights.

Twister's holds his index finger and thumb a fraction of an inch apart.

TWISTER (CONT) O.S.

Just a little bit.

TEHO

Gotcha. That will never happen again.
(raises his paw)
I promise.

Twister again looks around cautiously.

TWISTER

Can I tell you something? A secret.

TEHO

Sure. Something just between us.

Twister NODS, adjusts his position on the boulder, picks up a pebble and absently skips it across the rushing stream, HUMMING the opening refrains of "Just Once."

TWISTER
Just between us. Sometimes . . .

The RIPPLING WATER adds to the rhythm of "Just Once."

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE VALLEY AND STREAM AND

TEHO As *Twister sings* 

TWISTER (CONT)
Just once. Just one time. Just one time I'd like to
get it right. Not fall on my face in front of the whole
elfin race. Not embarrass myself,... or look the fool,
elves can be so cruel, elves can be so cruel.

Twister walks toward the stream.

TWISTER (CONT)
Just once. Just one time. Just one time maybe I could be
the star... or the hero. Be in the right place, at the right
time to sound the alarm; or save someone from harm;
or find a cold heart to warm.

Twister returns toward Teho who listens comfortably on a fallen log.

TWISTER (CONT)
Just once. Just one time. . . .

To the beat of the song Twister almost dances between Teho's out stretched legs and stands as tall as he possibly can and says to Teho

TWISTER (CONT)
You know what I'd like to do. . . .

Teho encourages with his paws.

TEHO
Tell me little buddy. Tell me.

As Twister goes into the bridge of "Just Once" he is alive and animated – the song picks up pace. . .

TWISTER

I'd like to climb a pyramid, be a whiz kid. Fight for
 a cause. [he punches the air] Hear some applause.
 Laugh at the dark. Learn a martial art. [he kicks high]
 Fly a jumbo jet. [he runs around with his arm out wide]
 Have a lion for a pet.

Teho coughs. He obviously doesn't think the pet lion is a good idea.

TWISTER (CONT)

Never close my eyes. [Holds his hands over his eyes
 then yanks them down] On a roller coaster ride.

Twister moves about. He's in the groove. It's his song. His dance. His dream
 of what he could be. A sultry sax solo joins the musical back ground.

TWISTER (CONT)

Just once. Just one time. I'd like to save a plane from
 a wreck. And oh, what the heck. Get and A on a test.
 Be the very best. . . Drive a bullet train. [he pushes an
 imaginary throttle forward] Twist in a hurricane.
 [AND DOES TWISTER TWIST!] Surf a tidal wave.

Twister hops on Teho's log and with both hands behind him leans forward
 and hangs ten over the edge.

TWISTER (CONT)

Explore a dark cave. Tame a wild horse.
 [holding imaginary reins Twister trots about]
 Oh, and of course. . .
 (our song slows here as)

Twister comes to a complete stop, pauses a beat to reflect before
 he turns back to Teho. . . and admits. . . softly

TWISTER (CONT)

It would be so much fun, doing what no other
 elf had done. Doing what no other elf had ever,
 ever, ever done.

As the song come to an end Twister sits next to Teho on the log.

Teho drapes a large bear arm over Twister's shoulders.

TWISTER (CONT)

Just once. Just one time. Just one time, I'd like to get it right.

Teho looks at Twister with new admiration.

TEHO

Little buddy, big and strong as I am, I have things I'm scared of too. And I have so many things I'd like to do. And dreams. I've so many dreams. And you have made my most important dream come true.

TWISTER

Me?

TEHO

You especially. But Twinkle, Starlight, Leck, and Hoot too. Polar bears are solitary folks. We walk the North Pole alone. I've always wanted friends. . .

(he searches Twister's eye)

And now I have you as friend. Or do I?

Twister gives Teho a "you-have-got-to-be kidding" look.

TWISTER

You too? That's true?

TEHO

(nods affirmation)

Everyone has dreams. Everyone is afraid of something. It's part of being alive. In fact, before we join the others; would you like to try something? Just once? Maybe twice?

Twister is not too sure, but he nods. Teho extends a massive paw.

TEHO (CONT)

Climb aboard.

A long beat, while Twister stares at the PAW that's been offered.

TEHO O.S.

We'll do this slow. Like an elf-elevator.
One floor at a time.

TWISTER
What is an elf-evator?

TEHO
I just made that up.

The sounds of Teho's laughter and rushing waters fade as we

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. TOP OF THE MEADOW - MUCH LATER

Twinkle and Leck sit together with Starlight and Hoot, exchanging despondent looks.

STARLIGHT
We looked everywhere.

TWINKLE
We did too.

Hoot scratches his head with the tip of his wing. Leck's ears twitch in agreement.

STARLIGHT
Maybe Twister and Teho ... WHAT?

TWISTER'S HEAD AND GREEN CAP APPEAR ABOVE A RISE.

Twister seems to GROW TALLER and TALLER.

Finally Twister comes into full view. And Twinkle, Starlight, Hoot and Leck see that Twister is perched on Teho's huge shoulders.

Twister seems very comfortable. His legs dangle. He waves and laughs eight feet above the ground.

Starlight, Twinkle, Leck, and Hoot, sit with their mouths agape until Hoot takes to the air in celebration and flies around Teho and Twister, hooting

HOOT
By Jove. Very impressive. Very impressive.

While Leck, Twinkle and Starlight gawk up at their friend.

TWISTER

Hello, hello it's rude to stare. It's just your friend, Twister high in the air.

The sad mood shifts to applause, laughter and cheers. Leck CLICKS.

LECK

Sometimes noise is good.

Suddenly, Starlight leaps to her feet and SCREAMS.

STARLIGHT

HIGH IN THE AIR! That's it! That's it! I think I know where we can find Santa. Follow me.

Starlight races across the meadow. Twinkle, Twister, Teho, and Leck chase after her. Hoot flies above.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. REINDEER PEN - ALMOST DARK - LATER

Our Sextet stand and kneel at Santa's side. Twinkle and Twister use their hands to wipe snow off of Santa. Hoot gives a big assist brushing with both wings.

All nine REINDEER pace nervously. They seem to be okay with Twinkle, Twister and Starlight, but they are having serious misgivings about the presence of a Fox and a full grown Polar Bear.

Rudolph nuzzles Starlight, blinks his nose and gives Starlight a IS-SANTA-GOING-TO BE-ALL -RIGHT LOOK.

Starlight pats Rudolph's nose and then looks to each reindeer in turn.

STARLIGHT

You all did a great job. You saved Santa's life. He's going to be very proud of all of you. We sure are proud of you. You did everything you could.

The Reindeer enjoy the compliment, but doubt lingers, especially when

STARLIGHT (CONT)

You've kept him safe and warm. Now we have to get him home. Teho, we'll need your help?

Our EIGHT FOOT TALL polar bear looks down at Santa.

TEHO

I've never carried a human person before.

TWISTER

You carried me.

TEHO

No comment, little buddy.

As Teho kneels next to Santa

The Reindeer stir. Leck and Teho are definitely having an effect on Santa's Reindeer

Blizten and Donner snort and paw the icy ground with their hooves. Prancer bends her neck, aiming the sharp tips of her antlers directly at

TEHO'S BACK

As Teho inches closer to Santa,

In the Back Ground more of the Team prepares for an attack. They SNORT. GRUNT and PAW the ground. Rudolph butts his way to the head of the team. He glares. His nose blinks in rapid fire. He bends his head, antlers poised for attack.

Twinkle, Twister then Starlight leap behind Teho and lock arms between the Reindeer and Teho. Hoot lands on Starlight's shoulder and tries to calm the situation.

HOOT

Easy, mates. All's well and good. I promise, Santa's in good hands.

Hoot swivels his neck and looks behind, then back to the reindeer.

HOOT (CONT)

Well, in this case, good paws.

Teho is oblivious to what's going on behind him. Ever so easily, Teho slips his paw's and arms under and Santa gently lifting him to his chest.

Santa's eyes open then close. He exhales a loud SIGH of contentment.

The anxious moment passes quickly as Reindeer back-off and raise their heads.

HOOT (CONT)

I told you Santa was in good ha. . . paws.

STARLIGHT

Now we have to get him home.

TWINKLE

And to bed.

Theo carries Santa out of the pen toward Santa's Chalet.

Twister, Twinkle, Starlight, Leck, Hoot follow, as do

The Reindeer, who form in pairs behind Rudolph.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - NIGHT - LATER

Lights blink in the windows. Smoke pours from the chimney.

The elves from Elf Town and the Toy Shoppe wait in a subdued silence in front of the chalet.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Theo leans against the passenger chair where Leck stands on his hind legs, paws on the top of the seat with his sharp ears pointed straight at the top window.

Elves nudge one another gesturing toward Leck and Theo and whisper

ONE ELF

I heard the bear carried Santa home.

ANOTHER ELF

They say he's a friend of Twister.

THIRD ELF

And the fox is a friend of Twinkle.

Not confined to the earth, Hoot does a quick loop around Teho and Leck and flies to the balcony railing outside

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - PEAKED WINDOW

FIRST ELF AGAIN O.S.
And Starlight's made friends with that owl.

INT. SANTA'S BEDROOM

Gathered around Santa's bed are Erasmus, Starlight, Twinkle, Starlight, and Mrs. Claus, who lifts Santa's cap and wipes his brow with a white cloth.

SANTA is NOT doing well. . . In a raspy, but grateful voice.

SANTA
I thank you. Thank you Twinkle, Twister and Starlight

MRS.CLAUS
I thank you even more.
(wipes Santa's brow)
You saved Santa's life. I love you all.

GUILTILY, Our Trio acknowledge the accolades until

STARLIGHT
Sir, the reindeer did most of it.

TWINKLE
They kept you safe and warm.

TWISTER
We only brought you . . . Well, Teho carried you.

Santa coughs and looks at Our Trio with new admiration. Then at Erasmus.

SANTA
Erasmus, my friend. Governor of our Toy Shoppe.
You must be very proud of your daughter and Twinkle and Twister. And of course
(a look of disbelief)
Not to mention the polar bear.

TWISTER O.S.

His name is Teho.

SANTA

Teho? Ah, short for Tehoronianhen. That's ,
logical. Teho, white like a cloud. Uh huh. . .
and the fox?

Twister has to control himself from doing a flip. He stares at Santa.

TWISTER

How did you . . . ?

SANTA

I'm Santa Claus. Now, tell me about the fox.

TWINKLE

His name real name is Kallik. But he likes
to be called Leck. Leck with "Click"

SANTA

Leck with a "Click." Kallik?

(rubs his chin)

Oh, and I'll bet he's fast as lightning. Right?

Twinkle nods vigorously.

SANTA (CONT)

I remember an owl helping also.

Starlight points out of the window to

Hoot on the balcony railing who raises a wing and waves.

Santa waves back.

SANTA (CONT)

And if my guess is right his name is Ahnah.
Ahnah, means wise one am I correct?

STARLIGHT

But he prefers, Hoot.

SANTA

Well, then Hoot it is.

On the balcony railing Hoot raises his wings and does a little courtesy.

SANTA (CONT)
My reindeer and you were all so brave and
very smart. But we . . .

Santa coughs violently. Starlight, Twinkle, Twister, and Erasmus exchange lingering looks of concern.

Again Mrs. Claus wrings out the towel in a pan and reapplies it to Santa's brow.

SANTA (CONT)
We have a serious problem. Tomorrow is
Christmas Eve. There are toys to finish and
wrap. A sleigh to pack and a trip round the world.

When Santa coughs again Mrs. Claus leans in and whispers in his ear.

SANTA (CONT)
You think so?

Santa studies the faces of Twinkle, Twister and Starlight.

SANTA (CONT) O.S.
Maybe we can save Christmas. If the three of you
are up for a little adventure. And you and your
three friends are willing to help.

Our Trio nod vigorously.

OUR TRIO
How can we help?

STARLIGHT
We'd do anything.

SANTA
We made a lot more toys than usual this year.
The boys and girls of the world have been
especially good.

Santa looks directly at Starlight. She shuffles as he continues.

SANTA (CONT) O.S.
Ho, ho. I understand you have questions
regarding boys and girls; don't you Starlight?

Starlight drops her eyes.

SANTA

Oh, that's okay. But how would you like to meet
a real boy and girl?

Starlight beams broadly, while Santa turns his attention to Twister.

SANTA (CONT)

And Twister I heard that you're afraid...

Twister knows where this is going and blushes in embarrassment. Santa's no dummy, he realizes his comment has hurt Twister feelings.

SANTA (CONT)

I don't mean afraid. I mean you don't like
heights. Isn't that correct?

Twister relaxes a bit.

SANTA (CONT)

I know you like to spin and twist. Flip and cartwheel.
How would like to fly?

Twister looks back and forth to Twinkle and Starlight. Twister does NOT want to fly.

TWISTER

Santa, I don't know why, but I don't think I'd like to
fly. I love spinning round. But I like it right here close
to the ground.

Santa muses for a beat.

SANTA

You could start low and slow. A few feet at a time.

Santa coughs again and

SANTA (CONT)

Do you know that my reindeer cannot fly unless
they're hitched to my magical sled. In fact, they
were quite nervous about flying at first. But now...
But now they love to fly, especially, Rudolph.

There's a SHOCK of dismay between Twinkle, Twister, Starlight, and Erasmus at this revelation.

SANTA (CONT)

Ho, ho. After the accident with the tree branch, don't you think Rudolph would have flown over the gate and into Elf Town blinking his nose and pounding on roofs with his hooves. Rudolph can't talk, but he sure would have found a way to tell everyone what happened to me.

Erasmus, Twinkle, Twister, and Starlight exchange looks. Of course.

SANTA (CONT)

And Twinkle. My bright eyed Twinkle. You've never been far from home. You're the organizer. This year my sleigh is going to be very crowded. But . . . if I'm not on it . . . and if you did the organizing, there would be enough room for all the extra toys.

Erasmus, Twinkle, Twister, and Starlight as Santa's comments sink in . . .

STARLIGHT

If you're not on the sleigh?

TWINKLE

You're not going to be on the sleigh?

TWISTER

Then who would be? Tomorrow is Christmas Eve.

Santa looks from Twinkle, to Twister to Starlight. Who in turn look quizzically at each other. And BINGO the light goes off.

OUR TIRO

Us?

SANTA

And why not?

STARLIGHT

We're so small.

TWINKLE

How would we know where to go?

TWISTER

And about the flying. I have found,
that I still prefer, solid ground.

STARLIGHT

How would we steer your sleigh?

Erasmus, who hasn't said much pipes in

ERASMUS

I think I can help with the steering.

Starlight gives her father a strange look.

STARLIGHT

Daddy, do you think we could do it? Steer a
a sleigh. Fly around the whole world. . . and
bring toys to girls and boys?

ERASMUS

(without hesitation)

Yes. If we prepare correctly. If we make a
good plan. I think the three of you could do
most anything.

(puts his arm around Starlight)

Besides this time you wouldn't be singing a
story. . . you'd be living the adventure of a
lifetime. Yes, I believe you can.

SANTA

So do I.

MRS. CLAUS

And so do I. At the Toy Shoppe when I cried
for help, you three were the very first to
leave and search for Santa. I saw you go. And
somehow, I knew you'd be the ones to find Santa.

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight are befuddled, unsure, shuffling. They huddle.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and Erasmus wait patiently for a decision.

Twinkle peeks out of the huddle.

TWINKLE

How will we know which way to go? What direction to take?

SANTA

Rudolph and my reindeer know the route. We've been delivering presents for quite a long time.

TWISTER

I don't know. I'm still . . .

SANTA

(interrupts with a cough)

I know. We're going to work on it.

TWISTER

That, I would like to believe, but there's only one day before Christmas Eve.

SANTA

One day is all we'll need. . . I promise.

STARLIGHT

Your reindeer won't obey three tiny elves.

They'll think were . . .

SANTA

Sure they will. They saw you save my life. Believe me they'll do anything you ask. They like you. They respect you. Though you're small, you're young, strong, intelligent and most important, the three of you are brave.

Standing a bit taller, Our Trio absorbs the compliments. Their shoulders are squarer as they exchange a DO-YOU-THINK-WE-REALLY-CAN DO-IT? look.

SANTA

Set your mind to it and you can save Christmas Day. So, my friends, what do you say?

(laughs and stifles a cough)

How do you like that, Twister. I made a poem of my own.

A smile of determination comes to Starlight's lips. . . Almost immediate Twinkle

smiles. Twinkle and Starlight turn to Twister - In his mind, Twister hears his own voice singing: 'Just once, just one time, I'd like to get it right.' With a surge of confidence Twister says

TWISTER

I was going to call it quits. But I know we can do this. Just this once, I know I can get it right.

There's a collective HOORAY as we

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - DAY

Teho, Leck, Hoot, and a group of Elves dig Santa's sleigh out of the snow. Tilt it up-right and start to push it down the hill but. . .

Oops, the sleigh slips out of their grasp. It gathers speed BUMPING and CRUNCHING its way down the hill.

Hoot swoops down, wraps his talons around the rear carriage rail and flaps like mad trying to stop the sleigh. Hoot quickly realizes it's a - NO WAY JOSE - situation and holds on for the rest of the ride until

The sleigh makes a perfect landing in front of

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - DAY

SANTA'S SLEIGH - BRIGHT RED WITH A GOLD TRIM GLISTENS IN THE SUN

Hoot wide eyed, feathers ruffled is perched on top of the driver's seat.

Teho, Leck and the rest of the Elves arrive out of breath. Hoot looks down from his perch and puffing out his feathers says

HOOT

Needn't worry, mates. I had the situation utterly under control.

CUT TO:

INT. TOY SHOPPE - DAY

There is a frenzy of activity. Elves wrap toys and toss them to other elves who pack them in large burlap sacks.

Leck and other Elves drag the sacks outside where

EXT. TOY SHOPPE - DAY

Teho lifts Twister who sets the sacks on the carriage floor next to Twinkle.

Twister looks back over his shoulder to Teho.

TWISTER

You know I'd be a liar, if I said I wanted to go higher.
But flying won't be fun until WE get this done. So...

Teho doesn't hesitate. He lifts Twister high in the air again and again and again.

Twister fights his fear. He closes his eyes. He opens one... then the other. Looks around, up and down and SIGHS. NO RHYME THIS TIME and SINGS...

TWISTER

Just once. Just one time.

TOP OF SANTA'S SLEIGH - CARRIAGE SEAT AND BED

Twinkle and Hoot direct a team of elves on how and where to place the ever growing sacks of toys.

THE BED OF THE SLEIGH

A few bags of toys are already there. Twinkle places the top of a burlap bag on a hook and a primitive pulley system takes the bag down to the bed of the carriage.

TWINKLE

These presents are going to France. Please put them
in the middle.

EXT. TOY SHOPPE ROOF - DAY

SNOW MELTS water enters the gutter and drips down the drain forming a large puddle around the runners of Santa's sleigh. OMINOUS MUSIC.

INT. TOY SHOPPE - MUCH LATER

Very few toys remain. The shelves are empty. The stacks of presents along the walls are gone.

One EXHAUSTED ELF is sound asleep at his work station. As he SNORES little curly wood chips shoot into the air around him.

EXT. WORK SHOP DAY - GETTING DARKER

SANTA'S SLEIGH IS LOADED TO THE GILLS

Even the FRONT SEAT is completely filled with bags of presents . The front tire of a bicycle peeks out of the top of one sack of toys. Part of a bass drum peeks out of another.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) EXT. REINDEER STABLE/ CHALET

Rudolph leads the reindeer in double file out of the pen. THEY ARE READY TO FLY! Harnessed in bright red leather straps. Tennis ball sized silver sleigh bells have been sewn to the leather straps and breast plates. The bells create a wonderful rhythmic sound as the team trots toward the Toy Shoppe.

B) EXT. SANTA'S CHALET - FRONT DOOR OPENS

Hoot flies out, followed by Leck and Mrs. Claus; they stop on the porch and turn as Teho carries Santa out in his arms. Santa is in his red cap and wrapped in a red blanket.

Santa is still very pale and coughs quite a bit

SANTA

We have to hurry. Wouldn't miss take off.

C) EXT. TOY SHOPPE - NIGHT FALL

A crowd has gathered by Santa's sleigh.

Erasmus exits the door carrying a long ladder. He is followed by Three Elves with what looks like the worlds strangest back-packs on their back.

D) Our Trio comes around the side of the Toy Shoppe. They pause far from the crowd a bit overwhelmed by all the commotion.

TWINKLE

Nervous?

TWISTER

Yes.

Starlight holds her index finger and thumb an inch apart.

STARLIGHT

Me too, but just a little bit.

Twinkle and Twister duplicate the gesture.

TWINKLE AND TWISTER

Just a little bit.

STARLIGHT

Ready? Let's do this!

Our Trio link arms, give a little kick shuffle and head towards

EXT. TOY SHOPPPE - SANTA'S SLEIGH

One by one, Rudolph and his fellow reindeer step into position in front of the Sleigh. Their Sleigh Bells CHIME rhythmically as each reindeer readies for flight.

IN FRONT OF THE TEAM

Erasmus stands next to Rudolph, Dasher and Dancer. He leans the ladder on Rudolph then takes a SMALL SADDLE like seat from one of the elves at his side, climbs the ladder and straps the saddle on to

DANCER'S ANTLER

IN THE BACK GROUND Erasmus continues this process two more times as

Hoot, Leck, Mrs. Claus, and Teho, with Santa in his arms walk up to

SANTA'S SLEIGH where Our Trio is watching Erasmus and staring up at the gigantic sleigh full of toys.

SANTA O.S.

Are you ready?

Our Trio turn with a start. A CHEER goes out from all the Elves.

ALL THE ELVES
SANTA'S HERE! SANTA'S HERE!

REMEMBERING THEIR MANNERS

OUR TRIO
And Mrs. Claus too.

ALL THE ELVES
And Mrs. Claus too.

SANTA
Would someone get me a chair, so my new friend
Teho doesn't have to carry me everywhere.
(to Twister)
Did it again my friend. Another poem. How are doing
with the you. . . know. . . what?

TWISTER
(forces a smile)
I've been practicing. Teho's helped a lot.

A Group of Elves arrive with a chair. Teho sets Santa down.

SANTA
Teho is quite something. You're all quite something.

SANTA'S ARM SWEEP'S THE CROWD AND REINDEER

SANTA
You're all quite something.

MRS. CLAUS
We are so proud. So very proud of you all.

THAT'S THE MOMENT - The whole group breaks into a CRESCENDO of cheers, hoorays and loud **hoots**, from Hoot. While the crowd CHEERS on Leck sidles up to Twinkle.

LECK
I wish I could join you.

TWINKLE
I wish you could too.

Following Leck's example Teho ambles up to Twister

TEHO
That goes for me too.

TWISTER
Not much room.

TEHO
There's a lot to be said for being small. And
besides. . .

Teho whispers in Twister ear. Twister stares in astonishment.

TWISTER IN ASTONISHMENT
Sea sick! You're a polar bear. You can't get . . .

Teho draws Twister into a bear hug. A polar bear hug. While at the same time. . .

HOOT
(to Starlight)
If I could fly as fast and as high or hold on for so
long, I would. . . Well, you understand.

STARLIGHT
I do. I'll miss you too.

Starlight parts before tears fall.

Our Trio hurries to the front of the reindeer team. Erasmus helps each up
the ladder taking a moment to hug and kiss Starlight .

ERASMUS
Tomorrow night we are going to have
an incredible story to sing.

Erasmus hands Starlight a pair of bright, SILVER REINS

ERASMUS (CONT)
See you tomorrow morning, little one

Starlight fights off tears and hurriedly climbs the ladder, straps herself into
the saddle seat on PRANCER'S ANTLERS and gives the reins a little flick.

Rudolph turns with the motion, nods and blinks his nose. He's ready to fly.
He bends his knees and tries to push into the air. NOTHING HAPPENS.

The rest of the Reindeer team join the effort by bending their knees and pushing into the air. NOTHING.

The Reindeer paw the ground. They try to leap. They SNORT in frustration. They are ready to go. But they're going nowhere!

Again Rudolph pushes against his breast plate, bends his knees, leaps. NOTHING.

A hush goes over the crowd. Even SANTA looks perplexed.

TWISTER

My, oh, my, do you think they've forgotten
how to fly?

Again the Reindeer struggle to get airborne. Their heads toss right and left. They push and pull on their breast plates. Twinkle nudges Starlight.

TWINKLE

Maybe Santa's sleigh has lost its magic.

In their saddles, Our Trio are bucked and tossed about like they're riding on the back of an angry rodeo bull.

Rudolph turns his head snorts and BLINKS HIS NOSE at Starlight.

STARLIGHT

Hey, I'm trying. . . . I'm trying. Believe me, I don't
know what's going. . . . Maybe if I. . .

Incredibly loud CRUNCHES, SNAPS AND CRACKS interrupt Starlight. She turns

REAR OF SANTA'S SLEIGH

Teho has placed his back under the CARRIAGE BED. He shifts his weight from one leg to the other. The sleigh rocks left and right; up and down.

THE SLEIGH'S RUNNERS ARE FROZEN IN SOLID ICE

Teho exerts all his strength. The ICE CRACKS. Then SHATTERS.

Finally, the RUNNERS COME FREE. A cheer goes up from the crowd. Teho waves at Our Trio

TEHO

And there's a lot to be said for being big. . .

SANTA
And strong. Ho, ho, ho.

Everyone except SANTA CHEERS louder.

SANTA turns his head and coughs violently into the vee in his elbow. . .

The RUNNER'S BREAK FREE. The Reindeer team already pulling at full capacity, rocket into the air making a huge WHOOSHING sound.

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight are jolted by the sudden acceleration and take off. They look like kids on a roller coaster, scared to death, but loving every minute of terror.

EXT. TOY SHOPPE

The Crowd below stares up into the night sky. The opening refrain of the song "Flying High🎶" begins.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Makes one pass around the Toy Shoppe and climbs into the sky with a WOOSH - coordinating perfectly with the opening line of . . .

"Flying High"

OUR TRIO

We're off! We're on our way. We're off! On Santa's sleigh. We off, on reindeer's heads.

(they laugh and Twister adds)

We should be home in bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOY SHOPPE

Folks at the Toy Shoppe watch and cheer until the sleigh becomes a SPECK in the sky.

Tears well in Teho's and Leck's eyes. Hoot wipes away a tear with the tip of his wing. A single tear drop falls across Erasmus's cheek as he blows a kiss to the sky. Mr. and Mrs. Claus hold each others hand and wave with the other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKY - HALF MOON AND A ZILLION STARS - LATER

FAR OFF IN THE BLACK we see a tiny red light blink on and off. Growing brighter and brighter as it comes closer.

REINDEER TEAM AND SANTA'S SLEIGH

Rudolph to Twinkle, Twister and Starlight in their little saddles, strapped to the antlers of Dancer and Dancer.

There is no longer any trepidation. Their adventure, enjoined. They laugh and nudge each other pointing this way and that as they sing the second versus of 'Flying High.'

OUR TRIO

Oh, who would believe, on this Christmas Eve,
three tiny elves would stop their play and be
the ones to save Christmas Day. Hey! Hey! Hey!

Our Trio continues singing as they lean forward and look downward through the clouds to the world below. They see, snowcapped mountains, meandering rivers, hamlets, then towns and major cities.

OUR TRIO (CONT)

We're off with a sleigh full of toys.

TWINKLE

We're off to meet real girls and boys.

STARLIGHT

At last I'll know if children really exist.

Twinkle sings the next line to Twister.

TWINKLE

Starlight still thinks this might be one of
Santa's tricks.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE

Santa's Sleigh is hidden beside a barn. Our Trio grab sacks of presents and disappear in different directions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SAME VILLAGE - LATER

Our trio climb back into their tiny saddles and toss the EMPTY toy sacks backward where they land on the antlers of Prancer and Vixen. Who toss them back to Comet and Cupid and then Donner and Blitzen who flip them into the bed of the Sleigh.

SANTA'S SLEIGH CLIMBS BACK INTO THE SKY

OUR TRIO

We're off. We're flying high. Off into a moon lit night.

STARLIGHT

I'm holding on with all my might.

TWISTER

Brrrrr. My knuckles are white.

Twinkle points down to the GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

TWINKLE

A brand new world lies beneath. And here's our next stop.

THE REINDEER DIVE DOWNWARD

DISSOLVE TO

A SERIES OF SHOTS AS OUR SLEIGH TRAVELS A ROUND THE WORLD

A) MT. FUJI - CAPPED WITH SNOW

Our Sleigh does a loop around the mountain, then lands on the roof of PAGODA STYLED HOUSE in a cluster of similar houses.

Our Trio grab sacks full of toys and dart off. We see their shadows on roof tops, at windows and doorways.

B) HAWAII - DIAMOND HEAD - WAIKIKI BEACH – MOONLIGHT NIGHT

SANTA'S SLEIGH HIDDEN IN A GROVE OF PALM TREES

We hear the CRASHING WAVES as Twister hurries across the sand heading for a group of grass shacks. Twinkle slips through the back door of a twelve story condominium. Starlight enters a ranch style house through a patio door.

WAIKIKI BEACH - NIGHT - MOONLIT OCEAN - LATER

Twister sits under a palm tree on the sand strumming a ukulele until he's suddenly roused by Starlight and Twinkle.

STARLIGHT

Are you out of your mind?

TWINKLE

What are you doing?

TWISTER

Hey, I was waiting for you for goodness sake.
After I delivered my toys. I was taking a break.

Starlight and Twinkle each take an arm and drag Twister to his feet.

STARLIGHT

What were you thinking?

TWISTER

Flying takes a lot out of you.

Then it dawns on Twister. He extends his arms and whirls in the sand.

TWISTER

I've been flying! Flying. Really flying! And it's
true, flying takes a lot out of you.

Laughing, Starlight and Twinkle grab Twister shoulders and drag him backward across the beach. Twister tries to bury his heels in the sand. Starlight and Twinkle are having none of it. They drag him back to the Sleigh.

DISSOLVE TO:

C) EASTER ISLAND Santa's Sleigh circles the Moai statues.

D) SIDNEY HARBOR - SIDNEY OPERA HOUSE Santa's Sleigh bobs on its runners in the middle of the Harbor as Our Trio deposits toys on different boats.

E) AYERS ROCK - Our Trio stands in front of a kangaroo with a baby in her pouch

TWINKLE

I thought you were pretend. I didn't know kangaroos were really, real.

KANGAROO

Really?

(in a heavy Australian accent)

Wait until you see a duck-billed platypus, mate.

F) TAJ MAHAL When the Sleigh flies over the Taj Mahal - Rudolph dives close to the DOME. The CARRIAGE just misses contact. Our Trio stare at each other in disbelief.

G) THE PETRA in Jordan

Our Trio darts in and out of mud huts - tents - magnificent mansions - and condos.

H) JERUSALEM

INT. HOME IN JERUSALEM

In the main dining room Starlight places toys beneath Hanukkah Menorah.

CHILD'S VOICE O.S.

Hey, you're not Santa Claus!

Starlight turns with a start and finds a young girl rubbing her sleepy eyes.

CHILD'S VOICE

You...are...not... Santa Claus.

STARLIGHT

(nods in agreement)

But...I...am...the...one bringing you toys. Though...

(starts to return presents to the sack)

If...you...don't... want them.

CHILD'S VOICE

I want them.

STARLIGHT

Then off to bed.

The young Girl disappears in a blink.

DISSOLVE TO:

SANTA'S SLEIGH FLYING OVER THE CAPITOLS OF EUROPE

OVER an instrumental of "Flying High" we hear timpani, horns and violins that crescendo and fade as we see

A) BIG BEN and our Trio scurrying in and out of houses like those in Mary Poppins.

B) THE EIFFEL TOWER

Rudolph makes a sharp turn. Our Trio holds on for dear life. The Sleigh's carriage misses one side of the tower by inches. Starlight, Twinkle, Twister exchange a 'THAT-WAS-CLOSE!' look.

THE WINDOW OF A THREE STORY HOME - NEAR NOTRE DAME

INT. BED ROOM

Starlight looks down at twin boys asleep in little white beret caps. She sighs.

C) TOWER OF PISA - ITALIAN COUNTRY SIDE

INT. FARM COTTAGE

On a shelf near the fireplace, instead of the usual offering of cookies and candies. We see a plate with a medium sausage and cheese pizza still steaming from the oven.

Twister busily places presents underneath the Christmas Tree, with an occasional longing look at the PIZZA. Suddenly from behind him

GERMAN SHEPHERD O.S.

Grrrrrrrrrr.

Twister turns to the sound. But instead of being terrified, Twister doesn't have time for this. Twister's come a long way. He places his hands akimbo.

TWISTER

Do you know what a polar bear is?

German Shepherd shakes his head no.

Twister extends his elfin arms about as far as elfin arms can be extended.

TWISTER (CONT)

They stand over eight feet tall. They weigh in at about one thousand, six hundred pounds give or take.

German Shepherd nods. Impressed.

TWISTER (CONT)

They're carnivores. Do you know what a carnivore is?

German Shepherd shakes his head no.

TWISTER (CONT)

They love to eat meat.

German Shepherd's eyes go wide.

TWISTER (CONT)

Teho, my very best friend in the whole wide world, is a polar bear. Should I call him?

Violently, the German Shepherd shakes his head no.

Twister glances to his left,

TWISTER (CONT)

Would you like a piece of pizza?

German Shepherd licks his lips.

Twister holds out a slice

DISSOLVE TO:

EGYPT SANTA'S SLEIGH FLIES OVER THE SPHINX AND GREAT PYRAMID

Our Trio FLYING HIGH over herds of elephants, wildebeest and giraffes.

EXT. SWAHILI ENCAMPMENT

Twister, Twinkle and Starlight zip about leaving gifts everywhere.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO

Santa's Sleigh circles Christ the Redeemer on Mount Corcovado.

MACHU PICCHU a group of elderly Inca in full regalia watch knowingly as Our Trio deposit presents at the bottoms of a variety of hand-made Christmas Trees.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK - NEW YORK

Again Rudolph leads the team dangerously close to the

STATUE OF LIBERTY'S TORCH

In their tiny saddles, Twinkle, Twister and Starlight gather their wits from the close encounter.

Rudolph looks over his shoulder at Our Trio and grins mischievously .

SANTA'S SLEIGH FLYING OVER NIAGARA FALLS

Starlight stares down at the wonder and beauty of the FALLS and the hundreds of RAINBOWS created by the MIST. We hear refrains from the "STORY SONG."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE - BAD LANDS AND BLACK HILLS

KEYSTONE SOUTH DAKOTA

INT. LOG CABIN STYLE DWELLING

The living room is Country Style. Sofa and chairs and Christmas Tree. Tacked to the mantel of a large stone fire place are five Christmas stockings embroidered with the names: CHRISTOPHER, GRETA BUTCH, MOM and DAD.

Starlight pops out of the hearth. Dusts herself off, crosses to the Christmas Tree and drops her sack of gifts. Immediately she begins to segregate the presents into five piles: MOM, DAD, GRETA, CHRISTOPHER AND BUTCH.

But before Starlight can get too far she hears the voice of a SNARLY, MEAN SPIRITED BOY.

BOY'S VOICE O.S.
SEE. See, I told you! I told you!

Completely caught off guard, Starlight turns and sees

A RED HEADED boy, with a zillion freckles, pops up from behind a sofa. On either side of him, the head of a little girl and a younger boy appear.

RED HEADED BOY (CONT)
Name's Butch. I've been telling these two brats
Santa's fraud. That Santa's just pretend.

Butch looks down to his brother and sister, both are close to tears.

BUTCH
You're a bunch of cry-babies. Cry-babies.
(to Starlight)
My Dad hired you, didn't he? And made you
wear the elf mask and stupid costume.
(laughing loudly)
Even made you come down the chimney.
(slaps his thigh)
Well, you better get out of here. If my Dad wakes
up, you won't get any money.

Starlight stands dumbfounded. Greta breaks into sobs. Butch yanks her arm.

BUTCH (CONT)
Shut up, you little cry baby.

Butch turns to Starlight and snarls.

BUTCH (CONT)
 Might as well use the front door. Oh, and
 when you see your phony Santa Claus.

Butch sticks out his tongue and puts his thumb on the end of his nose and wiggles his fingers at Starlight.

BUTCH (CONT)
 Tell him Butch and a bunch of other kids said.
 Pffffff ttt.

In Shell-shock, like a Zombie, Starlight walks out of the front door of the Log Cabin.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SAME - LOG - CABIN LATER

All the lights are off. Our Trio is huddled near the rear door.

STARLIGHT
 And then Butch . . .

Starlight sticks out her tongue and puts her thumb on the end of her nose and wiggles her fingers.

STARLIGHT (CONT)
 Said Pffff ttt. He said Pffff ttt to Santa Claus.

TWISTER
 That little Brat did all that! He said Santa
 Claus is a fraud. He's pretend?

Twinkle struggles with some misgivings. Innocently she raises her hand and

TWINKLE
 You know that's not the first time I've
 heard comments like that tonight.

STARLIGHT
 Are you kidding?

TWISTER

Me too, Starlight. More than once I've heard children say they don't believe in Santa Claus.

Starlight SIGHS with disappointed. Her eyes close.

STARLIGHT

And did you? You didn't leave their presents? Did you?

Twinkle and Twister SHRUG of course. Starlight can't believe it.

STARLIGHT (CONT)

Well Butch is a bully. He likes to yank his little sister's arm. Make her cry. And he doesn't believe in Santa Claus. Butch isn't getting any presents from me.

Starlight is off. Twister and Twinkle follow.

INT. LOG CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

While Twinkle and Twister make neat piles of the presents marked for Mom, Dad, Greta and Christopher, Starlight happily redeposits all the gifts marked for BUTCH into her sack.

STARLIGHT

I can make good use of these.

When Our Trio is done they head for the door. But Starlight has one more idea. She walks back to the fire places, takes out a LARGE CHUNK OF COAL and places it in the stocking marked BUTCH.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - CABLE CARS

On one house near the top of TWIN PEAKS, Twinkle stands on the roof looking at the chimney spewing out smoke. She tries to wave it away from her face. She mutters...

TWINKLE

Okay, I guess its Plan B.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REAR OF THE SAME HOUSE

Twinkle tries a window. It slides open. As she climbs inside she is greeted by sounds of a noisy celebration. . . then SILENCE.

Curious, Twinkle shoulders her bag of gifts and creeps down the hallway to the door of a brightly lit room. From inside we hear. . .

MINISTER'S VOICE O.S.

And do you David Garcia take Madeline O'Hara,
as your lawful. . .

Twinkle crawls to the edge of the doorway and peeks in to the living room jammed with People. One corner is dominated by a tall Christmas Tree draped in glistening tin foil icicles. In front of the fireplace a COUPLE hold hands.

MINSTER (CONT)

As your lawful. . . Wedded Wife?

DAVID - THE GROOM

I do.

The Crowd goes WILD. Twinkle is almost blown back into the hallway.

CROWD ROARS

Yes. Way to go, Dave.

The group goes quiet again as the

MINSTER

And do you, Madeline. . .

The Bride turns slowly toward the Groom and into Twinkle's full view. Dazzled, Twinkle falls back on her heels. And barely audible says

TWINKLE

She is soooooooooo beautiful. Sooo beautiful!

MINISTER'S VOICE O.S.

O'Hara, take David Garcia

As the Minister's voice fades, Twinkle races down the hall and enters the

WEDDING RECEPTION ROOM

A Three Tiered Wedding Cake sits in the middle of the table. Wedding gifts are everywhere. Twinkle makes a quick decision just as we hear

MADLINE - THE BRIDE O.S.

I do.

CROWD CHEERS O.S.

Yeah. Hooray. Applause

Twinkle works triple time stacking presents in a vacant corner, tweaking here and there until she steps away and admires her own creation.

THE STACK OF PRESENTS

All of the different mismatched packages and gifts have been shaped into beautiful, ceiling high rendition of a Christmas Tree.

Twinkle hurries out of the reception room, down the hall and past the living room just as . . .

MINISTER'S VOICE O.S.

I now pronounce you man and wife.

REAR WINDOW Twinkle climbs out looking back down the hall with happy tears in her eyes.

TWINKLE

She was so beautiful. So beautiful.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A HUGE HOSPITAL COMPLEX - HOSPITALS ROOF

And there's Santa's Sleigh, but no sign of Twister, Twinkle or Starlight.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Doctors and Nurses make way for OUR TRIO as they hurry from room to room and floor to floor.

CHILDREN'S WARD Our Trio enters. The children are asleep. Presents are left

at every bedside. Our Trio put dolls, Teddy Bears, Legos, on pillows and tuck them under blankets.

Starlight lifts a present from her sack and stares for a beat at the name BUTCH. She RIPS it off and replaces it with DESHAN then moves down the row of beds and stops at a bed, and places the gift between the feet of a sleeping child.

STARLIGHT

Deshan, you're going to love this.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL ROOF - MOMENTS LATER - SANTA'S SLEIGH

Our Trio is no longer strapped to antlers. As the bags of toys have been delivered, the front seat has emptied. Starlight climbs to her feet and points to the

BED OF THE SLEIGH

ONE sack of toys remain.

STARLIGHT

Only one more stop and it's close to home. Ready?

When Our Trio High Fives, Starlight

STARLIGHT (CONT)

Let's take off. Kick it, Rudolph.

Rudolph turns, smiles mischievously then leaps into the air.

The Sleigh rockets off the HOSPITAL'S roof. The mouths and faces of Our Trio spread into wide, silly grins from the sudden acceleration as the Sleigh disappears into the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SMALL TLINGIT (ESKIMO) VILLAGE - NIGHT

Santa's Sleigh is parked behind a large bank of snow.

Our Trio, stand near several igloos. Starlight cups a hand to her ear.

STARLIGHT

I hear giggles. I think children are still awake.

TWINKLE

I think you're right.

Twister gives his friends a look of frustration and does a cartwheel and

TWISTER

You are right. But we've been doing this all night.
If we unite and keep out of sight and move as quiet
as termites. We...

Starlight holds her palm up in a STOP sign.

STARLIGHT

I got it. We got it. We see the light.

TWINKLE

Let's do this.

They split up the last sack of toys and speed off in different directions.

DISSOLVE TO:

NIGHT SKY - FILLED WITH STARS THE MOON IS GONE

Far way we see a BLINKING RED LIGHT

NIGHT SKY - FILLED WITH STARS - THE MOON HAS SET

Far away a BLINKING RED LIGHT comes closer and closer to the rhythmic
peal of SLEIGH BELLS in tempo with refrains from "Flying High."

SANTA'S SLEIGH - NIGHT - SANTA'S SEAT ON THE CARRIAGE

Strapped in with seat belts, Starlight sits between Twister and Twinkle.
There's a smile of SATISFACTION on each face. They look at each other and laugh.

STARLIGHT

We did it! We really did it!

TWINKLE

Do you think we missed anyone? I hope everyone got their presents.

STARLIGHT

The only one who didn't was . . .

Starlight looks to Twinkle and Twister with a smug smile. Then in unison. . .

OUR TRIO


THE BULLY, BUTCH.

They nudge, laugh and high five.

TWISTER

We should be proud. We went north,
south, east and west. We did our best.
We should shout out loud.

Santa's Sleigh speeds through the night. Our Trio celebrates their adventure .

Starlight looks from Twinkle to Twister and begins the first refrain of the
'How Did You Spend Christmas Eve?' song .

STARLIGHT

Wow, that was fun, don't you agree? And when someone asks us how we spent Christmas Eve, We'll have to say it was wild! An adventure to be told. Worth more than diamonds or two tons of gold.

Starlight turns toward Twister.

STARLIGHT (CONT)

And now a question for Twister if you please.
What was your favorite part of Christmas Eve?

TWISTER

I loved the cookies, candies and the choc-o-lot.
I would have kept on eating. I had to force myself to stop.

Twister turns to Twinkle and Starlight and says

TWISTER (CONT)
Did I tell you about the pizza? Do you remember
the Leaning Tower of Pisa?

Twinkle and Starlight laugh and nod.

STARLIGHT
Twinkle, did you have a special place? Or something
you liked best?

TWINKLE
Now that's a hard question. You've put me to the test.
A special place/...hum... I think I loved them all. But
the Eiffel Tower and maybe Niagara Falls. But what I
liked best is simple to decide. It was the Christmas Eve
wedding and the beautiful bride.
(to Starlight spoken)
And what about you?

STARLIGHT
Ah, my favorite part without a doubt. In fact, I wanted
to scream. I wanted to shout. It was the children.
The wonderful girls and boys. Now I know for certain
why we make all our toys.

EXT. SLEIGH

Starlight opens her arms as wide as she can, then

STARLIGHT (CONT)
Each and every child was an awesome surprise!
So many languages. The colors of their eyes. And the
games they play. . . The silly things they say. . . I wish
I could watch... Oh, how I wish I could watch them
open presents on Christmas Day.

As Starlight ends with a dreamy smile; Twinkle asks Twister.

TWINKLE
And beside candy and choc-o-lot, what about
you, Twister?

TWISTER

You know if Christmas Eve was tomorrow. . . I would do it all again. But this time I'd travel backward to see where I had been.

STARLIGHT

I think we all would. Wouldn't we my friends?

Our Trio nods with a thumbs up "WOULD - WE - EVER" gesture.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH - THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN

Rudolph and the team dive. The carriage whips around. Ahead, far below and far away we see multicolored lights.

STARLIGHT (CONT)

Everything was incredible, but it's nice to be home. But who will tell Santa? The truth must be told.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH - FAR BELOW WE SEE ELF TOWN

With genuine concern, Twinkle grabs Starlight's sleeve.

TWINKLE

Oh me. Oh me, oh my Starlight please. . . Don't make me tell Santa, he is sure to cry.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH PASSES OVER ELF TOWN - DAWN

Rudolph dives toward the ROOF TOPS then does a little jog left. SLEIGH BELLS PEAL. When the Reindeer team jogs right the SLEIGH BELLS PEAL LOUDER

EXT. ELF TOWN - FIRST LIGHT

Doors and window fly open. Tiny elves look skyward. From below we hear

ELF VOICES

They're back. They're back!

NEW ELF VOICES

They're home.

EXT. A LITTLE GREEN HOUSE - DESIGNED IN CIRCLES AND TRIANGLES

Erasmus appears in a window, shields his eyes and in a whisper,

ERASMUS

She's home.

CUT TO :

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH LOW IN THE SKY - SLEIGH BELLS PEAL

TWISTER

Starlight, couldn't we just once, tell a teeny,
white lie. Santa's doesn't need to know.
What we found out could break his heart.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH PASSES LOW OVER THE TOY SHOPPE

As the SLEIGH BELLS RING, elves pour out of the door waving and cheering. .

IN THE BACK GROUND

Erasmus leads a group of elves racing up the hill to the Toy Shoppe and
and Santa's Chalet.

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH

On the front seat Starlight waves an accusatory finger at her friends, then
sings the final versus of "How did You Spend Christmas Eve?"

STARLIGHT

Oh, oh, oh. My, my. Oh, now I see. The one to tell
Santa will have to be me. Yes, the one to tell
Santa will have to be me.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH

Rudolph glides the Sleigh in for a perfect landing in front of

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET

The front doors opens and Mrs. Claus comes out smiling and waving.

MRS. CLAUS

Come in. Come in. Santa is waiting.

EXT. SANTA'S SLEIGH

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight unbuckle their seat belts and dismount. There is an uncomfortable exchange of expressions between them until . . .

They are completely engulfed by CHEERING elves.

Teho and Leck make their way through the crowd.

Hoot flies above and 'hoot, hoot's' his way on to Starlight's shoulder.

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight are patted on the back, congratulated and praised.

ONE ELF

A job well done.

ANOTHER ELF

If anyone could have done it, I knew it would be you.

ERASMSUS O.S.

Me too.

Hearing her father's voice Starlight turns and runs into his open arms.

STARLIGHT

Hi Daddy, I love you and I have so much to tell.

ERASMUS

I'll bet you do. And I can't wait to hear it. Let's go home and I'll make us breakfast.

Starlight's demeanor changes.

STARLIGHT

I have to do something else first.

ERASMSUS

Were there problems?

Erasmus knows there is something wrong, but is reluctant to pry.

ERASMSUS (CONT)

I see. Can I help?

Starlight shakes her head no. Hoot peers down from Starlight's shoulder.

HOOT

Is there anything I can do?

Starlight smiles at Hoot and gives her father a big hug.

STARLIGHT

No, this I have to do on my own.

Starlight slips through the crowd heading straight to the stairs of

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET

The door is wide open. A silent invitation to enter. Mrs. Claus no longer waits.

Surround by Teho, Leck and a crowd of Elves, Twinkle and Twister are quite satisfied with all the attention. But when they see

Starlight approaching the Chalet by herself exchange a look and break out of the crowd.

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET

Just as she reaches the first step, Twister and Twinkle join Starlight.

TWINKLE

We started our adventure together.

TWISTER

Well end it together.

EXT. SANTA'S CHALET

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight climb the stairs and disappear through the open door.

Behind them Teho, Leck and the elves go quite.

TEHO

Something is up.

ERASMUS

There certainly is.

LECK

I wonder what.

HOOT

I'll have a go at it. Let me see if I can find out.

Hoot takes off and flies to the railing by the bedroom window.

INT. SANTA'S BEDROOM

Still a bit pale from his ordeal, Santa's lies in bed propped up on pillow. Mrs. Claus pours Santa a cup of tea and points to a tray with cookies a tea pot and several cups.

MRS. CLAUS

I made enough for all of us.

Though Twister is tempted, Our Trio shakes their head no. They shuffle their feet. Their eyes dart about the room looking at everything but Santa and Mrs. Claus. After an awkward moment ...

Santa adjusts his spectacles and he and Mrs. Claus share a puzzled look. Then they fix their eyes on ...

Starlight who looks up at Santa, catches his glance and looks down at her feet.

STARLIGHT

I don't know how to say this. I don't know how to begin.

SANTA

Didn't you enjoy your adventure?

OUR TRIO AS ONE

Oh, no. We mean yes.

Twinkle wraps her arms around herself.

TWINKLE

It was wonderful.

TWISTER

I flew because of you.

Santa turns in his bed and looks directly at Starlight

SANTA

But, you? Did you have problems? Did you get lost?

Santa pauses and in sudden burst of inspiration.

SANTA (CONT)

Oh . . . Let me guess. It was Rudolph. Wasn't it.

(Starlight puzzled)

He did that near miss thing. Didn't he?

Twinkle, Twister and Starlight are confused.

STARLIGHT

I don't understand. Near miss thing?

Santa looks up at Mrs. Claus and they both laugh.

SANTA

It's one of his favorite tricks. His first dive is usually at the Taj Mahal. Then near misses at Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Eiffel Tower and the torch of the Statue of Liberty. Sorry, I should have warned you. Scared you didn't he?

(Our Trio nods)

Well, he scares me too. I'll be sure to punish him when I . . .

TWISTER

Oh, no. No. Rudolph never aimed at the Tower of Pisa. . . but did I tell you about the pizza?

SANTA

The food was scrumptious and wonderful, wasn't it.

Twister and Santa rub their tummies. But the moment of levity passes quickly. Our Trio's faces change from smiles to angst in a beat. Santa picks up on the change immediately.

SANTA (CONT)

I am confused. You traveled a beautiful, brand new world. Saw real boys and girls. Heck, you even got pizza. How good is that? So what seems to be the problem?

Santa looks directly at Starlight.

SANTA

Well, Starlight you seem to be the spokesman for your group. Please tell me what's bothering you.

Starlight looks to Twinkle and Twister for a little support. They smile encouragement, but she is on her own. Gingerly she approaches Santa's bed.

STARLIGHT

The trip was wonderful. We saw so many incredible things. Now I know what a volcano looks like and. . .

SANTA

(in a stern tone)

Starlight, you're avoiding my question.

And out it comes just like a volcano spewing lava. . . NOT ONE BREATH is taken.

STARLIGHT

Everything was fine until I met Butch the Brat. Then Twister and Twinkle told me they'd already heard other children say the same thing and Butch yanked his little sisters arm and . . . and . . .

Starlight sticks out her tongue, puts her thumb her nose, wiggles and flicks her fingers making the Pffff ttt gesture and says

STARLIGHT

Pffff ttt. He said Pffff ttt to Santa. He said you are a fraud. You're pretend. Butch said a whole bunch of kid's don't believe in you. I . . . I . . . got so mad. I . . .

Twinkle and Twister come to Starlight's support.

TWINKLE

I heard some children say the same thing.

TWISTER

Me too, Santa. They said you were make-believe.

Santa looks at Mrs. Claus there's a long pause and then they both laugh. Santa coughs then laughs some more. `

Our Trio is shocked. This is NO laughing matter.

SANTA
Oh, we know that,
(to Mrs. Claus)
Don't we dear.

MRS. CLAUS
Yes, we do.

Emoting a bit, Santa takes a long dramatic look at Twinkle, Twister and Starlight in turn.

SANTA
In fact, lots of folks don't believe in elves either!

Santa LAUGHS LOUDLY. None of our Trio think it's funny

OUR TRIO
What?

TWISTER
(indignant)
Then why did we fly around the around the world
in the middle of the night?

TWINKLE
And climb down chimneys, through windows and
into igloos, teepees, and little grass shacks?

STARLIGHT
And why do we spend all year creating toys
for them?

Color slowly returns to Santa's face. He smiles and takes Mrs. Claus's hand.

SANTA
Ah, my friends don't you see? It's the giving
that is important. It's the giving that I enjoy.
Giving is what we all should enjoy.

Santa taps Mrs. Claus's hand and takes an all encompassing look at Our Trio.

SANTA (CONT)

And it doesn't matter if children believe in
YOU or ME.

(a beat)

As long as we believe in them and all that
they can grow to be.

Our Trio stands in SILENCE. Exchanging looks. Digesting Santa's comments.

SANTA (CONT)

I believed in you, didn't I. And you did a fantastic
job. . . In fact, NEXT Christmas Eve. . . If you haven't
made other plans . . . I could use a little help. How
would you like to join me on my sleigh?

It takes less than second for Our Trio to absorb the last remarks,
but when they do. . .

Twister leaps into the air and does a somersault

Twinkles beautiful green, purple eyes flash. And

Starlight starts singing the first verse of "Flying High"

STARLIGHT

We'd be off again.

TWISTER AND STARLIGHT

We'd be FLYING high.

TWINKLE, TWISTER AND STARLIGHT

We'd be off, off . . . into a star lit sky.

FADE OUT:

THE END