



**Sample Pages from
A Kidnapped Santa Claus**

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A KIDNAPPED SANTA CLAUS

adapted by
Mrs. Evelyn Merritt
from
L. Frank Baum



A Kidnapped Santa Claus

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Characters

3M+5W+5 Either, Plus ensemble

Santa

Two Narrators: Nyx and Bliss (2f)

Peter, Nutter, Wisk, Kilter – Elves (2f/2m)

Fairy Queen

Cave Demons: Selfishness, Hate, Malice, Envy, Regret (Either gender)

Elf Ensemble

Wildflower Ensemble

NOTE: The Demons should be more goofy than scary. Remember the audience!

Set

Demon Cave Area: Far stage left.

Santa's Village Area: Centre stage and upstage.

Santa's Sleigh: Downstage centre.

Fairy Queen Bower: Downstage centre.

Area for Bliss and Nyx: A podium far stage right.

The main curtains are closed or the lights are off. A short curtain or flat sits far downstage right. If it's a curtain, have two actors hold it up. In front of the curtain/flat an oversized storybook lies on the ground. Beside the curtain there is a podium. From behind the flat two small puppets appear and pose on top. These are fairies NYX and BLISS. They speak to the audience.

NYX: (as puppet) Hello!

BLISS: (as puppet) Hello!

NYX: It's so super-gran-tast-bulous to see you!

BLISS: We are so excited-bursited-zan-mited to be here! But...

BOTH: We need your help!

NYX: We have such a great story to tell you.

BLISS: An awe-culous-mir-deful story to tell you.

NYX: (referring to the book on the floor) It's in that book...

BOTH: Right down here.

BLISS: This story is the best! It's about...

BOTH: Santa Claus! Yay, Santa! Go, Santa!

NYX: But the book is too heavy.

BLISS: And we are too small.

NYX: We need a spell.

BLISS: So we can grow big.

NYX: And lift the book.

BLISS: And tell you an amaze-tastic-zingly great story about Santa Claus.

BOTH: Yay Santa!

NYX: Soooooo,

BOTH: Here's what we need.

NYX: (*moving to the left*) This side of the room, you're going to shout out, "Holly and Ivy!" Say it nice and loud.

BOTH: (*with everyone*) Holly and Ivy!

BLISS: (*moving to right*) And this side of the room, you're going to shout out, "Candy Cane!" Say it nice and loud.

BOTH: (*with everyone*) Candy Cane!

NYX: My side. Holly and Ivy!

BLISS: Now mine. Candy Cane!

NYX: Holly and Ivy!

BLISS: Candy Cane!

NYX: Holly and Ivy!

BLISS: Candy Cane!

NYX: Now everyone needs to slap their knees and say, "Ho!"
(*everyone slaps their knees*) Ho!

BLISS: Clap your hands and say, "Ho!" (*everyone claps their hands*) Ho!

BOTH: Throw your arms in the air and say, "Ho!" (*everyone raises their arms in the air*) Ho!

NYX: Now one right after the other.

BOTH: (*with audience doing actions*) Ho! Ho! Ho!

BLISS: Again! (*with audience doing actions*) Ho! Ho! Ho!

NYX: Last part.

BOTH: Repeat after us. Christmas cracker, Christmas tree... (*they repeat this with the audience*) Grow these Fairies one, two, three! (*they repeat this with the audience*) Again! (*with audience*) Christmas cracker, Christmas tree, grow these Fairies, one, two, three!

Lights flash, music plays, twinkly bells chime. The two puppets disappear behind the curtain/flat, and NYX and BLISS enter, full-sized. They dance about as they recite their poem. (From A Catch By The Hearth.)

BOTH: Sing we all merrily, Christmas is here!
 The day that we love best of days in the year.
 Bring forth the holly, the box and the bay.
 Deck out our cottage for glad Christmas day.
 Sing hey! Sing hey! For Christmas day.
 Twine mistletoe and holly.
 For friendship flows in winter snows,
 And so let's all be jolly!

They give a shout of glee and hug each other.

BLISS: (*stepping back, with a gasp*) Nyxie, we almost forgot!

NYX: What?

BLISS: The book!

NYX: The book!

BOTH: (*pointing at the book*) The book!

They run and get the book. They lift it up and put it on the podium.

NYX: Thank you so much for that spell my friends.

BLISS: We never would have been able to lift this book in our normal size.

NYX: And we'd never be able to tell you a story!

BLISS: This book is filled with stories about Santa Claus.

NYX: Bliss, I'm so de-joy-light-oric! Which story shall we tell?

BLISS: (*jumping up and down*) I know, I know, I know!

NYX: What?

BLISS: (*gesturing to the audience*) Let's have our friends choose.

NYX: Awe-ific idea!

BLISS moves out into the audience as she speaks.

BLISS: My friends, my cool-ific friends, I am looking for a super-except-duponal someone who has a birthday today, or tomorrow, or soon... Birthday, birthday, who has a birthday, who has a birthday? (*she chooses an audience member and gets them to stand up. She asks their name.*) Happy Birthday!

NYX: Everyone repeat after us: Happy, happy, happy, happy!

BOTH: (*with audience*) Happy, happy, happy, happy!

NYX: Birthday today! Birthday today!

BOTH: (*with audience*) Birthday today! Birthday today!

BLISS: (*to the chosen audience member*) Pick a number between one and fifty. Any number...

NYX: What is it, Bliss?

BLISS: Twenty-six! (*whatever number the chosen audience member says*)

NYX: Twenty-six!

BLISS: (*running back to the stage*) Twenty-six!

NYX: (*turning pages*) Page Twenty-six...

BLISS: What's the story? What is it, Nyx?

NYX: I got it, I got it!

BOTH: A Kidnapped Santa!

NYX: (*to audience member*) You're so smart.

BLISS: How did you know that was the story we wanted to tell?

They both clear their throats.

NYX: A Kidnapped Santa.

BLISS: By Frank L. Baum.

The curtains open (or the lights come up) revealing SANTA and the ELVES working away. SANTA sits at a big desk looking over a long list that spills out over the desk and onto the floor. The ELVES move all about the space. Some are assembling toys. Some carry wrapped presents. Some carry toys that they show to SANTA.

ELVES: Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy, we can be!
 Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy, we can be!

PETER: I'm so happy I have to wave my arms.

BLISS & NYX: He's so happy he has to wave his arms.

ELVES: We're so happy we have to wave our arms!

PETER: *(to audience)* Will you wave your arms with me?

ELVES: *(waving arms)* Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Waving arms is fun you see!
 Oh how happy we can be!

WISK: I'm so happy I have to shake my legs.

BLISS & NYX: She's so happy she has to shake her legs.

ELVES: We're so happy we have to shake our legs!

WISK: *(to audience)* Will you shake your legs with me?

ELVES: *(shaking legs)* Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Shaking legs is fun you see!
 Oh how happy we can be!

NUTTER & KILTER: I'm so happy I have to shout Hooray!

BLISS & NYX: They're so happy they have to shout Hooray!

ELVES: We're so happy we have to shout Hooray!

NUTTER & KILTER: (*to audience*) Will you shout Hooray with me?

ALL: Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

ELVES: Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ha! Ha! Hee!

Shouting out is fun you see!

Oh how happy we can be!

SANTA: (*standing*) I'm so happy I get to make toys.

PETER, NUTTER, WISK, KILTER: Santa's so happy, he gets to make toys.

All the ELVES scramble to form a line. As they chant, a toy gets passed down the line and ends up in SANTA's hands.

ELVES: We're so happy we get to make toys!

Making toys for girls and boys!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ha! Ha! Hee!

Making toys is fun you see.

Oh how happy we can be!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ha! Ha! Hee!

Oh how happy we can be!

The ELVES cheer. Everyone returns to work. PETER, WISK, NUTTER, and KILTER stand before SANTA.

SANTA: Oh ho my friends! What fun it is making toys with you. Ho! Ho! Ho! I can't stop laughing.

PETER, NUTTER, KILTER, WISK: Neither can we! Ho! Ho! Ho!

SANTA: Peter, will we be ready?

PETER: Everything is right on schedule, Santa!

KILTER: We'll totally be ready for Christmas Eve.

WISK: No problem!

NUTTER: (*consulting his clipboard*) Santa!

SANTA: Yes, Nutter?

NUTTER: It's break time.

SANTA: Wonderful!

NUTTER: *(blows a whistle)* Hot Chocolate Break!

The ELVES cheer and throw their hands in the air.

ELVES: Hooray! Hot Chocolate!

WISK: Can we have gingerbread too, Santa?

SANTA: Gingerbread for everybody!

ELVES: Hooray!

The ELVES follow NUTTER off. SANTA returns to his desk.

BLISS: That looks like so much won-ovy-icious fun!

NYX: You would think Santa wouldn't have a care in the world.

BLISS: Not a care!

NYX: You wouldn't think Santa would have an enemy in all the world.

BLISS: *(scratching her head)* What's an enemy?

NYX: *(to the audience)* Who can tell me what an enemy is? *(listens for the answer)* That's right, an enemy is someone who doesn't like another someone very much.

BLISS: Who doesn't like Santa? *(to audience)* Do you like Santa? Me too!

NYX: Who could be Santa's enemy? Who?

The DEMONS enter through the back of the space and make their way to the stage. They run around, shouting, snorting, and making lots of noise. When they get on stage, they pose in the CAVE area on the opposite side of the stage from NYX and BLISS.

*There are five DEMONS: SELFISHNESS, ENVY,
HATE, MALICE and REGRET.*

DEMONS: We hate Santa!

BLISS & NYX: Oh oh.

NYX: (*turning a page in the big book*) Who are these smelly creatures?

MALICE: Hey!

HATE: Who you calling smelly?

The CAVE DEMONS take a big sniff of each other.

ENVY: We smell great.

BLISS: These are the cave demons.

DEMONS: (*they pose*) Arrrrrrgh! Snort!

NYX: They live inside the mountain, as deep and dark as you can go.

BLISS: There's Selfishness.

*Each DEMON does their own pose as they are
named.*

SELFISHNESS: Gimme, gimme!

NYX: And Envy.

ENVY: (*sing song*) Green-eye, green eye...

BLISS: Hate.

HATE: Grrrrrrrr.

NYX: Malice.

MALICE: Grudgy, grudge, grudge!

BLISS: And Regret.

REGRET: Oooooohhhhh no...

NYX: (*holding her nose*) I sure regret seeing, and smelling these
demons.

BLISS: *(to audience)* These are the bad guys.

DEMONS: *(posing)* That's right!

NYX: *(to the audience)* We should boo them, don't you think?

BLISS: Great idea!

DEMONS: Go ahead.

HATE: We dare you to boo us!

BLISS: Let's show the cave demons how we feel about bad guys.

BOTH: *(with audience)* Booooooooooooo. *(they encourage the audience to do a 'thumbs down' gesture)* Booooooooooooo.

NYX: Nice work everybody! *(calming the audience down)* Let's get on with the story.

BLISS: What are the cave demons going to do, Nyxie?

NYX: Turn the page and find out.

They turn the page. The DEMONS circle together.

MALICE: We need to have a meeting!

DEMONS: Meeting!

SELFISHNESS: A meeting about Santa Claus.

DEMONS: Argh! Gah!

HATE: I hate Santa!

ENVY: I hate him more than you!

REGRET: I'm sorry that I hate him, but I do too!

MALICE: Meeting of the cave demons, come to order!

They all snarl and snort and jump up and down.

MALICE: Is everybody here?

DEMONS: Argh! Oogh!

REGRET: I'm here too.

MALICE: Nobody cares about you, Regret.

ENVY: (*shaking a fist*) Yeah!

SELFISHNESS: (*shaking a fist*) Phooey!

HATE: (*shaking a fist*) Grrrrrr.

REGRET: (*turning away*) I'll go away...

MALICE: No, no, you're here now. Maybe you can help. (*pacing*) We have HUGE problem in our lives. A big FAT problem. (*they laugh*)

REGRET: Oh. I'm sorry I laughed.

DEMONS: Santa Claus! Gah!

SELFISHNESS: He ruins everything.

HATE: Wrecks everything.

ENVY: A menace to society.

SELFISHNESS: (*stepping forward*) Gimme, gimme, gimme! No one comes to see me in the cave of selfishness.

DEMONS: The cave of selfishness!

SELFISHNESS: Gimme, gimme, gimme! Santa makes children all over the world happy and generous.

DEMONS: Bah!

SELFISHNESS: It's disgusting!

DEMONS: Gah!

SELFISHNESS: Gimme, gimme, gimme! I can't find one selfish kid. Not one! What's a demon to do? I'm twiddling my thumbs. They used to swarm my cave, I used to be swamped!

ENVY: Green-eye, green-eye! No one comes to see me in the cave of envy.

DEMONS: The cave of envy!

ENVY: Green-eye, green eye! Everyone loves Santa.

DEMONS: Bah!

ENVY: It's so hard to get kids worked up.

DEMONS: Gah!

ENVY: Green-eye, green-eye! I have to beg, "Come to my cave, it'll be fun." And nobody does.

SELFISHNESS: What's this world coming too?

HATE: Grrrrrrrrrrr. No one comes to see me in the cave of hate.

DEMONS: The cave of hate!

MALICE: Grudgy-grudge-grudge! The cave of malice is empty.

DEMONS: The cave of malice!

HATE: Grrrrrrrrrr. It's a waste of time getting up in the morning.

DEMONS: Bah!

HATE: Where are all the hateful kids?

DEMONS: Gah!

MALICE: Grudgy-grudge-grudge! No one wants to be mean!

HATE: It's awful!

SELFISHNESS: Horrible!

ENVY: The worst!

REGRET: Ohhhhhh no. I feel so sorry for you.

DEMONS: Bah!

REGRET: But if there's no selfishness...

SELFISHNESS: Gimme!

REGRET: Or Envy...

ENVY: Green-eye!

REGRET: Or Hate...

HATE: Grrrrrrrr.

REGRET: Or Malice...

MALICE: Grudgy-grudge-grudge.

REGRET: That means no one feels regret.

DEMONS: Gah!

REGRET: No visitors for me. I'm just as lonely as all of you.

OTHER DEMONS: Shut up, Regret!

REGRET: Sorry.

MALICE: It's all Santa Claus' fault.

HATE: I hate Santa!

SELFISHNESS: He ruins everything.

MALICE: Something must be done! Agreed?

DEMONS: Agreed!

REGRET: But what?

DEMONS: (*pacing*) Hmrrrrrrrrrr.

SELFISHNESS: He works all the time in that village.

HATE: All year!

ENVY: We need to get him out.

DEMONS: (*pacing*) Hmrrrrrrrrrr.

MALICE: (*getting an idea*) Ah ha! What if we tempt him?

DEMONS: Oh yes! Oh yes!

MALICE: We'll tempt him to our caves.

SELFISHNESS: We'll make him feel Selfishness!

ENVY: And Envy!

HATE: And Hate!

MALICE: And Malice!

REGRET: It's a good plan. I'm sure I'll regret it.

OTHER DEMONS: Shut up, Regret!

The DEMONS form a tight circle to form a plan.

NYX: That's nasty!

BLISS: It smells like a rotten egg.

NYX: No surprise there.

BLISS: *(to audience)* Let's show those demons how we feel about bad guys.

BOTH: *(with audience)* Booooooooooooo. *(they encourage the audience to do a 'thumbs down' gesture)* Booooooooooooo.

NYX: *(calming the audience)* Turn the page Bliss! Let's go on with the story.

BLISS: *(turning the page)* The demons began to scheme.

DEMONS: Scheme, scheme, scheme!

NYX: And plan.

DEMONS: Plan, plan, plan!

BLISS: I don't like those gros-elling-our demons.

DEMONS: *(jumping up and down)* Ah ha! Ah ha! Oh! *(they look around to see if anyone heard their plan)*

SELFISHNESS: Do you think anyone heard our scheming plan?

DEMONS: Naaaaaaaaah. *(the DEMONS laugh)*

BLISS & NYX: And the very next day...

The focus shifts back to SANTA. The ELVES enter, moving about the space with wrapped presents and toys.

ELVES: Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy we can be!
 Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy we can be!

KILTER: I'm so happy I have to wiggle!

BLISS & NYX: She's so happy she has to wiggle!

ELVES: We're so happy we have to wiggle!

KILTER: (*to audience*) Will you wiggle with me?

ELVES: (*as they wiggle*) Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Wiggling is fun you see.
 Oh how happy we can be!
 Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy we can be!

NUTTER: (*blowing a whistle*) Back to work, elves.

ELVES: Yay!

*The ELVES exit. SANTA continues to consult his list.
 As the ELVES exit, SELFISHNESS sneaks from the
 Cave Area and tiptoes up to SANTA.*

SELFISHNESS: Psssst. Psssst. Santa!

SANTA: (*looking up*) Who's there?

SELFISHNESS: (*circling SANTA*) Oh Santa. Those toys are wonderfully bright and pretty. Why do you not keep them for yourself? It's a pity to give them to those NOISY boys and girls, who BREAK and DESTROY the toys so quickly. Don't you want to say...
 (*jumping up and down*) Gimme, gimme, gimme!

SANTA: Never.

SELFISHNESS: Never?

SANTA: After they receive my presents, boys and girls are never noisy. They're happy.

SELFISHNESS: But never for long, Santa. It's all short-lived! Don't you want to say... (*jumping up and down*) Gimme, gimme, gimme!

SANTA: If I can make everyone happy for just one day that makes ME happy.

SELFISHNESS: Bah! Come on Santa. Be selfish! Say gimme!

SANTA: (*looking SELFISHNESS right in the eye*) Run along now.

SELFISHNESS: Gah!

SELFISHNESS stomps back over to the Cave area.

BLISS: Santa was not fooled by Selfishness' tricks at all.

NYX: Selfishness had to return to the mountain caves empty handed.

The DEMONS form a tight circle.

BLISS: So the demons began once again to scheme...

DEMONS: Scheme, scheme, scheme!

NYX: And plan...

DEMONS: Plan, plan, plan!

BLISS & NYX: And the very next day...

The ELVES enter.

ELVES: Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy we can be!
 Ho! Ho! Ho!
 Ha! Ha! Hee!
 Oh how happy we can be!

KILTER: (*running on stage*) Hey everybody, the train set department needs more help.

PETER: To the train sets!

ELVES: Yay!

The ELVES follow KILTER offstage as ENVY sneaks up on SANTA.

ENVY: Psssst. Psssst. Santa!

SANTA: Who's there?

ENVY: (*circling SANTA*) Santa! Old buddy, old pal, old chum. These toys. Do you think you're winning anyone over? The shops are FILLED with toys that are just as good! AND they make them quicker too, AND they make money. YOU get nothing. Doesn't it make you go, (*jumping up and down*) green-eye, green-eye, green-eye?

SANTA: Never.

ENVY: Never?

SANTA: I only give out toys once a year, true. There are so many children, and only one Santa. But I would never take money for my gifts. And the toy shops have their place.

ENVY: They do not!

SANTA: They have toys for the children all the other days of the year. I love the toy shops!

ENVY: Bah!

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho!

ENVY: Come on, Santa! Say green-eye!

SANTA: Run along now.

ENVY: Gah!

ENVY stomps back to the Cave area.

BLISS: Santa was not fooled by Envy's tricks at all.

NYX: Envy had to return to the mountain caves empty handed.

The DEMONS form a tight circle.

BLISS: So the demons began once again to scheme...

DEMONS: Scheme, scheme, scheme!

NYX: And plan...

DEMONS: Plan, plan, plan!

HATE: Grrrrrrr. I'll get that Santa hopping mad.

MALICE: And I will make him want to enact revenge.

HATE & MALICE: Watch us!

BLISS & NYX: And the very next day...

HATE and MALICE sneak over to SANTA, who is going over his list.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! This is going to be a happy, happy Christmas.
There are so many good boys and girls in the world this year.
Ho, ho, ho!

HATE & MALICE: Good morning, Santa!

SANTA: Why, good morning.

HATE: Grrrrrrr Santa, I have bad news for you.

SANTA: Then you should run along. Bad news is something kept secret and never told.

MALICE: You cannot escape, Santa!

SANTA: Oh no?

MALICE: There are so many who do not believe in Santa Claus!

HATE & MALICE: Ha, ha!

SANTA: Is that so?

HATE: It must make you angry!

MALICE: Boil inside!

HATE: Hate those who do not believe!

MALICE: Take revenge on them all!

SANTA: (*shaking his head*) Ho, ho, ho!

HATE: Let your hate fly out!

MALICE: You know you want to.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! Stuff and rubbish.

HATE: It's easy! Watch. (*HATE moves downstage and does the dance of rage*) Grrrrr, grr! Grrrrr, grr! (*HATE stomps his feet and shakes his fists at the sky*) Hate, hate, hate! It feels great. (*he moves in a circle as if having a temper tantrum*) Hate the world! Hate the sky! Hate the ground and apple pie. (*HATE stomps his feet and shakes his fists at the sky*) Hate, hate, hate! It feels great!

NYX: He is so hor-beast-some nasty.

BLISS: (*to the audience*) Let's show them how we feel about bad guys.

BOTH: (*with audience*) Booooooooooooo. (*they encourage the audience to do a 'thumbs down' gesture*) Booooooooooooo.

HATE: (*to the audience*) Bah! Gah!

MALICE: (*stepping forward*) But wait there's more! (*moving to SANTA*) There are those who resent you, Santa, for making the kiddies so happy. They sneer at you.

HATE: Listen...

MALICE: (*sneering*) Santa sucks!

HATE: Santa sucks!

HATE & MALICE: Santa sucks!

HATE: Hate those mud-slingers!

MALICE: Take revenge!

HATE & MALICE: Do it, do it, do it!!

SANTA: Never!

HATE & MALICE: Never.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho!

HATE & MALICE: Ho, ho... ho?

SANTA: I don't hate anyone.

MALICE: But they're so mean...

HATE: Filled with hate...

SANTA: They do me no harm.

MALICE & HATE: They don't?

SANTA: They only make themselves unhappy.

MALICE & HATE: They do?

SANTA: (*shaking his head*) Poor things.

HATE: (*pouting*) Yeah...

MALICE: (*pouting*) Poor things...

SANTA: Run along now you two.

HATE: Bah!

SANTA: We're getting down to the wire around here! Ho, ho, ho!

MALICE: Gah!

HATE and MALICE stomp back over to the Cave area.

BLISS: Santa was not fooled by their tricks at all.

NYX: Hate and Malice had to return to the mountain caves empty-handed.

SELFISHNESS: Well? Well?

HATE: Grrrrrrrr.

MALICE: Grudgy, grudge, grudge!

REGRET: Aww, that's too bad.

OTHER DEMONS: Shut up!

REGRET: Sorry.

ENVY: If we can't tempt Santa, then what?

DEMONS: (*pacing*) Hm m m m m m m m m.

HATE: Ah ha!

OTHER DEMONS: What?

HATE: We'll take him by force!

SELFISHNESS: How?

REGRET: He's always protected.

SELFISHNESS: He never leaves home.

MALICE: There's one night Santa leaves his happy home... (*the others shake their heads, they don't have a clue*) Christmas... Eve?

DEMONS: Christmas Eve!

The DEMONS laugh and jump up and down.

MALICE: Christmas Eve, driving his reindeer out into the world,

HATE: Sleigh filled with toys,

ENVY: For the rotten little children.

The DEMONS laugh and snort meanly.

MALICE: That's our ticket to Santa!

The DEMONS move to form a tight circle.

NYX: Gross-otten-olting!

BLISS: (*to audience*) Let's show those demons how we feel about bad guys.

BOTH: (*with audience*) Booooooooooooo. (*they encourage the audience to do a 'thumbs down' gesture*) Booooooooooooo.

DEMONS: *(turning to the audience)* Shut up! *(they turn back to their circle.)*

NYX: *(turning a page in the book)* Christmas Eve came.

BLISS: The moon shone big and white in the sky.

NYX: And the snow lay crisp and sparkling on the ground.

BLISS: Time for Santa to fly into the night.

PETER, KILTER, NUTTER and WISK enter and move to SANTA.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho. How's the sleigh coming, Wisk?

WISK: Everything's ready, Santa.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! This is my favourite day of all the year.

KILTER: Ours too, Santa!

PETER: We can't wait!

NUTTER: *(holding up a thermos)* I've got the hot chocolate right here.

WISK: *(holding up a paper bag)* And I've got candy canes!

SANTA: What song shall we sing as we pack the toys?

PETER: Jingle Bells! *(pick any Christmas carol to sing)*

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! *(to the audience)* Join us! Everybody sing along!

SANTA and the ELVES sing as the following takes place. SANTA and the four main ELVES move forward. They move two cubes downstage centre to represent the sleigh. They also move a large box into place behind the cubes. All the ELVES enter with bags of toys. They place the bags in the box. At the end of the song, SANTA sits on the cube (he's in the sleigh) and PETER, NUTTER, KILTER and WISK stand beside the sleigh. The other ELVES exit.

SANTA: *(to audience)* Thank you friends! That was fun. *(to the four)* It's going to be a busy night.

FOUR ELVES: We're at your service!

SANTA: You better get yourselves under the seat. I wouldn't want you to blow away!

One by one the FOUR ELVES move to stand behind the box.

PETER: Ready!

KILTER: Ready!

WISK: Ready!

NUTTER: Hot chocolate ready!

SANTA: Everyone in place?

FOUR ELVES: Ready, Santa! *(they hide behind the box)*

SANTA: *(mimes picking up the reigns)* One, two, three, and away! *(He flicks the reigns and the reindeer take off. SANTA mimes driving the sleigh.)* Ho! Ho! Ho!

BLISS & NYX: There goes Santa!

NYX: Up goes the sleigh!

BLISS: Up into the sky!

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho!

BLISS & NYX: There goes Santa!

BLISS: Off to deliver presents,

NYX: To all the boys and girls!

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!

BLISS & NYX: What could go wrong?

The DEMONS enter, laughing and snorting.

BLISS: *(turning a page)* There on the mountain.

NYX: The Demons lie in wait.

The DEMONS laugh and jump up and down. They drag a long rope on from offstage.

DEMONS: Plan, plan, plan! Scheme, scheme, scheme!

BLISS & NYX: Boooooooooooooo!

DEMONS: Shut up!

BLISS: The Demons put their awful plan into action.

MALICE: Ready?

ENVY: Ready!

HATE: Throw the rope.

REGRET: I'm sure I'm going to regret this, but here goes!

DEMONS: One, two, three!

As they 'throw' the rope, REGRET carries it cross the stage and winds it around SANTA.

MALICE: Into the sky!

SELFISHNESS: Through the moonlight!

ENVY: Catch us a big fat man!

DEMONS: Catch us Santa!

SANTA: What's this?

DEMONS: Catch us Santa, quick!

SANTA: What's this?

HATE: Pull! Pull!

REGRET pulls on the rope, dragging SANTA out of the 'sleigh' and across the stage to the Cave Area.

SANTA: *(as he's pulled out of the sleigh)* Oh no!

ENVY: We got him!

SELFISHNESS: We got him!

*As REGRET pulls SANTA to the other DEMONS,
they take up the rope and continue to wind it around
SANTA.*

MALICE: Wind him up! Tie him up!

DEMONS: Wind him up! Tie him up!

*Once he's tied up, the DEMONS dance around
SANTA.*

ENVY: Ha ha! What will the children do now?

SELFISHNESS: No presents on Christmas morn.

REGRET: Not a one.

HATE: They will cry.

ENVY: Stamp and scold and storm.

MALICE: They will be punished!

HATE: Bad little boys and girls get nothing from Santa.

REGRET: Nothing in their stocking.

SELFISHNESS: Nothing under the trees.

HATE: Their parents will hate them!

MALICE: The kiddies will blame Santa!

DEMONS: Oh ho!

HATE: So many will come to our caves.

REGRET: Thousands for sure.

SELFISHNESS: They will be Selfish!

ENVY: And Envious!

HATE: And Hateful!

MALICE: And want Revenge!

DEMONS: Ha ha ho! Ha ha ho! We've beat Santa, we've beat Santa!

BLISS & NYX: Booooooooooooooooooooo!

*The DEMONS blow a raspberry at BLISS and NYX.
They take SANTA offstage.*

BLISS: Nyx, what's going to happen to Santa?

NYX: We have to turn the page to find out.

BLISS: But I'm soooooooooo afraid. What if those loath-aw-fensive demons win?

NYX: Don't worry, Bliss. It's a Santa story.

BLISS: Ok Nyx. Let's turn the page.

*NYX turns the page as NUTTER, PETER, KILTER
and WISK peek out from behind the box.*

PETER: Santa?

NUTTER: Santa?

WISK: Santa?

KILTER: Santa?

PETER: We haven't heard your booming laugh...?

NUTTER: Your cheery voice...?

KILTER: Your songs?

WISK: Your whistles?

KILTER: It's quiet...

FOUR ELVES: TOO QUIET.

WISK: (*looking around*) Where is he?

NUTTER: He's gone!

KILTER: Gone?

NUTTER: Gone!

PETER: Who's guiding the reindeer?

They look at each other and then out.

FOUR ELVES: Whoa!!!!!!!!!!!!

They lurch forward and then back as if the reindeer had suddenly stopped. They come out from behind the box and search around the sleigh.

KILTER: Where has Santa gone?

PETER: How long has it been?

WISK: What do we do?

PETER: (*looking behind*) Can you see back there?

WISK: Nothing but darkness.

PETER: We must go back.

NUTTER: No, no!

WISK: We have to!

PETER: We must find him!

NUTTER: If we go back, we'll run out of time! We won't be able to deliver the toys.

KILTER: No presents?

NUTTER: That would upset Santa most of all.

PETER: I'll bet some wicked creatures have captured him.

KILTER: Yes!

PETER: Wicked creatures who love unhappy children.

WISK: (*with a shiver*) Horrible.

NUTTER: You see? We must deliver the toys.

PETER: Santa would want that.

KILTER: But we've never done it alone.

WISK: Santa was always there.

KILTER: What if we make mistakes?

NUTTER: Then we make mistakes. If we never try, it'll be much, much worse.

PETER: And once we distribute the toys, we'll deal with those wicked creatures. What do you think?

WISK & KILTER: Let's do it!

They sit on the cubes. NUTTER mimes picking up the reins of the sleigh.

NUTTER: Come on, reindeer. Forward! Onward!

They lean forward as the reindeer start up.

FOUR ELVES: Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh!

They lean back as the reindeer head into the sky.

NUTTER: Here we go!

PETER: Over hill and valley!

KILTER: Through forest and plain!

WISK: Onward to Christmas morning!

NYX: Off went Peter and Kilter and Nutter and Wisk.

BLISS: Into the night delivering toys to the good girls and boys.

NYX: They did make some mistakes.

BLISS: Some BIG super-ific mistakes.

MARNIE enters.

NYX: Marnie Brown wanted a doll.

MARNIE: Dear Santa, please bring me a doll with curly brown hair and blue eyes and pretty clothes that I can dress her up in.

WISK runs over and gives a toy drum to MARNIE.

BLISS: And got a drum instead.

MARNIE: This isn't a doll.

MARNIE exits and CHARLIE enters.

NYX: Charlie Smith wanted rubber boots.

CHARLIE: Dear Santa, I love to go hiking in the woods and what I want more than anything in the world is some rubber boots to keep my feet dry.

KILTER runs over and gives a sewing kit to CHARLIE.

BLISS: But got a sewing box.

CHARLIE: Santa Claus sucks! (*exits*)

NYX: The elves tried their hardest.

BLISS: And they didn't make THAT many mistakes.

NYX: The sewing kit was a bad one.

BLISS: Onward into the night!

NYX: Until the dawn came creeping close...

WISK: Look! The sun is coming up.

NUTTER: (*with a yawn*) We're almost done.

KILTER: I think we'll make it.

PETER: We will, we will make it!

NUTTER: All the toys are gone?

PETER: Every one.

NUTTER: Let's go home.

WISK: We did it, we did it!

FOUR ELVES: Hooray!

NYX: (*turning a page in the book*) Christmas Day dawned bright and beautiful.

BLISS: The sleigh was put away, the deer went back to the stable.

NYX: And now it's time to figure out...

BOTH: What happened to Santa?

The FOUR ELVES get out of the sleigh and start to pace up and down.

PETER: Where do we start?

KILTER: What do we do?

WISK: I know, I know!

OTHER ELVES: What?

WISK: I'll fly to the Fairy Queen. She sees all. She'll know.

KILTER: Great idea!

NUTTER: Fly Wisk, fly!

WISK: *(to the audience)* Will you help me? I need a strong wind to carry me to the Fairy Queen's bower.

NYX & BLISS: We'll all help! *(to audience)* Won't we.

WISK: Great! We need to start up a wind and then keep it going.

NYX: First, everyone needs to put their palms together with your fingers up. *(demonstrates)*

BLISS: And then rub your hands together. That'll start the wind.

WISK: Ready? Everybody rub your hands together...

They demonstrate.

WISK: It's working, I can feel it!

NYX: Now we need to keep the wind in the air.

BLISS: Everybody look up,

WISK: Take a deep breath in,

ALL THREE: And blow!

All blow and encourage the audience to do so. WISK starts to dance as if being swayed by the wind.

WISK: (*dancing*) Again!

NYX: Deep breath in and blow!

All blow and encourage the audience to do so. WISK starts to move.

WISK: Here I go!

PETER, NUTTER, & KILTER: Bye Wisk!

WISK moves out into the audience. She is going to move up and around the audience and come back to the stage on the other side. As she moves, PETER, NUTTER, and KILTER move the sleigh cubes offstage.

NYX: Keep going, everybody. Deep breath in and blow! (*they blow out*)

WISK: (*from the back of the audience.*) Nyx and Bliss! There's a dip down here. Start another wind!

BLISS: Everyone put your palms together. (*they demonstrate*) Rub your hands. (*they demonstrate*)

NYX: Build the wind.

NYX & BLISS: Deep breath in and blow!

Everyone takes a deep breath in and blows out.

WISK: I got it!

NYX & BLISS: Deep breath in and blow!

WISK comes up on the other side of the stage.

BLISS: (*turning a page in the book*) Wisk flew fast and furious. In no time at all she was at the bower of the Fairy Queen.

WISK: Fairy Queen? Fairy Queen! Where are you?



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