

Kringle Returns

A gritty reboot of the Rankin & Bass Cinematic Universe by
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INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - ASSEMBLY LINE - NIGHT

THE VERY LAST PRESENT makes its way down a conveyor belt, being wrapped and ribboned by ELF HANDS. As it reaches the end of the belt, it dumps into a large bag filled with presents.

A WHISTLE BLOWS. An old timer, WILLOUGHBY, yells out.

WILLOUGHBY
Closing time!

WORKER ELVES, some covered in soot, some with injured hands and makeshift crutches, all looking in various states of exhaustion, hop to their feet, excited to be heading home.

As they do... they start to SING a **CHRISTMAS EVE SONG...**

ALL
THAT CHRISTMAS EVE WHISTLE IS
BLOWIN' /
THE SNOW OUTSIDE IS A-SNOWIN' /
THE TOYS HAVE BEEN MADE /
THE PRESENTS BEEN WRAPPED /
AND THE ELVES CAN FINALLY GET
PAAAAAID! /

Meanwhile... THEOBALD, balding, stodgy, almost perfectly round stands by the enormous industrial doors out of the factory, looking imperious. He's the workshop foreman, a hard job he's fought hard to get. No nonsense.

THEOBALD
Torstein?

He looks to TORSTEIN, a big strong viking of an elf, who swings the factory doors wide open. Snow begins blowing in.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COURTYARD - NIGHT

ELVES pour out of the workshop into a courtyard where a bronze statue of SAINT NICK (you may know him as Santa Claus) stands, larger than life. He looks jolly and noble, the statue posed as though handing out gifts to some eager children.

ALL
WHICH MEANS THAT /
CHRISTMAS EVE IS FINALLY HERE /
IT'S THE GREATEST NIGHT OF THE
YEAR /

EXT. COBBLE STONE STREET - NIGHT

Theobald makes his way down the street, the entire North Pole, a soot-covered little factory town, is abuzz with the excitement of Christmas Eve. Trees twinkle in windows, Elves bustle about with presents...

ALL
THE STOCKINGS ARE READY FOR
STUFFING/
THE TREES ARE NO LONGER BARE/
EVERYTHING'S READY FOR CHRISTMAS/

EXT. CHRISTMAS SQUARE - NIGHT

The square is covered in falling snow, brightly lit by gas lamps flickering overhead. Christmas decorations hang from every quaint little window and lamppost.

ALL
WHICH MEANS THAT/
CHRISTMAS EVE IS FINALLY HERE/
IT'S THE GREATEST NIGHT OF THE
YEAR/

RAISE A GLASS
(GET SOME ASS!)

CHRISTMAS EVE IS FINALLY HERE/
IT'S THE GREATEST NIGHT OF THE
YEAR/

HANG SOME HOLLY
GET YOURSELF JOLLY

CHRISTMAS EVE IS FINALLY HERE/
IT'S THE GREATEST NIGHT OF THE
YEAR/

SHARE A KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE
OR DO A LITTLE BIT MORE,
NOBODY WILL KNOW!/
/

CHRISTMAS EVE IS FINALLY HERE/
IT'S THE GREATEST NIGHT OF THE
YEAR/

The song winds down as Theobald nears the large stage set up in the middle of the square, where he meets his wife SARA (the kinder, gentler parent of the two) who has to lean way over for him to be able to give her a smooch.

THEOBALD

Where's Alba?

SARA

Oh she's down at the northern lights.

THEOBALD

The pub!

SARA

Fixing a tap for Hans.

ALBA, a scrappy young lady, appears in the crowd, waving to her parents. She's inquisitive, bright-eyed, and a natural born tinkerer. Always fixing things.

ALBA

Dad, hi!

She runs over, covered in dirt and grime.

THEOBALD

Cutting it close.

SARA

You just made it in time!

Alba sits. She looks out at the crowded square.

There's a gasp, a cheer from the crowd as a SLEIGH appears... pulled by EIGHT REINDEER.

ALBA

There he is! It's St. Nick!

The crowd becomes electric as down below... THE BOOMING LAUGH of SAINT NICK ho-ho-ho-ing echoes off the buildings. He waves up to the crowd, dressed in his usual red and white fur-lined uniform.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S SLEIGH - MOMENTS LATER

FINNEAS QUARK, a crotchety old reindeer rider and trainer, barks orders to the rest of his STABLE ELVES as they grab for the reindeer.

FINNEAS

Grabber Olly!

(taking Dasher's reins)

Easy there Dasher!

Saint Nick towers over the elves, a looming, impossibly important figure. Larger than life, louder than everyone else, he's a powerful force of a man. Picture a viking elder who's spent his whole life in the snowy tundra with nothing but egg nog and reindeer games to entertain him.

SAINT NICK
(a booming greeting)
Finneas.

Finneas offers his hand up to Saint Nick, who takes it as he makes his way down off the sleigh. Finneas has known him for years now, but that doesn't mean he isn't a little afraid of the big boss (everyone is).

FINNEAS
Nick. Merry Christmas.

SAINT NICK
Merry Christmas to you.
(to the crowd)
Merry Christmas to all!

He waves to the crowd, who cheer. The atmosphere is electric as Saint Nick makes his way to the stage, shaking hands.

OLLY, Finneas' son, a skinny boy who means well but isn't the brightest, massages Prancer's haunches.

He looks up to the stands, spotting Alba, who waves.

ALBA
Look, Olly!
(waving)
Heya Olly!

Olly waves as Prancer bites the back of his neck. He jumps.

OLLY
Ow! Prancer!

Alba LAUGHS as he sheepishly returns to work.

EXT. THE MAIN STAGE - CHRISTMAS SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick gets to the stage stairs, flanked by two enchanted SNOWMEN in the dark blues and silvers of the North Pole Snowguard uniforms -- the North Pole's equivalent of the police. They wear red & white striped nightsticks on their belts: "*candy canes.*"

SAINT NICK
Sleet, Merry Christmas.

SLEET, an angular, thin snowman patrolman salutes with his twiggy branch arm.

SLEET
Merry Christmas, sir.

Nick turns to the second, large, round snowman who has a bright coal smile.

SAINT NICK
I don't believe we've met.

FROSTY
Frosty, sir.

He salutes, going to attention.

SAINT NICK
Merry Christmas. Thanks for joining
the snowguard.

FROSTY
It's an honor, sir.

Saint Nick pats him on the shoulder, smiling. He heads up to the stage, waving to the crowd. Frosty's touched. It's like having the president tap you on the shoulder.

SLEET
(so jealous)
Warm hands?

EXT. ANNOUNCER'S TABLE - OFF TO THE SIDE - MOMENTS LATER

A large broadcast table is set for two radio announcers.

TWO CARIBOU, GARY & HANK, wear large headsets over their antlers, speaking into microphones, commentating on the glorious opening ceremonies of CHRISTMAS EVE!

GARY THE CARIBOU
Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to
another Christmas Eve Celebration!

HANK THE CARIBOU
We're going to dive right in, with
Saint Nick's Christmas Eve speech.

EXT. THE MAIN STAGE - CHRISTMAS SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Saint Nick looks out to the sea of happy (but tired) elf faces.

SAINT NICK

My friends, I want to thank you all for your hard work, making toys to bring joy to the children of the world. Now, to the most important part of the evening! Theobald?

Sara shoves Theo (who's kind of shy) up out of his seat. He stuffs his hat onto his head as he makes his way over to the microphone.

GARY THE CARIBOU

Here's Theobald, the workshop foreman, with this year's Christmas bonuses.

Saint Nick steps aside as Theobald lowers the mic significantly. He clears his throat.

THEOBALD

Ahem. Well, um, it's that time.

He checks his notes.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)

First of all, with the most toys in a year, at thirty two thousand three hundred seven, Torstein! Come up here!

Torstein (the viking of an elf who opened the factory doors) pumps his hands in the air as he comes up to the stage.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)

That's five hundred dollars in credit, so that's a whole lot of cocoa!

He shakes Torstein's hand.

TORSTEIN

I ain't gonna be drinking cocoa, if you know what I mean! Have one ready for me, Hans!

He waves off to HANS, the local bartender, who waves back, as elves CHEER.

GARY THE CARIBOU

And we're going to put bonuses on hold for a moment.

HANK THE CARIBOU

It looks like Saint Nick is ready
to make his trip down with the
reindeer.

Saint Nick approaches the reindeer, all business.

FINNEAS

Alrighty, Nick, we're all ready for
ya.

Saint Nick makes his way up into his sleigh, waving to the
crowd. Their CHEERING drowns Finneas out as he hands Nick the
reins.

Olly hands Saint Nick a whip. Nick immediately cracks it
hard, across BLITZEN's back. He rears up in pain, sparking
the other reindeer to follow.

SAINT NICK

Fly!

The reindeer run, speeding up, as Nick whips them, calling
out with each stroke. Olly winces.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Now Dasher,
(crack!)
Now Dancer,
(crack!)
Now Prancer and Vixen!
(crack!)
On Comet!
(crack!)
On Cupid!
(crack!)
On Donner and Blitzen!

The stable elves bite their tongues as they watch the whip
crack across the backs of the reindeer.

The sled leaves the earth, flying up into the sky. Saint Nick
circles overhead, waving to the crowd below.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas to all! And to all
a good night!

And, just like that, he's away with a FLASH. Alba, watching
with Sara, looks up to her mom.

ALBA
(concerned)
He was really whipping the
reindeer.

SARA
Let's go meet your father.

They make their way through the crowd.

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - NIGHT

Finneas, Olly, and a few other STABLE ELVES haul reins and
reindeer equipment back towards the stables.

Finneas takes a swig from a flask, which he passes along.

OLLY
Saint Nick was going a little hard
on the reindeer.

FINNEAS
Mm.

OLLY
Doesn't really need to whip 'em
like that.

FINNEAS
Listen, it's Christmas Eve. Let's
not talk work, son.

He tussles Olly's hair.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)
Proud of you this year. You're
coming into your own.

OLLY
Mean it?

FINNEAS
I do.

OLLY
What do you think Mom's got
cooking?

FINNEAS
Not sure. Have her save some for
me, will ya?

OLLY

Oh. Sure.

Finneas hands his things over to Olly.

FINNEAS

Close up the stables for me.

Finneas turns to the other STABLE ELVES.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

To the Northern Lights! First
round's on me!

They CHEER. A couple hold up flasks.

They're off. Olly hauls things up the hill back to the
stables through the snow by himself.

EXT. TINSEL ALLEY - NIGHT

Alba and her parents walk down a quiet street. The houses are
poor, nothing special, but well taken care of and loved. She
is excited, bubbling over.

ALBA

Dad, did you get to talk to Saint
Nick about getting me working in
the machine shop?

THEOBALD

It's Christmas Eve Alba, it's the
busiest day of the year.

ALBA

So... no?

THEOBALD

Alba, please.

He turns up towards their home, a little blue Victorian with
sugarplums growing in the garden.

SARA

Your father is very tired.

Theobald opens the front door and COPERNICUS, the family
seal, jumps up onto his chest, surprising him.

ALBA

Copernicus!

The seal BARKS raspily, waddling over towards her. The two play for a moment before her mother steps in.

SARA

Bed, now.

ALBA

Yes mother.

Alba heads up as Copernicus wheezes up at Sara.

SARA

Would you read to her, Theo, before you go out, or...?

THEOBALD

Can you?

She kisses him on the top of the head. Theo turns back down the walk. She stops just at the door frame and turns back.

SARA

Don't stay out too late, dear, your wife would like to see you.

THEOBALD

I'll try.

SARA

I know how you boys get on your night off.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alba's room is decorated with posters of LEONARDO DA VINCI, NIKOLAI TESLA, and HALVDAN NORTH, an elf inventor. She lays in bed, Sara sitting over her, reading from a large leather bound book.

SARA

... and Kris Kringle locked the Krampus away, deep under an everlasting fire, never to be freed again.

ALBA

There's no such thing as an everlasting fire.

SARA

This was a magical fire.

ALBA

Mom? Why is Santa sometimes called Saint Nick and sometimes called Kris Kringle? Why does he have so many names?

SARA

It's a mystery.

ALBA

Maybe there was more than one. Maybe Santa had a brother.

SARA

If he did it was a long time ago...

ALBA

(yawning)

Santa's brother Kris...

She tucks Alba in.

SARA

Goodnight sugarplum. Sleep well.

Alba rolls over, already fast asleep.

EXT. SNOWBANK - NIGHT

POLAR BEARS run along the drifts of snow, playing, as in the hills above, an ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN trudges alone.

INT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

The Northern Lights is crowded with WORKING ELVES, all with a tankard of nog in hand. They're SINGING and drunk.

The Elves sing A DRINKING SONG.

WORKING ELVES

THERE'S NO SLEEP ON CHRISTMAS EVE/
NOT FOR AN ELF LIKE ME/
'CAUSE I'M DRINKING TONIGHT AND I'M
DRINKING TOMORROW/
AND ANOTHER THREE HUNDRED SIXTY
THREE!

Theobald sings along. He sways with BEAR, a big elf who wears a miner's cap and soot on his face.

ELVES
DRINK DRINK DRINK TIL TOMORROW/
CAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE FOR ME/
NOG NOG NOG TIL TOMORROW/
WHEN WE FINALLY GET SOME SLEEP/

Finn, wasted, ducks outside.

EXT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - THE ALLEY - NIGHT

Finneas ducks out into the alleyway, throwing up in the snow.

SHADOWS tussle across his face, as he hears some scrabbling and yelling.

WILLOUGHBY (O.S.)
Lemme alone you!

Finneas looks down the alleyway to see Frosty and Sleet grabbing the old, drunk Willoughby.

SLEET
Hold him still. Hold him.

Frosty struggles to get Willoughby into a headlock.

SLEET (CONT'D)
Lights out, y'old bum!

Sleet pulls his "candy cane," thwacking Willoughby across the face. Willoughby spits blood and teeth down into the snow.

WILLOUGHBY
Help! Help!

He turns and sees Finneas, who sheepishly looks away, ducking back inside.

We can hear the elves inside still singing their DRINKING SONG.

ELVES (O.S.)
DRINK DRINK DRINK TIL TOMORROW/
CAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE FOR ME/
NOG NOG NOG TIL TOMORROW/
WHEN WE FINALLY GET SOME SLEEP/

EXT. THE NORTH SEA - NIGHT

Sleet and Frosty transport the passed out Willoughby on a little barge (pulled by walrus) towards a large imposing ice island prison: THE ISLAND.

INT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

The elves sway together, dancing, drunk and disheveled.

ELVES
DRINK DRINK DRINK/
TIL YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK/

DOCTOR JUNEAU, a clean cut, greying gentleman sits at a little table watching wistfully as his secretary MONA dances with another elf.

INT. THE ISLAND - THE HOLE - NIGHT

Frosty drags Willoughby through the long icy prison hallways, past a long shaft that goes straight down, miles deep into the ice and snow. Light doesn't reach the bottom.

ELVES (O.S.)
DRINK DRINK DRINK/
TIL EVERYTHING'S OKAY/
CAUSE TOMORROW'S ANOTHER
DAAAAYYYY!!!!

At the bottom of the hole, TWO EYES open, shining out of the darkness, staring up.

INT. THE ISLAND - WILLOUGHBY'S CELL - NIGHT

SNOWGUARD patrol the icy corridor of prison cells.

A Guard whistles as he goes down the line, his candy cane rapping against the bars past ELVES and the occasional POLAR BEAR or REINDEER.

Willoughby curls up on his bunk, a cough, a groan in pain.

SNOWGUARD
Quiet down in there!

He opens the cell door, brandishing his candy cane.

SNOWGUARD (CONT'D)
This is my cell block and I say
quiet!

He beats on Willoughby, who SCREAMS.

EXT. THE ISLAND - DAWN

The Island seems to drift away as the Northern Lights shine overhead, spinning and whirling in greens and purples. The sun rises over the horizon as WILLOUGHBY'S SCREAMS ring out.

Saint Nick's sleigh flies overhead.

INT. REINDEER STABLES - DAWN

The sleigh slides into the stables as the reindeer slow to a halt. They pant, exhausted, their hides are all whipped up. Saint Nick stands and stretches with a loud YAWN.

Olly places a little step-stool for Nick to climb down. A Couple STABLE ELVES help him down and start untying reindeer.

Olly delicately removes the reins from RUDOLPH in the lead. He's chafed, sore, in bad shape. It's sad.

OLLY

Here you go.

RUDOLPH

Oh it hurts.

A STABLE ELF removes BLITZEN's reins. He WHIMPERS, stamping his hind feet.

OLLY

Whoa there!

Blitzen kicks out, hitting the Stable Elf square in the jaw, knocking him unconscious. Olly grabs the reins, Blitzen bucking wildly.

OLLY (CONT'D)

Sedate him!

An Elf grabs a large needle, which he plunges into Blitzen's neck. The reindeer's eyes flutter as he turns to Olly.

BLITZEN

(apologetic)

I don't know what came over me.

He's out. The Stable Elves crowd around the injured elf. One gets down on the ground, cradling him in his arms.

STABLE ELF

Torvald? Torvald?

OLLY
Someone call Doctor Juneau!

The stable doors open, snow billowing in. Olly looks up to see Saint Nick, splashing cold water on his face.

OLLY (CONT'D)
What happened out there?

SAINT NICK
(gruff)
Same as always.

Nick heads out into the wind and snow. In the distance, the sound of a SIREN.

SUPER: "365 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS"

EXT. TINSEL ALLEY - MORNING

The houses in the alley are decorated splendidly with holly, candles, and popcorn garlands. Theobald's house aglow.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - MORNING

On the bedside table, a fully decorated miniature Christmas tree sits, glowing in the light of twinkling candles.

Alba, lies sleeping as Copernicus, shuffles up to the bed, BARKING raspily. He hops up onto the bed.

ALBA
Mm. Leave me alone it's --
(realizes)
Christmas! It's Christmas!

She pops awake.

ALBA (CONT'D)
Mom!

She catches herself, covering her mouth.

ALBA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Dad!

She looks at the tree by her bed and sees one of the twinkling lights isn't working. She flicks it, then takes the light apart.

ALBA (CONT'D)

Let's see here...

She tweaks a wire to re-connect a fuse, then replaces the light in the tree. It works.

ALBA (CONT'D)

Ha!

She heads downstairs.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - MORNING

Alba sits under a large Christmas tree, with little wooden and tin toys tied onto branches. Underneath sit boxes of festively wrapped presents. She holds a long wrapped present in her hands, her mother sitting nearby.

ALBA

I don't want to rip the paper. It's loud.

Theobald enters groggily, rubbing his temples.

SARA

Oh, your father's already awake.

Theobald inspects the toys in the tree, spotting a little windup toy soldier that doesn't work. He taps it.

THEOBALD

Must be Doris's work.

SARA

Hair of the nog.

She hands him a cup of egg nog as Alba opens her present.

ALBA

Ah! I love it!

Theobald grabs his head, in pain.

She clutches a large telescope as she kisses Sara and Theobald each on the cheek.

SARA

Is it the one you wanted?

ALBA

It's beautiful! Can I go try it out?

SARA

Of course. It isn't --

She's already running up the stairs.

SARA (CONT'D)

Dark yet.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alba stands in the window, staring through her telescope.

Across the water THE ISLAND glistens imposingly. A little barge is coming towards town, a couple SNOWMEN on it.

She turns the telescope and spots OLLY marching along.

She opens the window.

ALBA

Olly, hey Olly!

She waves.

ALBA (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas!

He glances up at her with a half-hearted wave.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - MORNING

Frosty and Sleet stroll down the street, as elves clear a wide path for them.

FROSTY

Merry Christmas, ma'am.

Frosty tips his cap to an OLD LADY ELF.

She spits. He looks annoyed.

SLEET

Don't let that old bag bother you.
Part of being Snowguard. Elves
don't like us, we don't like elves.

A SLED of ELF BOYS speeds by.

FROSTY

Watch that sled boys.

They LAUGH as they keep going.

EXT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - DAY

A humble looking cottage sits in the middle of the block with a sign that reads: "DOCTOR PERCIVAL JUNEAU, PHYSICIAN OF THE ELF." A little Christmas tree twinkles in the window.

Olly enters.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

A BELL RINGS as the door closes behind him. The waiting room is quaint and cheery, decorated elegantly for the holiday.

OLLY

Here to check on Torvald.

Mona, (the receptionist Juneau was watching at the pub) is a sweet young thing with a big heart. She sits behind the reception desk, wiping a tear from her eye with a handkerchief.

MONA

Just a moment, dear.

She hits a BUZZER intercom.

Doctor Juneau steps out from a doorway.

JUNEAU

I'm right here, Mona.

(to Olly)

Why don't you step back this way?

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Theobald tries to comb what's left of his hair in the mirror. Sara adjusts her earrings, looking back at Alba, who holds a sparkling dress with disdain.

ALBA

Really Mom?

SARA

It's dinner with Saint Nick. The Penguin King is coming all the way from the South Pole.

ALBA

I bet HE isn't wearing a dress.
It's embarrassing.

THEOBALD

I don't think he's wearing anything.

SARA

We just want to show how pretty and grown up our daughter is.

ALBA

Mom. Gross.

THEOBALD

Especially before her first day in the workshop tomorrow.

ALBA

WHAT? Seriously?

Theobald turns around, smiling.

THEOBALD

I don't know if you've seen, but I work closely with the big man.

She kisses her father on the cheek, hugging her mom.

ALBA

Thank you, thank you! I'll wear the dumb dress.

SARA

Thank you.

Alba heads off, shouting.

ALBA

Best Christmas ever!

SARA

I knew you'd change your mind. She's been talking about the machine room since --

THEOBALD

She's in the Felt Factory.

Sara steps back, surprised.

SARA

Well, I doubt that's what (she thinks) --

THEOBALD
(cutting her off)
There've never been women in the
machine room. I can't make
miracles, Sara!

SARA
You certainly can't.

Theo sighs.

SARA (CONT'D)
You're telling her. Tonight.

THEOBALD
After dinner. I don't want her
pouting through the whole thing.

EXT. PENGUIN KING'S ICE PALACE - DAY

Frosty and Sleet stand guard outside, alongside PENGUIN
GUARDS who QUACK to each other. Sleet glares at them, uneasy.
Frosty tries to look straight ahead, all business.

SLEET
Damn fins. All that quacking makes
me uncomfortable.

FROSTY
Nice digs. Guess the sardine
business pays nicely.

The PENGUIN KING, a short waddling penguin with a golden
crown and red cloak exits the palace, followed by his PENGUIN
QUEEN and PENGUIN PRINCE. The Guards salute with their fins.

SLEET
Look sharp.

Sleet and Frosty both salute. The Penguin King QUACKS and the
Royal Family gets into their sled, pulled by two walruses.

Their Guards join them, and the sled heads off. Sleet and
Frosty look at each other.

FROSTY
I guess we walk?

SLEET
Fins. No respect for the working
snowman.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - ASSEMBLY LINE - NIGHT

The conveyor belt has been covered with a tablecloth, blanketed with gourmet food and gorgeous decorations.

Saint Nick is at the head of the table. On one side sit FRIGID, the chief snowguard, Theo, Alba, and Sara. Across from them are the Penguin royal family, slurping sardines.

PENGUIN QUEEN
(speaking in quacks, to
the penguin prince)
[Don't slurp at the table.]

PENGUIN KING
[Let the boy slurp his sardines!]

PENGUIN QUEEN
These aren't from the South Pole,
are they Nicholas?

Finneas, looking drunk, sits next to her, the Quark family is there as well. He knocks over his goblet, spilling nog. Olly grabs it quickly.

SAINT NICK
No, no. All the food is strictly
North Pole.

Alba grabs a few sardines, fighting off the Penguin Prince's beak and passes them under the table to Copernicus who BURPS.

SARA
Alba!

ALBA
Excuse me.

She shares a look with Olly, who smiles as she LAUGHS.

ALBA (CONT'D)
Saint Nick? I wanted to say thank
you for letting me start in the
workshop tomorrow.

Nick has no idea what she's talking about. Theobald jumps in.

THEOBALD
Yes, boss. She's starting tomorrow
in the uh...

SARA
(covering)
These sweet potatoes! They are like
nothing I've ever tasted before.

Frigid speaks up.

FRIGID
Oh, pass those down this way.

SARA
You'll melt! Better stick with your
chilled cucumber soup.

FRIGID
I hate the cold.

Everyone LAUGHS.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

An excited Alba enters the house with a tired Copernicus,
followed by her parents, who also look exhausted.

ALBA
I'm gonna go up to my room and look
at the workshop!

She runs off up the stairs, Copernicus waddling up after her.
Sara gives Theobald a stern look.

SARA
Theo.

THEOBALD
Women work in the felt shop, that's
how it's always been!

SARA
And maybe it's always been wrong.

She heads upstairs, leaving him alone in the living room.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alba looks out the window through her telescope.

THEOBALD (O.S.)
Alba?

She turns sharply to Theo, his eye magnified by the scope.

ALBA

Dad?

THEOBALD

Listen. About tomorrow. I just wanted to let you know.

ALBA

Did I make a bad impression? On Saint Nick? I can fix it.

THEOBALD

No, no.

ALBA

What?

THEOBALD

You'll be in the Felt Shop tomorrow.

ALBA

What?

THEOBALD

With the other girls.

ALBA

That's not --

THEOBALD

It's not up for discussion.

ALBA

But Dad!

THEOBALD

Get some rest. Big day ahead of us.

He turns out the lights.

EXT. THE NORTH SEA - SHORE - DAWN

The sun rises as a large SEAL slips up out of the water, jumping up onto the edge, shaking itself dry.

SEAL

Ah, what a beautiful day.

POLAR BEAR CUBS pounce, biting and ripping him to shreds.

SEAL (CONT'D)

Oh the agony!

MAMA POLAR BEAR appears, beaming with pride over her cubs.

SEAL (CONT'D)
(dying)
Tell my wife I love her.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Alba sits at the kitchen table futzing with a toy soldier.

SARA
Are you excited to be starting at
the workshop today?

ALBA
No.

SARA
Your father worked very hard to get
you into the felt factory. All of
the fine young ladies work in the
plush departments.

ALBA
I like machines, Dad knows that.

Theobald enters in a huff. He grabs a piece of toast and
pecks Sara on the cheek.

SARA
Of course you do dear. What're you
working on?

Alba sets the soldier down, winds it up. It marches across
the table.

ALBA
That broken toy. Fixed it.

It marches straight off the table.

THEOBALD
We're going to be late.

Alba stands and takes her lunch. Sara picks the toy up,
looking at it.

SARA
Wow. Have a nice day you two.

Alba smiles. Theobald gives his wife a stern look.

THEOBALD
Don't encourage her.

He heads out. Sara stands at the counter as COPERNICUS jumps up onto the table, grabbing what's left of breakfast.

SARA
Bad seal!

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WAY - DAY

Alba trudges alongside Theobald towards SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP on the hill above. It's imposing, with massive stone walls and iron fences. They pass the road to the reindeer stables.

Olly and Finneas wave down at them.

THEOBALD
(waving back)
Morning Finn! Olly!

They climb the hill as WORKER ELVES join them.

WILLOUGHBY
Morning, boss.

THEOBALD
Willoughby, have a nice Christmas?

Willoughby smiles ruefully. Theobald spots Willoughby's black eye, busted up lip... maybe not?

They continue towards the immense brick walls in silence.

Alba looks up in awe as she passes under the large hand carved sign that reads: "SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP." TWO SNOWGUARD flank the doors.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COURTYARD - DAY

A crowd of WORKER ELVES surround the statue of Saint Nick.

THEOBALD
Here, you stay here while I welcome everyone back.

He points Alba to a gaggle of GIRLS admiring each others' beautiful new Christmas dresses and GIGGLING.

ALBA
(rolls her eyes)
Blech.

Theo steps up onto the platform at the base of the statue.

THEOBALD

Welcome back, everyone. Day one of
the season, we're back in business.

He holds for APPLAUSE, but is met with stony silence. He
looks to Alba, even she looks miserable. Willoughby SPITS.

DAN, a smelter elf, calls out.

DAN

Listen boss, two vacation days a
year, that ain't enough!

A second SMELTER ELF steps forward.

SMELTER ELF 1

Dan and I, we can't be up on those
gangplanks with no sleep.

THEOBALD

We're all making sacrifices.

The Elves MURMUR their disagreement.

BEAR

Like working Christmas so you and
the big man have coal in the stove!

The CROWD grumbles in agreement.

The doors to the workshop swing wide open and Saint Nick
appears. He steps out to the center statue by Theobald.

THEOBALD

Saint Nick, we weren't expecting
you today.

SAINT NICK

Oh, I heard some grumbling. I came
down to remind you all how grateful
I am for your hard work, and to
say: My door is always open.

He points up to a window above, his office.

DAN

Saint Nick, sir, I'm seeing things
up on those gangplanks.

SAINT NICK

Theobald, would you set a meeting with Dan for later this week? I'm sure we can sort this out.

THEOBALD

Of course.

SAINT NICK

Now, if you'll excuse me. I've work to do myself.

Nick leaves.

THEOBALD

You heard the man, back to work, back to work!

Willoughby holds up a hand.

WILLOUGHBY

ASSEMBLY LINE!

He heads off into the factory.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - DAY

Willoughby leads the elves into the dingy factory. In the center bubble three large vats of liquid metal.

Theobald heads upstairs, followed by Dan and the SMELTER ELVES, who head out to the gangplanks over the bubbling vats.

The Smelters are already sweating, wearing goggles to shield their eyes. They stir the pots mechanically.

WILLOUGHBY STARTS SINGING "THE NORTH POLE WORK SONG."

WILLOUGHBY

BEEN WORKING AT THE NORTH POLE/
MY WHOLE DAMN LIFE/
WORKING AT THE NORTH POLE/
SO'S I CAN FEED MY WIFE/
TIME'S COULD BE BETTER, SAYS I/

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - METALWORKING ROOM - DAY

ELVES dump liquid metal into large sheets, to cool. ELVES cut metal, sparks flying.

ALL
WORK WORK... WORK WORK.../
WORK WORK... WORK WORK.../

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - ASSEMBLY LINE - DAY

The cut metal flows through a long assembly as Willoughby oversees ASSEMBLY LINE ELVES working. DORIS, a tired redheaded floozy sings as she assembles some.

DORIS
EVERYBODY'S WORKING THAT OVERTIME/
JUST TO TUCK A BIT AWAY SAVING
EVERY DIME/

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - FELT FACTORY - DAY

Alba sits in the felt room which is much happier. GIRL ELVES paint and apply felt to assembled toys. They SING.

GIRLS
WORK WORK... WORK WORK.../
WORK WORK... WORK WORK.../

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - DAY

DAN tries to stir his melted metal but it won't budge. He looks down to see his vat has frost on the edges.

SMELTERS
WORK WORK... WORK WORK.../
WORK WORK... WORK --

Dan falls with a SCREAM, plummeting with a sickening splash into the liquid hot metal below. The music stops abruptly.

SMELTER ELF 1
Dan!

SMELTER ELF 2
Oh god! He's melting! Fish him out!
Fish him out!

SMELTER ELF 1
Security! Security!

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - DAY

Two Snowguard stand in the doorway of the smelting room, already DRIPPING and MELTING. Any closer and they'll melt.

SNOWGUARD
You're on your own!

SNOWGUARD 2
We aren't coming in there!

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doris screams back to the snowmen.

DORIS
Darn you snowmen! We need help!

Torstein grabs her, trying to calm her down.

TORSTEIN
It's too late. It's too late.

He points to the smelting pot and they stand in horror as ELVES from other departments pour in.

Theobald rushes over.

THEOBALD
What's going on up...

He looks down to see a burning skull with goggles, the last visible piece of Dan, melting in the vat of metal.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)
Oh god.

EXT. THE NORTH POLE CEMETERY - DAY

A group of MOURNING ELVES stand around an icy grave.

SNOW FALLS around them.

KATJA, Dan's Widow, stands, being strong for DAN'S MOTHER, who sobs into Torstein's barrel chest as a PREACHER speaks.

PREACHER
And it would only be natural that
Dan's life should end doing what he
loved most, melting things.

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - DAY

Saint Nick, his usual red suit now replaced with a somber black, POUNDS on the closed barn doors.

SAINT NICK

Finneas! I need my sleigh! Finneas!

Finally, the door swings open. Finneas, drunk as a skunk stands holding a large bottle of nog. He waves Saint Nick in.

INT. REINDEER STABLES - DAY

Finneas slumps down onto a wooden stool.

SAINT NICK

A bad day at the North Pole.

FINNEAS

That was my friend.

SAINT NICK

It's dangerous work.

Finneas takes a big gulp of nog.

FINNEAS

Doesn't have to be.

SAINT NICK

You're drunk.

FINNEAS

So what if I am?

SAINT NICK

I'll bridle the reindeer myself.

He turns to the Reindeer in their stalls. They all bow their heads, averting Nick's eyes.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

This is what I get? From you too?

Nothing.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Accidents happen.

From one of the stalls, Rudolph peeks forward, sniffing.

RUDOLPH

Get lost Nick.

Saint Nick turns, studying Rudolph as his nose GLOWS RED.

SAINT NICK

You don't mean it. I can see it in
your nose.

RUDOLPH

I do. Now go.

Saint Nick looks around to the other reindeer, waiting,
hoping for someone to say something. None of them do.

SAINT NICK

You're going to blame me for one
elf's mistake?

FINNEAS

How many elves you buried this year
alone?

SAINT NICK

Watch yourself, Finneas.

Nick marches out of the stables, slamming the door behind
him. Rudolph fights back tears as his nose GLOWS BRIGHTER.

RUDOLPH

Damn nose.

EXT. THE NORTH POLE CEMETERY - DAY

Saint Nick and his Snowguard approach the mourning elves.

Katja glares, and Torstein whispers to her. The Preacher
looks anxiously at Saint Nick, who nods for him to continue.

PREACHER ELF

What a noble profession it was,
making joy for those around the
world!

Katja struggles with Torstein, breaking free toward Saint
Nick.

KATJA

Murderer! Monster!

TORSTEIN

Katja, please!

KATJA

How dare you come to his funeral!

The crowd looks on in shock, unsure of what to do.

SAINT NICK

I'm very sorry for your loss. He was a good elf.

Katja slaps Saint Nick across the face, hard. The Snowguard immediately react, pinning her arms behind her back with force, hurting her. She struggles, YELLING.

KATJA

Like you care about any of your slaves!

The crowd is horrified.

SAINT NICK

(calmly)
Let her go.

They drop her, hard, on the ground. Torstein tries to help her up, but she pushes him away.

KATJA

Let everyone see! See what Saint Nick does to his elves. What was my husband's name? Hm?

Theobald steps forward.

THEOBALD

DAN was one of Nick's favorite elves. We were just talking about --

KATJA

(to Saint Nick)
You didn't even know him!

SAINT NICK

I'm sorry, no.

KATJA

He was a good elf.

She breaks down crying, as Torstein takes her in his arms.

KATJA (CONT'D)

He was a good elf.

Olly steps forward.

OLLY

Maybe it'd be best if --

THEOBALD

Olly.

OLLY

If you left, sir. You're just
upsetting her.

Saint Nick nods.

SAINT NICK

Let me know if there is anything I
can do for... your family.

Dan's Mother looks to him.

DAN'S MOTHER

You can unmelt my son. My boy! My
darling boy!

She runs up to the coffin, splaying herself across it.

Elves try to pull her back as Saint Nick walks off, into the
distance. The Snowguard crack their twig knuckles at Olly.

SNOWGUARD 1

Shame what happened. Wouldn't want
any other unfortunate accidents.

SNOWGUARD 2

A lot of ways an elf could get
hurt.

Katja faints. Elves crowd around her as the Snowguard leave.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Olly and Torstein and a few other elves talk conspiratorially
over pints of nog and cocoa. Doctor Juneau sits nearby,
trying not to get involved.

OLLY

We've got to do something.

TORSTEIN

Nick's a menace.

OLLY

Whaddayou think Doc?

JUNEAU

Some of us don't get paid to think.

He gestures like "let's not get noticed here" down the bar
towards Sleet, Frosty and a few other Snowguard at a table.

SLEET

Wanna see something?

Sleet takes his head off his body, pours a glass of schnapps into his mouth, which trickles out the bottom of his head.

OLLY

(whispering)

Can't keep up like this is all I'm saying.

JUNEAU

Yeah, a kid like you would.

Juneau nods to Hans the bartender.

JUNEAU (CONT'D)

Gimme another nog in the back.

(to Olly)

I don't go in for politics. Neither should you.

He heads to a back table away from Olly and the rest.

A REPRISE OF THE DRINKING SONG... *[But now it's about THINKING... The elves try to make a plan.]*

EXT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - LATER

Olly and Torstein head out of the pub, drunk, slipping along.

TORSTEIN

Come on Olly, it's early!

OLLY

I'll see ya, Tor!

Olly waves back at Torstein, who slips a little heading back into the bar. As he does, Frosty and Sleet make their way out. Olly trudges along through the snow.

The snowmen follow Olly towards an alleyway, where even more Snowguard are waiting. Olly's surrounded now.

OLLY (CONT'D)

Hey whoa!

SLEET

Hold him!

One of the snowmen grabs Olly, pinning his arms, hard.

SNOWGUARD

Got him.

Sleet pulls out his nightstick.

SLEET

Let's see ya talk big like that
without any teeth.

He rears back and slams his candy cane into Olly's face.
Blood and teeth spray across the brick wall.

Olly collapses to the floor. Gas lamps light the silhouettes
of the snowmen as they beat the unconscious elf to the
ground. Frosty can't look.

EXT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Juneau stumbles out, fumbling in his pocket for his keys. As
he heads down the block, he drops them into the dirty snow.

JUNEAU

Son of a...

Drunk, he bends down to try to find them, only to see a pool
of red snow. He looks over into the alley and sees Olly, beat
up, unconscious, sputtering and moaning.

JUNEAU (CONT'D)

HANS!

Juneau stumbles back towards the bar.

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - DAWN

Alba walks towards the workshop, and sees a group of Elves
huddled in front of the path to the reindeer stables.

She looks up to Torstein.

TORSTEIN

Right before the reindeer games
like that?

WILLOUGHBY

It's a damn shame.

ALBA

Hey, you guys seen Olly?

TORSTEIN

You didn't hear?

ALBA

Hear what?

They look to one another. Who's going to tell her?

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

Juneau sits at his desk. He anxiously dunks a cookie into a cup of milk until it falls apart.

The INTERCOM BUZZES. He brushes the crumbs off of his fingers and wiping off the desk with a napkin.

JUNEAU

Yes?

MONA (O.S.)

(emotional)

Shall I send the Quarks in? You've been in your office for an --

He rubs his temple.

JUNEAU

I'll come out.

He stands and puts on his coat, knocking over the glass of milk. It spills across the desk. He looks at the spilt milk for a second, then leaves as it drips, pooling on the floor.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Juneau enters the waiting room to see Mona sitting at her desk, wiping tears from her eyes, embarrassed.

JUNEAU

Pull yourself together.

MONA

Sorry, sir.

He steps over to Vera and Finneas, Olly's parents who look miserable and scared.

JUNEAU

Mr. and Mrs. Quark.

VERA

Is he going to be alright?

JUNEAU

It is... too early to say. He's been beaten pretty badly. Is there anyone who might've --

FINNEAS

You and I both know who's responsible.

Vera looks to Finneas.

VERA

Finn.

JUNEAU

I can file a report to the Snowguard if you'd like.

VERA

No, no report please.

JUNEAU

We are obligated to file a report if you think there may have been a crime.

Finn looks to him, stone faced.

FINN

No. We don't.

VERA

Can we please just see our boy?

JUNEAU

Back this way.

He opens the back door towards a back hallway, allowing Olly the Quarks past him. Mona CRIES at her desk.

The PHONE RINGS.

MONA

It's terrible.

JUNEAU

Please, Mona. It's unprofessional.

She answers the phone as he walks out.

MONA

Dr. Juneau's office. No, he's in a consultation right now... Mm-hm.

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - DAY

The stables are completely transformed: bleachers filled with excited ELVES, waving banners with their favorite reindeer on them: "Go Dasher!" "We Love You Rudolph!"

Hank and Gary sit once more with headphones over their antlers.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Welcome to the 421st Reindeer
Games! They're off to a rocky
start.

In the judges' box Saint Nick sits in the center, the Penguin King sits next to him propped on a throne.

They speak together in PENGUIN QUACKS. A third seat sits on the other side of Saint Nick, still conspicuously empty.

GARY THE CARIBOU
That's right Hank. Some elves
thought the games wouldn't happen
this year.

HANK THE CARIBOU
You can count me as one of those
elves, Gary.

GARY THE CARIBOU
Olly Quark, the star of last year's
games just recently hospitalized.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Oh, there's his father Finneas now.

He points with a large paw, accidentally knocking over the microphone, which prompts some SCREECHING FEEDBACK.

Finneas and Vera head up to the Judges' Booth.

GARY THE CARIBOU
As stable master, he'll be giving
the opening speech.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Put your hands, twigs, and paws
together for Finneas Quark.

Finneas steps up to a microphone, grabbing it for dear life, he's drunk..

FINNEAS

My fellow elves, welcome.

Elves CHEER!

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

This is normally the happiest time
of year for me and my family.

The whole stadium goes quiet, as Saint Nick listens intently.
He leans over to Frigid, whispering something.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

I know there have been rumors about
Olly's injuries and I just wanted
to say...

Finneas looks to his wife who shakes her head "don't say it."

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

You elves don't deserve this. We've
become slaves! And I won't have it
anymore! It's time for --

The MICROPHONE cuts out as two Snowguard grab Finneas,
forcing him away from the microphone.

EXT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Gary and Hank sit in their booth, shocked, but cover quickly.

GARY THE CARIBOU

Odd words from Finneas Quark.

HANK THE CARIBOU

Never a dull moment, at the 421st
Reindeer Games, brought to you by
The Northern Lights Pub.

Hans waves, a tankard of nog sloshing in his hand.

GARY THE CARIBOU

And let the games begin!

An ELF BAND plays an upbeat polka tune on drums and horns as
REINDEER enter the reindeer field. Hank covers his microphone
with his hoof.

HANK THE CARIBOU

You ask me, Quark's right.

GARY THE CARIBOU

Nobody did ask you.

THE REINDEER GAMES SONG BEGINS.

ALL
OH IT'S A LOVELY DAY FOR REINDEER
GAMES/
THE WHOLE TOWN HAS COME OUT TO
CELEBRATE/
IT'S A LOVELY DAY TO LAUGH AND SING
AND CHEER!/
CAUSE IT'S OUR FAVORITE TIME OF
YEAR/
NOW LET'S CRY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TEARS!/
THE REINDEER GAMES ARE FINALLY
FUCKING HERE!

EXT. THE SKIES ABOVE - DAY

Crowds of reindeer fly overhead with grace and charm,
swooping and looping through the sky.

GARY THE CARIBOU
And that concludes the opening
ceremonies, so let's bring out our
first round of competitors.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Dasher!

Dasher flies by, bucking his antlers as the crowd CHEERS.

EXT. THE STANDS - DAY

Finneas sits slumped in his chair, Vera whispers into his ear
anxiously. He waves her off, swerving out of the booth.

GARY THE CARIBOU
Dancer!

The crowd CHEERS as Dancer enters.

From the edge of the stands, Frigid keeps an eye on Finneas.
He turns to Frosty and Sleet, whispering.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Prancer!

Prancer prances along to CHEERS.

EXT. QUAIN T WOODEN OUTHOUSES - MOMENTS LATER

Finneas sways in line, waiting to relieve his bladder. Frosty and Sleet approach from behind, wielding candy canes.

GARY THE CARIBOU
And Rudolph!

EXT. STABLES - SAME TIME

Rudolph, still in his stable, watches the outhouses across the way, where he can see Frosty say something, turning Finneas around. Sleet slams Finneas over the head, knocking him to his knees. Rudolph's eyes goes wide, in horror.

GARY THE CARIBOU
Rudolph?

Frosty grabs Sleet by the arm, stopping him.

FROSTY
Take it easy, Sleet.

SLEET
Bad mouths our boss, he bad mouths us.

Sleet slugs Finneas right across the jaw. As Finneas goes limp, Rudolph GASPS.

HANK THE CARIBOU
Where are you Rudolph?

Rudolph jumps the fence galloping toward Sleet and Frosty.

RUDOLPH
Finneas!

Frosty turns, holding up his badge.

FROSTY
Stop right there, Rudolph. This is police business.

Rudolph doesn't stop.

FROSTY (CONT'D)
Stop! In the name of the --

Rudolph bucks his antlers and Frosty doesn't know what to do. This is all happening too fast. In a split second he makes a decision.

He pulls back and smacks Rudolph with his candy cane at full force with a CRACK! Rudolph collapses, unconscious.

Frosty looks around in terror, makes eye contact with DORIS.

FROSTY (CONT'D)

I --

DORIS

Hey, they're beating up Rudolph!
The Snowguard are beating up
reindeer!

A CROWD begins to form as elves turn, hearing the commotion.

GARY THE CARIBOU (O.S.)

Seems there's some sort of
commotion over by the reindeer
stables.

HANK THE CARIBOU (O.S.)

Commotion my hoof! Snowmen are
beating up reindeer!

An ANGRY MOB has formed around Frosty and Sleet.

FROSTY

Stand back, this is Snowguard
business.

The elves inch in closer.

FROSTY (CONT'D)

Back!

An ANGRY ELF throws a snowball at Sleet, who lashes out with his candy cane, swinging wildly at elves.

It's pandemonium. Elves run at the two snowmen.

More snowguard push their way in, trying to break things up.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S BOOTH - SAME TIME

Frigid approaches Saint Nick, concerned.

FRIGID

Sir, we have to get you and the
Penguin King to safety. Things have
really turned South.

He turns to the other Snowguard that line the booth.

FRIGID (CONT'D)

Get Nick's people to safety!

The Snowguard begin trying to get everyone out of the booth.

SNOWGUARD

This way elves! This way!

Saint Nick watches intently as the stadium falls into chaos.

Elves fight Snowguard and each other.

Reindeer kick the heads off of Snowguard.

The Penguin King quacks anxiously, Snowguard whisk him away.

ANGRY ELF 1

Down with Saint Nick!

Snowguard beat him down, but he is replaced by another.

ANGRY ELF 2

Down with Snowmen!

The crowd takes up both cries as a CHANT.

EXT. DOWN ON THE FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Theobald drags Sara along through the crowd. Sara turns back, frightened, she can't spot Alba anywhere!

SARA

Alba!

She turns to Theo, terrified!

SARA (CONT'D)

Find her!

Theobald pushes Sara ahead, to go with the Snowguard. He looks out at the pandemonium.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE CROWD - DAY

Alba watches the Snowguard beat up a helpless elf.

SNOWGUARD

Outta the way, elf!

ALBA

Leave him alone!

She throws a rock at the snowman, who pulls it out of his head with a cruel grimace.

EXT. QUAIN T WOODEN OUTHOUSES - DAY

Hank the Caribou stands cornered between a fence and Snowguard. He charges, his antlers ripping snowmen to shreds.

A few brave Snowguard rush forward, capturing him in an icy net. They go to work on him with their clubs. Gary watches, frozen in horror.

EXT. SNOWGUARD SLED - LATER

Finneas and Rudolph are strewn across a sled, bound in ice handcuffs. Sleet throws another elf up onto the sled: Alba.

Sleet hops aboard up front with Frosty, who snaps the reins.

FROSTY

Mush.

The sled slides off. Theobald runs up afterwards, a moment too late.

THEOBALD

Alba!

He watches as his daughter is dragged away to The Island.

INT. THE ISLAND - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Frosty leans, exhausted, against a wall of ice. Snowguard pass him in the hallway, refusing to make eye contact.

MUFFLED SHOUTS escape the door to the Examination Room next to him. Frigid and Sleet open it, flanking Frosty.

FROSTY

(apologetic)

Captain, I --

FRIGID

Did what you had to.

He pats Frosty on the shoulder, a stern "*you did good.*"

SLEET

We got your back Frosty.

FRIGID

You boys take the rest of the night
off. Have a round at the Northern
Lights on me.

Sleet tips his cap.

SLEET

Thank you sir.

Frigid nods reassuringly, then heads off.

FROSTY

(guilty)
He was just a reindeer.

SLEET

Let's go have that drink.

He heads off. Frosty SIGHS.

INT. THE ISLAND - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Snowguard toss Finneas into his icy cell. Finneas collapses
onto the ground in a heap.

SNOWGUARD

Next time maybe you'll be more
helpful.

RUDOLPH sits in the next cell, his NOSE GLOWING as he CRIES.

Alba sits with her legs up to her chin.

ALBA

Mr. Quark? Finneas?

He doesn't respond though. The Snowguard approach her.

SNOWGUARD

Come with us.

She doesn't move.

SNOWGUARD (CONT'D)

Come on!

They drag her out of the cell, kicking and screaming.

RUDOLPH

She's a little girl.

The Snowguard shuts him up with a smack to the face.

INT. THE ISLAND - BOOKING DESK - NIGHT

Theobald sits on a bench nervously watching the crowd.

A BOOKING AGENT looks down over his desk at the cuffed Penguin Prince.

PENGUIN PRINCE
My father is the king of the
Penguins! Don't you know who I am?

BOOKING AGENT
That's the Penguin Prince?

SNOWGUARD
You think I can tell Penguins
apart?

Alba comes out the doors guided by Snowguard.

THEOBALD
Alba!

They unlock her cuffs.

SNOWGUARD
You're free to go.

Theobald tries to hug her but she shifts away nervously.

THEOBALD
Okay, it's okay.

He looks up to the Snowguard.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)
Thank you officers. Thank Captain
Frigid for me.

The Snowguard size him up.

SNOWGUARD
I'm sure you already thanked him
yourself.

They head off, as Theobald puts his arm around Alba.

THEOBALD
Alright, let's get you home. Warm
you up, get you a nice cup of
cocoa.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A nice cup of cocoa flies into the kitchen wall, SHATTERING.

THEOBALD

Young lady, I pulled a lot of strings to get you out of there!

ALBA

I'm not a puppet!

THEOBALD

I'm trying to keep you off The Island!

ALBA

And trying to keep me out of the machine shop, and trying to let Saint Nick hurt Finneas and Rudolph!

Sara tries to calm the situation down.

SARA

Nobody lets Saint Nick do anything. He's our boss, and --

ALBA

He isn't my boss! And neither are you!

She runs out of the room, her footsteps slamming upstairs.

THEOBALD

Alba! You get back here at once! That's an order!

Sara begins CRYING.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)

Sara, dear...

He reaches out to her, but she shrugs him off.

SARA

She's our daughter! You can't order her around like one of your worker elves!

INT. THE ISLAND - CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Snowguard escort Finneas, now dressed in prison reds, and Rudolph down an icy path between cells of PRISONER ELVES.

They turn a corner, heading past THE HOLE, surrounded by Snowguard. Rudolph studies it carefully.

But he's dragged away, struggling to look back until he's thrown into his holding cell. The bars SLAM shut.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alba SLAMS her door. A portrait of an elf inventor falls off the wall. She slumps down in bed, looking out the window.

In the distance, a BLINKING RED light.

ALBA

Rudolph?

She gets her telescope to investigate.

INT. THE ISLAND - HOLDING CELLS - NIGHT

Rudolph sits looking out the bars of his cell out across the sea to the North Pole. His RED NOSE GLOWING.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - DAY

Alba walks past the reindeer stables and sees they're marching with signs with slogans like "*No more animal cruelty!*" "*Deer First Reins Second!*" and "*Get off my back!*"

They CHANT.

REINDEER

No more free rides! No more free rides!

Theo from the workshop gates calls to Alba.

THEOBALD

Alba you get in here!

Alba turns to see her father standing at the edge of the workshop, where a CROWD OF ELVES have gathered. She marches over towards him.

ALBA

What's going on?

THEOBALD

(to the crowd)

We got a tin shipment coming in.
You're burning daylight.

TORSTEIN

Like hell I'm working.

BEAR

Nick and his snowmen beating up
elves and reindeer like that!

THEOBALD

Anyone not heading to their station
in five minutes loses a day's pay!

WILLOUGHBY

An elf used to be respected.

THEOBALD

I'm an elf, same as you.

WILLOUGHBY

How many fingers you lost on the
tin cutting line, Sven?

SVEN, a big, balding elf, holds up his mangled hand.

SVEN

Seven.

WILLOUGHBY

Doris, what was it happened to your
husband?

DORIS

Building blocks avalanche.

WILLOUGHBY

So maybe you ain't exactly same as
us Theo.

TORSTEIN

Sure ain't.

THEOBALD

What are you saying exactly?

WILLOUGHBY

I ain't lifting a single piece of
tin for you, or Saint Nick. Not
anymore.

THEOBALD

You're plenty old enough to retire.

WILLOUGHBY

I'll walk out, if you want. But I'm
taking anyone who'll come with me.

THEOBALD

You wait until Nick hears about
this!

WILLOUGHBY

What's he gonna do to me he ain't
already done?

Willoughby puts his hat on, shaking his head. He looks at the crowd of elves, pointedly, before walking back out the workshop gates towards town.

Torstein follows Willoughby.

THEOBALD

Torstein, that's a day's pay you're
losing!

Torstein doesn't care. Enough's enough.

SVEN

Keeping my fingers.

Sven follows suit.

DORIS

I ain't dying for no toys.

She starts to walk off too.

THEOBALD

Doris! You've got kids to feed.

Now it's a FLOOD of elves walking out.

Everyone's gone except Alba.

ALBA

Dad?

THEOBALD

Go home, I've gotta... Talk with
Saint Nick.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM

Alba approaches Mona's desk.

MONA

Oh hello there dear, can I help
you? I'm afraid the Doctor's
indisposed at the moment.

ALBA

I wanted to visit my friend Olly.

MONA

Oh sure, just this way.

They pass a slightly ajar door. Juneau sleeps on his couch, a glass of nog in his hand. Mona shuts the door gently.

MONA (CONT'D)

He's napping.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SAINT NICK'S OFFICE - DAY

Theobald sits, legs sticking straight out, in a chair too tall for him. Across the desk from him is Saint Nick. Nick pokes a roaring fire, a mob boss with a threatening aura.

Two Snowguard stand guard nearby, sweating.

SAINT NICK

Accidents and misunderstandings.

THEOBALD

The elves just want to feel safe.
To feel valued. Listened to.

SAINT NICK

I am listening. This storm will
blow over. They always do.

Theo stares at him.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Is there anything else?

THEOBALD

Well, it's my daughter.

SAINT NICK

Alba.

THEOBALD

She'd... While we're talking about
ways to improve *morale*. She'd like
to work in the machine rooms.

SAINT NICK

Of course. I'm a reasonable man. Of
course.

THEOBALD

Thank you sir. Thanks.

Theobald heads out past the Snowguard.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Alba sits across from the beat up Olly, who lies in bed, paralyzed.

MONA
Visiting hours are wrapping up,
dear.

ALBA
Oh sorry.

Juneau appears in the doorway as well.

JUNEAU
That's alright, Mona. I'll close
up. You can head out if you like.

MONA
Of course.

She heads off. Alba is wrapping herself up to leave.

JUNEAU
You can stay 'til I'm finished
working.

ALBA
Thanks.

JUNEAU
Yeah.

He exits.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sara cuts her food. It's silent.

SARA
So. You visited your friend Olly
today?

ALBA
Mm-hm. Since the workshop's closed.

THEOBALD
It's not closed.

ALBA
Well nobody's working.

THEOBALD
That'll all blow over.

SARA
Oh?

THEOBALD
Talked with the big man -- it's
gonna be fine.

Sara gives him an "Oh really?" look.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)
Also, I've got news you might be
interested in Alba.

Alba crosses her arms, she doesn't care.

SARA
Alba?

THEOBALD
I found an opening in the machine
room, if you want it.

ALBA
Oh.

They sit in silence. Theo looks at Sara like "WHAT IN THE HELL?"

ALBA (CONT'D)
May I be excused?

THEOBALD
No you may not.

SARA
Yes, clear your plate please.

Alba holds it out for Copernicus who gobbles down her leftovers, then heads off up to bed.

THEOBALD
I got her exactly what she wanted.

SARA
Hm.

Theo slams his fork down onto the table, standing up.

THEOBALD

Nobody on this goddamn Pole
appreciates me! What I put up with!

He stuffs himself back into his jacket, heading out the door.

SARA

Oh for the love of...

EXT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Theobald walks up to the pub. He looks in the window.

INT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

It's even more crowded than usual. Willoughby carries a tray
of nog back to his crew.

WILLOUGHBY

I got this round boys.

Bear spots Theo, jumping to his feet, face red.

BEAR

Oh no way! That one sure ain't
drinking with us tonight!

Willoughby grabs him by the shoulder, a cloud of soot puffs
into the air.

Theo turns away and walks off.

EXT. THE BERGS - NIGHT

Theo stands down by the docks, looking out towards The
Island, a bottle of schnapps in hand.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alba, looks out the window with her telescope at Rudolph's
nose shining in the distance.

INT. THE ISLAND - NIGHT

Rudolph turns from his cell window, looking down the prison
corridor towards the hole...

AS CAMERA PUSHES IN on the hole we TILT DOWN to reveal...
EYES PEERING UP out of the darkness.

EXT. THE ISLAND - DAWN

The sun rises over the North Pole, Rudolph's nose still flashing red, dimly now.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COURTYARD - DAWN

The normally busy courtyard is completely still. No smoke pours out of the chimneys.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - DAWN

The pots of molten metal bubble, unsupervised.

The doors to the workshop slide open, Theo stands there, looking in at nobody working as snow billows in from behind him. He SIGHS.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - DAY

Bear and the boys hang at the pub.

BEAR
'nother nog, Hans!

HANS
Workshop closed today boys?

BEAR
We ain't working til we get an audience with the big guy.

Hans gives a look like "Good luck."

WILLOUGHBY
We gotta do something besides drinking if we're gonna make anything happen.

HANS
Oh drinking's plenty good.

BEAR
Darn right!

WILLOUGHBY
Serious, Bear. We gotta do something.

Willoughby starts winding up a rousing song about how **"THE ELVES ARE GOING ON STRIKE."**

No more free toys, no more Christmas joy, not if Saint Nick keeps lying, not if good elves keep dying. And for what, for what? Some cheapo toys for girls and boys... Shouldn't the elves be going on strike?

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SAINT NICK'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick looks out at the empty workshop. He hears some MUFFLED VOICES in the distance.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - NICK'S BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Nick steps out on his private balcony, which looks down over the North Pole. A line of ELVES marches towards the workshop, with signs in hand. They're chanting.

"THE ELVES ARE GOING ON STRIKE" CONTINUES.

Alba marches alongside the other elves, striking. Theobald, at the gates of the workshop, clocks her there. She ignores him.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SAINT NICK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Saint Nick sits at his desk, The Penguin King opposite him. The Penguin Prince stands just behind his father.

PENGUIN KING

How do I wet my beak?

SAINT NICK

Fifteen percent on their pay.

PENGUIN KING

Twenty five.

SAINT NICK

Twenty. But I need those penguins by the morning.

PENGUIN KING

That can be arranged.

He looks back to his son, who leans in. They speak to one another in their squeaky penguin barks.

The King turns back to Nick.

PENGUIN KING (CONT'D)

You will have your workers in my penguins, I'll have my payment in your sardines.

Frigid, standing at the door, opens it for the Penguins to waddle out. He turns to Nick, who heads out onto the balcony.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - BALCONY - NIGHT

He looks down, at the now quiet North Pole, watching the Penguins waddle away.

SAINT NICK

I need you to station a security detail down at The Bergs.

FRIGID

You got it boss.

SAINT NICK

And keep those penguins safe.

Saint Nick heads in, Frigid stares down at the QUACKING penguins with disgust.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Sara and Alba bustle about the kitchen, several pots on the stove. Theobald enters, exhausted.

THEOBALD

What's going on in here?

SARA

Just some cocoa for all the boys.

THEOBALD

You mean the elves out there closing down my workshop?

Sara pours the bubbling cocoa into large metal thermoses.

ALBA

She means our friends.

Alba heads out with her bundle, Sara grabs a scarf.

THEOBALD

Sleet Sara! I work for Nick. You can't be feeding the enemy!

She stops.

SARA

The enemy? These are elves we're talking about. Are you saying they don't deserve a warm meal and a kind word?

Theobald slams a fist into the table.

THEOBALD

Not from us they don't! No! Not from my wife!

She opens the door.

SARA

Keep playing your cards right and I won't be your wife much longer.

She exits, slamming the door behind her.

THEOBALD

Deck my halls!

He looks around for a moment, then, GRUMBLING to himself, begins putting on his coat.

THEOBALD (CONT'D)

No good, tree flocking...

He shoves his hat onto his head and goes out the door after her. As it slams, a framed picture of the three of them with Saint Nick falls, the glass shattering: Sara and Alba on one side, and Theobald and Nick on the other.

EXT. THE BERGS - DAWN

Snowguard stand around the docks. Frigid watches as an iceberg packed with PENGUINS makes its way into port. They QUACK and shuffle as the iceberg connects to the ice.

The Penguins pour off the berg and into the North Pole. Snowguard and WALRUS WORKERS watch uncomfortably.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - DAY

The Elves continue marching on strike, hoisting their picket signs. ALBA and SARA pass out cocoa and sandwiches.

WILLOUGHBY

Thank you Sara.

QUACK QUACK.

They look.

Theobald runs up to them in a huff.

 THEOBALD
Penguins.

 SARA
What?

He points out in the distance:

A COLUMN OF MARCHING PENGUINS heads straight for them.

 BEAR
What in the...

 WILLOUGHBY
They're here for our jobs!

 BEAR
Son of a...

He glares at Theo.

 THEOBALD
I didn't know about this!

 BEAR
Sure.

 SARA
Theo?

 WILLOUGHBY
Listen up! Listen up, everybody!

The crowd stops, looking up to him.

 ELI
Saint Nick's bringing in
strikebreakers. But we won't let
anyone past this line.

 BEAR
Nobody gets past! Hold this line!

The elves begin forming up into a long line, blocking the entrance to the workshop.

BEAR (CONT'D)

If they peck at you, just give em a kick!

Some elves LAUGH.

The PENGUINS get to them, confused. They QUACK to each other, stopped in front of the elves.

BEAR (CONT'D)

Head back to the South Pole, fins!

Frigid steps out from behind the penguins, looking over the line of elves with contempt.

FRIGID

Let these penguins past.

The elves don't move.

FRIGID (CONT'D)

You're interfering with official North Pole business, elves.

THEOBALD

Be reasonable fellas!

They just stare him down. Bear spits.

FRIGID

I have full authority to remove you from the premises.

WILLOUGHBY

We aren't on Saint Nick's property.

Frigid LAUGHS, looking back to Frosty over his shoulder, and the other Snowguard, who snicker with him.

FRIGID

Looks like we found ourselves the lead elf.

(to Willoughby)

Listen old timer, all this is Saint Nick's.

WILLOUGHBY

I'm not.

FRIGID

You elves just don't know what's good for you.

(to Frosty)

Break his legs.

Frosty looks around to the other Snowguard who nod, approvingly. He doesn't move.

Frigid, covering his anger, LAUGHS.

FRIGID (CONT'D)
Plenty of snowmen. Sleet.

Sleet slugs Willoughby. He goes down in a heap.

FRIGID (CONT'D)
Lock him up.

Sleet and another Snowguard put him in cuffs. Bear runs at Frigid, but is stopped by Two Snowguard. Frigid looks to the line of elves.

FRIGID (CONT'D)
Now clear a path, elves!

Nobody moves.

FRIGID (CONT'D)
(to Snowguard)
Clear it for em.

The Snowguard move forward, candy canes at the ready.

SNOWGUARD 1
Clear it out! Clear it out!

The elves don't move.

SNOWGUARD 2
We will use force.

SNOWGUARD 3
That's it!

He swings his candy cane back, smacking an ELF across the cheek, who goes down hard.

Bear watches as the non-violent elf protest quickly becomes a blood bath. Elves are beat down by Snowguard, and put into cuffs.

Theo grabs Sara and Alba.

THEOBALD
We gotta get out of here! Let's go!
Let's go!

He pulls them back as far away as they can get as elves are arrested, some finally moving out of the way and penguins march through the gates to the workshop.

Frigid turns to Frosty.

FRIGID

You.

FROSTY

Sir, I can't just --

FRIGID

You're off the streets. You're working prison detail, The Island.

Frosty trudges off, Sleet shakes his head.

INT. THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - DAY

BLOODY ELVES crowd the pub. Juneau sits at the bar.

Hans hands Bear a tankard of nog nearby.

HANS

This round's on me.

BEAR

You're alright, Hans.

HANS

I got your back. Won't be serving no fins here.

Bear turns back to his buddies.

BEAR

First thing we gotta do is get Willoughby and those elves off The Island!

DORIS

Come off it! Those walls are solid ice.

BEAR

We're blowing through five or six feet of ice in the coal mines daily.

TORSTEIN

With what?

SVEN

Explosives. How d'ya think I lost
seven fingers?

He holds up his mangled hands.

DORIS

I'm in.

TORSTEIN

Me too.

BEAR

Hans?

Hans takes a shot.

HANS

Why the hell not?

BEAR

What about you Doc?

JUNEAU

I don't get involved in politics.

HANS

Don't think a good elf has a
choice.

Juneau sighs, looks away. Hans wipes down the bar.

TORSTEIN

We're gonna need someone on the
inside to help out.

BEAR

I got an idea about that.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - ASSEMBLY LINE - EVENING

Theo watches as Penguins put toys together. He's disgusted.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SAINT NICK'S OFFICE - EVENING

Theobald enters anxiously, holding some paperwork.

THEOBALD

Saint Nick, sir?

Nick sits staring into the fire.

SAINT NICK
Have a seat, Theobald.

Theobald doesn't sit.

THEOBALD
We're obviously behind a few days
but... it's not a major problem.
There's still time to try to...

SAINT NICK
What?

THEOBALD
Work things out.

SAINT NICK
Things are worked out.

Theobald can't believe it. Is Saint Nick really this cruel?

THEOBALD
Okay. Well...
(should he say anything?)
Have a good night, sir.

He leaves Saint Nick, staring at the flames in the fireplace.

EXT. THE ISLAND - NIGHT

Frosty heads into The Island prison's main icy gates, past a Snowguard sentry.

FROSTY
Heya, Coldy.

The Sentry waves him in. Frosty WHISTLES to himself.

Coldy the Snowguard stops abruptly in shock. Looking down at his stomach, he sees a metal pickaxe sticking out of his gut.

He grabs for it, but it slides out noiselessly.

Torstein stands behind him, pickaxe in hand. He turns back, waving to Bear and Sven.

TORSTEIN
(quietly)
Snowman never knew what hit him.

Sven unpacks some explosives and sets them up.

SVEN

Alright, on three.

He counts on his three remaining fingers.

SVEN (CONT'D)

One, two, three...

He hits the plunger as they duck behind a snowbank and cover their ears.

The ice wall EXPLODES!

SMOKE BILLOWS out from the shattered prison walls as CHRISTMAS BELLS sound an ALARM.

Bear waves back towards Hans and Doris who run up to join.

BEAR

Hans, Doris!

DORIS

Yeah?

Torstein points to Sven's hand.

TORSTEIN

Your finger.

He's lost ANOTHER one. It's spurting blood.

SVEN

Aw, man.

Sven shoves his hand into the packed snow as the other elves rush into the prison.

INT. THE ISLAND - CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Snowguard rush down the cell block towards the sound of SHOUTING ELVES.

The ELVES rush in, beating snowmen with shovels.

The prisoners CHEER as one of the ELVES grabs some keys and starts opening cells.

Bear and Hans rush down another hallway.

INT. THE ISLAND - WILLOUGHBY CELL - NIGHT

They turn the corner to see Willoughby, in prison reds, watching intently from his cell.

BEAR

Will!

They rush up to the bars.

BEAR (CONT'D)

We're here to get you out.

WILLOUGHBY

With what?

Bear looks up, waving towards the window of a guard station above.

INT. THE ISLAND - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Frosty watches as Bear waves up to him.

He flips a switch labeled "MASTER OVERRIDE" before making his way out of the control room.

There's a loud GRINDING SOUND as... the cells begin to open.

INT. THE ISLAND - WILLOUGHBY'S CELL - NIGHT

Willoughby steps back in surprise as the bars slide open.

BEAR

Made some new friends.

INT. THE ISLAND - CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Hans, Doris, and Torstein walk down the cell block cautiously. Rudolph gallops straight past them.

TORSTEIN

Rudolph!

He stops at the edge of The Hole. It is unguarded now, and he looks down into the darkness.

RUDOLPH

Kris?

INT. THE ISLAND - THE HOLE - NIGHT

Stooped and crooked with the weight of the years he's been imprisoned, a GAUNT OLD MAN in prison reds with a long white beard stares up into the light, at the reindeer's silhouette.

KRIS

Rudolph? My old friend.

This is KRIS KRINGLE.

INT. THE ISLAND - CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

The Elves gather around the hole, staring in after Rudolph.

DORIS

He doesn't mean Kris Kringle?

HANS

Get a rope.

BEAR

Saint Nick's here?

RUDOLPH

No. His brother.

The elves look to one another, holy moly.

INT. THE ISLAND - THE HOLE - NIGHT

Torstein is lowered down into the hole as the elves watch.

BEAR

We don't have time for this!

Torstein spots Kringle, tired and broken.

TORSTEIN

(yelling up)

Lower!

EXT. THE ISLAND - LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Escaped Elves, Reindeer, and Hank the Caribou crowd onto a large ice raft, with a WALRUS waiting to tug it along.

WALRUS

Hurry it up!

Torstein and Hans help Rudolph, Kringle slung across his back, onto the raft and shove the ice raft off.

Snowguard shuffle from the prison to the water's edge.

SNOWGUARD
Jump for it!

SNOWGUARD 2
I'll melt!

One tries the jump, landing in the water. He frantically tries to get back up onto the dock until he sinks below the surface, his hat bobbling there.

EXT. THE ISLAND - MAIN GATE - NIGHT

Frosty steps out of the prison, watching as the ELF RESCUE SHIP disappears into the darkness.

EXT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Hans unlocks the back door to the bar.

HANS
Help me get him inside, we can hide him in the store room for now.

Bear and Torstein hoist Kringle up off Rudolph. Torstein holds him in his arms as he brings him inside.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - STORE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The store room is filled with barrels of nog. They've laid the sleeping Kris Kringle down on a makeshift cot, tucked in under some bearskins.

HANS
I always thought Kris Kringle was an old wive's tale.

They look down at the old man's fragile looking shape.

RUDOLPH
No... it's all true.

BEAR
What happened?

Rudolph begins to explain in "THE HISTORY OF SANTA CLAUS" which explains the origin of Saint Nick (& Kris Kringle).

We may see shadows of this story come to life along the walls depicting the events.

RUDOLPH

A long time ago, before there was a
north pole, there were two orphans
found in the snow.../

A long time ago, their mother had
died, and their father had cried,
and the three were left all alone/
One cold winter day in December,
their father went out to sea.

A fisherman his whole life, a
father without a wife, he still had
to feed his family/

But the sea was unkind, and their
father left them behind, and they
were left all alone until Christmas
Day/

When a little old lady came
knocking, she'd been out that
morning walking, and found the
brothers, huddled against the cold,
Kris and Nick, orphans with hearts
of gold/

She cared for the boys as though
they were her own, until she also
left the boys alone, another sad
Christmas Day/

So the people in town, all came
around, and decided they'd share,
each family would care, for the
boys from one Christmas to the
next/

As they left the boys/
would leave behind one of their
toys/
To thank their new families/

The story of Santa Claus was born/
That fateful cold Christmas morn/
(MORE)

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

When the brothers were left all
alone/
But two brothers can't share one
throne/

The brothers began to fight/
Until Nicholas decided,
He didn't want to share his might/
And had Kris disappeared,
One dark and cold Christmas night/

We see this unfold in the shadows -- Saint Nick ordering
snowmen to grab hold of Kris Kringle, and tow him across the
icy waters of the North Pole out towards THE ISLAND....

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

Ever since then the North Pole has
grown colder/
as Saint Nick grows older and
older/
And things go from bad to worse/

Nobody remembers those two
Christmas brothers/
delivering gifts to the world's
mothers/
And Saint Nick's gifts have become
his curse/

The Christmas Orphan has lost his
cheer, he's lost his guiding light/
Christmas Eve, which used to be
special, has become an especially
dark night...

Bear's moved, he had no idea.

BEAR

We can't let anybody find him here.

HANS

We won't let that happen.

RUDOLPH

Somebody needs to look after him
though. You think Doctor Juneau
might?

They all look to Hans, who knows Juneau best. He shakes his
head, sadly.

HANS

No, I don't.

INT. SNOWGUARD STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAWN

Frosty stands in the back of the room, as Frigid speaks to the Snowguard from a podium.

FRIGID

Gentlemen, if Hell froze over, they'd call it the North Pole. We will have reinforcements built by tonight, so expect to train some new recruits. Deputy Sleet?

Sleet steps forward, now with stripes on his uniform. He beams as he takes center stage. Snowguard CLAP their twig arms. Frosty leaves, disgusted.

EXT. SNOWGUARD STATION - DAWN

Frosty steps into the cold as Sleet ducks out to meet him.

SLEET

Frosty!

FROSTY

Deputy? Is that for bravery in the line of beating up reindeer?

Sleet gets right up into Frosty's face, aggressively. Their carrot noses almost touch.

SLEET

Those elves had someone working on the inside. And I know who it was.

FROSTY

I don't know what you're talking about.

SLEET

Better sleep with both eyes in from now.

Sleet shoves past him, off to a waiting DOG SLED.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Theo gets ready for work, but doesn't see Alba.

THEOBALD

(calling up to her)

Alba!

(MORE)

THEOBALD (CONT'D)

(to Sara)
Where is she?

SARA

You should go up and talk with her.

Theobald heads up, not happy about it.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - MORNING

Theo knocks as he enters. Alba sits at her desk, doodling.

THEOBALD

Alba, workshop. It's time to head out.

ALBA

I'm not going.

THEOBALD

Alba.

ALBA

I'm not. I won't work for him. Not the way he's been treating elves.

THEOBALD

You're my daughter.

ALBA

Not if you work for Nick I'm not.

Theobald heads out in a huff.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - DAWN

Theobald trudges through the snow, passing closed shops with signs that say "No Fins" or "Elves Only."

Penguins march along with him. Snowguard patrol the streets every few yards.

An ELF walks down the street, past Deputy Sleet. The Elf spits as he walks by, and Sleet signals to his fellow Snowguards, who grab the Elf, bringing him into a back alley.

Theo watches in disgust.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Vera stands at Mona's desk as Mona hands her a bill. Olly now conscious, but in a wooden wheelchair is with her. Alba standing behind him.

MONA

Here's the total for the physical therapy.

Vera looks at her, uncomfortable.

VERA

Is there any way we might get a payment plan? Things have been very tight at home.

Dr. Juneau enters. He picks up the bill and looks at it.

JUNEAU

What's this bill for Mona?

MONA

The Quark boy's treatment.

Juneau rips it up.

JUNEAU

There must be some misunderstanding. No charge.

Vera looks to him with tears in her eyes.

VERA

I can't accept charity.

JUNEAU

And I can't accept blood money. Enough's enough.

Vera nods.

ALBA

Alright Olly, let's get you outta here.

She and Vera wheel him out.

OLLY

What's wrong Mom?

VERA

Just happy you're doing better.

Mona turns to Juneau.

MONA
(shocked but proud)
Dr. Juneau, sir...

JUNEAU
I'm just sick of it, Mona. That's
all.

She hugs Juneau with pride.

MONA
Oh you did a great thing, that's
all.

She steps back, looking at him admiringly.

JUNEAU
Just bring me the next patient.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Theobald stands on the gangplank, surveying his new workers:
PENGUINS everywhere, QUACKING at each other.

A Snowguard sits in every corner, candy cane ready. Penguins
build NEW SNOWMEN, dressing them up in their official
Snowguard blues.

Sleet watches from above as the snowmen come to life.

SLEET
Alright boys, we got some elves to
set straight today.

EXT. CHEER ALLEY - NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Hans drags a drunk Willoughby out the front door, shoving him
down to the curb. Willoughby looks up from the ground at him,
pleading.

WILLOUGHBY
Just another nog.

HANS
I'm cutting you off.

The elf collapses into the grime. Two PENGUINS waddle up next
to him, heading for the bar. Hans glares at them.

HANS (CONT'D)
Get lost fins. Elves only.

He taps the window. A sign reads "NO BEAKS." They waddle off.

WILLOUGHBY
Workshop closed, it's hard times
for me!

HANS
You ain't the only one.

Hans leaves the drunk there. He stares up forlornly at the Northern Lights glimmering overhead.

Hans sings: "LOST THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT." A song about how things used to be different, before everyone lost the spirit, and now all he has to get him through things are his spirits.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Hans wipes the bar down. Some Elves sit around, speaking in hushed voices.

The door opens and he looks up to see Sleet with Two Snowguard behind him. He slumps up into a bar stool.

SLEET
Schnapps.

Hans silently pours three shots of peppermint schnapps. The snowguard all drink. He tries not to let them notice him looking back to the storeroom, trying to remember if it's locked.

SLEET (CONT'D)
Nice place you got here.

HANS
I try.

SLEET
See you don't let any penguins in.

Hans stares at him, not answering.

SLEET (CONT'D)
So let me ask you: without customers, how do you plan to pay for the damages?

HANS
What damages?

The Snowguard throw their shot glasses into the back mirror, flipping chairs. One marches behind the bar, sweeping the bottles off the shelves with his candy cane.

CUSTOMERS run out, terrified. Hans watches silently.

SLEET

You work for me. You work for Saint Nick. You let our penguins in.

HANS

I don't work for nobody.

Sleet stands.

SLEET

If that's how you want it to be, sure. You don't work for nobody.

He walks outside and the Snowguard follow him. Hans looks back out just as the front window SMASHES.

Two MOLOTOV COCKTAILS fly in through the glass, shattering and spraying flames through the bar.

Hans doesn't have time to duck and erupts in flames.

EXT. CHEER ALLEY - NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Sleet and Snowguard watch as The Northern Lights Pub burns.

SNOWGUARD

Why do I love fire so much?

SLEET

Come on. We got an old friend to visit.

He heads off.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Juneau sleeps in his armchair, a glass of nog precarious in his hand. Orange firelight flickers in from his window. The door BUZZES. He starts awake.

EXT. DR JUNEAU'S HOME - NIGHT

Juneau, in robe and slippers steps outside. Hans, badly burned, is crumpled on the stoop.

JUNEAU

Hans!

He kneels down. Hans looks up at him.

HANS

Snowguard...

JUNEAU

What did you do now you damn fool?

HANS

They must've known.

JUNEAU

I don't want to to know about it.
Whatever it is.

Juneau looks down the street, it's deserted.

JUNEAU (CONT'D)

Let me take you to my office.

HANS

Percy, no. We gotta get him out.
He's in the storeroom.

JUNEAU

Who?

HANS

Kris Kringle.

Juneau looks across the street at the flaming bar.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - NIGHT

Juneau, and Hans, wet rags covering their faces, enter the flaming bar through the back door.

INT. NORTHERN LIGHTS PUB - STORE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Still asleep on his cot, Kris Kringle. Juneau looks at him in surprise a moment before helping Hans hoist him up.

INT. FROSTY'S IGLOO - NIGHT

Frosty sits in an armchair of ice, lost in thought. He hears FOOTSTEPS outside, and turns sharply. He pulls his candy cane out, peering outside, he knows this isn't good.

FROSTY

Sleet? Let's talk this through!

Frosty heads to the back door, opening it.

EXT. FROSTY'S IGLOO - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Sleet and goons watch as the igloo EXPLODES. It burns, what's left melting in front of them.

SLEET

Looks like Frosty's seen his last snowstorm.

His goons LAUGH.

Behind them, unnoticed, Doctor Juneau rides by on a sleigh, with a bundle of blankets. He tries to look as inconspicuous as possible.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - ALBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alba sleeps in bed. BANGING wakes her with a start.

SLEET (O.S.)

Open up! Theobald!

She jumps up out of bed.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alba watches from the staircase as a groggy Theobald holds the door open for Sleet and SNOWGUARD.

SLEET

Move aside, we're looking for escaped elves.

THEOBALD

Sleet, seriously? I'm workshop foreman.

SLEET

If you aren't hiding anything, nothing to be scared of.

THEOBALD

Who says I'm scared?

SLEET

Nick's orders.

THEOBALD
Have Nick tell me then.

He slams the door shut.

ALBA
Dad?

THEOBALD
Go back to bed. Everything's
alright.

ALBA
Things are really bad, huh?

THEOBALD
(sighs)
Go back to bed.

She reluctantly does. Theo stands there a minute before putting his coat and hat on over his pajamas.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Hans, burnt to a crisp, MOANS as Juneau and Mona treat his burns as delicately as possible.

DR. JUNEAU
Gauze.

MONA
Gauze.

The door swings open.

Frosty stands there in bad shape, wood splinters sticking out of him. He's dripping and partially melted.

DR. JUNEAU
(scared)
I'm a doctor for sleet's sake!

FROSTY
I'm not here to -- I need your
help.

DR. JUNEAU
You're snowguard.

FROSTY
Not anymore.

Juneau studies him cautiously.

DR. JUNEAU
Come with me.

He heads out to the hall.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

They stand in front of the door to Juneau's walk-in freezer.

JUNEAU
You're sure nobody saw you?

Frosty shakes his head.

FROSTY
They think I'm already dead.

JUNEAU
Good. You can stay in here tonight.

He opens the door to the freezer, cold air billows out. Frosty looks across the hall at a slightly ajar treatment room, the shape of someone lying in the bed.

FROSTY
Who's in there?

Juneau shuts the door abruptly.

JUNEAU
Nobody.
(motions to the freezer)
I'll see you tomorrow.

Frosty heads inside, slumping against a storage rack. Juneau closes the door behind him.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Theobald enters the empty workshop. He looks around, only to see the light on in Nick's office above. He heads up towards it as quietly as possible.

SLEET (O.S.)
Can't find 'em, sir. We're scouring the pole, but the elves are less than cooperative.

SAINT NICK (O.S.)
Prisoners on the loose and elves won't even lift a hand.

PENGUIN KING (O.S.)
You need to put them in their
place.

Theo stands outside Nick's office door. He KNOCKS.

SAINT NICK (O.S.)
Yes?

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - NICK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Theo peeks inside on Nick, the Penguin King, and Sleet.

SAINT NICK
Theobald? What are you doing here?

THEOBALD
I didn't expect anyone to be in.

SAINT NICK
Elves are rioting, killing
Snowguard. I'm working non-stop.

SLEET
We all are.

SAINT NICK
These two are telling me we should
be working harder to fight the
criminal elements responsible for
this uprising. What do you think?

THEOBALD
That's why I came, actually sir.

SAINT NICK
Oh?

THEOBALD
To tender my resignation.

SAINT NICK
What would your family think?

THEOBALD
That I should've done that a long
time ago.

SAINT NICK
You're siding with the criminals
then?

THEOBALD

You mean the elves? Yes.

Theo walks out.

SAINT NICK

Sleet, add him to the list.

SLEET

Already got it.

Saint Nick stands, looking out the window down to the workshop.

PENGUIN KING

You've lost complete control! This is insanity.

Nick turns back to Sleet.

SAINT NICK

It's time.

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SMELTING ROOM - NIGHT

Vats of molten metal bubble in the center of the room as Sleet and a few Snowguard approach.

SLEET

(yells)

Release the Krampus!

The Snowmen slam pickaxes and sledgehammers against the smelting pot.

CRACK! Liquid metal pours across the snow and out the doors. A snowman caught in the way is instantly evaporated into a cloud of mist.

SNOWGUARD

Keep going!

The remaining snowmen move to the next pot, and the next one.

Snow melts with a WOOSH, as STEAM fills the room.

The Snowmen and Saint Nick look up at an ENORMOUS SILHOUETTE.

There's an EARTH-SHAKING ROAR, shattering the windows.

EXT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Juneau looks anxiously over his shoulder as he locks the front door. Mona stands with him.

MONA

You're doing a great thing helping that snowman.

In the distance, a ROAR. Juneau looks back to see, and spots some SNOWGUARD marching towards them.

JUNEAU

Run!

Mona looks confused.

MONA

But --

Juneau shoves her.

JUNEAU

Run! Now!

Terrified, she can't move. He slaps her across the face.

JUNEAU (CONT'D)

Move, darn it!

She runs into the thick pines as he looks down the road to see approaching SNOWGUARD.

SNOWGUARD

Time we paid a call to the doctor.

Juneau follows Mona into the trees. The Snowguard light some molotov cocktails, throwing them onto the building, which erupts into flames.

Juneau and Mona watch. She CRIES.

MONA

We have to do something.

He watches as the building's windows SHATTER from the heat.

JUNEAU

It's too late.

He tugs her after him and they disappear into the woods.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - WALK IN FREEZER - NIGHT

Frosty WAKES WITH A START. The room is aglow, orange and red. He looks out the room's window into the hall where he spots Kris Kringle, surrounded by flames. He needs help.

Frosty opens the door to the freezer -- already dripping as he begins to melt from the intense heat.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COURTYARD - NIGHT

The brick walls of the workshop begin to freeze, cold spreading outwards from the interior of the smelting room...

Saint Nick backs away, out into the courtyard as a large shadow emerges from the doors....

THE KRAMPUS!

A demon with curled horns and matted fur, it towers over the buildings nearby. Cold emanates from it, freezing everything nearby.

SAINT NICK
Krampus! Go! Punish!

It BELLOWS a demonic roar, smashing the statue of Saint Nicholas giving out presents. It reaches the gates to the workshop, where a SNOWGUARD in a security booth looks up in terror.

SNOWGUARD
Holly -- !

Krampus tears through the booth, ripping everything in its path to shreds with its massive claws.

The Snowguard's hat flutters to the snowy ground as Krampus stomps away.

INT. THEOBALD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Theobald darts around the house, grabbing provisions and stuffing them into a bag. Sara enters groggily.

SARA
Theo it's the middle of the --

THEOBALD
We have to go! Right now! Get Alba, get your mittens, now, now!

SARA
Sugarplum? You're scaring me.
What's wrong?

THEOBALD
The Krampus. Nick's releasing the
Krampus.

SARA
I didn't think it was real!

THEOBALD
It's real!

She runs upstairs.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - NIGHT

Theobald and Sara run dragging Alba along.

ALBA
Mom said there's no such thing as --
In the distance an UNEARTHLY ROAR bellows out.

THEOBALD
There is.

ALBA
Olly!

Alba darts off towards the reindeer stables.

SARA
Wait!

THEOBALD
Alba!

ALBA
The Quarks!

Her parents run after her.

INT. REINDEER STABLES - NIGHT

POUNDING at the door. Vera turns to Rudolph, whose nose is glowing as dimly as he can make it.

VERA
Hide. They may be snowmen.

RUDOLPH

My nose.

THEOBALD (O.S.)

Finn, Vera! It's us! Open up!

Finneas stumbles past Olly to the door, which he swings open.

FINNEAS

(mad)

You have a lot of nerve showing up
here in the middle of the night
Theo.

THEOBALD

I'm an ass. Okay. I get it. But
Nick's lost it. He's released --

ROAR.

FINNEAS

(to Vera)

Grab Olly.

(to Finn)

Help me with the reins.

INT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT

ELVES in masks move through the store silently. They dump food and other goods into bags as one elf tries to bust open the cash register with a hammer.

BEAR

Decked thing won't budge.

WILLOUGHBY

Come on, we got what we came for.

He holds up some gingerbread.

TORSTEIN

Enough gingerbread to get my family
through the week.

BEAR

Just one second.

The wall behind him vanishes, ripped to pieces.

BEAR turns slowly to see the frosty eyes of Krampus, glaring in at him, saliva dripping from his massive teeth.

KRAMPUS

Naughty.

BEAR yells as Krampus bites, bringing his flailing legs up and out of the building.

As Krampus swallows the helpless elf, he begins to sing a song: "**THE KRAMPUS RUMPUS.**" A song about how nobody can really be good, unless they're scared to be bad, and that scary thing's gonna be Krampus.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - NIGHT

ELVES run down the street in every direction as Krampus swings the elf in his mouth around, bones crunching, before swallowing him whole.

Krampus pulls out a long, rusty chain, swinging it over his head and snapping it out towards one of the fleeing criminals. It whips around his legs, bringing him down.

THE KRAMPUS RUMPUS CONTINUES... *"Nobody had better step out of line, or they're going to get someone snapping their spine, and that someone is gonna be Krampus..."*

Krampus snaps his chains back, sending the elf flying into the air, screaming...

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - NIGHT

A reindeer sleigh, led by Rudolph flies out of the stable. Finn drives, with his family Olly and Vera huddled behind him. Alba holds Olly's hand, as Theo and Sara hold onto her.

THEOBALD

Let's go, let's go!

He looks back to see Krampus lowering the robber into his mouth from the chain.

FINNEAS

Mush!

Krampus continues **THE KRAMPUS RUMPUS.** *"Everyone runs from Krampus, everyone screams when they see, a demonic beast, with six foot long teeth, who swallows elves whole with glee!"*

Krampus turns down the street in their direction as they fly across the snow, straight towards a PENGUIN. It quacks, jumping out of the way.

They turn off and the Penguin shakes a fin at them.

A forked tongue scoops the Penguin up into Krampus' mouth.

The Krampus song reaches its fever pitch. *"Krampus Krampus everyone's scared of Krampus, and being scared means being good. The Krampus is coming, you better start running, the Krampus is misunderstood! Krampus Krampus Krampus! There's nothing better than being a Krampus! Krampus Krampus Krampus!"*

The Krampus burps.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

The sleigh glides along through the trees. Snow falls in a thick blanket. Ahead, Juneau and Mona appear in the distance, waving their arms.

EXT. THE WOODS - DAWN

The Elves huddle together around a makeshift fire as DAWN BREAKS through the trees.

SARA

We've got to go somewhere.

THEOBALD

Where?

ALBA

Hey Dad.

VERA

Leave the North Pole.

THEOBALD

And go where?

ALBA

Hey Dad.

FINNEAS

North Pole's an island Vera.
Nowhere to go.

THEOBALD

What about --

ALBA

DAD!

THEOBALD

What?

Alba points.

ALBA

Snowman!

Through the tree line they can just make out a SNOWMAN marching towards them. The Elves brace themselves.

It's FROSTY.

FROSTY

Help. I need --

FINNEAS

What makes you think we'd help you?

FROSTY

Because... because...

RUDOLPH

I say we kill him.

Everyone's surprised to hear that from Rudolph. The elves and Reindeer move forward, but Juneau rushes between them and Frosty. Finneas grabs a burning log.

JUNEAU

This is my patient!

FINNEAS

Then gimme one good reason not to melt the both of you.

OLLY

Dad.

MONA

(to Frosty)

We thought you'd melted.

FROSTY

The freezer. Saved me and... More importantly...

He motions behind him, to a small sled he's been dragging, with Kris Kringle.

ALBA

Is that...

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - SNOWMAN ROOM - DAY

The elves throw torches and molotov cocktails onto the building and the snowmen.

SVEN

Take that you sons of blizzards!

The flames reach into the sky. Snowmen and Penguins pour back out, some on fire, SCREAMING.

BURNING PENGUIN

Oh the horror!

Snowmen melt in agony. Those that do escape rush straight into the claws of Krampus.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Juneau kneels over a bundled up Kringle by the fire. The doctor looks over to Sara, who's stirring a big pot.

JUNEAU

How's that cocoa coming along?

ALBA

So if Kris Kringle's real he can save the North Pole.

SARA

He's an old man, dear.

ALBA

You told me he's a legend.

RUDOLPH

He is.

They look to Rudolph.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

He and Saint Nick used to work together until the two had a falling out. Kris wanted to give everyone gifts, but Nick said only the good boys and girls should get presents, and the naughty should be punished.

OLLY

How do you know all this?

Sara ladles out some cocoa to Juneau, who takes it to Kris. Kringle drinks. It seems to revive him somewhat. He looks up to see the elves, gathered around him. He spots Rudolph.

KRIS
My old friend.

He reaches out to pet his buddy. Rudolph's nose GLOWS bright.

Gary and Hank the Caribou appear through the trees, looking exhausted. Willoughby and a few elves behind them.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Snowmen and Penguins struggle to put out the flames. Bucket brigades bring icy water, but whenever a Snowman gets close he melts, and Penguins continue to catch fire.

A MELTING SNOWMAN rushes over to Sleet, overseeing things.

MELTING SNOWMAN
We can't stop the flames.

Sleet tries to comfort the snowman as he dies in his arms.

SLEET
Sh. Save your strength.

He melts.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - NICK'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Sleet rushes up the stairs, panting, towards Saint Nick.

SLEET
Sir, we can't contain the fire. We
have to evacuate. The workshop
isn't safe anymore.

SAINT NICK
Nowhere is.

He turns, looking out at the rest of the North Pole in chaos. Buildings burn. Elf and Penguin blood and bodies litter the snowy streets.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Everyone's gathered around Kringle who speaks quietly.

KRIS

The good elves, and snowmen... All we can do is give them shelter.

Kris tries to stand, shakily. Alba and Olly give him a hand.

JUNEAU

You've got to save your strength.

KRIS

No. We've got to save the North Pole.

FINNEAS

We've gotta do something about Nick first.

KRIS

First we help those too weak to help themselves. We head into town, save as many elves as we can. Rudolph?

Rudolph comes over to his side, Kris petting him.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

RUDOLPH

I thought you'd never ask.

Kris puts on a red prison cap, lined in white fur. He steps into his sleigh.

THEOBALD

Never really believed he was real.

They watch in awe as Kris Kringle starts to ride off.

WILLOUGHBY

Well, let's go then. No use dawdling.

He hops up onto Gary's back.

GARY THE CARIBOU

Oof.

WILLOUGHBY

Yaw!

He runs off after Nick.

EXT. CHRISTMAS WAY - NIGHT

Theo sits atop Dasher, looking around the decimated town.

TWO SNOWGUARD run towards them.

 THEOBALD
 Sven, Willoughby!

Sven and Willoughby exit the house, tens of ELF CHILDREN following behind them, loading onto a sled pulled by Prancer.

 SVEN
 Snowguard?

The Snowguard are snapped up into the air by Krampus.

 WILLOUGHBY
 Let's go! Let's go!

They ride off, the Elf Children sobbing on the sleigh.

EXT. CHEER ALLEY - NIGHT

They ride slowly past the charred remains of the Northern Lights Pub, picking up a few more injured, frightened ELVES.

EXT. ELF REFUGEE CAMP - THE WOODS - DAWN

Theo, Sven, and Willoughby ride into the camp with HUNDREDS of ELVES in tow.

Kris Kringle brings up the rear.

Doctor Juneau rushes to the refugees to care for the injured.

 JUNEAU
 Jack Frost! You brought the whole
 North Pole.

 WILLOUGHBY
 Everyone we could.

 JUNEAU
 I'll do my best. Mona, Sara, give
 me a hand.

The three start leading injured aside.

 KRIS
 All these children.

WILLOUGHBY

We tried to get as many parents out
as we could, but --

THEOBALD

The Krampus probably got to them.

SVEN

Or the snowguard.

WILLOUGHBY

Or hunger.

ALBA

Nick hasn't paid any of the elves
since February.

KRIS

Saint Nick has forsaken our
children. The elves, and the
snowmen, the polar bears who
protect our great city, and the
Abominable Snowmen who hunt its
surroundings. He has brought
darkness to the North Pole, and now
it is time that we bring light.

The ELVES CHEER.

Eli takes charge of the group, corralling everyone into
various duties as Kris steps away. Rudolph approaches, and
Kris leans on his reindeer friend, weakened from his speech.

RUDOLPH

Never thought I'd see you give
another gift.

KRIS

(rueful)
I'm giving them a war.

INT. PENGUIN KING'S IGLOO - DAY

The Penguin King paces, Saint Nick sits in a large armchair
as Sleet stands, delivering a dispatch.

SLEET

The elves are regrouping sir, and
they've taken most of the North
Pole with them.

SAINT NICK

Assemble the snowguard.

SLEET

Sir.

He exits and the Penguin King turns on Saint Nick.

PENGUIN KING

And what about that monster? It's
killed as many penguins as elves,
maybe more!

SAINT NICK

You and your penguins help me
secure the North Pole, and I'll be
sure to compensate their families
and you.

The Penguin King QUACKS the equivalent of a grumble.

INT. ELF REBEL CAMP - ALBA'S TENT - NIGHT

Alba, Theobald, and Willoughby scour over blueprints
together, tinkering with a gun-like device.

She holds it up, pulling the trigger, and FLAMES shoot out.

ALBA

I told you I could design machines.

Sara looks over the wounded elves at the two of them bonding.

EXT. ELF REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT

The ELF FORCES are assembled, lit by flickering torches.
Brigades of ELVES, their commanders on reindeer back stand
tall, picks, shovels, axes and sledgehammers at the ready.

Alba and Theobald stand to the front of a group with
flamethrowers, which spout off occasionally, high into the
sky. Alba sits astride Copernicus, the other elves also on
walruses.

Kris Kringle, battered and old marches down the lines of
assembled troops.

A DRUMMER ELF plays a war march: "**THE WAR OF TWO SANTAS.**" A
battle song about good fighting bad, elf brother fighting elf
brother, and how no matter who wins the one mourning will be
their mother... When two Santas come together to fight, it
promises a very dark night, the snow of the pole will turn
red.

As the war march continues, we start to see the numerous troop movements on each side:

EXT. PENGUIN KING'S IGLOO - NIGHT

Saint Nick passes the ranks of Snowguard.

A V FORMATION OF REINDEER

Kris surveys the V-formation of reindeer, with Rudolph's nose lighting the lead.

PENGUINS STAND AT THE READY

Stand at the ready. The Penguin King in front looking anxious, with leather armor covering his little body.

GARY AND HANK CARIBOU

Stand in the front of a pack of CARIBOU.

KRAMPUS

Snarls, rattling his chains as Saint Nick walks past him.

EXT. KRIS KRINGLE'S SLEIGH - NIGHT

The sled gleams in the torchlight. Kris Kringle inspects the craftsmanship, looking to see a beaming proud Finneas. He smiles at him.

FINNEAS

It's good to have you back, Santa.

OLLY

We figured you could use a new sleigh.

Kris stands up on the sleigh, to see that it's pulled by SIX POLAR BEARS -- a war sled.

OLLY (CONT'D)

A little different than you remember probably.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S - BALCONY - NIGHT

Saint Nick stands at the edge of the balcony, speaking down to his assembled troops.

SAINT NICK

They'll want to take the workshop first for the tactical advantage, so we will hold the line North of that. The elves want a war, we'll give it to them.

His troops CHEER.

EXT. ELF REBEL CAMP - NIGHT

Kris speaks to the assembled elves and animals.

KRIS

For Christmas!

The ELVES CHEER as he heads off down the slope, polar bears in the lead.

EXT. THE ICELANDS - NIGHT

Penguins march through the snow several hundred yards past the workshop, on the flat terrain of ice that stretches out to the mountains.

Kris and his sled speed across the plain towards them, followed by SCREAMING ELVES.

The Penguins and Elves meet, with a crash as weapons hit their targets. The Polar Bears tear through penguins, throwing some high into the air.

Kris continues as the Elves struggle against penguins. Krampus rears back his ugly head, looming over everyone.

Kris pulls the reins, whipping his sleigh to the side, on one runner as the polar bears try to avoid the monster in front of them. He ROARS wildly.

Kris looks back, narrowly missing the Krampus' chains.

KRIS

Abominable!

An ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN, furry and matted and tall, with icy blue-white fur, emerges from the elves, standing up to its full height -- about half that of Krampus.

It goes in to fight the monster, as Kris falls back to safety behind the elf lines.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - BALCONY - NIGHT

Saint Nick surveys the battle below from his balcony. The Reindeer & Caribou columns make their way towards the Workshop.

SAINT NICK

Incoming!

From the columns, he spots Kris Kringle's sleigh, flying across the snow. He studies it intently.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Capture that man!

Ice shields and candy canes at the ready, SNOWGUARD form a strong line as the Caribou and Reindeer crash into them. They beat them over the head as some fall unconscious. Others run back for another pass.

Rudolph's antlers tangle with Sleet, who smashes him over the head.

SLEET

You'll never get past this line.

RUDOLPH

Maybe I don't want to.

EXT. THE BERGS - NIGHT

The docks are quiet and still. With a SPLASH, Copernicus leaps up out of the water, Alba on his back. She looks around then gives a WHISTLE.

More WALRUSES begin to leap from the water, elves on their backs. Theobald rides up to her, signaling back to the others to follow.

EXT. THE ICELANDS - NIGHT

The Penguin King, riding a seal, directs his troops as they struggle to hold back elves. He spots Kris Kringle riding by in his sleigh.

PENGUIN KING

Kill the Kringle!

He pushes forward, making his way towards Kris' sleigh, slicing elves out of the way.

He swings around, squaring off with Kris.

KRIS

This isn't your fight, Penguin King! This is for the North Pole!

PENGUIN KING

What if I want the North Pole too?

The Penguin King rides full speed towards Kris, who doesn't move. A polar bear leaps up, biting the Penguin King square in the neck, taking him down with a brutal shake of his head.

The Penguin Prince, nearby, screams in horror.

PENGUIN PRINCE

My liege!

He rushes over to his fallen father, clutching him tenderly.

PENGUIN KING

I reached too far, with fins that are only penguin.

He dies, the Penguin Prince crying, clutching him. He stands, unsheathing his sword with grace.

PENGUIN PRINCE

You'll pay for this.

He looks up but KRINGLE's nowhere to be seen. The Polar Bears have surrounded him.

The Penguin Prince holds his sword at the ready as the Polar Bears move in, growling.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S - BALCONY - NIGHT

Saint Nick looks out as Snowguard beat back reindeer and caribou, the animals collapsing into the snow, defeated.

Krampus throws the Abominable Snowman into a crowd of elves, knocking them all out. He whips a chain around, swatting even more elves as he lets out a ROAR.

A SNOWGUARD looks up to the balcony, yelling.

SNOWGUARD

The elves are falling back sir!

SAINT NICK

What about Kringle?

SNOWGUARD

He's disappeared! Surrounded by penguins. Either ran for it or buried in the snow.

SAINT NICK

Well, find him!

Saint Nick looks off at the horizon, which is just beginning to lighten from indigo to a softer blue, as dawn approaches.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WAY - NIGHT

Sleet rushes over to the front gates of the workshop. A SNOWGUARD stands in full armor, his visor down.

When Sleet sees him he lets out a sigh of relief.

SLEET

The elves, they're planning something. Catch our rear flank sleeping on the job.

SNOWGUARD

I sleep with both eyes on.

Recognition dawns on Sleet's face as the Snowguard pulls up his visor to reveal: Frosty. Sleet looks at him in horror.

SLEET

You're supposed to be...

FROSTY

Water?

FLAMES ENGULF Sleet, who screams as he melts. Alba and the other flamethrower elves douse him with fire until he's nothing more than a puddle with a face.

Frosty looks down into the puddle, seeing his own reflection.

FROSTY (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Sleet.

Frosty heads into the guard room, hitting a lever. The gates to the workshop CREAK open.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Alba and Theobald rush through the courtyard towards a tall ladder as the other elves SHOOT FLAMES at the last SNOWGUARD.

They start climbing, up towards the tall walls and turrets of Saint Nick's workshop, singed and covered in soot.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S - BALCONY - DAWN

Saint Nick looks over the raging battle as the sky lightens.

SAINT NICK

Where are you Kristopher? What are you planning?

EXT. THE WORKSHOP WALLS - DAWN

The Abominable Snowman flies through the air, flung by Krampus who ROARS!

Abominable slides to a stop just under the wall of the workshop. He looks up to see a little elf waving. He smiles.

Krampus whips a chain out, wrapping around Abominable.

Krampus taunts him as he approaches.

KRAMPUS

I have punished many of your kind, Abominable. You will be the last.

He stands under the walls of the workshop, victorious.

Krampus rears back, with a self-assured roar. As he looks up to the sky, a ton of flaming coal dumps from the turret, burying him.

Abominable looks up to see Alba and Theobald's heads poke over the edge of the wall. An empty coal car dangles from ropes pulled by reindeer flying overhead.

ALBA

Looked like you could use help.

Frosty comes over, freeing the Abominable from the chains wrapped around him.

THEOBALD

Get those chains around Krampus while he's weak!

Elves lash the chains around the ball of coal, once again chaining the Krampus, who ROARS pathetically from within the ball of fire.

EXT. WORKSHOP COURTYARD - DAWN

SNOWMEN EXPLODE as Gary & Hank the Caribou plow through their ranks. The Caribou look up to see Snowguard beginning to run, fleeing.

SNOWGUARD
They've taken the workshop! The
North Pole's fallen!

Gary & Hank look up to see elves on the walls of the workshop. The tide seems to be changing as the sun peeks over the horizon.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S - BALCONY - DAWN

The sun blazes over the snowy battleground. Bodies of penguins, snowmen, and elves, scattered across the tundra.

Saint Nick watches as his troops begin to fall back, rebels surging forward. He hears a BANGING at the door behind him, and Saint Nick steps inside.

INT. SAINT NICK'S - BEDROOM - DAWN

Saint Nick unlocks the bedroom door to see a SNOWGUARD, huffing and puffing, panicking.

SNOWGUARD
Sir, Sleet's melted. They've taken
the workshop!

SAINT NICK
How?

SNOWGUARD
We don't know. We have to fall
back.

SAINT NICK
And give the North Pole to a few
misfit toys? Where is your loyalty?

SNOWGUARD
With all due respect sir, I'd
rather be frozen than loyal.

The Snowguard leaves, Nick shuts the door, locking it.

The fire in the chimney SNUFFS OUT abruptly.

Nick turns to see Kris Kringle emerge from the fireplace, covered in coal soot.

KRIS

Nicholas.

SAINT NICK

Kristopher. Sneaking down the chimney, like a burglar?

Kris steps out to the balcony with Nick.

INT./EXT. SAINT NICK'S - BEDROOM/BALCONY - DAWN

Kris looks sadly out at the wreckage.

KRIS

The North Pole used to be a beautiful, sacred place.

SAINT NICK

Don't give me a speech about pristine beauty. We built that factory together.

Kris turns on him, a fire burning in his eyes.

KRIS

And now it's a burnt shell!
Destroyed!

SAINT NICK

It was the elves who did it.
Robbing the children of the world.

Kris looks up to a shelf of handmade toys, lining the wall. He touches them gingerly.

KRIS

And the children of the North Pole?
Do they deserve toys? Love?
Families?

SAINT NICK

Don't make this about family, Kris. I'm sick of hearing about the meaning of Christmas. You were always a dreamer. I dealt with the details! The terrible workers.

Kris notices a simple, small, sled, sitting in the corner. He looks to Saint Nick, gesturing towards the sled.

KRIS

Have you forgotten everything? Our first sleigh rides together?

SAINT NICK

I remember the burden. The fear and resentment, and how happy those families were on December 25th.

KRIS

To receive our gifts.

SAINT NICK

To get rid of us!

Nick picks up the sled, smashing Kris to the ground.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

To get rid of the little orphan brothers, who made everyone feel guilty!

He hits Kris again, and again. The sled splintering over him as Kris absorbs the blows weakly.

SAINT NICK (CONT'D)

Fight me! Fight me you idiot!

KRIS

No.

Nick takes one of the sharp metal blades, grabbing Kris by the hair, pulling his head back, ready to slit his throat.

Kris smiles, LAUGHING.

KRIS (CONT'D)

My brother, you're just in time.

SAINT NICK

I'm not your brother anymore.

Nick's thrown forward, the blade slipping from his hand. Rudolph flies across the room, pinning Nick against the wall.

The door splits open, blown apart in a blast. Willoughby and other elves burst through the door.

WILLOUGHBY

Not another move, Nick.

EXT. SAINT NICK'S - DAWN

Saint Nick struggles against his icy handcuffs, as Frosty shoves him into a sled, pulled by two reindeer.

Kris approaches, battered and bruised.

FROSTY
You alright Kris?

Kris pats Frosty on the shoulder.

KRIS
All creatures are our brothers,
Nicholas. It isn't blood that binds
us, but our hearts.

He nods to Frosty, drives the sleigh off.

Kris watches it head over the horizon. The sun shines pink across the snowy landscape, the darkened silhouettes of destroyed buildings smoldering.

RUDOLPH
What now, Santa?

KRIS
It's a new day for the North Pole.

EXT. THE NORTH SEA - DAWN

Two walruses pull a small iceberg across the water. Frosty mans the tiller, and Saint Nick, still bound, watches as The Island looms in front of them.

FROSTY
Might be lonelier than usual here,
what with you being the only
prisoner.

EXT. REINDEER STABLES - DAY

The Reindeer stable is half-built, almost entirely reconstructed. Finneas tries to lift a large wooden beam, but can't budge it.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
Here, allow me.

Abominable easily takes the beam and sets it up in place, the two studying their work together.

Olly sits atop a reindeer nearby, as Alba measures him into a special saddle that his legs strap into.

BLITZEN
Oh, not too tight.

ALBA
Sorry.

She straps it down.

ALBA (CONT'D)
Give it a shot.

Olly grabs the reins and the reindeer begins to walk forward, Olly riding his back.

OLLY
I can ride again!

The reindeer jumps and bucks into the sky. It's away with A FLASH.

ALBA
The flash!

INT. SAINT NICK'S WORKSHOP - COAL ROOM - DAY

Krampus, wrapped in so many chains he's barely even visible under there, sits in a dark hole.

Theobald watches Sven and Torstein back up a sled of hot coals, pouring them over the Krampus.

Elves pat the coals down with shovels, sweating as they do. Liquid concrete is poured over, sealing the Krampus in what is hopefully an eternal tomb.

INT. DR. JUNEAU'S OFFICE - DAY

Juneau pats an injured elf on the shoulder before the elf exits. He sits down in the waiting room, exhausted, but content. His eyes flutter closed.

Mona enters, and leaning forward, kisses him on the forehead. He opens his eyes as she undoes her dress, letting it drop to her feet on the floor.

EXT. CHRISTMAS SQUARE - NIGHT

The Square is decked out with a large podium once more. The Preacher Elf speaks on stage, looking out over the crowd of elves, snowmen, Penguins, and other creatures.

Alba and Theobald stand on stage, along with Willoughby, Rudolph, Frosty, and all the heroes of the revolution.

Theo looks to Alba, proud.

THEOBALD

Thanks for helping me see the error
of my ways.

ALBA

If you put enough thought into it
you can fix anything, even the
North Pole.

Theo tussles her hair, so proud. He and Sara share a look.

Alba starts to sing "**CHRISTMAS IS FOR EVERYONE...**" A song about how Christmas isn't about the presents, and it's not about the toys, it's not about the cookies, or being a good girl or boy, Christmas is for everyone, it's a spirit in your heart, Christmas is for everyone, and maybe this year can be the start... Christmas is for everyone, it's about spreading love and cheer, Christmas is for everyone, it's for holding your loved ones near...

The entire North Pole sings along... As Christmas Bells start CHIMING!

The bells toll, ringing loud and clear across the snowy plaza, as the crowd lowers their heads in memory of the fallen.

PREACHER ELF

We ring the Christmas Bells, to
remember those who gave their lives
defending the Christmas Spirit.

Kris Kringle steps to the podium, looks out at the sea of people and creatures.

KRINGLE

This year, there may be no toys.
But, we will always have certain
gifts we can give. The gift of joy,
the gift of family, the gift of
Christmas.

(MORE)

KRINGLE (CONT'D)

Cherish those gifts, cherish each other, and remember your loved ones, whether they are by your side, or in your hearts. That is the spirit of Christmas that so many fought and died for. Merry Christmas to all...

ALL

And to all a good night.

CUT TO BLACK.