

MOTHER SOLSTICE

A Musical

Book and Lyrics by Rene Zabel

Music by Paul Scherer

MOTHER SOLSTICE

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MOTHER SOLSTICE

CHARACTERS:

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS, F 21st century Mother Solstice/Mrs.

Claus: Elegant, well dressed. Smart and savvy. She isn't the grandmother type she is more Fifth Avenue than Target.

KRAMPUS/PETER NB/M Calculating, manipulative. Peter starts as an Elf, the head of the Santa's Helpers, as he grows manipulative and evil, he grows into KRAMPUS. Hides his true identity from all except his minions.

KANDI KANE NB/F Mother Solstice's oldest friend. Owns their own shop all about Christmas – Christmas All Year.

EVE. NB/F Elf - Part of the North Pole I.T. Squad.

GARLAND NB/M Elf - Part of the North Pole I.T. Squad.

DASH NB Elf – Dash and Divine are siblings who always carries around cookies, candy, etc. Makes messes.

DIVINE. NB Elf - Dash and Divine are siblings who always carries around cookies, candy, etc. Makes messes.

SANTA M (comparable age or older to MS). Looks of a 21st Century Santa, white beard and hair, dresses stylish. Red suit, but more Dior than North Pole.

AVERY NB Stable elf in charge of all the test flights and the reindeer.

ENSEMBLE:

HELPERS Any Santa's Helpers in the human realm.

MINIONS Any Assist Krampus are made of old broken toys parts taken from naughty children.

ELVES/KIDS/CHILDREN Any

MOTHER SOLSTICE

MOTHER SOLSTICE

SCENE ONE

NORTH POLE: The main hall and workshops are brightly colored. The ELVES are at their stations; the Christmas Hall and Workshops are in full action. Different stations of work benches for dolls, doll houses, cars, train, etc. Two giant ornaments on each side of the portal to the human world. A clock marking seven "Days till Christmas" on the wall. MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS. CLAUS enters, crosses to each workshop. DASH and DIVINE enter carrying a lollypop in one hand and a cookie in the other; candy is smeared on their face, their pockets full of candies and cookies.

SONG 1: "TILL CHRISTMAS"

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. (sings).

IT'S ALMOST SOLSTICE DAY
WITH ONLY ONE WEEK AWAY.
EVERY YEAR, IT'S MADE CLEAR
HOW MUCH I MISS MY SLEIGH.
THERE IS ONE CONSOLATION
THE KIDS ARE MY SALVATION
I HEAR THEIR CHEER, EVERY YEAR.
WHAT A GLORIOUS OCCASSION.
SO, I LAUGH AND I SING
FOR THIS, MESSAGE WE BRING..

ELVES (ALL).

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS.
IT'S OUR FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR.
WATCH ALL THE CHILDREN WHO LOVE TO CHEER,

MOTHER SOLSTICE

SHOUT, ONE MORE WEEK TILL CHRISTMAS.
EVERY POSTCARD, AND LETTER,
FROM ALL THE GIRLS AND BOYS,
BRINGS US ALL THAT SPECIAL JOY ALL YEAR
AS WE'RE BUILDING THEIR TOYS.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS. CLAUS.

I WANT IT BACK
I WANT IT BACK
I WANT IT BACK

ELF CHOIR.

WANT IT BACK
WANT IT ALL BACK (*LIGHTS DIM*).

(Spotlight fades as light comes up momentarily. Mother Solstice crosses up center stage, straightens her suit and puts on a smile. Kandi Kane crosses to Mother Solstice in the main hall. The Elves are busy working at their stations; some building trains, cars, sewing or stuffing stuffed animals. The lights dim and flicker. DRAMA ELF screams and runs on stage with TEEN ELF)

DRAMA ELF. You better not pout. You better not cry...is this how we're all gonna die?

TEEN ELF. Rusty bells! If we don't have power, I can't play my game.
(The smaller Elves run to Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus who quiets them.)

LOGICAL ELF. *(trying to soothe Drama Elf)*. It's just a power surge...nothing to break a candy cane about.

(Everyone looks around at each other. The lights come back up then flicker, and back again. Drama Elf and Teen Elf run off stage crying.)

DASH. Mrs. Claus will know what to do...she knows everything.

DIVINE. She sure does...everything...

SONG 2: "NOT NOW"

KANDI KANE. *(looks at her device)*. Lumps of coal! No NO NO...
No...Mrs. Claus? *(Mother Solstice slumps her shoulders at the name)*.

MOTHER SOLSTICE

NOT NOW

THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAP'NING

NOT NOW

COULDN'T BE MORE BAF'LING

(Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus straightens her shoulders crosses to Kandi Kane, who paces away from Mother Solstice, absentmindedly chewing her lip and tapping her device. Mother Solstice follows. Kandi Kane tries to walk away again, but Mother Solstice grabs her by the arms, turns Kandi Kane to her).

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS.

Great garland! What has your tinsel all in a knot?

KANDI KANE. *(frantically swipes and taps her device).* Um... *(mutters under her breath).* Rotten sugar plums! There has to be some glitch in the cheer meter.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS. CLAUS.

WHAT NOW?

I DON'T THINK I'M FOLLOWING.

EVERYTHING'S UNRAV'LING

KANDI KANE.

OH WOW!

CHRISTMAS CHEER IS DOWN...GREATLY.

BUT HOW?

BOTH.

WHY NOW?

KANDI KANE. *(spoken)* Tarnished tinsel!

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(sings)*

NOT NOW

THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING

KANDI KANE.

NOT NOW

COULDN'T BE MORE BAFFLING

MOTHER SOLSTICE

FROST BITE!

BOTH.

NOT NOW

NOT NOW!

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(gulps)* ...cuts our power...then permafrost! (beat) Everything in the workshop runs on Christmas cheer... Where do we stand?

KANDI KANE. *(shakes her head as she refreshes).*

70.25%...wait...no...NO! 65.6%! What are we gonna do?

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS. CLAUS. Let's have Eve and Garland take a look. We need to make sure we don't have a problem with the cheer meter. (beat) First Avery, have you noticed any signs of degradation around the workshops, other than the lights flickering.

KANDI KANE. Not yet...well not that I've noticed. *(They exit. LIGHTS DIM).*

SCENE TWO

In front of the scrim - I.T. Squad workshop, two tables on coasters are stage right with devices and laptops Peter/Krampus (he doesn't hide his true nature to his minions) sneaks onstage. He grabs one of the devices on Eve's workbench. It is not locked; he scrolls through the apps. MINIONS enter (they are part elf and parts of old toys Krampus took from naughty children in exchange for coal.

SONG 3: "KRAMPUS CAROL"

MINIONS. *(as they run to enter)* Peter...Peter...hey boss...Peter

PETER/KRAMPUS. Stop! To you I am not Peter. You call me by my name...

KRAMPUS.

HARK RUSTY BELLS

CLANG, RUSTY BELLS

MINIONS.

HARK

CLANG

MOTHER SOLSTICE

RATTLING CHAINS
COAL IN MY VEINS.

RAT
COAL

MINIONS. Yes, boss...Krampus!

PETER/KRAMPUS. *(opens the GPS app)* Oh ho ho... This will come in handy. I can have some fun with this. Curse those cheerful megabytes! Very sophisticated...the algorithm is... very algorithmic...This holiday, let's spice this list up a bit...how about a code red for them?

MINION 3. Red like Rudolph's nose! Not a single nice on this list, not even by a ho ho ho.

KRAMPUS crosses to the table with a laptop, brings the Digital Naughty and Nice List logic.

PETER/KRAMPUS. Yes, everyone makes the Naughty list! Hey! Who put a candy cane firewall on this thing? *(Clicks a few keys)*. They forget who they are dealing with here...There is a Firewall...disabled. *(picks up a device)*. I can do wonders with this...let the manipulations begin!! Soon...Santa will be running for the hills.

LOOK, HERE'S THE CODE
THE ENTIRE LOAD
THEY BUILD - WE BREAK
WE SWIPE - WE TAKE

KRAMPUS.
HARK, RUSTY BELL
CLANG, RUSTY BELLS
RATTLING CHAINS
COAL IN MY VEINS

MINIONS.
HARK! HARK!
CLANG!
RAT!
COAL!

MOTHER SOLSTICE

(MINIONS take out devices and laptops, punching keys, playing catch with phones).

MINIONS.

GROWLING,

CRACKLING

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS.

KRAMPUS IS HERE!

MINIONS.

JANGLING

RATTLING

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS.

KRAMPUS IS HERE!

MINION 2.

(brings up the DNNL app). Hey boss... the Naughty app. Everyone is naughty!! (they press buttons) Look! I'm helping.... (cackles).

MINION 1. *(picks it up).* Oopsies, butterfingers!! Hey you changed some back to nice!

MINION 2. We put the naughty in naughty or nice!

MINIONS.

NO VISIONS

NO GUM DROPS

NO SUGARPLUM

NO CANDY CANES

MOTHER SOLSTICE

KRAMPUS.

MINIONS WILL SCHEME
MAKE CHILDREN SCREAM
WITH RUSTY OLD HOOKS
AND THUNDERING HOOVES

KIDS SEEM TO HEAR
JOY WHEN IT'S NEAR
CLANK, RATTLE, SNEER
I'LL MAKE IT CLEAR

MINIONS.

MIN
MAKE
RUS
THUN

KIDS
JOY
CLANK

ALL.

NO DASHER
NO PRANCER
NO TINY REINDEER
NO WOODEN SLEIGH

PETER/KRAMPUS. No, you're not! Stop that! Give me that! (*grabs the device*) You're on thin ice...keep focus. (*entered a few more clicks in the logic*) Now, they are all RED - Naughty! (*DANCE BREAK*).
(*Minions knock off computer parts on the ground. Minion 1 tosses a mouse to another Minion*)

MINIONS.

GROWLING,
CRACKLING
KRAMPUS IS HERE
KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS.

KRAMPUS IS HERE!

MOTHER SOLSTICE

MINIONS.

JANGLING

RATTLING

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS IS HERE

KRAMPUS.

KRAMPUS IS HERE!

KRAMPUS.

HARK, RUSTY BELLS

CLANG, RUSTY BELLS

BEAT THEM WITH REEDS

ENDS NAUGHTY DEEDS.

HARK, RUSTY BELLS

CLANG, RUSTY BELLS

PLACED IN THE SACK

HANGS ON MY BACK.

HARK, RUSTY BELLS

CLANG, RUSTY BELLS

TAKE THEM BELOW

TO REAP WHAT THEY

SOW

MINIONS.

HARK

. CLANG

BEAT

ENDS

HARK

CLANG

SACK

BACK

HARK

CLANG

ALL.

HARK! HARK! *(The Minions and Krampus play around the devices and computers.)*

KRAMPUS. Com'on we're gonna watch as things get interesting and fall apart. *(Krampus and Minions dance a jig and laugh as they exit).*

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SCENE THREE

Spotlight on the clock on the wall, which shows - Six days till Christmas. The lights are dimmer. Garland, AVERY, Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus and ELF ENSEMBLE gather center stage preparing for a test run with the new GPS remote for the sleigh. Santa enters.

SONG 4: "I.T. SQUAD"

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(to Santa).* We have some new toys for you to try out. Don't we guys? *(Eve and Garland cross to the rolling cart/desk with a laptop).*

EVE. Yes, ma'am. We think it will really help in cutting down on delivery time.

SANTA. *(scoffs).* I don't want or need a new contraption....

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(as she places her hand on Santa's arm).* Give them a chance.

SANTA. I swear if this doesn't work.... I'll...I'll... blow a sugar plum!

GARLAND.

GOTTA PUSH AND UPDATE THE NEW GPS CODE.

THEN VALIDATE AND TEST THE ENTIRE DATA LOAD.

GO AHEAD BOOT THE SYSTEM

IN SAFE MODE.

'CAUSE SANTA CAN'T TAKE

THE WRONG ROAD

EVE, ELVES.

NO. NO. NO

SANTA CAN'T TAKE THE WRONG ROAD.

ELVES.

THANKS TO THE I.T. SQUAD

MOTHER SOLSTICE

EVE & GARLAND.

WE ARE THE I.T. SQUAD

WE HAVE THE MOST AWESOMENEST TINSEL JOB!

‘CAUSE WE’RE THE I.T. SQUAD.

ELVES.

THE I.T. SQUAD. (*Music continues under the dialogue*).

SANTA. Let’s get this over with.

GARLAND. Sir...ummm...We have the GPS remote; we can track where you are at all times, based on Polar maps.

SANTA. (*pulls a map from the bag on his shoulder; shakes it in Garland’s face*) My handy dandy map and keen sense of direction are good enough for me.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. You might see that even YOU will like this...no more trying to read a map in an open sleigh. Just think about it.... try it out...what could it hurt?

GARLAND. (sings).

FROM DÜSSELDORF TO DUBLIN

ELVES.

DUBLIN

EVE.

FROM BROOKLYN TO ROME

ELVES.

ROME.

GARLAND.

FOLLOW OUR GPS

THEN SEND

ALL.

SEND HIM ON HOME.

GOTTA KEEP ‘EM ON TASK

MOTHER SOLSTICE

GOTTA KEEP ‘EM AT SPEED
PRANCER MOVES AHEAD
TO TAKE OVER THE LEAD...

ELVES.
THANKS TO THE I.T. SQUAD

EVE & GARLAND.
WE ARE THE I.T. SQUAD
WE HAVE THE MOST AWESOMEST TINSEL JOB!
‘CAUSE WE’RE THE I.T. SQUAD.

ELVES.
THE I.T. SQUAD.

EVE.
YOU ALL HAVE CONTROL
ON THE SLEIGH CONSOLE

ELVES.
CONTROL
CONSOLE

EVE.
YOU’LL PUSH THE BUTTON THERE
WHEN YOU GET UP IN THE AIR

ELVES.
PUSH IT, PUSH IT
PUSH IT, PUSH IT
SANTA. Sure..yeah...sure... Like I’ll remember all this!

ALL.
WE’LL KEEP YOU SAFE
WE’LL KEEP YOU IN THE AIR
WE’LL GET YOU THERE.
WE’LL GET YOU EVERY WHERE. (*DANCE BREAK*).

MOTHER SOLSTICE

SANTA. I'm old fashioned...the good ole ways of doing things were just fine...it's worked for centuries. What's wrong with that? (beat). *(To Avery)*. Let's get this done.

(Santa exits. Kandi Kane enters).

KANDI KANE. Hey guys!... Mrs. Claus. *(Eve grabs Kandi Kane's phone from the cart)*.

EVE. *(hands the phone to Kandi Kane)*. We've loaded a Digital Naughty and Nice List, affectionately called the DNNL.

KANDI KANE. Dancing nutcrackers! This is so tinsel! (beat). Look, a record number of nice kids.

MOTHER SOLSTICE.

WE KEEP EV'RY ONE FROM A
TO Z

ALL THE NAUGHTY - ALL
THE NICE.

THE LIST IS EASY TO SEE
JUST PRESS A SINGLE KEY

ALL.

TO Z

NICE

SEE IT... SEE IT
PRESS IT... PRESS IT

ALL.

GOTTA KEEP 'EM ON TRACK

GOTT KEEP 'EM NICE

OR KRAMPUS WILL COME AND GET 'EM
AND HE WON'T ASK TWICE.

ELVES

THANKS TO THE I.T. SQUAD

GARLAND.

WE ARE THE I.T. SQUAD

MOTHER SOLSTICE, KANDI KANE, ELVES.

THANKS TO THE I.T. SQUAD

MOTHER SOLSTICE

EVE & GARLAND.
WE'RE THE I.T. SQUAD

ELVES (SOP).
THANKS TO THE I.T.

ALL.
THANKS TO THE I.T. SQUAD!

GARLAND. *(rubs his head)*. Santa is coming back... *(lights go out)*.

DRAMA ELF. Oh glitter! Oh sprinkles! We're doomed! *(Santa enters struggling to take off his jacket; throws it at Kandi Kane but Mother Solstice catches it before it hits Kandi)*.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(to Santa)*. That isn't very jolly...(beat). Please...tell me what happened?

SANTA. *(ignoring Mother Solstice)*. Eve...Garland? *(before anyone can answer, Santa continues)*. Your "GPS" didn't work.

EVE. Did you turn it on?

GARLAND. Did you enter the correct location?

SANTA. *(clinches his teeth and fists)*. Silent Night! Yes... I turned it on. I punched in Lapland...How did I realize it wasn't working? Hmmm? Go ahead...take a guess. *(Eve gulps. Santa doesn't wait for her to answer)*. I ended up in Norway! *(Mother Solstice places her hand on Santa's arm)*.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. That is pretty stocking half empty...Are you sure you--

SANTA. --I just wanted to make toys.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(stunned)*. Oh? I didn't know that...Why didn't you say anything?

SANTA. Now, I don't make a single one. I was thrown into this.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. I'm so sorry you have been so unhappy. You didn't deserve to be...

SANTA. I can't change things now...can I? I'm too busy to even design a toy. I'm flying all over the world...There are more and more children, who want more and more fancy gadgets and gizmos. I want to design and build...not fly around being jolly. *(Mother Solstice crosses to Santa)*.

MOTHER SOLSTICE

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Please be patient...they are trying to make your job easier...we all are.

SANTA. How is this easier? *(Santa scoffs and exits. Lights flicker and stay dark for a moment).*

DRAMA ELF. *(as they run off stage).* Jack Frost! Not again!! The world is gonna end!

TEEN ELF. My game! Frost bite! I lost everything! *(flops down on the floor, slumps over their knees).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Everyone remains calm they will come back on... *(lights up).* See I told you.

KANDI KANE. *(To Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus).* Frosted tree skirt! The cheer meter is falling steadily now.

EVE. Garland...check the Meter...for any functional issues.

GARLAND. *(tapping on the keys).* There isn't anything wrong with the logic.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/ MRS CLAUS. Our power is fueled by Christmas cheer...(beat) Roasting chestnuts! This can't be right. Christmas is only six days away... the cheer meter has always been at %100.

EVE. We built the cheer meter to monitor our power and consumption.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Which is based on Santa's holiday spirit. We need to make sure he is full of cheer and magnificently jolly.

DASH. *(pulls out lollipops and cookies from their pockets).* I can share my cookies and lollies.

DIVINE. *(pops a sweet in their mouth).* Me too.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Dash, thank you for offering. Keep up the good work...all of you! Eve, will everything be ready before launch?

EVE. *(scoffs).* Of course.

KANDI KANE. That's why you're the I.T. squad. *(Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus and Kandi Kane exit. Peter/Krampus begins to take on more of his Krampus characteristics, horns are beginning to show, etc. and his Minions sneak on).*

PETER/KRAMPUS. Seems like my plan is working even better than I thought. *(Flips the device he stole from the I.T. workshop in the air).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE

Controlling G.P.S with an app... quite a novel idea...it's easier than I thought to set Santa against everyone sooooo much easier. (*The Minions cheer. LIGHTS OUT.*)

SCENE FOUR

SANTA sits at his desk where pile of old naughty and nice lists and other papers are stacked on top.

SANTA. One more Fa La La device. One more “Tinsel” thing and I’ll blow a sugarplum! (*He picks up a toy train from the desk*). This isn’t what I want to do anymore. I want to design and make toys...not this. (*Knocks off a pile of papers off the desk. Picks up a snow globe, throws it. Music begins Peter/Krampus enters as the pile of papers hits the floor... ducks as the snow globe hits beside him.*).

SONG 5: “HUMBUG”

PETER/KRAMPUS. Hey red! Watch it!

SANTA. What’s up with you? You’re looking a little (points to his head). (*Peter/Krampus feels his head, pulls his beanie over the horns*).

PETER/KRAMPUS. Ah it’s nothing...Just been playing with some of the toys. You’ve got a lot of humbug for someone who is “supposedly” a right jolly old elf.

SANTA. You’re right!

I’M COMPLETELY FULL OF HUMBUG

BECAUSE I AM NOBODY’S STOOGE.

I’M COMPLETELY FULL OF HUMBUG.

YOU MIGHT CALL ME, MR. SCROOGE.

EVERYONE YELLING,

(*Minions enter circling Peter/Krampus, they touch everything on the desk*).

Over and over, kids keep asking me.

PLEASE CAN YOU MAKE THE REINDEER FLY

SHOW US THE TWINKLE IN YOUR EYE

MOTHER SOLSTICE

I'M NOT SOME PERFORMING MONKEY
TOO MUCH CLAMORING, YOU SEE

PETER/KRAMPUS/MINIONS.

GO HAVE SOME FUN.

GO GET SOME SUN.

WHO CARES IF THE WORK GETS DONE.

GO HAVE SOME FUN.

GO GET SOME SUN

COME ON, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.

SANTA. So, what are you going to do now, my friend? I couldn't help overhearing your little "exchange" with the Mrs. And didn't I say...

PETER/KRAMPUS & MINIONS.

COME ON, YOU HAVE NEEDED A BREAK.

MINIONS.

PACK UP YOUR BAG FOR "GOODNESS" SAKE.

PETER/KRAMPUS & MINIONS.

YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ALL YEAR LONG.

MINIONS.

LET'S TAKE A TRIP

PETER/KRAMPUS & MINIONS.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

(Music continues under the dialogue. Minion Dance Break).

PETER/KRAMPUS. She sure is a nag. Tries to take your job.

SANTA. She isn't like that, actually. It's not her.

PETER/KRAMPUS. Isn't it? She's got the elves running to her for every little thing.

SANTA. I have to confess; I didn't understand the G.P.S...I accidentally entered the wrong town.

PETER/KRAMPUS. So, you blamed the elves...NICE. *(DANCE BREAK)*

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SANTA.

I'M SICK OF THE YAMMERING
INCESSANT HAMMERING
THE BEGGING AND NAGGING
FINGERS ALL WAGGING

SANTA.

SICK OF THE YAMMERING,
INCESSANT HAMMERING
THE BEGGING AND NAGGING,
THE FINGERS ALL WAGGING.

KRAMPUS, MINIONS.

AH, AH, AH, AH
FINGERS WAGGING.

PETER/KRAMPUS/MINIONS.

YAMMERING
HAMMERING
AH...AH...
YAMMERING
HAMMERING
AH...AH...

SANTA.

I NEED MORE THAN A VACATION.
I NEED SOMEWHERE WITH NO SNOW.
I NEED A WARMER LOCATION
NO FROST, NO SLEIGHS, JUST SUN...SO
I'LL HAVE SOME FUN.
GO GET SOME SUN.
WHO CARES IF THE WORK GETS DONE.
GO HAVE SOME FUN.
GO GET SOME SUN.
WHO CARES IF THE WORK GETS DONE.

PETER/KRAMPUS. Perpetually?

SANTA. Permanently. (beat). As my publicist and head of the Helpers, I need you to "spin" this to them. I don't need my reputation tarnished...Got it?

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PETER/KRAMPUS. You got it boss. *(Peter/Krampus exits as Santa takes one of the Naughty and Nice sheets, writes a note on the back, places the “letter” on the desk. Santa then packs a bag. Santa’s jacket knocks the letter off the desk as Santa sneaks off stage).*

SCENE FIVE

North Pole, Workshop: Elves rush to and from the oversized red satchel stage left. Their arms filled with wrapped packages and toys. Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus directs the elf traffic, wearing a carpenter’s apron which contains tape, measuring tape, and ribbon. Lights flashes and dim for a few seconds. Elves run to Mother Solstice. Drama Elf runs on and across the stage.

DRAMA ELF. What’s happeniiiiing!?! *(Spotlight on Eve and Garland; down stage in the I.T. Workshop).*

EVE. NO! Everything I did is lost!

GARLAND. Did you back up the code?

EVE. Of course, but I just made some changes and before I could compile-

GARLAND. Maybe, since it was a quick flash, you didn’t lose it completely. *(Spotlight off). (Lights back up as each elf crosses to Kandi Kane with the DNNL checks off the list. ELF ONE, wearing a backpack, enters and crosses center stage carrying a doll house).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Don’t fret everyone...the lights are back on. *(to Elf One).* Now, don’t forget the doll that belongs with Charlotte R.’s house. We don’t want to disappoint her.

ELF ONE. *(points to their backpack).* I put it in there. *(Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus crosses to Elf One takes the doll wrapped in Christmas paper; tapes the doll to the doll house, ties a ribbon, from her apron pocket, around the dollhouse and the doll).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. There...now they won’t get separated on their way to Charlotte.

ELF ONE. That’s a holly jolly idea, Mrs. Claus. *(Elf One continues on their way to the satchel and places the dollhouse inside. Dash and Divine enter with a bag of candies in their pockets, a lollipop in their mouth, run across to Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus. Dash carrying a wrapped toy train*

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and Divine carrying a train track, bypassing Kandi Kane. She runs after them. ELF TWO rushes on with a bag of gum drops).

KANDI KANE. Slow down Dash and Divine...you must let me mark the DNNL, before you run off. This is for Jaimie D, right?

DASH. *(hangs their head).* Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry.

DIVINE. I'm so sorry, miss. *(Kandi Kane pats them on the head. Dash returns the lollipop to their mouth. Divine pops a caramel into theirs).*

ELF TWO. Dash, you forgot the bag of gumdrops for Jamie. *(hands Dash the bag).* Divine, you forgot the licorice chords. *(Hands another bag to Divine).*

KANDI KANE. A train and gumdrops and licorice...got it.

DASH. *(takes the lollipop out of their mouth to speak).* Mrs. Claus...Mrs. Claus...Look! Jamie D. gets a train...And I helped make the gum drops. Tinsel huh?

DIVINE. And I help make the licorice. Isn't that just jolly? *(Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus takes a pack of wet wipes out of her apron and wipes Dash's hands).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Very tinsel and jolly indeed. (beat) Don't get the train all pepperminty and sticky! *(Dash and Divine wipe their hands on their pants).*

DASH. *(puts the lollipop back in their mouth).* I won't.

DIVINE. I'll make sure we don't.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(pats Dash on the head).* Ok. Dash away...And be careful...both of you.

DASH & DIVINE. *(muffled through the lollipops).* Yes, Mrs. C... *(Dash and Divine run across the stage and exit. A few Elves enter and cross, before they reach Kandi Kane. Avery rushes on stage carrying a reindeer harness to Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus).*

AVERY. *(upset)* Mrs. Claus...Mrs. Claus.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Partridge in a pear tree...What is it, Avery?

SONG 6: "WHERE'S SANTA?"

MOTHER SOLSTICE

AVERY.

EV'RY ONE, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN!

SANTA'S NOT IN THE BARN WITH BLITZEN.

HAVE TO FIND HIM WITH OUT DELAY

OR THERE WON'T BE A CHRISTMAS DAY. *(Sighs).*

Santa was supposed to meet me in the paddock to go over the livery for the big day.

ALL ELVES.

WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?

WHERE COULD SANTA BE?

IS HE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK

OR ROCKIN' AROUND A CHRISTMAS TREE?

WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?

HE CAN'T BE GONE FOR LONG

HIS FAVORITE SNACKS ARE BAKING

HIS WILL POWER ISN'T STRONG.

IF HE DID IT ISN'T COOL

HE HAS TO BE BACK BEFORE IT'S YULE

HE HAS TO BE BACK FOR CHRISTMAS

WOULD HE REALLY JUST UP AND LEAVE US?

DRAMA ELF. *(raps).*

WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHIN'

ALL HIS FAVORITE PLACES

THERE ISN'T A TRACE...

IS HE PLAYIN' A GAME...

WHERE HE RUNS AND CHASES?

CHASIN' THE TRAIL... 'ROUND N 'ROUND

WE'VE LOOKED, BUT HAVEN'T FOUND

WHERE HE IS BOUND...WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND.

AVERY. *(raps).*

HE MIGHT BE OUT WITH PRANCER,

MOTHER SOLSTICE

*OR ON A RIDE AROUND WITH DANCER
I GAVE HIM A CALL...
HE DIDN'T ANSWER.
WHERE...WHERE...WHERE CAN HE BE?
THE ANSWER TO THAT...IS LOST ON ME.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE PADDOCK.
HE WASN'T IN HIS HAMMOCK.
IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...
THEN WE'RE OUT OF LUCK.*

TEEN ELF. (raps).
*I SAY HE'S A HUMBUG,
AND NOT VERY JOLLY.
I GAVE HIM ALL MY SUGAR PLUMS,
AND A BIG BUNCH OF HOLLY.
GOLLY...HE'S LEFT US IN SUCH A BIND...
HE CAN SEE IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS...
HE ISN'T BLIND.
WE THOUGHT HE WAS IN HIS SPOT.
BUT THE PLOT IS... HE'S NOT...
IN THE SPOT WHERE WE THOUGHT.
WE HAVE LOOKED AND WE'VE LOOKED...
AND IT'S ALL FOR NAUGHT...
NOW I HAVE A THOUGHT...
MAYBE IT'S A KRAMPUS PLOT.*

ALL. (sings).
*WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?
WHERE COULD SANTA BE?
IS HE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK
OR ROCKIN' AROUND A CHRISTMAS TREE?
WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?
HE CAN'T BE GONE FOR LONG
HIS FAVORITE SNACKS ARE BAKING
HIS WILL POWER ISN'T STRONG.*

MOTHER SOLSTICE

KANDI KANE. Oh Blitzen! What has happened to Santa?

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. Santa probably fell asleep reading by a Yule tree, somewhere. He has been working non-stop; just as you all have.

Take the sugar plums from your ears!

WE WILL MAKE THINGS RIGHT

ALL WILL BE MERRY, CALM, AND BRIGHT.

SANTA WON'T BE GONE FOR LONG,

WE HAVE TO KEEP ON MOVING ON.

ALL ELVES.

WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?

WHERE COULD SANTA BE?

IS HE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK

OR ROCKIN' AROUND A CHRISTMAS TREE?

WHERE IS JOLLY SANTA?

HE CAN'T BE GONE FOR LONG

HIS FAVORITE SNACKS ARE BAKING

HIS WILL POWER ISN'T STRONG.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. No matter what happens, Christmas is only a few days away and we need to concentrate on our work. Everyone!

Everyone, please, quiet...(beat). *(Elves continue talking loudly. Mother Solstice shouts over the rumble).* Silent Night! (beat). I have news concerning Santa.

(The Elves mumble amongst themselves).

ELF ONE. Why are the lights going out? Did you find Santa?

ELF TWO. Is he alright? He hasn't come to the kitchens for his snacks or lunch. *(Lights flicker again).*

TEEN ELF. No no no no no! *(stomps off stage).*

KANDI KANE. *(to herself as she rushes to Mother Solstice/Mrs. Claus).* This is not good! Not good at all! If we get to zero, we'll never recover our gingerbread.

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. That's pretty stocking half empty.

KANDI KANE. I'm so sorry Mrs. Claus...

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. *(turns to the other elves).*

MOTHER SOLSTICE

It isn't your fault, Kandi. We have a search party for the village. Avery will check the hanger and paddock. But we have a lot to finish before Christmas Eve and I don't want anyone to fret.

KANDI KANE. What will we do, if Santa isn't found?

MOTHER SOLSTICE/MRS CLAUS. We will worry about that IF the time comes. But for now, we must focus on our work.

ELF ONE. Jingle Jangle, Mrs. Claus. *(Elf One hands Dash a cloth. They don't use it; puts it in their pocket).*

DASH. *(licking their fingers)* I told you... Mrs. Claus would know what to do.

DIVINE. You sure did. She always does. *(LIGHTS DIM).*

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS—
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