

YETI FOR LOVE

By Brian David Walker

YETI FOR LOVE

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for my husband Shaun

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Yeti for Love was originally commissioned and produced by Pandora Productions at The Henry Clay Theater in Louisville, Kentucky, December 2024. It was directed by Gil Reyes; the set design was by Kendall From-Tapp and Jack Giles; the costume design by Morgan M. Younge; the prop design by Stephan Carpenter; the sound design by Laura Ellis; the lighting design by Kevin Duchon and the stage manager was Ellie Archer. The cast was as follows:

Yeticus.....	Corey Music
Bunny.....	Carol Schorr
William.....	Sean Childress
Bear.....	Keith McGill
Tina.....	Vidalia Unwin
Cole.....	Ian Fitzgerald
Karen.....	Bailey Preston
Sam the Drag Queen.....	Michael Guarnieri
Ninth Actor.....	Peyton Robbins

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CAST: 5 Men/3 Women/1 Non-binary

YETICUS	42, a gay bear, senior center activities director
BUNNY	70-80, sharp witted and kind, she is a resident
WILLIAM	70-80, senior gay man, Jewish, he is a resident
BEAR	39, a gay bear, an escort & massage therapist
TINA	31, bisexual stripper, she plays RUDY & DOLLY
COLE	27, twink, content creator, he plays HERMEY & CHARLIE-IN-THE-BOX
KAREN	47, a lesbian, senior center director, uptight
SAM THE DRAG QUEEN	Ageless and timeless non-binary snowperson drag queen narrator, like Burl Ives but with flair.
NINTH ACTOR	20-50, a bear, plays YUKON, SPOTTED ELEPHANT & VOICE FROM BACKSTAGE

TIME: The present. December.

PLACE: The activities room of The Lighthouse Home, a senior living facility in Louisville, Kentucky. An apartment. A city park.

*Though inspired by and often parodied throughout, securing the rights to this play does not include the rights to any music, dialogue or imagery from the Rankin/Bass stop motion Christmas special featuring a red nosed reindeer.

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ACT I

PROLOGUE

Lights on SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. They sparkle and shimmer like freshly fallen snow.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. If I live to be a hundred, I'll never get tired of seeing some people's faces the first time they see me. Don't scowl too hard, it might stick that way, oh shit. Too late. I'm sorry sweetheart. J/K baby. Haven't you ever seen a drag queen snowperson before? Well now you have and if you like what you see I am available for bookings at my website. (*A loud beep sounds covering their website, SAM scowls at the lighting booth.*) Hello baby, nice to see you, thank you for being here, I'm Sam and just like Burl Ives back in the day, I'm the narrator and maybe they'll even let me do a number if there's time. This is not a 'parody of' but an 'inspired by'. Important to keep that in mind from the very start. A holiday special called Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer aired for the first time on December 6, 1964, beloved by the world over. This is not that story. But this story couldn't be told without that one. Without its light in the world this particular story would have never come together in this particular way. This is the story of Yeticus, queer name to be sure, but we'll get to that, also known as Yeti also known to his close friends, which there aren't many, they call him Bumble. This Yeti has a big heart, but he was a shy little boy who grew into a shy little bear. And a workaholic. He works in a job he loves as the activities director for a really fancy-smancy senior living facility where you start in your own apartment with your own key and then you gradually work your way up to bed pans and shared occupancy and rounds and all of that. There are a lot of different people that live there in a lot of different conditions, you'll meet a few. Yeti also

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helps out with the cooking, the dinner service, the lunch service, the breakfast service, the trash, the shopping and the and the and the and the, you get my drift. He basically lives there. And though he does love it, and is financially secure enough to keep himself comfortable, he's always dreamed of falling in love and settling down, but at 42 years of age and climbing, it ain't happened yet. Now what else was there- (*They take out a few note cards and look them over.*) I got distracted by Miss Thing's holiday sweater over there, it's either the ugliest thing I've ever seen or I'm in love, I just can't decide...anyway. And I think that, yep, I think that's about it, at least to get you started- (*Puts cards back down.*) How'd I do? (*They wait for applause.*) Thank you, thank you, um, ya'll in the booth, how'd I do? Any time left for a short number? (*Lights begin to slowly fade.*) Maybe next time? Oh! And it's the holidays. Duh. (*Blackout.*) Bitches. Did ya'll see that sweater she got on? Oh Lord...

SCENE 1

Lights up on the activities room of The Lighthouse Home, BUNNY and WILLIAM play chess silently. There is a Christmas tree in the corner, a Menorah on a cabinet, an informational poster on the wall titled "What is Kwanza?" and a lot of Red Nosed Reindeer decorations hanging on the walls and sitting on tables and shelves. Games, books and crafts also fill the shelves and are stacked about. A dry erase or chalk board hangs on the wall. YETICUS speaks towards the audience.

YETICUS. Thank you for taking time out of your lunch to listen to me talk about the Holiday show I've been doing here for the last nine years. As you know, it has become an annual tradition to perform a scaled down version of Rudolph for the residents, and since we don't have a budget to hire actors to come in, you, the staff, play the roles. It is a small time commitment- (*An unseen person gets up.*) Wait, can I at least finish? No, no, not very many lines at all, and most of them you already know anyway,

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right? Who hasn't seen Rudolph a hundred times? I'm sorry, I didn't realize Jewish people didn't watch Rudolph, I mean now that you say it, it makes sense. I understand, sure, enjoy the rest of your lunch. So anyway, it'll be small commitment, just a few rehearsals after our shifts. I know, I know, but they just love it so much. Of course you can think about it, and please, no one feel pressure at all, I mean, it's a good thing to do and they love it and look forward to it all year long, but please hear me say this would be voluntary and off the clock. That's right. I know. I've spoken to Karen about it but she said they wouldn't budge, it'd have to be on our own time, but again, we've done it nine years already, you did it last year and it wasn't so bad, was it? It was fun, wasn't it? Ok. I'll let you get back to your lunches. Thanks for hearing me, I'll have the sign-up sheet on the break table this afternoon.

BUNNY. Cock suckers.

WILLIAM. I grew up in a Reform family, December was a marathon from Hanukkah to New Year's, we did it all and we loved it. And we watched Rudolph every year; I was ten years old the first year it came on and I thought it was just magic!

YETICUS. People are allowed to believe what they want to believe, I can understand/

WILLIAM. There's not even a baby Jesus in Rudolph! I mean I could understand then, but who cares?

YETICUS. It's fine. Plenty more folks to ask.

WILLIAM. You're going to have to go with your one person version you almost had to do last year/

YETICUS. They'll sign up, I only really need four total and I'm already one.

BUNNY. You still have more groups to give your speech to. That was the cocksucker group. I think the next group to go to lunch are much nicer, probably because they don't have to get up as early.

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YETICUS. I'm not worried. They'll sign up. Maybe it'll even be like the first few years, we had so many people sign up that we had Christmas seals and a Spotted Elephant!

BUNNY. I wasn't here for those, but they sound wonderful!

WILLIAM. I was, and they were. Back when people still cared.

BUNNY. Did people care so much more then than they do now?

WILLIAM. Probably not, but they were better at faking it.

BUNNY. People nowadays are savages, run you over in the street just as soon as look at you.

YETICUS. Now come on, not all people!

BUNNY. Not you, our sweet Bumble, you are the best kind of people.

WILLIAM. You still care, you look people in the eyes.

BUNNY. When are you gonna find yourself a nice boy and get married?

YETICUS. If you find out let me know. I never imagined myself being single at 42.

WILLIAM. Beats being single at our age, though I haven't had a boner since the Obama administration, probably wouldn't know what to do with it if it did get hard.

BUNNY. Oh I'm sure you'd figure it out!

WILLIAM. There are no other gay men my age on the planet, they all died, so I guess we'll never know.

BUNNY. Never say never softie!

WILLIAM. Bitch!

BUNNY. Sodomite!

WILLIAM. Street-walker!

BUNNY. At least I've still got it!

WILLIAM. You may still have it, but who wants it?

BUNNY. I handle myself just fine thank you very much! (*She begins miming playing with herself.*)

WILLIAM & YETICUS. Ohhhhhhhkaaaaaaay!

BUNNY. And trust me, I've still got it.

YETICUS. We believe you Bunny.

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BUNNY. You'll never find him strapped to this shit hole twelve hours a day. You gotta get out once in a while.

YETICUS. I know, I know.

BUNNY. When was the last time you even went on a date?

YETICUS. I don't remember. But/

BUNNY. That's the problem, you gotta get out there if you want to find him! Husbands don't just pop up on the side of the highway on the way home from work. They'll scoop you up Yeti, if they just knew you were here, I'm sure of it.

YETICUS. But...I actually have a date tonight! (*Bunny squeals with joy.*)

WILLIAM. Well well well, that's something!

BUNNY. And where did you meet him?

YETICUS. An app.

BUNNY. An app? What does that even mean? So you just get whoever pops up?

YETICUS. Kind of, there are options, you fill out a profile, I've got a picture on there, someone hot tapped me last night and we chatted, he seems nice, a little young for me, but blonde/

BUNNY. Hot tapped? Good me. You're never going to find love that way Bumble.

YETICUS. I could, I could, maybe with a little holiday magic!

BUNNY. I know you think so but those apps are just like the singles clubs in my days, all about hook-ups.

YETICUS. Don't you believe in holiday magic Bunny?

BUNNY. Yes, of course I do. Your play is holiday magic for me!

YETICUS. Who's to say I couldn't find a little for myself? He called me cute.

BUNNY. Well, you are, he's not wrong.

YETICUS. People meet and fall in love on that app all the time! (*They both look at him like he's bat-shit crazy.*)

YETICUS. And it made me feel good. So we'll see. It's just something to do. Better than sitting at home by myself in front of my tree/

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BUNNY. Sounds like heaven to me but what do I know? I don't have a home anymore.

YETICUS. This is your home.

BUNNY. Not the same. I'm grateful we have you though, our sweet boy. But, more importantly: none of us want to see you alone.

YETICUS. Me included. I'm so tired of being alone.

BUNNY. We all want you to be happy, and if it makes you happy to meet random blonde young men from some app, we all support it.

WILLIAM. That's right, plus I like seeing the pictures!

BUNNY. Dirty old man!

WILLIAM. What? Who's dirty? I'm living vicariously, nothing wrong with that.

BUNNY. Just please be careful, there are some weirdos out there, I worry about you meeting a stranger/

YETICUS. It'll be fine, everyone dates this way now.

BUNNY. Weirdos. Everywhere.

YETICUS. I like them weird!

BUNNY. A little weird, sure, but not whack-a-doodle crazy!

YETICUS. I'll be careful.

WILLIAM. Picture? (*Yeticus takes out his phone, opens an app and shows it to William.*)

WILLIAM. I'll be. How do you do it? He looks just like Hermey from Rudolph. I mean, without the elf outfit.

YETICUS. (*Looking at the pic.*) Hmmm. I didn't notice that, but yeah, kind of/

WILLIAM. You did it on purpose you old dog!

YETICUS. No, he tapped on me!

WILLIAM. You put that boy in an elf costume and I swear he'd be the dead up resemblance of Hermey.

YETICUS. Which I do have, you know, if it gets to that. (*WILLIAM gives YETICUS a high five.*)

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BUNNY. Dear god. Let me see him. (*He shows her and she glances at his phone, is unimpressed.*) He does kind of look like an elf.

YETICUS. He wants to get sushi.

BUNNY. I bet. You should ask him if he wants to be in the play here.

YETICUS. Karen would never let me do that, remember I tried to pull in friends two years ago and she wouldn't let me do it because they weren't insured.

BUNNY. What a twat rocket.

YETICUS. Yeah. It'll be ok. The show will go on!

BUNNY. You're so good to us Yeti.

WILLIAM. Get us a pic if you get him in the costume.

YETICUS. You got it Willy. (*Yeticus moans and wiggles a back tooth with his fingers.*)

BUNNY. What's wrong with your tooth?

YETICUS. Nothing, pepper probably stuck in it or something.

WILLIAM. Checkmate!

BUNNY. You! How do I know you're not cheating, I wasn't even paying attention!

WILLIAM. If you're sitting, you're playing.

BUNNY. I'll get you back later, I wanna watch my birds for a while. Have fun tonight Yeti, you think about what I said about the messages you're sending, ok?

YETICUS. I will Bunny. (*She goes downstage and sits in a chair facing out the bank of glass windows that overlook the park next door. Unseen people begin coming in and Yeticus greets them.*)

WILLIAM. You're up again. Just tell them the story about Millie's heart attack that year and how the play brought her back to life, that always gets one or two to sign up.

YETICUS. Good call. Later Willy. (*They bump fists. William goes to resetting the chess board. Yeticus turns to the audience.*)

YETICUS. (*To audience.*) Hello! Hi there! Thank you for taking time out of your lunch to listen to me talk about the Holiday show I've been

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doing here for the last nine years. A lot of you weren't here the year that one of our residents Millie started to have a heart attack on Christmas Eve and if it wasn't for the Rudolph play, we would have lost her. She was sitting right there... (*Lights fade to black.*)

SCENE 2

Yeticus and HERMEY are fucking, with Hermey playing reverse cowboy. He wears the signature blue with red stripe elf cap. Yeticus climaxes.

HERMEY. Keep going.

YETICUS. Ok.

HERMEY. That's right daddy, that's right daddy! I said that's right/
(*After a few moments Hermey stops riding.*)

HERMEY. What?

YETICUS. What, what?

HERMEY. You're going soft.

YETICUS. I'm sorry/

HERMEY. GET IT HARD AGAIN!

YETICUS. I think I have to pee. I can go again, I promise. Plus I need to change my condom.

HERMEY. Fine. (*Hermey begrudgingly dismounts and gets under the sheet. Yeticus jumps out of bed, throws on his boxers and runs to the bathroom. Hermey picks up a pretty glass bowl with the remnants of the pot they'd been smoking and takes a hit and puts it back down. He lays down and takes a huge exhale. We hear a Niagara Falls of a piss. Toilet flush. Hands wash. Yeticus runs back in and jumps into the bed like a kid ready for a second helping of dessert.*)

YETICUS. I'm sorry.

HERMEY. It's fine.

YETICUS. We can/I mean, I can blow you, if you want, I'm sorry I had to stop.

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HERMEY. I already have lube on my dick.

YETICUS. I don't mind. I mean, it's not the best, but I feel bad, I want to get you off too/

HERMEY. Look, I just want to be honest about something.

YETICUS. Uh oh.

HERMEY. I like husky dudes but you/I mean your picture/well, is it older or something?

YETICUS. Not really.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. (*Offstage.*) Girl, please.

YETICUS. I mean, maybe a few years.

HERMEY. You're handsome. Don't get me wrong, you're just bigger than I usually date, you know?

YETICUS. Oh.

HERMEY. I'm sorry.

YETICUS. What? No/don't be, I appreciate your honesty.

HERMEY. No problem.

YETICUS. I guess I've put on a few pounds/

HERMEY. Sure. It happens, I get it, no big deal.

YETICUS. (*Flirty.*) But you know what they say: keep those options open if you're going to find a boyfriend for the holidays...

HERMEY. We're all looking for a boyfriend for the holidays.

YETICUS. See, we already have something in common!

HERMEY. (*Unenthusiastic.*) I guess so.

YETICUS. (*Deflated.*) Right. (*A few moments of awkward silence.*) You look cute in the hat.

HERMEY. Thanks. You have an elf fetish or something?

YETICUS. It's Hermey's.

HERMEY. Hermey?

YETICUS. I told you when you put it on.

HERMEY. I thought you meant an ex or something.

YETICUS. Have you never seen Rudolph?

HERMEY. Like the red nosed reindeer?

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YETICUS. Do you know of another Rudolph?

HERMEY. Everybody's seen Rudolph.

YETICUS. I love Rudolph. It's always been my favorite Christmas movie.

HERMEY. Is it really a movie though, wouldn't you label it more a Christmas special?

YETICUS. I think it could feel accurate by current entertainment standards, but at the time it was made its run time was sufficient enough to be considered a movie.

HERMEY. It's like only an hour, isn't it?

YETICUS. Well, it's always been my favorite Christmas whatever you want to label it as. My mom decided to give me a name like Yeticus and so people called me Yeti and then of course the Bumble from Rudolph/always had all the toys growing up and played with them all year, not just at Christmas.

HERMEY. Why did your mother call you Yeticus?

YETICUS. Oh, I don't know, she just/thought it'd be cool I guess.

HERMEY. It's unique, that's for sure.

YETICUS. That's me!

HERMEY. I guess I should probably go ahead/

YETICUS. No, no, don't go yet, I'm sorry, I'm sorry I came so quick, you're just so/I don't know, you're fucking hot, and I can go again, easy, if you want to/I'm already getting hard just thinking about it...

HERMEY. It's ok.

YETICUS. Did you want some more weed?

HERMEY. I'm supposed to meet some friends/

YETICUS. Oh. You're going to meet friends after our date?

HERMEY. It was more of a hook up really.

YETICUS. We had sushi and everything!

HERMEY. We have to eat.

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YETICUS. I'm sorry. You're right. My picture is over five years old and yeah, maybe I have gained weight but you seemed to like it, and I definitely liked it, and I hate you leaving without getting off too.

HERMEY. I didn't want to hurt your feelings/

YETICUS. Oh.

HERMEY. But now I don't want to leave my friends waiting.

YETICUS. You want a shower at least?

HERMEY. I'm good. (*Hermey takes off the hat and hands it to Yeticus.*)

YETICUS. Thanks. (*Hermey gets up and starts to get dressed and collect his things. Yeticus stares at the hat.*) I do a play every Christmas Eve for the residents of the senior home that I work at. I'm the programs director. Which is a glorified way of saying I have zero money to try and enrich the lives of these poor people that are all just sort of waiting to die at this place with no privacy and crappy food and/anyway. I love it. I've done the show for almost ten years, this will be the tenth year actually, and I tell you what, at the risk of sounding too cheesy, it's given my life purpose. Rudolph has always meant a lot to me, as a kid we weren't big on the religious side of holidays but we were huge on the pop culture side of holidays and because of my name, and just the story, you know, being misfits, being misunderstood, feeling so uncool. I even have a Bumble tattoo on my hip. Wanna see?

HERMEY. I saw it.

YETICUS. Of course you did. So stupid. I'm sorry. I don't know why I'm telling you all of this. I just totally fucked this up.

HERMEY. Don't be sorry, go ahead, and finish telling me, it's cool.

YETICUS. I don't even know what I was saying, I just, I wanted tonight to go good/

HERMEY. You were talking about Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

YETICUS. Right. Ok. So, it's just, it's like it meant a lot to me as a kid and then now, because of my residents, it means something different and makes me feel like I'm doing something good with my life. But I'm lonely, you know? I want to get married and have the whole thing with a

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house and dogs and a cat and dumb things like holiday movie marathons and landscaping our yard and cooking each other dinner and just like the whole thing. But I can't find him. And a friend at the home tells me I must not want it because I do stuff like this. Hookups, like you said. And another friend saw your picture and was the one who said you'd be my Hermey and so I stupidly let myself get excited about tonight and after everything went well at dinner, I'm sorry, is what I'm trying to say. We got back here and I asked you to put the hat on so I could take a picture for my friend and you did it and you were cool about it and I thought, what a sweet guy. But I'm sorry. Because of course you think I'm too fat and so of course you're not the one either and now it's a day closer to Christmas Eve and I can't get anyone to sign up to be in the FUCKING play this year and I just want to make you nut too. *(They stare at each other for a few moments. Hermey's phone buzzes and he looks at it. Yeticus puts the hat on the night stand and gets up to get dressed.)*

HERMEY. Hey/

YETICUS. What?

HERMEY. That was nice. What you said. You're a good guy.

YETICUS. Thank you. I'll see you around. I can walk you out. *(Yeticus puts on a shirt.)*

HERMEY. What about that nut? *(Hermey picks up the hat and puts it back on.)*

YETICUS. I would be more than happy to oblige. *(Lights fade to black as Yeticus falls to his knees to suck Hermey off before he goes to meet his friends.)*

SCENE 2.a

Lights up on Sam The Drag Queen.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. We've all been there, haven't we?
Sometimes you just have to see someone bare their soul to you in a

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monologue and all the sudden body types go out the window and you get so horny and then you get the best blow job of your life. Little slut. Hermey wouldn't be calling Yeti back and Yeti was cool with that, Hermey could use some lessons himself on giving head, toothy as fuck, but I digress... Hermey would never forget Yeti as long as the twink shall live. Sometimes somebody leaves a mark, a small mark, but it affects you the rest of your life and even though Yeti didn't know it, he helped Hermey be just a little better version of himself than he was before they met. He has that effect on people. And another thing Yeti didn't know was things were about to get worse before they'd be getting better. His Rudolph play was in jeopardy and things were about to change in his life in big ways. Now watch me work this winter wonderland. (*They serve looks and throw glitter snow as the lights go black.*) I wasn't done.

SCENE 3

Lights up on the activities room of The Lighthouse Home. Yeticus is hanging up Rudolph inspired finger paintings that the residents have created. He smiles as he hangs them and begins humming and then singing and then belting in his best Liza Minnelli impression. KAREN enters.

KAREN. Yeti, could I have a moment of your time? (*Yeticus screams at the top of his lungs, Karen jumps.*)

YETICUS. (*Collecting himself.*) Karen, I'm sorry.

KAREN. I didn't mean to scare you.

YETICUS. I was in my own little world.

KAREN. It's good to know that if for some reason our alarm ever goes out, we have a good substitute, I'll just have you run up and down the halls to evacuate the residents. (*She laughs at her own joke, Yeticus didn't find it funny but he gives her a chuckle because that's the kind of guy he is. They*

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stare at each other awkwardly for a few moments. She starts looking at the wall.)

YETICUS. Did you need to talk to me about something?

KAREN. Yes. You're not taping those directly on the paint, are you?

YETICUS. Yes, I do it all the time/

KAREN. I can see that. Look at all the spots where the paint has come off.

YETICUS. I'm sorry, they like to see everything hung up together, like an art show, you know?

KAREN. There's paint out in the shed, I'd appreciate it if you could prioritize giving this whole room a new coat please? Then I want you to put up a peg board. I don't want stuff on the wall like that.

YETICUS. I've already burned through my budget this quarter/

KAREN. We'll pay for it. Submit the request through the portal and I'll get it ordered, yes?

YETICUS. Sounds good.

KAREN. But not until the paint.

YETICUS. Sounds good.

KAREN. Now. About the Christmas Eve play.

YETICUS. I've already gotten three people, so we can do it, it'll have to be stripped down but/

KAREN. There was a complaint that came into HR.

YETICUS. A complaint? About the play?

KAREN. About using staff, more specifically coercing staff to participate who don't want to.

YETICUS. Coercing? Are you kidding? Who said that?

KAREN. We're not going to disclose/

YETICUS. Marcy.

KAREN. /who made the complaint, but after doing some interviews with other staff, the decision has been made to not allow you to solicit the help of the staff for the show.

YETICUS. Are you kidding?

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KAREN. People feel like if they don't do it you'll be disappointed. And I have to say, I completely understand where they're coming from.

YETICUS. Of course you do.

KAREN. These people have families and other jobs and lives outside their jobs here, and especially at the holidays when everyone is so busy anyway/

YETICUS. It's when everyone should be ok with doing something like this don't you think? Would you like to be in the play?

KAREN. No I wouldn't. And I'm the last employee of this facility that you are to ask, do you understand?

YETICUS. I wouldn't want to be accused of coercing anyone.

KAREN. I know that this must sting. It's been a tradition for what, four years you've been doing it?

YETICUS. This would have been the tenth year.

KAREN. Ten years, good god! I had no idea. It's probably time for a change anyway, don't you think? You started doing this long before I took over, which is good because I never would have let you do it to begin with. This isn't a theater.

YETICUS. But they love it.

KAREN. How many of them can even remember it once it's over?

YETICUS. Plenty look forward to it every year.

KAREN. I doubt it. They just adore you. They act excited to make you happy.

YETICUS. That's not true.

KAREN. I disagree.

YETICUS. I still want to figure out how to do the play.

KAREN. No, I think we'll just show a movie on Christmas Eve this year. Or maybe two? A double feature?

YETICUS. A movie on Christmas Eve?

KAREN. Or two? Wouldn't a double feature be fun? You know the movies used to do double features all the time and I think that idea would really resonate with the residents, considering their age.

YETICUS. Can I just have a little time to figure it out?

YETI FOR LOVE

KAREN. I'm not trying to do your job for you, I certainly have enough to do myself, and I'm not trying to micro-manage holiday programming, please don't think that. I don't really care to be perfectly honest. I'm here to do my job and go home and I don't need a lot of extra work like employees complaining to me about you. You understand?

YETICUS. Yes. Please, just a few days to try and figure it out?

KAREN. (*Letting out an annoyed sigh.*) Two days. Let me know what you come up with. Or, if you want to take a break this year, spend the evening with family for a change or something, we'll do the double feature.

YETICUS. I'll have a plan ready to talk to you about in two days.

KAREN. Just remember anyone you bring in has to be insured.

YETICUS. I understand. What about the budget?

KAREN. The budget is what it is, unfortunately there's nothing I can do about that.

YETICUS. What if I did like maybe a fundraiser, with the staff?

KAREN. Oh no, no; can't solicit money from the staff. Haven't you been listening to a thing I've been saying to you? No staff. At all. And I mean it.

YETICUS. Got it.

KAREN. Don't be so hard on yourself, Yeti. You're a good person. This kind of job can be a lot harder if you're a good person. You're too invested. You need to clock out and go home and leave this place here. That's what I do, once I'm gone I don't even think about it, but this job isn't my life. It's my job. But you and me, we're different.

YETICUS. Yes.

KAREN. You work for free half of your week/

YETICUS. That's because I'm on salary.

KAREN. For 40-45 hours a week. Not 60, not 70!

YETICUS. That's how many hours it takes some weeks.

KAREN. It shouldn't. And I promise you, it doesn't make a difference to them at all.

YETI FOR LOVE

YETICUS. I don't think that's true.

KAREN. I don't really care. Stop peeling the paint off of my walls, ok? Let me know when the new coat is on and I'll order that board for you.

YETICUS. Ok.

KAREN. Through the portal, let me know through the portal.

YETICUS. Got it.

KAREN. Thank you for your time. We gotta stick together, Yeti. We're the only two gays on staff, that has to count for something, doesn't it? Let's stay on the same side of things, ok? We'll talk soon.

(Karen exits. Yeticus is deflated. He looks at the artwork he had already hung. He looks at the ones still needing to be hung and decides fuck Karen and finishes hanging them up, this time using an excessive amount of tape and calling Karen all sorts of colorful-but-on-the-holiday-theme names. Bunny enters.)

BUNNY. Where is everyone? Am I early? What are we making?

YETICUS. Hey Bunny. You're fine, come on in. We're making wreaths for your doors out of those old phone books.

BUNNY. A phone book! I haven't seen one of those in years.

YETICUS. Eddie had stacks of them in his room when he passed away.

BUNNY. I'm sure he'd like knowing we used them for something, he saved everything.

YETICUS. Yeah.

BUNNY. What's the matter, you look upset.

YETICUS. Karen.

BUNNY. Say no more.

YETICUS. You want to help me rip out pages.

BUNNY. Put me to work!

YETICUS. Here, just try to rip them out as close to the spine as you can, and that's it. Here, I have another ruler to make it easier. *(They sit down and begin to rip pages out of the phone books.)*

BUNNY. How was your date?

YETICUS. He wasn't a match. But we did end up having a good time.

YETI FOR LOVE

BUNNY. Another date you think?

YETICUS. God no. Bunny, Karen said someone complained to HR and now she won't let me use staff to do Rudolph.

BUNNY. Are you serious?

YETICUS. Can you believe that?

BUNNY. What is wrong with people? Little bit of joy we have in here at the holidays and she is just content to swipe it right out from under us.

You should do Christmas Carol, you'd have your Scrooge!

YETICUS. She said I had two days to come up with a plan that doesn't involve the staff, that doesn't cost any money and that anyone I would bring in would also carry a liability insurance policy.

BUNNY. Don't give up Yeti. We can help too I'm sure, I could do some sort of fundraiser/

YETICUS. Karen said no to that too.

BUNNY. She is such a twat rocket. *(They both share a laugh.)*

YETICUS. I'll figure it out. *(Bunny looks at something in the phone book she is tearing up.)*

BUNNY. What about something like this, look, it says Entertainment Company? It says impersonators, singers, actors and entertainers. Could at least call them. See what they say.

YETICUS. Those books are so old, they're probably not even in business anymore. *(Bunny looks at the cover of the phone book.)*

BUNNY. Only four years, that's not so old...

YETICUS. Here, give me that page. I'll check. It's probably out of my price range.

BUNNY. Maybe they have a senior discount!

YETICUS. You never know unless you ask, right?

BUNNY. That's right! Here. *(She tears it out and hands it to him. He folds it up and puts it in his pocket. William enters.)*

WILLIAM. Did the twink wear the elf costume?

YETICUS. Just the hat.

WILLIAM. Hot damn!

YETI FOR LOVE

BUNNY. Oh god, you have a one track mind!

WILLIAM. You wouldn't mind it if my track went the other direction my little Shiksa. Just picture it: You and me, we'd run right out of this place and fuck our brains out on a drug-fueled-sex-constantly road trip to all the places we always said our whole lives we'd go to but never did. We'd go to all of them and fuck in every single one of them. Twice in some of them! *(They all laugh.)*

BUNNY. Maybe in another life. Are you sure you're not straight? Or even just bi? Wouldn't bother me.

WILLIAM. I am absolutely certain madam, but if that changes you will be the first to know, I promise.

BUNNY. *(Indicating phone book pages.)* How many more of these are we going to need?

YETICUS. Keep tearing. I'm going to call this number and just see what they say. Owwww!! *(He puts his fingers into his mouth and massages his gum.)*

BUNNY. You still having tooth pain?

YETICUS. It was just really sharp, it's fine now.

BUNNY. You better have it looked at.

WILLIAM. Teeth aren't something to trifle with, I had an uncle that died from an abscessed tooth.

YETICUS. It's not abscessed. It feels better already. It comes and goes. I'm going to call. The show will go on! *(He takes out his phone and the phone book page.)*

BUNNY. Damn right it will! Here, make yourself useful. *(She throws a phone book at William.)*

WILLIAM. What's happened to the show?

BUNNY. Karen.

WILLIAM. She is such a twat rocket.

YETICUS. But guess what else?

BUNNY. I don't think I can take much more...

YETICUS. I have another date tonight!

YETI FOR LOVE

BUNNY. Two in one week? Look at you!

WILLIAM. The fish are really jumping right now, huh?

YETICUS. All the gays are looking for holiday husbands.

BUNNY. Then it's a good time for you to be going on dates, is this one through that app again?

YETICUS. Yes. He's closer to my age. And size. Here. Oh first, there's Hermey with his hat on last night. *(He shows them a picture on his phone.)*

WILLIAM. Eager little beaver, wasn't he?

YETICUS. That he was, and here's tonight's date... *(He shows them another picture on his phone.)*

BUNNY. Very handsome.

WILLIAM. That's Yukon!

YETICUS. What?

WILLIAM. Look at his mustache and tell me that isn't Yukon fucking Cornelius!

YETICUS. Maybe...

WILLIAM. He even has a toboggan on!

YETICUS. Toboggans are really in right now/

WILLIAM. You are doing that on purpose! You are intentionally going out with men who look like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer characters!

YETICUS. Oh I am not! He tapped me first too.

BUNNY. Only a crazy person would do something like that!

WILLIAM. Crazy is as crazy does.

BUNNY. What are you saying?

YETICUS. He's really hot though, isn't he?

BUNNY. Very handsome.

YETICUS. So maybe it could be good.

BUNNY. He looks like a great big teddy bear, I'm sure you all will have a lovely time/

WILLIAM. And if you get him in the costume/

BUNNY. Dirty old man.

YETICUS. He doesn't look anything like Yukon.

YETI FOR LOVE

WILLIAM. Right.

YETICUS. Ok, I'm going to call and see if this company is still in business.

BUNNY. *(To William.)* Keep tearing, these are for the wreaths/

WILLIAM. *(Continues tearing.)* Enchanting.

YETICUS. *(On his phone.)* Hello. Hi! Is this still an entertainment company? Oh great! I was calling to inquire about actors? You insure them when they're on our property? Oh good. That's perfect. Do you hire people for just sort of a one night performance? And a few rehearsals? What would that cost? Maybe 3? That's it? Oh, ok. Well do you have anyone that would be good fits for Rudolph? The reindeer.
(Lights fade to black.)

SCENE 4

Lights up on YUKON, who wears a red toboggan, sports a red handlebar mustache, and is fucking Yeticus doggy style like a champ.

YUKON. Yeah! Yeah! Mush! Mush!

YETICUS. What?

YUKON. I said mush boy!

YETICUS. I don't/

YUKON. Mush!

YETICUS. I will, I will, I'm just not sure what you want me to do/

YUKON. I want you to mush boy! MUSH! GAH! *(Yukon climaxes. He collapses back onto the bed.)*

YETICUS. Are you done?

YUKON. Do you have a towel?

YETICUS. Sure, I just didn't cum yet.

YUKON. Bottoms don't have to cum.

YETICUS. Oh.

YETI FOR LOVE

YUKON. And could you wet one side of it?

YETICUS. Sure. *(Yeticus, wearing a sexy jock strap, gets out of the bed and exits to the bathroom. We hear the sink come on and he re-enters with a half wet, half dry towel. He hands it to Yukon and gets back into the bed. He attempts to cuddle up to Yukon, but Yukon shifts away and starts wiping himself off and partially dressing. Once he's done, Yeticus invites him to sit closer, Yukon considers not and getting right up, but Yeticus looks so pathetic that he doesn't have the heart to deny him and he settles back in, even if just for a moment.)*

YUKON. Where'd the name come from?

YETICUS. Oh, uh, it's kind of a family name, I guess?

YUKON. Is there a story?

YETICUS. *(Flirty.)* Yes, but I only tell it to people that I trust-

YUKON. *(Annoyed.)* You'll find out pretty quick with me that I don't ask twice.

YETICUS. Oh. Ok. *(They sit in silence for a few moments.)*

YETICUS. Aren't you warm in that hat?

YUKON. No. I never take off my hat.

YETICUS. Never?

YUKON. Not in front of other people.

YETICUS. Like a Mandalorian.

YUKON. I don't know what that is.

YETICUS. Right. It looks good on you.

YUKON. Thanks. My head was made for hats.

YETICUS. I see that. *(They sit in silence for a few moments.)*

YETICUS. I haven't been fucked like that in a long time.

YUKON. You're welcome. You've got a tight hole.

YETICUS. Thank you?

YUKON. I should probably get going.

YETICUS. You don't have to rush out. I have pot.

YUKON. Good for you, I don't smoke.

YETICUS. Maybe a round two?

YETI FOR LOVE

YUKON. If you can handle a round two I didn't do it right the first time.

YETICUS. Oh. Ok. Wow. You're a funny guy.

YUKON. I can be.

YETICUS. You know, it's not true, what you said/

YUKON. What did I say that got you going snowflake?

YETICUS. About bottoms cumming? Bottoms cum, you know.

YUKON. I mean, yeah, sometimes.

YETICUS. I'm still a man when I'm bottoming and most men, including me, like to cum when they/

YUKON. This has been fun but I think it's probably time for me to head on out.

YETICUS. I was just kidding. I'm sorry. Don't go.

YUKON. I have a long day tomorrow.

YETICUS. No chance of helping me get off too, huh?

YUKON. I've already wiped up.

YETICUS. Right. Of course. I can just jack off/

YUKON. Cool.

YETICUS. You wanna watch maybe?

YUKON. You want me to?

YETICUS. If you want to?

YUKON. I can.

YETICUS. I'll be quick. Tell me something sexy.

YUKON. Like what?

YETICUS. Something that makes you hard.

YUKON. I played football in high school, got caught sucking the quarterback's cock in the showers.

YETICUS. That's really hot. (*Yeticus starts playing with himself under the sheet.*)

YUKON. Then after some other dudes on the team found out I sucked them off too.

YETICUS. Wow.

YUKON. Sucked off over a dozen of 'em my junior and senior year.

YETI FOR LOVE

YETICUS. You've got me hard again.

YUKON. I just want to be honest with you/

YETICUS. About the football team?

YUKON. I'm not looking for another husband. Was just married for twelve years, well 8 legally, had the spiritual ceremony four years before that, such a crock of shit.

YETICUS. Oh? What happened?

YUKON. We got bored, more than anything, then he started fucking around and didn't tell me and gave me an STD.

YETICUS. Oh. Ok.

YUKON. It's cleared up now, has been a while, so don't worry.

YETICUS. Oh good.

YUKON. I like being single though, it's fun, you ever been in an orgy?

YETICUS. Nope, not yet. So when the quarterback first/

YUKON. You on Sunny's list?

YETICUS. Sunny's list?

YUKON. I guess not. You'd be popular with a hole as tight as yours.

YETICUS. Oh good.

YUKON. I'll send him your pic, if he likes you he'll add you to the orgy mailing list.

YETICUS. You're on an orgy mailing list?

YUKON. How else are you going to find out about them?

YETICUS. I guess I never thought about it.

YUKON. Embarrassed?

YETICUS. About orgies?

YUKON. About being fat.

YETICUS. Oh.

YUKON. Hey, I am too so I can say it. We're big boys, it is ok/

YETICUS. I'm fine with what I look like/it's just that word/

YUKON. Oh my god, so woke/

YETICUS. No, doesn't have anything to do with being woke.

YETI FOR LOVE

YUKON. I'm just saying/it's just a word, being fat is not a big deal, bears are everywhere/

YETICUS. When a word has been used to denigrate you all your life, I'd be interested to see if you felt the same/it's not a big deal, let's get back to your football team, did your quarterback ever want to/

YUKON. I gotta go. (*Yukon gets up and begins dressing, his clothes look oddly similar to a certain silver & gold prospector.*)

YETICUS. I was so close/

YUKON. You'll get it, I'm sure. I have faith in you Yeti.

YETICUS. Thanks. Do you think you might want to hang out again?

YUKON. Sunny is the bomb. He likes having fat boys around too. I'll hook you up. (*Yeticus winces when he uses the word 'fat' again. He closes his eyes, takes in a deep breath, and opens them again.*)

YETICUS. That's ok, it sounds like an awfully lot of work.

YUKON. I'll message you.

YETICUS. Are you sure you won't stay? I could make us something/

YUKON. It's ok.

YETICUS. Rudolph is on regular TV tonight.

YUKON. Who wants to watch anything on regular TV anymore with all the commercials?

YETICUS. I have beer too/

YUKON. Dude, come on, don't beg, it's kind of pathetic/

YETICUS. I wasn't begging, I just/

YUKON. I thought I was clear that I was just looking for a hookup, nothing serious.

YETICUS. Well, no, you really weren't, after we moved through the cursory sup and how are you, you asked me if I had somebody to spend the holidays with and I said no and you asked if I wanted to get dinner and I said yes even though your profile was certainly click baity soft core porn, I thought maybe you were looking for the same thing as me, stupid me I guess. No worries.

YETI FOR LOVE

YUKON. You seem nice. I just don't see myself with you long term. Too sensitive for me.

YETICUS. I see. Great. Well then I am going to light up a joint and watch my favorite holiday movie with commercials because I **ACTUALLY LIKE HOLIDAY COMMERCIALS.** I'm sorry. I didn't mean to yell at you. *(He takes in a few deep breaths in and out.)* When I was growing up, when something would upset me or hurt my feelings or make me mad (which you've done all three, incidentally), I would just start screaming at the top of my lungs wherever we'd be, I'd have these meltdowns at Kroger or the mall or this one time at my tenth birthday party at mini golf and someone called the police because they were convinced that I was being abducted. And my mom started calling them my 'Bumble Bursts' as a way to sort of just excuse them away. That way we could laugh about them, you know, so that in hindsight they were more sweet than terrifying. She didn't know what to do with me and then she died, so there, there's that. Fuck. What am I doing? *(Yukon tries to answer.)* Don't answer that! Don't you dare try and psychoanalyze me. Anyway. Sorry I yelled. I've always had this little monster in me and you seem to be someone who brings him right on out. So. You're not the one. And that's just the way it goes. And **BOTTOMS CUM ALL THE TIME!** *(Yukon makes his way to the door to leave.)*

YUKON. Have a good night snowflake. *(Yukon exits.)*

YETICUS. *(After him.)* I'm sorry I yelled again. *(To himself.)* Fucking asshole. *(Yeticus tears up a little, then remembers the joint in his nightstand, and decides not to cry. He lights the joint, clicks a remote and we hear a holiday commercial playing on the TV. He smiles as the lights fade to black.)*

SCENE 4.a

Lights up on Sam The Drag Queen.

YETI FOR LOVE

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. And so it goes for a single gay man in Louisville, Kentucky in 2024 the year of our lord, another night another one night stand. Yeti's oration skills strike again, girl, you already know. Yeti tried not to let it get him down, if he wasn't going to meet his new husband, at least he could have a good lay and he did just get administered a really high end fuck. Be grateful for what the universe brings you and all that kind of stuff. Girl, I didn't write this shit, I have no idea where they get this stuff from. *(The lights begin to fade, Sam clears their throat to continue and they fade back up.)* His three actors from the entertainment agency were coming in in the morning to read the script and get their blocking and even though Yeti was paying for it out of his own money, he felt good about it. What are credit cards for if not to supplement financials that should be paid for by your company where the rich asshole at the top has four homes and a yacht, but there's no money to put on a reindeer skit at a Senior Center. I'm about to get up on my soap box if I'm not careful, oh lord, not today Satan, not today. Anyway. Yeti was about to meet another bear all together and he had no idea how it would end up jingling his bells. And now I'd like to do my own version of the sweet little number from Rudolph that the little whore reindeer sings when she's trying to get into Rudolph's pants? Remember that one, ok, here we go/ *(They clear their throat. Blackout. After an audible sigh, in the dark.)* I'm going to remember this the next time ya'll ask me to MC anything from now on, it ain't worth what ya'll are paying I'll tell you that right now if I don't even get to do any numbers. *(They exit.)*

SCENE 5

Lights up on the activities room of The Lighthouse Home. Yeticus, BEAR, TINA & COLE all stand in a line with scripts in their hands. Yeticus places an unseen star on top of an unseen tree. Bear, Tina & Cole clap excitedly, we should be able to tell immediately that they are not actors,

YETI FOR LOVE

they're trying too hard, they don't have good timing, they're self-conscious, all of it.

YETICUS. And then after that everyone takes off their elf hats and then Bear you'll put the Santa hat on, Tina, you'll put on the Rudolph nose and Cole you'll put on the reindeer ears and then put Tina's on for her. Bear and Tina, you'll have those last lines, if you could/ (*They do the blocking Yeticus has just described.*)

BEAR. (*Again, really bad.*) Your nose! Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

TINA. You got it Santa!

COLE. Yay! You go get 'em Rudolph!

YETICUS. That line isn't actually in the script, Cole, but that's ok, don't mind if you wanna improv a little.

COLE. It's part of my process.

YETICUS. Sure, I understand, that's fine with me. Then Bumble lights the tree and you two fly off with Santa and that's it! Easy peasy, right?

COLE. And what am I there to do, like what should I be thinking about there at the end?

YETICUS. Oh, well, you're just a reindeer that's there to/

COLE. Which reindeer, what's my name?

YETICUS. Oh, uh, I never thought about it, you're just, you know, another reindeer that's happy to see Rudolph finally get his respect?

COLE. Right. How about, I was thinking what about I could be that cute little blonde headed reindeer that's at first friends with Rudolph and they play those reindeer games but then he's a dick once Rudolph starts shining/story of my life/anyway I don't remember his name/

YETICUS. Fireball.

COLE. Fireball! Yes. I can work with that, that gives me so much to think about, he'd be proud of Rudolph but also just a little jealous, and maybe he's queer so there's this whole like love thing to, is that ok?

YETI FOR LOVE

YETICUS. Works for me. What else? You all are going to be great, the residents are really going to love it.

TINA. And how will the flying work, are you rigging something?

YETICUS. Oh no no, ha-ha, that'd be something but no, we'll have to pretend.

TINA. Cool.

YETICUS. We could maybe run it one more time before the hour is up?

COLE. It's customary to provide a break period.

YETICUS. Of course, sure, how about ten?

COLE. That's standard.

YETICUS. Great, take ten, then we'll run it.

COLE. Thank you ten.

TINA. Where can we smoke?

YETICUS. Oh, you can't, I mean, not on the property, but if anyone needs to smoke you have to go across the street. See there? (*He points towards audience, which is a bank of glass windows in the activities room overlooking a park.*)

TINA. The park?

YETICUS. Yeah, there's a bench just there. But if you can wait just a few, we'll be done/

TINA. I see it, be right back.

YETICUS. Oh. Ok, sure.

TINA. I'll be quick.

COLE. Where's the bathroom?

YETICUS. Just to the left outside this room.

COLE. I'll be right back, I have to record some content.

YETICUS. Oh. Ok. (*Cole and Tina exit leaving Yeticus and Bear alone. A few moments of silence.*) This is going to be great, thank you so much for doing this!

BEAR. Never thought I'd be in a play!

YETICUS. You've never been in a play?

YETI FOR LOVE

BEAR. No, first one, I think something in me might have been awoken, it's a lot of fun, you make it fun.

YETICUS. Aw, thank you! So/then why are you listed with an entertainment company?

BEAR. Entertainment company? Is that what Candy told you on the phone?

YETICUS. Well, no, not exactly, that's how it's listed in the phone book/but I was clear that this was for a play.

BEAR. Candy will always take your money. I hope it's ok. Are we terrible?

YETICUS. Oh no, yeah, no it's going to be great, this is going to work out really great. You're all doing great, and you know what they say, halfway to being a great actor is having the courage to get up and do it.

BEAR. I've never heard that/

YETICUS. Yeah, it's what they tell you in acting class/

BEAR. Have you gone to acting class?

YETICUS. Oh years ago, in college actually.

BEAR. Cool.

YETICUS. Yeah. *(A few moments of silence. There is a physical attraction between them that is thick as holiday fruit cake.)*

BEAR. It's nice what you do here for these old folks.

YETICUS. Yeah. Thank you. I love my job.

BEAR. I bet. You seem like you do.

YETICUS. I do.

BEAR. It shows. You seem really committed.

YETICUS. I am. I feel like I live here most of the time.

BEAR. This like a Monday through Friday 9-5 kind of gig?

YETICUS. Yeah, no. That's what they're paying me for but it's more like an 8-8 six days a week kind of gig.

BEAR. Like, every week?

YETICUS. Some weeks.

BEAR. Damn.

YETI FOR LOVE

YETICUS. But I love it, I love my residents.

BEAR. That's sweet. Doesn't leave much time for anything else. Are you married?

YETICUS. No, oh no, I want to be, I mean one day, but no, single as the day is long!

BEAR. Cool. Are you gay?

YETICUS. Very much so, yes, very gay.

BEAR. Very cool. *(They both smile. A few moments of awkward silence.)*

YETICUS. So. Just out of curiosity: If not for acting, why are you listed with an entertainment agency?

BEAR. It's an escort agency more than anything. Strippers for parties. Private massages. That sort of thing. I've been with them a few years, steady work, good money and I get to do what I love, be around people and, you know, other stuff I like.

YETICUS. Oh. Cool. Ok. That's totally cool. And Tina and Cole too?

BEAR. I think Tina just does this part time, she has an evening gig at The Slow Race Horse, you know that place?

YETICUS. The old strip club on Taylor Boulevard with the creepy horse statues on the roof?

BEAR. Right? She says it's the busiest one in the city, makes bank there apparently.

YETICUS. No, I'm sure, I've just never been. And Cole?

BEAR. I don't know Cole, I think he's new. He's on Tik-Tok.

YETICUS. Oh my god.

BEAR. What's wrong?

YETICUS. No, nothing, it's fine. When they come back in we need to just make sure we make an agreement, just to kind of keep this to ourselves, you know, I'm not judging at all, I am very sex positive for sure/

BEAR. That's good/

YETICUS. I've got a really strict boss and if she found out/I don't even want to think about that.

YETI FOR LOVE

BEAR. Sure, we can make a secret pact.

YETICUS. Yes! That sounds perfect, a secret pact, exactly! (*Tina re-enters.*)

TINA. You know I never thought about making the rounds at a place like this, I just gave my number out to three different dudes.

YETICUS. Oh Jesus Christ. (*Cole re-enters.*)

COLE. Everyone here is so old.

YETICUS. Did you talk to anyone?

COLE. God no.

YETICUS. Listen, guys, I'm sorry, please don't take this the wrong way but/

BEAR. (*Excited like a kid.*) Secret pact!

YETICUS. Yes, we need to make a pact and keep what you all do for a living kind of our secret.

TINA. So I can't network? Candy said I'd be able to network.

YETICUS. No, I'm sorry, we better keep networking to a minimum.

COLE. What about my content? I have to be able to film/

YETICUS. It would be great if you could maybe just...not...while you're here? (*Tina & Cole look at him like he's crazy.*)

BEAR. He's afraid this dumb bitch he works with will cancel the show if they find out we're escorts/

COLE. I'm an actor. I was hired to act, Candy is my ACTING agent, you can call her and ask/

BEAR. And how many plays has Candy got you?

COLE. Well, this is my first one, I'm diversifying/

YETICUS. That's fine, all of that is fine, we just need to keep it all between us until after the show, ok?

BEAR. (*Putting his hand out.*) Secret pact!

YETICUS. Secret pact, please. (*Yeticus puts his outstretched hand on top of Bear's. There is a spark of electricity. They look to Cole and Tina.*)

BEAR. For the old people.

TINA. (*Placing her hand.*) Oh ok, for the old people. Secret pact.

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COLE. (*Placing his hand hesitantly.*) Secret pact. (*Not sure what to do now they all sort of throw their hands up awkwardly.*)

YETICUS. Thank you guys. Ok, we only have ten minutes before the hour is up, could we just do a blocking run really fast? (*William enters.*)

WILLIAM. Where are the hookers, Yeti? Everyone is saying you're hiding hookers in here!

YETICUS. Oh Jesus Christ. (*Lights fade to black.*)

SCENE 6

Yeticus sits at a small table with Ethiopian accompaniments, waiting. Bear walks in and doesn't notice him, he walks to a counter and waits. Yeticus sees him immediately and is flustered. He straightens himself up. Sam The Drag Queen enters with Yeticus' date for the evening: RUDY, leading him in on a leash. Yeticus sees them, stands and motions to Sam to get him out of there! Sam sees Bear and knows what needs to be done and starts pulling Rudy back out the way they came.

RUDY. Hey, what are you doing? We're here?

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. Change of plans, date is canceled, Yeti called, he has food poisoning/

RUDY. Food poisoning?

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. And he got it here and said not to go in unless you want it too/

RUDY. That doesn't even make any sense, I put these antlers on and this tail in for nothing/

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. Not for nothing baby, you look adorable, now come on, we'll find you a nice big stag at the park/

RUDY. But I'm hungry!

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. (*Struggling with leash.*) You. Can't. Eat. Here! (*Sam The Drag Queen finally gets Rudy offstage. Bear turns and sees Yeticus.*)

YETI FOR LOVE

BEAR. Yeti?

YETICUS. Oh hey, hey there, what do you know?

BEAR. Are you by yourself?

YETICUS. Yes I am. Got stood up.

BEAR. Who in their right mind would stand you up?

YETICUS. A big jerk face.

BEAR. I'll say.

YETICUS. So I was just sitting here. Alone. Just sort of sitting here.

BEAR. Have you already ordered?

YETICUS. No, not yet/

BEAR. I put in an order to go.

YETICUS. Oh, cool.

BEAR. Did you/ **YETICUS.** Would you/

BEAR. I got the vegetarian platter for two/

YETICUS. Are you vegetarian?

BEAR. Oh yeah, have been for years.

YETICUS. Me too, just going on six months.

BEAR. That's cool, good for you, so much healthier/

YETICUS. Animal lover here, just couldn't square it anymore/

BEAR. What are the chances a vegetarian Bear and a vegetarian Yeti walk into an Ethiopian restaurant? *(They share a laugh.)*

YETICUS. Just a little of that holiday magic I guess. *(Bear smiles at Yeticus. Yeticus smiles back. In this moment, sex between them becomes inevitable.)*

BEAR. I usually eat half and then save the rest for lunch, but we could share, if you wanted, since it is really meant to be shared, back at my place/

YETICUS. Oh.

BEAR. Or we could just eat it here/

YETICUS. No, no, your place sounds great.

BEAR. Great.

YETICUS. Great.

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BEAR. Hope you don't mind using your hands.

YETICUS. Only way to eat Ethiopian food. (*They both smile and stand there and stare at each other for a moment. Sam The Drag Queen enters and throws glitter snow on both of them and giggles and exits. They both get lost in the magic of it for just a moment.*)

YETICUS. I'm sorry, they're my narrator/I never know/

BEAR. It's ok, I don't mind.

YETICUS. Ok. (*Sam The Drag Queen re-enters with a bag of food to go.*)

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. Your order is ready! (*They plop it down on their table and exits.*)

BEAR. They're fabulous.

YETICUS. They think they are.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. (*Offstage.*) Hey!

YETICUS. (*To Sam offstage.*) Kidding, love you girl.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. (*Offstage.*) You better, you don't even know what that damn reindeer put me through/

YETICUS. Let's get out of here. (*They both stand there a moment waiting for the other to go first.*)

BEAR. After you Yeticus. (*Lights fade to black.*)

SCENE 7

Lights up on Bear and Yeticus sitting on a rug in front of a modest Christmas tree, its lights twinkle against them, with empty to-go containers scattered around.

YETICUS. So, yeah, jerk who stood me up said he was a furry and that if it wasn't too cold outside he'd be wearing a reindeer tail butt plug to get me in the holiday spirit.

BEAR. That's/different...

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YETICUS. You probably think I'm desperate, going out with someone who would do that?

BEAR. Not at all. Furries need love too. I'm very open minded.

YETICUS. Oh me too, absolutely, I'm sure we would have had fun but I just don't think it's for me, can you imagine the dry cleaning bills getting those costumes laundered and I'd have to because I'd be stinking in those things!

BEAR. (*Laughing.*) Yeah, same.

YETICUS. But no judgment, I'm all about you do you, we'd be a stronger people if we all just let our freak flags fly!

BEAR. Amen!

YETICUS. I'm sorry I literally just said 'stronger people'.

BEAR. You said what you said and I agree.

YETICUS. Thank you. (*He gazes at the tree for a few moments.*) I like your tree. It's pretty.

BEAR. Thank you, that means a lot coming from the Queen of Christmas!

YETICUS. That's what I want on my tombstone! Fuck Mariah Carey.
(*They both laugh and gaze at the tree a few moments.*)

BEAR. You go on a lot of dates from the app?

YETICUS. No. Hardly ever, I'm always working, but this month I've gotten a lot of taps so I guess like everyone else I'm dreaming about finding a holiday boyfriend/

BEAR. Just for the holidays?

YETICUS. Well no, hopefully not, but the current, specific dream is about having one at the holidays.

BEAR. I see.

YETICUS. I know. It's dumb.

BEAR. No it's not.

YETICUS. It is, it is so ridiculous and dumb/

BEAR. But you're making time for it, so obviously you could after the holidays too?

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YETICUS. I'm just running on less sleep than normal is how this is working. They need to hire more people, or at least one more person would make a big difference, but they're cheap, gotta squeeze out as much profit as possible.

BEAR. So you put in the hours to fill the gaps because it's important to you. I think that's cool.

YETICUS. I guess, but sleep is nice.

BEAR. Agreed.

YETICUS. One of my friends at The Lighthouse Home has been making fun of me because my dates have all had strong resemblances to characters from Rudolph.

BEAR. The furry reindeer you dodged tonight kind of supports their point.

YETICUS. I know. It's crazy, isn't it?

BEAR. I don't think it's crazy. Who would I be?

YETICUS. You're playing Yukon in the play/

BEAR. Am I your Yukon?

YETICUS. Oh no, no, unfortunately I met him already this month.

BEAR. Dang it. Day late and a dollar short.

YETICUS. I guess you'll just have to be you.

BEAR. I can do that. (*Bear leans in to kiss Yeticus.*)

YETICUS. (*Not yet.*) I've yet to meet a man that is actually named Rudolph in real life.

BEAR. They'd have to pry you off that poor guy with a vice grip!

YETICUS. Yeah, probably.

BEAR. Have you ever done a Santa?

YETICUS. No...I wouldn't do a Santa, don't wanna shit where I eat.
(*Bear laughs.*)

BEAR. You're funny. I think you're funny. And what you do with the old folks, I just think that is so cool.

YETICUS. I'm so grateful to have you guys for the play, I don't know what I was going to do. They've all gotten to where they just really look

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forward to it. It's my job not to let them down, you know? And to distract them as best as I can.

BEAR. Don't tell Candy this, but I'd do it for free.

YETICUS. You still can!

BEAR. Wish I could but with Candy involved/

YETICUS. So how does that work anyway? Is she like your/what, I mean I don't want to say anything that'll be offensive or/

BEAR. Pimp? Were you going to ask if she's my pimp?

YETICUS. Is she?

BEAR. Doesn't offend me.

YETICUS. Oh good.

BEAR. And yes, she's my pimp.

YETICUS. Oh.

BEAR. But prostitution is illegal in the state of Kentucky. And a lot of my clients aren't/ I don't even have sex with. I'm also a licensed massage therapist.

YETICUS. You are?

BEAR. Oh yeah, I've been doing that since/well pretty much since after high school I got my certification. I've had a few clients for twenty years!

YETICUS. Twenty years?

BEAR. Just a few. I give a damn good massage.

YETICUS. I bet. Hmm. Well, then, I'm sorry/but here's a question:

BEAR. Why not just give massages?

YETICUS. Well, yeah.

BEAR. I like sex.

YETICUS. And no judgment, I mean at all.

BEAR. The first time it happened it was totally unexpected. I had a massage appointment with a regular, probably had been massaging this "straight" guy for maybe two years, every other month, and one day he just asks me if I'd be willing to do it naked for another hundred, and I said sure, but it was so hot that I was hard the entire time and he ended up sucking me off and paid me an extra two hundred.

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YETICUS. That's kind of hot.

BEAR. Right? It was hot, so I thought, well shit, I'm single, why not.

YETICUS. So you have a lot of clients like that?

BEAR. I wouldn't say a lot, over a dozen.

YETICUS. Wow.

BEAR. I got hooked up with Candy so I could keep those clients in one place, and then I have my own LLC for just massages.

YETICUS. Wow, you're quite the entrepreneur.

BEAR. You have to be these days with a single income household, I don't see how people do it without a side hustle.

YETICUS. Or a husband.

BEAR. Right?

YETICUS. So then why aren't you, I mean, have you had relationships or, god what a huge question, name every relationship you've ever been in! Sorry, what a dumb question.

BEAR. You're fine/

YETICUS. How do you date, you know, seriously date?

BEAR. I guess it hasn't really come up since I started doing it.

YETICUS. How come?

BEAR. Maybe it's because I don't have a favorite holiday movie.

YETICUS. Movie?

BEAR. Like you with Rudolph.

YETICUS. That's so hot.

BEAR. Really?

YETICUS. Not that you don't have one, but that you called Rudolph a movie.

BEAR. Had I known that's what would have made you melt like this I would have said it a long time ago. You ready to kiss yet?

YETICUS. Absolutely. (*They kiss. Small. Sweet. They both sit back and look at each other. They both smile.*) We can find your favorite, if you want? I like holiday movies.

YETI FOR LOVE

BEAR. I know you do. I'm definitely open to it. (*They kiss again. Harder. Tongue. Getting intense. Hands get involved as the lights fade to black.*)

SCENE 7.a

Lights up on Sam The Drag Queen.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. It was the magic glitter snow I dusted them with and you all know it! Christmas magic honey and boy did that magic continue into the wee hours of the night. They had the flip flop top to bottom night we all can only dream of. Yeti fucked Bear and then Bear fucked Yeti and then they did it all over again. And then, after all of that and no sleep, after they'd both showered that sweet bear Bear made them pancakes with Almond milk. Can you even imagine how warm and fuzzy Yeti is feeling right about now? And sore. And tired. But mostly warm and fuzzy. I've said it before and I'll say it again: Nobody cares like a bear, sweet Jesus send me a sweet bear one day, please please please, sweep me off my feet and then suck my toes and then rub 'em down with expensive lotions. Yes please sweet sweet Jesus send me a bear who likes it cold and/ (*A loud beep sounds meant to move her along, she doesn't care for it one bit.*) Speaking of dumb fucking whores, we've got one coming up for you right now.

VOICE FROM BACKSTAGE. That's not the line.

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. It is now ain't it boo? (*Blackout.*)

SCENE 8

Lights up on the activities room of The Lighthouse Home. Bunny and William are making snowflakes with white paper and scissors to use as set decorations for the play and Yeticus is setting up the stage/audience area.

YETI FOR LOVE

BUNNY. How many snowflakes do you want?

YETICUS. As many as we can get, I was going to hang them this year, I think, with white yarn from the ceiling?

BUNNY. That'll look so wonderful. People can't wait for the show Bumble. It's all anybody is talking about.

WILLIAM. Chag sameach, talk of the town!

YETICUS. This year's show is going to be great, I'm really excited. And what's a little credit card debt, right?

WILLIAM. It's what they're there for.

YETICUS. Exactly.

BUNNY. You can't put a price on it. It means so much to us, Bumble.

(Yeticus yelps and begins fiddling with his tooth.)

BUNNY. Is your tooth still hurting?

YETICUS. It's gotten worse. My dentist can't get me in until after the holiday, told me to take Ibuprofen.

WILLIAM. Sadists. In my day they would have called in a morphine drip no questions asked.

YETICUS. I'm fine. I'll be fine. We have a stage to decorate!

BUNNY. I think we should hang snowflakes everywhere, even over the audience, it'll look so magical, won't it?

YETICUS. Absolutely, let's do it. *(They work silently for a few moments.)*

WILLIAM. How was your "furry" date anyway, you haven't said. Did he really wear a tail?

YETICUS. Well, there was a change of plans with the furry, ended up running into Bear.

WILLIAM. From the play Bear or a wild one?

YETICUS. Yeah, from the play.

BUNNY. Oh my! How exciting!

YETICUS. He's pretty cool.

WILLIAM. Look at you Yeti, you are absolutely blushing! Did you fuck him already?

YETICUS. We fucked each other!

YETI FOR LOVE

WILLIAM. Hot damn, a flip flop?

BUNNY. What the hell is a flip flop?

WILLIAM. What do you think Bunny, just think about for a second/
(She does. Then she realizes what it means.)

BUNNY. Never had the opportunity to flip flop anybody.

WILLIAM. Me neither. It's about as rare as a yeti in the wild, you got your tops and you got your bottoms and yes you got your vers too, but most vers, whether they admit it or not, have a preference, plus, most people are lazy, so a flip flop night is a double mitzvah!

YETICUS. You are a nut!

BUNNY. No argument there! Thanks for the gay man sex Venn diagram. Delighted to hear that you've landed yourself right in the middle of it. Do you think it could be a love match? He's certainly very handsome!

YETICUS. Oh I don't know, it was a hot night, but he's basically a sex worker.

WILLIAM. There are worst things/

YETICUS. I don't know if it would be something I could deal with long term, but for right now, I don't know.

BUNNY. Do you have another date?

YETICUS. Supposed to get dinner again tonight.

BUNNY. Oh! Already! That's so exciting. Bumble! I could just, I'm so happy for you/ *(She embraces him.)*

YETICUS. It's just a second date! I need to get a nap in, I'm exhausted.
(Karen enters.)

WILLIAM. Two fucks in two nights, that's gonna be fun! *(Karen clears her throat.)* Yep, really fun.

KAREN. What are you all talking about?

BUNNY. Marcy.

KAREN. Excuse me?

BUNNY. No, excuse me.

KAREN. I'd hate to have to confine you to your room, Bunny, please don't talk about our staff like that. *(Bunny exits without acknowledging.)*

YETI FOR LOVE

William stands there awkwardly for a moment. Karen stares at him as if to ask “why are you still here?”)

WILLIAM. Right, well, I’m sure there’s a corner I can go rock back and forth in for a while. (*William exits.*)

KAREN. I don’t understand why some of the residents here treat me with such contempt.

YETICUS. I can’t even imagine.

KAREN. If they knew how hard I worked for their welfare they’d be treating me a lot differently. Doesn’t matter, I don’t need a pat on the back but I won’t do the disrespect, you know what I mean?

YETICUS. Yep.

KAREN. We have a problem.

YETICUS. I think they were both just tired, don’t take it personally.

KAREN. Not with the residents. With the play. I understand you’ve hired outside vendors.

YETICUS. That’s right. I put a copy of their insurance rider on your desk, they’re represented by an entertainment agency.

KAREN. And where did you find this agency?

YETICUS. The phone book.

KAREN. So when you hired them and brought them into The Lighthouse Home community, you weren’t aware that they’re, in fact, prostitutes?

YETICUS. What? No, not at all, where did you hear that?

KAREN. I’ve had multiple complaints. Apparently the men in Ward A are pooling money to pay one of them for a lap dance, did you know that?

YETICUS. No, absolutely not. These are good people, they may not be professional actors from some fancy theater, but they have dreams and they’re trying to get their big break/

KAREN. Oh and they’re going to get their big break here?

YETICUS. They need experience, before they break out, and I don’t know, maybe they had other jobs before this, but I’ve hired them as actors so/

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KAREN. You understand that the show is canceled, right? I can't let this go on in this facility, could you imagine what the board would say?

YETICUS. You can't cancel the show/

KAREN. I can and I am.

YETICUS. They're not hookers.

KAREN. Oh, they're not hookers? Look at the website of the one you have playing Rudolph/ (*She opens her phone and reads.*) "Come get yourself some Tina. I like the pole and the hole and I'm ready to be your holiday stocking for the stuffing. Large parties ok."

YETICUS. Jesus Christ.

KAREN. The show is canceled.

YETICUS. I didn't know!

KAREN. And I believe that, which is why you're not being fired right now. You were blinded with trying to make this thing happen, this tradition that I know is important to you, but honestly most of the residents won't know the difference between that and watching a movie anyway/

YETICUS. That's not true.

KAREN. Doesn't matter. The play can't happen on this property, and if those three individuals come onto the premises again the police will be called and they'll be issued trespass notices. The play has turned into an obsession for you/

YETICUS. It's my job to provide/

KAREN. Activities. It is your job to provide activities not produce a play. I think it's time to look at your job description for a re-draft.

YETICUS. Can we please just talk about this before/

KAREN. The decision is already been made. Go home. It's almost Christmas. Try and take some time for yourself and be with your family.

YETICUS. My family is all here.

KAREN. These people are not your family. This is your job.

YETICUS. It's more to me than that.

KAREN. (*Sighing.*) Come in if you want, but Marcy is in charge of the movies, please don't get in her way.

YETI FOR LOVE

YETICUS. Marcy? The residents don't like Marcy.

KAREN. She's always wanted to do programs, I thought this would be a way to get her off my back about it honestly. Back to business as usual after the holiday, she'll be back in the cafeteria. We are going to look at that job description though, just to tighten up what it is that's expected of you here. You do good work Yeti. You just care too much.

(She exits. He wants to explode, he wants to scream. His tooth is killing him and he just wants to bash up everything in the room. He picks something up and he goes to throw it, but he stops himself. He remembers his anger management and stands still and closes his eyes and takes in several deep breaths. He pulls what he was going to throw close to his chest. Sam The Drag Queen enters and holds him from behind. Yeticus opens his eyes and looks at the dry erase board. He walks over to it, picks up a marker and writes "There's no such thing." He exits.)

SAM THE DRAG QUEEN. I told you she was a dumb fucking whore. That's it for Act I folks, go piss and drink and get some of those little holiday chocolates in the lobby before this one fills their pockets up. I'm just going to take his set stuff down so he doesn't get upset when he comes back for Act II. *(They begin taking down snowflakes and other items as the house lights come up.)* I can't believe they got me out here cleaning this shit up. I'm going out for a quick drink, fuck this. Where is the closest bar, do you know? Can anyone tell me where a snowman drag queen can get a quick drink around here? *(Hopefully someone tells them. Once they do-)* Ok, I'll be back. *(Sam The Drag Queen exits with a handful of decorations.)*

END OF ACT I

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