

(BUDDY)

REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE BACK THEN?  
LET THOSE MOMENTS LIVE AGAIN

Come on, Jovie! Try it for me!

*(JOVIE closes her eyes and sings, tentatively at first, but growing more confident.)*

JOVIE

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG

BUDDY

That's it!

JOVIE

IT'S LIKE MAGIC IF THINGS GO WRONG

BUDDY

Keep going!

JOVIE

JUST SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER  
BY SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO...

*ALL on stage now join in the song as they skate.*

JOVIE, BUDDY & COMPANY

JUST SING A CHRISTMAS SONG  
AND KEEP ON SINGING ALL SEASON LONG

THINK OF THE JOY YOU'LL BRING  
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES  
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES  
IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES...  
AND SING!!!

*On the applause for this number, JOVIE kisses BUDDY and the Rockefeller Christmas Tree lights up. End of Scene.*

#8a - Back To The Office

ACT ONE  
SCENE 11

*WALTER's office. WALTER confers with CHADWICK. It's obvious that the meeting has been going on for hours. MATTHEWS is conspicuously absent.*

CHADWICK

Okay. How about this: a town populated only by tomatoes—

WALTER

Tomatoes.

CHADWICK

Little tomato people. They are busily preparing for Christmas, but little do they know, the mean tomato who lives on top of the mountain is planning to steal Christmas this year.

WALTER

You are describing the Grinch.

CHADWICK

But with tomatoes!

WALTER

You're an idiot, Chadwick. Greenway is going to fire us all if we don't come up with something good, you understand that? Can you grasp the seriousness of this situation? Where is Matthews?

CHADWICK

He's working a lead.

WALTER

He's what?

*MATTHEWS bursts in carrying a small manuscript.*

MATTHEWS

I got it!

CHADWICK

You got it?

WALTER

An original idea I hope?

MATTHEWS

We got something better than an idea.

**CHADWICK**

We got a book.

**MATTHEWS**

You are familiar, of course, with Christopher Smith.

**WALTER**

Are you kidding? Christopher Smith was the greatest writer of Christmas stories who ever lived. When you think of Christmas you think of Chris Smith.

**CHADWICK**

So, you would be happy if we brought him in?

**WALTER**

He's dead, you morons.

**MATTHEWS**

Mr. Hobbs, I met this guy who deals in used furniture; high end stuff, from the homes of prominent dead writers. So, he recently acquired a desk once owned by one Christopher Smith.

**CHADWICK**

And in this desk he finds a secret drawer -

**MATTHEWS**

-and in this secret drawer he finds a manuscript.

**CHADWICK**

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story!

**WALTER**

A lost Chris Smith Christmas story?

**MATTHEWS**

It's a Chris Smith Christmas for Walter Hobbs!

*MATTHEWS hands WALTER a small, yellowing manuscript.*

**WALTER**

My God. It's beautiful!

**MATTHEWS**

Isn't it? The illustrations -

**CHADWICK**

And the story will make you cry.

**WALTER**

I can't believe I'm actually holding an original Christopher Smith in my hands.

**MATTHEWS**

Careful. It's the only copy.

**CHADWICK**

Are you nuts? What if someone spills coffee on it? Make a copy!

**MATTHEWS**

Relax. The machine's out of toner. Deb's changing it now. Just be careful with it, Mr. Hobbs.

**WALTER**

*(handling it gingerly)*

This could be huge!

*Suddenly BUDDY, in his business suit, bursts into the conference room, having just come from his date.*

**BUDDY**

I'm in love! I'm in love! And I don't care who knows it!

**WALTER**

Buddy, please. We're very busy.

**BUDDY**

Dad, I need a table for two at Tavern on The Green, seven o'clock, Christmas Eve. And four hundred dollars.

**MATTHEWS**

The guy's waiting in the lobby, Mr. Hobbs.

**WALTER**

*(to BUDDY)*

Buddy. We'll talk about this in a minute. Just, do me a favour and sit there in that chair. Amuse yourself.

**BUDDY**

Oh, okay, dad.

**WALTER**

*(to MATTHEWS)*

Well, bring the guy up here. I want to thank him personally.

**MATTHEWS**

He's not waiting for a thank you. He's waiting for \$300,000.

**WALTER**

What?