

ACT ONE
SCENE 6

The two SECURITY GUARDS escort BUDDY down 34th street and drop him off at MACY's.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Here you go. There's a North Pole right in there.

BUDDY

There's another one?

SECURITY GUARD #1

Have fun.

A SALESWOMAN greets people as they pass.

SALESWOMAN

Welcome to Macy's! How are you today?

CUSTOMER #1

Fine.

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous! Welcome to Macy's! Jungle Passion Fruit Spray?

CUSTOMER #2

No.

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous!

She sees BUDDY and immediately accosts him.

(with practiced enthusiasm)

Welcome to Macy's! How are you today?

BUDDY

I'm great! I just met my human dad!

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous! Are you an out-of-state visitor?

BUDDY

Yes! I'm from Christmas town!

SALESWOMAN

Then be sure to stop at our visitor's services department to pick up your discount card.

BUDDY

Oh, I won't be buying anything. I only have chocolate money. And most of it melted when I—

SALESWOMAN

That's fabulous!

(holding up a perfume spray bottle)

Jungle Passion fruit spray?

BUDDY

Fruit spray? Sure.

BUDDY takes the bottle from her and sprays it into his mouth. HE instantly goes into a child-like fit, loudly whining and jumping all over the place. The SALESWOMAN takes the bottle away from him, gives a look and hurries off. The toy department MANAGER, a heavy-set black man comes up to BUDDY. MUSIC out.

MANAGER

Hey you! Get back to work! What section I assign you to?

BUDDY

I don't know.

MANAGER

You don't know? All right, you work right over here, the North Pole.

The sliders part to reveal Macy's, the toy department. Minimally decorated for Christmas, with a large sign saying, "The North Pole." A large, sparsely decorated Christmas tree stands nearby. CUSTOMERS, including a number of children with parents, and sales clerks dressed as STORE ELVES are on stage as the scene begins. Christmas MUSIC and ringing bells under.

BUDDY

That's not the North Pole.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

MANAGER

Yes, it is.

BUDDY

No, it's not.

Yes, it is. **MANAGER**

No, it isn't. **BUDDY**

Yes, it is. **MANAGER**

No, it isn't. **BUDDY**

Yes, it is. **MANAGER**

No it's not. Where's the snow?!
(BUDDY grins happily and the MANAGER scowls)

Why you smilin' like that? **MANAGER**

I just like to smile. Smiling's my favorite. **BUDDY**

Make work your favorite, that's your new favorite, okay? Work is your new favorite. **MANAGER**

Yay! I love to work. **BUDDY**

Good. **MANAGER**

Nothing makes the big guy happier than to see all his little people working hard. **BUDDY**

Wait a minute. The big guy? **MANAGER**

Yeah. **BUDDY**

The big guy from up north? **MANAGER**

That's the one. **BUDDY**

Did he send you down here? **MANAGER**

He sure did! **BUDDY**

Corporate! Always checking up on me. Okay. Fine. We'll work together, me and you, be good pals, okay? **MANAGER**

Okay! **BUDDY**

Okay. Now, I have to make a little announcement, if that's alright with you? **MANAGER**

Of course! **BUDDY**

Thanks. **MANAGER**

(loudly to ALL)
Attention Macy's shoppers! We'll be closing in five minutes, but tomorrow mornin', ten a.m., Santa Claus is comin' to town!

Santa!!! Oh, my gosh! Santa here? I know him! I know him! **BUDDY**

He'll be here to take pictures with all the children. Ten a.m. tomorrow... **MANAGER**

Ten a.m. tomorrow! **BUDDY**

Santa Claus is comin' to town! **MANAGER**

Santa Claus is comin' to town! **BUDDY**

You. If you don't mind, could you go help that girl over there decorate that tree? **MANAGER**

Yay! Santa always likes it when I help decorate the tree at the North Pole! **BUDDY**

(seeing JOVIE for the first time)
Oh! She's beautiful!