

MICHAEL

No, you don't understand! It's not just Buddy. Me and Mom both saw -

DEB speaks loudly from outside the office.

DEB

Oh! Mr. Greenway, how lovely to see you. Can I get you a hot buttered rum? Maybe a double?

GREENWAY

No. Where's Hobbs?

WALTER

(to EMILY)

Please. I'm begging you. Just give me ten minutes to make this pitch and then I'll look for Buddy with you. I'll look for any elf you want.

GREENWAY enters.

GREENWAY

Okay. Make it quick. I've got to catch a plane back to Chicago.

WALTER

Christmas party?

GREENWAY

Hardly. You remember Marczenko in acquisitions? He gave some con artist 300,000 dollars of company money for a fake Chris Smith.

WALTER looks to CHADWICK and MATTHEWS.

MATTHEWS

(nervously)

What a loser.

CHADWICK

(to MATTHEWS)

You should fire that guy.

GREENWAY

Now, let's hear your pitch, Hobbs! And it better be good!

WALTER

Okay. Okay. Let's start with the cover. Picture this: Under a Christmas tree, a little boy's leg...

BUDDY enters.

BUDDY

(tentatively, nervously)

Hi, Dad. Everybody. I'm sorry that I...

MICHAEL

Buddy!

EMILY

We were so worried! Are you okay?

BUDDY

Well, I think I just broke up with my girlfriend.

EMILY

(Sympathetically)

Oh.

(thinking about it)

You have a girlfriend??

MICHAEL

Buddy! The most amazing thing happened!

WALTER

Can we just do this later. Please?

BUDDY

Dad, I know you're mad at me, and I want to fix that.

GREENWAY

Hobbs, what is your family doing here? This is a business meeting.

BUDDY

(ignoring GREENWAY and going on)

I want to give you a Christmas present, but I don't have any money, so which would you prefer: a thousand butterfly kisses or a bracelet made of my hair?

WALTER

Neither. You want to give me a Christmas present? Give me a story to pitch!

GREENWAY

What? Are you telling me, Hobbs, that you don't have a story to pitch?

BUDDY

Dad!

WALTER

Oh, no, sir. Of course I have a story to pitch.