

# WE WISH YOU A MERRY SPENDMAS!

By Sean Abley and Wayne Hall

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ISBN: 978-1-60003-853-2

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**1-888-473-8521**

# WE WISH YOU A MERRY SPENDMAS!

*A Full Length Holiday Comedy*

**By Sean Abley and Wayne Hall**

**SYNOPSIS:** In this hilarious holiday satire set in the near future, Sprawl-Mart, a gigantic corporation, has purchased all merchandising rights to Christmas – even Santa Claus! Determined to rebrand the holiday to ‘Spendmas,’ evil Sprawl-Mart CEO Mr. Reed must battle the young and idealistic Ann Turner, who has had enough of holidays without sentiment. But can she enlist a happily retired Santa and a bunch of disgruntled elves in her cause? With dozens of big, colorful characters of all ages, and laughs for both the kids and adults, *We Wish You a Merry Spendmas!* is the perfect large cast holiday comedy.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(4 female, 5 male, 11-24 either; gender flexible, doubling possible)*

MR. (MRS.) REED (m/f).....	The evil CEO of Sprawl-Mart, bent on world domination. <i>(63 lines)</i>
ROLLBACK (m/f).....	Living, breathing corporate logo for Sprawl-Mart. Has a giant, yellow globe for a head. <i>(18 lines)</i>
SALLY (f).....	Young girl, tweens or younger, goes with the flow. <i>(45 lines)</i>
ANN (f).....	Young girl, tweens or younger, budding activist. <i>(94 lines)</i>
MRS. TURNER (f).....	Sally and Ann’s mom. A klutz and a little bit nuts. <i>(52 lines)</i>
JAKE (m).....	Young boy, tweens or younger, typical misbehaving boy. <i>(13 lines)</i>
BILLY (m).....	Young boy, tweens or younger, his brother’s partner in crime. <i>(14 lines)</i>
MR. MCCRACKEN (m).....	Billy and Jake’s dad. <i>(24 lines)</i>

- SANTA (m) ..... The lovable Christmas icon,  
now retired and loving it.  
(71 lines)
- MRS. CLAUS (f) ..... Just how you remember her,  
also retired and loving it.  
(31 lines)
- EASTER BUNNY (m/f) ..... Holiday icon desperate to move  
up the corporate ladder.  
(20 lines)
- HAZELNUT (m/f) ..... An elf; a little crazy, talks to a  
Santa puppet on his/her hand.  
(18 lines)
- JANGLEBELL (m/f) ..... Disgruntled former North Pole  
elf. (11 lines)
- NOEL (m/f)..... Disgruntled former North Pole  
elf. (10 lines)
- EGGNOGGIN (m/f) ..... Disgruntled former North Pole  
elf. (8 lines)
- THISTLE (m/f) ..... Disgruntled former North Pole  
elf. (9 lines)
- ELF SIX (m/f)..... Desperate reality show  
competitor elf. (10 lines)
- ELF SEVEN (m/f) ..... Desperate reality show  
competitor elf. (7 lines)
- GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST (m)..... Now an employee of Sprawl-  
Mart. (21 lines)
- STAMPWORTHY (m/f)..... The best and worst postal  
worker ever. (23 lines)
- FELIX (FELICIA) NAVIDAD (m/f)..... President and CEO of Holiday  
Network Network. (65 lines)
- HAS BEEN POPSTAR (m/f)..... Host of “Project Spendmas,”  
desperate for any gig. (38 lines)
- KENDALL (m/f) ..... A very young, sad and angry  
child. (1 line)
- DAGMAR (m/f)..... Felix Navidad’s assistant who  
also happens to be a mime.  
(3 lines)

OFFICE WORKER ONE (m/f) .....	Bored white collar North Pole office worker. <i>(5 lines)</i>
OFFICE WORKER TWO (m/f) .....	Bored white collar North Pole office worker. <i>(4 lines)</i>
REPORTER (m/f) .....	Nosey investigative reporter. <i>(3 lines)</i>
SECURITY GUARD ONE (m/f).....	Sprawl-Mart in-store muscle. <i>(1 line)</i>
ROLLIE ONE (m/f) .....	Sort of like Santa's helper at a department store, but the Sprawl-Mart version. <i>(3 lines)</i>
ROLLIE TWO (m/f) .....	Sort of like Santa's helper at a department store, but the Sprawl-Mart version. <i>(1 line)</i>
WAITER (m/f).....	Attentive...to a point. <i>(2 lines)</i>

**EXTRAS:**

SECURITY GUARD TWO (m/f).....	Sprawl-Mart in-store muscle. <i>(Non-speaking)</i>
CAMERAPERSON (m/f) .....	Reporter's loyal cameraperson. <i>(Non-speaking)</i>

**DURATION:** 90 minutes with intermission.

**SETTING**

There are roughly a billion locations in SPENDMAS, but a good unit set with several levels and entrances will take care of all your scene needs. We recommend an area for Mr. Reed (with a desk), an area for the attic, and an area upstage for the "Project Spendmas" set. More "fixed" areas if space allows, but if not, playing the other scenes downstage of the rest, with light changes to indicate new locations, works perfectly.

## MUSIC AND SOUND

The original production used a lot of fun, pop culture music cues, some which are indicated in the script. But feel free to add even more! Theme music for characters, underscore for scenes, punctuation for comedy emphasis – the more music and sound, the better! The Has Been Popstar’s songs during the wedding sequence are lyrics written to public domain Christmas music. Feel free to cut them if you’d rather not have your Has Been Popstar sing, or change the songs to something different, but still ridiculous.

## PROPS

- Boxes of Christmas Decorations
- Two Rollback Ornaments
- Headless Rollback Ornament
- Santa Ornament
- Video Game Console and Controller (possibly unseen)
- Two Letters To Santa
- Stack of Mail
- Two Soft Drinks in Glass
- Ice Drink
- “Flashback” Sign
- Small Contract
- 2 Huge Contracts
- Envelope Full of Money
- Two Small Notes
- Handheld Mic
- Doll
- Stocking
- TV Remote
- File Folder with Documents
- Chains
- Scepter
- Phone
- Hand Held Price Scanner
- Four Christmas Wish Lists
- Small Box

- Vampire Baby Doll
- Laptop
- TV News Camera
- Graph on Easel Stand
- Pointer
- Mug of Coffee
- Plate of Cookies
- Santa Bag
- Box of Macaroni
- Pen
- Water Glasses
- Water Pitcher
- Sippy Cup
- Toy Racecar with Square Wheels
- Gift Card
- Blank Paper
- Index Cards
- Tape
- Pliers
- Christmas Candy
- Hand Puppet
- Wrapped Gift

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## PRODUCTION HISTORY

*We Wish You a Merry Spendmas!* was first performed on December 12, 2013, at Esparto High School, Esparto CA, directed by Tracy Nash. Assistant director and choreographer - Olivia Wetter. Technical director - Wayne Hall. Master electrician, lighting & sound designer - Tristan Wetter. The cast and crew was as follows:

Becca McCann-----	Mrs. Reed
Ashlee Brimm-----	Ann Turner
Makayla Shera-----	Sally Turner
Tyler Zentner-----	Santa Claus
Ben Carson-----	Mrs. Claus
Miranda Miller-----	Rollback
Alfonso Casares-----	Felix Navidad
Maris Samsel-----	Paige Turner
Jordan Garcia-----	Phillip McCracken
Josh Rome-----	Billy McCracken
Jake King-----	Jake McCracken
Sara Slaugh-----	Has Been Popstar
Javier Robles-----	Ghost of Christmas Past
Jocilynn Garcia-----	Mrs. Stampworthy
Brook Vanderpool-----	The Easter Bunny
Jackson Hall-----	Thistle
Haley Garcia-----	Hazelnut
Joanna Clark-----	Janglebelle
Skye Bruno-----	Noel
Emma Clark-----	Eggnoggin
Josh Andrews-----	Elf Eight
Monse Santos-----	Rollie and Elf Seven
Jasmin Quiroz-----	Elf Six
Jessica Chavez-----	Kendall
Luke Crabbe-----	The Busboy
Jeremiah Wise-----	Dagmar
Ella Eldon-----	Dagmar and The Reporter
Marlee Wallace-----	Dagmar
Kathy Rangel-----	Rollie
Daniel Hackett-----	Security Guard

Assistant to the director: Victoria Jensen

Student Assistant to the Director: Luke Crabbe

Student Directors: Tyler Zentner, Becca Mccann, Jordan Garcia

Sound mix: Isai Barragan

Music & audio score: Jonathan Smith

Wireless Audio: Katie Warde

Lead Carpenters: Bryton West, Ian Knightly

Artists: Helena Hindes, Eduardo Estrada, Ernesto Lopez, Catherine Diaz

Sound Support: Jose Cortes, Adam Farnham

Set/Prop Construction & Paint: Martin Corona, Jesus Marquez, Jose Marquez,

Angel Jacobo, Raul Lopez, Jaime Duarte, Jose Alcantar, Oscar Gonzalez

Deck Crew, Federico Chavez, Eduardo Estrada, Josh Andrews

Follow Spot: Gabriel Jorgensen-Sanchez

Lighting Tech Support: Tyler Zentner

**NOTE:** The cast of characters for the original production differs slightly from this version of the script.

**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**

**AT RISE:** *Lights up. Television studio. The impossibly upbeat MR. REED addresses the television audience.*

**MR. REED:** Hello everyone! Welcome to the near future! Polls show that ninety percent of the population of the United States of America know who I am. But for those that don't, let me introduce myself – I'm Mr. Reed, President and CEO of Sprawl-Mart. What's Sprawl-Mart, you ask? If you're asking that question, then you are, statistically speaking, from outer space. (*Laughs at his own joke.*) I'm kidding. You're not from outer space. You're just dumb! Sprawl-Mart is only the world's largest retail store. We carry everything from African tribal lip plates to zero-gravity space exploration boots. And of our stand-alone stores, I'm most proud of the Sprawl-Mart adoption centers! Your home for new, used, and slightly irregular children, all at bargain prices! According to the calendar, it's August 31<sup>st</sup>, which means the Christmas shopping season has officially begun!

**SFX:** *Christmas music begins to play.*

Christmas! (*Sings.*) "JOY TO THE STORE, THE WORLD BOUGHT SOME! YOUR CASH! PLEASE BRING! KA-CHING!" It's at times like these when I'm reminded of the joys of Christmas – shopping, buying, spending, lots of words that end in "ing" that mean giving Sprawl-Mart your money! I'm sure you all agree that Christmas has become much more efficient in the thirty years since Sprawl-Mart bought the global rights to the holiday. Why do it yourself when you can come to Sprawl-Mart exclusively for pre-decorated cookies and Christmas trees, pre-written holiday cards, and pre-wrapped presents? With just under four months left to shop, time is running out! So make sure to bring your scan-able Christmas lists to the nearest Sprawl-Mart so everyone's favorite holiday character, Rollback, can scan them in time for the holiday!

**ROLLBACK:** (*Enters.*) Hello everyone! Spendy Christmas!

**MR. REED:** *(Laughing this off.)* That brings up another important point.

As of this year, we've changed the name from Christmas to Spendmas! Give it another try, Rollback!

**ROLLBACK:** A Merry Spendmas to all!

**MR. REED:** Much better! Have a great holiday everyone. And remember—give us your money!

LIGHT SHIFT to—

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

**AT RISE:** SALLY and ANN'S ATTIC. SALLY and ANN are rummaging through boxes in their attic for Christmas decorations.

**ANN:** *(Pulls out a decoration.)* Oh, this one is cool! Rollback is riding the Christmas Vacuum Cleaner with Multi-Speed Suction!

**SALLY:** *(Pulls out a decoration.)* Ooh, this one is rad! Rollback holding a Christmas scanner!

**ANN:** *(Pulls out a decoration minus the head.)* Oh no, this one's broken! Someone decapitated Rollback!

**SALLY:** Guess someone gave him a deep discount for Christmas. *(Draws her finger across her throat in a throat-cutting gesture.)* Pricing fail!

**ANN:** Don't say that about Rollback!

**SALLY:** Oh, calm down. He's just a guy in a suit.

**ANN:** So that means you can chop off his head?

**SALLY:** Here, I found Rollback's head. We'll just keep them together, and ask for a Sprawl-Mart Home Surgery Kit for Christmas so we can reattach it. What else is in that box?

**ANN:** There's something stuck to the bottom. *(Pulls out a perfectly preserved Santa decoration.)* Look!

**SALLY and ANN:** Eeeiiwww!

**ANN:** What is it? He's so...old and fat and...red.

**SALLY:** It's mega gross! His belly feels like a bowl full of jelly! Gross! This is the ugliest ornament I've ever seen in my entire life. He looks like a homeless bum who eats out of garbage cans and lives in a box by a polluted lake outside of Skeezetown.

**ANN:** Do you think this was pretty once? And all this red and white is, like, mold or something?

**SALLY:** I don't know. But stop touching it—you'll get a disease!

*ANN throws down the Santa ornament.*

Kidding! Here, let's help out Rollback. *(Pulls the head off the Santa ornament and shoves it on the Rollback ornament.)* There! Frankenrollback! Grrr, Frankenrollback is coming to get you! Arrgh!

**ANN:** Mom!

**SALLY:** Arrrgh, Frankenrollback is feasting on the flesh of your Baby Real Housewives of *[Insert name of local joke of a town.]* Doll!

**ANN:** Mom!

*MRS. TURNER enters, tripping over boxes with a SFX: crash.*

**MRS. TURNER:** My goodness, what is all the ruckus about up here?

**ANN:** Sally's zombie ornament is killing my doll!

**MRS. TURNER:** What?! What are you talking about?

**SALLY:** This!

*Hands Frankenrollback to MRS. TURNER.*

Oh, and this.

*Hands headless Santa ornament to MRS. TURNER.*

**MRS. TURNER:** *(Taken aback.)* Oh....

**SALLY:** I know, gross, huh?

**MRS. TURNER:** Girls, your mother has a secret.

**ANN:** Your homemade eggnog doesn't contain any real nog?

**MRS. TURNER:** Another secret.

**SALLY:** Feeding the neighbor's barking dog chili then locking it in their guesthouse wasn't an accident?

**MRS. TURNER:** Another secret.

**ANN:** You chew gum off the bottoms of movie theater seats to save money?

**MRS. TURNER:** Enough! Mommy's secret is...she's a Christmas hoarder!

*SFX: Music sting.*

**SALLY:** What does that mean?

**MRS. TURNER:** I have boxes and bags and multiple storage units filled with Christmas decorations from long ago. Like this Santa, although most of them still have heads. *(Pulls another box on stage and begins pulling old fashioned Christmas decorations out.)* See?

**ANN:** This stuff is neat. But who's the homeless guy?

**MRS. TURNER:** When I was a girl...

**SALLY:** Sixty years ago?

**MRS. TURNER:** Thirty years ago. Christmas was very different. We made our own cookies, and we wrapped our own presents. We decorated our own tree, and sometimes we'd even go out into the forest and cut down the tree ourselves!

**ANN:** Weren't you afraid of being eaten by dinosaurs?

**SALLY:** Mom isn't that old, stupid! *(To MRS. TURNER.)* Did Pocahontas help you find a tree?

**MRS. TURNER:** *(Steaming.)* No...

**ANN:** How did you get the tree home? Did you drag it behind your covered wagon?

**MRS. TURNER:** You mother is not old!!!!

**SALLY:** That's not what Mrs. Anderson next door says. She says you look like something the cat dragged in. That would have to be a really big cat!

**MRS. TURNER:** Certain little girls better let mother finish her story or they're going to be sold into child labor. So, after we'd make the cookies and decorate the tree, we'd write out our Christmas lists and mail them to Santa Claus at the North Pole. *(Holds up the Santa ornament and head.)* On Christmas Eve we'd put out cookies and milk for Santa, then go to bed. Santa would load up all the toys his elves had made into his sleigh, harness the reindeer, and fly all over the world delivering presents to all the good children who didn't call their mothers old. He'd slide down the chimneys, put the presents under the tree, and when we'd wake up we would have a very merry Christmas morning!

**SALLY:** *(A beat.)* There's so many things wrong with that story, I don't know where to start.

**MRS. TURNER:** But that's all over now.

*SFX: Smack as MRS. TURNER swings around blindly and accidentally hits ANN.)*

Sprawl-Mart took over, fired Santa and replaced him with Rollback. I wonder what Santa is doing now? Probably not much considering how old he is...

*SFX: Crash of glass as MRS. TURNER breaks something on her exit.*  
*LIGHTS SHIFT to—*

### ACT ONE, SCENE 3

**AT RISE:** *CLAUS HOME. SANTA and MRS. CLAUS, dressed in the "retired-in-Florida" versions of their classic outfits, are in the middle of an X-box dancing game. SFX: Hip-hop music. They perform awesome dance moves. Finally MRS. CLAUS wins.*

**MRS. CLAUS:** Burn! I win! You're slow, old man!

**SANTA:** Your mom's slow.

**MRS. CLAUS:** So's your face!

**SANTA and MRS. CLAUS:** *(Laugh.)* Ho ho ho ho ho!

**SANTA:** I love insult humor!

**MRS. CLAUS:** So does your mom!

**SANTA:** So does your face!

**SANTA and MRS. CLAUS:** *(Laugh.)* Ho ho ho ho ho!

**MRS. CLAUS:** I'm exhausted. How about something to drink?

**SANTA:** Sure, I'll take that new, eggnog-flavored diet Coke.

**MRS. CLAUS:** Coming right up! *(Exits.)*

*SFX: Doorbell.*

**SANTA:** I'll get it!

*SANTA answers the door. MR. STAMPWORTHY, a postal worker, enters.*

Yes?

**STAMPWORTHY:** Hello. I'm looking for a Mr. Santa Claus.

**SANTA:** That would be me. And you are?

**STAMPWORTHY:** My name is Mr. Stampworthy, and I work for the United State Post Office – North Pole division.

**SANTA:** North Pole? What are you doing here in Miami?

**STAMPWORTHY:** Budget cuts. We have to cover much more territory now.

**SANTA:** I see. What can I do for you?

**STAMPWORTHY:** And, well, this is a bit embarrassing, but I have a letter for you.

**SANTA:** Why is that embarrassing?

**STAMPWORTHY:** Well, it's a bit late.

**SANTA:** Late? Poor service from the United States Post Office? I'm shocked!

**STAMPWORTHY:** Trust me, Mr. Claus, in the history of the United States Post Office, I can count the number of times our service hasn't lived up to our standards on one hand. One finger, even. *(Holds up a finger.)* This one. And that would be this letter.

**SANTA:** *(Reads envelope.)* "To: Santa Claus, North Pole. From: Miss Paige Number, Anytown, USA." This is postmarked thirty years ago!

**STAMPWORTHY:** About that. Unfortunately, there was an unavoidable incident that kept us from delivering this letter on time.

**SANTA:** And that was?

**STAMPWORTHY:** We were using it under one of the legs of our lunch table to keep it from wiggling. But last week we got a new table, and so I'm happy to hand-deliver this letter to you. You're welcome! Have a good day, and Merry Spendmas! *(Exits.)*

**MRS. CLAUS:** *(Enters with two sodas.)* Egnog Diet Coke for you.

**SANTA:** *(Takes a sip, then spits it out in disgust.)* What is this?! Liquid death?!

**MRS. CLAUS:** Oh, sorry, I gave you my drink by mistake. Spiral-Cut Ham Fizz for me. *(To audience, a la commercial spokesperson.)* All the ham taste with half the calories!

*SFX: Commercial jingle.*

Who was at the door?

**SANTA:** Someone from the Post Office. They delivered this letter thirty years late!

**MRS. CLAUS:** Something late from the United States Post Office? I won't believe it!

**SANTA:** See for yourself. *(Hands her the letter.)*

**MRS. CLAUS:** *(Takes out the letter and reads it.)* "Dear Santa, My name is Paige Number, and I am eight years old. I have been a very good girl this year. I only pushed one old lady into traffic, and I gave back almost all the money I stole from the March of Dimes displays at the convenience stores."

**SANTA:** This kid's a real winner.

**MRS. CLAUS:** *(Reads.)* "Because I've been so good, I want two gifts this year. First, I want an Easy Nuke Microwave, and second I want a Jason Voorhees action figure with real machete action. Please please please please please..." She writes 'please' for the rest of the page. *(Turns letter over and continues to read.)* "And just so we're clear, failure to provide me with the above gifts will result in naughty behavior for the next calendar year. Sincerely, Paige."

**SANTA:** My goodness!

**MRS. CLAUS:** *(Reads.)* "P.S. Instead of a stocking I've hung a pair of my mom's panty hose, which are super stretchy, so feel free to bring extra stocking stuffers." Oh, this makes me so nostalgic for Christmas. Remember, Santa? There were only twelve days of Christmas, and they were jam-packed with holiday cheer. All the gingerbread and candy canes? The reindeer? The elves? Remember?

**SANTA:** Oh, I remember alright. I remember when it all came to an end.

*LIGHTS SHIFT and now we're in a FLASHBACK, indicated by a sign that reads "Flashback" and SFX: music cue. Three elves, HAZELNUT, JANGLEBELL and NOEL, enter.*

**SANTA:** Hello Hazelnut, Janglebell, Noel. Everything okay in the factory? I thought I saw some fire engines coming off the line that were more of a reddish-orange rather than red. And of course that just won't do.

**HAZELNUT:** Can it, Claus. We ain't got time for your chin music.

**JANGLEBELL:** We're here to inform you that Sprawl-Mart has bought all of our controlling shares of Christmas, Inc.

**NOEL:** This is a hostile takeover!

**SANTA:** You sold out to Sprawl-Mart?! Oh, I knew going public was a mistake! Why would you betray Christmas like this?!

**HAZELNUT:** Oh, I don't know. Maybe it has something to do with fourteen-hour days making toys.

**JANGLEBELL:** Or the short jokes.

**NOEL:** Or the fact that you stole the idea of sliding down the chimney from me! Without me, you'd still be just walking in the front door. Who does that?

**SANTA:** Now you stop right there, Noel! You may have had the idea for sliding down chimneys, but I perfected it! And you might remember your contract states (*Whips out contract and reads.*) "Any and all Christmas related ideas, concepts or notions conceived during employment with Christmas, Inc. are the sole property of Christmas, Inc. in perpetuity."

**NOEL:** Well, Sprawl-Mart owns 'em now, Fat-A Claus! Including the performance rights for "Ho ho ho!"

**SANTA:** Ho ho ho?

**JANGLEBELL:** That'll be five bucks royalties! Every time you say it, ya gotta pay up!

**MR. REED:** (*Enters.*) Hello, Santa! So nice doing business with you. My, my, my, this property is going to be worth millions!

**SANTA:** The North Pole?!

**MR. REED:** Oh, yes. The North Pole is owned by Christmas, Inc., which is now owned by Sprawl-Mart. This is going to be a perfect place for a Cinnabon!

**HAZELNUT, JANGLEBELL and NOEL:** (*Unison, mesmerized at the thought.*) Mmmmmm, Cinnabon...

**MR. REED:** Now don't worry, Santa. Sprawl-Mart isn't planning on completely redesigning Christmas. Just little tweaks here and there to make it more profitable. The elves and the reindeer will be well taken care of.

**SANTA:** You're taking the reindeer?!

**MR. REED:** Yes. Well, except Donner. You can keep him. His human resources file indicates he may have an attitude problem.

**SANTA:** He is a bit of a handful.

**MR. REED:** Pack your bags, Santa Claus! Time to enjoy a forced retirement. I hear Florida is nice. Actually, that's not true. I hear it's horrible, but whatever. (*Sings.*)

"I WISH ME A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I WISH ME A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I WISH ME A MERRY CHRISTMAS BECAUSE NOW I OWN IT!"

**MR. REED, HAZELNUT, JANGLEBELL and NOEL:** (*Laugh.*) Ah ha ha ha ha!

*MR. REED, HAZELNUT, JANGLEBELL and NOEL exit as the "Flashback" sign flies out and the LIGHTS SHIFT to SANTA'S HOME – PRESENT DAY.*

**SANTA:** Combine that with the fact that the courts ruled I couldn't categorize a child "naughty" unless they actually murdered someone, and I was working way about my pay grade. If you think about it, that disgusting betrayal by those despicable elves was the best thing that ever happened to me. Now I don't have to deliver toys to little pre-teen psychopaths like (*Reads name off letter.*) "Paige Number" any more. (*Tears up letter.*) And I have more time to school my wife at "Prance, Prance, Viva La Revolucion!"

*MRS. CLAUS turns on the video game. SFX: Dance music.*

**MRS. CLAUS:** You're on, old man!

*SANTA and MRS. CLAUS start to dance as the LIGHTS SHIFT to–*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 4**

**AT RISE:** *MR. REED'S OFFICE. MR. REED is sitting at his desk. ROLLBACK enters, holding a thick envelope.*

**ROLLBACK:** Hello, Mr. Reed!

**MR. REED:** Hello, corporate branding!

**ROLLBACK:** I wanted to give you a present for the first day of Spendmas.

*Hands MR. REED the envelope.*

I know it's just what you wanted.

**MR. REED:** *(Opens the envelope, revealing a huge amount of money.)*  
A billion dollars! You're right! That's exactly what I want!

*Grabs a piece of paper, quickly writes something on it, folds it and hands it to ROLLBACK.*

And I got you something, too.

**ROLLBACK:** Oh, Mr. Reed, that's really wonderful. *(Unfolds paper and reads.)* "You're not fired. Today."

**MR. REED:** Merry Spendmas!

**ROLLBACK:** Uh, thanks.

**MR. REED:** Would you like to sit down?

**ROLLBACK:** Thank you. *(Looks around.)* Uh, there's no chair.

**MR. REED:** I just asked if you'd like to sit down. I didn't say you could.

*EASTER BUNNY barges into MR. REED'S office.*

**EASTER BUNNY:** Mr. Reed, I demand to talk to you! *(Not a fan.)* Oh, hello, Rollback.

**ROLLBACK:** *(Not a fan.)* Hello, The Easter Bunny. Merry Spendmas.

**EASTER BUNNY:** Merry Spendmas. I got you something.

**ROLLBACK:** Yeah? What?

**EASTER BUNNY:** This.

*EASTER BUNNY attacks ROLLBACK, and they fall to the floor, wrestling. MR. REED pulls them apart.*

**MR. REED:** Break it up! Break it up! I can't have my corporate branding fighting with each other! Rollback, go wait outside while I talk to The Easter Bunny.

**ROLLBACK:** Watch your back...for Rollback! (*Exits.*)

**MR. REED:** Alright, The Easter Bunny, what did you need?

**EASTER BUNNY:** I want a promotion! I'm tired of playing second fiddle to that yellow-headed media shill.

**MR. REED:** I prefer yellow-headed corporate branding.

**EASTER BUNNY:** I've been around for ages! There's a whole three months of Spendmas, and just one weekend of Easter. I want the Big Show! I've earned it!

**MR. REED:** Mr. The Easter Bunny, I sympathize with your feelings. Okay, that's not true. But I do sympathize with your contract, which states, and I'm paraphrasing, "Never in a million years will you be the face of Spendmas." (*Makes a "game show loser" noise.*) Wah-waaaaah. That being said, you might be excited to know about our plans for Easter rebranding called "Shopster."

**EASTER BUNNY:** Wait, am I being replaced?

**MR. REED:** Nope. Not today, anyway...Now if you'll excuse me, I have to use these one-hundred dollar bills as toilet paper.

**EASTER BUNNY:** This conversation is not over! We are not done discussing this! I demand satisfaction!

**MR. REED:** Best of luck with that.

*EASTER BUNNY storms out.*

Speaking of holiday icons, I wonder how the elves are doing on their new reality show...

*LIGHTS SHIFT to-*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 5**

**AT RISE:** *PROJECT SPENDMAS* broadcast. *MONTAGE* of short scenes from the final moments of “Project Spendmas.” The host, *HAS BEEN POPSTAR*, introduces the montage. *SFX:* “Project Spendmas” theme music.

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** We’ve brought together some of the best elves from all over the world to see just who has what it takes to make it to the top. Each week these elves compete in challenges designed to test not only their toy-making skills, but their drive and ambition as well. One by one they will be eliminated, until one is crowned the winner. This...is “Project Spendmas.”

*SFX: Music flourish.*

Yesterday on “Project Spendmas...”

**EGGNOGGIN:** *(With a doll attached to face.)* I nailed this doll to my face! They’re going to take points off for that!

**THISTLE:** *(Holding eye.)* I paper cut my eyeball during the wrapping challenge! Again!

*ELF SIX* yelling at, and shaking a stocking in the face of, *ELF SEVEN*.

**ELF SIX:** What did you put in this stocking?

**ELF SEVEN:** A wasps’ nest.

**ELF SIX:** You put wasps in a stocking?!

**ELF SEVEN:** A wasp’s nest. I thought it was empty!

**ELF SIX:** Who did you think hung this stocking? Freddy Krueger?!

*LIGHTS SHIFT* to *PROJECT SPENDMAS ELIMINATION STAGE*. *HAS BEEN POPSTAR* is center stage with *HAZELNUT*, *JANGLEBELL*, *NOEL*, *EGGNOGGIN*, *THISTLE* [now wearing an eye patch over his/her injured eye], *ELF SIX* and *ELF SEVEN*.

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** Hello, everyone. Welcome to the “Project Spendmas” elimination ceremony. I’m a has-been popstar turned TV presenter. I’m not going to tell you my name because, honestly, does it really matter? Tonight one of these topnotch elves will be sent home based on the number of votes cast by you from all over the world. At stake is our prize package – a year’s supply of stale Christmas candy, dinner for two at TGIFried Stuff, and the chance to be the new Sprawl-Mart corporate icon – Rollback X-treme! Up for elimination tonight are...Eggnoggin...

*EGGNOGGIN steps forward.*

....and Thistle.

*THISTLE steps forward.*

And the elf going home tonight is...Thistle!

*SFX: “Project Spendmas” elimination music plays. The other ELVES console THISTLE and say goodbye. The crowd cheers.*

I’m sorry, Thistle, but it’s time to go. I’m sure you have a great career as a needle-threader ahead of you.

**THISTLE:** I hate my life!

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** We love you, too!

*THISTLE makes his/her way off, but the eye patch causes him/her to run into a few walls before actually making it off stage.*

And that’s it for tonight’s elimination ceremony. Tune in next week for more challenges, and more industrial mishaps, on “Project Spendmas”!

*SFX: “Project Spendmas” theme music. LIGHTS SHIFT to–*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 6**

**AT RISE:** *MR. REED'S OFFICE. MR. REED sits at his desk, watching the end of "Project Spendmas."*

**MR. REED:** Well, I hope whoever wins is "TV friendly." We can't have an ugly elf as our new corporate spokesperson. Oh, wait, I forgot. The whole show is rigged. Nevermind!

*GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST enters, unnoticed by MR. REED.*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Boooo!

**MR. REED:** *(Jumping out of his skin.)* AAHHH! Get away!

*GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST chases MR. REED around the office.*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Boooo! Ah ha ha ha ha ha!!!

**MR. REED:** AAHHHH!! Away! Away evil spirit! Why do you torment me, foul spectre?!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Your secretary said you wanted to take a meeting today.

**MR. REED:** Oh, right, sorry about that. I was so busy counting money, I forgot. Ghost of Christmas Past, how are you? It's been too long.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Oh, you know, same ol' same ol'. Some haunting, working on my novel. Oh, and don't tell anyone, but I've been seeing the Ghost of Christmas Future.

**MR. REED:** Get out!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** I won't! It's just casual dating at the moment, but fingers crossed!

**MR. REED:** Well, I'd wish you the best...if I cared. But let's get to the point of this meeting. I've looking at your file...*(Picks up file on desk.)*...it's right here, conveniently the only file in my entire office. And it looks like your results are a bit down from last quarter.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** I'm trying my best! I even got some new chains from the Sprawl-Mart "Graves and Ghouls" section. *(Rattles his chains.)* Terrifying, right? It's just harder to haunt people these days.

**MR. REED:** Regardless, I need you to make sure everyone who remembers (*Shudders.*) Christmas...eeeiw, I hate to even say the word any more. You have to make sure everyone who remembers Christmas has bad memories of the holiday. We want them to embrace the brand change to Spendmas.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Of course, whatever you say. You're the boss.

**MR. REED:** Correct.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Question – Once Spendmas is in and Christmas is out, and all the people who remember Christmas die...am I out of a job?

**MR. REED:** Of course not. I guarantee you will not be fired from Sprawl-Mart. (*As a disclaimer.*) This guarantee is not valid with other sales or specials. Other restrictions may apply. For terms and conditions, please see our website, [www.SprawlMart.com](http://www.SprawlMart.com).

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Hmmmm. Not quite the reassuring statement I was hoping for.

**MR. REED:** (*Picks up his phone, which has not rung.*) Hello? Yes, of course, I'll be there immediately. (*Hangs up.*) I'm sorry, have to cut this short. There's an emergency in the blahblahblah department.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** That phone didn't even ring!

**MR. REED:** I'm a gazillionaire. If I say that phone rang, it rang. Or you're fired.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** You better get that. I'll see myself out. Merry Spendmas!

**MR. REED:** It is!

LIGHTS SHIFT to—

## ACT ONE, SCENE 7

**AT RISE:** SUBURBAN MALL. ANN and SALLY, along with BILLY and JAKE wait in line for ROLLBACK to appear. ANN holds a repaired Santa decoration. A sign reads "SPENDMAS brought to by SPRAWL-MART." Another sign read "Get your photo taken with Rollback for \$19.96! That's not a request!"

**SALLY:** These line-ups are ridiculous. No, they're ridonkulous! (*Indicates the audience.*) Look how many people are lined up – It must be hundreds! Why do we have to come to the mall to get our Spendmas lists scanned? Haven't they heard of email? Besides, that Rollback guy is mega creepy.

**ANN:** Mom says people used to love to stand in line to see Santa Claus. You got to sit on his lap and tell him what you wanted for Christmas and then he'd bring it to you.

**SALLY:** She also said you could send him a letter to the North Pole and he's get it. And that he'd slide down chimneys. Let's face it – I like Mom and all, but she can be a little cray-cray bananas sometimes.

**ANN:** I wish there was a timeless, loveable holiday icon like Santa Claus that children could cherish and parents could use to promote good will and the spirit of giving.

**BILLY:** Nice doll. Is that Homeless Barbie's boyfriend Homeless Ken?

**ANN:** Shut up! This is Santa Claus!

**BILLY:** Who?

**ANN:** Santa Claus! The Father of Christmas!

**SALLY:** Don't listen to her. It's just some weird story about a fat burglar who breaks into your house and reverse steals things.

**JAKE:** Wait, Santa Claus? Our dad mentioned him, once.

**ANN:** Really?

**JAKE:** Yeah! He said that Santa Claus would spend all year making toys, then deliver them to all the good children all over the world on Christmas Eve.

**SALLY:** Free shipping? That's a horrible business plan.

**ANN:** I think it's great! Your dad would get along great with our mom.

**SALLY:** Yeah, she's crazy, too.

**JAKE:** I've also heard that Sprawl-Mart removed any references to his face and identity ever since they bought the rights to Christmas 30 years ago. Just owning that doll could land you in Sprawl-Mart jail.

**ANN:** Sprawl-Mart has jails?

**JAKE:** Yeah, there's one right next to the Sprawl-Mart Out-patient Surgery Center.

**ANN:** Oh, right, Mom's over there having an appendectomy.

**BILLY:** Does she have appendicitis?

**ANN:** No. They rolled the price back to \$20 and Mom just can't pass up a bargain.

*Two ROLLIES, aka ROLLBACK'S version of elves, enter and announce his arrival.*

**ROLLIE ONE and ROLLIE TWO:** Ladies and gentlemen! Children of all ages! Rollback!

*ROLLBACK enters, holding a scanning gun. SFX: Rollback Theme Music. [Probably something royal.]*

**ROLLBACK:** Ho-Ho-Ho trademark! Happy Festive Gift Giving! I'm Rollback or one of his licensed representatives, here to acknowledge receipt of your Spendmas wish list. To ensure quality and consistency we ask that you check your list for accuracy, confirming all model numbers and product codes before submitting them to Sprawl-Mart Incorporated, Rollback, or any of its licensed subsidiaries. Sprawl-Mart Incorporated reserves the right to substitute Spendmas list items at its whim, and as such, assumes no liability for a disappointing Spendmas. For a copy of this disclaimer and other implied terms of use, please visit our website [sprawl-mart.com/spendmas-cheer/rules](http://sprawl-mart.com/spendmas-cheer/rules) and regulations. Hello boy or girl! May I have your list please?

*SALLY hands ROLLBACK the list.*

**SALLY:** Here ya go, Rollback.

*ROLLBACK hands the list to ROLLIE ONE, who begins scanning it. We hear the "beep!" as each item is scanned.*

**ROLLBACK:** *(By wrote.)* Thank you boy or girl! You are very pretty and/or handsome! That is great! Those are good choices! Your parents must love you very much to spend so much money at Sprawl-Mart! Who is next?

**BILLY:** Me!

*BILLY hands ROLLBACK his list. ROLLBACK hands the list to ROLLIE TWO, who begins scanning it. Again we hear the “beep!” as each item is scanned.*

**ROLLBACK:** *(By rote.)* Thank you boy or girl! You are very pretty and/or handsome! That is great! Those are good choices! Your parents must love you very much to spend so much money at Sprawl-Mart! Who is next?

**JAKE:** I’m up!

*JAKE hands ROLLBACK his list. ROLLBACK hands the list to ROLLIE ONE, who begins scanning it. Again we hear the “beep!” as each item is scanned.*

**ROLLBACK:** *(By rote.)* Thank you boy or girl! You are very pretty and/or handsome! That is great! Those are good choices! Your parents must love you very much to spend so much money at Sprawl-Mart! Who is next?

**SALLY:** Go on, Ann.

**ANN:** Um...No.

**ROLLBACK:** I’m sorry? Did you forget your list young lady?

**ANN:** No, I have one.

**ROLLBACK:** Well, I’ll need to take your list so that my Rollies can scan the information. If you believe that listed items are in error, or model numbers are missing, I’m afraid that you’ll have to correct them before we accept the information. One of our Sprawl-Mart Customer-Service Representatives can help you with that. Please exit the line and—

**ANN:** There’s nothing wrong with my list! It’s fine. The list is fine, the items are fine, and the model numbers are fine. Everything is just hunkey-dorey Mr. Rollback—except you. You and your entire Sprawl-Mart corporate gift-giving operation are a sham! Where’s the warmth? Where’s the lap to sit in? And where’s Santa Claus!

*SFX: Alarm. ROLLBACK and the ROLLIES are taken aback.*

**ROLLIE ONE:** *(Speaking into the microphone in his cuff, a la Secret Service.)* She said ‘Santa Claus.’ Terror alert level ‘Orange.’

**SALLY:** Ann! You're making a scene and you're embarrassing me!

**ANN:** I'm making scene? I'm making a scene?! Oh no. If there's anyone guilty of making a scene, it's these guys. This is a scene! A crime scene!

**ROLLBACK:** (*Desperate.*) Thank you boy or girl! You are very pretty and/or handsome! That is great! Those are good choices! Your parents must love you very much to spend so much money at Sprawl-Mart! Who is next?

*SECURITY GUARD ONE and SECURITY GUARD TWO enter.*

**SECURITY GUARD ONE:** Who is it?

**ROLLIE ONE:** She's right there!

*The SECURITY GUARD ONE and SECURITY GUARD TWO move to grab ANN, but she holds out the Santa Claus doll. ROLLBACK, the ROLLIES and SECURITY GUARD ONE and SECURITY GUARD TWO all react as if it were garlic to a vampire.*

**ANN:** Stand back! The power of Santa compels you!

*At this point SECURITY GUARD ONE, SECURITY GUARD TWO and OTHER CHILDREN scatter like rats offstage leaving only SALLY, ANN, JAKE and BILLY and ROLLBACK onstage.*

**SALLY:** Ann, what are you doing?

**ANN:** This is a robbery! We've been robbed of Christmas cheer! Sprawl-Mart has stolen the spirit of Christmas and we've been forced to buy it back! I won't participate anymore! Christmas, or Spendmas, whatever you want to call it, is fake! Fake, fake, fake! Rollback is totally fake!

*ANN attacks ROLLBACK, pulls off his yellow head and tosses it on the ground. The kids react in horror.*

Nobody's head is yellow unless they have an ineffective liver! Fake!

*MRS. TURNER enters. She has a bandage around her midsection, and she winces frequently.*

**SALLY and ANN:** Mom!

**MRS. TURNER:** My goodness, I'm still a little loopy from the anesthesia!

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** (*Enters.*) Boys –

**MR. MCCRACKEN and MRS. TURNER:** ...what's going on here?

*SFX: Love Theme. EVERYONE freezes as MRS. TURNER and MR. MCCRACKEN see each other and immediately fall in love. The music stops and EVERYONE comes back to life.*

**MRS. TURNER:** Oh, nothing. My daughter just decapitated a corporate icon.

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** That surgery scar goes great with your eyes.

**SALLY:** Okay, I think we should go now.

**ANN:** Fine. I'll go. But before I do, I want to say this -When each of you have finished with Rollback and have your Spendmas list uploaded into the Sprawl-Mart system, go home. Go home and ask your parents or grandparents about Santa. A man with no corporate agenda or shareholders or desire for profit, only joy in his heart for everyone on Earth. Go home and ask them what it was like when they woke up on Christmas morning to find the base of their Christmas tree, once bare, now filled with presents. How did they get there? I assure you they were not ordered online and delivered by someone in a very unflattering brown uniform. They were delivered by Santa! Ask your parents how he did it. It's an incredible story.

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** It really is.

**MRS. TURNER:** I think so, too!

*MR. MCCRACKEN pulls MRS. TURNER close.*

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** Let's get married!

**MRS. TURNER:** (*Wincing.*) My scar...

*MR. MCCRAKEN and MRS. TURNER move out of the scene to gaze into each other's eyes. MR. REED, SECURITY GUARD ONE, SECURITY GUARD TWO, and the ROLLIES enter.*

**MR. REED:** What in Sprawl-Mart's name is going on here?

**ROLLBACK:** Mr. Reed!

**MR. REED:** *(To ROLLBACK.)* Put your head back on! There are children present! Now, what's going on here? Who is responsible for this corporate outrage?

**ANN:** I am, Mr. Reed.

**MR. REED:** Ann Turner. I never figured you for a troublemaker.

**ANN:** You know my name?

**MR. REED:** I know the name of every person in the United States that spends money.

**ANN:** Well, then you'll be unhappy to know that I'm not spending any more money at Sprawl-Mart! I am going to bring back Santa Claus and a traditional Christmas and you can't stop me! I'm going to start a letter writing campaign to bring back Santa Claus! I'm going to get everyone on Earth who remembers Santa Claus and Christmas and have them write a letter demanding that he come back! And I'm going to have them boycott Sprawl-Mart so you'll be forced to bring back a traditional Christmas! *(Storms out.)* Viva La Revolucion! Occupy Sprawl-Mart! Come on guys, we're outta here!

*SALLY, BILLY and JAKE rush off after her. MR. MCCRAKEN and MRS. TURNER float off after them.*

**MR. REED:** *(Shouting after her.)* Good luck with that! Like to see you try! Betcha can't! And your face is dumb! *(To his employees.)* Let's go! We have other, *grateful*, children to attend to.

*MR. REED, SECURITY GUARD ONE, SECURITY GUARD TWO, ROLLIES and ROLLBACK all exit. LIGHTS SHIFT to—*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 8**

**AT RISE:** *PROJECT SPENDMAS ELIMINATION STAGE. SFX: Project Spendmas Theme. HAS BEEN POPSTAR is center stage with HAZELNUT, JANGLEBELL, NOEL, EGGNOGGIN, ELF SIX and ELF SEVEN. There is a medium-sized box on a table next to HAS BEEN POPSTAR.*

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** Hello, everyone. Welcome to the “Project Spendmas” elimination ceremony. I’m a has-been popstar turned TV presenter because I’m tired of living in my van. Tonight one of these remaining elves will be sent home based on the number of votes cast by you from all over the world. At stake is our prize package – a year’s supply of stale Christmas candy, dinner for two at TGIFried Stuff, and the chance to be the new Sprawl-Mart corporate icon – Rollback X-treme! Tonight we’ll eliminate the losing elf by revealing their latest project, which I have here in this box. Up for elimination tonight are Hazelnut...

*HAZELNUT steps forward.*

...and JANGLEBELL.

*JANGLEBELL steps forward.*

And the eliminated elf is...*(Pulls a Vampire Baby Doll out of the box.)* Hazelnut for his/her ‘Vampire Baby Doll’!

*SFX: “Project Spendmas” elimination music plays. The other ELVES console HAZELNUT and say goodbye. The crowd cheers.*

Aw, we’re sorry to see you go, Hazelnut. But apparently our viewers weren’t crazy about a Vampire Baby Doll. What made you think any normal child would want a doll of a baby risen from the grave to feast upon the living?

**HAZELNUT:** Look, the kids love vampires! It's all "Twilight" and "Vampire Diaries" and "America's Next Top Model" twenty-four seven. This doll is awesome! Look, it even has realistic blood sucking action!

*Doll is retrofitted with a can of Silly String that spurts out of the doll's mouth, covering the HAS BEEN POPSTAR.*

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** (*Sincerely.*) Hazelnut, you're the dumbest elf I know. And it's time for you to go. And just remember – this show is watched by millions of people, so this is extra humiliating!

**HAZELNUT:** This is the worst show in the history of television!

**HAS BEEN POPSTAR:** And we'll miss you, too!

*HAZELNUT makes his/her way off stage.*

Join us next week for more toy making and career destroying on "Project Spendmas"!

*SFX: "Project Spendmas" theme music. LIGHTS SHIFT to—*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 9

*AT RISE: NORTH POLE. OFFICE WORKER ONE enters with a letter.*

**OFFICE WORKER ONE:** Mail's here.

**OFFICE WORKER TWO:** (*Enters, sipping on an iced drink.*) What did we get?

**OFFICE WORKER ONE:** Just this – To Santa Claus at the North Pole from Miss Ann Turner. Must have been delivered here by mistake.

**STAMPWORTHY:** (*Enters.*) I'll take that.

**OFFICE WORKER TWO:** Who are you?

**STAMPWORTHY:** I'm Mr. Stampworthy. I work for the United States Post Office, and I was told you had an erroneously delivered letter.

**OFFICE WORKER ONE:** But I just pulled this out of the mailbox thirty seconds ago.

**STAMPWORTHY:** And I apologize for the delay.

**OFFICE WORKER TWO:** Well, Santa hasn't lived at the North Pole for decades. Sprawl-Mart, Inc. sold it to Canada. With global warming, we needed someplace to store the icebergs, so now we keep them here.

**STAMPWORTHY:** What happens when they melt?

**OFFICE WORKER TWO:** (*Shakes his iced drink.*) We find uses for them. (*Takes a sip of his drink.*)

**STAMPWORTHY:** Well, I'll take that letter.

*STAMPWORTHY hands OFFICE WORKER ONE a stack of mail.*

And here's a few more pieces of mail.

**OFFICE WORKER ONE:** These are all opened...

**STAMPWORTHY:** Yes, they accidentally fell onto a letter opener on my desk at home.

**OFFICE WORKER ONE:** They're all postmarked months ago.

**STAMPWORTHY:** Have to run. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor blah blah blah and all that!

*STAMPWORTHY exits. LIGHTS SHIFT to—*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 10

**AT RISE:** *SALLY AND ANN'S ATTIC. ANN is going through the old Santa decorations while SALLY looks on.*

**ANN:** Wow, these are really cool!

**STAMPWORTHY:** (*Enters.*) Hello, children.

*ANN and SALLY both scream.*

**SALLY:** Who are you and what are you doing in our attic?!

**STAMPWORTHY:** I'm Mr. Stampworthy from the United States Post Office, and I'm looking for Ann Turner.

**ANN:** I'm Ann Turner.

**STAMPWORTHY:** I'm here in reference to your letter writing campaign re: Santa Claus at the North Pole.

**ANN:** Oh, yes!

**STAMPWORTHY:** I'm pleased to tell you it's a dismal failure.

**ANN:** What?!

**STAMPWORTHY:** There was only one letter to Santa at the North Pole, and it was from you.

*Hands ANN her letter.*

FYI, Santa doesn't live at the North Pole anymore. We could have forwarded it, but circumstances prevented us from doing so.

**SALLY:** What circumstances?

**STAMPWORTHY:** We just didn't feel like it. I mean, budget cuts.

**ANN:** But this is opened.

**STAMPWORTHY:** You're a very smart little girl. And with that, I depart.

*(Exits.)*

**ANN:** Well now what am I going to do?

**SALLY:** Give up this silly campaign?

**ANN:** I know! Why write a letter when I can use the Internet?

**SALLY:** Wow, welcome to ten years ago!

**ANN:** Give me that laptop!

*SALLY hands ANN a laptop, which she opens and begins typing on aggressively.*

**SALLY:** Here.

**ANN:** *(As she types.)* I'll just create a website where I can post videos and testimonials from people who want Santa Claus and Christmas the way they used to be. *(Last keystroke.)* Done! Now to record a testimonial. *(Sets laptop so she can record a video, then hits 'record'.)* And record. Hi everyone! My name is Ann Turner, and I want to speak to someone very important – Santa Claus. Now, many of you might not remember Santa Claus, but really, really old people like your parents probably do. Santa, Sprawl-Mart has ruined Christmas! It lasts four months, you don't get to make any of your own cookies or candy or decorations, and there's no way Rollback could slide down a chimney – his head's too big! Santa, if you care even the tiniest bit for all the children in the world who haven't experienced the warmth, joy and togetherness of a traditional Christmas, you'll come out of retirement and put Sprawl-Mart on your naughty list! *(Stops recording.)* There, that should get some attention.

**SALLY:** *(Looks at computer.)* Wow, you already have over a million hits on your webpage!

**MRS. TURNER:** *(Enters.)* Ann! There's a TV reporter here from a television news program that would like to interview you!

*REPORTER and CAMERAPERSON enter.*

**REPORTER:** Hello, young lady. I'm a TV reporter from a television news program that would like to interview you. Why is bringing Santa Claus out of retirement so important to you?

**ANN:** Well, originally there were only twelve days of Christmas. Now there's four months of Spendmas! How can something be special if it's happening all the time, and you just throw money at the stores so they can do the shopping and giving for you? What if I want to give someone a Christmas gift, like, with my own hands?

**REPORTER:** So you're saying we should be spending money at the holidays for the right reasons.

**ANN:** Exactly! And Santa needs to come out of retirement and teach everyone the spirit of giving!

**REPORTER:** Thanks, young lady! I'll edit this and get it on the evening news!

*REPORTER and CAMERAPERSON exit.*

**MRS. TURNER:** My goodness! My little girl is going to be famous!

*MR. MCCRACKEN, BILLY and JAKE enter.*

**JAKE:** You're totally famous!

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** We just saw you on the evening news.

**BILLY:** And we drove all the way across town to say congratulations!

**JAKE:** No, we didn't. We drove over here so Dad could see Mrs. Turner.

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** Er, uh, yes, well, that's a fringe benefit of driving over here, for sure.

**MRS. TURNER:** Oh, Mr. McCracken, how you talk! I was just about to start dinner. Why don't you come down and help me, and the kids can stay up here and play until it's ready.

**MR. MCCRACKEN:** Sounds good to me!

*MRS. TURNER and MR. MCCRACKEN exit.*

**BILLY:** *(Re: box of decorations.)* What's this stuff?

**ANN:** It's a bunch of Christmas decorations my mom has from when she was a little girl.

**JAKE:** Do you really think you can bring Santa back?

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**P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406**

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