

ACT ONE**SCENE 3**

BUDDY runs outside. He's clearly upset.

#1b – Not Happy All The Time

BUDDY

(singing sadly)

MY LIPS AREN'T HAPPY
MY THUMBS AREN'T HAPPY
MY HIPS AREN'T HAPPY
MY GUMS AREN'T HAPPY

SANTA arrives, accompanied by panicky elves.

START

SANTA

Buddy...

BUDDY

Santa? Is it true what they said? Am I human.

SANTA

Good question.

SANTA walks BUDDY over to a snow drift.

Here. Sit on Santa's lap.

#1c – Sit on Santa's Lap

I have to tell you a story

(reacting to his weight)

Oh. You're a big boy. Once upon a time there was this young woman, Susan Welles she had a baby, but she passed away soon after he was born. That baby was put in an orphanage and one Christmas night he crawled into my toy sack and I brought him back here by mistake. The Elves took him in, raised him as one of their own.

BUDDY

Really? Where is he? Is it Charlie?

SANTA

Buddy, it's you! It's your story!

BUDDY

I'm not an elf; I'm a human. And I'm an orphan. Just like Annie!

SANTA

Not exactly. You have a human father, but he never knew that you were born. He lives in a far-away land called New York City.

SANTA takes out a New York city snow globe and hands it to BUDDY.

And he works...

(points to the globe)

...right there, in the Empire State Building.

BUDDY

In there? He must be teeny-tiny!

SANTA

Trust me, it's actually a very tall building.

BUDDY tries to give the snow globe back but SANTA stops him.

Keep it. It's a gift from me.

BUDDY

Thank you, Santa.

STOP #1

~~ELVES~~

~~Annwwwwww.~~

~~SANTA turns to the gathered elves.~~

~~SANTA~~

~~All right, break it up. Nothing to see here. Back to work.~~

BUDDY

What's my dad like?

SANTA

Oh. Well, he's a very successful man. An executive. He publishes children's books.

BUDDY

Oh!

SANTA

But I should tell you, he, uh....well, he's on the Naughty List.

BUDDY

No! What did he do? Did he wet the bed?

SANTA

No, he didn't wet the—look, he just doesn't believe in me anymore.

BUDDY

Doesn't believe in you? Is he insane?

SANTA

No, like a lot of human beings these days, he's just lost the Christmas Spirit.

BUDDY

But Christmas Spirit is what makes your sleigh fly!

SANTA

I know. It's becoming a problem.

He looks into the snow globe.

Buddy, it's time you went there to meet him. I'm going to miss you, that's for sure, but you're like a bird; a big hairy bird and it's time that you left the nest.

BUDDY

But I don't want to go to New York. I'm scared.

SANTA

There's nothing to be scared of. New York's a great place. But there's one thing that should know. And it's very important.

BUDDY

What?

SANTA

There are like seven Ray's pizzas and they all say they are the original, but the real one's on Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street.

BUDDY

Okay. Which direction is New York?

SANTA walks BUDDY upstage to an iceberg.

SANTA

It's south. We're at the North Pole, Buddy; everything is South. Just head south until you find yourself in a big, smelly, industrial wasteland.

BUDDY

And that's New York?

SANTA

No, that's New Jersey. Then you just go through the Lincoln Tunnel and you're there.

BUDDY steps onto a small ice floe. MUSIC begins under as BUDDY begins to float away.

#2 – World's Greatest Dad

(SANTA)

Bye, Buddy. Take care.

BUDDY

Bye, Santa. Oh, hey, what's my Dad's name?

SANTA

Hobbs. Walter Hobbs.

BUDDY

Hobbs? Then I must be Buddy Hobbs!

(uncertain)

Yay!

STOP #2

Scene 3 ends as BUDDY remains on stage while the set changes around him and we transition into...