

**ACT TWO**  
**SCENE 3**

*The living room in the Hobbs' apartment, as in Act One, Scene 8. MICHAEL and EMILY are reading BUDDY'S note on the Etch-a-sketch.*

**START**

**EMILY**

*(reading the note)*

"...I don't belong at the North Pole, either. Nobody wants me, Nobody needs me."  
Poor thing, wandering the streets in that dorky elf suit.

**MICHAEL**

Why did he do it?

**EMILY**

He had a fight with your father.

*(examining the Etch-a-sketch more closely)*

This really is amazing. I can barely draw a straight line on one of these things.

**MICHAEL**

We have to find him! We have to bring him home!

**EMILY**

We will find him, but after that I think we need to get him some help.

**MICHAEL**

What do you mean "help"?

**EMILY**

Professional help. Honey, Buddy is crazy.

**MICHAEL**

Mom.

**EMILY**

No, he is. We have to accept that.

**MICHAEL**

He's my brother.

**EMILY**

I know. You have a crazy brother. Lot's of people do.

**MICHAEL**

Just because somebody believes in Santa Claus, doesn't mean they're crazy.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

MICHAEL

No, it doesn't.

EMILY

Yes, it does.

MICHAEL

What about little kids? Are they crazy too?

EMILY

It's different. If a little kid believes in a talking purple dinosaur, it's delightful. If he still believes when he's thirty, it's profoundly disturbing. Look, just because Buddy is crazy, doesn't mean we should love him any less. I have a friend who's a psychiatrist. You remember Barry? With the Ferrari? I'm going to give him a call right now. Maybe he can tell us where we should look for Buddy.

*EMILY leaves the room.*

**STOP**

*MICHAEL wanders over to an upstage window. He stares out forlornly.*

MICHAEL

*(to himself)*

Buddy. Where did you go?

### #11 – There Is A Santa Claus

*SUDDENLY a bright flash of light appears outside. MICHAEL stares in disbelief.*

Mom! Mom!

*EMILY runs back into the room.*

EMILY

What?

MICHAEL

I SAW A TINY SLEIGH  
MAKE ITS TINY WAY  
RIGHT ACROSS THE SKY

THERE WASN'T TIME TO THINK  
THERE WASN'T TIME TO BLINK  
BEFORE IT ZOOMED RIGHT BY