

## Dashing Through the Snow

### Side 1: CUDDLES and BINKY

BINKY

Yeah, but I thought it would be a great way to ratchet up the tension.

CUDDLES

Well, you succeeded. Now that the negligee has a hole in it, I can't return the thing and it cost a bundle.

BINKY

You can return lingerie?

CUDDLES

You can return anything if you're careful.

BINKY

So what do you do with the money?

CUDDLES

These outfits don't just *appear* in our closets. I use it to buy more.

BINKY

Now, that's what I call smart investing. Hey, wait! Please tell me you didn't get rid of the sexy hot pants trucker outfit you looked so great in. It went so well with my nerdy-but-willing toll booth collector's uniform.

CUDDLES

No, I haven't gotten rid of it yet.

BINKY

*(Growls lasciviously.)* Ooh, thanks, baby. *(Snaps out of it.)* But we're losing the story here. Back up to where we just found the note and you say . . .

CUDDLES

Look, we need to talk. *(Sighs.)* This just isn't working for me.

BINKY

No, I'm pretty sure Mrs. Claus wouldn't say that. You'd say, *(In a high voice.)* "I don't care if he *has* found us, we're going to make this a night to remember." *(Then.)* And you pull me upstairs and-

CUDDLES

I'm not talking about Cuddles and Binky, I'm talking about this whole fantasy life we concoct.

BINKY

Come on! We're just warming up to the characters. I mean, I really think I'm nailing the elf, don't you? *(Snuggles her neck.)*

CUDDLES

Something's off. I'm just not feeling it.

BINKY

You certainly didn't say that the weekend in Louisiana when I was Antoine, the Cajun bartender, and you were Magdalena, the peg-legged alligator huntress, now did you?

CUDDLES

That's not what I -

BINKY

Or when this whole thing started, that weekend in Reno? Me, playing the corrupt senator and you, the cocktail waitress? We hit the jackpot with that one, right?

CUDDLES

Yes, but that was twenty years ago and it just feels like all this play-acting has taken over our lives; I mean, look at us, we're in Tinsel, Texas, in itchy costumes and I'm sick of this wig that's hotter than blue blazes! *(Pulls the wig off.)*

BINKY

Hey, wait a minute! We're not done.

CUDDLES

I am. *(Leads him to the couch.)* Just sit down and listen to me, okay? *(They sit.)* Oh, gosh, this is just so hard for me to say-

BINKY

*(Stricken.)* Don't tell me! Oh, no! You've met another man!

CUDDLES

Well ... it's not just another man, it's dozens of them.

BINKY

*(Wails and thrashes.)* No, no, no! Beat me! Rob me! Make me power-wash the deck!  
Just don't tell me this! I won't listen! *(Sticks his fingers in his ears. Then, loud.)*  
La-la-la-la-la-la-la -

CUDDLES

Will you stop? I'm talking about *you*! All the characters we've created over the years ...  
don't you think it's a little odd that we haven't had a romantic weekend as *our own*  
*selves* since Robbie left for college? For heaven's sake, he's married with two kids now.

BINKY

We haven't? You sure?

CUDDLES

Yes, I am. When we're role-playing, it's rare that I catch a glimpse of the guy I married,  
with his funny smile and crooked little nose—

BINKY

That's the second time you've mentioned my nose tonight. What's wrong with it? I've got  
to find a mirror. *(Starts to get up.)*

CUDDLES

No, wait. All these romances we act out, the places we go have all been fun, but I'm  
beginning to wonder if the only reason we keep doing them is because we're afraid if we  
stop, we'll realize we're bored with our marriage. Or maybe ... *(With difficulty.)* maybe  
you're not attracted to me - the *real* me - anymore.

BINKY

*(Beat. Puts his arm around her.)* Baby, it doesn't matter if you're dressed up like  
yourself, a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader or Daisy Duck, you're the most fascinating,  
attractive woman I've ever laid eyes on. And I've thought that since the day you brushed  
past me in freshman Chemistry lab and accidentally set my hair on fire.

CUDDLES

I never did master the Bunsen burner.

BINKY

Quite honestly, the only reason *I've* been doing these dress-up weekends is because I thought it was keeping *you* interested in *me*.

CUDDLES

Wait a minute. All these years, I've thrown myself into this because I thought *you* were into it.

BINKY

And I thought you really wanted to keep these fantasies going. (*Beat. They look at each other in disbelief.*) You know, it *does* take a ridiculous amount of time and energy to plan these scenarios.

CUDDLES

And finding the costumes is almost a full-time job.

BINKY

And the money. Rental on the Arthur and Guinevere costumes alone could've paid for a new washer-dryer combo.

**Side 2: HOYT and DONNA JO**

HOYT

Okay, they're both in the same building and the roof hasn't blown off yet. I think we're off to a good start.

DONNA JO

*(Sits on couch, rocks herself.)* This is gonna be so bad, so very, very bad.

HOYT

It doesn't have to be. I believe in the strength of the human heart. And I believe love can heal old wounds. And if those old gals don't buy into *that*, I also believe in the power of homemade sangria. I brought a bottle for each of 'em and that stuff's so strong, it can wipe out any memory, good *or* bad.

DONNA JO

But why are you trying to get them to make up? I don't get it, Hoyt. Why *now* after all these years?

HOYT

Okay, don't laugh, but...Dad came to me in a dream.

DONNA JO

There's a fix for that. No more Senora Caliente tacos after midnight.

HOYT

I'm serious. He was wearing that old fishing hat of his, you know the one that made his head look pointed? Anyway, he said he wanted me to do whatever it took to make things right between his sisters and to do it now. Oh, he says "hello," by the way.

DONNA JO

*(Beat)* That was it? Just "hello"?! Didn't ask about my kids or anything?

HOYT

Okay, I think you're missing the point here—

DONNA JO

And why'd he come to you and not me? I was his favorite. Besides, *I* was the one who gave him that damn hat!

HOYT

This isn't about you! This is Dad's Christmas gift to me. It's a mission I can actually accomplish and I need it. Just one success at this point in my life might help turn things around.

DONNA JO

*(Beat, then)* I guess I didn't understand how important this is to you.

HOYT

It is. And there's a mystery to solve. For decades those two have been locked in mortal combat and nobody knows why. And because Aunt Ennis and Aunt Della refuse to be in the same room, we have to have *two* separate Christmas celebrations, *two* separate Easters, *two* separate Thanksgivings. I've got to fix this before the cholesterol overload wipes out our entire family.

DONNA JO

Well, if you are this determined...*(Deep breath.)* I'm in it with you.

HOYT

You don't have to get involved. Of course, if they get rowdy, it would be nice to have you here to sit on one while I hog-tie the other. *(They hug.)*

**Side 3: AINSLEY and LENORA**

LENORA

*(Strikes a pose, then, with panache.) A Christmas Carol shamelessly abridged! (They execute the following in double-time. Then, as Cratchit.) Merry Christmas, Uncle.*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) Bah, humbug!*

LENORA

*(As Marley.) I'm Jacob Marley. Three scary spooks are gunning for you.*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) So what? This is London. Just getting across town scares the Dickens out of me.*

LENORA

*(As Ghost.) I'm Ghost Number One: You've had a sorry past.*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) Who remembers? I can't even recall which employee I tormented yesterday!*

LENORA

*(As Ghost.) Different ghost, here: You're not doing that much better in the present.*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) Picky, picky, picky!*

LENORA

*(As Ghost.) And for a final kick in the pants, behold your future!*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) Oh, cruel ghoul! That's my grave! Noooo!*

LENORA

*(As Ghost.) Amend your ways or you are toast!*

AINSLEY

*(As Scrooge.) It's Christmas morning! I'm alive! I've changed! Quick, fetch me a turkey!*

LENORA

*(As Cratchit.)* Tiny Tim, Uncle Scrooge gave me a raise! And he's here for lunch!

AINSLEY

*(As Tiny Tim.)* God bless us every one.

LENORA/AINSLEY

*(As themselves.)* Curtain call! Thunderous applause! Deep bow! (He bows, she curtsies.)



**Side 4: A & B Open Scene 1**

A: This is the worst

B: Mmm I know

A: There

B: Happy

A: I am now Yes

B: Good Are you done

A: OK now Your turn

B: OK No, this is the worst

A: Mmm I know

B: There

A: Are you done

B: Yes

A: Good I thought you said you were done

B: OK OK now anything else

A: Yes There