

# A TALE OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

A One-Act Play

by  
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CHARACTERS:

Jasper: Chief elf	Nike: An elf
Santa	Angel 1
Mrs. Claus	Angel 2
Cookie: An elf	Angel 3
Shelly: An elf	Shepherd 1
Eli: An elf	Shepherd 2
Butch: An elf	King 1
Wink: An elf	King 2
Shelly: An elf	King 3

SCENE I

A living room with one easy chair, one rocker, and a small table, in front of a fireplace. It is a pleasant room with a door UP LEFT and DOWN RIGHT. Jasper, the chief elf and storyteller, enters RIGHT. He/she comes DOWN CENTER and addresses the audience.

JASPER: Hi, kids! Welcome to our show. What holiday is coming up real soon? (Children should respond) That's right! And I'm going to tell you a Christmas story. Have you ever wondered how Santa got started giving presents? Well, here's the tale. Are you ready? (Moves left) Okay, once upon a time, there was a man named Santa Claus.

(Santa enters wearing red pants, red striped socks, long underwear shirt, and suspenders. He has white hair, beard, and a mustache. He also wears a pair of wire-rimmed glasses. He eases into the easy chair.)

He lived with Mrs. Claus, whom he calls Mama.

(Mrs. Claus enters. She has gray hair, a red dress, an apron, and sensible shoes. She carries a tray with two mugs and a plate of cookies and sets them on the table between the chairs.)

Now, Mama and Papa Claus used to make toys in the toy factory. They were good toys, too! But, finally, Santa decided he was too old to work anymore, so now they just sit at home. Let's listen.

(Jasper exits RIGHT. Santa puts his head against his hand and sighs heavily.)

MRS. C.: Papa, what is it? I haven't seen you so unhappy since you lost your Beanie Buddy.

SANTA: I'm not sad, Mama. I'm bored! There's nothing for me to do anymore.

MRS. C.: Did you paint the garage?

SANTA: Been there.

MRS. C.: Cleaned out the attic?

SANTA: Done that.

MRS. C.: Fixed the fence?

SANTA: Yesterday.

MRS. C.: Well, what would you like to do?

SANTA: I don't know, Mama. I miss the guys at the shop.

MRS. C.: (Looking around) It is a little lonely, isn't it?

(There is a knock at the door. The Clauses look at each other.)

MRS. C.: Who could that be?

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SANTA: Well, come on! (They struggle from their chairs.) Let's not keep them waiting.

(They go UP LEFT and open the door. They are greeted by a group of elves, some carrying jingle bells.)

JASPER: Mr. and Mrs. Claus?

SANTA: Yes, that's right.

JASPER: I'm supposed to give this to you.

(Hands Santa letter, which Santa takes out and reads aloud.)

SANTA: Dear Mr. Claus, please take care of my elves and their pets. They need a home and I hear you don't have much to do these days.

(Mrs. Claus looks at the elves.)

MRS. C.: Pets?

(Jasper points his thumb over his shoulder. Mrs. C. looks out the door and gasps.)

SANTA: What is it, Mama?

MRS. C.: Elk!

JASPER: Actually, they are reindeer.

SANTA: Reindeer? How many?

JASPER: Nine. Don't worry, they're tame.

COOKIE: Yeah, but they--

(Jasper puts his hand over her mouth.)

MRS. C.: They what?

(Jasper just smiles.)

SHELLY: Let's just say that they can go from here to New York in three hours.

SANTA: That's impossible! They would have to fly!

JASPER: (Hitting himself in the forehead. To Cookie) Now, you've done it.

(The Clauses stare at each other.)

MRS. C.: We have a group of elves and nine flying reindeer?

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---