

The MANAGER and ALL then exit except for the STORE ELF #1, STORE ELF #2, BUDDY and JOVIE. JOVIE is at one side putting on her coat. BUDDY is smiling and sucking on a candy cane.

BUDDY

(staring at JOVIE)

Gee, she's so pretty.

MANAGER

Well, why don't you ask her out?

BUDDY

Out?

MANAGER

On a date. Take her to dinner...

BUDDY

Eat food with her?

MANAGER

You know. Show her a good time, dance with her, take her home...

BUDDY

(continuing the list)

....snuggle under the covers, get out the flashlights, eat fluffernutter...

MANAGER

Whatever turns your crank, Buddy.

STORE ELVES #1 and #2 exit, as JOVIE starts to leave.

JOVIE

Good night.

BUDDY

Hey, wait a second. Would somebody like a hug?

JOVIE

No, would somebody like a punch in the throat?

BUDDY

No.

JOVIE

So, good night.

BUDDY

Wait. Do you....wanna eat food?

JOVIE
Do I want to eat food?

BUDDY
Um-hmm. You know...

JOVIE
Are you asking me out on a date?

BUDDY
Yes, right, that's it. A date!

JOVIE
Oh, you don't want to go out with me.

BUDDY
Yes, I do!

JOVIE
No, you don't.

BUDDY
Yes, I do!

JOVIE
Why?

BUDDY
Well, because I like you. I feel really warm when I'm around you. And, um, my tongue swells up.

JOVIE
Your tongue swells up?

BUDDY
(with a swollen tongue)
Yeth, it doth. See?

JOVIE
Well, it's weirdly nice that I make your tongue swell up, but I just don't see this date happening.

BUDDY
Oh, of course. I'm sure you already have a date tonight. Obviously. You probably have guys wanting to eat food with you all the time. Lunch, dinner...I bet you have a different guy for breakfast every morning. It was dumb of me to ask.

JOVIE
What the hell. I'm free Thursday.

BUDDY

Thursday? Thursday! Yesssss!!! This is going to be the best Thursday ever in the history of Thursdays!

JOVIE

You know what? I find if you lower your expectations in life, you avoid a lot of disappointment.

She starts to leave and notices he isn't moving.

Don't you have a home to go to?

BUDDY

Sure. I have a home to go. A nice home, with a big bed. And walls and a ceiling and everything. I'm just going to stay here and put up a little more tinsel.

JOVIE

Seriously? Okay. Well. Good night.

BUDDY

G'night, Jovie.