

WALTER & EMPLOYEES

(conducts them like a choir)

CAUSE CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS

WALTER

What does it always get?

BUDDY sings louder and more elaborately than anyone else. He is suddenly the centre of attention.

ALL

IN THE WAY!!

WALTER

All right, everyone back to work!

All EMPLOYEES go back to their cubicles as DEB returns to her reception desk. BUDDY is left standing centre stage.

BUDDY

Dad! !!

WALTER

Who the heck are you?

DEB rushes over.

DEB

Oh. Isn't this a scream? Looks like someone sent you a Christmas Gram, Mr. Hobbs.

WALTER

What?

DEB

Meet Buddy the Elf.

WALTER

(playing along)

So...I guess you came from the North Pole.

BUDDY

Yes! That's exactly where I came from!

WALTER

So, go on.

BUDDY

Go on with what?

WALTER

Well, aren't you going to sing a song or something? Or can we all just get back to work?

BUDDY

A song? Uh, yeah. Anything for you Dad, uh, I, uh...

(stammering, singing off-pitch)

I'm here with my Dad and we never met, and, um, I was adopted but you didn't know I was born, so I'm here now....I found you....Daddy. And guess what? I love you, I love you, I love you!

WALTER

(whisper to DEB)

Call security.

(DEB picks up a phone and whispers into it)

BUDDY

It's me, your son. Susan Welles had me and she didn't tell you, but now I'm here, it's me, Buddy.

WALTER

Susan Welles? You said Susan Welles?

EMILY

Isn't she the girl you went with in college?

WALTER

Susan passed away years ago. If this is supposed to be funny, it's not!

EMILY

He said he's your son. Deb, who sent this Christmas Gram?

DEB

I don't know, Mrs. Hobbs, he came without a gift card.

BUDDY

Mrs. Hobbs! Are you married to my Dad?

EMILY

I'm married to Mr. Hobbs.

BUDDY

Then you're my step-mommy! Would you like a hug?

EMILY

(steps back)

No, thanks.

MICHAEL

(to EMILY)

Wait. He's my brother?

EMILY

Shh. No, of course not.

WALTER

Listen, Buddy, some nice men are going to take you away from here.

BUDDY

But I want to stay with you, Dad. Hey! Look! We've got the same color eyes!

EMILY scrutinizes them.

EMILY

You do.

WALTER

Oh come on! They're brown. Deb has brown eyes too, does that make her my daughter?

DEB

Mine are blue, actually.

EMILY yanks a strand of BUDDY's hair.

BUDDY

Ouch, Mom! You pulled my hair.

EMILY

I did? Oh, sorry.

*She takes an envelope from DEB's desk and carefully places the hair inside.
She puts the envelope in her purse.*

Two SECURITY GUARDS enter.

SECURITY GUARD #1

You got a problem here, Mr. Hobbs?