

ACT ONE
SCENE 2

BUDDY and the other elves are at Santa's Workshop, an assembly line on which the elves make all of Santa's toys.

#1a - Let's Make Toys!

The hands of a large clock move to indicate the passage of time - it's soon later in the day.

BUDDY is making Etch-A-Sketches clumsily. Pieces fly from his table. CHARLIE walks along the line.

CHARLIE

How you doing, Buddy?

BUDDY

Um, fine Charlie, but...I guess I'm gonna be a little short on today's quota.

CHARLIE

That's all right, Buddy. Just tell me, how many Etch-A-Sketches did you get finished?

(BUDDY embarrassed, fights back tears)

C'mon, Buddy, how many?

BUDDY

I made, uh, eighty-five!

MUSIC out as all ELVES gasp and stare at BUDDY

CHARLIE

(snaps open his work schedule scroll)

Eighty-five? It's ten a.m. and you've only made eighty-five?

BUDDY

Why don't you just say it? I'm the worst toy maker in the whole wide world. I'm a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins.

CHARLIE

You're not a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins. You have lots of talents, uh, special talents in fact, like, uh...

(to the OTHERS)

...special talents?

BOY ELF

You're the best Basketball player in the whole North Pole!

ELF #1

Even better than Santa!

ELF #2

And you're the only baritone in the Jinglesingers! You bring us down a whole octave.

ELF #3

In a good way!

CHARLIE

See, Buddy? You're not a Cotton-Headed-Ninny-Muggins. You're just....special.

THE ELVES

Yes, special!

CHARLIE

Hey, these elves are getting pretty thirsty. Would you mind doing a round with the cocoa cart?

BUDDY

Yay! Cocoa cart! Cocoa cart!

BUDDY leaves. CHARLIE motions to TIARA to join him.

CHARLIE

Hey, Tiara.

TIARA

Yeah, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I hate to do this to you but do you think you could pick up the slack with those Etch-A-Sketches?

BUDDY returns immediately with the cocoa cart. He listens, unnoticed by CHARLIE and TIARA.

TIARA

No problem.

CHARLIE

I appreciate it. Buddy's killing me.

TIARA

Hey, that was quick thinking with that 'special talents' thing.

CHARLIE

I feel bad for the big guy. I just hope he doesn't get wise.

TIARA

Well, if he hasn't figured out by now that he's a human I don't think he ever will.

BUDDY

Human?!? I'm human?

CHARLIE

Oh no.

(to another elf)

Get Santa!

BUDDY

You said I'm human!

CHARLIE

No. No.

TIARA

No, not you Buddy. We we're talking about some other Buddy. Some Buddy....else.

BUDDY

(not believing them)

No you weren't! I'm not happy!

BUDDY exits. TIARA and CHARLIE are left alone on stage.

CHARLIE

Way to go, Tiara. You broke his heart.

TIARA

What, you think I meant to do that?

CHARLIE

Well, it is kind of a hobby of yours, isn't it?

CHARLIE storms off, obviously upset.

TIARA

(following him)

Charlie! Do *not* make this about us!