

# **Under the Mistletoe**

**Not every romantic evening goes as planned.**

**A Romantic Comedy in Two Acts**

**by James Hutchison**

Also available from [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca)

**A Christmas Carol – Two versions available.** *Every man has the power to do good.*

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

**CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**What the Dickens!** *Even Scrooge got a second chance.*

When Marty Fisher gets caught kissing his stage manager Samantha and the actor playing Scrooge shows up drunk Marty has to scramble to save the opening night production of a Christmas Carol and his engagement to his fiancée Tami.

**Two Act Comedy, 6M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**Heart of Stone: A Jessica Quinn Mystery** *Trusting the wrong person can be deadly.*

When Jessica Quinn uncovers the truth about her father's killer and the truth behind a woman claiming to be the long-lost daughter of her client Mary McConnell more than one person ends up dead.

**Two Act Mystery, 7M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**Stories from Langford** *Every town has its secrets.*

Six characters from Langford tell stories from their lives: stories about, jealousy, revenge, love and forgiveness.

**Two Act Drama, 1M, 1W, Simple settings, 120 Minutes**

**Death and the Psychiatrist** *Even Death Could Use a Friend*

Feeling depressed about having a job where no one likes him Death goes into therapy with Dr. Thompson in order to help him cope with his guilt.

**One Act Comedy, 3M, or 2M, 1W, Single Set, 50 Minutes**

**500 Bucks and a Pack of Smokes** *How much is your life worth?*

Calling off a hit he put out on himself because he mistakenly thought he was dying proves to be more difficult than Donny expected.

**One Act Comedy, 3+ 2M, 1W, Multiple Sets, 60 Minutes**

**Plus, other One Acts and 10 Minute Plays including The Blood of a Thousand Chickens, 500 bucks and a pack of smokes, Never Give Up, Written in Stone, and Elvis is Dead.**

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*Please Note: Due authorship credit must be given on all programs, printing and advertising for the play including radio, television and internet advertising.*

### **Acknowledgements**

*Under the Mistletoe - The Gingerbread Suite* was originally titled *The Christmas Suite* and was workshopped at Lunchbox Theatre in 2012 during the Suncor Energy Stage One Festival with actors David LeReaney, Roberta Mauer Phillips, and director/dramaturge Pamela Halstead.

*Under the Mistletoe - The Candy Cane Suite* which was originally titled *The Candy Cane Suite* was workshopped at Lunchbox Theatre in 2013 during the Suncor Energy Stage One Festival with actors Duval Lang, Kathryn Kerbes, and director/dramaturge Valmai Goggin.

James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca).

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A Romantic Comedy in Two Acts by James Hutchison

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### ACT I

Mike Riley	Mike is 57 and has had a run of bad luck after getting divorced and losing his job, but when he meets Claire at her Company Christmas party, he hopes his luck has finally changed for the better.
Claire McKenzie	Claire is 57 and tired of always being the dependable one so when she meets Mike and they hit it off she decides to act on impulse and have a one-night stand.

#### VOICE ONLY

Diane – Mike's daughter  
Holiday Channel Announcer One  
Holiday Channel Announcer Two

### ACT II

Harvey Swanson	Harvey is 59 and tends to overthink things and worry. Although he's trying to move forward and let go of the past, he's finding it difficult to do so.
Nancy Potter	Nancy is 59 and uses her sense of humour to cope with life's troubles. She wants Harvey and her to be more than friends.

#### VOICE ONLY

Man in the next Suite  
Holiday Channel Announcer One.  
Holiday Channel Announcer Two  
Male Video on Demand Announcer  
Female Video on Demand Announcer

Mike & Harvey can be played by the same actor.  
Claire & Nancy can be played by the same actress.

Character ages can be adjusted a few years up or down.

## **SETTINGS**

### **ACT I**

The Gingerbread Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn Regina.

Scene i: December 24, 8:00 A.M.

Scene ii: December 24, 8:00 P.M.

Scene iii: December 25, 8:00 A.M.

### **ACT II**

The Candy Cane Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn Regina.

Scene i: December 23, 7:00 P.M.

Scene ii: December 23, much later

Scene iii: December 23, later still

Scene iv: December 24, 8:30 A.M.

The script has both a Canadian version and an American Version

In the American version of the play the action takes place at the Prairie Dog Inn in Omaha Nebraska. In the text of the play Canadian locations are replaced with American locations

## STORY OF THE PLAY

### ACT I: The Gingerbread Suite

It's Christmas and fifty-seven-year-old Mike Riley is unemployed, divorced, and living in his brother's basement. Is it any wonder he's depressed? Especially, since he's spending the holidays in the Gingerbread Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn Regina.\* It isn't until Mike meets Claire McKenzie and the two spend a romantic night together that his luck begins to change. Now, on Christmas Eve determined to change his life Mike purchases the Two Turtle Doves Holiday Romance Gift Basket and hopes to make his relationship with Claire more than a one-night stand.

### ACT II: The Candy Cane Suite

Harvey Swanson and Nancy Potter have been friends for years but after a kiss in a movie theatre during the ending credits they've decided to try and make their friendship a romantic one. Booking the Candy Cane Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn Regina\* for a romantic rendezvous seemed like the next logical step but Harvey is still struggling to get over the death of his wife and feels guilty about being with another woman. Will Nancy and Harvey become lovers or will these new feelings and Harvey's reluctance to let go of the past end their friendship?

### NOTE

Few stage directions have been given as movement and when the actors take a drink of orange juice or eat a bite of fruit will be discovered in the rehearsal process and will be different for every production.

All songs used in Under the Mistletoe are in the public domain.

- *It Had to Be You* – Music by Isham Jones, Lyrics by Gus Kahn (1924)
- *Ain't We Got Fun* – Music by Richard A. Whiting, Lyrics by Raymond B. Egan and Gus Kahn (1921)
- *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* – Music by Leo Friedman, Lyrics by Beth Slater Whitson (1910)

\*American Version: Prairie Dog Inn in Omaha, Nebraska.

*For Nicole*

**ACT ONE: UNDER THE MISTLETOE  
THE GINGERBREAD SUITE**

**SCENE i: THE GINGERBREAD SUITE – DECEMBER 24 – 8:00 A.M.**

Setting: At curtain we find ourselves in the Gingerbread Suite on the third floor of the Prairie Dog Inn. The wall art, bedding and decorations are all Christmas themed. There is a queen-sized bed, a sofa, a coffee table, a chest of drawers, a table and chairs, a television, a coffee maker, a Mini bar, and a small fridge. In one corner is a Christmas tree. On the coffee table is a smart phone and on the chair is a bright red Christmas party dress. The bed is tousled, and the Christmas themed linens and comforter are in a bit of a heap on the bed. A dance trophy sits on one of the night tables along with MIKE RILEY's smart phone.

At Rise: MIKE is asleep in bed. After a few moments pass MIKE's cell phone rings. MIKE stirs from his sleep and wakes up a little bit dazed. He grabs his cell phone off the night table and rubs the sleep out of his eyes and looks to see who's calling. He thinks for a moment. He's about to answer the phone when he changes his mind and lets it go to voice mail. He gets out of bed. He's wearing a traditional two-piece pair of striped pajamas. He yawns and then looks around the room looking for CLAIRE whose name he thinks is RACHEL.

MIKE

Rachel?

*There is no answer. Mike yawns again and stretches – his back is a bit tender.*

MIKE

Oh...oh...ah.

*MIKE scratches his stomach.*

MIKE

Rachel? (No answer.) Uh.

*MIKE heads over to the washroom and knocks on the door.*



MIKE

Rachel? (No answer)

*Mike opens the bathroom door and goes into the bathroom and disappears for a moment and then reappears and stands in doorway for a moment thinking.*

*He sees the bright red party dress laying across the chair and crosses over and picks up the dress and holds it in front of him. He looks around the room. MIKE puts the dress back on the chair and then crosses to the bed and throws back the comforter. No RACHEL. He throws the comforter back on the bed. Thinks. Gets on his hands and knees and looks under the bed. No RACHEL. He stands up and thinks.*

MIKE

Uh.

*MIKE crosses to the sofa puts his phone on the coffee table beside CLAIRE's phone and gets on his hands and knees and looks under the sofa. No RACHEL. He stands back up and thinks for a moment.*

MIKE

Huh.

*MIKE heads to the bathroom and closes the door behind him. From the bathroom we hear him start to sing, It Had to be You. He's not a great singer just an ordinary guy who likes to sing songs.*

MIKE (Off Stage)

IT HAD TO BE YOU, IT HAD TO BE YOU  
I WANDERED AROUND, AND FINALLY FOUND  
THE SOMEBODY WHO  
COULD MAKE ME BE TRUE,  
AND COULD MAKE ME BE BLUE  
AND EVEN BE GLAD, JUST TO BE SAD  
THINKING OF YOU

*CLAIRE hurries back into the room with a room service cart. The cart has a coffee carafe, a small jug of orange juice, and two plates of food with lids on them. She hears MIKE singing and joins in for a couple of lines but not so loud that MIKE would hear her.*

MIKE (Off Stage)

SOME OTHERS I'VE SEEN, MIGHT NEVER BE MEAN  
MIGHT NEVER BE CROSS, OR TRY TO BE BOSS  
BUT THEY WOULDN'T DO

CLAIRE & MIKE (Off Stage)

FOR NOBODY ELSE, GAVE ME A THRILL  
WITH ALL YOUR FAULTS, I LOVE YOU STILL  
IT HAD TO BE YOU, WONDERFUL YOU,  
IT HAD TO BE YOU

*CLAIRE takes the lid off of one of the meals and grabs a slice of bacon and takes a bite and puts the lid back.*

CLAIRE

Mmmmm.

*CLAIRE munches on the bacon as she pours orange juice into the glasses.*

MIKE (Off Stage)

IT HAD TO BE YOU, IT HAD TO BE YOU  
I WANDERED AROUND, AND FINALLY FOUND THE SOMEBODY WHO

*MIKE enters singing. He gives CLAIRE a big smile as he ends the song.*

MIKE

COULD MAKE ME BE TRUE, AND COULD MAKE ME BE BLUE  
AND EVEN BE GLAD, JUST TO BE SAD,  
THINKING OF YOU

CLAIRE

Good morning. Do you always start your day with a song?

MIKE

Not every day but this morning I have something to sing about.

CLAIRE

Do you?

MIKE

Oh, yes. I'm so very glad you've reappeared, but then I figured you couldn't have gone too far – your dress was still here.

CLAIRE

I just stepped out to get us some breakfast. You want some orange juice?

MIKE

Yes please. You ordered room service?

*CLAIRE hands MIKE a glass of orange juice.*

CLAIRE

Not exactly.

MIKE

I was thinking we could go out for breakfast, but I like this better. Why not stay in? Cheers!

CLAIRE

Cheers.

*MIKE and CLAIRE take a drink of orange juice.*

MIKE

Oh my, that's good. So, have you been up long?

CLAIRE

Maybe an hour.

MIKE

Why didn't you wake me up?

CLAIRE

I'm an early riser. I didn't know if you were.

MIKE

I'm a bit of a night owl, but I can adapt. *(Beat)* Good morning.

CLAIRE

Good morning.

*MIKE and CLAIRE kiss.*

MIKE

So, what have you been doing?

CLAIRE

I was on Facebook for a bit. And then I was texting my sister.

MIKE

You have a sister?

CLAIRE

I have four sisters.

MIKE

Four?

CLAIRE

Yup. Four sisters and six brothers. There's eleven of us.

MIKE

Your parents didn't want to try for an even dozen?

CLAIRE

Who says they didn't try?

MIKE

Good point.

CLAIRE

You have any brothers or sisters?

MIKE

One brother but we don't see too much of each other. He joined a cult and I don't approve.

CLAIRE

He joined a cult.

MIKE

He works for Apple.

CLAIRE

Oh, you don't like Apple?

MIKE

The fruit I like. The company I have some issues with.

CLAIRE

You don't like big companies like Apple or Amazon?

MIKE

Not a huge fan. Look I don't want to talk about Jeff Bezos. I doubt very much he's talking about us this morning.

CLAIRE

You're the one that brought up corporate America.

MIKE

I won't do it again. Promise. So, what did you get us?

CLAIRE (*Lifts the lid on one of the plates.*)

There's bacon and an omelet of some sort. (*She lifts the lid on the other plate.*) And some fresh fruit and yogurt and whole grain toast by the looks of it. I wish there were hash browns.

*CLAIRE grabs some fruit and eats while her and MIKE talk.*

MIKE

Why didn't you order hash browns?

CLAIRE

I told you. I didn't really order this.

MIKE

No?

CLAIRE

No. I took it from a row of carts by the service elevator.

MIKE

You took it!

CLAIRE

I did.

MIKE

Oh, my God! I can't believe you would just take someone else's breakfast.

CLAIRE

I know. It's so unlike me. I can't believe it either! I've never stolen anything in my life before.

MIKE

Then why start now?

CLAIRE

I was hungry. I saw an opportunity. I was feeling impulsive. So, I took it. You're not going to turn me in, are you?

MIKE

Well, this orange juice makes me an accessory after the fact so I'm as guilty as you are.

CLAIRE

Partners in crime?

MIKE

Looks like it.

CLAIRE

Okay then – let's eat. I'm starving. Have some bacon.

*CLAIRE gives MIKE a slice of bacon and MIKE takes a bite.*

CLAIRE

It's good isn't it.

MIKE

Oh my God – this is good. I haven't had bacon in ages. I wish I could eat like this every day, but I'm not sure my waistline could handle it.

CLAIRE

You don't have to have it every day, but a couple of slices of bacon once or twice a week isn't going to kill you. You have to live a little, right? You have to go for the bacon. Time is short.

MIKE

Time is short. You're right. Best to seize the bacon.

CLAIRE

Now you're getting it. Do you want some coffee?

*CLAIRE pours herself and MIKE coffee and they eat and drink as they talk.*

MIKE

Yes please. Double cream. So, are you always this impulsive?

CLAIRE

Hardly. I told you this is very much out of character. I'm usually the reliable one. You know the one who drops everything when some family member or friend calls. I've spent my whole life being reliable and doing the safe and expected thing. Well not anymore. I'm going to live a little. I'm going to have some fun! I'm going to take some risks and have an adventure.

*MIKE picks up the order on the tray and checks the name.*

MIKE

So, poor Mr. and Mrs. Hoffstader in the Candy Cane Suite will have to go without breakfast?

CLAIRE

I'm sure the hotel will remedy the situation. What about you? Have you ever done anything crazy?

MIKE

Define crazy.

CLAIRE

You know like bungee jumping or skydiving.

MIKE

Can it be something that doesn't involve jumping off bridges or out of planes?

CLAIRE

Those are just examples. Haven't you ever been totally spontaneous? You know just felt something and then acted on those feelings without considering the consequences?

MIKE

I think crashing your company's Christmas party last night and asking you to dance is probably the most spontaneous thing I've ever done.

CLAIRE

I'm glad you did.

MIKE

Listen Rachel.

CLAIRE

Rachel?

MIKE

It's not Rachel?

CLAIRE

Not the last time I checked my driver's license.

MIKE

Oh, dear. I'm so sorry. That's such a typical man thing, isn't it? We spend the night together and I don't even remember your name. Oh, my God...I am so sorry. I'm not that kind of guy, I assure you. I'm just getting older, you know, and I don't always remember names as well as I used to. It's horrible. And the most embarrassing thing is it's not just new people either. I'll run into someone I've known for thirty years and do you think I can remember their name? No. So you know what I do? I call them Bud. "Hey, how you doing Bud?" "Long time no see, Bud." And then five minutes after they've gone – boom – I remember their name. It's so embarrassing.

CLAIRE

I wouldn't worry about it, (beat) Bud.

MIKE

Bud?

CLAIRE

Yeah, I don't remember your name either.

*MIKE and CLAIRE laugh.*

MIKE

Now I don't feel so bad.

CLAIRE

Well, we didn't do a lot of talking last night, did we?

MIKE

That's true. We didn't.

CLAIRE

I had a really nice time.

MIKE

Me too, but...um...my back is paying a price.

CLAIRE

You okay?

MIKE

I just need to take some of these pain killers my doctor prescribed.

*MIKE opens a bottle of pain killers and takes a couple of pills with his orange juice.*

MIKE

He said they're the strongest thing you can get without breaking the law, but I took a couple the other day and they didn't seem to do much.

CLAIRE

You want me to rub it.

MIKE

Would you? That would be great. Thanks.

*MIKE sits on the couch and CLAIRE sits behind him and rubs his back.*

CLAIRE

Where's it hurt?

MIKE

Right in the middle.

*CLAIRE begins to MIKE'S back.*

MIKE

Oh, that feels good.



CLAIRE

This is so unlike me.

MIKE

What? Giving back rubs?

CLAIRE

No, I mean this. I'm the last person you'd think would have a one-night stand.

MIKE

A one-night stand?

CLAIRE

Well sure, you said you were visiting from out of town so...

MIKE

...right...

CLAIRE

...I just want you to know this isn't the sort of thing I do. I just had a really horrible year and a shitty December, and I needed to blow off some steam and you danced into my life and voila!

MIKE

And voila! I like to think you kind of danced into mine, too. Do you want to be friends on Facebook?

CLAIRE

Ahhhh, I don't know.

MIKE

Too soon?

CLAIRE

Yeah, a little too soon. I mean that's a big step giving you access to my entire life on Facebook. Why don't we just see how things go today and then we can decide.

MIKE

Well, I'm not going any where.

CLAIRE

You're not flying home for Christmas?

MIKE

Nope, I'll be spending Christmas here at the inn.

CLAIRE

Just you and a few wise men maybe?

MIKE

Maybe. It just kind of worked out that way this year. You?

CLAIRE

I had toyed with the idea of going to Barcelona for Christmas.

MIKE

Why didn't you?

CLAIRE

Guilt.

MIKE

Guilt?

*As CLAIRE talks, she rubs MIKE's back with more and more force.*

CLAIRE

Yup. My grandmother is ninety-three and you know – according to my mom and dad and numerous brothers and sisters and cousins and uncles and aunts you can't miss Christmas because it might be Grandma's last one. And God forbid I should be in Spain when she dies. Not that she's going to die. She's ninety-three and she has eaten bacon every morning for her entire life and she drinks a bottle of Guinness every night before she goes to bed. I just don't like being guilted into doing something I don't want to do. I mean, I love my family and all but at my age I'm really starting to feel like death is on the doorstep and I'm afraid if I don't start doing what I want to do with my life I may never get the chance. Do you know what I mean?

MIKE

Ow! Ow! Ow!

CLAIRE

Oh, I'm sorry. I guess I got a little carried away.

MIKE

No, no, no, no, no it felt good. You've done wonders. (*He stands.*) You clearly have strong feelings about this. Oh my, that feels so much better. You're a miracle worker. Thank you.

CLAIRE

You're welcome.

*CLAIRE and MIKE continue to drink and eat as they talk.*

MIKE

Say, why don't we go to Spain now? You said you wanted to be spontaneous. Why don't we go to the airport and take the first flight to Spain and wake up Christmas morning in Barcelona?

CLAIRE

We should probably be on a first name basis if we're going to start taking vacations together. Unless you want to keep calling me Rachel?

MIKE

You don't like Rachel?

CLAIRE

You like Bud?

MIKE

Point taken. But I do have my passport if you change your mind.

CLAIRE

Good to know. So, what is your name?

MIKE

Albert.

CLAIRE

Albert?

MIKE

Albert Einstein.

CLAIRE (She laughs)

That I would have remembered. It's not every day you meet a Nobel prize winning scientist.

MIKE

That's true, and with a name like Einstein I could probably get a pretty good job teaching physics at Princeton. I'd probably get my own parking space.

CLAIRE

Are you looking for work?

MIKE

I am as a matter of fact.

CLAIRE

Do you know anything about physics?

MIKE

Not a thing.

CLAIRE

Well then Albert Einstein is not your name.

MIKE

You're right. (Beat) What's your name?

CLAIRE

Cleopatra.

MIKE (Laughs)

Going historical, are you?

CLAIRE

Not at all. My father is an archeologist and I spent many childhood summers on expeditionary digs in the Sahara Desert. I have a sister named Nefertiti and a brother named Tut.

MIKE

You tell a good story, but even so I don't think your name is Cleopatra.

CLAIRE:

Wow Einstein! You're smart.

MIKE

If I'd been smart, I would have bought gold at thirty-five bucks an ounce.

CLAIRE

Or Apple at twenty-two bucks a share. Am I right?

MIKE

You're right.

CLAIRE

So, if your name isn't Einstein what is it?

MIKE

It's George Clooney.

CLAIRE

You don't look much like George Clooney.

MIKE

Maybe not but with a name like Clooney I could probably win an Oscar and get a job starring opposite Julia Roberts. Hey that reminds me. I want you to have this.

*MIKE gets the dance trophy off the bedside table and proudly hands it to CLAIRES.*

CLAIRE

What's this for?

MIKE

Last night.

CLAIRE

I'm flattered. I've never had a man give me a trophy before.

MIKE

It's the dance trophy we won at your company's Christmas party last night.

CLAIRE

One, two

CLAIRE & MIKE

Cha, cha, cha.

*CLAIRE and MIKE laugh.*

MIKE

They only gave us the one. I think you should keep it. We could get it inscribed.

CLAIRE

Yeah, we should. I'm going shopping with my sister a little later. I could get it inscribed at the mall.

MIKE

You're going shopping?

CLAIRE

Yeah, I still have a couple last minute stocking stuffers I want to pick up for my kids.

MIKE

Oh, you have kids.

CLAIRE

Yeah, I have two. A boy and a girl. Stephen just started teaching high school in Saskatoon (Wichita) and Carol and her husband live in Thunder Bay. (Milwaukee). What about you?

MIKE

I have a daughter.

CLAIRE

Why aren't you spending Christmas with her?

MIKE

Diane and her husband usually take a vacation at the end of the year. A couple of years ago they were in Australia at Christmas and she sent me a Christmas Koala.

CLAIRE

What's a Christmas Koala?

*MIKE crosses to his suitcase and pulls out a stuffed Koala bear wearing a small red hat and an ugly miniature Christmas Sweater from his suitcase.*

MIKE

It's a Koala bear with a Santa hat and a Christmas Sweater.

CLAIRE

He's cute.

MIKE

Listen to this. He has a microchip.

*MIKE presses the stomach of the KOALA and we hear a recording of DIANE's voice.*

DIANE (Recording)

"Hi dad! Ho. Ho. Ho. Wish you were here on the beach with us down under in sunny Sydney. See you soon. Love you. Merry Christmas."

CLAIRE

That's nice.

MIKE

Yeah, I love this stupid little bear.

CLAIRE

You okay?

MIKE

I'm fine. I just...

CLAIRE

You miss her.

MIKE

Oh God, you have no idea.

CLAIRE

I miss my kids too. Especially now that they don't live in the same city. This is the first year both of them are spending Christmas with the in-laws, so I probably won't see them until the new year. Phone calls let you keep in touch but it's not the same thing, is it?

MIKE

No, not at all. Last year Diane was in Chili.

CLAIRE

Good wine in Chili. Did she send you a Christmas Lama?

MIKE

No. But there was that earthquake.

CLAIRE

Oh, I remember that.

MIKE

It was horrible. A lot of people died. Parts of the country were in complete ruins. The hotel where my daughter and her husband were staying completely collapsed. It was absolute chaos.

CLAIRE

The hotel collapsed.

MIKE

Yeah, can you believe it? I kept trying to call and find out what was going on. But I couldn't get through. I didn't hear anything for more than a week. That was the worst part. Not knowing. Waiting for the phone to ring with the hope that my daughter's voice would be on the other end and then...(Pause)... Um, I'm sorry. Can we talk about something else?

CLAIRE

You need a minute?

*CLAIRE sits beside MIKE and puts her arm around him.*

MIKE

I'll be fine. I just wish things were different than they are. I'm sorry.

CLAIRE

You don't need to apologize.

*MIKE regains his composure.*

MIKE

I wish we'd had more children but life doesn't always work out the way we hope.

CLAIRE

And what happened to Diane's mom?

MIKE

You mean am I a married man?

CLAIRE

No, that's not what I meant at all, but well...you're not wearing a ring.

MIKE

Neither are you.

CLAIRE

So, you are married?

MIKE

No, not anymore. We've been divorced for just over a year. We don't even live in the same city anymore. Sharon moved to Toronto (Boston) and I stayed in Vancouver (Seattle). The frustrating thing is she got practically everything. The house. Which she sold. The car. Which she sold. And my two thousand and eleven autographed Vancouver Canucks' jersey. (And my two thousand and thirteen autographed Seattle Seahawks' jersey.)

CLAIRE

Which she sold.

MIKE

Which she burned. It was a nasty divorce. I should have gone with a better lawyer.

CLAIRE

Why didn't you?

MIKE

Because my brother said he could handle it.

CLAIRE

Your brother's a lawyer?

MIKE

Yup.

CLAIRE

I thought you said you two had drifted apart.



MIKE

I was just joking. I'm actually living with my brother right at the moment – that is until I can get a place of my own. The only good thing to come out of my marriage was my daughter. That's really the only reason Sharon and I stayed together as long as we did. Which looking back on it now was probably a mistake. I mean if a relationship isn't working you should move on, right, and give yourself a chance to meet someone new.

CLAIRE

Look, why don't we start over and stop playing games? I'm Claire.

MIKE

Hello Claire. I'm Mike.

CLAIRE

Welcome to Regina. (Omaha.)

MIKE

Thank you. So, um Claire do you think there's any way we could see each other over the holidays?

CLAIRE

Trying to make this more than a one-night stand?

MIKE

We could go for lunch.

CLAIRE

I was going to have lunch with my sister at the mall.

MIKE

Right. Ummm. Well. Do you think your sister would mind if I tagged along?

CLAIRE

Really? You want to go shopping with me and my sister? Won't you get bored?

MIKE

Not at all. I love shopping for Christmas presents. It's just not a lot of fun when you don't have anyone to shop for. And I'd really like to spend some more time with you and get to know you a little better, if that's okay?

CLAIRE

Well, I suppose I can check with my sister.

MIKE

That's all I'm asking.

CLAIRE

She might say no.

MIKE

Whatever she decides is fine by me. Look I'll give you some privacy and you can call her, and then you can let me know what you two decide. But if she says no maybe we can see each other later.

CLAIRE

I'd like that.

*CLAIRE grabs MIKE's phone which looks almost identical to hers off the coffee table and goes to dial but stops.*

CLAIRE

Oh, sorry I grabbed your phone.

*CLAIRE hands MIKE his phone. MIKE puts the phone in his pajama pocket and heads to the washroom.*

MIKE

Thanks, I'll go practice my singing, shall I?

*MIKE exits singing Ain't We Got Fun.*

MIKE

EV'RY MORNING, EV'RY EVENING  
AIN'T WE GOT FUN?  
NOT MUCH MONEY, OH, BUT HONEY  
AIN'T WE GOT FUN?  
THE RENT'S UNPAID DEAR  
WE HAVEN'T A BUS  
BUT SMILES WERE MADE DEAR  
FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

*CLAIRE dials her sister.*

CLAIRE

Hi Samantha. I'm just confirming our plans for today. Maybe eleven would work better? Um listen, would it be okay if I brought a friend? You don't know him, he's from out of town. I wouldn't normally ask but his daughter passed away a year ago and I think he really needs to be with people over the holidays. So, you're okay with him coming? You're a sweetheart. Thanks sis. See you then. Bye.

*MIKE emerges from the bathroom.*

MIKE

So, what's the verdict?

CLAIRE

Lucky for you I've got a nice sister. We're going to meet her at eleven in the food court by the Burger Barn.

MIKE

I love Burger Barn! I'll treat you ladies to lunch. We can have their Rudolph Burgers. They come with a slice of pineapple and a maraschino cherry on top.

CLAIRE

Which any other time of the year is their Hawaiian Burger and a buck cheaper. Now I really should head home and get showered and changed. Can you meet us at the mall? It's only about ten minutes from here.

MIKE

Do you have to go? That mistletoe over there gives me a better idea. Why don't you shower here?

CLAIRE

So, your back is feeling better?

MIKE

Much better.

CLAIRE

I suppose that would be a nice way to start the day.

*MIKE takes CLAIRE in his arms and they dance to the song as he sings.*

MIKE

EV'RY MORNING, EV'RY EVENING  
AIN'T WE GOT FUN?

MIKE & CLAIRE

NOT MUCH MONEY, OH, BUT HONEY  
AIN'T WE GOT FUN?  
THE RENT'S UNPAID DEAR  
WE HAVEN'T A BUS  
BUT SMILES WERE MADE DEAR  
FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

*As MIKE & CLAIRE finish singing, they kiss.*

**END SCENE**

## TRANSITION TELEVISION AUDIO

### SFX: CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCERS UP

ANNOUNCER ONE

You're watching the Holiday Channel and our Spirit of Christmas Movie Marathon.

ANNOUNCER TWO

Brought to you by Dollar Daze.

ANNOUNCER ONE

Why spend a fortune when all you need to spend is a buck?

ANNOUNCER TWO

Dollar Daze making your Christmas affordable.

ANNOUNCER ONE

We now return to *A Rocky Mountain Christmas Carol* featuring the Royal Canadian Mounted Choir and special guest stars Michael Bublé as Ebenezer Scrooge and Justin Bieber as Tiny Tim.

### **SCENE ii: THE GINGERBREAD SUITE – DECEMBER 24 – 8:00 P.M.**

Setting: The hotel room has been tidied up and the bed is made. The Christmas Koala sits on the nightstand beside the bed. On the coffee table is an ice bucket with a bottle of champagne in it, two champagne glasses, a small rose bouquet in a crystal vase, and a gift basket containing numerous romantic items.

At Rise: MIKE is in the bathroom singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"

MIKE (Off Stage)

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART  
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU  
LET ME HEAR YOU WHISPER  
THAT YOU LOVE ME TOO  
KEEP THE LOVE LIGHT GLOWING  
IN YOUR EYES SO TRUE  
LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART  
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

*MIKE enters singing and is dressed in casual slacks and a jacket. He crosses to the television and uses the remote to shut off the television. His phone rings and he looks to see who's calling and then lets it go to voice mail. He puts his phone*

*on the counter and takes a small jewelry box with a ribbon and bow on it out of his jacket pocket. He practices talking to CLAIRE.*

MIKE

Listen Claire I know we've only known each other for a day but sometimes a day is all you need when you've met the one. The one person who makes you sing in the morning. The one person you want to spend the rest of your life with. No, no, no, that's way too direct.

*MIKE crosses to the mini bar and pours himself a shot from one of the mini bottles and downs it in one gulp.*

MIKE

Okay, lets try this again. Listen Claire I know this might seem sudden but even though we've only known each other for a day I can't help but feel that there's a special connection between us. And life is too short not to say what's in your heart...and I heart you. I heart you. Oh my God. I sound like an idiot.

*MIKE crosses to the mini bar and pours himself another shot from one of the mini bottles and downs it in one gulp.*

MIKE

Okay, one more time. *(Pause)* Listen Claire, when I saw you...my life changed because suddenly instead of feeling all alone in the world I didn't feel alone. I felt like there was another soul in this crazy, cold, and indifferent universe who cared about me and I didn't feel like ending it all. For the first time in a long time I wanted to live and I want to have you in my life and... Jesus Christ Mike get a fucking grip on yourself. You sound desperate.

*MIKE crosses to the mini bar and pours himself another shot from one of the mini bottles and downs it in one gulp.*

MIKE

Listen Claire you're a woman and I'm a man, and sometimes the forces of the universe bring men and women together so that men and women can do men and women things. Oh my God. I'm getting worse...Jesus.

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

*MIKE puts the jewelry box in his jacket pocket and crosses the room and opens the door. CLAIRE is standing in the hallway wearing an attractive dress and carries her winter jacket and an overnight bag. As CLAIRE comes into the room she embraces MIKE and they give each other a kiss.*

MIKE

Well, hello beautiful.

CLAIRE

Hello handsome.

*MIKE hangs up CLAIRE's jacket and CLAIRE sets down her overnight bag.*

MIKE

I'm glad you're here. I was getting a little worried you might have gotten lost.

CLAIRE

No, I'm just running a little late because of our extended shower this morning.

MIKE

I had no idea I could bend that far over and keep my balance.

CLAIRE

Well, I hope it was worth the effort.

MIKE

It was well worth the effort, but I messed up my back again.

*MIKE opens his pill bottle and takes a couple of pain killers during.*

CLAIRE

Have you tried Yoga? I started about six months ago and it's done wonders for me.

MIKE

I did actually. That's how I hurt my back in the first place.

CLAIRE

You must not have had a very good instructor. I'll teach you some Yoga positions later.

MIKE

Sure, why not. Um, listen Claire, I just want you to know that even though we've only known each other for a day that I like...champagne.

CLAIRE

Do you?

MIKE

Yes, I love champagne.

CLAIRE

Well you're in luck. I like champagne too.

MIKE

Oh, that's such a relief. What if you hadn't? I'd have had to drink this whole bottle of champagne on my own. And then where would we be?

CLAIRE

Well you won't have to do that. I'll split it with you.

MIKE

Great. Listen Claire, I know it's only been a day since we met but I wanted you to know that...

CLAIRE

Yes?

MIKE

...that I got you some roses.

CLAIRE

Roses?

MIKE

Yes, I got you some roses to go along with the Champagne.

CLAIRE

I love roses.

MIKE

I'm so glad.

CLAIRE

So, what is all this?

MIKE

It's the Two Turtle Doves Holiday Romance Gift Basket. It comes with champagne, roses, and a basket of romantic delights.

CLAIRE

Did you steal it from the Hoffsteaders?

MIKE

No. That's more your style. I ordered this from room service.

CLAIRE

So, what's in the basket?

*MIKE and CLAIRE dig into the Gift Basket.*

MIKE

There's a romantic card game called – Naughty or Nice.

CLAIRE

A box of chocolate truffles and a gingerbread scented candle.

MIKE

Some hot to the touch massage oils.

CLAIRE

A box of holiday flavoured condoms including cranberry, peppermint, and pumpkin pie.

MIKE

Some rainbow flavoured candy canes and, oh my.

CLAIRE

What?

MIKE

A Christmas vibrator from Santa's naughty workshop.

CLAIRE

What's a Christmas vibrator?

*MIKE turns on the vibrator. The vibrator plays Jingle Bells while red and green lights flash in time to the music. It is more festive than sensual.*

CLAIRE

I think it would look good on top of the tree, don't you?

MIKE

Well, it certainly fits the décor, that's for sure.

*MIKE turns off the vibratory and the two share a laugh.*

CLAIRE

Where are the two turtle doves?

MIKE

I guess we're supposed to be the turtle doves. God, I hope you're not embarrassed.

CLAIRE

Not at all. Besides I'm looking forward to playing Naughty or Nice later.

*MIKE and CLAIRE kiss.*



MIKE

Listen Claire...you're a man and I'm a woman and...I mean I'm a man and you're a woman and that's good. Could you imagine if we were two men?

CLAIRE

Not really. I'm quite happy being a woman.

MIKE

And I'm happy you're happy being a woman.

CLAIRE

Are you happy being a man?

MIKE

Oh God, yes. I'm very happy being a man.

CLAIRE

Good.

MIKE

Why don't we have some champagne.

CLAIRE

Mike if you're nervous there's no reason to be. I'm planning on spending the night.

*MIKE opens the Champagne.*

MIKE

Good.

CLAIRE

I thought we discussed this.

MIKE

We did.

CLAIRE

Then what's going on?

MIKE

Listen Claire...

SFX: CLAIRE's PHONE RINGS

*CLAIRE checks her phone.*

CLAIRE

Sorry, it's my sister.

MIKE

Which one Nefertiti or Samantha?

CLAIRE

*(To Mike.)* Samantha. *(Answering phone.)* Hello. Oh hi. No, I wasn't planning on dropping by tonight. I have other plans. Yes. Yes. That's none of your business. I don't know. You want to ask him yourself?

MIKE

Ask me what?

CLAIRE

Whether or not you got me anything for Christmas.

MIKE

I did as a matter of fact.

CLAIRE

He says he did as a matter of fact. I don't know. I just got here. Look you can grill me tomorrow at mom and dad's. I'll be over in the afternoon. I already made the sweet potatoes. We just need to pop them in the oven. Right. Yes. Okay. See you tomorrow. Love you.

*MIKE finishes pouring the champagne and hands CLAIRE a glass.*

*CLAIRE takes the champagne and sets her phone down close to MIKE's.*

MIKE

Your sister's checking up on you. That's good actually. She's looking out for you.

CLAIRE

That's what brothers and sisters do.

MIKE

Yeah, I guess so. Cheers

CLAIRE

Cheers

*MIKE and CLAIRE take a drink of Champagne.*

CLAIRE

She had a lot of questions for me after you left.

MIKE

Like what?

CLAIRE

Like what you do for a living and what brought you to Regina? (Omaha) I mean, we really don't know that much about each other, do we?

MIKE

No, I guess we don't. What do you want to know?

CLAIRE

Well, what brought you to Regina (Omaha) and the Gingerbread Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn?

MIKE

Chance.

CLAIRE

Chance?

MIKE

Yeah, I literally took a chance. I put my fate in the hands of God. I put an old atlas on the kitchen table. Opened it to a world map. Closed my eyes. Spun around three times and stuck a pin in the map and that's how I ended up in Regina. (Omaha) I wanted my destination to be completely left up to fate.

CLAIRE

I'm not sure if you're telling me the truth or just pulling my leg.

MIKE

Why would I lie? Do you think I would have picked Regina (Omaha) in the middle of winter if my eyes were open? What about you? Is Regina (Omaha) home?

CLAIRE

Yup born and raised. Were you born in Vancouver? (Seattle)

MIKE

I was born in Guelph (Rochester) and my parents moved to Kelowna (Reno) when I was a kid and then I moved out to the coast when I got married.

CLAIRE

And what about work? How do you pay the bills?

MIKE

I was in media for a long time. Selling radio commercials mostly. But the radio group I worked for got bought at the start of the year by Harper Media. The first thing they did was fire the local sales team including me and centralize everything in Toronto. (New York)

CLAIRE

And you haven't been able to find anything since?

MIKE

Nothing full time. I was up for a sales job with another radio group a couple of weeks ago. I even had three interviews for the damn thing – I was really counting on it – and then they go and offer it to some kid out of college with more social media experience they said. Just because I'm old doesn't mean I don't get it. I'm on Facebook and LinkedIn. I have a Twitter account, Google Mail, Instagram and I even check out Reddit from time to time. That was hard. Brutal. It's been a tough year with the divorce and losing the job.

CLAIRE

I'll bet you find a job you love in the new year.

MIKE

I sure hope so. What about you? Are you happy in your work?

CLAIRE

I used to run my own business. I had a little print shop, but it just got hard to compete with the online stores. They could offer faster service, cheaper prices, and a bigger product line so after twenty years I had to close. I wanted to sell but nobody was buying. So, now I'm working in a real estate office doing admin while I try to figure out my next career move.

MIKE

Yeah, it's tough out there.

CLAIRE

Tell me about it.

MIKE

Do you mind if I make a confession?

CLAIRE

Aren't we a little early in the relationship for confessions?

MIKE

I don't think so. I just want you to know that you're the first woman I've been with since the divorce.

CLAIRE

You haven't been with anyone for over a year?

MIKE

Try five years. The marriage was over long before the divorce papers were signed. How about you? Are you divorced, separated, we didn't really talk about your husband, did we?

CLAIRE  
He died.

MIKE  
Oh, I'm sorry.

CLAIRE  
It was a long time ago.

MIKE  
Were you two married long?

CLAIRE  
Eighteen years. He's been gone almost eleven.

MIKE  
No thoughts of remarrying?

CLAIRE  
I've had a few serious relationships since then, but no marriage proposals. Why are you proposing?

MIKE  
Do you want me to?

CLAIRE  
I think it's a little too soon to be proposing marriage, don't you think?

MIKE  
This morning you were talking about being spontaneous that would certainly be spontaneous.

CLAIRE  
It would but I just ended a long-term relationship and I'm in no hurry to start a new one. I just don't understand how people can share a bed and a life and when things don't work out they become so hostile towards each other.

MIKE  
It happens. I'll bet your husband was a nice guy.

CLAIRE  
What makes you say that?

MIKE  
I can't see you with anyone who wouldn't be nice.

CLAIRE

Oh, there are lots of men and women that hook up with the wrong partners. My brother Frank hasn't had much luck. He's been married and divorced five times. Twice to the same woman. He's a bit of a screw up but he's always been there for me and for that I'm forever grateful.

MIKE

Do you think it's just dumb luck that brings people together?

CLAIRE

I don't know. I met my husband because I stayed an extra five minutes at work to help a customer. Staying that extra five minutes meant I missed my bus. Missing my bus meant I had to walk home. And because I had to walk home, I got caught in a downpour. And because I got caught in a downpour this attractive young man offered to share his umbrella with me.

MIKE

And that attractive young man ended up being your husband.

CLAIRE

Nope.

MIKE

No?

CLAIRE

No, we dashed into a coffee shop and the man with the umbrella bought me a cup of coffee. That's where I met my husband.

MIKE

At the coffee shop.

CLAIRE

Yes, Garry was waiting tables and working his way through University.

MIKE

Was it love at first sight?

CLAIRE

There was a moment when we first looked at each other. I went back the next day hoping he'd ask me out.

MIKE

And did he?

CLAIRE

Not at first, he was so shy, but he was cute, and kind, and I liked him, and so I started having my lunch at the restaurant, and I always made sure that he was the one who waited on me. Finally,

he got up enough courage to ask me out to a movie, and we started dating, and a year later we were married. So, was it chance or was it meant to be? You tell me.

MIKE

I like to think that it was meant to be. Which makes me wonder about us. Are we meant to be?

CLAIRE

Well why don't we just have some champagne, put on some music, and get to know each other a little better.

MIKE

Music. Oh sure. What kind of music would you like?

CLAIRE

Do they have something we can dance to?

*MIKE grabs the television remote and turns on the television and scrolls down the music channels as CLAIRE tops up their champagne glasses.*

MIKE

I'm not sure. Let me see. They've got Holiday Classics, Broadway Showstoppers, Accordion Favourites with Orlando Hibbs.

CLAIRE

There's nothing more romantic than accordion music.

MIKE

Ah here's something we might like, Melodies for a Magical Night. How does that sound?

CLAIRE

That sounds nice. You like the old songs, don't you?

MIKE

Yeah, I do. My dad used to sing them all the time. We'd sit at the piano when I was a kid and sing old songs and just hang out together. And then when I got older, I learned to play the piano and those are some of the first ones I learned.

*MIKE selects the channel.*

SFX: SOFT ROMANTIC MUSIC PLAYS.

CLAIRE

Those are nice memories.

MIKE

Yeah, they are. *(Claire hands Mike his Champagne glass)* Thanks. Cheers.

CLAIRE

Cheers.

*CLAIRE takes a drink of her champagne.*

*MIKE downs his champagne in one gulp.*

MIKE

Listen Claire I know we've only known each other for a day but I have to tell you something feels right about this. At least it does for me. And I know it's early in our relationship, but I want you to know how I feel.

CLAIRE

You want to discuss feelings?

MIKE

Don't you feel like there's something special between us?

CLAIRE

Maybe so, but there's a lot more to life than just being good dance partners.

MIKE

I know.

CLAIRE

And besides I live in Regina. (Omaha) You live in Vancouver. (Seattle) How is that going to work?

MIKE

You could move to Vancouver. (Seattle)

CLAIRE

You could move to Regina. (Omaha)

MIKE

We could meet in the middle and both move to Calgary. (Salt Lake City)

CLAIRE

I suppose but I don't really think that's going to happen. I like my hometown.

MIKE

What's not to like. Look I was originally going to give you this on Christmas morning, but I'd really like to give it to you now.

*MIKE takes the small jewellery case from his jacket pocket.*



CLAIRE

Okay.

MIKE

I hope you don't mind I got you a Christmas present.

CLAIRE

Why would I mind? I like presents.

MIKE

But before you open it, I have something I need to tell you.

CLAIRE

Alright.

MIKE

It's just I'm a little nervous.

CLAIRE

Really? I hadn't noticed. What about?

MIKE

About how you might react. Do you want one?

*MIKE crosses to the bar and opens one of the small whiskey bottles and pours in into a glass.*

CLAIRE

No, I'm good with the champagne, thanks.

*MIKE downs the whiskey in one shot.*

MIKE

Okay, well here it goes. Claire, I know we've only known each other for a day...but sometimes a day is all you need...and normally I wouldn't be talking about this...normally I'd take it slow, but when I look back at my life the only regrets I have are the times I haven't taken a chance and gone after what I wanted. And you said you wanted to be spontaneous – to do something without thinking of the consequences. Well shouldn't love be spontaneous? I mean do we really need words to describe how we feel about someone else? I have feelings for you, and even though it's early in our relationship it's not early in my life's journey or yours, right? To use your words, you have to seize the bacon! Well that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to seize the bacon and go after the sausage. To say what's in my heart and my heart is telling me that I love you and as crazy as that sounds it's the truth of what I'm feeling and I just don't want to move forward in this relationship without you knowing how I feel about you because I think that would be unfair to you and to me. So, I'm just laying it out there and letting you know that I want this to be more

than a one-night stand. And yes, I live in Vancouver (Seattle) and you live in Regina (Omaha) but that doesn't matter. There's nothing keeping me in Vancouver (Seattle) and from what I've seen of Regina (Omaha) I could be happy here. I mean you have a Burger Barn and I love Burger Barn. And so that's why I got you a little something...something I was going to give you on Christmas morning...something that would signify a new start and a new life and I'm just terrified that by opening myself up and telling you all of this it's going to scare you off. But if I didn't tell you how I was feeling and what I was thinking then that wouldn't be honest, and I really believe that in order for a relationship to work you have to be honest with each other. So, that's what I've been trying to say, and I don't know if I've used the right words or explained things so they make sense to you, but I sure hope you feel the same way.

*CLAIRE doesn't say anything.*

MIKE

Aren't you going to say anything?

CLAIRE

I don't know what to say. That was quite the speech.

MIKE

Just be honest.

CLAIRE

Okay, well to be honest, I think maybe you've had a bit too much to drink and you've had a rough year losing your job and getting divorced and I know you miss your daughter but I just think you met me and we spent the night together and suddenly the world didn't seem so dark and lonely and you think I'm the solution to your problems. I'm not. I have my own baggage. I'm not perfect. You can't say you love someone unless you spend enough time with them to see the good and the bad because love isn't just about the good times. It's about the tough times too. It's about acceptance and understanding and you and I don't know enough about each other to really know if we'd make a good match. How can you say you love me when you couldn't even remember my name this morning?

MIKE

Well you didn't remember my name either and I forgave you. Don't you have any feelings for me?

CLAIRE

Of course, I have feelings but I'm not ready to say I love you.

MIKE

But isn't that what every woman wants to hear?

CLAIRE

Not on a first date.

MIKE

Well technically this is our second date.

CLAIRE

That's still too soon.

MIKE

But look at how easily we dance together. How good it feels to hold hands. There must be some kind of deeper connection between us. Can't you feel it?

CLAIRE

There's a physical connection that's for sure. And I admit I do feel really comfortable with you, but we hardly know each other. You're moving way too fast. If we keep going at this rate, you'll have us married by New Years.

MIKE

Hey now, wouldn't that be a fantastic way to start the New Year?

CLAIRE

Look I understand how much you want to rebuild your life but Mike it takes more than a day to get to know someone.

MIKE

Does it? I've known couples that have gotten married after knowing each other for a decade and their marriage has ended in less than a year. Why can't the reverse be true? Why can't two people who've known each other for a day have a lifetime of happiness?

CLAIRE

This isn't a fairly tale.

MIKE

I know that. I'm sorry if I've made you feel uncomfortable. Tell you what, why don't you just open up your Christmas present and see what it is. I guarantee you'll be surprised.

*CLAIRE looks at the small ring sized jewelry box.*

CLAIRE

This isn't what I think it is, is it?

MIKE

What do you think it is?

CLAIRE

It isn't an engagement ring, is it?

MIKE

What if it was?

CLAIRE

Oh, come on Mike I can't accept this.

MIKE

You haven't even looked at it.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry but this is getting a little too crazy.

MIKE

So, what's wrong with acting a little crazy? This morning you liked it. Didn't you say you wanted an adventure?

CLAIRE

Making off with someone's breakfast is a little crazy but proposing to someone you've known for less than a day is insane.

MIKE

That doesn't make it wrong.

CLAIRE

You know what, I think maybe it would be best if I went home.

MIKE

Hold on a second, you don't need to do that.

CLAIRE

I know, but I'm feeling a little tired and tomorrow's a big day and I still have a couple of presents to wrap.

*CLAIRE grabs her coat, MIKE's phone instead of her own, and her overnight bag.*

MIKE

Listen Claire, I'm sorry I was just joking around and I took it too far – way too far – but I wasn't serious. Come on. It was just a game.

CLAIRE

You seemed pretty serious to me.

MIKE

Just forget everything I said. We can still have a nice evening. I'll order room service. They have turkey wings.

CLAIRE

Turkey wings?

MIKE

Yeah, they're like chicken wings but with it being Christmas instead of using chicken they use turkey.

CLAIRE

Well, as tempting as that sounds I think we should call it a night. I'm not sure we're on the same page when it comes to this relationship. I was just looking for something fun and temporary and you're looking for something more and I don't know if it would be fair to either of us to spend the night together when our expectations and hopes are so different. I wouldn't want to take advantage of you.

MIKE

No, please feel free to take advantage of me. You said you wanted to play Naughty or Nice later. We can do that, and we've got the massage oils and the truffles.

CLAIRE

I'm not really in the mood to play games.

MIKE

We could just watch *It's a Wonderful Life* on TV and eat ice cream. How does that sound?

CLAIRE

Goodnight Mike.

MIKE

Will you at least give me a call?

CLAIRE

Sure, I'll give you a call.

*Claire exits.*

MIKE

Dammit! You idiot. Dumb. Dumb. Dumb. Dumb. Why can't you keep your big mouth shut?

**END SCENE**

## **TRANSITION TELEVISION AUDIO**

### **SFX: CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCER UP**

ANNOUNCER ONE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone here at the Holiday Channel.

ANNOUNCER TWO

Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the fire.

ANNOUNCER ONE

It's the Holiday Channel's annual Christmas Morning Yule log.

### **SFX: ELECTRONIC SALES AD MUSIC WITH REVERB**

ANNOUNCER TWO

Brought to you by MEGA Sounds 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual – Christmas Clear Out – Year End Madness – Red Tag – Factory Blow Out Sale!

ANNOUNCER

And remember starting tomorrow there are only 364 shopping days until Christmas.

## **SCENE iii – THE GINGERBREAD SUITE – DECEMBER 25 - 8:00 A.M.**

Setting: The bed is still made and there is a room service cart with the remains of some late night snacks including a plate of turkey wings. Empty pop cans, a half dozen empty hotel size bottles of alcohol, the empty champagne bottle, and the half empty bottle of prescription pain killers, are also on the coffee table. The candy canes and chocolates from the Two Turtle Doves Gift basket have also been munched on.

At Rise: MIKE is in the bathroom. He sings some of the lines from, After You've Gone and then enters the hotel room continuing to sing. He is wearing one of the Christmas themed bathrobes but no pants just some boxer shorts and his shirt. He has been up the entire night feeling sorry for himself, drinking, eating, and popping pills. The television set is turned on and the annual Christmas Yule log is playing.

### **SFX: FROM THE TELEVISION WE HEAR CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND THE SOUND OF A CRACKLING FIRE**

MIKE (Singing It Had to be You)  
SOME OTHERS I'VE SEEN, MIGHT NEVER BE MEAN  
MIGHT NEVER BE CROSS, OR TRY TO BE BOSS  
BUT THEY WOULDN'T DO  
FOR NOBODY ELSE, GAVE ME A THRILL  
WITH ALL YOUR FAULTS, I LOVE YOU STILL  
IT HAD TO BE YOU, WONDERFUL YOU  
IT HAD TO BE YOU.

*MIKE crosses to the couch and sits. He grabs a handful of pills and pops them in his mouth and then takes a drink and swallows them. He picks up the Christmas Koala and pushes the play button.*

DIANE (Recording)  
“Hi dad! Ho. Ho. Ho. Wish you were here on the beach with us down under in sunny Sydney. See you soon. Love you. Merry Christmas.”

MIKE  
Love you too sweetheart.

*MIKE hugs the Koala.*

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

CLAIRE (Off)  
Mike?

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

*MIKE looks towards the door.*

CLAIRE (Off)  
Mike?

MIKE  
Claire?

CLAIRE (Off)  
Mike it's Claire.

MIKE  
Claire? Claire? Alright.

*MIKE turns off the television with the remote.*

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

MIKE

Hang on. I'm coming.

*MIKE crosses to the door and opens it. CLAIRE is standing in the doorway dressed in casual but comfortable clothing and wearing her winter jacket.*

MIKE

Claire what are you doing here?

CLAIRE

May I come in?

MIKE

Sure, come on in. Merry Christmas.

CLAIRE

You look terrible.

MIKE

I feel terrible.

CLAIRE

I spoke to your brother.

MIKE

My brother. Marty? How did you do that?

CLAIRE

I took your phone instead of mine when I left. He called about an hour ago.

MIKE

Is that right.

CLAIRE

We had a nice little chat.

MIKE

What about?

CLAIRE

You.

MIKE

Me?



CLAIRE

Yes. He wants you to call him. He said it was important.

MIKE

And you came all the way over here to deliver that message.

CLAIRE

I came to get my phone.

*CLAIRE takes her own phone and puts it in her pocket.*

MIKE

Oh. Right. Well thanks for letting me know. Now if you don't mind, I think I'd better lie down.

*MIKE lies down on the floor.*

CLAIRE

What are you doing on the floor?

MIKE

It's the only part of the room that doesn't seem to be spinning at the moment.

CLAIRE

Don't you think the couch would be more comfortable?

MIKE

I don't think I can make it to the couch.

CLAIRE

Your brother's worried about you. He said you've been depressed and yesterday he found an envelope in your room addressed to him with five dollars in it and a goodbye card.

MIKE

He has a birthday coming up, so I thought I'd give him cash.

CLAIRE

Five dollars?

MIKE

Well, if he'd gotten me a better divorce settlement, I'd have given him more money.

CLAIRE

Why the goodbye card?

MIKE

They were all out of birthday cards.

CLAIRE

You should have told your brother where you were going.

MIKE

Look Claire I know you mean well but right now my life is a mess.

CLAIRE

Well, sometimes life can be messy, Mike. People get divorced. They lose their jobs. They get sick and sometimes they die. And sure, it feels awful when those things happen but that's the way it is. The only thing you can control is how you respond to those things.

MIKE

So, I'm just supposed to put a smile on my face and pretend everything is okay? Well it's not okay. You have no idea the kind of hell I've been through this year.

CLAIRE

Oh, I think I have some idea about what you've been through and what you've been feeling.

MIKE

Well right now I'm not feeling so good. So, if you'll excuse me, I think I need to freshen up.

*MIKE begins to crawl on his hands and knees towards the washroom.*

CLAIRE

Not telling your family – the people that care about you – where you're going or what you're doing is selfish and irresponsible.

MIKE

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm selfish and irresponsible. We'll pick it up from there when I get back.

*CLAIRE watches MIKE crawl into the washroom. CLAIRE crosses down to the table and surveys the mess. She takes out MIKE's cell phone and dials.*

CLAIRE

Hi Marty. I'm here now. Well he's in rough shape. *(She picks up the half empty pill container)* It looks like he's been up all-night drinking, eating crappy food, and good Lord – popping pills. Really. He did the same thing a couple of weeks ago. Yeah, he told me about the job. Well, it looks like half the bottle's gone. Listen I'll call 911 and get him to the Emergency. What? These are garlic. You replaced the pills his doctor gave him with garlic. Well it looks like it was a good thing you did. Yes, I'll get him to call you. I will. Thanks for letting me know about the pills. Merry Christmas.

What a stupid, stupid, stupid, thing to do.

*MIKE enters from the bathroom with a hand towel as he dries off his face.*

CLAIRE

So how are you feeling now?

MIKE

My back still hurts, I've got a wicked headache, and my stomach is all in knots.

CLAIRE

Maybe you shouldn't have eaten so many turkey wings. Listen Mike, that guy I met two days ago. He was fun and full of life. But this guy – the guy who drinks too much, crawls around on the floor, and spends his time feeling sorry for himself. Him, I'm not so fond of.

MIKE

Me neither. I hate that guy.

CLAIRE

Well then which guy are you?

MIKE

I'm just a fifty-seven-year-old unemployed, divorced male trying to navigate my way through life who got a crazy idea in his head about seeing where chance would take me. And it took me to you. Listen Claire, I know I shouldn't have said I love you. And if I could take it back I would but I can't. I messed up okay. But there was a real spark between us when we first met. You can't deny that. One, two – cha, cha, cha. Not going to join in.

CLAIRE

I'm not in the dancing mood.

MIKE

Oh, hell maybe you're just scared to fall in love again.

CLAIRE

And why would I be scared to fall in love?

MIKE

Because I'm willing to bet you've been hurt.

CLAIRE

And how would you know?

MIKE

You said you just ended a long-term relationship and that sometimes people get involved with the wrong person. You told me about your brother, but I'm willing to bet you were really talking about yourself. Am I right?

CLAIRE

Some men just say they love you, but they don't really mean it.

MIKE

Well I mean it. I ended up in Regina (Omaha) because I stuck a pin in a map. When I got here I didn't even have a reservation so I told the cab driver to take me to a nice hotel and he brought me here. And while I was standing in the lobby checking into my room I heard the band play, "It Had to be You" and I looked up and there you were. And the moment I saw you – in that red dress – and I know you think I'm stupid for saying this – the moment I saw you was the moment I fell in love with you. It was that fast. And it was that real. And that's why I had to walk over and say hello. And that's why I was so devastated last night after you left and said you didn't want anything more to do with me.

CLAIRE

I never said that. Don't go putting words in my mouth. I said, you were moving too fast and that we needed to slow things down. Now you may have heard something different but that's your problem not mine. I like you Mike but I'm not ready to say I love you or get married. When I got home last night, I did a lot of thinking about what you said and it's true there was a spark between us and so I decided I was going to give this relationship another chance but after coming here this morning I have to tell you I have my doubts. I certainly don't need this kind of turmoil and drama in my life. I'm willing to give you the benefit of the doubt because I know what a shitty time you've had the last couple of years, but I'm not going to promise you anything Mike.

MIKE

Oh my God, I'm an idiot.

CLAIRE

Finally, something we can agree on.

MIKE

You have to get me to the hospital.

CLAIRE

Why?

MIKE

Because – look – I...I'm ashamed to say this...but – I – I haven't been very happy...and the reason I came here was...I just thought if God wanted me to live he'd show me a sign and if he didn't well then. I thought you were the sign but after you left – I did something stupid. I did something...I don't know if you'll understand. Oh God, I don't want to scare you off again.

CLAIRE

You took an overdose, didn't you?

MIKE

Yes, my prescription pain killers. I've been eating them like peanuts.

CLAIRE

Well that's a pretty stupid and irresponsible thing to do.

MIKE

Hey, we've already established that I'm selfish and irresponsible. Do you have to add stupid to the list?

CLAIRE

Stupid, dumb, foolish – you pick.

MIKE

Let's go with foolish. Listen I think we should call 911.

CLAIRE

What for? You said you wanted to end it all. Maybe you should.

MIKE

What!

CLAIRE

After all, if I stop you this time who's going to stop you next time.

MIKE

Come on Claire don't joke around.

CLAIRE

I'm not joking. Clearly, you're unhappy. If you want to kill yourself who am I to stand in your way?

MIKE

But I don't want to die.

*CLAIRE crosses over to the bar and opens a pack of ENO and dumps it into a glass of water and stirs it up during.*

CLAIRE

That's good to hear because killing yourself over love might work in a Shakespearian tragedy, but it's not a very attractive or appealing quality in real life.

MIKE

Did you bring your car? We can drive to the hospital.

CLAIRE

Darn, took an Uber. Wouldn't you know it.

MIKE  
Maybe there's a doctor in the inn?

CLAIRE  
I'm sure there is.

MIKE  
Let's call the front desk and find out.

CLAIRE  
Why should we ruin his Christmas? Here drink this.

*CLAIRE hands MIKE a glass of ENO.*

MIKE  
Are you sure this is going to help?

CLAIRE  
Positive. Drink up.

*MIKE drinks the ENO.*

*CLAIRE picks up a pillow from the bed.*

CLAIRE  
All of it. You'll feel better. All done?

MIKE  
Yeah.

*CLAIRE whacks MIKE hard with the pillow.*

MIKE  
Hey, why'd you do that?

CLAIRE  
How dare you do such a thing.

MIKE  
We need to call an ambulance.

CLAIRE  
No, we don't.

MIKE  
Why not?

CLAIRE

Because before you ran off to Regina, (Omaha) your brother replaced your pain killers with garlic capsules.

MIKE

They're garlic!

CLAIRE

Yeah, you might have an upset stomach for a day or two but that's nothing compared to what could have happened.

MIKE

Oh, thank God.

CLAIRE

If you're going to thank anyone you should thank your brother because he's the one that kept you from doing something stupid. Oh, I'm sorry foolish. What is wrong with you? Just because you lost a daughter doesn't give you any right to be careless with your own life.

MIKE

Whoa, hold on a second. I never said anything about losing a daughter.

CLAIRE

Your daughter is alive?

MIKE

Yes.

*CLAIRE clobbers MIKE with the pillow.*

MIKE

Hey!

*MIKE grabs a pillow to defend himself as CLAIRE continues to clobber MIKE with her pillow.*

CLAIRE

You told me you miss her.

MIKE

I do miss her.

CLAIRE

You said she was in Chili during that earthquake and that her hotel collapsed and what a horrible time it was.

MIKE

It was a horrible time, but she didn't die. How could you even think such a thing?

CLAIRE

What about the tears and the wishing things were different?

*MIKE and CLAIRE stop the pillow fight.*

MIKE

She won't talk to me. She's completely cut me out of her life since her mom and I got divorced. She blames me and won't listen to my side of things. Diane hasn't phoned, e-mailed, or written to me for over a year. That's why that stupid Koala means so much to me – it's the only way I can hear her voice. Hear her call me Dad. Have her tell me she loves me.

CLAIRE

Good Lord why do people add so much unnecessary misery and pain to their lives. I lost a husband to cancer and you and your daughter are both alive and too stubborn to mend the fence. Well you're the father be the bigger person. Make the call.

MIKE

You're not going to hit me again, are you?

CLAIRE

I don't know. Has it knocked any sense into you? What if those pills had been real? Then what?

MIKE

You could try and be a little more understanding.

CLAIRE

Oh, I understand more than you think. The first couple of years after Gary died, I had moments where I didn't feel like going on either. On the first anniversary of his death I took a long drive out into the country and eventually found myself standing on a bridge looking down into the water and thinking how easy it would be to jump in. That scared me. I got back in my car and drove straight to my brother Frank's. He spent the next six months with me while I got my life straightened around. I didn't feel like going on, but I did. Because I knew that one day it would get better. I didn't give up and I don't believe you're the sort of person who wants to give up. Now I want you to call your brother, or I'll call him for you.

*CLAIRE hands MIKE his phone.*

MIKE

Okay. Okay. Fine. Just stop hitting me with the pillow, alright? (*Mike dials*) Hello Marty. Yeah, I'm okay. I know I should have told you where I was going. I'm sorry I didn't. You heard from Diane. Really. Is everything okay? What? Really. Oh my God. Thanks for letting me know.



Where is she? London? England? Alright text me the number and I'll give her a call. Thanks Marty. Merry Christmas.

CLAIRE

Is everything okay?

MIKE

Diane is pregnant.

CLAIRE

Your daughter is expecting?

MIKE

Yeah. I'm going to be a grandfather. Oh my God that's wonderful. What was I thinking? Quick hit me.

CLAIRE

What?

MIKE

Hit me!

*CLAIRE whacks MIKE across the face with the pillow.*

MIKE

Thanks. That one I deserved.

CLAIRE

So, now what are you going to do?

MIKE

She wants me to give her a call. What time is it in London?

CLAIRE

Late afternoon.

MIKE

God I'm nervous. I don't think I can do this alone.

CLAIRE

You're not alone, I'm here. Christmas is the perfect time to mend fences. To forgive and forget. To start fresh.

MIKE

Yeah, you're right. Listen Claire about your present.

CLAIRE

The engagement ring.

MIKE

You never opened it.

*MIKE hands CLAIRE the Christmas present and CLAIRE opens it.*

CLAIRE

Earrings.

MIKE

Yeah, earrings. I noticed you looking at these when we were shopping. So, I doubled back and got them before I left the mall.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry. I really thought you had gotten me an engagement ring.

MIKE

Well considering our conversation last night and how crazy things got I can see how you would. So, are we good?

CLAIRE

Yeah, we're good. Lucky for you I believe in second chances. Ready to make that call?

MIKE

Yeah.

*MIKE and CLAIRE sit on the sofa. MIKE dials. The Christmas Koala is cuddled between them. CLAIRE holds MIKE's hand. The phone rings once. Twice. And gets answered on the third ring.*

MIKE

Hello? Diane. It's dad. Merry Christmas. I was talking to your Uncle Marty and he told me some wonderful news. Oh, that's wonderful honey. I'm so happy for you and Jack. Yes, it's good to hear your voice too. You don't have to apologize we were both being stubborn. Yeah, I know. I love you too.

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO: UNDER THE MISTLETOE  
THE CANDY CANE SUITE**

**SCENE i: The Candy Cane Suite – December 23, 7:00 P.M.**

Setting: At curtain we find ourselves in the Candy Cane Suite on the third floor of the Prairie Dog Inn. The wall art, bedding and decorations are all Christmas themed. There is a queen size bed, a sofa, a coffee table, a chest of drawers, a table and chairs, a television, a coffee maker, a Mini bar, a small fridge and a bunk bed. The Family Fun Holiday Gift Basket, with a card saying Love Santa, sits on the coffee table.

At Rise: HARVEY SWANSON is 59 years old and wears a sports jacket, dress slacks, a shirt and tie, dress shoes and glasses. HARVEY's suitcase is on the bed and open. He pulls a bottle of champagne out of the suitcase and crosses to the bar and puts the champagne on the counter beside an already placed bottle of gin and a bottle of tonic. HARVEY is talking on his cell phone.

HARVEY

Come on pick up. Pick up. Please, pick up. Ahh, damnit. (*He gets the answering machine.*) Dave, give me a call. It's urgent. I need your help big brother. Big time.

*HARVEY hangs up. There is a knock at the door. HARVEY composes himself and crosses to the door and answers it. Standing in the doorway is NANCY POTTER. She is 59 wearing her winter jacket and an attractive dress and dress shoes. She carries an overnight bag.*

HARVEY

You're here!

NANCY

Sorry I'm running late.

HARVEY

Ah, not so fast. Mistletoe.

*HARVEY points to the mistletoe above the doorway.*

NANCY

Now how did that get there, I wonder?

HARVEY

No idea, but we should take advantage of it.

*HARVEY and NANCY kiss.*

HARVEY

I was starting to get a little worried. I thought maybe you'd changed your mind.

NANCY

I haven't changed my mind. Have you?

HARVEY

No. I want to give this a try.

NANCY

Good. Me too.

*NANCY hangs up her jacket.*

HARVEY

Shall we start with a drink?

NANCY

A drink sounds wonderful.

HARVEY

Gin and tonic?

NANCY

My favourite.

*HARVEY goes over to the bar and mixes two drinks while they talk.*

HARVEY

So, what do you think of the room?

NANCY

It's certainly festive.

HARVEY

Well it is the Candy Cane Suite.

NANCY

That explains the candy canes.

HARVEY

It does.

NANCY

The bunk beds are a nice touch.

HARVEY

It's a family suite. I didn't realize that when I booked it online. But it has a Jacuzzi tub and I thought that would be romantic.

NANCY

That is romantic.

HARVEY

Not that we have to hop into the tub anytime soon. That is, unless you want to.

*HARVEY hands NANCY her drink.*

NANCY

Thanks. Why don't we save the tub for later and just put on some music for now?

HARVEY

Good idea. I'd love some music. Cheers.

NANCY

Cheers.

*HARVEY downs half his drink in one gulp and then grabs the remote control for the television.*

HARVEY

What do you want to listen to?

NANCY

Something to set the mood maybe.

HARVEY

Alright.

*HARVEY is having trouble with the remote.*

HARVEY

Why on earth do they make the buttons on these damn remotes so small? It's frustrating!

NANCY

Here, let me help.

*HARVEY hands NANCY the remote. NANCY slips on her glasses.*

HARVEY

I can't tell which button is which.

NANCY

That's why they use symbols.

HARVEY

I can never figure those things out.

NANCY

Look here's the music menu. See how easy that was.

HARVEY

All I want is a simple remote with a power button and a keypad.

*HARVEY finishes the rest of his drink in one large gulp and goes and gets a refill.*

NANCY

Let's see. They have Christmas in Wales. Christmas in Scotland. Christmas in Bangkok.

HARVEY

Do they have any Tony Bennett?

NANCY

They have a Tony Bennett Christmas.

HARVEY

I'm not sure holiday music is what we're looking for.

NANCY

Here's something we might like: Melodies for a Magical Night. How does that sound?

*NANCY selects a channel of easy listening music.*

HARVEY

That sounds nice.

SFX: GENTLE BACKGROUND MUSIC

HARVEY

Hey, I got you a little something.

NANCY

You did?

HARVEY

Yeah, just something for your tree.

NANCY

You're not supposed to tell me what it is.

HARVEY

Did I say it was something for your tree – my mistake – it's a matching set of luggage.

*HARVEY hands NANCY a gift box.*

NANCY

Rather small to be luggage, isn't it?

HARVEY

It's expandable.

*NANCY opens the gift box and takes out a Christmas Ornament.*

NANCY

Oh Harvey, I love it. I can't wait to put it on the tree.

HARVEY

It's the first in a new series of Woodland Critters called Frisky Friends.

NANCY

The Playful Porcupines.

HARVEY

They make a new one every year. Next year it could be Playful Penguins.

NANCY

A new one every year – are you planning on making this a Christmas tradition?

HARVEY

I thought it might be a nice way to start things off with it being Christmas and all. And I thought this way we'd have a little memento of our first night together. Is that too corny?

NANCY

Not at all. It's sweet. Thank you.

*NANCY gives HARVEY a hug.*

NANCY

I've been so busy this year I almost didn't get my tree up.

HARVEY

Tell me about it. I was going to decorate my tree on the weekend. I even got all the decorations out and untangled the lights. But it's not any fun doing it on your own, so in the end, I didn't bother.

*HARVEY takes a big drink.*

NANCY

Oh Harvey, why didn't you ask me to come over? I would have helped you decorate your tree.

HARVEY

I know. I should have. Irene loved decorating the tree. And when the tree was done, we'd cuddle up on the sofa and drink Baileys and coffee. This year all I did was drink a little too much Baileys and look through old photo albums.

*HARVEY is lost in thought for a moment before he comes back to the present.*

HARVEY

Sorry to ruin the moment. You know how lost I've been since Irene passed away.

*HARVEY takes another big drink.*

NANCY

That's okay. We both miss her.

HARVEY

I know. I know.

*HARVEY downs the rest of his drink and then crosses to the bar and starts to mix himself another drink.*

NANCY

Harvey you might want to slow down. You're two drinks up on me already and we've only been here ten minutes.

HARVEY

I just want to take the edge off.

NANCY

Would you at least try and relax? You're making me jumpy.

HARVEY

It's just I've never cheated on Irene before.



NANCY

This isn't cheating.

HARVEY

I know that. But it's a hotel room and you're not my wife and I'm not your husband and as much as I want to be here with you part of me is having a rough time with this.

NANCY

I have mixed feelings about this too. And we both knew this was going to be difficult, but Harvey, the other night when we were at the Bogart Festival – watching Casablanca – and our hands touched in the popcorn tub – and we kissed at the end of the movie – something definitely changed between us.

*NANCY takes HARVEY's hand.*

HARVEY

I know.

NANCY

We both felt it.

HARVEY

I sure did.

NANCY

Me too.

HARVEY

I really want to make this work. And I know I should move on but it isn't easy. Irene's clothes are still hanging in the closet and I haven't even cancelled her subscription to Chatelaine yet. Last night I tried to take off my wedding ring again and I couldn't do it.

*HARVEY twirls the wedding band on his ring finger with his right hand.*

NANCY

That just means you still love her and you're having a tough time letting go, but that doesn't mean you don't deserve another chance to be happy. We both do.

HARVEY

Maybe I'd feel more comfortable if we didn't know each other so well.

NANCY

Well then – why don't you try and think of me as someone you just met.

HARVEY

I don't think I can do that.

NANCY

Why not?

HARVEY

Because I'd never sleep with someone I just met. Would you?

NANCY

No, I'm not into casual sex. Although, I might make an exception for Brad Pitt. Come on relax. We have the entire evening ahead of us. Just remember we're here because we care about each other.

HARVEY

That's true.

NANCY

We love each other.

HARVEY

As friends.

NANCY

And maybe after tonight as something more.

HARVEY

I sure hope so.

NANCY

Me too. It's just if we're going to spend the night together Harvey – we should decide one thing.

HARVEY

What's that?

NANCY

Who gets the top bunk?

HARVEY

Can you believe this room? Instead of a romantic hideaway for two it feels more like Santa's Playland.

NANCY

I like the room. It has character.

HARVEY

It's just I got a discount on the room when I joined the Thrifty Shopper. They have all kinds of terrific online deals. I saved almost two hundred bucks on my new snow tires.

NANCY

I'm happy for you. Did the snow tires come with the room?

HARVEY

No, but if you booked the room online you got a 55% discount. So, I figured why not book a theme suite. I thought it would be fun. Only now I'm thinking this was a dumb idea. Maybe we should change rooms?

NANCY

We're not changing rooms.

HARVEY

You sure?

NANCY

Yes.

HARVEY

Okay, we'll keep the room. But I'm okay if you want to change it. It's whatever makes you feel the most comfortable.

NANCY

The room is fine.

HARVEY

They have other theme suites. Do you want to spend the night in the Polynesian Suite? It has a waterfall.

NANCY

Harvey, I told you. I'm happy with the room.

HARVEY

Okay, but if you change your mind, you'll let me know.

NANCY

I'll let you know. Do you mind if I have a smoke? I could really use a cigarette.

HARVEY

Do you have to? Why don't you have another drink instead?

NANCY

Can't I have both?

HARVEY  
This is a non-smoking room.

NANCY  
How about if I step out on the balcony?

HARVEY  
On the balcony?

NANCY  
Yeah.

*HARVEY realizes this is his chance to call his brother back if he can get NANCY out of the room. HE suddenly grabs NANCY's jacket and hands it to her as he herds her towards the balcony.*

HARVEY  
That's a great idea! Here take your jacket.

NANCY  
You don't mind?

HARVEY  
No, no, no you go ahead.

*HARVEY pushes NANCY towards the balcony.*

NANCY  
Hold on a second. I need my cigarettes.

HARVEY  
Sorry.

*NANCY grabs her cigarettes and lighter out of her bag as HARVEY rushes her out of the room.*

NANCY  
I won't be long.

HARVEY  
Take as long as you want.

*HARVEY pulls out his cell phone and crosses over to the television and turns it off.*

SFX: TELEVISION AUDIO OUT

*HARVEY looks towards NANCY. NANCY looks towards HARVEY. They wave at each other. NANCY turns away and continues to enjoy her cigarette as HARVEY makes a call to DAVE.*

HARVEY

Please pick up. Please pick up. Please pick up. Oh, thank God. Dave, I need your help. I need another pill. Yes, another pill. It slipped out of my hand and went down the sink when I was in the bathroom. Well I didn't do it on purpose. Is there any way you can come by the hotel and drop off another one? I can't drive over to your place. You have to come here. It's not that late. What? Oh, come on. That's blackmail. Fine. Fine. Okay then. I'll buy you a bottle of Crown Royal? (Jack Daniels) Would that work? Good. Thanks. Twenty minutes. I'll meet you in the lobby. Bye

*NANCY comes back in and tosses her coat on the bed. She grabs a breath freshener from her purse and sprays the breath freshener in her mouth.*

NANCY

Who were you talking to?

HARVEY

What?

NANCY

You were on your phone.

HARVEY

Oh, that was Dave.

NANCY

How is your brother?

HARVEY

Good. Good.

NANCY

Giving him a progress report, were you?

*HARVEY checks his watch.*

HARVEY

Hardly. I just called to see if there was anything, I should bring over for Christmas dinner.

NANCY

It's too bad your grandchildren won't be here

HARVEY

Michele invited me to spend Christmas with her and the kids in Sudbury,(Columbus) but I said no.

NANCY

How come?

HARVEY

Well, to be honest, her in-laws are going to be there, and I really don't like her father in-law.

NANCY

No?

HARVEY

No. He's always going on and on about the crucifixion, salvation, and God's grace.

NANCY

Well what do you expect? He's a minister.

HARVEY

I know that. I just wish he'd leave the Jesus talk at the office. I'm just tired of hearing all about God's plan and how Irene is in a better place.

NANCY

I'm sorry I brought it up.

HARVEY

It's okay. Are you still going over to your son's?

NANCY

I am.

HARVEY

Less work for you.

NANCY

Hardly – I could really use some help. The shopping's done but the wrapping isn't. And once the wrappings done, I have to load everything into the car and bring it over. Plus, I promised I'd show up early Christmas day to open presents with the grandchildren and then help with dinner.

HARVEY

And no doubt you'll end up staying late to help clean up.

NANCY

No doubt. You know Harvey, I'm making my sweet potatoes, rice pudding and your favourite dessert.

HARVEY

Mmmmmm I love your apple rhubarb crumble.

NANCY

I'm sure there'd be room at the table for you too – if you want to come.

HARVEY

I would but I already promised my brother I'd spend Christmas with him and his family.

NANCY

You made that promise before we kissed. Things have changed, remember.

*HARVEY looks at his watch.*

HARVEY

I know that but I'd feel guilty if I cancelled. I just don't want my sister-in-law to think I don't like her cooking or something.

NANCY

But you don't like her cooking.

HARVEY

Yeah, but she doesn't need to know that.

NANCY

It's up to you Harvey, but the invitation stands.

HARVEY

Thanks, I'll think about it.

NANCY

So, now what?

HARVEY

You want to make the gingerbread house?

NANCY

Not really.

HARVEY

Why not? We've got The Family Fun Holiday Gift Basket courtesy of Santa sitting right here. It would be a shame to let it go to waste. There's caramel popcorn and a coupon for a free movie. Would you like to watch a movie later?

NANCY

I have a better idea.

*NANCY gives HARVEY a kiss.*

NANCY

What's wrong Harvey?

HARVEY

Nothing's wrong.

NANCY

You seem a little distracted.

HARVEY

I'm just hungry.

*HARVEY looks at his watch.*

NANCY

Why do you keep checking your watch? Are we paying for the room by the hour?

HARVEY

No, I just want to make sure we don't miss our dinner reservations.

NANCY

We have plenty of time.

HARVEY

Say, how about some champagne?

NANCY

Ah now you're talking. That's one of the things I've always liked about you Harvey – you're romantic.

HARVEY

I try.

NANCY

I sort of figured you'd show up with champagne and flowers.



HARVEY

Oh, crap.

NANCY

What?

HARVEY

The flowers. I forgot to pick up the flowers. I hope you're not disappointed.

NANCY

Of course not. You're nervous. I'm nervous.

HARVEY

You don't seem nervous.

NANCY

If I wasn't nervous do you think I would have left the house wearing two different coloured shoes?

HARVEY

How'd you do that?

NANCY

I got a run in my stockings and I had to make an emergency stop at the drug store.

HARVEY

I don't get the connection.

NANCY

While I was standing in line to buy the stockings, I noticed I was wearing one black shoe and one blue shoe.

HARVEY

I do the same thing with my socks.

NANCY

It's a dark blue and these shoes are almost identical in style.

HARVEY

You just got them mixed up.

NANCY

Exactly, so I had to run home and change my stockings and find my other black shoe. That's why I was late.

HARVEY

Well you're here now – matching shoes and all – and that's the only thing that matters.

NANCY

Thank you.

HARVEY

I'm sorry about the flowers.

NANCY

It's okay. You brought champagne – that's something we can both enjoy.

HARVEY

I stopped by the Liquor Barn yesterday and picked up some of this North Woods Winter Wonderland Champagne. It's new and they have a special on right now. If you buy two you get their deal of the day.

*HARVEY crosses to his suitcase and pulls out a second bottle of champagne and brings it to the bar.*

NANCY

And you bought two. How nice. One for each of us. Did you bring straws or are we going to drink straight from the bottle?

HARVEY

Damn, I left the champagne glasses sitting on the kitchen counter.

NANCY

It's okay, we can make do.

HARVEY

I don't know where my head is tonight. I promise things will improve.

*NANCY walks over to the bar and retrieves two tumblers.*

NANCY

Things aren't going so bad, are they?

HARVEY

I just want this to be romantic and memorable.

NANCY

I'm sure it will. Do you remember the night Brian proposed to me?

HARVEY

How could I forget? He was so nervous I had to drive him to the restaurant.

NANCY

He thought it would be romantic to put the engagement ring in my champagne glass.

HARVEY

Well isn't it?

NANCY

Sure is, but when he wasn't looking, I took it out.

HARVEY

And then you downed your entire drink.

NANCY

Before he could ask me to marry him.

HARVEY

And there was no ring.

NANCY

He thought I'd swallowed it.

HARVEY

He did.

NANCY

Oh God, the look on his face.

HARVEY

He never tried that trick again.

NANCY

Was that terrible of me?

*NANCY and HARVEY laugh.*

HARVEY

Not at all. That's one of the reason's Brian loved you so much. You're a lot fun.

NANCY

You wouldn't be planning to try the same trick, would you?

HARVEY

What trick?

NANCY

An engagement ring in a glass of champagne.

HARVEY

No. That would be jumping the gun a bit, don't you think?

NANCY

We've known each other a long time. I don't think we'd have the same waiting period as if we'd just met.

HARVEY

So, best case scenario we fly to Vegas and get married on New Year's Eve?

NANCY

Of course not, but I think we owe it to ourselves to know where we both stand on this. I want you to know I'm not interested in a fling.

HARVEY

Neither am I.

NANCY

I like being married.

HARVEY

So, do I.

NANCY

It's the getting divorced I could do without.

HARVEY

I tried to warn you about Monty – more than once – but you wouldn't listen.

NANCY

I was lonely Harvey. If Brian hadn't died, I would have never gotten involved with Monty. You know that.

HARVEY

Well at least you won't have to share your home or your bed with that louse anymore – he's history.

NANCY

I wish that were true.

HARVEY

What do you mean you wish that were true?

NANCY

He called me this morning and said he'll only sign the divorce papers if I give him the motor home and the canoe. Can you believe that? He doesn't even like to go camping.

HARVEY

Good God Nancy, if he found out about us, he could make you renegotiate your settlement.

NANCY

I doubt that. He cheated on me.

HARVEY

Well thank God, I booked the suite under an alias.

NANCY

You did what?

HARVEY

I used an alias. Just to be safe.

NANCY

To be safe from what?

HARVEY

From gossip. I don't want any of our friends to know we're spending the night together. You haven't told anyone have you?

NANCY

I told my sister.

HARVEY

Well I hope your sister can keep a secret.

NANCY

What's it matter?

HARVEY

Because if we sleep together and it doesn't work out, I want to stay friends, don't you?

NANCY

Of course. But why keep it a secret?

HARVEY

Because if everyone knows about it and it doesn't work out we'll get those knowing looks. Poor Harvey. Poor Nancy. Too bad things didn't work out for them. Oh, we're having a little get together this weekend but if we invite Nancy – should we invite Harvey? Are they still friends?

Won't they feel awkward if we invite them both? And that's only the tip of the iceberg. People are gossips. Once something gets started who knows where it'll end up.

NANCY

Maybe you would be more comfortable if we'd gone to your place or mine?

HARVEY

Oh God no. That would have been a thousand times worse. I'm uncomfortable enough being here without being in the bedroom I shared with Irene or the bedroom you shared with Monty amongst others. No, this is much better.

NANCY

Oh dear, what if we see someone we know?

HARVEY

You're right – we probably shouldn't be seen coming out of our room together.

*HARVEY thinks for a moment.*

HARVEY

We'll take separate elevators.

NANCY

Well we came in separate vehicles. I don't see why we shouldn't take separate elevators. At dinner we can sit at separate tables. And tonight, we can sleep in separate beds.

*HARVEY grabs the champagne bottle and pops the cork and pours two glasses of champagne.*

HARVEY

Don't be so ridiculous.

NANCY

I'm ridiculous? You're the one creating secret identities.

HARVEY

Well, if anyone at the hotel asks, we're Nestor and Gertrude Hoffstader from Dusseldorf.

NANCY

Can we be European royalty separated by war?

*HARVEY and NANCY speak with German accents.*

HARVEY

I don't see why not.

NANCY

And we spent one incredibly passionate night together making love.

HARVEY

Before being tragically separated – never to see each other again.

NANCY

At the end of the war we ended up in Canada. (America)

HARVEY

And even though we searched high and low for one another our paths never crossed.

NANCY

Until the fickle finger of fate reunited us in a...

HARVEY

...donut shop.

NANCY

Why not!

HARVEY

In Winnipeg. (Pittsburgh)

NANCY

Why not!

HARVEY

Where we opened a European delicatessen.

NANCY

And sold Bavarian smoked sausage.

HARVEY

And apple strudel.

NANCY

And we lived –

HARVEY & NANCY

– happily ever after.

*HARVEY and NANCY have a good laugh.*

NANCY

Now that's romantic.

*HARVEY hands a glass of Champagne to NANCY.*

HARVEY

So, what shall we drink to?

NANCY

I don't know. How about possibilities?

HARVEY

I like that. To possibilities.

HARVEY & NANCY

Cheers!

*HARVEY and NANCY take a drink.*

HARVEY

Mmmmmm, rather unique, wouldn't you say?

NANCY

It's an unusual flavor combination that's for sure. Do you think it would taste better chilled?

*HARVEY checks his watch.*

HARVEY

Champagne always tastes better chilled.

NANCY

We need more ice.

HARVEY

More ice? You're right. That's a great idea. I'll go get more ice and you wait here.

NANCY

Don't be long, I wouldn't mind heading to the bar before supper.

*HARVEY grabs the ice bucket.*

HARVEY

I won't.

*HARVEY goes to leave but turns back towards NANCY.*

HARVEY

What a fool – I almost forgot to tell you about the secret knock.



NANCY

The secret knock?

HARVEY

Yes, so you know it's me at the door and not someone else.

NANCY

Who else would be knocking on our door?

HARVEY

In this day and age it could be a terrorist or a member of a Mexican Drug Cartel.

NANCY

We don't need a secret knock.

HARVEY

When Irene and I went on vacation and stayed in a hotel we always had a secret knock.

NANCY

So, if things work out between us – this is something I can look forward to?

HARVEY

One of many.

NANCY

Oh, goody.

HARVEY

Listen, I'll knock twice. You knock once. Then I'll knock once, and you knock twice. Got it?

NANCY

I knock twice.

HARVEY

No, no, I'll knock twice.

NANCY

Then I knock twice.

HARVEY

No. Then you knock once.

NANCY

You're confusing me.

HARVEY  
It's quite simple. I knock twice.

*HARVEY knocks on the wall.*

NANCY  
Then I knock once.

*NANCY knocks on the wall.*

HARVEY  
Right.

NANCY  
Then you knock once.

*HARVEY knocks on the wall.*

HARVEY  
Right.

NANCY  
And then I knock?

HARVEY  
Twice.

*NANCY knocks on the wall.*

HARVEY  
Right.

*MAN bangs on the wall from the next Hotel Suite.*

MAN (Other side of wall)  
Hey – do you mind!!!

HARVEY (Shouting)  
Sorry!

NANCY  
Oops.

HARVEY  
Okay, are we good?

NANCY

We're good.

*HARVEY gives NANCY a tender little kiss.*

HARVEY

I'll just be a second. You won't even notice I'm gone.

*HARVEY exits cautiously out the door checking to see if there is anyone else in the hallway. NANCY heads over to the gift basket and takes a look at the gingerbread house.*

**END SCENE**

**TRANSITION TELEVISION AUDIO**

**SFX: CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCERS UP**

**ANNOUNCER ONE**

Happy Holidays from everyone here at the Holiday Channel.

**ANNOUNCER TWO**

Stay tuned for our Hugs and Kisses Holiday Movie Marathon brought to you by North Woods Winter Wonderland Champagne.

**ANNOUNCER ONE**

All the unspoiled taste of the north with a hint of cranberry and pine.

**SCENE ii: THE CANDY CANE SUITE – DECEMBER 23 – MUCH LATER**

At rise: The assembled but mostly undecorated gingerbread house sits on the coffee table. The bag of caramel popcorn is open as is a small box of chocolates. NANCY is decorating the gingerbread house with gumdrops, gumballs, and candy canes.

*HARVEY knocks twice.*

*NANCY who is a little drunk makes her way to the door.*

*HARVEY knocks twice.*

*NANCY opens the door.*

*HARVEY is standing outside the door holding a pizza box.*

**HARVEY**

Don't open the door.

*HARVEY slams the door shut.*

**NANCY (Shouting)**

Why not?

**HARVEY (Off)**

Use the secret knock.

*HARVEY knocks on the door from the hallway twice.*

NANCY

Right, the secret knock.

*NANCY goes to knock then stops and thinks.*

*NANCY opens the door.*

NANCY

I don't remember the secret knock.

HARVEY

I told you not to open the door.

*HARVEY slams the door shut.*

*HARVEY knocks twice.*

*NANCY knocks twice.*

HARVEY (Off)

No, no, no, you knock once.

*NANCY opens the door.*

NANCY

I told you I don't remember the secret knock.

HARVEY

Stop opening the door!

NANCY

Don't you dare shout at me! You've been gone for almost an hour and then you show up with a pizza! If anyone deserves to be upset it's me!

*HARVEY enters*

HARVEY

Don't you remember our secret knock? I knock twice.

*HARVEY knocks on the wall twice with force.*

HARVEY

Then you knock once.

*NANCY knocks on the wall with more force.*

HARVEY

Then I knock once.

*HARVEY knocks on the all once with more force.*

NANCY

And then I knock twice.

*NANCY pounds on the wall twice.*

*MAN bangs on the wall from the other hotel suite.*

MAN (Off)

Hey, knock it off in there – would ya!

HARVEY (Shouting)

Oh, knock it off yourself!

NANCY

Why don't you deliver the pizza next door? I'm sure that guy would like to know all about your secret knock.

HARVEY

Have you been drinking?

NANCY

I have. Care to join me?

HARVEY

Exactly how much have you had?

NANCY

Enough to tell you that if you don't strip down and get in that bed right now, I'm leaving. Come on.

*NANCY starts tugging at HARVEY's shirt.*

NANCY

Off with the shirt.

HARVEY

Is this really how you want our first time to be?

NANCY

I decided that if you ever made it back to our room, I'd try the direct approach. This is the direct approach.

*NANCY continues to pull at HARVEY's shirt.*

HARVEY

Nancy, stop it.

NANCY

Come on.

HARVEY

Stop it. That tickles. Stop.

NANCY

Quit squirming.

HARVEY

Don't. I'll drop the pizza. Quit it. Stop.

*HARVEY breaks free and the two chase each other about the room.*

NANCY

What's wrong Harvey? Most men would be happy to have a woman chasing them around a hotel room.

HARVEY

Well, I'm not most men.

NANCY

That's becoming painfully apparent.

HARVEY

You said, we had the whole evening ahead of us.

NANCY

The evening is half gone. I'm trying to make up for lost time.

HARVEY

Well, I'm not ready to jump into bed yet – I need to freshen up.

*HARVEY dashes to the bathroom and slams the door shut.*

*NANCY crosses to the bathroom.*

NANCY

Are you going to be long Harvey?

HARVEY (Off)

I'll come out when you promise to behave yourself.

NANCY

I thought men liked women to take the initiative.

HARVEY (Off)

Maybe I'm old fashioned but I'd like to be the one initiating things.

NANCY

It'll be a little hard to initiate anything with you hiding in the bathroom.

HARVEY (Off)

I'm not hiding.

NANCY

Can you answer me one thing?

HARVEY (Off)

What?

NANCY

Where the hell did you go to get ice Harvey? Alaska.

HARVEY (Off)

I sent you a text.

NANCY

All it said was, "I'll explain when I get back."

HARVEY (Off)

Well I'm back. And I'm explaining.

NANCY

Where the hell were you?

*The door opens a crack. HARVEY pokes his head out of the door but the rest of him stays inside the bathroom.*

HARVEY

I ran into my boss in the lobby.

NANCY

What were you doing in the lobby? And where the hell is the ice anyway?



HARVEY

I left the bucket on the ice machine because I went down to the lobby to meet Dave.

NANCY

What was your brother doing in the lobby?

HARVEY

Waiting for me.

NANCY

With your boss?

HARVEY

No.

NANCY

Why do you have a pizza?

HARVEY

I told my boss I deliver pizza part time. That's my cover.

NANCY

Your cover?

HARVEY

Exactly. Now you've got it.

NANCY

What have I got? I have no idea what you're talking about.

HARVEY

Well that's because you've been drinking.

NANCY

I'm not drunk.

HARVEY

Oh no? How many fingers am I holding up?

*HARVEY holds his hand up behind the door where NANCY can't see it.*

NANCY

How would I know how many fingers you're holding up? Would you get out of that bathroom and tell me where the hell you've been.

HARVEY

Are you going to behave?

NANCY

You owe me an explanation.

*HARVEY cautiously comes out of the bathroom.*

HARVEY

I do.

NANCY

Well?

HARVEY

When I went down to the lobby to meet Dave I ran into Cybil.

NANCY

Your boss.

HARVEY

Right. She was with her husband. His company was having their Christmas party and they invited me in for a drink.

NANCY

Let me get this straight. You went to a Christmas party and left me waiting up here alone in the room.

HARVEY

Yeah, sorry about that, but I couldn't risk blowing my cover.

NANCY

Again, with the cover.

HARVEY

Well, Cybil asked me what I was doing here at the inn and I told her I had a part time job delivering pizza so she wouldn't find out I was here with you.

NANCY

How does Dave fit into this?

HARVEY

I asked him to stop by and drop something off – and when I was talking to my boss – he came over and said hi.

NANCY

I still don't understand what took you so long.

HARVEY

My boss wanted to fix me up with one of her friends at the party and so introductions were made and we had a couple of dances.

NANCY

Oh, this gets even better – you got fixed up and went dancing – without me. What a lucky girl I am.

HARVEY

Relax, you've got nothing to worry about. This gal wasn't the least bit interested in me.

NANCY

Why were you interested in her?

HARVEY

Not at all. The only problem is now I'm going to have to see my boss after the holidays and tell her that her friend and I didn't hit it off. And then she'll say, "Oh that's too bad. I thought you and Claire would make a nice couple. But don't give up so fast. I'm having a little dinner party this weekend. Just a few friends. Would you like to come?" And so I'll go to the party and have an awkward evening but even so Claire will be there and we'll both feel obligated to start going out because we've been introduced by my boss and her best friend and then one thing will lead to another and we'll end up getting married even though we have nothing in common and suddenly ten years will go by and I'll realize I'm in a loveless marriage and we'll end up sleeping in separate beds and taking separate vacations and all the time I'll be thinking – I wonder what my life would have been like with Nancy? If only we'd slept together and found out. If only I'd been man enough to make love to her that night in the Candy Cane Suite at the Prairie Dog Inn.

NANCY

Well now's your chance Harvey. What are you waiting for?

HARVEY

For a little help.

NANCY

I'll help you – just tell me what you need.

HARVEY

It's not that kind of help.

NANCY

What kind of help is it?

HARVEY  
I'm talking about the little blue pill

NANCY  
You mean Viagra?

HARVEY  
That's the real reason Dave was here.

NANCY  
To give you Viagra.

HARVEY  
Yes.

NANCY  
Why didn't you say so?

HARVEY  
Because it's embarrassing and I didn't want you to think I needed Viagra to perform in case you took it the wrong way.

NANCY  
You have no reason to be embarrassed. Lots of men need a little help now and then.

HARVEY  
This is a first for me.

NANCY  
Oh Harvey, come here.

*NANCY gives HARVEY a hug.*

NANCY  
That still doesn't explain why you actually got a pizza.

HARVEY  
I was worried I might run into Cybil again so I thought if I went across the street and bought a pizza I could just say I was making another delivery. It's your favourite. Peperoni, pineapple, and pepper. And best of all, it's their half price Christmas week special – so it was good deal.

NANCY  
You should have called. I left two voicemails.

HARVEY

I'm sorry I took so long but how was I supposed to know my boss was here. It's just one thing led to another and before I knew it things got out of control.

NANCY

Well do you think you could keep things under control for the rest of the night.

HARVEY

You bet. No problem. My pizza delivering days are finished.

NANCY

Alright, you're forgiven.

HARVEY

Thank you.

*HARVEY gives NANCY a big hug.*

HARVEY

So, what have you been doing?

NANCY

I worked on the gingerbread house.

HARVEY

I'm impressed.

NANCY

I watched some TV. I drank half the gin. I've been snacking on popcorn and chocolates. Mostly I've just been waiting for you to get back so we could go to dinner.

HARVEY

I want to make this up to you. How would you like a dozen roses?

NANCY

I don't need any roses.

HARVEY

I know you don't need them, but it might be a good way to restart the evening. They have flowers in the gift shop.

NANCY

Forget the roses. I'm hungry. Let's go grab an appetizer and drink at the bar before dinner.

HARVEY

Don't you think you've had enough?

NANCY

No, and you have some catching up to do. I'm at least two up on you now.

HARVEY

I'm just not sure it's a good idea to go to the bar.

NANCY

Why not?

HARVEY

Somebody might see us.

NANCY

So what? If somebody sees us at the bar it doesn't mean they're going to think we're spending the night at the hotel.

HARVEY

I'm not so sure about that.

NANCY

If it bothers you that much we can get a booth at the back where no one will see us. If you want we can take separate elevators and I'll meet you there. I'll even go first.

HARVEY

Tell you what – why don't you go down and get yourself an appetizer at the bar and I'll meet you in the restaurant later.

NANCY

Would you rather we stayed in our room and had a drink here?

HARVEY

If you're hungry we've got pizza.

NANCY

I don't want pizza.

HARVEY

What if we ordered something from room service?

NANCY

What about our reservations?

HARVEY

I can cancel our reservations.

NANCY

I was looking forward to going out.

HARVEY

Wouldn't it be more fun to stay in?

*HARVEY comes up behind NANCY and puts his arms around her.*

HARVEY

We could eat in our room and drink wine and cuddle on the sofa – and even neck if we wanted to.

*HARVEY nibbles her neck.*

NANCY

And if we go to the restaurant – instead of being able to relax and have a nice time – you're going to be worrying about someone seeing us.

HARVEY

I'm so glad you understand. I think we'd both feel a lot more comfortable just staying in our room and having dinner here. Besides if we go to the restaurant we're both going to be thinking about coming back to the room and making love. This way we're already here and we can enjoy each other's company and let things happen naturally.

NANCY

Alright Harvey let's order dinner – have some wine – and see where things go.

HARVEY

Thank you!

NANCY

But Harvey, this is a one-time exception. If we're going to start seeing each other I'm not going to keep our relationship a secret.

HARVEY

Of course not.

NANCY

I'm serious. That's a deal breaker for me. If we're going to be a couple then we're not going to hide it from the world.

HARVEY

Why would we?

*HARVEY picks up the room service menu.*

NANCY

I just want to be clear on that point.

HARVEY

Hey look at this. They've got the Under the Mistletoe Dinner for Two. It comes with wine, your choice of entrée, and chocolate covered strawberries for dessert.

NANCY

That sounds promising. I'm in.

HARVEY

Fantastic. Do you want the Thai Turkey in Tangerine Sauce or the Turkey Tacos with Cranberry Salsa?

NANCY

The Thai Turkey.

HARVEY

I'll have the same. Do you want to call room service and order dinner while I go get some ice for the champagne?

NANCY

You won't disappear on me again, will you?

HARVEY

I'll only be a minute. You won't even notice I'm gone. I know things have gone a little sideways tonight, but I'll make it up to you – I promise.

*HARVEY kisses NANCY warmly before heading out to get ice.*

**END SCENE**



**TRANSITION TELEVISION AUDIO**

**SFX: CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCERS UP**

**ANNOUNCER ONE**

Season's greetings from everyone here at the Holiday Channel.

**ANNOUNCER TWO**

This portion of our Hugs and Kisses Holiday Movie Marathon is brought to you by Snow Angel Collectable Christmas Ornaments.

**ANNOUNCER ONE**

Right now save 50% on all remaining collectables including our exclusive line of Woodland Critters and Hockey Hero's

**ANNOUNCER TWO**

Buy any three and receive the limited-edition Gretzky and the Cougar absolutely free.

**SCENE iii: THE CANDY CANE SUITE – DECEMBER 23 – LATER STILL**

At rise: The gingerbread house is mostly decorated. Dinner has arrived. Lids cover the plates in order to keep the food warm. NANCY is drinking wine and eating the chocolate covered strawberries that came with dinner.

**SFX: TELEVISION AUDIO CONTINUES ON THE TELEVISION**

*HARVEY knocks twice at the door from the hallway.*

*NANCY looks at the door. She doesn't move.*

*HARVEY knocks twice.*

*NANCY turns off the television, grabs her wine glass and crosses to the door and opens it.*

*HARVEY stands in the hallway holding a pizza box.*

**NANCY**

Oh goody, another pizza.

**HARVEY**

Why aren't you using the secret knock? What if I'd been a terrorist or worse?

NANCY

What's worse than a terrorist?

HARVEY

A vacuum salesman.

NANCY

Ha jokes on you. I could use a new vacuum.

HARVEY

I wanted to get you some flowers.

NANCY

But instead you got more pizza. Wow thanks. So, what's your excuse this time? Did you go dancing?

HARVEY

Hardly.

*HARVEY enters the hotel room.*

NANCY

Because it's okay if you did. I mean clearly you're not interested Harvey otherwise you wouldn't keep running off and leaving me alone.

HARVEY

I was trying to sneak down to the gift shop to get you some flowers when my boss came out of the ballroom with a bunch of people.

NANCY

Did she really?

HARVEY

Yes, and she invited me to her Christmas open house tomorrow afternoon.

NANCY

Oh goody, maybe Claire will be there. You did mention something about seeing her again and getting married.

HARVEY

I don't want to marry Claire.

NANCY

You can bring her some pizza and show her how much you care about her.

HARVEY

I was only gone for ten minutes. Okay fifteen. Twenty maybe. Thirty tops.

NANCY

Would you like a new watch for Christmas? Yours seems to be broken.

HARVEY

I couldn't very well go to the gift shop – buy a dozen roses – and come up here with my boss watching. If she found out the truth now she'd think I was a complete idiot.

NANCY

Sounds like your boss is a good judge of character.

HARVEY

I was trying to do something romantic.

NANCY

I almost left and went home.

HARVEY

I'm glad you didn't.

NANCY

Are you?

HARVEY

Absolutely, there's no way you should be driving in your condition.

NANCY

I'm not drunk. But you know what, maybe I should leave?

*NANCY crosses over to her suitcase and grabs it.*

HARVEY

I don't want you to leave.

NANCY

After running out on me twice why should I even listen to what you have to say?

*HARVEY blocks NANCY's exit*

HARVEY

Because we're friends. I was best man at your wedding. Our kids grew up together. When Irene got sick, you're the one I turned to. Doesn't that mean anything?

NANCY

That's what makes your behaviour so unforgiveable. You're my friend and your running out on me hurts. I don't need this kind of rejection. Not from you – not from anyone. Now move out of the way.

HARVEY

How typical. Things don't go your way and you just leave. Well go ahead, I'm not stopping you. If you're so willing to give up on us, maybe we shouldn't be together.

NANCY

Don't you dare play the victim. You owe me a proper apology, but instead you come in here defending your actions and bringing pizza.

HARVEY

You like pizza.

NANCY

That's not the point.

HARVEY

Well what is the point?

NANCY

Maybe you just don't have the guts to tell me you don't find me attractive. Maybe you'd rather be with someone else. Maybe you want a younger woman.

HARVEY

That's not true. I don't want a young attractive woman. I want you.

NANCY

Well you're certainly not acting like it. I know I'm not as young as I once was. I can see the wrinkles and the grey hair and the effects of gravity – I'm not blind. And I'm well aware that the older I get the fewer options I have and the less I can do. I don't like getting old. I hate that when I was thirty I ran six marathons and this year I could only run three. By the time I reach ninety I probably won't be able to run even one.

HARVEY

Hey, how many people our age are even running marathons? You're in great shape.

NANCY

You think so?

HARVEY

I know so. You're a knockout. That's why I wanted the Viagra. In case you felt like running a marathon. I was worried I might not be able to keep up with you and make it to the finish line.

NANCY

Harvey, sex isn't just about reaching the finish line.

HARVEY

What if I do something you don't like?

NANCY

As long as you don't eat crackers in bed, I think we'll be fine.

HARVEY

But you've had more lovers than I've had. Other than Irene and one regrettable night with my College English tutor I've never been with anyone else. You've had two husbands and at least three other serious relationships that I can remember. Do you blame me for feeling a little intimidated?

NANCY

You have no reason to be intimidated by any of my previous partners. You'll do fine. In fact, according to Irene you were pretty good between the sheets.

HARVEY

How would you know?

NANCY

She was my best friend. Don't you think we talked about more than shopping and the kids.

HARVEY

You talked about me?

NANCY

Of course, we did. She told me about her marriage, and I told her about mine. And after Brian died, I have to admit I was always a little bit jealous of you and Irene.

HARVEY

Jealous of us?

NANCY

You two had a happy marriage. Do you know how rare that is?

HARVEY

You and Brian had a happy marriage.

NANCY

We did, but Brian's been dead for ten years and I haven't been so lucky since.

HARVEY

Well maybe your luck will change. I'm still here and I'm still willing to give this another shot, if you are. What's one hour between two friends that have known each other their whole adult life?

NANCY

I don't know. It's just – this isn't going very well.

HARVEY

You could try and be a little more understanding and see things from my side you know.

NANCY

From your side?

HARVEY

You act like I'm doing this on purpose. I'm not. Don't you think I care about you? The whole time I was dancing with Claire all I could think about was you up here alone in the room.

NANCY

You have a strange way of apologizing.

HARVEY

Well, maybe the reason I'm running out of here is because you're being too aggressive. Did you ever think of that?

NANCY

You think I'm being too aggressive? Well did you ever think that maybe you're not being aggressive enough?

HARVEY

Well what is it you want Nancy? A quick roll in the hay or something more.

NANCY

I told you I don't want a fling.

HARVEY

And neither do I. I don't want sex. Sex is just a basic biological urge. I want to make love. Making love is an emotional response. Is there anything in the world that can cause you more joy or more pain than love?

NANCY

Have you tried childbirth?

HARVEY

Oh, for Christ's sake Nancy – the childbirth argument. That's hardly fair.

NANCY

I was joking. Why are you getting so upset?

HARVEY

Because no matter what I say now I'll look like a jerk.

NANCY

Well, you're certainly acting like one.

*NANCY grabs her package of cigarettes.*

HARVEY

You take that back.

NANCY

Take that back? What are you five years old?

*NANCY takes out her lighter.*

HARVEY

You're not going to light that, are you?

NANCY

Why not? I have a right to smoke if I want to.

HARVEY

Not in here. This is a non-smoking room.

NANCY

Not for long.

*HARVEY grabs the package of cigarettes.*

NANCY

Hey! Give those back.

HARVEY

No way.

NANCY

Is this really your idea of a romantic evening?

*NANCY chases HARVEY around the room trying to retrieve the cigarettes.*

HARVEY

Well I'm sorry I'm not very good at this sort of thing but I'm a little out of practice. The last time I was single and available Pierre Trudeau was Prime Minister. (Reagan was President)

*HARVEY and NANCY break away from each other.*

NANCY

Give me my cigarettes.

HARVEY

No way. I'm not going to let you smoke another one of these cancer sticks. How dare you light up again after all these years! I've lost too many friends and family to cancer to stand by while you smoke yourself to death.

*HARVEY crushes the cigarettes and throws them in the garbage.*

NANCY

Wow. Look at you. You're finally showing a little backbone and confidence – maybe I should hang around and see what happens.

HARVEY

Jesus Nancy, that's a nice thing to say.

NANCY

Well for Christ's sake Harvey, I think I've been more than patient. The only reason I'm still here and not curled up on the sofa at home with a good book is because I know what kind of person you really are in spite of your ridiculous behaviour tonight. You're one of my dearest friends and one of the nicest people I know. And I love you and I want you to be happy and I think we could really be good together. Don't you?

HARVEY

If it will make you feel any better I probably wouldn't be acting this way if it was anyone else but you.

NANCY

That doesn't make me feel any better. What the hell is going on with you Harvey?

HARVEY

I'm sorry. It's just Irene's been gone for less than a year and I was worried people might think I'm rushing into something or God forbid that you and I had something going on before Irene died.

NANCY

Oh Harvey, what does it matter what other people think? It's not important. What is important – is that you live the life you want – because none of us knows how much time we've got.



*HARVEY twirls his wedding ring around with his right hand as he talks.*

HARVEY

That's easy for you to say you've had years to deal with Brian's death. This is all new to me.

NANCY

It took me a long time before I was ready to start seeing anyone after Brian died, but you and I aren't getting any younger – how much longer can we afford to wait? Something happened between us when we kissed at the end of Casablanca and if we don't take advantage of it now we may never get another chance.

HARVEY

You're right. I know lots of people are living longer than they have in the past but Irene didn't.

NANCY

Brian sure as hell didn't.

HARVEY

Who says we will?

NANCY

Exactly.

HARVEY

So, what am I waiting for?

NANCY

Beats me.

HARVEY

Alright, lets do this thing.

NANCY

Are you sure?

HARVEY

You bet! Time to take action.

NANCY

Time to free ourselves from all our inhibitions.

HARVEY

My inhibitions are gone!

*HARVEY throws off his jacket.*

NANCY

We'll free ourselves from all our fears!

HARVEY

My fears are gone!

*HARVEY unbuckles his pants and they fall to the ground leaving him standing in his boxers.*

NANCY

Come on Harvey let's be free. Let's be uninhibited!

HARVEY

You bet.

*HARVEY and NANCY jump onto the bed.*

NANCY

Kiss me.

*HARVEY kisses her.*

NANCY

Oh, Harvey.

HARVEY

Oh, Nancy.

*HARVEY and NANCY roll around on the bed kissing.*

NANCY

Come on Harvey, it's time to mount up.

HARVEY

Time to get back in the saddle.

NANCY

Ride em cowboy!

HARVEY

Yahoo!

*HARVEY and NANCY's amorous activity runs out of steam and HARVEY rolls off NANCY.*

What is it Harvey?	NANCY
This isn't working.	HARVEY
What isn't working?	NANCY
This. Us. Junior.	HARVEY
Junior? Who the hell is Junior?	NANCY
You know.	HARVEY
You mean.	NANCY
Yeah.	HARVEY
Oh (Beat) Maybe it just takes a little longer for the pill to kick in.	NANCY
I haven't taken the pill.	HARVEY
You haven't taken the pill.	NANCY
No.	HARVEY
Why not?	NANCY
I didn't want to take it too soon.	HARVEY
Do you really think you need it?	NANCY

HARVEY

I wish I didn't but – things seem a little unresponsive tonight.

NANCY

It's not because of me, is it?

HARVEY

Oh, no it's not because of you. Don't you even think such a thing. You're beautiful. I'm just so on edge that I'm sure it's just performance anxiety.

NANCY

It's okay. It's okay. We're finally making some progress and that's good.

HARVEY

That's true – it's been half an hour and I haven't left the room

*NANCY and HARVEY laugh.*

NANCY

That is a good thing. So, new plan. You take the pill. And I'm going to go change into something a little more comfortable, and we'll see if we can't get this train wreck of an evening back on track.

HARVEY

You know what would really help me relax?

NANCY

A quart of bourbon and some marijuana.

HARVEY

No. A movie.

NANCY

I don't want to watch a movie.

HARVEY

We don't have to watch the whole thing. Just till the pill takes effect. Maybe we could watch the end of Casablanca and relive our first kiss – how does that sound?

*HARVEY grabs the Free Movie Coupon from the Gift Basket.*

NANCY

At this point, Harvey, I'm willing to try anything. If you want to watch Casablanca again, we can watch Casablanca. If you want me to pretend to be Peter Lorre, I'll do that. If you want me to cover myself in chocolate sprinkles and whipped cream with pineapples and strawberries and a cherry on top I'll do it. Whatever you want Harvey, I'm game.

*HARVEY picks up the control for the television.*

HARVEY

Okay – good to know – let the games begin.

NANCY

Now don't you dare leave this room. And for God sakes take the bloody pill.

*HARVEY hold the Viagra pill up.*

HARVEY

Here's looking at you kid.

*NANCY exits into the bathroom. HARVEY turns on the television.*

MALE ANNOUNCER

Welcome to a world of unlimited entertainment with the Prairie Dog Inn Video on Demand. Please select a menu.

*HARVEY pushes a button on the remote.*

MALE ANNOUNCER

You have selected our adult menu.

HARVEY

Damnit!

SFX: CHEESY ADULT FILM MUSIC PLAYS

FEMALE ANNOUNCER

Welcome to the Night Owl Adult Film service providing stimulating viewing for your adult pleasure. Please select a film or push the menu button to return to our main menu.

HARVEY

Ok, menu button. Menu button.

FEMALE ANNOUNCER

You have selected: A Naughty Night Before Triple X-MAS in vivid HD and surround sound.

*Startled by his movie choice HARVEY drops the VIAGRA on the carpet.*

HARVEY

Oh my God! Oh my God! Where the hell is it? Oh my God!

NANCY (Off)

Harvey, are you okay?

HARVEY

Yeah, yeah, uh I'm fine. I'm just really happy that's all. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

NANCY (Off)

Hallelujah!

FEMALE ANNOUNCER

A charge of \$19.95 will appear on your bill. Your movie will begin playing shortly.

SFX: RACY VERSION OF JINGLE BELLS

HARVEY

God damnit!

*HARVEY fumbles with the control and then hurries over to the television and turns it off. He picks up the hotel phone and dials the front desk while crawling on the floor and searching the carpet for the Viagra.*

HARVEY

Hello, this is Mr. Swanson in the Candy Cane Suite. Sorry, I meant Mr. Hoffstader. Good evening, Merry Christmas to you too. Listen I had a coupon for a free movie and...right I didn't put the code in but...Oh you can do it. Well actually I was calling because...no wait. Don't put me on hold. Wait. Damnit!

*NANCY enters wearing a sexy but tasteful negligée.*

NANCY

What the hell are you doing on the floor?

HARVEY

Oh, I knocked a gum drop off the gingerbread house and I can't find it.

NANCY

Forget the gingerbread house. How do I look?

HARVEY

Wow! You look incredible.

NANCY

You like it?

HARVEY

Do I like it? What can I say? Va-va-va-Voom!

NANCY

I take it you approve.

HARVEY

You look absolutely stunning. Only now I feel bad. All I brought were flannel pajamas.

NANCY

Well if things go well you won't need your pajamas. Did you order a movie?

HARVEY

Uh, no. I tried but I had a little problem with the remote.

NANCY

Here let me do it.

*NANCY picks up the remote. HARVEY moves in from of the TV to block NANCY's view.*

NANCY

Do you mind moving out of the way?

*NANCY turns on the TV.*

HARVEY

We don't have to watch a movie. We could play charades.

SFX: TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE XXXMAS IS PLAYING

NANCY

You said a movie would help you relax. I want you to relax.

*NANCY tries to see what's on the television screen as HARVEY continues to block her view.*

NANCY

Is that a reindeer?

*HARVEY looks behind him at the television.*

HARVEY

Uh no, I think that's a woman dressed up as a reindeer.

NANCY

Oh, look there's Santa. Is he giving the reindeer a candy cane?

HARVEY

That's not a candy cane.

*NANCY puts on her glasses. NANCY's eyes widen when she looks at the television.*

NANCY

Oh my. Good Lord. Do you think that thing's real?

*HARVEY moves to the side revealing the entire screen to NANCY.*

HARVEY

Well they say the camera adds ten pounds.

*AS NANCY and HARVEY watch the television they begin to tilt their heads in unison and then bend their whole torsos as they follow the action on the screen.*

NANCY

They look so young.

HARVEY

So virile.

NANCY

So muscular.

HARVEY

On my best day, I never looked that good.

NANCY

This is a fantasy Harvey. This isn't real life. That's not what real people look like when they make love.

HARVEY

I can't even relate to what we're watching. Can we please change the channel?

NANCY

How does the Yule log sound?

HARVEY

Sounds as pornographic as what we're watching.

*NANCY changes the channel to the Yule log.*

SFX: GENTLE SOUNDS OF A CRACKLING FIRE



HARVEY

I didn't mean to order that kind of film

NANCY

Oh, I've seen worse.

HARVEY

You watch that kind of stuff.

NANCY

That kind of stuff – no. But there are movies out there where the erotica is more romantic and realistic and in my opinion much more arousing. If you need something like that to help you Harvey, I want you to know, it's okay with me.

HARVEY

No, I'm good. I just can't believe how different things are from when we grew up.

*HARVEY is trying to look for the VIAGRA in the carpet without NANCY knowing.*

NANCY

You had to settle for the lingerie section of the SEARS catalogue.

HARVEY

No, I had an understanding father who gave me a copy of playboy. Cindy Fuller was the playmate of the month.

NANCY

What ever happened to Cindy Fuller?

HARVEY

No, idea.

NANCY

Lost touch?

HARVEY

Well, I discovered centre folds are no substitute for the real thing.

NANCY

Harvey, I'm the real thing. Stop horsing around and kiss me.

*NANCY crosses over to HARVEY*

HARVEY

I will

*HARVEY doesn't move.*

Hold me. NANCY

I will HARVEY

*HARVEY doesn't move.*

Make love to me. NANCY

I will. HARVEY

*HARVEY doesn't move.*

I'm waiting. NANCY

*HARVEY doesn't move.*

I'm trying. HARVEY

You haven't taken the pill yet – have you? NANCY (Softly)

No. HARVEY

Why not? NANCY

I dropped it on the floor. HARVEY

On purpose? NANCY

Why would I do it on purpose? HARVEY

NANCY

Harvey, I think if we were really meant to be together you wouldn't feel so weird about everything.

HARVEY

I'd be able to relax and let my mind and body go.

NANCY

And you probably wouldn't be running out of here to get ice, dancing with other women, and going across the street to order pizza.

HARVEY

I'm sorry, Nancy. I don't think I'm ready.

NANCY

When do you think you might be ready?

HARVEY

I don't know.

*NANCY tears up.*

HARVEY

Are you upset?

NANCY

Of course, I'm upset. I was hoping something magical would happen between us this evening. I had hoped this would be the beginning of our life together. You and me.

HARVEY

Oh, don't cry.

*HARVEY gets NANCY a tissue.*

NANCY

I can't help it. I had such a different idea about how tonight was going to turn out.

HARVEY

Please, don't hate me.

NANCY

I don't hate you. How could I hate you? Our friendship means just as much to me as it does to you. I don't want us sleeping together if it's going to ruin our relationship. I'd rather we remained...

...friends.

NANCY & HARVEY

Me too.

HARVEY

Some things just aren't meant to be, I guess.

NANCY

It's better this way.

HARVEY

Is it?

NANCY

I think so.

HARVEY

If you say so.

NANCY

I hope so.

HARVEY

I do love you.

NANCY

I love you too.

HARVEY

*Beat*

So, now what?

NANCY

We could finish the gingerbread house.

HARVEY

There's a box of crayons and a coloring book.

NANCY

We could still watch a movie and have some dinner.

HARVEY

NANCY

Maybe we should book two nights. I'm not sure we'll have time to finish the colouring book and the gingerbread house if we watch a movie.

*HARVEY and NANCY laugh.*

HARVEY

I'm sorry I was acting like such an idiot earlier.

NANCY

Well, when you're ready to move on I'm sure you'll find someone to share your life with just as special as Irene.

HARVEY

Thanks Nancy. You really are a good friend.

NANCY

You're a good friend too.

HARVEY

I just hope that when I do find someone they're as kind and understanding and beautiful as you.

NANCY

Oh Harvey, that's so sweet.

*HARVEY and NANCY hug. The hug lingers longer than just a friendly hug between friends. They part – look into each other's eyes and kiss.*

**END SCENE**

## TRANSITION TELEVISION AUDIO

### SFX: CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCERS UP

#### ANNOUNCER ONE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone here at the Holiday Channel.

#### ANNOUNCER TWO

This portion of our Hugs and Kisses Holiday Movie Marathon is brought to you by the Prairie Dog Inn. Your holiday headquarters for fun and frolic.

#### ANNOUNCER ONE

Ring in the New Year at the Prairie Dog Inn and receive a complementary facial in our spa with every overnight stay.

### SCENE iv: THE CANDY CANE SUITE – DECEMBER 24 – 8:30 A.M.

At Rise: It's the next morning and the bed has been the scene of a romantic night. NANCY POTTER is dressed, and her suitcase is packed. She picks up the Christmas ornament and smiles. She puts it in her suitcase.

*HARVEY knocks on the door twice from the hallway.*

*NANCY looks over at the door. She smiles and then crosses.*

*NANCY knocks on the door once.*

*HARVEY knocks on the door once.*

*NANCY knocks on the door twice. SHE opens the door. HARVEY dressed in a comfortable sweater and slacks is standing in the hall holding a dozen long stem roses.*

#### HARVEY

Morning beautiful. These are for you.

#### NANCY

What no pizza. I'm disappointed.

#### HARVEY

You are? I thought you'd had enough pizza.

*HARVEY goes to step in. NANCY stops him and points to the mistletoe.*

NANCY

Ah, not so fast. Mistletoe.

*HARVEY and NANCY kiss. HARVEY steps in and hands the roses to NANCY.*

NANCY

These are lovely, thank you.

HARVEY

It's the least I can do after everything I put you through last night. I'm so sorry.

NANCY

You're forgiven. Things worked out in the end.

HARVEY

They have haven't they. So, are you packed?

NANCY

Almost. What's on your agenda for the day?

HARVEY

Well, I've still got some shopping to do.

NANCY

Looking for some last-minute bargains?

HARVEY

Hey why pay full price when you can pay half. The only thing is it's Christmas Eve so the stores close early – and now that I promised my boss I'd drop by her open house this afternoon – it's going to be one crazy day. I probably should bring something.

NANCY

Why don't you take that extra bottle of Champagne?

HARVEY

You sure we shouldn't save it for New Year's Eve?

NANCY

I think your boss will enjoy it more.

HARVEY

Well speaking of New Year's Eve, I hope you don't mind but I went ahead and booked us the Polynesian Suite here at the Inn and got us tickets to the New Year's Eve Gala. The Hoffsteaders will be making a return visit.

NANCY (Clearly taken aback)

The Hoffsteaders?

HARVEY

Why not? I like the Hoffsteaders. And if we don't feel like spending the night in a crowded ballroom with a bunch of noisy people we can just celebrate New Year's Eve on our own – nobody has to even know we're here, but us. What-da-ya-say?

NANCY

You know what Harvey – maybe we shouldn't bother with New Year's Eve.

HARVEY

Why not? Didn't you have a good time last night?

NANCY

I did, but obviously I pushed you into something you weren't ready for.

HARVEY

Listen Nancy, I don't think it's too early in our relationship for me to tell you that I love you.

NANCY

Well I love you too.

HARVEY

No, I mean I love you. Not as a friend. I love you as in – I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

NANCY

You say that but I'm not seeing it.

HARVEY

What do you mean you're not seeing it? The only thing we didn't know about each other was what sort of lovers we'd make. Our making love changed things for me. Didn't it change things for you?

NANCY

Then what about the Hoffsteaders? About being afraid to have anyone see us together. The lies and the excuses and the not being ready to let go of the past.

HARVEY

Last night I wasn't ready. But this morning things are different.

NANCY

How are they different?



HARVEY

Irene's gone and nothing will bring her back and next year I'm turning sixty and I'm not sure how many more years I've got but I sure as hell know one thing. I want to spend them with you.

*HARVEY starts to remove his wedding ring.*

HARVEY

This is going to be harder than I thought.

NANCY

You don't have to do that.

HARVEY

But I do.

NANCY

Only if you're ready.

HARVEY

If I'm going to move on – then I have to do this.

*HARVEY removes his wedding ring with great emotion.*

NANCY

You okay.

HARVEY

No, not really.

NANCY

Is there anything I can do?

HARVEY

Just give me a second.

*HARVEY wipes a tear from his eye and puts the ring in his pocket.*

NANCY

Better?

HARVEY

Better

*NANCY and HARVEY hug.*

NANCY

So, now what?

HARVEY

I had ordered some breakfast from room service – has anything shown up?

NANCY

No. We still have pizza from last night and we never touched the Thai Turkey.

HARVEY

Why don't we go for breakfast in the restaurant? They have a two for one buffet until ten.

NANCY

And after breakfast?

HARVEY

I know we've both got busy days ahead of us, but I thought if you could work it into your schedule this afternoon – maybe you could join me at my boss's open house.

NANCY

Really? You're ready to go public?

HARVEY

No point waiting. You said it yourself.

NANCY

Said what?

HARVEY

That you should live the life you want no matter what other people think.

NANCY

Oh Harvey, I love you.

HARVEY

I love you too.

*NANCY and HARVEY kiss.*

**END PLAY**