

The Candy Cane Suite

Every love story can get a little off track.

A Romantic Comedy in One Act

by James Hutchison

Also available from 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 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.

The Candy Cane Suite – Every love story can get a little off track.
A Romantic Comedy in One Act by James Hutchison

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

ACT I

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

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

SETTINGS

ACT I

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 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: The Candy Cane Suite is part of the full-length play Under the Mistletoe

The Candy Cane Suite can be performed as a stand alone 60-minute one act play however it can be combined with *The Gingerbread Suite* which is another 60-minute play that takes place in the same hotel.

The Candy Cane Suite and *The Gingerbread Suite* are part of the full-length play – *Under the Mistletoe – Not every romantic evening goes as planned*. You can download *Under the Mistletoe* at www.jameshutchison.ca.

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

For Nicole

ACT ONE: 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.

It does.

HARVEY

The bunk beds are a nice touch.

NANCY

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.

HARVEY

That is romantic.

NANCY

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

HARVEY

HARVEY hands NANCY her drink.

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

NANCY

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

HARVEY

Cheers.

NANCY

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

What do you want to listen to?

HARVEY

Something to set the mood maybe.

NANCY

Alright.

HARVEY

HARVEY is having trouble with the remote.

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

HARVEY

Here, let me help.

NANCY

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.

I don't think I can do that.

HARVEY

Why not?

NANCY

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

HARVEY

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.

NANCY

That's true.

HARVEY

We love each other.

NANCY

As friends.

HARVEY

And maybe after tonight as something more.

NANCY

I sure hope so.

HARVEY

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

NANCY

What's that?

HARVEY

Who gets the top bunk?

NANCY

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

HARVEY

I like the room. It has character.

NANCY

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?

This is a non-smoking room.

HARVEY

How about if I step out on the balcony?

NANCY

On the balcony?

HARVEY

Yeah.

NANCY

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.

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

HARVEY

You don't mind?

NANCY

No, no, no you go ahead.

HARVEY

HARVEY pushes NANCY towards the balcony.

Hold on a second. I need my cigarettes.

NANCY

Sorry.

HARVEY

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

I won't be long.

NANCY

Take as long as you want.

HARVEY

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.

Oh, crap.
HARVEY

What?
NANCY

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

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

You don't seem nervous.
HARVEY

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

How'd you do that?
HARVEY

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

I don't get the connection.
HARVEY

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

I do the same thing with my socks.
HARVEY

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

You just got them mixed up.
HARVEY

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

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 of 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

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

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.

The secret knock?

NANCY

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

HARVEY

Who else would be knocking on our door?

NANCY

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

HARVEY

We don't need a secret knock.

NANCY

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

HARVEY

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

NANCY

One of many.

HARVEY

Oh, goody.

NANCY

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

HARVEY

I knock twice.

NANCY

No, no, I'll knock twice.

HARVEY

Then I knock twice.

NANCY

No. Then you knock once.

HARVEY

You're confusing me.

NANCY

It's quite simple. I knock twice.

HARVEY

HARVEY knocks on the wall.

Then I knock once.

NANCY

NANCY knocks on the wall.

Right.

HARVEY

Then you knock once.

NANCY

HARVEY knocks on the wall.

Right.

HARVEY

And then I knock?

NANCY

Twice.

HARVEY

NANCY knocks on the wall.

Right.

HARVEY

MAN bangs on the wall from the next Hotel Suite.

Hey – do you mind!!!

MAN (Other side of wall)

Sorry!

HARVEY (Shouting)

Oops.

NANCY

Okay, are we good?

HARVEY

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 wall 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.

Nancy, stop it. HARVEY

Come on. NANCY

Stop it. That tickles. Stop. HARVEY

Quit squirming. NANCY

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

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

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

Well, I'm not most men. HARVEY

That's becoming painfully apparent. NANCY

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

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

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

HARVEY dashes to the bathroom and slams the door shut.

NANCY crosses to the bathroom.

Are you going to be long Harvey? NANCY

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

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?

I'm talking about the little blue pill.

HARVEY

You mean Viagra?

NANCY

That's the real reason Dave was here.

HARVEY

To give you Viagra.

NANCY

Yes.

HARVEY

Why didn't you say so?

NANCY

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.

HARVEY

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

NANCY

This is a first for me.

HARVEY

Oh Harvey, come here.

NANCY

NANCY gives HARVEY a hug.

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

NANCY

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.

HARVEY

You should have called. I left two voicemails.

NANCY

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 you 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

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? Did you ever think that maybe you're not being aggressive enough?

HARVEY

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

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

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.

We'll free ourselves from all our fears!

NANCY

My fears are gone!

HARVEY

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

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

NANCY

You bet.

HARVEY

HARVEY and NANCY jump onto the bed.

Kiss me.

NANCY

HARVEY kisses her.

Oh, Harvey.

NANCY

Oh, Nancy.

HARVEY

HARVEY and NANCY roll around on the bed kissing.

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

NANCY

Time to get back in the saddle.

HARVEY

Ride em cowboy!

NANCY

Yahoo!

HARVEY

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

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 front 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 complimentary 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 Hoffstedeers 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

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

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