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# Cinder-Elfa

by R.J. Ryland

A Cinderella Classic for the Holidays

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# Cinder-Elfa

by R.J. Ryland

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Flexible Cast 29-35 + Extras  
Most Roles Gender Neutral  
Opportunities for Double Casting

**CINDER-ELFA:** *A kind and compassionate elf who works her fingers to the bone to please her mean step-mother and step-sisters.*

**STEPMA-ELF:** *Cinder-Elfa's mean stepmother with exceptionally large elf ears.*

**DRIZZ-ELFA:** *One of Cinder-Elfa's wicked step-sisters.*

**BLAND-ELFA:** *Cinderella's other wicked step-sister.*

**HOLLY:** *A mouse; one of Cinder-Elfa's best friends.*

**JOLLY:** *Also a mouse and another of Cinder-Elfa's best friends.*

**LUCIFER:** *The stepsisters' cat.*

**TINSEL:** *A Snowbird and close friend of Cinder-Elfa.*

**GARLAND:** *Another Snowbird and close friend of Cinder-Elfa.*

**MOUSE #1, MOUSE #2, MOUSE #3:** *More small friends.*

**BIRD #1, BIRD #2, BIRD #3:** *And more.*

**TOY SOLDIER:** *A toy created by Cinder-Elfa.*

**BALLERINA:** *Another of Cinder-Elfa's creations.*

**STUFFED RABBIT:** *A toy wrapped beneath the Christmas Tree.*

**HARLEQUIN:** *Another toy beneath the Christmas Tree.*

**ELFIN GODMOTHER:** *A magical elf, Cinder-Elfa's godmother.*

**SANTA:** *The red-coated spirit of the holiday season; hosting a holiday party and contest for the best Christmas gift for the children of the world.*

**ELF TIDINGS:** *Santa's personal courier who spreads the news.*

**6 ELF GUESTS:** *Presenting toys to Santa in hopes of winning the contest.*

**7 SMALL TOYS:** *Presented at the Holiday Party; Raggedy Ann & Andy, Jack-in-a-box, Tin Soldier, Baby Doll, Fire Truck & Alphabet Block. (May be double cast with MICE & BIRDS.)*

**OPTIONAL: ADDITIONAL MICE & BIRDS**

## **SETTING**

Cinder-Elfa's Cottage & Santa's House

## **PRODUCTION NOTE**

Various actions in the play are depicted through pantomime underscored by music. It is suggested that excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" are used for this purpose.

## **Cinder-Elfa**

by R.J. Ryland

### **ACT I SCENE 1**

**SETTING:**                    *THE SITTING ROOM IN CINDER-ELFA'S COTTAGE. Since her father died, her mean STEPMA-ELF and her two wicked Step-Elf sisters, DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA have taken over the cottage. There is a large stone fireplace Up Center with a rug in front and tools for cleaning and tending the fire. Slightly Down Right from the fireplace is a sitting area with two easy chairs and a lamp table with a floor-length cover. Down Right of the sitting area is a door leading off to the bedrooms with a large stand with a huge vase on top. Off Left of the fireplace is the kitchen. Under a decorated Christmas tree are two life-size toys, (Played by Actors), a BALLERINA DOLL and a TOY SOLDIER sitting on two, large half-painted blocks. Two more toys, a HARLEQUIN and a STUFFED RABBIT, (Also played by Actors), are neatly wrapped in decorative boxes with lids that open easily. There is another smaller gift box not wrapped containing a beautiful stick horse prop. Left of the tree is a door leading to the cellar and Down Left a door leading to the outside. Nearby stands a bench for removing shoes and boots.*

**AT RISE:**                    *CINDER-ELFA's mice friends, HOLLY and JOLLY enter from a hole in the wall near the sitting room, making fun of CINDER-ELFA's Step-elf sisters as THEY enter.*

HOLLY

*(Mocking DRIZZ-ELFA)* Oh, Bland-Elfy, don't I look simply smashing in red? What?! Look at this spot! Oh, the shame! Oh, the humiliation! One of those disgusting rodent friends of Cinder-Elfy must have spilled paint on it! Cinder-Elfy! You come here this instance and scrub my coat spotless with your bare hands or I'll have you—

*CINDER-ELFA enters from the kitchen carrying a mop from cleaning the kitchen floor. SHE catches HOLLY making fun of DRIZZ-ELFA.*

CINDER-ELFA

Now, Holly, you know that's not polite making fun of Drizz-Elfa like that. She can't help it if she's—

JOLLY

Repulsive?

CINDER-ELFA

Jolly! Please be nice! I was searching for a much *gentler* word. We must all be kind to one another and work together if we're going to have our share of toys ready by Christmas. It's our responsibility to help Santa this time of year.

HOLLY

Work together?! Cinder-Elfy, we'd do anything for you—

JOLLY

*Anything!*

HOLLY

But those evil step-elf sisters of yours are not to be trusted. They know nothing of the meaning of work or kindness or respond... responsibly...

CINDER-ELFA

*(Helping)* Responsibility.

HOLLY

*Duty*, or any such thought to the liking!

JOLLY

*(Affectionately)* They're not like you, Cinder-Elfy.

HOLLY

There's no one like you.

CINDER-ELFA

But it's not their fault, Holly. Drizz-Elfa and Bland-Elfa are just...just...

JOLLY

Nauseating?

CINDER-ELFA

*(Gently admonishing JOLLY)* Lonely. And that makes them feel quite unhappy I should think.

JOLLY

They have Stepma-Elfy.

HOLLY

Yeah, she's about as sweet as icing in a rat trap.

CINDER-ELFA

And that's just my point. I have someone sweet and kind like you to talk to when I'm lonely.

JOLLY

Uh-uh- and *me*?

CINDER-ELFA

And you.

JOLLY

*(Blushing)* Ahhhhhh!

CINDER-ELFA

But I do wish I could make them happy. To put one pleasant smile on their unfortunate faces. And Stepma-Elfa! Well, she's the saddest of all. Perhaps she has nothing to look forward to. Nothing to dream upon.

HOLLY

But the way they treat you, Cinder-Elfy! Doesn't it make you sad?

CINDER-ELFA

Sometimes. But when it's late at night, and quiet and peaceful, I can slip away into my dreams where nothing can harm me and life is enchanting and filled with grace, like it was when Papa was alive.

*CINDER-ELFA begins to dance dreamily with her mop, humming a tune.*

*DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA enter accompanied by their cat, LUCIFER. HOLLY and JOLLY scamper away.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

Oh, what a spectacle you make of yourself, Cinder-Elfa. So, now, if you can tear yourself away from those *filthy* friends of yours, I'll have my tea by the fire *immediately!*

BLAND-ELFA

And mine, too! And be quick about it! I haven't all day!

*CINDER-ELFA scrambles to the kitchen for the tea.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

Did you see the way she was carrying on? Singing!

BLAND-ELFA

And *dancing!*

DRIZZ-ELFA

With a *mop* no less.

BLAND-ELFA

A real *stiff!*

DRIZZ-ELFA

The only dance partner she'll ever get!

BLAND-ELFA

And playing with those dreadful creatures!

DRIZZ-ELFA

Well, I'll have none of it! I'm going to tell Mamma-Elf all about it! I don't intend to be subjected to such a scene in my own cottage! Isn't that right, Lucifer?

LUCIFER

Grrrrr. Hisssss. (*Under breath*) Never again! Tear her eyes out!

*CINDER-ELFA enters with the tea tray.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

Well! It's about time you got here, little miss Cinderseat! I told you *three* minutes ago I'd have my tea!

*CINDER-ELFA begins to serve her step-sisters as they order her about.*

BLAND-ELFA

Fetch me my cloak, Cinder-Elfa, I have a chill.

DRIZZ-ELFA

The cinders in the fireplace need tending!

BLAND-ELFA

You *are* a sorry sight, Cinder-Elfa!

*LUCIFER paws DRIZZ-ELFA.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

I thought I told you to feed Lucifer!

BLAND-ELFA

My cloak!

DRIZZ-ELFA

The fire!

BLAND-ELFA

I'm cold!

DRIZZ-ELFA

Lucifer's dinner!

LUCIFER

Snarl! Hissss!

*CINDER-ELFA doesn't know which way to go and ends up spilling the tea just as STEPMA-ELF enters in a huff.*

STEPMA-ELF

Cinder-Elfa! What is the meaning of this commotion?! First I find these half-finished blocks under your cot and now this?! (*Refers to the spilled tea*) I thought I told you to paint the blocks— *all* the blocks! Don't you know that Christmas is only weeks away? What will Santa think if we have nothing to show for all our time and hard work but a bag of half-painted blocks?!

CINDER-ELFA

But, Stepma-Elf, (*Referring to toys under the tree*) I finished this beautiful Ballerina doll and the Toy Solder. And last week I—

STEPMA-ELF

What of it?! And why is that tray still on the floor? Pick it up, you ungrateful half-wit, and get back to work! I should have set you out in the ice when your father died!

DRIZZ-ELFA

(*Running to HER MOTHER*) Oh, Mamma-Elf! You should have seen what Cinder-Elfa was doing when she should have been working! She was *singing*, Mamma-Elf. Like a common dwarf!

BLAND-ELFA

She's not to be trusted, Mamma-Elf. She'll disgrace us all! And more than that— she's plotting to *kill* me! I've come down with the awfulest chill and Cinder-Elfa refused to comfort me! Ah-choo!

*CINDER-ELFA offers her cloak which  
BLAND-ELFA shoves aside.*

BLAND-ELFA, *Continued*

You'll not appease me *that* easily.

STEPMA-ELF

Finish your work, Cinder-Elfa. And clean up this mess! (*To DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA*) Come, my darlings, my perfect angels. I see no reason for you to be further subjected to such insolence!

*OFFSTAGE come a rush of sleigh bells.  
JOLLY and MOUSE #1 peer out from  
under the table skirt next to the fireplace  
to see what is happening.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

What can that be, Mamma-Elf?

STEPMA-ELF

Sleigh bells, you oaf.

*There is a knock on the door.*

BLAND-ELFA

Someone's knocking, Mamma-Elf.

STEPMA-ELF

(*Referencing her ears*) I have ears, you idiot! (*To CINDER-ELFA*) Open the door, fool.

*CINDER-ELFA crosses to the door and opens it. A smartly dressed elf, ELF-TIDINGS, one of SANTA's main couriers, enters with much importance.*

CINDER-ELFA

*(Curtsyng)* Welcome, sir.

STEPMA-ELF

Speak up. What is your business?

ELF-TIDINGS

I am Elf-Tidings, Santa's personal courier. I carry news of great importance.

DRIZZ-ELFA

It's Santa's personal courier, Mamma-Elf!

STEPMA-ELF

I have ears. *(To ELF-TIDINGS)* You will forgive my daughter's manners, dear man. We welcome you to our humble but productive cottage. You have news for us from Santa? Of course, we were expecting Santa to take notice of us any day now.

BLAND-ELFA

We were?

STEPMA-ELF

*(Stomping on BLAND-ELFA's foot)* Quiet! *(To ELF-TIDINGS)* We were in the village yesterday when Santa was being fitted for his new wire-rimmed glasses. I heard he was taking names of elves worthy of working in his toy shop. I suggested my talented, industrious daughters, Drizz-Elfa and Bland-Elfa. I could tell in an instance he took a particular interest in them.

ELF-TIDINGS

*(Lowering his own glasses and looking intently at the two)* Well, yes, I see. Santa did mention losing his glasses and having a difficult time seeing. Whatever the case, I've been sent by Santa to spread the news that, in light of all the worthy, hardworking elves at the Pole, a contest will be held among the youngest and most creative to determine which one will be selected to work in Santa's shop to replace old Elf Hammer-Head who retired last week.

DRIZZ-ELFA

*A contest?*

ELF-TIDINGS

Yes, a contest. Santa has extended an invitation to all bright young elves in the village and throughout the countryside to a party at his home tonight. They are to bring their best work, their greatest gift to the children of the world. The elf judged the best toy-maker will not only become one of Santa's helpers, but will have the honor of riding with him on his sleigh delivering presents this Christmas Eve.

DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA

*(Stumbling over one another with excitement)* Oh, Mamma-Elf! Did you hear that?! On Santa's sleigh! This very Christmas Eve!

STEPMA-ELF

I have ears! *(To ELF-TIDINGS)* Ah-hem! Did Santa mention any, uh, age limit on those who may enter the contest? *(Taking ELF-TIDING aside, referring to DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA)* These aren't really my daughters. I'm their older sister. They just call me Mamma-Elf because they're a little dense, if you know what I mean, and I must work so hard to care for them.

DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA

Mamma-Elf!

STEPMA-ELF

Quiet!

ELF-TIDINGS

I've delivered the message as intended. It is neither here nor there for me who attends.

CINDER-ELFA

*(Who has been standing nearby silently listening)* Even a simple elf like me?

BLAND-ELFA

A filthy little wretch like you?!

ELF-TIDINGS

Any elf smaller than me should be welcome.

*MAMMA-ELF bends her knees and  
"shrinks" herself in response.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

But she's only a cottage-keeper, an elf slave!

ELF-TIDINGS

I don't make the rules, I only spread the proclamations. I have many more shops and cottages to visit, and so, my dear elves, ado.

*ELF-TIDINGS begins to exit as  
STEPMA-ELF grabs him from behind.*

STEPMA-ELF

You needn't bother. Go back and tell Santa you've found the perfect elves from amongst us—not that wrangly one there (*Referring to CINDER-ELFA*). Between my dear, ah-hem, *sisters*, Drizz-Elfa, Bland-Elfa – and me...although I'm sure the choice will be most difficult.

ELF-TIDINGS

Difficult, perhaps. *Painful* to be sure!

*HE exits. STEPMA-ELF immediately  
turns on CINDER-ELFA.*

STEPMA-ELF

You impudent little scamp! How dare you embarrass me in front of Santa's personal courier?!

DRIZZ-ELFA

You would think he was talking to you!

CINDER-ELFA

But the invitation was meant for all—

BLAND-ELFA

And just when do you think you'll find time to create a suitable gift for Santa's contest?

CINDER-ELFA

I have the Ballerina doll and I just put the last gold buttons on the Toy Soldier. And there's the stuffed rabbit and the—

STEPMA-ELF

Enough! Those toys belong to your stepsisters who deserve this honor!

CINDER-ELFA

But I created them with my own two hands.

STEPMA-ELF

In *my* cottage—

CINDER-ELFA

With my father's tools—

STEPMA-ELF

At my command! Not another word! Now finish cleaning up this mess and tend to your sisters' needs. And when we have no further use of you, paint your blocks and drag them to the contest if you dare.

DRIZZ-ELFA

Oh, yes, Cinder-Elfa. How enchanting you'll look in your ragged little coat presenting those pitiful-looking blocks to Santa himself.

BLAND-ELFA

Oh, yes, he's sure to notice a *Blockhead* like you!

*THEY laugh. JOLLY and MOUSE #1 slip off unnoticed. LUCIFER growls at CINDER-ELFA then settles down next to the fire.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

What will you take to the party, Bland-Elfa?

BLAND-ELFA

Well, I was considering the Toy Soldier. He does look smart in his red jacket and yellow pants. And you?

DRIZZ-ELFA

The new wind-up Ballerina doll, I think. The one Cinderella spent months perfecting.

STEPMA-ELF

Excellent girls! Excellent!

BLAND-ELFA

Mamma-Elf, your green scarf would be just the thing I need to stand out front the other elves.

STEPMA-ELFA

You do lack color, Bland-Elfa. I noticed it the day you were born. *(Removing her scarf, placing it on the table near LUCIFER)*

DRIZZ-ELFA

What about me?

STEPMA-ELFA

*(Begins to exit)* Let's see what else is left in Cinder-Elfa's hope chest. *(Exits)*

*DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA giggle with excitement and quickly follow out. LUCIFER growls at CINDER-ELFA as she picks up the tea tray and exits to the kitchen.*

*LIGHTS OUT.*

**ACT I**  
**SCENE 2**

AT RISE: *JOLLY, TINSEL and GARLAND enter from the door leading to the basement. OTHER MICE and BIRDS creep out from various nooks and crannies.*

JOLLY

*(Excitedly)* –And if she gets her work done she can go to the party!

TINSEL

*If she has something special to show. Those blocks under the tree will never do. Even if she paints them. (Pause)* Garland, do you remember the Teddy Bear left over from last year?

GARLAND

The one in Drizz-Elfy's room?

TINSEL

That's the one. Drizz-Elfy used to sleep with it till she got tired of it and threw it under the bed. I know some of you *(Looking around)* made nests in the stuffing. *(THEY respond)* But I think we can fix it. Can you get it?

GARLAND

I'll need help.

MOUSE #1

That would be me!

MOUSE #2

*(Admitting)* I made a nest in its eye. It's the least I can do.

TINSEL

Good. Get going.

*GARLAND and MOUSE #1 and MOUSE #2 exit.*

TINSEL

*(Continuing with the others)* Now, we'll need some wrapping paper.

MOUSE #3

I saw some tissue in the trash. Stepma-Elfy bought a new hat and it was stuffed in the lining.

TINSEL

Doesn't sound like much but if it's not wrinkled we'll make do. Get it.

*MOUSE #3 exits.*

TINSEL, *Continued*

Now, we need a box. A *big* box.

BIRD #1

Stepma-Elfy's new fur coat!

BIRD #2

It came in a box. A *big* box!

TINSEL

Can you lift it?

BIRD #1

We'll work together!

BIRD #2

Just like Cinder-Elfy taught us!

*BIRDS 1 & 2 exit.*

TINSEL

Good. Good. But we need a toy. We must have a toy.

*JOLLY Sees GARLAND, MOUSE #1 and  
MOUSE #2 coming with the TEDDY  
BEAR.*

JOLLY

Tinsel, look! Here they come!

*MOUSE #3 returns with the tissue as the  
BIRDS enter with the box. ALL jump and  
clap with anticipation as the MICE set  
the TEDDY BEAR on the chair and  
GARLAND lifts its head. Their faces fall.*

ALL

Ohhhhhhhh.

TINSEL

This is it?

GARLAND

That's it.

TINSEL

It will never do for Santa's party!

JOLLY

There must be something we can do to help our Cinder-Elfy!

GARLAND

But what?

MOUSE #4

It's hopeless.

JOLLY

My poor Cinder-Elfy!

*ALL except TINSEL begin chattering about the "hopeless" situation. Their voices become louder and louder.*

TINSEL

Shhhh! I must have quiet to think!

*OTHERS look on in desperation. Suddenly TINSEL snaps her fingers.*

TINSEL, *Continued*

That's it!

MOUSE #5

What's "it"?

TINSEL

Jolly, go get Holly. We need all the help we can get!

*JOLLY quickly exits.*

GARLAND

What are we going to do, Tinsel?

TINSEL

We're going to fix this bear! Better than new!

ALL

*(Astonished)* Us?!

TINSEL

Yes, *us!* We can do it! We just need a little stuffing here and there...

MOUSE #1

I'll chew a hole in Drizz-Elfy's pillow! *(Exits)*

BIRD #1

I know where there are some pretty buttons that will work for its eyes!

TINSEL

Fly! Fly!

*BIRD #1 exits.*

GARLAND

*(Examining the TEDDY BEAR'S head)* We'll have to sew his neck.

BIRD #2

*(Tugging on TINSEL's skirt)* There isn't much time.

TINSEL

*(To MOUSE #2)* Get some scissors! *(To BIRD #3)* Find some thread!

*MOUSE #2 and BIRD #3 exit.*

BIRD #2

*(Calls out to BIRD #3)* There's a spool beneath the featherbed! *(Exits)*

MOUSE #3

I saw a needle on the floor!

*MOUSE #3 immediately begins searching for the needle.*

TINSEL

Hurry! Hurry! We can't tarry! Got to help our Cinder-Elfy!

*MOUSE #3 finds the very large needle as the OTHERS – including HOLLY with HOLLY – enter with their respective items which include especially large scissors and thread.*

ALL

Cinder-Elfy! Cinder-Elfy! Cinder-Elfy!

*Now serious, The BIRDS and MICE set to work. TINSEL conducts the restoration of the Teddy Bear as if she was at the operating table.*

TINSEL

Cotton!

MOUSE #1

Cotton!

OTHERS

*(As TINSEL stuffs the cotton into the bear)* Cotton!

TINSEL

Buttons!

BIRD #1

Buttons!

OTHERS

*(As TINSEL hands the buttons to HOLLY and JOLLY to hold in place)* Buttons!

TINSEL

Needle and Thread!

*MOUSE #3 and BIRD #3 look at one another.*

TINSEL, *Continued*

I said NEEDLE AND THREAD!

*MOUSE #3 holds the needle as BIRD #3 tries to thread the needle. She fails. The room is tense. GARLAND mops TINSEL's forehead. BIRD #3 tries again. Once again she fails. The OTHERS look at TINSEL who is becoming increasingly irritated. BIRD #2 steps forward to encourage BIRD #3 and helps line up the thread. Success!*

MOUSE #3

*(Relieved; presenting the threaded needle)* Needle!

BIRD #3

*(Sheepishly)* And thread.

OTHERS

Needle and thread!

*TINSEL sets to work with the help of the OTHERS. After the needle has been passed back and forth several times TINSEL calls for scissors.*

TINSEL

Scissors!

MOUSE #2

*(Proudly)* Scissors!

*TINSEL takes the upper part of the handle and MOUSE #2 the lower and together they clip the thread at the button eyes and the mended tear. The OTHER MICE & BIRDS step back anxiously. When all is well, TINSEL reveals the Teddy Bear held by HOLLY and JOLLY. There are cheers and congratulations all around.*

ALL

*(Ad lib)* Yeah! We did it! How exciting! Amazing! I knew we could!

TINSEL

*(To MOUSE #1 & MOUSE #2)* Quickly, fetch Cinder-Elfy!

HOLLY

*(Examining the TEDDY BEAR)* Wait! *(THEY do)* Something's missing.

GARLAND

Missing?

HOLLY

It needs something around the neck.

TINSEL

*(Observing)* I think you're right.

BIRD #1

The wicked old Stepma-Elfy has a shiny green scarf.

BIRD #2

It belonged to Cinder-Elfy's real mother. It was meant for Cinder-Elfy

HOLLY

Then we'll give it to her!

MOUSE #1

I overheard Bland-Elfy say she plans to wear it to the party.

JOLLY

Oh, my poor Cinder-Elfy.

MOUSE #1

It's lying on the sitting room table next to Lucifer.

TINSEL

Can we get it?

HOLLY

Sure. Why not?

JOLLY

What about Lucifer?

HOLLY

*(To JOLLY)* I'll distract him while you get the scarf.

JOLLY

Oh, okay. You'll distract him while I- uh-uh- *What?!*

TINSEL

It's for our Cinder-Elfy.

OTHERS

*(Ad Lib, encouraging JOLLY, pleading)* Please! You can do it! It's for our Cinder-Elfy! You're not scared, are you? We'll be right there behind you! Come on, you can do it! She'd do the same for you! We need you! You can't let her down!

JOLLY

Well... uh-uh... All right!

OTHERS

Yeah!

TINSEL

We'll hide the bear till you get back.

GARLAND

Then we can all surprise our Cinder-Elfy!

HOLLY

Good! Let's go!

*TINSEL, GARLAND and THE OTHERS haul the TEDDY BEAR off as LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.*

## **ACT I SCENE 3**

AT RISE:

*A PANTOMIME: LUCIFER AND THE SHINY GREEN SCARF.*

*MUSIC underscores the action.*

*LUCIFER sleeps on the rug by the fire. JOLLY repeatedly crawls through the hole in the wall towards the fireplace only to have LUCIFER stir and frighten him away every time he gets close to the scarf.*

*HOLLY sneaks in from the kitchen and slides under the rug.*

*LUCIFER wakes up and begins to paw on the lump under the rug. Then LUCIFER crawls under the rug, only to become entangled in the rug.*

*HOLLY leaps out and JOLLY grabs the scarf.*

*LUCIFER untangles himself just as the two race off with the scarf.*

*Frustrated, LUCIFER stomps off.*

*MUSIC and LIGHTS OUT.*

**ACT I**  
**SCENE 4**

AT RISE:                    *LIGHTS LOW to indicate candlelight. MICE and BIRDS surround the TEDDY BEAR as TINSEL holds a candle for HOLLY and JOLLY to see to adjust the shiny green scarf about its neck. TINSEL holds a candle. MOUSE #1 and MOUSE #2 see CINDER-ELFA approaching.*

MOUSE #1 & MOUSE #2  
She's coming! Look! Cinder-Elfy's coming!

*TINSEL quickly blows out the candle while the OTHERS crowd around the TEDDY BEAR. CINDER-ELFA enters in the from the bedroom hallway. She is covered with even more smudges and dirt from helping her stepsisters. SHE lights the lamp on the table as she speaks.*

CINDER-ELFA  
Well, what's the use of a party at Santa's workshop? It's probably dull and silly and...and...absolutely magical! (*Sees the BIRDS and MICE*) What's this?

BIRDS AND MICE  
(*Jumping up, revealing the TEDDY BEAR*) Surprise!

CINDER-ELFA  
Oh, my!

JOLLY  
Uh-uh-uh...Happy New Year!

HOLLY  
No, no, no, no, no!

CINDER-ELFA  
Where did you get the—

TINSEL  
We fixed it up for you.

CINDER-ELFA

For me?

TINSEL

So you would have a gift to take to the party.

CINDER-ELFA

Oh my! Oh my! (*Picking up the TEDDY BEAR*) You did this for me? Oh, it's perfectly wonderful! (*Dancing with the TEDDY BEAR*) Thank you! Oh, thank you!

*The MICE and BIRDS dance with joy along with CINDER-ELFA. As they celebrate, STEPMA-ELF, DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA enter lead by LUCIFER who points at the TEDDY BEAR, gesturing at the scarf about its neck.*

STEPMA-ELF

What's going on here?!

*BIRDS and MICE scramble off.*

BLAND-ELFA

Mamma-Elf, look what she's done!

DRIZZ-ELFA

My bear!

STEPMA-ELF

My scarf!

BLAND-ELFA

The buttons from my slippers!

*As THEY tear the scarf, eyes and decorations from the TEDDY BEAR, CINDER-ELFA cries in anguish.*

CINDER-ELFA

No, no! Please don't! Please, no!

STEPMA-ELF

Silence, you thief! So, you thought you could get away with stealing from us for your own selfish needs? Well, what good did it do you?! Absolutely none I can see. (*To DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA.*) Come, my dear ones, it's time for Santa's party.

BLAND-ELFA

Coming, Mamma-Elf.

DRIZZ-ELFA

*(Shoving the destroyed TEDDY BEAR at CINDER-ELFA)* Your greatest gift to the children of the world!

BLAND-ELFA

As ragged and worthless as you!

*STEPMA-ELF, DRIZZ-ELFA and  
BLAND-ELFA exit.*

*CINDER-ELFA falls to her knees  
clutching the TEDDY BEAR and sobs. In  
the dimly lit room, TOYS around the  
Christmas tree awaken and slowly move  
towards CINDER-ELFA.*

BALLERINA DOLL

*(Gently)* Cinder-Elfa? Why do you sob so?

CINDER-ELFA

*(Startled)* What?! Who—

HARLEQUIN

Is there anything we can do?

TOY SOLDIER

It can't be *that* bad, can it?

CINDER-ELFA

*(Looking about her as the TOYS surround her)* I-I don't understand. How can you— You're toys!

BALLERINA DOLL

Even toys have a heart when they see someone else's breaking.

*CINDER-ELFA begins to sob  
uncontrollably.*

STUFFED RABBIT

Oh, Cinder-Elfa, please don't cry. If you cry so, I'm afraid you'll cause my own tears to fall.

*STUFFED RABBIT begins to cry.*

CINDER-ELFA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you cry. It's just that— that—

BALLERINA DOLL

What, Cinder-Elfa? We're your friends. We're here to help you.

TOY SOLDIER

*(Assuring)* We are.

HARLEQUIN

You can count on us, Cinder-Elfa. We'd never let you down.

CINDER-ELFA

I wanted so much to go to Santa's party and now I have nothing of my own to bring and no way to get there if I did.

STUFFED RABBIT

What about us?

CINDER-ELFA

Stepma-Elf has sent for a courier to take you to the party. *(Addressing all the TOYS)* You're to be Drizz-Elfa's and Bland-Elfa's gifts for the contest.

TOY SOLDIER

That hardly seems fair.

BALLERINA DOLL

Since when is "fair" a word one would choose in regards to Drizz-Elfa or Bland-Elfa?

TOY SOLDIER

I see what you mean.

HARLEQUIN

But there must be some way we can help her?

STUFFED RABBIT

Something we can do?

CINDER-ELFA

If only... If only... I wish— I wish—

*CINDER-ELFA'S ELFIN GODMOTHER appears. CINDER-ELFA and the TOYS recoil in fear.*

ELFIN GODMOTHER

My dear.

CINDER-ELFA

Who... Who are you?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Don't you know me? Well, perhaps not. But I thought I heard you calling me. I am your Elfin Godmother.

CINDER-ELFA

My Elfin *Godmother*?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Well, yes. That I am.

CINDER-ELFA

I was wishing– I mean... Elfin Godmothers aren't really *real*, are they?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Well, I'd have to pinch myself to be sure. (*Pinches herself*) Oh! My, my, my. Yes, yes, indeed. Real to be sure! (*Addressing TOYS who still look on apprehensively*) Come, come, my friends. What magic I have, I have shared with you for this special moment. See how you talk. See how you feel? You needn't hide yourselves from me.

CINDER-ELFA

Are you really my Elfin Godmother?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Your very own!

CINDER-ELFA

But, why are you here?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

I told you. You summoned me. You called my name in your heart and I was only a whisper away.

TOY SOLDIER

(*Advancing bravely*) Ah-hem! And you have *proof* of who you are?!

BALLERINA DOLL

(*Quickly venturing forward*) What my stolid friend here means is – well, if you are who you say you are, then you can make dreams come true?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

You could say that.

TOY SOLDIER

Well, then, maybe you could help Cinder-Elfa here. You see she has these horrible, lazy step-elf sisters—

HARLEQUIN

And the wickedest and cruelest Stepma-Elf you ever laid your eyes on—

STUFFED RABBIT

And she works herself to the bone to please them because that's just the way she is— kind and considerate—

BALLERINA DOLL

But she never can please them because they're mean and jealous and downright unhappy!

HARLEQUIN

And now Cinder-Elfa's been invited to a party, a Christmas Party, at Santa's very own workshop—

BALLERINA DOLL

And there's a contest for the best gift and the elf that wins gets to join Santa's workshop—

HARLEQUIN

And ride with Santa on his very own sleigh—

BALLERINA DOLL

On this very Christmas Eve—

STUFFED RABBIT

But Cinder-Elfa has nothing of her own to bring—

BALLERINA DOLL

And no way to get there if she did.

TOY SOLDIER

*(Who has been dying to speak)* –Soooo, if you *are* her Elfin Godmother, for Heaven's sake *help* her!

CINDER-ELFA

Please, you are all so kind, but an Elfin Godmother can't be bothered with such unimportant matters.

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Oh, my silly darling. There is nothing so important to me as you.

CINDER-ELFA

Really? I mean, are you sure?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Quite sure.

CINDER-ELFA

But how?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

All we need is a sleigh full of kind, cooperative toys, (*TOYS raise their hands and jump up and down*), a Santa-sized bag full of love and – (*Waves her wand*) – a little touch of magic.

*A PANTOMIME: CINDER-ELFA'S TRANSFORMATION.*

*MUSIC underscores the action.*

*The BALLERINA DOLL takes a bow from a package under the tree and places it in CINDER-ELFA's hair; The STUFFED RABBIT removes the red skirt from the tree and places it around CINDER-ELFA to form a cape; The HARLEQUIN "tears" the white fir trim from the bottom of his shirt and places it around CINDER-ELFA's neck like a scarf. Then he removes the fir at the bottom of his sleeves and places them at the top of her slippers; and The TOY SOLDIER retrieves a decorative Stick Horse from the unwrapped box under the tree and beckons for CINDER-ELFA to climb on.*

*MUSIC OUT.*

*The TOYS continue to pamper and adjust CINDER-ELFA's clothing.*

CINDER-ELFA

Haven't you forgotten something?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Hmmm, let's see. No, I don't think so.

CINDER-ELFA

My gift.

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Ah, yes, your gift. Well, I'm afraid you're on your own on that one. You'll find it the same place you found me. When you need it, it will be there.

CINDER-ELFA

When I need it, it will—

ELFIN-GODMOTHER

It will be there.

TOY SOLDIER

Cinder-Elfa, hurry now and take the lower road to avoid crossing paths with Stepma-Elf and those awful stepsisters of yours.

CINDER-ELFA

*(Unsure; to ELFIN GODMOTHER.)* I'll find it the same place I found you?

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Yes. But, Cinder-Elfa, you must return home before the last refrain of Jingle Bells. For at that moment, your coat will turn to tatters and your magical steed a pile of sawdust. Remember my words.

CINDER-ELFA

I won't forget. Thank you. Thank you again!

*CINDER-ELFA kisses her ELFIN  
GODMOTHER who blushes with delight.*

ELFIN GODMOTHER

Now hurry! Santa's waiting!

*CINDER-ELF rides off on her horse.  
as LIGHTS FADE OUT.*

*END ACT I.*

**INTERMISSION**

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 1**

SETTING: *SANTA'S HOUSE; the party in progress.*

AT RISE: *SANTA with ELF TIDINGS at his side, review the toys presented by the YOUNG ELF TOY-MAKERS.*

*A PANTOMIME: PRESENTATION OF THE TOYS.*

*MUSIC underscores the action.*

*As each ELF presents his/her toy, the TOYS move and perform, showing off the skills of their young ELF Toy makers. First, ELF#1 enters pulling RAGGEDY ANN and ANDY in a small wagon. ELF #1 stops just near SANTA. RAGGEDY ANN and ANDY tumble from the wagon and begin to perform a dance. ELF #2 enters pushing his JACK-IN-THE-BOX. in front of SANTA and cranking a lever on the side. Out pops JACK-IN-THE-BOX who moves forward and backwards and side to side to the delight of the guests. Next arrives ELF #3 with THE BABY DOLL in a stroller. As she approaches SANTA, she "lifts" THE BABY DOLL from the carriage, pulls a string on THE BABY DOLL's neck who begins to say Mamma and toddle about the room. ELF #4 proudly approaches with his LITTLE TIN SOLDIER. THE TIN SOLDIER marches and salutes with ELF #4 clapping and marching and saluting along with him. ELF #5 enters with his THE ALPHABET BLOCK which turns in every direction to show off her vowel sounds with the "U" on top of her head. A loud siren is heard and in "rolls" the RED FIRE TRUCK "driven" by ELF #6. The RED FIRE TRUCK turns and spins and sounds its siren while some*

*ELVES cover their ears and others clap in delight. BLAND-ELFA enters next with her TOY SOLDIER who performs a stunning routine to the applause of everyone in attendance. STEPMA-ELF arrives pushing and pulling a reluctant STUFFED RABBIT and HARLEQUIN DOLL. When STEPMA-ELF lets go, The STUFFED RABBIT and HARLEQUIN collapse to the floor and do not move. SANTA looks at ELF-TIDINGS who crosses to STEPMA-ELF and gestures for her to “Get out.” STEPMA-ELF angrily drags the STUFFED RABBIT and HARLEQUIN off. DRIZZ-ELFA is the last to enter with CINDER-ELFA’s prize BALLERINA DOLL. DRIZZ-ELFA “winds up” the BALLERINA DOLL and beams with pride as the BALLERINA DOLL performs a lovely dance. EVERYONE in attendance is impressed.*

*MUSIC OUT.*

*SANTA nods at ELF-TIDINGS and they move off to confer as DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA cross to the refreshments and begin to stuff their mouths. The other ELVES chatter about their chances of winning.*

ELF #1

Did you see the way he stared at my Raggedy Ann and Andy?

ELF #2

Barely. He was too busy looking at my Jack-in-the-box.

ELF #3

He did seem to take a special interest in it. But then, Santa *is* nearsighted you know.

ELF #4

*That’s* why he moved away to better focus on my Little Tin Soldier.

ELF #2

*That’s* because it practically stomped on his foot

ELF #4

*That's* because *you* and that silly Jack-in-the-box were in his way!

ELF #6

(*To ELF #5*) Santa invited *me* before he invited you.

ELF #5

No, he didn't. Elf-Tidings visited our cottage the very same day he visited yours.

ELF #6

Yes, but he came to *my* cottage first.

ELF #5

Who cares?

ELF #6

You do!

ELF #5

No, I don't.

ELF #6

Of course you do or you wouldn't have said, "Who cares".

ELF #1

Well, so do you, I bet.

ELF #6

Who asked you?

ELF #1

Nobody.

ELF #6

I didn't think so.

ELF #1

All I'm saying is Elf-Tidings spread the news to each Elf in order of importance.

ELF #4

(*To ELF# 3*) Didn't he see you last?

ELF #3

No.

ELF #4

That's not what *I* heard.

ELF #3

Well, if he did, it was only because we're the last cottage in the village.

ELF #4

No you're not.

ELF #3

Yes we are.

ELF #2

*I* heard she wasn't even *on* Santa's list.

*SANTA returns to his seat with ELF-TIDINGS holding a Gold Certificate. STEPMA-ELF slips in, despite a warning look from ELF-TIDINGS and snares DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA who have their mouths full of Cookies dragging them towards the other ELVES.*

STEPMA-ELF

Elves, there's no point in fussing. It's all but decided. My earnest, hardworking, most talented, most ingenious daughters are at the top of the list.

DRIZZ-ELFA

Yes, Santa all but told me himself I had the best gift. (*Waving at SANTA*) Hi, Santa!

*ELF-TIDINGS whispers to SANTA, pointing at DRIZZ-ELFA.*

DRIZZ-ELFA, *Continued*

See, he's pointing at me.

BLAND-ELFA

(*Talking with her mouth full*) That's because you are talking with your mouth full.

*THE ELFIN GODMOTHER appears above SANTA and ELF-TIDINGS just as a flourish of magical sleigh bells fills the air. CINDER-ELLA appears amidst the ringing of the bells. For a moment ALL stare in silence. SANTA stands.*

CINDER-ELFA

Please, do not stop your celebration on my account. Oh, what a lovely array of gifts. (*To DRIZZ-ELFA*) Why, Drizz-Elfa, what a marvelous Ballerina Doll. I don't think I've ever seen a doll so magnificent. And, Bland-Elfa, what a handsome scarf you wear around your neck.

*ELF-TIDINGS steps forward.*

ELF-TIDINGS

Santa asks to meet you.

CINDER-ELFA

With honor and duty I follow you.

*ELF-TIDINGS and CINDER-ELFA cross to SANTA.*

ELF #1

Did you see the way her eyes glistened? Like moonlight on the snow.

ELF #2

And the way she sparkled. Like icicles on a sunny day.

ELF #3

I heard bells jangling as she walked.

ELF #4

And Christmas lights twinkling as she talked.

DRIZZ-ELFA

And she knew *me* and called *me* by name!

BLAND-ELFA

I must find out where she finds such fine fur for her cloak so that I can have Cinder-Elfa make one just like it for me.

STEPMA-ELF

But who is she?

SANTA

Well, my good elf, you've caused quite a stir with your entrance, Ho, ho, ho! You have quite a spirit about you. A touch of magic in your voice and a glitter in your step. But tell me, what have you to offer to the children of the world? Where is your gift?

CINDER-ELFA

Santa, forgive me for appearing not to bear a proper gift. But what I have to offer can only be found in one's heart. I offer my dream of love and peace, joy and happiness, grace, honor and hope to all the children of the world.

STEPMA-ELFA

I've never heard anything quite so ridiculous!

DRIZZ-ELFA

(*To BLAND-ELFA*) And with *THOSE* ears, she never misses a thing.

DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA laugh much too loudly as STEPMA-ELFA glares.

*SANTA clears his throat. DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA instantly fall silent.*

SANTA

Well, that is a most unusual gift, one which I must seriously consider. In the meantime, friends, enjoy yourselves. Ho, ho, ho!

*MUSIC: JINGLE BELLS.*

*NOTE: Lyrics adapted to story.*

ELVES & TOYS, *Singing and Dancing*

*Dashing through the snow in Santa's open sleigh,  
Over the world we go, laughing all the way!  
Bells on reindeer ring, making spirits bright.  
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight  
Oh!  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with Santa Christmas day, ho!  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bell, Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with Santa Christmas day.*

*Remembering her ELFIN-GODMOTHER'S warning, CINDER-ELFA is about to leave the party when SANTA takes her by the hand to dance.*

*The OTHERS sing and clap as SANTA and CINDER-ELFA dance through the next verse.*

*A day or two ago I thought I'd get to ride  
On Santa's open sleigh, around the world we'd glide.  
Christmas Eve is near, the prize so close in sight  
What joy to sit by Santa's side this coming Christmas night.  
Oh!*

*SANTA joins in to sing the final refrain of the chorus. CINDER-ELFA tries to excuse herself.*

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with Santa Christmas day, ho!  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bell, Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with Santa Christmas day!*

CINDER-ELFA

*(During refrain)* Santa, I'm sorry, but I must go.

SANTA

*(Stops singing)* But why? I haven't awarded the prize?

CINDER-ELFA

I'm sorry. I made a promise. Good-bye, Santa.

*CINDER-ELFA hurries out, losing one of her red elf-slippers on the way.*

SANTA

*(Calling out)* But where can we find you?

CINDER-ELFA

Merry Christmas, Santa! Thank you!

*CINDER-ELFA has disappeared.  
SANTA picks up the slipper and looks at it as the ELVES and TOYS sing the final note of the refrain.*

*LIGHTS OUT.*

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 2**

*SETTING:* CINDER-ELFA'S COTTAGE.

*NOTE:* This scene is played downstage to allow for a set change from the party to the sitting room of the Cottage.

*AT RISE:* A PANTOMIME: CAT AND MOUSE  
(AND BIRDS).

*MUSIC* underscores the action.

*LUCIFER and HOLLY, JOLLY, TINSEL and GARLAND, (And OTHER MICE and BIRDS if not double-cast with SMALL TOYS), play a game of "Cat and Mouse". At first, LUCIFER, full of himself, "Meows" along to the music like an opera singer while the MICE and BIRDS dance back and forth behind his back. When LUCIFER begins to sense something is happening he turns abruptly but the MICE and BIRDS are not in sight. LUCIFER returns to "Meowing" to the music and the MICE and BIRDS cross behind him again. LUCIFER stops singing, turns, and once again misses catching them. LUCIFER resumes "Meowing" to the music but this time he catches the MICE and BIRDS as they pass behind him and the chase beings. Faster and faster goes the chase in a circle until HOLLY, JOLLY, TINSEL and GARLAND spin poor LUCIFER in garland from the tree, leaving him tied up from head to toe in defeat. The MICE and BIRDS laugh as they quickly run off. Disgusted, LUCIFER untangles himself and exits off.*

*MUSIC and LIGHTS OUT.*

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 3**

SETTING:                    *THE SITTING ROOM IN CINDER-ELFA'S COTTAGE.*

AT RISE:                    *CINDER-ELFA enters the candle-lit room from the kitchen, dressed once again in her ragged clothing. SHE picks up the bucket and scoop next to the fireplace and begins to clean the cinders, humming "Jingle Bells" softly to herself as she works.*

CINDER-ELFA

Perhaps it was only a dream.

*STEPMA-ELF, DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA enter from without.*

DRIZZ-ELFA

I do believe he was very much impressed with me, don't you think, Mamma-Elf?

STEPMA-ELF

Of course he was, Drizz-Elfa. You by all means stood out from the others.

BLAND-ELFA

Except, of course, for that magical elf.

STEPMA-ELFA

Magical elf indeed! That common *Dwarf* you mean.

BLAND-ELFA

There was nothing common about her.

*CINDER-ELFA can contain herself no longer and drops her bucket to the floor.*

STEPMA-ELFA

Just finishing your chores, Cinder-Elfa? If you hurry you might get to the party in time to help take out the trash.

*STEPMA-ELF, DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA laugh.*

CINDER-ELFA

*(Ignoring their laughter)* Was there really a *magical* elf? Did Santa like her?

BLAND-ELFA

He danced with her himself!

STEPMA-ELFA

That's enough, Bland-Elfa! Who even knows who or what she was.

CINDER-ELFA

No one knew her? No one at all?

DRIZZ-ELFA

No. But she knew *me*. She even called *me* by name.

CINDER-ELFA

And you didn't recognize her?

BLAND-ELFA

Not even Santa. I heard him ask Elf-Tidings if he'd ever seen her in the village.

STEPMA-ELF

And what business is it of yours?

CINDER-ELFA

None, Stepma-Elf. I only wanted to hear about your evening and wish you pleasant dreams.

STEPMA-ELF

And bend our ears sideways in the making.

DRIZZ-ELFA

Yes, all this senseless dribble has exhausted me.

BLAND-ELFA

I am quite weary myself, Mamma-Elf.

STEPMA-ELF

Then, to bed, my dears. Never skimp on your beauty sleep. I've spent half my life in bed and see what it's done for me. *(To CINDER-ELFA)* Be certain the fire is well tended and put out the light. We'll have breakfast in bed at half past ten in the morning. Now, take my cloak to my room and hang it in the closet. I'm much too tired to hang it myself.

CINDER-ELFA

Yes, Stepma-Elf.

*CINDER-ELFA takes the cloak and exits.*

*From without we hear sleigh bells and  
calls in the night.*

ELF-TIDINGS, *Off*

Hear ye! Hear ye!

DRIZZ-ELFA

What is it, Mamma-Elf?

BLAND-ELFA

It sounds like Elf-Tidings.

STEPMA-ELF

At this time of night?

*STEPMA-ELF crosses and puts her large  
ear to the door as HOLLY and JOLLY  
peek out from their hiding places and  
LUCIFER enters from the bedroom  
hallway.*

ELF-TIDINGS, *Off*

Wake up! Wake up! Santa seeks the winner of the contest!

STEPMA-ELFA

Oh, my dears! Santa must have chosen one of you as the winner and can't wait until  
tomorrow to share the good news!

DRIZZ-ELFA

That would be me.

BLAND-ELFA

*(Shoving his sister.)* I don't think so.

ELF-TIDINGS, *Off*

*(Louder)* Elves! Alive! Shake off your sleep! Santa is searching the village for the magical  
elf who lost the shiny red slipper. The elf whose foot fits the slipper will ride with Santa on  
his sleigh when he delivers gifts this very Christmas Eve. Awake all ye elves! Christmas Eve  
is but hours away!

DRIZZ-ELFA

Mamma-Elf, do you hear?

STEPMA-ELF

I – Have – Ears! Go now, before he comes. Trim your nails as closely as possible. Cut an  
inch or two off the big toe itself if you must!

DRIZZ-ELFA & BLAND-ELFA

But, Mamma-Elf?!

*LUCIFER* growls.

STEPMA-ELF

This is no time to be timid! Do as I say, and hurry!

*DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA quickly exit to the bedroom.*

STEPMA-ELFA

*(Aside)* Now to get rid of that little Cinder Dwarf. No taking chances it fits her foot by mistake. *(Sweetly; calling)* Cinder-Elfa, dear. I need your help.

CINDER-ELFA

*(Entering)* Yes, Stepma-Elf?

STEPMA-ELF

Elf-Tidings is about to announce the winner of the contest and will be here soon. It's such a very cold night. Go, dear, and fetch some cider and butter from the cellar and warm it over the fire. I'm sure he's dreadfully chilled. Add a little cinnamon for flavor. He'll be ever so grateful.

CINDER-ELFA

Yes, Stepma-Elf. As you wish.

*CINDER-ELFA heads toward the cellar door. HOLLY and JOLLY wave, trying to get her attention. CINDER-ELFA stops, puzzled. They gesture "No, go back."*

STEPMA-ELF

Cinder-Elfa!

CINDER-ELF

Yes, Stepma-Elf!

*CINDER-ELFA exits to the cellar. STEPMA-ELFA quickly pulls a key from her pocket and locks the cellar door. SHE places the key on the table by the chair.*

STEPMA-ELF

*(To LUCIFER)* Guard that key!

*DRIZZ-ELFA and BLAND-ELFA enter from the bedroom, hobbling, their big toes wrapped in bloody rags, just as ELF-TIDINGS reaches the cottage door.*

ELF-TIDINGS

Good Elves! May I enter?

STEPMA-ELF

Of course.

ELF-TIDINGS

How good to find you up and ready! Santa has sent me in search of—

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**