

THE REAL SAINT NIC

Story by
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TRIPLE YELLOW REVISIONS
6/29/2012

TRIPLE PINK REVISIONS
6/28/2012

TRIPLE BLUE REVISIONS
6/27/2012

TRIPLE WHITE REVISIONS
6/24/2012

DOUBLE SALMON REVISIONS
6/24/2012

DOUBLE GREEN REVISIONS
6/20/2012

DOUBLE YELLOW REVISIONS
6/18/2012

DOUBLE PINK REVISIONS
6/18/2012

DOUBLE BLUE REVISIONS
6/17/2012

DOUBLE WHITE REVISIONS
6/14/2012

SALMON REVISIONS
6/12/2012

GREEN REVISIONS
6/11/2012

YELLOW REVISIONS
6/8/2012

PINK REVISIONS
6/7/2012

BLUE REVISIONS
6/1/2012

WHITE PRODUCTION DRAFT
5/24/2012

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CHRISTMAS LIT STREETS - NIGHT 1

Pine River, CA. Titles roll and a moving song plays as we pass through STOCK FOOTAGE of various streets lit to the hilt for Christmas. As titles end we:

FADE TO:

2 EXT. FOREST - DAY (DAY 1, DEC 19) 2

DOCTOR KATE BRYANT, 28, jogging outfit, young, pretty, successful, driven, and adorkable -- jogs through a GREEN FOREST.

Her phone rings and she fumbles it out while still jogging, sees SPAULDING on the caller ID, oh Lord, then finally flips it open as she huffs to a stop and sits on a big rock.

SPAULDING (ON PHONE)

Hello? Kate?

3 INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY 3

SPAULDING TYLER, 30s, handsome and underhanded administrator of Kate's hospital, think Gaston from *Beauty and the Beast*, the kind of guy who wears a suit but not a tie, but here sweaty and bare-chested -- talks on DESK PHONE while standing in a posh office crowded with tasteless and expensive crap admiring his six-pack abs in a hand-held mirror that he stands on his desk.

SPAULDING

(into phone)

Kate?

INTERCUT WITH:

4 EXT. FOREST - DAY 4

Kate gets the phone to her ear.

KATE

(into phone)

Spaulding! Hey!

(huff pant)

Spaulding misinterprets the panting:

SPAULDING

I'm sorry. I have that effect on women. That's okay. I can do all the talking. I was thinking that you deserve the Spaulding Tyler experience. A gourmet seafood dinner brimming with omega threes prepared by me, accompanied by wine no less than twelve years old from my private collection, at my house or your house. You choose. You'll discover that I'm quite empowering, Kate.

KATE

Well -- that all sounds very pleasant -- but I'm really -- what's that?

END INTERCUT

A RUMBLING SOUND and CRASHING comes from behind her.

Kate looks around -- then everything happens fast:

Some SHALE/GRAVEL tumbles down the slope followed by a BOULDER that CRASHES right at Kate -- she's too stunned to react.

Spaulding's tinny voice comes from the phone:

SPAULDING (ON PHONE)

Kate? Kate!

Then a RED and WHITE BLUR FLASHES from seemingly out of the sky and knocks Kate out of the way of the boulder!

The MAN knocks Kate to safety, but the boulder grazes him and bounces his head on a ROCK and is out like a light.

KATE

Santa?

This is NIC, 30, charming, handsome, mischievous, flirtatious, and dressed head to toe in SANTA SUIT complete with hat.

KATE (cont'd)

Oh no!

Nic is unconscious so Kate immediately goes into doctor-mode and hurries to him to start checking his head.

KATE (cont'd)

Oh no oh no oh no wake up, Santa --
uh I mean sir...

She lifts one of his eyelids and he wakes right up.

Looking up at her, she's haloed by the sun -- and one of the most beautiful sights Nic has ever seen.

NIC

Are you okay? Did you get hurt?

KATE

What? No. You're the one who got hurt trying to help me.

Kate holds up a finger and passes it back and forth in front of his face.

KATE (cont'd)

Watch my finger.

NIC

Alright.

KATE

(holds up fingers)
How many fingers?

NIC

Uh, many. Wait! I can master this test! Three.

KATE

What day is it?

NIC

Ahh, what planet is this?

KATE

What?

NIC

Dates are different on different planets.

Kate's not sure what to make of this, then Nic grins.

NIC (cont'd)

Got you.

KATE
(laughs, relieved)
Okay, you got me.

NIC
You seriously thought I didn't
know what planet this was.

KATE
I didn't know what to think.

NIC
When this is clearly Sirius.

KATE
Serious? What? What's serious?

NIC
Planet Sirius. The Dog Star.

KATE
It's not working again.

NIC
It almost worked. You hesitated
right there.

KATE
I didn't hesitate.

NIC
Just a little bit.

KATE
Not even a little bit. Now what
day is it?

NIC
Why, six days to Christmas of
course. December nineteenth.

He says that a little too assuredly.

KATE
Alright, hold still. I need to
see if your head is even more
messed up than it clearly was to
begin with.

Kate gingerly takes Nic's Santa hat off.

NIC
Ow. Ow.

KATE

You're going to have a lump.
Luckily the, um, hat helped
cushion the blow.

NIC

It's a Christmas miracle.

KATE

I haven't even thanked you yet.
Thank you, ah...

NIC

Nic.

KATE

Thank you, Nic. I'm Kate.

NIC

Like the princess in England.

KATE

No, no, sorry to disappoint you.
I'm not a princess, but I am a
doctor.

NIC

Then I'm glad that I'm the one
that got hurt instead of you.

Kate's getting more and more charmed.

Nic puts his hat back on and finally stands up. Kate notices his Santa sack lying nearby, picks it up and hands it to him.

KATE

Are you going to a party?

NIC

No.

Nic looks around at the sky.

KATE

Looking for something?

NIC

My sleigh.

KATE

Your sleigh?

NIC

Yeah. We were out testing the aerodynamics on the new sleigh design and maybe I pushed that turn a little too hard, but anyway I fell right out and here I am.

Kate blinks.

NIC (cont'd)

I can't believe they haven't come back for me.

Kate gives him a suspicious look.

KATE

Do you just, like, meander around the woods in a Santa suit laying traps for trusting psychiatrists?

NIC

You're a psychiatrist? Wow. That must be really interesting. I could tell that you liked to help people. I like to help people too. Well, mainly kids of course.

While he talks Kate watches his face carefully for signs of the twinkle he had when playing jokes on her, but it's not there this time.

NIC (cont'd)

What?

KATE

You're serious. You really think you're Santa.

NIC

Technically Santa's more of an office -- or rank. But just call me Nic. No need for formalities with civilians.

Nic goes back to looking at the sky, shakes his head.

NIC (cont'd)

They probably headed back. The reindeer are trained to return to the stables in an emergency.

KATE

Oh my.

NIC

I'll be fine, Kate. The elves will come looking for me. Too bad we still don't have cell coverage up north. It must have something to do with the Aurora Borealis.

KATE

I think you better come with me, Nic. Santa.

5

EXT. SAINT JOHN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

5

ESTABLISHING SHOT -- a hospital, it looks like a restful place to rehabilitate. However...

NIC (PRE-LAP)

Where are all the Christmas decorations?

6

EXT. SIDEWALK ON GREEN - DAY

6

Kate leads Nic through a pleasant hospital courtyard. EDDIE, an orderly, pushes a PATIENT in a wheelchair in the background.

KATE

Our chief administrator is not so fond of Christmas.

NIC

Why not?

KATE

His birthday is on the 26th and he'd always only get one set of presents -

NIC

Shouldn't it be more about the giving than -

KATE

Speak of the devil...

Hurrying their direction is Spaulding along with Kate's friend and colleague, TANYA (40), a somewhat OCD nurse.

SPAULDING

Kate, you scared the hell out of me! Are you alright?

KATE

I'm fine. Nic, this is our chief administrator, Spaulding Tyler, and my close friend and head nurse, Tanya. This is Nic...

We go in on Nic's face...

7 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK) 7

A shot of a TOY SANTA'S SLEIGH AND REINDEER with a magical glow.

BACK TO SCENE

8 EXT. SIDEWALK ON GREEN - DAY 8

Nic answers:

NIC

Claus. Nic Claus.

Beat.

TANYA

Like -

NIC

That's right. We officially change our name when we accept the Santa assignment.

Kate, Spaulding, and Tanya step off to the side far enough away from Nic that he can't hear them.

SPAULDING

He can't be serious.

KATE

I was just about to be run over by a boulder when he flies out of nowhere and pushes me out of the way, but then hits his head.

TANYA

How romantic!

SPAULDING

Oh please! Can someone prove that this Santa delusion started only after the incident?

TANYA

What are you even talking about?

SPAULDING

I'm trying to establish liability considerations here. Were you on hospital grounds?

KATE

Look, he has a head injury he got while helping me.

(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

He at least needs an x-ray, to
make sure he doesn't have a
concussion.

TANYA

And maybe an MRI too.

SPAULDING

We're talking twenty-two hundred
dollars! Do you think Santa's job
comes with health insurance?
(looks around)
Where'd he go?

A moment of panic. Nic is nowhere to be found.

TANYA

Oh no! He's gone!

EDDIE stops pushing the patient.

EDDIE

You got a Santa running wild? He
went thatta way.

SPAULDING

Find him! Now!

They split up and start searching, going through various
doors into the hospital hallways.

KATE

Nic!

TANYA

Santa!

9 INT. MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

9

Kate hurries along a hall adorned with posters announcing
various health warnings.

KATE

Nic!

10 INT. REC ROOM - DAY

10

Tanya pokes her head into the REC ROOM, a large,
comfortable space that's a combination common room, group
therapy center, and rec center for the hospital's
eclectic collection of mental patients.

REAL SAINT NIC - GREEN REVISIONS - 6/11/2012 10aA.

A CHALKBOARD with announcements of various activity times stands near a wall.

REAL SAINT NIC - BLUE REVISIONS - 6/1/2012 10A.

TANYA

Anybody seen a guy in a Santa
suit?

The patients (including Isabel and Roberto) just give her
confused looks. Tanya pops back out.

JACK "McMURPHY" CHO -- an Asian man who's absolutely convinced he's the Jack Nicholson character from One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest -- turns to the others.

JACK

Maybe we'll finally have enough crazies for our basement bowling league.

11 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTER - DAY 11

Kate hurries along a hallway, passes a CHRISTMAS PRESENT DONATION BIN.

KATE

Nic!

She passes by a door marked "CHILDREN'S CENTER" -- and sees Nic inside sitting on a child-size chair surrounded by kids.

She looks at an ELECTRONIC LOCK PANEL on the wall beside the door -- light currently red. Looks at Nic inside the room. Checks the door. Locked.

How'd Nic get inside there?

Then pulls a KEY CARD and waves it past the electronic lock. The light turns GREEN and the door BUZZES.

Kate opens it and steps inside.

12 INT. CHILDREN'S CENTER - DAY 12

A HALF-DOZEN CHILDREN surround Nic, some with medical gear, others just here for daycare. There's games, small desks and chairs, books, and various other activities.

One LITTLE GIRL is so excited by Santa's visit that she does a hyperactive happy dance. Another girl, PIXIE, wearing a cast, questions Nic.

PIXIE

Are you sure? You don't look like him?

NIC

Being Santa's not about how you look. It's about how you are. And that's the same for a lot of other things too.

REAL SAINT NIC - SALMON REVISIONS - 6/12/2012 11aA.

A cynical kid, BERTRAND, continues the grilling:

BERTRAND

My brother says that Christmas is
just invented by the corporations
to sell us stuff we don't need.

NIC

Well, actually, holidays like Christmas have been around for as long as people have. The ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia. That's when they gave each other presents and the rich served the poor instead of the other way around. In India they celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, around this time and it's as much a celebration of what's inside of us as what's outside.

BERTRAND

Like my kidneys?

NIC

No, the light inside each of us. Our ability to love each other. There's just something about Christmas-time that, no matter who we are or where we are, reminds us about how important we are to each other.

PIXIE

Like presents!

Pixie tries opening Nic's Santa bag. Nic pulls it away.

NIC

Ah-ah-ah. You have to wait until Christmas day.

PIXIE

Aw man. I hate waiting.

NIC

Christmas also reminds us that sometimes you have to wait for the right time to get what you need the most.

Nic looks up right as he says that and sees Kate standing in the doorway, looking as enchanted by him as the kids are.

NIC (cont'd)

Oh! Kate! How long have you been there?

KATE

Long enough to see that if I don't
get you out of here, these kids
will never let you go.

PIXIE

Awww! Nic was going to teach us
how to climb down a chimney!

KATE

I think one arm in a cast is more
than enough, Pixie.

Kate leads Nic out.

KATE (cont'd)

How did you get in here? We keep
the door locked.

PIXIE

Maybe he came in through the
bathroom window?

Nic just grins.

13

EXT. PATIO OUTSIDE REC ROOM - DAY

13

Kate leads Nic across a patio.

KATE

Do you mind if I take your bag.

NIC

No problem.

Nic hands over his bag.

KATE

Looks like you're a hit with the
kids.

NIC

I just thought I'd go in and say
hello. I hafta say, I do not
approve of the lack of Christmas
decorations. One of the kids was
even saying that it didn't feel
like Christmas. Obviously some of
them are in recovery mode. How
are they going to get better if we
don't keep their spirits up?

REAL SAINT NIC - SALMON REVISIONS - 6/12/2012 13A.

KATE

I know.

Kate UNLOCKS a **SECURE DOOR** with a sign that says
"PSYCHIATRIC WARD"

Kate's about to lead Nic inside as Tanya comes around a corner.

TANYA

There you are!
(privately to Kate)
Spaulding's freaking out about
Nic. I think he's going to need
some convincing.

TANYA (cont'd)

Alright. I'll take care of that.
Could you take Nic to the rec room
and introduce him around?

TANYA (cont'd)

I'd be delighted.
(turns to Nic)
They're going to love you, Nic.

Tanya leads Nic through the secure door and Kate turns to walk off another direction.

14

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

14

Tanya leads Nic inside. All the patients turn and stare.

TANYA

Hi everybody, this is Nic. And,
Nic, this is Jack.

JACK

McMurphy. Looks like we'll
finally have enough crazies for
our basement bowling league!

Jack shakes Nic's hand furiously and does a terrific Jack Nicholson impersonation -- all the time.

JACK (cont'd)

Let me guess. You think.....
you're the Easter Bunny! How'd
you end up in this joint?

NIC

Ha ha! I just hit my head.

JACK

Pal, you wouldn't be in here with
us, if all you had was a bump on
the noggin.

TANYA

Come on, Nic. Pay no attention to
Jack.

(leads Nic away)

He thinks he's Nicholson.

NIC

Oh, from The Shining.

TANYA

More Cuckoo's Nest.

NIC

Oh I got it.

(sees Willis)

Hey Thomas, you've been great this
year.

TANYA

No, it's Willis.

NIC

Hey Tabitha, fantastic.

TANYA

Actually that's Mallory.

Tanya leads Nic to ISABEL (19), an aphephosphobic (fear of being touched), who avoids human contact, in part by wearing an ever-changing and eclectic array of full-body costumes.

TANYA

And this is Isabel.

Isabel's currently wearing a kind of makeshift superhero costume with soccer shin guards, rubber kitchen gloves, football shoulderpads, and Pith helmet.

NIC

Hi. That is an amazing outfit.

ISABEL

Thank you.

Nic goes to shake Isabel's hand, but Isabel pulls back.

TANYA

It's okay. It's okay. Isabel
doesn't like to be touched.

NIC

Oh! My bad.

Nic spots Roberto sitting on the couch, and kneels next
to him.

NIC

Hi, I'm Santa. Whatcha watching?

Roberto just keeps staring at the TV, which isn't even on, ignoring Nic. Nic looks at the TV.

NIC

Oh. Nothing.

TANYA

(to Nic)

Roberto is autistic. But he seems to like just being here with the others.

ISABEL

And we love having him hang with us!

EDDIE

I hope he's not still mad that Spaulding wouldn't let him have a birthday cake last month.

NIC

I have a sweet tooth too!

TANYA

You're on your own.

Nic hits some keys on the piano.

Tanya attempts to put Purell on him.

NIC

Oh, Santa-tizer. I'm allergic.

15

INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY

15

Spaulding leads Kate back to his desk.

KATE

Eddie checked his pockets. He has no ID. And the only name I can get out of him is still Nic Claus.

SPAULDING

Then he doesn't have insurance.

KATE

I'm sure that once we find out who Nic really is, all of that will fall into place.

SPAULDING

Instead of working for a living, he wanders around pretending he's Santa Claus so he can get free room and board. The guy's a homeless clown.

KATE

That seems a little elaborate.

SPAULDING

You're too trusting, Kate.

KATE

I feel responsible for him.

SPAULDING

Given that he was already in the Santa outfit, I think we've got an excellent argument for it being a pre-existing condition.

Kate blows out a puff of air. Clearly moral arguments aren't going to work on Spaulding. She tries a different tack:

KATE

I'll call the police. Check around. Someone has probably filed a missing persons report.
(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

And in the meantime do you really want to wind up in the news as the hospital that threw out an injured Santa Claus right before Christmas?

SPAULDING

You're right, you're right. The media just loves to wreak havoc with these -

(air quotes)

- "human" interest stories.

16

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

16

Tanya stands in the doorway, getting ready to leave.

TANYA

I'll let you settle in then, Nic.

(to the other patients)

Everyone, help Nic feel at home.

Then she leaves.

The other patients surround Nic in a semi-circle, like he's their prey. Nic just grins, naively happy.

NIC

Hi! Nice to meet you all!

Jack steps forward, looks Nic up and down in broad, Nicholson-esque gestures. He gestures up and down at Nic.

JACK

Now that's what I'm talking about! Finally we got a real bat-guano, nutjob looney in here. No offense, Isabel.

ISABEL

None taken.

JACK

The outfits are terrific. Grade-A Cuckoo's nest. But, frankly, not wanting to be touched? There's some logic in that.

ISABEL

That's what I keep telling people.

REAL SAINT NIC - SALMON REVISIONS - 6/12/2012 17A.

NIC
Look, I'm not crazy.

ISABEL

Exactly!

JACK

You do realize there ain't no
Santa Claus, right?

Nic makes a gesture: yet here I am.

JACK (cont'd)

That's it! Own it, brother! Go
all out.

ISABEL

I don't see why we're arguing over
this. It's a free country. Nic
can be Santa Claus if he wants.

NIC

It doesn't really work like that -

JACK

So how does it work? You realize
we've seen pictures of Santa Claus
and let's just say you wouldn't be
my first choice for the part.

That opens the floodgates and now everyone asks
questions:

ISABEL

How do you deliver all those
presents in one night?

JACK

How do you get in all those
houses. Some people have pretty
elaborate security systems
nowadays.

EDDIE

San Nicholas, do you really ride a
sleigh?

JACK

Speaking of the sleigh, do all
reindeer fly or do you got a
special breed. For instance, in
an emergency could you just hook
up a moose?

ROBERTO

Do you really have a naughty and nice list?

Everybody turns to look at Roberto -- shocked.

JACK

And how much for a copy of the naughty girls?

NIC

Alright, alright. Normally you have to sign a very elaborate non-disclosure agreement to be let in on our secrets, but given your circumstances -

(gestures around at the mental ward)

- people won't believe you anyway.

Nic strolls around answering the various people who asked questions.

NIC (cont'd)

First, Santa isn't a name, it's a title, like President of the United States or Dread Pirate Roberts. I've been Santa for five years now and, when I retire, there will be a new Santa.

Nic heads to Eddie.

NIC (cont'd)

Of course I ride a sleigh. In fact, it was a sleighing accident that got me put here.

(to Jack)

While we actually do have specially bred reindeer we use for the sleigh, it's a combination of the reindeer food and the sleigh itself that enables them to fly. And I figure if we trained and fed some moose right, they'd work fine. As a matter of fact, one Santa even used polar bears.

JACK

Polar bears?! Now that's my kinda Santa!

NIC

And Santa doesn't go to EVERY house and deliver presents to every kid -- since most kids have parents who can do the job -- but he does deliver presents to the kids who really need him most.

JACK

That's still gotta be a lot of kids for one night.

ISABEL

And it doesn't answer how he gets into the houses.

Nic taps the side of his nose and winks:

NIC

Quantum tunneling.

ISABEL

Right, that makes sense then.

JACK

You dig in from under the houses?

Nic continues on to Roberto as Isabel gives a seriously nerd-core explanation of quantum travelling techniques to Jack in the background.

NIC

And Santa doesn't so much keep a naughty and nice list as he keeps a list of what people really need. That said, some kids really do need a lump of coal in their stockings.

Nic winks and Roberto giggles.

17

EXT. PATIO OUTSIDE REC ROOM - DAY

17

Kate and Tanya watch Nic and Roberto through the window.

TANYA

I think that's the first time I ever saw Roberto laugh.

KATE

Me too.

TANYA

You don't think...

Kate just gives her a look: don't be ridiculous.

18

OMITTED

18

19	OMITTED	19
20	OMITTED	20

21 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (NIGHT 1, DEC 19) 21

POSSIBLE STOCK FOOTAGE -- Kate's house is the one house on the street with absolutely pathetic Christmas decorations -- a single strand with most of the bulbs burnt out.

22 INT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 22

Kate's house is nicely, but sparsely furnished. She barely lives here.

Kate helps Tanya unpack boxes of takeout and a bottle of wine. Tanya keeps rearranging what Kate sets down so that it's in geometrically precise arrangements -- then notices an OFFICIAL-LOOKING ENVELOPE from THE BARTLETT INSTITUTE. She picks it up.

TANYA

Oooh, the Bartlett Institute. They still trying to steal you away from us?

KATE

Yes, but I like it here.

TANYA

We like you here too, but it would be a big promotion. They only take the best.

KATE

Thank you. But I doubt that the accommodations in Vermont would be as nice as this house that the hospital provides for me.

Tanya looks around at the un-lived-in house.

TANYA

It looks like you don't even live here. You work so much.

KATE

I haven't taken a break since I was fourteen and my sister started having her troubles...

TANYA

Is that when you decided to become
a psychiatrist?

KATE

(nods)

I loaded up on summer school,
graduated a year early, took every
psych course I could, and still...

TANYA

What?

KATE

I wish I could find some sign of
progress with her.

Kate opens a cabinet and pulls out an UNOPENED BOX OF
SILVERWARE, as if it came fresh from JC Penney.

TANYA

You bought brand new silverware?
Now I feel bad about bringing the
two-buck chuck.

KATE

Speaking of which, Spaulding was
trying to impress me by talking
about his wine cellar again.

TANYA

I won't allow it.

KATE

I'd rather crawl through glass
naked than spend an hour alone
with Spaulding.

TANYA

Well, there's always Santa Claus.

KATE

Come on. He's a patient. I think he's got temporary amnesia from the bump on his head. That plus some stressors -- things he's having difficulty coping with in his life -- could be a subconscious excuse to escape into an altered personality. At least for a little while.

TANYA

So how do we treat him?

KATE

I think we let it run its course. Christmas is in six days and my guess is that it'll resolve itself when the holiday passes.

A22

INT. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY (DAY 2, DEC 20)

A22

Kate examines X-RAYS of a head. A sticker says "NIC 'CLAUS'?"

KNOCKING on the door, then Eddie leads Nic inside.

EDDIE

You wanted to see Nic?

KATE

That's right. Thanks Eddie. Take a seat, Nic.

Kate gestures at a comfy chair and Nic sits as Eddie leaves. He nods at the X-rays.

NIC

Am I missing any marbles? Or got any extras.

KATE

I don't know. I'd need to find out how many you had to begin with and, unfortunately, you have no ID, thus no medical history.

NIC

Oooh! Smooth segue there. No. No ID. No medical records.

She comes around the desk to sit across from him, casual.

KATE

But you said you weren't always Santa Claus.

NIC

That's right. I was recruited five years ago.

KATE

So where did you live before? Could you give me an address?

Nic hitches up a little, trying to remember...

B22 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK) B22

A quaint little toy shop with handmade toys and toy parts spread across work benches: custom dolls, wooden blocks and dinosaurs, clockwork toys.

One light burns over a big desk behind which Nic works with clockmakers' tools fixing a wind-up toy.

BACK TO SCENE

C22 INT. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY C22

Nic shifts in his chair uncomfortably.

NIC

They give us special eggnog that makes us forget our previous life.

KATE

I see. They've got it all figured out.

NIC

You know, I could be who I say I am.

KATE

No passport either so, technically, that makes you an illegal alien.

NIC

Maybe I was an American before the eggnog.

KATE

You look more Canadian to me.

NIC

You can not tell the difference between a Canadian and an American.

KATE

Say "about".

NIC

Abowwt.

KATE

Now you're just faking it.

NIC

That's the way I always say
abowwt. Okay, I'm having way too
much fun talking to you for this
to be medicinal.

Kate laughs, but also blushes. She's having more fun
than is strictly proper too.

KATE

I'm just trying to help.

NIC

You really are good at it.

KATE

Thank you.

NIC

But sometimes you need to let
other people help you too.

Kate's touched.

KATE

I got a feeling I'm not the only
one here who could use that
advice.

Kate softens that with a grin, and now it's Nic's turn to
blush. Kate's matched him clever retort for clever
retort the whole session -- and he discovers just how
much he likes that.

D22 EXT. SAINT JOHN'S HOSPITAL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2, DEC 20) D22

NIGHT ESTABLISHING SHOT of Hospital.

23 INT. NIC'S ROOM - NIGHT 23

Nic sleeps peacefully in his bed as SHADOWS LOOM over the
wall toward him. Suddenly a hand SLAPS across his mouth
and startles him awake!

JACK

Shhhh.

His eyes pop open and Jack is standing over him. Roberto stands a little ways back and follows them. They both have FLASHLIGHTS.

JACK (cont'd)

Every now and then we like to go on little late-night expeditions, and Isabel thought that since you might need to sneak back in on Christmas eve, I oughta show you all our secret routes.

Jack removes his hand from Nic's mouth.

NIC

Good thinking. Hey, Roberto.

Roberto doesn't respond, but you can see him smile just a little. Even Nic can only break through so far...

24

INT. DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

24

They slip along the dorm room hallway. Jack taps on a door and Isabel opens it. She's dressed head to toe in dark gray, including a dark gray blanket for a cape, and dark gray hoodie.

JACK

Batgirl?

ISABEL

Pfah! Mothgirl.

NIC

Much spookier.

Nic can see inside Isabel's room. The closets are stuffed with odd clothes and costumes and the room is filled with sewing equipment.

NIC (cont'd)

They let you keep all that?

ISABEL

My family made an arrangement with the hospital. Let's go.

25 OMITTED 25

26 INT. HALLWAY TO BASEMENT DOOR - NIGHT 26

They arrive at a door near the end of a dark hallway marked "BASEMENT ACCESS". Nic tries to it open but it's -

NIC

Locked.

JACK

Help me up.

Jack feels around on top of a door hinge and pulls down a key.

JACK (cont'd)

I got 'em hidden everywhere.

Jack unlocks the door and they slip inside.

27 INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - NIGHT 27

They quietly pad down the stairs.

A27 INT. BASEMENT BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT A27

Nic comes down the stairs, looks at something off-screen that amazes him as the others pass by.

Then we turn to reveal a two lane bowling alley.

Jack and the others hurry out as Nic quickly grabs a BOWLING BALL, rolls it, then races past the ball to follow the others.

After he leaves, the ball hits the pins.

28	INT. OUTSIDE STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT	28
	They move along the hall to a door marked "STORAGE".	
A28	OMITTED	A28

29

INT. BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

29

The storage room holds the detritus of a hundred years: old boxes and crates covered in tarps. Roberto looks through stacks of OLD PHOTOS.

Isabel searches through them, picks out odd hats and other items of clothing to add to her collection.

JACK

Welcome to the man-cave.

ISABEL

Hey!

JACK

Sorry.

Jack finds an old RED AND WHITE ROBE in a box and holds it up to show to Nic.

JACK

This is totally you.

Nic opens a box, revealing a stack of old RORSCHACH TEST IMAGES. He shows them one at a time to Jack.

NIC (cont'd)

What do you see?

JACK

Butterfly.

Hmmm, that seemed kind of tame for Jack, but okay. Next one:

ISABEL

Two turtles kissing.

JACK

Ovaries.

ISABEL

Bird poop.

JACK

Nachos.

Nic goes through several more.

NIC

You're making me hungry.

Nic looks at the last image.

REAL SAINT NIC - BLUE REVISIONS - 6/1/2012 28A.

NIC
Seriously? A puppy?

JACK
A Basset Hound puppy.

ISABEL

Who are you and what did you do
with the real Jack?

NIC

Yeah, I was worried this entire
conversation would be NC-17.

JACK

I can see nice things too!

Isabel opens another box that's full of OLD CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS.

ISABEL

Look. Santa shows up and I find
these.

JACK

It's Christmas magic. Hmm, all
those ink blots of food made me
hungry. Anybody up for a midnight
snack?

NIC

Some dessert would hit the spot.

A29 INT. OUTSIDE STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT A29

Jack, Nic, Isabel, and Roberto exit the storage room.

30 OMITTED 30

31 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 31

Jack pushes open the kitchen doors. They all hurry
inside and spread out.

NIC

Are you sure it's okay for Roberto
to be wandering around with us?

JACK

He can take care of himself.

Roberto searches through various cabinets.

Jack opens a cabinet, digs around in back, and pulls out a FLASK OF WHISKY, then spins off the cap and downs a slug -- offers to Nic and Isabel, who wave it off, then Jack downs another slug and puts the flask back.

Isabel raids the dish-washing gloves.

Nic opens the freezer and searches inside.

NIC

No ice cream? There's gotta be
food with criminally high levels
of sugar somewhere.

JACK

Jackpot, Roberto!

Roberto has found a LARGE SHEET BIRTHDAY CAKE sitting on a cart hidden in a pantry (or around a corner) and rolls it into the middle of the room.

Frosting on it spells out "HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPAULDING!! BEST BOSS EVER!!"

NIC

Seriously?

ISABEL

Spaulding orders it himself.

Jack notices Roberto staring daggers at the cake.

JACK

Uh-oh.

NIC

Easy there, Roberto...

Roberto jams both his hands in the cake -- grabs big handfuls...

ISABEL

It's not worth it.

JACK

Yes, it is. Vengeance is yours, Roberto.

Roberto flings cake left and right.

ISABEL

Alright! You've had it, Roberto!

Isabel grabs gobs of cake and they all break into a MASSIVE FOOD FIGHT -- cake and frosting laden with glitter and sprinkles flies around the kitchen.

This goes on for a bit then Eddie enters through the main doors -- stands stunned for a moment.

EDDIE

Holeee...

(turns to Nic)

Santa, I am very disappointed in you!

32

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY 3, DEC 21)

32

Nic, Jack, Isabel, and Roberto scrub walls, floor, and counters under the watchful eyes of Tanya.

POV TANYA -- her eagle eyes spot a single BUBBLEGUM PINK SPRINKLE under the lip of a counter behind Roberto.

She points at it.

TANYA

Nic, do you see that jimmie?

NIC

I'm pretty sure that's Roberto.

TANYA

No, that!

(points harder)

That pink jimmie!

NIC

Oh! The sprinklie.

TANYA

They're called jimmies.

(off their looks)

(MORE)

REAL SAINT NIC - BLUE REVISIONS - 6/1/2012 33A.

TANYA (cont'd)

Look it up. And you should clean
in a grid pattern.

Eddie enters, points to Jack.

EDDIE

Jack, walk this way.

Jack stands and walks like Eddie.

EDDIE (cont'd)

I don't walk like that. I'm
poised.

ISABEL

He doesn't have to help clean up?!

EDDIE

Spaulding found out and freaked.
He wants Jack to pack. Jack's
getting transferred.

NIC

Hey, look, we've cleaned
everything up.

EDDIE

I'm sorry. Spaulding's decision.

Jack puts on a brave face:

JACK

Ha! Suckers. I'm finally
escaping! I'll see the rest of
you loonies in yer hallucinations!

Jack follows Eddie out. The others look at each other.

ISABEL

We have to help Jack.

Nic turns to Tanya.

NIC

Can I talk to Kate?

TANYA

I'll have Eddie take you after he
comes back -- and after you finish
cleaning this place.

NIC

Definitely!

Everybody starts scrubbing. Hard.

33

INT. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY

33

Kate talks on a phone.

KATE

(into phone)

Yes, officer, this is Doctor Kate Bryant at Saint John's. We have a patient here with no ID and some memory loss and I was wondering if you had any missing persons reports. Our John Doe is Caucasian, six foot one, trim -

(listens)

Okay, thanks for your help.

Kate frowns and hangs up. This isn't working. She looks around, sees Nic's Santa bag -- then checks inside it.

There's one Christmas present in there. She pulls it out.

It's unopened but looks old. The tape is yellowed. Kate carefully unwraps it and finds a simple wooden block inside. She feels around for a lid but can't find a latch.

Knocking at the door.

EDDIE (O.S.)

Doctor Bryant, I have Papa Noel here. He'd like to talk to you.

Kate quickly hides the box back on a shelf.

KATE

Okay, that's fine, Eddie.

EDDIE

You know, I think there really is something different about this guy.

Eddie lets Nic inside, then closes the door behind him.

NIC

(enters)

I just gotta speak up for Jack. We were all in on it.

KATE

This isn't the first time Jack's caused problems.

NIC

C'mon. Spaulding can't throw Jack out right before Christmas.

KATE

I told you. Xmas is a four letter word around here.

NIC

I know, I know. Don't you miss it?

KATE

I don't know. I haven't had a real Christmas since I was like seven.

NIC

That's awful.

REAL SAINT NIC - DOUBLE BLUE REVISIONS - 6/17/2012 35aA.

KATE

It's not that big a deal.

Nic gives her such a look of sympathy that Kate blushes.

KATE (cont'd)

It's not like I was locked in a
closet under the stairs and beat
with a broom!

(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)

My mom was just single and working hard and we had some special challenges that kept us busy.

NIC

Then you need a Christmas.

KATE

Alright, alright. I'll start celebrating Christmas by trying to get Jack another chance.

NIC

Thanks, you're the best, Kate. I was thinking about making Jack an elf!

34

INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY

34

Spaulding shows off by working out with FREE WEIGHTS while talking to Kate.

SPAULDING

My entire life Christmas has overshadowed my birthday!

KATE

I know.

SPAULDING

So I need a big cake.

KATE

I know.

SPAULDING

And Jack ruined it!

KATE

Actually, that was more Roberto -- and Roberto did have his reasons...

Spaulding smolders. He's mad and somebody has to pay.

SPAULDING

Jack is a menace and a troublemaker. This isn't the first time he's caused problems.

KATE

They're just having fun. And I think he's therapeutic for the other patients. Gives them a chance to let off some steam -

SPAULDING

We certainly can't have patients treating other patients.

KATE

Actually, that's kind of a key feature of group therapy. Anyway, it's Christmas and -

SPAULDING

Don't let that archaic superstition cloud your judgment, Kate.

KATE

I'm just saying it's the time for second chances.

SPAULDING

Do you really mean that?

KATE

Of course.

SPAULDING

Because I was thinking I really messed up asking you out to dinner. I could've handled that a lot better.

Kate knows what she has to do, tries to sound enthusiastic:

KATE

You're right. You -- we deserve a second chance.

SPAULDING

Excellent!

KATE

And Jack? He deserves a second chance too.

SPAULDING

Deal.

35 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (NIGHT 3, DEC 21) 35

Spaulding's sleek car is parked outside Kate's house.

36 INT. KATE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT 36

Kate watches Spaulding unpack groceries.

SPAULDING

I don't know why you wouldn't let me cook at my house. You should see my kitchen. It'd make the Iron Chef tear up.

KATE

I didn't think I'd be capable of handling that much Spaulding Tyler all at once.

SPAULDING

Good point. I have been known to trigger hysterical reactions in women.

(MORE)

SPAULDING (cont'd)

KATE

I can see that.

Spaulding puffs up and smiles as he mistakenly takes that as a compliment while he sets up shop with a variety of elite ingredients and cooking utensils. Kate watches, starts to feel useless, then looks through cabinets.

SPAULDING

Don't worry. I've got everything I need. Most great chefs are men.

KATE

So are most serial killers.

37

INT. JACK'S ROOM - NIGHT

37

Jack snores loudly in bed. A SHADOW LOOMS over the wall toward him. Suddenly a hand SLAPS across his mouth and startles him awake! His eyes pop open and Nic is standing over him.

NIC

Shhhh.

Jack takes his hand from Nic's mouth. Jack grins.

JACK

Yer learnin'.

38

INT. BASEMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

38

They slip along the halls in super stealth-mode again, but this time Nic leads the way. Jack, Roberto, and Isabel follow. Isabel's wearing a HAZMAT OUTFIT tonight.

JACK

As much as I enjoy stickin' my thumb in the Man's eye, if we go down, yer taking the fall this time, Nic.

NIC

Deal.

ISABEL

Cross your heart and hope to die,
stick a needle in your eye.

39

INT. BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

39

Isabel leads them to trunk with the Christmas decorations
and throws open the lid.

ISABEL

<incomprehensible muffled
shouting>

JACK

Cowabunga.

NIC

Ho ho ho.

Roberto actually CLAPS.

40

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Kate watches while Spaulding works his magic at the
stove. Spaulding cuts off tabs of butter into a pan,
then sizzles slivers of garlic.

SPAULDING

Fantastic. Great. The stove
could be better, but otherwise,
amazing.

Kate opens a styrofoam box.

KATE

Snails?

SPAULDING

Mais oui, ma cher. Tres
delicieux. Escargot!

KATE

Snails are just slugs with a trust
fund.

SPAULDING

What?

KATE

Nothing. This new patient is fascinating.

SPAULDING

I don't know. Seems like garden variety delusion to me.

KATE

What interests me is how core features of personality carry through and help form the delusional persona. Nic is caring and generous, loves kids and kids love him, extremely clever and also skilled with his hands.

Spaulding grows more and more annoyed as Kate talks: *we're on a date and all you're talking about is what a great guy Nic is?!*

SPAULDING

We don't need to talk shop. You know, I was going to be a professional skier.

They talk over each other, both focused on their own thoughts:

SPAULDING

But then my uptight dad said he'd cut off my trust fund if I didn't get a real job.

KATE

So naturally Nic needed a personality that fit with who he is: Santa.

Spaulding scowls. Why won't she pay attention to me?!

SPAULDING

Maybe he became Santa because he subconsciously knew that he would very soon turn into a big fat beardy guy.

KATE

Nic strikes me as too energetic to get fat. He'll stay tall and trim his entire life. Like Clint Eastwood.

ON SPAULDING: will this woman never shut up about that loser?! It's time to make Kate forget about him.

Spaulding makes his move. He turns and steps into Kate as she leans against a counter, his arm goes out to wrap around her...

KATE (cont'd)

What?! What are you doing?!

Ooooooh, this is awkward. Deer in the headlights moment for Spaulding as he tries to figure a way out of this.

POV SPAULDING as he scans the counter behind Kate. The only thing there is a box of tea bags.

SPAULDING

Uh, I'm, uh, getting tea.

KATE

You're making tea? Now?

Spaulding grabs tea bags. Thinking fast...

SPAULDING

Um. No. It's for the escargot. Seasoning. You put the tea on the escargot as seasoning.

Kate looks utterly unconvinced.

SPAULDING (cont'd)

It's an old French secret.

41

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTER - NIGHT

41

Nic, Roberto, Jack, and Isabel hurry along the hallway stringing up Christmas lights, decking boughs of holly, and hanging a wreath.

Nic comes to the door to the children's center -- light currently red.

JACK

Sorry, Nicky. Yer gonna need a special key for that-

Nic THUMPS the wall right next to the electronic lock panel, there's a SPARK inside the box from a short circuit, and the lights turns GREEN.

Door buzzes and Nic opens it with a smile.

ISABEL

Knock, knock, who's there?

JACK

Heeere's Johnny! Alright, you kids have fun. I got places to be, things to do, people to impress.

As the others head into the children's center Jack heads off another direction, evil grin spreading across his face.

42 INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - NIGHT 42

Jack slips inside and starts hanging Christmas decorations on everything -- then turns on all the Christmas lights he hung.

43 INT. CHILDREN'S CENTER - NIGHT 43

Nic, Roberto, and Isabel hurry around the room and hang Christmas decorations.

44 INT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 44

Kate and Spaulding eat in awkward silence at the dining room table. Silverware clinks against dishes. This date is a miserable failure.

Kate eats some escargot, politely muscled her way past the texture and flavor.

SPAULDING

How does it taste?

KATE

Kind of like herbal bubblegum.

SPAULDING

You've had herbal bubblegum?

KATE

I got my degree from Berkeley.
(changing subject:)
I wonder what my delusional
personality would be?

SPAULDING

I'd probably be Ghandhi. Or maybe
Buddha.

KATE

You forgot Jesus.

SPAULDING

Oh yeah.

45 OMITTED 45

46 EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE - MORNING (DAY 4, DEC 22) 46

A very grumpy Spaulding stomps up the steps. Last night did not go anywhere near as planned. Then he stops. A CHRISTMAS WREATH hangs on the front door.

47 INT. CHILDREN'S CENTER - MORNING 47

Bertrand is the first one entering, bored to death by another day at the salt mines -- then sees all the Christmas decorations that magically appeared in the night.

BERTRAND

OHMIGOSH!!! Way cool!

PIXIE

Within the realm of multi-dimensional reality, it is conceivable that Santa may not only physically exist, but may also be on these very premises.

All the other kids stream into the room, look around -- then the place is filled with squeals of joy, laughter, and cheers.

48

INT. FOYER - MORNING

48

Spaulding walks through the foyer -- an open space with main entrance, doors leads to offices, and a front desk/visitor station -- looking at the decorations like a shell-shocked soldier in a daze.

CHILDREN'S VOICES echo from down the hall.

CHILDREN (O.S.)
It's Christmas!! We're really
gonna have a Christmas!!

Kate comes around a corner looking as surprised as
Spaulding.

SPAULDING
What's going on? How did this
happen?

KATE
I don't know.

Spaulding staggers into his office -- then a SHRILL
SHRIEK comes from its depths.

Kate looks around at all the decorations, and a smile
slowly spreads across her face.

This is the Christmas that she hasn't had for a long
time.

49

INT. REC ROOM - MORNING

49

Kate spots Nic slouching in an easy chair in the red &
white robe Jack found in the storage room. Nic is bleary-
eyed and nurses a cup of apple cider.

KATE
Thank you. You should see the
kids' faces. It means so much to
everyone.

NIC
Merry almost Christmas, Kate.

But Kate can see that he really did it for her, and she's
surprised by how good that makes her feel.

50

EXT. PATIO OUTSIDE REC ROOM - MORNING

50

Spaulding is watching through the doorway, sees Kate's
reaction. He talks to a nearby BEFUDDLED LOOKING MENTAL
PATIENT who's standing in the hallway making smacking
sounds with his mouth.

SPAULDING

I can't believe it. She's
actually falling in love with that
freak.

51

INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY

51

Spaulding tears down Christmas decorations and throws
them in a big trash can. Kate enters just as he's
yanking hard on a STRING OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

SPAULDING

They broke into my office!

KATE

Ummmm, you better be careful or -

The lights RIP free and knock stuff off shelves, books
tumble to floor, framed diplomas go flying.

KATE (cont'd)

- that will happen.

SPAULDING

This vandalism is disrupting the
efficiency of the hospital!

KATE

It's not vandalism, it's Christmas
decorations.

SPAULDING

The sneakiest kind of vandalism.

KATE

Look, it's raising spirits around
here. You should see the kids.

SPAULDING

So?

Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE

Happy kids complain to their
parents less.

SPAULDING

That wouldn't be so bad.

KATE

Come with me.

52

INT. CHILDREN'S CENTER - DAY

52

Kate and Spaulding watch from the door as Nic sits on a chair surrounded by kids.

SPAULDING

How'd he get in there?

Kate shrugs.

SPAULDING (cont'd)

I really gotta get the security system overhauled.

Nic regales the kids with a story:

NIC

- so, it's my first Christmas and I gotta deliver a present to this really sweet kid, but his dad is a guard-dog trainer and he just lets the dogs run free in his house so the place is literally filled with really angry Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherds and their entire life they've been trained to bite intruders.

PIXIE

Oh Santa! That must've been really scary for you!

BERTRAND

What'd you do?!

PIXIE

Yeah! Tell us! Tell us!

SPAULDING

Oh this is ridiculous!

Spaulding stomps inside. Kate chases after, frantic that he's going to really screw this up.

SPAULDING (cont'd)

This man is just making things up! And he's making a mess of the hospital!

Spaulding waves around at the decorations.

PIXIE

Uh-uh! We like it!

BERTRAND

I'm kinda getting into it.

All the kids yell and agree.

SPAULDING

Alright! That's it! Come with me!

KATE

Um, Spaulding...

Spaulding grabs Nic's arm and tries to drag him out but all the kids jump on top of Nic and hold him back.

CHILDREN

No! Let him go!

NIC

It's okay kids -

PIXIE

You can't take Santa!!

SPAULDING

He's NOT Santa Claus!

BERTRAND

He IS Santa Claus! You're just being mean!

SPAULDING

There is no Sant-!!

Kate sees where Spaulding is going and leaps forward -- slaps her hand over his mouth before he can crush the children's faith.

KATE

- Santana -

Everyone looks at Kate while she tries to quickly figure out how to turn that into a sentence...

KATE (cont'd)

- song that fully captures this moment. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't all think about how the great guitarist, Carlos Santana, would bring us together through music. Isn't that what you were going to say, Spaulding?

Kate gives him a pointed look. Spaulding looks around at all the children staring at him, on the verge of being emotionally devastated.

SPAULDING

Uh, right. That's exactly what I was going to say.

Nic, Kate, and Spaulding leave.

PIXIE

Who's Carlos Santana?

53

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTER - DAY

53

Nic, Kate, and Spaulding head into the hall.

KATE

You better go back to your room, Nic.

NIC

Thanks, Kate.

(to Spaulding)

And you ought to thank Kate too. It would've really been uncomfortable explaining to all those kids' parents why you felt it necessary to tell them that Santa Claus doesn't exist.

Spaulding goes pale and swallows hard.

Nic starts walking away and notices the Christmas present donation bin. He looks inside. It's practically empty.

KATE

It's been a tough year for donations.

NIC

Is that so?

SMASH CUT TO:

54

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

54

The entire room has been turned into a hectic and busy TOY SHOP. Nic leads Kate around the busy room to show her the place like she's an overseeing general.

A COUPLE PATIENTS -- sand and paint wood shapes.

NIC

Since we already have the equipment for art therapy I figured we could use it to make toys for the kids in the children's center. Some of them will be here over Christmas.

KATE

Oh that's wonderful, Nic!

ISABEL -- dressed in an eclectic array of clothes, sews SOCK MONKEYS of her own invention.

TANYA -- meticulously paints a TOY SOLDIER.

Nic pulls out an ELF CAP and puts it on Tanya's head. Tanya beams.

KATE

Well, now I feel like chipping in.

NIC

All we need is some music.

Kate looks around, sees the piano -- then sits at it and starts playing.

NIC

That sounds terrific. You have hidden depths, Kate.

KATE

I am a woman of mystery.

A warm flirty moment -- then, in the background, Isabel suddenly leaps to her feet.

ISABEL

OH GOD OH YUCK!!

TANYA

What happened, Isabel?

ISABEL

Mallory got dandruff all over me!

Isabel points at a NEARBY PATIENT who is furiously scratching her head and looks surprised by all the commotion.

Kate just sighs.

KATE

It's going to be okay, Isabel.

ISABEL

Do you know how many different kinds of mites, parasites, and bacteria are teeming on human skin?

NIC

No. Never thought about it.

ISABEL

Well, I do.

Isabel runs out a door into a LARGE, WALK-IN CLOSET.

Nic hurries to the closet door and knocks lightly on it.

KATE

Just give her some time, Nic.
There's nothing you can do.

NIC

I have to try. Isabel! You okay?

ISABEL (O.S.)

I'm fine!

NIC

Why don't you come out and hang with us?

Hmm, this ain't going to work. Nic looks around, sees a piano.

NIC

We're having a party out here, Isabel!

ISABEL (O.S.)

It doesn't sound like one!

NIC

Just give me a minute.

Nic turns to the room:

NIC

Come on, everyone! Party time.

REAL SAINT NIC - DOUBLE GREEN REVISIONS - 6/20/2012 50A.

Kate goes back to the piano and plays something jaunty.
The other patients start partying.

Nic turns back to the closet and knocks on the door.

NIC
Hey Isabel, wow! You should see
the party out here!

Nic gestures at the others: come on, play it up. People cheer and hoot.

ISABEL (O.S.)
I'm enjoying it from in here!

NIC
Come on, people are dancing...

More gestures. Jack gets up and dances a crazy jig.

A long moment. Footsteps approach the door. Is she going to open it?

NIC (cont'd)
(to himself)
Come on, come on...

ISABEL (O.S.)
I know! I can dance in here!

Sound of Isabel dancing comes from the closet.

Nic hangs his head. Oh man, this is just not working.

Nic slumps onto a couch. Kate goes over to join him while Eddie takes her place at the piano, starts digging through sheet music.

KATE
It was a good try, Nic. But
Isabel has her own way of dealing
with things.

Nic doesn't notice, but Kate looks over his shoulder at Isabel's door.

KATE (cont'd)
A lot of people here will never
get all the way better. So you
just have to try to make their
lives a little happier.

Mallory finally finds some music he likes and STARTS PLAYING THE NUTCRACKER SUITE. In the background people go quiet and listen.

NIC
Sometimes I just can't help the
people who need me the most?

Kate gives Nic a look -- senses that there's a deeper meaning to what he just said. They don't notice quiet gasps from around the room.

Behind them Roberto has gotten to his feet and started dancing along to the Nutcracker Suite from the piano. He's excellent at it.

Nic gives her a look. They make eye contact -- full of emotion, like this is exactly what they both need.

Then the sound of clapping breaks their moment and they turn to see Roberto spinning around the room.

JACK

Go amigo! Go!

TANYA

Yay Roberto!!

And EVERYBODY starts dancing. Nic stands and extends his hand to Kate.

NIC

Shall we dance?

KATE

I'd love to.

She stands and they do, lost in each other for a long moment. Nic takes his Santa hat from a pocket and puts it on Kate's head.

NIC

All you need now is a beard!

Kate laughs and they dance.

ISABEL -- peeks out from the closet, just an eye at first -- sees Kate and Nic dance across the floor beneath Christmas lights that make the rec room more beautiful than any nightclub.

For some reason that makes Isabel happy enough to gradually step out, revealing that she wears multiple layers of ski-pants, pants, sweaters, sweatshirts, stocking caps, scarves, and mittens -- and BIG WORKERS' COATS AND HATS on the outermost layer.

KATE -- is lost in the moment. Then is tapped on the shoulder by Tanya.

TANYA

We oughta talk.

55 EXT. WALKWAY WITH PINES - DAY 55

Kate and Tanya pace and talk.

KATE

We were just dancing.

Kate notices Tanya staring at her head, then realizes that she's still wearing Nic's Santa hat and stuffs it in a pocket.

KATE (cont'd)

That's nothing.

(beat)

Well, not exactly. Nothing happened, but I felt something...

TANYA

You kissed a nut... and you liked it.

KATE

You're pushing it...

TANYA

You need to push it. Take a chance. At least talk to him.

KATE

He's my patient. But I can see the kind of person he really is...

TANYA

And?

KATE

He's the kind of person I could fall in love with.

56 INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY 56

Spaulding watches as Kate and Nic walk past his office door. They look exactly like a couple out for a romantic stroll. He does not like that one bit.

57 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY 57

Nic and Kate stroll through a courtyard.

KATE

You seem to be doing well here,
Nic. Are you starting to remember
anything?

NIC

I remember fine.
(beat)
Sort of.

KATE

Any specific images? Like a place
that's important to you.

Nic thinks for a moment as they walk, then stops and
closes his eyes.

NIC

Making the toys today reminded me
of home.

58 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK) 58

Nic fixes a toy behind his big desk and glances up at the
CHRISTMAS PRESENT that Kate unwrapped earlier sitting on
the desk. A moment of deep sadness flashes across his
face.

BACK TO SCENE

59 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY 59

Nic opens his eyes.

NIC

Like my toyshop. I used to fix
toys with these extremely tiny
tools. But sometimes...

KATE

What?

But he can't face his feelings:

NIC

Nothing.

Kate frowns, not sure what to make of that.

KATE

Okay, well, I needed to talk to you, Nic because...

She can't bring herself to say it, but the moment hangs there -- electric.

Nic feels something, on the verge of a real breakthrough. But he's not ready for it yet.

NIC

You should come back with me to the North Pole, Kate. I'm sure everyone would love to meet you.

That ruins the moment. How she could possibly think she could have a relationship with Nic?

KATE

I'm sorry. I should've known better.

She turns and starts walking back to the hospital.

NIC

What's wrong, Kate?

KATE

Nothing. Nothing. Never mind.

NIC

I'm sorry.

KATE

You don't even know what you're sorry for!

Nic watches her go as he realizes just how much he's lost.

NIC

Please! I can fix this!

She's gone and now Nic is just talking to himself.

NIC (cont'd)

I'm good at fixing things...

Nic trudges back into the party, desolate. The party is BREAKING UP -- no more music, people clean up.

JACK

You okay, Nicky?

NIC

If I could just show her that I
can help.

Then he spots Isabel in her massive layered clothing.
Nic hurries over.

NIC (cont'd)

Isabel! Here, let me try
something.

Isabel looks uncertain, but lets Nic go ahead.

ISABEL

Alright...

Nic spreads his arms out wide -- goes in to give Isabel a
big hug.

NIC

Trust me. This is going to be
great.

JACK

Uh, Nic...

Isabel starts to panic and squeezes her eyes shut.

TANYA

Are you sure you know what you're
doing, Nic?

NIC

Everyone needs a little human
contact.

Nic gently wraps his arms around Isabel -- who thrums
like a guitar cord. But, for a moment, it looks like
this might actually work. Then:

ISABEL

AGGH!! Human ooze!! I've got
human ooze all over me!!

Isabel thrashes free and runs around the room wildly
tearing off clothes.

NIC

Isabel! Isabel! It's okay! I'm
not touching you any more!

ISABEL

My prophylactic suit! It's contaminated!

TANYA

Isabel, no! Keep your clothes on, girl!

Jack covers his eyes as Isabel strips.

JACK

I gotta tell you, this is taking a monumental act of restraint on my part.

But Isabel just has more clothes under the clothes she yanks off.

Isabel leaps over the couch to run away from Nic and the others, then runs screaming into the hall.

61 INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY 61

Spaulding hears Isabel's ululating scream Doppler toward him from the hall. He heads for his door.

62 INT. MAIN HALLWAY - DAY 62

Spaulding steps out to see Isabel run back and forth up the hall, in and out of various doors, leaving a trail of socks, mittens, scarves, sweat pants, and sweaters -- and always more clothes underneath like a fashion matryoshka doll.

SPAULDING

What's going on?!

Kate and others have stepped into the hall too.

KATE

Isabel, no! It's going to be okay.

She shoots an accusing look at Nic.

NIC

I'm sorry! I was just trying to help.

SPAULDING

YOU!! I knew you'd be trouble!
(to Tanya)
Take him to the East Wing!

TANYA

There's nobody there. We haven't
used it in years.

SPAULDING

Exactly! Get him somewhere where
he can't cause any more damage and
we figure out what to do with him!
And the rest of you stop that
racket and clean up that rec room!
We've had enough nonsense around
here.

Tanya leads Nic down the hall.

TANYA

Come on, Nic.

Nic follows, looks back over his shoulder at Kate who's
still trying to calm Isabel down. Kate shoots Nic an
angry glare.

NIC

I didn't want to make Kate mad. I
was just trying to help.

TANYA

Kate can get kinda over-
protective. Isabel's her little
sister.

NIC

What?

TANYA

Yeah, they don't tell people
because Isabel doesn't want the
other patients to treat her
different.

Nic blanches, realizing just how bad he screwed up. He
shoots one last look at Kate, who won't even look at him.

63 INT. OUTSIDE STORAGE ROOM - DAY (DAY 5, DEC 23) 63

Eddie carries boxes full of the toys the patients made into the storage room under Spaulding's watchful gaze.

EDDIE

You do realize that this is what the bad guy in a Doctor Seuss book does, right?

SPAULDING

That stuff's got to be a choking hazard! Or a violation of the labor laws! Or something.

64 INT. REC ROOM - DAY 64

Jack, Isabel, and the other patients slouch despondently on chairs and couches in the now empty and Spartan rec room. Tanya writes on the chalkboard: "Outdoor exercise -- 10:30"

But she forgets to put a dot over the "i" in exercise.

JACK

You forgot the dot.

TANYA

What?

JACK

The dot over the "i".

Tanya looks at the chalkboard. Shrugs. Then trudges back to her desk.

JACK (cont'd)

The patient is showing some progress.

65 INT. EAST WING HALLWAY - DAY 65

A single door hangs open in a dilapidated and empty hallway in the closed-down and remote East Wing.

66 INT. EAST WING ROOM - DAY 66

Nic mopes on a chair beside the window in a dingy, older room. He's all alone here and it's deathly quiet. Nic gazes out the window. We push in on his face:

REAL SAINT NIC - BLUE REVISIONS - 6/1/2012 60A.

Who is he? The real Saint Nic or somebody he can't even remember?

67

INT. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY

67

Kate Googles through news articles for "MISSING PERSONS", to no avail. Screw it. She types.

ON SCREEN: "MISSING SANTA"

Knocking at the door. She quickly hides the webpage.

KATE

Come in!

Isabel enters wearing a RACE CAR DRIVER outfit, complete with Racer X helmet.

KATE (cont'd)

Isabel! I'm sorry. I should've warned Nic to be more careful around you.

ISABEL

No, no. Don't worry. I'm fine now. I'm here for Nic. He was only trying to help me.

KATE

I know.

ISABEL

So don't be mad at him!

KATE

I'm not mad. Any more. Maybe I overreacted. I just get protective, you know.

ISABEL

I know. Thanks.

Isabel gets up to go.

KATE

I'm jealous of him.

ISABEL

Why's that?

KATE

He got to hug you.

A little pained look on Isabel's face.

ISABEL

You two have something in common.

KATE

What's that?

ISABEL

You're both so busy helping others that you never give anybody else a chance to help you. Love ya, big sis.

KATE

Love ya back little sis.

Isabel leaves.

Kate ponders on their talk for a moment, then notices the WOODEN BOX that she found in Nic's bag earlier partly hidden at the back of a shelf.

She takes it down, runs her hands over it and checks it over, traces the filigreed designs with a finger -- then notices that a panel seems loose. She presses on it and it slides out.

It's a PUZZLE BOX.

Kate pushes and prods at it, sliding panels and unveiling hinges until it finally pops open. Inside is a MUSIC BOX.

Kate finds a music-box-key inside and looks for a spot to insert in, then turns -- but the clockwork machinery KLINKS.

Broken.

She fiddles with it a bit more and finds a latch, pops it open. Inside is a small brass plaque. Engraved on it is:

The Andersen Brothers -- Toymakers

Kate's car cruises along a winding road through tall trees.

69 EXT. TOY SHOP - DAY 69

Kate steps out of her car and walks to the front door of a small, rural, toy workshop. A SIGN hanging out front says "ANDERSEN BROTHERS -- TOYMAKERS". She knocks.

70 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY 70

BEN ANDERSEN, looks like Nic but covered in sawdust, leads Kate through the toy shop, which is exactly how it was in Nic's flashback.

KATE

This place is great, Ben.

Kate admires the various hand-crafted toys as they move through the place.

BEN

Is he going to be okay?

KATE

I think so.

Then Kate spots a FRAMED PHOTO of Nic and an attractive young woman, 24, who is holding a baby girl.

KATE

Oh. Nic's married.

Then she sees Ben's solemn look.

BEN

Five years ago he lost his wife, Abby, and their little girl Susannah in a car accident just days before Christmas. It was going to be Susannah's first Christmas.

KATE

Oh, I'm so sorry.

BEN

Every year just before Christmas
he goes to his cabin to remember.

KATE

In the same way a person who's
lost a loved one puts flowers on
their grave.

BEN

Exactly. He wants them to know
that he still loves and hasn't
forgotten them.

KATE

I think I'm starting to understand
better now.

BEN

They were going to have Susannah's
first Christmas there and he had
planned to dress up as Santa for
her. He wanted her to see Santa
on her first Christmas.

KATE

So this is a kind of ritual?

BEN

That's right. For Nic, family was
everything.

KATE

So, his being Santa every year is
his way to reminisce about the
precious things that he lost. The
things that the rest of us take
for granted.

71

INT. EAST WING ROOM - DAY

71

MONTAGE SEQUENCE/MUSIC OVER --(These four short scenes
are without dialogue -- just a poignant montage covered
by some music.)

Nic looks up as Kate enters and starts to talk. A pensive look clouds his face.

72 EXT. TOY SHOP - DAY 72

Kate's car is parked in front of the shop.

73 OMITTED 73

74 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY 74

Kate follows Nic inside and watches as Ben hurries over and crushes Nic in a hug.

There's a brief moment of joy on Nic's face as he remembers his brother.

But it won't last.

Kate and Ben wait, pensive, as Nic then wanders through the toy shop remembering, touching the odd tool or partially reconstructed toy.

Then Nic picks up the PHOTO of himself, Abby, and Susannah. Emotions and memories -- hard ones -- flash over his face.

Kate half-steps toward him. Maybe there's something she can do. But Nic abruptly sets the photo down and hurries out.

END MONTAGE

75 INT. TOY SHOP - LATER 75

Kate sits at the table with Ben once more, this time over wine. They need something harder than coffee this time.

KATE

Maybe he would've been happier thinking he was Santa. I'm just sorry that I'm the reason he remembered all that pain again. No wonder he hates me.

BEN

He doesn't hate you. He's just...
coping. And don't be sorry. We
can only live in the past so long.

76	OMITTED	76
77	OMITTED	77
78	OMITTED	78

79 OMITTED 79

80 INT. KATE'S HOUSE - DAY (DAY 6, DEC 24) 80

In the living room Kate drinks coffee with Tanya and Isabel. Kate paces. Isabel shoots Tanya a worried look. *

TANYA *

Alright, you brought both me and Isabel here and you're wearing a hole in the floor with that pacing. You better just spit out whatever you're going to say before our imaginations run wild. *

KATE *

I finally decided to take that standing offer from the Bartlett Institute. I'm sorry, Tanya. But I just can't take any more Spaulding. *

ISABEL *

You're going to Vermont? *

KATE *

We're going to Vermont. We'll get actual snow for a change. *

TANYA *

You're both leaving me? I can't handle the poster boy for narcissistic personality disorder all by myself. *

KATE *

(laughs)
I'll pull some strings. *

Isabel notices a BUSINESS CARD sitting next to Kate's phone. She picks it up. *

It's a card for "ANDERSEN BROTHERS -- TOYMAKERS". She waves the card around. *

ISABEL *

So? *

KATE *

"So" what? *

ISABEL

So what's going to happen with you
and Nic?

*
*
*

KATE

There is no "me and Nic". Nic's
gone back to his life.

*
*
*

ISABEL

You're my sister and I know you
really well and I can tell that
you care about him. It's not
about following science, Kate,
it's about following your heart.

*
*
*
*
*
*

TANYA

Exactly!

*
*

KATE

Well, that ship has sailed. But
thanks for your support.

*
*
*

A moment lingering on Kate -- she puts on a good show of
moving on, but she's already starting to miss him.

*
*

Isabel and Tanya trade looks. Tanya just shrugs.

*

Isabel frowns. There's got to be something she can do,
then notices that the business card includes an address.

*
*

She slips it into a pocket.

*

REAL SAINT NIC - TRIPLE YELLOW REVISIONS - 6/29/2012 68A.

<<Script note -- I can't delete the MORE and CONT'D below *
due to the pages being locked, so just ignore them.>>

(MORE)

REAL SAINT NIC - TRIPLE YELLOW REVISIONS - 6/29/2012 69.

KATE (cont'd)

(MORE)

*

REAL SAINT NIC - TRIPLE YELLOW REVISIONS - 6/29/2012 69A.

KATE (cont'd)

*

A80 EXT. SAINT JOHN'S HOSPITAL - DAY A80 *

Nic's SUV pulls in front of the main entrance.

B80 INT. SPAULDING'S OFFICE - DAY B80

Spaulding works at his desk, sees Nic, now dressed craftsman casual in button-down and jeans, pass by in the main hallway.

C80 INT. FOYER - DAY C80

Spaulding steps out of his office as Nic looks around. Eddie does work in the background.

SPAULDING
What are you doing here?

NIC
Have you seen Kate?

SPAULDING
She's not here. Haven't you caused enough trouble?

NIC
I know. I'm sorry. I just needed to talk to Kate. Do you have her email? Phone number?

SPAULDING
I can't divulge that information to someone with your history of mental illness.

NIC
Of course. Um, here.

Nic takes a folded LETTER from a pocket.

NIC (cont'd)

This is confidential, can you give it to Kate? It's just a 'thank you' note. She helped me so much.

SPAULDING

I suppose so.

Spaulding takes the letter from Nic.

NIC

Sorry about -- you know, everything. If you ever need any toys just call!

Spaulding watches Nic leave, looks at the letter in his hand... then opens it and reads -- eyes go wide, then he crumples the letter and tosses it in the trash. Eddie notices this.

81

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

81

Isabel whispers to Jack on the couch. She shows him the business card.

ISABEL

She won't admit it, but she belongs with Nic. And I've got his address.

JACK

Marriage ain't for me personally. When you got as many options as I do, it just don't make sense to tie yerself down, but you're right. Nic and Kate make a cute couple.

ISABEL

She spent her whole life taking care of me. It's time I took care of her for a change. I'm breaking out tonight.

JACK

Yeah, it's about time the loonies took charge of the loony-bin!

Just then Isabel notices Tanya standing behind the couch.

ISABEL

Uh, it's not what you think. We're talking about a... um...

(MORE)

REAL SAINT NIC - BLUE REVISIONS - 6/1/2012 70B.

ISABEL (cont'd)

could you just make up your own
lie?

JACK

How long have you been there?

TANYA

Long enough to know that you're
gonna need my help.

82 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY 82

Nic walks around the shop putting things back in place,
making sure stuffed animals are sitting comfortably.

It's lonely after the wild bustle of the mental ward.

He sees a music box sitting on his desk, picks it up --
thinks a moment -- then gets a KIT OF CLOCKWORK TOOLS.

83 OMITTED 83

84 OMITTED 84

85 INT. OLD VAN - DAY 85

Everybody piles in and Jack tries to climb behind the
wheel -

JACK

I'll drive!

- but Tanya climbs into the driver's seat first.

TANYA

Not a chance.

JACK

I'll get us there fast!

TANYA

You'll get us to the hospital
fast.

Tanya turns the key. Engine chugs.

TANYA (cont'd)

Come on, come on. We need some
Christmas magic here.

The engine catches and runs.

86 INT. KATE'S HOUSE - DAY 86

An AIRPLANE TICKET to BURLINGTON VERMONT, flight at 8:30 PM sits on a table.

Kate drags a SUITCASE out of a closet and when she closes the door Nic's Santa Hat hanging on it falls off.

Kate picks it up, emotions welling up in her. She looks around at her barely lived in house -- glances at the airplane ticket -- then squeezes Nic's Santa hat in her hand.

A decisive look washes over her face.

87 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - DAY 87

Kate climbs in her car and drives.

88 EXT. ROAD - DAY 88

The old van cruises along a quiet road.

89 INT. OLD VAN - DAY 89

Jack sits shotgun while Tanya drives.

JACK

Would it kill ya ta go just a little faster.

TANYA

I'm responsible for your safety.

They stop at a lone stop sign. There's zero cross traffic.

JACK

There's nobody around!

TANYA

Maybe they have a traffic camera.

Spaulding's car pulls up next to them and stops for the sign too -- but nobody notices yet.

90 INT. SPAULDING'S CAR - DAY 90

Spaulding checks his teeth in the mirror, then checks out the view -- makes brief eye contact with Jack in the van.

SPAULDING POV -- Jack's eyes go wide.

It doesn't register for Spaulding right away and he looks at his teeth in the mirror again. Then...

Wait a minute... Was that...?

He turns to look and now all he sees is MAP.

91 INT. OLD VAN - DAY 91

Jack rattles an old map around in his hands and has it folded out so large that it covers the entire window. Isabel is ducked down in the back.

JACK

(sotto)

Go! Go! Go!

TANYA

What?! What's going on?

ISABEL

It's Spaulding!

Tanya drives. Isabel peeks over the back seat.

ISABEL (cont'd)

Oh no! He's following us!

TANYA

Maybe he's just driving the same direction.

92 INT. SPAULDING'S CAR - DAY 92

Spaulding stays on the van's ass.

SPAULDING

Something's going on here.

93

INT. OLD VAN - LATER

93

Isabel peeks over the back seat again.

ISABEL

He's still following us!

JACK

Hit that pedal and lose him,
sister.

Tanya hits the gas hard -- but the engine SPUTTERS and
CHOKES.

TANYA

No! NO!!!

JACK

Dang! You flooded it!

TANYA

It's your fault! You told me to
hit the gas!!

Isabel spots a LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE LOT off to the side
of the road. The lot also has a table set up with FRUIT
CAKES laid out on it. A big sign says "EVERYONE LOVES
FRUIT CAKES!!"

ISABEL

(sardonic)

Pull over. This has gotta be for
us.

94

EXT. LIVING XMAS TREE LOT - DAY

94

The van rolls to a stop beside a LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE
LOT. A sign says "LIVING TREES!! XMAS EVE SPECIAL!!
ALL TREES HALF PRICE!!".

A couple CUSTOMERS meander. The LOT OWNER watches as
Jack and Isabel jump out of the van while Tanya tries to
restart the engine.

Spaulding pulls in behind them and jumps out of his car.

SPAULDING

I knew it! I knew it! That's
hospital property! You stole our
van!!

JACK

Oh sheeeyi-

Isabel dashes to the van's hood, pops it, and fiddles
around inside.

JACK (cont'd)

You know how to fix that?

ISABEL

No!! Do you?

JACK

Aww heck.

Isabel goes back to fiddling randomly with the engine.
Jack sees Spaulding whip out a cell phone and dial.

SPAULDING

I'm calling the police!

Jack looks around, at a total loss for what to do. So he just goes crazy on Spaulding -- channels Nicholson from the psycho-breakdown performance at the end of THE SHINING:

JACK

What are you doing here?

SPAULDING

What?

JACK

I asked: what are you doing here
ole Spauldster, ole pal, ole
buddy?

Spaulding starts to look nervous, backs away.

SPAULDING

Ehhhh...

JACK

Did ya want ta chew the fat?
Jawbone it out? Do a little of
the old talkie-talkie?

SPAULDING

I'm just, you're -

JACK

Because surely there's gotta be
some purpose for why you followed
us way out here! Clearly you got
some very definite reasons for why
seeing us ev-er-y blinking day at
the nut house ain't enough and
that you also gotta follow us
around on our night off!

SPAULDING

Look, you don't need to get any
closer, Jack.

JACK

Are you concerned about me,
Spauldepster?

Spaulding keeps backing off.

SPAULDING

Um. Yes.

JACK

Of course you are.

Jack points to himself and gestures.

JACK (cont'd)

Have you ever thought about my
responsibilities?

SPAULDING

Uh, what are you talking about?

JACK

Have you ever had a single
moment's thought about my
responsibilities as a patient?
Have you ever thought for a single
solitary moment about my
responsibilities to keep all those
doctors and nurses and even
administrators like yourself
employed?

SPAULDING

I'm not sure -- what?

JACK

Does it matter to you at all that
the entire institution of mental
health care depends on people like
me holding up my end of the
bargain? That all of it is under
the blanket of my protection? Do
you have the slightest idea what a
work ethic is?

SPAULDING

Well, I, uh, I appreciate that -

JACK

Has it ever occurred to you what
would happen if I were to fail to
live up to my responsibilities?

SPAULDING

Uh, step back please.

JACK

Why?

SPAULDING

I just want to make a phone call here.

JACK

Why?

Jack gets really close.

JACK (cont'd)

I'm not going to hurt you.

Jack's right up close. Spaulding quakes with fear.

SPAULDING

Don't touch me. Just stay away.

JACK

Spauldoogie old chum, I'm not going to hurt you. You didn't let me finish my train of thought. I'm not going to hurt you... I'm just going to -

Jack hesitates a moment -- what am I going to do? Then he hears the van's engine catch.

ISABEL

WOOO!!!

Jack yanks the phone from Spaulding's shivering hand, ducks into Spaulding's car, grabs the keys from the ignition, and tosses all of them into a chicken pen.

JACK

- do this!

Jack runs back to the van and jumps inside behind Isabel.

Tanya pounds the gas as Isabel and Jack jump in. Tanya and Isabel both cheer and slap Jack's back.

TANYA

That was great!

ISABEL

Terrific, Jack! Utterly awesome!

TANYA

You had me scared.

JACK

Thanks. Just doin' my part.

ISABEL

You totally nailed The Shining.

JACK

The what?

ISABEL

You know. The Shining. Jack
Nichol- oh never mind.

96 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY 96

Nic leans over the music box, finishes some particularly intricate work, then sits back and relaxes. Done.

97 EXT. LIVING XMAS TREE LOT - DAY 97

Spaulding shouts around at the other people.

SPAULDING

Does somebody have a cellphone?
Somebody has to have a cellphone!
I have to call the police!

LOT OWNER

Is this because of the ninja?

Spaulding blinks.

SPAULDING

Yes. It's because of the ninja.

The LOT OWNER hands over his cellphone.

LOT OWNER

Yeah I thought that seemed kinda suspicious.

98

INT. TOY SHOP - DAY

98

Nic is working on something. Ben enters, leading Jack, Tanya, and Isabel.

NIC

Just when I thought this Christmas couldn't get any weirder.

BEN

They just drove up, all those crazy people you told me about.

JACK

There are four of us and one of you, so who's really crazy here, pal?

Isabel and Tanya look around at the shop, so impressed for a moment that they forget their mission.

ISABEL

Oh, wow.

Tanya recovers first.

TANYA

Focus Isabel.

(to Nic)

Kate is on the verge of moving to Vermont. Unless we prevent it.

NIC

Where is she?

ISABEL

She's at her house but she's about to leave for the airport.

TANYA

You might not ever see her again.

JACK

You don't want that, Nic.

99 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - DAY 99

Kate pulls SHOPPING BAGS from her car's trunk. The trunk is full of BAGS. What did she buy...?

100 INT. OLD VAN - DAY 100

Nic drives now and they blast down the highway.

ISABEL
Maybe we should call her.

NIC
I'd rather talk to Kate in person.

JACK
Good man. *

Then POLICE LIGHTS flash behind them and a siren BLOOPS. *

JACK
Son of a -

101 EXT. ROAD - DAY 101

Nic pulls the old van to the side of the road and the POLICE CRUISER pulls up behind them. The POLICE OFFICER gets out, followed by Spaulding.

SPAULDING
They're dangerous escaped mental patients and they're thieves!!

POLICE OFFICER
I'll handle this, sir.

102

INT. OLD VAN - DAY

102

Van is stopped. Nic and the others watch them coming.

NIC

Oh hell.

TANYA

Um, we're not exactly legal here.

NIC

So I'm like aiding and abetting?

JACK

Since, technically, we're not responsible for ourselves, you might even be kinda kidnapping.

NIC

Are you kidding me?!

ISABEL

We need a Christmas miracle.

103

EXT. OLD VAN - DAY

103

The Police Officer taps on the window and Nic rolls it down.

NIC

Hi officer.

POLICE OFFICER

I'll need your license and registration, sir.

NIC

Sure. Of course.

Nic fishes stuff out.

SPAULDING

That's him! That's Santa! I mean the guy who thought he was Santa! He's behind all of this! He manipulated all these weak-minded mental patients into stealing the van!

JACK

Who are you calling weak-minded?

TANYA
(flashes badge)
I'm a nurse.

NIC
I wasn't even in the hospital
today so I don't see how I
could've manipulated anyone.

POLICE OFFICER
(to Spaulding)
He doesn't look like Santa.

SPAULDING
Not now! Before! Look, they're
all crazy.

POLICE OFFICER
They don't look that crazy.

SPAULDING
There's a girl in there wearing a
ninja suit!!!

The Police Officer shines his light around inside the
van. Isabel hides on the floor, blending perfectly into
the shadows due to her ninja suit.

POLICE OFFICER
I don't see a girl in a ninja
suit.

SPAULDING
That's because she's in a ninja
suit!!! She's hiding!!!

Now the Police Officer looks at Spaulding suspiciously,
gets out his phone.

POLICE OFFICER
Maybe I better call the
hospital...

104 OMITTED 104

105 INT. FOYER - DAY 105

As Eddie pushes a cart through the foyer, the phone
RINGS. Eddie picks the phone up.

EDDIE
(into phone)
Saint John's Hospital.
(listens)
Spaulding Tyler?

Eddie notices Nic's letter that Spaulding threw in the trash bin. Hmmmm. He picks it up and reads.

INTERCUT WITH ROAD

POLICE OFFICER
(into phone)
That's right. Mister Tyler says
he runs your hospital and he's
making accusations about a Nic
Andersen.

Eddie finishes reading the note, we INSERT ON ONE LINE:
"I'm falling in love with you."

He looks back at the trash can where he found it, puts two and two together -- and his face goes dark.

EDDIE
(into phone)
Sorry for the delay, officer.
Yes, Spaulding's a patient here.
He likes to accuse staff and other
normal people of being crazy.
"Projection", you know. He even
made a fake doctor's ID.

POLICE OFFICER
(into phone)
Now this is finally making sense.
Do you want me to bring him back
to you?

EDDIE
(into phone)
I'm afraid we're full up for the
holiday.

POLICE OFFICER
(into phone)
I understand. We'll take care of
him, then. Thank you for your
help.

EDDIE
(into phone)
My pleasure, and by the way, he
might be armed and dangerous.

END INTERCUT

106

EXT. ROAD - DAY

106

The Police Officer snaps his phone shut.

SPAULDING

See? Arrest them!

POLICE OFFICER

It'd be best if you wait in the
cruiser.

The Police Officer calmly approaches Spaulding.

SPAULDING

What? Why? Wait a minute... who
did you talk to?! They're all in
this together! They're all
against me!

NIC

Wow. His paranoia has really
gotten out of control.

POLICE OFFICER

(to Nic)

I can handle this now. Sorry to
have bothered you, sir.

NIC

No problem. And Merry Christmas,
officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Thanks. You too.

SPAULDING

What?! No!

The van cruises away. Isabel finally pops her ninja-
suited head up to look out the back window.

SPAULDING (cont'd)

Look! There she is! The ninja!

POLICE OFFICER

Just calm down, sir.

SPAULDING

No! They're tricking you, you
idiot! Oh no. No!

Spaulding starts to run and the Police Officer TASES him to the ground.

107 INT. OLD VAN - DUSK 107

Jack and Isabel watch out the back window as Spaulding convulses on the ground.

JACK

That reminds me. I should get a little of the old electro-shock. I could use a top-off.

108 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE / STREET - NIGHT (NIGHT 6, CHRISTMAS 108 EVE)

The old van drives along the street towards Kate's house, which is pitch black -- not a single light or Christmas candle.

109 INT. OLD VAN - NIGHT 109

Nic pulls into the driveway.

NIC

Oh no.

As soon as the van stops, Nic leaps out.

110 EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 110

Nic races to the front door as the others pile out of the van. Nic knocks, tries the doorbell. No response. He checks through the window. *

NIC

There's nobody here! We're too late! She's gone. *

Tanya has phone out and dials furiously. *

TANYA

Maybe I can still call her. *

Nic bashes through more bushes to look through other windows and gets tangled up in wires, tries to struggle free but gets just more wire wrapped around him. *

JACK *
Looks like you get left behind, *
little sister. *

ISABEL *
No. I'm going to meet her when *
they finalize my transfer. *

TANYA *
It's not going to voice mail. So *
she's probably not on an airplane. *

Nic struggles with the wires. *

NIC *
What's going on? What is this *
stuff. *

Then suddenly the **WHOLE HOUSE ILLUMINATES**. So many
Christmas lights that people need to shade their eyes.

JACK *
Oh, it's Christmas on steroids, *
pal. *

TANYA *
Oh my mighty Santa-tizer. *

And Nic discovers that the wires he's tangled in are
Christmas and are now wrapping him so he's like a living *
Christmas tree. *

NIC *
Oh. Oh... wow. *

Kate comes out the front door. *

KATE *
What are all you guys doing here? *
(to Nic) *
Did you get my lights to work? *

Kate walks over to help untangle him.

KATE *
Now I know why everyone thinks *
you're crazy. *

NIC *
Yeah, crazy in love with you. *

KATE *
Come here, you. *

Kate pulls the Christmas lights tight around Nic to pull
him to her and they kiss. *

JACK *
Don't stop there, pal. *

They keep kissing. *

111 OMITTED 111 *

112 INT. CHILDREN'S CENTER - MORNING (DAY 7, CHRISTMAS) 112

Kate, Nic, Tanya, Jack, and Isabel all hand out the toys
they made to the ECSTATIC KIDS in the children's center.
There aren't as many kids today as there were before, but
the ones who are here make up for it with enthusiasm.

TANYA
Now be careful. These are all
handmade.

JACK
Go ahead and bust 'em up! There's
always next Christmas!

Tanya scowls at Jack, then laughs. As the kids play with
their new toys Nic opens his Santa bag.

NIC
I had a few presents for you guys
too.

TANYA
Aw, you didn't have to-

JACK

Of course he did! He's Santa, or
at least the spirit of Santa.
Gimme gimme.

He hands Jack a package.

NIC

Alright, you first Jack.

Jack rips it open -- Nicholson-esque RAYBANS. He puts
them on and does the Jack Nicholson shark's grin.

JACK

Yeah, this feels right. Now I
just need some Laker tickets.

A Santa Claus costume for Isabel.

NIC (cont'd)

I figure maybe you'll take over
next year.

ISABEL

I'll try it on right now!

Isabel rushes off to a bathroom with the Santa suit.

Nic gives a present to Roberto. Roberto unwraps it,
revealing the music box.

NIC

Turn the key. Wind it up.

Roberto does so and it starts playing the Nutcracker
Suite. He's overjoyed, starts dancing around the room.

Then one last present, the puzzle box for Tanya.

TANYA

This is wonderful! Thank you,
Nic!

She crushes him in a hug. Kate gives Nic a look, knowing
how important this is.

KATE

Really?

NIC

Really. Presents are for making
people happy.

KATE

I like that.

NIC

And I'm sorry, I couldn't figure
out what I could get you that'd
even compare to what you've
already given me.

KATE

This is exactly what I wished for.

She grabs him and kisses him as everyone celebrates.

Isabel hurries back in, now dressed as Santa, and watches the kids have fun. Kate absent-mindedly puts her hand on Isabel's shoulder, then suddenly remembers not to touch her.

But this time Isabel's okay with it. Kate leaves her hand there, a faint smile on her face.

A112 INT. TOY SHOP - DAY A112

Over glasses of wine, Nic shows Kate how to use the tools to make a toy.

113 INT. JAIL HOUSE - DAY 113

As the credits roll, we see Spaulding hunched over and handcuffed on a bench in a HOLDING CELL beside a SCARY CON wearing a SANTA HAT sitting next to him.

SPAULDING

(sardonic)

This is certain to be the best birthday ever.

THE END