

CLAUS & EFFECT

Written by

Chazitear Martin

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - MORNING

Quirky music BUILDS as we dive down into a neighborhood.

A very clean beautiful suburban neighborhood. The houses are cookie cutter with super green grass on every lawn.

NICHOLAS 'Nick' GARVEY, 30s -- underachieving, yet loyal, walks outside of his suburban home wearing a red robe and house slippers.

He grabs a newspaper off the lawn. He closes his eyes and inhales air.

He scans the neighborhood with his eyes and spots people talking to each other: one NEIGHBOR watering their grass, and one NEIGHBOR waves.

Nick waves back.

A MAN behind Nick yells out.

MAN

Morning Jack! Tell Lily, Sarah  
wants her baking dish back!

Nick pulls his wave back out of the air.

He walks back inside of his home.

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

Nick squeezes in a corner, sharing the bathroom with his wife, VANESSA GARVEY, 30s -- unapologetic, straight-shooter college professor.

Vanessa applies eyeliner. Nick brushes his teeth. He bumps her. She smudges the eyeliner. Vanessa stares Nick. Nick cowards to brushing his teeth over the toilet.

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nick stands in front of the Keurig as it dispenses.

Vanessa grabs the orange juice from the refrigerator.

The toaster POPS two hot pop-tarts up and Nick grabs them out. He struggles to hold them and drops one.

Vanessa grabs the remaining tart from Nick's hand.

The door bell RINGS, cutting the music.

NICK  
Who is that?

Vanessa shrugs, and bites into the pop-tart. It's still hot.

NICK (CONT'D)  
God don't like ugly.

Nick walks to the door. Vanessa guzzles OJ.

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Nick checks the peephole. Vanessa joins him in the foyer.

She feeds the fish, while Nick stares out of the peephole.

Through the peephole: an OFFICER, stands holding an envelope.

NICK  
He looks pretty official. Suit and tie.

VANESSA  
Open the door, crazy ass.

NICK  
The only thing crazy in here is your hair.  
(beat)  
That's right. I hate it.

Vanessa is appalled.

VANESSA  
You said you liked it.

NICK  
I lied.

Vanessa runs off to the bathroom.

The doorbell RINGS, followed by a KNOCK on the door, Nick opens the door.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Hey buddy, persistent aren't ya.  
What can I do for you?

OFFICER  
You've been served.

The officer hands Nick the envelope. He snaps a picture of Nick holding it.

NICK  
Hey! I wasn't ready!

The officer walks off to his unmarked car.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Don't tag me on Instagram!

Nick closes the door, and turns to Vanessa. She's feeding the fish again, wearing a hat.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Why do you put so much food in the fish tank? If Sparkie gets constipated, I swear to God.

VANESSA  
Well, if he dies... maybe we can get a dog.

Vanessa closes the fish tank.

NICK  
You know how I feel about dogs.

VANESSA  
Yes, I know how you feel about dogs, and cats, and birds-- any animal that's bigger than you. And that's why we have a beta fish.  
(beat)  
What's in the envelope?

NICK  
You didn't have to say birds. I'm bigger than most birds.

VANESSA  
Sure. What's in it?

NICK  
I like your hat.

He doesn't. Nick opens the envelope. Vanessa touches her hat, then runs off.

NICK (CONT'D)  
He said, I'd been served.  
Apparently, we're being sued by someone.  
(beat)  
What did you do?

VANESSA  
Why would you assume I did  
something?!

EXT/INT. DRIVEWAY/CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A drunk Vanessa, and her GIRLS stumble to the car singing  
Beyonce.

THE LADIES  
We like to party!

Vanessa tries to quiet them down.

VANESSA  
Shhhhhh, y'all know I live in this  
"Wisteria Lane" ass neighborhood.

The ladies sing:

THE LADIES  
Sorry!

They finish the song once inside the car:

THE LADIES (CONT'D)  
Aye, aye, aye... we like to par-  
tay!

Vanessa swerves the car out of the driveway into the  
neighbor's mailbox.

Vanessa panics and stomps on the gas.

The ladies all break their silence into laughter.

End Flashback.

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Vanessa, wearing a different hat, stands in front of Nick.

NICK  
You did what?!

VANESSA  
I was drunk!

NICK  
You told me someone bumped into  
your car at a traffic light.

VANESSA

I know.

NICK

That's a hit and run!

VANESSA

It was one time!

NICK

It only takes one time!

VANESSA

First of all, I didn't hit someone!  
I hit a mailbox and second of all,  
we don't even know if that's what  
the letter is about, because you  
haven't even opened it.

NICK

Oh, that's exactly what it's about.  
I already know.

Nick rips open the letter.

NICK (CONT'D)

Dear Mr. Garvey, you have been  
summoned by SCP-21 to report to Les  
Gougeses at 7:25pm SHARP. There  
will be a reservation for three  
under the name, Francis De Beau for  
you and Mrs. Garvey. Please arrive  
on time. This is confidential.

They stare at each other.

VANESSA

I think a better question is what  
in the hell did you do?

NICK

I don't know.

VANESSA

Why are you receiving certified  
federal mail?

NICK

If I knew, don't you think I'd  
know?

VANESSA

What?

NICK  
If I knew... I'd already know,  
therefore, resulting, concluding--

VANESSA  
You ain't saying a damn thing...

NICK  
If you'd let me finish.  
(beat)  
I have no idea.

VANESSA  
All I know is this sounds like some  
Shonda Rhimes-- Scandal B-613 type  
of shit and if it is, I'm on the  
first thing smoking.

Vanessa returns to the kitchen and grabs her now cool pop-  
tart and OJ.

Nicholas stares at her as she walks out of the house.

NICK  
Olivia's coat looks better.

VANESSA (O.C)  
That's because her man has money!  
Love you!

NICK  
(to Sparkie)  
Alright lil man, look out for the  
house.

Nick walks out of the door behind her.

EXT. LES GOUGESES - EVENING

A very upscale fine dining restaurant with white linen  
clothes over the tables. The servers wear button down white  
shirts with vests.

Soft jazz MUSIC in the background as families and couples  
enjoy the ambiance.

Nick and Vanessa walk to the hosts stand, MARC greets them.

MARC  
Bonjour Madame et Monsieur.

NICK  
Ah, Bonjour.

MARC  
 May I have the name of your  
 reservation for this evening?

NICK  
 It's, uh, Francis De Beau. Mr. De  
 Beau.

Vanessa inconspicuously thumps Nick's arm.

MARC  
 Ah! I see. Groupe de trois!

NICK  
 Oh, no... we're not-- We don't get  
 down like that.

Vanessa elbows him.

VANESSA  
 Nick.

NICK  
 What? The man said menage trois. We  
 not doing that!

VANESSA  
 He said group of three.

MARC  
 Party of three? No?

VANESSA  
 Yes.

MARC  
 Allow me to show you to your dining  
 table for the evening.

NICK  
 Oh! Yes. Right. Group pay day  
 trois.

Marc leads the way and Vanessa and Nick follow.

They arrive at the table:

MARC  
 Bon a petit.

VANESSA  
 Thank you!



They take their seat. Marc sits the menus in front of them, then leaves.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Why must you behave like that?

NICK  
(whispering)  
What did I do?

VANESSA  
(whispering)  
Too much, per usual. We have no idea why we're here, we could be getting abducted, and you're joking and playing around.

NICK  
(whispering)  
How about you get your panties out of your ass?! We are at Les Gougesses.

VANESSA  
(loud whispering)  
That's my point!

Vanessa catches herself.

NICK  
(whispering)  
Look at you. Can't take you nowhere.

While they bicker, Marc approaches with envelope.

MARC  
Excusez-Moi. Monsieur De Beau, it was my duty to present you with this envelope.

Marc hands the envelope to Nick and leaves.

NICK  
Thank you!  
(to Vanessa)  
Better?

Vanessa clinches her jaw.

VANESSA  
Open the letter.

Nick opens the letter.

NICK

It says, 'Agent Miller will be accompanying you in a few moments.' That's it.

VANESSA

Well, great. I'll go to the little ladies to refresh.

NICK

What could you need to refresh? All of that time you took in the bathroom. We just got here.

VANESSA

Damn, Nick. I need to pee. I was trying to be polite.

NICK

Well, hurry up.

VANESSA

Don't rush me.

Vanessa slowly gets up from her chair. She's purposely moving like a snail.

NICK

I swear.

She finally leaves the table.

Nick starts to mess with things on the table. He unfolds his napkin and puts it over his lap. He tries out the pepper and salt shakers. He brushes over the linen and then lifts it to see what's under it. He knocks on the wood.

NICK (CONT'D)

This is nice.

AGENT KARYN MILLER, 40s -- a white, witty, business-like agent, stands in front of Nick holding a briefcase. She clears her throat.

Nick comes from under the table.

NICK (CONT'D)

I dropped my napkin.

AGENT MILLER

Mr. De Beau.

NICK

Yes?

AGENT MILLER

Agent Miller.

Agent Miller sits down, next to Nick.

NICK

Oh, right. I'm really Mr. Garvey.

AGENT MILLER

Of course. Is your wife joining us?

NICK

She stepped away to freshen up.

AGENT MILLER

Understood. I don't want to start without her, so we can wait.

INT. LES GOUGESES - CONTINUOUS

ANNA, 30s --a white, meddlesome, but nurturing housewife, and husband RYAN, 30s--black, blue-collar, jokester, and best friends of Nick and Vanessa, leave their table.

Ryan gives the bill to the server. Anna spots Nick sitting with Agent Miller.

She taps Ryan's shoulder.

ANNA

Is that Nick?

RYAN

My man!

Ryan looks over toward Nick's table.

ANNA

That's not Vanessa.

RYAN

My man.

Anna smacks his arm.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Come on, I'm joking. Don't jump to conclusions.

ANNA  
Of course not. I'm going to see.

Before Ryan can rebut, she's off.

RYAN  
(loud whispering)  
Anna!  
(sotto)  
Fuck.

Ryan follows her.

INT. LES GOUGESES - NICK'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Nick sees Anna and Ryan walk over to his table.

NICK  
Hey guys.

Anna ignores Nick.

ANNA  
Hi. I'm Anna, and this is Ryan.

She introduces herself to Agent Miller.

AGENT MILLER  
Hi.

NICK  
What, uh... are you guys doing out  
on a weeknight?

RYAN  
Just grabbing a bite, man.

ANNA  
And what are you doing out?

Anna prying.

NICK  
A business meeting.

ANNA  
Business.

Anna checks her watch.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's rather late for a business meeting. I'm sorry I didn't get your name. I'm Anna.

AGENT MILLER

I didn't give it, so.  
(to Nick)  
Nicholas, do you mind?

Anna is taken aback.

NICK

Right. Guys, I hate to cut this short, but...

RYAN

No worries, man. I hear you. Come on Anna. Catch you soon, bro. Miss.

NICK

This weekend.

Ryan and Nick dap. Anna doesn't buy it. Ryan whisks her from the table.

RYAN

Let's let them finish, honey.

They leave.

NICK

I'm so sorry about that.

Vanessa walks up.

VANESSA

Sorry about what?

NICK

Ryan and Anna-- You missed them.

VANESSA

And you are?

Vanessa extends her hand to Agent Miller.

AGENT MILLER

Agent Miller. Listen, I am more of a 'let's get down to business' kind of person, so here it is: I am with the FBI. Sent here by Chief of Holiday Affairs to break the news that you have been drafted.

The couple sits in shock.

VANESSA

He's going to war? But he's so little.

AGENT MILLER

No, hear me clearly, without interruptions please, Mrs. Garvey.

(beat)

Thank you. The pair of you have been drafted as Mr. and Mrs. Claus for the upcoming term.

They stare.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

You will both go on a---

Nick interrupts.

NICK

Hold up, hold up... hold UP! You can't say what you said and keep talking. Like I didn't hear what you said. Drafted as who?

AGENT MILLER

Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

NICK

Like ho, ho, ho...?

AGENT MILLER

Yes.

Nick looks at Vanessa, who still holds her mouth open. The stare in silence before bursting into laughter.

People began to stare at the couple.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Please refrain from drawing unnecessary attention--

VANESSA

So, let me guess. You want us to move to the North Pole?

She and Nick laugh again.

NICK

How we getting there? Rudolph?

VANESSA

A sleigh!

They fallout laughing again. Agent Miller blank stares at them. They reel it in.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Wait, wait... baby... She's not...  
I think she's serious.

Nick still laughing a little.

NICK

She can't be. Are you?

Agent Miller reaches in her briefcase. She pulls out two envelopes, handing them to the pair.

AGENT MILLER

Inside these envelopes you'll find your new identification, to include driver's licenses, passport, etcetera. You'll need this for departure only. Post arrival, you will be referred to by your original government name.

They open their envelopes.

VANESSA

How did you get this picture?

AGENT MILLER

It also includes your departure dates, the story you will tell your friends, Anna and Ryan Forest, your deployment papers for your job as well as the link to your online handbook. You will be given a copy once you arrive to the North Pole. The address is disclosed information, but once you get there you won't care about where you are. It's not important.

NICK

So, this is real shit?

AGENT MILLER

We will work as a team on the expansion of your vocabulary.

NICK

Did she just call me stupid?

AGENT MILLER

Please do not try to escape, unless  
you commit suicide like--- that  
poor guy. It's only happened once.

The look at each other again. Vanessa panics.

VANESSA

Nick. I'm scared. What is this  
white lady talking about?

AGENT MILLER

Don't panic. You'll enjoy this.  
It's our guaranteed policy or you  
can get your money back.

Agent Miller finally cracks a smile, into laughter. Nick and  
Vanessa aren't amused.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

That one gets me every time.

(beat)

Remember, this is confidential.

Agent Miller reaches into her briefcase once again.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

I almost forgot! I believe this  
belongs to you, Mr. De Beau. Enjoy  
your dinner.

She hands Nick a black card with Francis De Beau on it. She  
closes her briefcase, and leaves the table.

Vanessa and Nick watch her leave.

VANESSA

What the fuck?

She looks at her I.D.

NICK

I know.

VANESSA

Look at this picture. They have me  
looking like my great aunt Beulah.

NICK

Unbelievable.

VANESSA

I know right!



NICK

No! We are getting inducted into the book of jolly and all you can think about is your ID picture?!

VANESSA

I take pride in my identification photos!

NICK

Really?

VANESSA

Fine. Here I am... Vanessa Claus.

Vanessa holds up her ID.

NICK

Damn!

Off Vanessa's pouting, we...

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD

A very neat and well manicured landscaped backyard with patio furniture and string lights setting a mood.

Vanessa and Anna sip on sangrias as they lounge.

MUSIC plays as Nick and Ryan talk over their grills.

RYAN

I don't know why you insist on having this grill off. Your meat taste like ass.

NICK

Please! If you looked meat up in the dictionary it'll say 'Nick's Meat'. You haven't had meat until you've had my meat. Just ask your wife.

Nick shoots Ryan a smirk.

RYAN

You should be able to see the line since you're so close to the ground, yet you crossed it anyway.

NICK

Good one.

Ryan flicks a hotdog at Nick.

RYAN  
Since you like meat so much.

The men start play fighting with the meat.

Nick catches a glimpse of the ladies looking at them.

NICK  
Look at them, enjoying all this  
black meat over here.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The ladies laugh as they sip their drinks.

VANESSA  
I don't know Anna...

ANNA  
It's simple! This is the easiest  
one thus far.

VANESSA  
Okay! Fuck Janelle Monae, Date  
Jonathan Majors, Kill Michael B.  
Jordan.

ANNA  
My girl! I knew it! I told you it's  
simple!

VANESSA  
I feel so bad about killing fine  
ass Michael B. Jordan.

ANNA  
He's in a committed relationship.

VANESSA  
You right. Kill his ass.

They laugh, but Anna switches her mood:

ANNA  
So...

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Ryan flicks at his meat.

RYAN  
I've been meaning to ask you about  
the other night.

NICK  
Yeah? What about?

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Anna puts her glass down and sits up.

ANNA  
I saw Nick with another woman.

Vanessa is shocked.

VANESSA  
Really?

ANNA  
Yes. And you *know* I--

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

RYAN  
--Went crazy when she saw you with  
her.

NICK  
Oh! No, that was... that wasn't  
what you think. It was nothing.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

ANNA  
Well, it sure didn't look like  
nothing.

VANESSA  
I know Nick. I'm almost 100 percent  
sure--it was nothing.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

RYAN  
Shit, we don't just go to Les  
Gougeses for nothing.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

VANESSA  
Les Gougesses?!

ANNA  
Exactly!

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

NICK  
It wasn't a date, if that's what  
you're saying.

RYAN  
I'm not saying anything, but what  
I'm saying.

NICK  
Which is?

RYAN  
You don't just go to Les Gougesses  
for nothing.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

VANESSA  
It was a business meeting, and--

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

NICK  
Vanessa was there.

RYAN  
Oh, yeah?

NICK  
Yeah. In the bathroom for a long  
ass time. You know how women are--

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

VANESSA  
I had to fix my hair, face, dress--

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

NICK

And anything just to not be at the table.

RYAN

You ain't never lied.

NICK

So, tell your nosey wife to stop gossiping.

RYAN

Alright now. You're my G, but I will still whoop your ass.

NICK

Don't let the size fool you. I'll terrorize the whole bottom half of your body!

Ryan laughs.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Anna isn't buying it.

ANNA

So, what was it about?

VANESSA

Nick, uh-- joined the military.

Anna laughs loudly. The guys join in the ladies.

NICK

The hell is so funny?

VANESSA

Anna's laughing at the image of you being in the military.

NICK

For your information Anna, I am a veteran-- summoned back. In other words, shits going down and they need the best.

Vanessa interrupts Nick.

VANESSA

What my baby is trying to say is--  
he did so well in the military that  
they called him back.

Ryan and Anna share a look, then burst into laughter.

Vanessa and Nick aren't amused. Ryan stops Anna.

RYAN

Wait, baby. Wait... I think they're  
serious.

NICK

Yes! And I'm trying to figure out  
when y'all turned into hyenas.

ANNA

Pardon me, Nick. I just can't-- I  
mean, look at you.

NICK

Hold- hold the line.

ANNA

No offense.

NICK

All the offense. All the damn  
offense taken.

VANESSA

Baby.

NICK

No, did you hear that insult?

Vanessa ushers Nick back to his grill.

VANESSA

It's okay baby, show me what you  
got over here.

Anna shares a glance with Ryan.

RYAN

That was a low blow.

ANNA

Well, he's short... I had to take  
it somewhere.

VANESSA

Anna!

NICK

I can hear you!

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is full of boxes. Vanessa tapes up the last box as Nick jogs down the stairs in full military gear.

VANESSA

Aw, shoot now. Look at my baby.

He models.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Don't hurt them, now! Do a turn.

Nick turns.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Watch out there, now! My baby coming through.

Nick approaches Vanessa, and grabs her into his arms.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Look at my soldier looking like a GI Joe.

NICK

They were strong.

VANESSA

The strongest!

NICK

Really?

Nick steps back and models again.

VANESSA

Just as green and plastic as you wanna be. I just want to pop you in my mouth. Do you remember putting those in your mouth? They were so tiny. I used to chew on them all the time.

NICK

I'm sorry, what?

VANESSA

Come here and give me some sugar.

NICK

We eventually gotta talk about you eating toys.

VANESSA  
Kiss these lips.

Nick gives her a kiss.

NICK  
I can't lie. I'm scared as fuck. I don't know why they'd choose me to do this shit, but I do know that there is nothing I can't do with you by my side.

VANESSA  
I love you, baby.

Nick moves in for another kiss. The doorbell RINGS.

NICK  
Let's ignore it.

VANESSA  
Nick.

NICK  
Come on... I'll let you nibble on me.

VANESSA  
Boy! Get the door.

The doorbell RINGS, again.

NICK  
Fine. But when you're tryna be a ho, ho, ho later... don't come down my chimney.

Nick opens the door. It's Anna and Ryan.

ANNA  
Wow. I have to say, I really thought this was a crock of shit.

NICK  
Yes, yes you did. Talked all of that shit. Now that you see me in uniform, in the flesh, you want to touch me. You want to feel these strong muscles.

ANNA  
I'd rather shit in my hands and clap.



Vanessa hugs Anna, followed by Ryan.

VANESSA

Anna--

Anna hugs her again.

ANNA

I don't want to let you go.

VANESSA

I know. Me either.

ANNA

What am I going to do without you?  
Who am I going to people watch in  
the food court with?

RYAN

Me?

Anna ignores him.

ANNA

Who am I going to laugh with? Watch  
movies? Eat out with?

RYAN

I'm hurt.

(to Nick)

So, did you get your papers yet?

VANESSA

His papers? Yes. Baby. You got the  
papers, right?

NICK

Um, yes. Remember?

VANESSA

I remember you saying you were  
getting them, but I didn't know  
that they arrived.

NICK

I definitely got them.

ANNA

Okay, so where are you going?

NICK

Me?

RYAN

Yes. Major Payne. Where are you going?

NICK

I can't tell you. It's top secret.

VANESSA

Girl, I don't even know.

RYAN

That's crazy. It must be serious if you can't even tell Vanessa.

VANESSA

It's a security thing.

NICK

Yeah, you need a security clearance to even know where I'll be.

RYAN

That's so crazy. I can't believe I never knew you were in the military. And you call yourself my best friend?

NICK

Yeah, man. It was a part of my past. Whew, memories. You know... now, it's a part of my future.

ANNA

And it's crazy that they'd let you travel with him so soon.

VANESSA

Oh, yeah. Well, I can't have him all in 'wherever the fuck' without me.

NICK

I kinda wish she was staying her ass here.

Vanessa smacks Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm just joking, baby. Damn.

VANESSA

We really do have to finish packing up. They'll be here soon to pick us up.

RYAN

Of course. We can just grab Sparkie, and get out of your way.

Anna tears up.

VANESSA

Don't do that! Let me go grab Sparkie.

NICK

Now, y'all please, please take care of my baby. He eats once a day, I like to feed him in the morning. He likes lukewarm baths once a week. Oh, and call him by his name when you talk to him. I usually read to him every night before bed and make sure you turn his night light on, he's afraid of the dark.

Vanessa returns with Sparkie, the beta fish, in a bag.

VANESSA

Here-- please take care of his damn fish.

RYAN

It's a beta fish. If it dies, I'll just buy another one. You'll never know.

Ryan tries to grab Sparkie out of Vanessa's hand and she pulls it back.

VANESSA

He will know.

RYAN

Okay. Got it.

ANNA

We will take care of your fish.

NICK

He's the worlds longest surviving beta alive.

VANESSA

Oh my God.

RYAN

Bro. I promise I will treat this fish like he was my own.

NICK  
Sparkie.

RYAN  
I will treat Sparkie like he's my  
own.

Nick grabs Sparkie from Vanessa and kisses the bag. He  
reluctantly hands the fish to Ryan.

VANESSA  
We love you guys.

ANNA  
I love you, too.

RYAN  
Yeah, I'mma miss you fools.

NICK  
I'm not going to cry. Group hug!

They all bring it in for an awkward group hug as Nick and  
Ryan cry.

INT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - BATHROOM - LATER

Vanessa stands in the mirror holding a pregnancy test. She  
shakes the test.

Nick BANGS on the door. Vanessa drops the test.

NICK  
They're here!

VANESSA  
Shit! Okay! I'm coming.

Vanessa grabs the test and puts it in her purse.

EXT. NICOLAS AND VANESSA'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Vanessa stand in front of their home. Agent Miller  
stands with car door open.

VANESSA  
I can't believe I'm leaving my  
entire life behind me.

NICK  
It wasn't much of anything when you  
think about it.

VANESSA  
It was enough.

NICK  
And you deserve more than enough.

Vanessa smiles at him as they make their way to the car.

VANESSA  
This could be fun.

INT. BLACK LUXURY CAR - LATER

A series of shots:

- Nick and Vanessa watch as they leave their neighborhood.
- Nick and Vanessa sleep in awkward positions.
- Agent Miller snaps pictures of the two of them.

End of shots.

EXT. AIRPORT - LATER

An private jet takes off.

EXT. NORTH POLE - LATER

A winter wonderland. Beautiful white snow coated grass with bright winter jasmine and winter aconite fill the bushes.

People rush in and out of stores. Children run about playing and sliding down sleighs. Everyone dressed for the season.

NICK (O.S)  
Wow. What month is it?

AGENT MILLER (O.S.)  
It's always Christmas here.

EXT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - MOMENTS LATER

Christmas decorations line the driveway-- candy canes, snowmen, ornaments, garland and bright lights.

The DRIVER pulls the luxury car into the decorated driveway.

INT. BLACK LUXURY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Nick thumps Vanessa. She jolts up.

VANESSA

Ow! What did you do that for?

Vanessa joins Nick staring out the window.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Wow. Oh my God! Baby, look at this.

NICK

It's truly breathtaking.

VANESSA

And this is where we will be living?

AGENT MILLER

Oh this, no. This is where I'll be living. That--

She points to a Tiny House on the side of the house. Still well decorated, but bite-size.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

--Is where you'll be living. Nice and cozy.

NICK

What?

VANESSA

Oh, hell naw!

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Hold up! How you gonna take us from our five bed--

NICK

Three

VANESSA

Three bath--

NICK

No, it was three bedrooms, two baths.

VANESSA

Nick! Whose side are you on?

NICK

I'm just saying, you can't be lying.

VANESSA

Whatever. How are you going to put us in a Tiny House? This ain't no HGTV reality show. This is my life.

AGENT MILLER

Are you finished?

VANESSA

Yes.

AGENT MILLER

This is just the precursor to the luxury. It's practically a training house.

NICK

Oh, so we'll eventually move into the big house.

AGENT MILLER

Sure, but for you every house is big. Am I right there little fella?

NICK

She got one more time.

Agent Miller hops out of the car.

EXT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

The driver opens the door for Nick and Vanessa. Snow falls all around them as they make their way to the stairs.

AGENT MILLER

We will go inside and get a tour of the estate and facility. You must meet everyone.

TWO GUARDS greet them at the bottom of the stairs. PHARAOH and KING, black handsome model-like, stand at attention as Agent Miller approaches.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

This is Pharaoh and King. Your jolly protection.

VANESSA

Yes they are.

NICK

Wait.

VANESSA

Such dignified and strong... names.

NICK

They alright. They're no Nick-ho-  
las.

He over-exaggerates. Nick approaches.

NICK (CONT'D)

Don't y'all even *look* her way.

The guards stare straight.

AGENT MILLER

These men are trained in every type  
of combat there is. They will make  
sure you are well protected.

VANESSA

I feel protected already.

Agent Miller walks off and Vanessa follows. Nick bucks at the  
guards. Pharaoh sneezes, and Nick scurries off.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Soaring beamed ceilings, white and red exposed brick and  
breathtaking granite tile welcome Nick, Vanessa, and Agent  
Miller.

Garland swirls up the staircase with lights intertwined. The  
walls are soft, light and airy, and the floor plan is wide  
open to see across the room. Each room filled with lavishly  
decorated, ceiling tall Christmas trees.

AGENT MILLER

Welcome inside the Claus Estate.  
This is the foyer, come follow me  
over here.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

A twelve person wooden modern table, with gold accents on  
each chair. Delicate place settings with wine and water  
glasses in front of each seat.

AGENT MILLER

This is your dining area.



NICK

This looks like something straight  
out of the last supper.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - TOY SHOP

A busy factory of toys and children. Everyone moves with urgency as they create toys. There is a technology section--a kid stands in front of a green screen testing movemeents.

A candy bar with a long line of kids standing in it. A pile of mess up toys. A digitalized list of kids going on and off the naughty list.

AGENT MILLER

Here is the Toy Shop.

NICK

A bit more tech forward than I  
thought it would be. How does this  
work with child labor laws?

AGENT MILLER

We are the government.

Nick and Vanessa stare at Agent Miller.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

I'm kidding, they're volunteering.

She laughs and walks off. Nick and Vanessa follow behind her.

They walk through different departments.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Here we have the small children,  
followed by the girls or boys who  
love make-up... we're inclusive.  
Right next to that one, you'll find  
your boys, or masculine presenting.  
Then we have gaming, you saw the  
kid in the green screen. He's  
creating a new addictive,  
noneducational, brain swelling,  
intelligence draining, but *fun*  
little game.

NICK

I love those.

AGENT MILLER

So, this is the estate.

NICK  
There's no pool?

VANESSA  
Hot Tub?

AGENT MILLER  
Oh! I can't believe I forgot to  
show you the... no.

They walk off again.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)  
Just a quick run down of Do's and  
Don'ts: Do page your elf team  
should you require assistance with  
anything. Do not page them, when  
they are off duty. Do not make  
jokes with them about their height  
or weight. The last Mrs. Claus was  
quite the baker. Do not attempt to  
make contact with the outside world  
without using certified SCP-19  
communication devices.

She turns and hands them two cellphone devices and two  
pagers.

NICK  
Damn! I haven't had a pager since  
the nineties.

VANESSA  
What?!

The two play with the devices.

NICK  
Hold up, I'm getting a page.

VANESSA  
Me too! Me too! 07734!

NICK  
Hello!

AGENT MILLER  
Are you finished?

Agent Miller walks off.

NICK  
I used to have the transparent teal  
one.

AGENT MILLER

Me too!

VANESSA

Really?

AGENT MILLER

No.

(beat)

Should you have an emergency, do dial 119 on any of the communication devices.

NICK

Not nine one---

AGENT MILLER

We can do this all day.

NICK

119. Got it.

AGENT MILLER

And lastly, absolutely, under no circumstances--no ho, ho, hoes.

VANESSA

Wait, ho, ho, hoes!

Nick and Vanessa burst into laughter. Agent Miller isn't amused.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

They make their way back into the foyer.

AGENT MILLER

A prior Mr. Claus was terminated due to his overwhelming need to fill women's stockings to capacity. Consequently, his chestnuts were roasted on an open fire. Any questions?

The two stand in silence.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Wonderful. Right over here, you can sign your contract, acknowledging you understand and consent to the policies and procedures of the estate rules.

Agent Miller approaches the table with two contracts and pens laid out.

VANESSA

So, we just sign this and that's it.

AGENT MILLER

For now.

NICK

You ready?

VANESSA

Let's do it.

The two bend down and sign the contracts. Agent Miller takes them up.

NICK

Damn, I'm feeling jolly already!

VANESSA

Me too!

AGENT MILLER

We do welcome you and as happy as we are to have you onboard... don't fuck up. King will show you to your Tiny Estate.

Agent Miller opens the door. King steps up and holds his arm out for Vanessa. Nick smacks his arm down.

NICK

She can walk.

VANESSA

That's so rude.

INT. TINY HOUSE - LATER

King closes the door. Nick and Vanessa look around their tiny home. Within an eye reach there is a living area, a kitchen, a bed and a table.

VANESSA

This suddenly feels like prison.

EXT. NORTH POLE - TINY HOUSE - LATER

Series of Shots:

Music builds, *"This Christmas"* - Donny Hathaway plays.

- Nick opens the Tiny door wearing a Santa hat and boxers. Vanessa peaks out with a red robe on. The two dance together.

- Nick grabs some snow and forms a ball. He tosses at Vanessa.

- Vanessa forms a bigger ball and throws it at Nick. She hits him hard, Nick falls back.

- A mistletoe dangles in front of Nick's face, Vanessa peaks up and they share a kiss. Nick sneaks her with snow to the face.

End series of shots.

INT. TINY HOUSE - BEDROOM AREA

Nick and Vanessa sleep in their tiny bed. A KID stands beside the bed, he presents a trumpet and starts to PLAY.

Vanessa and Nick jump up.

VANESSA  
What the hell?!

NICK  
Damn, man!

Nick reaches for the alarm clock, but Vanessa screams when she sees the kid.

VANESSA  
Hey! Get the hell out of here.

The kid stops playing. Agent Miller walks into the tiny house.

AGENT MILLER  
Good Morning! You look well rested.

VANESSA  
You didn't say anything about a human alarm clock.

AGENT MILLER  
I didn't, did I? My apologies. This is only on training days.

NICK  
Training?

AGENT MILLER

Yes! Today starts your bootcamp!  
Meet Agent Brody.

AGENT BRODY, 30s--former body builder, walks into the Tiny House.

NICK

What in the terminator?

VANESSA

What do we have here?

Nick eyes Vanessa.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What?

NICK

No, because you have one more time  
to flirt with these men.

VANESSA

I'm sorry, I'm just excited for  
you.

NICK

Is that it?

VANESSA

Yes.

Agents Miller and Brody stand watching them.

AGENT MILLER

Thank you. Yes, Agent Brody will be  
whipping you into shape in  
preparation for delivery day.

Agent Brody flexes his biceps.

NICK

I mean, I don't need *that* much  
work. I'm in shape, I've been in  
shape for most of my life.

VANESSA

Yeah, sure. He's just going to wake  
your muscles up.

NICK

Right, my muscles are sleeping.

Vanessa shakes Nick.

VANESSA

Wake up!

AGENT MILLER  
And for you Vanessa--

VANESSA  
Now, I know you're not about to sit  
here and call me fat!

AGENT MILLER  
No, of course not. You'll be  
spending the day with the former  
Mrs.

VANESSA  
That's it!

NICK  
That's it?

AGENT MILLER  
Bootcamp begins in one hour. 59  
minutes.

The kid plays the trumpet as Agents Miller and Brody leave.

NICK  
You can follow on behind them.

Nick shoos the kid out of the door.

NICK (CONT'D)  
We got 59 minutes, you want to use  
3 of them?

Nick shimmies over to Vanessa. They get back in the bed and  
under the covers.

EXT. NORTH POLE - ATHLETIC FIELD

A football sized field laced with obstacle courses  
reminiscent of *Wipe-Out* or *Amazing Race*: tires, ropes,  
puddles of water and more.

Agent Brody stands at the first obstacle course. Nick walks  
onto the field dressed in full athletic gear.

AGENT BRODY  
Good Morning, Santa.

Nick looks behind himself, then back at Brody.

NICK  
Oh, shit. Me. You're talking to me.  
Don't be so cordial, call me Santa  
Claus.

AGENT BRODY  
My apologies, Santa Claus.

NICK  
I was kidding, call me Ol' Saint  
Nick.

AGENT BRODY  
Of course, Ol' Saint Nick.

NICK  
Dude, lighten up. I'm joking.

Nick swats Agent Brody's arm. It's as firm as a tire.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Damn man! This shit is tight.

Nick squeezes Brody's arm.

NICK (CONT'D)  
You look like the Michelin Man. I  
mean these shits are big man.

AGENT BRODY  
Sir?

NICK  
I bet you just burst out of all  
your shirts.

AGENT BRODY  
No, sir.

NICK  
I just messing with you. Relax... I  
bet if you let out of fart, you'll  
shoot out of here like a balloon.

Nick demonstrates a deflating balloon.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Just buzzzzzzzzzz all over the  
field.

AGENT BRODY  
I think we should get started.

NICK  
Okay, I'm done.

AGENT BRODY  
First let's stretch.



Nick bends and stretches into downward dog.

NICK

Oh, I got this. Vanessa makes me do hot yoga.

AGENT BRODY

What I have in mind is a little more hands on.

Agent Brody walks behind Nick.

NICK

Hands on--- what do you mean?

Nick still in downward dog. Agent Brody snatches him by the waist. Nick screams.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA - SAME TIME

The dining table is decked with lavish Christmas brunch decor. There is a variety spread of charcuterie boards, glasses filled with mimosas. The former Mrs. Claus sit in their respective seats: MONICA JOHNSON, 60s--crass and vibrant, CLAIRE PETERSHIME, 50s--southern scholar, ELIZABETH WINSTON, 40s--ritzy and privileged, ASHLEY HALL, 30s--dense, hippy-like. The ladies talk over each other as they catch up.

MONICA

I sure do miss living like this.

CLAIRE

The nostalgia set in moments after I stepped foot over the threshold.

ELIZABETH

Well, I can't say I miss it much.

MONICA

You never wanted to be here, anyway.

ELIZABETH

Very true, which is why I don't miss it.

Ashley sniffs the garland from the centerpiece.

ASHLEY

It's still so nice to me. All I smell is pine wood and cinnamon.

MONICA

You would smell the trees.

Claire nudges Monica.

ASHLEY

Speaking of trees, I brought some brownies from my garden.

Ashley pulls brownies out of her crossbody bag.

MONICA

Aw, hell naw. The last time I ate one of your brownies, I was climbing up Santa's chimney.

CLAIRE

I, too, am declining.

Agent Miller walks into the dining area.

AGENT MILLER

Good Morning Mrs'. Pardon my interruption. We should be expecting Vanessa anytime now.

Agent Miller spots Ashley's brownies.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Ashley, put the brownies away.

ASHLEY

I will not. We are all grown.

AGENT MILLER

Fine, but if you...

Vanessa clears her throat. Vanessa has her hair pinned up in a bun, she's wearing a sweat skirt combo from the 80s, with the smallest eyeglasses.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

What are you wearing?

VANESSA

I thought I'd dress for the occasion.

AGENT MILLER

You look like my grandmother.

VANESSA

But in what way?

Agent Miller turns to the ladies.

AGENT MILLER

Ladies, this is Vanessa. She is the serving Mrs. Claus. Enjoy your lunch.

Vanessa looks around the table.

VANESSA

Hi.

CLAIRE

How are you dear?

VANESSA

You're black.

CLAIRE

Yes, for the last 58 years they tell me.

VANESSA

No, I didn't mean it like that, I just never knew Santa was black before Nick.

MONICA

Me either, but here we are. I'm Monica.

CLAIRE

Claire.

ASHLEY

Hey, I'm Ashley.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth.

VANESSA

I'm Vanessa. It's really nice to meet you ladies. I see I have big shoes to fill.

The ladies share a look, then burst into laughter.

MONICA

Girl, let your hair down!

Vanessa laughs a bit, she relaxes.

VANESSA

Really? Can I?

MONICA

No, seriously let that tight bun down! It's so tight *my* head is starting to hurt.

Vanessa releases her bun.

CLAIRE

And may I ask, where ever did you find those tiny glasses?

MONICA

And can you see out of them?

Vanessa removes the glasses.

VANESSA

I swiped them from the Toy Factory.

ELIZABETH

Well, I'm here to tell you, this ain't no Hollywood fairytale. We were all abducted from our lives just like you.

ASHLEY

Don't feel bad, I was the same way. Brownie?

Ashley shoves the plate at Vanessa. Vanessa takes a bite.

MONICA

No! Don't eat that.

Vanessa drops the remaining brownie.

VANESSA

Is it a trick brownie or something? You got cats? I saw what y'all be letting y'all cats do.

EXT. NORTH POLE - ATHLETIC FIELD - LATER

Nick runs and wipes beads of sweat off his forehead. Agent Brody walks beside him. Nick is panting and gasping for air.

AGENT BRODY

Let's go!

NICK

I'm going to die. I am having a literal heart attack.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

How long have we been going? How many miles have I done?

AGENT BRODY

0.5 Miles.

NICK

What?

AGENT BRODY

With a long way to go.

NICK

Can I at least get some water?

AGENT BRODY

Sure, but after that, no more talking. Just training.

NICK

Who pissed on your snow cone?

Brody hands Nick a bottle of water.

AGENT BRODY

Drink it fast or your muscles will cool down and you don't want to cool down.

NICK

I have an idea.

AGENT BRODY

Which is?

NICK

We stop. Why am I risking my life for some bad ass kids, who are only good for one week out of the year?

AGENT BRODY

How are you risking your life?

NICK

Anything could happen? You ever hear of freak accidents. You got a black man in a hot ass red flannel suit sliding towards fire. What if I get stuck?

AGENT BRODY

We've covered all hazards.

NICK

Really? That's probably why y'all change Santas so much. Burning ass cheeks. Can't sit on a sleigh, if I don't have ass cheeks now can I?

AGENT BRODY

Let's keep it moving.

Agent Brody jogs off and Nick follows.

NICK

Seriously, we should change it up. I could just walk right through the front door, if the kids are up I'll say, "See. Ya Momma told your ass to be sleep. Now, look! Ain't nobody getting no presents."

AGENT BRODY

No.

Agent Brody speeds up, leaving Nick. Nick struggles to keep up.

NICK

Don't you have to listen to me? I'm the leader of the world.

Agent Brody stops, Nick collides into his back falling to the grass.

AGENT BRODY

They didn't tell you?

NICK

What?

AGENT BRODY

You have no power. The government controls the Estate and since I work for the government, that makes me your leader.

Nick gets up and playful hits Brody.

NICK

I thought we were a team. Teamwork makes the dream work.

Agent Brody runs off again. Nick fans him off.

NICK (CONT'D)

You go... I'll catch up.

Nick falls to the ground again.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

The table is cleared and drinks are half full.

The ladies laugh.

MONICA

I wanted to rip that white beard  
clean off his face.

VANESSA

So, your husband got his nuts  
roasted on an open fire?

MONICA

Let's just say he can't listen to  
the infamous Christmas song now.  
Not even Luther's version!

CLAIRE

How did your marriage survive that?

MONICA

Who said it did?

The mood shifts.

CLAIRE

Fair enough.

ASHLEY

Well. I actually learned to trust  
Nicky more. I dived deeper into  
earth and how it heals all.

Vanessa sweats and fans herself.

VANESSA

Is anybody else hot?

MONICA

Aw, hell! I told you not to eat  
that damn brownie.

VANESSA

I just took one bite.

Vanessa unbuttons her shirt. Claire brings over water.

CLAIRE

Here, drink this. It should help.

Vanessa leans back into her chair. She's stuck.

ELIZABETH  
What is wrong with her?

ASHLEY  
She's just stuck. Its when your subconscious and your conscious meet. Its like being between universes.

ELIZABETH  
Well, that-- sounds... quite nice.

ASHLEY  
It is.

The ladies all look at Vanessa.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA - LATER

All of the ladies lay back in their chairs stuck.

MONICA  
I could never tell my church friends about this.

CLAIRE  
I ain't neva felt this relaxed.

MONICA  
'ain't neva' heard you talk like that either.

ELIZABETH  
I remember when I was young and in control of my life... I used to feel like this all the time. And then I got married and allowed my freedom to take the back burner to Nicholas's life.  
(beat)  
You ladies are young.

She points at Ashley and Vanessa.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Remember that your dreams don't take the back burner to a man, even if he's Santa Claus.



MONICA

I'm not young, but I feel like  
you're talking to me.

CLAIRE

Me too.

ASHLEY

Wasn't it something we were  
supposed to be teaching her.

VANESSA

I think I'm learning all I need to  
know right here.

Vanessa smiles at the ladies, then hallucinates a big black  
spider. Vanessa gasps.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Oh shit! Do y'all see that?!

The ladies jolts out of their chairs.

CLAIRE

What is it?

Claire stands on her chair.

VANESSA

It's a big ass black spider.

Ashley sits back down.

ASHLEY

Uh-oh.

MONICA

What are you 'Uh-oh' for?

ASHLEY

It's just, sometimes I dust some  
shrooms in my brownie mix. I must  
have grabbed the wrong batch.

VANESSA

What?!

CLAIRE

Please tell me that is slang for  
brown sugar.

ASHLEY

Listen, if you all just relax... we  
can have a good trip.

The room spends and slows down. Colors start to bleed into each other. Monica starts to smile.

MONICA

I don't know what y'all talking about, but I feel good.

Claire locks eyes with Elizabeth.

CLAIRE

I'm too high for this shit.

Elizabeth and Claire laugh hard. Elizabeth falls over in her chair.

ASHLEY

This is going to be fun.

INT. TINY HOUSE - LATER

Nick stands over Vanessa sleeping. Agent Miller walks inside.

AGENT MILLER

How is she?

NICK

I mean, how would you be if I drugged you?

AGENT MILLER

To be completely honest, I'd love to sleep for 8 hours straight.

(beat)

Ashley won't be allowed back on the premises.

NICK

What was this test for? We didn't sign up to do this.

AGENT MILLER

We just needed her to loosen up.

NICK

So you knew Ashley would drug her?

AGENT MILLER

Not with psychedelics, but the traditional herb, yes. Good news, she's cleared and I brought this for her.

Vanessa wakes.

VANESSA  
I'm cleared to do what?

NICK  
Baby, you're awake.

AGENT MILLER  
You're officially Mrs. Claus.

Agent Miller hands Vanessa a badge.

NICK  
And I am?

AGENT MILLER  
Still in training.

Agent Brody walks in. Nick begs.

NICK  
Please, no! I can't. He hates me.

Brody grabs Nick. He throws him over his shoulder. Nick screams.

VANESSA  
Don't hurt him!

Brody leaves out. Agent Miller turns to Vanessa.

AGENT MILLER  
Looks like you're going into the  
Estate.

Vanessa screams.

VANESSA  
Yay!

Agent Miller opens the door. TWO ELVES enter.

AGENT MILLER  
These are your assistants for the  
day. Anything you need, just ask  
them.

VANESSA  
Anything?

AGENT MILLER  
Anything.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

A full spread of black thanksgiving soulfood on the table: cornbread, ham, turkey with all the traditional sides and desserts.

The two elves escort Vanessa into the room.

VANESSA

Wow, how do you expect me to eat all of this?

ELF 1

You can eat what you desire, ma'am.

VANESSA

Well, when is Nick finished?

ELF 1

Mr. Claus is occupied for the remainder of the evening.

VANESSA

Well, who's going to sit with me?

ELF 2

We are here to stand beside you, ma'am.

VANESSA

Stand beside me. That's not uncomfortable at all.

Vanessa pulls out a chair in front of Elf 1.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Here, sit.

Elf is hesitant.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Anything I want.

ELF 1

It's just, ma'am we aren't supposed to sit down and engage with you like this.

VANESSA

Says who?

ELF 2

It's in the 'Dos and Don'ts' Handbook that you signed.

VANESSA

I don't remember seeing that.

Elf 1 looks at Elf 2. Elf 2 looks at the food.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I see you number 2, you ever had  
soulfood?

ELF 2

No ma'am.

VANESSA

Go on and sit down. You're going to  
love this.

Elf 2 sits. Elf 1 joins him. They each take a bite of the  
food.

ELF 2

Wow.

VANESSA

I'm telling you.

ELF 1

You're sure we won't get into  
trouble?

VANESSA

Who's telling?

Vanessa sits down and takes a bite.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Alright! Whose black grandma in  
that kitchen?!

EXT. NORTH POLE - ATHLETIC FIELD

Nick lays out on the ground. Agent Brody stands over him.

AGENT BRODY

You have to get up.

NICK

I don't want to do it again.

Brody grabs Nick and picks him up.

AGENT BRODY  
 It's just a squat.  
 (beat)  
 Here, I'll show you again.

Brody picks up the weight and squats.

NICK  
 Do you not see how little my legs  
 are?

Brody hands Nick the weight. He drops to the ground, then  
 stands up with the weight.

AGENT BRODY  
 Let's go. You can do this.

NICK  
 No, you can do this. I am about to  
 break my back.

AGENT BRODY  
 Let's go!

Agent Brody get in Nick's ear.

AGENT BRODY (CONT'D)  
 LET'S GO!!

Nick squats.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

Vanessa and the elves sit back in their chairs.

VANESSA  
 I am so full.

ELF 1  
 Me too, ma'am.

VANESSA  
 So, what else do y'all do for fun?

ELF 2  
 Fun?

VANESSA  
 Yes. It's the North Pole, I mean  
 you have a whole Toy Factory here.

ELF 1  
 We work ma'am.

VANESSA  
That's not fun.

ELF 1  
Sure it is.

VANESSA  
Positivity. Right! I mean,  
something other than work.

ELF 2  
No, ma'am.

VANESSA  
I got an idea.

EXT. THE CLAUSE ESTATE - YARD

Snow fills the yard as Vanessa and the elves have a snow fight.

Vanessa chases them throwing snowballs at them. They return the chase with a larger snowball.

Elf 2 throws it. It hits Vanessa and knocks her down.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - LATER

Vanessa lays in the middle of a huge bed. Nick walks into the room.

VANESSA  
Hey you.

NICK  
Don't "hey you" me!

VANESSA  
What did I do?

NICK  
Get pampered all day, while I almost had a stroke with Brody's meaty neck ass.

VANESSA  
That's not my fault.

Vanessa crawls across the bed to Nick.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
Come here, my baby.

Nick melts.

NICK  
It was so hard, baby.

He whines.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Agent Brody is so mean to me.

VANESSA  
Tell me all about it.

Vanessa cuddles Nick. She rubs his head.

NICK  
I had to run and squat and jump and-  
-

Vanessa stares off.

NICK (CONT'D)  
What's going on with you?

VANESSA  
It's nothing.

NICK  
That clearly means it's something.  
So, what it is?

VANESSA  
I just--- when I was with the  
ladies, which was awesome by the  
way, one of them said to never give  
up on my dream and it just kind of  
hit me.

NICK  
I mean this isn't me actually  
following my dream.

VANESSA  
Well, it's more of a dream for you  
than me. You've always wanted  
power, and now you have it.

NICK  
Sure, but this isn't the power I  
wanted.

VANESSA  
Well, I've always wanted a family.



NICK  
And you have a family.

VANESSA  
I do, but I want a family-family.

NICK  
Vanessa. You know there is nothing  
I can do about that now.

VANESSA  
Says who?

NICK  
You think I want to be here? You  
think I want to complicate life  
more by adding a human to this  
situation.

VANESSA  
I'm just saying, it was just a  
thought.

NICK  
Well, get it out of your head. I  
don't even know how long we are  
here for.

VANESSA  
Fine. It's gone.

Vanessa crawls back to the center of the bed. Nick tries to  
crawl into bed.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, where are you going?

NICK  
To bed with you.

VANESSA  
Oh, this is only for those of us  
that passed training.

Nick stares at Vanessa.

NICK  
You can't be serious.

Vanessa stares back.

INT. TINY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick turns over in his tiny bed.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - TOY SHOP - THE NEXT DAY

Elves are moving around working in the shop. There are unfinished toys all around. Vanessa walks into the Toy Shop. She picks up a toy off the machine, she puts it back incorrectly and the legs go in the arm socket.

VANESSA

Sorry.

She moves over in front of the green screen, messing up their game.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Sorry!

She trips over a pile of toys. She bounces back up. LOU LOU, smallest elf, but highest prestige stands in front of her.

LOU LOU

Hi, Mrs. Claus. Are you lost?

VANESSA

No, I'm just bored. Thought I'd come down and see if you all needed some help.

LOU LOU

No, but I do believe I can help you.

VANESSA

Really? How?

LOU LOU

Follow me.

VANESSA

But, I've already had a tour.

LOU LOU

I bet there is one place you haven't seen yet.

VANESSA

Am I taking you away from your work?

LOU LOU  
 No ma'am, funny story: I'm the boss.

VANESSA  
 Really? But you're so sm--

Lou Lou stops and glares at Vanessa.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 Smitten.

Lou Lou walks off and Vanessa follows.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 Where are we going?

INT. NORTH POLE - WAREHOUSE - SAME TIME

There is a mock up neighborhood. Agent Brody stands with his stopwatch. Nick stands in a Santa suit.

NICK  
 Was the suit really necessary?

AGENT BRODY  
 It is test day. It needs to feel like the real thing.

NICK  
 I feel it's real hot as shit!

AGENT BRODY  
 I see you're ready Saint Nick.

NICK  
 Shit, I probably can't curse on test day huh? I'm fucking up already.

AGENT BRODY  
 It's okay, we knew who you were before you got here.

Overhead lights come on over the neighborhood. Nick covers his face.

NICK  
 Ah! Man! You want me blind?

AGENT BRODY  
 Just put on your glasses.

NICK  
What glasses?

AGENT BRODY  
The ones that were beside your bed  
in the bag that said, "Please wear  
these glasses!"

NICK  
How was I supposed to know that was  
for me?

AGENT BRODY  
It said, for Nick... Who would it  
be for? Nevermind, here.

Agent Brody hands him a spare pair of glasses.

NICK  
If you had some all this time, why  
didn't you just give them to me?

AGENT BRODY  
Just-- let's get started.

Agent Miller walks in wearing glasses.

AGENT MILLER  
Are we ready?

AGENT BRODY  
We are ready.

NICK  
Yes, Necky!

AGENT MILLER  
What was that?

NICK  
Oh, it's just a nickname I call  
Brody here. Necky.

AGENT BRODY  
No, it's not.

NICK  
Yes it is.

AGENT MILLER  
Let's go.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - TOY SHOP

Lou Lou and Vanessa walk down a hallway. Lou Lou stops.

LOU LOU  
Here we go.

VANESSA  
It's a wall.

Lou Lou special taps the wall. It opens up.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
What in the f--

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - SPA

A full spa with massage tables, pedicure and manicure stations, Vanessa walks into the spa.

VANESSA  
I asked her about this!

LOU LOU  
She never tells.

VANESSA  
Wow, y'all were holding out.

Pharaoh and King approach her.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
This is where y'all be hiding out!

PHARAOH  
May I offer you a drink?

KING  
May I offer you a massage?

VANESSA  
Yes, yes and whatever you want to ask next... YES!

Lou Lou smiles and taps the wall. The wall closes as Vanessa follows the men.

INT. NORTH POLE - WAREHOUSE - LATER

Nick stands on top of a roof. He carries a red sack.

NICK

But, every house doesn't have a chimney. It's 2021! We didn't have chimney's when I was a kid. That's probably why my ass ain't get no presents.

Agent Brody and Agent Miller stand to the side watching Nick. Nick walks across the roof.

NICK (CONT'D)

Y'all know the song, Santa Claus goes straight to the ghetto? It's a lie. He didn't.

AGENT MILLER

In moments of adversity is when you feel your special powers.

NICK

I got magical powers?

AGENT MILLER

I specified special.

NICK

So, what do I do now?

Nick stands over the chimney.

AGENT BRODY

What I taught you?

NICK

Which was?

Agent Brody looks at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

Fine.

Nick tosses his bag inside the chimney and climbs in after it.

INT. NORTH POLE - WAREHOUSE - DECOY HOUSE

Nick comes out of the chimney. It's a decoy set up house.

There is a Christmas tree. Nick grabs his bag and heads to the tree. He reaches in his bag and pulls out the toys. He places them under the tree.

A crack in the floor squeaks, Nick jumps. He sees a kid in the dark kitchen.

NICK

Oh shit!

Nick tosses up the last toy in his hand. He runs to the door. The handle doesn't work. The silhouette of the kid gets closer. Agent Miller speaks through the window.

AGENT MILLER

You can't use the door.

NICK

Then what am I supposed to use?

Agent Brody points to the chimney.

NICK (CONT'D)

Aw, shit!

INT. NORTH POLE - WAREHOUSE - LATER

Agent Miller sits down at a table eating a sandwich. Nick approaches.

AGENT MILLER

Nicholas.

NICK

Miller. How's the lunch?

AGENT MILLER

Tasty. Yours?

NICK

Could've used a bit of Lawry's but, it'll do.

The CHEF, masculine presenting, walks pass the table.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm kidding man! It was so--- you're great at your job, Man!

CHEF

Woman.

The chef walks off.

NICK

Oh, damn. My bad.

Nick turns to Agent Miller.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I didn't know. She had a beard.

AGENT MILLER  
What can I do for you? Quickly.

NICK  
Oh, I was just making some rounds.  
How's things with you?

AGENT MILLER  
It just kills you that you don't  
know anything about me, doesn't it?

NICK  
It really does. It's not fair. You  
know everything about me!

AGENT MILLER  
It's my job. And your job is to be  
jolly and deliver presents.

NICK  
I mean, were you abducted too?

AGENT MILLER  
I'm finishing a sentence.

NICK  
A sentence?

AGENT MILLER  
Yes. I committed a white collar  
crime and instead of jail...

NICK  
No way. Talk about white privilege.

AGENT MILLER  
Excuse me?

NICK  
If you were black, your ass would  
be under the jail. Only white  
people get to do shit like this.

AGENT MILLER  
I guess, but how many black people  
would do this?



NICK

I guess you're right, but we'll never know, huh?

AGENT MILLER

I guess not.

NICK

What's wrong?

AGENT MILLER

No, it's just... nothing. You're right.

NICK

So, what about your family? They think you're doing a bid.

AGENT MILLER

If they even think that much about me.

NICK

The black sheep?

AGENT MILLER

Maybe.

Her alarm RINGS.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

And look at that. It's time for stretching.

NICK

Oh hell no. Not with Necky!

Nick gets up and runs off. Agent Miller yells out to him.

AGENT MILLER

I hear his downward dog is to die for!

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - SPA

Pharaoh walks Vanessa to a massage table. She lays down face forward.

Monica walks into the massage room.

MONICA

Pharaoh! Let's do this.

Vanessa jumps up.

VANESSA

Monica! What are you doing here?

MONICA

What are you doing back here?

VANESSA

I live here.

MONICA

Dammit. I told her not to tell you about it for a week. I stayed back to enjoy a mini vacation.

VANESSA

Wow.

MONICA

It's an agreement I have with Miller. I come out here if she let's me stay a week in the spa.

VANESSA

Well, I guess you're just going to have to share.

MONICA

You can have him. I'll take King.

King walks into the massage area. The ladies turn over on their bellies. Pharaoh and King begin their massages.

VANESSA

Wow. That feels so good.

MONICA

You'll find yourself spending a lot of time with these two.

VANESSA

I can foresee that.

MONICA

How's it been going so far?

VANESSA

I've enjoyed my time. How did you like it, honestly?

MONICA

I think the hardest part was keeping my husband interested in me.

VANESSA

Well, that's not your job.

MONICA

That's your only job. Nick spent a lot of time out and on trips.

VANESSA

Well, my Nick isn't like that. He's scare to do anything without me.

MONICA

They keep you separate for a reason sometimes. Then, your man is out so much, he meets a woman and then she's having your first kid.

VANESSA

What?

Vanessa sits up.

MONICA

But, you're right. That may not happen to you.

VANESSA

Right. Because my Nick is--

MONICA

Different. Right. They all are.  
(to King)  
Don't be afraid to get up in there. Mama hasn't been touched in a while.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - BEDROOM AREA

Vanessa lays across the bed in lingerie, with new hair and a full face of make-up. Nick walks in. He takes it in.

NICK

Damn. What's the occasion?

VANESSA

Love.

NICK  
Where did you go?

VANESSA  
To the spa. It's a built in spa.  
Pharaoh and King gave --

NICK  
Who?

VANESSA  
I just got pampered and now I want  
to pamper you.

Nick rips his clothes off and leaps onto the bed.

NICK  
Oh, I need that!

A KNOCK on the door interrupts.

VANESSA  
Who the hell?

Agent Miller walks in. Vanessa and Nick cover up.

NICK  
Miller, what the hell?

AGENT MILLER  
I see you found our spa! Nice. Am I  
interrupting something?

NICK  
What do you think?

Agent Miller looks Nick up and down.

AGENT MILLER  
Well.

NICK  
What do you want?

AGENT MILLER  
It can wait.

NICK  
I hate it when people do that!

AGENT MILLER  
Tomorrow morning. Big test day!  
Bright and early.

Agent Miller leaves the room. Nick looks at Vanessa.

NICK  
Where were we?

VANESSA  
You don't find it weird that she'd  
come in here this late?

NICK  
No, she's weird.

VANESSA  
But what did she want?

NICK  
I don't know. You were right here,  
you heard her tell me nothing.

VANESSA  
That's just really...

Vanessa wraps herself in her cover.

NICK  
Come on.

VANESSA  
I think the mood is kind of ruined.  
See you tomorrow.

Vanessa walks off to the bathroom. Nick pouts in the bed.

NICK  
Ugh.

INT. NORTH POLE - WAREHOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Nick stretches with Brody. Agent Miller stands to the side with a stopwatch. Vanessa walks up carrying a tray of cookies.

VANESSA  
Hey guys. I brought cookies.

NICK  
What are you doing here?

VANESSA  
I just thought I should see what  
you're up to.

Vanessa offers a cookie.

NICK  
I can't eat that! I'm training.

AGENT MILLER  
Uh, Vanessa. Do you mind standing  
to the side?

VANESSA  
Sure. I'll come stand right beside  
you.

Vanessa hurries beside Agent Miller.

AGENT BRODY  
Alright, are you ready Santa?

NICK  
Let's go.

VANESSA  
Let's go, Santa!

Agent Miller eyes Vanessa.

AGENT MILLER  
If you don't mind.

VANESSA  
I'm just cheering him on.

AGENT MILLER  
Yea, but it's kind of distracting.

VANESSA  
Fine.

Vanessa steps back. Nick gets ready.

AGENT MILLER  
Ready, set...

Vanessa drops the tray of cookies.

VANESSA  
Sorry.

AGENT MILLER  
Nick.

Nick steps to the side.

NICK  
Baby, maybe its better if you go  
wait for me back at the estate?

VANESSA

What?

Agent Miller gets frustrated.

AGENT MILLER

Look, I'll let you two have a moment, Brody let's give them a second.

Agent Miller and Brody walk out of the Warehouse. Nick approaches Vanessa.

NICK

What's going on babe?

VANESSA

What do you mean? I just wanted to cheer you on.

NICK

I mean you showed up to my test unannounced. I'm tryna get to the estate. I need to sleep in a bed bigger than me.

VANESSA

My bad. I think what Monica said just kind of got to me a little jealous.

NICK

Of who? And who is Monica?

VANESSA

One of the former Mrs.

NICK

Them again! First, they drug you then they pollute your mind.

VANESSA

She was just telling me her experience with her husband and infidelity.

NICK

Have I ever had eyes for anyone other than you?

VANESSA

No, but--

NICK  
Who would I be flirting with?

VANESSA  
I don't know.

NICK  
I hope you know snow don't do a  
thing for me.

Vanessa laughs.

VANESSA  
I know.

NICK  
I can't have you in here fucking my  
rehearsals up. I can't be falling  
off roofs and shit.

VANESSA  
Okay--

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

NICK  
Now, take those cookies that I know  
you didn't make back inside.

VANESSA  
I love you.

NICK  
I love you too. Go do something.

VANESSA  
Fine.

Vanessa walks off. Agent Miller and Brody walk back in.

AGENT MILLER  
Are we ready now?

NICK  
Let's do this!

Agent Miller starts her stopwatch. Nick takes off. He climbs on top of the houses with his sack. Nick runs across roofs and jumps from house to house. He drops his bag down and shimmies down the chimney. Nick's bag comes out of the chimney, he follows it. Agent Miller and Brody cheer on the sidelines. Nick celebrates with a dance. He slips on the roof, but catches himself.



INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - BATHROOM

Vanessa throws her head up from the toilet. She flushes the toilet and washes her face in the sink. Vanessa stares at herself in the mirror.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA - LATER

Nick and Vanessa sit at the table. Elves bring plates of food and sit it down in front of them.

VANESSA

Wow, this looks good.

She gags a bit.

NICK

You okay?

VANESSA

Yeah, I think it might be the cookies from earlier or something. So, how was the test?

NICK

A breeze; how was it back here--

VANESSA

--Remember when I was talking to you about having a baby.

NICK

Yes, and I'm glad we decided that was not for us.

VANESSA

Right.

NICK

Would just add too much complication to our already complicated life.

VANESSA

Right.

Nick digs into his plate. Vanessa shoves her food around on the plate. Nick notices.

NICK

What?

VANESSA

It's just that I thought I'd be happy and I'm not.

NICK

When did you become unhappy?

VANESSA

Well, before we left I--

NICK

Before we left?

VANESSA

I was starting to get baby fever and felt like I wanted something new.

NICK

And here we have something new.

VANESSA

It's not the same, Nick. And you know that.

NICK

It's what we have now.

VANESSA

We have something else too.

NICK

What are you talking about?

VANESSA

I wish I could be happy about this, but I know it's not what you want.

NICK

I'm so lost.

Vanessa grabs inside of her purse, and puts a pregnancy test on the table.

VANESSA

Congratulations.

Vanessa gets up from the table and leaves the room. Nick grabs the test.

NICK

Why would you put that on the table? Don't it have pee on it?

EXT. NORTH POLE - ATHLETIC FIELD - LATER

Nick runs a lap. He stops and grabs the pregnancy test out of his pocket.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa walks up to the gas station wearing a hoodie.

INT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa walks inside of the corner store. She sees images of herself and Nick as Mr. And Mrs. Claus on the wall. She holds her head down. She goes to the counter.

VANESSA

Can I get one of those phones?

The CASHIER plays a game on his phone. He stops and looks the phones.

CASHIER

Which one?

She disguises her voice.

VANESSA

That one there.

CASHIER

42.50.

Vanessa hands him the black card. He looks at it and then her. He swipes it, and hands her the card and phone. Vanessa dashes out.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa cries as she stands outside. She opens the phone and dials.

INT. RYAN & ANNA'S HOME - KITCHEN

Anna washes dishes as Ryan brings another glass to the sink.

ANNA

Really?

RYAN

You're already washing.

The phone RINGS. Ryan grabs it.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Hello.

(beat)

I can't really make out who it is,  
but it's for you.

Anna dries her hands off and grabs the phone.

ANNA

This is Anna.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Vanessa holds the phone.

VANESSA

Anna Banana.

ANNA (O.C)

Vanessa!

VANESSA

Yes. It's me.

INT. RYAN & ANNA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Anna motions for Ryan. They make their way to the table.

ANNA

Hi Babe! I miss you! What's going  
on?

VANESSA (O.C)

I miss you. I have some news.

ANNA

What? Are you coming home?

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa looks around.

VANESSA

I'm pregnant.

ANNA (O.C)

What?!

INT. RYAN & ANNA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Ryan signals Anna, he mouths "What?".

ANNA  
That's so great Nessa! Um, where  
are you?

RYAN  
Put it on speaker!

Anna places the speaker on and sets the phone on the table.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa looks around again for anyone listening. She walks  
closer to the street.

ANNA (O.C)  
Where are you, sweetie?

VANESSA  
The North Pole.

RYAN (O.C)  
The what?

VANESSA  
Nick is Santa and we were drafted,  
kidnapped basically--

The phone BEEPS and disconnects the call.

AUTOMATED MESSAGE  
Your call has been interrupted.

Vanessa drops the phone and stomps it.

INT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

The CASHIER looks at her from the inside. He's on the phone.

CASHIER  
She's still standing out there.

INT. RYAN & ANNA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Ryan and Anna stare at each other in shock.

RYAN  
What the fuck?

ANNA  
What do we do?

RYAN  
Call her back.

Anna tries to call the number back. It's busy.

ANNA  
It's not working.

RYAN  
Call 911.

Anna dials. It's busy.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
How is 911 busy?

ANNA  
Try your phone.

Ryan grabs his phone and dials. It's busy again.

RYAN  
It's busy.

There is a KNOCK on their door. They look at each other.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CORNER GAS STATION

Vanessa looks around. She picks the phone up from the ground. An unmarked black van pulls up beside her, two men get out. They grab Vanessa, she fights them off. They put her into the van. The van pulls off.

INT. BLACK VAN - LATER

Anna and Ryan look at each other as the driver of the van gets back into the car.

ANNA  
Where are you taking us?

RYAN  
I know you can hear us!

ANNA  
You can't just kidnap us!

The DRIVER looks at them through the mirror.

DRIVER  
Agent Miller will explain  
everything to you.

ANNA  
Agent?

RYAN  
Is this the CIA, FBI? What is this?

ANNA  
I pay my taxes!

RYAN  
I doubt this is the IRS honey.

ANNA  
Oh! Well, I want to speak to your  
manager!

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - OFFICE

Agent Miller sit at the desk looking at photographs of  
Vanessa. Vanessa and Nick sit on the opposite side of Agent  
Miller. Pharaoh and King stand guarding the door.

AGENT MILLER  
Vanessa, Vanessa, Vanessa.

NICK  
Don't call her name like that.

AGENT MILLER  
You broke a very big rule.

VANESSA  
You have no idea what it's like  
being dragged away from your life  
and stuck in this place.

AGENT MILLER  
Oh, excuse me for moving you into a  
mansion, giving you everything  
you've ever wanted tax free, with  
people waiting on you hand and  
foot.

VANESSA  
That's what people like you think  
you're doing for people like us.  
You give us your rendition of what  
paradise looks like and tell us to  
be grateful.

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What if I had everything I ever wanted before I got here?

AGENT MILLER

Then why did you agree to come?

VANESSA

I didn't have a choice.

AGENT MILLER

There is always a choice.

VANESSA

Oh yeah, so if there is always a choice. I quit.

Vanessa gets up and Pharaoh puts his hand on her shoulder. She sits back down.

NICK

Aye Bruh. Don't be putting your hand on my wife like that.

Nick stands and King puts his hand on Nick's shoulder.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm just saying. Don't make me get up again.

Nick sits down. He grabs Vanessa's hand.

VANESSA

Listen, I've enjoyed this, but I just want a regular life. I want my husband and I to enjoy bringing this baby into the world.

AGENT MILLER

Baby?

VANESSA

Yes.

AGENT MILLER

Well, this is a first.

NICK

Vanessa.

VANESSA

I know I went about it wrong, but you never gave me an opportunity to be happy about something I've waiting so long for.



NICK

I'm sorry. I should've seen the signs.

VANESSA  
Signs, what signs?

NICK (CONT'D)  
The overeating, weight gain, attitude.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
What?

AGENT MILLER  
You really aren't smart are you?

NICK  
Look, I'm new to this.

AGENT MILLER  
As much as I would not love to be your marriage counselor, I have a job to do, and that's not it.  
(beat)  
Back to it. Vanessa, as touching as your story is, you messed up. And now, you've pulled innocent people into your secret life.

VANESSA  
What are you-- No.

NICK  
What?

VANESSA  
Ryan and Anna! What did you do with them?

Anna and Ryan are brought into the office. Anna scuffles with the agent. They both see Nick and Vanessa.

ANNA  
Nessa! What is going on?

RYAN  
Man! What the fuck are you guys into?

NICK  
It's not what you think!

VANESSA  
Anna, are you okay?

AGENT MILLER

They are fine. We don't kill people.

(beat)

At least, not in this department.

They all stare at Agent Miller.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

It was a joke, lighten up.

NICK

Listen. I'm sure this is something you can just look over. I mean for Christ sake-- you're the head, under me.

AGENT MILLER

Over you.

NICK

Under, over... whatever.

AGENT MILLER

It's clearly over.

NICK

There has to be something you can do.

AGENT MILLER

There is.

VANESSA

What?

ANNA

What can you do?

AGENT MILLER

Well, here's the deal. The two of them can stay here with you for the remainder of your term, which I hope to God isn't much longer, or they can go back with an erased memory.

VANESSA

They can just go back. That's easy.

AGENT MILLER

Well, I mean they won't know who you are when you return, so there's that.

ANNA

Like as in a completely erased  
memory?

RYAN

What kind of shit is this?

AGENT MILLER

It's the government. I don't make  
the rules, but I do follow them.

RYAN

So, we won't even remember each  
other?

AGENT MILLER

I'm afraid not.

NICK

This is bullshit!

AGENT MILLER

I agree, but here we are.

They look at each other.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

I'll give you sometime.

Agent Miller leaves the room with Pharaoh and King. Anna runs  
to hug Vanessa.

VANESSA

I'm so sorry.

ANNA

I'm sorry! I can't believe you guys  
are living captive.

NICK

Well...

VANESSA

It's actually the best place I've  
ever been.

RYAN

But, you have to hate it being so  
isolated.

NICK

Actually...

VANESSA  
It's not that bad at all.

ANNA  
So, what was that terrifying cry  
you did on the phone?

VANESSA  
I was pissed at Nick. Not them...  
They give me everything I want.

ANNA  
Everything?

VANESSA  
Everything.

RYAN  
Wait, so Nick... You're really  
Santa Claus?

NICK  
In the flesh.

Nick flexes his muscles.

ANNA  
No offense, but I didn't know Santa  
could be--

EVERYONE  
Black.

VANESSA  
That's what I said when I met the  
other Mrs. Claus's.

ANNA  
You've met the other Mrs. Claus's?

VANESSA  
A few of them.

ANNA  
Wow. This is something.

Anna takes a seat.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
So, the only way we go home is if  
we have no recollection of  
anything.

RYAN  
This is crazy.

NICK  
It really is.

RYAN  
I mean, why would they choose you  
over me?

NICK  
Wow.

RYAN  
I'm just saying.

ANNA  
Ryan, shut up!

Vanessa bursts into tears.

NICK  
What's wrong?

VANESSA  
I just never meant to get them  
involved and now they can't go  
home.

ANNA  
I mean we could...

RYAN  
You wouldn't know who I am.

ANNA  
That doesn't seem like a bad idea  
right about now.

RYAN  
I think we should stay.

ANNA  
Well, that's the obvious answer.  
But, what about our life?

RYAN  
We hated it anyway.

NICK  
He's right.

VANESSA

I don't think anyone was happy with  
how life was.

Vanessa stops crying. Anna looks at them staring at her.

ANNA

Can I at least think about it?

Agent Miller walks back into the room.

AGENT MILLER

Sure, you've got a day.

NICK

How long were you listening?

AGENT MILLER

The whole time.

NICK

Nosey ass.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - TOY SHOP - LATER

Vanessa gives Anna a tour. Anna follows behind her. Anna  
picks up toys and put them down. Messing up the rotation just  
like Vanessa.

VANESSA

This is the toy factory and these  
are the brilliant elves.

They make there way to the hallway. Vanessa spots Lou Lou.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Lou Lou!

LOU LOU

Mrs. Claus. How are you?

VANESSA

Great, just showing my house guest  
around.

She winks at her.

LOU LOU

Do *they* know she's visiting?

VANESSA

Yes.

Lou Lou waves and walks off.

                    LOU LOU  
Aw, well. Have fun.

Vanessa and Anna stand in front of the wall.

                    VANESSA  
Here we are.

                    ANNA  
It's a wall.

Vanessa taps the wall in the pattern Lou Lou showed her. The wall opens up to the spa.

                    ANNA (CONT'D)  
Oh, shit.

EXT. NORTH POLE - ATHLETIC FIELD

Nick and Ryan wrestle. Ryan dominates Nick. Agent Brody walks up.

                    AGENT BRODY  
This looks fun.

Ryan holds Nick in a choke hold.

                    RYAN  
You will never win.

                    NICK  
You don't fight fair.

Nick tries to get loose and ends up with his face in Ryan's crotch.

                    RYAN  
You don't know how to fight.

                    NICK  
Says the man with his dick print on my forehead.

                    RYAN  
You were always full of excuses.  
This is the real training you need.

                    NICK  
Mercy! Bananas!

AGENT BRODY  
You might have a future here, Ryan.

NICK  
Don't promote him!

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - THE SPA

Vanessa and Anna lay on massage tables. Pharaoh and King give massages.

ANNA  
How am I supposed to choose  
between...

She moans.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
This and home?

VANESSA  
You can't.

ANNA  
But, if I go home... it's like  
getting a fresh start.

Vanessa sits up.

VANESSA  
Hold on Pharaoh. You're saying  
you'd start over without Ryan?

ANNA  
It was never an option. And now it  
is.

VANESSA  
Oh, shit.

Anna sits up.

ANNA  
I'm saying... how many chances do  
you get to start over?

VANESSA  
Shit, Anna.

Anna lays back down and signals for King to finish. Vanessa  
stares at her.



INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - BEDROOM AREA

Vanessa walks into the room. Nick is laying in bed.

NICK

How fucking cool is it that they're here? We are going to have a fucking blast.

VANESSA

That's if they stay.

NICK

What do you mean-- if?

VANESSA

Anna doesn't seem convinced.

NICK

Wait, she's really thinking about returning home?

VANESSA

She is. Said she never had the option of starting over before and doesn't know if she should take it.

NICK

Wow.

Vanessa joins Nick in the bed.

NICK (CONT'D)

What would you do?

VANESSA

I'd stay.

NICK

You're damn right.

VANESSA

Relax.

NICK

Look, we have the magic stick.

VANESSA

Are you really trying to have sex?

NICK

No. The magic stick!

VANESSA  
I mean, all I can think about is  
Lil Kim and 50 cent.

NICK  
Focus!

VANESSA  
Okay, what?

NICK  
Let's recreate Christmas. Make them  
want to stay. No one can resist the  
magic of Christmas.

VANESSA  
I don't know, Nick.

NICK  
Do you want them to stay or?

VANESSA  
Alright!

Nick gets up and puts on his robe.

NICK  
She won't be able to resist the  
magic of Ol' Saint Nick's stick.

Nick jets out.

VANESSA  
Okay, you made that sound nasty on  
purpose!

NICK (O.S.)  
Come on!

Vanessa pops out of bed and runs after Nick.

Series of Shots:

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - FOYER

Nick and the Elves put out more garland and lights.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - KITCHEN

Vanessa cooks up a Christmas dinner.

- She puts a turkey in the oven.

- She measures flour.
- Puts pie in the oven.
- Peels potatoes.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - TOY SHOP

Nick and Vanessa wrap gifts with the Elves.

End of Series of shots.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - OFFICE

Agent Miller watches footage with Agent Brody, Pharaoh, King and the driver.

AGENT MILLER  
What are they doing?

KING  
The lady was a tough one. I don't think she wants to stay.

AGENT MILLER  
Dammit.

KING  
She apparently doesn't mind starting over.

AGENT MILLER  
Shit! We've never had anyone actually try to challenge that.

AGENT BRODY  
And if they go home and truly remember everything, they'll ruin centuries of work.

AGENT MILLER  
Well, we will just have to make sure they don't go home.

AGENT BRODY  
You're not going to kill them are you?

AGENT MILLER  
No! Again, NOT my department!

Agent Miller stares at the guys.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)  
I'm going to help them make their  
decision.

AGENT BRODY  
By threatening them? Torture?

AGENT MILLER  
No. What are you? Former CIA?

Agent Brody stares at them.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)  
Forget it.

Agent Miller leaves the room.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

Vanessa lays out food over the table. Agent Miller walks in.

AGENT MILLER  
You need any help?

VANESSA  
No. We're pretty much done.

AGENT MILLER  
I think this is a nice thing you  
guys are doing for them.

VANESSA  
Do you?

AGENT MILLER  
I do. It's not easy convincing  
someone to stay, but it'll be good  
for you, if they do.

VANESSA  
You think?

AGENT MILLER  
I mean... you're the first one to  
have a kid, while being here. I'd  
want my family around.

Vanessa stops and grabs her belly.

VANESSA  
Yeah.

Agent Miller grabs a cookie off the table.

AGENT MILLER  
If there is anything I can do to  
help, just let me know.

VANESSA  
Well... there is one thing.

EXT. NORTH POLE - TINY HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Agent Brody, Agent Miller, Pharaoh, King and Elf 1 & Elf 2  
stand in front of the door.

Agent Miller rings the bell. Anna opens the door. The group  
starts caroling.

EVERYONE  
(singing)  
*Silent Night, Holy Night.*

Ryan joins Anna at the door.

RYAN  
What's going on?

The group continues singing. Ryan hugs Anna, as the snow  
falls around them. They smile.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - FOYER

Vanessa and Nick come down the stairs. Anna and Ryan walk  
into the foyer. Anna gasps as she looks at the decorations.

ANNA  
What is all of this?

NICK  
It's Christmas.

RYAN  
You guys did all of this?

VANESSA  
With a little help.

ANNA  
Wow.

They walk up to the Christmas tree with the presents.

VANESSA  
I think I see something with your  
name on it.

ANNA  
Are all of these for me?

RYAN  
They better not be.

The two of them dive into it. Anna opens a gift. It's a portrait of herself, Ryan, Vanessa and Nick.

ANNA  
Vanessa.

NICK  
It's a family portrait.

Anna gives Vanessa a hug.

ANNA  
I can't believe you did all of this for me.

NICK  
You guys are our family first. We wouldn't want you to go home and forget all about us. And we want you to know your little nephew.

VANESSA  
Or niece.

Anna and Ryan are a bit emotional.

ANNA  
Come here guys!

They all do a group hug.

EXT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - DAY

Snow falls as Agent Miller pulls up in the Black Luxury car.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - GRAND DINING AREA

The fours if them sit around the table.

ANNA  
I swear that was the best food you've ever cooked.

VANESSA  
I told you everything is better here. Even me.

NICK

I never knew that was possible, you were already perfect.

Nick kisses Vanessa.

RYAN

Get a room!

Agent Miller walks into the house. She enters the dining area.

AGENT MILLER

Looks like you all are enjoying yourselves.

NICK

We are, and its so fitting that you'd interrupt it.

AGENT MILLER

I come for the news.

(beat)

Well, what have you two decided?

VANESSA

Before you say anything... I just want to say how much I love you...

ANNA

Yeah, we love you too. We--

NICK

And I know how much we fight Ryan, but I love you too, bro.

ANNA

He loves you too--We have decided to stay.

Vanessa jumps up and hugs Anna. Nick gives Ryan a hug. Agent Miller sighs relief.

AGENT MILLER

This is great news. I will inform the Agency.

Nick holds up a glass.

NICK

This deserves a toast.

Vanessa raises her OJ. Everyone raises their flutes.

NICK (CONT'D)  
To sleighing this ho, ho, ho!

Everyone laughs and cheers.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - FOYER

Agent Miller pulls Nick away from everyone as they chat.

AGENT MILLER  
There is something I wanted to tell  
you.

NICK  
Shoot--

Agent Miller draws her gun. Nick ducks.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Not literally.

Agent Miller puts the gun away, and pulls a badge out of her pocket.

AGENT MILLER  
Relax. You are officially Mr.  
Claus. The leaps you went through  
to persuade your friends, and keep  
them here showed amazing leadership  
skills. You're definitely a man of  
honor and purpose. It was  
admirable.

Nick gets choked up as he grabs his badge of honor.

NICK  
Wow... it's a bit dusty in here,  
No?

AGENT MILLER  
I think you're crying.

NICK  
Can't be. I have allergies.

AGENT MILLER  
It's winter.

NICK  
Winter pollen.

AGENT MILLER  
No.



NICK

I really appreciate this. Even this isn't something I ever thought I'd be earning, it's a pleasure to be the leader of this world.

AGENT MILLER

You're not the leader.

NICK

I love ruling you all.

AGENT MILLER

Okay.

Agent Miller walks off. Nick holds his badge to the air.

INT. THE CLAUS ESTATE - LIVING ROOM

One year later.

Nick puts his Santa jacket on, when Vanessa and Anna walk in.

VANESSA

Where is my pudding pop?

NICK

I'm right here.

Vanessa kisses Nick.

VANESSA

I mean my other pudding pop.

Monica walks in carrying a baby boy dressed in a mini Santa suit.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Monica! Thank you for coming to help us.

MONICA

Anything for this little cutie!

ANNA

We rushed in from the spa, so what's the surprise?

NICK

I called you in to introduce you to the newest addition of the Christmas tradition. Introducing the joyful, blithesome, gay...

RYAN (O.C.)

HEY!

NICK

Ol' Cheerful Ryan! Santa's new  
sidekick.

Ryan comes in wearing a red suit. Anna claps for him.

ANNA

Oh, baby! Look at you!

Anna hugs Ryan.

RYAN

He could've given me a better suit.  
Red does nothing for me.

NICK

Listen, it was that or the Elves  
outfit!

(beat)

Now, come on--it's time to go.

Agent Brody walks in.

AGENT BRODY

Hey there! Fellas, are you ready?

NICK

Yep! Let's go!

Nick grabs his bag and Ryan grabs one too. Nick turns to the  
ladies.

NICK (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas to all and to all a  
good--

RYAN

Night.

NICK

Dammit man! How are you gonna take  
my last word?

RYAN

I say it better.

The guys follow Brody out arguing.

NICK

Why would you say that?

RYAN

I'm taller... My vocal chords are  
longer.

NICK

You know what!

FADE TO BLACK.