

THE PERFECT JOB



BY ALEXI ALFIERI

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A HOLIDAY PLAY WRITTEN BY ALEXI ALFIERI

CAST

LARGE ROLES

SUSIE SNOWFLAKE (F)	<i>North Pole Employment Office Manager</i>
OLD MAN NICHOLAS (M)	<i>An Elderly and Unemployed Fellow</i>

MEDIUM ROLES

YOUNG MAN NICHOLAS (M)	<i>Nicholas Claus as a young man</i>
TEENAGER NICHOLAS (M)	<i>Nicholas Claus as a teenager</i>

SMALL ROLES

LIL' NICHOLAS (M)	<i>Nicholas Claus as a boy</i>
PAPA CLAUS (M)	<i>Father of Nicholas Claus</i>
MAMA CLAUS (F)	<i>Mother of Nicholas Claus</i>
MISS TINSEL (F)	<i>Jack Frost Elementary School teacher</i>
BILLY (M)	<i>Obnoxious student</i>
CHIMNEY SWEEP #1 (M/F)	<i>Former co-worker of Nicholas Claus</i>
CHIMNEY SWEEP #2 (M/F)	<i>Former co-worker of Nicholas Claus</i>
POST OFFICE MANAGER (M/F)	<i>Former employer of Nicholas Claus</i>
BAKER (M/F)	<i>Former employer of Nicholas Claus</i>

EXTRA SMALL ROLES

STUDENT #1/RUDOLPH/ELF #1 (M/F)
STUDENT #2/DASHER/ELF #2 (M/F)
STUDENT #3/DANCER/ELF #3 (M/F)
STUDENT #4/PRANCER/ELF #4 (M/F)
STUDENT #5/VIXEN/ELF #5 (M/F)
STUDENT #6/COMET/ELF #6 (M/F)
STUDENT #7/CUPID/ELF #7 (M/F)
STUDENT #8/DONDER/ELF #8 (M/F)
STUDENT #9/BLITZEN/ELF #9 (M/F)

SYNOPSIS

Susie Snowflake, manager of the North Pole Employment Office, has just had an interesting client step through her doors—a Mr. Nicholas Claus looking for work. Being the enthusiastic person that she is, Susie begins by asking Mr. Claus a series of questions about his past jobs and personal experiences. Through a series of flashbacks, Susie finds out that Mr. Claus has worked as a chimney sweep, a baker, a mailman and a toy maker. She also discovers he is extremely efficient, an excellent problem solver, and dedicated to quality work. Mr. Claus also tells a few personal anecdotes which reveal that he's a night owl, a geographic genius, an animal lover, and one who has an extreme fondness for cookies. So, after reviewing his employment history, gathering a list of his personal skills, and learning a lot about his past, Susie believes she's found Mr. Claus the perfect job.

SETTING

The North Pole Employment Office

CAST

Adjustable up to 22 players
3 Female, 6 Male, 13 Female or Male--Flexible

PLAYING TIME

Approximately 45 minutes without an intermission

SCENE 1, NORTH POLE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

SUSIE SNOWFLAKE and OLD MAN NICHOLAS

(Susie Snowflake enters stage right carrying a large holiday bag and humming Jingle Bells. She turns over the page on the wall calendar from November to December.)

SUSIE: Well, deck the halls! My absolute favorite month of the year is finally here!

(Susie pulls a length of white tinsel out from her bag and drapes it across the front of a desk that's wound with unlit twinkle lights. She pulls a small decorated tree and holiday tin of cookies out of her bag and sets them down on the desk as well. From side stage, a knock sounds.)

SUSIE: *(Bright and cheery)* Come in!

(Old Man Nicholas enters stage right, looks around briefly, and approaches Susie.)

SUSIE: Hello! Welcome to the North Pole Employment Office! My name is Susie Snowflake. How can I help you?

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: Hello, Miss Snowflake. My name's Nicholas Claus. *(Reaches out to shake Susie's hand.)* And I suppose I'm here for a job. *(Sounds slightly depressed.)*

SUSIE: Well, you've come to the perfect place, Mr. Claus! Please have a seat.

(Susie gestures toward chair next to the desk while she settles into her own chair behind the desk. Old Man Nicholas sits down with a sigh.)

SUSIE: Just one moment.

(Susie appears to reach under her desk to flip a switch. The holiday lights strung all around her desk suddenly come on. Old Man Nicholas' eyes widen for a moment.)

SUSIE: Alrighty then! Well, our first order of business is to fill out some paperwork. Are you currently employed, Mr. Claus?

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: No, ma'am. I've had plenty of jobs, and some of them I really liked, but the others, well...they just didn't work out.

SUSIE: Well, that's quite alright. The North Pole is an extremely difficult area to find the right job—especially considering the state of the polar economy. But don't despair—I'm here to help. I'm a big believer in the idea that there's a perfect job for everyone. Cookie?

(Susie pulls lid off the tin of cookies, sets the lid aside, and offers Old Man Nicholas a cookie. He accepts, brightening a little.)

SUSIE: Now, let me see. *(Picks up a pen and looks over paperwork attached to the clipboard on her desk.)* Let's start with your full name.

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: Nicholas Claus. It's an old family name.

SUSIE: Charming. Your address?

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: 25 Sleigh Lane, North Pole.

SUSIE: Excellent. Now, let's start with a list of your skills, and then we'll get into your employment history, shall we? Mr. Claus, tell me about yourself. What would you say are your greatest strengths? Your passions? Your life goals?

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: Well, now, let me see. That's hard to say. *(Settles back into his chair.)* I can tell you when I was just a boy, my parents weren't sure what I'd be when I grew up...

(Susie and Old Man Nicholas turn their attention to center stage.)

SCENE 2, IN THE CLAUS HOME

LIL' NICHOLAS, MAMA CLAUS, and PAPA CLAUS

(Lil' Nicholas sprints in stage right with Mama Claus close behind.)

MAMA CLAUS: Nicholas Rudolph Claus! For the last time, it is your bedtime! It's close to midnight!

LIL' NICHOLAS: But Mama, I'm not tired! I feel wide awake!

(Lil' Nicholas runs circles around Mama Claus as she throws up her hands.)

MAMA CLAUS: Nicholas!

LIL' NICHOLAS: I feel like I could run around the whole world a thousand times!

MAMA CLAUS: Nicholas!

LIL' NICHOLAS: There's a snowstorm outside! Can I go play on my sleigh?

MAMA CLAUS: No, Nicholas!

(Lil' Nicholas stops in his circling, bats his eyes, and grins at Mama Claus.)

MAMA CLAUS: Oh, no! Those twinkly eyes, rosy cheeks, and merry dimples are not going to work on me this time!

(Papa Claus enters stage left.)

PAPA CLAUS: Nicholas, it's time for bed.

LIL' NICHOLAS: Ah, Pops.

MAMA CLAUS: I don't know what to do, Rudolph. He's like this every night!

PAPA CLAUS: Well, you know as well as I do the one thing that'll work.

MAMA CLAUS: Well, yes. There is one thing he loves more than staying up all night. *(In a sing-song voice.)* Alright, Nicholas. We'll make you a deal. If you go to bed...

LIL' NICHOLAS: *(Hands on hips.)* But I'm not tired!

MAMA CLAUS: If you go to bed...

LIL' NICHOLAS: I couldn't possibly shut my eyes!

MAMA CLAUS: If you go to bed...

LIL' NICHOLAS: I'll lie awake all night, I promise you!

MAMA CLAUS: I'll give you...*(pulls out a cookie from her apron pocket)*...a cookie!

LIL' NICHOLAS: Ho, ho, ho! And to all a good night! *(Snatches the cookie out of Mama Claus' hand and exits stage right in a sprint.)*

MAMA CLAUS: Sometimes I really wonder what he'll be when he grows up...a night watchman you suppose?

PAPA CLAUS: Hmmmm...considering the number of times I've found his hand in the cookie jar in the middle of the night, I'm worried he'll be a midnight burglar.

(Mama Claus and Papa Claus shake their heads and exit stage right.)

SCENE 3, NORTH POLE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
SUSIE SNOWFLAKE and OLD MAN NICHOLAS

(Susie begins to write on her clipboard, as Old Man Nicholas watches her carefully.)

SUSIE: Alrighty. So, under the skills section, I've listed "willing to work all hours" and "healthy appetite." Please, Mr. Claus, go on. Do you have any special talents?

OLD MAN NICHOLAS: Well, back when I was just a young fellow in school, my very best subject was Geography. It didn't make me too popular with the other kids, though.

(Susie and Old Man Nicholas turn their attention to center stage.)

SCENE 4, JACK FROST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MISS TINSEL, TEENAGER NICHOLAS, BILLY, and all STUDENTS

(Miss Tinsel, carrying a globe, enters stage right along with Billy, nine other students, and a rather plump Teenager Nicholas. Everyone but the teacher takes a cross-legged seat on the floor with Teenager Nicholas in the front row.)

MISS TINSEL: Alright, class, here at Jack Frost Elementary School, we pride ourselves on good test scores. And you have a world geography quiz tomorrow. So, let's spend some time reviewing.

BILLY AND ALL STUDENTS: Aww, Miss Tinsell!

TEENAGER NICHOLAS: Ho, ho, ho! I love geography tests!

BILLY: Know-it-all.

(Teenager Nicholas turns around and glares at Billy.)

MISS TINSEL: So, can anyone tell me what the circumference of the earth is in miles?

(Teenager Nicholas raises and waves hand frantically while the rest of class sits silently.)

TEENAGER NICHOLAS: Ho, ho, ho! I know! I know!

MISS TINSEL: Yes, Nick?

TEENAGER NICHOLAS: The circumference of the earth is 24, 902 miles! Of course, if you measure it from here at the North Pole around to the South Pole, it's a little bit less because the earth is wider around than it is high.

BILLY: *(Pokes Teenager Nicholas in the back.)* Sounds like someone we all know.

MISS TINSEL: That's correct, Nick! Good job! Now, can anyone tell me the population of Hungary? Billy?

BILLY: Uh, a hundred?

TEENAGER NICHOLAS: *(Raises hand again.)* Ho, ho, ho! Miss Tinsel! Miss Tinsel!

To Be Continued...this is a 10-page sample of the playscript