

“Christmas Spirits”

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Setting:

Bar at the North Pole for Christmas characters

Synopsis:

Fictional characters air their troubles and complaints of the season with a touch of humor.

Character Summary:

Males	10
Females	6
Either	4

Cast of Characters:**Major**

- Nick - (M) Owner and bartender of Christmas Spirits
- Stranger - (M) New patron to the bar being introduced to the groups of people
- Santa Claus - (M) The big man in the magical red suit
- Mrs. Claus - (F) The wife of the big man

Minor:

- Scrooge - (M) From "A Christmas Carol"
- Jacob Marley - (M) From "A Christmas Carol"
- Ghost of Christmas Past - (F) from "A Christmas Carol"
- Ghost of Christmas Present - (M) from "A Christmas Carol"
- Ghost of Christmas Future - (M) from "A Christmas Carol"
- Tiny Tim - (M) from "A Christmas Carol"
- The Grinch - (M) From "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"
- Cindy Lou Who - (F) from "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"
- Frosty the Snowman - (M) from the TV special
- Grandma - (F) from the song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."
- Jack Frost - (E) Winter Spirit
- Sugar Plum Fairy - (F) From song "The Nutcracker Suite"
- Little Drummer Boy - (E) From the Little Drummer Boy song
- Various Elves - (E) Background voices
- Little Girl - (F) Reads a letter to Santa
- Little Boy - (E) Reads a letter to Santa

1 *SFX Canned Christmas Music*

2 Nick: Hello everyone! I'm Nick, nice to meet ya!
3 I'm the owner, operator, resident friend,
4 shoulder to cry on, arm chair therapist,
5 confidant and purveyor of potent potables at
6 Christmas Spirits. In other words, I'm the
7 bartender at a bar catering to a special
8 clientele. You may know most of them, they're
9 the living spirits of Christmas and they all
10 come here to unwind and let their troubles
11 out. *(beat)* Troubles you ask? Why sure they
12 have troubles just like anyone else, so they
13 come here to listen to one another and ease
14 their pains. I have lots of stories to tell
15 but one comes to mind. The tale of a special
16 stranger visiting the bar and the Christmas
17 that almost wasn't!

18 *SFX Canned Christmas Music and background voices*

19 *SFX Sleigh Bells ringing the first 4 notes of "Carol of the*
20 *Bells"*

21 Nick: Welcome to Christmas Spirits, the merriest bar
22 around. Come on in and take a load of. Name
23 your drink of choice and it's yours.

24 Stranger: Thank you. Very kind of you.

25 Nick: So what can I get ya tonight?

26 Stranger: Oh, some water will be fine, thank you.

27 Nick: Water it is then.

28 *SFX Canned Christmas Music and background voices*

29 Stranger: Awful busy tonight, is it always like this?

30 Nick: Busy? *(chuckle)* I guess it looks like that.
31 The folks are just blowing off some steam
32 before the big day tomorrow!

33 Stranger: Big Day?

34 Nick: You're joking right? It's Christmas Eve so
35 it's Christmas Day tomorrow!

36 Stranger: *(easy laugh)* Of course, Christmas Day, I lost
37 track of time and it snuck up on me.

38 Nick: It happens (*beat*) say, do I know you? You
39 look familiar.

40 Stranger: I just have one of those faces.

41 Nick: Yeah, happens in here sometimes. We get new
42 people coming in every year. Since you're
43 new, let me show you around. Introduce you to
44 some of the groups around here.

45 Stranger: I don't want to be a bother.

46 Nick: No bother at all. You caught us during a lull
47 in the action and I have some time. I can let
48 the staff take over for now. (*raises voice*)
49 Yo! Sugar!

50 Sugar Plum: You bellowed?

51 Nick: You know it sweetie. Could you and some of
52 the other fairies take over? Gotta new guy to
53 show around.

54 Sugar Plum: Oh sure, you get to have fun while the rest of
55 us get to work our wings off.

56 Nick: You're the best! Come on stranger, lets look
57 around.

58 Stranger: Are you sure it is ok? She seemed a little
59 upset.

60 Nick: Oh that's just the way she is. Remarkably
61 sour for a sugar plum fairy! So, Christmas
62 Spirits is split up into several rooms. This
63 is our main area where everyone likes to sit
64 and talk, over there is the Literary Character
65 room for the book characters. Silver Screen
66 for the big movie folks, Little screen for the
67 made for TV movies, Musical room for the folks
68 in song and play and of course the Elves
69 Playroom (*lowers voice*) when they get some egg
70 nog in them they get out of control. Oh, and
71 never give them Nutmeg, drives 'em crazy.

72 Sugar Plum: (*in the distance*) Who left their wine here?

73 Stranger: Sounds like a big place, does it ever get too
74 crowded?

75 Nick: Nope. Always enough room. Christmas Spirits
76 is just like the people it caters to, magical.
77 It's always just the right size and always has
78 the right number of rooms.

79 Stranger: Sounds amazing.

80 Nick: (*chuckle*) Stick around, you ain't seen nothing
81 yet. So, here's some of our older patrons.
82 Been around for a long time now and some of
83 the nicest people you could ask to meet.
84 Everyone, like to introduce you to a new face
85 to our crowd.

86 GOPast: Another new face? Do they never stop?

87 GOPresent: (*Grand Voice*) Don't be silly man, you look to
88 the past too much. Live in the now I say!
89 Come closer man, come so that I may know you!
90 Eat, drink and be merry!

91 GOPast: You're always like this, you never think of
92 anything except for the present.

93 GOPresent: And your head is always stuck in the past!
94 Live a little and live in the now!

95 GOPast: I can't believe you would say that to me! I'm
96 the Ghost of Christmas Past so of course I
97 look to the past you short sighted rube. You
98 never consider your actions, only living in
99 the moment.

100 Nick: Come on folks, can't you get along? Always
101 the same with these two, past and present, you
102 would think they would get along better.

103 GOPresent: You'd be cross too if you were constantly
104 being passed over for credit in your own
105 story, everyone knows Scrooge and his
106 transformation but do we get the credit? Nope.

107 GOPast: It's all Scrooge you hear about. How he
108 changed and turned over a new leaf, as if it
109 was all on his own.

110 Stranger: But everyone knows that without you there
111 would have been no change.

112 GOPresent: Darn right there wouldn't! Without us that
113 miser would still be huddled around a single
114 lump of burning coal and eating potato soup
115 that was mostly water!

116 Stranger: What about your friend there? He has been
117 fairly quiet through all of this.

118 Past: He doesn't say anything, just sits there and
119 points and makes...

120 Future: (*deep, resonant voice*) Very kind of you to
121 inquire as to what I think. While it is
122 hurtful to be glossed over in the tale it is
123 important to remember that each of us played
124 an integral role and without each piece
125 nothing would have changed and the tale would
126 have been without moral or meaning.

127 (*beat*)

128 Past/Present: You can talk!?

129 Future: Yes, I can speak.

130 Present: In all the times we have sat here you have
131 said nothing! Why?

132 Past: Exactly! If you could speak all this time why
133 haven't you contributed anything?

134 Future: You never asked. You just argue wit one
135 another and it would have been rude to
136 interrupt.

137 Past: Would have been...

138 Present: Never asked? What kind of... when did you...

139 Nick: I think we should let them work this out on
140 their own. Come on, lets meet some other
141 patrons. Have a good night Spirits.

142 Stranger: Sounds like an interesting friendship they
143 have.

144 Nick: It is. Funny, I never knew he could speak
145 either. I would like to introduce you to some
146 of our song charecters, Jack Frost, Frosty the
147 Snowman and Grandma, (*whispers*) don't mention
148 Santa to her, kind of a touchy subject.

149 Grandma: Touchy?! You get run over by a bloated man in
150 a red suit and his "tiny" reindeer and you
151 tell me if you get to be a little touchy about
152 it!

153 Nick: Now Grandma, it hasn't been proven and you
154 admitted that you had been drinking too much
155 eggnog when it happened.

156 Grandma: It would take a lot of eggnog for me to be
157 confused as to who ran me over!

158 Nick: Yes, well, everyone, we have a new guest to
159 our fine establishment.

160 Frosty: Hey there friend! Pull up a chair and have a
161 drink with us!

162 Jack Frost: (*drunk*) Stick it up your nose Frosty! Do you
163 always have to be so nice to everyone?

164 Frosty: Jack, there is no need to be rude.

165 Jack frost: No need? Really? You try living with the
166 label as an icy jerk with a nose fetish! Some
167 fool writes a song saying I nip at peoples
168 noses and every thinks I like noses. Those
169 soft, supple, bulbous ones, the proud straight
170 ones and the little button ones... who wouldn't
171 tweak them? Its as plain as the nose on your
172 face that I don't have a problem!

173 Frosty: Of course you don't Jack.

174 Grandma: Come on Jack, there's nothing to be ashamed
175 of. Just admit you like noses. As far as
176 fetishes go its not too bad. Why I can tell
177 you some stories about what Grandpa and I used
178 to get up to before his lumbago kicked in, see
179 we would get onto the roof and...

180 Jack frost: I am not a deviant! Its as plain as the nose
181 on your face that I do not have a fetish!

182 Sugar Plum: Mr Frost, your snifter of brandy.

183 *(beat)*

184 Jack Frost: What? I like Brandy and it comes in a
185 snifter. Stop reading into things. *(mutter)*
186 Nosey people looking at someone odd..

187 Frosty: Settle down, Jack. Nobody said anything. You
188 like Brandy and I wish someone would give me a
189 Hot Toddy.

190 Nick: Frosty, we've been through this. You drink
191 something hot and you melt. Not exactly good
192 for business to see the remnants of a snowman
193 on the ground. Besides, think of the kids and
194 what it would do to them!

195 Frosty: Fine, fine, another snow cone and an ice tea.
196 No lemon cones this time! Someone decided to
197 be a joker and slipped me some special
198 "yellow" cones!

199 *SFX growling outside getting louder*

200 Stranger: What was that?

201 Grandma: What was what? Is it Santa coming to run me
202 down again?

203 Jack Frost: Kiddies fresh from playing with their little
204 red noses?

205 *SFX more growling becoming more impatient and angry*

206 Nick: Sounds like the Polar Bears. We have to keep
207 them outside since a certain company got them
208 hooked on caramel colored sugar water and
209 decided to use them as their spokes models.

210 Jack Frost: You mean the Co..

211 Frosty: Don't speak their name! They're worse than
212 you-know-who and their lawyers will be on us
213 like a ton of bricks if you say their name!

214 *SFX More growling and banging*

215 Nick: Wonder what their getting worked up over.
216 Their crates of that stuff out there for them
217 to drink.

218 Grandma: Someone must be messing with them.

219 *SFX loud boom and multiple growls.*

220 Jack Frost: (snort) Who would be foolish enough to mess
221 with polar bears except for...

222 Frosty: Oh no... not them.

223 Grandma: Quitting time already? Nick? I thought you
224 had measures in place this year.

225 Nick: I did, I mean I do. But you know how they
226 are.

227 Stranger: How who are?

228 In Unison: The elves.

229 *SFX Door chimes the first four notes of Carol of the Bells*
230 *accompanied by tiny voices overlapping, the*
231 *elves have arrived.*

232 Nick: You see, the elves are very hard workers and
233 they all come here at quitting time.

234 Jack Frost: They not only work hard but they believe in
235 playing harder. And unfortunately they also
236 believe in making our lives unbearable.

237 Frosty: Yeah, they always keep coming over and
238 stealing my ha...

239 *SFX giggling and singing "Monkey in the Middle, Monkey in*
240 *the Middle" and "Keep Away"*

241 Nick: Guys... Guys... He can't move without his hat. I
242 tell you that every year. Just give it back
243 to him.

244 Elves: Awww... stupid magic hat. Here, no fun if he
245 can't move.

246 Frosty: Happy Birthday! I told you little creeps to
247 stop taking my hat! Do you know how rude that
248 is and how much I hate going lifeless in the
249 middle of a...

250 *SFX Giggling*

251 Jack Frost: Enough, give it up or I'll tweak your little
252 cute noses!

253 *SFX Giggling*

254 Nick: (*sounding stern*) Anyone takes Frosty's hat
255 will have no nutmeg on their eggnog. Do I
256 make myself clear.

257 Elves: (*overlapping*) As crystal, sorry Nick, just
258 playing, no harm done.

259 Frosty: Happy Birth... Again!? I need to install a chin
260 strap on this thing!

261 *SFX raucous elf sounds fade and a door closes*

262 Grandma: Not sure which is worse, a horde of elves or a
263 rampaging Santa's reindeer running you down!

264 Stranger: Are you all right Frosty? That can't be all
265 that fun for you.

266 Frosty: Its not but its ok. Those little guys work
267 really hard through the year and deserver a
268 chance to blow off steam. At least they
269 always give my hat back to me.

270 Stranger: You are a very forgiving person, no wonder all
271 the children love you. They love you all
272 actually. I hear them singing your songs and
273 your praises.

274 Jack Frost: That's true. It's not like they really focus
275 on the whole nose thing.

276 Grandma: And I guess its not like they're laughing
277 about me be a victim of a hit and run
278 accident.

279 Nick Glad to hear that's settled. Tell you what,
280 next round's on me. See ya folks, gotta move
281 on to the next group. (beat) Nice work there
282 Stranger, wasn;t sure they were going to calm
283 down this time.

284 Stranger This time?

285 Nick: It gets worse every year. The spirits and
286 holiday figures get more angry and resentful
287 about the way they have been treated by the
288 world.

289 Stranger: It does seem as if the world has lost its way
290 and forgotten what the holiday means.

291 Nick: Amen to that brother: So now we come to the
292 kiddie table, the jolliest of jollies here.
293 Everyone, say hello to a new quest. Allow me
294 to introduce Tiny Tim, Cindy Lou Who, and the
295 Little Drummer Boy.

296 *SFX (Drum Roll)*

297 Nick: What?

298 Drummer: I'm not that little and I've been around for
299 almost 80 years you'd think people would stop
300 calling me Little and think I was a kid.

301 Tiny Tim: You think that's bad? I'm 6'3", over 100 years
302 old and people still call me "Tiny" and expect
303 me to be a little boy with a crutch crying out
304 "God Bless us everyone!"

305 Cindy Lou: At least you aren't linked to a green furball
306 with attitude issues and have everyone
307 thinking that you're a fool because you didn't
308 realize that the Santa in your home was just a
309 thief!

310 Tiny Tim: Nick? When are you gonna stop treating us
311 like kids? Most of us are either close to or
312 over 100 years old by now. Could you stop
313 serving us apple cider and Shirley Temples? I
314 think we're all old enough to manage something
315 a little harder!

316 Nick: You're all forever young, enjoy it!

317 Drummer: Well the next person that pinches my cheek and
318 tells me how cute I am is going to get a drum
319 stick up the nose!

320 Jack Frost: (*from a distance*) Did someone say nose?

321 GOFuture: Could be worse kid, you could be 7 foot tall
322 wearing Robes Death wouldn't be seen in and
323 everyone thinks you're a mute. Do you know
324 how hard it is to get dates looking like this?

325 Cindy Lou: We get it, you all have problems but at least
326 you can drown your woes in some booze! Even
327 the Elves get to drink and they all look like
328 eternal children.

329 Stranger: But think of the joy you bring the people out
330 there, children and adults alike. You show
331 them a purity of heart that is sorely lacking
332 in the world today. From Timothy seeing the
333 goodness in the world around him even though
334 he has every reason to being bitter..

335 Tiny Tim: He is right...

336 Stranger: Cindy Lou, you saw goodness in a person that
337 was trying to be a villain and trusted him
338 where others wouldn't have.

339 Cindy Lou: Well in the end he was just a nice man in a
340 Santa Claus suit.

341 Stranger: And let us not forget the Drummer Boy and his
342 gift to the newborn king, the only thing he
343 had to give and did so without reservation.

344 Drummer: It was just a little tune I had thought up.

345 Tiny Tim: Well, who really needs booze and besides, we
346 at least get our own table right?

347 Nick: Glad to hear it. Tell you what, maybe I'll
348 even let you have a little bit of champagne
349 this New Years Eve. So, come on Stranger, one
350 more table to introduce to you to. (*lowers*
351 *voice*) That was great the way you handled
352 them. Ever thought about becoming a
353 bartender?

354 Stranger: (*chuckles*) Not really, I'm just good at
355 listening to people.

356 Nick: You'd be surprised just how much of that you
357 have to do as a bartender. So, here was are
358 at the last table, I call it our grumpy gus
359 corner. Let me introduce you to Ebenezer
360 Scrooge, the Grinch, and Jacob Marley.
361 Where's Clarence?

362 Grinch: He's sulking in the Silver Screen room, said
363 he's tired of idiots throwing themselves off
364 bridges just to see how wonderful their lives
365 are.

366 Marley: He even mentioned he wished he never got his
367 wings!

368 Stranger: An angel? I'm surprised he'd be grumpy.

369 Scrooge: At least he gets remembered fondly. The
370 Grinch and I are always remembered as we were
371 not what we became!

372 Grinch: Exactly! Our names are synonymous with people
373 that hate Christmas..

374 Scrooge: Or are tight fisted with a dollar!

375 Frosty: You did try and steal my eyes when I first got
376 here!

377 Scrooge: Frosty, that was a misunderstanding. You have
378 to admit, those eyes of yours are fine
379 examples of premium grade A coal. Do you know
380 how much those go for on the open market?

381 Frosty: Bad enough you tried to take them but even
382 after you plucked out the first one and I
383 started screaming, "My eyes, my eyes please
384 don't take my eyes." You just kept going!

385 Scrooge: I gave them back didn't I?

386 Frosty: Yeah, you did at that. I just can't believe...

387 *SFX giggling*

388 Nick: Jack! Give Frosty his hat back and leave his
389 nose alone!

390 Jack Frost: Aww... but its such a cute button!

391 Frosty: Happy Birthday! Darn it Jack gimme my nose!

392 Nick: (*sigh*) So, back to the introductions.

393 Grinch: Yes, it is far too inconvenient to always be
394 considered shady and underhanded. Why can't
395 we be held up as pillars of virtue like we
396 eventually became when we reformed? Why must
397 our names always contain such negative
398 connotations?

399 Marley: Well, before you reformed you did go through a
400 town and steal every present, ornament, tree
401 and morsel of food that wasn't nailed down.
402 Strike that... you did take the ones that were
403 nailed down and the nails!

404 Grinch: (*chuckle*) That was wicked of me wasn't it?
405 Scrooge was worse, he suggested sending and
406 children to workhouses or prisons and when
407 someone said they would rather die he said to
408 let them!

409 Scrooge: Well I wouldn't say that now!

410 Marley: At least all of you are remembered in some
411 way! I'm usually a trick question during
412 Christmas trivia games. How many ghosts was
413 Scrooge visited by, four ghost by gum, four!
414 Not three!

415 Scrooge: There, there Jacob, without you I wouldn't
416 have been prepared for what was to come.
417 Though you were a little light on the details
418 as to what was going to happen to me.

419 Marley: Balderdash. I told you what you needed to
420 know. And at least you had a chance to
421 reform! Look at me.

422 *SFX chains rattling and dragging*

423 Marley: You reformed and here I am still being
424 punished. Didn't even lose a single link in
425 the chain and a strong box.

426 Stranger: But you are all deeply loved characters. Even
427 though someone may call someone that doesn't
428 seem to have the Christmas spirit a Scrooge or
429 a Grinch it at least means they have faith
430 that they can reform, just as you did. And I
431 am sorry you get so busy Clarence but sometime
432 people just need reassurance that they matter
433 especially this time of year.

434 Marley: And me? I matter too right?

435 Stranger: Of course you do Jacob. Why without you there
436 would have been no story and Scrooge would
437 have imagined everything to be a product a bad
438 potato.

439 Scrooge: Well, I guess it isn't so bad. Round of
440 drinks for the house on me.

441 *SFX Cheers and Laughter*

442 Nick: Did good Stranger. Old Ebenezer may have
443 reformed but getting him to pick up a tab is
444 not the easiest thing in the world. So, what
445 can I get you and what do you think of the
446 place?

447 Stranger: You have a great place with a lot of good
448 people in it. Oh, just water please.

449 Nick: We do have stronger things than water you
450 know.

451 Stranger: I'm good with water.

452 *SFX first 4 notes of carol of the bells as the door opens*
453 *and closes*

454 Group: SANTA!

455 Nick: How's it going Santa?

456 Santa: Like it's a dog eat dog world and I'm wearing
457 meat underpants. Set me up with an Irish
458 coffee without the coffee Nick.

459 Nick: That bad so far?

460 Santa: Just busy as usual. So many requests, well,
461 more like demands, and so little time. I need
462 to make sure I have a but if the Christmas
463 Spirit in me before heading out for the night.
464 *(beat)* I see my Elves made it in already? Did
465 I miss them messing with old Frosty?

466 Sugar Plum: Nick! We need you in the Elf Playroom. The
467 Winter Warlock and the Abominable snowman are
468 in their playing elf bowling again, and some
469 of the more drunk elves are chasing the elf on
470 the shelf, luckily no one is tall enough to
471 get him down.

472 Nick: Starting early tonight aren't they?

473 Sugar Plum: One of them snuck some nutmeg in and they're
474 all drunk as skunks. I had to wade through a
475 pile of passed out elves, pointed shoes and
476 jiggle bell hats everywhere. It's like the
477 Keebler factory exploded in there.

478 Sugar Plum: The 12 days of Christmas folks are fighting
479 with the 12 Redneck days in the music lounge
480 trying to decide which is better. And they
481 brought the birds again... ALL of them! We
482 don't have enough newspaper and the other
483 fairies refuse to clean up after them again.
484 I think the eleven lords a leaping or 11
485 ladies dancing did it, I can never remember
486 which number goes to which performer.

487 Nick: Sorry Santa, Stranger, I'll be back. Have to
488 take care of this.

489 Santa: So, like I was saying, did I miss old Frosty
490 losing his hat?

491 Frosty: They took my hat again Santa! I hate when
492 they do...

493 *SFX giggling*

494 Santa: (*roaring with laughter*) Ho, Ho, Ho... that never
495 gets old! Thank you Tiny Tim!

496 Tiny Tim: Just Tim please sir.

497 Frosty: Happy Bir... oh forget it.

498 Grandma: That's him! That's the homicidal lunatic in
499 red fur that ran me over! I'd recognize that
500 laugh anywhere!

501 Santa: Madam, the boys and I did no such thing as run
502 you over.

503 Grandma: I have the hoof and Claus marks on my back
504 that say otherwise you menace!

505 *SFX first 4 notes of carol of the bells as the door opens*
506 *and closes*

507 Mrs Claus: Santa! Are you causing a ruckus again?

508 Santa: No dear, just having a discussion with someone
509 about sleigh operation and right of way on a
510 snowy night.

511 Mrs Claus: Ran over another Grandmother, hmm?

512 Grandma: No! The same one! Every year! Once or twice
513 I could forgive but every year now! Every
514 single year!

515 Nick: I miss anything?

516 Stranger: Just everyone getting into one another is
517 seems like.

518 Nick: It happens. They're all unwinding a little.
519 Big night ahead of them. Hey Sugar? Send
520 someone over to Hermes's dental and let him
521 know he is going to get a few customers? More
522 than a couple people will want their two front
523 teeth replaced for Christmas.

524 GOPresent: The people out there don't appreciate us and
525 the work we all go through.

526 Santa: Every year, more and more letters from people
527 asking me for things. (*snort*) Not even
528 asking, demanding is more like it!

529 Mrs Claus: Are you sure you should be drinking that much
530 Santa?

531 Santa: I know when to say when dear.

532 Grandma: Tell that to my back after you ran me over you
533 drunkard, no wonder your nose is red!

534 Santa: Look, just because some fool wrote a poem
535 about me and described be as having a belly
536 that shakes like a bowl full of jelly I am
537 seen as an overweight geriatric with a cookie
538 and milk fixation! It Rudolph that has the
539 red nose not me!

540 Jack Frost: Nose? A red nose? Where?

541 Sugar Plum: The 12 days of Christmas folks are fighting
542 with the 12 Redneck days in the music lounge
543 trying to decide which is better. And they
544 brought the birds again... ALL of them! We
545 don't have enough newspaper and the other
546 fairies refuse to clean up after them again.
547 I think the eleven lords a leaping or 11
548 ladies dancing did it, I can never remember
549 which number goes to which performer.

550 Nick: yeah, Remembering the days of Christmas is
551 like remember the names of Santa's reindeer.

552 Santa: That's easy, just have to remember the song.

553 Mrs Claus: Really? So name them.

554 Santa: They[re my reindeer, of course I know their
555 names! Ho ho ho.

556 Mrs Claus: You usually call them your boys, or buddy, or
557 some other generic thing. Bet you can't
558 remember their names.

559 Santa: I'll make you eat those words!

560 Grandma: Like you eat cookies?

561 Santa: (*clears throat*) There's Dasher and Dancer.

562 GOPast: Those are the easy ones, it gets harder as you
563 go along.

564 GOPresent: Everyone knows that.

565 GOFuture: Even though I know how this ends I'm in
566 suspense.

567 GOPresnet: I liked you better when you couldn't talk.

568 Santa: Prancer and Vixen.

569 Mrs Claus: half way there, must have caught you before
570 you drank too much.

571 Santa: (*inaudible grumbling*) Comet and Cupid..

572 Scrooge: This is it, this is where most people lose it.

573 Santa: Um... then there is...

574 Frosty: Knew he'd blow it.

575 Santa: No, no, I have it.. then there is.. umm..
576 Rudolph!

577 Cindy Lou: I don't think he counts.

578 Drummer: Maybe this will help.

579 *SFX soft drum roll*

580 Santa: Then there is Teeto and Jermaine!

581 Mrs Claus: Those are part of the Jackson 5.

582 Santa: Dopey and Doc?
583 Grinch: Two of the Seven Dwarves.
584 Santa: Grant and Lee?
585 Nick: They were Generals in the Civil War.
586 Santa: Black and Blue?!

587 Sugar Plum: Now you're just naming colors... this is sad.
588 Mrs Claus: The last two are Donder and Blitzen my dear.
589 Santa: Of course! Donder and Blitzen. I almost had
590 it! So much on my mind who wouldn't forget a
591 couple of names! Its this blasted holiday.
592 Like it never ends! I remember a time when
593 Christmas didn't start until I came out on
594 that Thanksgiving Parade in New York! Now we
595 have Christmas decorations out before
596 Halloween has even started!

597 Scrooge: And the movies! Christmas in July? July?!

598 Really? I can't tell you how being in one
599 hundred degree weather makes me think of
600 Christmas!

601 Frosty: What's with calling any movie that takes place
602 during Christmas a Christmas movie? Die Hard
603 is a Christmas Movie? Die Hard?! A Christmas
604 movie should not have a body count at the end
605 of it!

606 Mrs. Claus: Lethal Weapon wasn't too bad... young Mel Gibson
607 was dreamy.

608 Grandma: Those eyes...

609 Mrs Claus: That hair...

610 Together: That butt!

611 Nick: Easy ladies, no need to get your blood
612 pressure going.

613 Grinch: And how many times can the make a Christmas
614 movie with the same plotline? They're almost
615 all the same anymore. Its like the writers
616 throw the basic ideas in a hat and pick them
617 out and blend them together for the latest
618 movie.

619 Drummer: Don't get me started on the music remakes. If
620 I have to listen to one more fading pop star
621 caterwaul their way through a "Holiday
622 Classic" I may throw up in my drum! Take a
623 three minute song and draw it out to five
624 minutes, most of it them trying to hit a high
625 note in the middle of the song and failing
626 miserably!

627 Santa: Christmas just doesn't mean what it used to.
628 It used to be about people loving one another
629 and being nice. Now its about presents and
630 money.

631 Grinch: And being offended, don't forget that! Like a
632 string of lights is offensive and needs a
633 court case!

634 Mrs Claus: And heaven forbid you say Merry Christmas to
635 someone that doesn't want to hear it. They
636 give gifts on the day but they don't celebrate
637 Christmas and you may as well have just spat
638 on them and told them their grandmother was a
639 drug dealer!

640 Santa: Speaking of which, I took a trip out there and
641 posed as a Santa in front of store ringing a
642 bell for charity. Some man almost punched me
643 and yelled at me for ringing the bell in his
644 face obnoxiously.

645 Jack Frost: You know what, they don't appreciate us
646 anymore. So why should we bust our tails for
647 them?

648 Nick: What are you trying to say Jack?

649 Jack Frost: I say forget 'em. They want to be miserable,
650 let 'em. They want this to be all about stuff
651 fine. I say we strike! Show em what a
652 Christmas without the spirits is like and
653 watch em come crawling back!

654 Tiny Tim: Yeah! Then they'll give us the respect we
655 deserve!

656 Cindy Lou: Strike! Strike!

657 Jack Frost: Make it as plain as the nose on their faces!

658 Grinch: I don't know about this guys.

659 Scrooge: Yeah, come on, venting is one thing but taking
660 away the spirit of Christmas? Trust me, we
661 don't want that!

662 Jack Frost: Strike, Strike, Strike!

663 Frosty: yeah! They don't appreciate us, we'll show
664 em!

665 Nick: (roar) That's enough!

666 *SFX Silence*

667 Nick: Enough of this talk of strikes and crying into
668 our drinks. So the people out there are more
669 callous out there. It doesn't mean we have to
670 be just like them.

671 Stranger: Nick's right. Did you ever think that maybe
672 the people want to celebrate Christmas earlier
673 every year is because it is the one time where
674 it is easier to be nice to one another and try
675 to show some humanity without asking for
676 anything in return?

677 Santa: Well, yeah, but to make us work so hard on
678 something they should be able to do on their
679 own.

680 Stranger: It should make you proud that they turn to you
681 when they are in need. Santa? I think Nick
682 told me that you keep a couple of special
683 letters in your pocket that help you remember
684 the season.

685 Nick: I did? Oh! Yeah, I did. Come on Santa, you
686 usually have a couple good ones.

687 Santa: Ho,ho,ho... well I do have a couple.

688 *SFX papers rustling*

689 Santa: Dear Santa, I'm writing to you from my
690 hospital room and..

691 *SFX fade in little girl voice reading in chorus with Santa*

692 Chorus: I hope you can give me what I want for
693 Christmas..

694 Little Girl: I'm awful sick and I heard the doctors talking
695 about this probably being my last Christmas
696 and all. So, I don't really need any toys or
697 gifts this year. I just really need you to
698 promise to take care of my folks and little
699 brother. He can be a pain sometimes but I
700 still love him. I know they'll be sad when
701 I'm gone cause I see em crying when they think
702 I'm sleeping. Don't make them be sad Santa,
703 let them be happy and know its all right. If
704 you can do that for me this Christmas I'll
705 love you forever.

706 Santa: *(clears throat)* it goes on for a little more
707 but you get the point.

708 Jack Frost: Such a good little kid. Wish there was
709 something we could do.

710 Nick: What about another?

711 Mrs Claus: I'll take this one

712 *SFX pages rustling*

713 Mrs Claus: Dear Santa, I know I'm not supposed to believe
714 in you anymore cause I'm a big boy now but..

715 *SFX fade in boys voice reading in chorus with Mrs Claus*

716 Chorus: I thought I would give it one more try and
717 pray this reaches you.

718 Little Boy: See, there's a family in our neighborhood that
719 have it rough. Well, Dad says its tough all
720 over but this family seems to have gotten the
721 short end something fierce. Sometimes they
722 don't have food, or lights but they're awful
723 good folks. Always have a smile on their
724 faces and ready to give a hand when someone
725 needs it. They got two boys my age and it
726 just, well it just don't seem fair that they
727 gotta suffer more than they have to. Could
728 you maybe use whatever magic you have left
729 that you might have been thinking of using on
730 me and giving it to them? Just for one night
731 maybe to give them a good Christmas to get
732 them through the year?

733 Mrs Claus: That goes on a little more too but I think you
734 get the point.

735 Stranger: I know people seem self centered and greedy
736 this time of year. Looking toward the
737 pettiness in their hearts and forgetting the
738 spirit of the season. But there are still
739 good people out there. Please don't make them
740 suffer because of the bad seeds.

741 Jack Frost: Well, I wouldn't know what to do if we
742 actually did go on strike.

743 Cindy Lou: I'd be making my story a lie if I didn't see
744 the good in people.

745 Grandma: What the heck, what's getting run over one
746 more year, as long as people get a laugh or
747 two.

748 Santa: Thanks Nick, and you too Stranger. Thank you
749 for reminding some old fools that there is
750 still some good out there.

751 Nick: So, with that, we still have a couple of hours
752 before midnight. How about drinks on the
753 house?

754 *SFX Cheering and the sounds of merry making which slowly*
755 *fades.*

756 *SFX first four notes of Carol of the Bells*

757 Nick: Welcome to Christmas Spirits, I'm afraid its
758 last call, almost time for Christmas. Oh,
759 back again Stranger?

760 Stranger: Yeah, just wanted to check in before heading
761 home.

762 Nick: Long trip ahead of you? Here's your water.

763 Stranger: Thanks. Yeah, you could say I have a ways to
764 go tonight. Thanks for the water by the way.

765 Nick: Hallmark of a good bartender, knowing what the
766 customer wants and needs.

767 Stranger: And you are a very good bartender, but an even
768 better Spirit of Christmas, aren't you Nick?
769 Or should I call you Saint Nicholas?

770 Nick: You got me. How'd you know? No one else has
771 figured it out in all the time the bar has
772 been here.

773 Stranger: Wasn't easy. But you do a very good job
774 keeping everyone in line and motivated to do
775 their jobs.

776 Nick: They're a good group. They just forget
777 sometimes. Have to give them a nudge or two.
778 I almost thought we weren't going to make it
779 through tonight. Thanks for the help by the
780 way. I had forgotten about those letters
781 Santa carries around, and I know I didn't tell
782 you about them.

783 Stranger: Lucky guess.

784 Nick: Uh-huh, lucky. You helped out a lot

785 Stranger: You know what they say, "a soft answer turneth
786 away wrath".

787 Nick: But grievous words stir up anger. Same now as
788 it was then. Just who are you stranger?

789 Stranger: Just someone passing by looking for a place to
790 rest for the night, you know how the story
791 goes. Well, thanks for the stories and the
792 water. God Bless you Saint Nick.

793 *SFX door opens and the first four notes of Carol of the*
794 *Bells followed by the sound of a clock*
795 *striking midnight.*

796 Nick: *(softly)* Wine? I know I gave you water but
797 now its wine. *(chuckling)* Well, thank you
798 for dropping by "stranger". Thank you for
799 everything, and... may I be the first tonight to
800 say.. Happy Birthday.