



Full of Wonders



Searching for Santa

A Christmas Comedy Play

Lisa Gallauner



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Synopsis

It is just before Christmas, and disaster looms. Santa Claus is suffering from burnout and is away at a health retreat. The Christ Child, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, St. Nicholas, and the Krampus have gathered for a crisis meeting to discuss how the situation might still be saved. Krampus suggests a casting show to find a replacement Santa, but neither the Bard, nor the Rapper, nor the Pantomime, and certainly not the little Devils disguised as elves, manage to convince the jury. Luckily, Santa returns just in time from his retreat and joins forces with all the candidates to get the work done.

Characters

Narrator	12 appearances
Christ Child	19 appearances
St. Nicholas	11 appearances
Easter Bunny	10 appearances
Krampus	13 appearances
Tooth Fairy	10 appearances
Bard	5 appearances
Rapper	2 appearances
Pantomime	2 appearances
1 st Little Devil disguised as an Elf	6 appearances
2 nd Little Devil disguised as an Elf	6 appearances
3 th Little Devil disguised as an Elf	6 appearances
4 th Little Devil disguised as an Elf	6 appearances
Santa Claus	4 appearances

Scene 1

Characters:

Narrator, Christ Child, St. Nicholas, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, Krampus

Stage:

A meeting room

Around a large table sit the Christ Child, the Tooth Fairy, St. Nicholas, the Easter Bunny, and Krampus. Snacks, cookies, carrots, and drinks are on the table. The Christ Child looks tense; all the others are in good spirits. As the Narrator introduces the characters, they briefly stand and bow.

Narrator:

It is just before Christmas, and disaster is in the air. The Christ Child, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, St. Nicholas, and Krampus have gathered for a crisis meeting.

Krampus: *(reaches for the snacks)*

Spicy chips, delicious! I love it when it burns.

St. Nicholas: *(looks sternly at Krampus)*

Gluttony is one of the deadly sins, my dear.

Krampus: *(shrugs)*

One more or less doesn't make a difference for me.

Easter Bunny: *(grabs a carrot)*

Oh, come on, Nicholas. Don't be so strict! Munching can't be a sin.

Tooth Fairy: (*casts a critical eye at the Christmas cookies*)

Do we really need all these Christmas cookies? They're terrible for the teeth.

Christ Child: (*clears throat*)

My dear friends, thank you for coming. Unfortunately, the reason for our meeting is not a pleasant one.

Krampus: (*delighted*)

Bad news? Wonderful! I love bad news.

St. Nicholas: (*glares angrily at Krampus*)

No wonder my book has nothing good to say about you.

Easter Bunny: (*unhappy*)

Bad news? I thought we were having a party. I even cut short my vacation on the Easter Islands just to be here.

Tooth Fairy: (*to the Easter Bunny*)

Has anyone ever told you that you have incredibly beautiful teeth, Bunny?

Christ Child: (*interrupts*)

So, here's the matter: Santa Claus had a breakdown. He seems to be suffering from burnout. At the moment, he is undergoing treatment at a retreat.

Krampus: (*excited*)

Burnout? Sounds fantastic. Anything that burns is fantastic.

St. Nicholas:

Shame on you, Krampus!

Tooth Fairy:

Poor Santa. Although, with his sugar consumption, I'm not surprised his body and soul are out of balance.

Easter Bunny:

He should eat more carrots, that old fellow.

St. Nicholas:

Please, my dear friends. Take this situation more seriously. Do you think you can manage the Christmas business alone, Christ Child?

Christ Child:

No, I fear I cannot manage it alone. And that's why we must take action. We need a substitute Santa until he is fit again. However, I have no idea how we could possibly find one.

Krampus:

With a casting show!

The other four stare at Krampus in astonishment.

All four:

Excuse me, what?

Krampus:

We'll hold a casting show. A casting show called SFS.

Easter Bunny: *(puzzled)*

SFS?

Krampus:

SFS. Searching for Santa!

While St. Nicholas, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy shake their heads in dismay, a smile spreads across the Christ Child's face.

Christ Child: *(pleased)*

A casting show. Not a bad idea at all.

Scene 2

Characters:

Narrator, Christ Child, St. Nicholas, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, Krampus, Casting Participants, Santa Claus

Stage:

At the show

Narrator: *(in front of the curtain)*

The proposal was accepted, and a casting show was organized. I, too, have changed: from now on, I am no longer the Narrator, but (*emphatically*) your host.

The curtain rises. The stage and the jury's table are visible. Christ Child, St. Nicholas, Krampus, Easter Bunny, and Tooth Fairy form the jury. The large letters SFS dominate the stage backdrop.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to SFS – Searching for Santa! Numerous talents have applied to us. Different as they may be, they all want just one thing: to become Santa's stand-in. Tonight, we will find out who gets to represent our dear Santa – whom we wish a speedy recovery – in the coming weeks. A knowledgeable jury will make this decision. Please welcome our jury!

St. Nicholas rises briefly and nods with dignity, the Easter Bunny munches happily on a carrot, the Tooth Fairy blows a kiss to the audience, Krampus strikes a rock pose, and the Christ Child waves shyly.

Narrator:

And now, let's begin with our first contestant. Please welcome ...

Bard: *(enters dramatically, in a pseudo-Shakespearean accent)*
Henry here! I am the Bard, teller of tales and rhymes!

Christ Child:

Good day, Henry! What have you brought us today?

Bard:

Well then, I shall recite a merry little verse for you!

Easter Bunny: *(grabs his ears)*

I'm all ears. Go ahead, Henry!

The contestant clears his throat and takes position.

Bard:

When outside's bitter cold and snow does fall,
And not a drop of rain can be found at all.
Then comes the season of Christmas cheer,
Children await their treats and mirth so dear.
And as tradition so doth demand,
Henry, the Bard, delivers by hand!

Tooth Fairy: *(jumps up and claps enthusiastically)*

Charming! Simply charming!

Easter Bunny:

Not bad at all.

St. Nicholas:

Very nice, Henry. Now we'd like to hear a "Hohoho" from you.

Bard: *(struggling, tries to greet like Santa)*

Holliraho!

Christ Child:

That was good, Henry, but please try again. Hohoho.

Bard:

Holliraho!

St. Nicholas: *(to the others)*

That could be a problem. Without his Hohoho, Santa is no Santa.

Tooth Fairy:

I think he's delightful. And he has lovely teeth.

Easter Bunny:

But his *Holliraho!* just doesn't work.

Christ Child:

Thank you, Henry the Bard! We'll see you at the final decision.

Krampus:

If that's not a dismissal, I don't know what is.

Narrator:

A big round of applause for Henry! And now let's continue with our next contestant. According to my notes, his name is Pierre, Pantomime. Whatever that means.

The Pantomime enters, performing typical mime gestures.

Narrator:

Good day! Won't you introduce yourself?

The Pantomime places his finger to his lips and continues miming.

Krampus:

What's his problem now?

Christ Child:

Please, would you introduce yourself to us?

Pantomime:

My name is Pierre, and I believe speaking is vastly overrated.

He continues miming.

Easter Bunny:

A silent Santa. That's almost as absurd as a bunny without ears.

Tooth Fairy:

Give him a chance! He has beautiful teeth. How would you work as Santa, Pierre?

The Pantomime acts out Santa's tasks: sitting in a sleigh, carrying a sack of presents, and delivering them.

Tooth Fairy: *(jumps up and claps enthusiastically)*

Charming! Simply charming!

Krampus:

Pff, charming? He's totally nuts.

St. Nicholas:

Shame on you, Krampus! Could you please give us a "Hohoho," Pierre?

Pantomime:

As I said, I think speaking is overrated. Who says Santa must say "Hohoho"? Isn't it time we questioned outdated clichés? This stereotype of –

Christ Child: *(interrupts)*

Thank you, Pierre. We'll see you at the final decision.

Narrator:

A big round of applause for Pierre! And now, let's welcome a rapper.

The Rapper enters, pants sagging to reveal his boxers, speaking in rap style.

Krampus: (excited)

Yo, man! Finally a contestant to my taste. High five, bro!

The Rapper slaps Krampus' hand, while the others look puzzled.

Christ Child:

Would you like to tell us who you are?

Rapper: (raps)

My name is Tim, a rapper cool,
Santa Claus ain't kin, that's rule.
But I still want his red coat on,
And ride his sleigh till break of dawn.
I'll bring the gifts, I'll spread the cheer,
A fit Santa Tim is what you need here.
So ditch the losers, choose just me,
With my Hohoho, I'll guarantee!

Tooth Fairy: (jumps up and claps)

Charming! Simply charming!

The Easter Bunny and the Rapper slap hands.

Easter Bunny:

That was awesome, man. Any plans for Easter Sunday?

END OF READING SAMPLE



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