

SCENE ONE: THE CARPENTER ARRIVES

Set mimics a section of Santa's Workshop decorated in burgandy or red, greens, golds; a Christmas tree, old fashioned lamp, perhaps an old mirror or "portrait" of Mr. and Mrs. Santa, an old clock, cute toys everywhere. Go for a quaint home/ Christmas workshop feel.

There is a door, or frame that hints at being a door, to one side of the stage.

A one-day-a-page calendar hangs nearby that says, "December 24th" in old fashioned hand lettering. Several tables are set up. They have "tools of the trade, wrapping ribbon, and possibly candles (fake okay) on them.

ELVES, dressed in Christmas sweaters and some kind of Christmas hats, elf ears sticking out, are busy working at the tables on their toys - dolls, stuffed animals, train cars or trucks, other toys. They are very busy sewing, brushing, painting, tying ribbons, etc. Each has a label style name tag that says his or her name. "Hello, my name is..."

Santa is inspecting their work.

LIGHTS ARE UP 3/4.

PLAY TRACK. BBTL #1 - Pick up the Pace

SANTA

Alright people, pick up the pace, here.

(Slaps the calendar)

We're gettin' down to the wire!

JESUS, dressed in jeans, work boots, a flannel shirt and wearing a carpenter's tool belt, is knocking at the door, shivering a bit in the cold night air.

He wears jeans, a plaid flannel shirt, and a carpenter tool belt. He wears a label style name tag that says, "Hello, my name is... Jesus." He "rubs the frost off a window pane" with his sleeve and keeps knocking at the door patiently. Waits. Knocks again.

SANTA

Somebody wanna get that?

BELF

(helpful tone)

I'll get it.

(opening the door)

It's Christmas Eve, Mister. We're kinda busy around here.

JESUS

May I come in? I've been standing at the door knocking for a really long time, and--

Track #1 ends.

BELF

Hey, Boss? There's a guy here who said he's...

Moving quickly over to JESUS, SANTA shakes his hand distractedly. Takes a look at his clothes and name tag.

SANTA

Oh, good, Jesus--

(pronounced "Hay-soos" as if it is in Spanish)

--thanks for showin' up.

(kind of yelling)

Hey, guys, the repair man is here. Which one of you had the table with the loose leg?

FELF

(waving his hand)

Over here.

JESUS smiles.

SANTA

You're the repair man, right?

JESUS

Well, that's not really why I'm here, but I have been known to fix a thing or two, and--

SANTA

--Ok, great. That table over there has a loose leg. Can you work on it?

JESUS smiles and goes over to fix the table leg. MELF, DELF, and HELF work on their toys while they chat.

JESUS

Oh, sure, I'll take a look.

(To Felf)

Alright, let's see what I can do to help you out with this.

MELF

I don't know... You any good with nails and wood?

JESUS

(wincing a bit)

Actually, I've accomplished a lot with them.

HELF

How about furniture?

JESUS

Furniture. Yeah, I actually enjoy making furniture. I was a carpenter for twenty-plus years.

DELF

Fixing furniture, sure, but have you ever built any houses?

JESUS

As a matter of fact, I've been adding rooms onto my Father's house for a long time now. You see, I'm preparing a place for--

SCENE TWO: CRUNCH TIME

PLAY TRACK. BBCL # 3 - Wish Liszt (Toy Shop Madness) Excerpt.

Lines are spoken loudly and intensely over the music.

SANTA

(interrupting, talking to DELF)

--Hey, you there, a little less chatting and a little more toy making.

(Slapping calendar again)

Come on, people, it's crunch time!

ELVES pick up the pace of whatever their actions are, some criss-crossing the stage. Each ELF takes a line, saying them one at a time, then repeat them to all grumble at once.

CELF

Okay! I'm crunching, I'm crunching!

BELF

Alright, already!

MELF

We're working, we're working.

SELF

Ugh, I can't handle this stress.

FELF

Me either.

HELF

I hate Christmas Eve.

PELF

Some-body put his Santa boots on a little too tight...

MCELF

This pace is too fast for me.

JELF

Me too.

ZELF

Move over, you're working too close to me.