

“THE LIVING CHRISTMAS CARD”

By Teresa Dolkas McClintock, © 2013

PROLOGUE

Stage is set to look like an attic of a large house. Things like tables, furniture, old picture frames, suitcases, tubs, trunks, ladders, blankets, Christmas decorations, a bike or other sports equipment, etc., are piled up in various spots along the back, and sides, leaving room for entrances and exits. Some are covered with cloths draped over - as they would be in storage to keep dust off - including a table with a set of hand bells on it.

There are two chairs DSL. In front of the chairs is an old trunk with souvenirs in it. The chairs are covered at the start.

PLAY TRACK. “LCC #1- Overture”

SHARON

HOW am I ever going to get that husband of mine to quit being such a Grinchy Grouch Scrooge before the grandkids get here? His bad mood is going to make them wish they'd never come. OH! What if they never come back?

(looking up)

Somebody help me please!

(She closes her eyes, wishing hard, then looks at her watch)

PLAY TRACK. LCC #2 - Wish

Six-fifty? Ohhhhh, dear. He promised to meet me in the attic at seven. I bribed him by saying I found an expensive valuable in that old trunk. I lied. I got nothin.' (Totally dejected) Guess it's “show-time” and I'll just have to face the music...

(3 Christmas Spirits)

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY

Did somebody say, “Show-time?”

SHARON
(startled)

Huh?!

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY
Face the music? No problem! (Singing) We know the songs that make the whole world sing....

SHARON
I... I.... I thought I was just talking to myself

THEN
Yeah.... Nope. Heard the whole thing.

NOW
Such needless worrying. We're here now!

SOMEDAY
Yep.

SHARON
You mean, you're the answer to my?

NOW
With a little help from our friends.

THEN AND SOMEDAY
(singing with a flare)
Duhn da da duhn duhn dahhhhh

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY
TheAttic Elves!
(Enter - Attic Elves, spinning wildly. One carries a small hand bell. They stop in front of SHARON with a flourish)

ATTIC ELVES
You rang?

SHARON
I.... Think.... I've.... Finally.... Lost ... My.....

ELF 1
No, you haven't lost it.

ELF 2

But we *are* here to help your husband find it.

SHARON

Find what?

ELF 3

The Christmas Spirit, of course.

ELF 4

Not to be confused with the Christmas *Spirits*.

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY

Which is us.

SHARON

Christmas... spirits?

(Introducing themselves in harmony)

THEN

Christmas of Then.

NOW

Now.

SOMEDAY

Someday.

SHARON

(incredulous)

I... see....

ELF 5

No, you don't. Not really.

ELF 6

But you will.

ALL ELVES AND SPIRITS

So hang on for the ride of your life.

(Elf 5 and Elf 6 take SHARON by the arms and start to spin her slowly, taking her off SR)

PLAY TRACK. LCC #3 - Spin

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY

There's no place like the attic, there's no place like the attic ... and..... she's outta here.

ELF 1

(Uncovering the chairs, the table with the bells, the toy cupboard, post card collection on a poster board, etc.)

Now the work begins.

ELF 1 AND ELF 2

WHERE ONCE THERE LIVED A SPIRIT OF GIVING
A SORRY SELFISHNESS NOW IS LIVING

ELF 3 AND ELF 4

A MAN WHO HAS QUITE FORGOTTEN THE STORY
OF HOPE AND PEACE AND GLIMPSES OF GLORY

ELF 5 AND ELF 6

A WIFE WHO THINKS SHE CAN FIX HIM HERSELF
WILL SOON LEARN MUCH FROM SPIRITS AND ELVES

ALL ELVES AND SPIRITS

WE'LL GIVE IT NOW OUR BEST ENDEAVOR
TO FIX THE MOOD AROUND HERE FOREVER
BUT DO BE WARNED, FOR YOU MAY TOO

HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART, BEFORE THE ROUSE IS
THROUGH.

(Elves take bows. The one with the bell looks around for a place to put the bell so he can bow and leaves it in the trunk. The elves won't stop bowing. Christmas Spirits "help" them exit SR)

THEN

Let's do this thing, Someday.

SOMEDAY

Ok. That'll be nice.

NOW

No, she means let's do the song now.

SOMEDAY

Well, if she means "now" then why don't YOU start the song.

NOW

Ugh... I....

SOMEDAY

(Giving the vocal cue to start the acapella song. During the last chorus, SHARON and her husband BOB climb up the stairs to the attic, entering DSR)

THEN, NOW, SOMEDAY

BA DA DA DUM

GONNA TAKE A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

GONNA SET ME HEART AT EASE

GONNA TAKE A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

TO RENEW OLD MEMORIES

GOT MY BAGS, I GOT MY RESERVATIONS

SPENT EACH DIME I COULD AFFORD

LIKE A CHILD IN WILD ANTICIPATION

LONG TO HEAR THAT ALL ABOARD

SEVEN, THAT'S THE TIME WE LEAVE AT, SEVEN

I'LL BE WAITIN' UP FOR HEAVEN