

(Extended) Screen Treatment

For Every Child...How Santa Got His Elves

by Ron W. Mumford

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Genre: _Children's Fantasy

Logline: *Miracle on 34th Street* meets *Tim Allen's Santa Claus*

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What Readers Say: (My Screen Writing teacher, Tony LoPresti, Jr.) "Ron, it's too bad that the first screen play that you have written will be the best screen play you will ever write. Congrats!"

Synopsis: (a bit different but says it all...)

For every child that goes away

Takes a ride on Santa's sleigh

Every child that lives to grow

Has a friend to get to know

Special girls and special boys,

*Special kids that make the toys.
A little brother with pointy ears,
A little sister who always hears.*

*With magic powers from Santa Claus
They keep the watch, just because...
They send the dreams and hear the prayers
Of the kids that now are theirs.*

*To guide through life and light the path
To help them learn to take a bath.
To study hard and do their chores,
To be polite and open doors.*

*Little friends that never leave.
Guardian angels, not make believe.
The little ones who have gone away
Come back another day.*

*To keep the watch and make the toys
To wipe the tears and share the joys,
To tell St. Nick when you've been good.
To help you do the things you should.*

*And when you're alone and full of fear...
You'll hear a whisper saying... "I am here."
It's the little kids who have gone away,
That took a ride on Santa's sleigh...*

Main Characters: Protagonists; Late 1700s

1. Laun-oldest of the five orphan boys in the little Swiss village of Zura-Loche, Age 6. Wants an ax for Christmas.
2. Michael-smartest of the boys, age 5. Just wants Santa to come again this year, doubt.
3. Kirk-pessimist, age 5, wants more food for Christmas, Mr. Hetzer doesn't feed them enough.
4. Evan-mischievous, age 5, wants rock candy for Christmas.

5. Jon Jon-youngest of the boys, age 4. Can't pronounce "Rs" of "Ls." Has his own little language. Wants a "St. Basnad" (St. Bernard) puppy for Christmas. Has never seen Santa.
6. Santa Claus—Heavenly name Nicholas, Santa is an angel. Do you believe in him?
7. Miss. Claus
8. St. Peter
9. God--Booming Voice Only

Antagonist--Late 1700s:

1. Mr. Hetzer-mean ole school teacher. Doesn't believe in Santa Claus, the original, "Bah, Humbug." Works the five boys way too hard, constantly on their back.

Cut To: Present-Protagonists, Present Day, Near NASA Headquarters, Clear Lake, Texas;

1. Santa Claus, Ms. Claus
2. Kris Kringle--Department store Santa
3. Will Bennett, mid 30s, Christina's Ad Account exec husband, father of Annie and Tony
4. Christina Bennett, early 30's, astronaut, pregnant mother of Annie and Tony
5. Dr. Spencer, Annie's doctor
6. The 5 boys from Zura-Loche, now Santa's elves, Laun, Michael, Kirk, Evan, Jon Jon.
7. Doctor 1
8. Mrs. Bigelow-wife of Mr. Bigelow who fires Will from his job right at Christmas.
9. Mr. & Mrs. Wickhampton, in England, owns huge toy manufacturing business. Grandchildren. Gets tape of Santa's workshop from elves, calls Will to hire him.
10. Children all over the world on Santa's list to deliver presents to on Christmas.
 - Margaux, in Canada
 - Martin, Street name "Blaze" in the Bronx, NY. Talks the street talk, can't believe his eyes, lives in an ally in an old washing machine box, homeless, orphan. Hilarious! Learns that "Kimba" is his guardian angel.
 - Abdul, from the Middle East.
 - Foo, four year old in China
 - Haikado, Japan
 - Mario, Mexico
 - Aurturo, Italy
 - Svetlana, Russia

Antagonist:

1. Mr. Bigelow, Will's former employer who fired him
2. Annie's sickness.

Locations, Settings:

1. North Pole, Santa's Workshop, five boys taking care of the reindeer, joking, playing jokes on each other, getting Christmas lists from boys and girls around the world. Very funny dialogue.
2. Little Swiss village of Zura-Loche in Act 1, Orphanage
3. Santa's trip to Heaven, (Called St. Nickolas, an angel) Before the throne of the Almighty, just cloudy haze. St. Peter sitting at the Pearly Gate, welcoming St. Nickolas.
4. Cut to Present--Will & Christina's home in Clear Lake.
5. Memorial Hospital in Clear Lake where Annie is taken.
6. Brief scene at Mr. Bigelow's house
7. Brief scene at The Wickenham's home in England
8. Quick scenes of Santa delivering toys to kids listed above.

Act 1--The Set Up-Late 1700s

The five orphan boys get worked very hard by the old school master, Mr. Hetzer, often getting sent to their room without eating. All but little Jon Jon have been at the orphanage for a couple of years and looked forward to Santa Claus visiting with them each year since Zura-Loche was Santa's last place to deliver toys. He visited with the boys face-to-face every year. Little Jon Jon has only been at the boys home for a month. Looks forward to seeing Santa for the first time.

That particular Christmas Eve, a blizzard had swept the countryside where the boys were. When Santa is later than normal, the boys get up at 2 AM, put on their coats and go out into the blizzard looking for Santa, thinking he may be in trouble.

When Santa does arrive, the boys are not there. Santa wakes Mr. Hetzer, who is scarred out of his wits to see the big Santa dressed all in red, just as the boys always told him Santa looked, and said he did not know where the boys were.

Santa finds their little frozen bodies in the snow, loads them on his sleigh and takes them to heaven where he asks the Almighty for some help at the North Pole. The dialogue between the Booming voice and St. Nickolas is so upbeat. Santa gets his helpers who are to boys of Zura-Loche and takes them back to the North Pole, outfits them in "pointy ears" and magical powers

and the boys are loving every minute of this fantastic, great adventure working with kids all over the world as guardian angels.

Act 2--The Conflict--Present Day

Will Bennett is an ad executive in the toy industry who gets fired just as Christmas is nearing. His wife, Christina is an astronaut in training at N.A.S.A facilities in Clear Lake, TX. She has twins, Annie and Tony (Anthony). Christina is pregnant with their third child. Annie gets sick. Scenes go back and forth from the North Pole and the absolute chaos and fun the boys from Zura-Loche have making toys, feeding and talking to the reindeer, especially Rudolph who the boys think is conceited, and assigning tasks to the other elves that have come to the North Pole workshop. They constantly get changes in wishes for Christmas from kids all around the world and check their lists, checking them twice so every kid gets their Christmas list of wishes just right.

They know, by divine communication when kids are sick, when their families are going through troubles, like Will getting fired and act in super natural ways to make the kids of the world happy. They are, after all, not only Santa's elves, they are guardian angels for the kids.

Two things are happening to the Bennett family, Will's loss of employment and Annie getting sick. One of the boys produces a phenomenal video of Santa's work shop and sends to Mr. Wickhampton in England to get him to hire Will as their ad exec without Will's knowledge. The other boys begin visiting Annie and Tony in dreams while Annie is sick in the hospital adding so much joy that Annie's sickness almost seems such a secondary part in the script. Santa's elves tell Annie that she is about to get a ride on Santa's sleigh and be an elf at the North Pole. Annie can't wait. Tony, Annie's twin brother just says, "Annie always gets to do all the cool stuff. I want to be an elf also!"

In preparation, Santa and the boys from Zura-Loche, Santa's first of many "helpers," take both Annie and Tony on their rounds on Christmas Eve on Santa's sleigh to meet kids all over the world while Santa delivers the toys. The only ones who are terribly worried at this point are Will and Christina, fearing Annie's outcome with her sickness.

Act 3--The Conclusion

On Christmas day, Annie gets to be one of Santa's elves. Tony already knows where Annie is going and wants to go to the North Pole with her. When Annie "earns her pointy ears," the family is gathered at her hospital room. Tony points out the window of the hospital room for

Will and Christina to see the momentary vision of a hovering Christmas tree comprised of children, now elves, with Annie at the top of the tree, glowing in brilliance. No time for tears, only wonderful joy, seeing Annie in all of her splendor with such a loving bunch of children with a future like no other.

Tony tells his parents, "I told you not to worry about Annie! I told you Santa Claus is real! Just look for yourselves, was I right or not!" Tears of joy stream down their faces as Annie waves back at them, gets into Santa's sleigh and goes out of sight as they make their way to the North Pole.

The moral to the story is: "You got to believe! Santa is real!"

Hence the synopsis: "The little kids who have gone away, get to ride on Santa's sleigh."

Background of this story:

When Ron Mumford was a journalism major in college, he was in the Christmas Spirit just before the Christmas break. He wrote a 7-page short story entitled, "The Boys from Zura-Loche, How Santa got His Elves." Mumford thought the world should know since no one has ever approached this mystery.

Years later after losing his only child, Adrian, just before her 6th birthday and trying to deal with her death, Ron turned bad into good and wrote this joyful ending to the biggest tragedy in his life. He chose to turn tears into toys and death into life. After all, if you asked kids if they would like to become Santa's helpers, how many would say "no?"