

SANTA'S COOKIE PROBLEM

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

SANTA CLAUSthe jolly man himself

EARL THE ELFmischievous elf

ELF # 2conspires with Earl

ELF # 3conspires with Earl

MRS. CLAUS.....wife to Santa Claus

COSTUMES

- NARRATOR: Not seen, so can just wear all black (black shoes, too)
- SANTA CLAUS: Wearing long johns with a long white beard; Santa should have a suit he is trying to fit into, but he never actually wears it until the very last scene
- EARL THE ELF: Red pants and coat with a black belt; red, pointy hat; Earl should also wear elf ears
- ELF # 2/ELF # 3: Green pants and coat with a black belt; green, pointy hat; elf ears
- MRS. CLAUS: Red velvet dress with an apron, white wig

SETTING AND SCENES

The setting takes place in the North Pole, at Santa Claus's home.

SCENE 1: Outside the Claus's home at the North Pole with faux snow, cardboard or faux evergreens

SCENE 2: Santa's bedroom with wardrobe, bed, and so on

SCENE 3: Kitchen; has table filled with candies, cookies, treats, etc.

SCENE 4: Back in the bedroom

PROPS

- Bucket with glitter
- Medium-sized Santa suit
- Plate of brightly decorated Christmas cookies
- Sweets and goodies
- Veggie tray
- Small-sized Santa suit
- Doll-sized Santa suit
- Second bucket with glitter
- Regular-sized Santa suit

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME

25-35 minutes

SCRIPT

Scene 1

(Lights come up on a snowy setting. Can place bits of white around or hang snowflakes. The focus is going to be on Santa and his elves, so just give it the feel of the North Pole.)

Narrator: During the long summer months, Santa and his elves often grow bored. They love to pull pranks on one another to pass the time.

(Santa and elves run around the stage, chasing each other. Santa dumps a bucket of glitter on one of the elves. One of the elves ties Santa's shoelaces together and Santa trips, and so on; should all be harmless, in good fun, pranks on one another. They are having fun and playing.)

Narrator: One elf takes his prank a little too far...

Scene 2

(Lights come up on Santa's bedroom. A wardrobe is set up STAGE LEFT and a four-poster bed STAGE RIGHT.)

Narrator: The day is December 1st. Santa has pulled his suit out of storage to get it cleaned and ready for Christmas Eve. There's just one problem. (In a stage whisper) Santa has a cookie problem. The problem is that he loves cookies and now he doesn't fit in his suit. Or perhaps it is the suit that doesn't fit him?

(Earl the Elf enters STAGE LEFT carrying a Santa suit. Goes to the wardrobe and pulls out one suit. He holds the two side by side. The suit the elf was carrying should be about half the size of the suit hanging in wardrobe. Elf replaces the bigger suit with the smaller one. Puts hand over mouth, giggles, and exits STAGE RIGHT with larger suit).

(Santa and his other two elves enter STAGE LEFT and walk to center FORESTAGE. Santa is in long johns. The bedroom should be decked out in Christmas décor.)

Earl the Elf: (Re-enters from STAGE RIGHT and goes to wardrobe to pull out the suit. He holds it up to Santa). Santa, I don't think this suit will fit.

Santa: (Holds Santa suit up so audience can see how small it is compared to his jolly girth) I think it will still fit.

Elf # 2: Put your right leg in first.

(Santa attempts to put his leg in the Santa suit but instead just spins in a circle and stomps foot on floor.)

Elf # 3: Maybe if you try your left leg first!

(Santa attempts to put his left leg in the Santa suit, but stumbles and falls.)

Earl the Elf: I know! I know! You should *jump* into the suit. (Demonstrates how to jump up and forward)

(Elves hold the suit while Santa tries to jump into it. It doesn't go well.)

Elf # 2: Maybe if you get a running start, Santa. Here, I'll go over here and hold the suit and you run and jump into it. (Elf goes to STAGE RIGHT)

Santa: It's worth a try.

(Santa backs all the way up to STAGE LEFT. With exaggerated movements, Santa runs and tries to jump into the suit, falls into the wardrobe, grabs his head and lands on the floor.)

Mrs. Claus: (Enters UP LEFT carrying a plate of brightly decorated cookies) What on earth is going on in here?

Elf # 3: Santa can't fit in his suit.

Mrs. Claus: What? Nicholas, I warned you about eating all those cookies. If you can't fit in your suit, then there is no magic. Without magic, you'll never get all those toys delivered. The children will be so disappointed.

Santa: (Reaches for plate of cookies, but Mrs. Claus keeps them just out of reach) One little cookie never hurt anyone.

Earl the Elf: Maybe you could have a carrot instead. Rudolph loves carrots.

Santa: Do I look like a reindeer to you?

Earl the Elf: (Tilts his head far to the right and looks at Santa. Then, tilts his head far to the left and looks at Santa.) You are kind of round like a reindeer's body.

Mrs. Claus: (laughs) Santa, I hate to do this to you, but we're going to have to put you on a low carb diet. At least until Christmas.

Elf # 2: Does that mean no more cookies for Santa?

Mrs. Claus: No cookies. We have to get him in that suit.

Elf # 3: What about cake? Can Santa have cake?

Mrs. Claus: No cake. No cookies.

Earl the Elf: What about candy canes? Can Santa have candy?

Mrs. Claus: No candy.

Elf # 2: The travesty!

(All exit stage left as the lights dim, chatting about what Santa can have to eat, such as carrots and celery and chicken and pumpkin.)

Scene 3

(Lights come up on the Claus' kitchen. CENTER FORESTAGE there is a long table filled with every type of goody you can imagine. Right in the center is a veggie tray. Santa and Mrs. Claus are seated at the table when the lights go up.)

(Santa reaches for a cookie.)

Mrs. Claus: (Smacks his hand) No.

Santa: Just one cookie. I love cookies. (Santa reaches again for the cookies.)

Mrs. Claus: (Pulls the tray away) No. Have a radish.

Earl the Elf: (Enters STAGE LEFT just as Santa tosses the radish. It hits Earl the Elf in the head.) Ouch! (Sits at table with Santa and Mrs. Claus and eats cookies.) These are so good! These are the best cookies anyone ever baked. I love these cookies. These cookies are better than snow on Christmas Eve. They are better than Christmas in July. They are better than--

Santa: (Interrupts Earl the Elf) I've been on this no cookie, no cake, no candy diet for two weeks. Surely my suit fits and I can have cookies again?

Mrs. Claus: We could try your suit again, I suppose, and see if it fits.

Earl the Elf: (Jumps to feet) I'll go get it for you, Santa! (Exits STAGE LEFT)

(After a second Earl the Elf appears far STAGE LEFT and motions to the audience to get their attention.)

Narrator: What is that elf up to now? Poor Santa. He has no idea his suit has been switched.

Earl the Elf: (In a loud stage whisper) Psst! Hey! (Once the elf has the audience's attention, he shows them two Santa suits. The one that is half the size of the first and a new one that is even smaller. He puts his hand on his stomach and pantomimes laughing. He throws the larger one over his shoulder and walks STAGE CENTER with the smaller one.) Here you go, Santa.

Santa: (Stands) I am sure this suit will fit. I have missed out on Mrs. Claus's chocolate chip cookies, her gingerbread cookies, and her sugar cookies.

(Santa tries to put an arm in the suit, but it is obviously way too small. Santa should spend several minutes trying to force the suit on when it obviously will not fit. The more physical he can make the attempt the better. He should fall over a chair, do a somersault, etc.)

Mrs. Claus: Oh dear. Santa, I don't think it is going to fit. (Mrs. Claus holds the suit out in front of her and stares at it for a minute.) There is something strange about this suit.

(Lights fade and the three exit STAGE RIGHT.)

Scene 4

(Lights come up back in the Claus' bedroom.)

(Earl the Elf tiptoes out from STAGE RIGHT and looks at audience. Places his finger to his lips and shushes audience. He swaps out the Santa suit for a tiny one big enough only for a doll. Cackles and runs off stage in either direction.)

Santa: (Enters from STAGE LEFT. Picks up Santa suit. Scratches his head). Mrs. Claus! Mrs. Claus! Come quickly.

Mrs. Claus: (Rushes in from STAGE LEFT). What is it, Nicholas?

Santa: I think I've discovered why my diet isn't working. (Holds up tiny suit.)

Mrs. Claus: That is most definitely not your Santa suit. (She pulls an unclothed Santa doll from behind her back.) I was wondering where my mantle doll's clothes went.

Santa: All those cookies I gave up and it was a prank?

(The elves come running in from STAGE RIGHT and dump a bucket of glitter over Santa's head. They have the real suit, which Santa steps into easily.)

Earl the Elf: Ha ha. That was a good one, Santa, you have to admit.

Santa: It was a good prank. Just wait until summer, though. I'm going to get even.

(They all laugh over the joke and head off stage.)

Narrator: Now that Santa has his suit back, Christmas delivery can go on as planned. Merry Christmas to all!