

**TIWY EPISODE: COVID - A MITCHELL P. CRUMPLETON CHRISTMAS EXPLOSION
SPECTACULAR WITH ALL OF THE TRIMMINGS**

*****SFX - BEEPING AND BOOPING AND STUFF BECAUSE WE'RE IN A
LABORATORY**

**[DOOR OPENS. WALKING THROUGH. DOOR SHUTS. FOOTSTEPS INTO
THE ROOM]**

MITCHELL P. CRUMPELTON (MP)

Mmm, Lesma. How are things going with the new plasma-actory-explosive device?

LESMA

Well, Mitchell P. Crumpleton.. I've kind of given that a backseat to a new, highly experimental project I've been working on.

MP

Hmmm. Curious. Do explain.

LESMA

Well, sir. I've been working on a whole new kind of time machine.

MP

Really? Quite fascinating. Is it as fascinating as a Zebra? Because that's about as fascinating as it gets.

LESMA

Sir, I don't want to get ahead of myself, but I think it might be more fascinating than a Zebra.

MP

Well, you'll have to sell me on that, Lesma! Because, as we all know, the zebra is the most fascinating horse that exists.

LESMA

Sir, while zebras are equines, they are not horses. Neither are they asses.

MP

Lesma, using that kind of language is not suited to a lady of your stature or schooling.

LESMA

Sir, you do understand that I'm talking about donkeys?

MP

Lesma, of course I do. (*Laughs*). I'm pretty sure I do. I am a doctor after all. Of space-timeology... I think. Or something. It was a unique degree that I received and it was agreed to that I would shred the documents immediately after my graduation, as it was basically made up. I think it had something to do with the fact that my father gave a lot of money to Yale in order to use their staff and facilities to develop a device for the government in which people could be shocked into giving false confessions to various crimes. I've already said too much as it's classified information, but the long and short of it is that I had a full ride to Yale and I got to create my own unique degree.

LESMA

Very nice, sir. Sounds like a pleasant life that requires little energy and social responsibility.

MP

Yes. Agreed. Thank you, Lesma.

LESMA

(*slightly sarcastic*) Thank *you*, sir. It sounds like a significant journey.

MP

Well put, Lesma.

LESMA

I mean, I grew up in a foster home and had to hide under the bed because the dogs scared me to the point where I could hardly function, and then I worked at a diner where my boss would spray me with the hose they used to wash dishes so I could make enough money to go to community college.

MP

Apples and oranges, my dear.

LESMA

Well, not really, but-

MP

Although it isn't quite Christmas yet, I would like to present you with a gift.

LESMA

Oh, great! Because I have a gift for you-

MP

Spoiler alert, my dear. It's a dreidel.

LESMA

Oh. Okay, sir. You know I'm not Jewish, right?

MP

Hmm. I did not! But a dreidel is suitable for all types of fun, regardless of religion, Lesma. Observe.

[SPINS DREIDEL]

MP

(Ad libs. Look at it go! Etc)

LESMA

Thank you, Mitchell P. It's a very nice gift.

MP

It's the least I could do.

LESMA

Yeah... that seems like a perfectly accurate description of what this is. *(beat)* I got you something too.

MP

You did!? Lesma... you shouldn't have.

LESMA

Well, you're probably right, sir. But... *(LESMA launches into song)*

MUSIC - "MAY I PRESENT MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU"

(A song about how Christmas is magical and giving is great. Kind of in the style of Fleetwood Mac)

MP

Lesma, the suspense is crushing me under a pile of geodes!

LESMA

Mitchell P, isn't the expression "the suspense is killing me."

MP

I don't see why we can't be slightly more specific in *how* the suspense is killing me.

LESMA

Fair enough, sir. Well, without further ado... Come with me.

MP

(sort of sung, and poorly) Where you lead I will follow, anywhere that you tell me too.

LESMA

Okay...?

MP

It's Carole King, Lesma.

LESMA

Yeah, I'm aware. I've just never heard you (*clears throat*) "sing" before.

MP

I'm rather good. The music department at Yale gave me quite a number of stickers to put on my notebook.

LESMA

I'm sure they did. (*beat*) Shall we?

MP

Mmm, yes. We shall.

[FOOTSTEPS LEAVING. DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS THROUGH. DOOR CLOSSES. A FEW MORE STEPS]

LESMA

Are you ready, Mitchell P?

MP

For what? I just see an enormous box with a lot of tiny Christmas trees on it.

LESMA

Generally speaking, people wrap Christmas presents, sir.

MP

Really... What an enticing concept. I've never heard of such a thing.

LESMA

Well, that's quite clear because *you* just pulled a dreidel out of your pocket that I'm guessing you found on the street because it was quite dirty.

MP

Very true. Yes. Reuse, Reduce, and Bicycle.

LESMA

Close.

MP

It's such a shame that Glenn Close has not won an academy award yet, wouldn't you say?

LESMA

Can we get to the point here!?

MP

Lesma, that aggressive tone is not befitting of a woman of your cal-eh-bray, if you will.

LESMA

I won't! That's slightly sexist, for one thing, and it's cal-eh-BER. You know that! Also, I'm trying to give you a fucking gift!

MP

I suppose you're right, Lesma. Please forgive me.

LESMA

It's okay. Tensions are high, sir. *(beat)* I can't believe you're the only person I've seen in months.

MP

Yes, this is quite a cue-or-an-tine.

LESMA

Quarantine! Quarantine!! Fucking just say it like a normal person.

MP

I wish I could my dear, but it's just not the way I'm built I'm afraid. And it's not what they taught us at Yale. *(beat)* But, it has been a little lonely hasn't it? You know, if you just blink real fast a whole lot, your entire life looks like a strobe light disco party. Why don't you give it a shot.

LESMA

Do you just want to open your damn present already?

MP

If I must. But you should really give a go at the fake disco blinking strobe party. Put on some ABBA and enjoy yourself.

LESMA

Maybe later. Can you just open the present already?!

MP

Can and will, my dear.

[FOOTSTEPS TO THE BOX. TEARING OF WRAPPING PAPER]

MP

Hmm... having torn off the Christmas tree paper, it appears just to be a box. A nice one, certainly. Perhaps I can put some clothes in it. Or some trinkets.

LESMA

You have to open the damn box, sir.

MP

Oh, well. What a fun “double surprise.” Just the box by itself would have been magnificent.

LESMA

Just open it already!

MP

I will, my dear. Post haste.

[TEARING OFF TAPE. TEARING CARDBOARD. OPENING BOX]

DONDER

(breathing heavily having been stuck in a box with little airflow) Oh, thank the fucking lord!

[COCONUT “HORSE” STEPS]

MP

My word, a reindeer?! And a talking reindeer at that! What a delightful gifting anomaly.

LESMA

Yes, sir. I know how much you love Christmas, even though you apparently don’t understand that gifts are supposed to be wrapped-

DONDER

What the fuck! I’ve been stuck in that box for days. I could have suffocated.

MP

Lesma, who is this magnificent creature?

LESMA

This is Donder, sir. As in “On Dasher, on Dancer” etcetera.

MP

Well, I’ll be. How on earth did you acquire such a creature?

DONDER

I was fucking kidnapped!

MP

Please, Donder, we're having a conversation.

LESMA

Well, sir, as I said, I've been working on a whole new kind of time machine.

MP

Mmm, yes. You did mention that.

DONDER

I'm really fucking hungry.

MP

Not now, Donder. We'll get to you in a minute.

DONDER

Piss off.

LESMA

This is not only a time machine.

MP

Do explain.

LESMA

It's an interdimensional machine that can visit fictional characters.

MP

Really? How fascinating.

DONDER

I'm not fictional! I'm right here.

LESMA

But, Donder, you are fictional. I just brought you to our universe out of a story we invented as humans. There's no such thing as flying reindeer or Santa.

DONDER

Sure there fucking is. What do you think I've been doing with my life?

LESMA

Well, I hate to break it to you, but you've been living in a completely made up world.

DONDER

You're living in a made up world!

LESMA

No, this is the real world.

DONDER

How do you know?

LESMA

Because I'm living in it.

DONDER

So am I!

MP

Lesma, who are we to say what's real and what is not?

LESMA

We are! This is a talking reindeer from human folklore!

MP

Lesma, may we have a quick sidebar? Over here please...

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY]

MP

Lesma, first of all, I want to congratulate you on your accomplishment, it's an incredible breakthrough in modern time travel, and I do thank you for the gift.

LESMA

Thank you, sir. But I feel like there's a "but" coming.

MP

Well, yes. You see, while this may all seem like fiction, the fact is that Christmas is coming in a couple of days and you have absconded with one of Santa's reindeer. You now realize that he will not be able to fly around the world with Santa delivering presents.

LESMA

Sir, that is a children's story! It's not real!!

MP

Lesma, a story is just as real as anything. And you have removed a very key player from that story. How will it read?

LESMA

It will read just fine. Maybe there will be one less reindeer. What's the big deal? It's not like I stole Rudolf.

DONDER

I can hear you, and Rudoph really doesn't do that fucking much by the way. He has kind of an alcohol problem. That's why his nose is red. I've been basically leading the team for years.

MP

(hushed) Lesma, you know that Blitzen is my favorite. Why did you choose this crass fellow?

LESMA

(hushed) I couldn't find Blitzen, okay! Just... be gracious. I brought you a talking reindeer! And he's not even real, sir.

MP

Lesma, reality and fiction are not as different as you might think. Let me explain...

MUSIC - "IT MAY NOT BE REAL, BUT IT'S REAL TO ME"

(MP talking to LESMA about fiction and reality with DONDER chiming in from time to time. By the end of the song it's more or less layed out that they need to get DONDER back to the North Pole)

LESMA

Wow, Mitchell P. You *are* actually good at singing.

MP

Yes. Yes I am... So, as I'm sure you have surmised by now, we need to get Donder back to the North Pole, quick as a wink in order to save Christmas.

DONDER

Do y'all have a carrot or an apple or something. Seriously. I'm really hungry.

LESMA

Not now, deer!

MP

Chop chop. No time to waste. No time to waste at all. To the machine. *(beat)* What do you call it, Lesma?

LESMA

"The Machine."

MP

Alright then! To “The Machine!” We need to return Donder to Santa!

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY. DOOR OPENS. STEPS THROUGH. DOOR CLOSES]

MUSIC - TIWY THEME

(This leads into a scene where the actors act as folks that would be raising money as if it were a telethon. Pretending to use rotary phones while we’re raising money online. This is all ad-libbed as we see who is donating on computer/TV screens)

*****SFX - BEEPING AND BOOPING IN A SPACESHIP. WE HEAR THE SPACESHIP STARTING UP**

MP

Lesma, how do you operate this contraption?

LESMA

Sir, being that I built it, perhaps I should fly it, don’t you think?

DONDER

I agree with that.

MP

Donder, I think your candor is uncalled for at this point in time.

LESMA

I disagree.

DONDER

So do I.

MP

I’m the captain of this vessel, so, just please tell me how to operate it. We need to get to the North Pole.

LESMA

Okay. Well, first you’re going to want to-

MP

No, I think I’ve got it. I’m sure it’s this big red button.

[HITTING A BUTTON WITH AN “RRRRRRGH” YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG SOUND]

LESMA

No! That wasn't it... Dammit!

*****SFX - A SWIRLY SPACE SOUND (WE'RE GOING THROUGH A WORMHOLE) IT CONTINUES THROUGH SCENE**

MP

Lesma, what on earth is happening?

LESMA

We're going through a wormhole, sir. I couldn't even tell you where. You pushed the button without verifying the coordinates!

DONDER

What?!

MP

Lesma. Donder. Everything will be fine. It's always fine.

DONDER

Everything is not *always fine*, you dumbass!

MP

For a deer, you do have quite a foul mouth.

DONDER

How many fucking deer do you know?!

MP

Just you, I suppose. But I expected better of you.

DONDER

I don't know any people either other than Santa and elves, but I expected better of you as well. It seems like you have no idea what you're doing.

LESMA

I agree.

MP

Agree to disagree, I suppose. *(beat)* Almost there now, but I think it will be a rough one! Hold on!!

*****SFX - CRASH LANDING**

LESMA

Dammit!

MP

Not such a bad crash landing, all things considered.

DONDER

There's no such thing as having a "not so bad crash landing." A crash landing is just straight up bad!

MP

To each their own, I suppose. But either way, here we are at the North Pole.

DONDER

This isn't the fucking North Pole.

MP

You must be mistaken, my dear deer. My navigational skills are exceptional.

LESMA

No... they're not.

DONDER

I live at the North Pole. This isn't the North Pole.

MP

Then where on earth must we be, Lesma? I mean, there *is* quite a bit of snow on the ground. It seems like it could be the North Pole.

DONDER

It's not. We're in a parking lot. There are cars. I can see them.

LESMA

Sir, "The Machine" requires a lot of study before you can fly it. I don't know if we're in the past of what we understand as the "real" world. Or if we're in a fictional land. Sir, you just pressed a bunch of buttons and might have sent us somewhere that's potentially dangerous.

DONDER

Can someone just give me a damn carrot or something!?

MP

Donder, don't let your hunger hinder you.

DONDER

I'm fucking hungry though. That inherently hinders you.

MP

All in the mind, my dear deer.

DONDER

No it's not!

LESMA

So, what do you want to do, Mitchell P?

MP

I say we explore our new surroundings.

LESMA

Fine. Let's go.

[FOOTSTEPS AND COCONUT FOOTSTEPS AS THEY ARE LEAVING "THE MACHINE"]

*****SFX - A "SPACESHIP DOOR BEING OPENED"**

[FOOTSTEPS AND COCONUT FOOTSTEPS THROUGH THE DOOR]

*****SFX - "SPACESHIP DOOR BEING SHUT"**

[FOOTSTEPS AND COCONUT FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE]

DONDER

This definitely isn't the North Pole. There's a dude over there puking in a trashcan. **[PUKING]** This is the parking lot of a bar.

MP

If you say so.

DONDER

I know so.

MP

Well, here we are at the door. Let's see what happens.

[DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS THROUGH, INCLUDING COCONUT HORSES, DOOR CLOSES]

*****SFX - BACKGROUND BAR NOISE**

[MORE FOOTSTEPS AS THEY SIT DOWN]

MARY

Name's Mary. Welcome to the Take It With You Tavern. What can I get y'all?

LESMA

Wait, why do you have so many people in here? Actually, why is it even open? We're in a lockdown.

MARY

'Cause it's a bar. I dunno. Whaddya mean? What "lockdown?"

LESMA

Where are we? What year is this?

MARY

It's 2014. In Duluth. Are you okay? Should I call an ambulance or something? *(beat)* And why did you bring a reindeer into a bar? That's really not cool!

MP

Well, first of all, this is Donder and she can speak the human language.

DONDER

Yup. I can. I have little to say because I hate everything that's happening right now. But, yes, I can speak.

MP

Secondly, I thought that we were perhaps at the North Pole you see.

MARY

What?!!

LESMA

I invented an interdimensional time traveling device that allowed me to pick up fictional characters like Donder here.

DONDER

Thing is, I'm obviously real now because I'm standing right here.

MARY

Still don't get it.

LEMSA

Well, it's COVID and-

MARY

Wait, what's COVID?

LESMA

Oh, just wait. It's a blast. We can't see anybody in person and your bar will have to shut down for an indeterminate amount of time because people don't listen to science. Anyway, I thought I'd build a nice gift for Mitchell P.

MP

But you see, the machine malfunctioned and-

LESMA

It didn't! You just randomly pressed buttons!

MP

In either case, we're trying to get to the North Pole to deliver Donder back before Christmas so the boys and girls can get their toys.

DONDER

I was kidnapped. Kidnapped!

MP

Mmmm... If you say so.

LESMA

None of this matters! "The Machine" was made to pick up *fictional* beings!! You're a fictional character, Donder!!!

DONDER

But again, I'm right here. How am I *still* fictional? You see what I'm saying here?

MARY

What on earth are you all talking about!!? (*beat*) Look, you crazies, y'all want a drink or what?

MP

Mmm, I suppose a drop of something might soothe the soul. What do you have in this time and place?

MARY

You guys are weird... We have Bent Paddle beer.

MP

Then that it shall be.

MARY

Sounds good. Donder, I'm guessing you'd like a bowl.

DONDER

That would be fucking marvelous.

MARY

Great.

[CRACKS 3 CANS OF BEER AND POURS ONE INTO A BOWL AND SETS IT DOWN]

MARY

Here ya go. The music is about to start, so shut your mouths. You seem nuts and I don't want any trouble... This isn't the freaking North Pole. And why am I not more concerned about a talking deer?!

MP

Questions, my dear, lead to other questions, that lead to-

MARY

Yeah. Other questions or whatever. Just shut your trap and listen.

MP

Well, I'm very excited to see music again. This COVID pandemic has really put a wrench into my stocking, as it were.

MARY

That doesn't sound like an actual phrase and I still have no idea what COVID is, so just shut your yappers and listen up.

MUSIC - "ANOTHER CHRISTMAS"

(It starts with underlying instrumental music as the dialogue begins and morphs in and out of song.)

B (Blake)

Hey Zach?

Z (Zach)

Yeah, Blake?

B

What do you want for Christmas?

Z

Empire Strikes Back Lego Kit! What about you?!

B

Well, I used to think I wanted a baby brother, but now I don't even think I want a puppy.

Z

Really, why?

B

I don't know. I just think I need something more.

Z

Like what?

B

Like more Christmas!

Z

More Christmas!? Blake?! Why?

B

Because Christmas is filled with yuletide cheer!

Z

You're right. Why oh why is there only one Christmas a year?

B

Is it possible to have more than one?

Z

Well, you know Tommy down the street has a tons-O-Christmas.

B

How?

Z

Well, he has Christmas on Christmas and also Christmas the following Wednesday.

B

No way! Where?!

Z

At Tommy's Dad's new empty apartment!

B
Awesome!

Z
It's a plastic tree!

B
Does he listen to Kenny G?

Z
Yup. And it's the time of year that Tommy's Dad's new girlfriend, Rhonda, makes him put the litter box in the closet.

B
That's gotta smell better.

Z
I guess, Tommy says, with the noticeable lack of ammonia you can really smell the nutmeg spray on the plastic tree.

B
Mmm... Awesome. I wish I was Tommy.

Z
Yeah me too. He has a lot of Legos in one place, and some Legos in another place.

B
Wait, do you think he has two Empire Strikes Back Lego Kits?

Z
He probably does. He's just gotta!

B
Ahhhhh... How do we get two Empire Strikes Back Lego Kits.

Z
What went wrong?

B
I dunno, but it's probably our fault.

F (chord) C
If you only have one Christmas, it's probably something you did
Dm Bb
Try a little harder next year
F C
If you only have one Christmas, it's probably all your fault
Dm Bb
Why deny yourself a double dose of cheer

Z

Yeah. I want more cheer. I want a double dose! How do we get it?

B

I dunno. I suppose Tommy did something to split his parent's up. How was he so lucky?
Well. Hold on. Tommy's a red head, right?

Z

Right.

B

And I'm a redhead. Right?

Z

Well, I've always considered you more of a strawberry blonde.

B

Sure. But if I'm a redhead and Tommy's a red head, and even if I don't have the severe freckling that Tommy has, maybe, just maybe, there's still a chance my strawberry-blondish hair deformity can get my parents divorced.

Z

You are a monster, Blake. But are you sure you're strawberry-blondish enough,

B

Should I show you the carpet?

[ZIPPER]

Z

Wow! You are a redhead! Your parents are totally gonna get divorced!!!

F *C*
If you only have one Christmas, it's probably something you did

Dm *Bb*
Try a little harder next year

F *C*
If you want to have more Christmas, the choice is up to you

Dm *Bb*
Don't Let your parents' happiness and well being interfere
F *C*
You can Make the difference in your world, you can Have the double Legos that you always deserved

Dm *Bb*
If you Only have one Christmas it's 'cause your Parents didn't love you like they shoulderve.
Like they shouldlerve.

[APPLAUSE. FOOTSTEPS TO THE BAR]

MP
 Thank you both. What a very pleasant performance.

ZACH/BLAKE
(ad lib "thanks")

ZACH
 I'm Zach, and this is Blake.

BLAKE
 Hey.

ZACH
 I don't think we've met before.

MP
 Likely not. I am Mitchell P. Crumpleton. This is my assistant, Lesma.

LESMA
 Glad to make your acquaintance.

MP
 And this is Donder. A talking and flying deer.

DONDER

(hiccup) Hey.

MP

Boys, listening to that song, it does concern me that you both may have some very deep rooted emotional problems.

ZACH

Probably.

BLAKE

Probably? *(beat)* Oh, one hundred percent.

ZACH

Oh, come on... It's not *that* bad.

BLAKE

We're singing songs in a bar, as adults, about how we wish our parents were divorced so we got more presents. I dunno. Seems fairly sad, don't you think?

DONDER

Seems fucking awesome to me!! *(hiccups)*

LESMA

Mary, did you over-serve Donder?

MARY

I don't fucking know! How much liquor is appropriate to serve to a deer?! Seems like a pretty big animal!

DONDER

I'm fine... *(hiccup)*

MP

Well, hopefully on our journey to get to the North Pole, Donder will sober up. But it's probably time to get on our way.

ZACH

Well, It was awful nice to meet you all!

MP

Hmm, I would hate to say goodbye. It really does seem like you all like Christmas quite a lot.

ZACH/BLAKE

Sure do!

MP

Well... *(beat)* Zach, Blake, Mary? Perhaps you'd like to join us on our journey. We *are* going to the North Pole afterall.

ZACH/BLAKE/MARY

(ad lib excitement)

LESMA

Mitchell P. I don't know if this is a great idea. I haven't calibrated the machine to take on this much weight.

ZACH

Are you body shaming me?

LESMA

No! It's just calculations-

MP

Lesma, get into the Christmas spirit! It only comes but once a year!! And please stop body shaming people.

LESMA

I'm not!! Sir, we crash and die then-

MP

That seems highly unlikely, my dear.

LESMA

You don't know what the machine is. *I* built it!

MP

Well, if *you* built it well there should be no issues. I believe in you whole heartedly, my dear. Now! Everyone on to "The Machine!"

ALL

(ad lib "yay")

[MANY FOOTSTEPS INCLUDING COCONUT REINDEER HOOVES, DOOR OPENS, THEY GO THROUGH. DOOR CLOSES. NOW IN THE PARKING LOT AND A FEW MORE FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL]

*****SFX - A “SPACESHIP DOOR” OPENS”**

[THE CREW ENTERS “THE MACHINE” WITH A FEW MORE FOOTSTEPS ON METAL]

LESMA

Okay. We’re doing this... So, why don’t you all have a seat and buckle up.

ALL

(ad lib “okay” etc and whatever you might say when sitting down)

[EVERYONE SITTING DOWN AND SEAT BELTS BEING FASTENED]

MP

I’ll just rest myself in the driver’s seat and we’ll get going.

LESMA

Sir. I really think it would be best if I operated this vehicle. I’m the only one who really knows how it works!

MP

Lesma, I’ll have to disagree with you on that point. I am a doctor of Space-Timeology after all. You are an apprentice, you see.

LESMA

I built this!

MP

Yes, under my tutelage you have come a long way, my dear. But when it comes to flying a device such as this I believe it best to leave the actual operation of it to me.

LESMA

Rrrrrgh! Fine!

DONDER

I don’t care who flies this damn thing *(hiccup)* I’m hungry, dammit!

MP

Here we go then. To the North Pole!

MARY/ZACH/BLAKE

(ad lib “yeah” and various excitement)

MP

Now last time I didn't correctly enter the coordinates. So, this should do the trick.

[WRITING ON A LOUD KEYBOARD]

LESMA

Mitchell P. you still need to-

MP

And we're off!

*****SFX - GOING THROUGH TIME AND SPACE. THE SOUND GETS LOUDER
THROUGHOUT THE SCENE UNTIL THE CRASH LANDING**

ZACH/MARY/BLAKE

Fun!

MARY

Wow! Look out the window. Who knew that sailing aimlessly through space and time would look this pretty!?

BLAKE

Ooh, look at that! Was that a dinosaur?

ZACH

I think it was a genetically modified giraffe!

DONDER

No (*hiccup*) It was an egret. Like an elephant sized egret. (*beat*) As a reindeer who basically travels through space and time every year, I can tell you that you see them a lot. Just huge egrets flying around. It's freaking terrifying. If you crash into one of those suckers on a magical sleigh, it ain't gonna be pretty.

MP

Oh my! How very fascinating. Large egrets, I never would have imagined. (*beat*) Ohh! I think we're here, my dears. But it looks like we're in for another crash landing!

LESMA

Of course we are! You don't know how to fly this thing!!

MP

Calm down, Lesma. I need to concentrate. (*beat*) Brace yourselves now.

MARY/ZACH/BLAKE

(*ad lib "okay!" etc*)

DONDER

You're both assholes. I don't want to be here!

MP

Donder, please. Now is not the time.

DONDER

Well, we could die here, so I just wanted to say it.

MP

In three, two, one!

ALL

(ad lib "aaaaaah")

*****SFX - CRASH LANDING**

[VARIOUS OBJECTS BEING THROWN TO THE FLOOR]

MP

Is everyone okay?

MARY

Yup!

ZACH

Yeah!

BLAKE

Think so!

LESMA

I'm fine, sir.

DONDER

Well, you kidnapped me, I'm starving, and y'all obviously don't know what you're doing. But, other than that... yeah.

MP

Great. So we're all doing well. *(beat)* Out of the ship now! Let's get ready to meet Santa.

MARY/ZACH/BLAKE

(ad lib "yay")

[FOOTSTEPS AND COCONUT FEET]

*****SFX - SPACE DOOR OPENS**

**[MORE FOOTSTEPS AND COCONUT FEET. THEN FEET ON GRAVEL.
SOUNDS OF BIRDS]**

*****SFX - OUTDOOR SOUNDS**

MUSIC - "RENAISSANCE" FLUTE MUSIC

DONDER

This also (*hiccup*) isn't the fucking North Pole.

MP

Hmm... interesting. There does seem to be a significant lack of snow on the ground, doesn't there?
(*laughs*)

LESMA

Sir, it's clearly summer and all of the houses are made of stone, and (*beat*) And there's a goat in this person's yard.

GOATY

(*goat sound*)

SHMOOMOO

Goaty, it's okay. It just appears that a large, metal, box of some kind has smashed into some trees on our property.

GOATY

(*goat sound*)

SHMOOMOO

It's okay, Goaty! Let's just see what's going on.

[FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER]

LESMA

Very sorry for the severe and unorthodox intrusion sir.

GOATY

(*goat sound*)

SHMOOMOO

It's alright, Goaty.

[DOOR OPENS/CLOSES. FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL]

ELLUELLA

Shmoomoo, what's going on?

SHMOOMOO

I'm not sure yet, Elluella. It appears these people have crashed their metal box into our treeline.

ELLUELLA

Sounds bad, Shmoomoo.

SHMOOMOO

Well, it could be worse. We could have the jumping jacks after all.

ELLUELLA

It is a shame that there's a disease out there where people just keep doing jumping jacks until they die. Spreading around the entire village, that one.

MP

Hmmm... interesting. You have a problem with a transmittable disease as well, do you?

ELLUELLA

Yup. Jumping jacks. It's a problem.

DONDER

You have any fucking food?

ELLUELLA

Talking deer? Love it. We have a talking goat.

GOATY

(goat sound)

ELLUELLA

Well, doesn't so much talk as yells.

GOATY

(goat sound)

ELLUELLA

Yeah, like that.

SHMOOMOO

Well, we do have orangecicles.

ZACH/MARY/BLAKE

What are orangecicles?

BLAKE

Hey, we all said it at the same time. Fun! We're friends. High five.

[HIGH FIVE]

SHMOOMOO

Well, orangecicles look just like this. I have a whole pocket full.

[PULLING A CARROT OUT OF POCKET]

DONDER

That's a carrot! Gimme gimme gimme!

SHMOOMOO

You can have as many as you want. Although I don't know what a "carrot" is.

DONDER

Yes!!!

[MUNCHES ON CARROTS FOR AWHILE]

MP

Well, this has been lovely to meet you. I'm quite sorry about the damage to the trees, but we should be off. We need to get to the North Pole you see.

ELLUELLA

The North Pole!? Shmoo, isn't that where Santa lives?

SHMOOMOO

Elluella, my love. My true heart. Santa isn't real.

GOATY

(goat yell)

SHMOOMOO

I'm sorry, Goaty, I didn't mean to break it to you that way.

LESMA

But you see, with this machine. Santa is real!

SHMOOMOO/ELLUELLA

Whaaaa?

LESMA

It's true. This is an interdimensional time machine that can visit, well, essentially anyone. Real. Fictional. Anywhere in any time.

ELLUELLA

And you're going to visit Santa at the North Pole?

DONDER

[CRUNCHING ON CARROTS] Fucking hope so. I'm getting bored of this.

MP

Alright, hop on The Machine. We need to get Donder back in order to save Christmas!

ELLUELLA

Wait, Shmoo. Where's Flopko?

SHMOOMOO

Flopko, come here boy! **[SOME SOFT GRAVEL STEPS. PANTING. ROOF ROOF ROOF]** There you are, boy! **[ROOF! LICKING]** Very nice kisses boy. We're going to visit Santa! **[ROOF ROOF]**.

BLAKE

Mary, do you ever wish you had a dog?

MARY

Yeah, sometimes.

BLAKE

What would you name it?

MARY

I dunno. Jonsey Jump Garden.

BLAKE

What?

MARY

You put me on the spot. I haven't thought about it.

BLAKE

Fair.

ZACH

If I had a dog I'd name him Top Hat.

BLAKE

Why?

ZACH

Beats me.

MARY

How about you, Blake?

BLAKE

Ahh... "Gerbil" maybe?

MARY

Why?

BLAKE

I mean I always think it's fun to imagine having animals that are just smaller versions of what they are. Wouldn't a gerbil sized dog be pretty sweet?

ZACH

I dunno. I think regular sized dogs are kind of the way to go.

BLAKE

Think so?

ZACH

I mean, having never owned a gerbil sized dog it's hard to say I guess, but-

LESMA

Can we just get on the damn Machine!?

MP

Mmmm... yes. All aboard.

ELLUELLA

Goaty, Flopko, come on! **[ROOF ROOF]**

GOATY
(goat happy cry)

[A NUMBER OF FOOTSTEPS INCLUDING COCONUT HORSES]

***SFX - SPACESHIP DOOR OPENS

[MORE FOOTSTEPS THROUGH DOOR]

***SFX -SPACESHIP DOOR CLOSES

MP
Well, Lesma, I'll just enter in the coordinates here and-

LESMA
No! No, no, no, no!

MP
Excuse me, Lesma?

LESMA
I built this machine, and I know how to use it. You don't! You've messed this up twice now.

MP
Lesma. You're being rather insubordinate, don't you think?

LESMA
No! And frankly, I haven't accounted for having this many people on the ship.

MP
Hmmm... interesting.

LESMA
It's not so much interesting as dangerous. The weight of all these bodies might push us to the brink!

MP
Quite curious.

LESMA
Just give me the controls!!!

MP
(pondering) Well... the thing is-

LESMA

Now! Give me the controls!!!

MP

Hmmm... As you wish.

[AS SHE'S TALKING IS TYPING THE COORDINATES OF THE NORTH POLE. TYPING LOUDLY]

LESMA

Alright, this... oughta... do it. *(beat)* And... lift off!

*****SFX - LIFTING OFF AND FLYING**

MUSIC - (SHORT MONTAGE SONG) "LOOK AT US, WE'RE FLYING"
(Just a quick little funny song about how everyone is having fun flying through the air)

*****SFX - THE SHIP IS GETTING FUNKY. LOTS OF NOISE.**

MP

What seems to be going wrong, Lesma?

LESMA

It's like I said, sir, I think we have too much weight on the ship! It can't operate properly.

MP

Hmmm.... Interesting indeed.

LESMA

It's not "interesting," sir. It's highly dangerous.

MP

Hmm... quite interesting.

LESMA

Everybody hold on!

*****SFX - ANOTHER CRASH LANDING**

ALL

(ahhh...!!!)

MP

Yet another crash landing. How is everyone doing?

ALL
(*ad lib* “fine” etc)

MP
Well, everyone out of The Machine. What fun!

[MANY FOOTSTEPS PLUS COCONUT STEPS]

*****SFX - SPACESHIP DOOR**

[MOOR FOOTSTEPS OUT THE MACHINE]

DONDER
Thank god.

LESMA
Donder, does this mean we’ve finally reached the North Pole?

DONDER
Yeah, but-

[QUICK COCONUT HOOVES]

RUDOLPH
What have you done!!!?

MP
My word. Are you Rudolph? What an honor.

RUDOLPH
What on earth is this death machine?! You crushed Comet and Cupid!!

MP
Oh no. (*beat*) Quite an accident to be sure.

LESMA
We’re very sorry, Rudolph.

RUDOLPH
Who are you?!

MP
Well, you see... (*beat*) Lesma, perhaps you can explain.

LESMA

You see, I built an interdimensional time machine in order to abscond with a reindeer as a Christmas present for Mitchell P.

MP

That is I...

LESMA

Anyway... we traveled through space and time for a bit.

MP

As people are apt to do from time to time.

LESMA

And we picked up some people along the way

ALL (but LESMA and MP)

That's us!!! (*GOATY and FLOPKO as well*)

LESMA

And it weighed down The Machine too much.

MP

An unfortunate occurrence, to be sure.

[COCONUT FOOTSTEPS]

RUDOLPH

Oh, hey, what's up, Donder?

DONDER

Screw you, Rudolph.

RUDOLPH

Screw you back!

LESMA

The long and short of it is that we crash landed, and apparently killed some reindeer. Very sorry.

RUDOLPH

Very sorry indeed...

MUSIC - "RUDOLPH'S LAMENT"

(Rudolph launches into song about how much she'll miss her reindeer friends)

MP

Hmmm... this is very concerning. I don't know what we'll do to resolve this awful situation.

[FOOTSTEPS TOWARD]

SANTA

Perhaps I can be of some service.

ALL

Santa!?

MUSIC - (SOME KIND OF SHORT, CHRISTMASY MUSICAL BACKDROP)

SANTA

Yes indeed. The one that lands on rooftops many, drinks milk and eats cookies aplenty, and delivers gifts to all the boys and girls. So when they wake up in the early morn they'll see all the treasures and eat their corn and sing the songs of Mr. Cobblestone.

MARY

Hi. I'm Mary. What's that about corn and Mr. Cobblestone?

DONDER

Don't worry about it. He's high.

SANTA

Donder's right. I am! Ho, ho, ho!!

MP

Well, it seems like we've really chunkered this one up haven't we?

ZACH

Is "chunkered" a word?

MP

I don't see why it can't be, Zachary my boy.

ZACH

Okay...

MP

So, Santa. How do we resolve this dilemma?

SANTA

Well, you've returned Donder, but you've crushed two of my other reindeer.

MP

True. Very true.

SANTA

But you've got a goat.

GOATY

(goat noise)

ELLUELLA

You show 'em, Goaty!

SANTA

And a dog.

FLOPKO

(bark bark)

SHMOOMOO

Way to go, Flopko.

SANTA

I mean, if they want to join my reindeer team, I can just wave my wand and, BLAMMO, they'll be able to fly.

DONDER

You don't have fucking wand. You just point your finger at them.

SANTA

No, I do have a wand now. One of the elves made it for me. I think it's just a stick he found. But it's really the thought that counts.

SHMOOMOO

Elluella. What do you think?

ELLUELLA

Well, it's really up to them.

SHMOOMOO

Gotay, would you like to be part of Santa's reindeer team?

GOATY

(enthusiastic goat noise)

SHMOOMOO

Flopko?

FLOPKO

(enthusiastic "roof roof roof")

SHMOOMOO

Well, I suppose it's settled then.

SANTA

Great! So, with a wave of my wand.... *(CHIMES)* They are now able to fly.

MP

Hmmm... How very exciting!

SANTA

We should begin training post haste. Christmas is right around the bend.

LESMA

Can I just say we are very sorry for crushing your reindeer.

SANTA

Don't think twice about it!

LESMA

Really? You're not mad about it?

SANTA

Yesterday is yesterday. Tomorrow is tomorrow. Today is a mystery novel written by a polar bear. *(bye now)* Come now goat and dog.

GOATY/FLOPKO

(goat noise and barking)

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY]

BLAKE

What the fuck was that?

DONDER

Again. He's high. *(beat)* Look, I gotta go. This whole experience was super messed up. So... that's all I have to say about that. Merry christmas, you weird assholes. I guess I need to go teach a goat and a dog to fly through the air, so I should probably get on that. *(beat)* Come on Rudolph... You know I think you're the worst thing in the world. Worse than volcanoes that can erupt and spew flying fire-tarantulas into the air. But damn... I still respect you.

RUDOLPH

Same to you, Donder... Same to you. *(beat)* Now, let's make some Christmas happen!

ALL

(ad lib "bye!")

[COCONUT HORSE LEAVING]

ANNOUNCER

And with that, Lesma, Mitchell P Crumpleton, Mary, Blake, Zach, Shmoomo, and Elluella boarded the Machine to get everyone back to where they were supposed to be in space and time.

*****SFX - SPACESHIP FIRING UP AND TAKING OFF**

ANNOUNCER

Their first stop was at the Take It With You Tavern in 2014, when everything was a little less crazy. And they decided to have a drink together to finish out their adventure.

ZACH

Mitchell P, Lesma, Elluella, Shmoomoo, it was awfully nice to meet you.

MP

And it was awfully nice to meet you and be able to spend this time in person. You see COVID-19 has made us rather lonely this year. It's very nice to see people in the flesh.

BLAKE

I still don't know what COVID really is..

MARY

Me neither.

ZACH

Or me.

ELLUELLA

Is COVID a chicken?

SHMOOMOO

Or a basset hound?

ELLUELLA

Or a lobster?

ZACH

Or maybe an asteroid? Is it an asteroid?

MP

(chuckles) No, no. It's a virus, my boy.

BLAKE

Is it bad?

LESMA

Sure ain't great. If you're being respectful and responsible you're basically going to have to wear a mask and stay away from people as much as possible for like an entire year. Your bar will have to shut down. You won't be able to have live music. If you're anything like me you'll personally know people that will die.

MARY

Fuck.

MP

Yes. Fuck indeed. But, while we're all here, let's have a toast, shall we. It's so terribly refreshing to be around actual people, even though you are all fictional characters.

BLAKE

I'm a fictional character?

MP

Oh, Blake, you so crack me up. It's been quite lonely you see. *(beat)* Lesma, shall we... sing?

LESMA

We shall, Mitchell P!

MUSIC - INTRO TO "MISSING YOU"

ZACH

What the fuck is happening here?

MARY

Beats me. Let's see how it plays out...

MUSIC- "MISSING YOU"

(We have to enjoy this moment while it's here. A group number)

MP

May we have a cheers to a COVID almost-Christmas?

ZACH

Absolutely!

[CLINKING OF GLASSES]

ALL

Cheers to you all! And a Happy New year, long after the fact because we couldn't get together because of COVID!

MARY

Should we do this?! Ready!!? Sing along...

MUSIC - SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD

--- THE END ---