

SPACENAPPED SANTA

by Art Shulman

SCENE 1

AT RISE: At the North Pole, MRS. CLAUS enters, wearing a belt with a large metal buckle. A sleigh is on stage.

MRS. CLAUS

Dear oh dearie me! I wonder where Santa can be? (*Toward audience*) Has anyone seen Santa Claus? It's getting pretty late.

(SANTA enters, with his toy bag. HE also wears a belt with a large metal buckle.)
It's almost four o'clock. Just a few hours left until Christmas Eve. All ready, Santa?

SANTA

The only thing left to do is give the sleigh a little test drive, make sure it's ready to go. I'm waiting for that reindeer with the red nose to get here. (*Looking at audience*) The reindeer with the red nose, what is his name? (*After someone says "Rudolph"*) Now I remember. It's Randolph.

MRS. CLAUS

That's Rudolph, dear. Will you be very long?

SANTA

We'll be just a few minutes up in the sky.

MRS. CLAUS

I'll miss you even for just a few minutes.

SANTA

Thanks, Mrs. Claus. You're such a honeymunchkin.

MRS. CLAUS

Honeymunchkin? Santa, I wish you'd just call me honey. People will start thinking that we live in the land of Oz.

SANTA

Here's Randolph now.

(RUDOLPH enters)

RUDOLPH

That's Rudolph! Hi Santa, Missus Claus.

MRS. CLAUS

Hi Rudolph. Say, where are the other reindeer?

SANTA

Oh, we don't need the other reindeer now. Let them rest so they're ready for tonight. It's just a little test drive. Rudolph can handle it himself.

RUDOLPH

Sure can. Rudolph is strong, like bull.

MRS. CLAUS

I thought you were a reindeer, not a bull.

RUDOLPH

I'm a bull reindeer, Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS

Would you like me to join you? I've taken my own sleigh out for a spin, but we haven't taken a ride together in months.

SANTA

I've been too busy making jillions of toys to bring kids all around the world. Why don't you stay here. I'll be right back.

MRS. CLAUS

We'll snuggle up with something hot when you return. Have a good trip.

(RUDOLPH gets in harness and SANTA mounts the sleigh)

SANTA

Ready for take-off. (With RUDOLPH echoing each number) 5-4-3-2-1. Blast off!

(Blackout)

SCENE 2

AT RISE: Lights up on the planet of Plantania. WILLA enters, eating a sandwich.

WILLA

A noble scientist you are, Gar. The foremost on the entire planet of Plantania.

(SHE looks around and notices GAR is not there. SHE crosses to get HIM. GAR enters, holding a small horseshoe shaped magnet. The top side of the magnet is red.)

A noble scientist you are, Gar. The foremost on the entire planet of Plantania.

GAR

You say that because my sister you are.

WILLA

So humble you are.

GAR

I must remember, my magnet only performs when the red side is positioned... (thinking)... up.

WILLA

Where did you ever learn that magnet to make?

GAR

You forget that to a magnet school I went.

WILLA

Certain you do not crave a nibble of my homemade peanut butter and jalapenos sandwich with ketchup?

(WILLA extends the sandwich to GAR)

GAR

(Shying away as if repelled)

Uh.. no thank you, Willa. Hungry I am not, just now.

WILLA

Never does anyone crave a nibble of my homemade peanut butter and jalapenos sandwich with ketchup. (SHE offers it to the audience)

(On the opposite side of the stage FISTHEAD, wearing a metal "BOSS" button, enters with SNIGGUMS)

FISTHEAD

Just remember, Sniggums, the next future instance you do not follow my command, I will banish you to our frigid third moon, Cropsey. Where there is nothing to do all day except pick your teeth with icicles.

SNIGGUMS

Not the frigid third moon, Cropsey! You are the boss, Fisthead.

FISTHEAD

Forever remember that, Sniggums!

SNIGGUMS

Yes, Boss.

(Unaware FISTHEAD is nearby, GAR points the magnet, red side up, at FISTHEAD, who is drawn to the magnet and bumps into GAR. BOTH crash to the ground.)

FISTHEAD

Argggh!

GAR

Wretched, Fisthead.

FISTHEAD

Do you label me wretched?

GAR

I meant I was wretched for causing you to tumble.

FISTHEAD

Why in my way did you get, you dolt dumbbell dunderhead?

GAR

You I did not notice, and my magnet must have attracted your metal "Boss" button. I should have held it with the red side... down. The magnet attracts objects exclusively when the red side is up.

WILLA

What Gar relates is authentic. That magnet, he invented.

FISTHEAD

But no magnet is so powerful that it would convey me to you so swiftly.

GAR

To differ, I beg, Fisthead. A common metal I melted, added a special formula I concocted in my laboratory, and now I possess a super magnet mighty enough to convey you here.

SNIGGUMS

A great scientist Gar is, Fisthead.

WILLA

Hi, Sniggums.

SNIGGUMS

(Bashful)
Hi, Willa.

WILLA

Desire a nibble of my peanut butter and jalapenos sandwich with ketchup?

SNIGGUMS

(Repelled by the thought)
Uh... no thank you, Willa. Hungry I'm not.

FISTHEAD

Let me scope that magnet.

(FISTHEAD grabs the magnet and examines it, then starts to walk off with it)

GAR

Hey, my magnet give back.

WILLA

The property of Gar is that magnet.

FISTHEAD

I will keep it, in substitution for causing me to collide.

GAR

Fair, that is not.

FISTHEAD

Fair it was not when you made me crash. (Pointing to hair) I practically messed my doo.

(FISTHEAD and SNIGGUMS walk away, but hide and overhear GAR and WILLA)

WILLA

The magnet he should not have seized. Yours it is.

GAR

Okay it is, since I own a magnet much stronger. So strong that not astonished would I be if it attracted objects from outer space.

WILLA

Wow! It is where?

GAR

My yonder laboratory.

(WILLA looks in one direction)

No, not that direction. That's my hither laboratory. My yonder laboratory is... yonder. I will retrieve it and demonstrate.

(GAR retrieves the other magnet from his yonder lab.)

FISTHEAD

Hear him, do you, Sniggums?

SNIGGUMS

Yes, Fisthead!

FISTHEAD

If it is true, Sniggums, I want that stronger magnet. I deserve it, do I not?

SNIGGUMS

Yes, Fisthead.

(GAR returns with the new magnet, which is much larger than the first magnet, and also is red on one side.)

GAR

You see? A much larger magnet, it is. I must remember that the magnet only functions when the red side is... is... (Looking toward the audience) I forgot whether the red side should be up or down. (GAR waits for the audience to yell "Up") Yes, up.

(GAR accidentally points the new magnet toward FISTHEAD, who rushes headlong into GAR, even faster this time. BOTH fall. FISTHEAD grabs the large magnet.)

FISTHEAD

This magnet will I confiscate. I would say we are even, now. The small one you may have.

(FISTHEAD tosses the smaller magnet toward GAR)

GAR

But Fisthead...

FISTHEAD

Spoken have I that we are even.

GAR

Fair, that is just not.

(GAR and WILLA walk silently off)

FISTHEAD

An idea have I for this magnet.

(FISTHEAD looks into the sky)

Are you enlightened about what tonight is, Sniggums?

SNIGGUMS

Let me consider... It is December two four.

FISTHEAD

And what is exceptional about the night of December two four?

SNIGGUMS

Know that I do not. (*Looking toward the audience*) Wish I that I knew what is special about the eve of December two four... (*Once someone says "Christmas Eve"*) I just do not know.

FISTHEAD

Singly on this date a peculiar object navigates in the sky. And determined am I to discover the nature of this object.

(FISTHEAD points the super magnet toward the sky, red side up. A loud crashing noise is heard. FISTHEAD turns the magnet so the red side is down)

(SANTA and RUDOLPH enter. SANTA carries the bag of toys)

SANTA

What happened, Rudolph?

RUDOLPH

We went off course. I couldn't help it. I was pulling the sleigh through the sky when all of a sudden I couldn't control myself and we were going at warp speed and here we are. This must be another planet.

FISTHEAD

(*Pointing at the sign*) The planet of Plantania.

(FISTHEAD points the super magnet, red side up, toward SANTA, who rushes toward FISTHEAD. FISTHEAD turns around the magnet and steps away at the last second, to avoid being trampled by SANTA, who falls to the ground.)

SANTA

Ouch! How'd you do that?

(SNIGGUMS helps SANTA up)

FISTHEAD

Never mind. What a funny looking man, with cotton balls on his face.

RUDOLPH

That's his beard.

FISTHEAD

Funny clothing as well, is it not, Sniggums?

SNIGGUMS

Yes, boss.

SANTA

This is my Santa outfit. I'm Santa Claus.

FISTHEAD

Arms and fingers I see. I notice no claws. And this other being wears no clothes at all.

RUDOLPH

Reindeer are allowed to walk around naked.

FISTHEAD

And what's your name?

RUDOLPH

Rudolph.

FISTHEAD

Funny, you look like a Randolph to me. I ponder on the contents of that bag. Ho ho ho!

SANTA

Hey, that's my line!

RUDOLPH

It has toys, for kids around the world. It's December 24, Christmas Eve, and we're delivering them tonight!

FISTHEAD

A store, you work for?

SANTA

No, we make toys at my workshop and give them away free to children around the world.

FISTHEAD

Free? (*To SNIGGUMS*) Fools they are, giving away toys.

RUDOLPH

But children love Santa when he gives away toys.

FISTHEAD

They do?

RUDOLPH

Yes!

FISTHEAD

Such volume of playthings! And we retain them all.

SANTA

You can't keep them. They're for children all over the planet Earth.

FISTHEAD

Well, currently, on Plantania you are, not on Earth. Amusing name for a planet -- Earth! In the place of the designation Earth, why not simply term it "Dirt"? The planet "Dirt".

SNIGGUMS

I do not know, boss.

SANTA

Rudolph, it looks like we've been -- spacenapped!

RUDOLPH

Spacenapped? Santa, if we don't get back to the North Pole soon...

SANTA

I won't be able to deliver toys to the children on Dirt.. er, Earth, tonight.

FISTHEAD

Sniggums, the playthings we will distribute free to the juveniles of Plantania, who will all love me. Of course, do not they already love me, Sniggums?

SNIGGUMS

Yes, Boss.

FISTHEAD

Well, let us aim this magnet afresh and detect what arrives. Perhaps another with a sack of playthings.

RUDOLPH

Only Santa has a big bag of toys.

FISTHEAD

Well, what we obtain let us behold!

(FISTHEAD points the magnet, red side up, into the sky.)

TOOTH FAIRY (O.S.)

Ooooh!

(A crashing sound. The TOOTH FAIRY enters. FISTHEAD points the magnet, red side up, at the TOOTH FAIRY, who runs headlong into him)

FISTHEAD

And who you might be?

TOOTH FAIRY

I'm the Tooth Fairy.

RUDOLPH

But there's no such thing as the Tooth Fairy. The Tooth Fairy's an imaginary character.

TOOTH FAIRY

(Noticing Santa)

Just like Santa Claus.

FISTHEAD

All right, Fairy Tooth, surrender the full volume of your playthings.

TOOTH FAIRY

I haven't got any toys. Just teeth. Like to see some?

(The TOOTH FAIRY reaches into a pocket and removes some loose teeth)

This is a baby molar, and this is a baby front tooth. And this is a wisdom tooth from a grown man who has gingivitis. That's gum disease. He should have brushed his teeth when he was a kid. Now all his teeth are falling out. I replace his teeth with money, but certainly not enough to pay his dental bills. And here's a dinosaur tooth... Say, how did I get here anyway?

SNIGGUMS

Simple it is. The magnet, Fisthead pointed to you in space.

TOOTH FAIRY

A magnet attracted me?

SNIGGUMS

Something about you metal is.

TOOTH FAIRY

It must be all the fillings in the teeth I carry.

RUDOLPH

But the Tooth Fairy's not real!

TOOTH FAIRY

Am too.

RUDOLPH

Am not.

TOOTH FAIRY

Am too.

FISTHEAD

Enough!

TOOTH FAIRY

If I'm not real, who takes the teeth that are under pillows and replaces them with money?

RUDOLPH

The Easter Bunny?

FISTHEAD

Exceedingly pleasurable this is. Let us try the aiming of the magnet once more, and attend to what arrives from above.

(FISTHEAD points the magnet, red side up, toward the sky. A crashing sound. The EASTER BUNNY enters, carrying a metal basket filled with colored eggs)

EASTER BUNNY

Hey, where am I?

SANTA

The planet Plantania, I believe.

EASTER BUNNY

Hey, aren't you... I vaguely recognize you... you're Father Time. Or Uncle Sam.

RUDOLPH

He's Santa Claus!

EASTER BUNNY

Oh!

RUDOLPH

(Sarcastic)

And who are you, the Easter Bunny?

EASTER BUNNY

At your service.

RUDOLPH

I don't believe it!

TOOTH FAIRY

But it's Christmas. Easter won't be for months.

EASTER BUNNY

I work all year round. I just deliver on Easter. Want an egg?

RUDOLPH

No thanks.

(FISTHEAD points the magnet, red side up, at the EASTER BUNNY, who is drawn, by HER basket, to FISTHEAD, crashes into him, and drops a basket filled with eggs)