

MIDGE CLAUS: AND THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

EXT. ARCTIC LANDSCAPE -DAY - FLASHBACK

Snow dances across a frost-covered expanse, and majestic glaciers glisten against the fierce Arctic waves.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
The North Pole is a magical place.

Seals lazily bask in the warm glow of the sun, while Orcas playfully spout water from their powerful blowholes.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
But that wasn't always the case.

Polar bears trek through blinding blizzards across an icy desert. And snow swirls towards a small, impoverished and medieval village.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Before Santa Claus or the Christmas we all know and celebrate today existed, the North Pole was a cold, harsh tundra where elves toiled away just to keep warm.

There's no iconic toy shop in sight. Just hay-filled huts, a dirt road, and a stone castle at the top of the hill.

MEDIEVAL ELVES and EARTHBOUND REINDEER struggle to walk against the howling blizzard winds, searching for firewood.

INT. MEDIEVAL CASTLE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A dark, stoned room filled with leather-bound books where a homely KING CLAUS THE WISE studiously reads by candlelight.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Everyday, from dawn till dusk, the North Pole's King - King Claus the Wise - would shut himself up in his library to search for a solution to help his people.

The desperate King takes another book off a shelf.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
For years, the King spent every waking moment reading book after book, never giving up hope.

He flips to a new page, and eagerly reads a passage.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF  
Until finally, he discovered a myth  
about a magic crystal hidden in a  
faraway place - **where the snow  
meets the sky.**

EXT. NORTH POLE GATES - DUSK - FLASHBACK

Snow pours down on the only way in or out of the fortified  
village.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Desperate, King Claus the Wise  
asked his best friend and closest  
advisor, Chris Kringle, to find the  
magical crystal and bring it back  
to the North Pole.

A large, armored man, CHRIS KRINGLE, mounts his reindeer and  
wields his sword.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
It is said that the Kringles' are  
descended from a long line of  
Viking warriors whose ship lost its  
course and crash-landed in the  
Arctic.

Without hesitation, Chris grabs his reins and charges into  
the unknown.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
So, on a dark and frigid night,  
Chris set out on his quest to save  
the North Pole, just as his  
ancestors sailed uncharted waters  
in search of a better life.

EXT. FARAWAY PLACE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Nearly frozen to death, Chris Kringle bravely rides straight  
into a blinding snowstorm.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Chris traveled far and wide in the  
harshest of conditions...

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAIN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Ice picks in hand, Chris scales a treacherous cliffside. Rocks slide to the left of him, yet his determination never wavers.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Full of danger and ...

EXT. FROZEN FOREST - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Chris enters a forest shrouded in darkness with gnarled, petrified trees. A sudden, bone-chilling gust of wind whispers a warning.

Chris turns just in time to see the hulking silhouette of a fully-grown...

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
...Barbegazi. The most menacing and  
horrid of creatures in all the  
land.

Its piercing red eyes, dagger-like fangs, and huge clawed feet tower above Chris.

Chris draws his trusty blade, preparing for a fierce battle of steel vs. fur. The barbegazi unleashed its ear-splitting roars and slashed its jagged claws, but Chris parried each assault with unshaken resolve.

After a grueling duel that seemed to stretch into eternity, Chris strikes a final, resounding blow, besting his formidable foe.

EXT. NORTH POLE GATE - DAY

King Claus the Wise waits nervously, pacing.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
Just when the King thought all hope  
was lost...

Chris emerges, cuts and bruises adorning his face like badges of honor.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
On December 25th, Chris returned to  
the North Pole after weeks of  
searching.

Chris presents the King with an iridescent and magical crystal.

Its rainbow glow beamed through the blinding blizzard and instantly cleared the skies. Snow melted into water, saturating the barren land.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)

And we've had magic ever since,  
thanks to King Claus the Wise and  
Chris Kringle. That's why we call  
December 25th "Christmas"—in his  
honor.

The reindeer lift off the ground and dance above the castle. Elves' fingers tingle as magic flowed through them like fireworks.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)

But how did a small and isolated  
Arctic village's holiday spread  
worldwide and become the Christmas  
we all know and love today? Well,  
there would be no Santa Claus, or  
cherished traditions, or presents  
bringing laughter and joy to  
millions of children around the  
world without the heroic efforts of  
one brave girl named Midge.

EXT. NORTH POLE - CHRISTMAS EVE - 100 YEARS LATER

The sun rises on a choir of elves singing holiday melodies in a vibrant, other-worldly village nestled under towering Christmas trees.

Reindeer soar above ornate life-sized gingerbread houses lining the colorful candied streets, while elves merrily dart from shop to shop in search of the perfect christmas present.

MIDGE

Coming through! Make way! Move it  
or lose it!

A strawberry blonde teenaged-girl barrels through the ensorcelled chaos on her sled.

Meet MIDGE.

She weaves past a newly constructed gingerbread house, witnessing its magical creation with a snap of an elf's finger.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 Woah! Nice work, Sparkle!

Not too far behind is a freckled-faced boy the same age. He collides into a stack of presents floating behind an elf.

NICK  
 Excuse me. Pardon me, miss. Sorry!

This is NICK.

EXT. NORTH POLE'S CACAO FARM - CONTINUOUS

Surrounded by glistening snow, tropical palm trees and cacao plants magically sprout.

Midge races through, taking a cacao bean and transforming it into a bar of chocolate. She takes a bite.

MIDGE  
 Hurry up, Chestnut!

Midge's loyal pet puffin named CHESTNUT struggles to keep up. She stops and catches her breath, eating any chocolate left behind.

NICK (O.C.)  
 Midge!

Nick's trailing behind. A palm branch smacks him in the face.

NICK (CONT'D)  
 Ouch.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

At the crest of the North Pole's hill lies a charming chalet gingerbread castle where a team of elves magically bedeck the grounds with tinsel and string lights.

Midge slide stops her sled and continues on foot.

NICK  
 Midge! Wait up.

Midge rounds a corner and disappears.

NICK (CONT'D)  
 C'mon Midge. We don't have time for this. Woah!

She grabs Nick, and the two hide from a GAURD ELF on patrol.

MIDGE

Shh.

NICK

What are we doing here?

MIDGE

Hiding, duh.

NICK

We can't hide forever, Midge.  
Sooner or later we have to...

MIDGE

Shh!

She checks her surroundings as if she's 007.

Nick sits, catches his breath, and tinkers on a toy hot air balloon.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

What's that?

He lights a candle, and the toy balloon lifts off and floats over her head. She grabs it.

NICK

Hey! It's nothing.

Midge inspects.

MIDGE

This has no magic. How does it fly?

NICK

From the candle. I built it. See?  
The hot air from the flame inflates  
the balloon, which makes it float.  
Cool, right?

Nick shows off the inner workings of his toy.

MIDGE

You're a weird kid, Nick.

She lets go and the balloon floats up and up until it snags on the ledge of a turret high above.

NICK

Ah, man. That was your Christmas  
present.

MIDGE  
Really?! I'll get it.

NICK  
No. Don't. It's too high.

Midge scans the castle's facade. Her eyes narrow, and a puckish smile curls up her face.

MIDGE  
Bet I can get it without magic.

NICK  
You're gonna get caught. And then what?

MIDGE  
Oh, come on, Nick, live a little.

NICK  
Don't do it.

MIDGE  
Do what? This?

Scaling the castle walls, Midge grabs any nook and cranny within reach.

NICK  
What is wrong with you?

MIDGE  
I'm just having a little fun.

NICK  
We have very different definitions of fun.

She continues climbing. Nick watches in fear and in awe.

She hits an impasse.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Now whatcha gonna do? But, also, please be careful.

Luckily, a CHRISTMAS WREATH floats by.

MIDGE  
Jackpot!

She jumps and rides it up.



NICK  
Hey! That's cheating.

MIDGE  
I said I couldn't use *my* magic, not  
any magic.

She jumps onto the ledge and grabs the balloon.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Got it!

She looks down onto the kingdom below: happy, care-free elves  
sunbathe at the artificial beach next to children playing in  
the snow -- she can't help but smile.

NICK  
Ok, you can come down now.

Midge snaps out of it, and loses her balance.

MIDGE  
Woah!

She falls backwards through the open window.

NICK  
Midge!

INT. CLAU CASTLE THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Midge falls into the Throne Room, where the great and beloved  
KING CLAU addresses a room full of children.

MIDGE  
Uh oh.

She crouches behind a two-foot-tall elven suit of armor.

KING CLAU  
Who can tell me where we find our  
precious Christmas crystal?

A GIRL ELF raises her hand.

GIRL ELF  
The magic lies where the snow meets  
the sky.

KING CLAU  
Very Good!

BOY ELF ON KING CLAUS' LAP  
King Claus, how come we have to  
find a new one?

KING CLAUS  
Because each crystal only lasts for  
one year.

GIRL REINDEER  
What happens if we don't find it?

KING CLAUS  
If it's not found by midnight on  
December 25th, then we lose our  
magic.

The children collectively gasp.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
But that has never happened and  
never will.

A dour, elderly elf/the King's most trusted advisor  
(ironically named JOLLY) whispers in the King's ear.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Jolly. Well, kids, I've  
got some royal business to attend  
to, but thank you for coming to see  
me, and I hope everyone has a Merry  
Christmas!

The children exit and Jolly leans in closer. Meanwhile,  
Midge's legs cramp from crouching.

JOLLY  
Sir, the North Pole's temperature  
has dropped another ten degrees  
today. That's five degrees more  
than yesterday.

KING CLAUS  
Have Jingle fire up the heaters to  
max.

JOLLY  
She has. It's no use. And some of  
the reindeer have reported flying  
lower than ever before.

KING CLAUS  
Come come now, Jolly. Why the  
worried look? This always happens  
this time of year.

He brandishes the crystal in his ring. It's dull, cracked and looks worse for wear.

Midge eavesdrops, concerned.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Once we find the new crystal, all will be alright. Our magic will be anew.

JOLLY

Yes, but some of us are concerned about our magic usage. If we keep going at this rate, we could risk wearing out the new crystal well before the end of next year.

KING CLAUS

The crystal has never let us down, Jolly. Don't worry - it's almost Christmas after all!

JOLLY

Yes, your Highness. Of course.

Jolly dutifully bows and exits.

KING CLAUS

You can come out now.

Midge sheepishly reveals herself and bows. King Claus approaches, scanning her dirty, tattered clothes.

We think he's mad until...

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Come here!

His massive figure engulfs Midge in the biggest bear hug known to man (or elf).

MIDGE

Hi Dad.

That's right, Midge is a Princess.

KING CLAUS

Scaling the castle walls again, I see. How many times do I have to say: that's not...

MIDGE

"very princess-like." BUT I'm the Princess, and I like climbing; so technically it is princess-like.

KING CLAUS

Midge.

MIDGE

I bet other princesses can do whatever they want.

KING CLAUS

So you want to be a princess elsewhere?

MIDGE

Of course not! I love the North Pole. It's the greatest place in the World

KING CLAUS

That's exactly right, and tonight is the greatest night of the year. Your first Christmas Eve Ball. Your Mother would be so proud.

MIDGE

Of what? My ball gown?

The King flashes a knowing look.

KING CLAUS

Of setting a good example to our people. As Queen, everyone will look up to you.

MIDGE

But I'm not Queen yet.

KING CLAUS

Well that's good to know or else I'd be out of a job.

MIDGE

Speaking of "out of" - are we running out of magic?

KING CLAUS

Of course not. Jolly's old and paranoid.

MIDGE

But...

Before Midge can refute, an uppidy, middle-aged elf named JINGLE enters.

JINGLE  
Ah, Princess Midge. There you are.

MIDGE  
And so it begins...

Jingle frantically shoves various dishes in Midge's disinterested face.

JINGLE  
Do we go with the red plates? Or the green?

Midge's distracted, spying on Nick through the window, talking to a large, majestic reindeer - DASHER.

JINGLE (CONT'D)  
Princess?!

MIDGE  
Huh?

JINGLE  
Red or green?

She continues spying.

MIDGE  
Oh, uh, either.

JINGLE  
The Christmas Eve Ball is the most important event of the year, and your family has hosted it for generations. So you need to take these decisions seriously.

Midge unenthusiastically points to the green plates.

JINGLE (CONT'D)  
Excellent choice, Your Highness.

Nick and Dasher head towards the stables. Midge rushes to the door.

KING CLAUS  
Where do you think you're going?

MIDGE  
Um, to help Nick.

KING CLAUS

Nick's got a big night ahead of him. He needs to prepare, and you are needed with Jingle, so I'll leave you ladies to it.

He exits. Jingle smiles, holding various fabric swatches

JINGLE

Now about your dress?

Midge backs up, slowly.

MIDGE

Yes about that. I was thinking of a more delicate fabric, you know, something a little flowy - one could say almost - weightless?

She jumps back out the window and magically floats.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Like this.

JINGLE

Your Highness!

Midge's magic flickers.

MIDGE

What?

She snaps her fingers to float higher, but she slowly descends to the ground.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Ok that was weird.

Jingle pops her head out the window.

JINGLE

Your Highness!

MIDGE

I'll be right back, I swear!

She races towards the stables.

INT. REINDEER STABLES - DAY

Nick loads up his sleigh. Chestnut "helps" by stashing some emergency candy canes.

NICK  
Thanks, Chestnut.

He struggles to lift his Kringle family sword and stashes it in the back seat. Midge sneaks up on him.

MIDGE  
Do you ever wonder: What if there's dragons out there?

Nick turns around, terrified.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Oh, shoot. I'm only kidding. You know there aren't any dragons, right? But Barbegazis...watch out.

Nick nervously laughs.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Aren't you excited about tonight?

NICK  
What? Oh, yeah, very.

She knows he's lying.

MIDGE  
Well, while you're out being a hero and finding the Christmas crystal for all the North Pole, I'll be picking out flower arrangements and color schemes—yay me.

NICK  
My ancestors were heroes — not me.

Midge swoons into his lap.

MIDGE  
Oh, woe is me. My name's Nick Kringle, and I get to go on a super cool adventure. Life's so hard.

He smiles and stares sweetly into her eyes. Chestnut notices; Midge doesn't.

A beat.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Well, I must go fulfill my royal duties of party planning.

NICK  
Heavy is the crown.

MIDGE  
Hey! I have a crazy idea that I just now thought of. What if I come with you?

NICK  
Wait, really? You can do that?

MIDGE  
I mean, no one in the Royal Family has ever left the North Pole before, but I don't see any rules that say I can't.

NICK  
That'd be so great!

He composes himself.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I mean, sure, whatever you want.

The King apparates.

KING CLAUS  
There you are, Midge. You can't just run away.

He notices Nick and slaps him on the back, knocking his glasses off.

NICK  
Ouch.

KING CLAUS  
Nick, my boy! You ready? I remember your dad's first time finding the Christmas crystal. You must be chomping at the bit to go, huh?

Nick nervous laughs, again.

MIDGE  
Hey, Dad, Nick said I could come with him.

NICK  
If that's ok with you, of course.

The King frowns.



KING CLAUS  
I'm afraid you cannot. Only  
Kringles may go.

MIDGE  
But I'm the best flyer in all the  
North Pole. No offense, Nick.

NICK  
None taken.

KING CLAUS  
I don't doubt that you are, but  
what happens if something happens  
to you?

MIDGE  
Isn't it my responsibility to  
ensure the safety and happiness of  
our people? Finding the Christmas  
crystal would...

KING CLAUS  
You are the only heir to the  
throne, Midge. You cannot take  
risks nor break tradition.

MIDGE  
But, Dad...

KING CLAUS  
We have traditions for a reason.  
They keep us together—something we  
can all believe in without  
question.

He conjures up her tiara.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Your people need you here. I need  
you here.

Midge disappointingly, yet dutifully, wears her tiara.  
There's no arguing with the King.

MIDGE  
Don't forget about me when you come  
back a hero, ok?

Nick's face reddens.

NICK  
(teenaged voice crack)  
I could never.

KING CLAUS

Now, good luck, my boy and off you go. There's not much time.

The King slaps Dasher on the back, and she takes off with Nick.

NICK

Woah!

Midge waves longingly, listening to Nick begging Dasher to slow down.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - EVENING

It's the most anticipated and extravagant event of the year: the Christmas Eve Ball. The entire North Pole attends and imbibes, dressed in their finest.

Elves dance while reindeer play in the ten-piece orchestra.

Chestnut's in puffin heaven at the cheese fountain.

Midge watches the merriment from her throne. She fidgets with her dress, and her feet nervously tap the floor.

A HANDSOME ELF with perfect hair approaches.

HANDSOME ELF

Would you like to dance, Princess?

MIDGE

Nah.

KING CLAUS

Midge.

He nudges her.

MIDGE

No, but thank you for the kind offer.

Handsome Elf backs off. She taps her feet again.

KING CLAUS

Acting miserable won't bring Nick back any faster. In fact, having fun might speed up the time, you know?

MIDGE

I'm totally having fun.

She bites her nails.

KING CLAUS

Right.

The King conjures a jewelry box.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Maybe this will change your mood. A little early Christmas present.

Midge, excitedly, opens the box and reveals, a snowflake-shaped locket.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

I know you hate wearing jewelry, but this was hers.

He clasps it around her neck.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

There. Now, at least one of us can always watch over you.

She opens the locket and reveals a picture of her Mother.

MIDGE

It's beautiful. I love it.

An emotional beat.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

You know what? I'm just gonna get some air. Come get me if Nick...

KING CLAUS

You'll be the first to know, I promise.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE COURTYARD - EVENING

Midge steps outside for some peace, but Jingle rounds the corner.

JINGLE

Your Highness? Are you out here? It's time for your outfit change.

Midge jumps into a nearby bush for cover.

JINGLE (CONT'D)

Princess?

Jingle can't find her and leaves.

MIDGE

Phew. That was close.

REVEAL: Someone else is in the bushes! Meet CAROL.

CAROL

You're telling me.

Midge screams, jumping out of the bush.

MIDGE

What are you doing in the bushes?!

Carol steps out. She's shorter and unlike any other elf and less cheery - more edgy, with dyed pink hair and a nose piercing.

She's sporting the same uniform as the waiters inside.

CAROL

Hiding. What were you doing in the bushes?

Midge calms.

MIDGE

Well...the same. Cool hair.

CAROL

Thanks. Dyed it with holly berries.

MIDGE

Holly berries? Wait - you're the elf with no magic, right?

Carol looks back and see a group of elves snickering at her from inside.

CAROL

Otherwise known as Carol.

MIDGE

Sorry! That was so rude of me. I'm Midge.

Carol recognizes the Princess and immediately bows.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

You don't have to do that. I hate it, actually.

CAROL  
Good cause I hate doing it. Crab  
Rangoon?

She pulls her food tray from the bushes. Midge declines.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Fine. More for me.

MIDGE  
How come you're hiding?

CAROL  
Because I hate Christmas. Want  
nothing to do with it.

MIDGE  
What? How can you hate Christmas?  
That's like saying you hate the  
North Pole.

Carol shrugs.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Wait? You hate the North Pole?!

CAROL  
Hate's a strong word. More like...  
disillusioned.

MIDGE  
But it's the best place in the  
world.

CAROL  
How can you be so sure?

They spy Jingle pacing inside.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Maybe princesses don't need to hide  
in the bushes in other kingdoms.

Midge's dumbfounded.

MIDGE  
I better go back in there before  
Jingle has a heart attack.

Carol walks away from the castle.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Wait. Where are you going?

CAROL  
Anywhere but here.

MIDGE  
Won't you get in trouble?

CAROL  
No one notices when I am here, so  
no. Plus, what's the worst that  
could happen? I already don't have  
magic, remember?

Carol winks and continues walking.

MIDGE  
Well, Merry Christmas - I mean -  
it's nice to meet you.

CAROL  
Same, Your Highness.

MIDGE  
It's just Midge.

CAROL  
Nice to meet you, Midge.

**HOURS LATER - 10:59 PM...**

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

Back at her throne, Midge's eyes are glued to the clock.  
She's fidgety. The King notices.

KING CLAUS  
It's his first time; cut him some  
slack.

MIDGE  
I would've been back by now, that's  
for sure. I should've gone with  
him.

KING CLAUS  
Nick's a Kringle. It's in his  
blood.

The clock strikes. It's 11:00 PM. One hour 'til midnight.

He senses everyone's worry.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Come come, everyone. Have some  
faith.

THUMP! Something's crashed outside.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Ha! What did I say? Faith!

MIDGE  
Nick!

Midge beats everyone rushing to the window.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Is he there? I can't see him.

THUMP! A large icicle snaps off the castle's roof and  
plummets to the ground.

HANDSOME ELF  
It's just an icicle.

MIDGE  
Where is he?

EXT. DARK SNOWY LEDGE - NIGHT

Snow falls heavily in the pitch-black night.

Nick's sleigh approaches a dimly glowing orb. As he nears, he  
realizes—it's the magic crystal!

NICK  
Woah, Dasher.

Dasher stops. Nick hops out and inspects the crystal.

NICK (CONT'D)  
There you are.

He picks it up and is suddenly trapped in a large sack.

NICK (CONT'D)  
What?! Help! Dasher!

Scared, Dasher takes off with the sleigh.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

The clock CHIMES once. Thirty minutes 'til midnight.

Midge is still glued to the window. The room fretfully chatters until ...

MIDGE  
Nick's sleigh! He's back!

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Dasher approaches, still skittish. Midge runs out to greet her, followed by the rest of the North Pole.

MIDGE  
Where's Nick?

DASHER  
I don't know. One second we had the crystal, the next second, he was gone.

MIDGE  
Gone?

DASHER  
Taken.

MIDGE  
Taken?!

JOLLY  
And what about the crystal?

Dasher shakes her head.

JINGLE  
But what about our magic! Are we going to lose it?

HANDSOME ELF  
I don't have hair without it!

Everyone stops and stares at Handsome Elf.

HANDSOME ELF (CONT'D)  
Did I say that out loud?

Midge bristles.

MIDGE  
What about Nick? Does anyone care where he is?!

Chestnut wags her fin at them.



MIDGE (CONT'D)

He could be hurt out there, and all you're thinking about is your magic?

The King steps in.

KING CLAUS

Now, everybody calm down. Of course, we all care about Nick. And our magic, too. Tinsel?

A very muscular (still short) elf in uniform approaches. Meet Captain TINSEL.

She salutes.

TINSEL

Yes, sir?

KING CLAUS

Bring your reindeer and your best soldiers. You leave tonight.

TINSEL

You want us to go out there? We've never had to leave the North Pole before.

KING CLAUS

The fate of our magic rests in your hands.

Tinsel timidly salutes.

MIDGE

I'm coming with them.

KING CLAUS

No. Our people need us here.

MIDGE

No way! I can't just sit here waiting. Nick's out there somewhere.

KING CLAUS

And Tinsel will find him. That's her job. Your job is here. Your people need you now more than ever before.

Midge scans the terrified looks on every single elf, human and reindeer.

She softens and steps back, letting Tinsel mount her reindeer as her regiment skeptically charges out of the North Pole and into the unknown.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE MIDGE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Midge paces around her bedroom, nearly walking straight into her Elfis Costello poster and, knocking her first-place Reindeer Games trophy off the shelf.

*DING DING DING.* Midnight strikes. She runs to her window and sees...

EXT. NORTH POLE - CONTINUOUS

The colorful, magical glow encircling the North Pole fades away, and an instant chill enrobes the Kingdom.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE MIDGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Midge snaps her fingers to turn off her lamp.

Nothing happens. **The magic is gone.**

EXT. NORTH POLE - MORNING

What was once a magical fairytale town has turned mundane.

Brightly colored sugar windows have dulled. Cobblestones turned gray like cement.

The snow is slushy and dirty instead of perfectly white and fluffy.

Everyone wakes up to life without powers...

INT. HANDSOME ELF'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Handsome Elf wakes up and scuttles to the bathroom to splash his face with water.

He looks in the mirror to reveal his big bald head.

HANDSOME ELF  
My Hair? MY HAIR! NOOOOO!

INT. CLAUS CASTLE MIDGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Asleep at the window, Midge and Chestnut wake up to Handsome Elf's cries, echoing throughout the Kingdom.

MIDGE

Oh no.

They look out at the mass hysteria on the streets.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

This is not good.

EXT. NORTH POLE TOWN SQUARE - MORNING

Midge walks through the chaos. Elves roam the streets like confused zombies, shivering in the cold.

MIDGE

Ok. This really isn't good.

RUDOLPH falls out of the sky, landing at their feet.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Rudolph! Are you ok?

She helps him up.

RUDOLPH

I can't fly. How am I supposed to get anywhere?!

MIDGE

How about good ol' walking?

He panics.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Calm down. Where are you trying to go? The stables?

Rudolph nods.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

You walk past Main Street and hang a left on Candy Cane Lane. You can't miss it. Got it?

Rudolph nods.

ELVEN VOICE (O.S.)

HELP!

MIDGE  
That's coming from the bakery!  
C'mon, Chestnut.

They bolt towards the town square.

INT. NORTH POLE BAKERY - MORNING

Midge rushes inside the charming, cozy bakery filled with every kind of Christmas sweet: sugar cookies, yule logs, figgy pudding.

ELVEN VOICE (O.S.)  
Somebody help!

MIDGE  
What's going on?

BAKER ELVES panic around a small oven fire.

BAKER ELF #1  
We burned the cookies!

BAKER ELF #2  
And can't put out the fire. Not without magic.

Midge thinks on her feet, grabs a bowl, and fills it with water to douse the fire.

MIDGE  
All clear.

BAKER ELF #1  
So water extinguishes fire. Who knew?

BAKER ELF #2  
Not me.

MIDGE  
Let's steer clear of ovens or any open flames right now. Ok?

BAKER ELF #1  
You got it, Your Highness.

BAKER ELF #2  
Thank you!

*SCREECH! CRASH!*

MIDGE  
What now?

EXT. NORTH POLE TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

A large wooden cart has toppled over, dumping candy all over the square.

Midge rushes to the scene.

MIDGE  
What happened?!

An ELDERLY ELF bows his head and shivers.

ELDERLY ELF  
The ice. It's so cold, it froze  
over the roads.

Suddenly another wooden cart crashes into it, spilling a large amount of sugar. Major traffic jam.

MIDGE  
Oh no, oh no.

ELDERLY ELF  
What do we do?

She freezes in panic. Chestnut stress eats the fallen candy.

ELDERLY ELF (CONT'D)  
Your Highness?

MIDGE  
Uhh...

Suddenly, King Claus marshals eight reindeer to the rescue.

KING CLAUS  
Come on, Dasher!

He ties a rope from the reindeer to the cart.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Pull!

With the King at the helm, they pull backward. The cart tilts slightly.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
C'mon, pull!

In an amazing display of brute strength, the King digs his feet in, heaves the rope over his shoulders, and tugs with all his might.

Midge watches in awe.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
Don't give up!

Slowly, they lift the fallen carts. The town cheers!

The King pulls Midge aside.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)  
What happened? I thought you were handling this.

MIDGE

I was! There was Rudolph and the bakery and --

He kisses her on the head.

KING CLAUS  
It's ok. I've got it under control.

Midge bows her head in defeat.

INT. NORTH POLE PUB - EVENING

Midge sits at the bar, sulking and chugging her pint of eggnog.

MIDGE  
Another nog, Peppermint.

PEPPERMINT, the elf bartender, approaches.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
You know what? Make it a hot chocolate. Extra marshmallows.

PEPPERMINT  
Coming right up, Your Highness.

CAROL (O.S.)  
Make that two.

Carol sits beside Midge.

MIDGE

Is your day as terrible as mine  
right now?

CAROL

No difference for me, really.

MIDGE

Right. Sorry.

Midge swirls a large amount of whip cream in her mug.

CAROL

Woah, easy on the sauce.

MIDGE

I had everything under control. He  
just doesn't trust me.

She chugs her drink.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

And if my Dad just let me go in the  
first place, then Nick wouldn't be  
lost and we'd have our magic...

Midge flags Peppermint down.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Another hot chocolate, piping hot.

CAROL

So why didn't you go?

MIDGE

Because "we have traditions, and  
"we mustn't break tradition and  
risk the foundation of our way of  
life."

CAROL

I don't believe that. Not at all.  
Traditions are meant to be broken.  
How else are new ones made?

Midge ruminates, then stands enthusiastically.

MIDGE

You're absolutely right.

CAROL

Huh?

MIDGE

I gotta go. C'mon, Chestnut.

CAROL

Wait. What's happening? Where are you going?

MIDGE

To find my friend and save the North Pole!

They exit abruptly. Peppermint arrives with her drink.

EXT. NORTH POLE TOWN SQUARE - EVENING

King Claus chops and throws logs into a fire where elves huddle for warmth.

JOLLY

Sir, is now a good time to review the crystal contingency plan I've devised? You see, our neighbors to the north are native to these lands and have a wealth of knowledge about the natural resources...

The King wields his axe and splits a large log in two.

KING CLAUS

That is precisely what I'm doing right now, aren't I?

JOLLY

Of course Your Highness, but I'm afraid that is not sustainable. At this rate, we'll soon burn through all our wood, and we need the trees to help protect us from the icy winds.

KING CLAUS

You act as if we've lost our magic for good. This isn't going to last forever, Jolly.

We spy Midge and Chestnut sneaking past in the background.

JOLLY

(sotto)

And neither will the crystal's powers.



EXT. NORTH POLE FRONT GATES - EVENING

It's pitch-black darkness just beyond the gate. Midge and Chestnut apprehensively stand at the threshold.

MIDGE

Leaving the North Pole's no big deal, right? People do it all the time. Ok, no one ever leaves but what could be so bad out there?

A *HOWL* crescendos in the distance. Chestnut hides behind Midge's legs.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

It's ok, Chestnut.

She opens her locket and admires her Mom's photo.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

I can do this.

INT. CLAU CASTLE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Jingle tidies around and dusts the windows, she spies Midge at the gate.

JINGLE

Princess?

She watches her look back at the castle, take a deep breath, and step through the gates - into the dark unknown.

JINGLE (CONT'D)

Princess!

She panics, trips, then races out the door.

JINGLE (CONT'D)

Your Highness! Sire!

EXT. FROZEN WOODS - NIGHT

Starkly different from the otherwise luminous and warm North Pole - dead trees and ominous noises swirl around.

Midge follows a cobblestone path.

MIDGE

Where should we go first?

Her stomach *GROWLS*.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 Food sounds like a good place to  
 start. And a bed. We really  
 should've waited til the morning.

Chimney smoke eddies in the distance.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 Bingo. Another village. Maybe this  
 is easier than I thought.

They continue down the path.

EXT. DEEP FROZEN WOODS - NIGHT

The ominous noises augment, and a figure swoops behind them.

MIDGE  
 Hello? Is someone there?

A GRUFF SNOWMAN appears. With fractured branches as arms, a  
 tattered top hat, and a threadbare scarf, he's no Frosty.

GRUFF SNOWMAN  
 Hello, little girl. You must be  
 lost.

MIDGE  
 Me? No. Just passing through.

Chestnut stays close to Midge's side.

GRUFF SNOWMAN  
 These parts of the woods are no  
 place for a young lady such as  
 yourself. Do you need company?

MIDGE  
 I'm fine, really. But nice to meet  
 you.

She continues forward. He follows.

GRUFF SNOWMAN  
 I know a shortcut. I can take you.

He points into the darkness.

MIDGE  
 That's very kind, but I'll just  
 stick to the path. Thanks.

She hastens. The Gruff Snowman follows.

SNOWMAN

I'll make sure you get there  
alright, and you can thank me with  
a cup of eggnog. How about that?

Midge stops.

MIDGE

I don't need your protection.

He grabs her wrist, and one of his eyes glows red.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Let me go!

SNOWMAN

You're being ungrateful.

MIDGE

You're hurting me. Let go!

Chestnut nips at the Gruff Snowman's carrot nose. He whacks  
her off.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Chestnut!

CAROL (O.S.)

She said, let go.

Carol appears. He releases her wrist.

SNOWMAN

I'm just helping.

CAROL

Yeah, well, no one asked for it.

The Gruff Snowman's mad. Is he melting a little bit?

SNOWMAN

It's called being polite.

CAROL

It's called harassment.

Now he's really melting.

SNOWMAN

I see what you're doing here. If  
you don't want my help, fine. Good  
luck on your own.

CAROL  
Been doing just fine, otherwise!

He grumbles back into the darkness.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Are you ok?

MIDGE  
Yeah, thanks.

CAROL  
Pro tip: snowmen melt in heated  
conversations.

MIDGE  
Good to know.

CAROL  
What are you doing out of the North  
Pole?

MIDGE  
Looking for Nick, like you said.  
What are you doing out here?

CAROL  
Making sure you don't die.

MIDGE  
Why?

CAROL  
I don't know. When I said break  
tradition, I didn't think you'd do  
it, like, immediately. Now, I feel  
responsible or something.

MIDGE  
Well, I don't need your help. We're  
doing fine on our own, right,  
Chestnut?

Midge's stomach *GROWLS*.

CAROL  
You hungry?

MIDGE  
We're fine. I found some berries  
along the way.

She almost eats a deep purple BERRY, but Carol swats it out  
of her hand.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Hey!

CAROL

Those are sleep berries. That stuff will knock you out for days.

MIDGE

Sleep berries? That's not a thing.

CAROL

Ok, be my guest.

Midge contemplates eating them. Her stomach *GROWLS* again.

CAROL (CONT'D)

C'mon. Frest is right around the corner.

Carol follows the path. Midge stands in protest.

Chestnut's stomach *GROWLS*. She puppy dog eyes Midge.

MIDGE

Ugh, fine. Wait up!

EXT. FREST VILLAGE - NIGHT

The three walk through a small, bleak mining village covered in soot and despair.

CAROL

Welcome to Frest.

MIDGE

Is this really our neighbor? It's so different. I always knew the North Pole was the best place on Earth, but I never realized just how much better it is.

CAROL

And what if there's somewhere even better? D'you think of that?

MIDGE

Doubt it. But if there is, it's certainly not here. Wait. Have you been here?

Carol nods.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
You've snuck out of North Pole  
before?

CAROL  
Here and there.

They pass two snarling CHIMNEY SWEEP ELVES.

MIDGE  
Do they have magic?

CAROL  
Does it look like they do?

One of the CHIMNEY SWEEPS uncontrollably coughs.

INT. FREST INN - NIGHT

A dark and gloomy hole in the wall complete with a DOUR  
BARTENDER serving his drunken patrons.

MIDGE  
Food! Finally.

She sits at a table.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Can I have some cookies and hot  
chocolate, please?

DOUR BARTENDER  
Here's some coffee and salted fish.

Midge winces at the smell.

CAROL  
Homesick yet?

Midge hesitantly sips the coffee and gags. Chestnut eats the  
fish.

MIDGE  
I'm not going back. Not until I  
find Nick.

CAROL  
Where do you think he is?

MIDGE  
Where the snow meets the sky.

CAROL  
Well, that's vague.

MIDGE  
That's all I got. The magic crystal  
lies where the...

CAROL  
Snow meets the sky. Yea, I know the  
story.

Midge examines a MAP hanging on the wall.

Meanwhile the bar tender slides Carol a scroll. It reads:

Carol, I extend my gratitude for  
accepting the noble duty of  
safeguarding the Princess. Should  
you prove successful in your  
endeavor, a reward befitting your  
deepest desire shall be bestowed  
upon you. Yours truly, King Claus.

Midge turns around.

MIDGE  
I was thinking of going to Mt. --

Carol frantically tosses the scroll behind her and  
interjects.

CAROL  
What about the Ivory Cliffs? It  
accumulates the highest snowfall  
every year. Makes sense, right?

MIDGE  
I like the way you think.

Midge surveys the map.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Ivory Cliffs. Is it there? No,  
that's not it.

Carol watches Midge struggle to locate exactly where the  
Ivory Cliffs are. It pains her.

CAROL  
There!

She points to the cliff's location.

MIDGE

Oh! I see now. So I just have to go through the Arctic tundra and BAM! Midge saves the day.

Chestnut objects.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Midge and Chestnut save the day.

Carol scoffs.

CAROL

Just go through the Arctic tundra? Just waltz through the dangerous icy abyss that is the Arctic tundra? Are you trying to get yourself killed?

MIDGE

Then come with. After all, it was your idea, and you wouldn't let the Princess - North Pole's darling - go alone now, would you?

She bats her eyelashes.

CAROL

Wow. You're playing the Princess card? That's low. How about we go back home and leave the rescuing to the professionals, huh?

MIDGE

C'mon. Don't you want to see if there is somewhere better than the North Pole? Well, here's your chance.

That struck a chord. Chestnut grovels.

CAROL

Not you, too. Ugh, fine. I'll help.

Midge bear hugs her.

MIDGE

Thank you! Thank you!



CAROL

You won't be thanking me soon.  
Getting to the cliffs won't be  
easy, especially this time of year.  
Better get some rest, for sure.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Several villagers queue for an audience with the King. Jolly  
whispers in his ear.

JOLLY

Sir, you don't have to do this. I  
can postpone.

KING CLAUS

Nonsense, Jolly. It's my duty.

JOLLY

But Princess Midge—shouldn't the  
people know?

KING CLAUS

I cannot force the Princess to stay  
put. Trust me, I've tried. She's  
brave and curious - like her  
Mother.

The King smiles, fondly then snaps back to reality at the  
sight of his anxious subjects.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

But first Nick, then their magic;  
they can't take any more bad news.  
Until she is safe and home,  
Princess Midge is "under the  
weather and resting in her  
bedroom." Got it?

JOLLY

Yes, of course.

KING CLAUS

Now, who's next?

JOLLY

Next up is farmer SNOWBALL.

Dressed in bright red overalls and a straw hat, Snowball  
bows.

SNOWBALL

Thank you for seeing me, Your Highness.

KING CLAUS

Of course, Snowball, what's going on?

SNOWBALL

Your Highness, without our magic, our mint farms are dying. And there's no peppermint candy without mint.

Another farmer, TOOTSIE, steps up.

TOOTSIE

Same with our cacao. They can't survive without the tropical heat. I'm afraid we'll run out of chocolate very soon.

The room collectively *GASPS*.

KING CLAUS

That won't happen, I promise. Captain Tinsel and her best soldiers are --

Suddenly, the doors fling open, and Tinsel kneels. She's covered in snow, and icicles dangle off her braids.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Tinsel? Tell me you have good news.

TINSEL

We know where Nick is, sir.

KING CLAUS

Oh, thank goodness! Does he have the magic crystal?

Tinsel bows her head solemnly.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

What is it, Captain?

TINSEL

It's the Barbegazis, sir.

OFF: The King's grave expression.

INT. BARBEGAZI LAIR - NIGHT

A menacing shadow projects on a cave wall. It opens Nick's red bag and pulls out a yoyo.

EXT. FROZEN WOODS - MORNING

It's not as scary in the daytime. In fact, it's a winter wonderland.

Midge, Carol, and Chestnut trek through the frozen trees.

MIDGE

Look at these trees?! Our trees don't look like this. Oh! Am I gonna see a penguin?!

CAROL

Penguins are in Antarctica, not here.

MIDGE

Right. Right. I knew that.

An awkward beat.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming with me. It means a lot.

CAROL

Yeah. No biggie. Anything to get out of the North Pole.

MIDGE

So, why do you hate it - I mean- why are you disillusioned by it so much?

CAROL

I just don't fit in, ok?

MIDGE

Well, liking Christmas could help.

CAROL

Celebrate a holiday about magic that I don't have?

MIDGE

Is that why you sneak out so much?

Carol changes the subject.

CAROL

So this Nick guy must be pretty special, huh?

MIDGE

When you're a princess, it's hard to tell if people are genuine with you or not. Most want something like fame or power.

CAROL

For sure.

MIDGE

But Nick, I never have to second guess. He just likes me for me.

CAROL

Well, sounds like you got a crush on him.

MIDGE

What? Eww. He's Nick.

They reach the start of an endless icy wasteland.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Woah. What is this?

Suddenly, the air is colder.

CAROL

The Arctic tundra. This is as far as I've ever gotten from the North Pole.

She points her compass and faces north.

CAROL (CONT'D)

The Ivory Cliffs are due north, but compasses won't work in there.

She turns to Midge.

CAROL (CONT'D)

The tundra's dangerous. Blinding snowstorms appear out of the blue. Whatever happens, you must stay facing north; don't look around, or else we could walk miles the wrong way. You ready?

Midge hesitates.

MIDGE

I trust you. Let's do this.

EXT. TOP OF A FROZEN TREE - CONTINUOUS

POV: Something's hiding and spying on Midge, Carol, and Chestnut in a frozen tree nearby.

It grunts and breathes heavily, watching them step into the tundra, then scurries away.

EXT. NORTH POLE GATES - DAY

King Claus stands, staring at the open gates. He cautiously steps one foot out. It's quiet and peaceful with freshly fallen snow blanketing the ground.

He breathes in the crisp air, steps further, and smiles proudly to himself.

WHOOSH - Two turtle doves swoops by, startling the King as he backpedals inside.

KING CLAUS

Oh, Evergreen, Holly - it's you. I need to send an urgent message.

The King produces a tiny scroll and ties it to one of their legs.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Time to come home, Princess.

The doves take off, and the King closes and locks the gates.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER

After making some headway, Midge looks around into the frozen abyss. She cannot see anything but icy ground for miles.

No trees, villages, nothing.

MIDGE

Woah. What planet are we on?

Carol's eyes remain fixated northbound.

CAROL

What did I say? Don't look around.

MIDGE  
Right, sorry. Eyes on the prize.

Midge refocuses, but a shadow suddenly hovers over her. She looks up.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Umm Carol?

CAROL  
Not now.

The shadow darkens.

MIDGE  
Chestnut, I don't think we're in  
the North Pole anymore.

Thunder booms! Carol stops in her tracks.

CAROL  
This isn't gonna be good.

MIDGE  
How long can it last?

CAROL  
Minutes, hours. Who knows?

The storm quickly envelopes them. Winds howl and gust. Snow rapidly falls, blinding everyone.

CHESTNUT  
Squeak squeak!  
(Translation: Uh oh)

CAROL  
Hold on to your stockings!

MIDGE  
I can't see anything!

CAROL  
Stay the course!

MIDGE  
What?!

Something or someone whizzes by, knocking Midge to the ground and breaking her concentration.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
What was that?! Where are you?

Snow falls even heavier. Midge can't see at all.

CAROL  
Chestnut - help!

Chestnut flies high above the storm, but she cannot see Midge.

Snow's blowing sideways, and the gusts are unrelenting.

A shimmer of light twinkles down below—Midge's locket!  
Chestnut dives and wraps Midge in her wings.

After a few harrowing moments, the storm subsides.

MIDGE  
Thank you, Chestnut. Where's Carol?

An almost frozen Carol stands a few feet away - still facing north.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Carol!

They race to her.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Are you ok?

CAROL  
(teeth chattering)  
Cliff. There.

Her eyes point towards...

MIDGE  
The Ivory Cliffs! We're here!

She hugs Carol and kisses her on her frozen cheek. Her lips stick for a beat. She pulls them apart.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Ok, Ouch.

Chestnut wraps around Carol to thaw.

Midge can't keep her eyes off the cliffs.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Chestnut, take care of Carol. I'll  
go look for Nick, ok?

Chestnut salutes. Midge bolts.

CAROL  
Wwwaaiitt. Nnnnot ssaafe.

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

Midge arrives at the daunting and massive cliffs (think an Arctic version of the Cliffs of Moher).

MIDGE  
Nick! Nick!

She searches around, reaching the edge. There's no sign of Nick. Nothing.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
He's not here.

She angrily kicks a rock over the edge. It falls, disappearing into an abyss of clouds.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Woah.

She backs away slowly and sits, disheartened.

A beat.

Out of nowhere, a cute little LEMMING approaches.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Aww, hello, little lemming.

It crawls onto Midge's lap.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
You're so cute.

Another one approaches.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Hey buddy.

Two more follow suit.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Come join the party.

They crawl on her and tickle her. Midge giggles.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - DAY

Carol's almost thawed but can't move her legs just yet.



CAROL  
Chestnut, you have to go to Midge.

Chestnut gestures that she's busy de-icing her legs.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Forget about my legs. Midge is in  
danger. Go!

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS - DAY

Hundreds of lemmings surround Midge. She's on cloud nine.

MIDGE  
Can't handle. Cuteness overload.

She holds a lemming, and its eyes change colors.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Weird. I didn't know lemming's eyes  
could do that.

It hypnotizes Midge to stand up and face the cliff's edge.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - DAY

Carol breaks the final pieces of ice off her legs.

CAROL  
C'mon. C'mon. C'mon!

She's freed and bolts towards Midge.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Midge!

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS' EDGE - DAY

Midge steps closer and closer to the edge of the cliff. Her eyes clearly hypnotized by the lemmings' cuteness.

MIDGE  
Lemmings are so cute. I wish I were  
a lemming.

Midge stops at the edge and looks down, unfazed.

CAROL (O.S.)  
Midge! No!

CHESTNUT  
Squeak Squeak!

Chestnut swoops in, flapping her wings in Midge's face.  
Nothing. Carol arrives.

CAROL  
STOP! Don't be a lemming!

Midge dangles one foot over the edge.

MIDGE  
I am a lemming.

Carol thinks on her feet.

CAROL  
I KNOW WHERE NICK IS!

Like magic, Midge snaps out of it.

MIDGE  
What? Where?!

She looks down the cliff, panics, and falls backward.

Disappointed, the lemmings scatter.

CAROL  
Are you ok?

MIDGE  
Yeah, I think so. You saved my  
life. Thank you.

She hugs a stiff Carol.

CAROL  
Yea. Yea. Whatever.

MIDGE  
Wait! You said you know where Nick  
is?

CAROL  
Yeah, about that.

MIDGE  
You don't know where he is.

CAROL  
You were about to jump off a cliff.  
What else was I supposed to do?

MIDGE

Fair.

Midge bows her head.

CAROL

Are you sure you're ok?

MIDGE

I am a lemming.

Carol grabs her by the shoulders and shakes her violently.

CAROL

Snap out of it!

MIDGE

No! No! I'm not hypnotized. I swear!

CAROL

Oh, you meant metaphorically.

MIDGE

My whole life, I just follow orders. Do what I'm told. And look where it has gotten me - almost killed, if it weren't for you.

Carol's guilt-ridden. She snaps.

CAROL

I'm not some kind of hero, ok?

MIDGE

Woah. Ok. I was just saying...

CAROL

Look. We should set up camp before it gets too dark or another storm comes. I'm gonna find some firewood.

Carol stomps off, leaving a confused Midge.

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS A FEW HUNDRED FEET AWAY - LATER

Carol cools off and looks under ice rocks for twigs.

Two turtle doves circle overhead. They land at Carol's feet.

CAROL

Ugh, what now?

She notices the scroll's royal seal. Her face pales as she unties and reads:

KING CLAUS (V.O.)  
 Carol, Operation Wild Goose Chase  
 is hereby canceled. Bring the  
 Princess home immediately, and I  
 promise to keep my end of the  
 bargain. Your Majesty - King Claus.

CAROL  
 Oh, man.

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS'EDGE - DAY

Carol joins Midge at the campsite.

MIDGE (O.S.)  
 Where to next?

CAROL  
 What?

MIDGE  
 Where do you think we should go  
 next?

CAROL  
 Hey! You literally almost died.  
 Shouldn't we call it and go home?

MIDGE  
 What? No way. I'd rather die than  
 give up.

CAROL  
 Don't think of it as giving up...

MIDGE  
 I'm not stopping until I find Nick.

Carol's impressed.

CAROL  
 Nick's a lucky guy. If I  
 disappeared, no one would notice,  
 let alone look for me.

MIDGE  
 That's not true. I would.

Carol's very touched but quickly conceals her feelings.

CAROL  
 Alright. Fine.

MIDGE  
 Really?! So where are we going?

Carol rips up the scroll.

CAROL  
 You tell me.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE WAR ROOM - EVENING

King Claus, Jolly, Tinsel, and a few other soldiers sit at a round table.

A massive fireplace roars behind them as they hover over several maps.

TINSEL  
 We know the Barbegazis took Nick here.

She points to a spot on the map.

TINSEL (CONT'D)  
 And we followed his kidnapper's footprints until they disappeared.

KING CLAUS  
 Where did they go?

TINSEL  
 Don't know. But we may know a guy who does.

The King peers down at his Kingdom from the window.

Elves shiver in the cold. Their normally glowing, plump faces are pale and sunken.

KING CLAUS  
 Bring him to me.

TINSEL  
 Yes Sir.

Two turtledoves land on the window sill. The King urgently unties the ripped-up scroll.

His face reddens.

KING CLAUS  
And bring me my daughter.

Tinsel and her soldiers turn to each other, confused.

TINSEL  
I'm sorry, Sir?

EXT. IVORY CLIFFS - MORNING

The sun rises over Midge, Carol, and Chestnut's campsite. Midge is already awake and pacing, chugging coffee.

Carol pops out of the tent.

CAROL  
Did you sleep at all last night?

Chestnut pops out with her eye mask still on. She yawns.

MIDGE  
Nope. This coffee stuff tastes horrible, but MAN, do I feel alive! Hey! Do you remember that creepy snowman back in the woods?

CAROL  
Yeah? What about him?

MIDGE  
It didn't click before but he had a magic crystal! Or a piece of it for an eye. It glowed, remember?

Carol's invested.

CAROL  
You're right!

She composes herself.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
I mean - maybe he might know where Nick is.

MIDGE  
Exactly. Uh? Question: Where do snow people live?

CAROL  
Niveouston. You really don't know anything outside the North Pole, huh?

MIDGE  
Never knew I had to. Let's go.

CAROL  
Problem. It's in the clouds.

MIDGE  
What do you mean, "in the clouds?"

Carol points up to a large, fluffy cloud.

Midge squints and discovers an entire city filled with snow people and cumulus cloud igloos.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Woah! How are we supposed to get up there?

Carol spies Tinsel and her elven soldiers on the horizon.

She panics.

CAROL  
I don't know but we gotta act fast.  
'Cause a storm's coming. A big one.

MIDGE  
Where? Skies are blue.

CAROL  
I can just feel it. Hurry!

MIDGE  
If only we had magic to fly.

Midge thinks on her feet. She scans the campsite.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Or float...Okay, I got an idea!

She grabs the tent tarp, rips it, and tosses half of it to Carol.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Here take this.

CAROL  
What? Why?

MIDGE  
Heat. I need heat. Bingo.

Midge lights a torch from the campfire.

CAROL  
What's happening?

MIDGE  
This better work.

Midge runs full steam towards the cliff's edge. Chestnut squeaks uncontrollably. The lemmings cheer her on.

CAROL  
What are you doing?

Midge jumps off and drops out of view. Carol and Chestnut race to the ledge.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Midge! Great, I killed the Princess. Now I'm the laughingstock and the most wanted elf in the North Pole.

Suddenly, Midge floats above their heads, holding a makeshift hot air balloon.

The lemmings are disappointed.

MIDGE  
Nick, you're a genius! C'mon, Carol, your turn!

CAROL  
Absolutely not.

Midge floats even higher. Tinsel's getting closer.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Why me?

She nervously lights a torch then stands frozen at the ledge, white as a ghost.

Midge floats even higher.

MIDGE  
Wahoo!

Carol looks down and gulps.

CAROL  
Here I go. Any second now.

The lemmings shiver in anticipation, but she doesn't budge.

Chestnut gracefully dives and glides next to Midge.



CAROL (CONT'D)

Show off.

Carol flusters.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Ok, Carol. You got this. Just one foot in front of the other, right?

Suddenly, a shadowy figure zooms behind her. Carol whips around.

CAROL (CONT'D)

What was that?

She loses her footing, balancing on one leg. A lemming casually struts toward her.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Don't you dare think about it.

The lemming blows in her direction causing her to fall backward off the cliff.

CAROL (CONT'D)

HOLY JINGLE BELLS!

Plummeting, she frantically positions the tarp above her torch and lifts off.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I'm flying? I'm flying! Without magic, too!

Carol flies higher, catching up to Midge.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Hey, wait for me!

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER

A few yards away from the Ivory Cliffs, Tinsel tracks Midge's steps.

NUTMEG, a soldier, points to a very large footprint.

NUTMEG

Captain, you might want to see this.

Tinsel crouches to inspect.

NUTMEG (CONT'D)  
Is that what I think it is?

TINSEL  
Barbegazi. We're not the only ones  
looking for the Princess.

She looks to the skies and spies the trio floating.

TINSEL (CONT'D)  
Onward!

Tinsel mounts her reindeer and gallops away.

EXT. BLUE SKIES - DAY

Midge, Carol, and Chestnut float toward Niveouston. Carol's  
having the time of her life, flashing a rare smile.

CAROL  
This is awesome! Watch this.

She barrel rolls through a cloud.

MIDGE  
It's like you've never flown  
before.

Carol backflips over Midge.

CAROL  
I haven't.

MIDGE  
Oh, right. I keep forgetting...It's  
kinda fun doing stuff without  
magic.

CAROL  
Yea right.

MIDGE  
No, seriously. Makes me feel proud.  
Like I can tackle things on my own.

CAROL  
I never thought of it that way.

Carol cracks another small smile.

The clouds break and Midge catches her first glance at  
Niveouston.

MIDGE

Woah!

Happy snow people in every shape and size glide about an icy metropolis (think St. Petersburg made of clouds.)

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Look at this place. It's so pretty.

CAROL

Prettier than the North Pole?

MIDGE

Totally...

Midge gawks at the towering igloo manors lining frozen canals leading to a towering ice palace.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Wait, no!

CAROL

It's ok to like other places. You know that, right?

MIDGE

Duh, but nothing compares to home. Oh, look! A candy stand!

She inhales.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

-- freshly spun cotton candy.

Chestnut smells the sugar and can't help herself, nose diving to the source.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Chestnut! No!

Chestnut disappears into the bustling market below.

Midge lowers her flame.

CAROL

What are you doing?

MIDGE

We can't leave her.

CAROL

If Niveaouston is anything like the North Pole, I don't think they're gonna like us showing up uninvited.

Below, a snow plow pushes soft, fluffy snow into a towering heap.

MIDGE

Ok. I have an idea.

Midge grins. Carol looks down.

CAROL

No way.

MIDGE

Have a better plan?

CAROL

Well, no, but...

Midge blows out her torch and plummets.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I hate all your ideas.

She skeptically blows hers out and follows suit, landing plushly on a bed of silky snow.

MIDGE

That was awesome!

CAROL

That was!...not terrible.

A SNOW PATROLMAN glides by.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Duck.

The two bury themselves back into the snow until the patrolman rounds the corner.

They pop their heads back out to find snow people swarming in the distance.

MIDGE

What's happening?

CAROL

I don't know.

Finally, Midge spots a break in the crowd and the source of the commotion:

MIDGE

Chestnut!

She's escorted by a team of patrolmen.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
They're taking her to the palace.  
What do we do?

CAROL  
I don't know but look.

She points to a snow person lurking in the crowd.

MIDGE  
The gruff snowman!

His ruby red eye catches Midge's. He bolts.

CAROL  
I'll get Chestnut. You follow that  
snowman.

MIDGE  
Ok! Wait. Alone?

CAROL  
I can't be in both places at once.

MIDGE  
No, I know.

CAROL  
You can do this. You're not a  
lemming, remember?

MIDGE  
I'm worse - a Princess - meant to  
be locked away in a tower.

CAROL  
And I'm an elf - meant to have  
magic.

MIDGE  
Huh?

CAROL  
How can I put this so you'll  
understand?-- No one's gifted a  
perfect set of stockings, ok? It's  
what you do with the stockings that  
matters.

MIDGE  
I'm not following.

CAROL  
 What I'm trying to say is -- You're  
 more than just a Princess. You're  
 brave and a fierce friend.

MIDGE  
 Really?

Midge's eyes well up. Carol hates it.

CAROL  
 Yea yea. Now follow that snowman  
 before he's gone forever!

MIDGE  
 Ok! I got this.

She bolts.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 I'll meet you by the palace! And  
 don't get caught!

EXT. NIVEOUSTON STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Midge manages to bob and weave through the distracted crowd  
 of snow people. She's gaining on the Gruff Snowman.

MIDGE  
 Wait! I just have a question!

The Gruff Snowman turns a fast corner. Midge speeds up and  
 rounds the corner as well.

EXT. WINTER WONDERLAND PARK - CONTINUOUS

Midge spills out into the entrance of a gorgeous frozen park  
 (think Central Park iced over).

MIDGE  
 Where did he go? Woah!

She slips on the ice-covered path, landing on her behind.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 Ouch.

She spies the Gruff Snowman gliding down the path.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 Oh no you don't.

She stands only to slip and fall again. She watches the Gruff Snowman jump off the cloud's edge and float down with his top hat.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Come back! Please!

She remains sitting.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
I can't do anything right - not with Nick and now Chestnut and Carol are probably prisoners.

She buries her head in her hands for a beat.

She feels a tap on her shoulder and looks up.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Chestnut!

Chestnut wraps her wings around her.

CAROL  
Need a hand?

Midge whips around and finds Carol alongside an extremely large snowman with a exceedingly tall top hat and tie (ASPEN).

MIDGE  
Carol! Thank evergreen you're both safe.

ASPEN  
Well of course they are! We're in Niveaouston - no place safer, Your Highness.

He bows.

CAROL  
This is Aspen - from the Palace.

Midge bows.

ASPEN  
Oh. I'm not a king nor in charge.

BLANCHE (O.C.)  
But I am.

Aspen extends his hand, and reveals a snow woman the size of a pinecone (PRESIDENT BLANCHE).

BLANCHE (CONT'D)  
Pleased to meet you, Your Highness.  
I'm President Blanche.

EXT. NORTH POLE GATE - DAY

Jolly nervously waits by the entrance, pacing. Suddenly, a woman covered in furs (FIONA) appears on a reindeer.

JOLLY  
Thank you so much for meeting me.

FIONA  
I must say, I was shocked. We haven't heard from the North Pole in decades despite my best efforts and our kingdoms' proximity.

JOLLY  
Well, the King will certainly have my head for reaching out, so this is under the utmost confidentiality, ok?

FIONA  
How bad is it?

JOLLY  
If we don't find a solution by two day's time, I'm afraid we'll run out of food and fresh water.

Fiona hops off the reindeer and unties two large barrels from it's sides.

FIONA  
Here - take these - to capture fallen snow for drinking.

JOLLY  
Thank you.

FIONA  
I don't know why I'm helping. The North Pole's been diverting its snowfall our way for years, damaging our ecosystem.

Jolly nervously laughs.



EXT. NIVEOUSTON - DAY

Aspen and President Blanche give Midge, Carol, and Chestnut a tour.

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

Please excuse everyone's excitement. We don't get visitors often because, well, it's not exactly easy to get to the clouds.

A FLORIST hands Midge a beautiful bouquet of poinsettias.

MIDGE

Poinsettias - the North Pole's national flower. How did you know?

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

Just because we're isolated doesn't mean we don't appreciate other cultures.

CAROL

What a concept.

They pass a frozen playground of snow children sliding down ice slides. Then a team of sculptors chiseling a new igloo next to a carrot salesman.

MIDGE

Everyone seems so busy yet, happy?

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

We embrace our citizens' uniqueness and match them to roles that fit their passions, making them happy and productive.

Carol's mesmerized.

CAROL

Everyone has a place.

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

Exactly.

Midge notices Carol's intrigue.

MIDGE

Well, thank you very much for the tour, but we really need to get going.

CAROL

What?

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

You are welcome to stay as long as you wish.

MIDGE

Why would we want to stay in this dump?

ASPEN

I beg your pardon?

Aspen's face reddens, and his carrot nose droops.

Carol pulls Midge aside.

CAROL

Are you trying to get us in trouble?

MIDGE

I'm trying to get us out of here. Heated conversations, remember?

CAROL

But...

MIDGE

In fact, you couldn't pay me to stay here a minute longer.

Aspen's nose falls off.

PRESIDENT BLANCHE

That can be arranged.

Aspen stomps on the ice. It cracks.

Suddenly the ground beneath them opens, revealing a large ice slide.

MIDGE

Uh oh.

Midge, Carol, and Chestnut immediately drop and slide towards the ground.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - CONTINUOUS

The trio land at the base of Mt. Myrrh - the tallest of the Arctic mountain range.

CAROL  
What the heck was that?!

MIDGE  
What was what? That place was weird.

CAROL  
I finally find a place where I can see myself and you - you ruined it.

MIDGE  
See yourself? You're an elf. You don't belong in Niveouston. You belong at the North Pole.

CAROL  
Not without magic! Back there, I'm a freak - a laughingstock. I didn't choose this. I didn't chose to not have magic. I was born this way... That's why I hate Christmas and why your Dad promised to fix me if I helped.

MIDGE  
Wait. What do you mean "helped"?

CAROL  
Crap. Look, I promised your Dad I'd keep you safe and away from Mt. Myrrh.

MIDGE  
Mt. Myrrh? Why? Is that where Nick is?

They see Tinsel and her guards in the distance.

TINSEL  
Princess Midge! The King has requested you to come home at once!

MIDGE  
You led me astray this whole time?

CAROL  
I had to. I'm sorry.

MIDGE  
I trusted you. I thought we were friends.

That cut deep for Carol. She retaliates.

CAROL  
 You shouldn't trust someone you  
 just met; they might just lead you  
 off a cliff.

Midge turns and sprints up the mountain.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 Where are you going?

MIDGE  
 To find my actual friend, Nick.

Tinsel closes in.

TINSEL  
 Halt!

Midge runs off. Chestnut follows.

CAROL  
 Midge!

TINSEL  
 Stop! Princess!

Midge crosses an extremely rickety bridge.

As soon as she steps off, it completely snaps, leaving Tinsel  
 and Carol on the other side.

TINSEL (CONT'D)  
 Stay there, Princess! Help is on  
 the way!

Midge bolts.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - SUNSET

Midge races up the treacherous mountain. It's snowing hard.  
 Blinded, she plows into a tree.

MIDGE  
 Ouch.

She kicks its trunk in anger. So does Chestnut.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
 AHHHHHH!

Exhausted, she sits and cries.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

How am I so gullible, Chestnut?

Chestnut consoles her with a hug. A faint RUMBLE brews in the distance. Uh oh.

EXT. NORTH POLE GATE - SUNSET

Tinsel escorts a sullen Carol back toward the castle. They hear the RUMBLE and turn around.

TINSEL

Take her back to the North Pole.

CAROL

Let me help.

TINSEL

You've helped quite enough.

Tinsel gallops towards the mountain.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - SUNSET

The ground shakes. Midge looks up. Snow topples quickly - an avalanche.

MIDGE

Run, Chestnut!

Midge sprints down the mountain as fast as she can. Chestnut takes flight.

Within seconds, she's completely engulfed in snow.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. COZY CAVE - MORNING

POV of Midge slowly opening her eyes. She's tucked into a small bed, her feet sticking out.

MIDGE

Where am I? Chestnut?

She looks around the unfamiliar surroundings: a quaint home with a fireplace, a wood-burning stove, and tiny wooden furniture.

Half-finished toys cover a table on the corner along with Nick's red bag - overflowing with his creations.

A tea kettle SCREAMS. Someone or something comes running towards it.

MYSTERY VOICE (O.S.)  
Shhhh. No no no no. Shush, you.

Midge hides under the bed and spies a pair of large, gnarly feet by the stove. It's the same feet as the shadowy creature!

MIDGE  
(whispering)  
A Barbegazi!

The feet tiptoe closer. Midge panics—what does she do? She thinks, then musters the courage to pop out and scare the thing.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
AAHHHHHHH! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

The Barbegazi screams and cowers in fear.

REVEAL: It's not a terrifying, ugly monster. It's a cute, old little guy with a long white beard and kind eyes. Meet HUBERT (pronounced the French way).

HUBERT  
Please don't hurt me. Please. Help!

Midge backs off, confused.

MIDGE  
Wait - you're scared of me? You are a Barbegazi, right?

HUBERT  
Yes. My name is Hubert. Nice to meet you.

MIDGE  
You don't look like the pictures I've seen. Unless this is a disguise!

She grabs a WOODEN SPOON for a weapon. Hubert cowers.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
Where's Nick?! What did you do with him?!

Hubert's basically in the fetal position. Nick storms in.

NICK

Midge! Midge! Calm down. It's me.

Shocked, Midge drops the spoon and lunges toward him.

MIDGE

Nick!

They hug.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Are you ok? What did they do to you?

She picks up the spoon. Hubert drops to the floor again.

NICK

Relax. I'm fine. They're friends. I promise.

MIDGE

How can you call them your friends? They've been holding you captive.

NICK

If I was held captive, do you think they'd let me do this?

He gestures to his toys on the table. He hands her a Jack in the Box. Midge winds it up.

MIDGE

Wow! This is amazing. You're best toy yet.

NICK

See. I told you. I'm fine. They been keeping me safe. In fact, Hubert's been watching you and making sure you're safe as well.

MIDGE

Wait, that was you who knocked me in the tundra?

Hubert nods. Midge backs down.

HUBERT

She was leading you astray.

MIDGE

And you cut the bridge?

Hubert reveals his scissors.

HUBERT

Guilty.

MIDGE

I don't understand. What's going on?

Midge's stomach GROWLS.

NICK

Hungry?

MIDGE

Always.

NICK

Here. Sit. We'll explain everything.

Midge sits at the table built for those 3 feet and under.

HUBERT

Tea?

Hubert serves tea and a heap of cookies. Midge chows down.

NICK

So you know how we were told that the magic crystal is just hidden somewhere where the snow --

MIDGE

-- Meets the sky, yeah?

NICK

Well, that's here on top of Mt. Myrrh, and the magic isn't found-- it's stolen. From the Barbegazi's.

MIDGE

What?! No. Not possible. There must be some misunderstanding. We don't steal.

NICK

Here. Follow us.

Nick grabs his rucksack of toys on the way out.

INT. BARBEGAZI TUNNEL SYSTEM - DAY

Hundreds of Barbegazis live in a sprawling underground cave and tunnel system, mining gorgeous non-magical crystals.



Little Barbegazi children run by. Nick crouches down and passes out a smattering of his toys. The children giggle over a pair of chattering teeth.

Midge admires Nick in his element. They continue the tour.

HUBERT

We Barbegazis are the true guardians of the magic crystal.

He points to one crystal shining brighter than the rest.

NICK

And we've been stealing it for years.

MIDGE

I don't believe you. Nick, these are Barbegazis you're talking about. No offense, Hubert.

NICK

We gotta show her.

HUBERT

Are you sure?

MIDGE

Show me what?

INT. CAVE RESERVOIR - DAY

Hubert leads them into a large cavern with the most beautiful aquamarine water.

MIDGE

Wow - what is this place?

HUBERT

I want to show you something.

He waves his arms and vignettes project onto the water.

The first one shows a medieval human family huddled by a fireplace for warmth. The second shows a peasant man begging for money on the streets.

Midge's devastated.

MIDGE

Who are these people, and why are they so sad?

HUBERT

Every year, there's enough magic to spread around the world. We call it little miracles.

NICK

But we use all of it just to power the North Pole - instead of helping good people like them.

He points to a new vignette of a little girl holding a doll made of sticks.

MIDGE

Well then, we have to show this to my Dad.

NICK

He knows. He's always known, and my Dad too. I would've never known if Hubert hadn't captured me and brought me back here.

MIDGE

I don't understand.

NICK

They lied to us, Midge. About the magic and Barbegazis. About everything.

Midge can't take her teary eyes off the vignettes.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King sits on his throne, somberly staring into a snow globe.

Chestnut flies onto the window sill. She pecks, but it goes unnoticed.

Jingle enters.

JINGLE

Your Highness? Carol is here.

KING CLAUS

Thank you, Jingle. That'll be all.

Tears run down Carol's cheeks.

Chestnut watches from outside, still trying to garner attention.

CAROL

Your Highness. I don't know what to say - I promised to keep her safe...

KING CLAUS

It's not your fault. I shouldn't have let her leave in the first place.

The King emits a golden light from his hand and reveals a small sliver of the magic crystal.

Carol's confused.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

I got this from a friend.

Carol notices Jingle escorting the Gruff Snowman (wearing an eye patch but holding a large bag of money).

Something isn't right. Carol's nervous.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Soon the North Pole will be up and running again. Very soon.

He senses Carol's unease.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

And you will have your magic, too. As promised.

The King glances into the snow globe and sees Midge with Nick and Hubert.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Midge would've wanted you to have it.

Through the window, Chestnut notices the snow globe and Midge.

CHESTNUT

Squeak!

She flies off.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - DAY

Midge marches towards the summit, furious. Nick and Hubert barely keep up.

NICK  
Midge. Midge! Where are you going?

MIDGE  
Up.

NICK  
Why?

MIDGE  
I don't know why.

HUBERT  
You'll freeze up there. Trust me.

Midge stops.

MIDGE  
I don't know who to trust anymore!  
I've been led astray and almost  
died; I visited a Snowman Kingdom I  
never knew existed, Barbegazis  
aren't hideous elf-eating monsters  
after all, and my Dad -- he's -- I  
don't know what he is.

She marches on.

One of Nick's TOY BIRDS whizzes by her head, landing in her hands. There's a PAPER NOTE on the wing.

Midge reads: "You can trust me."

She smiles but only briefly. Sirens blare.

A Barbegazi woman runs towards them.

BARBEGAZI WOMAN  
Hubert! They took it! They took the  
crystal! Look!

She points down the mountain where Tinsel and her men descend toward the North Pole.

HUBERT  
How did they find us?

MIDGE  
Oh, I know how.

Midge races back.

NICK  
What are you doing?

She turns around.

MIDGE  
I'm gonna get it back.

NICK  
The magic? How?

MIDGE  
Grab your bag of toys. We're going  
back to the North Pole.

OFF: Midge's puckish smile.

INT. NORTH POLE INN - DAY

Carol sits at the bar. She's in a dark place, mentally.

CAROL  
Another one, Peppermint.

Peppermint shakes her head.

PEPPERMINT  
I'm afraid I'ma have to cut you  
off.

CAROL  
C'mon. Just one more hot chocolate.

PEPPERMINT  
You've had four already.

CAROL  
This one isn't for me. It's for my  
friend...

She looks around at the empty bar.

Chestnut frantically enters.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Chestnut?

CHESTNUT  
Squeak squeak squeak! Squeak squeak  
squeak squeak! Squeak...

CAROL  
Hold on. Slow down.

Chestnut pauses, takes a deep breath, and mimes, placing a tiara on her head.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Uh? You need a hat?

Chestnut shakes her head, frustrated. She curtsies.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Oh, princess! Midge? Are you  
talking about Midge?

Chestnut nods, then mimes Midge running from an avalanche and Hubert saving her.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Midge has big feet? How is that  
helpful?

Chestnut grabs Carol by the shoulders and looks deeply into her eyes.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Ok. We got this. Do it again.

Chestnut lifts three feathers (as if they're fingers)

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Three words.

She holds up one feather. Chestnut curtsies.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Midge. The first word is Midge!

Chestnut nods and holds up three feathers.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Third word?

Chestnut drops to the floor and plays dead.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Dead?

Chestnut nods.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
I know about the avalanche.

Chestnut shakes her head and pretends to rise from the dead.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Midge isn't dead?

Chestnut jumps for joy.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
She's alive?!

A voice on the North Pole's LOUDSPEAKER chimes in.

LOUDSPEAKER  
All citizens, please report to the  
castle. I repeat - All citizens  
please report to the castle.

CAROL  
What's this about?

INT. BARBEGAZI TUNNEL SYSTEM - DAY

It's chaos. Sirens still blare. Barbegazis run around in every direction.

Midge scans the havoc and puffs up her chest.

MIDGE  
Listen up!

Everyone stops in their tracks. Nick and Hubert catch up.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
If we are going to get the crystal  
back, I'm going to need everyone's  
help.

NICK  
What do you have in mind?

MIDGE  
Simple. I know every inch of that  
castle. We'll sneak in and find the  
magic.

HUBERT  
What do we do?

MIDGE  
You're the distraction.

HUBERT  
How?

MIDGE  
There's nothing scarier to the  
North Pole than Barbegazis, right?

HUBERT  
But we're not scary.

MIDGE  
We know that. But they don't...

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - DAY

All the citizens, including Carol and Chestnut, are gathered. They're tired and gaunt.

CAROL  
What's going on?

HANDSOME ELF  
I don't know.

CAROL  
Is that a wig?

Handsome Elf adjusts his poorly made wig.

HANDSOME ELF  
What? No...Ok yes.

He takes it off.

The castle gates open, and the King appears.

KING CLAUS  
Citizens of the North Pole. It has  
been a trying time for all of us.  
Without our magic, who are we?

Handsome Elf rubs his bald head in shame.

Chestnut beelines for the gates.

CAROL  
Chestnut? What are you doing?  
Chestnut? Come back.

Carol follows.

KING CLAUS  
But good things come to those who  
wait.

He raises the iridescent crystal. Everyone gasps, then  
cheers.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Carol follows Chestnut into the empty room.



CAROL  
Chestnut, what are we doing here?

Chestnut looks around and spies the snow globe. She grabs it.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
You're gonna get us locked up over  
a snow globe?

Chestnut shakes it and can see Midge!

CHESTNUT  
SQUEAK!

CAROL  
It's Midge! She really is alive.  
And Nick!

They eavesdrop.

NICK  
Do you really think we can pull  
this off?

MIDGE  
We've been blindly believing a lie  
all these years about the magic and  
especially about the Barbegazis.  
For the first time ever, I'm  
trusting my own gut, and I know we  
can do this. It's the right thing  
to do.

Nick gulps.

NICK  
Ok then. Let's go steal that  
crystal back.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Footsteps approach the throne room.

CAROL  
Someone's coming. Hide.

They both duck behind a curtain.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

The King continues his speech.

KING CLAUS

Thanks to our brave Captain Tinsel,  
we no longer have to wait.

He places the crystal into his ring, and it illuminates exponentially until the entire North Pole is blinded in light.

Suddenly, Handsome Elf has his lush locks again.

HANDSOME ELF

My hair! I'm pretty again!

The reindeer hover.

RUDOLPH

Hey! I can fly!

Everyone celebrates in the streets. Their magic is back.

All is well at the North Pole.

KING CLAUS

We must have a ball to celebrate.  
Tonight!

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Carol and Chestnut are still hiding behind the curtain.

The King, Jingle, and Tinsel enter.

KING CLAUS

Well done, Tinsel! You've brought  
magic back to the North Pole!

He sits on his throne.

TINSEL

Thank you, Sire.

KING CLAUS

Jingle.

JINGLE

Yes, Your Highness?

KING CLAUS

Prepare the castle for the biggest  
ball we've ever had.

JINGLE

Yes sir!

Jingle runs out. The King leans in closer to Tinsel.

KING CLAUS

I want every guard on high alert tonight. No one is to get in or out of the gates. And when my daughter arrives, bring her straight to me.

Tinsel salutes, then exits.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Where's my snow globe?

Chestnut silently panics, still holding the snow globe.

CAROL

Shh.

The King searches the room, stopping in front of the curtain. Carol and Chestnut stand frozen in fear.

KING CLAUS

Jingle!

No one answers.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Where's my snow globe?

No one answers.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Jingle?

He exits the room. Carol and Chestnut emerge.

CAROL

I don't know exactly what's going on, Chestnut, but we have to warn Midge.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - DAY

Midge, Nick, and Hubert look at the pearlescent glow emitting from the North Pole.

MIDGE

Jingle bells. They have their magic back.

HUBERT

It's too late.

MIDGE

It's never too late. But we have to act fast.

She turns to Nick.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Ready?

Nick adds the final touches on two, hand-made snowboards.

NICK

Cool huh? I call them snow planks or mountain sliders... I'm still workshopping the name. Thoughts?

MIDGE

Nick.

NICK

Right. Yes. I'm ready.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - EVENING

It's the most extravagant ball King Claus has ever thrown.

A chocolate waterfall magically flows next to a never-ending table of abundance: candies, pastries, and cakes galore!

All the young, single elven women swoon and fight over Handsome Elf's attention.

HANDSOME ELF

Ladies, ladies! There's enough of me to go around. I promise.

Carol walks past and rolls her eyes.

CAROL

I liked him better when he was bald.

Chestnut nods in agreement.

CAROL (CONT'D)

There's the King.

They watch him mingle across the ballroom.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Do you have the secret weapon?

Chestnut lifts her wing to reveal a lemming happily munching on a cookie.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Perfect.

EXT. MT. MYRRH - EVENING

Midge, Nick, Hubert, and the rest of the Barbegazis watch the glow from the North Pole.

The air is tense.

MIDGE

Ok, it's now or never. Hubert?

Hubert nods then blows his ram's horn.

HUBERT

Charge!

He and the Barbegazis ski down the mountain on their large, bare feet.

Midge mounts her snowboard.

NICK

Midge?

MIDGE

Yeah?

Nick's face reddens.

NICK

If anything happens, I just wanted you to know ...

MIDGE

Last one down the mountain's a rotten gumdrop!

Midge kicks off and flies down. Nick sighs, then follows.

EXT. NORTH POLE GATES - NIGHT

Nick catches up to Midge and Hubert casing the area, which looks straight out of a Bond movie:

- Rudolph flies above, his red nose scanning the grounds.
- Elven soldiers march in unison.

- More soldiers patrol the castle's roof.

NICK

Woah. Maybe we should reconsider.

MIDGE

No way. Now, we have to be practically invisible to get past all of this.

NICK

Easy.

Nick snaps his fingers and turns invisible.

MIDGE

What are you doing?

NICK

You said to make ourselves invisible?

MIDGE

I meant metaphorically.

NICK

But we're back at the North Pole. We have our powers again.

MIDGE

But the more we use magic, the more it drains from the crystal, taking magic away from the rest of the world, remember?

Nick turns visible.

NICK

Right.

Midge turns to Hubert.

MIDGE

You all wait here and listen for my signal, ok?

HUBERT

Understood.

Nick hands him a key for a wind-up toy.

NICK

Good luck.

HUBERT

You too.

Midge and Nick stealthily run toward the castle. Rudolph hovers just above them.

They hide behind a tree. Rudolph's red light barely grazes past them. They're sitting ducks.

NICK

What do we do?

Midge thinks for a beat.

MIDGE

(imitating a crow)

Caw! Caw!

Hubert hears the signal.

HUBERT

That's the signal. Ready your weapons!

The Barbegazis hold up their wind-up keys.

HUBERT (CONT'D)

Ready? Aim.

Each Barbegazi winds up a chattering teeth toy.

HUBERT (CONT'D)

Fire!

They release an army of chattering teeth waddling towards the castle.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE ROOFTOP - NIGHT

A ROOFTOP GUARD scans the grounds.

ROOFTOP GUARD

What the?

The teeth are coming in hot.

ROOFTOP GUARD (CONT'D)

Intruders!

Soldiers flock toward the teeth, including Rudolph.

MIDGE

Now!

Midge and Nick sprint and slip through to the castle's side entrance.

Nick pauses and admires the pandemonium.

NICK  
Some of my best work.

MIDGE  
C'mon.

NICK  
Right.

INT. CLAUD CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

Carol and Chestnut approach the King, sitting gleefully on his throne.

KING CLAUD  
Ah, Carol! How 'bout this ball,  
huh?!

CAROL  
The greatest there ever was, Your  
Highness.

Chestnut nods fervently. Awkward pause.

KING CLAUD  
Don't worry. I haven't forgotten  
about our little arrangement. Jolly  
is working up a potion for you as  
we speak. Soon, you'll be as  
enchanting as the rest of us.

CAROL  
Thank you, Sir, and I wanted to  
give you a token of my  
appreciation.

She presents the lemming, looking as cute as it can be.

KING CLAUD  
Well, isn't he just adorable? I  
shall call him Winston.

Winston makes eye contact with Carol. She quickly averts her eyes.

CAROL  
Well, I'm glad you like him, Sir.



The King's too engrossed in cuddling with Winston to pay her attention.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Ok, bye.

She and Chestnut race back to the dessert table.

CAROL (CONT'D)

And now we wait.

OFF: The King tickling Winston's belly.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Midge and Nick sneak into the large industrial kitchen.

An ELF CHEF cleans the floors, singing *Good King Wenceslas*.

ELF CHEF

Good King Claus looked out/  
On the Feast of Stephen/  
When the snow lay round about/  
Deep and crisp and even

NICK

What do we do?

Midge scans the room.

MIDGE

Follow me.

She climbs onto the counters.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

We're too high up. He won't see us.

NICK

Midge Claus, you're a genius.

They duck walk across the counter.

ELF CHEF

(singing)

Brightly shone the moon that night/  
Though the frost was cruel/  
When a poor man came in sight/  
Gathering winter fuel

Midge knocks a glass over. *CLASH!*

ELF CHEF (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

They freeze. He jumps but can't see the countertops.

The coast is clear, and they escape.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

Carol and Chestnut stress eat cream puffs while watching the King and Winston.

CAROL  
C'mon Winston. Any minute now would do.

Suddenly, Winston's eyes glow, as do the King's. Carol swats a cream puff out of Chestnut's grip.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
It's go time.

The King stands slowly and robotically walks out the ballroom.

Carol and Chestnut follow.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The King zombie walks to his throne and sits. Carol and Chestnut peep their heads in.

CAROL  
You distract, and I'll grab his ring, ok?

Chestnut whips out a top hat and bow tie and tap dances into the room. The King laughs.

Carol sneaks behind his throne and gently grabs his hand. The King doesn't notice. She slowly slides the ring down his finger.

Chestnut ramps up her moves: shuffle ball, ball change, step-heel and heel-step, and single buffalo.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Almost there.

The ring's mere millimeters from freedom.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Just a little bit more.

*SNATCH!* The King's hand grapples Carol's. His eyes are no longer hazy and glowing.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Midge and Nick tiptoe into a large hallway.

A GUARD patrols. Midge digs through her pockets for the sleep berries she almost ate earlier.

NICK  
What are those?

MIDGE  
Sleep berries. If it weren't for  
Carol --

NICK  
Who's Carol?

Midge reflects bittersweetly.

MIDGE  
Not important.

She tosses the berries into the hallway.

GUARD  
What was that? Ah, berries!!

He eats them and immediately passes out. They step over him.

NICK  
Remind me not to mess with you.

MIDGE  
I think that's for the best.

They share a smile. Is Midge blushing? Nick definitely is.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
We should go.

NICK  
Yes, of course.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE DUNGEON - NIGHT

For a bright and cheery place like the North Pole, the dungeon's very dark and cold.

The King throws Carol and Chestnut into a cell.

KING CLAUS

You really think you can hypnotize me? A King?

Chestnut cowers in fear. Carol scowls.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

I knew you were peculiar, given your, well, situation, but I thought you harmless. But now, you've filled my daughter's head with doubts about our traditions and tried to steal our magic. You're a threat to society, Carol. And I can't allow your influence on my elves.

CAROL

Me, a danger? Last I checked, isn't it always the bad guys who throw people into dungeons?

She gestures to Jolly, trapped in the neighboring cell.

JOLLY

Please, Your Highness. I was only trying to help.

The King reddens.

KING CLAUS

I must do what's right for my Kingdom.

CAROL

And what about Midge?

KING CLAUS

The Princess understands that our people must come first, above all else. Which is why the magic crystal is now hidden and safe, where no one will ever be able to find it.

He conjures a decoy ring to wear.

CAROL

You will never get away with this.  
People will notice Midge's missing  
and...

KING CLAUS

Good point.

He snaps his fingers, and Carol transforms into a Midge clone  
and Chestnut into a Nick clone.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

Now, they'll never know.

CAROL

You can't do this!

The King holds Winston. The two are instantly hypnotized.

He leans in closer to Carol.

KING CLAUS

And as for your magic, there's no  
secret potion. I made it all up. If  
you never had magic, you never  
will...I'll get you two later -  
everyone will be thrilled to see  
their Princess and Nick safe.

He walks away, chuckling. Tinsel approaches.

TINSEL

Sir, we have a situation.

She reveals a chattering tooth.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Midge and Nick peek their heads into the ballroom.

MIDGE

I don't see him. Do you?

NICK

Negative.

They watch the festivities.

MIDGE

Look at them. If they only knew the  
truth.

Handsome Elf conjures a ROSE for his dance partner.

NICK  
Do you really think they'd care?

KING CLAUS (O.C.)  
Round up your troops, Captain, and  
prepare for battle.

Midge and Nick hide behind a Chris Kringle statue. The King and Tinsel pop out from a secret bookshelf doorway.

Tinsel's face pales.

TINSEL  
Battle? They're just toys, sir.

King Claus holds the chattering teeth.

KING CLAUS  
Just toys? No, this is a warning.  
Someone or something infiltrated  
our Kingdom, and they must be  
stopped.

Tinsel cold sweats.

TINSEL  
Yes. Your Highness.

KING CLAUS  
Jingle! Where's my snow globe!

The two rejoin the ball. Midge and Nick remerge.

MIDGE  
We have a secret door?!

Midge inspects the bookshelf.

NICK  
I thought you knew every inch of  
this place?

MIDGE  
Me too. Start pulling books. There  
has to be a lever or something.

Midge frantically grabs books left and right. Nick scans the shelves. He spies a book titled: The History of Claus Castle.

He grabs it, instantly opening the secret door. They both fall forward into...

INT. CLAUS CASTLE DUNGEON - CONTINUOUS

Midge lands on top of Nick. An awkward beat.

NICK  
(stuttering)  
H--hi.

She rapidly stands up and dusts herself off.

MIDGE  
Sorry.

NICK  
(sotto)  
I'm not.

MIDGE  
What?

NICK  
Uh, where are we?

They look around, passing empty cells.

MIDGE  
It's a dungeon. Why would we have a  
dungeon? Jolly?!

She races to him.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
What happened? Are you ok?

NICK (O.S.)  
Midge?

He stands in front of Carol and Chestnut's cell.

NICK (CONT'D)  
It's us?

Nick raises his hand. Hypnotized Chestnut mirrors him.

NICK (CONT'D)  
What's going on?

MIDGE  
I don't know.

She spies Winston.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Hey! I know you. Get out of here  
before I find a nice ledge for you.

Winston scurries off. Carol and Chestnut snap out of it.

CAROL

Midge?!

MIDGE

Who are you?! And why do you look  
like us?!

CAROL

Midge, it's me - Carol.

MIDGE

Oh, and I'm supposed to believe  
you?

CAROL

You're right. I've been a terrible  
friend.

A beat.

MIDGE

And?

CAROL

And what? You want me to grovel or  
something? Cause I won't. I'd  
rather stay in here and rot than...

Suddenly, the cell door unlocks. Nick picked it with one of  
his fancy handmade tools.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Wait. You believe me?

MIDGE

That apology was colder than a lump  
of coal. It could only be from you.

CAROL

So we're good?

MIDGE

Only if you give me a hug.

Carol turns to Nick.

CAROL

Lock me back in here, would ya?



Midge hugs her from behind. Carol fights a smile, and Chestnut joins in.

MIDGE  
Chestnut! Oh, I've missed you,  
buddy.

CAROL  
So what do we do about your Dad?  
And can you change us back?

MIDGE  
Not yet. Just wait. I have an idea.

Off: Midge's iconic puckish smile.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - NIGHT

Elven soldiers surround the entrance, en garde.

A large monstrous shadow hovers over them, letting out a deafening ROAR.

The guards run for their lives.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE DUNGEON - LATER

Midge paces around the cells. Nick teaches Chestnut how to walk in her human body, and Carol practices her princess wave.

MIDGE  
What are you doing?

CAROL  
Do I make a convincing you?

She continues waving.

MIDGE  
What? I don't wave like that. Who  
waves like that?

CAROL  
Princesses?

Carol performs various curtsies.

MIDGE  
Just act natural and hold off my  
Dad, so we search the castle.

They hear footsteps approaching.

NICK  
Someone's coming.

Carol and Chestnut race back into their cell.

Midge and Nick hide. Nutmeg enters.

NUTMEG  
Ok you two. Time to go to the party.

She ushers the "hypnotized" Carol and Chestnut out. Midge turns to Nick.

MIDGE  
Ok. Ready to go find some magic?

He fidgets and shifts his eyes.

NICK  
I, uh...

He notices another statue of his ancestor, Chris Kringle, then pushes his glasses up the bridge of his nose.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Born ready.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

The party is still young and lively. Carol and Chestnut enter nervously.

CAROL  
Ok. Act natural yet hypnotized...easy.

Chestnut wobbles straight for the pastry table.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
(forceful whisper)  
Chestnut, don't leave me. Chestnut!

JINGLE  
Welcome back, Your Highness. Glad you're feeling better, but what are you wearing?

She snaps her fingers and Carol's clothes transforms into an uncomfortable ball gown.

JINGLE (CONT'D)

Much better.

Carol can barely breathe.

KING CLAUS

Ah, there you are, Princess. Come  
sit next to me.

Carol obeys, sitting on her throne. She eyes Chestnut whose stuffing her face with danishes.

Chestnut looks up at her. Carol points to the window and mouths:

CAROL

Open it.

Chestnut nods. The King glances, and Carol quickly points to a Christmas tree.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Prreeetty.

Chestnut wobbles to the window, trying her best to remain unseen. She fidgets with the latch with her unfamiliar fingers and manages to open it just as Handsome Elf twirls by.

HANDSOME ELF

Nick?! Is that you? You're back!  
Everyone! Nick's back!

The music stops, and all eyes are on Chestnut.

HANDSOME ELF (CONT'D)

What happened?! Tell us everything.

Chestnut panics until *ROAR!*

A giant, monstrous shadow casts through the window and projects onto the ballroom walls. *ROAR!*

Tinsel races in.

TINSEL

The Barbegazis! They're coming!

Chaos ensues. The King slips out unnoticed.

EXT. CLAUS CASTLE - OUTSIDE BALLROOM WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL: Hubert casts the monster shadow puppet into the ballroom while a second Barbegazi growls into a makeshift megaphone.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Midge and Nick tear the room apart, looking for the magic crystal.

MIDGE

Where is it? It has to be in here.

NICK

Maybe it's somewhere else.

MIDGE

We looked everywhere else.

NICK

Well, maybe there are more secret rooms, like the dungeon.

Midge picks up the snow globe. She looks into it and sees herself, Nick, and the King behind them.

MIDGE

What the?

KING CLAUS (O.C.)

Very smart, Nick.

They turn around, and the King emerges from the shadows.

MIDGE

Dad?!

Midge drops the snow globe. It shatters, revealing the real Christmas crystal inside.

Midge leaps for it, but the Kings freezes her from the waist down.

NICK

Midge!

Nick lunges for it, and is also frozen from the waist down.

The King picks it up and places it on his finger.

MIDGE

Let us go!

KING CLAUS

Midge, I'm sorry, but I can't. Not while you're being so careless. There's so much you don't understand.

MIDGE

I know you sent me on a wild goose chase.

KING CLAUS

I was only trying to protect you. Just as I am now.

MIDGE

From what? The truth? That we steal the magic?

NICK

The Barbegazis told us everything.

KING CLAUS

The Barbegazis?

He summons a book from a nearby shelf and opens it to an image of a Barbegazi using the crystal to wreak havoc on a village.

MIDGE

What is this?

KING CLAUS

Before us, the Barbegazis used the crystal as a weapon.

MIDGE

This can't be true. Can it?

NICK

No way. Hubert would never - could never...

The King places his hands on Midge's shoulder.

KING CLAUS

I'm afraid it is. You see, Barbegazis will do or say anything for the magic. They kidnapped Nick, didn't they?

Midge's confidence waivers.

MIDGE

They did tie you in a sack.

NICK  
Technically yes, but--

KING CLAUS  
Look, I know you were trying to do  
the right thing, and that makes me  
so proud.

That struck a chord.

MIDGE  
You are?

KING CLAUS  
Of course! But we must do what's  
right for *our* people. Trust me?

Midge contemplates.

NICK  
Midge?

KING CLAUS  
Without our magic, we won't survive  
the winter. I've already doubled  
chocolate production and increased  
heat to cope.

NICK  
That'll use up all the magic.

Midge spies two little reindeer flying and laughing outside.  
She turns to Nick.

MIDGE  
What will happen to them?

NICK  
The magic doesn't belong to us.

KING CLAUS  
Don't let those cunning Barbegazis  
get to you.

She glances at the book more closely: an image of a hideous  
monster breathing fire and burning down the village.

MIDGE  
This doesn't even look like the  
Barbegazis. They don't have fangs  
or claws.

KING CLAUS  
Well they're shape-shifters.

MIDGE

Since when?

She flips through the pages.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

Where does it say that?

The King closes the book.

KING CLAUS

My Grandfather, your Great-Grandfather, wrote this book. You don't believe your own flesh and blood?

MIDGE

Have you ever met a Barbegazi, Dad? Actually, have you ever left the North Pole?

KING CLAUS

Why would I?

MIDGE

Because the world's a beautiful place - not just the North Pole. And it's full of wonderful creatures like snow people and the Barbegazis. And if you've ever left the walls you've caged us in, you'd find that they're kind and gentle and...

They hear the screams from the ballroom plus a deafening ROAR!

MIDGE (CONT'D)

What have I done?

KING CLAUS

Who's going to believe Barbegazis are kind and gentle now? You know what? This is good, I'll go "save the day" and no one will ever question my authority again. All will be back to normal.

He heads for the door.

NICK

Stay right there!

The King turns around. Nick wields a slingshot (of his own making) - aimed right at him.

The King laughs.

KING CLAUS

What are you gonna do? Hit me? Your King?

Nick's hands shake.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

You don't have it in you. You're nothing like your Father or the great Chris Kringle.

NICK

You're right, I so much better than them. And I'm gonna give back what they stole!

He changes direction and fires towards the ice covering Midge's feet. She breaks free.

MIDGE

Holy jingle bells, Nick! That was awesome!

KING CLAUS

ENOUGH! I will not have my own daughter ruin the Kingdom I've built.

He zaps ice rays at her. Midge swerves. It freezes a painting.

MIDGE

A Kingdom built on lies and deceit.

He zaps again and misses. Midge ducks behind the throne.

KING CLAUS (O.C.)

You can't win. Not without magic.

Midge scans the room, and spies a golden hand mirror next to the crown jewel display.

She grins.

MIDGE

Bingo.

She races towards it. The King zaps more ice and misses.



KING CLAUS

One day you'll understand that this  
is for your own good.

He powers up his rings and zaps a large ice ray. Midge brandishes the mirror and it ricochets back to the King - freezing him solid.

NICK

Woah.

Midge sling shots Nick free.

MIDGE

C'mon. We gotta go! This won't hold  
him long.

They race out not noticing the giant crack forming over the King's iced body.

INT. CLAUS CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

It's mayhem. Elves run and hide. The shadow monster reveals its fangs.

CAROL

(over-acting)

Oh no. Someone save us. Help.  
Barbegazis are so terrifying.

MIDGE (O.S.)

STOP!

Midge runs in, waving her arms.

TINSEL

Princess?

Everyone double-takes between the real Midge and Carol.

MIDGE

Long story, but everyone, please  
listen!

The room silences - even the shadow monster.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

The Barbegazis aren't bad. Watch.  
Hubert, you can come out.

The shadow disappears, and Hubert meekly climbs into the ballroom.

HANDSOME ELF

Who's that little bearded guy?

MIDGE

This is Hubert, and he's a  
Barbegazi.

Hubert nervously waves.

HUBERT

Hello there.

Midge addresses the room.

MIDGE

Our whole lives, we've been told  
that Barbegazis are these  
terrifying monsters, but they're  
not. They're just like you and me.

More Barbegazis climb through the window. The elves watch and  
listen inquisitively.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

You see, we've been stealing the  
magic crystal from them for  
centuries and using it just for  
ourselves.

The room murmurs.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

But the Barbegazis want to share  
the magic with everyone in the  
world. Nick?

Nick pulls out his latest invention: a praxinoscope and  
projects the same Dark Ages vignettes Midge saw at Mt. Myrrh.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

This is what's happening to people  
across the world ever since we've  
been stealing the magic for  
ourselves.

The rooms looks on horrified. Midge bows her head in shame.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

I thought if I could scare everyone  
and steal the crystal back, all  
would be right. But all I was doing  
was perpetuating a lie about the  
Barbegazis and the magic.

The King enters, furious, but sees the projections and stops to listen.

MIDGE (CONT'D)

So no more lies. You deserve the truth. And the truth is, the magic isn't ours. It belongs to everyone. I love the North Pole. And I believe that, given a choice, we'd do what's right, which means giving back the magic to the Barbegazis. What do you say?

She looks around. Everyone's hesitant.

HANDSOME ELF

No more magic? Ever?

Midge's dejected. A long, sad beat.

*CLAP, CLAP, CLAP!* Jolly appears and slow claps.

JOLLY

Here, here!

More join in until everyone breaks out into applause, even Handsome Elf.

The King approaches - dumbfounded.

KING CLAUS

All this time, I thought I was doing what's best for my people. Protecting them from the outside world. I was wrong.

He takes off his ring and hands it to Hubert.

KING CLAUS (CONT'D)

I believe this belongs to you.

HUBERT

Thank you.

He removes the crystal from the ring. Carol and Chestnut transform back to themselves. Handsome Elf loses his hair and everyone - their magic.

The King turns to Midge and removes his crown.

KING CLAUS

And this belongs to you.

MIDGE

Say what?

KING CLAUS

From this moment forward, I hereby abdicate the throne.

MIDGE

Dad, I can't do this.

KING CLAUS

You're what's best for us. Long live Queen Midge Claus!

EVERYONE

Long live Queen Midge Claus!

HANDSOME ELF

Now let's party!

Both elves and Barbegazis dance and celebrate together. Carol shimmies next to Handsome Elf.

CAROL

I like the new look.

HANDSOME ELF

Really?! Wanna dance?

CAROL

Yea whatever.

They dance together.

Nick stands in the corner. Midge joins him.

MIDGE

You there! Loyal subject.

Nick smiles.

NICK

Yes, Your Highness?

MIDGE

I'd like to present to you a token of my gratitude for, uh, your courage and, um, your bravery...

NICK

Bravery's the same as cour--

Midge quickly kisses his cheek. He almost faints.

Carol approaches.

CAROL  
You did it.

MIDGE  
We did it.

CAROL  
What is the North Pole without  
magic?

MIDGE  
I have an idea, but I'll need your  
help.

Midge flashes her puckish smile.

EXT. NORTH POLE - DAY

**Chyron: One Year Later**

The whole village is buzzing.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
And so the North Pole adapted to  
life outside of magic, with the  
help of some friends.

- Jolly and Fiona teach farmer elves how to grow sustainably.
- President Blanche, Aspen, and Snow people help construct new gingerbread houses.
- Jingle paints and decorates the final touches on a large red sleigh.
- Chestnut leads the reindeer in stretches as Midge passes by.

MIDGE  
Is something happening today?

Dasher raises her eyebrows.

MIDGE (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding! Good luck tonight,  
guys.

Nick rounds the corner, holding a kaleidoscope.

NICK  
Merry Christmas.

MIDGE

For me? What is it?

She looks inside.

NICK

I call it a kaleidoscope.  
I thought we could roll these out  
next year, and I'm working on a  
teddy bear prototype...

Midge kisses him.

MIDGE

It's beautiful, Nick. Thank you.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)

The North Pole is happier than  
ever, under Queen Midge, because  
she gave them something no magic  
could ever do...

Midge and Nick hold hands and walk into...

INT. NORTH POLE WORKSHOP - DAY

A newly constructed workshop to build millions of toys. Some  
elves tinker away on blocks and yo-yos while others sew dolls  
and stuffed animals.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)

...A purpose. Something to wake up  
and feel proud of.

Carol trains a group of elves how to wrap a present.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)

And as for this, once castaway,  
elf...

CAROL

Now you take a corner and tape it  
here.

Handsome Elf manages to tape his hands together.

HANDSOME ELF

I can't do this.

Carol fights frustration.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
 Well, she's more popular than ever,  
 sharing everything she's learned  
 from a lifetime without magic.

Carol takes a deep breath.

CAROL  
 Sure, you can. You just need some  
 practice.

He tries again and succeeds.

HANDSOME ELF  
 I did it!

CAROL  
 Great. One down. One million to go.

Midge and Nick approach.

MIDGE  
 Are we still on track for tonight?

CAROL  
 It'll be down to the wire, but yes.

NICK  
 I can't believe this is actually  
 happening—one toy for every child.

MIDGE  
 It's the least we can do. Now,  
 where's a hammer?

She picks up a hammer and joins in.

SQUEAKY FEMALE ELF (V.O.)  
 With the help of Nick, Carol, and  
 all the North Pole - Christmas is  
 no longer about the magic of a  
 crystal. It has become a season of  
 giving back to the world and  
 spreading joy, creating a legacy of  
 kindness and happiness that will be  
 remembered for generations - Thanks  
 to Queen Midge.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

The whole village is gathered as the last bag is lifted onto  
 the sleigh.

Dasher has her team of reindeer strapped in and ready to go.

Nick mounts the sleigh. Midge approaches with Hubert, holding a small sliver of the Christmas crystal.

HUBERT

As promised, enough magic for one night.

Midge hugs him.

MIDGE

Thank you, Hubert. And thank you for trusting us. Can't fly around the world without magic, right?

HUBERT

And the world can't go round without trust.

The reindeer immediately hover.

NICK

You coming or what?

MIDGE

Me? You kidding? I gotta run this show. Now get going; the clock's ticking.

Nick soars into the clouds. Chestnut managed to sneak onto the sleigh and waves to everyone cheering below.

Midge races to...

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Elves watch a snow globe projecting Nick onto a large screen, tracking his flight. Midge enters.

MIDGE

What do we got?

CAROL

A snowstorm heading toward St. Petersburg.

Midge leans closer to the snow globe.

MIDGE

Nick, a storm's on your tail. Use the headwinds and fly above it, ok?



NICK (O.S.)

Roger that.

Midge addresses the room.

MIDGE

Alright, team, it's going to be a  
long, bumpy night. Buckle Up!

OFF: That puckish smile.

THE END.