



Elf Control

Series 1

Version 2.3 - 16/7/19

by

Rodney Spottiswood

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year.

CHARACTERS

MAIN		
CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	VOICE
Elphonse	Head elf, workshop foreman, reports directly to Santa. Is self interested and the smartest elf at the North Pole (just ask him). Avoids work and (mis)manages budgets.	Cary Elwes/Danger Mouse/Blackadder. Very well spoken, slight English accent, articulate, talks down to others.
Grumble	Personal assistant to Elphonse and head reindeer keeper. Lacks competency and personal hygiene but is ever present.	Defeated & deflated
Melfa	Elf Control receptionist, feels like she really runs things. Is very experienced, cynical and has contempt for Elphonse who she considers overpaid and lazy.	Officious, motherly. A bit of an annoying squawky quality.
Santa Claus	The boss, the jolly fat man who's jolly comes from his Eggnog flask. Dislikes naughty children, interests include giving presents and Grumble.	Santa as you'd expect
Mrs Claus	Wife of the fat man, sweet on the surface but has a mean streak and likes getting her own way.	Sweet and motherly but with a stern, cutting edge at times.
Voiceover	The professional voiceover artist, who's a bit tired of his job, self deprecating and doesn't get the attention or love he deserves	Eloquent, deep, refined, silky smooth.
Workshop		
Elaph	Chief worker Elf, paid up member of the union, very disgruntled with the poor management and working conditions, reports to despised foreman, Elphonse.	Scottish, deep, gruff, union man's voice.
Elperta	Fellow disgruntled worker Elf, she is the voice of reason when Elaph gets a head full of steam.	Girly elf voice
Elfis	Hard working Elf who would also be disgruntled if he knew what it meant.	A bit dopey, but happy in his blissful ignorance
Secondary		
Elfrid	Works in the mail room, aspires to be in the workshop one day.	Youthful
Yonder-Elf	South Pole Ambassador	Has a thick accent
Elfira	Santa's absent assistant	-
Nurse	Hospital worker	Female
Carl	Store kid	Little boy
Bessy	Store kid	Little girl with lisp
Ethan	Store kid	Little boy
Paula	Store kid	Little girl

INDEX

Episode 1 – Reindeer Howitzer	4
Episode 2 – Hospital Visit	8
Episode 3 – The Workshop	13
Episode 4 – Preparing for Store Visit	17
Episode 5 – Store Visit	20
Episode 6 – Elphonse’s Plan	25
Episode 7 – Rumours/Party Plan	29
Episode 8 – Christmas Party	34
Episode 9 – The Guests	38
Episode 10 – Christmas Eve	43

Episode 1 – Reindeer Howitzer

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year.

Sc1 Intro – Elphonse's office

SFX – phone rings

MELFA (*answering phone*):

Elf Control, Melfa speaking how can I help you?.....Putting you through.

(*Over intercom*) Elphonse, call on line 1.

ELPHONSE:

Thank you Melfa, who is it?

MELFA:

I don't know.

ELPHONSE

Could you find out please?

MELFA

You'll find out when you take the call.

ELPHONSE

Melfa you're fired.

MELFA

You can't fire me.

ELPHONSE

(*sigh*) Regrettably.... Hello, Elphonse speaking, how can I endure you today?.....I see, yes.
Thanks so much for your call, bye now. (*click*) Grumble!! (*yelling*)

GRUMBLE

Yes boss.

ELPHONSE

Where did you come from?

GRUMBLE

I was under your desk.

ELPHONSE

Well that explains the smell, I thought I'd stepped in something. I'm sorry to have to wake you during business hours but we've had another incident with your reindeer.

GRUMBLE

With my new one?

ELPHONSE

Yes, Venison got out the gate again, he's almost destroyed Mrs Claus's holly tree!

GRUMBLE

Ooh, holly doesn't agree with reindeer.

ELPHONSE

If by 'not agree with' you mean he's now spraying poo pellets like a deer howitzer, than yes! Do something about it now before somebody gets shot. Or my elf boot won't be agreeing with your elf butt. Like I can afford another Elf-cover claim.

GRUMBLE

Righto sir, I'll get the cork.

ELPHONSE

And make sure Mrs Claus doesn't find out or she'll have me fired, any excuse, (muttering) miserable woman.

SFX – bell ringing

ELPHONSE

And hurry up, I've got to see the fat man.

Sc 2 – Santa's Office

SFX – knocking on door

SANTA

Elphonse, come in. I've been hearing some strange noises.

ELPHONSE

I apologise sir, you see when the deer eat holly...

SANTA

Whispers, murmurs...

ELPHONSE

Sir?

SANTA

Coming from the workshop, the workshop that *you* are in charge of.

It seems the Elves aren't jolly?

ELPHONSE

Aren't *jolly* sir?

SANTA

Why are my Elves not jolly Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Well sir if I may be so bold but I do have a few ideas.

SANTA

Go on...

ELPHONSE

Well they *are* over worked, underpaid, under nourished, the heating needs servicing, no holidays, those ergonomic standing work benches still haven't arrived...

SANTA

Maybe a change in foreman might help?

ELPHONSE

...and they are most ungrateful and the (SANTA JOINS HIM SAYING) *joy of the children should be payment enough.*

SANTA

Good, glad we're on the same page. Make sure there are no disruptions to toy making or it will be time for you to ho-ho-go. Am I understood?

ELPHONSE

Yes Santa

SANTA

And fetch me more Eggnog on your way out (BURP!!)

Sc 3 - Elf Control

SFX – gun fire, bustling activity sounds coming through the radio

GRUMBLE (*through the radio*)

Come here you varmint. (BANG!) Ah I've been hit, this is Grumble, I've taken fire, we have an Elf down

MELFA

You mean your stupid reindeer just pooped at you.

GRUMBLE

Yep, it's nasty.

MELFA

Get off the radio Grumble

GRUMBLE

10-4 over. I think I'll be ok.

SFX - DOOR OPENING

MELFA

How's it going Elphonse?

ELPHONSE (sounding tired)

Jingle bells what a day. So the gate's fixed, the fat man will pass out soon giving us all some peace and Mrs Claus's beloved holly tree has been rescued, she won't even know what hit her.

Grumble interrupts over the radio

GRUMBLE

*Elphonse, come in. We have an emergency.
It's Grumble here.*

ELPHONSE

Obviously, what is it?!

GRUMBLE

Mrs Claus just took a round to the head, fat lady down, I repeat we have a fat lady down.

MELFA

You were saying Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Oh my humbug.

VO

The Christmas joy appears to be on hold momentarily at the North Pole, that dear, holly-loving deer Venison – what will become of him? And will Mrs Claus find out what did hit her? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 2 – Hospital Visit

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year. With Mrs Claus in the Elf-mergency room after being shot by a lethal deer poo-pellet Santa is keen to get to the bottom of it.

Sc 1 – Santa's office

SANTA

Elphonse, fetch me another pitcher of egg-nog,
I'm at the bottom of this one. Now where is my wife?

ELPHONSE

You do know that Elfira is your personal assistant,
not me?!

SANTA

That wretched elf!
Say my name Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

Sorry sir?

SANTA

Say my name.

ELPHONSE

Santa?

SANTA

My other name.

ELPHONSE

Saint Nick, Father Christmas?

SANTA

Ah Father Christmas.
Who is the father of Christmas little elf?

ELPHONSE

You are sir.

SANTA

So if I ask you to fetch my egg-nog, how do you respond?

ELPHONSE

I get it sir.

SANTA

Exactly. Now where is *your* little assistant?

ELPHONSE

Who, Grumble?

SANTA

Yees, I noticed he was wearing some new tights the other day.

ELPHONSE

(PAUSE) Here's your egg-nog.

SANTA

Ah good, yes thanks. Now where is my wife?

ELPHONSE

You haven't heard sir?

SANTA

Heard what?

ELPHONSE

That she's in hospital...ah...visiting a friend.

SANTA

Really???

When did *she* get a friend?

Sc 2 – Elf Control

ELPHONSE

Melfa, get me the hospital on the line, we've got to make sure word doesn't get out.

MELFA

You do know that Grumble is your personal assistant, not me?!

ELPHONSE

Say my name Melfa

MELFA

Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

(PAUSE) Right. Grumble! (*yelling*)

GRUMBLE

Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

(surprised by Grumble) Oh you're here.

The fat man doesn't know his wife is in hospital because your deer keeping skills are as good as your hygiene. If your reindeer Venison hadn't eaten Mrs Claus's holly bush she wouldn't have been shot by a fecal pellet rocket.

GRUMBLE

I'll prepare the sled!

MELFA

Or you could just walk?

ELPHONSE

Quick Grumble, prepare the sled, we must make haste.

MELFA

It'd be quicker to walk

ELPHONSE

Don't delay Grumble.

MELFA

The hospital's next door for Santa's sake.

Sc 3 – Hospital

SFX – ambient hospital noise

GRUMBLE

Here we are sir.

ELPHONSE

Oh, was I asleep?

GRUMBLE

Yeah, I got lost.

ELPHONSE

But-?! How did-

GRUMBLE *(defensive)*

It was Venison's first time pulling the sled.

ELPHONSE

It's that stupid deer's fault that we're here in the first place!

I'll be spreading mustard on a slice of him very soon.
Now lets find Mrs Claus.

NURSE

Mrs Claus? She's just through here.

ELPHONSE

How is she?

NURSE

Ooh still out of it I'm afraid, it's a terrible thing, I wonder what happened, she's got a big lump on her head.

GRUMBLE

They didn't clean the poo off?

ELPHONSE

Yes just terrible. We believe she (*scrambling to explain*) hit her head on a branch whilst in the garden.

NURSE

Oh. You can go in and see her now, just keep that little feller away from her.
He's a bit weird isn't he?

ELPHONSE

Pungent too. Right here she is.

MRS CLAUS

(moaning)

GRUMBLE

She's coming too sir. Shall I get the mean nurse?

ELPHONSE

No let's see if we can talk to her. Mrs Claus?

MRS CLAUS

Where am I? Elphonse? What's going on?

ELPHONSE

There was a little accident.

MRS CLAUS

The last thing I remember...I was on my way somewhere and (SEEING GRUMBLE)
that little stink goblin was running about.

GRUMBLE

I'm going to wait in the sled.

ELPHONSE

You hit your head...on a branch ma'am.

MRS CLAUS

Really? The last thing I remember is I was coming to find you at the workshop.

ELPHONSE

(surprised) Me?

MRS CLAUS

Yes the workshop elves, they don't seem very happy. Is everything OK down in the workshop Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Why yes, of course ma'am.

MRS CLAUS

Well things better be OK down there,
I guess working for *you* would make *me* kind of miserable.

ELPHONSE

Or it could be the under resourcing
and Santa's budget cuts.

MRS CLAUS

Watch your tone Elphonse or I'll have your job.
Now get me out of here, it's stinks of reindeer!

ELPHONSE

With a hint of holly ma'am.

VO

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas but is trouble brewing in the workshop? Is another storm brewing in Venison's four chamber/4 caliber stomach?
And will Santa get my letter this year? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 3 – The Workshop

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year around preparing for that one special day of the year. The workshop is at its busiest, non-stop 24/7 getting all the toys ready with no penalty rates to be seen.

Sc1 – Elphonse's office

SFX – phone ringing

MELFA

Elf Control, how may I help you? Putting you through. Elphonse, call on line 1.

ELPHONSE

Who is it?

MELFA

How should I know?

ELPHONSE

It's your job.

MELFA

And it's your job to manage the workshop but I haven't seen you down there for a month.

ELPHONSE

It's so *depressing* down there.

(Picks up phone)

Hello, Elphonse speaking?

ELFRID

It's Elfrid from the mail room Elphonse,
I've got some bad news.

ELPHONSE *(sounding hopeful)*

Christmas has been cancelled?

My assistant Grumble has been abducted?

ELFRID

Well we've already received a lot of letters and haven't had one asking Santa for anything made out of wood?

ELPHONSE

What are you talking about? No wooden cars?

ELFRID

Nope.

ELPHONSE

Wooden train sets?

ELFRID

Nope.

ELPHONSE

Houses, soldiers?

ELFRID

Nope, nope.

ELPHONSE

Well what do you think the elves have been making for the last 11 and a half months?!

ELFRID

The letters are asking mostly asking for a Game-box...

ELPHONSE

Game-what?

ELFRID

It's a gaming console, computer game thing.

ELPHONSE

Grumble!!! Get me the schematics for a 'Game-box'.

GRUMBLE

You mean a wooden box sir?

ELPHONSE

No, a Game-box and find out what it is while you're at it.

GRUMBLE

Righto

ELPHONSE

And possibly a bath sometime this century wouldn't hurt either.

ELFRID

There is one letter asking for a 3 wood.

ELPHONSE

That's a golf club. Goodbye Elfrid.

Oh my humbug.

Sc 2 – The Workshop

SFX - the singing of happy, working elves – which turns out to be Elfis’s ringtone.

ELAPH

Jumping Jingle Bells Elfis, answer your phone and change that bleeding ringtone before I jam it in your pointy ear!

ELFIS

Hello? (music stops as he answers) OK. (he hangs up) Green alert. The frog is on the pond, I repeat the frog is on the pond.

ELPERTA

What’s he talking about Elaph?

ELAPH

Foreman Elphonse is on his way down here,
look sharp Elperta.

ELPERTA

Phht, whatever.

ELFIS

He probably wants to make sure we have hit our
quotas of which we’ve exceeded.

ELAPH

He’s probably coming down here to hide from the boss, Elphonse is a weasel in an Elf suit,
lazing around his fancy home while we do all the work.

SFX – door opening

ELPHONSE

Ah my team, how are we all doing?

(Grumbles of acknowledgement)

It, ah, seems management may have missed the mark a little on what the demand for toys
will be this year.

ELAPH

And by management you mean you?

ELPHONSE

Well not entirely Elaph...who here knows how to build a Game-box?

VO

The elves workshop, where Santa's helpers are hard at work making toys for all the good children, equipped with adequate tools, plans and training;

ELAPH (interjecting)

Hardly?!

and a safe workplace conducive to mass toy production,

SFX – bandsaw

RANDOM ELF (Screaming)

Ah my finger!!

I mean..haha...it's not as if they're...*slaves*...find out more next time on Elf Control.

Episode 4 – Preparing for Store Visit

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year. There's extra buzz in the Winter Wonderland this morning as preparations are made for Santa's department store appearance, yes kids you just never know when it may just be the real Santa, how to tell? Egnog breath instead of straight whiskey is one way.

Sc 1 – Santa's Office

SANTA

...so then I said you call that a sack?!

ELPHONSE *(not amused)*

Yes Santa, most amusing but we really must hustle, the store opens at 9 sharp.

SANTA

Ok, ok Elphonse you pointy eared giblet, just remember who's in charge around here. I wear the red suit, I tell *you* what's what. (Burp)

ELPHONSE

(reacting to the smell of eggnog breath)
Oooh, eggnog for breakfast sir?

SANTA

Where has Mrs Claus put my trousers?!

ELPHONSE

May I ask the whereabouts of your assistant Elfira sir? Your 'Executive Assistant' doesn't make a habit of doing any assisting really does she.

SANTA

You know Elphonse for such a little Elf you do carry a big chip on your shoulder.

ELPHONSE

I'll be waiting with my assistant Grumble at the sled sir. He isn't an executive and most of his assisting is quite the opposite but at least I can usually find him.

SANTA

Mm Grumble...he can assist me anytime...

ELPHONSE

I'll see you post haste *sir*. *(doors slams as he leaves muttering)* Stupid fat oaf, honestly it's a wonder Christmas even happens, well it wouldn't happen if he didn't have me...

MELFA

Morning Elphonse, shouldn't you have left by now?

ELPHONSE

Boy thank you Melfa, remind me to find you the next time I need the bleeding obvious pointed out in an annoyingly squawky voice.

MELFA

Rude. (Intercom buzz) He's right here, OK, I'll let him know. That was Grumble, he's got an issue with the reindeer.

ELPHONSE

Honestly Melfa, the deer would do a better job tending Grumble than he does of them.

Sc 2 – The Stable

SFX - slurping

GRUMBLE

There you go little fella, drink up.

ELPHONSE

What in Santa's name is going on?

GRUMBLE

It's Rudolph sir, he's gotten into Santa's eggnog again, I'm giving him some black coffee.

ELPHONSE (*reacting to stink*)

Gawd Grumble, is it the deer stench that gets on you or yours that gets on the deer?
How did Rudolph get the eggnog?

GRUMBLE

He sniffed out a hidden flask in the sled,
they have keen noses these reindeer.

ELPHONSE

The thought of a keen nose near you gives me chills.
Well he's got a bright, bleedin red nose now, honestly this deer is sozzled as often as the fat man. Make sure he rides up front and, steady on, I think that's enough coffee.

GRUMBLE

Righto.

ELPHONSE

Can't have this ridiculous red nose reindeer puking everywhere again.

GRUMBLE

He gets motion sick when he's up the back.

ELPHONSE

Where is the fat man?! If we're late they'll use the store Santa, not a good look to have the *real* Santa upstaged by an imposter.

SANTA

Ho ho ho, let's go!

ELPHONSE

Oh thank Santa, it's Santa. You didn't find Mrs Claus or Elfira?

SANTA

No both a ho-ho no show I'm afraid. But can't be upstaged by some skinny bloke in my costume now can I Elphonse, let's get this sled in the sky.

ELPHONSE

We really should wait until your pants turn up though, don't you think?

SFX – spewing

GRUMBLE

Ew, Rudolph!

SANTA

Ow it's stinging my Santa legs!

GRUMBLE

Ew right in the sled.

ELPHONSE

Ok, let's go then shall we?

VO

Elphonse, Santa & Grumble fly off
to spread some Christmas cheer,
whilst the contents of Rudolph's stomach
spreads over all the other reindeer.

Join us next time as Santa's annual store visit goes perfectly to plan...or will it-won't it,
maybe...maybe not.

Episode 5 – Store Visit

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year. Santa's in store appearance is the delight of countless boys & girls but the chagrin of Head Elf and occasional workshop foreman, Elphonse, who landed Santa in his department store throne just in the Saint Nick of time – see what I did there?

Sc 1 – Department Store

GRUMBLE

So the sled's stashed out the back, the deer are fed and watered & Rudolph's feeling better although very hung over.

SANTA

Good, good.

GRUMBLE

Can I get off your lap now Santa?

ELPHONSE

Get away Grumble, the kids are about to start arriving in their snot-nosed droves, the line's already around the corner. Now Santa...

SANTA

Let's get this over with then, you know I only like kids when they're sleeping, Elphonse. I hope they'll all be good boys & girls Elphonse, you know I don't like the naughty ones.

ELPHONSE

We'll do our best sir.

GRUMBLE

First child is named Carl, Santa.

SANTA

Oof, well you certainly enjoy your plum pudding don't you. Have you been a good boy this year?

CARL

Yes Santa

SANTA

Have you??

CARL

Well I did get into trouble once Santa, I rode a bike without a helmet.

SANTA

Well that's only a bit naughty...

CARL

And then police caught me and I had to then give the bike back to the kid that which I had stolen it from.

SANTA

A naughty child to start the day!?! Make sure the coal is well stocked Elphonse. Next.

ELPHONSE

Grumble, get us a higher caliber of child would you.

GRUMBLE

Next up is Bethy

BESSY

Hi thanta. (*lisp*)

SANTA

Young Bethy, you seem like a nice girl, what would you like for Christmas?

BESSY

My name's Bethy, I'd like a new bike, a thkipping rope and a game-boxth.

SANTA

Certainly, I'm sure that can be arranged, thanks Bethy.

BESSY

It's Bethy!!!

ELPHONSE

Ah wouldn't you prefer a dolls house
or what about a train set?

BESSY

No!!!

SANTA

Elphonse, stay out of this. What are you doing?

ELPHONSE

Well Sir, it's just that the workshop is hard pressed at the moment, the Game-box demand is huge, I was thinking we may want to be leaning towards more traditional toys this year.

SANTA

Hogwash you ninny. Kids today don't want wooden toys, they want electronics, things with screens that their parents can't get out of their grubby hands. Why do you think I've been

giving you all that extra budget to up-skill the elves. It must have been over \$200,000 last year alone.

GRUMBLE

Huh, that's about what you spent on your bathroom renovation and the home theatre.

SFX - Punch

GRUMBLE

Oof!!

ELPHONSE

Of course Sir, of course Sir, quite right Sir.

SANTA

Interrupt again and you can walk home to the North Pole

GRUMBLE

(still in pain) Next child is Ethan.

SANTA

Ho-ho hello Ethan.

ETHAN

Everyone calls me Squirt

SANTA

Because you're so little?

ETHAN

No, because I always wet my pants.

SANTA

Next!

GRUMBLE

Next Child is Paula

SANTA

Come and sit on my lap and tell me what you'd like for Christmas dear little girl.

PAULA

(Cough-cough) Well I'd like a *(cough-cough)*

SANTA

My what a terrible cough, here have some of Santa's special drink...

ELPHONSE

NO! Here have some water.

PAULA

Who said that?

SANTA

This is Elphonse my head Elf.

PAULA

He's tiny isn't he. So cute, you can hardly see him,
I've got bigger dollies.

ELPONSE

Some water child – oops.

SFX - Splash

PAULA

He just poured water over me, he meant that.

SANTA

Ooh you got some on me too Elphonse you clumsy little Elf.

GRUMBLE

No that wet patch was already there, from Ethan.

SANTA

Are we nearly done here?!

ELPHONSE

It's been 3 and a half minutes Sir, only 7 hours, 56 minutes, 30 seconds and 400 children to go.

SANTA (whispering)

Grumble! (*distracted*) Mmm...is that new aftershave?
In the sled I've got a secret flask of Santa's special drink – go fetch it for me I'm going to need it.

GRUMBLE

Oh. Ok sir. (Whispering) Elphonse. The boss wants his flask but Rudolph's already emptied it.

ELPHONSE

Well...(thinking)..there's still a puddle in the back of the sled from where Rudolph evacuated, scoop some into the flask and get it here pronto, the fat man won't know the difference. And before you go -

SFX-punch

SANTA

(his mood is dropping) Ok which miserable brat is next?!

SFX – running, running back

GRUMBLE

I found it Santa.

SANTA

Marvelous (slurp)...hmm, has a nice coffee flavor. Ah that's better, ho-ho-ho! Come here children and tell Santa what you want for Christmas, ho-blessed-ho!!

VO

There's a long day in-store in store for our yuletide friends. Will the children get their desires for Christmas? I never got that rocket ship I asked for so don't hold your breath kids, tis the season to be jolly but also realistic. Join us next time on Elf Control.

Episode 6 – Elphonse’s Plan

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year. It’s only one week until Santa will take to the skies to miraculously deliver toys down every single chimney in the world, yes even to homes without chimneys – I did say it was miraculous.

Sc 1 – Elf Control/Elphonse’s house

SFX – phone rings

MELFA (answering phone):

Hello, Elf Control, Melfa speaking how can I help you? (PAUSE) Putting you through....he’s not picking up can I take a message?

SFX - water jets easing

ELPHONSE

That will do thanks Grumble, ah, so glad I went for the 18 jet Jacuzzi rather than 16.

GRUMBLE

Melfa was trying to get hold of you, was a long distance call from the South Pole.

ELPHONSE

Oh what?! Why didn’t you get me? I’ve been waiting on that call. Pass me a towel.

GRUMBLE

Oh..oops. I didn’t realize you were nude.

ELPHONSE

Well, what of it?!

GRUMBLE

It looked like Christmas holly.

ELPHONSE

Grumble!

GRUMBLE

Two little red berries.

ELPHONSE

Get your mind off my holly and fetch me the phone. I need to make a call that could save Christmas.

SFX - dramatic sting

GRUMBLE

Save Christmas?!

SFX - dramatic sting

ELPHONSE

Yes save Christmas.

SFX - dramatic sting - interrupted

ELPHONSE

Just get me the phone for Santa's sake.

Sc 2 – The Workshop

We hear the singing of happy, working elves – which turns out to be Elfis's ringtone.

ELFIS

Hello Elfis speaking? Ah...I don't know I'll have to check. Elaph are we happy with our electricity supplier and the exorbitant rates we're paying?

ELAPH

Hang up Elfis, it's a telemarketer.

ELFIS

Elperta, have we considered the many benefits of moving to solar power?

ELPERTA

We're on solar, this is the North Pole, the sun's up 24hrs.

ELAPH

Hang up and get back to work, that train set ain't going to finish itself.

ELFIS

Ooh that sounds cheap.

ELAPH

Jumping Jingle Bells, gimme that.

SFX – knocks phone down

Get back to work.

ELFIS

Boy Elaph sure isn't the happy El(a)f he used to be.

ELPERTA

Well he is under a lot of pressure and he doesn't get any support from management.
Elphonse is meant to be running this place and we never see the little git do we?

ELFIS

Nope and he still hasn't got the heating fixed in here, I only work so hard to stay warm.

ELPERTA

I don't know how we'll get everything done before Christmas.

ELFIS

Oh no!!

ELPERTA

Yeah, it's bad.

ELFIS

It's worse than I thought, he's cracked my screen.

Sc 3 – Grumble's Office

ELPHONSE *(finishing up the phone call)*

...Ok great, sounds good, see you soon, bye now.

SFX - phone hang up

Grumble, you've got a brilliant boss.

GRUMBLE

How so sir?

ELPHONSE

I have crafted a genius plan that will save Christmas. Our elves are artisan when it comes to traditional toys but a little so-so on the electronic ones.

GRUMBLE

They were meant to have training but
you spent all the money sir.

ELPHONSE

Yes all right Grumble, steady on. Who was it that was up all night watching Christmas movies in my home theatre last night? You're hands aren't clean here either.

Now, the elves from the South Pole are highly skilled in all things electronic, they work faster, they're cheaper, they have smaller hands which don't get caught in machinery and they're very good at maths.

GRUMBLE

And they stole our penguins, don't forget.

ELPHONSE

And I have a troupe of South Pole elves on their way here post haste to help us get the wretched Game-box machines out in time for Christmas. Brilliant plan, hey?

GRUMBLE

You do know North Pole elves and South Poles elves don't really see eye to eye.

ELPHONSE

Well yes they are slightly taller in the South.

GRUMBLE

No I mean they hate each other to the point of extreme violence and bloodshed.

SFX – dramatic music builds

They are sworn enemies who will fight to a gory end, not one shall be left standing, the white snow of the North will be left stained red for a generation.

ELPHONSE

Oh? The man on the phone sounded absolutely delightful.

VO

Will the South Pole elves make it to the North Pole in time to save Christmas? Will they be greeted with handshakes or hand grenades? And why are there no penguins on the north pole? Join us next time on Elf Control.

Episode 7 – Rumours/Party Plan

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year which is only 5 sleeps away albeit 2 sleeps away for our busy Elves who are working tirelessly around the clock to meet their yuletide quotas whilst staying awake and not falling into any of the heavy machinery.

Sc 1 – Santa’s Office

SFX - Bell ringing

SANTA

Ho! Ho! Ho! It’s party time Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

I’ll fetch your eggnog sir, binge party for one again today?

SANTA

No Elphonse (burp), the Christmas Party!
This year is to be our best one ever!

ELPHONSE

Of course. Do you really think a Christmas party’s
necessary this year Sir?

SANTA

You really are the most miserable little Christmas Elf ever Elphonse, I honestly don’t know why I leave you in charge – no Christmas Party?! At the North Pole?!

ELPHONSE

Just a suggestion sir, the budget is a little tight plus the elves are behind our production schedule is all...

SANTA

And whose fault is that?

ELPHONSE

It’s under control sir.

SANTA

I should put your strapping little assistant in charge.

ELPHONSE

Strapping?! Putrid or rancid maybe but ‘strapping’?

SANTA

He'd whip those workshop elves into shape (*makes whipping sound & erotic groan*)
...whicha-Mm!!

ELPHONSE

He's incompetent, ignorant and grossly inarticulate.

GRUMBLE

I'd be offended if any of those words meant that I knew which they were. Can I go now
Santa? I've got to feed the reindeer.

SANTA

Yes go.

ELPHONSE (*whispering to Grumble*)

What were you doing here?

GRUMBLE (*whispering*)

I don't know, he just likes me to sit on his shelf.

SFX – door as Grumble leaves

SANTA

But the party Elphonse, I'm putting my wife in charge, you'll take instructions from Mrs
Claus and follow them to the letter.

ELPHONSE

Oh great, fancy dress again.

Sc 2 – The Workshop

SFX – Workshop ambience, computer ding

ELFIS

Ooh I got an elf-mail.

ELPERTA

What is it Elfis?

ELFIS

It's like an email but we're elves so we call them elf-mails.

ELPERTA

I know that, what does it say?!

ELFIS

It's an invite to the Christmas Party.

ELAPH

Oy! You two get back to work, those toys aren't going to assemble themselves.

ELFIS

I'm on a break Elaph.

ELAPH

You had a break on Tuesday, you know we're behind,
back to it.

ELPERTA

Why do we even have a stupid Christmas Party? Every day's like Christmas around here, no
need to rub our pointy little noses in it.

ELAPH

You know it's just an excuse for Mrs Claus to dress up like a fairy and murder some
Christmas carols.

ELFIS

Then for Elphonse to try and get Elperta under the mistletoe.

ELAPH

Ha ha, that's right, he always tries to
kiss you at the Christmas party!

ELPERTA

I'd rather kiss a stinking reindeer.

ELFIS

Ugh Elphonse, some of the worker elves told me they'd been doing *more* work on his
house.

ELAPH

We barely get Award wage down here and he's got cash to throw around on renovations?!
Something don't smell right to me.

SFX – something being dragged

ELFIS

Oh hi Grumble.

GRUMBLE

Sorry, just grabbing some reindeer feed.

Sc 3 – Santa's House

MRS CLAUS (*very enthusiastically*)

...mince pies, roast turkey and plum pudding
with custard for dessert.

ELPHONSE

Right, so same as usual....
If that's all I really must move along...

MRS CLAUS

And the theme for this year will be...

ELPHONSE

What takes your fancy Mam?

MRS CLAUS

...fancy dress?!

ELPHONSE

The elves will be delighted.

MRS CLAUS

I will have to see whether my
fairy costume still fits...

ELPHONSE

It hasn't fit for a few years now...

MRS CLAUS

...and I will be entertaining the elves
with the art of song.

ELPHONSE

No doubt abstract art Mam.

MRS CLAUS (*snapping*)

Have you got all that Elphonse or do I need to go over it again so you get it into your tiny
little elf head?

ELPHONSE

No Mam, all understood, invites have already gone out –

MRS CLAUS

Already?! How did you know what to put on the invite before I told you what I wanted?

ELPHONSE

An educated guess Mam, the details were very general.

MRS CLAUS

Well this party better be the best one ever Elphonse, if you fail you will be straight onto the
naughty list!

ELPHONSE

Oh, I thought I was already on that list.

SFX – pages turning

MRS CLAUS

Oh so you are.

Sc 4 – Elphonse’s Office

ELPHONSE

Well Grumble, I met with the White Witch of the North to go over the party plans for tomorrow night.

GRUMBLE

Get the fairy costume out of storage shall I?

ELPHONSE

And I need you to organise the usual catering, the usual decorating and the usual sound system where we can kill her mic.
Now onto more pressing matters, I’ve got 400 elves arriving from the South Pole in 2 days and nowhere to put them.

GRUMBLE

What about the old stable sir? There’s plenty of room since Mad Deer Disease went through the herd last year?

EPLPHONSE

Grumble, thank God you’re not as stupid as you look, you might actually have something there.

GRUMBLE

Although it was heavily fumigated and the chemicals could still be harmful to elves.

ELPHONSE

The Old Stable, why didn’t I think of that?

GRUMBLE

In fact it, oh yeah, it’s still off limits for another 4 years, what was the word...biohazard?
Could be lethal even going near the place.

ELPHONSE

Well that’s settled then, make the preparations and we’ll house them in the Old Stable.
Great idea Grumble, a Christmas bleeding miracle.

VO

Party time at the North Pole, will Mrs Claus fit into her fairy costume?
Can Grumble access the Old Stable through the infectious deer cadavers?
Find out next episode on Elf Control.

Episode 8 – Christmas Party

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year which is only 4 sleeps away. Whilst every party at HQ is technically a 'Christmas Party' the *actual* Christmas Party is reminiscent of any other office Christmas party, copious amounts of liquor, disgruntled workers awkwardly socializing and the voiceover man getting ignored under the mistletoe.

Sc1 - Elphonse's office

ELPHONSE

Grumble, I'm very nervous. I haven't heard from the South Pole delegation which should be on route by now.

GRUMBLE

(mumbled response resembling 'What?' and heavy Darth Vader like breathing)

ELPHONSE

I said Grumble, I'm very nervous. I haven't heard from the South Pole delegation which should be on route by now.

We desperately need the extra help and especially their knowledge of electronic toys or Christmas will be a disaster and I'll be booted from the North Pole with my only employment prospect being an extra on a Star Wars sequel, prequel or whatever it is they're doing now. Grumble, take off that gas mask.

GRUMBLE

Sorry sir, I was just preparing the Old Stable, there are deer stiffs everywhere and they won't burn.

ELPHONSE

It's the North Pole Grumble they'll be frozen solid.
(*frustrated*) Just move them out of the way.

GRUMBLE

They are highly contaminated sir, the taint of the mad deer outbreak and fumigation chemicals lingers.
The whole place just reeks of death and disease.

ELPHONSE

That reminds me, the Christmas Party.
We'd better get ready.

GRUMBLE

What are you going as Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Nothing Grumble. I believe fancy dress is for those lacking sophistication and self-respect.

What is that plank of wood doing on your bottom Grumble?

GRUMBLE

That's my costume sir, I'm going as Elf on a Shelf.

ELPHONSE

Belief confirmed.

Sc 2 – Grand Hall/Christmas Party

SFX – Christmas Music (techno)

ELAPH

Jumping Jingle Bells this party has been a complete waste of time as expected.

ELPERTA

Elaph, can't you just try and enjoy yourself for a change?

ELAPH

While all the elves are here pretending to be friends and have a good time those toys aren't making themselves.

ELFIS

Yay, giddy up!

ELAPH

Plus I've got to get all these wooden horses back to the warehouse, why does every darn Elf have to come as a jockey?!

ELPERTA

It's the same every year, what'd you expect.

ELAPH

Elfis we're going, get your horse and help me round up all the others.

ELFIS

Ooooh, I was having fun.

ELPERTA

Look sharp guys, it's foreman Elphonse, I think he's had a few.

ELPHONSE

Ah Elperta, in your usual costume of most pretty Elf, ha-hah-hah-ha-ha-ha.....

ELPERTA

No sir, I think fancy dress is demeaning and best suited for Elves who lack sophistication & self-respect.

ELPHONSE

You don't say...

ELPAH

We were just heading back to the workshop Sir...

ELPHONSE

Nonsense, stick around a while,
you'll miss the entertainment.

ELPAH

We really are very behind, I've got to keep the production line moving or....

ELPHONSE

Well Elaph, I assure you that things are under control. As your foreman I have taken it upon myself to put a little back up plan in place to ensure a merry little Christmas for all.

ELAPH

Plan?

ELPHONSE

Elaph old boy, let your heart be light,
from now on your troubles will be out of sight.
Egg nog Elperta?

ELPERTA

No thank you Elphonse, but Elaph is right
we do need to get moving...

ELPHONSE

Nonsense, just one eggnog.

GRUMBLE

Elphonse, Elphonse!

ELPHONSE

It really is all under control...Grumble,
where is the mistletoe?

GRUMBLE

Elphonse, you have a...ah...delivery.

ELPHONSE

It can wait Grumble, can't you see I'm partying with my favourite worker elves.

GRUMBLE

It's a rather large delivery sir.

ELPHONSE

Where's your shelf?

GRUMBLE

I sat down and then fell off it.
The delivery sir, ah, it has certainly come from far away.

ELPHONSE

Just put it in the office Grumble, honestly, I'm about to have a drink with Elperta...

GRUMBLE

It's um, I can't...um...*the South Pole elves have arrived sir.*

(all music, background noise stops – silence for a beat).

ELAPH/ELPERTA/ELFIS

What???!?

ELPHONSE

Just one more eggnog???

VO

Ahh don't office Christmas parties always deliver great stories? Like the time Terry from accounts got drunk and spewed into the pot plant, or when the IT team punched on, or the time the party was gate crashed by a contingent of 400 South Pole worker elves. *How* will they be received?

Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 9 – The Guests

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year.

The South Pole Elves have arrived unexpectedly early, something about crossing the international date line, crossing it back and re-crossing it. I get it, I'm still trying to get used to daylight savings...

Sc 1 – Elphonse's House

SFX – phone rings

MELFA

(answering phone)

Hello, Elf Control, Melfa speaking how can I help you? (PAUSE) Yes sir, I'll try him again.

SFX - ringing

ELPHONSE

(sounding shabby/hungover/croaky)

Groan...

MELFA

Elphonse, Santa wants to see you immediately, he's been ringing his bell for you all morning.

ELPHONSE

I thought that pounding was just inside my head.
I didn't see *you* at the party last night Melfa?

MELFA

I was there, I was the one dressed as a jockey...

ELPHONSE

(saying with Melfa) ...as a jockey, of course. Right, well, I guess I better explain my 'Christmas Saving Plan' to the fat man.

MELFA

How will you manage to save Christmas when you can't even manage that workshop?

ELPHONSE

Despite this mother of all hangovers I know I could manage coming down to Elf Control and jamming that phone receiver...

SFX - CLICK – beep, beep, beep.

Melfa has hung up/Elphonse is aware that Grumble has joined him.

...righto, thanks Melfa, I'll get onto that, bye now.

GRUMBLE

Santa Claus would like to see you.

ELPHONSE

Apparently so.

GRUMBLE

The elves in the workshop would also like to see you.

ELPHONSE

Right.

GRUMBLE

Yonder-Elf, the South Pole Ambassador
would like to see you too.

ELPHONSE

Anyone else Grumble? Would your reindeer like me to stop by too, maybe we could have a
skinny latte and poppyseed muffin?

GRUMBLE

Well it has been a while.

(bell ringing with vigor)

ELPHONSE

Well give my regards to Prancer but come on,
I think I'm about to be Santa'd in the jingle bells.

Sc 2 – Santa's office

SANTA

Ah Elphonse, I've been trying to reach you.

ELPHONSE

Sorry sir, just a little under the
weather this morning sir.

SANTA

Aren't we all, quite the little soiree last night.

ELPHONSE

Yes sir, it was quite a party, better than last year maybe? Was certainly very similar.

SANTA

Mrs Claus is ecstatic, thrilled, has called it the best North Pole Christmas party ever.

GRUMBLE

You've got my shelf!

SANTA

Mmm, yes Grumble, a memento.
I love the smell of pine.

(takes an awkwardly long, deep sniff...)

But don't think I've called you here just to show you my jolly side because it's about to get un-jolly in here and you, my tiny little head elf, have some explaining to do.

ELPHONSE

Of course sir, I can explain everything...

SANTA

What on earth were you thinking?!

ELPHONSE

It's all under control, it's a perfect plan really –

SANTA

How could you have had the audacity...
to leave the party before Mrs Claus's concert?!
Your absence was indeed noticed.

ELPHONSE

Oh - right sir, yes - well I had a delivery arrive at the office and I needed to sign for it.

SANTA

Sounds like a task for your strapping assistant, he's not here just for his...good looks...hang on, don't I also have an assistant?

ELPHONSE

Elfira sir, still hasn't turned up for work yet?
That's nearly 8 years in a row now...

SANTA

So the point is Elphonse, Mrs Claus feels very slighted and has asked me to fire you...

ELPHONSE

Sir!

SANTA

...but I can't risk disruption to the workshop this close to the happiest day of the year, but after, put one of your curly elf boots wrong and you'll be back on the tools in the workshop, plus I'll sack my assistant - if I can find her, and I will have yours.

GRUMBLE

At your service.

ELPHONSE

Grumble!

SANTA

I can keep him on my new shelf.

Sc 3 Workshop

ELAPH (*fuming*)

The nerve of that Elphonse, bringing in those thieving, penguin loving, scab labour perverts from the South Pole.

ELFIS

But Elaph, they've already finished an entire order and they haven't even been here a day. I bet they haven't even unpacked.

ELPERTA

We don't care Elfis, it's the principle. We make the Christmas toys, South Pole elves don't care about Christmas, they only care about money, they make cheap knock-off products with cheap parts and sell them for profit.

ELFIS

Like this Rolex one of them sold me?

ELPERTA

There's only one 'L' in Rolex Elfis.

ELAPH

Plus they'll work below award rates our fathers fought for & I bet they don't have working visas. Jumping Jingle Bells, I'm not going to stand by and be treated this way. This calls for action.

ELPERTA

You mean....

ELAPH

I can't see any other way...

ELPERTA

But this close to Christmas Day???

ELAPH

So are we all agreed?

ELPERTA

I'm in!

ELFIS

I'm in - I think, I've got no idea
what we're talking about.

ELAPH

Elfis, the elves are going on strike.

VO

Industrial action at the North Pole! The locals are certainly peeved by the scab labour from the South – mind you they really are great workers, I've already had my house re-stumped *and* they took all the rubbish away and cheap? Oh my... Will the elf strike achieve their goal and what is that goal exactly?
Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 10 – Christmas Eve

VO

The North Pole, Christmas HQ where the busy little elves are busy all year round preparing for that one special day of the year. It's Christmas Eve, one more sleep to go and the North Pole is buzzing with activity. The reindeer have been deloused, Santa's suit is back from the dry cleaners and the Elf strike continues – not that anyone seems to have noticed...

SFX – sound of glasses clinking

Sc 1 – Elphonse's Office

ELPHONSE

My dear Yonder-Elf, your South Pole elves have been exceptional, I've never seen such productivity and all without singing.

YONDER-ELF

Thank you Elphonse-sar, we are humbled to serve.

ELPHONSE

And the accommodation has been to everyone's liking?

YONDER-ELF

Yes-sar Elphonse-sar, once we got used to smell we settle in like home.

ELPHONSE

Ah you've met my assistant?

GRUMBLE

He means the toxic gas smell from when we fumigated – OOF (sound of a kick)

ELPHONSE

Apologies sir, it is our old reindeer stable, they have a persistent lingering stench, just like Grumble here.

YONDER-ELF

We are just grateful to be of service sar.

ELPHONSE

Indeed, we have hit all quotas with hours to spare. All the children will be most pleased come tomorrow morning, thanks to me. I'll see you off soon Yonder-Elf, my good man.

SFX – intercom buzzing

ELPHONSE *(answers cheerily)*

Hello?

MELFA

Elphonse, it's Melfa from Elf Control.

ELPHONSE

Ah Melfa, Merry Christmas.

MELFA

It's not so merry down in the workshop Elphonse, have you bothered going down there this week?

ELPHONSE

Oh. Of course, the filthy workshop.

MELFA

Yes, the heart and soul of our North Pole operations of which you are responsible for.

ELPHONSE (complaining)

Ok, I *guess* I'll pop down, give them a bit of a pep talk, they'd probably love to see me, with Christmas poised to be such a success this year.

GRUMBLE

I hear they made a statue of you sir.

MELFA

In the context Grumble, I'd call it an effigy rather than a statue. You do know the elves have been on strike for 2 days now? You may wish to wear a helmet, they have it in for you big time.

ELPHONSE

Grumble, why didn't you tell me the workshop elves were striking?!

GRUMBLE

Because I don't know what that means sir, besides I've had to watch those penguin stealing South Pole Elves, don't want them any where near my reindeer.

ELPHONSE

That was generations ago Grumble, gawd North Pole elves are so unforgiving, it's very-un-Christmas of them.

Maybe we should send them to the South Pole and keep the imports!

MELFA

Elphonse! Santa will be heading *right* off soon, you better make things *right* down there *right* away.

ELPHONSE

Right.

Sc 2 – The Workshop

SFX – mob, bustling activity

ELAPH (*chanting*)

What do we want?

ELF MOB

Lots of things.

ELAPH

When do want 'em?

ELF MOB

At the earliest convenience, priority number one – get rid of those South Pole scab worker elves. (*Cheer!*)

SFX – whoosh of fire, fire crackling

ELFIS

Well that sure burnt quick.

ELAPH

I thought burning his likeness would be more satisfying than that.

ELPERTA

We'll have to use something less combustible next time.

SFX – entrance bell dings, Elphonse enters

ELPHONSE

Merry Christmas my fine worker elves, I come bearing excellent news. Do I smell burning?

ELAPH

Brave of you to finally show up down here.

ELPERTA

This here elf posse is about to head down to the old stable to send those South Pole scabs packing.

ELFIS

Yeah Elphonse, we hate those thieving Elves even more now. What's the deal bringing that southern scum here to the North Pole?

ELPHONSE

Look they're done now and leaving very soon. You know I bought them here as a favour to you, you were all working so hard and I figured the extra help would be appreciated.

ELAPH

Since when do we need help? Especially from perverts.

ELPHONSE (*Scrambling*)

And the great news is that they will never come back again, it was just to get us through a little rough patch and Santa is so happy with production that I have secured *substantial* extra funding to fix things around here. There'll be extra pay, more leave, training, plus the heating will finally be fixed.

ELAPH

Go on...

ELPHONSE

And the ergonomic standup workbenches will be arriving in the new year. You see, short-term pain for long-term gain.

GRUMBLE

I don't remember Santa saying – (OOF!)

SFX – bells ringing

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! It's off I go, jingle bells,
Merry Christmas and (BURP)....Ho, ho (hic) ho.

SFX – sleigh bells, Santa sails away

GRUMBLE

Goodbye my deer.

ELPERTA

Does he always talk to Santa like that?

ELPHONSE

He's talking to his reindeer.
God save Christmas if that fat idiot gets breathalysed...

ELAPH

(*sniffing*) Elfis are you burning another effigy,
what's that smell?

ELFIS

Ah no, it isn't me, but phwoar,
something sure jingle smells.

GRUMBLE

It's not me, well (*sniff, sniff*) just a bit...it's coming from the old stable!

Sc 3 – The old Stable

SFX – barbecue grill, sizzling. Running, approaching feet as the elves arrive to investigate.

ELAPH

Jumping Jingle bells, there's a lot of smoke.

ELFIS

The South Pole elves have had a barbecue.

ELPHONSE

Some nourishment before hitting the road I suppose.

ELPERTA

Why's it smell so bad?

SFX – stable door opening/closing

ELPHONSE

Well Grumble?

GRUMBLE

They've barbecued & feasted on the deer carcasses.

ELPHONSE

What?! The mad deer disease ones?

GRUMBLE

Yeah those ones, I don't know how they got them to burn but now...they're all dead.

ELPHONSE

Well obviously, we destroyed them.

GRUMBLE

No, not the deer. The South Pole elves, they're all dead, poisoned.

SFX – Door opening

ELPHONSE (*seeing and reacting*)

Sweet santa! It's like miniature Jonestown in there.

ELAPH

All dead?!

ELPERTA

Dead?!

ELFIS

Dead?!

ELPHONSE

I didn't get a chance to pay them.

ELAPH (*laughing*)

Ha ha, well it serves them right, those thieving, South Pole, scab labour, penguin fu@*ers--

-

MUSIC-SINGING, choir overlaps Elaph's expletive
(from Deck the Halls) "Fa-la-la-la la,la, la, la....

SFX – Celebration, music, elves singing.

VO:

What a Merry Christmas it has turned out to be, unless of course you're a near relative of a South Pole elf.

The industrial action is over, Elphonse will now have the cash to fulfill some ill thought out promises as Santa Claus sails through the Christmas Eve night sky bringing joy to all children, who will find under the tree come morning, maybe a train set, a new bike or even a Game-box.

THE END