

ELF Control

Series 3

Version 2.0 - 25/10/21

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 (Actor)	DESCRIPTION	VOICE
Elphonse (Geoff)	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, articulate, superior
Grumble (Michael)	Personal assistant to Elphonse and head reindeer keeper. Lacks competency and personal hygiene but is ever present.	Defeated & deflated
Melfa (Cassie)	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 (Russell)	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 (Sophie)	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 (Jason)	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 (Michael)	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 (Cassie)	Fellow disgruntled worker Elf, she is the voice of reason when Elaph gets a head full of steam.	Girly elf voice
Elfis (Russell)	Hard working Elf who would also be disgruntled if he knew what it meant.	A bit dopey, but happy in his blissful ignorance
Elf Patrol		
Elfrik (Russell)	Gritty career detective, who doesn't go by the book, flouts authority and will cut corners if possible.	Male, Scandinavian
Ingelf (Sophie)	A very 'Asperger's' detective, obsessively focused, stickler for rules and no social filter.	Female Scandinavian
Other		
Elfira (Cassie)	Santa's absent assistant	Female, tired bogan
Elfrid (Sophie)	Mail room clerk	Elf
Sticker Machine (-)	Computer with voice activation	Computer voice
Store		
Mr Mond (-)	Store Manager	Male
Leroy (Leroy)	Kid on Santa's knee	Boy
Jemma (Jemma)	Kid on Santa's knee	Girl
Eric (Kayode)	Kid on Santa's knee	Boy
Toby (Leroy)	Kid on Santa's knee	Boy
Sally (Jemima)	Kid on Santa's knee	Girl
Tourists		
Mum (Sophie)	Workshop tour Mum	Female
Johnny (Will)	Workshop tour Kid	Boy
Kid#1 (Leroy)	Stable tour kid	Boy
Kid#2 (Kayode)	Stable tour kid	Boy
Bus Driver (Geoff)	50's career tour bus driver, grumpy	Male – older
Dad (Rod)		Male
Guard (-)		Male

INDEX

Episode 1 – Another Festive Christmas	4
Episode 2 – Store Visit in Store	9
Episode 3 – Happy Holidays	14
Episode 4 – Quick Cash.....	18
Episode 5 – Priority Mail.....	23
Episode 6 – Booming Tourism	27
Episode 7 – Tourist Takeover	32
Episode 8 – Shutting it Down	36
Episode 9 – Powerless to do Anything.....	40
Episode 10 – Christmas Eve	45

Episode 1 – Another Festive Christmas

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 *festive* season rolls around fast and yet another *festive* Christmas is just around the corner, although here at the North Pole it's *festive* all year around, so *festive* I could spew.

Sc 1 – Elf Control/Elphonse's Office

MELFA

Hello Elf Control Melfa speaking? Putting you through.

SFX – transferring phone, rings out.

(Sigh)

SFX - tries another line.

ELPHONSE

Elphonse here.

MELFA

There's a call for Elfira but she's not picking up.

ELPHONSE

Elfira problem Melfa, if you don't mind I'm very busy.

MELFA

It's the store manager confirming details for Santa's visit tomorrow.

ELPHONSE

Store visit? Again not my problem, Elfira is Santa's assistant and –

MELFA

I'm sorry Mr Mond, Elfira's not picking up, Elphonse will help.

ELPHONSE

(unimpressed) I'm starting a Christmas card list just so I can take you off it Melfa.
Is it Mr Mond or Miss DeMond?

MELFA

(raspberry)

SFX – pick up phone

ELPHONSE

Hello Elphonse speaking.

MR MOND

(indistinct high speed chipmunk chatter)

ELPHONSE

Hmmm

MR MOND

(high speed chipmunk chatter)

ELPHONSE

I see...

MR MOND

(high speed chipmunk chatter)

ELPHONSE

Right, um, would you mind just slowing down a bit...

MR MOND

Oh sorry, how's this?

ELPHONSE

Much better *Mister* Mond.

MR MOND

So we are all set for Santa's visit tomorrow.

ELPHONSE

Ok...

MR MOND

I was beginning to think there was a problem. Elfira hasn't returned any of my calls, emails, texts, faxes, snap chats, DM's....

ELPHONSE

Well I'm sure she has everything in place, she's most reliable.
So we shall see you at (*guessing*) 9am sharp???

MR MOND

8am.

ELPHONSE

8am sharp at the...ah....

MR MOND

Menzies Department Store on Main Street.

ELPHONSE

8am, Menzies on Main, got it. Bye now, thanks for calling, byeee.

Grumble!! (pause) Grumble!!!

SFX – Door

GRUMBLE

Here I am Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

Ew, don't come in any further. How *do* you manage to smell worse each day?

GRUMBLE

I've been looking for my new reindeer.
Quarry and Koo keep getting lost. I don't want them eaten
by a polar bear like Blitzen and Venison.

ELPHONSE

Honestly Grumble, those wretched reindeer are *your only* job around here.
I've got a workshop to run, books to balance, an electricity bill the size of your
incompetence and it seems I'm back to babysitting the jolly fat idiot.

GRUMBLE

But *his* assistant Elfira is back.

ELPHONSE

Back to her old ways it seems, not turning up to work and as useless as your deodorant.

GRUMBLE

I do '*a terrible job but at least I turn up*'. That's what you put on my performance review.

ELPHONSE

I also recommend a bath but you missed that bit. We're going to need the sled for Santa's
store visit. We've got be at Main on Menzies at 9 or was it 8 at Menzies on High,
it was definitely a store at a time...

GRUMBLE

It'll be Quarry and Koo's first sled ride with Santa, if I can find them.

SFX – bell

ELPHONSE

Oh great, looks like I won't be getting any of *my* work done today.
If they do cut the power off at least that'll get Elfira away from Elf-Flix and possibly to work.

SFX – bell

Yes I'm coming! Find your deer Grumble and maybe go and roll in some deer dung, that
should take the edge off your own putrid stench. I'll be with the fat man.

Sc 2 – Santa’s Office

SFX – door

ELPHONSE

Santa?

SANTA

Oh come in, come in Elphonse, look at this...

ELPHONSE

The computer.

SANTA

Yes, computer (*pronounce COM-putaah*)
It’s brand new, but completely useless.

ELPHONSE

What’s the problem?

SANTA

Well the screen is very dark.

SFX – startup chime

ELPHONSE

That should brighten it a little.

SANTA

Elfira wants me to use it, says it will make things more efficient,
and you know I’m all about efficiency Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

I can see that, why pour your eggnog into a glass when you just drink from the bottle?

SANTA

Exactly. (burp)

ELPHONSE

And where *is* your assistant?

SANTA

Elfira’s working from home apparently, I thought only I did that.

ELPHONSE

So making things more efficient for herself I see.

SFX – computer

SANTA

Oh my, that's brighter. Very shiny, now where do I start?

ELPHONSE

I can get one of the workshop elves to set it up, they're surprisingly IT savvy now that the workshop is mostly automated.

But firstly, did you know that your store visit is tomorrow?

SANTA

Ah yes...apparently Elfira put the details into this *computer*, in an Elf-mail, whatever the jingle bells that means.

SFX – ring tone (Jingle Bells)

Ah my coaster, it keeps doing that.

ELPHONSE

Not a drinks coaster, that is a smartphone.

SANTA

Really?! Don't you just love technology Elphonse, they can now put a phone into a drinks coaster. Amazing! To technology!

SFX – slurp/burp.

Now log me onto the Darkweb.

ELPHONSE

Oh. Ah, what about ElfTube, there's lots of videos of elves falling over.

SANTA

Darkweb Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

Oh my humbug.

VO

A store visit in store for our newly tech-savvy bearded father of Christmas.

Will he make it to the store on time? Will Elfira ever turn up for work?

And do you think the IT Elves could take a look at my PC? I think I've been hacked.

Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 2 – Store Visit in Store

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. Previously on Elf Control Elphonse said to Santa, “...*did you know that your store visit is tomorrow?*”. To which Santa replied... ‘*Ah yes*’. And then Elphonse said... well you get the idea...

Sc 1 – Santa’s Sleigh/Department Store

SFX – wind

ELPHONSE

Grumble, where in Santa’s name are we?

SANTA

Yes where in my name are we? This isn’t a department store.
Unless it’s the monkey section.

GRUMBLE

We are at the zoo. The reindeer went the wrong way.

ELPHONSE

Oh my humbug, these reindeer have no sense of direction, what’s the address?

SANTA

I’m going to call Elfira....

SFX – beep, beep, beep.

How do I call Elfira?

ELPHONSE

Push the button, no that one, the one labeled ‘ElfTime Elfira’.

SFX – beep

SANTA (*yelling*)

Ooh there she is. Come in Elfira can you hear me,
it’s Santa Claus calling over. Hmm...I can see her...

ELPHONSE

Is she talking? She’s on mute.

SANTA

Elfira, you’re muted! (*yelling*) You’re muted!

ELPHONSE

Elfira, we’re running late for the store visit and have misplaced the address.

She's not on mute, is she awake? I'll call Melfa.

SFX – beep, phone

MELFA

Elf Control, Melfa speaking.

ELPHONSE

Melfa, what's the address of the store for Santa's visit?

MELFA

Hello Elphonse. It's Menzies Department Store on Main Street, that's the name of the store, it's on Main Street, ask for Mr Mond.

SANTA

Is that Mr Mond or Miss DeMond?

GRUMBLE

To Menzies on Main street reindeer.

SFX – jingle bells and whoosh.

GRUMBLE

Here we are.

SANTA

There are still monkeys everywhere!

SFX – jingle bells and whoosh.

GRUMBLE

How about now?

ELPHONSE

Grubby kids everywhere, this is it. I preferred the monkeys.

MR MOND

(high speed chipmunk chatter)

ELPHONSE

Pardon?

MR MOND

Sorry, I talk fast when I'm excited. You're very late, the kids are waiting.

SANTA

You're a Mister!

MR MOND

Your throne Santa.

ELPHONSE

OK let's get on with it or we'll be here until New Year.

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho, let's – hang on. (*SFX - Slurp....burp*) Ahh, ok I'm ready.

GRUMBLE

First child is Leroy.

SANTA

Leroy, I hope you've been good boy, what would you like Santa to bring you for Christmas?

LEROY

Your breath smells like my teacher and he got fired.

SANTA

Fire truck. Good, next.

LEROY

But...

GRUMBLE

Next child is Jemma.

SANTA

Jemma, come and sit on Santa's knee, what would you like for Christmas?

JEMMA

I would like a baseball bat.

SANTA

Why certainly, you play baseball?

JEMMA

No it's this gang I joined they -

SANTA

Next!

ELPHONSE

Good Grumble, keep pushing them through, nice and quick now.

GRUMBLE

Next child is Eric.

SANTA

Tell Santa what you want.

ERIC

A new Gamebox, my last one caught fire.

SANTA

Done. Next!

GRUMBLE

Toby

SANTA

What?

TOBY

Bike.

SANTA

Done. Next!

ELPHONSE

This is great Grumble, we'll be out of here by lunch time at this rate.

SANTA

Eggnog Grumble.

SFX – drinking, slurping.

Ah delicious (burp) (relaxed) And what would you like for Christmas?

GRUMBLE

Well I would like lots of things, I'd like...

ELPHONSE

Get off Grumble, you know you're on the naughty list, or was it the incompetent list.

GRUMBLE

The next child is Sally.

SANTA

What do you want child?

SALLY

For Christmas I would like...

SFX – phone vibrating

...oooh! (Shriek of surprise)

SANTA

Sorry, ooh it's the Santa phone in my pocket, just let me...

SALLY

Hey!

SANTA

Ooh sorry, didn't mean to - just trying to reach into my...

SFX – rustling, phone vibration becomes clearer as he retrieves phone from pocket

Answer this would you Elphonse?!

ELPHONSE

Hello, Santa's phone?

MELFA

Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Melfa?

MELFA

I've had a call from the zoo. There's some reindeer with an empty sled in the monkey enclosure.

ELPHONSE

Grumble! You forget to tie up the sled didn't you.

GRUMBLE

Oh, my reindeer!

VO

What a joy for all the children having the real Santa granting their Christmas wishes.
A successful store visit for our North Pole friends, but how will they get home? Can reindeer be taught navigation or can monkeys be taught to drive a sleigh - I mean Grumble learnt. Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 3 – Happy Holidays

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. Santa's newly revamped workshop, once a wood-chip filled hive of activity and splinters; now a state of the art, automated production facility with computers, robots and novelty coffee mugs.

Sc 1 - Workshop

ELAPH

I'm so bored Elperta. I miss the tools, the buzz of the bandsaw, the smell of the wood glue.

ELPERTA

At least it's cleaner without all the sawdust Elaph.

ELFIS

And you can still sniff woodglue, I've got a stash here. *(Sniffiff)*

ELAPH

Stop that Elfis! Ugh, and these cheap toys, they're South Pole quality!

ELFIS

I love it Elaph, look at all them machines doing all the work for us. All I have to do it push buttons and look at screens, which is what I do when I'm not at work.

ELPERTA

Oh dear, this robot needs a software update.

ELAPH

We updated it last week?!

ELPERTA

And now it needs another one - security update and bug fixes.

ELFIS

Hey what's the WIFI password again?

ELAPH

Jumping jingle bells. It never ends.

SFX – ding, ding – (error)

ELPERTA

It won't do the update because this robot hardware is too old to run the new software.

ELAPH

It's six months old!

ELPERTA

Well it won't update.

ELFIS

WIFI password? I've forgotten.

ELAPH

Jumping jingle bells! What does this darn machine do anyway?!

ELPERTA

It puts the stickers on the Gameboxes.

ELAPH

We don't need a machine to do that! Even Elfis can put stickers on.

ELFIS

Password?!

ELAPH

Jumping Jingle Bells – all lowercase, no spaces, I already told you twice!

Sc 2 – Elphonse's Office

SFX – door

MELFA

Ah Elphonse, take this parcel with you on your way to your office.

ELPHONSE

Delivery? I didn't order anything.

MELFA

It's the replacement roadside candy canes.

GRUMBLE

For the ones that were wiped out in that sleigh crash.

ELPHONSE

That you caused.

GRUMBLE

I was training the new reindeer.

ELPHONSE

Well this should come out of your pay, like I've got the money to cover all the damage you cause around here.

MELFA

You could save lots of money by cutting down on your expensive body lotions,
face creams, moisturisers...

SFX – bell ringing

ELPHONSE

Take these Grumble.
Cutting down on the fatman's eggnog would save us more.

GRUMBLE

(SFX – slurp/lick) Mmm peppermint.

ELPHONSE

Grumble!

SFX – smack/more bell ringing.

Not food! Get these expensive, peppermint roadside canes to maintenance...

MELFA

And those imported bath salts.

Sc 3 Santa's Office

SFX – knocking, door

SANTA

Come in Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

You rang, oh Mrs Claus.

MRS CLAUS

We have some exciting news Elphonse.

SANTA

We are going on a holiday!

ELPHONSE

A holiday? (pause) From what exactly?

MRS CLAUS

We are going to a resort.

SANTA

It's a delightful sounding place, Christmas Island.

ELPHONSE

Of course...a holiday...wow, that day you worked last year must have really taken it out of you.

MRS CLAUS

Watch your tone Elphonse.

SANTA

Yes I do need to get away, a change of scenery, so much snow here.

ELPHONSE

Of course, I'll have Grumble prepare the sled. Grumble!

GRUMBLE

Yes boss.

ELPHONSE

Prepare the sled, the Claus's are taking a break...from what I don't know.

GRUMBLE

With the reindeer?!

ELPHONSE

Obviously with the reindeer, they're the one's who deserve a holiday, having to smell you all the time.

GRUMBLE

I'll harness up 8 reindeer including Rudolph, (*sadly*) no Blitzen of course.

ELPHONSE

Still dead is he? Right Santa, you know it's only a week from Christmas, there is still an awful lot to do around here.

SANTA

Just the thought of it is exhausting, what a great idea this holiday has turned out to be.

ELPHONSE

Oh my humbug.

VO

A sabbatical for Santa and Mrs Claus. How will Christmas HQ function without them? Will anyone notice that they're away? And is it a holiday or a vacation? I could use either one from my voiceover booth, I haven't seen daylight for years.
Find out more, next time on Elf Control.

Episode 4 – Quick Cash

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. With the now automated workshop meeting toy production quotas and Father and Mother Christmas away on a vacation/holiday, Elphonse too finds a moment to relax...

Sc 1 – Elphonse’s Office

SFX – spa jets, bubbles.

ELHONSE

More bubbles Grumble, I do my best thinking in here.

GRUMBLE

It was lonely in the stable last night Elphonse.
first night I’ve spent without all of my reindeer.

ELPHONSE

And how about some more bath salts...

GRUMBLE

I expect Santa will be looking after them while he’s away.

ELPHONSE

Sweet Santa Grumble, you sleep with those beasts? In the stable?

GRUMBLE

Where’d you think I sleep?

ELPHONSE

Under a rock for all I know or care.
It is nice having Santa away, remind me to hide that bell before he gets back.

GRUMBLE

I hope he remembers to worm Dasher. Well at least I’ve still got Quarry and Koo
but I am still feeling very anxious.

ELPHONSE

So am I Grumble, these workshop machines are proving very expensive. We need to make
some quick cash. It’s time to think outside the perfectly wrapped box, what can we do?

GRUMBLE

What if we *sold* the toys to the children rather than giving them away?

ELPHONSE

I like it, but kids don’t have money.

GRUMBLE

We could sell this 18 jet jacuzzi?

ELPHONSE

Santa forbid Grumble!

GRUMBLE

What about gambling?

ELPHONSE

I gamble every day eating that toxic waste you call breakfast but no, too risky.

GRUMBLE

We could open a zoo.

ELPHONSE

A zoo Grumble? With what? Reindeer and polar bears?
That would last all of 2 minutes, if you're lucky...

GRUMBLE

How about...

ELPHONSE

Although believe it or not Grumble, your simple minded ramblings may have actually prompted a genius one. Hand me a towel.

SFX – water splash as Elphonse stands

GRUMBLE

What's *your* idea?

ELPHONSE

Tourism Grumble. Everyone knows tourists love being ripped off, all you need is some junk in a room with a Souvenir Shop sign and they'll practically just give us their money.

GRUMBLE

What would we sell them?

ELPHONSE

Well anything really, surely Santa's got some celebrity status we can take advantage of. We could sell them snow if we call it *Christmas Snow* and whack a hefty price tag on it.

GRUMBLE

I don't know if Santa would like having tourists here.

ELPHONSE

That's the beauty of it, he'll never know.

GRUMBLE

Maybe I could give guided tours of the stables?

ELPHONSE

That might be pushing it Grumble, but workshop tours.
Speaking of which I guess I should check in on the workshop elves

GRUMBLE

Do you want your towel yet? I can see your funny little Christmas baubles.

ELPHONSE

Give me that!

Sc 2 - Workshop

SFX – beep, beep, beep

ELAPH

Elperta, how are we going with all the Gameboxes?

ELPERTA

They're all done Elaph, Elfis is just putting the last stickers on.

ELAPH

What about the other toys? How we tracking?

ELPERTA

Good. Production lines are running smoothly, we're ahead of all targets and with zero injuries.

ELFIS

I got a sth-icker sth-uck to my tongue.

ELAPH

Elfis! (*begrudgingly*)

I guess Elphonse's workshop automation plan has kind of worked...

ELPERTA

Speak of the gremlin.

SFX – door

ELPHONSE

Hello team!

ELAPH

And you are?

ELPHONSE

Ha ha, very funny Elaph, yes I haven't been down here much since all the new systems went online, still running smoothly?

ELPERTA

Some of the machines need upgrades.

ELPHONSE

But they're brand new!

ELAPH

You've got to update the hardware before you can update the software.

ELFIS

And the firmware and the Tupperware.

ELPHONSE

It sounds very expensive and the bank account's emptier than Elfis's head. I've got a rather large power bill to pay somehow and Santa forbid there's a mini bar in the fatman's room at the resort.

ELPERTA

Resort?

ELPHONSE

Oh yes, the Claus's have taken a holiday.

ELAPH

What do they need a holiday for?

ELFIS

Yeah, he only works one night a year and I don't know what she does?!

ELPHONSE

Well while they're away we can take the opportunity to raise some much needed funds. Grumble, measure up that corner where the band saws used to be, looks the perfect spot for a gift shop.

SFX – tape measure

ELAPH

What???!!!

GRUMBLE

Wight away Elphon-th. Uh, th-ith th-ticker is th-tuck to my tongue.

ELPHONSE

Why lick the stickers Grumble?

ELAPH

Elfis too, I don't get it...

VO

Could tourism at the North Pole work? Can commercialising Christmas for financial gain be done? And what do Gamebox stickers taste like? Find out next on Elf Control.

(off mic) Ah thought tho, like a pohtage thtamp.

Episode 5 – Priority Mail

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. As Elphonse develops his plan to turn the winter wonderland into an arctic tourist destination, Santa, currently a tourist himself, has been getting acquainted with his new phone.

Sc 1 – Elf Control/Elphonse's Office

SFX – ElfTime Ring

MELFA

Elf Control, Melfa speaking.

SANTA (*very drunk, yelling*)

Come in Santa, it's Melfa here, over.

MELFA

Hello Santa, you don't need to shout.

SANTA

What was that? Over.

MELFA

I said you don't need to shout, just talk normally.

SANTA

Can you see me? Still working out how to...

SFX - beep, beep; Santa randomly pressing buttons

MELFA

Could you stop...(sigh) yes I see you, I'll add the others to the call.
How's the weather on Christmas Island?

SANTA

It's hot Melfa, it's snowball soup in my Santa pants, a sweaty, putrid mess.

MELFA

And how's Mrs Claus?

SANTA

She's also a sweaty, putrid mess, looks like a plump holly berry with her big sunburnt buttocks. She won't stop snorkeling!

MELFA

Elphonse and Elfira have joined.

ELPHONSE

Santa, ooh, you look very hot, do you need to wear your full red suit and hat?

SANTA

Elphonse! Where's Elfira?

MELFA

I think her screen is frozen

ELPHONSE

I think she's asleep.

GRUMBLE

Ooh is that Santa? Ask him how the reindeer are.

ELPHONSE

How's it going Santa?

SANTA

Great, besides the heat, but don't worry I'm staying very, very hydrated (*hic*).

GRUMBLE

Ask him about the reindeer.

SANTA

How are things in the workshop Elphonse, everything on track for a Chr-erry Mistmas?

ELPHONSE

Yes, ahead of schedule. Some of the computers need to be updated and we have –

SANTA

Hang on.

(talking off mic) I'm ElfTiming the North Pole. OK.

Mrs Claus is back from her snorkel, I'm just going to mute my camera while she gets changed.

(off mic) Ok dear, it's off I can't hear them now.

MELFA

We can still see you Santa.

ELPHONSE

Santa, your camera's still on! Jingle bells!!!

GRUMBLE

I hope the reindeer aren't seeing this.

ELFIRA

AAAGH!! What the f*!# ?!!

ELPHONSE

Well it woke Elfira up. It's Mrs Claus's sunburnt aaaagghh (groan), no, leave it don't pick it up.

ALL

(Groan)

MELFA

I'm ending this call.

SFX – call ending

Sc 2 – Elphonse's Office

SFX – door knock/open

ELFRID

Mail Mr Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

Thank you Elfrid. How are things in the mailroom?

ELFIRD

Lot of letters for Santa, no thank you letters of course. Here's some junk mail you might be interested in.

SFX – paper

ELPHONSE

Oh my.

GRUMBLE

What is it?

ELPHONSE

"Gamebox 2, faster, sleeker and shinier, coming this Christmas".
What in Santa's name Grumble?

GRUMBLE

Ooh yeah the GB2, I'm on the waitlist.

ELPHONSE

B-but why?! It doesn't need updating. The Gamebox is still good, kids love it ...and I've got a warehouse full of them.

GRUMBLE (reading)

“The future of gaming is here, more features, more power & more streamlined”

ELPHONSE

Streamlined?! What - for throwing it further?

GRUMBLE

“And comes in 4 new, exciting colours”

ELPHONSE

Which means lots of stickers, I better let the workshop know.
What’s that other letter there Grumble?

GRUMBLE

Ah...power bill reminder.

ELPHONSE

Power bill reminder, like I need reminding, I’ll be back soon Grumble.

SFX – door slam, envelope opening.

GRUMBLE

(reading) ‘Reminder & final notice. If not paid ASAP your power
will be disconnected. Final reminder.’
Yeah, like we need reminding.

SFX – paper screwed up.

VO

A new Gamebox! How will the workshop react? Will Elphonse remember to pay the power bill? Will Mrs Claus aloe vera her sunburnt posterior? And I’ve been good this year, do you think I’ll get a Gamebox2? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 6 – Booming Tourism

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. With Mr & Mrs Claus away Elphonse has opened the doors to Santa's workshop and tourism is booming; with overpriced admission, overpriced souvenirs and stable tours which are actually quite affordable.

Sc 1 – Elf Control

MELFA

Elf Control, Melfa speaking, how can I help you?
We still have tours available at 9, 11 & 5 o'clock but we close at 6.
11 o'clock?

You'll see Santa's workshop.

No they use machines now.

Yes, sometimes they sing.

No, he's not here. He's taking a holiday.

I don't know why he needs a holiday, he just is.

Comfortable shoes, a warm jacket and low expectations.

ELPHONSE

Melfa! Say the line.

MELFA

(Sigh) We Ho-Ho-Hope you have a jolly time with us. Bye.

ELPHONSE

Another booking Melfa, still think it's a bad idea?

MELFA

You know I *can* take the bookings without having to sound like an idiot.

ELPHONSE

Christmas spirit Melfa, they eat it up. It all means more money in the gift shop till.

MELFA

I wonder how is Elaph going running the gift shop?

ELPHONSE

Ehh...

SFX - Transition

Sc 2 Gift Shop

ELAPH

Oy, you break it you own it, you little...

ELPERTA

Hey Elaph, calm down it's nearly closing time.

ELAPH

I can't take much more Elperta, the kids keep breaking the snow domes and the adults keep touching my pointy ears! I never signed up for this.

ELPERTA

Elphonse says it's only for a short time, while Santa's away.

ELAPH

I bet Santa wouldn't like this, having these people trampling everywhere including my workshop, which, Santa forbid, Elfis is in charge of.

ELPERTA

I wonder, how is Elfis going running the workshop?

ELAPH

Ehh...

SFX – Transition

Sc 3 The Workshop

ELFIS

And here on the left is where the elves sang and hammered and sawed and made all sorts of wonderful toys for all the boys and girls.

MUM

And now?

ELFIS

This is the *ON* button for Process Line 1 for mass Gamebox production.
Yeah (bragging) I'm in charge of putting the stickers on.

MUM

Ooh look Johnny that's like what you have.

JOHNNY

Yeah but I don't want it no more, I want a GB2. I wrote to Santa and asked for a GB2!

ELFIS

What's a BG2?

JOHNNY

It's the new Gamebox, it's got better graphics and cooler games.

ELFIS

Oh dear, we've made a lot of these Gameboxes

SFX – opens door to large warehouse full of Gameboxes

JOHNNY

Woah! There's like a million...

ELFIS

...but I guess ah...

MUM

Well Santa better bring my Johnny a Gamebox2.
Come Johnny, we're on the next Reindeer stable tour.

JOHNNY

Ugh, do we have to?

ELFIS

Oh you'll *love* Grumble's reindeer, I wonder how is
Grumble going with the stable tours?

SFX – Transition

GRUMBLE

So you've seen where the reindeer sleep, where the reindeer eat, where the reindeer
drink, where they get milked and here are the reindeer.
This is Quarry and Koo, my new ones.

KID#1

What do they do?

GRUMBLE

They're learning to fly Santa's sleigh.

KID#2

But what do they do now? Can they do tricks?

GRUMBLE

Ahh..

KID#1

Do they spit?

GRUMBLE

No that's llamas.

KID#2

They really smell.

KID#1

I don't think it's the reindeer what stinks, I think it's im.

KID#2

Can we ride em?

GRUMBLE

No, ah, you can touch their antlers I guess.

KID#1

Where's Rudolph?

KID#2

Yeah we want to see Rudolph.

KID#1

And Blitzen.

GRUMBLE

Well Blitzen's buried over there but the other reindeer are away with Santa.

KID#2

Let's go, this is a rip off! I can't breathe, he stinks.

KID#1

Yeah, hey what's over there?

GRUMBLE

That's the Old Stable, you can't go there, it's contaminated.

KID#1

Gotta be better than here, let's go.

GRUMBLE

Ok...you didn't touch the antlers and I've got candy canes! (sigh)
I wonder how is Elphonse going doing whatever he's doing or something.

SFX – Transition

Sc 4 – Elf Control

SFX – counting money (paper/coins)

ELPHONSE (*jovial*)

I'm a genius Melfa, look at all this money. Between the tours and the gift shop –

MELFA

There's a little boy urinating on one of the new roadside candy canes.

ELPHONSE

Ew. Well it might stop Grumble licking them, or not. But look at all this money.

MELFA

Elphonse, you'd better get over to the workshop, I mean gift shop.

ELPHONSE

Huh?

MELFA

Elph has someone, I think in a half nelson.

ELPHONSE

Or is that a full nelson?

SFX – door

Grumble! Sweet Santa, why are you dragging those kids?

GRUMBLE

They went in the exclusion zone near the Old Stable...

MELFA

Grumble, the poison fumes!

GRUMBLE

They're not dead...yet.

ELPHONSE

Oh my humbug...

VO

The Old Stable, the Chernobyl of the North Pole, when will it be safe again?
A lucrative venture for Elphonse, but how long can the elves tolerate this tourist takeover?
And who was Nelson? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 7 – Tourist Takeover

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. Elphonse's plan to turn the pole into a tourist park has proved profitable but problematic, driving his bank balance up, but driving him to distraction.

Sc 1 – Elphonse's Office

GRUMBLE

They're arriving by the bus load now Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

It's getting a bit out of hand Grumble, I think we'd better wind up this operation before Santa gets back, such a shame to slaughter this cash cow.

GRUMBLE

At least you've got enough to pay the power bill now.

ELPHONSE

Sweet Santa, I've been so busy with the tourists I haven't got around to that, I'll do it now.

GRUMBLE

And I've been so busy running tour groups at the stables I haven't checked on my Gamebox2 pre-order.

ELPHONSE

Even Sweeter Santa! The Gamebox2! I forgot to tell the workshop. Time to shut this profitable tourist trap down and get back to unprofitable toy production.

GRUMBLE

But I've got a milking demonstration.

SFX – intercom

MELFA

You there Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

What is it Melfa?!

MELFA

Elaph's got someone else in either a half or a full nelson again.

Sc 2 – Work/Gift Shop

ELPERTA

Let him go Elaph! You're hurting him.

ELAPH

Not until he pays for that snow globe!

KID#1

I didn't touch it, it broke by itself.

ELAPH

I'm sick of these people Elperta. If they're not breaking the stuff, they're stealing or vandalising, with their rubbish and noise, I'm sick of it!!

ELPERTA

I know I'm sick of them too, it's got to be stopped.

KID#1

You're hurting my arm.

SFX – running

ELPHONSE

Elaph, let him go.

ELAPH

He's got to pay!

ELPHONSE

Just let him go, I'm shutting it down right now.

ELPERTA

Oh thank Santa.

ELFIS

(announcing) The midday tour will be starting in 5 minutes, you must have a yellow wrist band and no touching the elves ears they don't like it.

ELAPH

There's no more tours Elfis, it's over!

ELPHONSE

Attention everybody, it's time to go. Ah...

KID#1

We just got here.

ELPHONSE

I'm sorry but it's not safe, aah (*thinking*), there are polar bears and a snow storm is coming...

KID#1

Cool, polar bears!

KID#2

We're not scared of snow.

ELPHONSE

It's a blizzard! It's not safe, everyone back to your busses.

MUM

We haven't been on the workshop tour yet?

ELPHONSE

I'm sorry Madam we're closed until further notice.

CROWD

Boo!

DAD

I want my money back.

KID#1

It's a rip off anyway.

KID#2

This sucks, Santa's not even here, or his reindeers.

ELPHONSE

It's reindeer, not reindeers.

KID#1

What would you know you're just a stupid little Elf.

SFX – glass breaking

ELAPH

Oy! Me snowglobes!

SFX – glass breaking, rioting crowd

ELPHONSE

You've got to pay for those! I hope you catch frostbite you little...

ELPERTA

Hey! They're taking the gift snow Elaph!

ELAPH

All right, the lot of you, get out of my workshop!

ELPERTA

Gift shop.

ELAPH

Get out of my gift shop!

GRUMBLE (*running from the stables*)

This is bad Elphonse!

ELPHONSE

Grumble, you noticed.

GRUMBLE

Some kids let Quarry & Koo out of their pen! They've gone!

VO

The North Pole visitors are disgruntled indeed.
Can they be re-gruntled? Can the workshop resume toy production? And will Grumble or a polar bear find the loose reindeer? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 8 – Shutting it Down

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 elves are over the visitors with their violence and vandalism; but shutting things down has been vexing. Who do you call to get rid of troublesome tourists turned terrorists? You call the Elf Patrol.

Elf Patrol music; SFX – sirens

INGELF

Detectives Ingelf and Elfrik.

ELPHONSE

Thank goodness you're here.

ELFRIK

We had report of disturbance and law breaking, Ingelf?

INGELF

Indeed Elfrik. Ugly Elf, do you have permit for this gift shop?

ELPHONSE

Permit??? For *this* shop currently being *looted*?

INGELF

Your premises is zoned for workshop and you running commercial retail operation which is class 3 violation.

ELPHONSE

Well it's hardly a gift shop any more, there's nothing left, could you arrest these thieves?

ELAPH

Get out of here, the lot of you!

ELFRIK

Excuse me sir, is this your fancy, big tour bus?

BUS DRIVER

Yeah.

ELFRIK

It is illegally parked and you don't have snow chains on wheels.

BUS DRIVER

So?

INGELF

You need move bus or it will be towed and taken to the forest (dramatic sting)

BUS DRIVER

The forest? (dramatic sting)

INGELF

Yes the forest. (dramatic sting)

BUS DRIVER

Ok, ok, not the forest (*dramatic sting – cut off*) Not yet.
I've seen enough Nordic-noir to know that nothing good happens in the forest. Now.
(*dramatic sting*) (*yelling*) Righto, everyone on the bus!!
I repeat back on the bus!! And keep the noise down!!!!

VO

As the bus loads of tourists rapidly depart, taking out the replacement, roadside candy canes with it, this uncharacteristic 'middle of episode' voiceover is to convey the passing of time...well only a few hours, probably could have been done with a sound effect
(*SFX – time passing*) yeah like that one.

Sc2 Workshop

ELAPH

Ok, back to toy making!

ELFIS

I've updated hardware, software and will do firmware once I find out what it is.
This sticker machine now has voice activation!

STICKER MACHINE

I'm a sticker machine, I put stickers on.

ELFIS

It's amazing!

STICKER MACHINE

Thank you Elfis.

ELFIS

(*surprised*) Ooh!

ELPERTA

I've installed the schematics for the GB2.

ELAPH

Gamebox 2, what a load of deer poop! We've got all the latest computers and technology
and here we are working harder than we ever have. Efficiency my foot!

ELFIS

At least the sticker machine is now online. Don't worry Elaph we've still got time to get the BG2's out in time for Christmas Eve, just.

ELPERTA

Process line 1 is now set and (*beep*) away we go.

ELAPH

Ugh, these are hardly different to the first Gamebox, it's just new casing and more colours.

ELFIS

And new games and controllers, which don't work with a Gamebox 1 and it costs two hundred bucks more! It must be heaps better than the first one!

Sc 3 – Elphonse's office

SFX – Door, Grumble enters

GRUMBLE

I found them Elphonse.

ELPHONSE (*distracted*)

Eh what Grumble?

GRUMBLE

I found them, my two reindeer that got let out, Quarry and Koo.
They're back in the stable, safe from Pablo.

ELPHONSE

What's a Pablo?

GRUMBLE

The hungry polar that lives in the cemetery, I named him Pablo.

SFX – counting money

ELPHONSE

Well there you go Grumble, in one tiny hand and out the other.

GRUMBLE

In one what and out what?

ELPHONSE

In one pointy ear out the other with you, I'm talking about the money Grumble.
The tourist cash bonanza is all but gone. I've paid for computer updates for the warehouse, replacement roadside Candy Canes for the replacement roadside Candy Canes, a down payment on Santa's mini bar tab and just the power – bill – to – go...

(talking as clicking on the computer).

GRUMBLE

Ooh lucky they didn't shut the power off.

ELPHONSE

Oh no-no, they always send a final notice before doing that Grumble.

GRUMBLE

Oh do they?

ELPHONSE

Grumble, that squirming is most off putting. Just one more click and...

SFX – power winding down.

Grumble. Where'd you go?

GRUMBLE

The light's have gone out Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

You don't say. Make a sound so I can find you, I have a sudden urge to hurt you.

GRUMBLE

(fearful moans)

ELPHONSE

I can smell you over there Grumble, come here!

SFX – clattering, fighting, struggle, glass breaking.

VO

Blackout at the North Pole, will it be a white Christmas or a dark Christmas? How will the power outage effect GB2 production? And will Elphonse learn how to set up a direct debit? Find out next time on Elf Control.

Episode 9 – Powerless to do Anything

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 Northern Lights of Santa's workshop are dim, the solar panels useless when you're shut off the grid thanks to Elphonse not paying the power bill; and with only two days until Christmas, Mr & Mrs Claus start packing for their return trip home at it's busiest time of the year.

Sc 1 – Elf Control

SFX – ringing

MELFA

Elf Control, Melfa speaking. No we're closed to visitors...because you're all vandals.

SFX – ringing

Elf Control, Melfa speaking. Hello Santa, it's nearly the 24th I guess you'll be home soon?
Oh dear. I'll put you through.

SFX – ringing

Elf Control, Melfa speaking. Yes Elfira, the whole pole is out, I don't know.
No ELFlux won't work. I don't know. Maybe try reading a book.

SFX – ringing

Elf Control, Melfa speaking, please hold. (sigh)
I'm the one who needs a holiday around here.

Elphonse, call on line 1.

Sc 2 – Elphonse's office

ELPHONSE

Thank Santa, the power company?

MELFA

No Santa. He's stuck on Christmas Island.

ELPHONSE

Sweet Santa, not another volcanic ash cloud?!

GRUMBLE

Reindeer lungs can't handle ash clouds.

MELFA

Line 1.

SFX – phone pick up

ELPHONSE

Santa? How's it going?

SANTA

Well bad news actually. Mrs Claus took some of the reindeer for a snorkle.

ELPHONSE

Right.

GRUMBLE

Reindeer don't like the water.

SANTA

No they most certainly do not. But do you know who like reindeer?

ELPHONSE

Who?

SANTA

White pointers, ate 2 of the wretches.

GRUMBLE

Oh no.

SANTA

Comet and Donner I believe.

GRUMBLE

(crying)

ELPHONSE

Can you still fly home?

SANTA

Well I don't know, only 6 reindeer, with myself, Mrs Claus who *has* spent most of her time at the buffet, plus all of her duty free shopping...

ELPHONSE

Will 6 reindeer be enough Grumble?

GRUMBLE

Not with that much weight.

ELPHONSE

(delicately) Santa, is there anything *or anyone* you could possibly leave behind?

MRS CLAUS

Elphonse!

ELPHONSE

Oh speaker phone, thank you Santa.

MRS CLAUS

You need to get us home!

SANTA

Call us back with a solution Elphonse.

SFX – hang up

ELPHONSE

Every Christmas Grumble...

So there's no power at the workshop, we have a warehouse full of vintage Gamebox 1's, and if by some miracle we do get power restored and the Gamebox 2's made in time, we won't have the jolly fat idiot here to deliver them on Christmas Eve anyway.

GRUMBLE

And two more of my reindeer are dead!

ELPHONSE

Hey, what about those new ones you've been training?

GRUMBLE

Quarry and Koo?

ELPHONSE

If we got them to Christmas Island then Santa will have enough to fly his sleigh.

GRUMBLE

Yeah, but they're still in training and without me there to guide them...

ELPHONSE

Well *you* can take them Grumble, in the back-up sled.

GRUMBLE

I guess so...

ELPHONSE

I'm a genius Grumble and I just thought of something even better.

GRUMBLE

What?

ELPHONSE

Without Mrs Claus around we won't have to have a Christmas Party.

Sc 3 – Workshop

ELAPH

Elfis, shine that torch back over here?

ELFIS

Sorry Elaph, I didn't even know we had a generator.

ELPERTA

It's been down here forever but never been used.

ELFIS

Why not?

ELPERTA

Well because it's fire powered.

ELAPH

And you can't burn snow and there's nothing else to burn around here to make it work.

SFX – metallic clanking, tinkering with the generator

Ah, this was a stupid idea!

ELFIS

There's the room full of recalled toys we could burn, most of them are there because they're flammable or is it inflammable?

ELPERTA

It's worth a try, we've just got to get Process Line 1 up so we can keep making the Gamebox 2's.

ELFIS

And we could burn all of those Gamebox 1's?
They have been known to catch fire themselves anyway.

ELAPH

Elfis, you're a right numpty, but you've just had a good idea.

ELFIS

Thanks Elaph, I think.

ELPERTA

(panting) Here's some recalled toys Elaph.

SFX – fire and generator powering up.

ELAPH

Thar she blows!

ELPERTA

It's working Elaph.

ELFIS

(choking)

ELPERTA

Elfis!!

ELAPH

We better burn the recalled choke hazard toys first.

ELFIS

(*Cough*) Oh dear.

VO

A generator?! A backup sled?! So many convenient plot points, and how handy that the phones still work in a power outage. Will the GB2's get made in time? And will Grumble get his barely trained reindeer to Christmas Island to get Father Christmas home in time to save Christmas? 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 around preparing for that one special day of the year. It's Christmas Eve and with the fire powered generator running full blast the Gamebox2's are flying off the production line; meanwhile Santa awaits the arrival of Grumble who's flying the replacement reindeer to Christmas Island, all in the name of saving Christmas.

Sc 1 – Elphonse's office

SANTA *(via ElfTime call)*

Are you there Elphonse? Come in, come in, I can't see you.

ELPHONSE

Sorry Santa, the power is out here. It's a bit dark.

MELFA

Open the blinds Elphonse, it's bright outside 24 hours.

SANTA

No power! But the ElfTime is still working?

ELPHONSE

Yes amazing isn't it.

SANTA

And I can see Elfira is on the line but her screen is frozen again.

ELPHONSE

No she's just asleep.

SANTA

The plan Elphonse, how are you getting us home? Have you forgotten I need to work tonight?

ELPHONSE

Grumble shouldn't be far away now with the replacement reindeer.

MELFA

He's finally answered, adding him to the call.

ELPHONSE

Grumble!

SANTA

Oh that sweet, dirty face. I can almost smell him.

ELPHONSE

Grumble you're on mute.

GRUMBLE

Is that better?

ELPHONSE

I preferred you on mute.

GRUMBLE

We've just landed Elphonse. Boy there are a lot of monkeys on Christmas Island.

ELPHONSE

(sigh) Grumble you're at the zoo. The reindeer training's been going well then?

SANTA

At the zoo? No Grumble, Christmas Island. You'll find us at the resort, at the bar (burp) and stay away from the beach, there's sharks. Now hurry up.

SFX – hang up

GRUMBLE

Copy that, roger over. I'm on my way. Over.

SFX – hang up

MELFA

Santa and Grumble have left and Melfa's leaving the call.

ELFIRA

(yawn) Is that you Elphonse?

ELPHONSE

Oh Elfira, sorry to wake you during business hours.

ELFIRA

When's the power coming back on Elphonse? I'm missing my stories.

ELPHONSE

I'm afraid your stories will have to wait.
Honestly Elfira, how is it that Santa doesn't just fire you?

ELFIRA

I've got these?

ELPHONSE

Photos? Is that? Is he? Are they? Oh my.

ELFIRA

If there's no power how is the workshop getting all the toys made?
I knew those robots were a bad idea.

ELPHONSE

Oh look the ElfFlix renewal notice, hmm, (reading) 'how to cancel your subscription.'

ELFIRA

You wouldn't?!

ELPHONSE

Good bye Elfira, stick a fork into a socket and wait,
you'll be first to know when the power's back.

Sc 2 – Workshop

ELAPH

Put in more toddler play sets Elfis!
Got to keep that generator going, we've nearly finished toy production.

ELFIS

They're all gone Elaph, burning all that lead's made me a bit dizzy.

ELPERTA

I've just got a few more Gamebox1's to throw in.

SFX – fire

ELFIS

I can't wait to fire up one of these BG2's.

ELAPH

We're not burning those Elfis!

ELFIS

No I mean play with one, they're so streamlined.

SFX – Door

ELPHONSE

Ah workshop Elves.

ELAPH

When's the power coming back on?!

ELPHONSE

There's a lot of smoke, the generator still working?

ELPERTA

Yeah but we're nearly out of things to burn.

ELAPH

The power?!

ELPHONSE

Should be back on soon, just a little misunderstanding with the power company.
Lucky you got that old generator working.

ELAPH

Don't know for how much longer though.
How are we meant to do our jobs with no power?
These computers and robots are useless without the electricity.

ELPERTA

We really need a better generator.

ELPHONSE

I imagine they're not cheap, did you sell *all* of the souvenirs?

ELAPH

We're not making the workshop a gift shop again! Ever!

ELFIS

Just a few more stickers to go on the BG2's and then Santa's sack will be full.
Can you go any faster sticker machine?

STICKER MACHINE

Can't go faster, at maximum speed.

ELFIS

Ok, thank you.

STICKER MACHINE

You're welcome Elfis.

SFX – Christmas bells

ELPHONSE

Oh thank Santa, the Claus's are back!

Sc 3 – Outside

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!

SFX – sled landing

Whoah there Rudolph.

MRS CLAUS

Ooh, sunburn.

ELPHONSE

Welcome home, thank Santa these reindeer found their way home.
Right, we need to prepare the sleigh, you need to leave very soon Santa.
Grumble! Grumble!!!

SANTA

Yes little Grumble...

ELPHONSE

Where is he? Did they keep him at the zoo?

SANTA

Close, there was some trouble with immigration.

ELPHONSE

Oh?

SANTA

He was detained.

MRS CLAUS

They put him in the other resort.

ELPHONSE

You mean the internment camp?

SANTA

Yes it didn't look so pleasant, didn't even have a swim up bar.

MRS CLAUS

Looked very 2-star to me.

ELPHONSE

Grumble in asylum...not the way I imagined it.

SANTA

Is my sack ready Elphonse?!

ELPHONSE

Yes Santa, it's ready and being loaded onto the sleigh as we speak. The automated workshop got all the toys made, thankfully you've made it home in time and (*deep breath in*) how much fresher is this frosty air without Grumble around???
I'd say it's been a good day.

SFX – power coming back on with a bang, explosion.

MRS CLAUS

What in my husband's name?!

SANTA

Yes what in my name was that?!

(Workshop elves coughing)

ELAPH

Well the power's back on!

ELFIS

Back with a bang!

SANTA

The power was *still* out?

ELPHONSE

A little admin error with the useless power company.

ELPERTA

Well it came back with a surge Elphonse, all the computers are cooked.

ELFIS

Even the brand new sticker machine is kaput.

SANTA

This doesn't sound very jolly Elphonse.

ELPHONSE

And there I was bold enough to claim I'd had a good day.
Well at least it couldn't get any worse.

MRS CLAUS

Oh look, there's still time for the Christmas Party!

ELPHONSE

(groan)

VO

Another successful Elf Control Christmas. Santa sets off into the night sky with a full troupe of mostly trained reindeer and a sack full of Gamebox2's...

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!! Hey where are you going, no, this way!!

VO

The smoke from the fried computers settles as the elves scramble to deliver a Christmas Party...

ELPHONSE

Where *does* Grumble store the fairy costume? Ow, splinter.

VO

...whilst on Christmas Island Grumble spends Christmas all alone in an un-padded cell, with not a reindeer in sight.

GRUMBLE

I can't see what's Christmassy about this island.

GUARD

Keep it down in there.

SFX – metallic slam

VO

How will Grumble get home? How will Elphonse get the workshop operational again?
And if I leave now will I make it to the Christmas Party?
From everyone at Elf Control, have a Merry, very, very, Merry Christmas.

THE END