

# ELF Control

## Series 5

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by

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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
<b>Elphonse (Geoff)</b>	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
<b>Grumble (Michael)</b>	Personal assistant to Elphonse and head reindeer keeper. Lacks competency and personal hygiene but is ever present.	Defeated & deflated
<b>Melfa (Cassie)</b>	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.
<b>Santa Claus (Russell)</b>	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
<b>Mrs Claus (Sophie)</b>	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.
<b>Voiceover (Jason)</b>	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		
<b>Elaph (Michael)</b>	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.
<b>Elperta (Cassie)</b>	Fellow disgruntled worker Elf, she is the voice of reason when Elaph gets a head full of steam.	Girly elf voice
<b>Elfis (Russell)</b>	Hard working Elf who would also be disgruntled if he knew what it meant.	A bit dopey, but happy in his blissful ignorance
Other		
<b>Phil (Rod)</b>	Store Santa	
<b>Kid#1 (Leroy)</b>		Bratty kid
<b>Kid#2 (Jemma)</b>		Bratty kid
<b>Mr Mond (Russell)</b>	Snooty store manager	
<b>Elfabian (Geoff)</b>		Chad Bradley
<b>Sticker Machine (Geoff)</b>		Robot

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## Episode 1 – All Quiet Poleside

**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 ...um it's actually not that busy at the moment, not much happening at all...but look I'm sure something will happen to somebody...sometime...

### Sc 1 – Elphonse's Office

SFX - intercom

**MELFA**

Hello Elphonse?

**ELPHONSE**

Yes Melfa, hello – again!

**MELFA**

Just making sure the phones are working, they haven't rung all day.

**ELPHONSE**

Well yes, they *are* working...is that all?

**MELFA**

What are *you* up to today?

**ELPHONSE**

Paying bills, admin, keeping matches away from Grumble – hang on a minute, it's not like *you* to engage in conversation Melfa?

**MELFA**

I know but there's nothing to do around here now that the automated workshop is running without any more hiccups.

**ELPHONSE**

Hiccups?! More like burps.

**GRUMBLE**

Or a spew?

**ELPHONSE**

No one asked you Grumble. Maybe you need a hobby Melfa?

**GRUMBLE**

Or a pet?

**ELPHONSE**

Yes, like how I've got Grumble.

**MELFA**

Hmm maybe I should...

**ELPHONSE**

Actually Melfa you know what I think you'd really enjoy is –

SFX – phone

**MELFA**

Got to go. Hello Elf Control, Melfa speaking....

SFX – intercom end

**ELPHONSE**

OK. Right Grumble now where were we, take it back a bit.

**GRUMBLE**

You've got the remote.

**ELPHONSE**

No you've got it.

**GRUMBLE**

I don't think so.

**ELPHONSE**

I'm pretty sure...

**GRUMBLE**

You wouldn't let me touch it because you said my grubby gremlin claws would stink it up.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh yes...

**GRUMBLE**

Besides I'm standing outside in the cold with my head through the window because you also said my grubby gremlin behind would stink up your theater's deluxe premium leather recliners.

**ELPHONSE**

(reaching) Ah, fell down the side of the cushion. Now Gremlin I mean Grumble, just close that window a little would you, it's a bit drafty... (SFX – creaky window) that's better.

Now I'll just go back a bit before Melfa interrupted -

**GRUMBLE** (muffled)

Ooh play from here I like this bit.

SFX – movie playing

**ELPHONSE**

Have you seen this Grumble?

SFX – intercom

Oh sweet Santa, not again. Yes Melfa, the phones are working.  
You really are interrupting 'my work' here.

**MELFA**

That was the coal company.

**ELPHONSE**

A coal call?

**MELFA**

Yes, the price of coal is going up - again.

**ELPHONSE**

What?! You know it'd be cheaper to give the naughty kids one of those mass produced Gameboxes, they're cheaper than a lump of coal these days!

**MELFA**

Do you still want this year's order to go ahead?

**ELPHONSE**

No, we simply can't afford it anymore,  
we really need an alternative to coal.

SFX – window opening

**GRUMBLE**

I got coal for Christmas last year...and every other year.

**ELPHONSE**

Is that all now Melfa? I've really got to get back to my *important* work, I'm very close to the end.

**MELFA**

You were going to suggest some hobbies?

**ELPHONSE**

Got to go now, bye.  
Right Grumble, pass me the remote.

**GRUMBLE**

But you've -

SFX – bell ringing.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh sweet Santa, it was just getting good.

**GRUMBLE**

Yeah the boat's about to sink!

**ELPHONSE**

Spoiler!! Hang on, when did you see this? Have you been in my theatre?!  
I thought I could smell deer carcass. Just lean in the window a bit further Grumble.

**GRUMBLE**

Like this?

SFX – window slamming.

**GRUMBLE**

Oww! The window's on my neck.

**ELPHONSE**

Now wait here while I see the fatman.

**GRUMBLE**

Ugh...at least my head's warm.

**VO**

Can a coal crisis alleviate some of the boredom on the North Pole? Will Melfa find a hobby?  
And will Elphonse see the end of the movie? And don't worry no Elf Control spoilers here,  
there would have to be some sort of narrative direction for it to be spoiled,  
find out more next time on Elf Control.

## Episode 2 – Letters to Santa

**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 Christmas approaches children both naughty and nice are sending their letters to Santa, which pile in by the sack full but I buy *one thing* on ELFBay and (sigh) it'll get here eventually...

### Sc 1 – Santa's Office

SFX – knocking, paper rustling

**SANTA**

Come in Elphonse. Such terrible handwriting, even the good children.

**ELPHONSE**

Letters to Santa?

**SANTA**

They never *end* Elphonse, where's your little assistant, what's his name, Gerbil?

**ELPHONSE**

Grumble sir.

**SANTA**

I need a foot rub and more eggnog and my fire needs a stoke.

**ELPHONSE**

You seem agitated Santa?

**SANTA**

The letters Elphonse!

**ELPHONSE**

Usual groveling, I assume? 'I've been good', 'I want this', 'what's it like on the North Pole?' 'Do elves have genitals?'

**SANTA**

Read this one.

**ELPHONSE**

(reading) 'Dear Santa, I've been very good this year'...standard... 'but it doesn't mean anything because I know you aren't even real' – well that got dark.

**SANTA**

And this one.

**ELPHONSE**

Dear Santa, I've been a very good boy this year –

**SANTA**

Skip ahead.

**ELPHONSE**

My brother says you're not even real and that there's no scientific evidence to prove you exist and how do you even get down all them chimneys in one night, particularly if you're such a fat bast-

**SANTA**

And this one!

**ELPHONSE**

(muttering, reading to himself) 'you're just a mythical creature like unicorns and narwhals' – Narwhal's? I saw one yesterday.

**SANTA**

Am I not real Elphonse?

SFX – slap

**SANTA**

Ow! Jingle bells Elphonse!

**ELPHONSE**

Did you feel that?

**SANTA**

I did, and if you (groggy) stand still for a minute I'm going to slug you back.

**ELPHONSE**

I am standing still, sorry, maybe that was a bit too hard.  
But my point is that of course you're real.

**SANTA**

Well you could have just said so without all the violence and bloodshed.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh dear, use your sleeve, at least it's red.

**SANTA**

My Santa wrath will be poured upon those children  
who question my existence.

**ELPHONSE**

There's a lot of blood pouring out of your nose right now...

**SANTA**

They doubt the Father of Christmas. I swear they will see the less

jolly side of old Kris Kringle...

**ELPHONSE**

This is very dramatic Santa.

**SANTA**

*(with dramatic music building/Pulp Fiction reference)*

And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance;  
And they will know my name is Santa when I lay my vengeance upon thee.

**ELPHONSE**

And how will you do this Santa?

**SANTA**

The naughty children shall receive not one, but *two* lumps of coal!

**ELPHONSE**

Oh right, yes um, about the coal...

**SANTA**

What?

**ELPHONSE** (fading)

Well the energy crisis, inflation, global markets, climate stuff, taxes,  
continues talking while slowly fading out...  
Sting transition.

### Sc 2 – The Workshop

**ELFIS**

Snap!

**ELPERTA**

For the hundredth time Elfis, we're playing UNO (you-no), not snap.

**ELFIS**

'OOH-NO' Elperta.

**ELPERTA**

You-no.

**ELFIS**

No ."UNO" is a Spanish game and in Spanish "U" and "N" are pronounced as separate syllables, the letter "O" is pronounced with a long "O" sound, making it "OOH-noh".

**ELPERTA**

Elfis, how do ooh-no - I mean you know that.

**ELFIS**

I've got ELF-AI on my phone, you can ask it anything  
and it'll give you the answer?

**ELPERTA**

Really? Can you ask it if there's any work we can do?  
We are worker elves in this workshop with no work to do.

**ELFIS**

Ah OK (sfx typing on phone, ding). It says 'No, all work is now  
automated for efficiency, consistency, safety and to save costs.'

SFX – Footsteps

**ELPERTA**

Hi Elaph, have you got any jobs for us?

**ELAPH**

No I don't, just keep an eye on those machine things while I'm out.

**ELFIS**

Elaph, do you want to ask ELF-AI anything before you go?

**ELAPH**

Ask it how to repair your broken phone?

**ELFIS**

But it's not..

*SFX – smash*

...broken. Oh dear.

**ELAPH**

Back soon!

**VO**

A cracked screen for Elfis, has Santa also cracked with the endless supply of naughty children? Will his Santa-wrath be poured out? Can he afford all that coal? And hey ELF-AI when can we find out more? Oh? Next time on Elf Control apparently.

## Episode 3 – The Zen Den

**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 workshop now fully automated the elves have freedom to explore other interests and take time out for some elf-improvement.

Sc 1 – Zen Den

**ELFABIAN**

Hello once again Elaph, I'm so energised to have you back at The Zen Den of Fury Control, I'm your sage of rage Elfabian.

**ELAPH**

What happened to Dr Elsworth?

**ELFABIAN**

Dr Elsworth the wrangler of anger, he needed a little self care sabbatical.

**ELAPH**

He cracked?

**ELFABIAN**

Like lips in a blizzard. Now picking up where you left off you were taking a deep dive into your childhood to discover when your explosive rage presented.

**ELAPH**

I've told you I had a perfectly normal elf childhood.

**ELFABIAN**

Ok good good, let's unpack that a little, break it down, in your own words what is a 'normal elf childhood'?

**ELAPH**

Well you know, working. Hammering, sawing, washing blood off the tools, stitching wounds and always singing, I didn't like the singing.

**ELFABIAN**

Did the singing make you angry?

**ELAPH**

No, I just hated it. We were good at making the toys, I used to make wooden boxes.

**ELFABIAN**

Good, now let's think outside the box, what *didn't* you like at work?

**ELAPH**

Ehhh...there were a lot of hammered fingers, poked eyes, severed limbs;  
we'd put the elves with stumps onto stuffed animal duty.

**ELFABIAN**

Good, good, I feel some vivid memories flooding back, let's dive into that a bit deeper.  
How do these injuries make you feel, is it making you angry?

**ELAPH**

Eh no, just a bit queasy, oh I once saw an elf lose the points off his ears  
from the band saw.

**ELFABIAN**

Did that invoke feelings of rage?

**ELAPH**

Well *he* got angry when we started calling him Nubbin.

**ELFABIAN**

So there was an atmosphere of anger in the workshop?

**ELAPH**

No! Again, there wasn't! I see what you're trying to do and it's starting to get annoying.

**ELFABIAN**

Good, we're making progress, remember this is a safe place to release negative energy,  
just let it go, let it all out, you do you, get angry.

**ELAPH**

No, I'm good, are we nearly done for today?

**ELFABIAN**

No, but yes - let's talk about today, share details of the workshop now,  
let's run it up the flagpole and see who salutes.

**ELAPH**

It's soo different now.

**ELFABIAN**

Angry different?

**ELAPH**

No! There's no tools, just machines. I miss the noise, the sawdust,  
heck I even miss the bloody lathe.

**ELFABIAN**

We don't swear in the Zen Den Elaph.

**ELAPH**

No Elfabian, the lathe was bloody, stained with elf blood.

**ELFABIAN**

I sense grief Elaph, and loss, keep going you're being so brave.

**ELAPH**

We used to be proud of our work but now we've got this mass produced electronic garbage coming out of my workshop. And that incompetent, phone addicted elf I have to babysit, jumping jingle bells it makes me mad!!!

**ELFABIAN**

Boom, there it is - your emotive trigger, your touchiest touch point; and now we need to release your negative emotions into the aurora borealis. Tell me about this elf?

**ELAPH** (*anger building*)

Ugh Elfis. He's the cause of all my anger. Every time I think of him I -

SFX – gong

**ELFABIAN**

Ok, well that concludes this week's session, we'll put a pin it right there Elaph but there's some good synergy in what we've unpacked today. Now make a time for next week and (SFX – tearing off invoice) pay this on your way out.

**ELAPH**

What??!!!! (gasp - angry) Jumping Jingle Bells!!!!

**VO**

Now there's anger in the Zen Den of Fury Control, inflationary rates indeed!  
But Elfabian is very good, his therapy helped me quit smoking - after seeing him for 2 weeks I couldn't afford them anymore, or my rent. Will he help Elaph manage his anger?  
Find out next time on Elf Control?

## Episode 4 – Coal Crisis

**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. Coal costs are creating a conundrum on the North Pole, is it sustainable to gift the naughty children such a valuable commodity or is it time to consider an alternative?

### Sc 1 – Santa’s Office

**ELPHONSE**

So what do we think?

**MRS CLAUS**

Back in my day you’d give them a good hiding

SFX – typing

**ELPHONSE**

Yes well...

**GRUMBLE**

I used to get coal *and* a good hiding.

**MRS CLAUS**

Spoilt rotten!

**SANTA**

I don’t like breaking tradition Elphonse, next you’ll want to put an end to KFC for Christmas lunch.

**MRS CLAUS**

Or hiding the Christmas pickle!

SFX – typing

**SANTA**

I’ve found some alternatives to coal on my computer machine using ELF-AI.

**ELPHONSE**

You use ELF-AI?

**SANTA**

Get with it Elphonse, it’s all over the Darkweb. Right, alternatives to coal: natural gas. Can we give naughty kids gas?

**ELPHONSE**

I don’t think so.

**GRUMBLE**

I've got gas.

**ELPHONSE**

Shush Grumble.

**SANTA**

Solar, wind, geothermal or a - nuclear?

**MRS CLAUS**

Ooh yes something nuclear for the naughty kids sounds like a hoot.

**ELPHONSE**

Mm, not really a gift for a child.  
You need more of an object like a rock or a stick?

**SANTA**

Ooooh booring!

**MRS CLAUS**

Terrible ideas Elphonse, so boring.

**SANTA**

What about something wooden?!

**MRS CLAUS**

Yes!

**SANTA**

Instead of a lump of coal, a lump of wood.

**MRS CLAUS**

Oh yes, great idea husband!

**ELPHONSE**

Yes great idea...

**SANTA**

We'll need a lot of woods, there's more  
naughty children than ever now!

**ELPHONSE**

Well there is the forest, it's mostly grown back  
now we don't use the timber for toys.

**SANTA**

There you go Elphonse. Stop the coal...

**MRS CLAUS**

Those greenies will be delighted.

**SANTA**

...and cut down all the trees.

**ELPHONSE**

(sigh) Right...

Sc 2 – Workshop

SFX - beeping

**ELFIS**

Looks like another shipment of Gameboxes is done.

**ELPERTA**

What model are we up to now?

**ELFIS**

Ooh - there was the 1, 2, 3, 4, then the GB-S, GB-SX, GB-SX Advanced now was that before or after the Gamebox Super Advanced Black Edition?

**ELPERTA**

Who can keep track, but as long we keep our equipment up to date it'll make the current model.

**ELFIS**

Well it updates itself now *and* puts all the stickers on.

**ELPERTA**

(sigh) And wraps, does it all except delivery.

**ELFIS**

Remember Elaph yelling ,‘These toys won’t make themselves!!!’ - well they do now!

**ELPERTA**

Better not mention that. Here he comes. Hey Elaph?

**ELAPH**

(vey clam) Elperta. Stupid Elf.

**ELFIS**

What are you doing with those tools?  
You going to make some toys? Can I help?

**ELAPH**

No Elfis, I’m done with toys, I’m retiring.  
I’m taking my saw to cut a hole in the ice, fish for dinner.

**VO**

Is Elaph hanging up his tiny tool belt? Is Christmas wood more sustainable than coal? Is KFC a traditional Christmas meal anywhere besides Japan?  
And where does Santa hide the Christmas pickle?

**MRS CLAUS**

It is a real tradition you know! Ask ELF-AI.

**VO**

And why is Grumble on the naughty list?  
Find out more next time on Elf Control.

## Episode 5 – Holiday Hobbies

**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. We're only days from Christmas and all appears under control at Elf Control giving the North Pole elves some freedom to explore other hobbies, my last hobby was whittling but I lost my whittle.

Sc – 1 Elf Control

*SFX – phone ringing & ringing*

**ELPHONSE**

Hello Elf Control, Elphonse speaking.

*SFX – ringing continues.*

Hello.

*SFX – ringing continues.*

How do you answer this thing? Where on earth is Melfa?

Sc 2 – Deer Stables

**GRUMBLE**

Hello Quarry, my your antlers are growing.

*SFX – walking*

Melfa, what are you doing out here?

**MELFA**

I thought hiking might be a good hobby but I'm going back to my warm desk.

**GRUMBLE**

*You could* help with the reindeer.

**MELFA**

*You could* get out of my way.

Hey what's going on with the old stable over there? Still toxic?

**GRUMBLE**

No, the last soil test *came up* all clear.

**MELFA**

Test?

**GRUMBLE**

Yeah, Elphonse gets me to do a taste test. Last time I ate the dirt it came back up all clear, no more blood.

**MELFA**

(thinking) So we can use the old stable again, could use a little make over.

**GRUMBLE**

I just gave Vixen a little makeover.

**MELFA**

You're a weird little elf aren't you Grumble.

Sc 2 – Workshop

**ELFIS**

Elperta, give me something to ask ELF-AI?

**ELPERTA**

Um...ask it how we're able fit this overstuffed warehouse of toys into Santa's tiny sack?

**ELFIS**

Ok –

*SFX – Door*

**ELPHONSE**

Hello production facility Elves, how's toy production going?

**ELPERTA**

Toy production couldn't be better but the elves have nothing to do so have stopped coming to work.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh well, saves labour costs.

**ELFIS**

The 'magic of Christmas' is what makes all them toys fit.

**ELPHONSE**

Magic indeed (sarcastically)  
Where's Elaph?

**ELPERTA**

Fishing, he's retired.

**ELPHONSE**

Retired?

**ELFIS**

Yeah he stinks like fish now, although I don't think he's ever caught anything.

**ELPHONSE**

Elaph fishing?

**ELFIS**

I think he just likes cutting holes in the ice with his saw thingy.

**ELPHONSE**

Well I've got a job for him that will involve a lot of cutting,  
the old timber mill is coming back.

**ELPERTA**

But we don't need wood anymore; we've got all these 3D printers.

**ELPHONSE**

It's not for toys, the wood is for the naughty children.

**ELFIS**

But we get coal!

**ELPHONSE**

I'm going to get Elaph to run the logging operation.

**ELPERTA**

Well there's lot of saws lying around doing nothing.

**ELFIS**

And lots of workshop elves lying around doing nothing.

**ELPHONSE**

Ooh I've got to run, (sigh) Santa's store visit.

**ELIFS**

Ooh can I come to the store Santa visit?

**ELPHONSE**

Oh, I guess so Elfis, Grumble usually comes but...

**ELFIS**

Can you run the workshop without me Elperta?

**ELPERTA**

I don't think I even need to be here.

**ELFIS**

I'll just grab my reusable shopping bags and put on my pointy toed going out shoes and can we stop at the Device Doctors I need a new phone screen since Elaph smashed it again, oh and I've got a shopping list, and....(fading into background)

**ELPHONSE**

Oh my humbug.

**VO**

Elfis is excited about exiting the workshop. Will logging lure Elaph out of retirement?  
And how do you give a reindeer a makeover? Can you groom antlers?  
Find out more next time on Elf Control.

## Episode 6 – Store Visit

**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 store visit time, a chance for wide eyed children to meet the *real* Santa who's a little low on Christmas Spirit but quite full of ...

Sc 1 – Outside

SFX – slurp, burp.

**SANTA**

Let'sh get this over with Elphonse, there better not be any naughty children, I've had a skin full of those types...

**ELPHONSE**

Yes Santa, just about ready...

*SFX – intercom*

Hmm I can't get hold of Melfa and I don't know where Grumble is, he was meant to have the sleigh ready.

*SFX – sleigh coming to a stop.*

**ELFIS**

The sleigh's ready to go Elphonse.

**ELPHONSE**

Right Elfis, are you sure you know what you're doing with this thing?  
Where are the reindeer?

**ELFIS**

It doesn't need reindeer, it's electric.

**ELPHONSE**

But Grumble insisted –

**ELFIS**

He just likes taking the deer for walkies, but we don't *really* need them.

**ELPHONSE**

I see.

**SANTA**

Come Elphonse, (getting into the sled) let's go. Ooh my flask.

**ELFIS**

Centre console Santa.

**SANTA**

Oh, (sniffing) is that new perfume?

**ELPHONSE**

This isn't Grumble sir, this is Elfis from the workshop.

**SANTA**

He doesn't smell like Grumble.

**ELPHONSE**

Nothing living does sir.

**ELFIS**

I'll be your driver today. Arms, legs, pointy ears and beards must remain inside the cabin at all times and drinks service will commence as soon as -

**SANTA**

Ooh gimme, gimme. (SXF – slurp) Ah.... (sfx - burp)  
He's a good elf Elphonse. (long sniff)

**ELPHONSE**

Do you actually know how to drive this sleigh Elfis?

**ELFIS**

Nah don't need to, it's electric *and* auto-ominous; automonotis; automotos

**SANTA**

You mean autonimus, autotitimus, automotimus, etc.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh my humbug.

*SFX – sting*

**SANTA**

My that was a smooth ride, but I seem to be out of...

**ELFIS**

I'll get the extra spare flask from the automonus-

**ELPHONSE**

Self driving!!

**ELFIS**

Oh that's right – the 'self driving' sled.

**ELPHONSE**

This way! We need to find the manager, ooh there he is.

Mr Mond, Santa's here and on time this year.

**MR MOND**

Well yes it's the right time but you're here on the wrong day.

**ELPHONSE**

What?! Melfa!

**MR MOND**

I'm afraid we have the store Santa in today.

**SANTA**

Who's on my throne?! Imposter!

**ELPHONSE**

Down Santa, it's the store Santa.

**SANTA**

Oh yes, ok, well get him to move along, the real Father of Christmas is here today.

**MR MOND**

Uh ok, but we're still going to have to pay him you know.

**SANTA**

Paid? *(seeing Elfis return with the flask)* Oh gimme, gimme! *(SFX – slurp)*

**ELFIS** *(returning with the spare flask)*  
*(shocked)* What?!! T-t-two Santas!!

**ELPHONSE**

I guess we'll pay for our mistake, well Melfa's mistake,  
let's just get him out of here so we don't confuse the children.

**ELFIS**

How are there-? Why is there-? There's two Santa's!!

**MR MOND**

Look, sorry Phil, you need to go, there's been a mix up. Take the rest of the day off.

**PHIL**

But *I'm* rostered on Tuesdays.

**SANTA**

On your sleigh Phil or I shall put you on the naughty list.

**PHIL**

Ooh you're good, very believable. Is that a real beard?

**MR MOND**

Sorry Phil, say hi to Joan.

**PHIL**

(whimper) Ok.

**SANTA**

(sitting) Right, let's get on with it then.

**ELPHONSE**

Ok Santa, now Elfis we only get kids from the good list.

**ELFIS**

How you can tell?

**KID#1**

Did you see that? There was two Santas!

**KID#2**

Yeah, this one's fat so he must be the real one.

**ELPHONSE**

It's usually pretty obvious...

**SANTA**

Ok first child, what do you want for Christmas?

**KID#1**

We seen two Santa's!

**SANTA**

Whatever do you mean?

**KID#1**

Where'd the other Santa go?  
Is he the real one or are you?

**SANTA**

Elphonse!

**ELPHONSE**

Ah it's the magic of Christmas?

**KID#2**

That beard's fake, pull it off!

**SANTA**

Oww!!

**KIDS#1**

Come off fake beard!

**KID#2**

I don't believe in Santa no more!

**SANTA**

Naughty list!!

**KID#2**

I don't believe in no naughty list neither now!

**SANTA**

(angry) You will when you get coal for Christmas!!!

**ELPHONSE**

Wood sir.

**VO**

Wood indeed! Who wood have thought Santa's Christmas spirit could sink this low?  
Who knew the sleigh could fly without reindeer? Is the magic of Christmas fading faster  
than my background music? Find out next time on Elf Control.

The music stopped way too early then.

## Episode 7 – Arctic Hell

**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 old stable, off limits for reasons we don't speak of now appears to be undergoing major restoration works. Hopefully this will help erase the memory of mad deer disease outbreaks, chemical contamination, South Pole elf genocide and other events from Season 1 – listen now, like, subscribe, follow – oh sorry...

Sc 1 – Elf Control

*SFX – phone*

**MELFA**

Hello Elf Control Melfa speaking. Yes that's right. No, if there are smelly deer that's the new stable, you need to deliver to the *old* stable.

*SFX – door*

**ELPHONSE**

Oh Melfa, you've decided to turn up, the store visit was a disaster.

**MELFA**

It was meant to be *today*.

**ELPHONSE**

As I discovered at the store *yesterday*. Where have you been?

**MELFA**

You told me to get a hobby, so I've found one.  
I'm renovating the old stable and starting a business.

**ELPHONSE**

I meant knitting or baking, nothing with heavy machinery.  
What is this hobby costing us?

**MELFA**

I've got a business loan from ELFbank which I'll have paid off in months once operations commence. You can invest if you like.

**ELPHONSE**

With what Melfa? My next pay cheque is all going to Phil.  
I'll be in my office if you need me.

*SFX - door*

**MELFA**

Who's Phil?

Sc 2 – Elphonse’s Office

**ELPHONSE**

Grumble, you’re here, where have you been?

**GRUMBLE**

I’ve been at the forest wood thing with Elaph.

**ELFIS**

Hello Grumble?

**GRUMBLE**

Elfis what are you doing here?

**ELIFS**

I’ve been at the store Santa thing with Elphonse.

**ELPHONSE**

My world is upside down, I don’t know if I’m on the North or South Pole any more.

**GRUMBLE**

If there’s penguins you’re on the South Pole.

**ELFIS**

And if there’s polar bears you’re on the North Pole.

**ELPHONSE**

And here I am with 2 elves sharing a brain cell in some sort of arctic hell.

**GRUMBLE**

What do they have on the East Pole?

**ELFIS**

Ooh and the West Pole?

**ELPHONSE**

There are no East or West poles!

**ELFIS**

So they’ve got *no* animals!

**GRUMBLE**

I wouldn’t want to live there.

*SFX – Santa’s bell.*

**ELPHONSE**

Ah blessed relief, back soon.

**GRUMBLE**

I wonder if they have reindeer.

Sc 3 – Santa’s Office

*SFX – knocking, door*

**ELPHONSE**

Santa, I’m here.

**MRS CLAUS**

Elphonse!

**ELPHONSE**

Mrs Claus.

**MRS CLAUS**

What happened at the store visit Elphonse?

**ELPHONSE**

Well we got there on time, very punctual.

**SANTA**

Those kids were meanies!

**ELPHONSE**

Definitely naughty list children.

**MRS CLAUS**

Did they pull his beard?

**ELPHONSE**

Well yes, there was a mix up with the days and there was another Santa there when we arrived –

**SANTA**

An imposter!

**ELPHONSE**

And some of the kids got a bit confused.

**SANTA**

Where is the respect Elphonse?

**MRS CLAUS**

What’s happened to the magic of Christmas?

**SANTA**

What have we become? None of our toys are made with any joy or happy singing.

**ELPHONSE**

Does anyone really miss the singing?

**SANTA**

The children don't believe in me anymore!

**ELPHONSE**

Oh don't mind them.

**SANTA**

I think it's over Elphonse, I am done.

**ELPHONSE**

But...

**SANTA**

I quit!!

**MRS CLAUS**

Do we still get to have the Christmas Party?

**VO**

Existential crisis on the North Pole! Can Santa quit? What will that mean for Christmas? What will it mean for the North Pole elves?! And if *he* gives all the presents why have I done all this Christmas shopping? Find out next time on Elf Control.

## Episode 8 – Timber!

**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 a dark day on the North Pole and not just because there's no sun in winter but because Santa's existential crisis has put Christmas under a cloud. But despite these weather references Christmas preparations continue...

Sc 1 - Forest

**ELAPH**

Oy! Lumberjack elves! Get back to work those trees won't cut themselves down!

*SFX – axe chopping, sawing. Footsteps approaching.*

**ELPHONSE**

Elaph, good to see you've got the timber production going.

**ELAPH**

Aye, and I'm getting to work with my tools again.

*SFX - sawing*

**GRUMBLE**

And look I'm using all my reindeer to move the logs.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh it's Grumble, I thought I'd stepped in something, despite this overpowering pine scent.

**ELAPH**

And the best part is I'm not stuck working with that Elfis anymore, that elf would push my buttons.

**GRUMBLE**

Elfis likes buttons.

**ELPHONSE**

Well we need this wood to replace the coal, although without Santa I don't even know whether Christmas -

*SFX - sawing*

**ELAPH**

Timber!!!! Look out.

*SFX – tree falling; squish*

**GRUMBLE**

Donner!!!!

**ELPHONSE**

Ooh. Right between the antlers.

**GRUMBLE**

The t-tree landed right on -

**ELPHONSE**

Donner's a gonner.

**ELAPH**

Was that deer wearing lipstick?

**GRUMBLE**

(crying)

**ELPHONSE**

Right well good to see the trees coming down, although where they come down might need a bit more consideration...

**ELAPH**

I am new at this.

**ELPHONSE**

Well let's hope this forest (and reindeer) destruction is worthwhile.

*SFX – heavy machinery, working*

**ELAPH**

What's going on down there then?

**ELPHONSE**

The old stable? Melfa's up to something, some hobby bender she's on, been watching too many home improvement shows. Might be able to put your reindeer back in there Grumble, although you don't really have many left now?

**GRUMBLE**

Poor Donner.

**ELAPH**

Clean that mess up Grumble, it's all over me timber.

Sc 2 – Workshop

**VO**

Meanwhile in the workshop...

*SFX – machines beeping*

**ELPERTA**

Another batch of gameboxes done, now where am I going to store all these?

*SFX – intercom*

**ELFRID**

Mail room.

**ELPERTA**

Elfrid, it's Elperta from the workshop, have you got space to store more gameboxes in the mail room?

**ELFRID**

We're full up here and all my postal elves are busy sorting Santa's letters, can they go into Santa's sack yet?

**ELPERTA**

Apparently not, there's a hold on the sack.

**ELFRID**

A hold on the sack, that's unusual.

**ELPERTA**

Nothing's normal around here anymore. I'm so lonely, the only conversations I've had this week have been with the sticker machine.

**STICKER MACHINE**

More stickers Elperta?

**ELEPRTA**

No Sticker Machine!! F@#! off with your stickers!

Sc 3 – Santa's Office

**SANTA**

Now that I'm a Santa of leisure maybe I'll start a podcast.

**MRS CLAUS**

Why not? Everyone's doing it, you clearly don't even have to be good at it.

**ELFIS**

I like technology podcasts.

**MRS CLAUS**

How about true crime?

**ELPHONSE**

Santa, you're not *really* quitting are you?  
We've got lots of wood for the naughty children now.

**SANTA**

The magic is gone Elphonse, I'm afraid I've squeezed these  
Santa pants down my last chimney.

**ELPHONSE**

But...what about us? And it's nearly Christmas!

**ELFIS**

Some names for your true crime podcast show Santa, according to ELF-AI:  
Jolly Justice: The Santa Crime Files

**SANTA**

I like it!

**ELFIS**

The Jingle Bell Murders

**MRS CLAUS**

Ooh yes, that one!

**ELFIS**

Yuletide Investigations  
The Naughty List: Uncovering Claus Crimes  
Santa's Secret Files: Crimes and Claus

**SANTA**

Ooh yes.

**ELFIS**

Sleighbing Crime: Santa's Untold Stories  
Santasolve: The True Crime Diaries

**ELPHONSE**

Oh my humbug...

**VO**

Has Santa given himself the sack - for reals?! What will become of all that wood?  
What is Melfa doing in the old stable? And how about 'North Pole Mysteries Unwrapped'  
for Santa's podcast? Find out more next time on Elf Control.  
Or maybe Crimson Clues; Mistletoe and Murder; Santa's True Crime Chronicles...  
(fading out)

## Episode 9 – Investment Opportunity

**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 has hung up his Santa hat putting Christmas into crisis. With so many Gameboxes to be delivered Santa needs to find his Christmas spirit or Elphonse will need to find a new job.

### Sc 1 – Elphonse’s Office

**ELPHONSE** (scanning job ads)

Sales, no. Retail, no. Labourer, definitely no.

**ELFIS**

Ooh there’s an ad here for a Teacher, I fink I could do a work in education.

**ELPHONSE**

Well you certainly need to get one Elfis. Why don’t you become a lumberjack, seems Grumble has taken to it.

**ELFIS**

Yeah he likes being around wood cause it burns

**ELPHONSE**

Hang on, what?!

*SFX – phone*

Ugh, hello Elf Control, soon to be unemployed Elphonse speaking.

**MELFA**

Hello Elphonse.

**ELPHONSE**

Ah Melfa, I guess I can take your job you don’t do anymore.

**MELFA**

Well I do need a Compliance Officer to start immediately.

**ELPHONSE**

What do they do?

**MELFA**

Oh you know safety audits, enforcing safety code -

**ELPHONSE**

I’m bored already. What *is* going on in the old stable?

**MELFA**

I told you I'm starting a business, it's still not too late to invest.

**ELPHONSE**

Not really looking to increase my investment portfolio right now Melfa, with unemployment imminent.

**MELFA**

Did I hear that Santa's quit? I've been gone for 5 minutes and -

**ELPHONSE**

Yes he did. No Santa-no Christmas, meaning no Santa's workshop and no jobs.

**MELFA**

That's no good. Right, well if an oversized pair of scissors arrives, they're for me, we're cutting the ribbon and starting operations tomorrow.

**ELPHONSE**

What on earth is going on down there?

**MELFA**

You'll see, got to go.

*SFX – hangs up.*

**ELFIS**

Maybe I could invest?

**ELPHONSE**

Forget about that Elfis, we need to find a way to get Santa's Christmas spirit back and a new job without 'safety' in the title.

**ELFIS**

Ooh! That reminds me. The first episode of Jolly Justice comes out soon!

**ELPHONSE**

Oh my humbug.

Sc 2 – The Timber Mill

*SFX – sawing*

**ELAPH**

Timber! (laughing) Ha-ha, another one down. Oi Grumble!  
Get this one to the mill. (pause) Grumble!

**GRUMBLE**

Sorry Elaph, had me Elf-pods in.

**ELAPH**

I said get this tree to the mill or you can go back to slaving for that Elphonse.

**GRUMBLE**

Ok, I'm just waiting for my podcast show to come out.

**ELAPH**

You're starting to sound like the Elfis idiot. Pod this, pod that.

Stop it or you can pack up your reindeer and git!

**GRUMBLE**

Sorry Elaph, I'm just really excited because I was Santa's first guest.

**ELAPH**

I don't care, these logs won't get down to coal lump size pieces themselves, so get on with it!

*SFX - notification*

**GRUMBLE**

Ooh – ooh it's here, it's here.

**ELAPH**

Jumping Jingle bells!

PODCAST:

*MUSIC & SFX*

**SANTA**

Welcome to the first episode of 'Jolly Justice – The Naughty List Files', I'm your host Santa

Claus and I'm very excited to deep dive into my naughty list files.

Today's guest needs no introduction...introducing Grumble, hi Grumble.

**GRUMBLE** (*distorted, talking to close to the mic*)

Hi Santa.

**SANTA**

Too close.

**GRUMBLE** (*still distorted*)

This better?

**SANTA**

Hmm...Today we're taking a deep dive about why you're on my naughty list.

**GRUMBLE**

Oh...are we?

**SANTA**

You're a naughty elf aren't you Grumble.

**GRUMBLE**

Ah....I've got to go feed my reindeer.

**SANTA**

Or do you mean *burn* your reindeer? (SFX – sting)

**GRUMBLE**

Ah no, feed them, at the stable.

**SANTA**

Or do you mean *burn* the stable? (SFX – sting)

**GRUMBLE**

(bursting into tears) It's true, it's true I love burning things!

**SANTA**

Yes you are! You're a pyrophile.

**GRUMBLE**

It's all true!

**SANTA**

Right well...ok....

*SFX – phone smashing*

**ELAPH**

Turn this rubbish off and get back to work!

**GRUMBLE**

Aw I wanted to hear how it ended.

**ELAPH**

I'll see you at the mill!

**GRUMBLE**

Ok Elaph. Ooh hello matches, how did you get in my in my pocket?  
(SFX – match box rattle)

*SFX - striking*

**VO**

Grumble the pyrophile! Or is it pyromaniac? Does all that smoke explain Grumble's acrid odour? How does he find things to burn at the North Pole? And how many downloads did Jolly Justice get? Find out next time on Elf Control. (quietly) More downloads than this show I'm guessing...

## Episode 10 – Let it Burn

**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, which is suddenly upon us. Boys and girls are set to put out their milk and cookies in excited anticipation, unaware that the Father of Christmas has become more interested in delivering podcasts than toys...

### Sc 1 – The Old Stable

**ELPHONSE**

Get on with it, my pointy ears are freezing out here.

**MELFA**

All right! With these oversized novelty scissors...

**ELFIS**

They're normal size, they just look oversized in your elf hands.

**MELFA**

With these scissors, I officially reopen the Old Stable, now known as the Winter Wonderland Warehouse.

SFX - cameras, feeble cheer

**ELPHONSE**

What is it?

**MELFA**

It's a state of the art storage and distribution hub. Toys come straight here from the workshop line ready for drone distribution.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh my, I was expecting some new wallpaper and doilies not a fully automated logistics depot!

**MELFA**

It means we can still deliver the toys even without Santa or reindeer and it's all ready to go! Looks like I've saved Christmas Elphonse. Elphonse? I thought you'd be excited.

**ELPHONSE**

Oh. My. Humbug.

### Sc 2 – Elphonse's Office

**ELPHONSE**

What have I done Elfis? I've killed Christmas.

**ELFIS**

Santa's dead?!

**ELPHONSE**

No I mean all the workshop changes, the automation. I've put all the workshop elves out of work and now with Melfa's automated drone delivery we don't even *need* Santa's sack, or Santa's sled or...Santa.

**ELFIS**

Well it's a good thing that he's retired then, isn't it?

**ELPHONSE**

I've saved us all this money but it's cost us our Christmas spirit.

**ELFIS**

Oh dear.

**ELPHONSE**

We need to get Santa back to being Santa and get Elf Control back under control.  
I can't lose my job now, still paying off my jacuzzi.  
You know it was those darn, unbelieving letters to Santa that started all this!

*SFX – Santa's bell.*

Good timing. I guess I'll have to take matters into my own tiny  
Hands and get Santa back!

**ELFIS**

I might have an idea.

**ELPHONSE**

Thanks Elfis but I've told you candy canes for earrings  
is not a good idea, they're too sticky. Back soon.

Sc 3 – Santa's Office

*SFX - knocking*

**ELPHONSE**

Santa?

**SANTA**

Elphonse come in, come in.

**ELPHONSE**

Not recording today?

**SANTA**

No Elphonse, I'm all out of guests.

**ELPHONSE**

After one episode?

**SANTA**

Yes I know, I interviewed Grumble and he was terrible.  
Jolly Justice is jolly over Elphonse.

**ELPHONSE**

I'm sure it will be missed. Well now I guess you can  
get back to being the Father of Christmas!?

**SANTA**

You know I do miss the old days, remember back when Christmas  
meant something, the time when it was magical.

**ELPHONSE**

Yes I do, that was just last week before you're bulbous red nose  
was put out by some children from the naughty list.

**SANTA**

I need eggnog, someone fetch Santa eggnog.

**ELPHONSE**

I guess I'll do it.

*SFX – door*

**ELPHONSE**

Elfis, good timing, fetch Santa some eggnog.

**ELFIS**

I've got a letters for Santa!

**SANTA**

No more letters!

**ELFIS**

This one's from a good children.

*SFX – paper*

**SANTA** (*reading*)

"Dear Santa, Thank you for the presents and the magic and joy you bring.  
Wishing *you* a Merry Christmas".

Wow, I don't think *I've* ever been wished a Merry Christmas before.

**ELPHONSE**

And?

**SANTA**

Ok, Elphonse. I guess Father Christmas is back,  
calls for a drink wouldn't you say?

*SFX – slurping, burp*

**ELPHONSE**

Where did you get that letter Elfis?

**ELFIS**

Well I just asked ELF-AI to write a letter to Santa which  
would bring back his Christmas spirit?

**SANTA**

Right, I guess I should get going. Get my sack! Fetch the sleigh and the reindeer!  
Oh and have we got all that wood for the naughty children ready to go Elphonse??

**ELPHONSE**

Ahh...let me check.

Sc 3 – Forest

*SFX – outdoors, wind*

**ELAPH**

It's all gone, what did you do Grumble?

**GRUMBLE**

Do you like my candy cane earrings?

*SFX – footsteps*

**ELPHONSE**

Elaph, we need the wood for the – ooh.

**ELAPH**

Talk to your pet, he burnt it all.

**ELPHONSE**

You let him have matches?!

**GRUMBLE**

Mmmm smokey.

**ELAPH**

There's no wood, but that's a lot of char-coal.

**ELPHONSE**

Hmm, close enough, get it to the sled....

**VO**

The naughty children will receive coal after all (of sorts), the sled sails into the night sky with a slightly over the legal limit Santa taking the reins. Christmas spirit is high as chimneys across the world prepare to be violated, and good children around the world are soon to wake up to treats and treasures of all shapes and sizes, well gamebox shape & size, yes Christmas is a time of giving....

**ELPHONSE**

Here you go Grumble.

**GRUMBLE**

A gift for me?

**ELPHONSE**

Yep.

**GRUMBLE**

Matches?!

**ELPHONSE**

Merry Christmas Grumble, I want you to burn it all down. The automated workshop, the automated Old stable distribution centre, we're going back to the way it was, when Christmas was magical.

**GRUMBLE**

With reindeer pulling the sleigh?

**ELPHONSE**

Yes.

**GRUMBLE**

And elves making the toys?!

**ELPHONSE**

Exactly Grumble!

**GRUMBLE**

And singing???

**ELPHONSE**

Oh.

Actually give me those matches back.

*SFX – running footsteps.*

**ELPHONSE**

Grumble! Grumble, come back here!!!

**VO**

And that is all from Elf Control! We trust that you keep Christmas spirit in your heart and have a very, very, merry, merry Christmas.

Music – Deck the Halls

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**THE END**