

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Written by
John Trybulec

23030 CR 44A Eustis, Florida 32736
352-589-4003

FADE IN:

EXT. UPPER MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD EARLY 1900'S HOMES,
CHRISTMAS TIME. - NIGHT

SUPER: 1973

I/E. FRONT WINDOW OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW HOME TO FRONT ROOM
DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS, WITH CHRISTMAS TREE AND VILLAGE -
NIGHT

Through the windshield of the tiny train that rolls through
Christmas Village, the country side, then, Main Street is
revealed. Stores are seen. The train stops and reveals, LINDA
VOLK, 11, a cute redhead, in pajamas, lying on the floor. She
is winding up an ornamental mechanism and then watching as
the skaters glide on mirrored glass. MICHAEL VOLK, 33,
Linda's handsome father, enters the room. Two large plates of
Christmas cookies sit on the counter. Linda stands up, walks
to the counter, picks up two Christmas cookies and places
them on a nearby small red plate. Linda walks back near the
tree and sits down. Michael opens the refrigerator door, then
pours chocolate milk into a glass and brings it to Linda.
Linda sips the chocolate milk as she eats a cookie.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

MICHAEL VOLK

We have the best looking Christmas
tree, manger and Christmas village
in Michigan.

Linda looks up and smiles at her father.

LINDA VOLK

They're soooo pretty. Mom put the
new ornament I made right here...
in front.

MICHAEL VOLK

It's beautiful.

LINDA VOLK

Guess how many buildings, Daddy.

MICHAEL VOLK

14? 23? How many honey?

LINDA VOLK

I counted - we have 32. I love our
tree and little village!

(MORE)

LINDA VOLK (CONT'D)

Look at the manger... it looks so real. I was born in a real hospital... *without* goats, right Daddy?

Linda smiles.

MICHAEL VOLK

No goats. Just the doctor and nurses. (Pause) Sit right there, honey. I'll get a picture of you and send it to Papa John and Mimi.

Michael Volk grabs his Polaroid and takes a picture of Linda in front of the tree, village and manger.

MICHAEL VOLK (CONT'D)

I'll put the picture in the mail today so Papa and Mimi will see it real soon.

Linda continues drinking the chocolate milk, fumbles the glass and spills the chocolate milk all over her red pajamas. She begins to cry. Michael Volk sees Linda slightly crying, walks over, kneels down and hugs her.

LINDA VOLK

My jamies are yucky.

Michael grabs a tissue from and tries to blot the chocolate.

MICHAEL VOLK

Don't worry, sweetie. We'll wash 'em and they'll be good as new.

LINDA VOLK

I want to wear these pajamas *now*. But... they're... yucky.

MICHAEL VOLK

(Warmly) Honey... look at me.

Linda Volk looks at her father.

MICHAEL VOLK (CONT'D)

I'll put them in the washer. The chocolate will go away.

Linda Volk continues to cry.

MICHAEL VOLK (CONT'D)

(Warmly) Your jammies will be good as new after they're washed. You can wear your yellow jamies now.

Linda makes a sad face.

LINDA VOLK

(Whining) I don't want chocolate milk on my red jammies. I don't want to wear my yellow jamies.

MICHAEL VOLK

(Warmly) Life doesn't always give us what we want *every second* of every day, honey. Just a few minutes in the washer...

David Volk gestures toward the village.

MICHAEL VOLK (CONT'D)

Most of the time life is wonderful, Linda. But, sometimes your pj's get dirty. You'll be OK. Life isn't ***always*** perfect - like Christmas village where pj's are always pretty.

LINDA VOLK

I want to live in Christmas Village.

MICHAEL VOLK

You can't live there.

LINDA VOLK

Why?

Michael Volk motions with his hand 4 feet above the floor.

MICHAEL VOLK

You're too big.

Linda Volk slightly smiles and lightly laughs.

EXT. PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WITH HUGE CHRISTMAS WREATH ON BUILDING. - DAY

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - DESK OF LINDA VOLK TRYTON. - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON, 37 has a 6 inch Christmas tree and a tiny, Christmas village on the back corner of her desk. A large plate of elaborately decorated cookies sits nearby labeled: Christmas Party Cookies. The room is neat. 4 lab stations are at the back of the room. Linda is by herself as she talks on her cell phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

The superintendent of schools has been interviewing a bunch of people for the open principal job. (Timidly) I think he'll choose me.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING PACIFIC OCEAN - AFTERNOON

KELLY RAYMUR, 39, beautiful, blonde and tall, speaks as she fries bok choy in a pan.

KELLY RAYMUR

He should pick you. Loads of experience. Flawless record. I'm cooking bok choy - do you like bok choy?

INT. CLASSROOM OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - DESK OF LINDA VOLK. AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I do... lightly fried with butter. I'm pretty sure I'm at the top of the list. He always says how I'm a great teacher and that I have excellent classroom management. Are you putting in sea salt?

Linda slightly rearranges the tiny village on her desk.

KELLY RAYMUR (V.O.)

Yes... sea salt. Now I can buy the fancy sea salt - I just got an 18% raise.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Wow! A 18% raise. Good for you. Add a touch of soy - just a touch is good. I've been teaching for 14 years. Happy parents. I help the new teachers...

KELLY RAYMUR (V.O.)
 You've put together 9 science fairs
 - your list of great teacher stuff
 goes on for miles. You've got a
 masters degree in teaching. There's
 no reason why/

INT. HALLWAY, PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL- AFTERNOON

LARRY PETERSON, 50, the short and bald school superintendent,
 talks quietly with ROBERT PAUL, 41, the suit wearing,
 slightly overweight and newly appointed principal.

LARRY PETERSON
 Robert, behind this door is the 7th
 grade science room. Mrs. Linda Volk
 Tryton is the teacher - great
 teacher, no complaints - you won't
 hear any wild noise from here. Your
 office is down the hall - freshly
 painted, new desk... new furniture.

ROBERT PAUL
 Thanks, Larry. I'm ready.

LARRY PETERSON
 I look forward to you being our new
 principal. To bad you couldn't
 bring that warm weather with you
 from Florida.

Larry Peterson and Robert Paul are now standing in front of
 the slightly open door of Linda's science classroom. Through
 the glass upper half of the door, Linda catches a glimpse of
 Larry Peterson but not Robert Paul.

CUT TO:

INT. LINDA VOLK TRYTON'S DESK AREA - DAY

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 (Whispering) Let me put you on hold.
 Larry Peterson - the superintendent
 is talking to someone just in front
 my door. I'm trying to hear him
 talk.

Linda listens. Larry and Robert talk.

INT. HALLWAY, PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL- AFTERNOON

LARRY PETERSON

This woman is a great science teacher. There's a shortage of science teachers with a masters degree - so we are keeping her here - teaching.

ROBERT PAUL

Makes sense.

LARRY PETERSON

Do you have a plan of action for the school?

ROBERT PAUL

First, I'm going to observe. Any safety issues will be quickly handled. The school is only as good as it's people - everybody is included - the administration, teachers, support staff... and the students.

Larry Peterson nods his head in agreement.

ROBERT PAUL (CONT'D)

The tenured teachers will also learn.

LARRY PETERSON

You can teach old dogs to learn new tricks?

ROBERT PAUL

If they want to work here for me they will.

LARRY PETERSON

You're the new principal - it's your ship.

INT. LINDA VOLK TRYTON'S DESK AREA - AFTERNOON

Linda is mildly, but visibly upset. She stares at the small Christmas tree on the corner of her desk.

INT. LINDA VOLK TRYTON'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Larry and Robert walk into the science room and see Linda Volk Tryton at her desk. Linda forces a smile.

LARRY PETERSON

Oh... I didn't know that you were here, Linda. Please meet Robert Paul... our new principal - he's from Florida.

Linda stands up.

LINDA VOLK

Congratulations, Robert. I'm Linda Volk Tryton. Did you bring some of that Florida sunshine here to Michigan?

ROBERT PAUL

No sunshine, but I'm ready to heat things up here at Pleasant Valley Middle School.

Linda Volk is silent and slightly smiles.

LARRY PETERSON

It's Pleasant Ridge Middle School Robert, Pleasant *Ridge*.

ROBERT PAUL

Of course. Sorry about that. Where did you get your degrees, Linda?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Wayne State University for my B.A. and University of Michigan for my masters. How about you, Robert?

ROBERT PAUL

Ocala College in Florida and their on line school for my masters.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

My niece in Florida goes to school there now. Congratulations on your new job and life here in Michigan.

ROBERT PAUL

I look forward to you working for me Mrs. Tryton.

Linda puts out her hand. Robert quickly shakes Linda outstretched hand. The 2 men walk off. Linda sneaks a cookie from under the plastic wrap and carefully tucks the wrapper back into place. She takes a bite out of the cookie then punches a number on her cell phone.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM, PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL -
AFTERNOON

Linda Volk speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I just found out that I don't live
in Christmas Village. Again.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING OCEAN -
AFTERNOON

Kelly Raymur continues cooking.

KELLY RAYMUR
I'm sorry. Gees... I'm sorry.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (V.O.)
A shortage of science teachers with
a masters degree is why I'm being
kept in the classroom.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DESK
OF LINDA VOLK.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
How's your bok choy?

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING PACIFIC OCEAN -
AFTERNOON

KELLY RAYMUR
Extra crispy. That job would demand
another 20 hours a week. This pan
will never get clean. (Pause)
You'll be OK.

INT. DESK OF LINDA VOLK. - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Soak it for 45 minutes with 1/2
bleach and half hot water. I know
how to teach children, run after
school programs and have a great
family life.

KELLY RAYMUR (V.O.)
I know you do.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Peterson should have picked me.
 This doofus he hired didn't even
 know the name of the school- he
 said (in fake man voice) "Pleasant
 Valley Middle School".

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING OCEAN -
 AFTERNOON

KELLY RAYMUR
 Did you correct him in front of
 Peterson?

INT. DESK OF LINDA VOLK. - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 (Small laugh) No I didn't correct
 my new boss. Peterson corrected
 him.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING OCEAN -
 AFTERNOON

KELLY RAYMUR
 Listen to me, Linda. Go home, hug
 your children. Kiss your husband.
 You have people who love you.

Kelly Raymur looks around her apartment and sees an empty
 chair and an empty couch.

KELLY RAYMUR (CONT'D)
 You have a great life. Wonderful
 family - Europe every 2 years.

Kelly Raymur has a tear roll from her eye down her cheek to
 the frying pan where it bubbles and disappears.

KELLY RAYMUR (CONT'D)
 People with your skills don't go
 unnoticed. Need I say more?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (V.O.)
 I really have nothing to complain
 about.

A laptop on Kelly's kitchen counter is open to a registration
 page for a dating site. Kelly's eyes are watery.

KELLY RAYMUR

I do have a big question for you,
favorite friend. Are you going to
sue the school district - for
being... stupid?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (V.O.)

Laughs.

KELLY RAYMUR

Laughs.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN IN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING PACIFIC OCEAN -
AFTERNOON

KELLY RAYMUR

So... Did you send me my yearly
allowance of Christmas cookies?

INT. LINDA VOLK TRYTON'S DESK AREA - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (V.O.)

On their way.

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. LINDA IN LINCOLN SUV - LATER

Linda is driving, cookie in hand - listening to the Happy
Song by Pharrell Williams. The half eaten plate of her own
Christmas cookies is on the passenger seat of her car. She
gives a voice command to her phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Call husband.

EXT. LINDA IN LINCOLN SUV - LATER

Linda is talking on the phone.

INT. KITCHEN OF OLDER BUNGALOW UPPER MIDDLE CLASS HOME,
CHRISTMAS SEASON - EVENING

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'm home.

JOHN TRYTON, 39, comes up from behind Linda and kisses her on
the cheek.

JOHN TRYTON

You are the best wife and mom in the world.

Linda gives John an empty look.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry hon. You want me to beat up the new principal or the superintendent... or both of 'em?

John Tryton hugs Linda and speaks.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

You'll be OK. I'm sure other admin jobs will come up soon.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

They just filled 4 admin jobs. So unless something crazy happens...

JOHN TRYTON

You've got me as your trophy husband and 3 great kids.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I know - look at what's great in life. It's just that... it should have been me.

JOHN TRYTON

Hon, look at me.

Linda looks directly at John.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

Those kids in your classes are lucky - you are a great teacher...
A great teacher.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I... I... sometimes - I don't think I'm making a difference.

INT. CLASSROOM OF PLEASANT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Linda Volk Tryton is standing in front of a science lab classroom. There are 2 rows of 5 double sink lab/desk surfaces. Each lab/desk has 2 students behind it.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Today we are going to examine the various states of matter.

(MORE)

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)

Decide which person at each table
will be taking notes and which
student will be the hands on
person.

The students talk among themselves.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)

Can anyone tell me about the five
states of matter?

From the back of the class CLAYTON JONES, 14 talks loudly
without raising his hand.

CLAYTON JONES

(Loudly and smart-alecky)What
matters is how much money you have
and if your girlfriend is pretty.
That's what matters.

Linda Volk Tryton slowly walks to within five feet of Clayton
Jones. She speaks deliberately and in a hushed tone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Clayton, will you please follow me
out to the hallway.

CLAYTON JONES

You want some money from me, Linda?

The class "oooo's

CLASS

OOOOOOOOOO.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Clayton, I need to speak to you
alone... in the hallway.

CLAYTON JONES

I charge interest on loans.

Linda walks to the door and opens it. She stands and waits
silently for Clayton. Clayton slowly walks up to Linda and
speaks.

CLAYTON JONES (CONT'D)

How much do you need?

Clayton walks out to the hallway. Linda speaks to the class
in a calm fashion.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 (Quietly) Read pages 19-23 while
 I'm in the hallway with Clayton.

INT. KITCHEN OF OLDER BUNGALOW UPPER MIDDLE CLASS HOME,
 CHRISTMAS SEASON - EVENING

Linda Volk Tryton
 I get three or four e-mail comments
 a day - from the parents. Usually
 about how their child is being
 picked on... by me!

JOHN TRYTON
 How do you respond to that crud?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Thank you for your e-mail. (Pause)
 Almost every class has two or three
 trouble making children who take
 time from the students who want to
 learn.

JOHN TRYTON
 That's not good.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Nine minutes of each hour is me
 being a disciplinarian. It's
 getting worse each year. The
 parents are blaming teachers for
 not fixing their child.

JOHN TRYTON
 Your affecting some lives.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 So... I'm Mother Theresa?

JOHN TRYTON
 Kind of - but your way prettier
 than Mother Theresa. You'll be ok,
 hon.

John gives Linda a long hug and lightly kisses her on the
 cheek. Linda walks to the Christmas decorated living room and
 sits on the couch.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Linda looks at the Christmas tree, Christmas Village and
 smiles.

She gets up off of the couch and begins to move ornaments on the left side of the Christmas tree. On the right side of the tree, a glass ornament has the words and numbers: "Christmas 1973", just under: Michael and Claire hand painted on it. Linda slightly touches a branch, causing the ornament to slightly move. Linda's cell phone, on the arm of the couch, rings. As she gets up to answer it, her elbow brushes against the tree. The ornament slowly slides off of the branch, hits another branch and falls through the air. Beneath the ornament is fake white fluffy snow and a hard oak floor. The ornament bounces off of another branch and falls on the oak floor, breaking into many pieces. Linda sees the mess and makes an unhappy face. She answers her phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Merry Christmas, favorite sister.

INT. SMALL SIMPLE RANCH HOME - NIGHT

JODY VOLK, 43, slim build, looks at six bottles of prescription pills on a side table.

JODY VOLK (V.O.)
Merry Christmas, sis.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Merry Christmas. So... what's up?
Are you still bringing your nearly
famous pineapple cake for dessert?

JODY VOLK (V.O.)
Of course. It should be ready to
take out of the oven in 20 minutes.
I can smell it now.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Everybody loves it. What else is
happening?

JODY VOLK (V.O.)
The neighbor across the street got
the "Best Christmas Display" award
from some radio station.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Text me a picture. Did you put the
blue lights around your front door?

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF RANCH HOME - AFTERNOON

The door of Judy Volk's home is decorated with one small string of blue lights and a tiny wreath on the door.

JODY VOLK

Yep. And a wreath. Looks Christmas'y.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (V.O.)

Any Christmas parties at work?

JODY VOLK

One. Kinda goofy. In the break room. That odd accountant keeps trying to hit on me. After the boring party I went to the doctor today. He said I breathe weird.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Is he cute? You breath weird? *Weird?* Is your doctor sending you to see a specialist. Breath.

JODY VOLK (V.O.)

Breathing.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I say that your OK. Well, is he cute?

JODY VOLK (V.O.)

Cute... but odd looking. Thanks Dr. Linda for the clean bill of health. What's Jack up to?

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA TRYTON

Jack is trying out for the basketball team. He's supposed to find out if he made the team today. He's good - so he probably made it. The twins are in dance class tonight.

INT. CODY HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - AFTERNOON

Basketball COACH STEVE KOWARICK, 41 is passing out team jerseys to 12 players. JACK TRYTON 16, 6'1" and athletically built, stands with his back to the group, 50 feet away. Jack sees a basketball on the court and kicks it angrily into the wooden stands.

STEVE KOWARICK

(Angrily) Jack Tryton - go get that basketball and put it in the rack near the door. Now!

Jack looks over his shoulder at the coach and the team. He speaks.

JACK TRYTON

Have your nephew get the ball. You are not my coach.

Jack turns to the exit door and slowly walks out of the gymnasium.

INT. SMALL SIMPLE RANCH HOME - NIGHT

JODY VOLK

I'll come to some games. Is the recital still on for this Saturday afternoon?

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Linda sits on the sofa.

LINDA TRYTON

10 A.M. Grace loves to see you at her recitals. I'm excited for you to see the house - it's all decorated for Christmas - the wreath you like so much is on the front door. John just went outside to adjust the lights.

EXT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW CHRISTMAS TIME - NIGHT

John Tryton falls from the ladder into a huge bush covered in snow. His head just misses hitting a tree stump by 3 inches. He slowly gets up, covered in bush twigs and snow. He is slightly bruised and he has a small cut near his eye.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA VOLK

Sis - stay on top of that weird breathing stuff. You probably have some kind of bug - that's all. So... we'll see you tomorrow.

JUDY VOLK (V.O.)

Yep. See ya' tomorrow... about 4.

Linda Volk Tryton takes a clicker, pushes a button and the audio unit plays a CD of Elvis Presley singing I'll be Home for Christmas. She gets up, approaches the Christmas tree and moves a couple of ornaments to different places. She steps back and smiles. Linda then gets up off the couch and opens a closet near the front door of her home. The closet contains a large supply of Christmas ornaments, wreaths, an artificial tree and another manger. Six boxes marked Christmas ornaments line the shelves. She takes a fire station building from the closet and places it under the tree. Linda walks back to the couch and looks down to Christmas Village. Jack enters the home then living room, dressing in gym clothes, carrying a gym bag.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Hi Jack. So...

JACK TRYTON

I didn't make the cut.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'm sorry.

JACK TRYTON

Coach Steve said that he has 12 uniforms for 12 players. I'm the 13th best player in school.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

You came close, Jack.

JACK TRYTON

(Smiling) If somebody gets hurt, I'll get on the team.

Linda looks down and sees the empty snow filled basketball court that's part of Christmas Village. John Tryton enters the living room. Linda looks at John and speaks. Jack stands and takes two steps when John Tryton enters the room.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

What happened to you? Are you OK?

JOHN TRYTON

Just a little scuffed up. I thought I could fly, but gravity took over. I'm OK.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

No more flying. Jack, tell your father what you just told me.

JACK TRYTON

I didn't make the team. Maybe if somebody gets hurt I'll get on the team.

JOHN TRYTON

That's your first thought?

JACK TRYTON

Well... yes - I think that's the only way I'll get on the team.

JOHN TRYTON

You need to think again. You don't want anybody to get hurt.

Jack looks with a blank face at his mother.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

We didn't bring you up like that... Think, Jack. Use your brain.

JACK VOLK

OK, OK - You're right. I just know I'm better than Billy Simmons. But, Billy is Coach Steve's nephew. How am I supposed to beat that kind of luck?

JOHN TRYTON

It is not luck - that's life.

JACK VOLK

Well, in my life, it's bad luck - he's the nephew of the coach and I'm... I'm not on the team.

JOHN TRYTON

I can tell you how to get on the team.

JACK VOLK

Cool. How?

JOHN TRYTON

Practice your shots in the back yard. Sprint up and down the driveway. Hit the weights. Out hustle him. That's how you beat people in life. Out hustle 'em. Plus, you have one more thing to work on, Jack.

JACK TRYTON

(Irritated) Do all that stuff and 1 more thing? What do you want from me?

JOHN TRYTON

Just give the world the best you have. Kicking the ball into the stands because you didn't make the team is what immature babies do.

JACK TRYTON

Coach Steve narcked on me?

JOHN TRYTON

I know Coach Steve from bowling. He just thought I should know. You owe him and the team an apology.

JACK TRYTON

Why?

JOHN TRYTON

It's what a man does to own up to his behavior. Do it now.

Jack takes out his cell phone and begins to text.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

Not with that thing. Walk over to the coach's house - *now* - and ask for him to forgive your behavior and if there's anything you can do to make up for you acting like a little brat who just dropped his lollipop in the dirt.

JACK TRYTON

Will you drive me over? He lives a mile and a half away.

JOHN TRYTON

You'll run or walk. I don't care. I'll follow you in the car.

(MORE)

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

You can think about what you are going to say.

Jack looks over to Linda.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Wear your old gym shoes. I don't want you wearing out your new ones on the concrete sidewalk. Get moving, Jack.

Jack sits down. John Tryton walks over and stands 10 feet from Jack. Jack slowly takes off his newer gym shoes and begins to puts on the older pair of shoes.

JOHN TRYTON

This being a responsible person stuff isn't easy. Admit to your mistakes. Stop bad behavior. **Make** yourself ready for your next shot.

JACK VOLK TRYTON

(Slightly irritated) And when is that shot gonna happen?

JOHN TRYTON

That's a tough one. Could be later today, tomorrow - next week - could be next year.

JACK VOLK

Next year? That's enough basketball. I'm done.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

You're done with basketball?

JACK TRYTON

I'm done.

JOHN TRYTON

Your done, Jack?

JACK TRYTON

I'm not going. I'm not saying I'm sorry. No more basketball.

JOHN TRYTON

(Slightly angered) OK. Right now you are going to help me take down the basketball backboard. Now! That's not a request.

Jack stares at Linda and John Tryton. Jack then stomps upstairs to the second floor of the house.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 (Slightly yelling to Jack) Come
 down here and have a Christmas
 cookie with your Mother.

Jack takes a step to the top of the steps.

JOHN TRYTON
 And... you are going with your
 father.

Linda walks into the kitchen. She opens the refrigerator and takes out a gallon of milk and pours two glasses of milk. She grabs a cookie from a nearby plate of cookies. Linda looks at the Christmas decorations on the tree and Christmas Village below. She walks over and sits on the floor at the base of the Christmas tree, Christmas village and the manger. John walks downstairs and stands behind the couch, drinking a glass of wine, looking at the Christmas tree. Jack walks down after John.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 John.

JOHN TRYTON
 Yeah.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Let's move.

JOHN TRYTON
 Move? Move where? I thought you
 loved this house.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Let's move there.

Linda points to Christmas Village.

JOHN TRYTON
 Christmas Village? I wonder if they
 pay taxes in Christmas Village.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Look at that place, John. Everybody
 is happy. Smiling. Sons make the
 basketball team and don't give
 their parents grief.

JOHN TRYTON

It would be nice. But, we live in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan. Life is good here - not perfect like Christmas Village, but good. Real good.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

A good life. No *real* complaints. We've got health, great kids - good money coming in. But, I'm... I'm just always annoyed - bothered... just about every day.

JOHN TRYTON

About what?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Every day something - little things to big stuff. Every day.

JOHN TRYTON

Go on...

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

When I was a little girl I spilled chocolate milk on my jamies.

JOHN TRYTON

When? Please let go of some things... that incident was a long time ago.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Doesn't matter when these annoyances happen - they happened. I missed the prom in high school.

JOHN TRYTON

What happened?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I was wearing this beautiful -

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

FADE TO:

LINDA VOLK, 17 begins to walk downstairs in her prom dress. MICHAEL VOLK 39, and CLAIRE VOLK, 37, watch Linda as she walks down the steps to the main floor of the house.

CLAIRE VOLK
My beautiful daughter.

A tear falls from the eye of Michael Volk.

LINDA VOLK
Don't cry, Daddy.

MICHAEL VOLK
Did you just step out of a fashion
magazine? My beautiful daughter!

Linda walks down the steps to the floor as her parents watch and smile. Claire kisses Linda on the cheek. Michael grabs his camera from a nearby table and takes a picture of Linda and Claire.

MICHAEL VOLK (CONT'D)
Now... the three of us.

Michael positions himself, Claire and Linda Volk for a picture . He takes the picture. The phone on the counter rings. Claire picks up the phone and speaks.

CLAIRE VOLK
Hello.

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL, PATIENT ROOM 254 - NIGHT

STEVEN RUDZINSKI, 18, muscular, almost upright in a hospital bed, speaks to Claire on the phone in a muffled voice. His face and hands are obscured from view.

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
Mrs. Volk?

CLAIRE VOLK (V.O.)
Yes. Is this Steven?

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
(Mumbling) Yes.

CLAIRE VOLK (V.O.)
We're expecting to see you in a few
minutes.

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
It is prom night. Ahhh... Could I
please speak with Linda?

CLAIRE VOLK (V.O.)
 (Calls to her daughter)Linda, it's
 for you - Steven, your handsome
 prom date.

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - NIGHT

Steven Rudzinski, in a hospital bed, has many large bee stings on his face and arms. One eye is closed. He has a sting on his tongue. His mother, SARAH RUDZINSKI, 42, medium build and father PAUL RUDZINSKI, 43 slightly muscular, stand near the bed. Steven mumbles when he talks.

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
 (Mumbling) I'm gonna be a few
 minutes late.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA VOLK
 OK... I'll see you in a few. Don't
 be too late.

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - NIGHT

Paul Rudzinski grabs the phone from his son, Steven.

PAUL RUDZINSKI
 Linda, this is Paul Rudzinski,
 Steven's father.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

LINDA VOLK
 Hi, Mr. Rudzinski.

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - NIGHT

PAUL RUDZINSKI
 Linda... Steven is here in Saint
 James Hospital.

LINDA VOLK (O.S.)
 (Excited/scared)The hospital?

PAUL RUDZINSKI
 He's sick... it's called
 anaphylaxis shock...
 (MORE)

PAUL RUDZINSKI (CONT'D)
a bunch of bees bit him - but he'll
be all right in a few days. He
won't be going to the prom tonight.
I'm sorry.

Paul Rudzinski gives the phone back to his son.

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
I'm sorry, Linda. Real sorry. I
can't... go.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

Linda Volk is crying as she speaks.

LINDA VOLK
How bad does it hurt?

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - AFTERNOON

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
(Mumbling) Not so bad. They gave me
some drugs. I don't feel much pain.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK
Get better, Steven. I'll come and
see you later.

INT. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - AFTERNOON

STEVEN RUDZINSKI
The doctor... said... that...

Steven Rudzinski falls asleep.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK
Steven? Steven!

Int. SAINT JAMES HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM, 254 - AFTERNOON

Paul Rudzinski grabs the phone from Steven.

PAUL RUDZINSKI
 Steven... ahhh - fell asleep. I'll
 let you know how he's doing later.

Paul Rudzinski hangs up the phone.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK
 My boyfriend is in the hospital.
 This is horrible.

Linda Volk, puts the phone down on the counter and runs, crying, upstairs. She runs into her bedroom. She lays on the bed and begins to cry.

INT. BEDROOM OF LINDA VOLK - NIGHT

Claire and Michael Volk enter the bedroom.

LINDA VOLK
 Why did Steven have to get sick
 today?

Claire Volk sits on the bed with her daughter.

CLAIRE VOLK
 It's temporary, Linda. He'll be
 better in a few days.

LINDA VOLK
 (Crying)He's missing the prom.
We're missing the prom.

Linda Volk sees a picture on the wall of herself, smiling, sitting in front of a Christmas tree, manger and Christmas Village. She points to the picture.

LINDA VOLK (CONT'D)
 I want to live there. People go to
 the prom in Christmas Village.

CLAIRE VOLK
 (Warmly) In Christmas Village - that
 perfect place under the Christmas
 tree? Of course, nobody gets sick
 in Christmas Village and misses the
 prom. Here in Pleasant Ridge every
 once in a while... unhappy things
 happen.

Claire Volk nods her head yes.

LINDA VOLK

Could we move to Christmas Village?

CLAIRE VOLK

We can't - you know that. (Pause)
Sometimes life is tough... like
today. Steven will be better
tomorrow.

LINDA VOLK

Tomorrow? I want Steven to show up
right now and go to the prom with
me.

Linda gets up looks out of the window as tears appear on her
face.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - DAY

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I was 17 - when I missed my prom.
Four days ago I bent a wheel on my
car. Students act goofy at school.
(Almost yelling) I burned my tuna
melt yesterday. Our snow blower
won't start. Overcharged at a
restaurant 3 days ago. You leave
your underwear on the floor.

JOHN TRYTON

OK. I'll stop doing that. What
else?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Parents saying that I'm not
treating their child correctly. Our
16 year old acting like he's six.
(Crying while talking) I don't like
it that my Dad and Mom passed away
in their early 60's. My sister is
sick. Broke my parent's special
Christmas ornament. You fell off
the ladder and almost kill
yourself. I didn't get the
principal job. Do I need to go on?

JOHN TRYTON

Doesn't sound like fun being you
these days. I'm thinking that your
overloaded with life's stuff. Do
something that'll relax your head.
Massage? I don't know. It's your
head that needs relaxing.

(MORE)

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)

I can name a few things, but what makes you happy?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Me being the principal. Jack not acting like he's six.

JOHN TRYTON

How about something that you can do... something that can happen in the next 24 hours.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Lunch and shopping. I like lunch and shopping.

JOHN TRYTON

(Warmly) Eating and retail therapy with a friend?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'll go with my friend Bobbie to that new pop up Christmas store.

EXT. MAIN STREET PLEASANT RIDGE - AFTERNOON

Two construction style trailers are connected and parked in a "L" shape in what was an empty lot of downtown Pleasant Ridge. A vinyl banner above the store entrance says "Smaerd Christmas Store", just under the name of the store in small, but readable print: November 26 - December 22.

INT. SMAERD CHRISTMAS STORE - AFTERNOON

The two trailers are completely packed with hundreds of different types of Christmas ornaments and Christmas Village buildings. Above the cash register is a sign: Cash Only - All Sales Final. BOBBIE SHULTS 37, medium build, speaks to Linda Volk Tryton.

BOBBIE SHULTZ

This place is packed to the ceiling with a million ornaments and Christmas stuff.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

It... is... wonderful!

BOBBIE SHULTZ

But - when you buy something - you've bought it. Look at the sign.

Robin points to the "Cash Only - All Sales Final" sign above the cash register.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Let the buyer beware. What are you looking for Bobbie?

BOBBIE SHULTZ

College Christmas ornaments - for 5 colleges. If anybody has them - this store does.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

How about I get the building I need for my Christmas village and then meet you near college ornaments?

BOBBIE SHULTZ

Works for me. See you in 5.

Bobbie walks off towards the college ornaments and Linda walks to the Christmas Village buildings area. Linda inspects picks 5 buildings. ROUY SMAERD, 50, short and chubby, walks up to Linda.

ROUY SMAERD

(Thick Polish accent) Looking for something special Ma'am?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Just looking.

ROUY SMAERD

I'm here if you need me. Some things we have are not displayed.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Thanks.

ROUY SMAERD

Good. You look. I will stand nearby.

Linda looks at many Christmas village buildings.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

How about a two story building with a chimney?

ROUY SMAERD

Regular building or special building?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
What's the difference?

ROUY SMAERD
Regular building is for everybody.
The other is unique - made just for
you. You prefer... ?

Bobbie Shultz stands nearby, holding a plastic bag with five college ornaments inside. She is listening to the conversation of Linda and Rouy.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Special, please.

ROUY SMAERD
Very good.

Rouy walks away. Bobbie speaks to Linda.

BOBBIE SHULTZ
Linda, he's reelin' you in.
"Regular or special - made just for
you". He's going to want some big
money for it.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Warmly)I'm a big girl. If I don't
like the price, I won't buy it.

Rouy puts the little building in Linda's hand.

ROUY SMAERD
Comes from Christmas Market in
Krakow, Poland. I bought it from
lady... maybe 90, 91 years old. Her
name... Irene. She said:

EXT. CHRISTMAS MARKET BOOTH, KRAKOW POLAND. - EVENING

IRENE CELUBYRT, 91 speaks.

IRENE
Ktokolwiek umiesci ten maly budynek
pod choinka, znajdzie wielkie
szczescie po poznaniu znaczenia
szczesci

INT. SMAERD CHRISTMAS STORE. - AFTERNOON

ROUY SMAERD

Now I say in English: Whoever puts this small building under the Christmas tree will find great happiness after learning meaning of happiness.

Linda turns the building over in her hand and accidentally drops it. Rouy Smaerd catches the tiny ceramic structure just before it would have hit the floor.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Nice catch!

Rouy speaks from the floor.

ROUY SMAERD

It is a special building... for a special lady. You like?

Rouy stands up.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

How much is the little building?

ROUY SMAERD

\$75 dollars.

Linda opens her purse and gives Rouy \$75.

INT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW LIVING ROOM DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - DAY

Linda walks into her house with a small plastic bag.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'm home. Hellllo! (Pause) Anybody here?

JOHN TRYTON (O.S.)

I'm here. How was shopping?

John enters the room.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

A nice time with Bobbie... and I got a new building.

Linda takes the little white building out of the plastic bag.

JOHN TRYTON
Nice looking building. Looks expensive.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
75 dollars. It's from Poland.

JOHN TRYTON
Good. You like it. I like it.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Oh. I almost forgot to tell you. Bobbie says that she saw our lovely daughter Grace scrape her car door with her bicycle when she came here to pick me up.

John Tryton walks to the bottom step of the stairs. He yells.

JOHN TRYTON
(Yells strongly yet warmly) Grace. Grace come down here now.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
She's probably using her earbuds.

John walks 4 steps up the stairs and calls for his daughter.

JOHN TRYTON
Grace. Come here, please.

Grace appears at the top of the stairs wearing earbuds.

GRACE VOLK
Yes. What?

John motions for Grace to take the earbuds out of her ears.

JOHN TRYTON
Your Mother wants to speak with you.

Linda walks up the stairs and Grace follows Linda.

INT. BEDROOM OF GRACE - AFTERNOON

Linda stares at GRACE TRYTON, 15. Grace stares back at Linda then away.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Well...?

GRACE TRYTON
Well... (pause) My fault.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
My fault, what?

JOHN TRYTON
I scraped Ms. Bobby's car with my
bicycle.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Did you tell Ms. Bobby what
happened?

GRACE TRYTON
No. I didn't want her to get mad at
me. And get in trouble with you and
Dad.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Not telling Ms. Bobbie is a lie.
Not telling us is a lie. That's 3
lies.

Linda picks up the phone and speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
Grace wants to tell you something.

Grace speaks on the phone to Bobby.

INT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW LIVING ROOM DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS -
DAY

JOHN TRYTON
So...

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I had Grace call Bobbie.

JOHN TRYTON
Bobbie... angry?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
No. Bobbie said that Grace didn't
have to pay her anything. I told
Grace that she will work at
Bobbie's for \$10 an hour for 10
hours.

JOHN TRYTON
Good parenting, hon.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Thanks. But, I'm just tired, John.

JOHN TRYTON
You need to get to bed.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Not that kinda' tired. I'm just tired that there's always something to deal with. I just want smooth. No bumps. Am I a whiner, John?

JOHN TRYTON
Nah. Your just thinking out loud. Your not a complainer. I would tell you if you were.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You would tell me?

JOHN TRYTON
Yes, I would. Think of it like this. Your brain can handle a certain amount of crud - until you're mentally spilling over.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
John... the psychologist.

JOHN TRYTON
You talk to me - I talk to you. We're looking for answers - or we just want our partner to listen.

Linda smiles at John.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
And right now I'm going outside to find an answer to the line of lights that will not come on.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Don't shock yourself.

JOHN TRYTON
I wont.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm going to bed after I put my new building under the tree.

With the small white building in hand, Linda sits on the couch near the tree, manger and Christmas village.

She gets up from the couch and places the small building in an open area of Christmas Village. She stands back and admires the village and her new building. The new building has a slight glow. As she looks, she sees 2 cars moving in Christmas Village. She rubs her eyes and looks again.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

The replica cars turn into tiny real moving cars. Tiny human skaters glide on ice. Tiny people are walking around holding packages. A tiny horse drawn carriage with 2 people clip clops down the street.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

Linda eyes get big as the cars begin to move and people walk going in and out of stores. Linda gets up off of the floor and goes to the sink where she splashes cold water on her face including her eyes. She wipes her face and sits down again in front of Christmas Village. She miraculously gets pulled into a small building marked - VISITOR CENTER OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE.

EXT. BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MAIN STREET IN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

Tiny moving cars roll on the road. A tiny horse drawn carriage with 2 people clip clops down the street.

INT. VISITOR CENTER OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE, DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - DAY

DAVID NAVIDAD, 40, handsome, speaks to Linda Volk Tryton as she admires a Christmas village under the tree. Linda Volk looks around the room. Her eyes get big.

DAVID NAVIDAD

The ornaments are from every country in the world and all 50 states. The ten strings of lights are from the 50's.

Linda looks at David and speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

(Slightly amazed) Where am I?

Linda slowly and sneakily grabs a pointed eight inch long glass ornament from the Christmas tree. She holds it, concealed, at her side, like a knife.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
Who are you? Stay away from me.

David takes two steps backward. Linda slightly waves the ornament at David.

DAVID NAVIDAD
You just entered the Visitor Center of Christmas Village.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Where? Who are you? (Nervous) What happened to me?

DAVID NAVIDAD
(Calmly) Relax you're in Christmas Village. I am David Navidad - I run the visitor center and I'm the Mayor of the village. The answer to your 3rd question - you always wanted to live in Christmas Village - so here you are - in Christmas Village.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Is this a store - like a Christmas store in Frankenmuth, Michigan?

DAVID NAVIDAD
No. We **are** Christmas Village. Not a store. We are like the Christmas village under your Christmas tree - with one difference.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
What's the difference?

DAVID NAVIDAD
We are real. We are **the** Christmas Village. Please put down the ornament.

Linda slightly tips the ornament to the floor.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Oh... I get it - I'm in my own dream... a dream about Christmas.

Linda grabs her own face.

DAVID NAVIDAD
You're real. Christmas Village is real. I'm real.

Linda places the glass ornament on a nearby counter. She cautiously walks five steps towards David Navidad, reaches out and slightly squishes his face.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You're not a ghost.

DAVID NAVIDAD
I'm real.

A stunned look comes across her face. Linda sees a plate of Christmas cookies on the counter. She grabs a cookie and jams it into her mouth expecting the cookie to be a prop.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Mumbling)Real cookie.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Yep. Real cookies. Eat as many as you want to eat... there's no side effects.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Sarcastically) Sure. Do pigs fly here to?

DAVID NAVIDAD
No, pigs don't fly here, but we are a special place.

David gives Linda a color tri-fold brochure that she quickly glances at then holds in her hand.

DAVID NAVIDAD (CONT'D)
You probably want to know a few things... places to eat-shop-sleep. You don't want to miss a thing.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I've wanted to be here my whole life.

DAVID NAVIDAD
The village is only 12 hundred and 25 yards by 12 hundred and 25 yards - so you won't need the NAV on your cell phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
12-25. Cute. I'll wake up soon.

Linda Volk tries to lightly slap herself on the face.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Your not dreaming. Go take a look -
you've always wanted to be here.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Thanks. I will.

Linda Volk Tryton tries twwo times to walk through the door. She bumps into the door. Then she bumps into the door again.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Use the door handle. Just pull.

Linda weakly smiles at David, turns the door handle, opens the door and exits the building.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Linda glances at the pamphlet then looks up and sees a large sign that says: Christmas Village - Happy Capital of the World. The buildings are all lit up and decorated.

EXT. BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - DAY

Snow is piled up near the quaint 1920-1950's one to three story buildings. A very tall pine tree is in the back area of town. The tree is very close to a medium sized mountain.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

The streets are bustling with people carrying packages. Linda walks into Judy's Donut Shop and gets a coffee. She sits in the front window area watching people.

INT. JUDY'S DONUT SHOP - DAY

Two women, SUSAN JONES, 26, thin yet shapely and MARGE CONWAY, 25, thin yet shapely, walk up to and sit at the table next to Linda. Both women each have plates piled high with donuts. Linda watches and listens.

SUSAN JONES

So... how's that new boyfriend and
you getting along?

Susan takes two huge bites out of a donut.

MARGE CONWAY

Couldn't be better - he adores me.
I'm seeing him for lunch in about
30 minutes.

Marge picks up a large apple fritter and eats it in four bites. Linda looks on in amazement.

SUSAN JONES

This fritter is *real* good.

Marge Conway smiles.

MARGE CONWAY

These chocolate donuts are
incredible. I eat 'em three times a
week. Try one... or two.

Susan reaches to Marge's plate and grabs a chocolate donut that she eats in three huge bites.

SUSAN JONES

They're wonderful. So... is your
wonderful handsome fireman husband
Anthony still doing modeling?

MARGE CONWAY

He just finished a shoot for a
large clothing store in town. He's
pulling up right now.

EXT. FRONT OF JUDY'S DONUT SHOP - DAY

A.J. SELLERS, 28, pulls up in a new red Corvette.

INT. JUDY'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A.J. walks in to the scene and passionately kisses Marge Conway. A.J. is 6'2", muscular and ruggedly handsome. He leans over and lightly kisses Susan Jones.

A.J.SELLERS

My beautiful wife and her
attractive friend... I have
something for each of you.

SUSAN JONES

Does A.J. have a twin?

A.J. holds two envelopes in his hand.

A.J.SELLERS

They were thrilled with my work and gave me these two gift cards to the village jewelry store.

A.J. hands the cards to Marge and Susan.

MARGE/SUSAN

Thank you, A.J.

A.J.SELLERS

Glad to bring happiness.

A.J. Sellers reaches over and grabs two donuts. He quickly yet politely eats the donuts. Linda looks on in amazement. She gets up from her table and walks out of Judy's Bakery & Coffee Shop onto the sidewalk.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

Linda stands in front of a two story concrete building. The sign above the door says: "Christmas Village Hospital". She notices that the windows are brightly lighted from within the building, but no people are in view. The front door is concrete. She also sees a guard building in front of the hospital. She looks to her right and sees a small, but empty parking lot. Linda's eye's then meet with the guards eyes. The guard, GLEN ROBERTS, 30, athletic build, speaks to Linda.

GLEN ROBERTS

Good afternoon. May I help you?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Yes. I was wondering - is this hospital open?

GLEN ROBERTS

C.V. Hospital is permanently closed.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

No cars in the parking lot. The place *is* empty. Why is it lit up?

GLEN ROBERTS

All of the buildings in the village have bright lighting - keeps the village festive.

Linda Volk turns around and looks at the other buildings on Main Street.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

All of the buildings are bursting with white lite.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Just like under my Christmas tree.

INT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW LIVING ROOM DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - NIGHT

Christmas Village is brightly lit under the Christmas tree.

EXT. FRONT OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE HOSPITAL - DAY

GLEN ROBERTS
May I help you with anything else,
Ma'am?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
No, I'll be moving on.

Linda Volk turns and takes 3 steps. She stops, turns around, points her finger at the guard and speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
(Quickly)Where do people go when
they get sick?

GLEN ROBERTS
(Matter of factly) You are in
Christmas Village. C.V.H. is
permanently closed. I'm here to let
new people know that/

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I know... C.V. Hospital is closed.

GLEN ROBERTS
Yes, closed. Have a great day.

Linda walks to the side of Christmas Village Hospital. She sees moving shadows coming from room a room. She looks in.

INT. ROOM #3 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE HOSPITAL - DAY

Paul And Sarah Rudzinski stand by the bed of their son, Steven Rudzinski. Steven has bee stings all over his body including his tongue and face. He is moaning. DR. GARY DEFILLIP, 69, looks at the monitor, then at nurse, MANDY MELODY, 39.

DR. DEFILLIP
How long has his blood pressure
been 72 over 42?

MANDY MELODY
Since he came in about 10 minutes
ago.

DR DEFILLIP
A teenage boy should be at about
120 over 80. It looks like he's
having an anaphylactic reaction.

Dr. Defillip takes the stethoscope from around his neck and
presses the bell to the chest of Steven Rudzinski.

DR. DEFILLIP
Nurse - set up two IV's, a cardiac
M-R-I and please give him a round
of epi.

The nurse follows the directions of Dr. DeFillip.

MANDY MELODY
Do you think there's more going on?

DR. Defillip shakes his head "yes" then speaks.

DR. DEFILLIP
The epi should have should have
raised his heart rate. But, he is
still running sinus brady. His
anaphylactic should be resolving
but I'm hearing a murmur.

Dr. Defillip looks at the monitor. Then he presses the bell
of the stethoscope to the chest of Steven.

DR. DEFILLIP (CONT'D)
We'll do 2 more quick tests, but, I
feel strongly that this young man
has a mitral valve regurgitation -
valvular heart disease. The
echocardiogram should confirm.

Dr. Defillip looks at Sarah Rudzinski.

DR. DEFILLIP (CONT'D)
Does your son have a cardiac
history?

SARAH RUDZINSKI
A what?

DR DEFILLIP
Does he have heart problems?

SARAH RUDZINSKI
I don't think so.

DR. DEFILLIP
Does he have - shortness of
breath... lack of energy?

SARAH RUDZINSKI
He gets tired. Everybody gets
tired.

DR. DEFILLIP
Mrs. Rudzinski, Steven is sick,
very sick. But we can help him.

Sarah Rudzinski begins to cry.

DR. DEFILLIP (CONT'D)
The operation takes about an hour -
recovery about two months. We have
a specialist here now.

Sarah Rudzinski begins to loudly cry.

DR. DEFILLIP (CONT'D)
We'll run the tests. But, your son -
needs surgery. This specialist I'm
recommending is very skilled.

SARAH RUDZINSKI
Will Steven... will he be able to/

Sarah cries.

DR DEFILLIP
He'll be able to have an active
life.

Sarah Rudzinski cries less.

DR. DEFILLIP
I suggest that you go buy a large
bottles of honey.

Sarah Rudzinski stops crying. She gathers her wits.

SARAH RUDZINSKI
And do what with the honey? Put
some in Stevens' food every day?

DR DEFILLIP
 No. Buying honey will be your way
 to thank the bees.

Sarah points to Steven in the hospital bed.

SARAH RUDZINSKI
 That boy has 64 bee stings - has
 anaphylaxis shock, will miss his
 prom... you want me to thank bees?

DR DEFILLIP
 If Steven wasn't admitted to this
 hospital because of those bee
 stings we wouldn't have known about
 his heart condition. His next
 strenuous activity might have
 caused a heart malfunction.

Sarah Rudzinski quickly hugs Dr. Defillip and sobs.

SARAH RUDZINSKI
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Thank you.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

Linda continues to walk down Main Street. She comes to a traffic control light. She watches as a red Dodge Challenger begins to turn through the green light. A 1960 black convertible Cadillac with two older couples inside is moving at a high rate of speed toward the Challenger. The 2 couples inside of the Cadillac are chatting and not paying attention. The Cadillac driver LARRY DIXON, 63, black, bald and muscular finally attends to his driving. He calmly steps on the brake and his car comes within a 1/4 inch of the Challenger. The Challenger driver, DAVE EISENHOWER, 40, tall and slightly unkempt, He gets out of his car and quickly walks over to the Cadillac. Linda is 15 feet away.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

DAVE EISENHOWER
 This is the finest 1960 Cadillac
 convertible I've ever seen. Nice to
 meet you, I'm Dave Eisenhower.

LARRY DIXON
 Thanks, Dave. I'm Larry.

Larry points to the people in the car.

LARRY DIXON (CONT'D)
Mandy, my wife. In the back - James Jackson and his wife Claudette.

DAVE EISENHOWER
I own the two car washes in town.
Here's a lifetime pass.

Dave gives the passes to Larry Dixon. Linda walks up the main street of quaint Christmas Village.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

50 people, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, dressed in high end suits to working class clothes are waiting in line to get into the community center. The vinyl sign draped across the twin front doors reads: "First Annual Pot Luck Democrat / Republican / Libertarian Christmas Party". Linda sees the people and the sign.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Here for the food or the stimulating conversation?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm really here to see the fireworks. Is this your idea?

DAVID NAVIDAD
Yes. Why do you ask?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Why? I thought that you would have known better then to put these groups together - with alcohol?

DAVID NAVIDAD
It's Christmas time - people have parties. It'll be great.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
A party with these 3 groups... together. David...

Linda shakes her head in a negative fashion.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Different opinions - people learning from each other.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Hot - cold. (Strongly) Love - hate.

A mid 30's lady walks by with a cat and a dog on separate leashes. The animals stop and nuzzle each other.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Christmas brings people together.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
David, they don't like each other.
I can see it now... food fights
with ham and cookies. But, lucky me
- I can't go in - no food.

DAVID NAVIDAD
No problem. Take this. I made way
too many pot stickers.

David gives her one of the two pots that he is holding.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Thanks, David. This event will be a
train wre... interesting.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Starts in five. See you later.

David walks past the line into the community center.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - AFTERNOON

The community center is a 2,200 square foot building that has a main meeting area, a stage and 4 side rooms, complete with overstuffed chairs, couches and traditional decor. Each person is given a name tag, emblazoned with logo of their political party. The political parties logo's are printed on banners along with First Annual Pot Luck Christmas Party. 15 large circular tables have food placed on them. People are entering the building. David walks onto the stage and speaks.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Thanks for being at the first ever
Pot Luck Democrat - Republican -
Libertarian Christmas Party.

The crowd claps and cheers a bit.

DAVID NAVIDAD (CONT'D)
Before we enjoy our food, dancing
and conversation, I am going to
introduce a musical group made up
of Republicans, Democrats and
Libertarians from right here in the
village. Here they are: **Together.**

The curtain rises behind David Navidad to reveal 16 singers. Their ages range from 20 to 77. The group sings: Ebony and Ivory. The singing is applauded.

TOGETHER

Ebony and ivory, sing together...

Linda sees a table with an empty chair. She places her pot of food on the table. Her name tag has: Undecided, next to her name - Linda Volk Tryton. SUSAN JONES 40(D), MIKE STEINHIESER 27(R), MARY GOLIGHTLY(L), PAUL RODRIGUES 35(D), PAUL PAULSON 73 (R), HELEN WAZINSKI 64 (R), and DAVE ATWOOD 44 (D) are sitting at the round table. Various types of food are being eaten.

SUSAN JONES (D)

Together sounds like they've been singing *together* for years. Pass the potatoes please.

The group slightly laughs.

MIKE STEINHIESER (R)

Good one, Susan. Pepper, please.

HELEN WAZINSKI (R)

(singing) People are the same
(speaking) These carrots are cooked to perfection.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (I)

Those... what are those?

Linda points to a plate of pierogies.

HELEN WAZINSKI (R)

I brought them. They're a traditional Polish food - kind of like a ravioli, but without a red sauce. They're filled with potato or cheese - made 'em myself.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

They look great. I'll have a couple of 'em.

Helene hands the plate of pierogies to Linda.

HELEN WAZINSKI (R)

Do you like 'em?

Linda smiles as she eats.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (I)
 Like em'? They're great. Helen,
 what do you think of the gun
 control legislation that is being
 talked about in congress?

The table of people stop eating and listen.

HELEN WAZINSKI (R)
 The Democrats, Republicans and the
 Libertarians all bring up some
 valid points.

DAVE ATWOOD (D)
 I agree, Helen. Please pass the
 chicken.

PAUL RODRIGUES (D)
 Intelligent thinking from The
 Democrats, Republicans and the
 Libertarians. I love this pasta.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (I)
 Anybody have any thoughts about the
 defense budget or health care?

PAUL RODRIGUES (D)
 The United States needs to defend
 ourselves from invading nations.

DAVE ATWOOD (D)
 Yes, we should. Butter, please.

HELEN WAZINSKI (R)
 I agree. Please pass the salt.

Linda passes the salt.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Health care?

MIKE STEINHIESER (R)
 The health care issue? People
 should not smoke. Too much alcohol
 or overeating isn't good for your
 health. Let me go out on a limb
 here... Funding for education is
 important.

DAVE ATWOOD (D)
 Well said, Mike. More potatoes
 please.

PAUL RODRIGUES (D)
 These pot stickers are great. I
 agree with Mike.

The group of smiling people at Linda's table finish eating. Pictures of mixed groups of Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians are taken throughout the community center.

EXT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE BOWLING 300 - DAY

Linda walks and stands in front of: **Christmas Village Bowling 300**. Through the window she watches. A short 95 year old lady awkwardly walks up to the foul line, stops and launches the ball. Linda watches as the ball moves slowly, veering right then back to the near center of the pins. Slowly nine pins fall down. The tenth pin wobbles then falls.

EXT. OUTDOOR ICE SKATING RINK OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Linda Volk sits down on a bench and sees a young family of 5 skating near her. The twin 11 year old girls are performing miraculous skating moves while 17 year old boy is doing a mazing stunts on the ice. Linda quickly grabs her phone and taps number into it.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 (Slight pause) John, It's me.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

JOHN TRYTON
 (Slightly excited) Where are you?

EXT. TOWN SQUARE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 I'm in Christmas Village.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

John looks at Christmas Village under the tree.

JOHN TRYTON
 (Slight laugh in voice) You've
 always wanted to live there. Is it
 snowing? Are their skaters gliding
 over a little pond? Where are
 you... really?

John looks down to the Christmas Village under the Christmas Tree. He sees a woman sitting at a bench near a younger middle aged man and 3 children, positioned to be skating on the ice in the town square.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Christmas Village.

JOHN VOLK
OK - where is Christmas Village?

LINDA VOLK
I don't know. I'll ask.

2 couples. The male of one couple, QUINCY SMITH, 50 is black. He holds the hand of DEBRA SMITH, 60, who is white. The male of the other couple is ROGER FINATERRI, 45 is white. He holds the hand of JOYCE HOLMES, 44 who is black. All four people speak at one time.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Pardon me, can you tell me where I am?

4 PEOPLE
Under the Christmas Tree!

The two couples walk away.

QUINCY SMITH
I love saying those words to new people.

Linda Volk continues to talk to John Volk on her phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
John, I think that you are in my dream and that I just called you from Christmas Village.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

JOHN TRYTON
Are you out with your friends from school having a few drinks? You coming back today, or (laughing sarcastically) do you want us to move there with you into a quaint craftsman bungalow?

EXT. TOWN SQUARE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'll wake up and I'll be home.

JOHN TRYTON
Linda, I'm not in your dream. I'm awake.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Are you sure? This whole thing is too much. (Yelling) I'm in... Christmas Village - but I...

JOHN TRYTON
Are there Uber drivers in the village? If there are - contact one. I don't want you driving. Come home.

John's phone loses the signal.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
Linda! Linda!

INT. LIVING ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - AFTERNOON

Jack enters the room.

JACK VOLK
Where's Mom?

JOHN VOLK
Ah... she'll be home soon.

JACK VOLK
Cool. I'm hungry.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Linda Volk looks up to see a sign that says "Tuesday - 5K Walk Meets Here at 1:00 P.M. All Invited". About three hundred people are milling around. David Navidad, sees Linda Volk.

DAVID NAVIDAD
So... Linda, going on the town walk?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
The "town walk"? Nobody stays behind eating donuts and bacon?

DAVID NAVIDAD

A few people. Eating donuts and
bacon makes some people happy.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'll go. I'm expecting to see some
dancing bears or little fairies.
Where does the walk go?

DAVID NAVIDAD

Over a tiny river, through woods,
around an office building and back.

LINDA VOLK

Good. I need to walk off cookies.

EXT. ROUGE RIVER ROPE BRIDGE - DAY

The Rouge River rope bridge is 200 feet above the tiny Rouge River. The rope bridge is filled with people. Men carry children on their shoulders. A group of four teenage girls stops to have their picture taken as they sit on a rope hand rail. David Navidad is in front of Linda Volk at the beginning of the walk. Linda, on land, looks at the rope bridge and the tiny river far below. A look of terror comes over her face.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Are you coming, Linda?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

(Sarcastically) "Across a tiny
river"- David, no way.

DAVID NAVIDAD

It is a tiny river.

LINDA VOLK

We are about 200 feet up! No way
I'm going.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Nobody here is scared of heights.

LINDA VOLK

I'm scared of heights. No moving
rope bridge for me.

DAVID NAVIDAD

I promise. You won't be scared.

LINDA VOLK

I can't do this.

Linda sees smiling people on the rope bridge.

LINDA VOLK (CONT'D)

Little girls can do this, maybe I
can do this. No, I can't do this.

DAVID NAVIDAD

May I help you get started?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

No. Some things in life are **you** and
just you alone.

Slowly, Linda puts one foot forward on the rope bridge. She grabs the side ropes and pulls herself into her first step. Linda walks through a wave type barrier and begins walking across the bridge, smiling. She tilts her head over the side of the rope bridge with her eyes closed. She slowly opens her eyes and smiles. David turns around and speaks.

DAVID NAVIDAD

There's no fear of heights or
wiggly rope bridges in the village.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Amazing. This is amazing! I'm doing
it.

Linda takes 15 steps. With each step a smile grows across her face. She begins to dance her way across the bridge.

EXT. 15 ACRES OF WOODS NEAR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Linda finishes walking across the bridge without talking to David. By herself, She strays, from the main path and walks into a heavily forested area with a small dirt trail. Around a bend, 10 small snakes appear on the trail. Linda does not see the snakes. The snakes slither. Linda follows the trail, looks down and sees the snakes. She is frightened and stands without moving. A small dental office with a sign, "Dr. Rube Weiss, The Village Dentist" is within view. Cars are in the parking lot. DR. RUBIN WEISS, 50, short, slightly chubby, wearing a dental lab coat, walks out of the front door of the building. He takes a feel-the-great-outdoors-in-your-lungs deep breath.

DR. RUBE WEISS

The snakes won't hurt you. Relax.
Just walk through them. Trust me.

Linda haltingly takes a step. She takes a few more steps.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I hate snakes.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Your doing great. Just keep walking
- they won't hurt you.

Linda walks through the slithering snakes.

LINDA VOLK
Thank you. Nice job getting me
through the snakes. I see the lab
coat. Are you the dentist?

DR. RUBE WEISS
Your welcome and yes, I'm Dr. Rube
Weiss.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm Linda.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Been living in the village very
long, Linda?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
About half a day.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Liking our village so far?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
It's a... *special*.

DR. RUBE WEISS
It is special. Did you know that
residents get free visits to the
dentist?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
No. But I do now. A free full
service place.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Come on in. I'll give you a check
up.

LINDA VOLK
I'm good. Thanks.

DR. RUBE WEISS
You want to keep that great smile.
How long has it been since you've
been to the dentist?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Five or six months.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Your due. Come on in... It's free.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Free is good. I just hope that you
didn't go to the on line dental
school. Ahhhh... Where did you go?

DR. RUBE WEISS
(Smiling)University of Michigan.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
U of M? Approved. I'm in.

Linda Volk Tryton begins to walk toward the clinic.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
You probably won't find anything -
I brush and floss... every day.

Linda walks toward the clinic. Dr. Weiss holds the clinic
door open for her as she walks inside.

EXT. DR. RUBIN WEISS DENTAL CLINIC - DAY

INT. OPEN HALLWAY ADJACENT TO 3 PATIENT EXAMINATION ROOMS -
AFTERNOON

DR. RUBE WEISS
Everything looks good. Continue
brushing and flossing.

Dr. Weiss takes 4 steps to 2nd examination room.

DR. RUBE WEISS (CONT'D)
Everything looks good. Continue
brushing and flossing.

INT. RUBE WEISS DENTAL CLINIC WAITING ROOM. - AFTERNOON

DR. RUBE WEISS
Everything looks good. Continue
brushing and flossing.

INT. RUBE WEISS DENTAL CLINIC WAITING ROOM. - DAY

Linda Volk Tryton sits down in the waiting room. KELLY GREEN, 35, notices Linda and speaks.

KELLY GREEN
Just sign in, please.

Linda walks up and signs her name. Kelly looks at the sign in sheet and speaks.

KELLY GREEN (CONT'D)
Your next, Linda. Please follow me.

INT. EXAM ROOM #1 -WEISS DENTAL CLINIC - DAY

Linda gets up and follows Kelly to exam room #1 and sits in the dental chair. Dr. Weiss walks in and puts on gloves.

DR. RUBE WEISS
OK, Linda, let's have a look.

Linda opens her mouth. Dr. Weiss moves Linda's tongue from side to side. His eyes get big. He stares for 3 seconds. Dr. Weiss puts on magnifying glasses and looks again.

DR. RUBE WEISS (CONT'D)
You have a tiny cavity on your back molar on the right side. We could take care of it right now.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Ahhh... well... I'll wait till I get back.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Waiting turns little cavities into big cavities.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
My dentist never misses a thing.

DR. RUBE WEISS
This tooth was chipped, so the cavity developed very quickly.

Dr. Weiss holds a mirror in front of Linda's mouth.

DR. RUBE WEISS (CONT'D)
Do you see it? Look in the back - on the right side.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I see it. It's tiny.

Dr. Weiss slightly smiles at Linda.

DR. RUBE WEISS
It's your mouth.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Go ahead. No time like the present.
Sure - fix it.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Good. I'll get my assistant. Back
in a minute.

Dr. Weiss walks out of the exam room into the hallway and checks to see that Linda Volk can't see him.

INT. HALLWAY, WEISS DENTAL CLINIC - DAY

Dr. Weiss simultaneously makes a small fist pump and smiles. Dr. Weiss walks to the back room where DENTAL ASSISTANT JANICE MARIE, 40 is filing her nails and watching a video on a tablet computer. She is shapely and wearing fashionable clothes.

DR. RUBE WEISS
(Happy and whispering) We have a
patient. We have a patient.

Dental Assistant Janice Marie excitedly drops her nail file and tablet computer on the floor. She gets up and trips as she rushes to Exam Room #1. Dr. Weiss bumps into Janice Marie as they enter Exam Room #1. Janice lowers the chair. Dr. Weiss and Janice Marie both stare, with big smiles at Linda.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
OK. I'm ready (Pause) Fix 'er up.

Dr. Weiss administers novocaine. He quickly drills the molar and fills the tiny cavity. Janice Marie assists.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Let's have one last look. Open wide
please.

Linda opens her mouth. Dr. Weiss flips the magnifying lenses over his eyes and looks at the fixed molar. He pushes the up button on the dental chair so that Linda is sitting upright.

DR. RUBE WEISS (CONT'D)
Your tooth looks good.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Thanks, Dr. Weiss.

As he stands there looking at Linda Volk, two small tears roll out of his eyes and land on the protective vest worn by Linda Volk Tryton.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
Your crying. Why are you crying?

DR. RUBE WEISS
I have something in my eyes -
that's all.

LINDA VOLK
(Hushed speaking) I know crying when
I see crying. Are you OK?

DR. RUBE WEISS
I'm fine. Perfectly fine.

Dr. Weiss motions with his finger to his lips (be quiet) and points to his private office. Dr. Weiss and Linda walk past the 3 exam rooms.

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE OF DR. WEISS - DAY

Linda sits at the end of the overstuffed leather couch and Dr. Weiss sits on the opposite end of the couch on the arm.

DR. RUBE WEISS
I was crying.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Sympathetically) I knew that you
were crying. What's wrong?

DR. RUBE WEISS
I was so happy to have done a good
job on your tooth.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I don't get it. You're an
experienced dentist.

DR. RUBE WEISS
I am - 20 years.

LINDA VOLK

Wasn't that an **easy procedure** for you?

DR. RUBE WEISS

Yes.

LINDA VOLK

Can I see that mirror, please?

Linda Volk Tryton points to a small hand dental mirror a nearby table. Dr. Weiss hands Linda the mirror. She looks at her teeth.

LINDA VOLK (CONT'D)

The tooth you fixed looks good to me.

DR. RUBE WEISS

It is good.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Your happy with your work. I'm happy with your work... why the tears?

DR. RUBE WEISS

I haven't fixed a tooth in 14 years. (Pause) I was worried that I might have lost my skills.

LINDA VOLK

14 years. That is a long time. I've been to the dentist a few times. As far as I can see you did what you are supposed to do. My tooth is repaired. Your skills are still with you.

DR. RUBE WEISS

We're in Christmas Village, Ms. Tryton. This is a special place.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I know. I'm starting to understand what does and doesn't happen here.

Dr. Weiss stands up.

DR. RUBE WEISS

Remember - brush and floss those teeth three times a day.

Linda Volk stands up.

LINDA VOLK

And no more tears for you Dr.
Weiss. Your skills are great.

DR. RUBE WEISS

Please keep my tears between you
and me.

EXT. FOREST PATH - AFTERNOON

Linda Volk nods her head yes. She leaves the dental office,
and walks on the forest path. She then sees the empty Rouge
River Rope Bridge across the Rouge River.

EXT. ROUGE RIVER ROPE BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

She walks, smiling, to about the middle of the rope bridge.
She stops walking and takes out the colorful map brochure.
She looks at it and with her finger, circles the Christmas
Village Inn. She walks to the other side of the bridge.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - LATER

EXT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - DAY

Christmas Village Inn is a 1920's building, adorned with old
style Christmas lights and greenery. Linda walks inside.

INT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - DAY

Distinguished, yet warm, MORGAN MANNS, 55, medium height with
thinning brown hair, is the manager and desk attendant of
Christmas Village Inn. He speaks to Linda.

MORGAN MANNS

I'm Morgan Manns, your innkeeper.
Thank you for choosing Christmas
Village Inn.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Christmas Village Inn is the only
place to stay.

MORGAN MANNS

That's what people say.

Linda Tryton's eyes light up as she looks around the lobby
that is decorated in greenery and garlands.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
This place is.../

MORGAN MANNS
May I interject here?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
By all means...

MORGAN MANNS
This place is everything that you
thought it would be?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Yes, it is.

MORGAN MANNS
How long will you be staying with
us?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm surprised that you don't know.
I'm not sure.

MORGAN MANNS
You will be staying in room 254 -
our Dignitary Room. Just sign here.

Morgan slides the paperwork to Linda.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Sounds expensive.

MORGAN MANNS
Rooms are at no charge for first
time guests.

MAX NICHOLAS, 31, takes the place of Morgan Manns behind the
counter.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY, CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - LATER

Morgan Manns open the door of room 254.

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - AFTERNOON

Morgan Manns opens the door and Linda Volk Tryton walks
inside. Morgan Manns follows her. The room is spacious and
decorated in traditional style with a mix of antiques.

MORGAN MANNS

Any extra clothing that you might need is in this closet.

Morgan open the closet to reveal a full wardrobe. SUSAN JONES, 32, rolls a covered table into the room. It reveals an incredible variety of drinks and treats.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Those are all of my favorites. How did you...

MORGAN MANNS

Ma'am, you are staying at Christmas Village Inn. It's what we do here for our guests.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

This room is... well, you know perfect.

MORGAN MANNS

If you need anything - any time, please punch in "0" on the phone.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Thank you.

MORGAN MANNS

Thank you for choosing Christmas Village Inn.

Morgan Manns leaves the room. Linda looks at the table and grabs a cookie and pours herself a glass of milk. She 1/2 sits/lays on the bed. Linda looks to the desk of the room and sees a laptop computer with a small placard that reads: Free Internet. She walks to the computer and puts it on and taps in the word Google. She taps in "Airports near me". "0 search results" appears up on the screen. She types in "Train stations near me". "0" search results appears on the screen. She types in "bus terminals near me". "0" search results appears on the screen. She calls the front desk.

INT. FRONT DESK OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - EVENING

MORGAN MANNS

Front desk, Morgan Manns speaking.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Is the internet working?

MORGAN MANNS

Let me check- please hold for 2 seconds.

Morgan Manns checks the computer.

MORGAN MANNS (CONT'D)

Yes, Ma'am. The internet is working.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

OK... thank you.

MORGAN MANNS

If you need anything else - don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call.

MORGAN MANNS (CONT'D)

We offer 254 channels. Perhaps you'll find something interesting.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Thanks Morgan - maybe I'll watch a movie before bed.

MORGAN MANNS

Have a restful evening.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Good night.

Linda opens the closet filled with clothes. She quickly looks at the clothes and then opens a drawer that is inset into the closet. She sees red pajamas, exactly like the kind she wore as a child - only adult sized. She smiles.

INT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW LIVING ROOM DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - EVENING

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - NIGHT

Linda Volk Tryton walks out of the bathroom drying her hair with a towel wearing the red pajamas. She walks to the bed pulls down covers lies on the bed, grabs the remote then lets it fall from her hand. Tears begin to form in her eyes. Linda closes here eyes.

INT. LARGE ROOM DECORATED FOR A WEDDING CELEBATION -
AFTERNOON

100 adult people are listening to John Tryton, 24, as he
toasts his wife.

JOHN TRYTON

I am so happy and in love with you,
Linda. You are my friend, my
sweetheart and I am committed to a
your happiness for your entire
life. But, I promise not to do one
thing. (pause) I will never try to
stop you from following your own
unique paths - whatever they may
be. I will be at your side, my
love.

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - NIGHT

Linda smiles. She then clicks again.

NEWS REPORTER (ON TV)

12 hundred pounds of kielbasa was-

Linda clicks to the next channel.

EXT. DRIVEWAY AT GARAGE OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

John Tryton is on a high rung of a ladder near the basketball
backboard affixed to the garage. Jack Tryton is on the roof
of the garage. A box of tools sits nearby on the roof.

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - NIGHT

Linda sits up in bed. Her eyes are wide open as she watches
the TV screen.

EXT. DRIVEWAY AT GARAGE OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - NIGHT

JOHN TRYTON

Jack hand me the 1/2 inch socket
and ratchet.

Jack looks at the tools the back to his father.

JACK VOLK

We don't have to take it down. It's
not going to hurt anything keeping
this backboard up on the garage.

JOHN TRYTON

Why keep it up if your not going to use it? Hand me the socket and ratchet, Jack.

Jack turns to his father and speaks.

JACK VOLK

How about we keep it up so my friends can shoot hoops?

JOHN TRYTON

I thought that you were done playing.

JACK TRYTON

Taking it down means done - really done. Let's leave it up. I'll shoot hoops with the guys - if they wanna play. Something else...

JOHN TRYTON

What's that Jack?

JACK TRYTON

I went over and told Coach that I was sorry for acting like I was ten.

JOHN TRYTON

Six, Jack.

JACK TRYTON

He said that it takes a big man to say that he was sorry.

JOHN TRYTON

Good. I'll call the church tomorrow and alert them of your saintliness.

JACK TRYTON

I'm trying to grow up Dad.

JOHN TRYTON

I'm seeing that. Before you put the ladder and tool box away, tighten everything. Then take a few shots to see if the "wobble" of the rim is gone. I've got to go - I've got Christmas cookies with my name on 'em.

John Tryton smiles at Jack Tryton. Jack tightens the bolts, comes down the ladder and takes a few shots. The TV screen fades to black.

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - NIGHT

Linda Volk Tryton sits amazed looking at the TV. She hits the channel changing button again. TV play by play basketball announcer, VINCENT SCULLY, 62 speaks to Jack Tryton, now 21 years old, standing in front of a mob of people at center court of Staples Arena.

VINCENT SCULLY

High scorer for Eastern Michigan University is Jack Tryton with 36 points. Great job, Jack.

JACK TRYTON

It was a thrill to beat Notre Dame. They are a great team.

VINCENT SCULLY

You scored 36 - high for the tournament.

JACK TRYTON

Our defense played well and got me the ball.

VINCENT SCULLY

This is the first time EMU was in the Christmas Invitational tournament championship game and they beat the heavily favored Fighting Irish of Notre Dame 84-63. What got you to this point, Jack?

JACK TRYTON

A great Coach - Bob Mulligan, the student body, a team that wouldn't quit and my Dad.

VINCENT SCULLY

He encouraged you to play?

JACK TRYTON

Something like that, Mr. Scully.

INT. ROOM 254 OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN - NIGHT

Linda Volk Tryton sits on the bed with her eyes and mouth wide open.

I/E. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE INN LOBBY - MORNING

Linda exits the Christmas Village Inn building. Linda walks 30 yards taking in the sights and the people walking with presents in hand. She comes upon the building marked "Activities Center". She walks inside.

EXT. ACTIVITIES BUILDING - MORNING

INT. ACTIVITIES BUILDING LOBBY - MORNING

A large sign shows a list of activities, including a instructor/leader. Included are: Archery, Piano, Trumpet, Unicycle Riding, Karate Board Breaking, Glass Blowing, Making Yard Art with Steel, Painting, Fine Furniture Construction. JAMES BRADFORD, 40, activities coordinator, sits behind the main desk.

JAMES BRADFORD

Good morning.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Good morning. An interesting group of activities...

JAMES BRADFORD

Different kind of people like different kinds of things to do - or try. Some for the first time.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'm Linda Tryton. Archery and Yard Art sound interesting.

JAMES BRADFORD

Good to meet you, Linda. I'm James Bradford - the activities director. Are you ready to start now?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Archery. I want to give archery a try. Then... yard art with steel.

JAMES BRADFORD

Just walk down the main hallway Nick Booktrick is the instructor for archery - he's in room 8. Nick's not with anybody now. Bobbie Joseph, is the yard art with steel instructor - room number 9. Have fun.

Linda walks down the hallway and opens the door marked #8.

INT. ACTIVITIES CENTER, ROOM #8 - DAY

NICK BOOKTRICK, 50, shoots an arrow that hits the bulls eye.

NICK BOOKTRICK
I'll show you how to do it.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I've never done this before.

NICK BOOKTRICK
Good. No bad habits. Are you ready?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm here. Let's start.

NICK BOOKTRICK
First some safety concerns - then shooting.

Nick shows Linda the archery equipment. He shoots and hits the bulls eye. She lets go of the arrow and hits the bulls eye next to Nick' arrow. Nick nods his approval.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Beginners luck.

Linda shoots another arrow that hits the bull's-eye.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
Now, without looking.

Linda, with her back to the target, hits the bulls eye.

NICK BOOKETRICK
Three shots - three bulls eyes. You are a natural.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Thanks for the lesson, Nick.

Linda begins to walk out of room #8.

NICK BOOKETRICK
Nice work, Linda.

Linda exits the room. She enters the hallway she sees room #9. She opens the door and enters.

INT. ROOM #9 OF ACTIVITIES CENTER - MORNING

Room #9 has a open door with racks of steel on one side and intricate yard art sculptures on the other side. A person wearing a welding helmet reveals herself to be SUSAN JOSEPH, 61, a pretty woman.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
These things are amazing. They're beautiful. Did you make them?

SUSAN JOSEPH
Some. The Christmas Village residents made many of them.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Wonderful. Just amazing.

SUSAN JOSEPH
Thanks. People come in here with their free time and leave with beautiful yard art.

Linda looks at the completed and partially made animals, people and abstract art.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I like the art.

SUSAN JOSEPH
Art is the end result. You might find that you enjoy welding.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I don't know. The sparks, the electricity. You've never been hurt?

SUSAN JOSEPH
Never. I'll show you the right way. Want to make something?

Linda nods her head **yes**. Susan shows Linda how to weld. Linda then welds a wing onto an unfinished eagle. They flip up their masks. Linda points to a picture of Abraham Lincoln.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I've always liked Abraham Lincoln. I'll make a bust of Honest Abe.

SUSAN JOSEPH
Good. I'll be here if you need me.

Obstructed glimpses can be seen of the steel sculpture being made. The beautiful, elaborate piece is revealed.

SUSAN JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Looks real good. That was easy for you. Happy with your efforts?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

It's beautiful. (Irritated) It's too beautiful... and too easy to make.

Linda shakes the hand of Susan Joseph and leaves the room.

EXT. MAIN STREET OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

EXT. THE GARLIC RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Linda walks into a busy large restaurant.

INT. THE GARLIC RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

MELISSA FENKEL, 30, hostess, greets Linda Volk Tryton.

MELISSA FENKEL

Welcome to The Garlic. Just you today?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Yes, just 1.

MELISSA FENKEL

We have a table overlooking the river. Please follow Samantha, your server.

Linda Volk follows SAMANTHA CHAL, 27 to the table at the window overlooking the river. Linda's table is near a group of 6 boys and 6 girls about to sit down. The 6 boys all pull out the chairs for the 6 girls. The 12 teens put the napkins on their laps. They all put their phones off and put the phone in their pockets. Linda orders her food.

SAMANTHA CHAL

Pardon me Ms., those 2 gentlemen would like to know if you would join them at their table.

Linda looks over and smiles at Dr. Weiss and David Navidad.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Yes, Yes I would.

SAMANTHA CHAL
I'll bring your food over.

Linda stands at the circular table and speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Well... here I am with two of the
village's most distinguished
citizens.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Will you join us for lunch?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Sure.

Linda sits down.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
What's good here?

DAVID NAVIDAD
Everything. The food is rustic
country Italian. You don't have to
go to Italy.

Linda looks over and sees the shapely SUSAN JONES, 26, and
MARGE CONWAY, thin yet shapely. Susan Jones is eating a large
piece of sausage while Marge Conway is eating spaghetti.

DR. RUBE WEISS
So... Linda, is our little village
everything you thought it would be?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
It's perfect. All the time. Every
minute... easy.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Easy?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Easy like... falling asleep after
dinner easy.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Easy like no obstacles on an
obstacle course.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Easy like having Larry Bird on your
pick up basketball team at the "Y".

DR. RUBE WEISS

Linda, would you like being on a team that couldn't lose?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I like facing something that can't be beat. Pass the cheese, please.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Is that what **you** want, Linda? A life of problems.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

You both know what happens here.

DR. RUBE WEISS

You make our village sound mysterious. So, what happens here?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Perfection. Just like the village under my Christmas tree.

DR. RUBE WEISS

You don't like a perfect place?

LINDA VOLK

"No cavities. Everything looks fine. Keep on brushing and flossing. How many times a day do you say that a day Dr. Weiss?"

DR. RUBE WEISS

10. Maybe 15.

DAVID NAVIDAD

What' so bad with that no cavities?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

(Warmly) Be truthful with me, Dr. Weiss. Aren't you bored?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)

I saw your degrees - four years of undergraduate studies at University of Michigan. four years of University of Michigan Dental School. Did you waste your time going to college for eight years?

DR. RUBE WEISS

(Calmly) I'm happy that people are taking care of their teeth.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
That's what you say.

DR. RUBE WEISS
I say it because it's true.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You spent eight years in college
just so you would say the same
eight words 16 times a day?

DR. RUBE WEISS
I like seeing good teeth - I'm a
dentist.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You're the town dentist who doesn't
work on teeth. David is the Mayor
of Easyville, where it's boring.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Nothing *bad* is... good.

Linda, David and Dr. Weiss continue eating lunch. Linda exits the restaurant and walks down main street looking at the sights of the village. She comes across a 2,500 square foot wooden building with a sign: Christmas Village Middle School- "1900 - 1956". "Open for Self Tours" Linda walks into the building.

EXT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

INT. HALLWAY, CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Linda walks down the hallway and sees a door marked: Science Lab. She looks inside. She sees herself at a desk.

INT. SCIENCE LAB ROOM - AFTERNOON

Linda hears a knock on her door. She looks over and sees an African American family - CLAYTON JONES 46, CYNTHIA JONES 42, and DAMOND JONES, 14. They are all dressed in upscale clothing. Linda escorts the group into her room.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Clayton. I haven't had you as a
student for a year and a half. How
are you doing?

CLAYTON JONES
Fine. Nice to see you, Mrs. Tryton.

Clayton is holding a bouquet of flowers behind his back.

DAMOND JONES

Mrs. Tryton, we are leaving Michigan. I have a new job. My son Clayton wants to speak to you.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'm honored, Clayton.

DAMOND JONES

I asked Clayton what he was going to miss when we move.

Clayton takes a step toward Linda. Tears roll from his eyes.

CYNTHIA JONES

(Warmly) Go ahead Clayton, talk to Mrs. Tryton.

CLAYTON JONES

I was showing off and being loud in class. You never put me down or yelled. Not you. Not once.

More tears roll from Clayton's eyes.

CLAYTON JONES (CONT'D)

You stayed after school to help me. Because of you, Mrs. Tryton. I'm a better person.

Damond Jones gives his son a tissue. Clayton wipes his face.

CLAYTON JONES (CONT'D)

You... are... the best teacher. I'm going to miss you Mrs. Tryton.

Clayton gives the bouquet to Linda. Linda hugs Clayton.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Thank you, Clayton. Thank you.

Clayton, Damond and Cynthia walk out of the classroom.

EXT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Linda has a look of amazement over her face. Linda walks the streets of the village. She takes a folded map out of her pocket. Linda runs to the edge of town.

EXT. CLIFFS AT EDGE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

Linda looks from left to right and sees a deep ravine. She takes out the folded tri-fold, studies it and walks further. She sees more cliffs. She sits on a large rock and takes out the tri-fold map again. She sees a large mountain near the edge of town. She walks back to town.

INT. VISITOR CENTER OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE, DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS - DAY

Linda Volk Tryton walks into the Visitor Center of Christmas Village. She looks serious and calm as she walks over to David Navidad.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Innocently) David - are people
forced to stay here?

DAVID NAVIDAD
Forced?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Yeah... Christmas Village looks
like some kind of happy prison for
people who don't like problems or
challenges.

David leans back into his chair and calmly speaks.

DAVID NAVIDAD
(Laughs) Linda - you can leave
Christmas Village. Are you thinking
about leaving?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm not thinking about leaving. I
am leaving.

Linda takes two steps closer to David.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Why do you want to leave us?
It's always a great day in
Christmas Vill/

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(mocking) It's always a great day
in Christmas Village. (Serious)
Yes, I'm going to leave.

DAVID NAVIDAD

You can leave. Nobody is keeping you here.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I looked for plane tickets on line. No web sites. I looked for train and bus tickets - No web sites. I looked for a rental car place and/

DAVID NAVIDAD

You won't find any. No mass transit is needed. Too small for a rental car place.

LINDA VOLK

No need?

DAVID NAVIDAD

Nobody has ever left Christmas Village.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Nobody has left Christmas Village? Nobody **can leave** Christmas Village. I'll find a way.

Linda turns around and begins walking toward the door.

DAVID NAVIDAD

You can leave. Anybody can leave. No person is forced to stay here.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

How do I leave this perfect little place? Tell me, David.

Linda takes three steps closer to David.

DAVID NAVIDAD

Go to the town square marketplace. Find the older lady with white hair - she'll be wearing a dark red coat with a badge and the word "**Directions**"... right here.

David points to his upper chest.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I'll find her.

David opens a big leather bound ledger book on the counter and looks at the back page.

DAVID NAVIDAD
 We have 12 hundred and 25
 residents. Not a single person has
 ever left Christmas Village. Ever.

David closes the book.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 I'll be number one.

Linda gestures to the street.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
 These people **want** to live here - I
 don't want this life. I want my
 life - **all** of my life.

Linda then grabs a cookie from a tray on her way to the front
 door of the visitor center. She crumbles the cookie.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON (CONT'D)
 Store bought cookies.

DAVID NAVIDAD
 I'll see you at the Christmas
 Village marketplace. I'm sure they
 have homemade cookies there.

EXT. OUTDOOR STAGE - CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE NEAR TOWN SQUARE. -
 AFTERNOON

A crowd of 200 stand in front of the stage at the
 marketplace. David Navidad speaks.

DAVID NAVIDAD
 Christmas Village is known
 worldwide because of the most
 important day of the year... and
 our happy residents

The crowd applauds.

DAVID NAVIDAD (CONT'D)
 Enough of me talking. Let's join in
 singing "Jingle Bells" with the
 Christmas Village Carolers.

The CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CAROLERS, 3 WOMEN, all 39 years old and
 with 3 MEN, all 44 years old, sing: Jingle Bells.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CAROLERS
 Sings Jingle Bells

The crowd joins in singing. KATHY CLAUS, 87, wearing dark red clothing moves through the crowd. Linda almost comes upon her, but, Cathy Claus turns away. Cathy sits at a table sipping tea. Linda Volk Tryton frantically looks through the crowd. She finally finds Cathy Claus. Linda speaks.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Happily). You're the directions lady.

Kathy Clause stops eating and stands up.

KATHY CLAUS
I'm her.... Cathy Claus.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I'm Linda. David said that you would have directions to leave Christmas Village.

KATHY CLAUS
Are you truly ready to go, my dear?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I am. Now. Today. I want to go today. Please tell me the directions.

KATHY CLAUS
Well... there's north, south, east and west.

A smile appears on the face of Cathy Clause.

CATHY CLAUS
I always wanted to say that.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Funny.

KATHY CLAUS
I certainly am, dear. The first thing you'll have to do is get to the base of Christmas tree.

Kathy Claus motions to the extremely tall and wide Norfolk pine tree near the middle of town, adjacent to a mountain. Linda nods her head "yes" at Cathy Clause.

KATHY CLAUS (CONT'D)
You can see Christmas Tree from anywhere in Christmas Village.
(MORE)

KATHY CLAUS (CONT'D)

Just follow main street until you get to the base of the tree. Then, climb the tree until you reach the top. My husband will help you once you get there.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Main street north. Climb the tree. Meet your husband. He'll help at the top. Got it.

KATHY CLAUS

That's right, sweetie.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Anything else?

KATHY CLAUS

You don't have much time... he closes soon. He'll reopen next December 23rd.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

He's open one day?

CATHY CLAUS

Sam says that his older brother works one day a year, so he's going to work only one day a year.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

Is his brother...

Cathy Claus shakes her head yes.

KATHY CLAUS

Yes. Santa Claus - red suit - white trim. Black belt. Wears the same thing every year. Please be quiet about the older brother thing.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

A bit of jealousy about how much good press his older brother gets?

KATHY CLAUS

His brother gets the headlines, so Sam has a few... *issues*.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

People have issues. *I* have issues. I won't mention Santa. How much time do I have until Sam closes?

Cathy Clause takes out an old gold pocket watch and opens the front cover. She looks at the dial and then to Linda.

KATHY CLAUS

Two hours, four minutes and 18 seconds.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

And how much time will it take me to climb Christmas Tree?

KATHY CLAUS

About 2 hours. Better get movin', dear - he closes soon.

Linda, smiles, quickly hugs Kathy Claus and begins to run in the direction of Christmas Tree.

EXT. RAILROAD CROSSING IN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

The railroad crossing gate is coming down. The Christmas Village Touring Train is a quarter mile away.

INT. RAILROAD CAR FILLED WITH 20 PEOPLE - AFTERNOON

20 PEOPLE

(Singing) I'll Be Home for Christmas

A train whistle blares.

EXT. RAILROAD CROSSING IN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE- - AFTERNOON

Christmas Village Touring Train is about 25 feet away from the crossing. Linda sees the train about to cross Main Street. Linda trips and almost falls - but rights herself near the ground. David Navidad, walking nearby, unknown to Linda, sees her at the crossing. Dr. Weiss, unknown to Linda Volk, watches Linda Volk from behind a tree. Linda runs in front of the train and leaps across the track to safety.

EXT. 220 FOOT TOWERING PINE TREE ALMOST TOUCHING THE MOUNTAIN AT THE BASE OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE. DAY

JOSEPH GARDNER, 62, TIM ENGLISH, 42 and CATHY EDWARDS 31, are standing at the base of Christmas Tree. They are all dressed in hiking clothes. Linda is 225 yards away, running toward the Christmas tree.

JOSEPH GARDNER
OK. I'm ready to start climbing.

CATHY EDWARDS
Been waiting all year to do this.

TIM ENGLISH
I'm going back to Florida.

CATHY EDWARDS
To a life with challenges.

TIM ENGLISH
Uncertainty.

JOSEPH GARDNER
Problems. When we go back, we'll
learn new ways to succeed when we
fail. (Pause) I'll go first.

Joseph puts his right foot on the trunk of the tree. He looks up, but, doesn't move. Cathy and Tim stare at Joseph. Joseph takes his foot off of the trunk of Christmas tree.

JOSEPH GARDNER (CONT'D)
I don't think its smart to do this
climb without proper fuel. Let's go
eat, then we'll come back.

Tim, Joseph and Cathy begin to walk away as Linda Volk Tryton arrives, out of breath, at the base of Christmas tree. Linda immediately begins to climb the tree. Joseph Gardner hears Linda's movement. He turns around and smiles as he watches Linda climb. Linda steadily climbs the tree. Snow is falling and wind is blowing. The branches are just within reach of her hands. Linda looks down, but quickly looks up.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(talks to herself)
Don't look down. Look up. Don't
stop. I can do this.

Linda climbs up the tree. She hears branches cracking. She falls, but catches a branch. She continues upward.

EXT. BRANCH OF CHRISTMAS TREE - DAY

Vague view of a 40'ish male climbing Christmas Tree. Linda looks down but she does not see anybody.

EXT. NEAR TOP OF CHRISTMAS TREE - DAY

Linda climbs, slips a bit, regains her footing and gets to just before the top of Christmas Tree.

EXT. WOODEN TREE HOUSE/TICKET BOOTH ON BRANCH - DAY

Linda knocks on the door.

INT. WOODEN TREE HOUSE/TICKET BOOTH - DAY

SAM CLAUS, 192, white hair, medium build, is sleeping in a wood chair. His feet are up on the shelf just below the ticket window. The chair rocks with his breaths.

EXT. TREE HOUSE TICKET WINDOW. DAY

Linda knocks on the closed wooden window. She frantically knocks again. Sam awakens, falls a bit backward, then forward. He slides the wooden window open and speaks.

SAM CLAUS
Hello. How many?

LINDA VOLK
Just me. One.

David Navidad appears.

DAVID NAVIDAD
I'll take 1.

LINDA VOLK
(Astonished) David... you to?

DAVID NAVIDAD
I wanted what you wanted - you know... no troubles... no problems. I thought I wanted to be happy - **all the time**. You got me thinking.

LINDA VOLK
You're the mayor. Don't leave Christmas Village because of me.

DAVID NAVIDAD
It's my choice. I'm ready to go. I want my family. My job. My old problems. I want to go home.

A MAN, 55, appears. He is covered in winter apparel with a scarf around his face. He takes off the face mask and speaks.

MAN
One ticket please.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Surprised) Dr. Weiss - *you too?*

Dr. Weiss nods his head yes.

DR. RUBE WEISS
I want to fix teeth, not just say
"Everything looks good. Keep on
brushing and flossing". I'm going
back home.

Dr. Weiss looks at Sam Claus and speaks.

DR. RUBE WEISS (CONT'D)
What do I owe you?

Sam Claus looks at the group of three people.

SAM CLAUS
(Smiles.) Not money.

Sam Claus moves onto the wooden platform.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)
Never had three requests to leave
Christmas Village in one day. I
don't need any money.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)
Payment is made without paper
money, coins, bank transfer or
credit card. Please don't fret,
I'll get to the payment in a
moment. Ohhhh, excuse me, I didn't
introduce myself - I'm *Sam. Sam
Claus.*

DR. RUBE WEISS
Nice to meet you, Mr. Claus. Are
you related to... *Santa* Claus?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Sam closes soon, let's respect his
time.

SAM CLAUS
It's OK to talk about my older
first born brother Santa.

DAVID NAVIDAD
I've got one of those.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Me too.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Please continue, Sam. We all know
that you close up shop soon.

SAM CLAUS
I'm sure you've all heard of Santa
Claus. There's pictures of him
everywhere. I'm used to Santa
getting all the attention and the
glory... they even have songs about
him - There are movies about my
brother - *I didn't get any songs*
or movies. It doesn't bother me.
(Almost angry) *Do I look bothered?*

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Heavens, no.

SAM CLAUS
Yes... I'm **Sam** Claus, the younger
not famous brother.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Sam has a **very important position**.
He helps people get back home.

SAM CLAUS
Your right, Linda. What I do is
important. (Mutters) No songs. No
movies.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
How'd you know my name?

SAM CLAUS
You look like a Linda. My brother
isn't the only one that has a list
and checks it twice.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Sam, am I on your good list?

Sam takes out his computer tablet.

SAM CLAUS
All three of you are on the good
list.

(MORE)

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

My brother gives away presents. Me?
Well... I **charge** a fee for service.

LINDA VOLK

You don't want money, so, what's
the fee?

SAM CLAUS

Just reach into your front pocket.
My fee is there.

Linda, Dr. Weiss and David Navidad reach into their
respective pockets. Linda and Dr. Weiss show their open hand
full of gold, silver, blue and red twinkles. David offers his
hand with gold, silver, blue and red twinkles a few twinkles.
The blue twinkles are few and far between.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

You pay me with a sprinkle of
faith, some effort, some thinking
and enough guts to make the ride
possible.

LINDA VOLK

The ride?

SAM CLAUS

I'll get to "the ride" in just a
moment. For now, let me see what's
in your hands.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

(Smiles) Gold. Silver. Blue and
red. Faith, effort, thinking and
guts. I have all those things.

Sam looks at Linda's hand and nods his head "yes" and smiles.

DR. RUBE WEISS

I think I do to.

Sam looks at Dr. Weiss's hand and gives him a "thumbs up".

SAM CLAUS

Linda... good. Dr. Rubin Weiss...
good. (Pause) David, open your
hands. Let's see...

Sam Claus slightly moves his head from side to side in a
negative fashion.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

No blue, David. No blue. (Pause)
Blue is guts.

(MORE)

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

This situation puts me in a difficult position. A very difficult position. You have to have guts to go.

DAVID NAVIDAD

I climbed Christmas tree didn't I?

SAM CLAUS

That's a start. You must have some...

Sam puts his pointing finger and thumb a half inch apart.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

guts to make the climb... which you just accomplished. People's fears stop them. Let me look a little closer.

Sam Claus takes out a magnifying glass from his back pocket. Sam adjusts the magnifying glass over David's open hand.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

Mmm. Mhnn. Ahh. There it is - a tiny, tiny bit of blue - "guts".

Sam rubs his chin with his hand.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

But, I don't *see* enough guts.
(Pause) **Show me** that you have real guts and you will have paid me in full.

DAVID NAVIDAD

(Timidly) What do I need to do?

SAM CLAUS

I will explain. Patience, David. You will be 3rd to go. Linda Volk Tryton was first to my window. Are you really ready, Linda?

LINDA VOLK

Ready.

SAM CLAUS

Linda - David and Dr. Weiss - all three of you. Please listen carefully: Once you leave you can't come back - I only offer a 1 way ticket. No return visit.

Linda, David and Dr. Weiss all nod their heads in agreement.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)
The time has come, Linda. Payment,
please.

Sam puts his cupped hands in front of Linda. She gives the twinkling matter to Sam Clause.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)
The ride to *your life* is over
there.

EXT. HUGE MOUNTAIN PATH - EVENING

Sam points to a narrow, rocky and icy path that hugs the huge mountain. The path is about 2 feet from the tip of a branch. three small wooden sleds, each with a rope belt, sit at the beginning of the icy path.

SAM CLAUS
You'll just jump across the small
open area - about 2 feet - and you
should land on the path. Then
you'll sit on the little wooden
cart. Just lean forward in the cart
and you'll be on your way.

Unexpectedly, Dr. Weiss puts the twinkling matter on the booth counter. He then runs across the branch and barely lands on the mountain ledge pulling himself up onto the icy path. He positions himself on the front wooden cart.

DR. WEISS
(Loudly) I had to make the jump
right then or I might never have.

SAM CLAUS
Your a bit brassy, Dr. Weiss. But,
you paid the fee. Sometimes in life
you need to be a bit pushy.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Good luck, Dr. Weiss.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Good luck!

Dr. Weiss pushes with his hands and begins to slowly slide.

SAM CLAUS
It's your turn, Linda.

Linda looks past the branch, across the open area, to the wooden sled on the path. She runs, jumps and catches the edge, her foot slips, but grabs hold. She slips. She pushes herself up. She climbs to the path. She positions herself on the wooden cart that is at the head of the line.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

It's going to be a wild ride!

Linda waves at Sam and leans forward in the cart. She moves.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - DAY

Linda slides in the cart for 5 seconds and then sees Dr. Weiss in front of her. The path leads around the mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH, DAVID STUCK - DAY

Dr. Weiss's cart is laying on the path in front of Linda. He rights his cart and rolls out of the way. Linda races past Dr. Weiss to the end of the path. Her cart flies off of the path into the air. Dr. Weiss follows shortly.

EXT.. BILLOWY, PARTIAL CLOUDS- DAY

Linda and Dr. Weiss see rugged peaks, valleys, a river and a big city. A small town is also visible. Dr. Weiss points.

DR. RUBE WEISS

I can see my home and office!

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

There's my home.

DR. RUBE WEISS

Brush and floss 3 times a day!

LINDA VOLK TRYTON

I will. I hope you have problems.

DR. RUBE WEISS

You too.

EXT. TREE HOUSE TICKET WINDOW. LATER

SAM CLAUS

David, I should have left two minutes ago to help my brother. Are you staying or leaving?

David stands still. He looks to the mountain then down.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Christmas Village needs me.

SAM CLAUS
Your **are** the mayor and you **do** run
the Visitor Center.

David turns towards the trunk of Christmas tree. He puts one arm around a branch and goes down. He stops.

DAVID NAVIDAD
I've climbed up and down this tree
five times. When am I leaving?

SAM CLAUS
Perhaps you'll go next year.

DAVID NAVIDAD
Yeah. Maybe next year.

David moves downward. He is out of view of Sam Claus.

SAM CLAUS
(Quietly)Maybe. Maybe.

INT. WOODEN TREE HOUSE TICKET BOOTH. LATER

Sam hears of an old 1950 style phone ring. Sam reaches into his pocket and takes out his cell phone and answers it. SANTA CLAUS 225, is on the phone.

INT. NORTH POLE GARAGE SLEIGHPORT - AFTERNOON

Santa is in the sleigh. Reindeer and elves are nearby.

SAM CLAUS
How's my much older brother doing?

SANTA CLAUS
Good. Very good. Just finishing
loading up. Sam, how are you?

SAM CLAUS
Finer than frogs hair.

SANTA CLAUS
Nice to hear. So... will you be
helping me again this year?

SAM CLAUSE

Of course. I just closed up for the night.... You pickin' me up in the sleigh?

SANTA CLAUS

Sure... with a *new booster engine* - It helps the reindeer.

Flames come from the exhaust as Santa guns the engine.

SANTA CLAUS (CONT'D)

V-8 made in Detroit. 19 hundred horses, ahh 19 hundred reindeer.

Sam holds the phone away from his mouth.

SAM CLAUS

(Mumbles quietly) Show off.
(Regular voice) Why did you add an engine?

SANTA CLAUS

I have more stops this year and only 24 hours to do the job. So, what's happening at the top of the tree - anybody leave this year?

SAM CLAUS

Yes. Two - a wonderful woman - Linda and a dentist - Dr. Weiss.

SANTA CLAUS

Wow! I never thought that I would see the day.

SAM CLAUS

I did. That's why I do what I do - and you, my much older brother, do what you do. May I drive this year?

SANTA CLAUS

Ho-Ho-Ho. No - that's my job. You can be the navigator - I really need you to guide my sleigh... I mean navigate my sleigh tonight.

SAM CLAUS

Navigator is good. Can I wear a red suit with white trim.

SAM CLAUS (CONT'D)

Don't push it, Sam. You can wear a **white** suit with **red** trim. Ho Ho Ho.

EXT. CLOUDS. - DAY

Linda flies through the air and sees her home. She is at her front door. Linda opens the door and enters her living room.

INT. FRONT ROOM OF CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW - DAY

John Tryton attaches a star. He hears his cell phone ringing. He answers his phone while still standing on the ladder.

JOHN TRYTON
Merry Christmas. (Long pause)

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
(Surprised) You're kidding me.
(Listening) You are firing me - on
the phone on Christmas Eve?

John Tryton turns his phone "off". He is stunned.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
Merry Christmas to me. Linda,
Larry Johnson just fired me... on
the phone. (Surprised) You're back!

John kisses and hugs Linda.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
I was gone. Now I'm back. Tell me
about getting fired.

JOHN TRYTON
He calls me on December 24th... 1/2
a day before Christmas.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
The gifts are purchased. Fridge is
full. Money in the bank. We're OK.

JOHN TRYTON
(Mocking) "They're going in a
different direction".

Linda walks over to John and gives him a big hug and a kiss.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
(Smiling) I'm excited, John. That's
great.

JOHN TRYTON
Linda, I just... lost... my... job.
You're happy? I. Lost. My job.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Going in a different direction
means that **you** are going in a
different direction.

JOHN TRYTON
I just lost the way I brought money
into the house.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
That job isn't the only way you can
bring money into the house. You
could start your own ad agency. Or-

JOHN TRYTON
Or what?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Or go to work for some big
conglomerate. But, I know you could
make it with your own business. Do
you?

JOHN TRYTON
I'm not sure. We've got house
payments. Credit cards payments.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
It won't be easy. People will say
yes on the phone and never buy.

JOHN TRYTON
You paint a pretty picture.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You'll drive across town to see
people who aren't there.

JOHN TRYTON
When do I hear the feel good part?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
You know what the upside is?

JOHN TRYTON
Right now, "no".

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Any mountain you conquer will be
because you conquered it.

JOHN TRYTON
Would you prod me with a big stick?
Do you want me to do it hon?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 You decide. (Pause) You want a job?
 Go get a job - I'll still love you.

JOHN TRYTON
 Get a job with a check or own your
 own company and slay dragons.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 You are so dramatic.

JOHN TRYTON
 I want to be in charge of me.

Linda nods her head yes.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
 I can't refuse the pretty picture
 you painted of being an
 entrepreneur.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 The garage is your new office.

JOHN TRYTON
 Glamorous.

John Tryton kisses Linda. Jack Tryton and Grace Tryton, join
 in. Grace steps back and motions to her ears.

GRACE TRYTON
 Mom... are these earrings pretty?

JOHN TRYTON
 Linda, your daughter is wearing
 pierced earrings.

The doorbell rings.

JOHN TRYTON (CONT'D)
 (Warmly) Are we expecting company?
 Who would that be on Christmas Eve?

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
 Spider Sellers... Grace's first
 date. Just a simple walk around the
 park.

JOHN TRYTON
 Spider? What kind of...
 B-O-Y is Spider? I don't think that
 our-

GRACE TRYTON
I know what B-O-Y spells, Dad.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
John - I Googled Spider 6 days ago.
He's a very good young man... and -
I'm going with them.

Linda takes a coat out of the closet. She puts on the coat.

Linda walks to the door and opens it. SPIDER SELLERS 16,
appears, wearing a suit and carrying flowers.

ACE SELLERS
I'm Spider. Merry Christmas, ma'am.

LINDA VOLK TRYTON
Merry Christmas, Spider. Come in.

EXT. DR. RUBIN WEISS DENTAL CLINIC - NIGHT

Dr. Weiss is taking down the "Closed" sign and replacing it
with an "Open" sign. A MAN, 35 walks up and speaks.

MAN
(In pain) Do you do emergencies?

Dr. Weiss smiles at the man and opens the door of the clinic.

DR. RUBE WEISS
Yes. I'll get you fixed up in just
a few minutes.

INT. VISITOR CENTER OF CHRISTMAS VILLAGE, DECORATED FOR
CHRISTMAS - EVENING

DAVID NAVIDAD
(Smiling) The ornaments are from
every country in the world and all
50 states. The strings of lights
are from the 50's.

EXT. CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - DAY

Fade to black...

***** 11/29/2022