

IT'S THE HOLIDAYS!

By Matt Thompson

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SYNOPSIS: Sparky and Joy are two Christmas elves on a blind date. Through their funny interactions and direct addresses to the audience, we discover their true affections for one another. By play's end, they both realize that love is in the air and that, hey, it's the holidays!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

JOY (f) On a blind date with Sparky. Open minded, patient, and very grounded. Through her asides, we hear her thoughts. Works in Santa's workshop.

SPARKY (m) On a blind date with Joy. Works as an electrician at Santa's Cottage.

SET: Coffee shop with a table and two chairs.

PROPS

- ☐ Coffee cup

AT RISE: *Lights up on a table at a coffee shop. SPARKY is sitting at a small table with two chairs. JOY approaches him a bit apprehensive with a coffee cup in her hand. After a beat.*

JOY: Sparky?

SPARKY stands up.

SPARKY: Hey!

JOY: Hey!

Beat. They hug awkwardly, all smiles.

SPARKY: Hi, have a seat.

JOY: Thanks, thanks.

She sits.

They are both a little nervous. She giggles a bit. Neither knows what to say to each other. After a beat.

JOY: I really like your outfit...

SPARKY: Would you like some gingerbread...?

JOY and SPARKY: *(Aside.)* We both apologize.

JOY: *(Aside.)* Cordially.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* We apologize cordially.

JOY and SPARKY: Sorry.

SPARKY: Go ahead.

JOY: No, please.

SPARKY: I'm sorry.

JOY: I don't usually go on blind dates.

SPARKY: Neither do I.

JOY: Well, there's a first for everything. After all, it's the holidays.

SPARKY: And you just—

JOY: Never know! Anything can happen at the holidays!

SPARKY: That's a joyous outlook. *(Beat.)* You know that reminds me of a very unique story.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm nervous, so I give him the floor with eagerness.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) I take the floor. I talk about my career. I was in electrical wiring for about five years—

JOY: (*With disinterest. Aside.*) He talks about his career.

SPARKY: (*Continues.*) ...before moving to the North Pole. I was the top signature salesman down in Nome responsible for the promulgation of electrical standards and safety specifications. We were phasing out the old DIN VDE 0100 systems and replacing it with standard regulation documents that harmonize with IEC 60364.

JOY: (*Aside.*) I feign to be interested.

SPARKY: When doing full home wiring I generally exemplify the common objectives of IEC 60364 and tell customers to replace it with BIO 1971.

JOY: Uh-huh.

SPARKY: The semi-conductors are tin plated.

JOY: Uh-huh.

SPARKY: And the alternating current can be such a hassle in cold weather.

JOY: Hmmm.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) She's impressed.

JOY: (*Aside.*) I'm not impressed.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) We stop talking.

JOY: (*Aside.*) We stop talking.

JOY and SPARKY: (*Aside.*) Silence.

JOY: (*Aside.*) He talks about himself, again.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) I talk about myself. (*To Joy.*) Yada, yada, yada. (*Aside.*) She's very interested.

JOY: (*Aside.*) I'm not interested.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) I tell her how much I make. (*To Joy.*) Yada, yada, yada.

JOY: (*Changing her tune a little. Aside.*) I'm impressed.

SPARKY: (*Aside.*) She's impressed.

JOY: Electrician, huh? That's like the highest paid gig you can get around these parts.

SPARKY: Yeah. (*Aside.*) We stop talking.

JOY and SPARKY: (*Aside.*) Silence.

SPARKY: It should be a nice season this year...

JOY: So are you looking for a...

SPARKY and JOY speak the next two lines simultaneously.

SPARKY: I make this homemade eggnog that...

JOY: I make these amazing snickerdoodles that...

SPARKY: I'm sorry.

JOY: I'm sorry.

Beat.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I apologize again. *(To Joy.)* Sorry.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I apologize again, but with less patience. *(To Sparky.)* Sorry.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I compliment her on her appearance. *(To Joy.)* That outfit really brings out your eyes. You have beautiful features.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I let him go on.

SPARKY: I like the way you wear your... hat.

JOY: Thanks.

SPARKY: Yeah.

JOY and SPARKY: *(Aside.)* We laugh. *(To each other.)* Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha...

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm feeling a little better about this.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I'm feeling a little better about this.

JOY: You know that I can do some really amazing things with my lips.

SPARKY: You don't say.

JOY: *(Aside.)* So, I decide to go for it.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I decide to go for it.

SPARKY begins to lean in for a kiss when JOY stops him by forming her lips into a fish. She emits a strange sound. SPARKY stops in his tracks. She laughs, very amused.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She laughs.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I laugh. I lighten the mood.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She ruins the mood.

JOY: Anyhow, I'm sure you are repulsed by my strange lips maneuver.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* This is when I do what all men do when they talk to women. I lie. *(To JOY.)* No, I think it's really... Cute.

JOY: You do?

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I lie some more. *(To Joy.)* Yes I think that's very interesting. There aren't many woman that can do... That.

JOY and SPARKY: *(Aside.)* More silence.

Silence.

SPARKY: I read on your profile that you like sports?

JOY: Um... sure. I mean, honestly, I just put that up there as a canard.

SPARKY: What's a canard?

JOY: A fabrication. I don't play sports but I sure like athletes.

SPARKY: *(Trying to impress.)* Do you now? Well, I bowl 300.

JOY: *(Laughing.)* See, now that's a canard right there.

SPARKY: What's that mean again?

JOY: It means you're lying.

SPARKY: *(A little hurt.)* That's a big word there. You're pretty brainy, huh?

JOY: *(A little attitude.)* Uh... I like to think so.

SPARKY: *(A little attitude.)* Hmmm.

JOY: Honestly I was expecting someone a little... shorter.

SPARKY: Oh.

JOY: Your profile said you were only three feet. You look pretty tall. You lied about your height online?

SPARKY: Well...

JOY: I'm not trying to be rude, but normally I like short guys.

SPARKY: *(Sighs.)* All women do.

Silence.

JOY: I'm sorry. That was uncalled for. My apologies.

SPARKY: Don't be sorry. *(Aside.)* I was rude. I need to give her the floor and stop talking about myself. I'm genuinely interested now.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm genuinely interested in talking now. *(To Sparky.)* So, you're looking for "a nice girl with a great attitude who loves Christmas."

SPARKY: Yep. That's about it.

JOY: Are there any deal breakers? Like kids?

SPARKY: No.

JOY: Divorced?

SPARKY: Nope.

JOY: Jewish.

There is a pause. He stares at her. Beat. She smiles.

JOY: Barocatah!

She laughs nervously. He does not.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She's Jewish.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm Jewish.

SPARKY: *(Aside and a little confused.)* But she's an elf.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm an elf. *(To SPARKY.)* My parents were very progressive.

SPARKY: But on your profile you said that you loved Christmas.

JOY: Oh, I do. Absolutely. The caroling, the music, ya know.

SPARKY: Well, that's OK, I suppose. Hey I got a joke for you. What do you call a Jewish elf waiting for the bus? *(Beat.)* A mensch on a bench.

He laughs. She does not.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I told a joke. It was hilarious.

JOY: *(Aside.)* It was stupid.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* Alright, it was stupid.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I offer a delayed fake laugh. *(She laughs, fake, then aside.)* It was still a stupid joke.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* It was a stupid joke. *(To Joy.)* I'm sorry about that. That was rude. I apologize. I'm sorry.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He's sorry. I accept his apology. *(To JOY.)* Don't worry about it.

SPARKY: I'm just a little nervous about this whole blind date thing, especially around such a beautiful woman...

JOY: *(Aside.)* He called me beautiful.

SPARKY: ...that's so smart and intelligent...

JOY: *(Aside.)* He called me intelligent.

SPARKY: And loves what she does for a living.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He's on a roll.

SPARKY: Even if it is just making shoes.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He just dug a ditch.

SPARKY: With very low pay.

JOY: *(Aside.)* And he's placing himself in that grave right now.

SPARKY: Look, Joy, I'm sorry. I don't mean it like that.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He's backpedaling.

SPARKY: That came out the wrong way.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I'm listening.

SPARKY: What I mean is that your job is very important.

JOY: Yeah.

SPARKY: Seriously, it's really cool. Building and constructing shoes are something that very few people are even capable of doing. I mean you supply the footwear for so many citizens of the North Pole. Think of how many people would get frostbite if it wasn't for you. *(She giggles a little.)* And if you enjoy it, the amount of money you make really doesn't matter. Not one bit.

JOY: *(Aside.)* OK, we're back to square one.

SPARKY: Joy, can I be honest? I'm a little nervous. I don't date very often and I can get a little bit intimidated by women that are smarter than me.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I can control him.

SPARKY: I mean, most women are so easily swayed on their opinions and I find intelligence very attractive.

JOY: *(Aside.)* Even manipulate him.

SPARKY: But I am genuinely interested in what you have to say.

They look at each other. They smile. Beat.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I think he's genuinely interested.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I'm genuinely interested.

JOY: OK. Well, thank you for the... Compliments.

SPARKY: You're welcome. Now you said online that you are working towards your master's degree, yes?

JOY: Yes. I want to go back to school to get my degree in Cobbler Development. I love footwear. If shoes could talk, they would tell you the stories of the world. They've traveled far and wide across the entire planet. It started with my sorority in undergrad, Alpha Oy Gavalta where I started this organization called Jews for Shoes.

Basically we collect used shoes and make brand new shoes out of the old shoes for kids during the holidays. We're really going mainstream with this.

SPARKY yawns. And starts to look off.

JOY: I had a teleconference with a few of Santa's department heads and they are considering using our shoes for Santa's boots next year. We all know that the ice pack is melting and Santa needs that pack ice for breeding reindeer so it's just one more way that we can be environmentally friendly. The more we use recycled material the better it is all around. It's only a part time venture right now, but it feels so good to give back to the community. It's a win-win. Because working within the context of a non-profit—

SPARKY: *(Interrupting.)* Are you hungry?

JOY: *(Aside.)* He has A.D.D.

SPARKY: They make a great ham sandwich.

JOY: *(Interrupting as she stands.)* You know I have to get back to work. I'm just on lunch, actually.

SPARKY: Oh. I thought the shoe thing—

JOY: That's on the side.

SPARKY: Where do you work?

JOY: Santa's Cottage, for now. Toy Department. East Wing.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* So do I. *(To Joy.)* So, do I.

JOY: Really. I've never seen you there.

SPARKY: Yeah, I work in maintenance downstairs.

JOY: *(A little warmer now.)* I thought you looked familiar.

SPARKY: Yeah, I don't get out too much. I'm always stuck in the bowels of the workshop down below. I make the tree lights.

JOY: Really? All the colors, like red, white—

JOY and SPARKY: Green?!

JOY: Do you like green?

SPARKY: I love green! It's my favorite color!

JOY: Mine too!

SPARKY: In fact, don't tell Santa, but I... I'm decorating his sleigh in all green lights this year. There's something about the color green shining brilliantly through the snow and the winter air while Santa

delivers all of those presents. The emerald glow, the brilliance of jade, it's just so...

JOY and SPARKY: *(They look at each other.)* Magical!

JOY: *(Aside.)* I think I'm interested in him.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I think I'm interested in her.

JOY: *(Aside.)* I make a gesture. *(To SPARKY.)* Well, I should probably get back work.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* Me too. *(To Joy.)* Would you like some company?

JOY and SPARKY: *(Aside.)* I think about the last few minutes.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He slurps his coffee.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She makes strange fish faces.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He's a jock. A Neanderthal.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She's a brainiac.

JOY: *(Aside.)* He has A.D.D.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She's Jewish.

JOY: *(Aside.)* Still, he's kind of cute.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She's very pretty.

JOY: *(Aside.)* And he does give nice compliments.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* She loves the color green.

JOY: *(Aside.)* And he makes a LOT of money.

SPARKY: *(Aside.)* And she's very smart.

JOY: *(Smiling. Aside.)* And he makes a LOT of money.

They both look at each other, trying to read each other's thoughts.

JOY: Well...

SPARKY: Well. What do you say?

JOY: *(With a smile.)* Sure. Why not? Anything can happen.

They stand up. SPARKY offers his arm, JOY takes it.

JOY and SPARKY: *(Aside.)* After all. It's the holidays!

They exit. Transition music.

THE END