

# JINGLE ALL THE WAY

## Rewrite

1492 Pictures  
10201 W. Pico Blvd.  
Bldg. 86/2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

March 22, 1996.....Blue  
March 29, 1996.....Pink  
April 4, 1996.....Green  
April 10, 1996.....Yellow  
April 12, 1996....Goldenrod  
April 15, 1996.....Salmon  
April 19, 1996.....White II  
May 16, 1996.....Blue II  
May 21, 1996.....Pink II  
June 3, 1996.....Green II  
June 24, 1996.....Yellow II  
July 12, 1996..Goldenrod II  
July 17, 1996.....Salmon II

CLOSE ON: NETWORK NEWS GRAPHICS:

"SPECIAL BULLETIN"

CUT TO:

1A INT. NEWS STATION - DAY

1A \*

ED MCGUIRE, a clean cut news anchor, sits behind the news desk. He looks very serious.

ED

The President, First Lady and their son Billy have been kidnapped by the evil mutant Dementor. All across the country helpless citizens are asking one question: Turboman, where are you?

The PRODUCER, standing next to the CAMERAMAN motions to CUT.

PRODUCER

And -- cut! Good job, Ed.  
(he looks up)  
Ed ... Ed?

Back behind the news desk, Ed's chair is EMPTY. SPINNING around.

CLOSER: On the empty spinning chair.

CUT TO:

1B INT. STATION HALLWAY - DAY

1B \*

Ed, LOOSENING HIS TIE, ducks into a STORAGE ROOM.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

The STORAGE ROOM DOOR BURSTS OPEN and TURBOMAN FLIES OUT OF THE STORAGE ROOM -- UP AND OUT OF FRAME.

CUT TO:

1 EXT. VASQUEZ ROCKS - DAY

1 \*

CAMERA BOOMS DOWN from an ALIEN SPACESHIP to reveal the PRESIDENT, FIRST LADY and BILLY -- their hands TIED BEHIND THEIR BACKS -- being LED OFF THE SPACESHIP by the DEMON TEAM. The First Family is led to a HUGE CANNON-LIKE GUN. A MECHANIC HUM is heard as the GUN's BARREL RISES SLOWLY and TAKES AIM into OUTER SPACE. Then we hear the menacing, eerie LAUGH of DEMENTOR.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

DEMENTOR

So, Mr. President. Would you care to take  
a look?

The President looks in the SCOPE of the gun.

PRESIDENT'S POV:

The EARTH -- centered helplessly in the sight's CROSSHAIRS.

The President gasps and turns back around.

PRESIDENT

Why ... that's earth!

DEMENTOR finally emerges from the shadows to reveal his full evil  
self. He steps towards the President.

DEMENTOR

Well, I guess public opinion must be wrong.  
You're not a complete moron.

He LAUGHS maniacally and the Demon Team SHOVS the President's back  
up against a rock -- next to the First Lady and Billy. They all  
watch helplessly as Dementor begins entering commands to activate the  
raygun.

DEMENTOR (CONT'D)

In a few minutes my Nega-Gun will be fully  
activated, and when fired at your pathetic  
planet -- will completely eliminate its so  
called...

(with disdain)

gravity -- then taxes won't be the only  
thing that keeps rising.

Dementor cackles again. The First Lady begins to weep. The furious  
President glares at Dementor.

PRESIDENT

Okay -- Look, maybe we can cut a deal here.  
You want a Cabinet post? How 'bout uh ...  
Secretary Of Evil?

DEMENTOR

Save your breath, Mr. President. You're  
going to need it.

Suddenly, a huge EXPLOSION erupts from one of the ROCK WALLS.

BILLY

Look! It's Turbo Man and Booster!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

The SMOKE and DUST dissipate as our hero -- dressed in a muscular, high-tech costume, complete with HELMET and JET PACK -- lowers to the ground in a cloud of smoke, and assumes the classic hands-on-hips superhero pose. Beside him is his faithful sidekick Booster, a pink sabertooth tiger wearing his own mini jet pack. Booster GROWLS as he tries to mimic Turbo Man's pose.

TURBO MAN

Drop your weapons and release the President  
and his family, you twisted madman.

DEMENTOR

Spare me the heroic posturing, you pathetic  
do-gooder.

(to Demon Team)

Kill them both!!!

Booster cowers as the Demon Team FIRE UP their rayguns -- but they miss their mark as Turbo Man dives forward, tucks, rolls, and comes up firing dozens of SHINY, CIRCULAR METAL TURBO-DISKS, all finding their mark -- causing sparks as they impact and drive each henchman flying into the air and off of the guard towers. Booster ROARS in appreciation.

Dementor hurriedly continues to prepare the Nega-Gun.

As Booster and Turbo Man head for the Nega-Gun, they are stopped by another group of lethal Demons, who come CHARGING DOWN from the rocks above. They engage Turbo Man and Booster in a martial arts melee.

Dementor PUNCHES one last BUTTON and the CONSOLE BLINKS to life.  
LIGHTS FLASH.

COMPUTER VOICE

Activation in 30 seconds.

INSERT:

A DIGITAL READOUT, as it changes from 30 to 29 ...

BACK TO SCENE

Turbo Man PUNCHES one member of the Demon Team with such force that the FOUR OTHERS lined up behind him GO DOWN like dominoes.

Dementor GRABS young Billy and YANKS him out of his chair.

BILLY

Help, Turbo Man! Help!

TURBO MAN

I'm coming, Billy!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

As Booster continues to battle the Demon Team, Turbo Man RACES towards Dementor -- who responds by RAISING his oversized, GLOVED LEFT ARM, aiming it right at Turbo Man.

DEMENTOR

Ta ta, Turbo.

The fist EXPLODES off Dementor's arm.

ANOTHER ANGLE

CAMERA follows directly behind the flying glove right until the moment it STRIKES Turbo Man directly in the jaw. Turbo Man COLLAPSES in a heap.

Dementor LAUGHS triumphantly and DISAPPEARS in a CLOUD of SMOKE.

INSERT:

The DIGITAL READOUT. -- 10 seconds ... \*

Turbo Man lies on the ground, lifeless. \*

BILLY \*

Turbo Man! \*

Turbo Man lifts his head. He struggles to get up. \*

COMPUTER VOICE \*

Five seconds to ignition ... \*

PRESIDENT \*

Hurry Turbo Man, hurry! \*

Turbo Man finally stands, and as the digital readout clicks from 3 to 2, Turbo Man whips out his TURBO-RANG (a powerful boomerang) from its ANKLE HOLSTER, and throws the device -- which SPINS QUICKLY towards the gun -- SMASH! -- colliding with the CONTROL PANEL. SPARKS FLY and the control panel explodes in a burst of smoke. \*

The Turbo-Rang, still airborne, circles back to Turbo Man, who catches it. The DIGITAL READOUT PANEL hangs from a single wire -- holding at ONE SECOND. The machine is still SPUTTERING. \*

COMPUTER VOICE \*

(continuing) \*

Nega Gun -- deactivated. \*

And the readout SHUTS OFF. Booster roars with approval. The President breathes a sigh of relief, but the First lady gasps and screams when she spots -- atop the highest peak, Dementor holding a struggling Billy. \*

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

DEMENTOR

You destroyed my anti-gravity gun. What a shame ...

Dementor dangles Billy over the edge.

DEMENTOR (CONT'D)

Just when Billy's about to perform a little gravity experiment of his own ...

As Dementor prepares to DROP Billy, Turbo Man sets his jaw and SHOUTS his familiar catch phrase:

TURBO MAN

IT'S TURBO TIME!

Turbo Man FIRES up his jet-pack and rockets off towards Dementor, just as he releases Billy.

ANOTHER ANGLE - CONTINUOUS

As Turbo Man streaks towards the falling boy and just manages to CATCH him into his outstretched arms. Just in time.

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

2

We are watching the action on a TV SCREEN in the SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM of the Langston house. JAMIE LANGSTON, age 7, cheers his TV hero.

1 BACK ON THE TV:

1

Meanwhile, Dementor looks around, enraged. His henchmen lie scattered, defeated. He roars in fury:

DEMENTOR

You haven't seen the last of me, Turbo Man!  
I'll have my revenge!

Dementor HITS a BUTTON ON HIS HELMET. A GIANT SMOKE SCREEN ejects from the helmet, ENGULFING DEMENTOR. After a few moments, the smoke dissipates. Dementor has vanished.

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jamie's mother, LIZ, mid-30's, attractive, intelligent and warm, enters.

LIZ  
 Jamie, why don't you run upstairs and get changed? It's almost time to leave.

JAMIE  
 (looking up from TV)  
 But Dad's not home yet.

Liz looks at the clock.

LIZ  
 He's just running a little late, honey.  
 He's probably going to meet us there straight from work. Now go on ...

JAMIE  
 (disappointed)  
 But that's what he always says. He promised we'd go together.

He turns his eyes to the TV screen, where:

TURBO MAN, FLYING with Billy, comes in for a LANDING and deposits the boy safely on the ground. Billy smiles up at his hero.

BILLY  
 Thanks Turbo Man. You always show up right on time!

Turbo Man does his signature SALUTE, and utters his MOTTO:

TURBO MAN  
 You can always count on me.

Jamie looks up at Liz again as the show CONTINUES in the background.

JAMIE  
 Now he's probably gonna miss me get my belt. He misses everything.

She looks down at Jamie, trying to convince herself at the same time.

LIZ  
 Well he's not gonna miss this.

Jamie trudges upstairs to change.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

JAMIE  
He didn't even call ...

LIZ  
(calling after him)  
Well, he's probably just working really  
hard.

FAST CUT TO:

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

3

## 3 A CHAMPAGNE CORK POPS.

People CHEER. A CHRISTMAS PARTY. LOUD MUSIC plays. EMPLOYEES are DRINKING, DANCING and LAUGHING, spreading Christmas cheer. We are inside of:

INT. LANGSTON MATTRESS FACTORY - DAY

Stacks of MATTRESSES in various SIZES and COLORS fill the warehouse floor. The employees are in the midst of their office Christmas party. CAMERA PANS to an UPPER OFFICE that overlooks the factory. Through the window we see HOWARD LANGSTON, handsome, charming, energetic -- and still HARD AT WORK at his desk.

3A

## 3A INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY

The walls are filled with PHOTOS of Liz and Jamie. There is a PROMINENTLY PLACED photo of a happy LIZ, JAMIE AND HOWARD, ON A SAILBOAT IN HAWAII. There are also numerous OLDER PHOTOS of Howard wearing WRESTLING GEAR, ACCEPTING various MEDALS and AWARDS. \*

Surrounding Howard are BOOKS of FABRICS and BUSINESS LEDGERS. Telephones. 3 Fax machines. 2 Computers. 3 Printers. Howard's ENGROSSED in his work as his secretary, MARGARET, enters. \*

MARGARET

I know you didn't want to be interrupted, but you've got four calls holding. Why don't I just tell everyone to call back after the holiday?

HOWARD

No. It's okay. Put them through.

MARGARET

But Jamie's karate class starts in 20 minutes.

HOWARD

I'm gonna make it.

Margaret looks at him doubtfully.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'm gonna make it.

MARGARET

(sighs)  
Royal Hotels on one. Vista Resort on two.  
Sleep Well Bedding on three. Oh, and your  
wife's on four.

Howard nods and presses LINE ONE.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED:

HOWARD

Mr. Jacobs! What can I do for you? ... 200 king-size by next Friday? No problem. But only for you, Mr. Jacobs. You're my Number One Customer.

(picks up LINE TWO)

Andrea? Hi ... You think the fabric's too dark? Then I'll re-cover them. No extra charge ... What else do you expect -- you're my Number One Customer!

(picks up LINE THREE)

Bob! What's up? ... The box springs will be done next week. I'll ship them to you overnight. Don't forget, you're my Number One Customer!

(picks up LINE FOUR)

Liz? Hi honey ... I know. Jamie's class. Twenty minutes. I'll see you there. Just remember, you're my Number One Customer!

(realizes it's his wife)

I mean ... Sorry. I didn't mean that.  
Liz? Liz?

Margaret just shakes her head at Howard as he HANGS UP. He CHECKS HIS WATCH as he puts on his coat.

HOWARD

I'm gonna make it.

MARGARET

What about the employee Christmas party?

Howard pauses.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

You have to make an appearance.

HOWARD

Okay. No problem.

4-6 OMITTED

4-6

7 INT. WAREHOUSE FLOOR - DAY

Howard makes his way through the crowd, SHAKING HANDS, wishing everyone a happy holiday. He glances up to the exit-door. Margaret stands there, HOLDING UP A SIGN that reads: "10 MINUTES!!!" Howard NODS to Margaret, turns to the crowd.

HOWARD

Excuse me. Everybody? Could I have your attention please?

The employees pause, listening to Howard.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your hard work. It's because of your efforts that we've had such a profitable year. You know, my wrestling coach used to say: "Even though you're fighting alone out on that mat, your real strength comes from being part of a team." And that's what we're all about here at Langston Mattresses. Teamwork!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

They CHEER. Howard smiles and continues.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Tomorrow's Christmas Eve. So I want you to get some rest. But not too much. Because right after the Holiday, we've got to get right back to work. Harder than ever. Let's make Langston Mattresses Number One! Remember our motto: "They snooze, we win. You snooze, we lose!"

The employees CHEER ENTHUSIASTICALLY. Howard glances up. Margaret POINTS to her wristwatch. Howard nods, gives one final wave to the employees.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas!

Howard DASHES for the door. Margaret hands him his briefcase.

MARGARET

You're not gonna make it.

HOWARD

I'm gonna make it.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

Howard exits the warehouse.

\*

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

8-9 OMITTED

8-9

10 EXT. HIGHWAY ENTRANCE RAMP - NIGHT

10

Howard DRIVES his GREEN SUBURBAN quickly up the on-ramp.

11 INT. CAR - NIGHT

11

Howard arrives at the top of the ramp, surprised by what he sees:

HOWARD'S POV

The freeway is JAMMED. Traffic is STOPPED. All lanes are FULL.

Howard tries to MOVE into traffic. But no one will let him in. His polite attempts are met with FRUSTRATED and HOSTILE holiday DRIVERS.

Howard looks around -- sees a glimmer of hope. One lane is still OPEN. The EMERGENCY LANE. He smiles.

12 EXT. FREEWAY - NIGHT 12

Howard's car MOVES into the emergency lane and SPEEDS OFF.

13 INT. CAR - NIGHT 13

Howard smiles to himself, pleased. Then he glances into the rearview mirror to see: A MOTORCYCLE COP, his FLASHING LIGHTS, following him. Howard pounds the steering wheel in frustration.

HOWARD

Damn.

14 EXT. FREEWAY - NIGHT 14

Howard's car pulls to the side of the freeway and comes to a STOP. The motorcycle stops behind him. OFFICER HUMMELL, a sardonic, older cop, climbs off the bike. He approaches Howard's window.

OFFICER HUMMELL

License and registration, please.

An anxious Howard hands them over, then looks at the cop.

HOWARD

Look, sir, I'm in kind of a hurry. I'm late for my son's karate class.

OFFICER HUMMELL

Oh, I do apologize if I've caused you some sort of a delay. How thoughtless of me. Won't you please tell me how I can make it up to you. Because the last thing I want on my conscience right now is a private citizen somehow dissatisfied with the performance of my duty. I know I just wouldn't be able to sleep a wink tonight if that were indeed the case.

Howard tries to backpedal.

HOWARD

No I -- I wasn't criticizing your -- I mean, I just got hung up at my office and--

OFFICER HUMMELL

Oh, the office! The employee Christmas party, perhaps? How nice. Spiked cider, eggnog, wassail -- step out of the car.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

HOWARD

(surprised)

What? But -- but-- I haven't been drinking.

OFFICER HUMMELL

Of course you haven't. And you weren't just driving 75 miles an hour in a safety lane either. Now step out of the car.

Howard sighs and climbs out.

15 OMITTED

15

16 INT. KARATE ACADEMY -- NIGHT

16

The place is DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAYS, complete with a TREE DECORATED with ORIGAMI ornaments. The bleachers are filled with mothers, fathers and siblings, applauding as the kids MARCH IN FORMATION into the auditorium. Majestic MUSIC plays. Jamie marches along proudly.

JAMIE'S POV: THE BLEACHERS.

Liz gives a big wave to Jamie and smiles. CAMERA PANS to her left, to the EMPTY SEAT saved for Howard.

Seeing the empty seat, Jamie FROWNS.

TED MALTIN, a handsome man in his mid-thirties, sits on the other side of Liz. Ted is capturing the ceremony on VIDEO. He shouts to his son, JOHNNY.

TED

Johnny!

Johnny, age 8, marches next to Jamie. Johnny looks and WAVES at the video camera. Johnny NUDGES Jamie, who forces a SMILE and a WAVE. Ted turns to Liz, still filming everything.

TED (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Liz. I'll make you guys a copy for Howard. He shouldn't have to miss this.

LIZ

(sadly)

No. He shouldn't.

17 CLOSE UP: HOWARD'S FEET

17

Walking in a straight line over the highway's rocky terrain.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CAMERA PULLS BACK. We are at the highway's edge. Howard walks the line while TOUCHING HIS FINGER TO HIS NOSE at the same time. Hummell carefully observes his every move. Howard finishes.

HOWARD

There. Are we finished?

Hummell GLARES at Howard for a beat.

OFFICER HUMMELL

Recite the alphabet. Backwards.

18 INT. KARATE ACADEMY - NIGHT

18

On the floor, the students go through an intricate series of moves. The parents watch quietly from the bleachers. Ted whispers to Liz.

TED

The kids look great, don't they?

Liz nods. A SINGLE MOTHER leans over to Ted and whispers.

MOTHER #1

Ted. I, uh, baked some cookies for you. You know, to thank you for fixing my screen door.

TED

Well, thanks, Judy.

He WINKS at her and looks back into the video camera. Judy blushes. ANOTHER MOTHER, sitting in front of them, turns around to Ted.

MOTHER #2

Oh Ted. I was wondering if you'd mind taking a look at my porch light. It doesn't seem to be working. And you being such a handyman and all ...

TED

Of course. You know, Mary, it may just be the cold ...

As they chat, Liz is completely focused on Jamie's routine.

LIZ'S POV:

Jamie, going through his moves on the floor, glances at the door. Still no sign of Howard.

Liz SIGHS, disappointed.

19 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

19

HOWARD

N ... M ... L ... K ... J ...

Hummell stands inches away, TAPPING HIS FOOT impatiently.

20 INT. KARATE ACADEMY - NIGHT

20

On the floor, the SENSEI, with an ASSISTANT in a SANTA HAT, is working his way down the line of kids. He presents each child with a Balsa-wood box, tied with a CHRISTMASSY RIBBON. Each kid BOWS to the Sensei, then WINDS UP, and with a loud KIAP, BREAKS OPEN THE BOX and PULLS OUT the NEW PURPLE BELT encased within.

The Sensei stops in front of Jamie. He presents the box, which Jamie breaks with ease. Liz cheers and whistles. Jamie forces a smile as he takes his belt, trying to hide his immense disappointment.

21 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

21

Officer Hummell rips a ticket off of his pad and hands it to Howard.

OFFICER HUMMELL

(full of sarcasm)

Have a Merry Christmas.

HOWARD

I'm trying.

Hummell leaves. Howard gets back into his car and slams the door.

22-23 OMITTED

22-23

24 EXT. KARATE ACADEMY - NIGHT

24

Howard's car screeches to a STOP directly in front of the doors. He JUMPS OUT and RUNS INSIDE.

24A INT. KARATE ACADEMY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

24A

Howard RACES down the hallway to the auditorium doors. He OPENS them to see:

HOWARD'S POV:

The auditorium. EMPTY. A lone JANITOR SWEEPS up. Howard frowns, defeated. He didn't make it.

25 EXT. LANGSTON HOME - NIGHT

25

A charming, upper-middle class suburban neighborhood. All of the houses are decorated with CHRISTMAS LIGHTS and DECORATIONS. Howard's

(CONTINUED)

home, a well-kept, two-story colonial, is the only house on the block WITHOUT decorations. Howard's Suburban PULLS IN to the driveway. He gets out of the car and starts up the walk to the front door. He's about to go inside when he hears:

TED (O.S.)  
Hey, neighbor!

Howard looks up to see Ted, ON THE ROOF.

HOWARD  
Ted?

TED  
Be right down ...

HOWARD  
What the hell are you doing on my roof?

TED  
Just one sec ... Ready?

Ted PLUGS a WIRE into an EXTENSION CORD and ... GLEAM! Howard's entire house is DECORATED with COLORFUL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

TED (CONT'D)  
Tah-dah!

Howard is speechless. Ted CLIMBS DOWN a LADDER.

TED (CONT'D)  
I had some extra lights in the garage. And since you didn't put any up yourself, I figured "What the heck"! Why not spread some Christmas cheer around the neighborhood?

HOWARD  
(annoyed)  
Gee, Ted. How ... thoughtful.

Ted FOLDS up the ladder, then looks at Howard, overly concerned.

TED  
Hey. Sorry we missed you at the karate class today ... But don't worry. I got it all on video for you.

HOWARD  
(dryly)  
What would I do without you.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

Ted gives a little WAVE and WALKS off with his ladder. Howard turns and ENTERS the house.

26-27 OMITTED 26

28 INT. FOYER - NIGHT 28

The door opens. Howard enters. He walks into the kitchen.

28A INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 28

Liz is emptying the dishwasher when Howard walks in.

HOWARD

Did you tell Ted he could put lights on our house?

Liz looks up at Howard. She looks plenty mad.

LIZ

Do you have any idea what time it is?

HOWARD

(sighs)

I know. But you should've seen the traffic. And then of course I got a ticket and--

Liz HOLDS her hand up, stopping him.

LIZ

Don't explain it to me. It wasn't my karate class that you missed.

She turns back to the dishes. Howard frowns and turns to exit.

29 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 29

Jamie is watching TV. There's a COMMERCIAL on:

29A EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY 29

CLOSE ON: A WALL of TINY BRICKS. SMASH! It BREAKS APART!

KID'S VOICE

(O.S.)

It's Turbo Time!

As a KID's hand "FLIES" a TURBO MAN DOLL through the "WALL" and SETS it down firmly in a HEROIC POSE.

We hear the PULSING TURBO MAN THEME MUSIC behind the QUICK-CUT COMMERCIAL.

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED:

29B

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Now's your chance to save the universe --  
with TURBO MAN!!!

QUICK CUT TO: FOOTAGE FROM THE TURBO MAN SHOW. Turbo Man  
FLIES ABOVE THE SKYLINE.

BACK TO THE KID: He presses a BUTTON on the doll's chest. We  
see ANIMATED CURVED LINES emanate around the doll (suggesting  
it makes sounds). We hear Turbo Man's voice:

TURBO MAN VOICE

You can always count on me!

CUT TO:

EXT. BLUE SKY - CONTINUOUS

The kid "FLIES" Turbo Man to another locale.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Battle evil with America's favorite  
superhero ... and his sidekick Booster!

A hand "FLIES" Turbo Man, followed by Booster unsteadily across the  
sky.

CLOSE ON: The Turbo Man doll stands, hands on hips, on a ROCK  
in the middle of a RUSHING CREEK.

CLOSE ON: The Kid. He looks up, surprised.

KID 1

Look out, Turbo Man!

He TURNS the doll around to "see":

ANOTHER KID leaping into frame with a DEMENTOR DOLL. KID 2  
IMITATES the evil Dementor voice:

KID 2

I've got you now, Turbo!

Kid 1 PRESSES Turbo Man's voice button again.

TURBO MAN VOICE

Not so fast, Dementor!

The kids move the dolls closer together and simulate a  
BATTLE.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Get ready for some Turbo-riffic action!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Turbo Man "PUNCHES" Dementor and sends him flying. Dementor lands into a little PRISON made of twigs (that the kids just happened to have lying around), TRAPPING HIM for good.

DEMENTOR  
Curses, foiled again!

KID 1  
(imitating Turbo Man)  
You're finished, Dementor!

The kids both smile and give each other a HIGH FIVE.

EXT. SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

Turbo Man FLIES through the air. He SALUTES to the camera.

CUT TO:

The PRODUCT SHOT of the TURBO MAN DOLL, standing proud, surrounded by the line of other Turbo Man dolls and accessories.

ANNOUNCER  
The Turbo Man action figure!!! Turbo-  
powered with FUN!!!!  
(then very quickly, in a  
barely audible tone)  
Booster and Dementor sold separately. Some  
assembly required. Batteries not included.

29 INT. LANGSTON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

29 \*

Howard enters. He looks at Jamie and smiles.

HOWARD  
Hey, buddy.

Jamie ignores him, keeping his eyes on the TV. Howard looks to the kitchen, where Liz stands, glaring at him. Howard turns, walks a bit closer to Jamie and clears his throat.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Jamie. About your class tonight, I --

Jamie responds by turning off the TV and stomping into the kitchen. Howard follows, calling out after him.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Jamie ...

30 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

30

Jamie walks to the refrigerator, opens it and grabs a JUICE BOX. Howard enters.

HOWARD

Jamie. I --

Jamie SLAMS the refrigerator door and STALKS out of the kitchen, right past Howard. Howard gives a frustrated look to Liz, who just shakes her head at him and turns away. Howard turns and hurries out of the kitchen, following Jamie.

31 INT. FOYER - NIGHT

31

Jamie RACES up the stairs. Howard is behind him, in pursuit.

32 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

32

Howard taps on Jamie's bedroom door.

HOWARD

Jamie? Can I come in?

No answer. Howard opens the door.

33 INT. JAMIE'S ROOM - SAME

33

Jamie is sitting on his bed, paging through a Turbo Man COMIC BOOK. Howard enters.

HOWARD

Hey kiddo. So, those hands registered weapons yet?

Jamie doesn't look up. Howard sees the PURPLE KARATE BELT hanging on the back of a chair.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Wow! Is this it?

Jamie doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Now this is really cool!

He picks up the belt, then moves forward and sits beside Jamie on the side of the bed. Jamie puts down his comic book and leaves the bed. He walks to his desk, where he sits down and picks up his crayons.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

What, does it go like this?

Howard tries to tie the belt around his waist. Jamie doesn't react. Howard ties the belt around his forehead like a samurai warrior.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

How 'bout like this?

Howard strikes a "Kung Fu" pose. Starts making silly karate sounds and movements. Jamie doesn't even smile. Howard pulls the belt off of his head and sighs. Pulls over a tiny KID-SIZED CHAIR and sits.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I did something really stupid today, huh?

Jamie doesn't look up, continuing to DRAW.

JAMIE

I don't care.

HOWARD

(sincere)

Aw, Jame. I hope that's not true. Because I really wanted to be there. Believe me...

JAMIE

(still drawing)

But you always say that. And you never come anyway.

(finally looks up)

Purple was important, Dad! It's one away from green and that's three away from black!

HOWARD

I saw you get yellow.

JAMIE

But you missed blue.

HOWARD

You're right. I blew it. And I'm really really sorry. You think maybe you could let me make it up to you?

(CONTINUED)

Jamie looks at him quizzically.

JAMIE

Like how?

HOWARD

Well ... How 'bout letting me do something special. Just for you. Like if there's something really important you've been wanting for Christmas ...?

JAMIE

Oh. I already wrote Santa a letter. He'll get it for me.

Howard smiles to himself.

HOWARD

Well, Santa can get very busy this time of year. And sometimes he asks Moms and Dads to help out a little. So if there's a special present you really want, maybe I could get it for you so Santa can concentrate on everything else.

JAMIE

(back to drawing)

Nah, it's not that important. And you're probably busier than Santa anyway.

HOWARD

I'm not that busy. C'mon. Tell me. What do you want?

Jamie pauses, puts his crayons down and excitedly looks at Howard.

JAMIE

I want the Turbo Man action figure with the arms and legs that move and the boomerang shooter and the rockin' roarin' jet pack and the realistic voice activator that says five different phrases including "It's Turbo Time" with accessories sold separately, batteries not included!

HOWARD

(smiles)

Glad you had to stop and think about it.

JAMIE

Johnny's gonna get one and so'll everybody else I know. Whoever doesn't will be a real loser.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD  
Well, that definitely won't be you.

JAMIE  
Really?

HOWARD  
Don't worry, son.  
(beat)  
You can count on me.

Howard follows this with a determined NOD. Jamie flashes a warm smile, filled with hope. He goes back to his drawing.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
Whatcha' drawing?

JAMIE  
A picture of you.

HOWARD  
Me?  
(stands, looks over Jamie's  
shoulder)  
Hey! That does kinda look like me. Is my  
head really that big?

JAMIE  
No ... It's bigger.

They exchange a laugh. Howard gives Jamie a kiss on the cheek and walks to the door. Jamie looks up at him.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
I love you, Dad.

Howard turns around, touched.

HOWARD  
I love you too, Jame.

Jamie goes back to his drawing. Howard watches him for a moment, then leaves.

34 INT. HOWARD'S BEDROOM - LATER - NIGHT

34 \*

Howard, in PAJAMAS and BARE FEET, enters from the bathroom, WIPING HIS FACE WITH A TOWEL. Liz is on the bed, WRAPPING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. She won't even look up at him. He looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

Am I gonna get the cold shoulder all night?

She looks at Howard, exasperated.

LIZ

Did you know Jamie waited to be the last one to test tonight? Just in case you showed up at the last minute?

HOWARD

I don't know what to say. I -- I just got held up at the office and ... I'm sorry.

Not convinced, she stands, takes the presents and enters the closet. \*  
Howard calls out after her. \*

HOWARD (CONT'D) \*

It's not like I do it on purpose. \*

She emerges from the closet. Closes the door behind her.

LIZ

I know you don't, Howard. But how many excuses am I supposed to make for you? I mean, when was the last time you spent any real time with us? As a family ...

HOWARD

We went to Hawaii last summer.

LIZ

Yeah. And you spent the entire time trying to convince everybody to buy new mattresses from you. Testing out every one in the hotel. Not ours, mind you ... \*

HOWARD

Well what about that boat tour? We did that together. And that was a great time. Out on the ocean -- no one around for miles. Just the three of us. We went fishing, swimming, had dinner on the deck ... Jamie still talks about that day. \*

LIZ

Exactly. That day. One day, Howard. Out of our entire vacation, we come back with one day worth remembering. One day. \*

HOWARD

I just want you and Jamie to have the best of everything. Why else do you think I work so hard? \*

(CONTINUED)

LIZ

Because you can't help it. You're the most competitive person I know. I mean, look at your motto. "You snooze you lose" ...

HOWARD

I don't say that. It's "They snooze we win. You snooze we lose."

LIZ

Whatever. I know how important success is to you. I know how important winning is to you. I'd just like to know how important we are to you.

HOWARD

You're very important to me!

LIZ

I'm your number one customer, I know. And I love everything you've done for us. The cars, the vacations, this house -- they're all wonderful. But they're so much better if you're around to enjoy them with us.

(sympathetic, supportive)

I love you, Howard. Jamie loves you. But he needs more than just one day. He needs to know he can depend on you. That you'll keep your promises. That you'll be there with the other dads...

(CONTINUED)

Liz goes into the bathroom. Howard is hurt. Slightly angry.

HOWARD

You mean like Ted? Mr. Got-It-All-On-Video?  
Sure, I guess if I sued my company for  
chronic migraines due to ... what was it?

LIZ (O.S.)

Toner fumes from the copy machine.

HOWARD

Right. Then I could stay home all day,  
too. Fix everything for the neighborhood  
ladies.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

LIZ (O.S.)  
You're missing the point.

HOWARD  
You know who I feel bad for? Johnny. He's  
gotta spend weekends and holidays with the  
guy.

LIZ  
(pops out of the bathroom)  
That's not fair, Howard. Besides, I don't  
want you to be like Ted. I just want you  
to be a little more focused on your son.  
Jamie's only gonna be a kid once. I don't  
think you want to miss that.

She shuts off the bathroom light and exits the bathroom.

HOWARD  
I not. I mean, you should've seen us in  
there just now. We were really bonding.  
Drawing. Talking about Turbo Guy--

LIZ  
Turbo Man.  
(getting into bed)  
That reminds me. You got the doll, right?

HOWARD  
The doll?

LIZ  
The Turbo Man doll. I asked you to pick  
one up. Two weeks ago.

HOWARD  
(grimaces to himself)  
Oh. That doll.

LIZ  
Oh, Howard! You didn't. I can't believe  
you forgot!

HOWARD  
What? No! I didn't forget. I got it.  
(climbs into bed next to her)  
The Turbo Man doll. With the -- with the  
thing that shoots ... and the rock 'em sock  
'em jet pack. And the realistic voice box  
that says "It's Turbo Time". Of course I  
got the doll!

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

LIZ

Good.

She rolls back over.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Because at this point they'd probably be impossible to find.

CLICK! She turns off the light. We can see Howard's EYES widen, suddenly panicked.

35-37 OMITTED

35-37

38 INT. HOWARD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

38

Howard's in bed alone, sleeping. Suddenly, his eyes SHOOT OPEN. He looks at the clock. It's 8:05. He jumps out of bed, frantic.

39 INT. LANGSTON KITCHEN - MORNING

39

Still in their pajamas, Liz and Jamie sit at the table, finishing up breakfast. Jamie's eating TURBO MAN CEREAL ("WITH NEW PINK MARSHMALLOW BOOSTERS!"). Howard dashes into the kitchen, fully dressed. He gives a quick kiss to Liz.

LIZ

Where are you going?

HOWARD

I've gotta run to the office.

LIZ

Howard! It's Christmas Eve. You are not going to the office.

Howard pulls her aside. WHISPERS in her ear.

HOWARD

I have to pick up the D-O-L-L. I left it there by mistake.

LIZ

(sighs)

Fine.

JAMIE

Dad! You can't go to work! What about the parade?

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

Parade?

JAMIE

The Holiday Wintertainment Parade! We go every year. Well, you didn't go last year, or the year before -- but Mom and I always go. Anyway, this year Turbo Man's gonna be there and it's gonna be really cool! Dad, you can't miss it!

HOWARD

Hey. I won't miss it. I'll be there.

LIZ

He'll be right back.  
(pointed, to Howard)  
Won't you?

HOWARD

I'll be an hour, tops. I promise.

Howard affectionately RUFFLES Jamie's hair and quickly exits the kitchen.

40 EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - MORNING

40

Howard hustles to his car. He takes out his keys and is about to unlock the car door when he hears an odd GRUNTING NOISE. He turns around to see:

HOWARD'S POV

A LIVE REINDEER CHARGING right at him.

Howard scrambles to open the car door. The reindeer is just a few inches away when, SNAP! It stops. It's on a RETRACTABLE LEASH. At the other end of which, is Ted. He TROTS over, REELING IN the leash.

TED

Whoa! Sorry about that, Howie.

HOWARD

Is that a reindeer?

TED

(nods)  
Little Christmas surprise for Johnny.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

HOWARD

You just think of everything, don't you, Ted.

TED

(agreeing)

Howard, I'm of the mindset that you can never do too much to make a child's Christmas magical.

HOWARD

Ah. And what happens to Blitzen after Christmas?

TED

I've been watching a small family of deer down by Glendale Lake. I'd like to take him down there and set him free. And if Nature's kind ...

(patting the deer, emotional)

... they'll take him in like he's one of their own.

Ted mists up, too choked up to continue. Howard rolls his eyes.

HOWARD

How ... touching.

(reaches out to pet reindeer)

Hey boy. How are you?

The reindeer GROWLS and SNAPS at him. Howard takes a step back.

TED

That's odd. Reindeer are usually such gentle animals. Huh. Must be something about you that he doesn't like. Aftershave or something?

Howard starts backing into his car, eager to get away.

HOWARD

Yeah ... Anyway, gotta go.

TED

Where ya off to so early?

HOWARD

Just picking up a Christmas present. For Jamie.

TED

Oh-ho! Nothing like waiting until the last minute! So, whatcha' gettin' him?

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

It's uh, one of those Turbo Mans.

TED

Hey! That's great! I got a Turbo Man for Johnny months ago. It's nestled safely under our tree.

Howard forces a smile, starts the car and begins to back away.

TED

Oh, Howard! By the way, they say it may get icy later. Maybe you should wrap some chains around your tires.

Howard mutters to himself through gritted teeth.

HOWARD

Maybe I should wrap some chains around you.

Howard drives off.

41 CLOSE ON: A BANNER

41

Advertising the "HOLIDAY WINTERTAINMENT CHRISTMAS PARADE -- Sponsored by Funtime Toys! MEET TURBO MAN! Live and In Person!"

CAMERA TILTS DOWN to reveal: The outside of TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!. It's in a PEDESTRIAN MALL. The store has YET TO OPEN, but a huge MOB of SHOPPERS wait outside the front doors. Howard emerges from his car and joins the back of the throng.

HOWARD

What are all these people doing here so early?

He tries to force his way to the front of the crowd. People grumble at him angrily. He finally makes it up to the GLASS DOORS at the ENTRANCE to the store. He can see INSIDE, where there's a weasely CLERK standing by the doors, SWINGING A KEY on a CHAIN. We can't hear through the glass, but it looks like he's WHISTLING.

Howard KNOCKS on the door to get the clerk's attention. The clerk looks extremely annoyed. Howard MOTIONS for the clerk to open the doors. The clerk SHAKES HIS HEAD no. Howard holds up his hands, "Why not?" and POINTS OUT the WAITING CROWD to the clerk.

The clerk points to a CLOCK near the doors INSIDE THE STORE. It reads 8:58. Howard looks at the clerk like he's crazy.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Oh come on ... It's freezing out here!

The clerk shakes his head again and POINTS to the SIGN on the door. "STORE HOURS: 9am to 7pm". Then the clerk LEANS BACK, STARING UP at the clock and starts SWINGING HIS KEY again. Howard looks annoyed.

VOICE (O.C.)

Enough to drive a man insane, ain't it?

Howard turns to the man standing next to him, MYRON LARABEE, a 40 year-old, burly MAILMAN, burdened with an overloaded MAIL SACK. Myron is edgy, grumpy and anxious, with a slight glint of madness in his eyes. He extends his hand.

MYRON (CONT'D)

Myron Larabee.

HOWARD

(shaking his hand)

Howard Langston.

MYRON

Last minute shopping, huh?

HOWARD

Yeah.

MYRON

Me, I got no choice. Busiest time of the year. Gotta move all those important Christmas cards from people who never even speak to each other during the rest of the year. Then there are the presents from relatives that'll probably get returned anyway. Not to mention all the stinkin' letters to Santa at the North Pole. 'Course we just send those straight to the furnace.

A LITTLE BOY waiting nearby OVERHEARS Myron's last statement and begins to CRY. His FATHER quickly takes the boy's hand and leads him away from Myron.

PARENT 1

He didn't mean that, son. He was only joking.

(back to Myron)

Moron!

MYRON

That's Myron!

(CONTINUED)

PARENT 1  
Whatever, jerk!

MYRON  
Hey, I know where you live, pal!  
(turns to Howard)  
See why I hate Christmas?

HOWARD  
Sounds like you've got a tough job.

MYRON  
(edgy, defensive)  
I can handle it. You think I can't handle  
it?

HOWARD  
I didn't say that.

Howard LOOKS up at the clock inside the store anxiously. 8:59.

MYRON (CONT'D)  
As if I didn't already have enough  
pressure. My kid sends me out here for  
some goofy ass toy. Some fruity robot  
called Turtle Man.

HOWARD  
You mean Turbo Man.

MYRON  
Yeah, him.

HOWARD  
(nods)  
My kid wants one too.

MYRON  
If you ask me, it's all a ploy.

HOWARD  
A ploy?

Myron looks around, then LEANS in CLOSE to Howard.

MYRON  
(secretive and paranoid)  
You know. Created by rich and powerful toy  
cartels. A bunch of big fat cats taking  
advantage of us poor workin' stiffs. They  
advertise all over TV. Create this frenzy.  
Use subliminal messages to make every kid  
in America think he's a worthless piece of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

MYRON (cont'd)  
 garbage if his daddy doesn't buy him some  
 cheap little plastic toy.  
 (getting worked up)  
 Ohhh, I'd like to get my hands on one of  
 those guys. Squeeze his soft, pink little  
 neck until his beady little eyeballs pop  
 right out of their sockets. Then I'd take  
 his bloated body and --

Howard stares in horror. Myron realizes he's gone too far and stops.  
 Tries to regain his composure. He shrugs.

MYRON (CONT'D)  
 I'm just saying it's unfair. To us workin'  
 stiffs. You know?

HOWARD  
 Right.

Suddenly they hear the sound of a KEY JINGLING. They turn to see the  
 clerk UNLOCKING THE DOORS. The crowd MURMURS in anticipation.

The clerk flashes a condescending GRIN at Howard as he TURNS the KEY.  
 CLICK!

42 INT. TOYS! TOYS! TOYS! - SAME

42

BOOOM!!! The doors BURST OPEN and the CROWD RUSHES into the store.  
 Like water from a broken dam. The clerk is immediately TRAMPLED. We  
 can barely hear his FEEBLE CRY for help. It's total MAYHEM.

We find Howard caught up in the movement of the crowd. Shoppers  
 start to branch off into different aisles. Howard runs along with  
 them, frantically looking for the Turbo Mans.

KIDS PLAY everywhere, already testing out toys in the aisles. \*

Howard looks up to see a DARING SHOPPER climbing up a shelf. High  
 above, he grabs the toy, but LOSES HIS BALANCE and TUMBLES to the

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

ground, taking the WHOLE SHELF down with him. And the crowd just keeps moving past.

Howard and Myron branch off down another aisle, RUNNING DIRECTLY at the CAMERA. They STOP and STARE IN HORROR.

We WHIP AROUND TO REVEAL ... the TURBO MAN DISPLAY. They're standing right in front of it. And it's COMPLETELY EMPTY. A large, MECHANIZED TURBO MAN STANDEE SALUTES vacantly in front of them.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

The Turbo Man dolls! They're all gone!

MYRON

They can't be!

They LOOK around helplessly. JUMP up to see the top shelf. Nothing. A SALES CLERK walks past. Howard stops him.

SALESCLERK

(annoyed)

What?

HOWARD

I'm trying to find a Turbo Man.

MYRON

Me too.

The sales clerk pauses, stares at Howard a moment. Then BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER. Howard is puzzled.

HOWARD

Do you have any more in back?

The hysterical sales clerk TURNS to a CO-WORKER, who's helping a CUSTOMER down the aisle.

SALES CLERK

Hey, Ronnie! These guys are looking for a Turbo Man!

The CO-WORKER breaks into equally hysterical laughter. He looks at the CUSTOMER he's helping.

CO-WORKER

They're looking for a Turbo Man!

The CUSTOMER starts laughing and SHOUTS down the aisle to the OTHER CUSTOMERS.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

CUSTOMER

Hey, everybody, these two guys are looking for a Turbo Man!

A huge CROWD is gathering around Howard and Myron. They're all pointing and splitting their sides. Choruses of "They're looking for a Turbo Man!" ECHO through the store, making everyone within a hundred feet ROAR WITH LAUGHTER. Howard and Myron exchange a glance. They are NOT AMUSED. The sales clerk finally stops chuckling long enough to address Howard.

SALES CLERK

Where have you guys been? Turbo Man's the biggest seller of the season!

CO-WORKER

You got a better chance of bein' crowned Miss America than you do of findin' a Turbo Man!

CUSTOMER

Especially on Christmas Eve!

This causes another ROUND OF LAUGHTER. The chuckling sales clerk gestures to a nearby DISPLAY.

SALES CLERK

(trying to keep it together)  
But we've got plenty of Turbo Man's faithful saber tooth tiger, Booster ...

The sales clerk and co-worker find this even funnier. They burst out laughing again. Howard and Myron take a look at the towering pile of BOOSTER DOLLS. No way. Howard turns back to the laughing sales clerk and his co-worker. He GRABS them both by the collar, bringing their faces to within an inch of his. Howard scowls at them, cold.

HOWARD

(quiet and threatening)  
Where's your Christmas spirit?

The sales clerk and the co-worker suddenly look scared. They force big wide smiles.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

That's better.

He releases the two men and continues.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Now, there must be a Turbo Man around here somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

The sales clerk and co-worker exchange a puzzled glance. The sales clerk REMEMBERS something.

SALES CLERK

Actually, the last one left a minute ago.  
Some short lady had it on layaway ...

HOWARD/MYRON

Short lady?! What short lady?!

SALES CLERK

In a fur coat. She's probably leaving  
right about now ...

Howard and Myron LOOK at each other. Myron immediately SWINGS his heavy MAILBAG into Howard, KNOCKING him back into a large DISPLAY OF SPORTING GOODS. The whole display FALLS, BURYING Howard. Myron dashes off in search of the short lady.

43 INT. TOYS! TOYS! TOYS! - AISLE - DAY 43

Myron RUNS out into the main aisle just in time to STEP on a child's ROVING RADIO-CONTROLLED CAR. He SLIPS and does a big WINDMILL FALL, LANDING flat on his back. We see Howard CRASH out of the pile of sporting goods and run down the aisle, past the downed Myron.

44 OMITTED 44

45 EXT. TOYS! TOYS! TOYS! - DAY 45

Howard BURSTS through the doors, frantically looking around. Suddenly, he spots:

HOWARD'S POV:

A SHORT, MIDDLE-AGED FAT LADY, wearing a FUR COAT, carrying a TOYS! TOYS! TOYS! BAG at the CORNER. She's about to cross the street.

Howard SPRINTS after her and STOPS her at the curb. He GRABS her arm and she lets out a SHRIEK.

SHORT LADY

What do you want?

HOWARD

(breathless)

I followed you from the store ...

The middle-aged, short lady pauses. She studies Howard's impassioned look. She smiles, thinking that Howard is INTERESTED in her. She gives him a girlish smile. She could use some dental work.

(CONTINUED)

SHORT LADY  
Really?

HOWARD  
There's something I want to ask you.

SHORT LADY  
(flattered giggle)  
Well. They do say Christmas is a time for miracles.

HOWARD  
Yes. It is.

SHORT LADY  
(bats eyelashes)  
Would you like my phone number?

HOWARD  
No. I'd like your bag.

SHORT LADY  
(disappointed)  
My bag?

HOWARD  
Your bag. I wanted to offer you twice what you paid for it.

SHORT LADY  
Twice?

HOWARD  
Okay. Three times.

SHORT LADY  
(deflated)  
Oh. Well. Sure. For that kind of profit, knock yourself out.

She gives him the bag. Howard pays her. She hands him a SLIP of paper.

SHORT LADY  
And, just in case ... Here's my number.

She WINKS and walks away as Howard smiles in relief. He opens the bag... and pulls out a pink, fluffy BOOSTER. He angrily THROWS it into a TRASHCAN.

Then he LOOKS UP to see a WOMAN in a FUR COAT speed by in a STATION WAGON. THE TURBO MAN DOLL can be seen in the BACK WINDOW. Howard RUNS into the street and CHASES after the car. \*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

HOWARD

Hey Lady! Wait!

The woman DRIVING the station wagon looks in her rearview mirror to see Howard CHASING her and WAVING his arms. Frightened, she SPEEDS UP. The car speeds away from Howard and he gives up the chase.

Defeated, he turns to see a BUS STOP BENCH beside him. It ADVERTISES the HOLIDAY WINTERTAINMENT PARADE. A picture of a smiling TURBO MAN SALUTES up at Howard. Howard GLARES back at him.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

This is War.

We HEAR the OPENING STRAINS of BING CROSBY & FRANK SINATRA'S DUET of "JINGLE BELLS".

46 OMITTED

46

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

47 A FAST-PACED MONTAGE:

47

It's in a 40's, "LOST WEEKEND" STYLE -- following Howard's SEARCH for a Turbo Man.

We see various TOY STORE FACADES, with Howard ENTERING and continually EMERGING EMPTY-HANDED.

SUPERED CLERK'S FACES float across the screen. Some SHAKE their heads "NO" at him, some SHRUG, a few just LAUGH. One 'animates' a BOOSTER doll, trying to get him to buy it instead.

Howard passes BANNERS and POSTERS advertising the PARADE. They all bear the image of a SMILING, WAVING TURBO MAN. Mocking his quest.

Howard stands in front of a HUGE DISPLAY of BOOSTERS. Looming over him. He throws up his arms in despair.

More TOY STORE SIGNS float across the screen. A SUPERED HUGE CLOCK FACE floats on screen, time TICKING AWAY.

Howard exits another TOY STORE. More CLERK FACES, most of which are just LAUGHING now.

As the song draws to a close, we find Howard in front of a looming, \*  
EMPTY Turbo Man DISPLAY. The mechanized SALUTING STANDEE is in front \*  
of him. Howard, at the end of his rope, PUNCHES THE STANDEE. He \*  
TURNS away, and the standee, with its WEIGHTED BOTTOM, ROCKS BACK and \*  
SMACKS HOWARD IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. THE SONG ENDS WITH A \*  
FLOURISH. \*

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

48 OMITTED

48 \*

49 INT. LANGSTON KITCHEN - DAY

49

Liz is baking a batch of CHRISTMAS COOKIES. Cookies are EVERYWHERE, and she's covered in FLOUR and FOOD COLORING. Johnny and Jamie play in the background in the living room. Ted enters, brushing off his hands.

TED

Hi Liz. I was shoveling my walk and I noticed a nasty patch of ice by your garage door. I didn't want anyone to slip, so I put some rock salt down.

LIZ

Thanks, Ted.

Ted CLOSES an OPEN CABINET DOOR. It makes a SQUEAKING sound.

TED

Hmm. Does this squeaking bother you? I could take care of it with a some WD-40.

LIZ

Well ... sure. If you want to.

Ted smiles. He eyes the cookie mess. He moves closer, perhaps a bit too close, to Liz.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

TED

Look at you. It's Christmas Eve. And you're slaving over a hot stove. Is this the Mom Of The Year or what?

He smiles and WINKS at her. Liz INCHES AWAY a bit.

LIZ

It's really no big deal.

TED

And modest too.

Liz takes a TRAY of cookies out of the oven and puts another one in. She BLOTS her FOREHEAD with a towel.

TED (CONT'D)

Why Liz, you're all flushed.

He gently takes the OVEN MITTS from her hands.

TED (CONT'D)

Looks like you could use a little "you" time. Why don't you go upstairs? Take a shower. Relax. I'll keep an eye on the boys. Finish up the cookies.

Liz looks at him strangely.

TED (CONT'D)

(overly sincere)

Go on. You deserve it.

Liz, knowing there's no way she's gonna get Ted out of her hair, sighs and unties her apron. Ted takes it.

LIZ

Okay. But listen for the oven timer. The cookies --

TED

I know. Sugar cookies. Oven at 350. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes until golden brown.

He puts on her apron. He looks pretty dumb.

TED (CONT'D)

Ted's got everything under control.

Liz shakes her head in disbelief, then turns and heads upstairs. Ted grabs a SPATULA and starts placing some FINISHED cookies into an ARTFUL DISPLAY on a plate. \*

49A EXT. CITY STREETS - PAY PHONES - DAY

49A \*

SLOW DOLLY past a ROW of PAY PHONES. We PASS various FATHERS,  
talking on the phone. \*

FATHER #1 \*

Look, honey, I may be a little late ... \*

(beat) \*

I didn't say I couldn't get the doll! I  
just said I may be a little late ... \*

We PASS the next FATHER, who's holding a BOOSTER doll. \*

FATHER #2 \*

But sweetie, you wouldn't believe how hard  
these things are to find! ... No, no. I'll  
get it. I may have to go out of state, but  
I'll get it. \*

We finally reach Howard, STANDING at the last phone. He DIALS. \*

49 INT. LANGSTON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

49

The TELEPHONE RINGS. Ted answers. It's Howard. (INTERCUT)

TED

Merry Christmas! Langston residence!

HOWARD

Hi, I -- Ted?

TED

Howard! Hey, buddy!

(genuinely concerned)

How you doin' out there? Everything okay?

HOWARD

(annoyed)

Yeah, fine. Look, I need to speak to Liz.  
Could you --

Ted picks up one of the CHRISTMAS COOKIES. Takes a bite.

TED

Mmm! Oh, Howard! Excuse me -- but your  
wife's cookies are out of this world!

HOWARD

What are you -- ? Who said you could eat  
my cookies?

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

TED

I was just helping Liz out a little in the kitchen. She's baking up a storm here.

HOWARD

(trying to stay calm)

Ted. I need to speak to my wife. Please put her on the phone.

TED

I think she's in the shower, Howard. Do you want me to go check?

HOWARD

NO!!! I mean, no. That's fine. On your way out, tell her I'm going to be a few minutes late but she shouldn't worry.

TED

Oh she won't worry. I mean, I'm here, and--

Ted takes another bite of cookie.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

TED (CONT'D)  
Oh, wow! Ummm! These cookies! I've gotta  
get the recipe from Liz!

HOWARD  
PUT THAT COOKIE DOWN! NOW!

TED  
Howard? Is something bothering you?  
Because this time of year there's a very  
high incidence of stress-related  
breakdowns. You may want to try some deep  
breathing or --

The oven DINGS, interrupting Ted

TED (CONT'D)  
Oops! There's the next batch! Sorry  
Howard, gotta go. I'll give Liz your  
message though. Take care, buddy.

Ted HANGS UP the phone.

49A EXT. PAY PHONES - DAY

49A

Howard listens to the DIAL TONE. He HANGS UP, furious. He turns to  
leave when suddenly, he hears a familiar voice:

MYRON (O.S.)  
Well look who it is!

Howard TURNS to see Myron, STANDING by the phone next to Howard.

MYRON (CONT'D)  
Still on the hunt, eh?

Howard smiles and nods -- then starts walking away. Myron follows.

MYRON (CONT'D)  
Sorry 'bout whackin' ya' back at that toy  
store. I guess I let the spirit of  
friendly competition get to me.

Howard keeps WALKING.

HOWARD  
It's no problem. Really.

Myron, not one to be ignored, JUMPS in front of Howard.

MYRON  
But I figured you would'a done the same  
thing. Which makes me realize we're pretty  
much the same kinda guys, you an' me.

(CONTINUED)

49A CONTINUED:

49A

HOWARD  
(walking faster)  
I sort of doubt that ...

MYRON  
(keeping pace)  
And what with all this brouhaha happenin'  
over the doll, well, I was thinking what a  
great team we'd make. Go after Turbo Man  
as a unit. You know, join forces, divide  
and conquer, search and destroy! Whaddaya  
say?

Howard gets to his car. Starts SEARCHING for his KEYS.

HOWARD  
Thanks, Myron, but I really don't think --

MYRON  
(feverish)  
C'mon man! Let's do it! Let's be a team!

Myron sticks his wild-eyed, crazed face right in front of Howard.  
Howard, not wanting to upset this madman, tries to be gentle.

HOWARD  
Gee Myron. I think you're a good guy and  
all ... I just think this is something I'd  
... like to do by myself. You understand,  
right?

Myron NARROWS his eyes.

MYRON  
Oh, I understand plenty. Sure! You with  
your fancy car and your fancy shoes. I'm  
good enough to talk to in line, but I'm not  
good enough to be on your team -- is that  
it?

Howard holds his hands up.

HOWARD  
No, that's not what I'm saying. I --

Howard's interrupted by a PANICKED FATHER, RACING by. He shouts:

PANICKED FATHER  
Toy Works just got a last minute delivery  
of Turbo Mans!

The father RACES past. Howard and Myron look at each other. The race  
is on.

(CONTINUED)

49A CONTINUED:

49A

They both RUN to their cars, which are PARALLEL PARKED against the curb. \*

Myron gets to his MAIL JEEP first. He BACKS UP and PEELS OUT. \*

Howard REVS UP the Suburban, THROWS IT into REVERSE and ... \*

CRUNCH! Howard's car BACKS INTO a POLICE MOTORCYCLE parked behind him, SENDING it SMASHING to the ground. Howard LOOKS in his rearview mirror and GRIMACES. \*

That's when OFFICER HUMMELL, the SAME COP who pulled Howard over yesterday, EMERGES from a nearby SHOP. He's HOLDING a CUP of COFFEE. As soon as Hummell sees his DOWNED BIKE he DROPS the CUP, horrified. Hummell slowly looks at Howard and then back at his bike in disbelief. Howard attempts a WEAK SMILE as Hummell GLARES back at him. \*

OFFICER HUMMELL \*

You broke my little mirror. \*

(lowers his glasses) \*

License and registration. \*

50-51 OMITTED

50-51 \*

52 INT. MALL OF AMERICA - DAY

52

Another MOB SCENE. Anxious shoppers crowd the mall, hunting down last-minute gifts. Anger and desperation fill the air. Howard fights his way through the masses, toward the entrance of TOY WORKS.

53 INT. TOY WORKS - DAY

53

If possible, this place is even MORE CROWDED than the mall. Howard elbows his way into the sea of shoppers. He spots MYRON a few feet away, just as a young, pimply-faced STORE MANAGER emerges under EMPLOYEE ESCORT. He climbs on top of a small plastic kid's CHAIR and speaks condescendingly through a child's TOY MEGAPHONE.

STORE MANAGER

Listen up people, 'cause I'm only gonna say this once.

The crowd HUSHES reverently.

STORE MANAGER

Now, to answer your first question -- Yes, the rumors are true. We have received a small quantity of the action figures known as Turbo Man ...

The crowd CHEERS in excitement. The young manager, drunk on his own power, BARKS through the megaphone:

STORE MANAGER

I'm not going to ask you people for quiet again, do you understand me?!

The crowd HUSHES again.

STORE MANAGER

And here's how things are going to work. You will all form an orderly line so that an employee can hand you a numbered ball. The balls will then be drawn in a standard lottery fashion to see who gets a doll.

The crowd MURMURS excitedly, starting to form a LINE.

STORE MANAGER

I'd like to add that if you're not one of the lucky few, we do have plenty of Turbo Man's faithful pet tiger Booster in stock.

BOOS from the crowd.

STORE MANAGER

Oh, and by the way, in accordance with the laws of supply and demand -- the new list price for each figure has just doubled.

More BOOS. The line has now taken shape. It's HUGE. TWO LONG-HAIRED EMPLOYEES begin LETHARGICALLY handing out the numbered ping pong balls. Howard watches their pace, then looks at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

This is gonna take forever. He looks up at the pompous store manager. Determined, he strides up to the teenager and smiles confidently.

HOWARD  
(extending his hand)  
Hi, Howard Langston. Nice to meet you.

STORE MANAGER  
(still talking into megaphone)  
What?

Howard tries to tilt the megaphone down and begin a discreet conversation.

HOWARD  
(conspiratorially)  
You look like an enterprising young man.  
Whaddaya say you go in the back, set aside  
a Turbo Man doll for me, and we work out  
some kind of ... compensation?

STORE MANAGER  
(through megaphone)  
Sir ... are you trying to bribe me?!

The crowd hears. Howard turns. They start booing him now.

STORE MANAGER  
(through megaphone)  
Get to the back of the line!!!

People try to swing at Howard as walks to the back of the line. The crowd starts getting ugly. They start berating the slow-moving, long-haired employees -- reaching and grabbing for the box of balls. The teens can't take the pressure. They panic, THROW what's left of the box of BALLS INTO THE AIR and RUN for their lives.

Chaos erupts as the balls BOUNCE everywhere. It's a free for all.

Howard drops to the floor with the other shoppers, LOOKING for a stray ball. He's BUMPED, KICKED, BITTEN and TRAMPLED in the mad quest. Suddenly, he LOOKS UP. SPOTS something.

HOWARD'S POV

A single BALL is ROLLING toward the store entrance. Howard gets to his feet and DIVES for the ball. GRABS it.

HOWARD  
YES!

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

Just then, Myron LEAPS beside Howard, and tries to grab the ball out of Howard's hand.

MYRON

It's mine!

Myron and Howard struggle for the ball. Myron YANKS the ball away from Howard and GRINS victoriously. He jumps to his feet as Howard is trampled by more shoppers. Howard's furious. Unable to get up. At a loss, he points at Myron and yells:

HOWARD

HEY, EVERYBODY! HE TOOK TWO!!!

Suddenly, the angry hoard of shoppers PILE ON Myron, completely burying him. The ball ROLLS OUT from under the pile of shoppers and into the MALL AREA. Howard is the only one to see this. He leaps to his feet and CHASES the ball.

54 INT. MALL - DAY

54

Howard RACES into the mall, CHASING after the ping pong ball.

55 INT. MALL - ESCALATOR - DAY

55

The ball rolls onto the STEPS of the CROWDED UP ESCALATOR. Howard shoves his way DOWN the UP escalator. He makes it about halfway, then the annoyed crowd PROTESTS, trying to PUSH him back.

CLOSE UP: THE BALL

BOUNCING down the metal escalator stairs.

Frantic, Howard proceeds to VAULT over the SIDE of the escalator, LANDING on the floor below. He RUNS toward the bouncing ball.

CLOSE UP: THE BALL

ARRIVING at the bottom of the stairs, rolling towards ...

55A INT. LEGO WORLD - DAY

55A

The ball is KICKED and BOUNCED off of various legs, arms and Lego creations.

Howard follows its path, CLIMBING over people and chairs, leaving piles of tumbling Legos in his wake.

The ball is now ROLLING to the edge of a WALKWAY. Howard SCRAMBLES after it.

CLOSE UP: THE BALL

(CONTINUED)

55A CONTINUED:

Only INCHES AWAY from the walkway EDGE.

Howard DIVES for the ball. He just MISSES it. The ball ROLLS OFF THE EDGE. DOWN to the LOWER LEVEL of the mall. Howard LOOKS OVER the RAILING.

56 INT. MALL - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

56

The ball LANDS in a STROLLER, where a TODDLER picks it up and cuddles it.

Howard leaps into a nearby GLASS ELEVATOR. He POUNDS the DOWN button. Loads of SHOPPERS pile into the elevator, PRESSING Howard's face against the glass. From here, he WATCHES the stroller.

CLOSE UP: THE STROLLER

Being PUSHED into a large PLAY AREA by a MOTHER.

INT. MALL - LOWER LEVEL

DING! The elevator doors OPEN. Everyone PILES OUT. Howard BREAKS THROUGH and DASHES after the stroller. He gets close enough to see the TODDLER, still HOLDING the ball, WANDER into an indoor PLAYGROUND, the type with COUNTLESS TUBED MAZES. Howard chases the toddler.

57 INT. MALL - INDOOR PLAYGROUND - DAY

57

The toddler, BALL in hand, CLIMBS into one of the playground's PLASTIC TUBES. Howard also CLIMBS INSIDE the tube, in hot pursuit of the child.

58 INT. PLASTIC TUBE - DAY

58

CAMERA DOLLIES with the energetic toddler, through the winding plastic maze-like tube. Howard incredibly CRAMPED inside the tube, is on his hands and knees, trying to FOLLOW the toddler.

The child turns a corner and arrives at the top of a STEEP TUBULAR SLIDE. The toddler giggles and SHOOTs DOWN the slide. CAMERA FOLLOWS the toddler as he lands in an enormous PIT, filled with HUNDREDS OF COLORED PLASTIC BALLS.

Howard arrives at the top of the tubular slide and has no choice but to DIVE FORWARD. CAMERA DOLLIES with Howard as he SLIDES through the tube and PLOPS into the sea of plastic balls.

Howard is BURIED to his chest. He LOOKS AROUND. NO SIGN of the toddler. He pauses. CONFUSED. Suddenly, the laughing toddler POPS UP from beneath the plastic balls, still CLUTCHING the ping pong ball. Howard smiles. WADES over to the toddler. Howard picks up a RED PLASTIC BALL. Speaks softly, sweetly.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD  
 (holding up red ball)  
 Hi, little fella. Look what I've got! A  
 shiny red ball. Oooh! Do you wanna trade?

The kid responds by putting the ping pong ball IN HIS MOUTH and sucking on it.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
 No no no. Don't do that. You want  
 something to eat? I'll buy you anything in  
 the mall. Candy? Pretzel? Okay? Why  
 don't you just --

Howard carefully tries to PRY the kid's slobbery mouth open when ...  
 WHUMP! He's SMACKED in the head with a PURSE. Howard looks up. The  
 toddler's ANGRY MOTHER stands over him.

ANGRY MOTHER  
 Get away from my kid, you sicko!

She continues to PUMMEL Howard with the purse. Howard quickly  
 RELEASES his grip on the toddler. The mother CARRIES her child away,  
 OUT of the play area. Howard stumbles after her through the balls.

59 INT. MALL - INDOOR PLAYGROUND AREA - DAY

59

Howard TRIES TO CATCH UP to the angry mother.

HOWARD  
 Lady! Wait --

Suddenly Howard is surrounded by MORE ANGRY MOTHERS, who join in  
 PUMPELLING Howard with their bags, yelling: "Pervert! Creep!" Howard  
 manages to break away -- just in time to see the toddler finally DROP  
 THE BALL, and a group of SHOPPERS spill out of the elevator and  
 DESCEND on it.

Howard angrily BANGS HIS HEAD against the playground wall in  
 total frustration. He is suddenly INTERRUPTED.

VOICE (O.S.)  
 Psst! Buddy! Hey!

Howard looks up. Peeking out from behind the quaint "SANTA'S  
 VILLAGE" COTTAGE (where kids go to have their pictures taken with  
 Santa), is SANTA CLAUS. Well, it's the Mall Santa, sloppily dressed,  
 with a fake beard and eyebrows. Beside Santa is his DWARF/ELF  
 sidekick, TONY, a cranky, middle aged man who looks more like a  
 Scorsese gangster than a happy-go-lucky elf. The Mall Santa leans  
 CLOSER to Howard.

(CONTINUED)

MALL SANTA

Hey. You wanna --

His FAKE BEARD FALLS OFF. The Santa hurriedly attempts to put it back on, but it won't stick. He holds it in place as he speaks.

MALL SANTA

You wanna Turbo Man for Christmas?

Howard looks at the ratty Santa in disgust.

HOWARD

Forget it. I'm not sitting on your lap.

MALL SANTA

Hey chief, I ain't no pervert. Just a reputable businessman looking to give you a leg up out of that stinking pit you call a life. But with your attitude, I don't think I wanna give you access to this --

The ELF thrusts out a POLAROID. It's a photo of the Mall Santa, HOLDING a TURBO MAN in one hand and TODAY'S NEWSPAPER in the other.

TONY THE ELF

'Dat was taken 'dis morning.

Howard GRABS the Polaroid, staring at the photo. He looks skeptical. \*

HOWARD

Hmm. I don't know ... \*

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

MALL SANTA

Forget it, Tony. This guy doesn't want our help.

They snatch the picture away and turn to walk back into the little cottage. Howard STOPS them.

HOWARD

Wait. Hold on. We're all ... businessmen. I'm sure we can work out some sort of agreement.

Tony the Elf and the Mall Santa pause. The Mall Santa SHRUGS.

MALL SANTA

You got the cash. We got the doll.

HOWARD

How much?

A MALL SECURITY GUARD WALKS PAST. Santa holds his beard in place and NUDGES Tony the Elf.

MALL SANTA

Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas! Ho ho ho!

The Guard passes. Santa turns back to Howard.

MALL SANTA

(looking around)

What are you crazy? Santa never delivers a gift out in broad daylight.

HOWARD

Uh. Excuse me. I may be wrong. But you're not the real Santa.

MALL SANTA

Really. Well you're not a guy with enough foresight to get his kid a Turbo Man before Christmas Eve.

(hikes up his pants)

So show a little respect for the suit. Now do you want the doll or not?

Howard pauses. Against his better judgement, he NODS.

(CONTINUED)

MALL SANTA

All right then. But we can't talk here.  
Let's go to your sleigh.

HOWARD

My what?

MALL SANTA

Your sleigh. Your vehicle ...?

HOWARD

(amused)

Oh. Right ... of course.

Tony hangs a SIGN on the cottage: "OUT TO LUNCH". Looks up at Howard.

TONY THE ELF

You got seatbelts in da' back?

60 EXT. CITY - DAY

60

Howard's Suburban enters a SEEDY part of town.

61 EXT. SUBURBAN - DAY

61

Howard drives. The Mall Santa sits beside him. Tony the Elf sits in the back, secured by a seatbelt. Howard glances to Santa.

HOWARD

(frustrated)

C'mon, buddy. We've been driving for  
twenty minutes. How much longer?

MALL SANTA

Don't call me "buddy". I'm Santa, okay?

HOWARD

(exasperated)

Fine ... Santa. It's getting late, I've  
got a parade to get to, and I've yet to see  
any sign of this supposed Turbo Man doll.  
Meanwhile, all this time my in-touch-with-  
his-feminine-side neighbor is busy  
attacking my wife's cookies!! All right?!!

MALL SANTA

Hey. Spare me the details of your twisted  
sex life, okay?

62 EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

62

We are in a REMOTE SECTION of the city. Howard's car pulls up to a  
HIGH FENCE, surrounding a large WAREHOUSE. A SHADY-LOOKING GUARD

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

stands by the fence. He's got a GUARD DOG wearing RUDOLPH ANTLERS. The dog GROWLS as the Mall Santa WAVES to the guard. The gate OPENS.

Howard parks and gets out of the car. He looks around, uneasy, then follows Santa and Tony the Elf to the STEEL DOOR of the warehouse. Santa KNOCKS on the door, tapping out the beat of "Jingle Bells". A SMALL SCREEN slides open.

VOICE

(from door)

Password.

MALL SANTA

(hushed)

Jingle bells, Batman smells ...

Howard rolls his eyes. The screen SLAMS shut. The door is opened. They enter.

63 INT. SANTA'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

63

Howard enters and stops, AMAZED at the sight before him. CAMERA CRANES BACK. Over 20 MEN IN SANTA SUITS, a smattering of MRS. CLAUSES and a large GROUP OF ELVES stand frozen, staring him down. Our Mall Santa calms them.

MALL SANTA

It's okay. He's cool.

There is an AUDIBLE SIGH as the group gets back to work. The warehouse is packed with COUNTLESS BOXES of TOYS, stacked hundreds of feet to the ceiling. It looks like the industrial stock room of the North Pole. There are Santas doing box counts. Elves mark checklists. Santas drive FORK LIFTS. The Mrs. Clauses sit at a CARD TABLE, wearing GREEN VISORS and counting STACKS OF CASH.

Howard is completely TAKEN ABACK. The MALL SANTA turns to him.

MALL SANTA

I know what you're thinking.

HOWARD

You have no idea.

MALL SANTA

Tony. Get the man his Turbo Man.

Tony hurries off into the sea of boxes. Howard is uncomfortable.

HOWARD

Uh ... Santa, I gotta' tell ya', there's something here that doesn't seem quite ... ethical.

(CONTINUED)

MALL SANTA

Ethical? This from a guy who tried to assault a toddler for a ping pong ball. Look, bub, we're providing a service here. Us guys in the malls work hard this time of year. The pay sucks. We get every strain of virus and flu from the little tykes. Plus every five minutes we're cleaning up another stain left by some baby on our knee. But the truth is we're not doin' this for us.

Howard looks at him skeptically.

MALL SANTA

(passionate)

We're doin' this for the kids.

HOWARD

The kids?

MALL SANTA

For every one of 'em who ever sat down on Santa's lap. For the hundreds of dreams we hear every day, listening to all those kids tell us what they want. A certain game, a special doll ... And in our hearts we know that most of you idiots are too wrapped up in your jobs or marital problems to ever take note, to even care.

The Mall Santa's eyes well with tears. His voice cracks, emotionally.

MALL SANTA

The thought of those kids waking up Christmas morning without that special gift... Just breaks my heart.

(wipes a tear)

You ever hear that song, "The Little Boy That Santa Claus Forgot"?

HOWARD

Can't say that I have.

The Mall Santa clears his throat and begins to SING in a clear beautiful voice.

MALL SANTA

"Twas a little boy that Santa Claus forgot.  
And goodness knows, he didn't want a lot."

(CONTINUED)

Howard can't believe this guy is singing to him.

HOWARD

That's really great. Can I just get the --

But he doesn't stop. THREE MORE SANTAS step beside him to form a bizarre SANTA BARBERSHOP QUARTET. Their singing is SUPERB. All of the other Santas stop their work to listen.

SINGING SANTAS

"He wrote a note to Santa, for some  
soldiers and a drum,  
And it broke his little heart when he found  
Santa hadn't come."

HOWARD

Beautiful. Guys --

SINGING SANTAS

"On the street he looked at all the lucky  
boys,  
And wandered home to last year's broken toys."

HOWARD

Please --

SINGING SANTAS

(big finish)

"I feel sorry for that laddy,  
He doesn't have a Daddeeee ...  
The little boy that Santa Claus forgot."

The place erupts into APPLAUSE for the singing Santas. Howard reluctantly applauds.

HOWARD

Well, uh -- that was ... moving.  
(a cynical beat)  
So where does all this stuff come from?

MALL SANTA

(immediately tough again)

Who're you, the Question King?

Tony the Elf arrives, holding a brand new TURBO MAN DOLL. Howard's eyes light up. Finally. It's here. He REACHES OUT to take the doll. But the Mall Santa GRABS it. He looks at Howard.

MALL SANTA

That'll be three hundred.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD  
Dollars?!!

MALL SANTA  
No. Chocolate kisses. Yes, dollars!

HOWARD  
Three hundred? -- What happened to all your  
lofty ideals!? I thought you were "doing  
this for the kids"!

MALL SANTA  
Sure. But I don't see why we can't pick up  
a little loose change in the process.

Howard angrily takes out his wallet and PAYS the Mall Santa. \*

HOWARD  
"Loose change". \*

They HAND him the Turbo Man doll. He looks down at it. Finally! He  
smiles and PRESSES one of the BUTTONS through the packaging. \*

MALL SANTA  
(panicked)  
No! Don't -- \*

The doll SPEAKS with an ELECTRONIC VOICE ... but it speaks in KOREAN. \*

Howard looks up at the Mall Santa. \*

MALL SANTA  
Well ... that's the multi-lingual version. \*

It's uh -- fun and educational. \*

Howard narrows his eyes at the Mall Santa. He opens the box and  
PULLS OUT the Turbo Man doll. The HEAD FALLS OFF. \*

MALL SANTA  
Of course there's some assembly required -- \*

Howard THROWS the doll down. Glares at the Mall Santa. \*

HOWARD  
You're nothing but a bunch of sleazy con  
men in red suits.

MALL SANTA  
(insulted)  
What'd you call us?

51A.

63 CONTINUED:

63

HOWARD  
(disdain)  
Con men. Thieves. Degenerates. Lowlifes.  
Thugs. Criminals...Scumbag Santas.

All the Santas GASP. The Mall Santa looks infuriated.

MALL SANTA  
Scumbag Santas?! All right, buster.  
That's it! You asked for it!

The Mall Santa HOLDS UP HIS FIST and ADVANCES in a fighting pose.  
The rest of the Santas CHEER him on. Howard holds up his hands.

HOWARD  
No, no, no. C'mon. I'm not gonna fight  
Santa Claus.

MALL SANTA  
Too bad. 'Cause Santa's fightin' you!

And the Mall Santa SWINGS at Howard, PUNCHING him right in the JAW.  
Howard looks surprised. He RUBS his jaw and then LEVELS HIS GAZE at  
the Mall Santa. Nobody does that to Howard Langston. Then Howard GRABS  
the Mall Santa by the COLLAR and LIFTS him off the ground. He TOSSES  
him away, into a PILE OF BOXES. The other Santas ROAR angrily.

(CONTINUED)

Before Howard can turn around, ANOTHER SANTA comes up from behind, FLIPPING and SPINNING at Howard with MARTIAL ARTS MOVES -- YELLING and WHOOPING IT UP. The Kung Fu Santa SPINS and is about to ROUNDHOUSE KICK Howard, when Howard quickly turns and GRABS his FAKE BEARD. Howard PULLS IT ...

KUNG FU SANTA'S POV

Howard STRETCHING the beard away. And then SNAPPING IT BACK at us!

Howard SNAPS the beard back at the King FU Santa's face, KNOCKING him back on his butt. Howard DUSTS OFF his hands and turns to walk away. Suddenly the CROWD PARTS in front of Howard, revealing ...

A MONSTROUSLY HUGE SANTA. He looks pissed. The Huge Santa REMOVES HIS RED COAT. TAKES DOWN his SUSPENDERS. Barechested, he's MUSCLEBOUND AND GLISTENING. Looks even bigger. The Huge Santa SPITS in his hands and SMILES MENACINGLY. This is the main event.

HUGE SANTA

(really deep voice)

I'm gonna deck your halls, bub.

The Huge Santa steps forward and PUNCHES Howard across the jaw. Howard is KNOCKED BACK a few steps. The Huge Santa keeps advancing, but Howard SWINGS and CONNECTS with the Huge Santa's GUT. The Huge Santa DOUBLES OVER a bit and Howard gives him an IMMEDIATE UPPERCUT to the JAW. Howard is about to SWING at him again, when the Huge Santa CATCHES Howard's FIST in his BIG HAND. Howard's eyes WIDEN as the Huge Santa FORCES Howard's fist back.

HUGE SANTA

Ho. Ho. Ho.

The Huge Santa PUNCHES Howard again and Howard comes right back at him. This is one hell of a brawl.

The Mrs. Clauses start LAYING BETS at their money table as the rest of the Santas CHEER on the fight. Howard and the Huge Santa knock each other around the warehouse. At one point, the Huge Santa THROWS a punch and Howard DUCKS. The Huge Santa CONNECTS with an ELF standing ON A TABLE. The Elf goes FLYING across the warehouse. It looks like the Huge Santa is getting the best of Howard, until Howard THROWS a STRONG COMBINATION and finally sends the Huge Santa SPRAWLING BACK OVER a TABLE-FULL of TOYS. The rest of the Santas GASP.

MALL SANTA

Tiny!

Howard thinks he's won, but the other Santas are enraged. They all RUSH at him. Howard quickly grabs a HUGE CANDY CANE and SWINGS it around like a sword to fend off the approaching Santas. It works for

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

a few moments, until Howard SWINGS it over his head and into a SHELF behind him. It BREAKS in half.

The mob of Santas take this opportunity to POUNCE on Howard. He's quickly BURIED under the MOB of RED COATS. They all start PUMMELING him when suddenly, THE DOORS BURST OPEN.

It's the COPS. Using BATTERING RAMS to break through the doors. The Santas LOOK UP. PANICKED. An ELF on top of the pile SCREAMS.

ELF

It's the GRINCH!

Pandemonium. Elves, Santas and Mrs. Clauses SCATTER, running for the exits. Cops CHASE after them. Howard stands and turns to run off, but it's too late. He's been SPOTTED. \*

COP (CONT'D) \*

Hey! Who are you?!

Howard freezes. The cop approaches Howard's back. \*

COP (CONT'D)

Buddy, I'm talkin' to you!

A few MORE COPS behind Howard turn around. They UNBUTTON their HOLSTERS. Howard quickly LOOKS OVER at the SHELF OF TOYS in front of him. He spots a BOX ... filled with TOY POLICE BADGES. He quickly GRABS ONE and spins around to the cops.

HOWARD

This has to be the sloppiest bust I have ever seen in my entire career on the force!

The cops look confused. Howard FLASHES THE TOY BADGE.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Detective Howard Lang. Undercover.

He calmly POCKETS the badge and walks toward the Cops.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I've been workin' this case for the past three years and you guys come barging in here like a bunch of terrorists at a tea party! The Commissioner's gonna hit the roof when he hears about this!

The cops straighten up as Howard walks past.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

And look at you! What kind of men is the academy turning out these days? A bunch of...

(pokes at a cop's belly)

Flabby ...

(grabs a cop's arm)

Weak ...

(tightens a cop's tie)

Sloppy ... Disgraces to the uniform!

Howard continues WALKING right on to the EXIT.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I have to get out of here. Just the sight of you all makes me sick!

Howard STORMS out the door.

64 EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

64

An army of POLICE OFFICERS, SWAT TEAMS and CHOPPERS surround the warehouse. They are ARRESTING all the Santas, Elves and Mrs. Clauses. A POLICE SERGEANT barks orders over a BULLHORN. Howard continues out of the building with a MEAN SCOWL on his face. The other cops GET OUT OF HIS WAY as he FLASHES HIS BADGE again.

Howard smiles and TOSSES the badge aside as he arrives at his car. He quickly gets in. We CRANE UP as Howard drives off, to see the DOZENS of Santas, lying on their stomachs, in handcuffs.

65 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

65

Howard drives quickly across the bridge, RACING away from the industrial island.

66 INT. CAR - DAY

66

Having made a clean getaway, Howard smiles. Suddenly, his car starts to make a SPUTTERING sound. Howard looks around, puzzled, when his eye catches:

CLOSE UP: THE FUEL GAUGE. EMPTY.

67 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

67

HIGH SHOT:

Howard's car PUTTERS to a stop in the middle of the bridge. The TRAFFIC drives around the stopped Suburban and keeps moving.

67A EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

67A \*

CLOSE UP: HOWARD'S FEET

\*

Slowly taking labored strides. PULL BACK to reveal:

\*

Howard. PUSHING the Suburban down the empty street. He looks up to see an old, run-down DINER across the way. He PUSHES THE CAR TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD and CROSSES OVER to the diner.

\*

\*

\*

68 EXT. LANGSTON RESIDENCE - DAY

68

Ted's REINDEER is on the patch of grass between the two houses. Liz, Jamie, and SEVERAL of the NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN and their PARENTS are there, taking turns PETTING the reindeer and FEEDING him from boxes of CEREAL.

Johnny holds court right next to the reindeer, with Ted watching happily nearby. He's beaming proudly. Suburban Hero. King of All Dads. One of the MOTHERS walks up to Ted.

MOTHER

You're so considerate. Bringing all this Holiday Cheer to the neighborhood

TED

(humble)  
Christmas comes but once a year.

MOTHER

You're an amazing man, Ted.  
(sighs)

I wish every husband were more like you.

The woman's HUSBAND overhears this remark and murderously GLARES at Ted.

One of the LITTLE GIRLS by the reindeer turns to Johnny.

LITTLE GIRL

What's the reindeer's name?

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

JOHNNY  
(proud)  
I named him Ted. After my Dad.

Jamie watches Ted, then looks to Johnny.

JAMIE  
Your dad is so cool. Wish my dad would do  
stuff like this.

JOHNNY  
He never used to. Not until he and my mom  
split up.

JAMIE  
Really?

JOHNNY  
(nods)  
Maybe your parents should get a divorce.  
Did wonders for my Dad.

Jamie ponders this unsettling thought, then sadly WALKS across the  
yard to his house. Liz notices and calls after him. \*

LIZ  
Jamie? Sweetie? You okay? \*

Jamie doesn't turn around. He walks into the house. \*

69-85

69-85 OMITTED

86

86 INT. LANGSTON KITCHEN - DAY

Jamie shuffles into the kitchen. The phone RINGS. He picks it up.

JAMIE

Hello?

87

87 INT. LOUISA'S DINER - DAY

A near-empty, run-down diner. Seemingly trapped in some bygone era (old signs, vending machines); but it's more eerie than retro. CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays from a CRACKLY A.M. RADIO. One MAN sits at the counter, HIDDEN in the shadows, hunched over a COFFEE CUP. LOUISA, the heavy-set, older, black female PROPRIETOR, wipes the counter. Howard stands in the VESTIBULE of the DINER, talking on the PAY PHONE.

HOWARD

Jamie! How ya doin' buddy?

(INTERCUT WITH JAMIE)

JAMIE

(immediately brightening)  
Dad! Hi! I knew you'd call!

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

HOWARD  
Listen, lemme talk to Mom.

JAMIE  
You can't.

HOWARD  
Why not?

JAMIE  
She's next door petting Ted.

HOWARD  
SHE'S WHAT?!

JAMIE  
Listen, Dad. Are you on your way? 'Cause  
the parade's gonna start soon.

HOWARD  
(still in shock)  
Jamie. Go get your Mother please.

JAMIE  
Well, are you?

HOWARD  
Am I what?

JAMIE  
Coming home soon.

HOWARD  
Yes. Immediately. Now please get your  
Mother.

JAMIE  
'Cause Dad, before you left you promised  
you were gonna be at the parade. And you  
haven't been here all day, so you can't  
miss it.

HOWARD  
Jamie, please --

JAMIE  
'Cause when someone makes a promise they  
definitely should keep it. You know, it's  
like Turbo Man says: "Always keep your  
promises if you wanna keep your friends--"

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

(snaps)

ENOUGH! Enough with the Turbo Man, okay?!  
I've had it up to here with Turbo Man! If  
there's anyone I don't want advice from  
right now it's TURBO MAN! NOW GET YOUR  
MOTHER!

Jamie's silent. His lip quivers. His eyes fill with tears. Just then, Liz ENTERS from outside. She looks at Jamie.

Meanwhile, Howard realizes he's just gone off the deep end with his kid. He tries to make amends, softening.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Aww, Jamie. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to--

JAMIE

Wh -- what would you know about keeping a  
promise anyway?! You never keep your  
promises! You never do anything you say  
you're gonna do! EVER!

Jamie SLAMS the phone down. RUNS out of the kitchen and up to his room. Liz has overheard enough to know what's just occurred. Her eyes fill with tears.

LIZ

(softly)

Damn you, Howard.

88 OMITTED

88

89 INT. DINER - DAY

89

Howard hangs up the phone. Jamie's right. He's a failure. Howard walks over to the counter and sits down. He looks really depressed. A CUP OF COFFEE is slid in front of him. Howard looks up to see LOUISA.

LOUISA

There you go, hon. Warm you up.

HOWARD

Thanks.

ANOTHER COFFEE CUP COMES INTO FRAME, from Howard's right.

VOICE (O.S.)

Cheers.

Without really looking, Howard CLINKS coffee cups with the person beside him, then turns to see it's MYRON. Sitting on the next stool.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

HOWARD

(stunned)

You:

MYRON

Any luck with the doll?

HOWARD

Nah.

MYRON

Me neither.

Myron removes a pint flask of WILD TURKEY. He pours some in his coffee, then extends the bottle to Howard, who shrugs.

HOWARD

What the hell.

Howard pours a shot into his coffee. The two men drink silently, staring ahead in united defeat. Howard sighs.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

So I couldn't find the kid a doll. Does that make me a bad father? No -- yelling at him for no good reason. That makes me a bad father ...

Myron BELTS back the rest of his drink. Motions for a refill.

MYRON

It was easier when they were younger. My kid, used to be anything I did I was a hero. Now I'm just a schmuck. I work 24-7, 365 so he can have everything he wants. But all he sees is his old man missin' his ballgames, birthday parties ... meetings with the social worker ...

Howard turns to look at him. Myron shrugs and continues.

MYRON (CONT'D)

We get one day outta the year to prove we're not total screw-ups, and what do we do? Screw up.

Howard looks down at his coffee cup, thinking.

HOWARD

I remember ... a few years ago. Jamie hadn't even started school yet. I had just quit my job to start my own business. And that Christmas, we barely had enough to pay

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

HOWARD (cont'd)  
our bills. So there wasn't much to go around in the way of presents. I knew Liz would understand, but I wanted Jamie to have something really special.

Howard smiles, remembering.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
So I built him his own clubhouse. Worked on it for weeks in my spare time at the factory. I even painted the inside to look like a spaceship ... The door was a little crooked, and the roof didn't sit straight, but you should've seen his face light up when he saw it.

Howard looks wistful.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
I remember we played in that clubhouse the whole day. He even made us eat Christmas dinner in it.

(sighs)

I was a hero that day.

Myron nods.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
And now look at me. I'm finally in a place when I can buy him anything he wants, and I can't even come up with one simple toy. He'll probably never forgive me.

Myron starts drinking straight from the flask now.

MYRON  
Yeah, he's gonna need some therapy. I know I never forgave my old man. I remember one Christmas I had my heart set on one of those "Johnny 7 OMA" guns. Remember those? They were the coolest...

Howard and Louisa shake their heads no.

MYRON (CONT'D)  
OMA ... One Man Army. It was the commercial that got me. Best friends playing in the back yard.

(doing voices)

"Johnny to Peter: Enemy sighted!" "Roger, open fire Johnny!" And Johnny would whip out his "Johnny 7 OMA!" Seven guns in one. "Count em!"

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

MYRON (cont'd)

(imitating announcer/sound fx)

One, it's a grenade launcher! Two, it's an anti-armour gun! Three, it's an anti-tank gun! Four, it's a rifle! Five, it's a Tommy gun! Six, it's an anti-aircraft gun! And seven, was a cap firing pistol.

(misty eyed)

Man, that looked like a blast. But for my old man ... Christmas was just another chance to let me down. I never got a Johnny 7 OMA.

(takes another slug)

You ever hear of Henry Starger?

HOWARD

C.E.O.? Starger Industries?

MYRON

(nods)

My old neighbor. He got one.

(beat)

Now he's a billionaire. And I'm some loser with no future.

Howard stares at Myron. In Howard's mind, Myron TRANSFORMS into Jamie. His son is dressed in Myron's POSTAL UNIFORM. Jamie turns to Howard and raises the FLASK.

JAMIE

Here's to you, Dad.

Howard rubs his eyes, opens them. Myron is again seated next to him. The hallucination is over. Howard LEAPS to his FEET, terrified.

.HOWARD

I can't let this happen! It's just a doll! A stupid little plastic doll! There's gotta be one out there somewhere!

VOICE (O.S.)

You say you're looking for a Turbo Man doll?

Howard looks around. What? Who said that?

VOICE (CONT'D)

You say you'd do anything to get your hands on one?!

HOWARD

Yes! Yes! Yes!!!

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

Myron is now looking around for the source of the voice.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Well WKRS has good news for you!

They all turn to the RADIO.

VOICE (ON RADIO)

If you're the first caller who can name all eight of Santa's reindeer you'll be the winner of your very own Turbo Man doll. Just call 555-WKRS! NOW!

Myron and Howard look at each other. They turn to the pay phone and both MAKE A RUN for it. They ARRIVE at the phone at the same time, both FIGHTING for the receiver. Howard SHOVES Myron, pushing him into a nearby BOOTH. Howard hurriedly DIALS. Myron RUNS UP, grabs Howard by the throat, STRANGLING him. Howard SLAMS the phone receiver into Myron's head. Myron finally RELEASES him. Howard puts the receiver to his ear. It's RINGING! We HEAR the CLICK of the CONNECTION.

D.J. (ON PHONE)

Hello, WKRS!

HOWARD

(excited)

Yes! I know it! It's --

When ... RIP! Myron YANKS the ENTIRE RECEIVER CORD from the payphone, DISCONNECTING Howard. Howard SHOVES Myron, furious.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!. I got through!

Myron SHOVES Howard back. Before they get into an all-out brawl, Louisa, PANICKED by the HAVOC within her diner, PIPES UP.

LOUISA

Hey, fellas! You know that radio station's just a few blocks from here!

Howard and Myron exchange a glance and RACE FOR THE DOOR. Louisa looks relieved.

VOICE (ON RADIO)

Looks like I'll have to take another caller! Remember, that's 555-WKRS! And you could be the proud new owner of the hottest toy since the Johnny 7 OMA!

89A

89A EXT. DINER - DAY

Howard and Myron STRUGGLE together in the small doorway. They can't get out at the same time. Myron reaches out and GRABS a WREATH hanging on the door. He SHOVES it DOWN over Howard's head -- covering his eyes. Myron CACKLES and RUNS off. Howard RIPS the wreath off his head and CHASES after Myron. \*

90 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

90

Myron SPRINTS down the street, and is quickly PASSED by Howard, who's in MUCH BETTER SHAPE. Howard recites to himself as he runs.

HOWARD

Dasher. Dancer. Prancer. Vixen. Comet.  
Cupid. Donner. Blitzen.

Howard continues the CHANT, racing down the street. He looks over his shoulder. Myron is over a half a block away, huffing to keep up.

91 EXT. KQRS RADIO STATION - DAY

91

A neon KQRS-AM sign flickers outside. Howard SLIDES to a stop, directly in front of the entrance. He RUNS inside.

CUT TO:

92 OMITTED

92

93 INT. KQRS ELEVATOR - DAY

93

Howard's on his way up to the station. He taps his foot impatiently, checks his watch, and watches the SLOWLY ASCENDING floor NUMBERS. The RADIO BROADCAST is PIPED IN here.

#1 CALLER'S VOICE

Uh ... Randy ... Jermaine ... Tito ...

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

D.J. (ON RADIO)  
Nope. Sorry. Next caller.

#2 CALLER'S VOICE  
Uh ... Lancer ... Flasher ... Nixon ...

D.J. (ON RADIO)  
Sorry. Next caller ...

94 INT. KQRS HALLWAY - TENTH FLOOR - DAY

94

Howard exits the elevator and RACES up to the glass-enclosed BROADCAST BOOTH. Howard BANGS on the glass. Inside the booth, the startled D.J. looks up.

HOWARD  
Let me in! I know the answer!

The D.J. shakes his head no. He seems nervous. Howard ignores the D.J., looking for an entrance to the booth. He tries the door. It's LOCKED. Howard shouts to the D.J.

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
C'mon! Open up!

95 INT. BROADCAST BOOTH - DAY

95

The frightened D.J. picks up the phone, dials, and WHISPERS softly.

D.J.  
Could you connect me with the police department?

OUTSIDE OF BOOTH - DAY

Howard continues to POUND on the glass. But the D.J. ignores him, still on the phone. Frustrated, Howard moves to the door. He takes a step back and BREAKS DOWN the door with a HARD HIT from his shoulder.

INT. BROADCAST BOOTH - DAY

Howard blasts through the door. The frightened D.J. DROPS the phone. Howard rushes forward, nose to nose with the D.J..

HOWARD  
(blurting)  
Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet,  
Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen!

The D.J. stares at him, slackjawed. Howard's breathless.

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I couldn't get through on the phone. Do I win?

The trembling D.J. is about to respond, when MYRON bursts into the booth. His eyes are WILD. CRAZED. Howard turns and grins at Myron victoriously.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Too late. I had the right answer.

MYRON

Oh I don't need the right answer to win.

A maniacal Myron lifts a small, SQUARE BOX, wrapped in PLAIN BROWN PAPER.

HOWARD

What's that?

MYRON

That, my friend, is a homemade explosive device.

HOWARD

A bomb?

MYRON

In laymen's terms, yes. A bomb.

HOWARD

You built a bomb?

MYRON

Nah. Hundreds of these lil' buggers come through the Post Office every year. I lifted one. Figured it might come in handy one day.

Howard exchanges a WORRIED look with the D.J..

95 INT. RADIO STATION - BROADCAST BOOTH - DAY

95 \*

MYRON (CONT'D)

Now gimme the doll. Or I'll blow this place sky high.

HOWARD

Have you lost your mind?! Put that thing away! This isn't worth it!

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

MYRON

Oh, really. Well perhaps I feel that it is...

Howard tries to try another approach. He LOWERS HIS VOICE and speaks softly, tenderly, to Myron.

HOWARD

Myron. Come on, buddy. Just give me the package. It's Christmas, I'm sure we can work something out--

Myron FREAKS.

MYRON

BUDDY?! I'm not your buddy! And you're the last person I wanna work anything out with! This all started with you!

Myron looks crazier than ever.

MYRON (CONT'D)

I offered to team up. But noooo -- you had other plans for Myron Larabee, didn't you? Leaving me alone in that toy store, fending off thousands of rabid shoppers. Plain common civilians! Letter-writers! The same people who persecute me for wearing my knee socks in the summer! And who make fun of my safari hat!

Howard and the D.J. look really confused. Myron's spinning into another dimension here.

MYRON (CONT'D)

And put their trashcans in front of their mailboxes so I have to get outta my jeep! I mean the door's on that side for a reason! And then they expect me to just -- deliver their mail -- like I have no feelings of my own????!!!

At this point, Myron's so upset that he LOSES HIS GRIP on the box, which FLIES OUT OF HIS HANDS. Howard SHOUTS.

HOWARD

HIT THE DIRT!

Howard DIVES to the floor. The D.J. LEAPS under his desk for cover.

The PACKAGE hits the ground. BOUNCES.

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

Howard covers his head, waiting for the blast ...

But there is NO EXPLOSION.

Only the faint sound of a MUSIC BOX, playing, of all songs, "JINGLE BELLS".

Howard pauses and gets to his feet. The D.J. slowly LIFTS his head from above the desk. Howard reaches down, GRABS the package and TEARS it open. It is a music box. Howard glares at Myron.

HOWARD

This is the bomb?

Myron gives a sheepish smile. An angry Howard THROWS DOWN the music box and SLAMS Myron up against a wall.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

You twisted little worm!

Howard PULLS BACK his FIST, ready to SLUG Myron. The D.J. INTERRUPTS.

D.J.

Excuse me. Gentlemen?

Howard pauses, his fist inches from Myron's face. He and Myron turn to the D.J..

D.J. (CONT'D)

I hate to bring this up now, but were you two under the impression that I had a Turbo Man doll here in the studio?

HOWARD

Yes.

MYRON

That's what you said on the radio.

DJ

Uh, actually, no. I said whoever won would get a doll. Eventually.

(lifts a slip of paper)  
All we have here is a gift certificate.

HOWARD/MYRON

Gift Certificate???!!!

D.J.

Sure. You can pick up a doll at the store. Soon as they get more in stock --

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

Both Howard and Myron POUNCE on the D.J.. We HEAR the sound of POLICE SIRENS approaching. Howard pauses, listens to the sirens, and looks at the D.J..

HOWARD

Did you call the cops?

96-97 OMITTED

96-97 \*

98 EXT. KQRS RADIO STATION - DAY

98 \*

Police cars SKID to skewed stops. Disgorging ARMED OFFICERS. They storm into the building.

99 OMITTED

99

100 INT. KQRS HALLWAY - TENTH FLOOR - DAY

100 \*

Myron is FIRST OUT of the booth. Exiting, he OVERTURNS a CART of TAPES in front of Howard, who has to SCRAMBLE OVER them. Myron makes a MAD DASH for the elevator. He POUNDS the down button and looks back at Howard.

MYRON

Better luck next time, loser!

Myron CACKLES. The doors OPEN. And Myron is facing a DOZEN POLICEMEN.

MYRON (CONT'D)

You wouldn't shoot a fellow civil servant, would you fellas?

They cock their weapons and take AIM. Myron GULPS.

Meanwhile, Howard turns and spots a nearby STAIRWELL DOOR. He RACES for it, and OPENS it to see -- OFFICER HUMMELL. His GUN DRAWN. Leading a troop of COPS in through the stairs. Hummell is surprised to see Howard there, but slowly GRINS.

OFFICER HUMMELL

You just can't stay out of trouble.

He BACKS Howard back into the hallway.

Myron seizes this moment to whip out a small, square PACKAGE from his bag, similar to the "bomb" from before. Myron raises a maniacal eyebrow at the cops.

MYRON

I am holding a homemade explosive device. Drop your guns or I blow this place sky high.

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

Officer Hummell and the cops pause and LOWER THEIR WEAPONS.

Howard uses this opportunity to DASH past Hummell, into the STAIRWELL EXIT. Officer Hummell sees Howard escape, but can do nothing to stop him. Myron smiles at the frozen cops.

MYRON (CONT'D)

Everybody out of the elevator. Move.

The cops EXIT the elevator. Myron STEPS INSIDE, placing the small package in the HALLWAY, in front of the cops. The elevator doors CLOSE. The cops stand FROZEN, staring at the package on the floor.

101 OMITTED

101

102 INT. QORS HALLWAY - TENTH FLOOR - DAY

102 \*

Officer Hummell, the leader, walks toward the suspicious box. He LEANS DOWN and PICKS IT UP. One of the YOUNG COPS calls out:

YOUNG COP

You shouldn't mess with that.

OFFICER HUMMELL

(full of attitude)

Relax, Sparky. I spent ten years on the bomb squad.

Hummell puts his ear to the box, LISTENING. He SNIFFS the box. Gives it a little SHAKE. Then he CHUCKLES and looks at the others.

OFFICER HUMMELL

Gentlemen, we've been duped. This is nothing but a harmless Christmas package.

With that, he begins to open the box.

103 EXT. QORS RADIO STATION - DAY

103 \*

Howard STEPS OUTSIDE. He begins quickly walking away, when we hear a LOUD EXPLOSION. Howard turns and LOOKS UP in the direction of the sound. A FLASH OF BRIGHT LIGHT illuminates the TENTH FLOOR WINDOWS. Howard TURNS and DASHES OFF.

104 INT. QORS HALLWAY - DAY

104 \*

The hallway is filled with SMOKE. The force of the explosion has KNOCKED the cops to the floor. They are all SHAKEN, their faces covered with BLACK SOOT. But they are UNHARMED. The young cop gives a sarcastic look to Hummell.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

**YOUNG COP**  
**How many years on the bomb squad?**

\*

104AA INT. SKYWAY - DAY

104AA \*

Myron, RUNNING AWAY via the skyway, looks back over his shoulder. \*

MYRON \*

Damn! I thought that was a fruitcake! \*

Myron keeps RUNNING. \*

104A EXT. DINER - DAY

104A \*

Howard, HOLDING a GAS CAN, WALKS back to the diner. He finally gets to his car ...

Which has been STRIPPED. Completely. They've even TAKEN the DOORS. Howard stares at the car in disbelief. The BUMPER DROPS OFF and CLATTERS to the ground. Howard doesn't even flinch.

105 EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

105

A TOW TRUCK pulls Howard's wrecked car along the street. Howard sits in the truck's passenger seat beside the OVERWEIGHT tow truck driver.

106 INT. TOW TRUCK - SAME

106

Howard is trying out a CHEERY APOLOGY SPEECH on the gruff driver.

HOWARD

"Liz, honey, I did everything within my power to get that doll for Jamie. But look! I got a gift certificate! Which is just as good!"

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Too happy ass. Gotta be stronger.

HOWARD

(angry)

"Look, Liz. I ran around all day like a crazy person looking for that stupid doll! And if Jamie's upset, well that's just too bad!"

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Heartless. Show a little emotion.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

(sorrowful)

"Oh, Liz. I'm so sorry. I didn't get one. I failed as a husband. I failed as a father. Can you ever forgive me? Please?"

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

(disgusted)

Whyn't ya just put on a dress and weep like a little girl?

Howard sighs, frustrated.

HOWARD

Forget it. I'm screwed.

(CONTINUED)

106 CONTINUED:

106

TOW TRUCK DRIVER  
Got that right.

\*

107 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

107

Liz enters the living room. She spots Ted on a LADDER by the tree. He's PUTTING THE STAR ON top of THE TREE.

LIZ

What are you doing?

TED

Your star wasn't on. It's Christmas Eve. You gotta have your star up ...

LIZ

No no -- I know that. It's just --

108 EXT. HOUSE - SAME

108

The tow truck PULLS UP TO THE HOUSE. Howard climbs out. The truck drives off with the wrecked Suburban.

Howard looks up at his house. Takes a deep breath, ready to face Liz. But then he spots ...

HOWARD'S POV: IN THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW

LIZ. Looking up at TED on a ladder, his HAND ON THE STAR of the tree. Ted's putting up his star?! Howard is aghast.

HOWARD

That son of a -- I'm out all day and he's inside my house! Putting up my star! On my tree!

\*  
\*  
\*

110 EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

110

Howard, TURNS away, furious. He starts up the driveway to the house. As he walks, he sees Ted's house and STOPS, remembering something.

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

HOWARD'S POV:

Ted's FRONT WINDOW. Howard HEARS TED'S VOICE in his head.

TED'S VOICE

"I got a Turbo Man for Johnny months ago.  
It's nestled safely under our tree ..."

JUMP CUT: CLOSER. TED'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

TED'S VOICE

"... nestled safely under our tree ..."

JUMP CUT: EVEN CLOSER. THE PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE.

TED'S VOICE

"Safely under our tree."

Howard smiles slyly. His eyes NARROW.

HOWARD

I'll show him.

109 INT. LANGSTON HOUSE - DAY

109 \*

Ted climbs down from the ladder, star in hand. He hands it to Liz.

LIZ

Sorry about that. But that's Howard's job,  
Ted. He always puts the star on. He's  
adamant about it.

TED

Too bad he's not as adamant about spending  
time with his family on Christmas Eve.

Liz looks at him for a moment, about to defend Howard. But she  
can't. Ted's right. Liz frowns.

110A EXT. TED'S HOUSE - DAY

110A

CLOSE UP: Howard's JIMMYING the DOOR with a pliable PHONE CARD. The  
door OPENS and Howard slips into the house.

111 INT. TED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

111

Howard enters, closing the front door behind him. Christmas  
decorations FILL the room. Even a close-to-life-size NATIVITY SCENE  
by the FIREPLACE, the REMAINS of a small fire still simmering.  
Howard tiptoes over to the tree. There, WRAPPED IN TURBO MAN PAPER,  
is the box. Howard picks it up. He SHAKES it, just to make sure  
it's the right one. From INSIDE the package, we HEAR the RECORDED  
VOICE:

(CONTINUED)

111

111 CONTINUED:

TURBO MAN (V.O)  
It's Turbo Time!

Howard SMILES and cradles the box UNDER HIS ARM.

111A INT. LANGSTON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

111A

Liz is putting the star BACK in a BOX. Ted watches, scorned.  
Suddenly, we HEAR the sound of CHRISTMAS CAROLERS approaching. Ted  
perks up.

(CONTINUED)

111A CONTINUED:

TED

Liz! Do you hear that? Carolers!

He rushes to the front door. Liz follows him outside to watch.

111 INT. TED'S FOYER - DAY

111

Holding the GIFT, Howard REACHES out to OPEN Ted's front door. He pauses, hearing the CHRISTMAS CAROLERS. Howard PEEKS through the front door WINDOW.

HOWARD'S POV: A GROUP OF SINGING CAROLERS stand on Ted's FRONT LAWN. Howard pauses. He can't go through the front door. He'll be seen.

HOWARD

The back door.

Howard EXITS, moving toward the BACK DOOR.

112 INT. TED'S HOUSE - DAY

112

Howard OPENS the door and is about to leave, when something on the PRESENT catches his eye.

HOWARD'S POV: THE GIFT TAG. It READS: "To Johnny. Love, Dad."

Howard stops. Frowns.

HOWARD

What am I doing? Look at me -- stealing from a kid ... I can't do this. Enough, Howard. You lost. Face it like a man.

Howard nods. That's what he'll do. But first he's gotta put the gift back. He's about to TURN and RE-ENTER the house when suddenly, he's FACE TO FACE with:

THE REINDEER.

Howard JUMPS BACK. Startled.

The reindeer PAWS the ground and SNORTS, like he's going to charge.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Down boy. It's okay ...

The reindeer GROWLS and CHARGES Howard. Howard quickly RUNS into the house. The ANGRY reindeer follows Howard inside.

113 INT. TED'S HOUSE - DAY

113

Howard RUNS through the house. The reindeer CHARGES after him, in HOT PURSUIT.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

Howard SPRINTS through the KITCHEN and into the LIVING ROOM, where he SMASHES right into the nearly LIFE-SIZED NATIVITY SCENE -- KNOCKING the HEAD off of a WISEMAN. The head FALLS to the GROUND and ROLLS into the FIREPLACE. \*

No time to stop, Howard ROUNDS a corner into a LONG HALLWAY. The reindeer ROUNDS THE CORNER AFTER HIM. \*

114 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

114

Howard RACES DOWN the hallway. The reindeer is now RIGHT BEHIND HIM. Howard spots the OPEN DOOR to TED'S OFFICE at the end of the hall. He SPRINTS for it. \*

115 INT. TED'S OFFICE - DAY

115 \*

Howard runs into the office and DUCKS BEHIND the open door. The reindeer enters, pauses, looking around for Howard. Moving FAST, Howard LEAPS from behind the door and back into the hallway.

116 INT. HALLWAY - SAME

116

Howard SLAMS the door behind him, TRAPPING the reindeer INSIDE. Howard PANTS. SIGHS. Safe. He looks down at the WRAPPED TURBO MAN. Time to put it back.

117 INT. TED'S OFFICE - DAY

117 \*

The reindeer BUTTS his ANTLERS against the door, trying to get out. \*

118 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

118

Howard enters. He's just gotta get to the tree. He takes A STEP forward, when suddenly -- a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED ELECTRONIC RINGING is heard. Howard nearly JUMPS out of his skin. He looks UP. The SMOKE ALARM is FLASHING.

Fire? Howard looks around and sees -- THE WISE MAN HEAD, in the fireplace, ENGULFED in FLAMES. PLUMES of noxious SMOKE are FILLING THE ROOM. Panicked, Howard quickly GRABS a POKER and YANKS the head OUT of the fire. But it's still ABLAZE. Now the CARPET starts to CATCH ON FIRE. The alarm is still SHRIEKING. Given no other option, Howard gives the head a HARD KICK, sending it SAILING THROUGH TED'S FRONT WINDOW. SMASH! \*

119 EXT. TED'S HOUSE - DAY

119

At the CRASH, the CAROLERS look up to see an AIRBORNE, FLAMING, BEARDED HEAD plopping down in the snow, directly in front of them. They SCREAM in terror and RUN OFF.

120 EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - SAME 120

Seeing the flaming head, Ted and Liz exchange a startled glance.

TED

Someone's in my house!

They RUN across the yard.

121 INT. TED'S LIVING ROOM - SAME 121

Howard STOMPS out the fire on the carpet and LUNGES for the shrieking \* ALARM. He can't reach. Desperate, he GRABS the POKER and SWINGS it \* at the alarm, KNOCKING IT OFF THE WALL. It STOPS ringing. Without missing a beat, Howard LEAPS OVER THE SOFA to get to the Christmas tree. He's BENDING DOWN TO PUT THE TURBO MAN BACK, when ...

LIZ (O.S.)

Howard?!

Howard FREEZES. He LOOKS UP. Ted and Liz are standing right outside. PEERING through the broken window. Howard stands, still HOLDING the PRESENT. He forces an innocent smile.

HOWARD

Oh. Hi.

TED

(noticing the flaming head)

Balthazar!!!

Ted runs to the Wiseman head and PUTS OUT the flame with his sweater. Liz turns and enters Ted's house.

121A INT. TED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 121A

Liz looks at Howard, who's still holding the Turbo Man.

LIZ

What are you doing?

HOWARD

Uh, I --

LIZ

(notices BOX in Howard's hand)

What is that?

Ted ENTERS the living room, CRADLING the SMOLDERING HEAD.

(CONTINUED)

121A CONTINUED:

TED

That's Johnny's Turbo Man!

LIZ

What?!

HOWARD

Wait -- it's not what you think --

LIZ

Oh it isn't?! Really! Then do tell me what it is! Because as far as I know you got Jamie his own Turbo Man weeks ago!

Liz looks Howard right in the eyes. He GLANCES AWAY guiltily. Liz finally understands.

LIZ

Howard, I've seen you do some pretty thoughtless things, but -- breaking into our neighbor's house and stealing presents from under his tree?!

HOWARD

Liz. If you'd just give me a second --

LIZ

I sat home all day explaining to our son why his father wasn't home yet and I wasn't even close! Was I?!

HOWARD

Okay. Look. I know parts of this are gonna sound completely ridiculous, but please -- let me tell you the truth.

LIZ

(devastated)

I don't think so, Howard. I've been listening to your version of the truth for far too long now, and honestly, I don't want to hear anymore. All I want to do is salvage what's left of Christmas Eve. And go to the parade with my son.

HOWARD

Okay. I understand. Let's go.

LIZ

No.

(CONTINUED)

121A CONTINUED:

HOWARD

What?

LIZ

I think it'd better for everyone if you just stayed home. You've already done enough damage.

HOWARD

(hurt)

Liz. Wait --

LIZ

Ted, would you drive us?

TED

Of course.

Liz walks quickly out of the house. Ted takes a last look at Howard.

TED (CONT'D)

Honestly, Howard. And on Christmas Eve.

Ted exits. Howard is left standing in Ted's house. Alone. Suddenly, he HEARS a THUMPING NOISE. He TURNS and PEEKS into the hallway, just as ...

121B INT. HALLWAY - SAME

121B

The reindeer SMASHES DOWN THE OFFICE DOOR and BURSTS into the hallway, charging straight at Howard. Howard TURNS AND RUNS OFF into the house. The reindeer chases after him.

122 INT. TED'S CAR - DAY

122

Ted drives, Liz sits beside him. Jamie and Johnny are in the back. Jamie leans forward, looks at his mom.

JAMIE

You think Dad'll be at the parade?

LIZ

(softly, sadly)

I wouldn't count on it, honey.

Jamie sits back and HANGS HIS HEAD in immense disappointment. Johnny turns to Jamie, trying to cheer him up.

JOHNNY

Hey. Turbo Man's gonna be there. You can always count on him.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122

Jamie SHRUGS and stares out the window. \*

123 EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

123

Howard sits on the back porch steps, drinking a BEER. He's LEANING up against the CLUBHOUSE that he built for Jamie. CAMERA PANS to his right. The REINDEER is next to him, lazily lapping from a cereal bowl filled with beer. They've become friends. Howard looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

HOWARD

Looks like it's just you and me this evening, huh Rudolph?

The reindeer SLURPS up the last of his beer and BELCHES. Howard sighs and looks over at the CLUBHOUSE. Something catches his eye. \*

JAMIE'S DRAWING. It's the one he was making in his room. Finished and taped to the clubhouse door, Howard looks at the finished product: \*

A CRUDE RENDERING of a FAMILY -- the LANGSTON FAMILY. They're all SMILING -- standing on a BOAT in BLUE WATER, near an ISLAND with some PALM TREES. Jamie has SCRAWLED "DAD" and "ME" and "MOM" next to the figures. And in the drawing, JAMIE AND HOWARD ARE HOLDING HANDS. \*

Howard stares at the picture. A warm smile covers his face, replaced by a sudden look of melancholy. A look of loss. \*

Howard CRUSHES a beer can and slowly RISES, defiant. He looks at the reindeer. \*

HOWARD

Sorry, buddy. You're on your own. \*

(passionate) \*

It's time I started keeping my promises. \*

Howard turns and RACES off. The reindeer BRAYS a farewell to Howard. \*

124-25 OMITTED

124-25

126 EXT. CITY STREETS - THE PARADE ROUTE - DAY

126

CAMERA STARTS on a LARGE BANNER that reads: "TWELFTH HOLIDAY WINTERTAINMENT PARADE!" CAMERA CRANES DOWN from the banner, hanging over the city street. A SANTA CLAUS MARCHING BAND leads off the parade, several MEN AND WOMEN DRESSED IN SANTA OUTFITS, playing a BIG BAND VERSION OF "JOY TO THE WORLD". The street is decorated with countless HOLIDAY DECORATIONS. FAMILIES line the sidewalks, bundled against the cold, sipping hot chocolate. Vendors hock SOUVENIRS.

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

126

Located on a wobbly PLATFORM above it all, are saccharine local T.V. personalities GALE FORCE and LIZA TISCH. They sport heavy make-up, thick hair spray and capped teeth. Their ages are a mystery, anywhere from 35 to 55. Their BROADCAST can be heard over the PA system.

GALE

Looks like it's that time of year again! The twelfth annual "Holiday Wintertainment Parade". I'm weatherman Gale Force, here with Liza Tisch, of "AM LIVE".

LIZA

Merry Christmas, Gale. We're high atop Channel 5's Parade Central to keep you updated on all of this year's parade action!

The crowd BUZZES with excitement. They CHEER the appearance of the SANTA MARCHING BAND. Coming up behind the band is a GIANT SNOW DOME FLOAT. The float is very realistic, with FALLING SNOWFLAKES. A foam FROSTY THE SNOWMAN is inside the glass dome, SKATING on the faux ice.

CAMERA PANS to a nearby cross street. TED'S CAR PULLS UP, stopped by the POLICE BARRICADES. The COP standing guard motions for Ted to move to the parking lot.

127 INT. TED'S CAR - DAY

127

Jamie and Johnny are TOO EXCITED to wait.

JAMIE

The parade's already started!

JOHNNY

Hey, Dad! There's Owen and his dad! Can we go stand with them?! While you park the car?! Please?!

Ted and Liz look at each other. Liz nods. It's okay. Ted looks back to the boys and smiles.

TED

Okay. We'll meet you there.

LIZ

Don't go wandering off.

The boys nod and JUMP OUT of the car. They run over to OWEN, another seven year old, walking towards the crowd with his FATHER.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

128 EXT. PARADE - DAY

128 \*

Johnny and Jamie make their way through the crowd, followed by Owen and his Father. Eventually, Jamie and Johnny PUSH their way to the front of the crowd. They take FRONT ROW SEAT on the ground, a few feet from the parade. Jamie excitedly POINTS to something OFFSCREEN. \*

(CONTINUED)

128 CONTINUED:

128

JAMIE

Check it out.

An ARRAY of PEOPLE, dressed in LIFE SIZE TOY COSTUMES, DANCE in front of the boys. There are dancing MR. MACHINES. A RAGGEDY ANN AND ANDY. CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS. G.I. JOES. A ROW of NUTCRACKER SOLDIERS. MONOPOLY CHARACTERS. A GIANT ETCH-A-SKETCH. And in a MOTORIZED PINK CORVETTE, BARBIE and KEN themselves.

JOHNNY

You see Turbo Man?

JAMIE

(shakes his head)

They're savin' him for last.

FAST CUT TO:

129 INT. TAXI CAB - DAY

129

Howard is seated in the back of a TAXI CAB. They are NOT MOVING. Stuck in a TRAFFIC JAM. A panicked Howard nudges the TAXI DRIVER.

HOWARD

Can't you take Fourth Avenue?

TAXI DRIVER

Sorry, pal. All the roads are packed. Everybody's tryin' to get to the parade.

Howard checks his watch, makes a decision. He PAYS the driver and LEAPS OUT of the cab.

130 EXT. PARADE PARKING LOT - DAY

130

Ted's car pulls into a space in the lot.

131 INT. TED'S CAR - DAY

131

The car comes to a stop. Ted turns to Liz. She is STARING out the window, her brow furrowed in sadness and disappointment. Ted pulls out a PERSONALIZED THERMOS, marked "TED'S EGGNOG". He OPENS it and turns to Liz, sympathetic. \*

TED

Oh, Liz. I'm sorry you had to go through that back there.

(pouring her a drink)

Here. Have some non-alcoholic eggnog.

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

She refuses, trying in vain to put on a smile.

LIZ  
I'll be fine.

TED  
You can't hide your feelings from me. Go on. Let it out. Get it out of your system.

He tries to hand her the CUP of eggnog, but she refuses.

LIZ  
No. Really, Ted. I'm okay.

TED  
I don't think so. Liz. You're like a lost and frightened foal. I can see it in your eyes. Don't worry ...  
(leans to her)  
Ted's here.

LIZ  
(getting nervous)  
Thanks. You're very sweet ...

TED  
You deserve better, Lizzie.

LIZ  
Lizzie?

TED  
(moving closer)  
Someone you can talk to. A shoulder to cry on.

Liz is suddenly VERY NERVOUS. Her fingers SCRAMBLE madly behind her back, searching for the AUTOMATIC DOOR LOCK.

132 EXT. PARADE - DAY

132

Jamie and Johnny continue to WATCH the parade, craning their necks, trying to see what's coming up next. In front of them are PEOPLE dressed as STRINGS OF GIANT DANCING, COLORFUL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. The dancing lights are followed by people dressed as CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS. There is even a giant DANCING MENORAH.

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED:

132

This is followed by a giant SANTA FACE BALLOON.

133 EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

133

Howard races through the streets, running in and around the BUMPER-TO-BUMPER TRAFFIC. Howard pauses, LOOKS UP.

HOWARD'S POV

The giant SANTA FACE BALLOON floats in the air, OVER A MILE in the distance.

Howard smiles, GETTING CLOSE. He RUNS FASTER.

134 INT. TED'S CAR - DAY

134

Liz has inched AWAY from Ted, as far as possible, squeezed against the passenger door. A lovestruck Ted MOVES CLOSER to her.

TED

It's useless, Liz. We can't hide our feelings for each other any longer.

LIZ

Feelings?

TED

The passion. The desire. Hell, I'll just say it ... The lust.

LIZ

Lust?

TED

The lust. That burns in our hearts.

He reaches forward and places his HAND ON HER LEG. Liz GASPS.

135 OMITTED

135

136 EXT. PARADE PARKING LOT - DAY

136

Howard has arrived at the parade, running through the parking lot. He suddenly pauses by a ROW OF CONCESSION STANDS, seeing SOMETHING ahead. Several feet in the DISTANCE.

HOWARD'S POV:

TED'S CAR. Liz and Ted are VISIBLE through the windows. Howard takes a few steps forward, shocked. He PEERS from behind the concession stands.

137 INT. TED'S CAR - DAY

137

Ted stares longingly into her eyes, then gives a self serving smile.

TED

I don't need to tell you, Liz. I'm a very eligible bachelor. There are lots of women who would give anything to be in your position right now.

LIZ

(frightened, scared)

I'm sure of that ... \*

TED

But I've chosen you.

LIZ

I'm a lucky, lucky girl. \*

TED

Enough talking.

He moves forward to KISS HER.

138 EXT. PARADE PARKING LOT - DAY

138

Howard steps out from behind the concession stand, STUNNED. He starts to RUN toward the car.

139 INT. CAR - DAY

139

Ted is about to kiss Liz. She reacts by PICKING UP the "TED'S EGGNOG" THERMOS and SLUGGING HIM IN THE FACE! The force of the blow sends Ted's SEAT FLYING back, and the CUP of eggnog in his hand SPLASHING all over him. Liz FINDS the door locks, OPENS the door and JUMPS OUT. Disgusted, she stalks off into the crowd. Ted lies back in the car. DAZED. Eggnog OOZING down his face. \*

TED

Well. That didn't exactly go as well as I had hoped.

140 EXT. PARADE PARKING LOT - DAY

140

Howard dashes away from the concession stands TOWARD LIZ. But he SMACKS INTO SOMEBODY walking away from one of the stands.

MAN'S VOICE

Hey buddy, watch where you're --

SPLAT! Howard looks DOWN to see a CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE HIT the GROUND. He looks UP to see ...

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

OFFICER HUMMELL. Holding a large TRAY of DRINKS and SNACKS. Hummell immediately recognizes Howard.

OFFICER HUMMELL

You!

Hummell's eyes fill with rage. Howard quickly TURNS and RUNS. Hummell BOBBLES his tray, trying to go for his gun.

OFFICER HUMMELL

(calling out)

Stop! Get back here!

Howard's already sprinting into a back alley. Hummell TOSSES the tray ASIDE and TAKES OFF after Howard.

141 EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

141

The streets are crowded with WORKERS, PEDESTRIANS, ASSORTED BALLOONS and FLOATS, all making their way toward the parade. Howard RUNS through the crowd. Hummell tries to follow, but is quickly LOSING SIGHT of Howard in the dense crowd.

Howard RUNS and hits a DEAD END. On either side of him, there's an OPEN WAREHOUSE DOOR.

Desperate for a place to hide, Howard CHOOSES a door. Steps inside.

141A INT. PARADE WAREHOUSE - DAY

141A

The place is FILLED with COPS, putting the finishing touches on the POLICE DEPARTMENT FLOAT. It features a huge PAPER-MACHE POLICEMAN.

HOWARD

Oops.

He quickly BACKS OUT and DIVES into the OTHER warehouse DOORWAY.

142 INT. PARADE WAREHOUSE - DAY

142

Howard DUCKS behind the door.

143 EXT. PARADE WAREHOUSE - DAY

143

Officer Hummell COMES TO A STOP at the DEAD END, LOOKING AROUND for Howard.

144 INT. PARADE WAREHOUSE - DAY

144

Howard waits behind the door, when a VOICE shouts at him.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (O.S.)

YOU!

Howard spins around to see a PARADE WORKER staring at him.

HOWARD

Yeah?

PARADE WORKER

Who are you? Are you the guy?

Howard glances back at the door. Hummell still stands there. Howard turns back to the parade worker.

HOWARD

Mmm ... Yeah. Sure. I'm the guy.

PARADE WORKER

(relieved)

Thank god.

The parade worker immediately GRABS Howard and drags him further into the warehouse. Suddenly, Howard is surrounded by a WHOLE TEAM of FLOAT WORKERS. Within seconds, they are FITTING an ELABORATE COSTUME around Howard. Howard tries to struggle, but he is surrounded by too many workers. The first parade worker fires off a CHECKLIST.

PARADE WORKER

Okay. We're running late here. So pay attention. You already read the manual we sent you so you know about all the important controls. Let me just go over a few of the changes. There are three cutoff valves for the nitro-fluid. Here, here, and here. The normal readout on the pressure gauge should read anywhere below 50. Not 70, like you were told earlier --

Howard opens his mouth to speak, he can't even get a word out.

PARADE WORKER

Your emergency cutoff switch is here. Your primary controls are here. There's also a microphone in the helmet that will alter your voice to the proper range and tonality. The procedure is the same as we talked about over the phone. Stick to that there won't be any trouble.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Howard tries to speak again.

HOWARD

Look, I don't think --

(CONTINUED)

## PARADE WORKER

Before you say anything, let me speak for everyone when I thank you for filling in for Pete on such short notice. It was a total freak accident at the rehearsal, and we're confident that we've got all the kinks worked out of the system.

## HOWARD

Accident? What --?

But it's too late. They've just SHUT the HELMET down over his head.

## PARADE WORKER

Oh, and you should know, the doctors said Pete actually showed some brain activity this morning. That's a really good sign.

The parade worker gives Howard a THUMBS UP. The rest of the team APPLAUDS, DROWNING OUT Howard's muffled cries. The workers PUSH HIM toward the bottom of an ELABORATE FLOAT, so enormous that it CASTS A DARK SHADOW over Howard, making things difficult to see.

Howard is pushed through a DOOR at the bottom of the float. And into a SMALL, TUBE-LIKE COMPARTMENT.

144A INT. FLOAT - INNER COMPARTMENT - DAY

144A

Howard is greeted inside the float by a CHAIN SMOKING GUY dressed in a PINK FUZZY SUIT.

## CHAIN SMOKER

Where the hell have you been? Geez! I'm sweatin' like a dog in a Chinese restaurant in here waitin' for your sorry ass to show up!

Suddenly, the FLOAT STARTS TO MOVE. Howard WOBBLER a bit, then CATCHES HIS BALANCE.

## CHAIN SMOKER

It's showtime.

The chain smoker takes a final drag from his cigarette, and then puts on his COSTUME HEAD. Howard immediately RECOGNIZES him.

## HOWARD

You ... that's ...

(astonished)

You're BOOSTER !

Now the FLOOR beneath Howard starts to RISE. They've been standing on a HYDRAULIC LIFT. It's LIFTING them towards a HOLE in the TOP OF THE FLOAT.

(CONTINUED)

144A CONTINUED:

144A

BOOSTER

Yeah, and who the hell 'dya think you are?  
Mary Poppins?!

Howard LOOKS DOWN at his own suit as the DAYLIGHT begins to hit it.  
He RECOGNIZES it now, too.

HOWARD

Oh my god ... I'm Turbo Man.

145 EXT. CITY STREET - PARADE ROUTE - NIGHT

145

The TURBO MAN FLOAT, a spectacular, COLORFUL, MULTI-LEVELED, THREE  
TIERED, MECHANIZED creation, ROUNDS THE CORNER into the FULL VIEW of  
the parade.

LIZA'S VOICE

And now, the moment you've all been waiting  
for! Here he is, boys and girls, live and  
in person! TURBO MAN!

The crowd ROARS with excitement as Howard, dressed as Turbo Man RISES  
MAJESTICALLY to the TOP of the float. Booster is next to him.  
Everybody and their kids want to get a glimpse of Turbo Man.  
Meanwhile, Howard is FROZEN STIFF high atop the float. Booster  
NUDGES him.

BOOSTER

Wave, you idiot! Wave!

Howard begins WAVING to the crowd. They eat it up. FLASHBULBS POP.  
KIDS SQUEAL. The float continues along the parade route.

JAMIE and JOHNNY

leap to their feet, CHEERING with total enthusiasm, as their hero  
APPROACHES. LIZ has re-joined the boys. She WHISTLES and APPLAUDS.

146 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY

146

Howard passes the hordes of adoring fans. He's actually getting into  
it, WAVING to the crowd, POSING like a superhero.

147 EXT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - DAY

147

GALE

Liza, in a few moments, Turbo Man himself  
will select a special child from the  
audience!

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

LIZA

And that child will be the lucky winner of a special edition Turbo Man doll!

148 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY

148

Booster reaches into a SECRET COMPARTMENT located inside the float. He removes the special edition TURBO MAN DOLL. Booster turns and hands the doll to Howard, who's still WAVING to the crowd.

BOOSTER

Here! You're supposed to be holding this!

Howard turns, sees the Turbo Man doll being GIVEN TO HIM. Howard pauses, stunned. The moment he's been waiting for. The Holy Grail is before him. Booster WAVES the doll at the stunned Howard.

BOOSTER (CONT'D)

Hello?! Wake up! You're missin' all your cues!

Howard takes the doll, looks at it, then HOLDS IT UP for the crowd. The crowd CHEERS. Howard BLOWS THEM KISSES. Booster looks at him.

BOOSTER (CONT'D)

Hey, Rock Star! Better stay on your toes. Dementor's jumpin' the float in a couple'a blocks.

149 EXT. PARADE ROUTE - ROOFTOP - A FEW BLOCKS AWAY - DAY

149

Standing on the top of a THREE-STORY BUILDING is a YOUNG STUNTMAN dressed in a DEMENTOR SUIT. He stands below a GIANT, METALLIC, TRIANGULAR CHRISTMAS TREE that sits on the top of the building, decorated with COUNTLESS COLORED LIGHTS and ORNAMENTS.

The stuntman clutches a CABLE, rigged for him to SWING DOWN ONTO THE FLOAT. The stuntman checks his watch, about to PUT ON his helmet, when ... CLUNK! Someone KNOCKS him over the head with a HUGE ORNAMENT from the tree. He FALLS onto the rooftop. OUT COLD. A PAIR OF HANDS drag Dementor away.

150 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY

150

Howard continues to WAVE to his legion of fans. Meanwhile, Booster is LEANING over the SIDE of the float, SCANNING the CROWD for pretty WOMEN. He spots a GIGGLY YOUNG WOMAN in a SHORT SKIRT and WAVES a FURRY PAW.

BOOSTER

Hey babe! Wanna try it with a tiger?  
Why'nt you climb on up here and we could--

(CONTINUED)

Booster GLANCES over at Howard and throws up his arms in disgust.

BOOSTER (CONT'D)  
What is he doing?!

Booster quickly walks back over to Howard.

BOOSTER (CONT'D)  
Pick a kid already, will'ya!

HOWARD  
Huh?

BOOSTER  
Geez! Do I have to walk you through this whole gig?! Pick a kid. From the audience. To come up here and get his prize.

Booster POINTS to the Turbo Man doll.

HOWARD  
Oh.

Job done, Booster looks around for the giggly babe.

BOOSTER  
Great. Now she's gone.

Booster angrily walks to the back of the float. Howard scans the crowd.

HOWARD'S POV

CAMERA PANS the crowd. Past all the KIDS REACHING OUT and WAVING at Howard ... STOPPING on Jamie and Johnny, who cross their fingers and chant.

JAMIE/JOHNNY  
Pick me. Pick me. Pick me.

Howard smiles. He turns and LOOKS STRAIGHT AT JAMIE, whose eyes light with HOPE. Jamie turns to Johnny.

JAMIE  
He's lookin' at me!

JOHNNY  
Naw! He's lookin' at me!

Howard extends his arm, and POINTS at Jamie, who NUDGES Johnny.

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

See that! He's pointing at me!

JOHNNY

Naw! It's me!

JAMIE

Me!

JOHNNY

Me!

Howard finally SPEAKS (his voice ELECTRONICALLY ALTERED by the HELMET'S RADIO MIC).

HOWARD

JAMIE!

Johnny and Liz turn, exchanging a SHOCKED, WIDE EYED LOOK with Jamie.

JAMIE

He knows my name?!

GALE'S VOICE

Well, Liza. It looks like Turbo Man has selected a winner!

Howard motions for Jamie to come join him on the float. Jamie excitedly LEAPS TO HIS FEET. Liz KISSES her son, motioning him toward the float. Johnny smiles, pats Jamie on the back.

JOHNNY

Go on. If you don't, I will.

Jamie RUNS into the street and CLIMBS onto the float. Jamie ASCENDS the stairs to the float's top level, toward Turbo Man. He arrives at the top of the float and looks up at his hero. Jamie nervously swallows, trembling with excitement. Turbo Man reaches down and GIVES the doll to Jamie.

HOWARD

Merry Christmas, Jamie.

JAMIE

H-H-How did you know my name?

HOWARD

(smile)

Because, Jamie. It's me. Your --

Before Howard can say it, they are interrupted by ...

(CONTINUED)

150 CONTINUED:

150

DEMENTOR.

The evil villain SWINGS from the rooftop above LANDING ONTO THE TOP TIER OF THE FLOAT.

LIZA'S VOICE

Oh no, kids! It's Turbo Man's arch enemy!  
Dementor!

The crowd BOOS loudly. Dementor FLIPS THEM OFF.

151 EXT. BROADCAST BOOTH - DAY

151

A CONFUSED Gale turns to Liza.

GALE

Was that in the script?

152 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - NIGHT

152

Dementor GRABS Jamie.

DEMENTOR

Okay, kid. Gimme the doll and nobody gets  
hurt.

Howard RECOGNIZES the VOICE.

HOWARD

Myron?

MYRON

(flips up helmet revealing  
himself)

That's right, smart guy! Thought you could  
outsmart me again, huh? Pretty slick with  
that costume idea. But I'm one step ahead  
of you. As usual.

HOWARD

Myron, come on -- You're taking this too  
far!

MYRON

I'm not going home without that doll!!!

Myron flips his helmet back DOWN. Booster approaches Myron from  
behind and TAPS him.

BOOSTER

Hey buddy. This ain't how we rehearsed it--

(CONTINUED)

Myron PUNCHES Booster, smack in the middle of his furry face. He DROPS off the float and lands on the ground. A HORDE of KIDS rush out from beneath the barricades to PUMMEL Booster. The rest of the crowd BOOS.

Jamie takes the moment to STUFF the Turbo Man doll INTO HIS BACKPACK. Jamie ZIPS UP the backpack, turns and RUNS to the LOWER TIER of the float. Myron FOLLOWS in HOT PURSUIT. He GRABS Jamie, who STRUGGLES. Jamie inadvertently hits a BUTTON on the Dementor suit.

POOF! A huge PLUME of SMOKE shoots out from Dementor's suit, engulfing Myron. Jamie escapes and runs to the other end of the float.

JAMIE

You'll never get away with this, Dementor!

Myron, emerges from the smoke, COUGHING.

MYRON

(coughing)

C'mon, kid. Don't be a pain in the ass.

Myron STUMBLES out of the smoke and advances toward Jamie.

HOWARD

(angry, to Myron)

Hey! Get away from him!

Howard RUNS down the stairs to the float's lower tier, to SAVE Jamie.

Myron LOOKS UP, sees Howard APPROACHING.

Howard finally makes it to the lower tier, when Myron EXTENDS HIS ARM and TWISTS HIS FIST -- ACTIVATING the EXTENDED ARM MECHANISM. The arm SHOOTS OUT and PUNCHES Howard, KNOCKING him off his feet.

153 EXT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - DAY

153

Meanwhile, Gale and Liza think this is all part of the act and EXCITEDLY NARRATE from their script.

GALE

Uh oh, Liza! It looks like Dementor's beaten Turbo Man!

LIZ

Oh no, Gale! This could be the end of civilization as we know it!

This INSPIRES the crowd to CALL OUT to Howard, with growing intensity.

(CONTINUED)

153 CONTINUED:

153

CROWD  
Come on, Turbo Man! Stop Dementor! Save  
the kid! You can do it!

154 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY

154

Myron still WRESTLES with Jamie, trying to OPEN the backpack. Howard  
struggles to get back up. Jamie CALLS to him.

JAMIE  
Do something, Turbo Man! Use your Turbo  
Disks!

Jamie MOTIONS to his ARM.

HOWARD  
(searching the suit)  
Turbo Disks? Turbo Disks?

Howard FINDS A BUTTON on his RIGHT ARM. He HITS it.

COUNTLESS, SHINY METAL DISKS SHOOT OUT of a SMALL OPENING on Howard's  
forearm. The TURBO DISKS RAPIDLY FIRE at Myron/Dementor.

Myron looks up.

MYRON'S POV

The spinning METAL DISKS are FLYING AT HIM!

WHOMP! WHOMP! WHOMP!

The disks HIT Myron in the FACE! The CHEST! The ARMS!

Myron FALLS on to the float's floor, in tremendous PAIN.

Jamie is RELEASED. He RUNS BACK to Howard. The crowd ROARS.

155 EXT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - DAY

155

Liza READS from her script.

LIZA  
It appears that Turbo Man has saved the  
day!

GALE  
But look! It's The Demon Team! Dementor's  
evil henchmen!

156 OMITTED 156  
 157 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY 157

Jamie EMBRACES Turbo Man/Howard. A SORE, DAZED Dementor/Myron struggles to his feet. Howard begins to MOVE OFF the float with Jamie.

HOWARD

Come on, son. Let's get you back to your Mom --

Just as a SERIES of SMALL DOORS SWING OPEN, and SIX members of THE DEMON TEAM LEAP OUT from the top of the float, AMBUSHING Howard. They GRAB ON to his arms and legs and WON'T LET GO, like little Gremlins.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Hey! Who the -- ? Get offa' me!

Jamie JUMPS BACK.

Howard struggles with the DEMONS, who CLING to him and PUMMEL him with their LITTLE FISTS and FEET.

DEMON #1

Wow. The crowd's really eatin' this up!

Myron is BACK ON HIS FEET. He RUNS FORWARD after Jamie, who gives him a KARATE KICK to the GROIN.

Myron FALLS to his knees.

Jamie LEAPS OFF the float.

158 EXT. CROWD - DAY 158

Liz watches, suddenly CONCERNED about Jamie. She starts through the crowd, trying to PUSH her way closer to the float. \*

159 EXT. BUILDING - DAY 159

Jamie RACES to a nearby FIRE ESCAPE. He CLIMBS the fire escape, MOVING to the top of the building.

160 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY 160

Howard WRESTLES with the Demon Team.

Myron gets to his feet, sees Jamie RUNNING up the fire escape. Myron LEAPS OFF the float, in HOT PURSUIT of Jamie. Myron begins to CLIMB the fire escape, CALLING UP to the escaping Jamie.

(CONTINUED)

160 CONTINUED:

160

MYRON

Get back here, kid!!!

Upon reaching the fire escape's first level, Myron PULLS UP the METAL LADDER, making certain that NO ONE CAN FOLLOW.

161 EXT. TURBO MAN FLOAT - DAY

161

Howard finally manages to TOSS the six Demons off of him. Howard gets to his feet. He turns and looks up, OFFSCREEN.

HOWARD'S POV:

Myron CHASES Jamie up the fire escape. They are nearly HALFWAY to the top of the building. CAMERA PANS to the building top, where the GIANT, METALLIC CHRISTMAS TREE stands.

Howard is about to FOLLOW, when the Demon Team RUSH him again from ALL SIDES.

A pissed Howard PICKS UP ONE DEMON, HOLDS HIM OVER HIS HEAD, and THROWS him right into the OTHER FIVE. They are sent FLYING OFF THE EDGE OF THE FLOAT. They LAND on the GROUND BELOW. The SHAKEN DEMONS lie in a PILE on the asphalt. One of them looks up, weary.

DEMON #2

We better be gettin' overtime for this ...

And he PASSES OUT. The crowd ROARS with APPRECIATION.

CROWD

Hurry, Turbo Man! Dementor's getting away!  
Save the kid! Save him!

Howard JUMPS OFF the float, RUNS to beneath the fire escape. He CAN'T REACH the ladder and Jamie is nearly at the ROOFTOP, with Myron coming up behind. Jamie glances down to see Myron GETTING CLOSER.

JAMIE

Turbo Man! Help!

Howard PAUSES. STUMPED. How can he get to the top? He JUMPS for the ladder, but it's too high.

The KIDS in the crowd CHEER Howard on:

KIDS IN THE CROWD

Fly, Turbo Man! Use your jet pack!

Howard looks to the SUIT, FINDING a BUTTON on his chest. He sets his jaw, determined.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

HOWARD  
It's Turbo Time.

He PRESSES the button and WHOOOOSH! The jet pack FIRES UP!

Howard SHOOTs UPWARD! Right OFF the ground!

He SOARS INTO THE SKY! The crowd ROARS.

162 EXT. PARADE - DAY

162

Liz reaches a BARRICADE at the side of the street. She looks up at Jamie, and without missing a beat, HURLS it aside and RUNS into the parade route.

LIZ  
Jamie!

163 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

163

Jamie ARRIVES at the rooftop. He looks BACK. Myron CLIMBS OFF the fire escape, MOVING TOWARDS Jamie.

MYRON  
Kid, just gimme the doll. You got nowhere else to go.

JAMIE  
Never!

Jamie turns and begins to CLIMB to the top of the metallic CHRISTMAS TREE.

162 EXT. PARADE - DAY

162

Liz barely makes it a few feet before she is STOPPED by a POLICE OFFICER.

POLICE OFFICER  
Don't worry, Ma'am. It's all part of the show. Now please step back onto the curb.

LIZ  
(frantic)  
But that's my son up there!

POLICE OFFICER  
(looks up)  
Oh -- he's quite good.

LIZ  
He's not part of the show!!!

(CONTINUED)

98A.

162 CONTINUED:

162

POLICE OFFICER  
He's not?

\*  
\*

LIZ  
No!

\*  
\*

Liz quickly WRESTS her arm away from his grip and RUNS BACK into the parade route. The confused Officer looks up at Jamie again, realizing the severity of the situation.

\*  
\*  
\*

164 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

164

Jamie CLIMBS to the top of the Christmas Tree. Myron sighs and also begins CLIMBING THE TREE.

165 EXT. HIGH IN THE SKY - DAY

165

Howard continues to SOAR UPWARD, SCREAMING ALL THE WAY, as the GROUND QUICKLY SHRINKS beneath him. He's TWISTING in wild CORKSCREWS.

HOWARD  
Whooooooooooooooooo!!!

He HITS ANOTHER BUTTON that immediately causes the jet-pack to SHUT OFF. Howard STOPS, HANGS in the air for a moment, and then DROPS out of frame.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

155

Howard is PLUMMETING back to the ground. He FRANTICALLY PRESSES ANOTHER BUTTON on the controls. The jet-pack RE-IGNITES and sends him SOARING BACK UP, higher than before.

164 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

164

Jamie is HALFWAY UP the tree. Myron CLIMBS FASTER. Getting CLOSER. CLOSER.

MYRON

C'mon kid. Get back here. You're gonna hurt yourself.

165 EXT. HIGH IN THE SKY - DAY

165

Howard flies through the sky, trying to STEADY himself. He finds ANOTHER BUTTON and HITS IT. This causes the jet pack to CHANGE DIRECTIONS. He LEVELS OFF, seeming to gain CONTROL. He flies forward, STRAIGHT and FAST. He smiles.

HOWARD

Hey, I think I've got the hang of this.

Howard FLIES ON, TOWARD THE ROOFTOP. Toward the Christmas tree. He reaches out to GRAB Jamie.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I've got you Jamie!

But he JUST MISSES HIM.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Damn.

Howard SOARS RIGHT PAST Jamie, headed for a BANNER that hangs between lampposts, advertising the parade.

Howard FLIES into the banner, getting TANGLED.

ONE END of the banner TEARS OFF. Howard tries to BREAK FREE, with the banner WRAPPED AROUND HIS WAIST. He begins to SPIN AROUND the lamppost, like a Turbo-charged TETHERBALL.

Near the bottom of the lamppost, the banner suddenly SNAPS! The force sends Howard SHOOTING UPWARD, TOWARD the window of an APARTMENT BUILDING.

164 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

164

Jamie has NEARLY CLIMBED to the TOP OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE. Myron continues to CLIMB. In HOT PURSUIT. Only a FEW FEET BEHIND JAMIE.

- 165 EXT. SKY - DAY 165  
Howard is flying toward the WINDOW of the APARTMENT BUILDING. He HITS THE BUTTONS on the suit, trying to CHANGE HIS COURSE.
- 166 INT. APARTMENT - DAY 166  
A family sits quietly EATING DINNER across a LONG TABLE.  
FATHER  
Could you pass the salt?  
CRASH! Howard SOARING into the dining room, PICKING UP THE SALT SHAKER at one end of the table and, as he BUZZES past, DROPPING the shaker in front of the father at the other end.  
FATHER  
(without looking up)  
Thank you.  
Howard keeps flying, on through the LIVING ROOM, CRASHING through the WINDOW AT THE OPPOSITE END of the apartment.
- 166A OMITTED 166A
- 167 EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BUILDING - DAY 167  
Howard FLIES OUT of the window, DIRECTLY ABOVE THE PARADE ROUTE. He LOOKS BACK at the apartment building for the briefest of moments, then looks in front of him to see:  
HOWARD'S POV  
He's headed straight for a BRICK WALL ACROSS THE STREET. \*  
Howard FLIES right INTO the WALL -- SMASH! The jet-pack DEACTIVATES on IMPACT. \*  
Howard PLUMMETS to the ground below. The CROWD GASPS. \*
- 168 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY 168  
Jamie is a FEW FEET from the TOP of the Christmas tree. Myron is DIRECTLY BEHIND HIM.  
CLOSE UP:  
INSERT: THE WIRES that SECURE the Christmas tree into the rooftop. The added weight of Jamie and Myron causes the BOLTS that hold the wires to SNAP. POP!  
THE METALLIC CHRISTMAS TREE

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

168

CREAKS. Begins to TILT. Toward the rooftop's EDGE. Myron and Jamie SCREAM.

169 EXT. PARADE - DAY

169

Liz is STUCK in the crowd surrounding the building. She tries, but can't get any closer. She calls out, terrified.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LIZ  
JAMIE! HANG ON!

168 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

168

The Christmas tree begins to FALL, TILTING OVER the rooftop's edge. Myron and Jamie HOLD ON for dear life.

The crowd SCREAMS.

169 EXT. PARADE - DAY

169

Liz cries out.

168 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

168

The CHRISTMAS TREE HANGS precariously OVER THE ROOFTOP EDGE. BOBBING UP AND DOWN.

Jamie and Myron HANG ON. But Myron is DETERMINED. He begins to CLIMB. HAND over HAND. TOWARD Jamie.

170 EXT. PARADE - DAY

170

Howard slowly PICKS HIMSELF UP off the ground. He's WOOZY. He HEARS Jamie's SCREAMS. He LOOKS up.

168 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

168

Myron and Jamie DANGLE from the overturned, wobbly Christmas tree. Myron is BESIDE Jamie, having managed to OPEN Jamie's backpack. Myron REACHES inside, FIGHTING for possession of the Turbo Man doll.

MYRON  
I'm gonna ask you one more time, kid.  
Gimme the toy!

JAMIE  
No way, moron!

MYRON  
It's Myron!

Jamie LOOKS DOWN and SPOTS Howard in the street. He SCREAMS to Howard.

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

168

JAMIE  
Turbo Man! Use your Turbo-Rang!

HOWARD  
My what?!

JAMIE  
The Turbo-Rang! In your holster!

170 EXT. PARADE - DAY

170

Howard finds a HOLSTER, attached to the back of his calf. Howard GRABS the TURBO-RANG from the holster. He turns and THROWS the Turbo-Rang UP at Myron.

171 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

171

Myron finally GRABS the Turbo Man doll and CLUTCHES it to his chest. He LOOKS UP.

MYRON'S POV

The Turbo-Rang is HEADED straight for his head.

WHOOOSH! Myron DUCKS. The Turbo-Rang SAILS RIGHT PAST Myron's head. Myron LIFTS his head and LAUGHS ... only to have the Turbo-Rang HIT him on the BACK OF HIS HEAD on its return. THWACK!

Myron LETS GO of the Christmas tree. He FALLS. To the GROUND BELOW.

The crowd SCREAMS.

Myron LANDS on the top of the passing POLICE DEPARTMENT FLOAT. Myron FALLS into the arms of the GIANT PAPER MACHE POLICEMAN. Myron pulls the HELMET off his WOZY HEAD, clutching the Turbo Man doll to his chest.

MYRON  
I got one! I finally got one!

We hear the sounds of countless GUNS being COCKED. Myron LOOKS DOWN. The DOZENS OF COPS, who ride the float are all TAKING AIM at Myron. They are fronted by OFFICER HUMMELL, who glares at Myron.

OFFICER HUMMELL  
Release the doll ... moron.

Myron DROPS the doll. Hummell CATCHES it. Myron RAISES his hands over his head and gives a DEFEATED look to the cops.

(CONTINUED)

171 CONTINUED:

MYRON  
Please. Just shoot. Put me out of my  
misery.

172 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

172

Jamie is GETTING TIRED. His fingers begin to SLIP. He CAN'T HOLD onto the Christmas tree any longer.

JAMIE  
T-T-Turbo Man -- Help!

Jamie LETS GO.

And FALLS.

There is NO FLOAT below to break his fall. Only the COLD, HARD PAVEMENT.

173 EXT. PARADE - DAY

173

Liz screams.

LIZ  
JAMIE!!!

174 EXT. PARADE - DAY

174

Howard POUNDS the ROCKET BOOSTERS on his chest. WHOOOOSH!

He SHOOTS UP, FASTER THAN EVER, in total CONTROL of the jet-pack this time.

Jamie is ONLY A FEW FEET from HITTING the ground.

Howard ROCKETS toward Jamie and SWOOPS DOWN.

Howard PLUCKS JAMIE OUT OF MID-AIR. JUST IN TIME.

Howard SOARS HIGH into the sky with Jamie, whose SMILE is filled with excitement and joy. Jamie LOOKS at Turbo Man and back DOWN at the ground. Jamie is living a dream.

JAMIE  
Thanks, Turbo Man! I knew you'd save me!

HOWARD  
(proud)  
You can always count on me.

He HUGS Jamie TIGHTER and FLIES even higher.

175 EXT. PARADE - DAY

175

Back on the ground, Liz CHEERS wildly, along with the rest of the crowd. Johnny looks up at his friend.

JOHNNY

Awesome.

The crowd MAKES ROOM, as Howard/Turbo Man gently descends from the sky.

He LANDS directly in front of Liz, DEPOSITING Jamie SAFELY ON THE GROUND.

HOWARD

(playing the hero)

Here you go, Ma'am.

JAMIE

Mom! Did you see that? I was flying with Turbo Man! He saved me from Dementor! It was the coolest! Did you see? Did you?

LIZ

I saw, I saw.

(to Howard/Turbo Man)

Thank you, sir. Whoever you are. Thank you so much. I don't think you know how important he is to me.

HOWARD

I think I've got an idea.

Jamie smiles up at Turbo Man, when suddenly, he looks a little SAD.  
Liz notices.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

LIZ  
Jame? What's the matter?

JAMIE  
It's just ... I wish Dad coulda been here.  
You know. To see me fly and all. He  
woulda' loved that ...  
(melancholy)  
But he didn't come. And it's all my fault.  
(looks up at Liz, guilty)  
He's mad at me. We had a fight on the  
phone and I kinda' yelled at him ...

Jamie trails off and looks at the ground. Liz puts a protective arm  
around him. She looks guilty.

LIZ  
Oh honey, it's not your fault, really ...

HOWARD  
(kneels to Jamie's level)  
Your Dad's not mad at you, Jamie. I know  
that. For a fact. Why, your Dad loves you  
more than anything in the whole wide world.  
You're his all-time favorite person...

JAMIE  
Really?

HOWARD (CONT'D)  
The problem was, he just didn't realize  
what was really important -- until it was  
almost too late ...

JAMIE  
How do you know all that?

Howard reaches up to his helmet ...

HOWARD  
Who would know better than me?  
And FLIPS UP the VISOR. FINALLY REVEALING HIS FACE.

JAMIE  
DAD?!

LIZ  
HOWARD?!

They're shocked, to say the least. Howard grins proudly.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

175

HOWARD

Right here.

JAMIE

(taking it all in)

No way ...

Jamie THROWS HIMSELF at Howard's LEGS, EMBRACING HIM. Howard LAUGHS and LIFTS him up into a HUG. Howard looks at Liz and Jamie. He smiles tenderly.

HOWARD

You two are more important to me than anything. I'm sorry if it seems like I've forgotten that lately. I love you both ...

Liz, touched beyond belief, answers him with a loving KISS. They're a happy family once more.

Officer Hummell WALKS UP BEHIND Howard, and presents Jamie with the special edition TURBO MAN DOLL.

OFFICER HUMMELL

I think this belongs to you, young man.

Jamie takes the doll. Hummell addresses Turbo Man's back.

OFFICER HUMMELL

And as for you, Turbo Man, well, we could use a man like you on the force --

Hummell EXTENDS his hand and Howard TURNS AROUND to face him. Hummell's JAW DROPS in shock. Howard SHAKES his hand and winks.

HOWARD

Thanks. I'll keep that in mind.

Hummell continues to stare in disbelief as Howard turns back to his family.

175A EXT. PARADE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

175A

Jamie turns to see MYRON, still surrounded by the POLICE. \*

MYRON

(sobbing)

I had it. It was right in my hands ...

Jamie looks at the doll in his hands and then up at Howard. He WALKS over to Myron and HOLDS UP his Turbo Man doll.

JAMIE

Here. Merry Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

106A.

175A CONTINUED:

175A

Howard notices. He looks very surprised.

HOWARD

Jamie?

Myron CLUTCHES the doll to his chest.

MYRON

(joyous)

Thank you! Thank you! Sorry 'bout almost dropping you off that building ...

Howard and Liz approach Jamie. Liz kneels next to Jamie and glances up at Howard.

LIZ

But Jamie -- I thought you wanted that doll more than anything.

JAMIE

(shrugs)

What do I need the doll for?

(points at Howard)

I've got the real Turbo Man at home.

Howard smiles at Jamie. Liz PICKS UP her son and KISSES him. Suddenly, they're spotted by the CROWD.

CROWD

TURBO MAN! There he is! It's Turbo Man!  
He saved the parade! He's a hero!!!

The crowd ENVELOPS HOWARD and SWEEPS HIM UP ONTO THEIR SHOULDERS. CHEERING, the crowd starts to CARRY HIM AWAY. Howard looks back to Jamie, who gives him the Turbo Man SALUTE. Howard SALUTES right back. Jamie, the proudest kid on earth, SHOUTS:

JAMIE

THAT'S MY DAD!!! THAT'S MY DAD!!!!

Howard beams proudly. Liz hugs Jamie, emotional. They wave to Howard, who is carried away by the crowd, into the distance.

As Liz and Jamie walk off, we see Myron being led away by the cops. He's trying to talk his way out of this. \*

MYRON \*

Okay, fellas, you got me. I give up. But just lemme make this one final delivery. Please? \*

He holds up the Turboman doll.. \*

(CONTINUED)

177 EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - CHRISTMAS EVE - NIGHT 177 \*

SNOW falls. It's a beautiful Christmas Eve. \*

178 INT. LANGSTON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 178 \*

Howard and Liz sit cozily on the sofa. Jamie is on the floor in front of them, completely FOCUSED on his dad. \*

(CONTINUED)

178 CONTINUED:

178

JAMIE

Dad, where does Booster sleep when you come home at night?

Howard and Liz look at one another. It appears this has been going on for quite some time. Liz smiles at Howard.

HOWARD

Look, Jame -- I'm not really Turbo Man. Lemme explain again. See, I was coming to the parade --

JAMIE

Show me again how you kicked Dementor's butt!

Howard looks at Liz helplessly. Liz grins and chimes in with Jamie.

LIZ

C'mon! One more time!

HOWARD

All right. So there I was, standing on the front of my float, waving to my fans...

(he waves, then stops)

When suddenly --

(he turns quickly)

I see Dementor swinging over the crowd--

Jamie looks like he's about to keel over from excitement. The DOORBELL RINGS. Howard GETS UP to answer it.

HOWARD

I'll get it.

(winks at Jamie)

Maybe that's Booster.

He walks into the foyer.

179 INT. FOYER - NIGHT

179

Howard opens the door to see TED. Johnny by his side. Ted's got a small BRUISE on his forehead from the thermos. \*

TED

Uh, hi Howard.

HOWARD

Hey, Ted.

(smirks)

Care for some eggnog? \*

(CONTINUED)

179 CONTINUED:

179

Ted touches his bruise gingerly, embarrassed. \*

TED  
Uh ... no thanks. \*

He stands there awkwardly. Johnny TUGS at Ted's sleeve. \*

JOHNNY  
Dad ... You promised!

TED  
(really embarrassed now)  
Oh. Oh -- Right. Um ... Turbo Man, Johnny  
wanted to know if he could come in and play  
with you for a while.

HOWARD  
Why I think that'd be all right.

JOHNNY  
Excellent!

Johnny comes running into the house. Liz APPEARS at the door next to  
Howard.

LIZ  
(icy)  
Hello Ted.

TED  
Look, I just came by ... to apologize to  
both of you. It's a very emotional time of  
year. And I think perhaps earlier I may  
have gotten caught up in some emotions that  
weren't quite ... appropriate.  
(a beat)  
And I hope my behavior won't effect what up  
until now has been a warm and mutually  
respectful relationship. You've always  
been so kind to me --  
(his voice breaks)  
I'm so ashamed!

He's all choked up. Liz and Howard share a look. Sheesh.

LIZ  
(dry)  
Oh Ted, please.

She turns and walks back into the living room. Ted composes himself  
and looks at Howard pleadingly.

(CONTINUED)

179 CONTINUED:

TED

If there's any way I could make this up to you --

He chokes up again. Howard grins.

HOWARD

Actually, my driveway could use a little shovelling. I've been meaning to get to it but ...

TED

(holds up his hand)

I'll get on it right away.

(a beat)

Anything... else?

HOWARD

We need firewood.

TED

I'm on top of it.

HOWARD

Oh, and we're out of milk.

TED

I know where there's a convenience store open. \*

Ted starts backing away. Howard can't resist ...

HOWARD

And how about some fresh-squeezed orange juice?

TED

No problem, Howard. I mean ...

(respectful)

Turbo Man.

Ted RACES for his car. Howard shuts the door. He smiles.

179A EXT. LANGSTON HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT

179A

Ted SHOVELS the driveway.

180-81 OMITTED

180-81

182 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

182

Jamie RUNS around the living room with Johnny, trying to show him what it was like to fly. Camera PANS over to Howard and Liz, snuggled on the sofa. Liz KISSES Howard.

(CONTINUED)

LIZ

I can't remember a better Christmas.

HOWARD

I couldn't agree more.

Jamie 'flies' by. Howard watches him and smiles. He turns to Liz, sincere.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

You know, from now on I'm going to spend a little less time with my mattresses and a lot more with my family. When it comes to you and Jamie, if I snooze -- I lose.

Liz kisses him happily. She snuggles up closer.

LIZ

You know Howard, I've been thinking. Everything you went through today for Jamie... well, it really shows how much you love him.

Howard nods. Liz continues.

LIZ (CONT'D)

And if you're willing to do all of that for him -- just for a present -- well, it sorta makes me wonder ...

HOWARD

What?

Liz smiles up at him coyly.

LIZ

What did you get me?

Howard's EYES WIDEN. Oops.

\*\*ALTERNATE ENDING\*\*

108C.

182 CONTINUED:

182

LIZ

I can't remember a better Christmas.

HOWARD

I couldn't agree more.

Jamie 'flies' by. Howard watches him and smiles. He turns to Liz, sincere.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

You know, from now on I'm going to spend a little less time with my mattresses and a lot more with my family. When it comes to you and Jamie, if I snooze -- I lose.

Liz kisses him happily. She snuggles up closer.

LIZ

You know Howard, I've been thinking. Everything you went through today for Jamie... well, it really shows how much you love him.

Howard nods. Liz continues.

LIZ (CONT'D)

And if you're willing to do all of that for him -- just for a present -- well, it sorta makes me wonder ...

HOWARD

What?

Liz smiles up at him coyly.

LIZ

What did you get me?

Howard's EYES WIDEN. Oops.

CUT TO:

182A-B OMITTED

182A-B\*

183 OMITTED

183 \*

184 EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

184 \*

The storefront windows are dark, except for a lone JEWELRY STORE with its lights still on. A big SIGN in the illuminated window reads: "OPEN LATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!" Howard RUNS into frame and dashes into the store.

\*\*ALTERNATE ENDING\*\*

108D.

185 INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

185 \*

Howard RUNS through the store, desperate for a present. Any present. \*  
 Unfortunately, the store looks like it's been cleaned out. All the \*  
 cases are EMPTY. He looks up to see the OWNER, behind a counter, \*  
 giddily counting the day's receipts. Howard PANTS, breathless. \*

HOWARD  
 (desperate)

I need a present for my wife. \*

The Owner looks up, amused, and POINTS at a counter \*  
 offscreen. \*

OWNER

That's all I've got left. \*

Howard LOOKS over and sees ... \*

A LONE, ELEGANT VELVET BUST. Draped on it is a GLEAMING STRAND OF \*  
 PEARLS. They're beautiful. \*

He RUSHES over to the pearls. Howard smiles victoriously as \*  
 he reaches for them. But as soon as he grips them ... \*

From out of nowhere, ANOTHER HAND REACHES IN and grabs the pearls at \*  
 the SAME TIME. Howard looks up to see -- \*

MYRON. Who looks just as surprised to see Howard. MYRON'S EYES \*  
 NARROW, determined. \*

MYRON

These are for my girlfriend. \*

HOWARD

In your dreams. \*

They ARGUE and childishy GRAB FOR CONTROL of the pearls, until \*  
 someone TUGS a bit too hard and they BREAK. \*

Pearls go BOUNCING all over the floor. Howard and Myron LOOK \*  
 DOWN at them, STUNNED, then turn to the Owner and proclaim: \*

HOWARD &amp; MYRON

He'll pay for it! \*

The Owner GLARES at them, annoyed. As Myron makes a futile \*  
 attempt to PICK UP the scattered pearls, Howard desperately \*  
 pleads: \*

HOWARD

Don't you have anything else? \*

(CONTINUED)

\*\*ALTERNATE ENDING\*\*

108E.

185 CONTINUED:

185

Looking at the pearl-strewn floor, the irritated Owner SIGHS  
and SHAKES HIS HEAD NO. \*

OWNER \*

I think Hampton Jewelers is still open. \*

They may have something... \*

Howard and Myron quickly look at one another, then TURN and  
RUN towards camera. \*

FREEZE FRAME. \*

THE END \*