

"SLUSHY"

Story by

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Screenplay by

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REVISED

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FADE IN:

EST - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

New York in December. Cars and trucks are stuck in noisy traffic. Pedestrians battle the winter snow.

Our NARRATOR speaks. He is an old-fashioned, smooth-voiced singer, in the style of Perry Como... Tony Bennett... or, for the sake of argument, ANDY WILLIAMS.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)

Christmas. It means different things to different people. It's the smile of a child, wondering if reindeer really know how to fly... Or that warm feeling inside your heart, when you help your fellow man.

(beat)

But for others, Christmas is about making a buck. Getting the biggest present. Receiving the largest bonus. These poor, unfortunate people are the Christmas impaired.

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Andy Williams rides in a horse-drawn cab in Central Park. He wears jolly Christmas garb. Brassy INTRO MUSIC kicks in, and he starts singing.

ANDY WILLIAMS

*I'm Andy Williams and I like singing,
When I hear Christmas bells a' ringing.
But in December New Yorkers are listless,
Because New Yorkers all hate Christmas.*

Andy Williams waves at a passing SURLY COP.

ANDY WILLIAMS

Officer! Merry Christmas!

SURLY COP

Up yours, Pops.

ANDY WILLIAMS

(he smiles at CAMERA)

Hi, folks! I'm here with the Christmas that almost wasn't a wonderful life. It's a miracle on the Upper West Side. It's a Christmas carol about Jamie Cooper, a little boy who didn't believe in Christmas...

Andy Williams stops in front of an old brick elementary school. We HEAR a tittering crowd...

INT - SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

An audience of proud PARENTS, armed with cameras and camcorders, watch an elementary school Christmas Pageant.

On stage, kids dressed as REINDEER are ready to pull a sleigh with KID SANTA and his KID ELVES off stage. Kid Santa is confused as he calls to the Reindeer.

KID SANTA

Yo Prasher, Dancer oh Dancer and Vixen.
Yea Captain, go Cupid, Donder and Dancer.

The Reindeer pull but the sleigh won't move. Parents laugh. The Kid Elves and Kid Santa help push. The sleigh goes offstage to applause.

BACKSTAGE

Holding a clipboard is JAMIE COOPER, a world-weary and cynical eight-year-old who has no illusions about anything, especially the holidays. His peers regard him as way too adult. He directs traffic.

JAMIE

Angels get your wings! Cherubs
first! Wise men in beards, please!

A naked TODDLER toddles past.

JAMIE

And someone swaddle up the Baby
Jesus!

A CUTE ANGEL, a little girl in costume, walks up.

CUTE ANGEL

How do I look in my costume, Jamie?

JAMIE

If you're supposed to be an angel you
look ok. If you're supposed to be
something else, we're screwed.

Jamie grabs a CAMEL BOY in the back half of a camel suit.

JAMIE

Camel boy! Where's your better half?

CAMEL BOY

He had to go to the potty.

JAMIE

Get him. And if you muck this up you'll never work in a pageant again. You won't play an egg in an Easter Parade.

Camel Boy starts to cry. A TEACHER interrupts.

TEACHER

Jamie, easy. He's only in the third grade.

JAMIE

Well, when I was in third grade, I was in charge of the Christmas Pageant.

TEACHER

Jamie, you are in third grade. Most kids are not as mature as you. Be nicer.

JAMIE

I understand. My resignation will be on your desk by five p.m.

TEACHER

You don't have to resign, you're doing a good job. Is your Mother here today?

Jamie looks out between the curtains. A reserved seat in the front row is empty.

JAMIE

No, Margaret didn't make it.

TEACHER

I'm sorry.

JAMIE

(he shrugs)
Life's a bitch, then you die.

CUT TO --

EXT - McMAHAN, TATE & STEVENS - DAY

Outside the prestigious Madison Avenue offices of ad agency "McMahan, Tate & Stevens."

INT - AD AGENCY STUDIO - DAY

Inside, various yuletide commercials are being filmed, all involving holiday symbols. This is ground zero for the exploitation of Christmas:

ON A MANGER SET

Surrounded by cattle, sheep and bales of hay, three WISE BED SALESMEN smile.

WISE BED SALESMAN #1
Away in a manger?

WISE BED SALESMAN #2
No crib for a bed?

WISE BED SALESMAN #3
How about a futon?

WISE BED SALESMAN (all)
Jesus, Mary, Joseph, look at these
prices!

ON AN OLDE ENGLAND SET

JACOB MARLEY from "A Christmas Carol" frowns at the camera.

JACOB MARLEY
I'm Jacob Marley. Are you haunted
by feelings of diarrhea?

ON AN AIRLINER SET

A happy COMMERCIAL REINDEER takes a drink from a STEWARDESS.

COMMERCIAL REINDEER
This is the only way to fly.

ON A HOT TUB SET

Soaking in a hot tub, a hot-looking MRS. COMMERCIAL CLAUS breathes into a telephone. The cord of the telephone trails off into the bubbles of the hot tub.

MRS. COMMERCIAL CLAUS
What's your Christmas fantasy? It's
only five dollars a minute to talk to
Mrs. Claus one-on-one.

An off-screen VOICE suddenly halts the action.

VOICE

Wait! Wait!

All turn to MARGARET COOPER, no-nonsense business type and single parent to Jamie. A DIRECTOR and CAMERA CREW nervously watch for her reaction as she steps onto the set.

MARGARET

This is wrong! This is all wrong!

The Crew, Director and Mrs. Commercial Claus look to one another. No one has a clue about what she means.

DIRECTOR

Are you saying this is in bad taste?
That Christmas is too sacred for this
tawdry commercial display?

MARGARET

No, I mean this phone is all wrong.
(takes phone from Mrs. Claus)
The cord leads into the water. You're
going to electrocute Mrs. Claus.
Someone get her a cordless phone!

Margaret marches away, leaving the Crew to redo the shot.

She is joined by KURT, Margaret's evil boss who wants to get her into bed. He puts his arm around her -- but she shrugs it off.

KURT

How is our big holiday shoot going?

MARGARET

Kurt, I like to think that in the
pursuit of sales we've milked every
symbol of Christmas we can think of.

KURT

Margaret, you're the only person in
the ad business more cynical than I.

MARGARET

Thank you, Boss.

KURT

I can't tell you how attractive that
is to me.

MARGARET
(cutting him off)
Then don't.
(changes subject)
Is Afro-Santa ready?

A beat -- then in comes AFRO-SANTA, a round, bearded black man. He poses, a bottle of malt liquor in each hand, in front of a banner reading: "Santa in the 'hood with malt!"

AFRO-SANTA
Ho ho ho!

CUT TO --

EXT - JAMIE AND MARGARET'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Carrying school books, Jamie is walking to his apartment when a snowball whizzes by his head. He turns, angry. A smiling GIRL IN SNOW and her FRIENDS wave.

GIRL IN SNOW
You want to play with us?

JAMIE
No. Really. I have to go inside.

GIRL IN SNOW
Are your Mom and Dad home?

JAMIE
No, my Dad is dead.

GIRL IN SNOW
I'm sorry.

JAMIE
Why? You didn't kill him, did you?

The children are perplexed.

GIRL IN SNOW
We're going to see Santa. Did you tell Santa what you want for Christmas? Or did you write him a letter?

JAMIE
At this time of year, I draft a memo listing what I need--underwear, shoes, and the like.

GIRL IN SNOW
And you mail it to the North Pole?

JAMIE

I submit the memo to Margaret.. If she approves, she initials it back to me and I have the items delivered.

Suddenly the Girl's FATHER calls to her.

FATHER

Hey, Suzie! Come over and play!

GIRL IN SNOW

See you later, I got to play with my dad.

Jamie watches the Girl in Snow go play with her Father.

Then Jamie enters his building, the DOORMAN letting him in. The Doorman turns -- and it's Andy Williams. He winks at us.

INT - MARGARET & JAMIE'S APARTMENT - EVENING

The sterile apartment is bare of any holiday decorations. Jamie looks out the window.

ANGLE OUT THE WINDOW

The Girl in Snow frolics with her Father.

BACK ON JAMIE

He sighs. Then Margaret enters.

MARGARET

Dinner's almost ready. And if they don't deliver in 30 minutes we save two bucks.

JAMIE

Margaret, what was my late father like?

One corner is a shrine to Jamie's late father, DEAD DAD. There are framed photos of Jamie, Margaret and Dead Dad. Oddly, there's also a tuxedo and a red top hat, both pressed flat.

Margaret picks up the flattened red top hat.

MARGARET

He was like all men. And what did I tell you about men?

JAMIE

(pause)

They're all schmucks.

MARGARET

Exactly! There are no
Prince Charmings!

JAMIE

Yes Ma'am!

MARGARET

And you must trust no one!

JAMIE

I heard that!

MARGARET

Love is a sick joke told by a dark
and angry God! It will destroy
your life!

JAMIE

Somebody say amen!

MARGARET

It wasn't easy for me, being married
to your father! He believed in love,
he believed in Christmas, he even
believed in dry cleaning. He was a
fool. Then came Christmas Eve and
that tragic accident.

Jamie looks at a photo of him and Margaret and Dead Dad. They
are in the snow, making a snowman...

DISSOLVE TO --

EXT - COOPER FAMILY HOME - DAY - THE PAST

The photo has come to life. On that snowy Christmas years
ago, HOLIDAY MUSIC plays. Dead Dad is making a snowman with a
younger Jamie and Margaret. All are happy.

INT - COOPER FAMILY HOME - DAY - THE PAST

Inside are many Christmas decorations. In his tuxedo and red
top hat, Dead Dad is playing catch with Jamie. Then he kisses
Margaret, takes the dry cleaning claim check, and leaves.
Jamie waves goodbye with his baseball glove.

EXT - DRY CLEANERS STORE - EVENING - THE PAST

A dry cleaning store. We hear loud music from inside.

INT - DRY CLEANING STORE - EVENING - THE PAST

A party is in swing. PRESS OPERATORS drink as they work. A DRUNKEN COUPLE is making out beneath a sign: "DANGER! Do not operate above 15 psi!"

The Couple moves away, and we see they were leaning against the "psi" dial. It's way past the red line of 15 -- it is pegged out at 100! Steam pours out from the dial!

OUTSIDE THE DRY CLEANERS

A pause. Then BOOM! An explosion! The store is engulfed in flames! Debris rains down!

INT - COOPER FAMILY HOME - NIGHT - THE PAST

POLICE give Margaret the tuxedo and red hat, both pressed flat. Then they leave. Margaret gets angry. She tears down the decorations. Then she opens the closet door and starts tearing down the dry cleaning bags...

DISSOLVE TO --

BACK IN THE APARTMENT - PRESENT

Margaret is angry. She looks at the red top hat in tears.

MARGARET

I haven't celebrated Christmas
or dry cleaned my clothes since.
If only he had gone to the cleaners
the day before. But no, he waited,
and it cost him his life. When will
they learn, don't drink and dry clean!

JAMIE

Life is unfair, Margaret. Life is
unfair.
(leaving)
I'll be outside.

EXT - APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Outside, Jamie stands in the falling snow. Everywhere he looks, Jamie sees others playing with their fathers.

EXT - SNOW FORT - EVENING

A BOY IN SNOW builds a snow fort with his FATHER.

BOY IN SNOW
Thank you, dad.

EXT - SNOW ANGELS - EVENING

The Girl in Snow makes snow angels with her Father.

GIRL IN SNOW
Thank you, dad.

EXT - SNOWBALL - EVENING

An OLD MAN IN SNOW makes a snowball with his OLDER FATHER.

OLD MAN MAKING SNOWBALL
Thanks, Dad.

BACK ON JAMIE

Alone, he builds a snowman. Jamie rolls the lower body, then the upper body, then a head. As he builds, Andy Williams sings.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
(sings)
*Snowman, snowman.
Jamie builds a snowman.
Margaret's got no man.
And Jamie, no dad.*

Jamie looks at the blank face. He digs at the snow with his hands, trying to make a face. But it's not good enough. So Jamie collects a bunch of rusty junk and builds the face.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
(sings)
*He's a New York snowman,
So don't you know, man.
In that snowman's sweet smile,
Jamie uses a crack vial.
And in his mouth he's placing,
An old spent shell casing.
And Jamie, do you suppose?
To use a screw top for his nose.
(speaks)
But every snowman needs a red top hat.*

Jamie thinks.

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S APARTMENT

Jamie takes Dead Dad's red top hat.

OUTSIDE THE BUILDING

Jamie sits the hat on the snowman's head. He stands back, smiles, pleased. But something strange happens.

The snowman stirs! He MOVES! THE SNOWMAN COMES TO LIFE! His mouth OPENS! The Snowman will speak!

Then a hand swoops down and grabs the hat! The Snowman stops moving.

Jamie turns to see an angry Margaret staring down at him.

MARGARET

This is your father's hat! Bad boy!
Go right to bed!

JAMIE

Did you see that? That snowman moved!

MARGARET

I said GO TO BED!

JAMIE

He moved! That snowman was gonna talk!

MARGARET

And you used the screw top off a wine
bottle for a nose? BED!

They leave. The Snowman is just a snowman.

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Jamie looks out the window at the snowman. He sighs.

Then he turns out the light and closes his eyes to sleep.

INT - JAMIE AND MARGARET'S LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

The lights are out. It is quiet, and the red hat sits in its proper place. We hear Andy Williams.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
 Ofttimes, it takes the Magic of
 Christmas to free the Spirit of
 Christmas. Enter the Magic Winds.

The window suddenly flies opens!

Enchanted music plays. A Magic Wind blows in and picks up
 Dead Dad's red top hat!

The Magic Wind dances the hat around. Then the Magic Wind
 blows stronger, throwing papers around and messing up the
 living room.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
 The magic of Christmas is strong.
 Perhaps too strong. And I'm not
 cleaning this up.

The Magic Wind dances the hat out the window and into the
 night!

EXT - APARTMENT BUILDING - SAME TIME

The Magic Wind spirals the hat down. The hat lands gently on
 the snowman's head. Music swells, and the eyes open! He
 grins!

The snowman is alive! It's SLUSHY THE SNOWMAN!

Always cheerful and dimwitted, Slushy's single-minded
 obsession is spreading the spirit of Christmas. He lifts his
 arms to the sky and SINGS and dances "Slushy's Theme"!

SLUSHY
 (sings)
*Merry Christmas everybody!
 Slushy is my name,
 Christmas is my game.
 I can't tell you what it means,
 To let me realize my dreams.
 I'm Slushy!
 Hey, world, look at me,
 Hey, world, set me free.
 I'll make your blues all disappear,
 When I bring you Christmas cheer.
 I'm Slushy.*

Slushy is really selling it now.

SLUSHY

(sings)

*New York won't know what hit it!
After my parade it won't be the same!
Because before they admit it!
Everyone will know my name is SLUSHY!*

Windows fly open, and many SLEEPY PEOPLE shout.

SLEEPY PEOPLE

Slushy! SHUT UP!

The Sleepy People go back to bed. Slushy whispers to himself.

SLUSHY

Slushy. Is my name.

CUT TO --

EXT - APARTMENT BUILDING - THE NEXT MORNING

Andy Williams strolls up, dressed as the doorman.

ANDY WILLIAMS

(sings)

*They don't like Christmas
That Margaret and Jamie.
But now Slushy's been born
Their life won't be the same-y.*

He stops. Margaret and Jamie are watching him.

ANDY WILLIAMS

Been listening long?

MARGARET

Long enough to say this: I'm armed.

JAMIE

What are you singing about us for?

Andy shrugs. A cab pulls up. Margaret whispers to Jamie.

MARGARET

Don't talk to any strange men. I'm
gonna do something about that doorman.

Margaret jumps in, and the cab drives off. Suddenly, behind
Jamie, a tap --

SLUSHY (o.s.)

Hello, Jamie!

WIDE

Jamie spins around. It's Slushy! He's back!

JAMIE
Hey! You're alive!

SLUSHY
Merry Christmas, Jamie! Merry
Christmas!

Jamie remembers MARGARET'S VOICE from 5 seconds earlier,
echoing in his head.

MARGARET'S VOICE
Don't talk to any strange men.

Jamie frowns, hesitant.

JAMIE
Well, I have to go now.

Jamie quickly walks away. Slushy follows him down the street.

EXT - NEW YORK STREET - SAME TIME

Jamie walks faster. Slushy keeps chasing him.

JAMIE
Stop! Go away! Fire!

SLUSHY
I'm Slushy. Every year I come from
the North Pole to renew the Spirit
of Christmas. Let's have a Christmas
Parade!

JAMIE
I'm not supposed to talk to strange
men.

SLUSHY
I'm not a man, I'm an animated being
composed of frozen water.

JAMIE
All men are not snowmen, but all
snowmen are men. Therefore, I will
not talk to Slushy the snow-MAN.
(shouts)
Why is there never a cop around?

SLUSHY

Jamie, I want to be your friend.
Someone you can depend on and is
there for you. Wait! The Magic of
Christmas. Watch!

A twinkle of glitter and a harp arpeggio is the CHRISTMAS
MAGIC CUE. We will use this many times. Slushy whistles like
a bird, and the BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS lands on his finger.

BLUEBIRD

I'm the Bluebird of Happiness!
And I love Slushy the snowman!

SLUSHY

And how about this?

Slushy points to the sky. A CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE sounds again.

HIGH ABOVE

In the sky is the NORTH WIND, a hairy, bare chested Norse God.
He has a deep, booming voice.

NORTH WIND

I'm the North Wind! And I love Slushy,
too! Everybody loves Slushy!

BACK ON SLUSHY AND JAMIE

The CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE strikes again. Then at Slushy's feet
is a CARTOON CRICKET in a top hat. He chirps happily.

CARTOON CRICKET

I love you, Slushy. Let me be your
cartoon sidekick!

JAMIE

(shivers)
I hate bugs.

Jamie stomps on the Cartoon Cricket. Slushy shouts.

SLUSHY

Forget bugs! I'm talking about
Christmas, Jamie! Don't you believe
in candy canes and mistletoe and
fairy dust and sugar plums?

JAMIE

To answer your questions: Yes, yes, no, and I don't know what a sugar plum is.

(points at nothing)

Hey! Look over there!

SLUSHY

Where? What?

Jamie ditches him and runs into the subway. Slushy follows.

INT - SUBWAY PLATFORM - DAY

On a crowded platform, COMMUTERS wait for their trains. Jamie zigs and zags between them. Slushy is right behind him.

SLUSHY

Jamie! What about Santa! Chestnuts roasting! Jack Frost at your nose! Don't stockings hung by the chimney with care mean anything to you?

JAMIE

It means your socks are wet.

Jamie squeezes in the closing doors of a train. Slushy jumps, but the doors close in his face.

SLUSHY

Jamie, Jamie, wait!

But he's gone. From the train's back window, Jamie gives Slushy the "finger."

CUT TO --

A TELEVISION SET

ONSCREEN is a toy store. TOY STORE TOT and her TOY BUYING MOM are shopping. Mom has a cart piled high with toys. Toy Store Tot sees another toy she wants and cries.

TOY STORE TOT

Buy me that, Mommy, buy me that!

TOY BUYING MOM

But Princess, I already have a cart full of toys for you.

TOY STORE TOT

You don't love me, Mommy, you don't love me!

The Tot throws a fit. Toy Buying Mom is embarrassed as SHOPPERS pass, giving her dirty looks. An ANNOUNCER speaks.

ANNOUNCER (v.o.)
Maybe your child is right. Maybe
you don't love her.

Toy Buying Mom grows more embarrassed. She looks at her screaming kid, to the toy, to the Shoppers, back to the toy. Then she smiles, relieved, and reaches for the toy.

MALL PARKING LOT

HAPPY MUSIC plays as Mom wheels the cart out of the store and into the sunset. Toy Store Tot takes her hand, happy.

TOY STORE TOT
Oh, you do love me, Mommy. You
bought me all the toys I wanted.

We PULL OUT, revealing we're in

INT - MARGARET'S OFFICE - DAY

Margaret and Kurt watch the commercial on a TV.

ANNOUNCER (v.o.)
A word from the Toy Council of America.

Margaret pauses the VCR. Kurt smiles.

KURT
You don't think it was too subtle?

MARGARET
We have to reach the consumer in their guilty little heart. Did you read my proposal for "Christmas II?"

KURT
Yes. And I've called a meeting with the captains of industry. The mavens of candy, flowers and booze will all be here. And I want you to make the presentation.

MARGARET
Thank you. Kurt.

KURT
(salacious)
Maybe you can do something for me someday.

MARGARET
(cooly)
I doubt it.

She cues up the next commercial.

ON THE MONITOR

A lavishly decorated suburban home, trimmed with expensive reindeer, trees, and Santa lights.

Then a drab, dull home. A BOY turns to his DAD.

BOY
Dad, I'm embarrassed by our home.
Kids are laughing at me in school.
We need more Christmas decorations.

ON KURT AND MARGARET

They nod approvingly.

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jamie is playing computer chess. He wins as usual.

JAMIE
Knight takes queen. Mate in three moves. You should resign.

COMPUTER VOICE
Knight takes queen. Mate in three moves. I resign.

JAMIE
Oh, come on. At least put up a fight.

Bored, Jamie looks out the window.

OUTSIDE

Slushy is playing with some KIDS. He scrapes ice off his body and cheerily makes snow cones.

SLUSHY
Hi, kids! I'm Slushy the snowman!
Now who wants a snow cone?

KIDS (all)
Yeah! Yeah!

SLUSHY

Now who wants to meet the Bluebird
of Happiness?

KIDS (all)

I do! I do!

BACK IN THE APARTMENT

Jamie sighs wistfully. Margaret enters, carrying a takeout container.

MARGARET

Look what I made for dinner. Chinese.

JAMIE

Margaret, do you have any friends?

MARGARET

I have many acquaintances, Jamie. I
have business and social acquaintances.
People I can use, just as they use me.

JAMIE

But I mean someone you can depend on and
believe in. Someone who is there for you.

MARGARET

Have you got a fever?
(puts her hand to Jamie's forehead)
Who puts these ideas in your head?

CUT TO --

EXT - LIBRARY - DAY

The New York City Library.

INT - READING ROOM - DAY

Jamie is studying. Books and papers are piled all around. A
SCUFFLING NOISE, and he looks up. Slushy is there with an
angry LIBRARIAN.

JAMIE

Slushy! Not you again!

LIBRARIAN

This snowman says he knows you. He
was handing out snow cones in the
rare books room!

SLUSHY

I was just being friendly.

LIBRARIAN

This is a library, not Baskin Robbins.
Have you got a head full of slush?

SLUSHY

As a matter of fact, I do have a head
full of slush. You know, you need a
little Christmas right this very minute!

The CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE. Slushy whistles, and the Bluebird of
Happiness lands on his finger.

The Librarian pulls out a gun and shoots! The Bluebird falls
to the ground, dead.

SLUSHY

You shot the Bluebird of Happiness!

LIBRARIAN

And you're next! Out! Both of you!

JAMIE

Me? What did I do?

LIBRARIAN

(waving the gun)
You're with him! Now move!

Hands raised, Jamie and Slushy back out of the library.

EXT - STREET - DAY

Jamie and Slushy walk. Slushy carries the dead Bluebird.

SLUSHY

Why do you go to the library? I don't
like it. It's too quiet. And the lady
with the gun was mean to the Bluebird
of Happiness. Actually, she killed the
Bluebird of Happiness.

JAMIE

What are you going to do with the bird?

SLUSHY

I don't know. Bury him in a shoe box,
I guess.

(changes subject)

Do you want to plan our parade today,
Jamie?

JAMIE

Listen, Slushy. We're not pals, we're not buddies, we're not friends. We won't be taking long walks or sharing lingering glances together. You're a snowman. And I don't have room in my life for a snowman right now! Get over it!

SLUSHY

This isn't about you and me, is it? It's about your father. You haven't loved or trusted anyone since he died. This is all about your dead dad!

Close on Jamie. He winces at the memory.

CUT TO FLASHBACK

The dry cleaners explodes!

BACK ON JAMIE AND SLUSHY

JAMIE

No, it's not.

SLUSHY

Yes, it's about your dead dad!

CUT TO FLASHBACK

The dry cleaners explodes.

BACK TO JAMIE AND SLUSHY

JAMIE

No!

SLUSHY

It's your dead dad, your dead dad,
your dead dad!

CUT TO FLASHBACK

The dry cleaners explodes THREE TIMES!

BACK TO JAMIE AND SLUSHY

Jamie breaks down into tears. He runs into Slushy's arms.

SLUSHY

I knew it, knew it, knew it. It was...

JAMIE

(puts hand on Slushy's mouth)

No. Don't say it. No.

SLUSHY

Your father died, and you can't depend on anyone. You don't believe in anything. Well, you can believe in me. I'll be your friend.

(offers him a snow cone)

Now have a snow cone. Everybody loves a snow cone.

JAMIE

Thanks. So, what do friends do?

CUT TO --

And... UPBEAT MUSIC! Jamie and Slushy do a goofing around New York City MONTAGE:

SUBWAY

Jamie and Slushy don't pay the fare, but jump over the turnstiles. Both laugh.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

Slushy and Jamie look out the windows of the Statue's crown. Both laugh.

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Still laughing, Slushy and Jamie stand atop the Empire State Building. Slushy makes a snowball and tosses it over the side.

The snowball falls to the ground and crashes through the sidewalk. A gusher of water and smoke shoots up.

Slushy and Jamie laugh and laugh.

The MUSIC ends.

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jamie lets Slushy into the apartment. Both are laughing and carrying New York souvenirs.

SLUSHY

What a day. I love New York.

JAMIE

You're a great guy, Slushy. I mean I don't believe one word about you being a snowman and all that crap about the spirit of Christmas, but I like you as a friend...

SLUSHY

But I am a snowman! And I embody the spirit of Christmas personified! Why, Santa is my best friend!

JAMIE

(patronizing)

Santa? Santa Claus? Your best friend is an imaginary advertising icon? Look, Slushy, if we want to stay friends you should keep your religion to yourself...

SLUSHY

But Santa is my bestest friend in the world! And he could be your friend, Jamie...

A key RATTLES in the door. Jamie jumps.

JAMIE

Oh no, Margaret is home! Hide!

SLUSHY

Where?

JAMIE

(in a panic)

In the closet! Wait! If she wore a coat, she'll open the closet! Quick, my bedroom! No, her bedroom!

SLUSHY

What about the bathroom?

The key RATTLES in the lock yet again. Both look.

JAMIE

Hide in the kitchen! Margaret doesn't cook!

Slushy runs to the kitchen as the door swings open. Margaret comes in, carrying a small bag. Jamie smiles a guilty smile.

MARGARET

Hello, Jamie. My, don't you look guilty? What did you do today?

JAMIE

Nothing. What's in the bag?

MARGARET

I have a surprise for you. I'm making dinner!

JAMIE

(shocked)

WHAT?! You're going to cook?!

Margaret heads for the kitchen. Jamie chases after her.

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

In a panic, Slushy looks for a place to hide. In the cupboards, the broom closet, under the sink. Then he sees the freezer. He looks at the camera.

SLUSHY

Kids, don't try this at home.

Slushy squeezes his big body into the small freezer. Ice shaves off and falls to the floor. He shuts the door.

A beat later Jamie and Margaret enter, and Margaret slips on the ice on the floor.

MARGARET

What's this ice on the floor?
Did the cleaning woman drink
her lunch again?

Margaret opens the freezer and gasps!

Close on the smushed face of Slushy, stuffed in the freezer.

SLUSHY

Take all the ice you want. I
got plenty.

Margaret grabs Slushy and pulls him out of the freezer.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Margaret drags Slushy toward the front door. Jamie trails.

JAMIE

Wait! I can explain! Slushy's my friend!

SLUSHY

Pleased to meet you. Any mother of Jamie's is a friend of mine.

MARGARET

What did I tell you about friends?
What did I tell you about trusting people?

JAMIE

Slushy is different. He's funny, he's smart. Well, he's not smart. But he's special.

Unimpressed, Margaret opens the front door.

HALLWAY

Margaret tugs Slushy out.

MARGARET

Jamie Eric Cooper, I absolutely forbid you to ever see this man again!

Margaret tosses Slushy down the hall.

He slides down the tile into the open elevator! Slushy hits the back wall, the doors close, and the elevator starts down.

EXT - APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Andy Williams holds the door open. Slushy woefully shuffles out, rubbing his backside.

ANDY WILLIAMS

So, Mr. Slushy, I guess you'll be headed back to the North Pole now.

(sarcastic)

Be sure and tell Santa what a big success you were!

Musical STING.

Slushy stops. Andy Williams has touched him. An emotion builds, then explodes within him.

SLUSHY

No! Men of snow DO NOT QUIT!

(shouting to the skies)

I swear right now that with God as my witness, both Jamie and Margaret will believe in Christmas, or I'll never be Slushy again!

Slushy marches triumphantly into the night. Andy Williams smiles and turns to us.

ANDY WILLIAMS

(sings)

*Well, that was the first act turn,
It's something that you learn.
If you've gone and read a lot,
Like Aristotle's rules of plot...*

He is interrupted by a SHERIFF with a paper.

SHERIFF

Mr. Williams? I have something for you.

(hands him the paper)

A restraining order. You are not to come within 1000 yards of Margaret Cooper or her son Jamie.

ANDY WILLIAMS

Gee. That's tough on me.

CUT TO --

INT - BUSINESS MEETING - DAY

Kurt sits with BUSINESS PEOPLE who represent and use products like flowers, cards and candy. For example, the CANDY BUSINESSMAN eats candy. Margaret leads the meeting.

MARGARET

Guilt.

(pause)

Why do lovers buy flowers on Valentines Day? Guilt. Why do Grandparents buy candy for grandkids on Easter? Guilt. And why does anyone put themselves through the hell of Holiday shopping for anything except guilt!

The Business People nod to each other. She's good.

MARGARET

Now from a marketing angle, what is the most worthless holiday? The 4th of July!

(spitting out the words)

Families! Cookouts! Barbecue! Loving! Makes me want to puke. Where is the guilt? Where is the sick, compulsive giving? That's where my plan comes in.

She unveils a poster: "Christmas II: Christmas in July!" It shows Santa throwing gifts to a family sitting by a pool.

MARGARET

July 4: Christmas II. Christmas in July! It's completely disconnected from any religious connotations that would offend anyone! We'll use guilt, feelings of inadequacy and fear of humiliation to send merchandise flying out the doors!

FLOWER BUSINESSMAN

But is this going to sell flowers?

CANDY BUSINESSMAN

And candy! We want to sell more candy!

Margaret unveils a poster of a Sprite carrying candy and flowers.

MARGARET

I'm glad you both asked that. We've reached into ancient mythology to put a spin on some new characters. For example, meet Odin. Formerly the Norse God of war, he's now Odear, as in "Oh dear, did I remember to buy the Christmas II candy and flowers for my sweetie? I better if I want to get some!"

LIQUOR BUSINESSWOMAN

(pouring herself a beer)

Screw the candy and flowers! We already sell plenty of beer on the 4th!

Margaret unveils a poster of a Nymph swilling beer.

MARGARET

Well, we've also adapted Bacchus, the Greek spirit of heavy drinking into Bacito, the playful Christmas II sprite of overconsumption! His motto is: "Booze, it's what's for dinner!"

A CARD BUSINESSMAN, surrounded by greeting cards, also objects.

CARD BUSINESSMAN

I'm with the drunk. I mean, why step on someone else's holiday? People buy cards for "Secretary Day," "Granddaughter Day"... they buy cards for anything! Why mess with the 4th of July?

MARGARET

(improvising)

Well -- what if we bump it a week?

FLOWER BUSINESSMAN

(checking his schedule)

No go. That's "National Buy Your Buddy Some Flowers Week."

MARGARET

The week after, then?

CANDY SALESMAN

(checking his schedule)

Uh-uh. The "National Chocolate Festival."

MARGARET

(frustrated)

What about...

CARD SALESMAN

(interrupting her)

And then you hit "National Send a Card Just Because Week."

MARGARET

(has the answer)

It's so simple. Since Christmas is December 25th, why don't we make Christmas II July 25th?

They all check their schedules... and then there's a murmur of ascent! Margaret smiles.

MARGARET

And since there are no objections, July 25th it is!

CUT TO --

EXT - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jamie plays alone in the snow. Disheartened, moping, he starts rolling another snowman.

We see him through BINOCULARS.

UP ON A ROOFTOP

Watching through binoculars is Andy Williams.

ANDY WILLIAMS

(sings)

*From a thousand yards away
I can see that Jamie is sad today.*

IN THE PLAYGROUND

Jamie builds his poor attempt at a snowman. Then a shadow falls over him.

SLUSHY

You can make a better snowman than that, and I'm living proof. You mad at me?

Jamie looks up, smiles, then jumps to his feet. He hugs Slushy happily!

JAMIE

Slushy! No, it's Margaret's problem she doesn't like Christmas, not yours.

SLUSHY

I should have known it was your Mom who made you feel the way you do about Christmas. I didn't put two and two together. Probably because I can't add two and two.

JAMIE

(he grins)

It's ok. What do you want to do today, friend?

SLUSHY

I have some people I want you to meet.

JAMIE

What sort of people?

SLUSHY

Trust me. C'mon!

EXT - ALLEY - DAY

Jamie and Slushy walk down an alley lined with packing crates.

SLUSHY

I'm looking for some old friends who
hit some hard times.

They find a line of crates with a sign: "The King Family."

JAMIE

The King Family? Aren't they dead?

SLUSHY

Nah, they still play the Country Fair
Circuit.

The KING FAMILY crawl out: DAD, MOM, SIS, BRO, and the TWINS
in matching red sweaters. They sing in harmony.

KING FAMILY

(singing)

*Slushy, Slushy, how have you been?
It seems like years,
You look a little thin.
The world turned away from Christmas.
It wasn't the same,
We weren't to blame.
Slushy, Slushy, we've had bad luck.
We used to love Christmas,
Now we think Christmas sucks.*

INT - POOL HALL - NIGHT

A neon sign flickers only "OOL." The place is so tough the
motorcycles park inside. Jamie and Slushy look out of place.

JAMIE

Are you sure this is it?

We hear "The March of the Wooden Soldiers." Milling among
the BIKERS are three life-sized WOODEN SOLDIERS with wooden
beer guts. They hustle pool. SOLDIER #1 sinks a tough shot.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1

I win!

BIKER

You win? You cheat!

The Biker slams his stick down on the head of WOODEN SOLDIER
#1. But the cue, not his head, shatters.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1
 I'm a Wooden Soldier, you moron! My
 head's made of wood!
 (to other Soldiers)
 Get him!

The Wooden Soldiers jump the Biker, showing no mercy.

WOODEN SOLDIERS (all)
 Wooden Soldiers rule!
 Wooden Soldiers rule!

SLUSHY
 Hey, Wooden Soldiers! Are you guys
 up for a Christmas Parade?

They look up.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1
 Sure, Slushy.
 (beat)
 Lemme just finish my beer.

The wood man delivers a final kick to the prone Biker.

EXT - GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS! - DAY

Outside a club: "EXOTIC DANCERS - Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah."

INT - VIEWER BOOTH - DAY

Slushy and Jamie sit in a small booth. They face a window covered by a dark screen. Jamie holds a dollar.

SLUSHY
 The dollar goes in there.

JAMIE
 How do you know?

Slushy awkwardly shrugs. Jamie inserts the money, and "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" plays. The screen rises. Shocked, Jamie covers his eyes.

But Slushy watches. He leans forward, smiling as a woman's shadow dances across his face.

SLUSHY
 Hmm, it must be jelly, cause jam don't
 shake like that.

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY (o.s.)
You like, sailor?

SLUSHY
Aren't you the Sugar Plum Fairy?

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY (o.s.)
Yeah, I usta be.

CUT TO --

EXT - McMAHAN, TATE & STEVENS - NIGHT

The Madison Avenue office is quiet at night.

INT - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Facing a bank of monitors, a sleeping SECURITY GUARD snores.
There's a newspaper over his face.

Behind him, Jamie and Slushy sneak on tip toes. They whisper.

SLUSHY
Are you sure your Mom has plenty of
toys here? Cause we need them to
spread the Christmas spirit.

JAMIE
We got 'em, but I'm not sure you'll
want 'em.

SLUSHY
Nonsense! All toys are good toys!

Jamie and Slushy come to a large vault. The steel door has a
skull and crossbones and a sign that reads: "DANGER! NO
ADMITTANCE! THIS MEANS YOU!"

Nervous pause. Then Jamie spins the tumblers, unlocking the
combination.

JAMIE
Margaret won't let anyone in here. She
says it reminds her of her failures.

With a groan, the vault door slowly swings open...

INT - VAULT - NIGHT

There are many cobwebs inside the vault, but Slushy and Jamie
push through. Jamie looks around, amazed.

JAMIE

Wow. Look at all this crap.

The basement is filled with failed promotional tie-ins. We see Vanilla Ice Sing-Along Microphones, "I (heart) World League of American Football" T-shirts, "How to Lambada" records, Biosphere model kits, and a large pile of "Waterworld" swim trunks.

JAMIE

This basement is full of stuff Margaret can't give away. No one wants it.

Stepping out of the shadows, the King Family sings.

KING FAMILY

(singing)

*Exactly, exactly, it's sad but it's true.
What would you do if no one wanted you?
They're the failed promotional tie-ins
Tied-in to careers that have died.
The tie-ins they flopped
The dollars they stopped.
And they're rejected by all girls and boys.*

The camera lingers over the failed promotional tie-ins.

KING FAMILY

(singing)

*The Metric System and "Supertrain."
"The Chevy Chase Show" and "Steve Urkel-Os."
"Doctor Doolittle" and "Dune."
Can Slushy give away all of these toys?*

JAMIE

(singing)

Not unless he finds stupid girls and boys.

SLUSHY

(happy)

Hey, I didn't know you could sing!

CUT TO --

INT - HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

In the lobby of a plush hotel, what looks like a Christmas tree walks up to the DESK CLERK. Then from among the branches pops the sweaty green head of OLD TANNENBAUM. He has a Yiddish accent.

OLD TANNENBAUM

A hundred years old and every Christmas I make a few kopeks. At least I think I'm a hundred years old. Maybe I'll cut myself down and count the rings.

(to the Clerk)

You! I'm Old Tannenbaum, the talking Christmas tree. Where's Slushy's party?

DESK CLERK

Yes, Mr Tannenbaum. Suite 217.

INT - HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

It's a madhouse, a riot of holiday sights and sounds.

There are many wacky holiday characters: CHRISTMAS BEARS, CHRISTMAS ROCKING HORSES, CHRISTMAS BIRDS, CHRISTMAS MOOSEs.

The King Family and Sugar Plum Fairy are also there. Jamie stands, flanked by the Wooden Soldiers.

JAMIE

People, settle down! If you could please consult your info packets...

Jamie holds up "Slushy's Christmas Parade Plans." The Audience open their plans. Wooden Soldiers hold them upside down.

JAMIE

And since he made free copies for us, we all owe thanks to Good King Wenceslas of "Good King Wenceslas Copy Shop."

GOOD KING WENCESLAS stands, waving. But the King Family and a CHRISTMAS BRASS BAND take his introduction as a song cue.

KING FAMILY

(singing)

*Good King Wenceslas looked out,
On the feast of Steven.
What he saw it made him shout,
Clean and crisp and even.*

JAMIE

Stop! Stop!

The Christmas Brass Band and the King Family trail off.

JAMIE

Please, that was an introduction, not a song cue for "Good King Wenceslas!"

KING FAMILY

(singing)

Good King Wenceslas looked out,
On the feast of Steven...

JAMIE

Oh, shut up!

Jamie gives up. Slushy answers a knock at the door. A BELLBOY holds a platter of club sandwiches and a check.

BELLBOY

Sign here, please.

SLUSHY

But I didn't order club sandwiches.
We have finger foods.

A Monkey on a unicycle grabs the tray. Slushy follows.

IN THE BATHROOM

The Monkey wheels into the bathroom. Slushy is surprised to see Animal Acts like snakes, bears, and goats. A Seal cavorts in the bath. A SEAL TRAINER is on the phone.

SEAL TRAINER

(to phone)

And prime rib. Charge it all to Slushy.

SLUSHY

I'm made of snow, not money! Out!

CUT TO --

LATER

The Christmas Gang watches in stunned silence as Parade Security hustles the Animal Acts out the door.

SLUSHY

Anyone else who thinks that they're bigger than this parade can follow those animals out the door! This is for Christmas. We're on the same team! And there is no "I" in team! There is no "I" in parade!

WOODEN SOLDIER #1

And there is no "I" in Christmas!

SLUSHY

(on a roll)

New Yorkers have turned away from the Spirit of Christmas! But the parade will change all that! When we march out of the staging area tomorrow between noon and one p.m. the spirit of Christmas will be a spark! And when we turn west on Avenue of the Americas between one and two p.m. marching only on the right side of the street to keep traffic tie-ups to a minimum the Christmas spirit will flame! And when we reach Times Square at between two and two thirty the spirit of Christmas will explode!

WOODEN SOLDIER #2

Did the Japanese go and sit down and have dinner with Pearl Harbor before they bombed them? No!

SLUSHY

Right! Now tomorrow let's get out there and parade! Parade! Parade! Let's kick some major Christmas butt!

The Crowd leaps to their feet! They cheer!

CROWD

Slushy! Slushy! Slushy!

CUT TO --

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

The next day, Slushy supervises much activity. Wooden Soldiers hammer together a float. The Christmas Brass Band warms up. The Sugar Plum fairy does ballet stretching.

KING FAMILY

(sings)

*When New York City sees our Christmas Parade,
They'll say it's the bestest parade ever made.
And they'll say they've seen nothing better,
Than our matching red sweaters.*

Slushy helps Jamie up on the float.

JAMIE

We should have left the King Family in that alley.

SLUSHY

Jamie, I was worried your Mom wouldn't let you come.

JAMIE

Me? I never miss a parade. And I lied.

ON THE SIDELINES

Old Tannenbaum watches an ASSISTANT string him with lights.

OLD TANNENBAUM

When I was young we didn't have parades.
Me and a few hot Christmas Fairies would
dance and throw some fairy dust. No big
deal. The whole thing took five minutes.

ON THE FLOAT

JAMIE

Slushy, why do you put up with the
hassle of bringing the spirit of
Christmas to people who don't
appreciate you?

SLUSHY

It's my nature. Life is hopeless, so
all you have is hope. Stupid, huh?

JAMIE

I think it's sweet. It's a deep
thought for a guy who has a head
full of slush.

A tender moment. Jamie sees the Wooden Soldiers erecting a
large cross.

JAMIE

Slushy, what's the cross for?

SLUSHY

Only the highlight of the parade.
(holds his arms wide apart)
My reenactment of the crucifixion.

JAMIE

Sounds a little tacky. Also sounds
like Easter.

The Wooden Soldiers put down their hammers.

WOODEN SOLDIER

Float's done, Ice-Man.

Jamie picks up a huge BULLHORN.

JAMIE

Places, please. People get ready.
The Christmas parade is ready to roll.
Keep your lines straight, your heads
up, and smiles in your hearts.

Jamie starts to step off the float. Slushy stops him.

SLUSHY

Now where do you think you're going?

JAMIE

This is your parade. I don't want
to get in the way.

SLUSHY

Jamie, it wouldn't be a parade without
you.

JAMIE

Ok. You talked me into it.
(he grins, then takes the bullhorn)
Little Drummer Boy? Gimme a funky
Christmas beat! Kick it!

The LITTLE DRUMMER BOY plays the drum to start the parade.

EXT - STREET - DAY

The Christmas Parade rolls out! The Little Drummer Boy leads,
followed by the Wooden Soldiers marching in precision.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1

*We're the Wooden Soldiers true,
We bring Christmas Day to you.*

WOODEN SOLDIERS (all)

*We're the Wooden Soldiers true,
We bring Christmas Day to you.*

EXT - STREET - DAY

As the parade takes off down the street, the CROWD turns,
watching.

ON THE SIDEWALK

A SMILING ELDERLY WHITE MAN, happy with the spirit of
Christmas, takes the hand of a SMILING BLACK WOMAN, who in
turn takes the hand of a SMILING HISPANIC BOY, who takes the
hand of a SMILING AMERICAN INDIAN. All smile in love and
brotherhood, their eyes twinkling with joy.

ON THE PARADE

The Wooden Soldiers march, the Brass Band Plays in tune, the King Family sings on key, Old Tannenbaum dances slowly, the Sugar Plum Fairy waves her wand over all. Slushy and Jamie toss toys to the crowd.

EXT - REVIEWING STAND - DAY

Andy Williams sits on a reviewing stand. He wears a blazer with the logo of "The Christmas Spirit Network."

ANDY WILLIAMS

Welcome to the first annual Slushy Saves the Spirit of Christmas in New York Parade. Now let's check in and see the Spirit of Christmas spread in New York.

EXT - TAXI - DAY

An angry TAXI DRIVER is stuck in the traffic of the parade.

TAXI DRIVER

A Christmas parade? What a city! Some day a rain is gonna come and wash the filth off the sidewalks...

A Macaulay Culkin doll flies into his arms. The man grins.

TAXI DRIVER

Hey, a "Pagemaster" doll! Not a recouper, but it taught me that books can be your friends. I feel good about me.

EXT - ALLEY - DAY

A MUGGER robs two TOURISTS as the parade passes.

TOURISTS

Don't kill us! Please don't kill us!

They hear the music from the parade. The Magic takes the Mugger, and he smiles.

MUGGER

I remember this song. Christmas was the only day my drunken father wouldn't beat me. Ah, memories.

(to Tourists)

You know, I'm not gonna to kill you. Cause I feel good about Christmas, I'm just gonna cut you a little.

INT - CITY COUNCIL - DAY

The CITY COUNCIL meets. The MAYOR chairs the meeting. A CITY COUNCILWOMAN sits beside him.

CITY COUNCILWOMAN

This tax increase will hurt businesses and cost people their jobs. So I think we owe ourselves a big pay raise!

MAYOR

All in favor of destroying the economy and a big pay raise say "aye"...

Music drifts. The King Family can be heard faintly in the distance. The Magic of Christmas fills the room.

CITY COUNCILWOMAN

Mr. Mayor, in the spirit of Christmas, I say we work harder! Let's slash our salaries! Let's lower taxes!

Cheers fill the room.

INT - U.N. CHAMBERS - DAY

The CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE fills the United Nations. The SECRETARY GENERAL is at the podium.

SECRETARY GENERAL

187 to nothing. World peace passes.

AT THE PARADE

While Jamie watches, Slushy argues with a PARADE DRIVER over driving the float.

PARADE DRIVER

You sure you know how to drive a float?

SLUSHY

Santa says I'm an excellent driver.

Shrugging, the Parade Driver stops the float and lets Slushy take the steering wheel.

SLUSHY

Now which pedal do I use? The
little one is the brake and the
big one is the radio, right?

Slushy hits the gas, and the float takes off, speeding down the street!

WIDER ON THE PARADE

The float goes faster! In front of the float, the Paraders walk quicker and quicker!

We see Old Tannenbaum sweat as he jogs down the street.

OLD TANNENBAUM

Oh, I'm one hot tree, somebody
spritz me down! I'm dropping
needles!

The float accelerates wildly, pushing the parade along.

The Christmas Brass Band speed up their song as they march faster and faster.

ON THE FLOAT

Slushy waves obliviously to the crowd. Jamie holds on as the float bumps along. You can see Paraders running in front of them as the float picks up speed.

SLUSHY

I told you. The answer to all
the problems in the world is a
good parade.

JAMIE

I think Christmas is a good thing.
Almost as good as you.
(pulls out a toy)
Hey! A "Rocketeer" mask!

Slushy puts on the mask. He wasn't driving well before, and with the mask he can't see anything at all.

WIDER ON THE PARADE

The float jumps the curb. It begins chasing people down the sidewalk.

ON SLUSHY

He chuckles as Jamie holds on tighter.

SLUSHY

Look at the crowd. See how Christmas
fills their hearts with joy?

WIDE

People are running for their lives.

A frightened ROASTED CHESTNUT VENDOR abandons his cart and
takes off. The float is barreling down upon it.

Jamie screams.

JAMIE

Slushy! Watch out!!

SLUSHY

slams on the brakes. The float suddenly stops short, tipping
forward wildly! Slushy is catapulted into the sky.

HIGH ABOVE

Slushy flies through the air! With the helmet still on his
head, he soars like the "Rocketeer."

EXT - TIMES SQUARE

Slushy flies past a giant billboard: "Leonard Nimoy in The
Will Rogers Follies!" Nimoy grins and twirls a lasso.

Slushy zooms by, then crashes straight into the "CATS! Now and
Forever" sign. SPLAT!!

Like a snowball, Slushy sticks for a moment... then slides
slowly down the sign, leaving a trail of water.

EXT - SIDEWALK - DAY

The pile of snow that was Slushy hits the sidewalk. No
movement or sound comes from the snow.

DISSOLVE TO --

INT/EXT - SOMEWHERE SHORT OF HEAVEN - DAY/NIGHT

Slushy floats down a long tunnel towards a white light.
HEAVENLY VOICES whisper.

HEAVENLY WHISPER #1 (v.o.)

Rosebud...

HEAVENLY WHISPER #2 (v.o.)

If you build it he will come...

HEAVENLY WHISPER #3 (v.o.)

And the Password is "tortoise"...

DISSOLVE TO --

INT - HEAVENLY WAITING ROOM - FOREVER

A glowing, light filled room. White curtains float in space, swaying on a breeze. Slushy sits on a couch, flipping through an ancient issue of "Highlights for Children."

The RECEPTIONIST, a heavenly blond, listens as former celebrity GARY COLEMAN argues his case.

GARY COLEMAN

Look, I'm not dead. I know I'm
not dead. I'm just in a career lull.

RECEPTIONIST

Take it up with your Creator, Mr. Coleman.
(to Slushy)
The Lord will see you now, Slushy.

DISSOLVE TO --

INT - HEAVENLY OFFICE - ETERNITY

A huge, brightly white office. Slushy sits, facing the biggest desk you've ever seen. Behind the desk is THE LORD. He wears a robe, has a long beard and smokes a cigar.

SLUSHY

Hello, Lord.

THE LORD

Slushy, I wanted to say something to
you.

SLUSHY

Yes, King of Kings?

THE LORD

Slushy, blasphemy is not funny.

SLUSHY

Blasphemy, Lord of Lords?

THE LORD

I mean I've been laughing at some of the jokes. I do have a sense of humor.

SLUSHY

Yes, Fisher of Men.

THE LORD

But I did not like the Crucifixion gag.

(rubs his wrists)

Hurts like hell, but I guess that was the point. But watch the jokes about Me. You don't want letters about Me. You don't want boycotts about Me. Keep Me out of it.

SLUSHY

Not a problem, Messiah. But can I ask one thing, your Godliness? Am I dead?

THE LORD

No, Slushy, you won't arrive here until global warming melts all the ice on Earth. About fifteen years. See you then.

The Lord waves his cigar. The office fades away.

DISSOLVE TO --

BACK ON THE SIDEWALK

The pile of snow that was Slushy has not moved.

Surrounded by Paraders, Jamie cries over the snow.

JAMIE

Slushy! I believed! I believed in you! For the first time in my life since that tragic dry cleaning accident I believed. Please come back! Don't do the Big Chill!

Jamie kneels and cries harder.

But then -- Slushy's eyes open! He's fine, but he sees Jamie crying and decides to tease him a little. Slushy makes his voice faint.

SLUSHY

(weak)

Jamie? And do you believe in Christmas?

JAMIE
Oh, Slushy, I do! I do believe in
Christmas!

SLUSHY
(weaker)
And Santa Claus? Do you believe in him?

JAMIE
(stubborn)
Ok, I believe in Santa Claus, too.

SLUSHY
(still weaker)
And do you believe the star of Bethlehem
was a supernova? Or was it a unique
conjunction of the planets?

JAMIE
(catching on)
Slushy, are you dying or what?

SLUSHY
Babe, I'm not dead yet!

A swelling CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE sounds as Slushy leaps to his
feet!

A CHEER goes up from the crowd! They all chant!

CROWD (all)
Slushy! Slushy! Slushy!

Jamie beams.

CUT TO --

INT - AD AGENCY STUDIO - DAY

Margaret is supervising another commercial. A banner says
"Get Plowed with a Snowman." CARVER, a nasty drunk in a cheap
snowman suit, reads his lines in front of a pyramid of
"Snowman" bottles.

CARVER
"This holiday, get plowed with a
Snowman. The holiday treat with
rum, gin and coconut, a Snowman
is a blizzard of good taste. And
it tastes good."
(tastes drink, shudders)
Vile.

DIRECTOR

Cut! Carver, you made a face like you were going to vomit.

MARGARET

You are supposed to make the drink look delicious!

CARVER

(snide)

Hey, I'm an actor, not a miracle worker!

DIRECTOR

Margaret, Carver, please.

(to Carver)

Ready? And... again. Action!

CARVER

"This plowed, get holiday with a Snowman..."

(pause)

Excuse me one moment.

Carver turns and VOMITS!

Margaret groans and rubs her temples. She goes to leave -- bumping into Kurt, smiling lecherously.

KURT

Problem, Margaret? Just because "Christmas II" may go doesn't mean you can ignore your "smaller" tasks.

MARGARET

There's no problem, Kurt. What makes you think there's a problem?

A SNORING noise is heard. Kurt points down.

Margaret looks down to see Carver sleeping happily, his arms wrapped around her legs.

KURT

I hate to disturb him. He looks so peaceful.

Kurt KICKS Carver. Carver only yawns.

CARVER

Five more minutes, Mom.

KURT
(threatening)
The higher ups are watching you,
Margaret. I know Mr. McMahan doesn't
think you can do the job... but I
support you, Margaret. What are you
going to do, Margaret? We need this
"Snowman" spot by tomorrow, Margaret.

Margaret is angry... but smiles tightly.

MARGARET
I'll get the spot finished. Kurt.
And thank you for your support, Kurt.

EXT - McMAHAN, TATE & STEVENS - DAY

Furious, trailing papers from her briefcase, Margaret storms
out of the office. She mutters to herself as she hails a cab,
mocking Kurt.

MARGARET
"What are you going to do, Margaret?
We need this 'Snowman' spot by
tomorrow, Margaret."
(hails a cab)
TAXI!

A taxi pulls up.

INT - TAXI - DAY

Margaret gets into the back seat, still muttering.

MARGARET
"Mr. McMahan doesn't think you
can do the job." Urgh!

The formerly angry Taxi Driver is now happy. He asks.

TAXI DRIVER
Seasons greetings and best holiday
wishes. Where to, please?

MARGARET
(not hearing)
I hate that Kurt! I hate him!

TAXI DRIVER
(louder, but still happy)
Where to, during this brightest of
holiday seasons?

MARGARET

Why are you so happy? Don't you drive a cab in New York? Isn't your life in constant danger and...

(sees "Pagemaster" doll)

Hey! Where did you get that doll?

TAXI DRIVER

Nice, huh? I got it from that snowman!

The Taxi Driver points to the crowd swarming around the cab.

OUTSIDE

Margaret gets out of the cab, holding the "Pagemaster" doll.

Around her, a crowd of cheering New Yorkers CHANT happily. A TV REPORTER is covering the story.

CROWD

Slushy! Slushy! Slushy!

REPORTER

(talking to a TV camera)

Normally cynical New Yorkers rallied around someone who brought the Spirit of Christmas to the city. A snowman.

Slushy is carried on the shoulders of the cheering Crowd.

SLUSHY

Hello New York! I love you!

MARGARET

(startled)

Hey, it's that stupid snowman!

The Crowd marches by, also carrying Jamie.

CLOSEUP - MARGARET

Total surprise. But then -- she gets a wicked, wonderful idea...

MARGARET

Well thank you, Jamie...!

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Looking guilty for coming home late, Jamie lets himself in.

JAMIE
Mom, I mean Margaret, I'm sorry I'm
late! Margaret! Margaret!

MARGARET (o.s.)
I'm in the kitchen, dear.

JAMIE
(baffled)
In the kitchen?

Jamie heads into the kitchen.

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Jamie cautiously enters, sniffing at the air like something
smells foul. Margaret is stirring several boiling pots on the
stove.

JAMIE
Hi, Margaret. Are you mad I'm late?

MARGARET
You know I trust you. Now sit down.

JAMIE
(sits)
You trust me? And what's that smell?

MARGARET
I cooked!
(loads food on a plate)
Here's your favorite. Spaghetti
with lots of oregano!

Margaret cheerily sets the plate in front of Jamie.

JAMIE
Actually, my favorite food is pizza
from the place down the block.

Jamie tastes the food. It's awful, but he hides his reaction.
Margaret sits across from him.

MARGARET
Jamie, I'd like to talk to you about
your delightful friend, the snowman.

Jamie puts down his fork, interested.

CUT TO --

EXT - McMAHAN, TATE & STEVENS - DAY

Jamie and Slushy are walking into Margaret's ad agency.

SLUSHY

Are you sure about this, Jamie? Your Mom seemed a little miffed when she threw me against the wall the other night.

JAMIE

Margaret says your parade impressed her. She wants to meet you.

A HOT DOG VENDOR gives Slushy the thumbs up.

HOT DOG VENDOR

Love you, snowman!

INT - MARGARET'S OFFICE - DAY

Margaret and Kurt face Jamie and Slushy.

KURT

Thank you for coming in, Slushy.

MARGARET

Can I get you something? A cold drink, a popsicle, chilled gazpacho...?

(changes subject)

Like I told Jamie, I am really impressed by you, Slushy. Organizing that parade and reaching all those people's hearts with your touching belief in Christmas.

SLUSHY

It comes natural to me.

MARGARET

You have a very sincere quality when you're on camera. And I'd like to use that in a campaign for Snowman liquor.

SLUSHY

Snowman liquor?

KURT

(grinning)

Slushy, you'd be everywhere! On billboards, on buses, radio and television. Great market saturation.

Jamie is confused.

JAMIE

But wouldn't Slushy plugging a cheap drink hurt his ability to get people to listen to his real message of the spirit of Christmas?

MARGARET

(miffed at Jamie)

On the contrary. The exposure Slushy gets selling Snowmen would only increase the public's awareness of his "real" message, not to mention his believability.

KURT

And there is the matter of the money. We would be paying Slushy for his valuable time.

SLUSHY

(flattered)

Well, that would be nice. I mean I wouldn't take the money for myself, but some checks to my favorite charity couldn't hurt, could it..?

(beat)

Where do I sign?

INT - PSYCHIATRISTS OFFICE - DAY

A corporate psychiatrists office. Slushy lays on the couch while DR YOUNG asks him questions.

DR YOUNG

Now, Slushy, just lay back and relax. This is a standard preemployment interview that all the new hires at McMahan, Tate and Stevens go through. I'm just going to ask you a few questions, and you answer as truthfully as you can. Ok?

SLUSHY

Okey-dokey, arti-chokey.

DR YOUNG

Right. Now, your full name is?

SLUSHY

Snowman, comma, Slushy the.

DR YOUNG

And your place of birth.

SLUSHY
The North Pole. Where else?

DR YOUNG
(writing)
"The North Pole." Ok, how old are you?

SLUSHY
I have no idea. Probably eternal.

DR YOUNG
You're eternal. Any next of kin?

SLUSHY
I guess, Santa Claus, probably.

DR YOUNG
Santa Claus?

SLUSHY
And I have a cousin at the South Pole,
but we're not close. I call maybe once,
twice a year.

DR YOUNG
And your biggest fear?

SLUSHY
Melting. I'm made out of snow.

Dr Young closes his notebook.

DR YOUNG
I think I have everything I need.
Thank you, Mr. Slushy.

SLUSHY
Thanks doc, I feel a lot better.

Slushy gets up and shakes his hand, then leaves.

Dr Young calmly walks to the window, opens it, and jumps.

CUT TO --

INT - STUDIO - DAY

Slushy sits on a stool as bright lights shine on him.
Margaret watches a PHOTOGRAPHER and PHOTO ASSISTANT pace
around Slushy like he is a supermodel. Jamie stands in back.

MARGARET

Now we don't want you to do anything
you're not comfortable with, Slushy.

(to Photographer)

What do you think?

PHOTOGRAPHER

He's got the look.

SLUSHY

Turn the lights down. I'm a snowman.
I just got over a melting trauma.

PHOTOGRAPHER

(to Assistant)

Lower the lights. Load up some ASA 1000.

The lights are lowered. Slushy is more comfortable.

MARGARET

You look great in your snowman suit.

SLUSHY

I was born this way.

MARGARET

A method actor I do not need!

(to Photographer)

Let's shoot it.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bring in the Sexy Elf.

A blonde model dressed as a SEXY ELF snuggles next to Slushy.
He holds up a bottle of Snowman. A flash.

We see the ad: "Get plowed with a Snowman!"

INT - LIMO - DAY

Jamie and Slushy ride in a limo liberally stocked with
"Snowman."

JAMIE

You know Slushy, soon you'll be famous.
Your picture will be plastered around
town, and I know you'll be tempted.

A liquor truck drives by. On the side is Slushy's ad. He
sees it and gets excited.

SLUSHY

Hey! My picture! My picture!

JAMIE

You'll have the opportunity to do things you never did before. Please, don't let it go to your head.

SLUSHY

Hey, babe, I won't change.
(Slushy drinks a Snowman in one gulp)
I'll still be the same old Slushy.

JAMIE

Did you ask Margaret about drinking those?

SLUSHY

She says it would increase my believability if I drank as many Snowmen as possible.

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Andy Williams strolls in the park, singing.

ANDY WILLIAMS

(sings)

*Now Slushy rides a rocket ship to fame
And he will be the only one to blame.
If fame goes to his head
Like Elvis, will he wind up dead?
In Graceland, on the toilet, in the rain?*

INT - CITY COUNCIL - DAY

The Mayor and the City Councilwoman flank Slushy as they hand over the key to the city. PHOTOGRAPHERS flash.

MAYOR

With great pleasure, I present this key to the city to Slushy the Snowman.

SLUSHY

Everyone, keep Christmas in your hearts.
And keep drinking those Snowmen.

All laugh.

INT - RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL - DAY

The ROCKETTES dance by a big bottle of Snowman. At the end of the line is Slushy. The AUDIENCE roars. Then Slushy gestures to the wings, and he pulls out Jamie to high kick with him.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
Oh Slushy at first had no problems
with his fame. But that didn't
last long.

Slushy chugs a drink, then falls off the stage into the pit.

EXT - SUPERMARKET OPENING - DAY

Slushy opens a supermarket, scissors in one hand and Snowman
in the other. He snips the ceremonial ribbon.

SLUSHY
I now declare this bridge open...
(he corrects himself)
I mean, let this supermarket stand
forever as a tribute to our brave
fighting boys... Oh, what the heck,
free Snowmen for everybody!

Margaret and Jamie stand side by side, with very different
reactions. Margaret applauds, Jamie frowns.

INT - AD AGENCY STUDIO - DAY

Slushy is posing for more pictures, this time with TWO
BEAUTIFUL SUPERMODELS. The Photographer is ready to shoot.

PHOTOGRAPHER
That's perfect, Slushy, Girls.
Now just hold that mark.

Slushy has his arms around the Models. He lets his hands slip
down behind them, and suddenly both SLAP SLUSHY IN THE FACE!

SLUSHY
(smirking)
You girls do not know how to advance
your careers!

INT - U.N. CHAMBERS - DAY

The United Nations is in session. Slushy addresses them.
Drunk, he's pounding his shoe on the podium.

SLUSHY
What the world needs now is Snowmen,
Snowmen and more Snowmen! Thank you
very much! Slushy has left the podium!

The Secretary General whispers to Jamie.

SECRETARY GENERAL
And to think we almost had world peace.

INT - TRENDY CLUB - NIGHT

"MISS SNOWWOMAN CONTEST" reads the banner. Slushy and Margaret are judging. Each CONTESTANT wears a "Snowman" T-shirt.

MARGARET
This is tough, Slushy. How can you pick a Miss Snowwoman? They're all so very lovely.

SLUSHY
Since I can't decide, let's make this a wet T-Shirt contest!

Slushy SQUIRTS a bottle of Snowman at the Contestants. Margaret laughs and applauds.

EXT - TRENDY CLUB - NIGHT

A drunken Slushy is coming out of the club when THREE WISE MEN with a camel come up to him.

WISE MAN #1
We are three wise men. We follow a star in the East. Can you help us?

SLUSHY
The East? Open your eyes! Does this look East? This is the Upper West Side!

WISE MAN #1
(bows, retreating)
A thousand pardons, sahib.

SLUSHY
Tourists! They look at life through a pocket camera: "What? No flash again?"

Then a FAN OUTSIDE THE CLUB smiles, offering paper and pen.

FAN
Slushy, I'm a big fan. I love you, guy. Can I please have your autograph?

SLUSHY
(he smiles)
Sure. Anything for a fan.

Slushy takes the paper and suddenly TEARS it in half, throwing the pieces back in the Fan's face.

SLUSHY

Get a life!

Slushy pushes past the Fan. A sneering PAPARAZZI baits him.

PAPARAZZI

What's the matter, snowman? Too good to give autographs? Or can't you spell your name?

Slushy explodes! He PUNCHES the Paparazzi!

A flash from a camera freezes the scene. It becomes a PHOTO on the front page of the newspaper. The headline: "Slushy Ices Photog!"

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE & MARGARET'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jamie and Margaret eat breakfast. Margaret holds the paper, chortling at the news.

MARGARET

Slushy made the paper again. Good photo.

JAMIE

What's going on, Margaret? You're not helping Slushy -- you're hurting him! You encourage him to drink too much. He shouts at everyone. He gets into a fight and you applaud!

Close on the photo. Jamie points to Margaret in the photo, applauding as Slushy punches the Photographer.

MARGARET

Slushy? Why would I help Slushy? Why should I care about what happens to that fat schlub? I hired him as a snowman to promote "Snowman" liquor. So as long as they get his name right, why do I frigging care?

JAMIE

But what Slushy is becoming is awful. He's obnoxious, he drunken...

MARGARET

And people love him. He's a media event.

JAMIE

But Margaret...

MARGARET

You know, when I first met Slushy and tossed him out of this apartment by his ear, you got mad. You said: "Get to know Slushy, you'll like him." So I get to know Slushy, and you know what, I like the big snowy lug. And you're still mad at me!

(getting irritated)

Really, Jamie, I don't know how anyone could be your mother. You just refuse to be pleased at anything.

Margaret leaves Jamie alone. He shakes his head.

JAMIE

How did I end up on the defensive on this one?

INT - MALL - DAY

The mall is dressed up for a personal appearance by Slushy. Banners read: "Meet the Snowman." MALL SECURITY watch a CROWD with many young SLUSHY FANATICS, all dressed from head to toe in Slushy merchandise.

Backstage, Margaret and Slushy wait, Slushy behind sunglasses. Slushy's ice is all gray and dirty.

SLUSHY

Margaret, where is my check for last week's appearances?

MARGARET

Like you asked, we sent it to your favorite charity.

SLUSHY

I'm my favorite charity! Now where's my damn check?

Some YOUNG GIRLS clamor around.

YOUNG GIRLS

Slushy! We love you! Slushy!

SLUSHY
Screw you, I'm hungover! Will you
damn kids shut up!

ONSTAGE

A spot hits the stage. Margaret steps out to introduce Slushy.

MARGARET
Boys and girls of all ages, meet a
man who represents all that is good
in Christmas, and good in liquor!
The Snowman, symbol of America's
holiday drink! I give you Slushy!

Mild applause. Jamie watches from the crowd.

Slushy staggers up to the mike.

SLUSHY
Quiet down! It's Slushy! Love me!

A voice calls out.

MALL VOICE #1
You stink, Slushy!

SLUSHY
Yeah. So do you, but I drink Snowman
so I can put up with you pinheads!

Another voice calls out.

MALL VOICE #2
You sold out Christmas!

SLUSHY
Well if I was selling it, your Mama
was buying it last night. I'm outta
here. I don't need this.

Slushy turns away. The BOOS grow.

Mall Security fights to hold the crowd back.

As Slushy leaves, first one snowball, then another, hits him.
He returns to the microphone, angry at the world.

SLUSHY
You bastards. Heartless bastards.
Throwing snowballs at me, spitting on
me, calling me a baby killer...

MALL VOICE #2

Nobody called you a baby killer!

SLUSHY

Shut up! I'm on a roll!

Jamie pushes to the front.

JAMIE

Slushy! Slushy! Get off stage!
Let's go!

Slushy is shouting at the audience.

SLUSHY

You know what you can do? Do you
want to see it? Do you want to see
it?! You can all kiss my ICY BUTT!

Slushy turns around and moons the crowd!

Shocked, the SLUSHY FANATICS exclaim.

SLUSHY FANATIC #1

Slushy's not wearing any clothes!

SLUSHY FANATIC #2

Slushy never wears any clothes!
Slushy's nude!

Flashes explode! PHOTOGRAPHERS snap pictures as Slushy
wiggles his snowy behind.

SLUSHY

Turn it up! Bring the noise!
Break on through to the snowy side!

The crowd is angry, pushing and shoving!

Fights break out!

POLICE jump on stage to arrest Slushy, guns ready.

POLICEMAN

Freeze!

SLUSHY

I'm frozen!

The Police swarm on Slushy, beating him with their clubs.

CLOSEUP - JAMIE

He is terribly disappointed.

CUT TO --

INT - RESTAURANT - DAY

An "All You Can Eat" type restaurant. Slushy's parade gang is eating away, their plates piled high. They are all shaken up.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1

Well, Slushy let us down big time.

WOODEN SOLDIER #2

Imagine, the Spirit of Christmas in jail for inciting a riot. Oh, the shame!

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

When I talked to Slushy, you won't believe what he suggested I do.

WOODEN SOLDIER #1

But did you do it?

NORTH WIND

(he pushes his plate away)
I have no appetite. Slushy has me so upset. He betrayed Christmas.

The King Family arrives. For the only time in the movie, one of them speaks.

KING FAMILY FATHER

It says all you can eat, but can you believe they made us each buy our own plate! No sharing!

Old Tannenbaum joins them, his plate loaded with salad. People exchange glances.

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Old Tannenbaum, you're having salad? You're a tree. That's cannibalism.

OLD TANNENBAUM

You keep your mouth shut, or I tell everyone why you're in "The Nutcracker!"

The Sugar Plum Fairy blushes, and goes back to eating.

Andy Williams sits down at the table.

ANDY WILLIAMS

Man, the seafood salad is excellent. But let me put this whole Slushy thing in perspective, to music --

A collective GROAN around the table.

OLD TANNENBAUM
Oh, do you always have to sing?

ANDY WILLIAMS
(sings)
Well Slushy he blew it,
He had his chance and threw it --

NORTH WIND
Enough with the songs, Andy!
(he angrily jumps up)
I'm leaving! As of now, winter is
OVER! And when the temperatures
soar, let's see how that rotten
snowman deals with my brother...
the South Wind!

The North Wind throws a golf bag over his shoulder and leaves.

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

Above New York, the skies clear.

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

The sun shines on Central Park. An icicle melts.

A bank thermometer clicks up from 32 degrees to 33 degrees.

EXT - COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY

A crowd of REPORTERS waits. A van pulls up, and they rush it
with cameras and lights. POLICE hustle Slushy up the steps.
A PUBLIC DEFENDER shoos them all away.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
No questions for my client. No
questions.

Then a small voice stops them. It's a LITTLE FLOWER GIRL, a
big-eyed Keane painting come to life.

LITTLE FLOWER GIRL
Say it ain't so, Slushy. Say it
ain't so.

Slushy doesn't know what to say. The Public Defender whispers
in Slushy's ear. Then Slushy states.

SLUSHY
I plead the Fifth.
(thinks)
And could I drink that fifth after
I plead it?

INT - COURTROOM - DAY

Margaret and Jamie watch from the front row. At the Defense table, Slushy is looking at two letters, trying to read them. Defeated, he hands them to the PUBLIC DEFENDER.

SLUSHY
Read these to me? Please?

PUBLIC DEFENDER
(takes the letters)
Sure. This letter says "I believe
in you, love Jamie."

Jamie winks at Slushy.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
And this letter says "We made the
front page. Keep up the good work!
Margaret."

Margaret gives Slushy two thumbs up.

The Public Defender looks at the letters, intrigued.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
Two letters mailed to Slushy, and
delivered by the Post Office. Hmm...

The JUDGE enters -- and he's an Ito lookalike. Everyone rises. The Judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE
We're on the record in "The People Vs.
Slushy the Snowman." It's Christmas Eve,
and since my last case went longer than
expected, let's keep to the point. Mr.
Prosecutor?

PROSECUTOR
Your Honor, the prosecutor's office asks
you to set a high cash bail. The snowman
has no local ties and we have it on good
information that if he makes bail he will
be on the next sleigh to the North Pole.

JUDGE
And the defense?

The Public Defender puffs himself up -- then launches in.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Well, thank you very kindly, your Honor. Your Honor, in 1787, the Post Office was founded by Benjamin Franklin as part of the Government of the United States. Everyday, the Post Office faithfully delivers millions of pieces of mail. And it is a federal crime to willfully misdeliver the mail.

The Public Defender holds up the two letters.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

And earlier today, the Post Office delivered two letters to the court house. Two letters addressed to Slushy the Snowman.

JUDGE

Two letters? What do two letters have to do with a bail hearing?

The Public Defender gestures to the rear of the courtroom. A DOZEN MAILMEN enter with bags of mail. They heap letters on the bench in front of the Judge.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Not just two letters, your Honor. Ten thousand letters delivered by the Post Office! And all these letters show the Government of the United States recognizes this snowman as the one and only Slushy the Snowman! I thank you.

Wow. What a speech.

All heads turn to the Judge... awaiting his response. He thinks about it, considers the facts, then suddenly snaps.

JUDGE

Who cares if he's a snowman!?

That's not the issue! He's here because he incited a riot!

(he SLAMS his gavel)

The court sets bail at one million dollars! And I hold you in contempt for wasting my shopping time! Now someone please clean up this mail!

Slushy's face drops.

CUT TO --

INT - PRISON LUNCH ROOM - DAY

A sweaty Slushy waits for lunch. Voices shout at him.

PRISONER VOICE #1
You're mine, snowball!

PRISONER VOICE #2
Hey, Mama Slushy! Let's shower together!

PRISONER VOICE #3
Meet me in the freezer for a cold one!

Slushy nervously smiles at the TRUSTEE who's serving food.

SLUSHY
Could I please have some ice tea and
ice cream and ice?
(beat)
And an Otter Pop on the side?

TRUSTEE
Right. Now how about some steaming
hot soup, hot meat loaf with nice hot
gravy, and a steaming mug of joe.
(a sinister laugh)
Sweating, aren't you, Snow Boy?

Slushy takes the food and sits at a table with other
Prisoners. On cue, they get up, leaving him alone.

Slushy sighs.

SLUSHY
Christmas sucks.

Beat, then a GUARD walks over.

PRISON GUARD
Slushy, you got a visitor.

INT - PRISON VISITING AREA - DAY

In the visiting area, the prisoner and visitor are separated
by a thick piece of scarred plastic. They talk by phone.

Jamie is waiting to talk to Slushy. He picks up the phone.

SLUSHY
What are you doing here?

JAMIE
Slushy, I miss you. How are you?

SLUSHY

Tired. Unhappy. Whipped and defeated.

JAMIE

Slushy, don't talk that way. I believe. You reached out your snowy hand and touched my heart.

SLUSHY

(sad)

I had a shot, a one in a million shot to be a Cinderella boy. And for one brief shining moment, New Yorkers believed. They believed in me, and they believed in the spirit of Christmas. But then... I blew it.

JAMIE

Slushy, we all make mistakes. Cut yourself a little slack. Be your own best friend.

SLUSHY

(he stands)

I dropped the ball. I bit the big one. I screwed the pooch.

(shakes his head)

You know what they'll do in prison to a tasty morsel like me.

JAMIE

Slushy, wait. Don't go! It's Christmas Eve...

SLUSHY

Not even Santa could help me now...

Jamie puts his hand to the window, and Slushy does the same. Then Slushy leaves, his iced hand print clinging to the window.

Jamie tearfully calls after him.

JAMIE

Slushy! Stay alive! No matter where you go, no matter what you do, I'll find Santa for you!

CUT TO --

EXT - DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Jamie runs up to a store. A banner says "Meet and greet Santa Claus from now 'till Christmas!" A smaller banner says: "Next week Colin Powell!" Jamie goes inside.

INT - DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

A long line of frazzled PARENTS and CHILDREN wait to see the STORE SANTA. Santa is assisted by a LITTLE PERSON wearing a yellow "Elf Security" jacket. Jamie enters the mob scene.

ELF SECURITY

Calm down, everyone. Santa's
lap ain't going nowhere 'till
he sees every kid.

A NANNY brings GERT, a sad girl of five, to see the Store Santa.

NANNY

Santa, this is Gert. Her fuzzy-
minded liberal parents raised her
to speak only Esperanto.

STORE SANTA

The future language of the united
Earth?

NANNY

Exactly. And she wants to talk to
Santa. But I told her you don't
speak Esperanto because no one
speaks Esperanto.

STORE SANTA

No problem, Santa can do.

(to Gert)

Ter rem op qsik lot Esperanto.

A subtitle appears: "Can you Esperanto know?"

GERT

(she smiles, brightening)

Pump boom sik greil Esperanto Santa!

The subtitle: "Santa can speak Esperanto? How nice."

STORE SANTA

Rek lem ok oak trim.

The subtitle: "Colorless green ideas sleep furiously."

GERT

Huh?

The subtitle: "What?"

STORE SANTA

Bo conn ill tact tant.

The subtitle: "Yogurt is packing good fun."

GERT

(very upset)

Bleck Santa feh!

The subtitle: "Another childhood belief shot to hell!"

Angry, Gert storms off, followed by her Nanny.

Jamie pushes forward to see Store Santa.

JAMIE

Santa! Slushy the Snowman needs
your help! He's in jail!

STORE SANTA

Who? Who's in jail?

JAMIE

Slushy. Slushy!

STORE SANTA

(mystified)

And this "Slumpy" he needs my help?

JAMIE

Santa, snap out of it! I'm talkin'
Slushy! Your pal from the Pole!

(terribly upset)

Don't you remember??!

Jamie tugs on Store Santa's beard -- and it pops off. It's fake! Store Santa pulls Jamie up on his lap. He WHISPERS in a low, conspiratorial tone.

STORE SANTA

Keep it down, little kids are
waiting to see me. I gotta break
it to you, I ain't the real thing.

He pulls out his Santa card, "NYC Santa Local 478 - Santa Claus and Aerospace Workers Intl." His picture, in plain clothes, is on the card.

JAMIE

You're not Santa?

STORE SANTA
No, I'm Santa's helper.

JAMIE
(unsure)
So you're like Hamburger Helper?

STORE SANTA
Only I don't help hamburger make a great meal. I'm an unemployed areospace worker. The union got me this gig. Kid, the real Santa lives at the North Pole with a bunch of elves and reindeer and stuff.

JAMIE
Really?

Store Santa reaches into his coat and pulls out some blurry black and white photographs.

STORE SANTA
Look! NASA has proof! Only they're afraid if they reveal the existance of Santa Claus it would cause a panic. You see, in 1954, Santa's sleigh crashed in Roswell. And three elves were caputured by the Army Intelligence...

The Elf Security leans in ominiously.

ELF SECURITY
Santa should keep his mouth shut. Or has Santa forgotten what happens to people who talk too much?

STORE SANTA
(raises his voice)
The people should know! Santa Claus is real! He lives at the North Pole!
(near cracking)
And the Keebler elves are from outer space!

ELF SECURITY
That's it! Santa is going away for a long winter's nap!
(grabs Jamie's arm)
And maybe you should come along too, kid!

Jamie jerks away from Elf Security, grabs the photos, and jumps into the crowd of kids! Store Santa calls after him.

STORE SANTA
Run! The truth shall set you free!

CUT TO --

INT - JAMIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jamie hurriedly packs a suitcase. Then -- he pauses.

JAMIE
I wonder what the weather is like
at the North Pole?

Jamie pulls some cold weather gear out of his closet. He puts
on a parka, snowshoes, and big anti-glare sunglasses.

Suddenly Margaret sticks her head in the room.

MARGARET
Are you going somewhere?

JAMIE
(really awful lie)
Yeah. I'm going out to get some
fro-gurt.

MARGARET
(believes him)
Bring me a raspberry-banana.

CUT TO --

EXT - AIRPORT - DAY

Jamie jumps from a cab and runs into the airport. A MONTAGE
of transportation follows:

WIPE TO --

EXT - AIRPLANE - DAY

Jamie's face is supered over stock footage of a modern
jetliner flying in the sky.

WIPE TO --

EXT - TRAIN - DAY

Jamie's face is supered over a train.

WIPE TO --

EXT - OCEAN LINER - DAY

Jamie's face is supered over an ocean liner on the sea.

CUT TO --

INT - PRISON TELEVISION - DAY

In the prison television room, two ANGRY PRISONERS have squared off, threatening each other with sharpened spoons.

ANGRY PRISONER #1

I say we watch "60 Minutes"!

ANGRY PRISONER #2

I say we watch "Disney Family Movie"!

Slushy steps between them, trying to play peacemaker.

SLUSHY

Wait! Can't we compromise and watch
VH-1?

Both Angry Prisoners look at each other, then at Slushy.

ANGRY PRISONERS #1 and #2

Let's shiv him!

They chase Slushy out of the room.

WIPE TO --

EXT - CANOE

More traveling montage. Jamie's face is supered over a canoe being rowed up a river.

WIPE TO --

EXT - NIAGARA FALLS - DAY

Jamie's face is supered over a barrel going over Niagara Fall.

WIPE TO --

EXT - DOG SLED - DAY

Jamie's face is supered over a dog sled going through a snow storm...

CUT TO --

EXT - NORTH POLE - DAY

The North Pole! It's a huge industrial complex, belching smoke. Signs say: "Santa's Workshop," "Elves' Annex," "Reindeer" and "Hot Tubs." ELVES run to and fro in the snow.

INT - SANTA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

The workshop is a madhouse. ELVES dart everywhere, shouting and throwing toys and gifts. Mangy reindeer roam free. An elf SONG is sung over and over.

ELVES
(unison singing)
*Christmas, Christmas, Christmas, come
Come real soon, and we'll be done.*

SANTA enters. He's jolly, but overwhelmed by the work load. He shouts at the Elves.

SANTA
Sing louder, you scurvy elves! Do
you want to live forever?

First assistant elf HARDROCK is working at an abacus. Santa joins him.

SANTA
It only gets tougher. How can one
man be expected to do this every year?
Just like Michael Jordan, I'll quit.
I'll quit at the top of my game.

HARDROCK
You say that every year, Santa.

SANTA
And then I'll unretire. I'll make a
comeback wearing a different number.
But it won't be the same. So I'll
change my number back to my old
number. And then I'll try to...

HARDROCK
Santa, please!

SANTA
So when do we leave with a full load
of toys for all the boys and girls in
the world?

HARDROCK

You're living in a dream world, Santa.
The soonest we can leave with a full
load of toys is...

(turns to a computer)

December 27, about 3 P.M.

SANTA

(perturbed)

That is not going to happen! Fetch
me hither the First Toymaker.

Hardrock leaves. COCO, Santa's manservant elf, brings him a
well-earned beer on a silver platter. Santa tastes it, then
frowns.

SANTA

Coco, the North Pole is ice. Ice
that sits on an icy sea. Right?

COCO

Yes, oh "make a list and check it
twice" one.

SANTA

Then why can't I get a cold beer?!

Enter the FIRST TOYMAKER, shop steward in hard hat and safety
glasses, with TOYMAKING ELVES. The elves mutter darkly.

SANTA

You toymakers, you've put Christmas in
peril. I know you elves are slowing
down toy production.

FIRST TOYMAKER

Santa, you better ease up the pace on
my boys or you're looking at a strike.
You've got us Elves working 364 days a
year. 364! We get one day off a year.
Only one day!

SANTA

So what's your point?

FIRST TOYMAKER

We want two days off a year.

SANTA

Are you daft? Two days off a year!

FIRST TOYMAKER

And a dental plan. We already have
one elf fully trained in dentistry:
Herbie.

HERBIE THE ELF, in dental smock and gloves, waves to Santa.

HERBIE THE ELF
Here, sir. Rinse and spit, sir.

MRS. CLAUS enters. She's a beautiful leggy blond. Elves follow, carrying her many packages. We hear Andy Williams.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)
(sings)
*That's the second Mrs. Claus.
The leggy Mrs. Claus.
She's a real trophy wife.
That leggy Mrs. Claus.*

SANTA
(sarcastic)
Thanks for showing up, Mrs. Claus.
Thank you oh so very much. Where have you been?

MRS. CLAUS
Maybe you can spend all your time in this forsaken ice pit, but I need culture, civilization, shopping!
(jumps in Santa's lap)
Don't be angry, jelly belly.

Santa and Mrs. Claus kiss. The elves are embarrassed.

COCO
Gee-whiz. I saw Santa kissing Mrs. Claus.

They break their kiss, smiling.

MRS. CLAUS
In a better mood now, Nicky Wicky?

SANTA
Peaches, how can I be angry at you?

Suddenly the door SLAMS. All turn.

And Jamie crawls in on his hands and knees, his clothes in tatters. He gasps.

JAMIE
Water...water...

SANTA
Son, how did you find us? The exact location of Santa's workshop is top secret!

COCO

(aside)

Did NASA slip you the satellite photos?

Jamie weakly goes up to Santa.

JAMIE

Santa, Slushy needs your help...!
He's in jail in New York City.

SANTA

WHAT?!!! Argh, every Christmas I
have to rescue Slushy!! Can't that
snowflake stay out of trouble one
lousy year?

JAMIE

(sincerely)

Please, Santa! Do it for the spirit
of Christmas!

Santa frowns, then shrugs.

SANTA

Alright, fine! Elves, you bloodsuckers
can have whatever you want. Now load
up the sleigh! We ride early tonight!

The Elves spring into action!

EXT - CHRISTMAS POLE - DAY

The sleigh is being readied for flight. REINDEER are led into
place by Hardrock. Coco heaves in bags of toys.

COCO

What's the big deal, Santa? Every
year we rescue Slushy. Can't we
skip it once?

SANTA

Elf, it's my way, or the highway.

COCO

Don't get hostile! I'm toting that
barge! I'm lifting that bale!

Santa turns to Hardrock.

SANTA

Hardrock! How do the reindeer look?

HARDROCK
Reindeer work only one night a year
and they are the laziest shits I've
ever seen.

Santa points to a reindeer he does not recognize.

SANTA
Who's that?

HARDROCK
Blitzen called in sick. Said he
got cramps eating a tin can.
That's his replacement, Murray.

SANTA
Didn't I see Blitzen at the club
last night?

HARDROCK
(makes a note)
I'll look into it.

SANTA
What's with the glowing red nose?

Santa points to a messed-up reindeer at the front of the team.
He has thin antlers, his hair is shedding, and his nose is
glowing: RUDOLPH.

HARDROCK
You don't recognize Rudolph? Tragic
story. Took his vacation at Chernobyl.

SANTA
(looking sick)
Great to see you, Rudolph. It wouldn't
be Christmas without you!

Coco swings the last bag into the back of the sleigh. Santa,
Hardrock and Coco get aboard.

Jamie has been quietly watching. Santa turns and smiles.

SANTA
Well, what are you waiting for?

JAMIE
Who, me?

SANTA
Yeah, you. Don't you want to ride in
Santa's sleigh and help rescue your
friend Slushy?

JAMIE

Well, actually, I'm not sure I believe in you yet.

SANTA

You don't believe in me? You climbed every mountain, forded every stream, followed every highway, just to find me, and now you don't believe in me? Listen kid, we could have an ontological argument over my existence, or I could just punch you in the nose...

HARDROCK

He will! I've seen him do it!

SANTA

(angry)

But I've got a lot of presents to deliver to boys and girls all over the world so everyone will be happy so get in the friggin' sleigh now!

JAMIE

(sheepish)

Ok.

Jamie gets in the sleigh. Santa nods at Hardrock.

HARDROCK

Keep your hands and feet in the sleigh at all times, unless you want to wave at someone you know. In the unlikely event of a water landing, your seat cushion will be of no help at all. Please extinguish all smoking materials unless you are smoking them. And thank you for flying Air Santa.

Santa smiles and gives thumbs up to the reindeer.

SANTA

Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer, now Vixen...

The Reindeer REV UP like jet engines building up speed!

SANTA

On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Murray...

Then Mrs. Claus interrupts, tossing a Neiman-Marcus box to Santa.

MRS. CLAUS

Wait! I bought a dress, but it's the wrong size. Be a dear and return it.

Santa looks like he's going to say something, but thinks better of it.

The ROARING engines build. Santa signals the elves, and they cut the rope!

With a jerk, the sleigh takes off and flies into the sky!

SANTA

Ho-Ho-Ho!

CUT TO --

INT - PRISON CELL - DAY

Slushy sweats in his cell. He shouts at GUARDS patrolling by.

SLUSHY

Can someone ask the Warden to turn up the air conditioner?

(pleading)

Please, I'm on fire! It must be 34 degrees!

Slushy collapses sobbing.

But then, a mysterious VOICE gently speaks.

VOICE

Cheer up. It's almost Christmas. And you know how much you love that day.

SLUSHY

Eh, no more! I don't believe in Christmas... it's all a fraud.

(somber)

And so am I. I wish I'd never been born.

VOICE

(upset)

You wish you'd never been born? Now you've gone too far!

The cell begins glowing and filling with SMOKE. Slushy coughs.

SLUSHY

Hey, what's goin' on?! Are you smoking? You know, cigarettes are really bad for you.

Suddenly -- POOF! -- the Voice reveals himself. It's CLARENCE, Slushy's black guardian angel!

CLARENCE

It is I, Clarence. I am your guardian angel, here to grant your wish.

SLUSHY

You're Clarence? My guardian angel is black?

CLARENCE

What did you expect with a name like Clarence? Now, travel with me. Touch the hem of my garment.

SLUSHY

Do I have to?

Slushy touches the hem. They fade away.

DREAMLIKE DISSOLVE --

EXT - POTTERSVILLE - NIGHT

This scene is black and white, like in "It's a Wonderful Life." Slushy and Clarence stand beside the "Pottersville" sign.

SLUSHY

Pottersville? Why are we in Pottersville?

CLARENCE

Behold your wish. You were never born.

On the main street of Pottersville the POLICE hustle SALLY the prostitute into a police wagon. Then MR. MARTINI shuffles past, an old man in shabby clothes.

CLARENCE

Because you were never born, Sally became a prostitute. And because you were not there to stop him, Mr. Martini poisoned that kid and became a drunk. And Donna Reed is a librarian. Want to see?

SLUSHY

What does any of this have to do with me?

Clarence is confused. He checks his notes.

CLARENCE

You don't know these people? You're not George Bailey?

Slushy displays his snowman dog tags.

SLUSHY

And I didn't have a wonderful life. I'm Slushy the Snowman.

CLARENCE

Man, am I having a bad halo day.
(still reading)
Slushy the Snowman? Got it...

DISSOLVE TO --

INT - BAR - DAY

Back to color. Slushy and Clarence are in a crowded bar.

CLARENCE

My friend, because you were never born, shampoo was a drink!

Bar customers chug down Prell and Tegrin.

DISSOLVE TO --

EXT - TROPICAL ISLAND - DAY

On a beach, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS is flanked by NATIVES. All wear headphones.

CLARENCE

And because you were never born, Columbus didn't discover America, he discovered Dolby!

Columbus points to his headphones.

COLUMBUS

(Italian accent)
No hiss. The hiss is gone.

The Natives nod their approval.

DISSOLVE TO --

INT - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Slushy and Clarence are in the White House Oval Office. ROSS PEROT sits behind the desk.

ROSS PEROT

Now here's the deal. We can wipe out the deficit just like that! A stroke of the pen! It's gone!

SLUSHY

Oh my!

CLARENCE

Two words: President Perot!

SLUSHY

Hey, don't lay this trip on me. It's not my fault.

CLARENCE

Ok, then, what about Jamie? You changed his life.

SLUSHY

Jamie? He'll be fine. He's a survivor.

Slushy and Clarence step out of the scene. Ross Perot rattles on.

ROSS PEROT

It's time to lift the hood and fix the engine! A-B-C! It's easy as one-two-three!

DISSOLVE TO --

INT - JAMIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jamie is making Christmas decorations: Snowflakes cut out of construction paper, reindeer made out of toothpicks, popcorn on a string. It's a little Christmas Village.

Clarence and Slushy appear. Slushy tries to get Jamie's attention.

SLUSHY

Jamie? How have you been?

CLARENCE

He can't hear you. You were never born. You don't exist, my brother. And he believed in you, he believed in Christmas for the first time in his life since his father died.

SLUSHY

Don't worry, he's happy. He's making decorations.

JAMIE

(sings)

*Christmas bears and Christmas ducks.
And Christmas trees, all Christmas sucks!*

Jamie suddenly pulls out a can of lighter fluid and douses the decorations. He flips a match on them, and they go up in FLAMES! Jamie laughs maniacally.

Slushy is shocked.

SLUSHY

This is horrible! I never thought about Jamie. I only cared about me.

CLARENCE

Who cares, pal? You were never born.

SLUSHY

No! Please, Clarence, I want to go back! I want to be born!

Slushy closes his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO --

IN THE PRISON CELL

Slushy has his eyes closed.

SLUSHY

I want to be alive. Please, Clarence, let me be alive!

(opens his eyes)

I'm alive! Alive!

Slushy leaps off the cot, happy to be alive. He reaches into his pockets and finds flower petals.

SLUSHY

Zuzu's petals!

Excited, Slushy races out of his cell.

EXT - PRISON HALLWAY

Slushy shouts as he runs.

SLUSHY
Hey, everybody, I'm alive!

INT - PRISON YARD - DAY

The yard is full of surly CONVICTS of all colors and sizes. They lift weights and shoot baskets. Suddenly Slushy runs out giddily.

SLUSHY
Hello, prisoners! Hello, guards!
Hello, barbed wire!

People stare. GUARDS cock their guns.

SLUSHY
Hi, Aryan Nations! Hello, you
beautiful Muslims! Everybody,
let's have a Christmas parade!

His words echo off the prison walls.

Everyone else is silent. They look at Slushy like he is nuts.

CUT TO --

INT - AIR FORCE MISSILE BUNKER - DUSK

In a missile bunker, a RADAR CONTROLLER listens to a portable RADIO. A GIGGLING D.J. speaks.

D.J. (v.o.)
And on Christmas Eve, we have reports
the Air Force has tracked an object
on radar incoming from the North Pole.
The UFO is tentatively identified as
Santa Claus.

CONTROLLER
(he shakes his head)
Ha-ha. Incoming from the North Pole.

The Controller turns off the radio. Suddenly, the radar screen BEEPS. The Controller checks his screen, trying to brush away the light. It persists.

CONTROLLER
Uh, Chief? Could you come over here?

The Controller is joined by his CHIEF.

CONTROLLER

I got incoming from the North Pole.

CHIEF

Yeah, sure you do.

(a look at the screen, then
instantly PANICKED)

Hokey smokes! Incoming from the
North Pole! The Canadians are
attacking!

CONTROLLER

It's a Defcon 4!

CHIEF

We've got to shoot down that bogie!

INT - SLEIGH - DUSK

The sleigh soars along. Jamie looks around in awe.

JAMIE

Wow, Santa, this sleigh is cool!

SANTA

Glad you like it.

(to elves)

Ok, we pick up Slushy, make our
deliveries, then get back to the Pole
before bars close. Drinks on me.

HARDROCK

(sees something)

Santa! Fighter at twelve o'clock!

WIDE

A U.S. fighter jet closes in on the sleigh.

IN THE SLEIGH

Santa tugs on the reins, pulling the reindeer into a turn.

SANTA

Evasive action! Drop the tinsel!

Hardrock throws tinsel out the back.

HARDROCK

I'm too elfin for this!

EXT - SKY

The sleigh dives into a cloud bank. The plane follows.

ON THE PLANE

Following Rudolph's glowing nose, the fighter bounces through the clouds after the sleigh.

IN THE SLEIGH

Coco is hunched over a tactical display.

COCO

They got radar lock on us, Santa!

SANTA

With the clouds and the tinsel,
why can't we lose this sucker?

HARDROCK

Santa, the fighter is following
the glow from Rudolph's nose! Do
something!

The nose glows brightly.

IN THE PLANE

The PILOT pushes down the firing button.

PILOT

Firing! Rocket away!

IN THE SKY

The rocket flies through the clouds!

The sleigh flies faster! It emerges from the clouds! Coco looks worried.

The rocket zooms out of the clouds, homing in. Then we see the rocket is chasing only Rudolph!

Contact! Rudolph EXPLODES!

IN THE SLEIGH

From a distance, they watch as Rudolph goes down in flames.

SANTA

I hated to cut Rudolph loose. We
went back a long way.

(pause)

Now on to New York!

CUT TO --

INT - PRISON HALLWAY - NIGHT

Slushy has convinced everyone in the Prison to sing and dance with him. He leads a Christmas conga line of prisoners and guards down a hallway.

SLUSHY, PRISONERS & GUARDS

(sings)

*Christmas ain't no fun in jail,
Hope that I can still make bail.
Christmas, Christmas, Christmas!*

As they conga along, Slushy sees a downcast DEATH ROW PRISONER. The Prisoner is shackled and manacled, standing by a large steel door. Slushy stops to console him.

SLUSHY

Hey, why so blue? You know it
takes more muscles to frown than
to smile.

DEATH ROW PRISONER

Oh, I'm just having a bad day.

SLUSHY

But tomorrow is Christmas! Why
don't you join our Christmas conga
line?

DEATH ROW PRISONER

(unsure)

Well... I'm supposed to wait here.

SLUSHY

No problem. When they come to get
you I'll just tell them you're
dancing. Ok?

DEATH ROW PRISONER

Sure...!

The Death Row Prisoner starts to hop away.

SLUSHY

And, hey! Turn that frown upside down.

The Death Row Prisoner slowly breaks into a huge smile. He dances away. Slushy sighs -- another good deed done.

Then the large steel door opens. Two DEATH HOUSE GUARDS step out.

SLUSHY

Hello, fellows. Happy Christmas Eve.

The Death House Guards grab Slushy and pull him inside. The door slams behind him. We finally see the sign on the door: "ELECTRIC CHAIR - 50 Feet."

CUT TO --

INT - PRISON YARD - NIGHT

All the Prisoners and Guards dance in their Christmas conga line.

PRISONERS & GUARDS

(sings)

*Christmas ain't no fun in jail,
Hope that I can still make bail.
Christmas, Christmas, Christmas!*

Suddenly, a screaming comes across the sky! Santa roars overhead in his sleigh!

The conga line breaks up. The Prisoners point to the sky! The Guards grab for their guns!

A particularly SHORT PRISONER runs about, excited.

SHORT PRISONER

The sleigh! The sleigh!

PRISON GUARD

It's a jailbreak! Grab your guns!

Santa spirals in. The sleigh lands, skidding to a stop!

SANTA

*Hardrock, you cut the power! Coco,
knock out the guard towers! Reindeer,
blow the gate! I'll get Slushy!*

The Elves and Santa jump out of the sleigh. They scatter.

CUT TO --

INT - DEATH ROW HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Slushy is being led down that long last walk by the Death Row Guards. A mournful harmonica plays "Red River Valley."

IN THE PRISON YARD

Hardrock races up to a power box. He pulls out a shotgun and FIRES! BAM! Lights go out! The power box is rubble.

HARDROCK
I'm little, but I'm loud!

ACROSS THE YARD

Santa is surrounded by a circle of eight guards. He smiles.

SANTA
Eight against one? Are those odds fair?
(strikes a karate position)
Now you want some bad ass North Pole
karate, come into my kitchen! YA!

Santa throws a spinning kick, then a kung fu move.

The Prison Guard falls!

GUARD TOWER

Coco swings in, hanging upside down. He tosses smoke grenades into the tower. The Guards start coughing violently.

COCO
Mama told you not to smoke.

IN THE PRISON YARD

The prone bodies of the Guards lay scattered around Santa. Suddenly four NINJAS drop down on ropes. They circle Santa warily.

He pulls out a pair of nunchuks.

SANTA
Yeah, I'm one bad jolly old elf!

Santa spins the nunchuks wildly and CRACKS two Ninjas on the head. Both crumple to the ground!

AT THE PRISON WALL

At the gate, the Reindeer stand by a detonator. They nod.
Murray the Reindeer pushes the plunger down with his antlers.

OUTSIDE THE PRISON

KABOOM! The prison gates explode and collapse! Prisoners run out.

PRISONERS (all)
No justice! No peace!

IN THE PRISON YARD

Santa fights the last Ninja. The other three defeated Ninjas are piled atop each other. Santa smiles.

SANTA
Glad you could...
(he drop kicks the Ninja)
DROP IN! Ho! Ho! Ho!

The last Ninja crumples to the ground.

SANTA
Hardrock! Coco! Let's get Slushy!

CUT TO --

INT - DEATH HOUSE - NIGHT

Slushy has been strapped into the electric chair. The WARDEN has his hand on the switch. He smiles at Slushy.

WARDEN
Any last requests?

SLUSHY
Don't kill me.

WARDEN
No, we're not falling for that again.

SLUSHY
How about a last meal? Or a last song?

WARDEN
A last song?

SLUSHY

You don't pull the switch till I finish the song, ok? Let's begin...

(sings)

Nine million nine hundred and ninety nine thousand bottles of beer on the wall.

Nine million nine hundred and ninety nine thousand bottles of beer...

Suddenly BOOM! The walls of the Death House EXPLODE! Bricks fly everywhere.

Santa steps in through the debris. He smiles at the Warden.

SANTA

Have you been nice or naughty?

Santa KNOCKS OUT the Warden with one punch. Pause.

SANTA

I guess the answer was naughty.

Jamie scurries in and quickly unbuckles Slushy from the electric chair. Slushy beams.

SLUSHY

What took you so long?

JAMIE

Traffic was a bitch.

IN THE PRISON YARD

The group runs back into the Prison Yard. Bullets fly all around them.

SANTA

Move! We wore out our welcome!

They jump in the sleigh.

Ducking low, Santa calls to the nervous reindeer.

SANTA

Now Dasher, now Dancer!

(a bullet WHIZZES by)

Emergency takeoff! NOW!

The sleigh ROARS off!

But it clips a guard tower as it rises. The sleigh lurches out of control.

EXT - SKYLINE - NIGHT

Spinning wildly, the sleigh passes the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the Seagrams Building.

The sleigh is dropping down out of the sky! It tumbles as it falls!

INT - SLEIGH - NIGHT

Close on the elves' spinning faces.

HARDROCK

Oh no, we're going down!

COCO

I only got two days 'till retirement!

Wider now, Jamie points as he spots something.

JAMIE

Look! It's my house!

SANTA

That's as good a place to crash as any! Pull the parachute, Hardrock!

HARDROCK

At this altitude the parachute won't stop us!

SANTA

Then I'll see you in hell.

HARDROCK

Not if I see you first!

Hardrock pulls the parachute release.

Everyone covers their eyes, even Reindeer, as the building rushes up!

INT - JAMIE AND MARGARET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Margaret drinks a "Snowman."

Suddenly BLAM! Something crashes on the roof! Plaster rains down. Lights shake. Margaret's drink spills on the floor.

EXT - JAMIE'S ROOF - SAME TIME

The sleigh is a crumpled, twisted mess. Reindeer hold their heads, moaning. Presents are scattered everywhere. Jamie checks himself, then notices a cracked TV antenna.

JAMIE

Aw, they broke my antenna!

Santa jumps to attention.

SANTA

Elves, get this sled back together, we got deliveries to make. And Slushy needs to return to the North Pole.

SLUSHY

Santa, I need to speak to you.
Alone.

Slushy and Santa step away from the sleigh. The light tapping of hammers is heard. Slushy lowers his voice, sincere.

SLUSHY

Santa, I'm staying. Jamie pulled me through a long day's journey into the dark night of my soul, and I owe him. I have to see this through.

SANTA

(surprised)

Are you sure? We went to a lot of trouble to break you out of prison.

SLUSHY

I'm sorry. I swore I wouldn't go home until both Jamie and Margaret believed in Christmas. And I'm nothing if not a snowman of my word.

They step back to the sleigh. In those few seconds, the Elves have the sleigh back together, as good as new. And with ice packs on their heads, the Reindeer are ready to go.

JAMIE

You know, Santa, a visit from you might really have my Mom believing in the spirit of Christmas.

HARDROCK

Santa, it's twelve thirty. We're already late for deliveries in the entire Eastern Time Zone.

SANTA
I can read, Hardrock. But a few
minutes won't hurt. I mean, hey,
what could go wrong?

INT - APARTMENT - NIGHT

The doorbell RINGS. Margaret answers it -- and it's Jamie.

JAMIE
Hi, Mom.

MARGARET
Where's my frogurt?

Slushy steps into view, smiling endearingly.

SLUSHY
Hi, Margaret!

Margaret scowls and SLAMS the door.

She strides away. They scurry in after her.

SLUSHY
Please, Margaret! I came back to
show you the magic of Christmas.
(pulls out some cards)
Pick a card.

MARGARET
Pick a card?

SLUSHY
It's the three of clubs, right?
(shows her trick deck)
They're all the three of clubs.
And what's this behind your ear?

MARGARET
A quarter?

SLUSHY
A quarter!
(pulls quarter from behind her ear)
See, this is the magic of Christmas! I
lost it, but got it back. It doesn't
take much to realize the problems of
three people don't add up to a hill
of jelly beans in this world.

Slushy grins loonily.

But Margaret's clearly unimpressed. Jamie jumps in.

JAMIE

And if that didn't blow you away, we
got one more trick up our sleeve.

(dramatic)

Mom... it's Santa Claus!

The CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE plays, stardust twinkles, and Santa
appears in the fireplace!

SANTA

Merry Christmas...!

Santa takes a step, then suddenly slides in the puddle of
Margaret's spilled drink. Whoosh! He SKIDS across the floor
and crashes against the opposite wall.

Yikes. Everyone runs over.

JAMIE

Santa, are you all right?

SANTA

(stunned)

Happy Easter to all, and to all
Yon Kippur!

SLUSHY

Santa! You have to get up!
It's Christmas Eve!

JAMIE

Actually, it's about an hour into
Christmas Day. Let's get him to
his feet!

They help Santa up, Jamie on one side and Slushy on the other.
They walk him around... but there is something wrong with
Santa's right leg.

SANTA

I can't feel my leg! Where's the
rest of me?

SLUSHY

Santa? What are we going to do?

SANTA

I think I twisted my knee. It's an
old foosball injury.

JAMIE

But what about Christmas?

SANTA
I'll never make it back in the sleigh.
(getting an idea)
You two are going to have to deliver
the Christmas presents.

JAMIE
Who, us?

SLUSHY
Who, us?

MARGARET
Who, them?

Santa sits down hard on the couch. A poignant pause.

SANTA
You two have to do it. All over
the world, millions of kids are
depending on Santa Claus. Well,
I can't make it. So Jamie and
Slushy will take my place.
I'll wait here.

Wow. Slushy and Jamie look up to Margaret expectantly.

Margaret considers this, then shrugs.

MARGARET
Oh, fine. But take your coat.

ON THE ROOF

Slushy and Jamie excitedly run up the stairs. Hardrock and
Coco are standing by the sleigh.

HARDROCK
What do you two want?

JAMIE
Santa's hurt. We're taking his place.

HARDROCK
Sure. And Liz Taylor's going to stay
married this time.

SLUSHY
No kidding. We're going to fly this
sleigh. We're delivering the gifts
and saving Christmas!

Jamie and Slushy get in the sleigh. Hardrock and Coco stare.

SLUSHY

Aren't you coming along?

A glum beat. Hardrock and Coco look at each other.

COCO

It's like booking a ticket on the
Hindenburg.

They get in the sleigh. Slushy picks up the reins and shouts
at the reindeer.

SLUSHY

On Dasher, On Dancer, come on,
guys! Kick it!

The Reindeer jump, leaping off the roof! A moment -- then the
sleigh soars straight up! All hold on tight.

INT - SLEIGH - NIGHT

The sleigh flies across the night sky. Jamie checks the long
list of deliveries they have to make.

JAMIE

According to the list, we only have
2.6 billion deliveries to make.

SLUSHY

So if I can make one delivery per
minute we'll be done...

HARDROCK

By April. In the year 6000.

SLUSHY

(oblivious)
So what's your point?

IN THE APARTMENT - LATER

Margaret paces around the room, trying to ignore Santa.

MARGARET

It was stupid of me to let Jamie
go flying in a sleigh driven
by a talking snowman and powered by
flying reindeer. I mean, how
safe can that be?

SANTA
(chuckling)
Margaret. Listen to yourself.
A talking snowman? Flying reindeer?
Why, you sound like you almost
believe in Christmas.

MARGARET
(angry)
Christmas! Who cares about Christmas!
For one day of the year, people are
nice to each other. For the other
364, they spit on each other!

SANTA
I think you forgot to say "Bah, humbug."
What makes you so cynical, Margaret?

MARGARET
Ah, what do you know!

SANTA
Well, I'm not the one having a
conversation with Santa Claus!

Margaret stares at Santa, then turns to leave the room.

MARGARET
I'll get some ice for your leg.

IN THE SLEIGH - LATER

The sleigh roars through the sky, high above the Earth.

JAMIE
Do the math, Slushy! We're doomed!
We won't make it. They'll be
disappointed kids all over the world.
It would take some kind of miracle
to deliver all these presents!

Slushy gets an idea.

SLUSHY
A miracle? But this is a night of
miracles!

Slushy turns to face the camera, smiling widely.

SLUSHY

Listen, everybody. Time is running out.
So I want all the boys and girls in the
audience who believe in Christmas to
stomp your feet and clap your hands
as loud as you can! And if you do, we
can save Christmas. On the count of
three. One...Two...Three...

Everyone on the screen tenses up. On the soundtrack, we hear
the SOUNDS of SILENCE: People rustling in their seats, a low
cough, then crickets in the distance. A candy wrapper
crackles.

SLUSHY

Did someone open a Jolly Rancher?

The silence makes everyone on the screen uncomfortable.
Slushy slumps forward, losing all hope. He turns away from
the camera, frowning.

Then Jamie leans in to WHISPER something in Slushy's ear. As
Slushy listens, he brightens back up. Slushy turns back to
the camera, smiling broadly.

SLUSHY

All right, change of plans. If
you believe in Christmas, then just
sit there and don't do anything!
(tiny pause)
Well, all right! Let's do it!

Slushy leaps to his feet. The others look at him.

JAMIE

Let's do what?

SLUSHY

We'll just throw all the presents
over the side! And the magic of the
spirit of Christmas will help them
land in the right places!

HARDROCK

Are you sure?

SLUSHY

(brightly)
No! Not at all!

Slushy begins throwing Christmas presents over the side of the
sleigh! Jamie leaps to his feet to help him!

JAMIE

Why the heck not!

Jamie joins in throwing presents overboard.

Hardrock looks at Coco.

HARDROCK

This is better than going up and
down a billion chimneys.

COCO

I'll say. That always wrecks my
back.

They all begin tossing presents over the side...!

EXT - SKY - NIGHT

The sleigh is flying so high that the curve of the Earth can
be seen beneath it. The presents trail out behind the sleigh.

We hear the voice of Andy Williams.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)

Folks, something did happen that
Christmas. The magic of the spirit
of Christmas began to work its magic.
Or spirit. Or something.

Little parachutes pop out from all the presents.

EXT - EARTH - NIGHT

From out in space, we see the presents ride their parachutes
down to Earth.

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)

And all the presents were delivered.

CUT TO --

INT - TRADITIONAL FAMILY LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A FAMILY has gathered around a tree. All begin to open their
presents...

ANDY WILLIAMS (v.o.)

Occasionally to the right place.

Each family member has received a strange gift. DAD has a
frilly nightgown, MOM a basketball, SIS a huge pair of combat
boots, and LITTLE BROTHER a foot massager. The family looks
at each other quizzically. They begin swapping the presents
between each other, trying to get the right one.

EXT - DESERT - MORNING

Two traditionally dressed ARABS show each other the fly fishing gear they got for Christmas.

EXT - SUMO WRESTLING COURT - MORNING

A gigantic SUMO WRESTLER pulls out a Mr. Potato Head.

INT. CHAPEL - MORNING

A NUN examines her package of edible underwear.

CUT TO --

EXT - NEW YORK SKYLINE - MORNING

The sleigh flies high over the city. The packages float down.

Suddenly the sleigh gets buzzed by a flying saucer! The saucer sends them spinning.

JAMIE

What was that?!

HARDROCK

It's those damn Keebler elves.

COCO

They buzz us every year.

INT - JAMIE AND MARGARET'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Margaret now sits on the couch with Santa. She has opened up to him, like to a therapist, choking back her emotions.

SANTA

You once believed.

MARGARET

I never believed!

SANTA

Then what about this...?

Santa reaches in his pocket and pulls out a faded, yellowed NOTE.

Intrigued, Margaret takes it and slowly starts reading...

MARGARET

(reading)

"Dear Santa, I've been very good all year, so could you please bring me a Molly Dolly?"

(a realization)

"I'd be the happiest girl in the world --"

(an emotional pause)

"Love... Margaret."

Overcome, Margaret drops the note and breaks into tears.

Santa tenderly comforts her.

SANTA CLAUS

There, there.

MARGARET

Oh Santa! Since Dead Dad died, I haven't been able to love or trust anyone...!

(sobbing wildly)

I've been so wrong. I do believe in Christmas! I do!

Suddenly a gift floats down the chimney, landing at Margaret's feet. Surprised, she opens it.

Inside the box -- is a wrench set.

MARGARET

(perplexed)

Santa... why?

SANTA

I'm sorry. The boys made a few mistakes delivering the gifts.

MARGARET

A few mistakes?

CUT TO --

EXT - POND - MORNING

A trout swims along. A present lands beside it in the water.

CUT TO --

IN THE APARTMENT

Santa smiles.

SANTA
Well, more than a few.

MARGARET
You mean you let Slushy screw up
Christmas? Why?

SANTA
(his eyes twinkle)
Sometimes, the problems of two
people do add up to more than a
hill of beans in this world.

Santa stands -- and walks across the room with no problem.
Margaret is surprised.

MARGARET
What happened to your leg?!

SANTA
(he smiles)
Nothing.

Margaret's face lights up. She runs over and hugs Santa.

MARGARET
Thank you, Santa! I've learned my
lesson! Forget July 25th. Forget
Christmas II. You can't have any
other Christmas than the one in
December!

Suddenly -- a CRASH above. The sleigh has landed on the roof!
But the racket is louder and longer than before.

Santa pulls away from Margaret.

SANTA
I have to go. My work here is done.
Plus, the sleigh is probably in pieces
on the rooftops of three buildings.

Suddenly Slushy SMASHES through the window, pieces of the
reindeer harness around his neck. He smiles at Santa.

SLUSHY
Four buildings.

SANTA
(he rolls his eyes)
The things I have to put up with.
(he helps Slushy into the room)
C'mon, Slushy. Vamanos.

Santa and Slushy start to get into the chimney.

AT THE DOOR

Jamie suddenly enters -- and is shocked to see Santa and Slushy leaving. A tear comes to his eye.

JAMIE

Santa, Slushy... where are you going?!

SLUSHY

I have to go back to the North Pole.

JAMIE

But why, Slushy? Why?

SANTA

That's the way it has to be, Jamie.

Slushy and Jamie embrace. Both get teary-eyed.

SLUSHY

Jamie, don't forget me.

JAMIE

Slushy, I'll never forget you.

SLUSHY

Don't forget me, ever.

JAMIE

Always, never forget me.

Hardrock appears in the chimney, hanging upside-down.

HARDROCK

Forget it, you two! The reindeer are on overtime.

SANTA

Margaret, let me leave something for you. A small Christmas gift...

Santa puts his finger on the side of his nose. And in a puff of CHRISTMAS MAGIC CUE, they disappear up the chimney.

Sleigh bells chime above.

Jamie and Margaret run to the window.

And a huge CHRISTMAS MAGIC SONG swells, building across New York City...

DISSOLVE TO --

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

Everything shines. New York is clean and white under a fresh blanket of snow.

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

The Wooden Soldiers ice skate in Central Park. The Christmas Brass Band Plays. The King Family hums a merry holiday tune.

INT - JAMIE AND MARGARET'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jamie and Margaret's apartment is decorated beautifully! A Christmas tree, wreaths, lights, holly, everything. A holiday meal is ready.

Jamie and Margaret sit by a crackling fire. They smile warmly.

MARGARET

Jamie... you were so right.

JAMIE

(soft)

If you believe in Christmas,
anything can happen.

They embrace.

Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS.

Jamie strolls over. He opens the door... and IT'S DEAD DAD!

Dad is alive!

And he brought the DRY CLEANING!

JAMIE and MARGARET

(shocked)

Dead Dad?!!!

DEAD DAD

(grinning)

Surprised to see me?

MARGARET

We thought you were dead!

DEAD DAD

Well, I can't go into details,
but I was doing some secret work
for the government. And I made
a lot of money!

Dead Dad begins pulling money out of every pocket!

EVERYBODY

Yea!!!!

The reunited family embraces.

CUT TO --

EXT - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Andy Williams rides in a horse drawn sleigh.

ANDY WILLIAMS

And Christmas swept across New
York, across the planet, and
across the universe.

EXT - PARADE - DAY

All the characters from the movie march in a Christmas parade.
Jamie, Margaret, and Dead Dad are at the head. Everyone sings
"Auld Lang Syne," as bells RING all over the city!

ABOVE THE CITY

Santa's sleigh flies over New York on a current of magic dust.

INSIDE THE SLEIGH

The Elves grin.

HARDROCK

And we all heard him say...

COCO

As he flew out of sight...

SANTA

Merry Christmas to all...

Suddenly Slushy pops up, waving a video cassette of "Slushy -
The Motion Picture."

SLUSHY

And to all a good night!

(beat)

And folks, don't forget. On
July 25, "Slushy" comes out on
video cassette at \$24.95. And
two dollars off when you buy a
specially marked bottle of
Woolite!

Everybody laughs.

WIDE

And the sleigh soars off into the clouds.

FADE OUT.

THE END