

# Christmas with the KRACKERS

## Scene 1

As the **intro music** plays (**track 14**), the cast enters and all take positions on and around the stage for the opening song. Fade the intro music when ready. To the side of the main stage is a smaller stage, representing the elves' dormitory at the North Pole. Mrs Claus sits in a rocking chair, next to six elves who sit under duvets – see staging suggestions p33.)

**All** Ladies and gentlemen...the Elfettes!

*(The Elfettes enter. Three to five in number, they are elf versions of Motown stars like the Supremes or Ronettes – see costume suggestions p35. They stand front and centre stage to lead the cast in the opening song.)*

### Song

## Ho! Ho! Ho! We're Ready To Go

*Track 1 - vocal demo  
Track 15 - backing track  
Lyrics p25*

*(The song ends and all exit the main stage. The action focuses on the side stage, where the elves fidget excitedly under their duvets!)*

**Elf 1** I can't sleep, Mrs Claus! I'm too excited!

**Mrs Claus** Over-excited, more like!

**Elf 2** Me too! I can never get to sleep on Christmas Eve!

**Elf 3** Can you tell us a bedtime story, Mrs C?

**Elf 4** Yes, it will help to pass the time until Santa gets back.

**All Elves** Pleeeeeease, pleeeeeease!

**Mrs Claus** Oh, alright then. I can see I'm fighting a losing battle here! *(She retrieves a book from under her chair, puts on her glasses and starts reading).* 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse...

- Elf 5** Oh, not this one, we've heard it a million times before!
- Elf 6** (*studiously*) I think you'll find that's a slight exaggeration. (*tapping on a calculator*) I've heard it exactly...(*showing everyone the calculator*) 759.5 times.
- Elf 1** 759...POINT 5?
- Elf 6** Yes, one year I fell asleep halfway through!
- Mrs Claus** Right, (*thinking*)...something you haven't heard? I know...(*retrieving another book*)...how about I read you the story of 'Christmas with the Krackers'?
- Elf 2** Christmas with the Krackers?
- Mrs Claus** It's about a family called the Krackers, who live in (*your town/city*). They are Mr & Mrs Kracker, Grandad Kracker (Mr Kracker's father) and the children, Charlie and Carys. Now, (*opening the book and reading*) Mrs Kracker loved Christmas and she arranged *everything* festive in the Kracker household.
- Elf 1** What, like the decorations?
- Mrs Claus** Yes, the decorations.
- Elf 2** The fairy lights?
- Mrs Claus** Yes, the fairy lights.
- Elf 3** And the Christmas dinner?
- Mrs Claus** (*getting slightly exasperated*) Yes, the Christmas dinner.
- Elf 4** Mince pies?
- Mrs Claus** (*through gritted teeth*) Yes.
- Elf 6** (*studiously*) When Mrs Claus said '*everything festive*', I think it's right to assume that she meant '*everything*'. Is that understood?
- All Elves** Understood.
- Elf 5** (*pause*)...What about the tree?
- (*All turn and glare at Elf 5, who looks embarrassed.*)
- Mrs Claus** (*continuing reading*) But this particular year, Mrs Kracker was away from home looking after *her* mother, who had been poorly.
- All Elves** Aaaaah.
- Mrs Claus** So, because she hadn't been around, nothing Christmassy had been sorted!
- Elf 1** Nothing?

**Mrs Claus** That's right. *(reading)* Mr Kracker was busy with work and always on Zoom calls. He was an environmental consultant who dedicated his time to saving the planet. He hardly had enough time to look after his dad and the two children, Charlie and Carys, let alone their pets! With his wife away, he was thinking it might be easier to simply cancel Christmas!

**All Elves** *(shocked)* Cancel Christmas?!

*(As the harp plays (track 16), the action moves to the main stage – the Kracker's lounge-kitchen. In the lounge is a sofa behind which Fairy lies dishevelled, a shelf unit on which Gnome sits and a fireplace over which there is a mirror frame that Santa will appear in. In the kitchen is a table and chairs, a shelf unit displaying cooking ingredients and utensils, and white-painted boxes representing a fridge and an oven – see staging suggestions p33. There are no decorations. Kitty the cat and Curly the dog lie on the sofa. Curly scratches himself, nudging Kitty, who stretches.)*

**Kitty** What do you want Curly, you old flea bag? I'm trying to nap.

**Curly** Oh Kitty, I'm really sad that Mr Kracker has lost his Christmas spirit. Apart from putting up that 'Elf On A Shelf' thingamajig, he's made no effort at all. There'll be no Christmas dinner tomorrow, which means no leftovers for us.

**Kitty** But Curly, it's been hard for our humans lately. They've had a lot on their plate.

**Curly** I wish I had a lot on my plate...I'm starving!

**Kitty** What is it with dogs? You're always hungry. You've just had your dinner! And you ate most of mine!

**Curly** Well, I like yours better, Kitty. It's fishy.

**Kitty** I'll tell you what *is* fishy...that Elf on the shelf. I'm sure I just saw it move.

**Gnome** *(jumping up and talking in a jolly voice)* Actually, I'm not an 'elf on the shelf'...I'm the *(finger quotes)* "Gnome in Your Home" *(to the audience, shrugging)*. Sorry, it's a copyright issue! My actual name is Gnome One-Five-Seven-Three. I'm here to spy on everyone in the house and report back to Santa!

**Fairy** *(coming alive and popping up from behind the sofa, crossly)* Well report this, One-Five-Seven-Three! I'm a fairy who should take pride of place on top of a Christmas tree. But it's Christmas Eve and there are no lights, no decorations...and no tree! What am I supposed to sit on?

**Gnome** Well, Fairy, at least they got you down from the loft.

**Fairy** They didn't get me down from the loft. I rolled under the sofa when they took the tree down last year. I've been lying there ever since, until Curly dragged me out! Look at my beautiful dress...covered in dog hair! *(She bursts out crying!)*

**Curly** Awkward!

**Kitty** I think our humans could do with a bit of help. They need to find their Christmas mojo again.

**Curly** But what can we do? We're just a dog, a cat, a hairy fairy and an Elf on a....

**Gnome** *(interrupting and wagging a finger)* Gnome in Your Home! Remember, copyright! Well, I could try speaking to Santa.

**Fairy** Eh? How are you going to do that?

**Gnome** Through the mirror...watch. *(turning to the mirror)* You need to sing a special song. *(clearing his/her throat and singing the following to the tune of Jingle Bells.)*

*Santa Claus, Santa Claus,  
Can you talk to me?  
You're away, on your sleigh,  
So, pick up on hands-free.*

*(Santa appears in the mirror – see staging suggestions p33. He holds onto reins as if driving his sleigh, while someone unseen in the wings throws fake snow over him.)*

**Santa** This is Santa speaking. Go ahead, One-Five-Seven-Three.

**All** *(very impressed)* Wow!

**Gnome** I'm at the Krackers' house in *(your town/city)*.

**Santa** *(opening a large book)* Let me just check the 'Naughty'n'Nice' ledger. *(reading)* So that would be Charlie and Carys Kracker, yes?

**Gnome** Yes, that's right, Santa. But we have a problem.

**Santa** A problem?

**Gnome** Yes. I'm afraid it's a Code Red - nine double 0!

**Curly** What's a Code Red - nine double 0!?

**Gnome** A total loss of Ho! Ho! Ho!

**Santa** A Code Red - nine double 0, you say? We can't have that. There's nothing quite so un-Christmassy as a Code Red - nine double 0!

## **Song** Code Red-Nine Double 0

*Track 2 - vocal demo  
Track 17 - backing track  
Lyrics p26*

**Santa** Keep me updated, One-Five-Seven-Three and I'll sort out some Christmas magic. What's that Rudolph?...*(pause)*...No you can't have a wee! We're currently flying over Buckingham Palace! Wait 'til we're over Downing Street! Santa over and out!

*(Santa exits from the mirror. )*

- Fairy** I'm struggling to get my head around all this! What's the plan exactly?
- Kitty** Yeah, how does the Christmas magic thing work?
- Gnome** You leave that to me. I'll assess the situation and make a full report to Santa. He'll know exactly what to do.
- Curly** Well, I say let's go for it! Whatever gets me my Christmas dinner leftovers!
- Kitty** Oh, Curly!

*(As the **continuity music** plays (**track 18**) and the lights fade, Curly and Kitty nap on the sofa, Fairy lies back down behind it and Gnome sits back on the shelf.)*

## Scene 2

*(As the continuity music ends, the Elfettes enter to sing a short **summary #1** of the story so far. **Track 3 - vocal demo, Track 19 - backing track.**)*

- Elfettes** Ooh ooh ooh ooh.  
And so, now we know,  
It's a total loss of ho ho ho!  
Let's go back and see,  
The elves on Christmas Eve.  
Ooh ooh ooh ooh.

*(The Elfettes exit and the action focuses on Mrs Claus and the elves.)*

- Elf 1** A Code Red - nine double 0!? That's bad, isn't it?
- Elf 6** Bad? It's the worst thing! *(reading studiously from a pamphlet)* According to the Elf Handbook, a Code Red - nine zero zero is when a grown-up suffers a total loss of Ho! Ho! Ho! It is notoriously difficult to put right.
- Elf 2** So, what happened, Mrs C?
- Elf 3** How did Santa help the Krackers?
- Mrs Claus** Well, there was no way he could have done it on his own. He knew he would certainly need the help of some very expert elves.
- Elf 4** Expert elves? You mean like Elf Special Agents?
- Elf 5** This is just so exciting! Keep reading, Mrs C?
- Mrs C** Okay. *(looking at the book again)* Are you sitting comfortably?

*(As the **harp** plays (**track 20**), the action again moves to the main stage, where Carys and Charlie enter and pace up and down. Gnome and Fairy are frozen when humans are around. Curly and Kitty remain asleep on the sofa. Grandad enters, wearing a tracksuit and carrying a yoga mat.)*

- Charlie** Hi Grandad.

**Grandad** Hi Charlie. Hi Carys. Sorry, can't stop. I'm going to Hot Yoga with Hilary.

*(Grandad exits with a jolly skip in his step!)*

**Carys** Did he say 'yoga with Hot Hilary'?! Well, at least Grandad seems happy. Oh Charlie, I can't believe Dad's not bothered about Christmas, just because Mum isn't here to organise it.

**Charlie** Well, I guess he's just too busy to do it himself. Being an environmental consultant is an important job.

**Carys** Too busy? Too grumpy, you mean! And he's always saying Christmas is a waste of money and bad for the planet.

*(Dad enters, carrying an open laptop. Dressed for a Zoom call, he wears a jacket, shirt and tie, but no trousers! On his lower half he only wears colourful underwear and slippers!)*

**Dad** *(whispering loudly at the children)* Can you two keep it down? I'm on an important Zoom call! And get the cat and dog off the sofa! *(speaking to the laptop)* Sorry Alan, just my two children causing a riot! So, about this carbon footprint of yours. I've been thinking....

*(Dad exits, continuing his conversation. The children stare after him, shaking their heads. They sit on the sofa, pushing off Kitty and Curly who lie on the floor.)*

**Charlie** I don't think he'd know how to organise Christmas anyway. Mum's always done everything because she loves it!

**Carys** I miss Mum.

*(Charlie's mobile phone rings (track 21). He smiles and answers it.)*

**Charlie** Hi Mum, *(mimes to Carys "It's mum")* Yes, we're missing you, too. *(pause)* Dad? He's on a Zoom call. How's Gran? *(pause)* Oh, that's brilliant news! *(pause)* Yes, she's right here. Just a sec...*(handing the phone to Carys)*... Mum says Gran's feeling much better. Gran wants to speak to you.

**Carys** Hi Gran. *(pause)* I can't hear you very well? Are you holding the phone the right way up? *(pause)* Yes, I know you're not stupid, Gran. *(pause)* Yes, I know you've been using a mobile phone since before I was born. It's just that you're not very clear. *(pause)* What's that? *(pause)* You haven't got your teeth in? Ewww! Well, could you maybe *put* them in? *(pause)* Hi, that's better. I can hear you properly now. *(pause)* You're both coming home tomorrow!? Oh! Can you put Mum back on?

*(Charlie snatches the phone. Carys looks more and more worried as the conversation unfolds.)*

**Charlie** Mum? Are you really coming home tomorrow? *(pause)* Yes, of course I'm pleased. It's just quite a surprise. *(pause)* Err...yes, Dad has got everything ready for Christmas dinner. *(pause)* Of course the decorations are up. *(pause)* Yes, we've decorated the tree just the way you like it. *(pause)* Brilliant. See you tomorrow. Love you. Merry Christmas!

*(Charlie hangs up. Carys and Charlie stand up and look at each other in horror!)*

**C & C** Aaaagggghh!!

**Dad** *(entering, grumpily)* I thought I told you to keep it down.

**C & C** Mum and Gran are coming home.

**Dad** That's great news. When?

**C & C** Christmas Day!

**Dad** Christmas Day? How lovely. When's that?

**C & C** Tomorrow!

**Carys** It's a disaster.

**Charlie** Look around, Dad. We've got nothing ready. No decorations, no tree, no dinner. Nothing!

**Dad** What are you talking about? I put that Elf up on the shelf. What more do you want? Mum will understand. She knows I've been too busy. Anyway, Christmas is a total waste of money...and it's bad for the planet.

**C & C** Christmas is bad for the planet?

**Dad** So you agree. That's sorted then...Christmas is officially cancelled!

*(Dad exits.)*

**Carys** You can't just cancel Christmas! I don't care what *(pointing to where Dad exited)* 'Mr Scrooge' says. Okay, We need to fix this. You go and get the decorations from the loft and I'll see what food there is in the fridge.

**Charlie** What about the tree? We always have a real one.

**Carys** Oh, there's so much to do! Where's the Christmas magic when you need it?

*(Both exit in a hurry. Gnome and Fairy come to life.)*

**Gnome** *(jumping down from the shelf)* By Santa's trousers! It's worse than I thought!

**Fairy** *(popping back up from behind the sofa)* It's great that the children want to do something, but time is running out. They're going to need a hand.

**Curly** No Christmas dinner leftovers?! I am actually going to die!

**Kitty** Oh, don't be so dramatic.

**Gnome** I'll report back to Santa. *(clearing his/her throat and singing.)*

*Santa Claus, Santa Claus,  
Can you talk to me?  
You're away, on your sleigh,  
So, pick up on hands-free.*

*(Santa again appears in the mirror, holding onto reins etc.)*

- Santa** This is Santa speaking. Situation update, One-Five-Seven-Three?
- Gnome** We're going to need some serious elf-help.
- Santa** Who should I send?
- Gnome** We need expertise in the following departments: 1. Food, 2. Christmas tree, and 3. Decorations. And one more thing. We have so little time we're going to have to involve...*(pause)* the children!
- Santa** *(horrified)* Children witnessing Christmas magic? Good heavens, what is the world coming to?! Very well, I will allow Charlie and Carys to be part of the magic, but only for tonight! After all, *(looking at the naughty and nice list)* they have been very well behaved this year...if we overlook the incident with the whoopee cushion...oh, and the laxative chocolate. Okay, I'm on the case!

*(During the next song, Santa joins in from the mirror frame!)*

## Song **Christmas Magic**

*Track 4 - vocal demo  
Track 22 - backing track  
Lyrics p27*

- Santa** Right. I'll send my best elves immediately!
- Gnome** Thank you Santa, over and out!

*(Santa exits the mirror. As the **continuity music** plays (track 23) and the lights fade, Curly and Kitty nap on the sofa, Fairy lies back down behind it and Gnome sits back on the shelf.)*

## Scene 3

*(As the continuity music ends, the Elfettes enter to sing a short **summary #2** of the story so far.  
**Track 5 - vocal demo, Track 24 - backing track.**)*

- Elfettes** Ooh ooh ooh ooh.  
Oh my, wave Christmas goodbye,  
But will Santa fix it on time?  
Let's go back and see,  
The elves on Christmas Eve.  
Ooh ooh ooh ooh.

*(The Elfettes exit and the action focuses on Mrs Claus and the elves.)*

- Elf 4** This is the best story ever!
- Elf 3** What happens next, Mrs C?



**Elf 5** Does Christmas at the Krackers' actually happen?

**Elf 1** *(hopping up and down)* I'm so excited. I need the toilet, but I'm not going in case I miss something!

**Elf 6** *(studiously)* Have you heard of an elf called Penny Spender?

**All Elves** Penny Spender?

**Elf 6** Yes. An elf called Penny Spender holds the North Pole record for holding on the longest? She fell into a gift-wrapping machine and was trapped inside one of Santa's sacks for 3 days, 14 hours and 27 minutes, until a security elf spotted the sack hopping up and down on the spot!

**All Elves** OOOOH!

**Elf 2** I hope she made it to the loo!

**Elf 6** Well according to the Elf Chronicles, her North Pole Record coincided with the great Arctic flood of 1926.

**Mrs Claus** Err, thank you! Now where was I... *(looking at the book again)*...ah, yes. Charlie and Carys were about to get quite a surprise...

*(As the harp plays (track 25), the action again moves to the main stage. Carys is looking in the fridge. Grandad enters, wearing a Morris Dancer outfit and carrying a pair of large spoons.)*

**Carys** Oh hi, Grandad!

**Grandad** Sorry, can't stop. It's open mic night at the Frog and Bucket!

*(Grandad exits as Charlie enters.)*

**Charlie** There's nothing in the loft. Dad must have 'recycled' everything. How about the food situation?

**Carys** *(looking in the fridge)* There's three eggs and some bacon, half a sausage roll and some left-overs for the dog. I had to throw out the cheese.

**Charlie** But cheese lasts for ages. You don't need to throw it out!

**Carys** You do if it comes in a milk bottle!

*(Charlie and Carys forlornly sit on the sofa, pushing off Kitty and Curly who lie on the floor.)*

**C & C** *(admitting defeat)* So Christmas really is cancelled!

**Gnome** *(from the shelf)* Not necessarily.

**Charlie** Who said that?

**Gnome** Me.

**C & C** *(jumping up from the sofa and looking at each other)* Aaaagghhh!

- Carys**           *(pointing)* The Elf on the...
- Gnome**           *(interrupting, wagging a finger)* Gnome in Your Home. It's a copyright thing!
- C & C**           *(looking at each other)* Aaaagggghh!
- Fairy**           *(popping up)* Santa has worked his magic to help rescue your Christmas!
- C & C**           *(looking at the Fairy, then at each other)* Aaaagggghh!
- Gnome**           She's the fairy from last year's Christmas tree.
- Kitty**           She's been under the sofa for a whole year covered in dog hair.
- C & C**           *(looking at Kitty, then at each other)* Aaaagggghh!
- Curly**           Oh don't start on about my hair again. I'll get a complex.
- C & C**           *(looking at Curly, then at each other)* Aaaagggghh!
- Kitty**           Can you please stop screaming!
- Gnome**           We're here to help you get Christmas back on track.
- Carys**           *(to Charlie)* If we stand really still and close our eyes, they'll go away.
- (Charlie and Carys stand still with their eyes closed. We hear a knock at the door and they nervously open one eye!)*
- Gnome**           That will be the first Elf Special Agent! Everyone, may I introduce to you the North Pole's own domestic diva...Nig-elf-a!
- (To her own **intro music (track 26)**, Nig-elf-a enters, slinking in. She is dressed as an elf, but with a black dress and jewellery. If possible, her voice could mimic Nigella Lawson's!)*
- C & C**           Nig-elf-a?
- Nig-elf-a**       Yes, darlings. It's me, Nig-elf-a, the original slinky, dinky kitchen goddess. I hear you have a dreadful culinary crisis.
- Carys**           *(hesitantly)* Erm. We have nothing for Christmas dinner and...and...Mum and Gran are arriving tomorrow, expecting it all to be ready.
- Nig-elf-a**       Oh, I love a drama. Let's see just how desperate the situation really is.

.....**END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE**.....