

**SIDE 5: O'BRIEN, IRENE and GOOD ELVES**

O'BRIEN

Why are you coverin' for me?

IRENE

Because I believe in the Claus and his cause and I don't wanna see it blown to bits by a buncha no-good scoundrels like Quigley and his minions!

O'BRIEN

It looks like Berg was right about you.

*(The GOOD ELVES whisper excitedly)*

IRENE

Huh? Whatdya...? What's... *(demurely)* What did he say about me?

O'BRIEN

What's it matter?

IRENE

It doesn't!

O'BRIEN

Doesn't it?

GOOD ELF 1

Oh yes it does.

IRENE

Quiet, you!

GOOD ELF 2

Not til ya say it!

IRENE

Say *what*!?

GOOD ELF 3

That *you*...

IRENE

That *I*...?

GOOD ELF 4

That ya love Berg, ya dumb yuck!

*(The ELVES cross their arms and nod in agreement. IRENE looks at them, then over at O'BRIEN, also nodding)*

IRENE

Fine, ok?! Fine! Ya caught me! *(She tries to compose herself)* You don't know the anguish I've been in. The pain! Oh! *(Quick beat)* I've gotta get a YETI! *(She starts to run offstage)*

O'BRIEN

Wait! First: tell me, Irene. Do you know what I *think* you know?

IRENE

Do I know what you think I know?

O'BRIEN

That's what I said, isn't it?

IRENE

Is it?

O'BRIEN

Cut the cute and give me the skinny on Quigley!

IRENE

I don't know what you...

O'BRIEN *(back to IRENE)*

Spill it, sister!

IRENE

Quigley's as crooked as a broken nose!

O'BRIEN

Then why dontcha you tell Nick?

IRENE

Cuz Quigley said if I snitch, he'll melt the Snow Shack like an icicle in an oven!

O'BRIEN

Well, I say it's time *we* put *his* feet to the fire. I've got a plan to quash Quigley's crime ring. But I'm gonna need you *(he looks at the 4 good elves)* and you and you and you and you *(back to IRENE)* and Berg. Bring it in, elves.

*(They all circle up, then O'BRIEN leaves the huddle, steps forward and addresses the audience the actors enact the actions he describes)*

I started with a speech about the true meaning of Christmas...

*(IRENE and the ELVES pantomime crying, hugging, dabbing their eyes, etc.)*

...before handin' down their marching orders.

GOOD ELF 1

Find the reindeer? But I hate the reindeer!

GOOD ELF 2

Fly to Santa? But I don't have my license yet!

O'BRIEN

Then I laid out the risks involved...

GOOD ELF 3

Fireplaces?

GOOD ELF 4

But fireplaces have FIRE!

O'BRIEN

...and a plea to get their affairs in order *(ELF 4 tries to run away, but he catches and holds them in place)* Hey, you: get your affairs in order. Then we sang a round of "Silent Night..."

## **[16] SILENT NIGHT**

IRENE & ELVES

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE  
SLEEP IN HEAVENLY

O'BRIEN

*(cuts them off and speaks it, moodily)*

Peace. *(Beat)* It wasn't on the menu for us tonight, but maybe, just *maybe*, if we made it to the dawn...

GOOD ELF 1

Hey! How 'bout a little less talky the talk and some more walky the walk!

O'BRIEN

Right. So, I sent the little elves to find Nicky... *(the elves run off one side of the stage)* And Irene... well, you can guess where I sent her..

IRENE *(screaming, running offstage)*

I'm comin', Bergie!

O'BRIEN

Then... it was time to get to work.