

NAUGHTY CLAUS

by

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FADE IN:

INT. TRAM - DAY

Run down. Graffiti lines the walls. PASSENGERS from diverse backgrounds in different attires stand crammed from front to back in a morning bustle.

BECCA, 26, a valiant, unwavering, human angel, she can seem a little rough around the edges, stands at the door and taps her foot on the step.

Anxious, she checks her smart phone then looks out the window to see buildings stream past.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

The trams stops.

Becca runs out and sprints down the street.

BECCA

I can make it. C'mon.

A pair of crystal blue wings, invisible to everyone but her, stem from her shoulder blades. Both wings are missing a small piece off their tips.

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

A CROWD watches as flames and smoke billow out the windows. Fire truck and Ambulance SIRENS sound in the distance.

Becca leaps from the entrance with a small CHILD in her arms.

She puts the child down then turns her head to see her wings grow their tips.

A gust of flames bursts out the entrance and knocks Becca to the ground.

Becca lies unconscious on the footpath while her wings burn away till they've disappeared.

People from the crowd rush over to help her.

LATER

A police barrier holds the crowd back while PARAMEDICS deal with a few injured residents.

FIREFIGHTERS get into their truck and drive away.

Two Paramedics strap Becca to a gurney. As they wheel her to an ambulance her smart phone slides out of her pocket and falls into the gutter.

A JUNKIE from behind a barrier spots the phone. He sneaks over and takes it.

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

The home of a neat freak; aligned to perfection, everything has its place.

MICHELLE, 32, a conceited business woman, slinks a black dress over her head.

She turns off an alarm on the bedside table as it begins to chime.

She puts on a low heeled, laced, pair of pumps. She fiddles with the laces several times before she decides they are just right.

KITCHEN

Michelle opens the fridge and takes out a carton of organic milk from the perfectly categorized shelves.

She pours the milk over oatmeal with fresh raspberries in a bowl on the bench.

LATER

She puts a jacket on and grabs her handbag from a box at the front door.

A fake spider slides underneath the door. Michelle squeals and jumps about.

Little GIGGLES come from the hallway.

Michelle grimaces and presses a button on the wall next to the door with a wire attached that runs underneath.

ZAP! Two young BOYS scream.

HALLWAY

Michelle leaves her apartment and sniggers as the two boys run down the end of the hall.

She leans down and pulls a clear plastic strip off the skirting.

She folds it neat and puts it inside then shuts and locks the door.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Michelle strides ahead of her assistant TONI, 25's, as gay as gay can be, he jots everything down in a notepad.

MICHELLE

I want the contract for Tiffany's on my desk asap and the one for Andie's Dry Cleaning sent back.

TONI

I'm on it.

MICHELLE

And make sure those morons in processing made the amendments. We don't need another stuff up before Christmas.

A HOMELESS MAN touches her arm.

HOMELESS MAN

Spare some change?

MICHELLE

Get a job.

She pushes him backwards.

MICHELLE

I hate it when they do that.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Christmas decorations align the walls. Seasonal songs play over the speaker system.

Michelle and Toni head towards a set of elevators.

TONI

And still no Santa this year?

MICHELLE

Don't grow a set of balls to challenge me with now, Toni.

Toni gasps.

TONI

I would never.

MICHELLE

Parents are more than welcome to take their pesky kids to the toy store down the street.

They get into an elevator. The doors close.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Ornaments from various locations and eras are stacked in locked glass cabinets around the store.

The Junkie hands Becca's phone to a DEALER behind the counter.

The dealer check for chips in the screen and cover then takes a twenty dollar note from the till.

JUNKIE

C'mon?

DEALER

Best I can do.

JUNKIE

But it's the latest shit. C'mon man, don't leave me hangin on Christmas.

The dealer holds the twenty in the air.

DEALER

Best I can do.

The Junkie snatches the money off him then huffs out.

JUNKIE

Dodgy friggin rip-off joint.

DEALER

Bloody Junkies.

He puts the phone with others on a shelf next to pocket watches in the front counter.

INT. SHOPPING MALL/MICHELLE'S OFFICE - DAY

As neat as her house, Michelle sits at a large desk and stares out the window at the busy street below, handheld phone to her ear.

MICHELLE

(into phone)

Claus. C. L. A. U. S...yes...don't mock me or I'll have your job faster than you can click your fingers...thank you.

Toni opens the door.

TONI

Excuse me Michelle. Your friend, Amy, is here. And this just came in the mail.

Toni hands her an envelope.

MICHELLE

Tell Amy I'll be down shortly.

Toni nods and closes the door.

Michelle opens the envelope and pulls out a tacky Christmas card.

She opens the card to find a family photo of a woman in her 50's, a man the same age and two children, dressed in summer attire on a beach.

The cards reads--

"Merry Christmas Darling. Hope you're having as much fun as we are."

She throws the card and photo into a bin beside the desk.

MICHELLE

(into phone)

Yes. It was supposed to be here Friday. Two p.m.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Michelle walks beside AMY, 30's, relaxed, down to earth, she carries a small box of knick-knacks.

AMY

Have they sorted out the thing with your phone yet?

MICHELLE

No. Damn idiots messed it up again. Amy, why are you dragging me here? I don't understand why you couldn't have gone after lunch.

AMY

It's on the way. And I think the question should be; when are you going to start wearing real heels?

MICHELLE

I'll choose comfort over height any day.

AMY

Everything about you screams style except your shoes. You're not winning any men with them.

MICHELLE

Real women don't need men to get them through life.

AMY

Yeah, but the idea of growing old with one has a nice ring to it.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Amy drags Michelle inside.

Michelle stubs her foot on the front step. She grabs it and winces.

MICHELLE

Fruit! See what happens when you drag me into places I don't want to go?

AMY

You need a little adventure in your life and if this is the only way then so be. And you can say fuck every now and then. It's not going to hurt you.

MICHELLE

Profanity's a disgusting habit.

AMY

Yeah, but so is harming little children.

Michelle wipes dust from a piano in the corner.

MICHELLE

A little shock to the system will do them good.

AMY

Those things are for dogs. Not humans.

DEALER

How can I help you two ladies?

Amy empties the box onto the counter.

AMY

Are these any good to you?

The dealer sifts through the knick-knacks.

DEALER

I'll give you fifty for the lot.

AMY

Actually, I'd like to put it towards one of your watches.

DEALER

Which one would you like?

Michelle inspects an antique vase.

Amy points to an intricate pocket watch in the front cabinet, beside Becca's phone.

AMY

That one. I'll take the phone next to it too.

The dealer puts them on the counter.

DEALER

Good things these little smart phones. Latest version. Hence the price tag.

AMY

It's exactly what I need.

INT. RESTAUNT - DAY

A corporate meeting place with extravagant paintings and lavish table settings.

Amy and Michelle finish a salad lunch.

AMY

Dad's been bragging about that damn watch for ages. Thought it would go down a treat for his birthday.

Amy takes the smart phone from her bag and pushes it across the table.

AMY

And that's for you.

MICHELLE

I don't want some old grimy secondhand phone. I'm happy to wait.

AMY

You? Happy to wait? Really? It's just to bide the time between now and then. Plus there are no refunds and I know how you hate the thought of throwing money away.

Michelle picks up the phone. She presses a button at the top and runs her finger over the touch screen then taps it. Nothing happens.

MICHELLE

Look. It doesn't even work.

AMY

It probably needs a charge and the way I see it is that you can either accept it now or I can slip it into your handbag on the way out. It's your choice.

Michelle shoots her an angry look.

MICHELLE

Fine. But I'm no leech. I'll only take it if I pay for it.

AMY

It's a gift. You're not pay--

MICHELLE

Uh, those are my terms. Take it or leave it.

Michelle puts the phone in her handbag under the table and takes out her purse.

AMY

You are so frustrating sometimes.  
I swear.

The phone turns itself on.

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT/LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle lies on a plush couch and reads a book. Soft classical music plays on the stereo.

She puts the book down on her chest.

MICHELLE

If only real love could live up to  
the idealized version.

A BEEPING sound comes from her handbag in the box next to the front door.

Michelle gets up and walks across to the box.

She opens her handbag and takes out the smart phone.

She checks a map app that flashes. It brings up directions from her apartment to a hospital nearby.

She creases her brow then puts it back in her bag.

The phone begins to beep continuous.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) Michelle tries to get the battery on the phone out, but can't.

B) She smashes the phone with a hammer and throws the pieces in the bin.

C) The phone, in perfect condition, sits on the bench and beeps.

D) Michelle opens a lounge window and throws the phone out. It hits an innocent bystander.

BYSTANDER

Hey.

MICHELLE

Whoops.

E) Michelle puts the phone into a sink full of water. It fizzes and turns off.

F) Dark and Silent. The phone once again sits on the bench, like brand new, and beeps.

BEDROOM

Michelle holds a pillow against her head.

Fed up, she kicks the doona off and gets up.

KITCHEN

Michelle paces the room, cordless phone to her ear.

MICHELLE

(into phone)

This damn thing is driving me nuts. It won't shut up and worst it's indestructible.

AMY

(over phone, filtered)

Have you tried turning it off?

MICHELLE

Yes. I've tried everything I can think of and nothing is working.

AMY

Sorry chick, I have no idea what you're doing wrong and I have a big day tomorrow. I really need to get back to sleep. You're gonna have to figure it out by yourself.

Michelle hangs up and growls.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Michelle sits in the back and watches directions on the smart phone.

MICHELLE  
Take the next left.

The TAXI DRIVER nods.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The taxi pulls into a taxi rank out the front.

Michelle gets out and marches towards the entrance.

MICHELLE  
Alright you possessed machine. I'm  
taking you where you want and then  
I'm done with you.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT

Michelle slinks in and quietly shuts the door.

Becca lies in bed with bandages along her arms and cords  
attached to assorted machines.

The smart phone dings and turns off. Michelle sighs.

MICHELLE  
Thank you.

Becca opens her eyes.

MICHELLE  
Hi. I'm sorry to bother you, but I  
believe this is yours. So I'm just  
going to leave it here for you to  
deal with when you're ready. Ok?

Michelle puts the smart phone on a table beside the bed.

BECCA  
That's not mine.

Becca winces as she tries to sit up.

MICHELLE  
I'm pretty sure it is.

BECCA

It's not actually. I wouldn't have lost it if it was. It's yours now and you need to know how it works.

MICHELLE

Oh, no, really I don't. It's already kept me up all night with its incessant beeping. Good Luck.

She turns to leave.

BECCA

Where did you get it from?

MICHELLE

That's none of your business.

BECCA

Was it beeping when you got it?

MICHELLE

No.

BECCA

Then welcome to the world of angels.

MICHELLE

Excuse me?

BECCA

You pressed a button and voila, you're an angel. Congratulations. It's your calling. Duty. Whatever you want to call it.

Michelle stares at her with a blank expression.

BECCA

You need to complete a series of tests in order to earn your wings. Following me so far?

MICHELLE

I think they've sent you to the wrong part of the hospital.

Michelle scoots out of the room and down the hall.

BECCA

Wait! You're gonna have to face it  
sooner or later.

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michelle hops into bed and snuggles into her doona.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Small, cluttered, open plan and unorganized.

An alarm Buzzes.

Michelle rolls over in Becca's bed.

She sits up and rubs her eyes then switches the alarm off.

MICHELLE

Damn it.

She gets up, half dozy, and runs into the wardrobe.

Frantic, she searches through clothes on the hangers then stops.

She looks around the wardrobe then the bedroom.

MICHELLE

What the?

LOUNGE ROOM

Michelle creeps towards the kitchen. Unsure.

KITCHEN

She peers her head out the front door to see a dark and dingy hallway with gangsters, strippers and children that roam about.

One of the gangsters winks at her on his way past.

She slams the door then grabs a can of pepper spray from the bench and grips it tight.

She tiptoes around the apartment, pepper spray aimed in anticipation.

She checks every nook and cranny for any signs of life.

She looks out the window at the rough and rowdy neighborhood.

MICHELLE

Holly crap.

She takes a cordless phone from the wall and puts it to her ear. No dial tone.

She puts it back on the wall then takes it off again, still no dial tone.

BEDROOM

Michelle puts the pepper spray down on the floor in the wardrobe.

Displeased, she uses her thumb and forefinger to search through the clothes for something to wear.

KITCHEN

Wearing a jacket that barely covers a tiny, tight black skirt and revealing blouse, Michelle peers her head out the front door.

The hallway is a quieter. Only a few kids muck about.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Michelle rushes along the street.

MICHELLE

Stranded with no phone, no money  
and nothing that's merely ok to  
wear. Great. This is just great.

INT. SHOPPING MALL/TOP FLOOR - DAY

A row of small cubicles sit in front of set of large offices.

Michelle gets off the elevator and is confronted by two SECURITY GUARDS.

SECURITY GUARD  
I'll need to see some ID.

MICHELLE  
And I need to get to my office.

She tries to walk forward, but they block her.

SECURITY GUARD  
Management only. Without ID, we can't let you through.

MICHELLE  
I don't believe this. I walk past you two bozos every day.

Michelle takes a step forward. They restrain her.

MICHELLE  
Hey!

She points to Toni as he walks across the room.

MICHELLE  
Toni!

Toni glares at her with a puzzled look then sits at a cubicle.

MICHELLE  
That's my assistant. Let me go!

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Michelle gets thrown onto the street. She yells at the security guards--

MICHELLE  
That's courteous now, isn't it?!  
I'm gonna have you fired!

INT. APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle strides past a RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST

Ah...which room ma'am?

She ignores the receptionist and gets into the elevator.

HALLWAY

Michelle shakes the door knob to her apartment. She bangs on the door.

Frustrated, she sits on the floor.

Two POLICE OFFICERS exit the elevator with an OLD LADY. She points at Michelle.

OLD LADY

There she is. Breaking and entering.

MICHELLE

Mrs. Harland. What are you doing?

OLD LADY

How do you know my name? I've never met you before?

Michelle gets up as the Officers approach.

POLICE OFFICERS

Miss, you're gonna have to come with us.

MICHELLE

Wait a minute. You're making a big mistake.

She looks back and forth at the Officers then dashes for the stairwell.

POLICE OFFICER

Stop!

STAIRWELL

The Officers chase Michelle down the stairs.

FRONT ENTRANCE

Michelle runs across the lobby and into a puddle just outside the front doors.

MICHELLE  
Seriously?

She screams as the Officers knock her to the ground.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

One of the Officers escorts her out and lets her go.

MICHELLE  
But it's my apartment.

OFFICER  
Yeah, yeah.

He goes back inside.

A tall MAN, 50's, tattoos up and down his arms, puts his hand on Michelle's shoulder.

MAN  
I understand.

She freaks out and slaps him across the chest with both hands.

MICHELLE  
Don't touch me!

He cowers away.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEWYORK - DAY

Michelle stands at a payphone.

MICHELLE  
(into phone)  
I need a reverse call to five,  
five, five, four, one, three, two.

She aims the pepper spray at a person that eyes her off on their way past.

MICHELLE

Keep walking or I will use this.

OPERATER

(over phone, filtered)

That number's been disconnected.  
Would you like to try another?

MICHELLE

Yes. Five, five, five, nine, two,  
five, one.

It rings.

AMY

(over phone, filtered)

Hello.

MICHELLE

Thank God. I've had the worst day  
and I really just need you to come  
pick me up.

AMY

Who is this?

MICHELLE

It's Michelle.

AMY

I thought the Operator said  
Rochelle. I don't know any  
Michelle's.

MICHELLE

Don't do this to me. I really need  
you right now.

AMY

I'm sorry, I can't help you.

Amy hangs up.

Michelle stares down at the handset.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEWYORK - DAY

Alone and worried, Michelle walks the streets.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Different RESIDENTS go in and out of the building. Michelle stands on the footpath and watches.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle enters and spots her handbag under the edge of the couch in the lounge.

She runs over to it and pulls out her purse.

MICHELLE

Yes, yes, yes.

She pulls out all of the cards which have her picture and Becca's address. She looks bemused as she puts each one on floor beside her.

MICHELLE

I don't live here! This is not my life!

She notices Becca's smart phone on the coffee table.

BECCA (V.O)

You'll need to complete a series of tests in order to earn your wings. Got it?

Michelle grits her teeth.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Michelle storms in and slams the smart phone down on a tray in front of Becca, right next to her lunch.

MICHELLE

What have you done to me?

BECCA

You didn't let me finish last night. When you pressed one of the buttons on the phone my life became yours.

Becca finishes a meat and salad sandwich.

MICHELLE

That's absurd.

BECCA

Listen, the rules are simple. You continue on from where I left off. The phone will tell you when and where you need to help someone. You then need to help as many of those people as you can to earn your angel wings--

Michelle crosses her arms.

MICHELLE

No. I refuse. I'm not helping anyone and I already have a life that is exactly how I like it. Now give it back.

BECCA

It doesn't work like that. You're old life is done and dusted.

MICHELLE

It's my life. I'll say when it's done and dusted. Now give it back!

BECCA

You can't get it back. The only way to change your life at this point is to do as I told you. Once you've helped your quota of people then you'll get your wings and be able to decide whether you want to stay here or go...up there. There is no other way.

Michelle walks across to the window.

MICHELLE

This can't be happening.

BECCA

Oh, but it is.

MICHELLE

So what am I supposed to do? Just sit around and wait for this stupid thing to go off?

She waves the phone in the air.

BECCA

In the meantime you can do anything you want. Although I do suggest getting a job asap or you're gonna run out of money pretty damn quick. Oh, and sorry, can't help you in that department. Gotta do that yourself.

Michelle sits in a comfy armchair.

MICHELLE

I already had a job. A Great job and I worked really hard to get it.

BECCA

I'm sure finding a new job will be easy for you then. And don't say that I didn't warn you cause I tried before you left. Thought I was crazy, huh?

MICHELLE

You are crazy.

BECCA

Hmmm, maybe at times, but isn't everybody?

Michelle stares at her with a blank expression.

Becca takes the lid off a tub of jelly and begins to eat.

BECCA

People these days serious underestimate hospital food.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Michelle marches out.

She sits on a bench, stomps her feet and throws her arms about like a crazy person.

A frail WOMAN in a robe beside her gives her an odd look.

MICHELLE

What?

The woman gets up and scampers off.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle enters and slumps onto the couch. She sits her handbag on the coffee table.

Her stomach rumbles.

She checks her purse to find only small change.

KITCHEN

She rummages through the fridge.

MICHELLE

Yuck. Yuck. Hell no.

She finds a takeout box on the bottom shelf.

She takes it out and opens the box to find maggots crawling over noodles inside.

She screams and drops the box. The contents spill onto the floor.

She grabs a dustpan and brush from beside the door and uses it to scoop the mess back into the box.

She runs over to the lounge room window and throws it out onto the footpath.

The noodles splat onto the concrete next to two GIRLS that play hopscotch.

The girls jump and SQUEAL then look up.

GIRLS

Hey!

Michelle hides behind the curtain and laughs.

She walks back into the kitchen and opens the pantry.

She looks up and down the shelves jumbled with items.

Warn out, she grabs a box of cereal from a middle shelf and heads for the bedroom.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Michelle, eyes closed, stretches her arms above her head and yawns as she wakes.

She opens her eyes and looks around the room. Disappointed.

She throws a kiddie tantrum and thrashes at the doona.

MICHELLE

No! No !No! No! No!

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle tries her best to avoid everyone as she rushes down the hallway and to a flight of stairs.

The phone in her handbag beeps.

She takes it out and checks the map.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

An empty dead end. Michelle looks stumped as she checks for any signs of life. Nothing.

She crosses her arms and taps her foot.

A small kitten brushes against her leg. She kicks it away.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Michelle stands in front of Becca's bed and bites into a dim sim.

BECCA

You're sure there was nobody around?

MICHELLE

Yes. It's broken. I went where it told me and there was nothing but a little kitten.

She takes another bite into the dim sim.

BECCA

Was there a takeout store nearby?

Michelle waves the dim sim in the air. Becca eyes it off.

BECCA

Did it occur to you that you might have had to save the kitten?

Michelle spits the piece of dim sim into her hand. She puts it in the bin and washes her hand in the bathroom sink.

MICHELLE

Is that even legal?

BECCA

No. Look, just follow the map. It'll always take you to the right place.

Michelle dries her hands with paper towel.

BECCA

There is something I forgot to tell you yesterday. The other side of the deal that comes along with the whole Angel thing, as you put it.

MICHELLE

A catch? Great. What is it?

BECCA

There's a limit of how many people, animals and so forth that each Angel is set to help and if you don't meet at least half of your quota then you fail.

MICHELLE

The con to that is?

BECCA

Not only will you not get your wings, but you'll end up a hopeless soul, wandering earth for all eternity with no sense of direction or accomplishment.

MICHELLE

I'm doomed.

BECCA

Do you give up so easily all the time?

MICHELLE

Usually never.

BECCA

Then why start now?

MICHELLE

I...I don't know.

BECCA

Well I have faith in you. I know you can do a lot better. So, off you go little miss hoity-toity I'm all that. It's your time to shine.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Michelle pays a vendor for a hotdog.

She turns and looks up at the library. A glimmer of hope in her eyes.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Michelle sits at a computer and types a résumé.

LATER

She waits by a printer for a stack of her résumés to print.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Michelle walks into different offices and hands them her résumé. The employers all shake their heads.
- B) Michelle drops her résumé into various shops. The owner's all shake their heads.

EXT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle greases off an assortment of Christmas decorations in the window as she passes.

She spots a sign in the window: "HELPERS NEEDED. APPLY WITHIN."

MICHELLE

Yeah. When hell freezes over.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Michelle sits, attentive, across from an EMPLOYER, 40's, behind a large desk.

EMPLOYER

There's a slight problem with your references. Nobody seems to have anything about you on there records.

MICHELLE

If you give me a chance I promise I'll exceed all tasks.

EMPLOYER

I'm sorry. There's just nothing I can do for you at the moment.

Michelle frowns and gets up.

MICHELLE

Thanks for time.

INT. DINER - DAY

Michelle sits alone, sullen. A WAITRESS pours her a cup of coffee.

MICHELLE

Isn't anyone willing to give  
someone a break?

WAITRESS

Not in this era, love.

EXT. LENNY'S CLUB - DAY

Michelle stands in a small car park and watches a sign of a sexy women with her legs in the air above the front door, flicker on and off.

INT. LENNY'S CLUB - NIGHT

Red carpet, pedestals with dance poles, a stage, a catwalk down the centre and a large bar that runs along the side.

Michelle ponders in, unsure.

She stares wide eyed at GIRLS on stage while they practice a dance routine.

LENNY, a grimy, fat, biker looking brute in his late 50's, walks past Michelle with a crate of glasses. He puts the glasses on the bar.

MICHELLE

Excuse me?

LENNY

What can I do you for?

MICHELLE

Do you have any jobs available?  
Preferably something that doesn't  
involve me bearing everything  
sacred to me.

Lenny walks over and sizes Michelle up. She stands frigid and bites her tongue.

LENNY

Got any dance experience?

MICHELLE

A little, but I just said--

LENNY

Ah. Before you go getting all uppity. I wasn't suggesting stripping, we've got nothing available in that department. But we might have a position for a dancer. If you're interested?

MICHELLE

What would that entail?

LENNY

You get up there do a little dance, work the poles a little and that's it. Basically you're an entertainer. You warm the blokes up before the real deal and I get a third of your profits.

MICHELLE

A third?

LENNY

That's as sweet as it gets. So are you in or are you out?

MICHELLE

Yeah, sure. I suppose I can do that.

LATER

In a skimpy outfit, Michelle peeks her head through the backstage curtain to see a small crowd of men that sit around the stage and drink while they wait.

LINDA, 34, puts her hand on Michelle's shoulder.

LINDA

Damn Lenny.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

You should have done training first, but we're missin a girl and he'll do anything when he's desperate.

MICHELLE

I'm not sure about this anymore.

LINDA

It's easy. Follow my moves for a bit and try to keep up then grab a pole and work it, girl.

She drags Michelle onto the stage. The girls from earlier follow.

Raunchy music begins and the girls follow Linda's provocative dance moves. Michelle tries to keep up, wobbly on her high heels, she fails dismally with the moves.

The girls split up and grab a pole each. They dance up and down against them. Michelle watches, stunned.

Linda grabs Michelle's attention then points to an empty pole.

Michelle shakes her head.

LINDA

Go.

Frozen, Michelle doesn't budge. Linda walks over to her.

LINDA

You need the money, right? So get over there and dance.

She pushes her in the direction of the pole.

Michelle strikes poses against the pole. The men whistle and shout.

A DRUNK MAN holds up a hundred dollar note.

DRUNK MAN

C'mon honey. You can do better.

Michelle looks around at the other girls, who climb their poles and do moves upside down.

Michelle tries to climb the pole, but can't.

She tries to hold on with her legs and go upside down. She falls onto her head.

She gets back up and tries to swing around the pole. She swings too far and falls off the podium. The men laugh.

As she gets back onto the podium, one of the men slaps her on the ass.

She turns around and kicks him in the face and falls off the podium again.

Linda stops dancing and gawks at Michelle.

LINDA

Shit.

EXT. LENNY'S CLUB - NIGHT

Lenny pushes Michelle out the back door. He throws her a ten dollar note on the ground.

LENNY

For your cab home.

Michelle grabs the ten and limps towards the sidewalk.

She hails a cab.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle lies in bed and stares at the ceiling. She groans.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

A two level store with toys lined from wall to wall.

On the first floor there is a reading area to one back corner and a photo area with a Santa sleigh that sits amongst two large Christmas trees in the other corner.

A sign beside the Santa seat reads: "Santa will be back at 10:30am".

OFFICE

MR. RODERICK, 50's, the stern store manager, his kind heart outshines his tough act, sits behind a desk clustered with Christmas ornaments and looks over Michelle's résumé.

Michelle glares at the clutter.

MR. RODERICK

You're more than a little over qualified for this position?

MICHELLE

I know. I've had a string of bad luck lately and I really need this job. Any job. Please?

MR. RODERICK

And you're ok with children screaming, shouting and carrying on? Cause that will happen on a daily basis.

Michelle grits her teeth.

MICHELLE

Yes. Love the little darlings.

MR. RODERICK

Good.

He puts the resume down.

MR. RODERICK

Welcome aboard Miss...Claus. Ha, that didn't register with me until just now. Seems this may be fate.

Michelle smiles, a broad, fake smile at him.

MICHELLE

Mhmm.

Mr. Roderick turns and retrieves a sheet of paper from a small filing cabinet behind him. He passes it to Michelle.

MR. RODERICK

That's your schedule and you'll get your pay check in your pigeonhole at the end of every week.

MICHELLE

Will there be any room to move on my first check? I'm running a little short this week.

MR. RODERICK

No. Everyone gets paid on the same day. It's best kept that way.

She looks down at the schedule.

MICHELLE

Four hours a day? That's it?

MR RODERICK

That's all we'll need you for right now. Is that going to be problem?

MICHELLE

No. That's fine. Thank you for the chance. I'll a...I'll see you tomorrow.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Early morning. A box of cornflakes sits on the bedside table.

Michelle sleeps, sprawled across the bed.

She rolls over, checks the alarm clock and grunts.

INT. TOY STORE/STAFF ROOM - DAY

A small table and chairs sits in the middle. Pigeonholes line the back wall and a row of hooks line the side wall with jackets.

A hook at the end of the row holds a Mrs. Claus outfit: a matching red skirt and top set, a Santa hat, candy cane striped stocking and shoes to match, on a hanger.

NATHAN, 32, dressed in a Santa suit, walks past Michelle.

NATHAN

You must be the new girl.

MICHELLE

Yeah.

NATHAN

You're outfit's on your hook down the end. Everyone's dressed for the season, as usual. See you out there.

Michelle sees the outfit and rolls her eyes.

TOILET

Michelle stands in front of the mirror. She wears the Elf outfit which is a size too small.

MICHELLE

Hell has just frozen over.

FRONT COUNTER

Michelle stands beside PIPA, 35, bubbly, carefree personality, she shows Michelle how to work the till.

PIPA

That's everything. If you need a hand, always ask. You're gonna love working here. It's loads of fun.

MICHELLE

I'm sure it is.

LATER

The store is packed. Kids of all ages scream, shout and run about.

Pipa wraps presents as Michelle, flustered, hurries to serve customers. A large line increases at the counter.

She presses a button on the till, but nothing happens.

MICHELLE

Ah...Pipa? Is it? I can't get this to work. I don't know what I've done.

Pipa takes over.

PIPA

I've got it. You do the wrapping.

Michelle goes over to the wrapping paper. She picks it up and inspects it.

She does her best to wrap a toy. It doesn't look good at all.

Pipa glances over and laughs.

PIPA

Geez, when's the last time you wrapped something?

Pipa comes over and rewraps it; quick and neat, she is a wiz with the wrapping paper.

MICHELLE

Never. I usually box it, bag it or get someone else to do it. You're fantastic though.

PIPA

Years of practice for two kids will do that.

A bunch of 8 year old boys run along an isle. They muck about and knock toys from the shelves.

PIPA

Hey!

The boys run out of the store.

PIPA

I need you to clean that up before someone trips.

Michelle picks up the toys in the isle and puts them back.

As she finishes, a little boy stands at the end of the isle with a bottle of marbles. He gives her a cheeky grin.

MICHELLE

Don't even think about it.

He tips the marbles over the floor and runs off, laughing.

MICHELLE

Come here, you little creep.

Michelle tries to skip over the marbles as she runs after him and trips on one. She falls onto her back.

Mr. Roderick comes over.

MR. RODERICK

How's your first day going?

MICHELLE

Fan-dam-tastic.

MR. RODERICK

Great, cause I need to extend your hours. Just until Christmas. One of our others won't be able to make it and everybody left is already scheduled elsewhere. Think you're up for the task?

MICHELLE

Sure.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Nathan sits on the sleigh and fills a Santa sack with Christmas books and reindeer headbands.

NINA, 22, readies a large camera a few feet back. She boots up a computer with a printer attached, on a table beside her.

Nathan chuckles as Michelle approaches.

NATHAN

Mr. Roderick forget to take your sizing?

MICHELLE

These boots could fit snug up your  
backside in no time.

NATHAN

Settle down. That's no way to act  
around the children.

MICHELLE

Just tell me what I'm supposed to  
do and let's get this show on the  
road already.

NATHAN

All you've got to do is stand next  
to me. Help the parents if they  
need it. And make sure I've got  
plenty supplies in my Santa sack.  
It's easy and loads of fun. You'll  
love it.

Michelle watches as children and their parents begin to form  
a line to see Santa.

MICHELLE

Oh god. Kill me now.

A toddler in a pram flicks baby food at Michelle with his  
spoon. It splats onto the top of her skirt.

Nathan passes her a packet of wipes from beside the sleigh.

STAFF ROOM

Nathan follows Michelle across the room and sits at the  
table. He takes off his Santa hat and beard.

Michelle sits on the floor under her hook. She eyes off  
Nathan, but tries to seem uninterested.

NATHAN

I love Christmas.

MICHELLE

I don't think I can take another  
shift.

Nathan puts his feet up on a chair across from him.

NATHAN

Really? They're not that bad.

MICHELLE

They're devils. If another kid so much as looks at me sideways I'm gonna bop them on the head.

NATHAN

Why did you apply for a job around kids, if you don't even like them?

MICHELLE

I needed something and this was the only thing available. And Santa? Aren't you supposed to be an old man?

NATHAN

Santa's a cool dude. I like playing him.

He gets up and goes to the toilet.

NATHAN (O.S.)

And don't let Mr. Roderick hear your opinion about kids or you're likely to get fired.

MICHELLE

He has to give me three warnings first.

NATHAN (O.S.)

He'll find a way. Trust me. Kids are his life.

Mr. Roderick pokes his head in.

MR. RODERICK

Sorry Michelle, there's been a slight delay with the size up on your suit.

MICHELLE

Whenever it gets here is fine.

MR. RODERICK  
And the kids? Aren't they  
wonderful?

MICHELLE  
They're awesome.

MR. RODERICK  
Good to hear.

Mr. Roderick leaves.

Nathan comes out of the toilet.

NATHAN  
Liar, liar, pants on fire.

Michelle sticks her finger up at him.

NATHAN  
Ooh, feisty.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

A GEORGIE, 10, a happy girl, she likes to help people, in  
shabby clothing, she sits on the stairs leading to the  
apartments. She smiles at Michelle.

GEORGIE  
Hi.

Michelle ignores her on her way up.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michelle, exhausted, enters and slumps across the bed.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

The iphone beeps.

Michelle stirs and leans over the side of the bed to get it  
out from her handbag.

LATER

She checks every nook and cranny for money.

MICHELLE  
C'mon. There has to be something  
in this mess.

LOUNGE ROOM

She finds a few notes stashed under a couch cushion.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEY YORK - DAY

Michelle follows a map on the phone's screen to another small  
and dingy dead end alley.

An old legless MAN, who sits on the ground, grabs her leg.

OLD MAN  
Please--

She belts him with her handbag.

MICHELLE  
Get off! Get off! Get off!

He lets go.

OLD MAN  
I just need some help with my  
chair.

He points to a wheelchair nearby.

MICHELLE  
Oh...I...let me get that for you.

She wheels it over to him and waits. He holds a hand out to  
her.

OLD MAN  
Could you?

MICHELLE  
Ew...Uh...Ok.

She reluctantly takes his hand and helps him into the  
wheelchair.

Her phone makes a large DING sound. She checks the screen to see a small set of angel wings in the middle.

Michelle jumps up and down.

MICHELLE

I did it. I did it. I did it. Yes!

The old man gives her an odd look and wheels away.

Michelle holds the phone to her chest.

MICHELLE

One step closer.

INT. HOSPITAL/BECCA'S ROOM - DAY

Michelle sits beside the bed and eats some of Becca's breakfast from the tray in front of her.

BECCA

So, how did it feel? Doing something good for someone else?

MICHELLE

Wasn't that bad.

BECCA

And a job?

MICHELLE

Don't get me started on that. It's terrible.

She checks her watch.

MICHELLE

Crap. I've gotta go. Stupid kids need their stupid Christmas toys and Santa photos.

BECCA

Tis the season to be jolly.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Michelle runs out the front and hails taxi.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle runs towards the staff room. She almost bumps into Mr. Roderick as he crosses the room.

He points at his watch.

MR. RODERICK  
Cutting it close.

MICHELLE  
I know. I'll be ready.

STAFF ROOM

Michelle runs in and puts her handbag on her hook.

Nathan comes out of the toilet in his Santa suit.

NATHAN  
Ready for the mayhem again?

He grabs his Santa hat from a hook.

MICHELLE  
Like a bullet to the head.

She takes her elf suit into the toilet.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

Michelle watches as a young GIRL sits on Nathan's lap.

GIRL  
I want a special mermaid doll and  
dolls house and a pink scooter and  
pink helmet and princess dress and  
a pony.

Michelle rolls her eyes.

NATHAN  
Santa will see what he can do.

He takes a reindeer ear headband from his sack and hands it to her.

MICHELLE

Pffft. A pony. Like that's gonna happen.

The little girl pokes her tongue out at her. Michelle pokes her tongue out back.

GIRL

You're not a very nice elf.

MICHELLE

And you're a little rodent so scoot.

The girl stomps on her foot then runs off.

MICHELLE

Ouch.

Michelle leans forward to grab the girl, but Nathan stops her.

NATHAN

Be nice.

LATER

A little boy pees on a train set at the front window.

Michelle taps him on the shoulder.

MICHELLE

Hey, you can't pee on that train set.

He turns around and pees on her foot.

LATER

Two boys are fighting while their mother tends to a sibling climbing out of a pram.

Michelle walks over and breaks the fight apart.

MICHELLE

Stop it. Or I'll make sure Santa puts you on his bad boys list.

One of the boys kicks her in the groin.

MICHELLE

That isn't gonna work on me.

The other boy grabs her top and pinches her nipples. He hangs onto them.

BOYS

Nipple cripple!

Michelle desperately tries to get the boy off. The mother turns around.

MOTHER

Oh. Oh my gosh. Let her go.

She grabs her son off Michelle then pulls both boys back into line by their scruff.

Michelle holds her breasts and glares at the boys with hatred.

MOTHER

I'm so sorry. They're never usually like this.

(to the boys)

What's gotten into you? You know better. Santa won't bring you anything if you behave like that again.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michelle throws her handbag onto the floor and falls onto the bed.

The phone beeps.

Michelle wines--

MICHELLE

Not now.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Michelle eats Becca's breakfast.

BECCA

Why do you keep stealing my food?

MICHELLE

Cause you left me with no money.

Michelle finishes a piece of toast.

MICHELLE

So what is up with this wing thing? I've helped people and nothing. All I get are these little wing pictures at the bottom of the phone. When will they grow?

BECCA

Maybe you have to want to help people. Not just perform the act.

MICHELLE

I just want to complete the task then move on from this horrid nightmare.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Michelle serves customers at the front counter.
- B) She picks up a bunch of soft teddies from the floor and puts them back onto the shelf.
- C) She tries to wrap presents, but she still has trouble.
- D) She helps a bunch of kids off Nathan's lap. One of them kicks her shin on the way past. She winces.

LATER

Michelle stands beside Nathan at the Santa sleigh.

NATHAN

Payday. You excited?

MICHELLE

Yes. Actually. The only thing that's excited me all week.

A MOM makes her way towards Nathan with a few kids beside her and a baby in her arms.

The kids run up to Nathan and get ready for a photo.

The mom holds the baby out to Michelle.

MOM

Can you just hold him while I get ready for the photo?

Michelle takes the baby and holds it at arms length.

The mom joins the other kids on Nathan's lap then holds her hands out to Michelle.

Michelle gets ready to hand the baby to the mom when it spews down the front of her. She gasps and hands the baby over then notice poop all over her hand. She begins to gag.

MOM

Oh, sorry, sometimes they do that.

Michelle runs for the staff room.

STAFF ROOM

Michelle wipes her mouth with paper towel as she comes out of the toilets. Baby puke still down the front of her top.

Nathan comes in to check on her.

NATHAN

You alright? Don't worry about the outfit. Nina's finding you a new one.

He hands her a packet of baby wipes.

NATHAN

Wipes are incredible. You can use them for anything.

She takes a wipe from the pack and cleans her top.

MICHELLE

Ask me again why I don't like kids.

NATHAN

Why don't you take lunch and cool  
off?

MICHELLE

I might just do that.

She grabs her handbag.

FRONT COUNTER

Michelle heads for the front door when two teenage girls spit  
on her from the top level.

The girls give each other a high five.

Nathan comes up to Michelle from behind. He grabs her  
shoulders and whispers in her ear--

NATHAN

Breathe. The angrier you get with  
them the worse they become. They  
feed off it. That's why they say  
if you can't beat them, join them.

Michelle marches out.

Nathan looks up at the two girls.

NATHAN

Girls, I know your parents and  
they'll give you coal for  
Christmas, if you not careful.

GIRLS

Yeah right.

NATHAN

Mr. and Mrs. Beatly on Colson  
Street, right?

The two girls scamper off down an isle.

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Michelle sits at a table in her clean Mrs. Claus suit. She  
eats a salad roll.

A little girl with pigtails runs up to her.

LITTLE GIRL

Hi.

Michelle growls at her. Shocked, the little girl runs back to her mom.

LITTLE GIRL

Mommy.

She cuddles into her mom's leg.

Across the food court, two boys run around a table and squirt tiny water pistols at each other. Michelle watches them run duck and weave.

She smiles; an idea coming to mind.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle searches the shelves for water guns.

LATER

She walks around the store and sees a boy and girl in line for Santa. They fight with each other over a toy.

She takes out two small water guns from the back of her skirt and squirts them then stashes the guns back in her skirt.

The boy and girl stop their fight and look around for where the water came from.

LATER

Michelle serves a customer at the front counter. She sees a couple of teenagers running a muck upstairs.

Pipa takes over while Michelle goes upstairs.

TOP FLOOR

The teenager run from isle to isle. They play hide and seek.

Michelle sneaks around a corner and squirts one of the teenagers then finds the other and squirts them.

## ENTRANCE

Michelle escorts the two drenched teenagers out the front door.

She walks past Nathan on her way to the staff room.

MICHELLE

You're right. This is can fun.

## STAFF ROOM

Nina, Nathan and Michelle are the last to grab their belongings.

Nina heads for the door.

NINA

See you Monday.

NATHAN

Bye, Nina.

Nina leaves.

Nathan leans on the table and watches Michelle put her outfit in her handbag and collect her pay check.

NATHAN

Why do you do that?

MICHELLE

Do what?

She puts the check in her purse.

NATHAN

Take your uniform home every night.

MICHELLE

I prefer to wash my own things.

NATHAN

So, what a...what have you got planned this fine weekend coming?

MICHELLE  
Don't even go there.

NATHAN  
Go where?

He follows Michelle out.

FRONT COUNTER

Nathan follows Michelle across the store.

MICHELLE  
No, Nathan. I'm not getting a  
drink or dinner or anything like  
that with you.

NATHAN  
How about a movie?

They walk out the front of the store.

EXT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Nathan locks the front doors. Michelle stands next to him.

MICHELLE  
No offense, but, in my experience,  
you're all a bunch of deceitful  
assholes and I'd rather not go  
there again.

They walk along the footpath.

NATHAN  
You know, in my experience, women  
are the deceitful ones. I've been  
used, abused then thrown away.  
More than once.

MICHELLE  
I'm sorry to hear that.

NATHAN  
Maybe our similar experiences mean  
we're the ones that are meant to  
be together.

MICHELLE  
I wouldn't go that far.

NATHAN  
Not even a little.

Michelle grins.

MICHELLE  
Not even close.

They head towards the street corner, where a window washer stands at the top of his ladder and cleans a set of shop windows.

His ladder wobbles as he begins to come down. Michelle runs over and holds the ladder still until he reaches the bottom.

WINDOW WASHER  
Thanks.

A set of angel wings grow their stubs on Michelle's back.

She turns her head to look at them. Surprised and elated; she smiles.

NATHAN  
What?

MICHELLE  
Nothing.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Nathan walks Michelle to the front steps.

MICHELLE  
I really didn't need an escort.

NATHAN  
I know. So, do you want do something fun tomorrow?

MICHELLE  
I'm sure my version of fun and yours vary quite a lot.

NATHAN

Trust me. I know you'll like it.

She heads up the steps.

MICHELLE

The last guy to that said trust me ended up not only cheating on me but ripping me off.

NATHAN

I'm not like the others. Trust me.

Michelle passes Georgie on the steps.

GEORGIE

Hi.

Michelle keeps walking.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Becca watches Michelle scoff her dinner from the tray.

MICHELLE

Right now, you're the only friend I've got. The only one who knows I'm me.

BECCA

Maybe you should make some new friends.

MICHELLE

Once all the tasks are completed and I've got my wings--

BECCA

If you get your wings.

MICHELLE

Is there any chance at all of getting my old life back? Even the slightest? It can be gone forever, can it?

BECCA

I'll see what I can do, but I  
can't promise anything.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Nathan puts a full body papier-mâché Santa body on, while  
Michelle holds the head.

NATHAN

I've wanted to do this ever since  
I saw a snowman thing on the  
internet.

MICHELLE

Please explain how this is  
supposed to be fun?

Michelle puts the Santa head on him.

NATHAN

Just sit across the street and do  
as I told you, alright?

MICHELLE

Alright, Mr. Bossy Boots.

Michelle struts across the street and sits on a bench. She  
holds a walkie talkie in one hand.

Nathan stands still in the outfit.

Shoppers ooh and ah at him on their way past. One woman  
touches the arm.

WOMAN

That's so cute.

Nathan nudges towards the woman. She screams and jumps back.

WOMAN

Far out!

She shakes her head and walks away.

Michelle laughs. She holds the walkie-talkie against her  
mouth.

A couple of kids walk up the street towards Nathan.

MICHELLE

Ok, there's some kids coming on  
your right.

The kids get closer.

MICHELLE

Wait a second.

They go touch Nathan.

MICHELLE

Now.

He moves forward and scares the hell out of them.

Michelle cracks up laughing.

An old couple come near. The husband kneels to tie his  
shoelace.

MICHELLE

Ok, lean over the old guy.

Nathan leans over him. The husband looks up and catches a  
fright.

HUSBAND

Oh. Dear.

The wife, disgusted, pulls her husband away.

NATHAN

No more old people. I don't want  
to give them a heart attack.

MICHELLE

Spoil sport!

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Michelle and Nathan enjoy themselves as they take turns at  
scaring people on the street.

LATER

While Nathan is in the suit, a couple of mean looking cops come his way.

COP

Hey you.

Michelle sits on the bench and talks into the walkie-talkie--

MICHELLE

Ah...you might have a slight problem.

NATHAN

What?

MICHELLE

You might want to run.

NATHAN

Which way?

MICHELLE

Left.

Nathan waddles to the right.

MICHELLE

Your other left!

Nathan begins to waddle the other way, but the cops jump on him and knock him to the ground.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Nathan carries the Santa suit out the door. Michelle waits for him on the front steps.

MICHELLE

What'd they slug you with?

Nathan holds up a fine.

NATHAN

Disturbing the peace. Apparently you need a license for it.

MICHELLE

Have to admit, I did enjoy myself.

They walk down to the footpath.

A woman, with a box of groceries, trips on a stone. She spills the groceries over the ground.

Michelle helps her pick everything up and put it back in the box.

WOMAN

Thanks. I appreciate it a lot.

The woman continues on.

NATHAN

Quite the little helper, aren't we?

MICHELLE

You wouldn't say that if you really knew me.

She looks up and down the street.

MICHELLE

So, what now?

NATHAN

Whatever you want. It's your turn.

MICHELLE

Hmmm.

The phone beeps. Michelle takes it out of her handbag and looks at the screen.

MICHELLE

Damn it. There's something I have to do first.

NATHAN

Could I tag along?

MICHELLE

I don't see why not.

EXT. FACTORY - DAY

Michelle follows the map on the phone to a backdoor.

JUNE, 45, a loving personality, she wears a dirty apron, carries a bucket of vegetable scraps out and puts them in a large tub beside the door.

She looks up at Nathan and Michelle.

JUNE

Can I help you?

MICHELLE

I don't know. Is there anything I can do for you? To help? I was sent here.

JUNE

Oh, thank the Lord. We have so many volunteers off sick today it's hard to keep up. Come in.

She ushers them in.

INT. FACTORY - DAY

A soup kitchen with a few volunteers that hurry to finish cutting vegetables to add to a few big soup pots on the stove.

Homeless people sit at bare tables and wait.

Nathan and Michelle follow June in.

June picks up a box filled with plastic bowls and hands it to Michelle. She picks up another box with plastic spoons and hands it to Nathan.

June picks up a box of serviettes for herself.

JUNE

I just need you to follow me around and help set the tables.

They follow her through to the tables. Michelle leans into Nathan.

MICHELLE

I'm sorry to drag you into this.

NATHAN

Honestly, it's fine. I don't mind.

JUNE

Usually they'd come up to the kitchen and get it themselves, but we're running really late today.

They follow her along, table by table, and place the items in front of each homeless person.

A homeless woman grabs Michelle's arm.

HOMELESS WOMAN

Thank you dear.

LATER

June stands in front of Michelle and Nathan.

JUNE

Thank you both. We really need you today.

NATHAN

We can stick around if there are other things to do, like help clean up and all that.

He turns to Michelle.

NATHAN

I mean, if you want to?

MICHELLE

Sure.

JUNE

That'd be great. There's always something to do.

LATER

The place is practically empty. Nathan and Michelle carry plastic bags and pick up any rubbish that lies around.

They look at each and smile.

Michelle's wings grow a couple of inches longer.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Michelle and Nathan stroll the footpath.

MICHELLE

I never would have thought I'd  
ever do something like that.

NATHAN

Leaves you with a warm and fuzzy  
feeling, doesn't it?

He sees a sexy Mrs. Claus outfit on the far wall of a  
lingerie shop.

NATHAN

Wait. Stay there a minute.

MICHELLE

Why?

He goes inside the shop.

MOMENTS LATER

He comes out with a bag. He opens it and pulls out the sexy  
Mrs. Claus outfit.

MICHELLE

Somehow I don't think that's going  
to fit you.

NATHAN

Here. Early Christmas present.

He puts it back in the bag and hands it to her.

MICHELLE

That's kind of creepy coming from  
somebody I hardly know.

Nathan shrugs.

NATHAN

Thought it would suit you.

She hits him with the bag.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle and Nathan share smiles with each other while they serve customers and tend to kids wanting to see Santa.

Pipa nudges Michelle.

PIPA

What have you two been up to, huh?  
Can't keep your eyes of each other.

MICHELLE

Nothing.

PIPA

Mhmm. Why don't you ask him out for dinner?

MICHELLE

I'm not gonna ask him out for anything. When it comes to men, all they're after is sex and most of them will hump anything with four legs. We're better off staying friends.

PIPA

Do you really think you're not worthy of a good man?

Michelle looks gob smacked.

MICHELLE

I...

PIPA

We've all been hurt before, including Nathan. I've known him for a few years now and he's a good guy. You should give him a go.

STAFF ROOM

Pipa and Michelle put their lunch scraps in the bin. They head for the door.

Nathan almost bumps into them on his way in.

Pipa nudges Michelle and winks at her then walks out.

NATHAN

Hey. Things seem to be settling  
down for you now.

MICHELLE

They are. I was actually  
thinking...would you like to get a  
drink with me tonight? Nothing  
serious or anything with work  
tomorrow.

NATHAN

I'd love to.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Nathan and Michelle sit across from each other in a cubicle.  
Michelle holds a vodka while Nathan holds a beer.

MICHELLE

If you've been hurt so many times  
before, why would you want to do  
anything with any woman again?

NATHAN

I guess I like you because deep  
down I see good in you, even if  
you don't.

MICHELLE

That's sweet, but completely not  
true. There is no good in me. My  
parents broke it out of me when I  
was younger. Not literally.  
It's...hard to explain.

NATHAN

What about that window washer?

MICHELLE

I didn't want to get wet.

NATHAN

And the woman with the groceries?

MICHELLE  
Didn't want to trip.

NATHAN  
Nope. Not buying it. The soup  
kitchen seals the deal in my mind.  
What I saw were good deeds.

MICHELLE  
Shut up.

She swigs back her drink.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Nathan, drunk, stumbles along the footpath with Michelle over  
his shoulder, towards the front steps.

NATHAN  
That last bottle of cheap wine was  
so wrong.

Michelle can barely keep her eyes open as she slurs--

MICHELLE  
Uh-huh.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Nathan carries Michelle up the flight of stairs.

MICHELLE  
I'm a...I'm feeling a little sick.

NATHAN  
Just hold on. We're almost there.

MICHELLE  
You know what?

NATHAN  
What?

Out of breathe, he reaches the last step.

MICHELLE

I'm also feeling kind of horny.  
You wanna have sex?

She throws up down the back of his shirt. It runs into the back of his pants.

NATHAN

Hmmm, no. Not really.

He opens her door and takes her inside.

NATHAN

This place is a mess.

MICHELLE

Tell me about it. I think it's supposed to represent my life.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Nathan carries Michelle into the shower.

He puts her down and hops in with her, fully clothed. He turns on the water.

They stand and stare at each other.

BEDROOM

Nathan and Michelle lie naked face to face and look each other in the eyes. Nathan strokes her hair.

MICHELLE

I want to.

NATHAN

Are you sure.

MICHELLE

Yes.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Michelle wakes up and puts a hand on her head. She groans.

Nathan yawns and opens his eyes.

NATHAN

You look beautiful in the morning.

MICHELLE

What the hell happened?

NATHAN

What do you mean?

MICHELLE

The last thing I remember was eating those nacho's and then we were leaving.

She looks down and notices Nathan's arms wrapped around her body and that she is naked.

She jumps out of bed, woozy on her feet. She rips the doona off the bed and wraps it around her.

He flips the sheet off and gets up. He stand butt naked with his hands on his hips.

NATHAN

You don't remember telling me you want to be with me?

MICHELLE

I was drunk!

She puts a hand on the wall to steady herself.

MICHELLE

I still am. Geez.

Nathan moves closer to her way, but she holds her hand up.

MICHELLE

Stop right there.

She squints at an electric flyswatter, in the shape of a tennis racquet, on the floor next to the bed.

She picks it up and turns it on.

MICHELLE

In fact get out.

Nathan puts his hands in the air.

NATHAN

Michelle? C'mon, be rational.

She runs across the bed with the flyswatter and hits him across the bum with it as he grabs the bed sheet and runs for the door.

He slams the door shut on his way out.

Michelle falls to her hands and knees and crawls into the bathroom.

She lies down on the floor.

MICHELLE

So cold, but so nice.

With her head against the tiles, she can see the alarm clock on the bedside table.

MICHELLE

Fruit!

She crawls to the laundry basket and pulls out what seems to be her work outfit.

Shoves it in her handbag.

She dresses herself in jeans and a t-shirt then grabs her handbag and staggers towards the front door.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle runs past the front counter to the staff room.

STAFF ROOM

She runs into the toilet and flicks the light switch, but it doesn't work.

She bumps the walls as she gets dressed.

She comes out of the toilet to realize all of the lights are off; the powers gone out.

She finds the door and opens it.

FRONT COUNTER

Michelle squints and makes her way over to Pipa.

MR. RODERICK (O.S.)

Just a fuse.

The lights come back on.

All eyes turn to Michelle. She is wearing the Mrs. Claus lingerie that Nathan bought her.

She looks down then covers her body with her hands.

She grabs a roll of wrapping paper and rolls it around her as shocked parents cover their children's eyes.

MICHELLE

Sorry.

She looks over at Nathan on the Santa sleigh. He gives her two thumbs up.

NATHAN

Nice.

Mr. Roderick comes out of his office and stares at her, furious.

EXT. TOY STORE - DAY

Michelle walks out, alone, in her jeans and t-shirt.

Pipa grimaces and waves at her from inside.

Michelle trudges down the street and hails a taxi.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

A taxi stops beside the footpath. Michelle gets out.

Georgie sits on the steps with a children's novel. She waves at Michelle as she approaches.

GEORGIE

Hi.

MICHELLE

Hi.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Michelle sits at the kitchen bench with her head in her hands.

She looks around the apartment.

She gets up and begins to clean.

LATER

The place looks great from top to bottom.

Michelle finishes aligning everything in the pantry.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle sits beside Georgie, on the front steps. They watch cars and people pass by.

MICHELLE

So, what's your name?

GEORGIE

Georgie.

MICHELLE

And weren't you ever taught not to speak to strangers?

GEORGIE

Some strangers need to be talked to. Why do you always seem so grumpy?

MICHELLE

That's none of your business.

GEORGIE

Maybe if you tried smiling and waving at people, you'd feel happier. You should give it a go.

MICHELLE

That's just not me, kid.

GEORGIE

But it could be. You could be happy. If you wanted to. I think if you had more people in your life then you would be.

MICHELLE

A couple of weeks ago I was happy. I was headed up in the world. I had everything I had aspired to have. My career was on fire. There was no looking down, but lately things have just turned to...well...shit. There, I said it, shit.

GEORGIE

You shouldn't swear, you know. It's a bad habit.

Michelle turns and smiles at her.

MICHELLE

Yeah. I know.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Georgie tags along behind Michelle, who carries a bag of fresh vegetables.

GEORGIE

What are you cooking?

MICHELLE

Soup.

GEORGIE

When you said you had everything, did you really have what you wanted? Or were they just material possessions?

MICHELLE

Clever question for a little girl.

GEORGIE

I read a lot. There's not much else to do around here. And I'm not little.

MICHELLE

So why aren't you in school?

GEORGIE

My mom's sick.

MICHELLE

Oh, I'm sorry.

GEORGIE

It's cancer. I take care of her when she needs me. But most of the time she tells me to go and play or watch T.V. I don't think she likes me seeing her like she is. Do you see your mom a lot?

MICHELLE

No. My mom has a whole new family with her new husband. She kicked me out when I was eighteen. She said it was time to start taking care of my own life. We haven't talked much since.

GEORGIE

That's sad.

MICHELLE

Yeah, I guess it is.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle sits on the steps, coffee in hand, next to Georgie.

MICHELLE

Flat broke again. What am I supposed to do when all of my credentials have been thrown out the window and everyone thinks I'm a liar?

GEORGIE

Tell everyone the truth. You're an Angel and you're here to help. Then ask them whether they can help you along your journey?

MICHELLE

Nice idea, but I'm more than likely going to end up in an asylum with that tactic. You're lucky I told you. You know I'm trusting you to keep your mouth shut.

GEORGIE

I had an imaginary friend until I was six. I'm not telling anyone.

MICHELLE

Good.

GEORGIE

You could always beg?

MICHELLE

Not an option. If only these tasks would come along faster. I'd have my wings already and be gone from this nightmare.

GEORGIE

Didn't you say that they grew even when it wasn't a task you'd been given.

MICHELLE

Yeah, I can see where you're going with this and I wouldn't even know where to begin.

GEORGIE

I do. First off you could try a smile.

She waves and smiles at a woman passing by. The woman smiles back at her.

GEORGIE  
Now it's your turn.

MICHELLE  
You're cute, but no.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Georgie and Michelle sit at the kitchen bench. Georgie helps Michelle clip coupons out of a newspaper.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Michelle follows Georgie in. They both carry a box filled with different items.

EXT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Michelle puts a wad of cash into her purse. Georgie pockets a few notes.

INT. OP SHOP - DAY

Georgie and Michelle browse the store. They pull different items off the racks then put them back.

Michelle holds a pin stripe business skirt against her waist. Georgie smiles and nods.

Georgie puts a large straw hat on. Michelle shakes her head.

Georgie frowns and puts it back.

INT. POUND - DAY

Georgie drags Michelle past numerous breads of dogs in cages.

MICHELLE  
I don't want a flea bag.

GEORGIE  
Stop whining and pick one. You're saving a life. Doesn't matter whether it's human or animal.

Georgie points to Chihuahua.

GEORGIE

That one.

MICHELLE

I thought I was suppose to pick.

GEORGIE

It's so small and so cute.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

The Chihuahua chases Michelle around the apartment. It growls at her and bears it's teeth.

Michelle jumps onto the kitchen bench and grabs a tea towel.

She whacks it against a cupboard near the dog which infuriates it more.

MICHELLE

Devil spawn.

Georgie knocks and lets herself in. She picks the dog up and scratches behinds its ear.

GEORGIE

Is your mommy being mean to you?

MICHELLE

Take it home. I don't want it anymore.

She climbs down.

Georgie carries the dog over to the couch. The dog nuzzles her for another scratch.

GEORGIE

Oh, you're so gorgeous. Yes you are.

Michelle gets a glass of water.

MICHELLE

You were supposed to be helping me remember? My wings have only grown the slightest. I need them to grow faster than this.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Michelle and Georgie watch toddlers play on the equipment. Moms sit on benches and chat between themselves.

GEORGIE

Kids get hurt here all the time. You've just got to keep your eyes peeled.

A small boy falls from the monkey bars. Michelle gets there just in time to catch him.

Her wings grow a little longer.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY

GEORGIE

There are always good accidents here. Inside and out.

A woman with a shopping trolley slips on the wet sidewalk and lets go of the trolley. It runs down the road towards a seagull.

Michelle stops the trolley and pushes it back to the woman.

Her wings grow a little longer.

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY

A toddler climbs out of his seat and stands on the edge of the trolley while his mom is preoccupied with her shopping list and what items are on the shelf.

The toddler leans against a shelf and pushes the trolley away with his feet.

Michelle catches him as he begins to fall.

MOMENTS LATER

And old lady reaches for a packet of toilet rolls on a top shelf.

As she pulls it down, the packets beside it begin to fall. Michelle pulls the old lady out of the way.

MOMENTS LATER

A man almost trips on a couple of grapes on the floor in the fruit isle, but Michelle nudges him out of the way.

MICHELLE

Sorry. You were just going to trip.

They lock eyes and smile.

MAN

Thanks.

He grabs a mango from a box and walks off.

Michelle watches him as she walks forward and trips on the grapes. She falls onto her back.

Georgie stands over her.

GEORGIE

We're not here to flirt.

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

GEORGIE

Now order a suspended coffee.

MICHELLE

A What?

GEORGIE

A suspended coffee. You pay for two and drink one.

MICHELLE

What about 'I don't have much money' don't you get?

GEORGIE  
Just do it already. It'll pay off.

MICHELLE  
Alright, I'll take one cappuccino  
with two sugars and a suspended  
one, whatever that is.

GEORGIE  
And I'll have a babyccino.

Michelle eyeballs her.

GEORGIE  
What? I'm helping you, aren't I?

LATER

They sit at a booth and watch as an elderly homeless person  
walks in and orders a suspended coffee.

Michelle's wings grow longer.

INT. GEORGIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle hands a microwave dish full of soup to Georgie's  
mom.

GEORGIE'S MOM  
Thank you.

MICHELLE  
You're welcome.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle and Georgie sit on the steps. They both wave and  
smile at people as they go past.

Some eyeball them.

Others smile and wave back.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle shuts the door behind her.

She looks back at her wings. They grow a little longer.

MICHELLE

Almost there.

LATER

Georgie helps Michelle circle jobs in the newspaper.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle walks toward the building dressed in her op shop pin stripe skirt and a white shirt.

Georgie runs up to her and pulls on her shirt.

MICHELLE

Think I might have done ok today.  
We'll have to wait and see if I  
get any call backs.

GEORGIE

Quick, quick, c'mon.

She drags her up the stairs.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Georgie drags Michelle to her apartment. There is an eviction notice nailed to the door.

Michelle rips it off.

GEORGIE

We're all being evicted.

Michelle looks down the hall to see a copy of the notice nailed to everyone's door.

GEORGIE

Something about a big shopping  
centre buying the building and  
they're gonna tear it down to make  
another shopping centre. What're  
we gonna do? You have to help.

Michelle looks down on Georgie.

MICHELLE

I...I don't--

GEORGIE

There has to be something. You're an Angel aren't you? You're meant to help people. You can fix this. You can stop them from taking my house?

MICHELLE

It doesn't work like that. This is something I don't know if I can fix.

Georgie takes a step back.

GEORGIE

I get it now. All you wanted was your stupid wings. You're just gonna take off and leave me behind.

MICHELLE

No, Georgie--

GEORGIE

Screw you!

She runs off down the hall.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A business man texts a message on his phone while he walks across the street, not watching where he is going.

Michelle pulls him out of the way as he walks into on-coming traffic.

BUSINESS MAN

Watch it. I could sue you for that.

MICHELLE

Go ahead you ungrateful troll. I have nothing you could sue me for.

She pinches his cheek and walks off.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Michelle sits on a bench and eats ice-cream from a tub.

Parents interact and play with their young children.

Couples hold hands as they walk past.

An old couple on a bench nearby kiss.

EXT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Nathan locks the front doors. Michelle walks up beside him with a plastic bag.

MICHELLE

Hey.

NATHAN

Hey. What are you doing here?

MICHELLE

I needed to give these back to you.

She hands him the bag. He pulls out his clothes that he left there.

MICHELLE

And I wanted to say sorry. I was a jerk. I know we both had way too much to drink that night and you're not the type of person that would take advantage of me.

NATHAN

I like to think that I'm not.

MICHELLE

I guess my biggest downfall is always blaming everyone else for everything and I was too hasty in judging you before I realized the truth.

NATHAN

Yeah, well now if someone wants to play naughts and crosses they have

a perfectly marked out board on my  
ass.

Michelle looks to the ground, sheepish.

MICHELLE

I am really sorry.

NATHAN

I suppose I can forgive and  
forget. if you can? I kind of  
behaved a little appalling too.  
I'm can be a bad influence.

They walk down the street.

MICHELLE

It's ok. I don't remember much  
from the night anyway.

NATHAN

So you don't remember the nudie  
run?

MICHELLE

I did not do a nudie run. I would  
never.

NATHAN

Oh, you did a lot more than that.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Michelle searches the shelves. She pulls out a book on  
business ethic and law.
- B) She sits at a computer and searches the internet.
- C) She sits creates a petition page on Facebook.
- D) She stands at a printer while it prints out posters with  
the heading: "SAVE OUR BUILDING".

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Michelle carries a stack of posters and a roll of heavy duty sticky tape. She tapes a poster to street polls as she passes them.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nathan sits on the couch and wraps a girls makeup kit with Christmas wrapping paper.

MICHELLE  
Thanks for helping.

NATHAN  
It's not a problem.

MICHELLE  
Think she'll like it?

NATHAN  
I'm sure she will. I, ah...I thought you hated kids anyway.

MICHELLE  
Hate might be taking it a little too far. Dislike. I dislike the majority of kids. This one's ok.

NATHAN  
Just this one?

INT. GEORGIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Georgie opens a few little gifts from under the Christmas tree; a Barbie doll, a bottle of pink nail polish and a purple dress with matching slip on shoes.

Her mom lies on the couch, rugged up in a warm blanket, and watches.

Georgie smiles and hugs her mom.

GEORGIE  
Thanks mom.

There is a knock at the door.

GEORGIE

I'll get it.

Georgie runs to the door and looks through the peek hole. She sighs and opens it.

Michelle stands on the doorstep with the present and a poster. She hands Georgie the poster.

MICHELLE

I don't know if it's gonna work  
but we can try, right?

GEORGIE

I knew you'd do it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Nathan and Michelle stand on a street corner and hand out copies of the poster.

MICHELLE

Save our building. Please get on  
Facebook and join our petition.

A business woman scrunches her copy up and throw it in the bin.

MICHELLE

Hey!

Michelle runs over and retrieves the poster. She flattens it out.

NATHAN

This may not work, you know?

MICHELLE

I know.

NATHAN

I had an idea. If you're  
interested?

MICHELLE

Do tell.

NATHAN

If this doesn't work then a lot of you are going to be out of not only home, but pocket too. So if we can do something that might help cash wise then maybe not all hope is lost for finding a new place to stay.

MICHELLE

Keep talking.

NATHAN

I was thinking we could something like a car wash fundraiser along your street. If we could get everyone in the building to pitch in then we can wash peoples cars, maybe get them to sign a position in the process then split the profits equally between the tenants.

MICHELLE

Do you think we could get everyone involved though?

NATHAN

Can't hurt to try.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Nathan and Michelle walk from door to door and hand the occupants a poster with the heading: CAR WASH FUNDRAISER.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The place is a mess with paper cuttings.

Michelle, Nathan and Georgie sit on the lounge room floor and put together makeshift billboards and signs for the car wash.

Georgie slaps a piece of tape across Nathan's arm and rips it off.

NATHAN

Ouch!

He does the same back to her.

GEORGIE

Ouch!

NATHAN

Hurts. Doesn't it?

Georgie sticks a piece to his leg and rips it off. Nathan grumbles.

Georgie sticks her tongue out and gets up. Nathan gets up to chase her.

She runs out of the room and into the bathroom and locks the door. Nathan rattles the door knob.

He turns around defeated then eyes off Michelle.

MICHELLE

Don't' even think about it.

He runs over and grabs the stick tape. He pins her down and sticky tapes up and down her arms while she tries to wrestle him to get away.

MICHELLE

I'm gonna kill you for this.

NATHAN

Payback for the fly swatter.

Michelle greases him off.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

NATHAN (O.S.)

Ready?

MICHELLE (O.S.)

No. Ah!

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle and Nathan put up the signs and billboards.

Georgie lines buckets with soapy water along the footpath.

NATHAN  
I hope this works.

MICHELLE  
Me too.

Tenants begin to join them at the bottom of the steps.

LATER

Everyone begins to get into it and have fun as people drive up and get their cars washed.

Michelle stands on the footpath and smiles.

Georgie runs up with a petition sheet in hand. She gives it to Michelle.

Nathan comes up from behind.

NATHAN  
How we doing?

MICHELLE  
It's a good start, but we need a hell of a lot more signatures.

NATHAN  
We'll get there. There's still time.

LATER

Michelle sits on the steps and tallies the signatures.

She puts the sheets in an A4 box and walks over Nathan. He washes the boot of a sedan. She grabs a sponge and helps him.

MICHELLE  
We're not going to make it.

NATHAN  
Really?

MICHELLE  
Yeah.

NATHAN  
I'm sorry.

A flashy Porsche stops beside them. MR. BENNET, 50's, business man, sticks his head out the window.

MR. BENNET

Excuse? I was wondering which one of the lovely ladies here would be Miss Michelle Claus?

MICHELLE

That would be me.

MR. BENNET

Miss Claus, if you'd like to get in, I think we should talk.

She looks at Nathan.

MICHELLE

I'm not accustomed to getting into cars with strange men.

Mr. Bennet chuckles.

MR. BENNET

I'll park just down the street. Won't take much of your time.

Michelle gets in.

INT. PORSCHE - DAY

Michelle sits opposite Mr. Bennet. She listens intently.

MR. BENNET.

I'll have you know that I don't usually deal in these types of affairs, but my granddaughter saw your petition online and favored it for some odd reason. She means the world to me and, lucky for you, she has convinced me that this may in fact prove to the people of my company that at times I do indeed have a heart. After all, what's money without love, as she would say.

MICHELLE

Trust me. Everyone here would be immensely grateful for whatever you can do.

MR. BENNET

I'm more worried about my granddaughter hating me forever if I didn't do something.

MICHELLE

I see.

Mr. Bennet pulls a contract from his inner jacket pocket and hands it to her.

MR. BENNET

Have the landlord sign these and send them back to me. I'm sure he will be more than satisfied.

Michelle looks over the contract.

MICHELLE

Isn't it too late for something like this to go through?

MR. BENNET

I'm a very influential man Miss. Claus and that's all you need to know.

She smiles and surprises him as she leans over to hug him.

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Michelle bound over to the steps. She turns to face everyone and holds the contract in the air.

She wolf whistles to get their attention. They all turn to face her.

MICHELLE

We did it!

They all whistle and shout with joy.

She runs up to Nathan. He cuddles her round the waist and twirls her in a circle.

NATHAN

You did it.

Her wings grow their tips and shine vibrant blue. Becca appears on the footpath across the street.

Nathan leans forward to kiss Michelle. She puts a finger to his lips.

MICHELLE

Hold that moment. I'll be back in a minute.

She runs across the road to meet Becca.

BECCA

Seems like your life has become a lot more interesting.

MICHELLE

You could say that.

BECCA

It's come to that time though. You need to decide which path you wish to follow.

MICHELLE

I know already that I want to stay exactly where I am.

BECCA

Are you certain? There's no second thinking on this. Once it's done, it's done.

Michelle looks at Nathan and Georgie as they start a water fight.

MICHELLE

For the first time in what seems like forever, I'm truly happy. I don't want to lose that right now.

BECCA

And you still need to help people.  
You're an angel now. There's no  
turning your back on it.

MICHELLE

I believe I can do it.

BECCA

In that case I'm gonna leave you  
to do whatever it was you were  
about to get up to.

MICHELLE

Before you go I have a couple of  
questions. There was never any  
chance of getting my old life  
back, was there?

BECCA

Nope.

MICHELLE

And running out of tasks?

BECCA

How else was I supposed to get  
your ass into gear? If you thought  
you had forever you would have  
taken that long.

Michelle nods.

MICHELLE

True.

BECCA

You're on your own now. Just be a  
good girl, ok?

MICHELLE

I will.

Becca waves as she flutters her wings and then she's gone.

Michelle runs back across to Nathan and Georgie.

She pulls Nathan in close.

MICHELLE

So are you gonna kiss me or what?

He bends her over the hood of the car and kisses her.

Georgie throws a bucket of water over them and laughs.

NATHAN

Ooh, you're coppin it bad.

Nathan throws his sponge at her. Michelle grabs his t-shirt and pulls him in close again.

MICHELLE

Leave her.

Michelle grabs his head and kisses him.

Georgie throws another bucket of water over them. They both turn their heads and glare at her.

Georgie shrugs.

GEORGIE

You had it coming.

Nathan and Michelle chase Georgie around the car and throw wet sponges at her.

FLASHBACK - NATHAN AND MICHELLE'S DRUNKEN NIGHT RAMPAGE

EXT. ALLEY

Michelle and Nathan play strip poker with a homeless man.

Michelle loses a hand.

NATHAN

Ooh, it's either the top or  
panties.

Michelle removes her top.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW YORK

Nathan and Michelle, naked, hold their 'bits' as they do a nudie run down a dark and empty street.

MICHELLE

Woohoo!

INT. WALMART

Michelle and Nathan sit next to each other on separate bouncy balls at the top of the toy isle.

MICHELLE

I have always wanted to do this.

NATHAN

Go!

They bounce along the isle as fast as they can.

Nathan bumps into Michelle and she falls flat on her face.

Nathan reaches the end and jumps up.

NATHAN

I win!

LATER

They play hide and seek with a SECURITY GUARD.

Nathan army crawls through the men's clothes department.

NATHAN

Marco?

Michelle sticks her head out a rack of women's pants in the women's clothes department.

MICHELLE

Polo.

The security guard stomps around the isles, furious, on his search for them.

EXT. BACKSTREET

Michelle steals a sleeping homeless women's half empty bottle of wine.

EXT. COSTUME SHOP

The front window is smashed.

Michelle stumbles out in a Buzz Lightyear costume. Nathan follows in a Cowgirl Jessie outfit.

NATHAN

Yeeha!

Michelle rests her hand against the wall to keep her steady.

Police sirens sound in the distance.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BECCA'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

The street is a mess with soapy water, empty buckets and sponges. Some of the tenants still clean cars while others relax on the sidewalk.

Nathan, Georgie and Michelle rest on the steps, all drenched from head to toe.

A stuck up BUSINESS WOMAN clutches her purse tight as she slides past the tenants on her way past. She tries not to touch anyone. Georgie eyes her off.

As the business woman come nears, Michelle stands and takes the cell phone from her pocket. She hugs the woman and slips into her suit pocket.

MICHELLE

Thank you so much for helping our  
cause.

The woman pushes Michelle away.

BUSINESS WOMAN

Ewe.

Disgruntled, the woman picks up her pace as she continues on.

Michelle gives Georgie a high five as she sits back down.

NATHAN

What was that about?

MICHELLE

Nothing.

INT. BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Michelle, Nathan and Georgie clean paper cuttings from the floor.

There is a knock at the door. Michelle gets up to answer it.

A DETECTIVE and two officers stand outside the doorway. The detective holds up the Buzz Lightyear costume.

Michelle glares back at Nathan who grins and shrugs.

FADE OUT.

THE END