

F2 (Ellie)
M3 (Gerald)

GERALD. Wait till she hears this.

ELLIE. See, it's a little more complicated than that... I mean, if you tell your sister, then she'll tell Thad and then...
GERALD. ...we're working together...they're working together...

(As his finger is about to push "send"—)

He dumped me!

GERALD. What? When?

ELLIE. Two days ago.

GERALD. Two days. Ellie, I'm so sorry.

ELLIE. And we're supposed to be at my parents right now. They have banners up, "Happy Engagement!" "He put a ring on it!" And how do I explain this? How do I tell my family?

GERALD. I don't know.

ELLIE. I have aunts, uncles, my *grandmother*, who has been picking at me for six years, all waiting for Thad and me to walk in and make the big announcement. And he didn't even... We were watching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. And he never wanted to talk about Christmas presents—not once this entire season. He wouldn't tell me what he wanted and he never asked what I wanted—and every woman knows what that means—I'm getting engaged! I told my family, everyone at work. I was so sure. And he didn't even have the decency...he didn't even wait for the show to end. He put it on pause. In the middle of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*—the Grinch stole Christmas.

My life is ruined!

GERALD. Ellie, that man is not worthy of you.

Ellie grabs her things to leave. Gerald tries to stop her.

GERALD. Ellie, listen to me. You are a fantastic person. You are an amazing elf.

ELLIE. No, I'm not.

GERALD. The best I have ever worked with—hands down. And look at you! The way you rock that red and green outfit. You've got that whole "stop, go, stop, go" thing going on.

ELLIE. No one can "rock" this outfit.

She takes off the hat.

The hat is horrible. The vest pinches under my arm.

She shoves the hat into her purse.

It's old and worn out and worthless!

GERALD. (*Stopping her.*) Ellie, do you see any kids here? Do you?

ELLIE. No.

GERALD. We could have left two hours ago. But I see you having fun. And I'm having fun. And when you came here this morning you looked so sad.

ELLIE. I was not sad.

GERALD. You made the kids cry before they even got to me. But we had fun today, didn't we?

ELLIE. Dressed as Santa and an elf, yes, we had fun. But I don't know you. "Gerald." I know your name.

He pulls the hat and the beard off.

GERALD. I teach high school math. I'm divorced. I have two kids that I don't get to see because they live with their mother in Florida. And for the past four weekends I've pretended to be Santa Claus. And for the past eight hours I have gotten to know one of the most wonderful, charming, *funny* women I think I have ever met. I don't want this to end.

ELLIE. I thought if I volunteered today, I wouldn't have to...maybe it would all go away.

She goes for her bag.

It's time to face my grandmother.

GERALD. Ellie...have you ever been on a plane that you think is going to crash?

ELLIE. Besides my relationship with Thad?

GERALD. It's terrifying. I was flying from Kansas. The plane is shaking. The wings flapping like they're ready to break off, and all I can think about is the new tie I just bought. Should I take it off and put it in the little throw-up bag so my tie will be safe? So that's what I did.

ELLIE. You saved your tie?

GERALD. We all do crazy things in stressful situations. The plane wasn't going to crash—it was turbulence. I'm sorry for what that

guy did to you but it's just turbulence. Ellie, let me take you to Angelo's for a free drink. It's Christmas Eve. This is the night to get what you *want*, not what you *don't want*. What do you want, Ellie?

ELLIE. My family's waiting.

GERALD. Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!

He puts his beard and hat back on.

Santa's job is to make people happy. You have to let me do my job. (*Looking front.*) As the power vested in me by the Charles Steinman Santa School of Midland, Michigan... (*Looks to Ellie.*) Come on... what is it, Ellie? Tell Santa what you want. What's the wish?

ELLIE. I don't know.

GERALD. Can't leave until you make a wish, Ellie!

ELLIE. I don't know!

GERALD. Then Santa will make a wish for you!

He stands and, opening his arms, looks to the sky.

Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen—on Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen—

Ellie steps forward.

ELLIE. Wait! I want it to be okay when I tell my parents.

GERALD. Courage! (*Looking up.*) Boys, I need you to stop at Costco and get Ellie a ten-pound bag of courage!

ELLIE. A hundred pound!

GERALD. A hundred pound...

ELLIE. A *three* hundred pound!

GERALD. A *three* hundred pound bag of courage!

ELLIE. And fifty gallons of fortitude! And I'm tired of my grandmother telling me she had three kids by the time she was my age so I want something to shut her up!

GERALD. And pick up a bottle of schnapps! Then I want you to take all of Ellie the Elf's problems, put them in a big red sack, and dump them into the middle of the ocean where they will never be seen again!!

They both celebrate!

