

1 “CHARTER FLIGHT”

2 “Operation #2 – Santa Claus”

3 By Ken Liesse

4 Based on the original story by Gus C. Bayz

5

6 CAST

7 Announcer – Mark

8 Tony Barrett – Ken Liesse

9 Carl Dietz – Chuck Royalty

10 Jerry Gaffer, OM in Honolulu – Dan Schindler

11 Lucas Naast (Santa Claus) – Kim Turner

12 Christmas Carol (Mrs. Claus) – Beth Schlansky

13 Bernard (a prickly elf) – Gregg Porter

14 Tinky (a twin elf) – Mary Moore-Campagna

15 Winky (the other twin elf) – Karen Liesse

16 Touring (British elf, great at code) – Dr. Bob Perks

17 Esmallda (mystic elf, sees into the future – Magpie

18 Frank, Fairbanks Airport Manager – Dave Liesse

19 Tower – Dave Liesse

20 Voice –

21 ANNCR American Radio Theater brings you a confection for ART’s Christmas
22 Party. It’s Episode 2, of Charter Flight. Destination: North Pole. Based on an
23 old-time-radio series, Charter Flight, written by Gus C. Bayz. Episode 2 is
24 written by Ken Liesse,

25 TONY: NC-2481 to Midway Tower. NC-2481 to Midway Tower – over!

26 TOWER: (FILTER) Tower to NC-241 – over!

27 TONY: NC-2481 requesting clearance on flight plan number 283 – for
28 Honolulu – over!

29 TOWER: (FILTER) Roger NC-2481, you are cleared to Honolulu. Have a nice
30 flight – over!

1 **SFX SWITCH CLICK**

2 TONY: Give ‘er the gun, Dietz! Honolulu, here we come – again!

3 DIETZ: Wilco, Tony!

4 **SOUND: PLANE TAKES OFF:**

5 **MUSIC:**

6 ANNCR: “Charter Flight”, starring Tony Barrett!

7 **MUSIC:**

8 TONY: (NARR) Well, Dietz and I were in the air again – just like we liked it!

9 The Dutch Harbor trip had been a bust that netted our little company just
10 enough to cover our expenses for the trip, and left us with the lingering smell
11 of whale oil in the cargo compartment!

12 **MUSIC:**

13 TONY: With Midway well behind us, Dietz had tuned in a Honolulu radio
14 station, which made for a very pleasant flight. We had even found a little
15 busine

16 ss to take along – a professor and his lady friend who had missed a connection in
17 Hong Kong, but could still make their stateside flight from Honolulu if we
18 could get them there on time. With the fall winds at our back, we should do
19 that just fine. And since we were going to be flying empty anyway, it was nice
20 to pick up a few coins on the way. I knew our stay in Hawaii was going to be
21 short though: Dietz was anxious to get home to his girl, Lilly, who was
22 patiently - Dietz’s word - waiting for him in San Francisco, our base of
23 operations. We also wanted to get home in time to get in on some of the
24 Christmas package rush, which was starting to turn into a good business for
25 little operations like ours. With Thanksgiving behind us, it was time to head
26 stateside. Plus, we were going to need some downtime to figure out what was
27 wrong with our number two engine.

28 After our last fuel stop, I could already smell the hibiscus as Dietz flew us
29 towards our destination.

30 DIETZ: So Tony, got any plans for Christmas?

1 TONY: Yeah, find a bar that's open and drink until New Years.

2 DIETZ: What? No big family gathering?

3 TONY: My dad died in World War One, my mom in '38. I'm an only child and
4 my only known living relative is Aunt Gertrude who lives down in Florida. I
5 haven't spoken to her since the war started except for an occasional letter.
6 The Army was my family for a long time, and we both know how big they are
7 on celebrating holidays!

8 DIETZ: Yeah. Merry Christmas boys! Your objective for today is...

9 TONY: How 'bout you, Dietz? You have a pretty big family. Any plans?

10 DIETZ: Not this year. We had a big blowout in '45 with the end of the war and
11 all. You know, all the aunts, uncles, cousins, my brothers and sisters and
12 their kids, mom, dad, apple pie – even Granny made it for that one.
13 No, this year it will just be me and Lilly waiting for Santa Claus.

14 TONY: Santa Claus?!? C'mon Dietz, surely you don't believe in that ol' fairy
15 tale?

16 DIETZ: Sure I do! It's what keeps me young at heart. Don't you remember
17 getting presents from the jolly old guy?

18 TONY: Frankly, I don't remember getting much in the way of Christmas
19 presents at all.

20 DIETZ: I'm truly sorry to hear that Tony. You miss out on a lot by not believing
21 in Santa Claus.

22 TONY: I believe in hard truths Dietz – Army taught me that. Right now I
23 believe I better tell the Professor and Marian to get ready for landing.

24 **SOUND: MOTOR REVS AND THEN SUBSIDES**

25 **SFX CRUNCH OF LANDING ON GRAVEL**

26 DIETZ: Here we are Tony, safe and sound just like I promised.

27 TONY: That you did, but I didn't think the landing would be quite so bumpy.

28 DIETZ: Give me a break, man! You know how the air currents coming off the
29 ocean are!

30 TONY: Yeah, I'll give you that. But they're much warmer here than in Frisco!

1 DIETZ: Are we just going to drop our passengers off at the Admin Building?

2 TONY: Yeah, they have plenty of time before their next flight. I don't see the
3 Clipper anywhere. While we're here, why don't you track down some engine
4 oil. Number 2 seems to be using up quite a bit lately.

5 DIETZ: I'll do it. There's a cable in the supply shack – I can send Lilly a
6 message while I'm there.

7 TONY: Just don't charge it to the company this time!

8 **MUSIC:**

9 TONY: After we stopped, I escorted our passengers to the office so they could
10 find out where their next flight was. Then I checked in with the office
11 manager, Jerry Gaffer, an old Army buddy of mine who ended up liking the
12 islands more than he liked the idea of going home.

13 JERRY: Hey Tony! How was the flight? Saw you get caught in that beach air.
14 Wowww – up and down and up and...

15 TONY: That was Dietz! Other than his gooney bird landing, the flight was
16 good.

17 JERRY: Saw you had a couple of passengers. Anybody special?

18 TONY: Don't know about special, but they were certainly interesting. The guy
19 was a professor of archaeology – name was Dr. Henry Jones, Jr. or
20 something. Had some good stories though. Just a hunch, but I'd say he may
21 have been OSS during the war. The gal was Marion Ravens-somebody or
22 other. I'd hate to be on the wrong side of her in an argument!

23 JERRY: Yeah, she looked like a spark plug!

24 TONY: Boy, can she play cards. And holds her liquor like you wouldn't believe.

25 JERRY: Say Tony, were you guys planning on lamming out of here right away?

26 TONY: Yeah, pretty quick. I want to get back stateside to grab some of that
27 Christmas package money I keep hearing about.

28 JERRY: Good, 'cause I've got a gentleman with an interesting cargo that's in a
29 hurry to get home – if you guys think you can manage it.

30 TONY: Why do I get the feeling I'm being set up for something here?

1 JERRY: The guys' name is Lucas Naast. Not exactly sure what he does, but he
2 has a weird looking deer he's moving for the Honolulu zoo.

3 TONY: Oh brother!

4 JERRY: He's a nice enough old guy, but he seems to be in an awful hurry. Can
5 you help him out?

6 TONY: (SIGHS) Well, it's not like I have any other great plans and I can't
7 make money watching surfers. Let me talk to Dietz and I'll let you know.

8 JERRY: Thanks Tony! I'll grab Mr. Naast and let him know I found him a taxi.

9 TONY: Oh brother!

10 DIETZ: (COMING ON) Hey Tony, I got the oil and I got a wire through to
11 Lilly. Look buddy, I know you were hoping to spend some time in the surf,
12 but do you think we...

13 TONY: Way ahead of you, Dietz. Jerry here had a fare – if you're agreeable,
14 we'll skip our tropical layover and head back to the mainland.

15 JERRY: Hi ya, Dietz! Tony, this is the guy I was telling you about. Mr. Naast –
16 Tony Barrett.

17 NAAST: Captain Barrett – it's a pleasure to see you.

18 TONY: Hello, Mr. Naast. Please, call me Tony. Captain Barrett is what the
19 Army called me. (PAUSE) This is my co-pilot slash mechanic, Carl Dietz.

20 DIETZ: Aloha, Mr. Naast.

21 NAAST: Nice to see you, Carl. But please, call me Lucas.

22 TONY: Okay Lucas. Welcome aboard. Now, where's this cargo of yours.

23 NAAST: I'm having some of the boys bring it out. I presume you can handle a
24 crated animal?

25 DIETZ: If it doesn't mind sharing space with some left-over blubber, it
26 shouldn't be a problem.

27 NAAST: I know this is short notice, but I really am in a bit of a hurry to get
28 home. It's a rather busy time of year for me.

29 TONY: What is it you do, Mr. Naa... er, Lucas?

30 NAAST: I'm in import/export, Tony, but mainly I'm a toy distributor.

1 DIETZ: You should be good at that, you look like Santa Claus. (CHUCKLE)
2 NAAST: (CHUCKLE) Yes, I get that a lot. I think it actually helps in my line of
3 work.
4 JERRY: Excuse me, Gents. I have some forms for Mr. Naast to initial. Then I'm
5 off to start my Christmas shopping. You'd never believe how hard it is to find
6 a couple of surfboards this time of year!
7 TONY: Who are you buying for? I know you're not much for the water.
8 JERRY: Well, you're right about that! I found a place that houses war orphans
9 from the Islands. There are a few boys who would like surfboards for
10 Christmas.
11 NAAST: (UNDER) Surfboards. Hmmmm...
12 TONY: I'm sorry, did you say something Lucas?
13 NAAST: Umm, no, no. Just making a mental note to myself.
14 Ahh, here comes Comet!
15 DIETZ: Comet?
16 NAAST: My reindeer! You can't have a reindeer without a good name.
17 TONY: Comet the reindeer. Why doesn't he just fly himself home?
18 NAAST: Because it's not Christmas. That's the only time he can fly!
19 TONY: Oh. Right.
20 (WHISPER) First a guy with the nickname Indiana, now this guy. Oy!
21 (UP) Okay, let's get loaded up and get on our way. The mainland beckons.
22 Where in the states are we headed Lucas?
23 NAAST: Oh, I don't wish to go to the states. I need to go to Alaska
24 TONY: Alaska?!? It's getting close to winter. Why would anyone want to head
25 that way now? Besides, we were just in Dutch Harbor!
26 OM: (UNDER) Did I mention he was willing to pay \$5000?
27 TONY: Five thou... well that might change a few things.
28 DIETZ: \$5000? That would look nice, Tony.
29 TONY: All right – we'll do it. Where exactly in Alaska are we going Lucas?
30 NAAST: Fairbanks.

1 TONY: FAIRBANKS?!? Oh brother!

2 MUSIC:

3 TONY: (NARR) We got Mr. Naast and his crated animal loaded up and
4 were soon pointed towards the West Coast. We'd have to go that way since
5 the forecast winds would put everything else out of reach. Dietz had the
6 wheel, so I took the time to chat with our passenger.

7 NAAST: How did you and Carl end up flying together, Tony?

8 TONY: We were in the war together. He was the chief mechanic of our unit
9 and we became good friends during some uh, sticky situations.

10 NAAST: Oh, like the Japanese bombardment of Bikini Atoll on Christmas Day?

11 TONY: (STUNNED) How did you know about that?!? That was top secret?

12 NAAST: I have my own sort of top secret clearance, Tony. Besides – the war's
13 over. Some things are now declassified.

14 TONY: True, but still.

15 NAAST: It's unusual for an enlisted man and an officer to become friends, isn't
16 it?

17 TONY: I dunno. I never really stood on that ceremonial stuff. I've always
18 relied on enlisted men to get things done right – waiting for an officer often
19 meant you were waiting for a long time.

20 NAAST: (CHUCKLE) I understand. I, too, like to direct my business from the
21 front as it were. (PAUSE)

22 I'm curious – what was or is your favorite airplane to fly, Tony?

23 TONY: Hadn't really thought about it. Why do you ask?

24 NAAST: I'm in the toy business. Come Christmas, children all over are going to
25 want toys. Since the US won World War Two, many of those children still
26 want toy planes flown by the heroes of the war. I just want an insider's view
27 of what kind of plane they would like.

28 TONY: Oh yeah, of course, although I wouldn't call myself a hero.

29 NAAST: Nevertheless, the children DO look up to you and your brethren,
30 Captain.

1 TONY: Well, I flew a few different models, but I think my favorite would be
2 one my unit didn't even have – the F4Fu.

3 NAAST: Ah yes, the Corsair. Good airplane that. I wouldn't be surprised if
4 those didn't become the stars of a TV show at some point. Go on...

5 TONY: (UNDER) Stars of a TV show? What?

6 (UP) Anyway, I've actually really become attached to old Rosie here, even
7 though she's just a cargo plane.

8 NAAST: Rosie? But of course. I understand that every good ship should have a
9 name. How did you come up with Rosie?

10 TONY: Dietz, actually. He was tinkering with the number 2 engine – again –
11 and found the name scrawled under the cowling.

12 NAAST: I sense a good story here. Go on...

13 TONY: Well, I guess whoever put this bird together knew it wasn't going to be
14 seeing combat but wanted to lift some morale anyway. Inside the cowling was
15 scrawled the words "Give 'em hell boys, Love Rosie!" Rosie the Riveter. Since
16 Dietz and I were both ex-Army Air Corp, we figured it was a fitting tribute to
17 our surplus C-47, and the name stuck.

18 NAAST: C-47? Ah, yes. The military designation for a DC-3.

19 TONY: Say, you're pretty sharp on those details.

20 NAAST: Like I said, Tony. It's important in my line of work.

21 **MUSIC**

22 TONY: (NARR) Lucas seemed a likeable fellow if just a little odd. I had to
23 agree that he could pass for a department store Santa any day of the week,
24 but there seemed something – different – about him. I had gone back to my
25 sleep and was day dreaming about a certain hula girl I knew...

26 DIETZ: Umm, Tony? We got a problem here.

27 TONY: Hmm? What's up? (PAUSE) Uh oh!

28 DIETZ: It was slowly losing pressure, but now it's starting to drop like a rock
29 from Gibraltar.

30 TONY: Do you think it's the same gasket? Number two hadn't been that bad.

1 DIETZ: From the way this thing is acting, I'm not sure there's any gasket left!

2 TONY: This is not good. How far are we from a shipping lane?

3 DIETZ: I make it an hour flying time – if we have an hour!

4 TONY: Okay, I'll get on the radio and start a Mayday. You better get back and
5 tell Mr. Naast it may get a little wet soon.

6 **SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON METAL**

7 DIETZ: Mr. Naast? Mr. Naast! Wake up please.

8 NAAST: Hmm? Oh, yes. What is it Carl?

9 DIETZ: (SERIOUS) Mr. Naast, I don't want to alarm you, but we are having
10 trouble with the Number Two engine – big trouble – and we're most likely
11 going to have to ditch – land – in the ocean. It will be fine for us, but I'm
12 afraid we won't be able to take Comet with us.

13 NAAST: I understand Carl. But I have complete confidence in both you and
14 Tony. I'm sure you'll be able to make things right. And please, call me Lucas.

15 DIETZ: Sure. Yeah. Well, I better get back up front. We have a little while
16 before we get down, but you may want to make sure you're buckled in good
17 and tight.

18 **MUSIC:**

19 DIETZ: How's it going?

20 TONY: Couldn't raise anybody on the radio, but hopefully somebody at least
21 heard us. Good thing we kept the life raft. Although, I just don't like the
22 thought of having any of our passengers going down, even if they have
23 hooves.

24 DIETZ: Yeah, but I don't think we're going to find any turkey dinners way out
25 here.

26 TONY: Let's worry about getting down first. It's not bad up here, but the
27 Pacific can be a bear this time of year. How's Number Two doing?

28 DIETZ: (PAUSE) Looks like she's leaking. Want me to shut her down?

29 TONY: Yeah, let's save as much as we can for Number One and see how far we
30 can get. With any luck...

1 **SOUND ENGINES SUDDENLY REVVING**

2 DIETZ: Hey Tony! Wait! (PAUSE)(PUZZLED) Now there's nothing coming out
3 of Number Two!

4 TONY: What? How can that be? On the other hand, she's got a little more
5 umph right now. Check the gauge!

6 DIETZ: Pressure's coming back up! I swear a minute ago there was a steady
7 stream coming out of her. Now she looks like she was just mounted in the
8 factory.

9 TONY: Well, I'm not one to count my turkeys too early, but keep your fingers
10 crossed she'll hold up to the coast.

11 NAAST: Is everything okay boys?

12 DIETZ: (STARTLED) Oh, uh yeah, yeah. Everything's fine now Mr. Naast.
13 Didn't mean to scare you a minute ago. Whatever the problem was seems to
14 have gone away.

15 TONY Yeah, she's down right peppy just now.

16 NAAST: Well that's good. I think I'll get back to my nap now then. And call me
17 Kris!

18 DIETZ: Whatever you say, Mr. Naast.

19 TONY (STILL DAZED): Kris...

20 **MUSIC**

21 TONY: (NARR) I really didn't want to know. Engines don't just fix themselves
22 and the way Number Two was acting, I thought sure we were going for a
23 swim. However it resolved itself, I was glad it did and we made the mainland
24 with no more problems. Curiously though, when we inspected the engine, it
25 really did look like it had just come off the assembly line. Although Rosie was
26 still enshrined in it.

27 DIETZ: I think Mr. Naast used some of his Christmas magic.

28 TONY: Christmas mag... Oh come on! Surely you don't believe Mr. Naa –
29 Lucas – had anything to do with it!?! Or do we call him Kris?

1 DIETZ: I'm just saying – it was right after I told him about the problem that it
2 just – poof – disappeared!

3 TONY: You and your Christmas. C'mon Dietz! Aren't you a little old to believe
4 in that stuff?

5 DIETZ: You're never too old to believe in good, Tony.

6 TONY: Okay Dietz, you keep your beliefs. I believe I'm going to go file a flight
7 plan to get us to Alaska.

8 **MUSIC**

9 TONY Only it didn't turn out to be Fairbanks—at least not right away. Just
10 as I filed the flight plan for Fairbanks, Mr. Naast came running up.

11 NAAST Tony! Tony! Wait a minute. I really need to make a stop in
12 Anchorage. I've got someone I need to pick up there. Please!

13 TONY Okay, Mr. Naast. It's your dime. Jerry, let's change the destination to
14 Anchorage

15 JERRY Okay, Tony.

16 NAAST I've got to send some telegrams. Where can I do that?

17 JERRY Telegram office is the other side of the lobby, sir.

18 **MUSIC**

19 TONY We landed without a problem in Anchorage. There wasn't even any fog
20 around for a change. Mr. Naast bounded out the door the minute we stopped,
21 and was back onboard, telling us that there was another animal crate to load.
22 We loaded it, and took off before the weather had a chance to change its
23 mind.

24 DIETZ You know what's in that crate we picked up in Anchorage, skipper?

25 TONY I'll break your arm if you tell me it's a reindeer.

26 DIETZ (SMALL VOICE) Another one of them deer.

27 TONY You've got to be kidding! (IRONICALLY) I suppose this one is called
28 Prancer?

29 DIETZ (AMAZED) How did you know?

30 TONY (IN DISGUST) Never mind.

1 TONY: (NARR) The rest of the trip to Fairbanks was uneventful. Even the
2 skies were clear and friendly, which was highly unusual for this time of year
3 in these latitudes. Once we landed though – things really started to get
4 weird!

5 TONY: So why Fairbanks, Lucas? Seems to be quite a bit out of the way for a
6 toy distributor.

7 NAAST: Oh, we're actually located in North Pole, which is located just outside
8 Fairbanks.

9 TONY: Oh brother!

10 DIETZ: You don't make all the toys here, do you Mr. Naast?

11 NAAST: Call me Lucas. No, not all of them, but a good portion are made here.

12 TONY: Must be quite an operation. You wouldn't happen to need any air
13 service delivery, would you?

14 NAAST: Thanks Tony, but no. I have a very good delivery service in house.
15 Now if you'll excuse me, I must be getting off to my office. An associate of
16 mine will be along shortly to pick up Comet and to settle our debt. Good day
17 gentlemen and thank you very much for a wonderful flight!

18 **SFX FOOTSTEPS LEAVING**

19 TONY: You're welcome Lucas. Fly with us anytime.

20 (PAUSE) Wow, how about that ol' bird. I expect he's way up there in years
21 but he certainly walks with a spring in his step. Hope I'm in that good a
22 shape when...

23 DIETZ: Don't forget the twinkle in his eye.

24 TONY: Oh brother!

25 BERNARD: Are you Barrett?

26 TONY: Yes, I'm Tony... Um, hello?

27 BERNARD: Down here, Flyboy!

28 TONY: Oh, hi. I'm sorry – I didn't see...

29 BERNARD: Yeah, yeah – very funny. Short's part of the game, isn't it?

30 TONY: Beg pardon. Didn't mean to offend you Mr. um, Mr...

1 BERNARD: Call me Bernard. My name's Bernard, but you can call me Bernard.

2 DIETZ: Umm, okay. Hello Bernard. My name is...

3 BERNARD: Yeah, I know! You're Carl, but everyone calls you Dietz. You're on the
4 nice list.

5 DIETZ: (PROUDLY) Well, it's nice to know I'm on somebody's nice list!

6 TONY: Funny Dietz.

7 Can we help you, um... Bernard?

8 BERNARD: Yeah, I'm here to get Comet. Where is he?

9 TONY: You'd better take Prancer as well.

10 BERNARD: (SOURLY) Prancer's here too?? Oh, goodie.

11 DIETZ: They should be in those two crates by the plane. Mr. Naast said they'd
12 be okay in there until someone came to get them. Guess that'd be you.

13 BERNARD: Who? Oh, yeah. Mr. Naast. Right! Okay, once we're loaded, you can
14 drive the truck over...

15 TONY: Drive? Um, sorry Bernard. Nobody mentioned anything about us
16 driving anywhere. We fly the loads, not drive them.

17 BERNARD: I assume you know how to drive as well as fly. After all, you can't fly
18 when you're on the ground.

19 DIETZ: Well yeah, but we thought you'd...

20 BERNARD: Does it look like I could reach a gas pedal with these legs? C'mon, it's
21 not far. The truck is over in hanger 2. The contract said you would transport
22 and deliver them. Which one of you flyboys can drive a truck?

23 DIETZ: (GROWLING) I guess that's going to be me. Tony, go talk nice to them
24 deer.

25 TONY: Yeah, yeah.

26 BERNARD: There's a block and tackle on the truck plus a ramp to load the crates.

27 SFX FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL

28 SOUND TRUCK ENGINE

29 TONY: It'd be kind of nice to see where you guys work.

1 BERNARD: (INDIGNANT) SEE?!? Of course you can't see! Nobody can see! You'll
2 drop us off at the front gate.

3 TONY: Okay, okay. No need to get your lederhosen in a wad!

4 BERNARD: Very funny. Can we go now, FLYBOY?

5 TONY: Lead the way, Bernard.

6 (UNDER) Look at the ears on that guy. I've never seen a midget with...

7 BERNARD: (EXPLODES) Midget?!? Midget?!? Cheese and Rice! I'm an elf,

8 FLYBOY – and don't you forget it!

9 TONY: An elf? There are no such things!

10 BERNARD: And a little over 50 years ago, man couldn't fly. Yet here you are,
11 which I find amazingly hard to believe from someone who doesn't believe –

12 FLYBOY!

13 TONY: Hey, watch it with that flyboy stuff buddy, or I'll step on...

14 DIETZ: Tony, for gosh sakes! Let it go.

15 TONY: Yeah, yeah. Sorry Dietz. Okay, let's get this over with.

16 MUSIC

17 TONY: (NARR) We drove a ways out of Fairbanks to the little burg of North
18 Pole. It looked as if an Alpine village had gotten lost. There was no sign of
19 activity, even when we came to a non-assuming gate across a snow covered
20 drive.

21 BERNARD: This is it. Drop us off here.

22 DIETZ: Don't you need help getting the deer out...

23 BERNARD: Already done. Here's your payment. Leave the truck at he airport.
24 Have a nice day!

25 TONY: (PAUSE) Well, how 'bout that? He didn't have to be so short about it.

26 BERNARD: (OFF) I heard that!

27 TONY: C'mon Dietz. Let's get back to the field. I don't like the looks of this
28 weather. The sooner we're gone, the better I'll like it.

29 DIETZ: Sure Tony. I'd hate to be in charge of Lucas' delivery schedule right
30 now.

1 TONY: Me too!

2 **EFX: TRUCK NOISE RUMBLE OF HANGAR DOOR**

3 **SFX FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL**

4 TONY: Hey Dietz, see if you can scare up a couple of cups of coffee while I file
5 the paperwork.

6 DIETZ: Sounds good.

7 **SOUND FOOTSTEPS**

8 FRANK: Sorry Tony – no use filling out paperwork. Field's closed.

9 TONY: Closed? But we just came in!

10 FRANK: That's Winter in the north for ya. One minute flyable, the next minute
11 your grounded.

12 TONY: Okay, okay. How long do you figure.

13 FRANK: Well, if the weather guys are correct, probably three weeks.

14 TONY: THREE WEEKS?!? Are you kidding me? But Christmas is only a week
15 away!

16 FRANK: That's the way it works sometimes. Sorry.

17 TONY: I don't suppose there are any good hotels around.

18 FRANK: Not really. We're not exactly the hub of vacation land up here. I might
19 be able to find some cots for ya. There's always the North Pole Hotel – it's
20 empty this time of year.

21 TONY: Oh brother!

22 DIETZ: (COMING ON) Here's the coffee buddy. Say, why the long face?

23 TONY: Dietz, how'd you like to spend Christmas in the great white north?

24 **MUSIC:**

25 TONY: (NARR) It was beginning to look like a bleak Christmas for Dietz and
26 I. At this point, anything would have been better than a cot. But I hadn't
27 planned on what we ended up with...

28 TINKY: Paging Captain Barrett and Sergeant Dietz.

29 WINKY: Let's go you two – shake a leg.

30 DIETZ: Who said that?

1 TINKY: Down here, tall stuff.
2 DIETZ: And who are you?
3 TINKY: (IN UNISON) I'm Tinky.
4 WINKY: (IN UNISON) I'm Winky.
5 TONY: So does that make the two of you Twinky?
6 WINKY: Watch it buster!
7 TONY: Let me guess – you're friends of Bernard's?
8 WINKY: There ain't nothin' between us, bub! Now let's get goin'.
9 TINKY: Boss is impatient this time of year.
10 TONY: Go? Go where? And who's your boss?
11 WINKY: Mr. Naast, of course. He felt bad that you two got stuck here. Says he
12 feels responsible in some way.
13 TINKY: Bernard is apoplectic about the whole situation.
14 DIETZ: Why would this bother Bernard?
15 WINKY: Boss said to come fetch you two and bring you back to the North Pole.
16 TINKY: Bernard is having kittens over the whole scheme.
17 TONY: Well, if there's a bed involved, I'm all for it.
18 TINKY & WINKY: We're not that kind of elves!
19 DIETZ: Settle down. I don't think that's what he meant. We just want a nice
20 place to wait out the weather.
21 TINKY: Don't know how much sleep you'd be gettin', seein' this is the busy
22 season.
23 WINKY: Plant's awfully noisy right now. But you two should be above it all.
24 TONY: Hey, is that a tall joke?
25 WINKY: Only if you want it to be, flyboy. Now let's go!
26 TONY: In what? The truck we drove back in apparently wandered off on its
27 own.
28 TINKY: Not to worry. We have a sled parked out back.
29 TONY: A sled?!? Oh brother!
30 WINKY: Don't worry buster, I know how to fly one of these.

1 DIETZ: An open sled? We'll freeze!

2 TINKY: Here. Knock back these hot cocoas.

3 WINKY: There surprisingly good at keeping you warm.

4 TINKY: We'll wrap you up real good.

5 **MUSIC:**

6 TONY: (NARR) Not only did the hot cocoa keep us warm – they knocked us
7 out! When I came to, I was more than shocked to find myself in the middle of
8 a very soft, very comfortable bed. The room was decked out in red and had a
9 very Christmasy feel to it. I assumed Dietz might be in an adjoining room,
10 and a quick knock confirmed my suspicion.

11 DIETZ: Can you believe this place?

12 TONY: Where the hell are we?

13 **SOUND: SIREN**

14 VOICE: (FILTER) Cursing violation! Please deposit 5 cents in the slot under
15 the red flashing light.

16 TONY: Cursing violation?!? What in damnation?

17 **SOUND: SIREN**

18 VOICE: (FILTER) Another cursing violation!! Please deposit another 5 cents in
19 the slot under the red flashing light.

20 DIETZ: Better do as the voice commands, Tony. And you might want to watch
21 your tongue.

22 TONY: No kidding. I might go broke for doing something I didn't know I was
23 doing.

24 DIETZ: (PAUSE) Where are we anyway?

25 VOICE: (FILTER) You are in the guest quarters of No-L Incorporated.

26 TONY: Well, what if we don't WANT to be in the guest quarters. Who's in
27 charge around here?

28 VOICE: (FILTER) Someone will be with you in a moment.

29 TONY: Well, at least they didn't say they'd be here shortly...

30 BERNARD: Was that another short joke, FLYBOY?!?

1 DIETZ: Bernard, how'd you get in here?

2 BERNARD: Never mind! Flyboy over here wouldn't believe me if I told him.

3 TONY: Now I've just had about enough of this damn flyboy...

4 **SOUND SIREN**

5 VOICE: (FILTER) Cursing violation! Please deposit 5 cents in the slot under
6 the red flashing light.

7 BERNARD: Better do as instructed Barrett. You don't want this to get back to the
8 big man.

9 TONY: Big man?!? Look short stuff, we just...

10 BERNARD: SHORT STUFF?!? Okay, flyboy. You and me. Right now. Let's go.
11 (SCUFFLE)

12 TONY: OW! Hey, let go of my leg!

13 DIETZ: Take it easy Bernard. Tony didn't mean anything by it.

14 TONY: Oh yes I did! First we fly a reindeer all the way to the North Pole.
15 Then we get grounded by the weather. Now we've been shanghaied by two
16 midgets in a sleigh and wake up in whatever this is. What the Dickens is
17 going on?

18 BERNARD: (PAUSE) Dickens?!? HA! I see what you did there! That's a good one.
19 You might be okay yet, flyboy. Although I don't think you'll be wanting to
20 spread that "m" word around much up here, especially around Winky.
21 (PAUSE)

22 Look, I'm on a really tight schedule but the boss wants you to see the place.
23 I've arranged for someone to take you on a little tour – if you think you can
24 suspend your version of "reality" for a while.

25 TONY: I'd suspend my version of fantasy if it'd get us some answers.

26 DIETZ: Whatever we need to do, Bernard. (UNDER) Tony, let's just play along
27 so we can get out of here.

28 BERNARD: I heard that! You're not going anywhere 'til the boss says so. Besides,
29 where would you go? You can't fly in this soup, that's for sure.

1 TONY: (RESIGNED) Okay, Bernard. We're yours. Let's get this charade over
2 with.

3 BERNARD: (UNDER) Charade he calls it. No wonder he hasn't gotten a present in
4 years.

5 **SFX: (KNOCK ON DOOR)**

6 BERNARD: That must be the boss lady. Come in!

7 CAROL: Hello boys. I hope I'm not interrupting.

8 BERNARD: Not at all Mrs. C. These are our "guests" – Captain Barrett and
9 Sergeant Dietz. Boys, this is Mrs. C.

10 TONY & DIETZ: Hello.

11 CAROL: Nice to meet you. Please – call me Carol.

12 BERNARD: I'll leave them in your capable hands Mrs. C. I need to get back to the
13 floor. I understand there is an issue on the toy airplane line.

14 CAROL: Nothing you can't fix, I hope.

15 BERNARD: Minor change. Boss wants more Corsairs and fewer Spitfires.

16 CAROL: Well, don't let us keep you.

17 BERNARD: Thanks Mrs. C. (SARCASTICALLY) Have fun "boys."

18 **SOUND: DOOR SHUTS**

19 CAROL: I must apologize for Bernard – he gets a little worked up this time of
20 year.

21 DIETZ: I'll say. He's wound tighter than a cat at a rocking chair convention.

22 TONY: Carol, I don't mean to sound rude, but Dietz and I would like some
23 answers as to where we are, how we got here and why.

24 CAROL: Of course Tony. All of your questions will be answered – in time. Will
25 you trust me on that?

26 DIETZ: I suppose we don't have much of a choice. What'd'ya say, Tony?

27 TONY: Yeah, okay. Guess we can't really go anywhere any way.

28 CAROL: Wonderful! Now I've arranged a tour of our facility for you – at Lucas'
29 insistence, of course. Tinky and Winky will be your tour guides. I hope you
30 don't mind.

1 TONY: Sure, why not. But if you don't mind me asking, what's your connection
2 to all of this and Mr. Naast?

3 CAROL: Oh, I would have thought that was obvious. I'm Lucas' wife!

4 MUSIC:

5 TINKY: Okay you two, let's get this over with.

6 WINKY: Yeah, this is a big night and we have gifts to wrap!

7 DIETZ: We're all yours ladies.

8 TONY: Oh brother. (PAUSE) So, what are we going to see? Polar bears making
9 toys? Penguins sending Christmas cards?

10 TWINKY: Cheez, what a maroon!

11 WINKY: Everybody knows polar bears work in shipping and the penguins are
12 on guard duty!

13 DIETZ: (SARCASTICALLY) Yeah Tony, how come you didn't know that?

14 TONY: Oh, so you're going to get in on this too now, huh?

15 DIETZ: Hey, lighten up buddy. If we're really in fantasy land, we might as well
16 make the most of it, eh?

17 TONY: All of this from one cup of cocoa.

18 TWINKY: (UNDER) One cup of cocoa he calls it.

19 WINKY: (UNDER) Little does he know.

20 TWINKY: Well boys, here's our first stop.

21 TONY: (READING) "The Far Side" – what the heck is that supposed to mean?

22 WINKY: Open the door and find out. Tinky and I will wait in the hallway here.

23 TINKY: Yeah. Just don't loiter too long in there.

24 DIETZ: What? Well... okay. Let's go in, Tony.

25 TONY: Go in? I can't see my hand in front of my face in there!

26 ESMALLDA: (SULTRY) Come in, boys. Don't let any of the aura out!

27 DIETZ: Well hello! My name is Carl...

28 ESMALLDA: Yes, I know who you are. And you're Tony. Pleased to meet both
29 of you.

30 TONY: Um, hi.

1 DIETZ: Gosh, you sure are pretty for an el... I mean... that is... um.

2 TONY: Very smooth, Dietz.

3 ESMALLDA: Thanks, but you're not my type. Too young, I'm afraid.

4 DIETZ: Too young? Say, how old do you think I...

5 ESMALLDA: I know exactly how old you are, Carl. And you Tony. Now, what
6 can I do for you two gentlemen?

7 TONY: Well, we're sort of on a tour of the facility and were kind of shoved in
8 this room. I guess we're here to find out what it is you do.

9 ESMALLDA: What I do? Why, this is the Far Side – I thought it would be
10 obvious! I look into the future to help predict trends so Mr. Naast can stay in
11 front of the competition.

12 TONY: (SARCASTICALLY) Oh, is that all. You're right, we should have
13 known that!

14 ESMALLDA: Unbeliever! Fine. Would you like me to tell you what you'll have
15 for lunch tomorrow? No, that's too simple for my talent. Perhaps you would
16 like to see some of the things I've come up with for future production?

17 DIETZ: That would be kind of cool. Say, what do we call you anyway?

18 ESMALLDA: My name is Esmallda, but you can call me E.

19 TONY: Okay E, let's see some of these wonders. What are these small, round
20 disc things?

21 ESMALLDA: Exactly that. Compact discs or CDs for short. One day, people
22 will use them to store immeasurable amounts of information. But mostly
23 they'll use them to listen to music.

24 TONY: Uh huh! And you guys are going to produce all of these things? What
25 do you listen to them on?

26 ESMALLDA: The device is yet unnamed, but a Japanese company will bring
27 them forth a few decades from now.

28 DIETZ: A Japanese company? They just lost a war. How are they ever going to
29 be able to come up with something like this? And why would they if you
30 already have it?

1 ESMALLDA: Here at No L Incorporated, we don't always keep what we
2 design. We often give some of our best ideas away to help those who could use
3 it most. This little device will help boost the Japanese economy. And don't
4 worry – they will become one of your strongest allies in the Pacific. Why, I
5 can even see a Japanese store in Seattle, with people waiting to get in. When
6 they unlock the doors, the people will sing “Uwajimaya is now open!
7 Uwajimaya is now open!”

8 TONY: Ooooookay. And what else have you come up with E? I suppose you also
9 have a means for people to talk to each other through the air without radio?
10 Or maybe take pictures without film? How about go to the moon?

11 DIETZ: Easy Tony. Don't get too excited.

12 ESMALLDA: Actually, those things are all in the pipeline. Some will just take
13 a little longer than others. The moon thing will actually be the first thing to
14 come around.

15 TONY: Oh brother!

16 ESMALLDA: Within a few decades, everyone will have devices that can store
17 information in a small space than all of the world's libraries combined. People
18 will communicate with devices no bigger than their wallets. All of the world's
19 resources will be found in one central place and can be accessed by anyone. Of
20 course, most people will use it to watch moving pictures of cats...

21 I'm sorry I can't spend more time with you, but I must get back to my project.
22 It's a product that will come out in the next century. I'm thinking of calling it,
23 “the Podcast.” (JERSEY ACCENT) Now get out!

24 **SFX DOOR SLAMS**

25 TINKY: Don't let her get you down.

26 WINKY: You should see her when she's in a bad mood.

27 DIETZ: She sure was something. What's this next room?

28 TINKY: Oh, that's the control room.

29 WINKY: It's really the hub of the operation.

1 TINKY: There's an observation area at the back where we can watch without
2 interfering. C'mon.

3 **SFX FOOTSTEPS**

4 CAST: (GENERAL HUBUB AND MURMURING)

5 DIETZ: What are those big lists scrolling on the wall?

6 TINKY: Those are the naughty and nice lists. Everybody knows about those.

7 TONY: Okay, but what's that third list? It seems to have more names than the
8 other two. I've never heard of "Santa" having a third list.

9 WINKY: That's the "other" list. It shows people who aren't quite sure about
10 certain things.

11 DIETZ: Hey Tony, your name is on that list!

12 TONY: Gee, imagine that.

13 TINKY: And over there is where we handle incoming letters from children all
14 over the world.

15 DIETZ: Good grief, look at the size of that pile. You'll never get through those
16 before Christmas.

17 WINKY: We don't have to. Our monitoring system has already cataloged each
18 child's desires before we ever get the letters.

19 TONY: That's impossible. How can anyone know what every child wants,
20 especially before they tell you?

21 TINKY: Still not getting the big picture, are you Tony?

22 WINKY: Well, let's continue the tour, shall we boys?

23 **SOUND FOOTSTEPS, DOOR SHUTS, FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE**

24 DIETZ: Hey Tony, here's a room called coding.

25 TONY: May we look in there, ladies?

26 TINKY: Sure.

27 WINKY: Why not?

28 **SFX DOOR OPENS**

29 TINKY: Touring? Are you here?

30 WINKY: We brought some guests for you.

1 TOURING: Guests? Here? Of course, do come in!

2 **SFX FOOTSTEPS**

3 TONY: So you're Mister Touring?

4 TOURING: Just Touring, but yes. And you must be Barrett and Dietz.

5 DIETZ: I feel like a celebrity Tony. Everybody knows our names.

6 TONY: Well cheers to that. So what is it you do in the coding room Touring?

7 TOURING: I code, of course! (UNDER) And he's the Captain?

8 WINKY: Be nice, Tour. I think he means what do you code?

9 TOURING: Oh... right! Well, we have a fairly large global operation going here
10 and we don't want people honing in our racket so to speak, so all of our
11 communication gets coded. That's my job. Can you imagine the ruckus if
12 some of Esmalda's "visions" were known to the public? Personal computers
13 indeed.

14 DIETZ: So you come up with all the codes?

15 TOURING: Yes, I have a way with them. Why, even the big man himself always
16 travels under a code name – just to make sure he's not recognized on the
17 road.

18 TONY: Wait a minute. Are you saying that Lucas isn't really Lucas?

19 TOURING: Of course he's Lucas. That's just not his real name. Here's one for ya.
20 Have you ever heard of an anagram?

21 DIETZ: That's a form of code, isn't it?

22 TOURING: Yes indeed! It's where you take the letters of a word and form another
23 word. That's what I always do for the boss.

24 TONY: (DAWNING) Wait a minute! So if you rearrange the letters in Lucas
25 Naast, you come up with...

26 DIETZ, TINKY, WINKY, TOURING: SANTA CLAUS!

27 SANTA: Did somebody call?

28 TINKY & WINKY: Hi Boss!

29 DIETZ: See Tony? I told ya so!

30 TONY: Now hold on! Lucas is the one and only Santa?

1 BERNARD: Better believe it FLYBOY!

2 TONY: Hey, where'd you come from?

3 BERNARD: Never mind. Tony Barrett, meet Santa Claus, the Big C, Kris Kringle,
4 Father Christmas, whatever you want to call him.

5 SANTA: Just don't call me late for Christmas Eve.

6 CAROL: Oh, there you are dear. It's about time for you to get ready.

7 TONY: Ready? Ready for what?

8 CAROL: Why, it's Christmas Eve of course. Time for Santa to load up the sleigh
9 and get a move on.

10 DIETZ: Hold it a sec. How can it already be Christmas Eve? We haven't been
11 here that long.

12 SANTA: Dietz, you've always believed in me and now I think your friend
13 Captain Barrett is starting to see the light as well. Allow me to let you both
14 in on a little secret: Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

15 TONY & DIETZ: Huh?

16 SANTA: The world can be a pretty cruel place sometimes, as you've both just
17 been witness to for the last few years. People need something – or someone –
18 that they can trust without condition, without preamble. I represent that
19 someone.

20 TONY: Yeah, but it doesn't explain the time we've spent – or haven't spent –
21 here at the North Pole.

22 SANTA: Sometimes in order to believe something, you have to suspend other
23 beliefs – like your belief about how time works. Or, for that matter, that
24 reindeer can or can't fly.

25 TONY: I think I'm starting to get it. Believing is trusting in what your gut is
26 telling you rather than what your eyes are showing you. Something like that?

27 SANTA: Exactly! Now if you'll excuse me, I have a rather pressing engagement.
28 Merry Christmas Dietz, Tony.

29 DIETZ: Merry Christmas, Santa.

30 TONY: Merry Christmas. Have a safe trip sir.

1 SANTA: Don't worry. The reindeer always take good care of me. Goodbye Carol.
2 I'll see you soon.

3 CAROL: Goodbye dear. Have a pleasant journey.

4 SANTA: Goodbye everyone. Excellent work, as usual.

5 BERNARD, TINKY, WINKY, TOURING: (GENERAL SALUTATIONS) Goodbye
6 Santa!

7 **SFX JINGLING BELLS, REINDEER SNORTS, SWOOSHING**

8 CAROL: Well boys, I'd say you had a rather adventurous time of it. You
9 understand you can never tell anyone anything of what you've seen.

10 TONY: It won't matter. I'm pretty sure if we ever tried to convince anybody of
11 this, Dietz and I would both end up in a looney bin.

12 CAST: (LAUGHTER)

13 BERNARD: Okay flyboys, you need to rest up before your trip home. Here, have
14 some of Winky's hot cocoa and hit the sack for a while. I'll make the
15 arrangements for you to get back to Fairbanks.

16 DIETZ: What about the weather? It's still a blizzard out there isn't it.

17 BERNARD: Let us worry about that. Tinky, Winky – show our guests back to their
18 quarters.

19 TINKY & WINKY: With pleasure.

20 CAROL: Goodbye boys. Have a safe flight south.

21 TONY: Thanks Carol. And thanks for the eye opener – I think.

22 CAROL: Ever the doubter. Dietz, keep an eye on him.

23 DIETZ: Yes ma'am.

24 TINKY: C'mon boys.

25 WINKY: This way.

26 **MUSIC**

27 FRANK: Wake up boys! We caught a break. The weather's let up and you guys
28 can take off as soon as you're on the plane.

29 DIETZ: (SLEEPY) Take off? Say, what time is it?

1 FRANK: Just coming up on midnight – not that you can really tell the difference
2 this time of year.

3 TONY: (WAKING) Good grief. How long have we been out?

4 FRANK: How long? What are you talking about, Tony?

5 TONY: How many days have we been sacked out in here? Last I remember, we
6 were... that is, we were waiting to go to the North Pole Hotel.

7 FRANK: Yeah, and they're closed for the year. That's why you sacked out on my
8 cots. It's only been a few hours.

9 DIETZ: Only a few hours? Tony, what the...

10 TONY: Uh, Frank, we wouldn't by chance have a clearance would we?

11 FRANK: Sure, it was called in by Bernard, the guy who handles stuff for the
12 Hotel.

13 TONY: Really? Well, I guess we better get going then.

14 FRANK: Tony, you sure you're okay to fly? You and Dietz look a little white.

15 TONY: We'll be fine. Thanks for your help. C'mon Dietz.

16 DIETZ: See ya Frank. Merry Christmas.

17 **SOUND FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL**

18 FRANK: Merry Christmas guys.

19 TONY: Dietz, I don't know what just happened and I don't think I want to
20 know. Let's get out of here. (PAUSE) What are you staring at?

21 DIETZ: Rosie! Or at least I think that's Rosie.

22 TONY: Oh my gosh! She looks brand new. Look – there's a note attached to
23 the door.

24 DIETZ: Here, I got it. (PAUSE) It says, "Tony and Carl, it was a pleasure
25 meeting you again. I hope you don't mind that I had my team do some
26 upgrades on 'Rosie'. I think you'll enjoy them. Lucas."

27 TONY: Ohhhh brother!

28 **SFX ENGINE STARTING, PLANE TAKING OFF**

29 DIETZ: I don't know what they did, but Rosie is flying like a dream.

1 TONY: No kidding. At this rate, she'll be flying for years – probably longer
2 than we are. I still can't figure out what happened to us back in Fairbanks
3 though. How can the two of us have had the same hallucination?

4 DIETZ: Maybe it wasn't a hallucination, Tony. Remember what Santa, or
5 Lucas, or whoever he was said about believing.

6 TONY: Dietz, do me a favor and let's forget about ol' whatsisname, shall we?
7 Whatever that was I'm sure... What the heck is that?

8 DIETZ: That sure looks like a bunch of reindeer pulling a sleigh to me, Tony!

9 TONY: I hate to admit it, but I think you're right!

10 SANTA: (OFF) HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS BOYS!

11 TONY: (SOFT) Merry Christmas – Santa.

12 DIETZ: Changed your mind, eh buddy?

13 TONY: Like the man said, Dietz – believing is seeing.

14 DIETZ: Merry Christmas Tony.

15 TONY: Merry Christmas Carl. Now let's get the hell outta here!

16 **SIREN**

17 VOICE: Cursing violation! Please deposit five cents in the slot...

18 TONY: Oh brother!

19 **SFX ENGINES REVVING AND OFF**

20 **MUSIC**

21

1 ANNCR: You have been listening to a holiday confection from American Radio
2 Theater, Charter Flight, Operation 2 – “Santa Claus”. It was written by Ken
3 Liesse. Based on the original Charter Flight written by Gus C. Bayz.
4 Produced and directed by Joy Jackson for the 2015 ART Christmas broadcast.
5 In our cast you heard:

6
7 Ken Liesse as Tony Barrett
8 Chuck Royalty as Carl Dietz
9 Kim Turner as Lucas Naast aka Santa Claus
10 Gregg Porter as Bernard
11 Beth Schlansky as Carol
12 Mary Moore-Campagna as Tinky
13 Karen Liesse as Winky
14 Bob Perks as Touring
15 Magpie McLaren as Esmallda
16 Dan Schindler as Jerry Gaffer
17 Dave Liesse as Frank and the tower operator
18 as The Voice

19

20 Live Sound Effects by Penny Swanberg and Marilyn Wilt

21 Playback by Joy Jackson

22 Music by Kevin McLeod at incompetech.com

23 Engineering by Ron Aley

24 Thank you to Marilyn Wilt, for the use of her house for the festivities

25 I'm Mark Whitworth, your announcer.

26 This is A. R. T. American Radio Theater.

27