

SAWYER. Now, look here, Mrs. Walker!... Are you going to allow this dangerous maniac to assault your employees?

DORIS. He's quite harmless, Mr. Sawyer.

SAWYER. Maybe we should let the police decide that!

DORIS (*in a dulcet voice*). That concludes our meeting for this evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you so much for coming. And a Merry Christmas to you all... (*As audience supposedly files out chattering, she says firmly to KRIS.*) I'll handle this!

START → KRIS. I'm perfectly capable of defending my person against attacks, Mrs. Walker.

DORIS. Please, Kris... for my sake...

KRIS. All right... I'll see you at the store tomorrow. (*Starts to leave.*)

DORIS. No, Kris, would you wait in the hall, please? I'll talk to you in a minute. (*KRIS and ELVES exit.*)

SAWYER (*yelling after KRIS as he leaves*). Society has ways of dealing with your kind! (*To DORIS.*) That's what I mean. He's a dangerously deranged man. In cases like this there is no warning... He could strike at any time.

MISS ADAMS. Oh dear!

DORIS. I hardly think...

SHELLHAMMER (*to DORIS*). This could really backfire on Macy's. If Gimble's, or the press, should find out that our Santa is... possibly... uh... dangerous, the repercussions could be devastating.

MISS ADAMS. Oh dear!!

SAWYER. I'm telling you, Mrs. Walker, Kringle is a stick of dynamite with a short fuse. I warned you! Thank goodness I was the victim of his lunacy and not some poor, defenseless child dangling on his knee.

SHELLHAMMER. We've got to do something at once.

DORIS. But he's just a kindly old man. Are you sure he touched you with that cane?

SAWYER. Yes, and he will again! He has evidently suffered a sudden change of personality and has entered a violent stage!

MISS ADAMS. Oh dear!!! (*MISS ADAMS begins to hyperventilate. SHELLHAMMER comforts her.*)

DORIS. But Doctor Pierce assured me that such a thing could never happen with Kris. He said his delusion is a positive one.

SAWYER. Doctor Pierce is not a psychiatrist.

DORIS. Neither are you!

SAWYER. In that case, your responsibility is to have him thoroughly examined by a competent psychiatrist at once.

SHELLHAMMER. I agree.

DORIS. Well, I don't. Kris has been examined many times, according to Doctor Pierce.

SHELLHAMMER. Then one more time won't make any difference... If the psychiatrist finds him competent, then he can come right back and resume his job.

SAWYER. And if he doesn't, then you certainly will have done the right thing.

DORIS. Well, I...

SAWYER. The only problem now is to get him out of here without creating another scene. In his present condition, he would most certainly react with violence.

SHELLHAMMER. You'll have to explain it to him, Doris. He trusts you.

DORIS. I simply can't hurt the old man.

SAWYER. Well, never mind. I won't need you, Mrs. Walker. I know just what to do.

DORIS. What are you going to do?

SAWYER. I'll apologize, and I'll invite him for dinner, and then persuade him to have an examination by a competent psychiatrist tomorrow.

DORIS. Well... all right, Albert... Call me later and let me know how you worked it out, okay?

SAWYER. Mr. Kringle, are you still there? * END

(KRIS re-enters, ELVES following.)

SAWYER. Please come back. I'm truly sorry about our misunderstanding. Are you all right?

(KRIS nods.) I shouldn't have said the things I did. Could we have dinner together? Then I'd be happy to drop you off where you're staying.

KRIS. Well, certainly, Mr. Sawyer. I accept your apology. Thank you for the dinner invitation, but I believe I'll go with Mrs. Walker.

DORIS. That's all right, Kris. It'll give me time to take care of some shopping. I'll go with Mrs. Shellhammer and Miss Adams, and I'll see you in the morning. *(They exit.)*

SAWYER. Shall we go?

KRIS *(pauses)*. Would you excuse me a moment? I need to talk to the elves.

SAWYER. Of course. I'll just go collect my things. *(Exit.)*

KRIS *(to ELVES)*. I've been thinking. Do you remember how we should always look for the good in everyone, no matter how bad the person seems to be?

ELF #1 *(unbelieving)*. Does "everyone" include Mr. Sawyer?

KRIS. Sometimes the good in people is buried so deep that it has a difficult time trying to get out. When it does come out, we may not be able to recognize it because we've blocked off our willingness to see it. Mr. Sawyer sees things very narrowly because he lacks the ability to dream. That means he can't imagine anything being better than his limited view.

ELF #3. Is there hope for him?

KRIS. Of course there is. He just apologized for his angry words. I don't know if he was sincere... but still, we must encourage his good feelings in every way we can.