Act I

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DORIS. Believe it or not, I'm glad he's staying at your place.

I feel better about having him safe and near. I'm glad you're near too.

FRED. Me too. (Coming close, they kiss.)

SCENE SIX

SCENE: Macy's Toy Department, Santa's dais. One week later. Elf Theater optional.

SHELLHAMMER. And now, ladies and gentlemen, a special Christmas delight: Macy's Elf Pheater!

(ELVES perform. KRKS watches from his "throne.")

SHELLHAMMER. And now, a very special honor: Mr. Macy, Mr. Bloomingdale.

(MACY and BLOOMINGDALE step to DC.)

MACY (to BLOOMINGDALE). Welcome to our store. I'm so happy that we can work together in the spirit of Christmas. (They shake hands. Photographers' bulbs flash.)

BLOOMINGDALE. Yes, I must admit, I was at first very jealous of the popularity of your goodwill campaign. I felt you were stealing Christmas business from us. Then someone reminded me that goodwill isn't any organization's private property. So we started our own goodwill operation. I must say, it has been most profitable for us.

MACY. That's right. Goodwill goes a lot farther with everybody than competition. Now, would you come forward, Mr. Kringle? (KRIS joins them. To BLOOMINGDALE.)

This is the man I told you about. (To KRIS.) Mr. Kringle, you have brought a very special spirit to both Macy's and Bloomingdale's stores this Christmas season. And it seems to have spread to the entire city of New York as well. Whatever your special gift, it deserves recognition and appreciation. In honor of your distinguished service, Macy's would like to present to you this token of our esteem and gratitude. (He hands a check to KRIS.)

KRIS (glances at check). Oh, thank you so much. This is very generous... It's going to make Christmas really special for someone who has been kind to me... It's going to buy an X-ray machine.

MACY. A what?

KRIS. It's for the medical facility at the Maplewood Home. Doctor Pierce says an X-ray is very helpful in some situations.

MACY. That's going to he quite expensive. That check won't...

BLOOMINGDALE. Let me handle it for you. We'll get it for you wholesale.

MACY (not to be outdone). We'll get it for you at cost!

KRIS. Thank you both very much. (He shakes hands with MACY and BLOOMINGDALE as photographers' bulbs flash again.)

BLOOMINGDALE (pointing at photographers). Will you folks, and you too, Mr. Macy, and Mr. Kringle... Will you come over to Bloomingdale's to take some more pictures in front of my store? (To KRIS.) And since you have brought extra business to Bloomingdale's, there will be a bonus check for you there. That should help pay for that expensive machine. (Exit ALL, ad libbing cheerful words. DORIS and FRED are left.)