

# **SANTA/BUDDY:**

## **BUDDY**

Santa? Is it true what they said? Am I human?

## **SANTA**

Good question.

*(SANTA walks over to BUDDY.)*

Once upon a time there was this young woman, Susan Welles, she had a baby, but she passed away soon after he was born. That baby was put in an orphanage, and one Christmas night he crawled into my toy sack, and I brought him back here by mistake. The elves took him in, raised him as one of their own.

## **BUDDY**

Really? Where is he? Is it Charlie?

## **SANTA**

Buddy, it's you! It's your story!

## **BUDDY**

I'm not an elf; I'm a human. And I'm an orphan. Just like Annie.

## **SANTA**

Not exactly. You have a human father, but he never knew that you were born. He lives in a faraway land called New York City.

*(SANTA takes out a New York City snow globe and hands it to BUDDY.)*

And he works

*(pointing to the globe)*

Right there, in the Empire State Building.

*(BUDDY tries to give the snow globe back, but SANTA stops him.)*

## **SANTA**

Keep it. It's a gift from me.

## **BUDDY**

Thank you, Santa. What's my dad like?

## **SANTA**

He's an executive. He publishes children's books.

## **BUDDY**

Oh!

## **SANTA**

But I should tell you, he, uh... well, he's on the Naughty List.

## **BUDDY**

No! What did he do? Did he wet the bed?

## **SANTA**

No, he just doesn't believe in me anymore. He's lost the Christmas spirit.

**BUDDY**

But Christmas spirit is what makes your sleigh fly!

**SANTA**

I know. Buddy, it's time you went there to meet him.

**BUDDY**

Okay. Which direction is New York?

**SANTA**

It's south. We're at the North Pole, Buddy; everything is south.  
*(BUDDY starts to leave.)*

**BUDDY**

Oh, hey, what's my dad's name?

**SANTA**

Hobbs. Walter Hobbs.

**BUDDY**

Hobbs? Then I must be Buddy Hobbs!  
*(uncertain)*  
Yay!