

MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET

By

Kitty Beletic

(based on the book by Valentine Davies)

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SHOEBOX THEATRE  
2015 Old Orchard Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75208  
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## CHARACTERS

- Dorie Walker: Special Events Coordinator for Brainard's Dept. Store in NYC. Energetic, practical, a realist. Professional in every way. All business. Mother of Susan Walker. 30 years old. Doesn't trust because she carries a deep hurt inside. Her job and her daughter are her life.
- Susan Walker: 8 year old daughter of Dorie Walker. Smart, clever, winning. Harbors a big imagination deep inside. Careful and very observant, SHE is more adventuresome than her mother. SHE is open and refreshingly frank. A bit precocious.
- Fred Gayley: Neighbor and friend of Susan and Dorie. Playful and kind, HE has befriended Susan and brought a new dimension in her life. HE is in love with Dorie. A good lawyer, HE works hard, but has balance in his life. HE is about 30 years old and very successful. Susan brings joy and meaning into his life.
- Kris Kringle: Well, **I** believe HE is the real Santa Claus. HE embodies the Christmas Spirit in all of us and boldly defends it in all HE says and does. HE is whimsical and benevolent. HE is dignified and a smart dresser.
- Judge Lila Newman: One of the good guys. Tries to remain on the side of "right" in a world that distorts and twists the facts . NOT ambitious, but also doesn't like to rock the boat. About 40 years old.
- David Franklin: Prosecuting Attorney. Cocky, Melodramatic, rides on his laurels a bit. Prides himself in getting the facts. Not tremendously deep, HE merely fits into the system and is a "fair weather" friend. About 30 years old.

- Mr. (Mrs.) Brainard: Owner of Brainard's Dept. Store. Rich, a bit pompous, HE/SHE likes being in the limelight. A good business person. HE/SHE puts his/her money where his/her mouth is. 40- 60 years old.
- Stacy Tripp: Brainard's Advertising Executive. SHE is FULL of ideas. SHE is energetic, inspirational, innovative, and CHEERFUL. SHE loves loves loves Christmas. About 30 years old.
- Elaine Frieze: Owner of Scheister's Dept. Store. SHE is Cutthroat and conniving. SHE would do ANYTHING for money and power. SHE lies, cheats, and steals ideas. About 40 years old.
- Shelly Barber: One half of a low rent private detective firm. Not playing with a full deck and unaware of it. Watches a lot of spy movies. Fashions her character after different detectives. Nips a little. "Lenny" of Lenny and Squiggy. Very physical character.
- Tanya Talbot: One half of a low rent private detective firm. The brains of the outfit. Just not brainy enough. Uses analogies to make a point. Never appropriate. "Squiggy" of Lenny and Squiggy.
- Mrs. Oglethorpe: Overbearing mother who thinks her child is more special than anyone else's. Demanding and rude.
- Sonny Oglethorpe: Spoiled and bratty. Delights in telling little kids "there is no Santa Claus." Demanding and prone to tantrums.
- Mrs. Franklin: David Franklin's wife. Sweet and unassuming. Shops at Brainard's. A good mommy and a GREAT wife.

Julia Franklin: 7 year old daughter of the Franklin's. A key witness in the trial of Kris Kringle.

12-16 CLASS: Protestors, Parents, Parade Spectators, Hot Dog Vendor, Reporters, Photographer, Newsboy.

MARCHING BAND: 8-11 Class

SANTA'S VISITORS (ELVES): 5-7 Class

SETTING: New York City

TIME: Christmas time.

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT:

“Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street” was conceived in the mind of Valentine Davies, who one day looked at the commercialism of Christmas and thought, “What would Santa say if he saw all of this?”. He expressed his thought to some movie friends who then convinced him to elaborate the thought in a screenplay. He did and subsequently wrote the book. The story is timeless and a heartwarming reminder to care for the child in all of us.

DEDICATION

To Michael McClain, who is my Kris Kringle – generous, kind and the most fun I ever had!

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING: The Thanksgiving Day Parade

AT RISE: A drum cadence starts the parade.  
SPECTATORS enter to watch.  
Excitement is in the air.

MRS. FRANKLIN

(Over drum cadence)

I think it's coming, Julia! Let's find a good place.

JULIA FRANKLIN

Okay, Mommy.

(Enter SONNY and MRS. OGLETHORPE)

MRS. OGLETHORPE

Come ON, Sonny! We won't get a good spot if you don't hurry up!

SONNY OGLETHORPE

It's too loud, Ma. I don't want to see Santa Claus.

(Stops)

I'm hungry!!!!!!

MRS. OGLETHORPE

(Without looking at SONNY, SHE sees MRS. FRANKLIN  
and pushes in front of her. PARADE begins.)

COME ON!!!!!!!!!!

(MRS. OGLETHORPE yanks SONNY'S arm and gets in front of the FRANKLIN'S who are very surprised. PARADE begins from up right backstage and continues across front of stage to downstage left and out through audience to allow for DORIE and STACY's entrance. Enter SHELLY and TANYA. KRIS KRINGLE enters to stand downstage right. Enter MR. FRANKLIN to join his family)

SONG – JINGLE BELL PARADE – COMPANY

BAND

(Intro – 16 cts then BAND imitates Drum Cadence – spoken in rhythm)

Bada-rum-pum-pum      Bada-rum-pum-pum  
Badarum    Badarum      Bada-rum-pum-pum

Bada-rum-pum-pum      Bada-rum-pum-pum  
Badarum    Badarum      Bada-rum-pum-pum

A PARADE TODAY      A PARADE TODAY  
COME ONE COME ALL THE PARADE'S TODAY  
MARCH 1 AND 2      CLAP 3 AND 4  
IF YOU FOLLOW ME I WILL SHOW YOU MORE

A PARADE TODAY      A PARADE TODAY  
COME ONE COME ALL THE PARADE'S TODAY  
MARCH 1 AND 2      STOMP 3 AND 4  
IF YOU FOLLOW ME I WILL SHOW YOU MORE

(music intro from march into jazz)

LOOK AND SEE    RIGHT BEHIND ME A PARADE WILL BE  
THERE'S SOME MAGIC AND SOME MYSTERY  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE

TURN AROUND    RIGHT BEHIND YOU IS A JINGLE CLOWN  
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING BACK TO TOWN  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE

SONG – JINGLE BELL PARADE (Cont'd) – BAND

SANTA'S HERE! I HEAR THE JINGLE BELLS  
I SEE HIS LITTLE ELVES  
EVERY YEAR HE BRINGS A LOAD OF TOYS  
TO ALL THE GIRLS AND BOYS

ALL

LOOK AND SEE RIGHT BEHIND ME A PARADE WILL BE  
THERE'S SOME MAGIC AND SOME MYSTERY  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE

(Instrumental – 2 vs – underneath dialogue. BAND continues to perform in pantomime. Enter STACY and DORIE from upstage rt. Cross to KRIS)

DORIE

What do you MEAN there's no Santa! I saw him earlier this morning!

STACY

Well, he sort of . . . disappeared.

DORIE

Stacy, we don't have time for this. Tell me what happened.

STACY

He . . . Santa . . . I fired him!

DORIE

WHAT?????

STACY

He was drunk, Dorie. And he was offending people right and left. I couldn't get you on the walkie talkie, and, somebody had to do SOMETHING . . . so I fired him.

(KRIS is hearing a bit of this)

DORIE

Oh my gosh.

(DORIE continues saying “Oh my gosh” as STACY speaks.)

STACY

He was talking about all kids being brats and stinkers and . . .

BOTH

(They see KRIS at the same moment)

OH MY GOSH!

(They nod to each other, get on either side of KRIS and say simultaneously)

Excuse me, Sir?

(Key change is Intro for COMPANY to sing. DORIE and STACY quickly convince KRIS to be their SANTA. They exit from upstage rt and KRIS changes into SANTA suit during music. HE enters on last verse and exits out through audience on end of song)

COMPANY

LOOK AND SEE RIGHT BEHIND ME A PARADE WILL BE  
THERE’S SOME MAGIC AND SOME MYSTERY  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE

TURN AROUND RIGHT BEHIND YOU IS A JINGLE CLOWN  
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING BACK TO TOWN  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE

SANTA’S HERE I HEAR THE JINGLE BELLS  
I SEE HIS LITTLE ELVES  
EVERY YEAR HE BRINGS A LOAD OF TOYS  
TO ALL THE GIRLS AND BOYS

BAND (Cont'd)

LOOK AND SEE RIGHT BEHIND ME A PARADE WILL BE  
THERE'S SOME MAGIC AND SOME MYSTERY  
EVERYBODY LOVES THE JINGLE BELL PARADE  
JINGLE BELL PARADE!!

(BLACKOUT)

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PROCEED TO ACT I, SCENE III BELOW –

ACT I

SCENE III

SETTING: BRAINARD'S DEPT. STORE

AT RISE: STACY and KRIS are standing  
in front of SANTA's big chair and  
display.

STACY

Wow! You look GREAT! I mean, you look like the real Santa Claus!

KRIS

(Smiling)

Thank you, Stacy.

STACY

Mr. Brainard can't WAIT to meet you! We got so many phone calls saying how wonderful you were in the parade. You really saved our bacon, I'll tell you.

KRIS

I enjoyed it immensely.

STACY

Mr. Brainard will be here in a minute, but while we're waiting, Personnel wanted you to fill out this information. Let's see. Name?

KRIS

Kris Kringle.

STACY

(Laughs)

No really.

1-3-11

(STACY looks up at KRIS)

KRIS

Yes, really.

STACY

(Slowly writes)

Address?

KRIS

Maplewood Home, Great Neck, Long Island.

STACY

Uh-huh. Age?

KRIS

As old as my tongue and a little bit older than my teeth.

STACY

(Laughing)

You are so CUTE!

(Enter MR. BRAINARD)

MR. BRAINARD

Hello everyone! How ARE we today?

STACY

Just fine, Mr. Brainard! How are you?

1-3-12

MR. BRAINARD

Peachy keen! And fit as a fiddle. Just came from my annual check up and Doc says I'm as young as ever! And why shouldn't I be? I have in my possession the world's greatest Santa Claus. How are you, son?

KRIS

(Amused at MR. BRAINARD)

I'm fit as a fiddle, sir, and ready to meet those little ones.

MR. BRAINARD

Well, well! That's what we like to hear! I see you've met Stacy, our in house advertising executive. Cute as a button and full of ideas, aren't you, dear?

STACY

Well, I . . .

MR. BRAINARD

She came up with a beauty the other day, something about elves?

STACY

We advertised for kids to come dressed as Santa's elves. You see, Kris, we thought it might be really fun for them. It'll will make great pictures for the newspapers and,

MR. BRAINARD

And the kids will LOVE us! And if the kids love us, the parents will buy!

KRIS

I think it's a fine idea, Stacy.

MR. BRAINARD

That's why we keep her around. Fine ideas, great ideas!

(Enter DORIE)

1-3-13

DORIE

Sorry I'm late. Mr. Brainard? Hi Stacy. Oh, hi . . .

STACY

Kris. Kris Kringle.

DORIE

(Smiling)

Of course. Hello Mr. Kringle.

KRIS

Good morning, Doris.

DORIE

(Looks at KRIS oddly)

STACY

Doris?

MR. BRAINARD

Well, now it's almost time to open the doors. Have we covered everything? Is it all in place? Let's see how it looks.

DORIE.

Stacy, will you do the honors?

STACY

You bet!

(STACY goes to turn on "special" lighting for Santa's display.  
Should make AUDIENCE ooh and ahhhhh)

MR. BRAINARD

Now THAT'S what I call a first rate Christmas display!

DORIE

When the children come in, they'll see Santa sitting and waiting for them. We thought we'd let Santa, talk with a few of them and while they're waiting, our salespeople can hand out free candy samples to the parents. We'll also make it easy for them to buy, with our toy displays so conveniently placed right near Santa's display.

(Points to toy display)

MR. BRAINARD

It'll be your job, son, to sell the toys. Dorie's made a list of all the toys we stock and when the kids ask for something we don't have, it's your job to suggest they ask for something we DO have. You get what I mean?

(Nudges KRIS. KRIS frowns)

We want to encourage shopping at Brainard's, son! After all we ARE the greatest department store in the history of America!

STACY

That's right, Kris!

(Escorts KRIS to his place, talking as she walks)

Brainard's stands for the wholesome good American way to shop. We're fair!

MR. BRAINARD

Right!

STACY

We're honest!

MR. BRAINARD

Right!

1-3-15

STACY

And we're here for Mr. and Mrs. America and their kiddos!

(To SALESPEOPLE who have entered during her speech)

Open the doors and let the public in! We want to let them know we're here to serve them!

(PARENTS and ELVES enter during song)

SONG – WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S/STACY

(32 cts for dialogue)

WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY THE PRICES ARE LOW  
WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO SAY  
BRAINARD'S HAS JUST MADE MY DAY

WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
WE ARE HAPPY TO SERVE YOU WITH SMILES AND MUCH MORE  
WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY  
BRAINARD'S WILL HELP MAKE YOUR DAY

SHOPPING CAN BE A BIG CHORE  
WHY EVEN FIGHT IT WHEN WE MAKE IT RIGHT AND WE

WELCOME YOU TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY THE PRICES ARE LOW  
WELCOME TO BRAINARD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO SAY  
I SHOP AT BRAINARD'S I FOUND IT AT BRAINARD'S  
AT BRAINARD'S I KNOW I WILL SAVE!

(STACY goes downstage to greet everyone as DORIE speaks to KRIS. MR. BRAINARD greets people and exits with DORIE after her conversation with KRIS)

DORIE

Now don't forget to push Brainard's merchandise, Kris. Here's the list.

(KRIS takes list from DORIE. She pats him on the shoulder and exits with MR. BRAINARD. KRIS looks at the kids lined up to see him, tears up the list as STACY leads the first child to him. Enter MRS. OGLETHORPE and SONNY, MRS. FRANKLIN, JULIA FRANKLIN)

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PROCEED TO ACT 2, SCENE 7 BELOW –

(Enter SUSAN)

SUSAN

(Sadly)

Hi Mother.

DORIE

(Startled)

Susan! How did you get here?

SUSAN

Mrs. Hammond dropped me off. I stayed after school to help her a little bit and she offered to drop me by your office. She said she called you.

DORIE

Oh yes, I forgot. So much is going on. I just forgot, honey.

SUSAN

Have you heard from Fred?

DORIE

What? Oh, no.

SUSAN

I guess he's pretty busy these days.

DORIE

I guess so.

SUSAN

Is Mr. Kringle coming over tonight?

DORIE

No, Susan, he's not. Honey, Mr. Kringle may never be able to come over again.

SUSAN

Why not?

DORIE

Well, it's because he says he's Santa Claus.

SUSAN

But he IS Santa, Mother. I know he is.

DORIE

Some people don't believe that, Susan. So they're having a sort of trial.

SUSAN

But he MUST be Santa Claus. He's so sweet and kind and jolly, and nobody could be like Mr. Kringle except Santa Claus.

DORIE

I think perhaps you're right.

SUSAN

Is Mr. Kringle unhappy, Mom?

DORIE

I'm sure he is, dear.

SUSAN

Than I'm going to write him a letter right away to cheer him up!

DORIE

Oh, Susan, what a good idea! I think Mr. Kringle will love hearing from you. It might be just the thing to make him feel better.

(Phone rings as SUSAN looks through her book bag for pencil and paper)

DORIE (Cont'd)

Hello? Oh hello, Mr. Brainard. Certainly. I was just on my way out, but I'd be happy to . . . Oh it's no problem, I'll be right there.

(Hangs up)

Susan, will you be all right for a few minutes? Mr. Brainard wants to see me for upstairs.

SUSAN

(Already writing)

Sure.

DORIE

I'll be right back. (Exits)

SUSAN

(Over music)

I sure hope this helps.

SONG – DEAR SANTA/SUSAN

DEAR SANTA MY NAME IS SUSAN I KNOW  
YOU SHOULD BE BUSY WITH SHOVELING SHOW BUT I  
WONDER IF YOU MIGHT JUST HELP ME TO KNOW  
IF YOU ARE REALLY REAL

DEAR SANTA MAMA SAYS YOU ARE A FAIRYTALE  
MADE UP BY PEOPLE WHO NEVER COULD KNOW BUT I  
FIGURE IF YOU GET THIS LETTER IN JAIL  
THEN YOU ARE REALLY REAL

(Enter FRED)

I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON YOU'RE BELIEVED IN  
I WOULD LIKE TO LET MYSELF BELIEVE IN YOU

DEAR SANTA YOU MUST BE LONELY SOMETIMES BECAUSE  
I AM AND I AM NOT FAMOUS LIKE YOU BUT I  
WONDER IF YOU MIGHT JUST NEED A NEW FRIEND  
IF YOU ARE REALLY REAL  
YOURS VERY TRULY . . .

(SHE signs her name, folds the paper) ...