

The Elves and Two Shoemakers

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Three elves, DELFINA, RANDELFF and MELFIN, have been summoned to the hall of the ELF KING

KING

Do you three know why you're here?

Delfina

No, your majesty.

Randelf

No sir.

Melfin

Uh uh.

KING

And that is exactly the problem. We have educated you and trained you, yet you still don't understand.

DELFINA

Understand what?

KING

We've told you and showed you many times, so telling you again won't help.

Melfin removes his hat and takes a ball out of it. He starts bouncing the ball.

KING

Will you stop that!

MELFIN

Sorry.

King

I am sending you far away to learn something from a shoemaker.

Delfina

But we passed our shoemaking course.

RANDELF

Can't we learn whatever it is here? I hate traveling. My allergies...

KING

If you don't learn what you are supposed to, you are no longer welcome here.

DELFINA

You'd banish us? But where will we go? How will we live?

KING

That's your problem. We've done all that we can here.

It's up to you now.

(to guard)

Get them what they need for the trip.

DELFINA

But your majesty...

KING

This discussion is over. As I may never see you again, good luck.

DELFINA

N...N...Never?

GUARD

Let's go.

It's summer. The trees are full and the grass is tall. A horse drawn cart moves slowly down an empty country road. The horse ambles along and the driver seems to be nodding off. The cart is full of hay.

On the back of the cart are the three elves. They are four inches tall. Delfina and Randelf are sitting on the back of the cart with their legs dangling over the back. Delfina is alert and happy. Randelf seems depressed.

DELFINA

Well, if the elf king is forcing us to go somewhere, at least we have a nice day for it.

RANDELF
I'd rather be home.

DELFINA
So would I, but...

RANDELF
Did you see how big the humans are? I just know somebody's going to step on me. Ah choo! Why do we have to ride in a hay cart, Delfina? My allergies are killing me. Let's get out and wait for another cart.

DELFINA
The sooner we get there, the sooner we can go home.

RANDELF
This whole trip is a dumb idea. We know how to make shoes. So why is the Elf King sending us to some human shoemaker?

DELFINA
There's something important we're supposed to learn.

RANDELF
How does he know that this shoemaker is better than we are?

DELFINA
I don't know, but the Elf King seemed pretty serious about it.

RANDELF
Ah choo!

DELFINA
Gesundheit.

RANDELF

And why didn't the Elf King say
what we were supposed to learn?

DELFINA

I don't know.

RANDELF

Then how will we know...

A piece of straw tickles Randelf's ear from off screen.

RANDELF

Will you stop that?

He turns and sees Melfin wearing a giant mustache made of
straw. It's almost as wide as Melfin is tall.

RANDELF

You look ridiculous.

Melfin grins at him.

MELFIN

No, I look distinguished!

DELFINA

Melfin, please don't make
things any worse.

Melfin relaxes his face and the straw mustache falls into
his hands.

RANDELF

<Sneezes and sniffs> I feel
terrible. Let's take another
cart.

DELFINA

I think we should stay.

RANDELF

Then let's vote on it. You
vote to stay. I vote to leave.
Let's see what Melfin says.

Melfin has made a house out of straw. He's standing inside it with the door open, admiring his work.

MELFIN

I like it here. It's fun.

RANDELF

Why do we have to listen to him?

DELFINA

You're the one who said we should vote.

RANDELF

I should have known that you'd vote the wrong way.
Ah...ah...ah...choo!

It's a big sneeze, and the force of it blows the straw house down, leaving Melvin standing there covered in straw.

RANDELF

That's it! I don't care what anybody says. I'm not riding in this cart!

Randelf jumps out of the back of the cart and lands on the road. The cart continues on.

DELFINA

Randelf! Come back!

The cart pulls away from him. Randelf just stands there, defiant.

RANDELF

I won't! I'm waiting for the next cart!

DELFINA

Why does he have to make things so difficult? Come on, Melfin.

Delfina jumps off the back of the cart. Melfin shrugs and jumps after her. Delfina approaches Randelf.

DELFINA

I hope you're satisfied. This is just going to slow us down.

RANDELF

I don't care. And you'll thank me when we're enjoying a pleasant ride into town.

Cut to:

Close up of chickens cackling in a cage. Their cackling is deafening.

CHICKEN1

Buck buck begawk!

CHICKEN2

Cluck cluck cluck!

The chickens are the cart the elves are now riding on. They're standing on the back, just outside the chicken's cage. One particular chicken is trying to pull Randelf's hat.

DELFINA

(sarcastically)

Thank you, Randelf!

Randelf is having a tug of war with another chicken over his hat.

RANDELF

How was I supposed to know the next cart would be full of chickens?

He pulls his hat away from the chicken and falls to the floor of the cart.

RANDELF

Let's get out and wait for another cart!

DELFINA

Oh no. We waited two hours for this cart. And with our luck, the next one will be full of fertilizer!

RANDELF

Melfin, what do you think?

Melfin is standing on top of an egg, balancing on it.

MELFIN

I like it here. It's fun.

Melfin starts to walk backwards on the egg, causing it to move forwards.

MELFIN

Look out!

Randelf and Delfina have to step aside to avoid getting run over by the egg.

RANDELF

Will you stop playing all the time!

Melfin goes past them and comes face to face with a chicken, who is not amused by Melfin's antics. The chicken cackles at him threateningly.

MELFIN

Uh oh!

CHICKEN

Begawk?

Melfin starts to run, causing the egg to go backwards. Randelf has his back to the egg and doesn't see it coming. The egg knocks Randelf over. The impact causes Melfin to lose his balance and fall on top of Randelf.

RANDELF

Get off me!

Melfin gets up.

RANDELF

I told you to stop playing!

MELFIN

Sorry.

RANDELF

I'll fix it so that you can't
play with it anymore!

Randelf walks over to the egg and picks it up. The chicken that was cackling at Melfin is now behind Randelf, looking angry. With a mighty wind-up, Randelf spins around and around and hurls the egg towards the front of the cart. He finishes spinning facing the angry chicken.

RANDELF

Oh! Was that...your egg?

The egg, meanwhile, is now falling from the sky and lands on the hindquarters of the horse. This startles the horse, whose eyes open wide.

HORSE

Reeheehee!

The horse takes off hell bent for leather.

FARMER

Whoa Dobbin! Whoa! Steady
boy! Slow Down! Whoa!

The cart hits a rock in the road and the elves and the chickens are all knocked over. The chickens are all clucking.

RANDELF

Yipes! What's happening?

A chicken pecks at Delfina's rear.

DELFINA

Owwwww!

Randelf goes flying into the cage.

RANDELF

Uh oh!

A chicken grabs Randelf's leg in its beak.

RANDELF

Aaaahhhh! Help! Help! Help!
 Help! Help! Help! Get me out
 of here!

DELFINA
 (to Melfin)
 Come on! Pull!

Randelf reaches out towards Delfina. She is able to grab
 Randelf's hands and starts to pull. Melfin gets behind
 Delfina and grabs her around the waist, also pulling.
 Finally, the pull Randelf out, but the force causes the
 three elves to fall off the cart onto the road.

RANDELF, DELFINA AND MELFIN
 Aaaaahhhhh!

The cart races away without them, still at top speed and
 the chickens still cackling.

DELFINA
 There goes the cart.

RANDELF
 I told you we should wait for
 another cart.

MELFIN
 Bye chickens. Nice to meet
 you.

DELFINA
 You're slowing us down!

MELFIN
 Maybe the lesson the Elf King
 wants us to learn is to be on
 time.

RANDELF
 That's not it. It's got to be
 something about making shoes.

MELFIN
 How do you know? What if he
 asks and we tell him the wrong
 thing?

DELFINA

I've got an idea. We'll write down everything we learn. That way, something will be what the elf king wants from us.

Delfina reaches into her pocket and pulls out a paper and pencil.

DELFINA

So what did we just learn?

MELFIN

Chickens are more fun than hay?

Randelf glares at Melfin.

RANDELFF

How about "Eggs are not toys."

DELFINA

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.

She puts the paper and pencil back in her bag. When she takes her hand out, an ELF WAND drops to the floor.

RANDELFF

What's that?

He bends down and picks up the elf wand.

DELFINA

It's an elf wand.

RANDELFF

You have an elf wand? Then why are we standing here? Just wave this thing and get us to where we're going.

Delfina grabs the wand away from Randelf.

DELFINA

The guard said we could only use it in an emergency.

RANDELF

You said we're behind schedule.
Isn't that an emergency?

DELFINA

I don't think that's what the
guard meant.

RANDELF

There's nobody around to see
us. Use the wand. The Elf King
will never find out.

MELFIN

Oh yes he will.

Delfina and Randelf turn towards Melfin.

RANDELF

How? Are you going to tell
him?

MELFIN

No.

RANDELF

Then how's he going to know?

MELFIN

He just knows, that's all. I
used a wand once and the Elf
King was there so fast, I
couldn't believe it. And was
he angry!

DELFINA

What did he do?

MELFIN

I was just a child then, so he
decided not to punish me. But
he told me there wasn't a lot
of magic left in the world and
we shouldn't waste it on silly
things.

RANDELF

Delfina doesn't think that being late is silly.

MELFIN

But the Elf King might. If you're going to use that wand, count me out. I'd rather walk than see the Elf King angry again.

RANDELF

Walk? But that will take hours!

DELFINA

You should have thought of that before you complained about our ride.

Melfin picks up three pebbles and starts to juggle them.

RANDELF

Will you stop that? Your playing got us into this mess in the first place.

MELFIN

I didn't throw that egg.

DELFINA

Melfin, please stop.

MELFIN

Okay.

Melfin puts his hands behind his back. Two of the pebbles land on the ground in front of him. The third one comes down on Randelf's head.

RANDELF

Ouch!

MELFIN

You wanted me to stop.

DELFINA

Let's get going.

Delfina starts walking. Randelf takes a step and then stops. It's clear that he's uncomfortable.

DELFINA
What's the matter now?

RANDELF
Something's making me itch.

Randelf reaches behind his collar and pulls out a chicken feather that's almost as big as he is.

MELFIN
Hey! You got a souvenir!

RANDELF
Lucky me!

Randelf throws the feather down angrily and storms off to follow Delfina. Melfin picks up the feather sticks it in his hat almost doubling his height. He strikes a pose.

MELFIN
Lookin' good!

DELFINA
Hurry up, Melfin!

Melfin runs to catch up.

A VILLAGE STREET. MORNING.

It's a small village with only a half a dozen streets. People are going about their business as the three elves reach the edge of town.

DELFINA
We're finally here!

RANDELF
So where's the shoemaker's shop? I want to sit down. I'm tired.

Delfina scans the shops on both sides of the street and sees shoes a wooden shoe hanging from a pole in front of a shop.

DELFINA
I see it! Come on!

The three elves walk towards the shop. They're four inches high, so they aren't very noticeable, but they still try and keep out of sight. They get to the door of the shoemaker's shop and stare at the door. The doorknob is way beyond their reach.

DELFINA
How do we get in?

MELFIN
We'll go under it! Hold this.

Melfin hands his hat to Randelf. Melfin tries to fit under the door. He gets halfway under, but can't get any further.

DELFINA
He's stuck!

RANDELF
Grab his leg!

Randelf and Delfina each grab a leg and start pulling. They strain and tug and Melfin finally pops out. The three go head over heels. Melfin lands on Randelf.

RANDELF
Will you get off me!

MELFIN
Sorry.

Melfin gets up.

DELFINA
We'll never get in that way.

RANDELF
Look! Here comes somebody.

The three elves scramble to the side of the door and push themselves against the wall, trying to be inconspicuous. Melfin runs out to retrieve his hat.

DELFINA

Melfin, look out!

Melfin scrambles back to avoid getting stepped on. MR. JUNIPER opens the door and walks into the shop. The elves all enter with him.

HERMAN'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS.

Mr. Juniper enters the doorway and the elves run in and press themselves against the wall just next to the door. The man heads for a counter while the elves watch.

MR. JUNIPER

Hello? I'm here to pick up my shoes.

HERMAN the shoemaker comes out. He's middle aged and slightly built. He looks like a breeze would knock him over.

HERMAN

Hello Mr. Juniper. I have them right here.

Herman takes the shoes from behind the counter and holds them up for Juniper. Juniper stares at them. They are obviously different sizes and shapes, though the same style.

JUNIPER

This can't be right. They don't look like they're the same size.

HERMAN

Try them on.

The elves, peeking out of their hiding place behind a boot and look at each other, surprised.

RANDELF

That's the worst looking pair of shoes I've ever seen. What are we supposed to learn from that shoemaker?

DELFINA

Shhh.

Juniper is now standing in the shoes. One of them is much too wide and the other is much too long.

HERMAN

Walk around. See how they feel.

Juniper takes one step and steps out of the wide one.

HERMAN

They're just a little stiff. You'll break them in.

Juniper then starts walking with just the other shoe on. Because it is so long, he rises in the air every time he bends his foot.

JUNIPER

I'm walking with a limp!

HERMAN

What's the matter? Did you hurt your leg?

JUNIPER

No, you idiot! It's the shoes! They're the wrong size.

HERMAN

Oh no. It must be your imagination.

The elves are still watching, trying to figure out what's going on.

RANDELF

The Elf King is crazy for sending us here.

Juniper takes off the shoes and holds them in front of Herman.

JUNIPER

Do these shoes look like they're the same size?

Herman stares at them for a moment.

HERMAN

Well, one might be a little
bigger than the other one.

Juniper explodes.

JUNIPER

A little???? What kind of a
shoemaker are you?

Randelf agrees with Mr. Juniper.

RANDELF

That's what I want to know!

Herman's wife, GRETCHEN, a woman who is built like a truck driver and clearly the dominant one in the marriage, comes out of the back room.

GRETCHEN

What's the problem?

JUNIPER

I'll tell you the problem!
Your husband is a terrible
shoemaker! These shoes aren't
even the same size!

GRETCHEN

They look okay to me.

JUNIPER

They don't fit!

GRETCHEN

Ah, you're just being picky!

JUNIPER

What?

Gretchen gets aggressive. She's not about to let a sale get away.

GRETCHEN

Those shoes are perfectly good
and you know it! Now stop your

bellyaching and pay for them so
that we can get back to work.

JUNIPER

Pay for them? You must be
kidding! I'll never pay for
these!

GRETCHEN

Then we'll call the police!

JUNIPER

Go ahead! No judge will send
me to jail when he sees these
shoes!

GRETCHEN

If you don't buy them, then
what are you going to wear on
your feet?

JUNIPER

Shoes! But this time, I'll buy
them from Hannah the shoemaker!

Juniper tosses the shoes on the counter and storms out.
The elves gesture to each other to follow Juniper. When he
opens the door, they scoot out with him.

OUTSIDE HERMAN'S SHOP.

Juniper storms off and the elves stand by the shop wall.

RANDELF

Some trip! First the hay, then
the chickens and now those
ridiculous shoes!

MELFIN

Maybe that's the lesson. Maybe
we're supposed to learn how to
make funny shoes.

RANDELF

Well I've learned my lesson.
There's no place like home!
I'll see you back in Elfland.

Randelf starts walking away from the group. Delfina runs after him and grabs him.

DELFINA

You go home now without learning anything, and the elf king will banish you. You heard what that man said. He's going to see Hannah the shoemaker. Maybe that's the shoemaker we're looking for.

RANDELF

If he isn't, then I'm out of here.

DELFINA

Let's see what this other shoemaker is like. Which way did the man go?

MELFIN

He's over there.

DELFINA

Come on!

ELSEWHERE ON THE STREET.

HANNAH, the other shoemaker, is a woman in her forties. She's walking towards his shop carrying a package when MARTIN, a young boy, runs past her.

HANNAH

Martin! Come here just a second.

Fritz stops running and comes back to Hannah.

MARTIN

Hello Hannah.

HANNAH

How are your shoes? Do they pinch anywhere?

MARTIN

They're fine.

HANNAH

Let me check.

Hannah gets on one knee and presses down on the end of the shoe, feeling for Martin's toes.

HANNAH

You're right. You've still got some growing room. Have fun!

Martin smiles and runs off. Hannah gets to her feet.

OUTSIDE HANNAH'S SHOP.

Mr. Juniper is at the door, knocking on it loudly.

JUNIPER

Hannah! Open up in there!

Hannah reaches her shop and sees Mr. Juniper.

HANNAH

Mr. Juniper. What's wrong?

MR. JUNIPER

I need shoes!

HANNAH

Then come in, Mr. Juniper. I'll be happy to help you.

Hannah opens the door and the two enter. As the door closes, the three elves make it to the front of the shop.

RANDELF

Too late!

DELFINA

Let's try around the back.

The elves run to the back of the shop and find that the rear door is ajar. They enter the shop.

HANNAH' BACK ROOM.

The elves look around and see several shoes on the floor and the workbench. Melfin goes over to a shoe.

MELFIN

Look at the stitching. It's perfect!

Delfina looks at a pair of slippers.

DELFINA

These are very stylish.
Randelf, I think we're in the right place.

Randelf is studying a shoe very closely. His face shows that he admires what he's looking at.

RANDELF

I think you're right.

DELFINA

Come on.

They sneak into the front room.

HANNAH' FRONT ROOM.

Hannah smiles at Mr. Juniper, who is still upset.

HANNAH

Maybe you don't need a new pair of shoes. Let me see them, Mr. Juniper.

Mr. Juniper takes off his shoes and hands them to Hannah. Hannah studies them, turning them over.

MR. JUNIPER

Well?

HANNAH

If you have time, Mr. Juniper, I could put on new heels and fix this stitching. That will make these shoes as good as new and it won't cost as much as a new pair.

Mr. Juniper smiles when he hears this.

MR. JUNIPER
How long will it take?

HANNAH
About an hour. Sit down. Make
yourself comfortable. Would
you like a cup of tea?

MR. JUNIPER
Thank you. That would be very
nice.

All the tension has gone out of Mr. Juniper's face. He
settles into the chair and is relaxed.

HANNAH
I'll put on the kettle.

Hannah goes into the back room. The elves are surprised at
the change in Mr. Juniper.

MELFIN
Is that the same man we saw
before?

RANDELF
It's hard to believe.

DELFINA
I think there's a lot we can
learn from this shoemaker.

HERMAN'S SHOP.

Gretchen is giving Herman a hard time.

GRETCHEN
Now what are we going to do?

HERMAN
He was just cranky. He's
always like that. If he
doesn't want those shoes,
somebody else will buy them.

Gretchen picks up the shoes and looks at them.

GRETCHEN

Are you kidding? Look at them!
Nobody has feet like that!

Gretchen drops the shoes on the floor.

GRETCHEN

If this keeps up, we'll starve!
Everyone's buying shoes from
Hannah!

HERMAN

I can't help it if Hannah is a
better shoemaker than I am.

GRETCHEN

Then maybe you should make
horseshoes.

HERMAN

I tried that. The horse kicked
me.

GRETCHEN

If Hannah was gone, you'd be
the only shoemaker in town.
People would have to buy their
shoes from you.

HERMAN

But Hannah isn't going
anywhere.

GRETCHEN

Maybe we can make her go.

HERMAN

I don't like the sound of that.
We'll get into trouble.

GRETCHEN

You're right. We'll have to be
sneaky about it so that we
don't get caught. Let me
think.

HANNAH' WORKSHOP.

It's late and Hannah is working by candlelight. She yawns and puts down the shoe she's working on.

HANNAH

<Yawn> I'm tired. I'll finish this up in the morning.

She gets up from her workbench and goes into her bedroom, a small room on the side with a curtain across the door.

In a corner of the shop, behind a shoe on the ground, the elves peak out.

DELFINA

She's gone to bed.

RANDELF

<Yawns> Let's turn in too. It's been a long day. Besides, we can't learn from her if she's asleep.

DELFINA

This is the best time to learn. Let's see if we can copy how she does things.

They climb onto the workbench and look at the shoe in progress.

DELFINA

I'm going to see if I can cut a pattern.

RANDELF

I guess I'll finish the stitching on this.

MELFIN

I know what I'm going to do!

Delfina lifts the top part of a pair of scissors and slides the scissors forward at the same time. Then she pulls down on the scissors, but doesn't weigh enough to make the scissors cut. Her feet come off the ground as she struggles to pull.

DELFINA

Aaaahhhh!

The scissors fall on their side, with the finger grip ending up around her neck.

Randelf picks up the needle and thread. Because he's so small, the needle seems as long as a sword. The shoe he's going to stitch is lying on its side on the workbench. He plunges the needle into the shoe and has to push with all his might to get it to go through the leather.

RANDELF

Uhhhhh!

Then he goes to the other side of the shoe and has to pull hard to get the needle through. He braces his feet against the sole of the shoe and pulls.

RANDELF

Come on! Come on!

When the needle comes through, he goes flying off the workbench.

RANDELF

Whoa!

Because he's still holding the needle, he doesn't hit the floor, but ends up hanging from the needle and thread.

Melfin tries to lift the hammer.

MELFIN

Allez...

As he pulls, he loses his grip.

MELFIN

Oops!

The handle falls on him and knocks him to the ground.

Delfina tries again with the scissors. She raises the handle.

DELFINA

Let's try it again.

She grabs the upper grip and pulls.

DELFINA
It's working!

When it comes down, she gets her head caught between the grips.

DELFINA
Gaaaah!

Randelf climbs up the thread back up to the workbench and then pulls the needle up after him. He jabs it back into the leather. He pushes as hard as he can, pushing the needle through. Then, he walks along the top of the needle to the other side of the sole, but slips and hangs by his collar off the tip of the needle.

RANDELF
Uh oh.

This time, instead of trying to lift the handle, Melfin lifts up the hammerhead. He props the handle against the base of the shoe stand for leverage and lifts up the hammerhead. He keeps walking forward, working his way towards the handle.

RANDELF
Get me down!

MELFIN
Okay.

Melfin leaves the hammer and starts walking towards Randelf. The hammer falls and hits the heel of the shoe Randelf is working on, knocking the shoe into the air. Randelf goes flying.

RANDELF
Aaaahhhh!

MELFIN
I'll catch you!

As Randelf is going over the edge of the workbench, Melfin grabs for him

MELFIN

Gotcha!

But he doesn't. The two of them fall towards the floor.

RANDELF
You're no help!

They land in a waste bucket and it falls over with a crash, which wakes Hannah. She pulls back the bedroom curtain.

HANNAH
Who's there? Who's in my shop?

The two elves press themselves against the back of the bucket to stay out of Hannah's sight.

HANNAH
Oh. Something just fell. I'll clean it all up in the morning.

Hannah turns and goes back into her bedroom, closing the curtain behind her.

Delfina joins Melfin Randelf.

DELFINA
Are you okay?

RANDELF
What hit me?

Melfin looks at the ceiling.

MELFIN
I don't know.

RANDELF
I'll bet you don't.

DELFINA
Let's not fight. I'm sure Melfin was trying his best.

The three lay down leaning back on a shoe on the floor.

MELFIN
Making shoes for humans is harder than it looks.

DELFINA
Let's call it a night.

It's morning. Hannah enters, bleary eyed, from her bedroom.

HANNAH
Now let's see. Where did I
leave off last night?

The elves wake up.

DELFINA
Look! The shoemaker is awake.

RANDELF
I wonder what she'll think of
my stitching?

She picks up a shoe that Randelf had been stitching.

HANNAH
I must have been very tired
last night. This stitching is
terrible. I'll have to rip it
out and start over.

Randelf is upset.

HANNAH
And what happened to his heel?

It's the heel that Melfin's hammer hit.

HANNAH
That's amateur work.

Melfin is embarrassed.

HANNAH
Did I cut this? It's all
wrong.

Delfina is disappointed.

RANDELF

We would have done better if humans didn't have such big feet!

DELFINA
And if they had smaller tools!

MELFIN
Have we learned anything yet?

RANDELF
Yeah. Elves shouldn't make shoes for humans. Write that down, Delfina.

DELFINA
Maybe it would be better if we used our own tools. We'll try that next time.

RANDELF
Next time? You mean we can't go home yet?

DELFINA
Not until we figure out what the Elf King wants us to learn.

THE STREET.

Gretchen and Herman are walking down the street in a hurry. Herman's walking unsteadily.

GRETCHEN
Come on, will you?

HERMAN
I'm coming. What's your hurry?

GRETCHEN
The sooner we try out my idea, the sooner our problems will be solved.

HERMAN
Look! Here comes Hannah.

Hannah approaches.

HANNAH

Herman! Gretchen! Good to see you. How's business?

HERMAN

Not so good.

Gretchen jumps in.

GRETCHEN

But we expect it to pick up very soon.

HERMAN

We do?

Gretchen glares at Herman.

HERMAN

Oh. Oh yes. That's right.

Hannah glances down and sees that Herman is wearing the shoes that Mr. Juniper refused to pay for.

HANNAH

You know, Herman, maybe we should get together sometime and talk shop. I could show you a few things about cutting and stitching.

HERMAN

Really? I'd like that.

GRETCHEN

No thank you!

Herman and Hannah turn to look at Gretchen.

GRETCHEN

We'll do just fine without your help. Come on, Herman.

Gretchen storms off. Herman follows, stepping out of one of his shoes. Herman runs back to retrieve it.

HERMAN

It just needs to be broken in more.

Herman puts on the shoe and runs off.

HANNAH

That shoe is broken enough.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

The Mayor is a small man who has his feet up on his desk and is sleeping. Herman and Gretchen enter, look at each other, and slowly approach the mayor's desk.

GRETCHEN

Mr. Mayor? Mr. Mayor?

The Mayor wakes with a start.

MAYOR

Huh? What? Why didn't my secretary stop you?

GRETCHEN

What secretary?

MAYOR

Isn't there somebody sitting out there?

HERMAN

No.

MAYOR

How do you like that? A man looks away for a moment and his secretary takes off to who knows where! Well, get out! I'm a busy man!

HERMAN

Busy doing what?

MAYOR

Running this town! Do you think it runs itself? Now go away. If you want an

appointment, see if you can find my secretary.

GRETCHEN

Mr. Mayor, we need to talk now. We have a business proposition for you.

MAYOR

For me? Will I have to do any work?

GRETCHEN

Not really.

MAYOR

And I'll make money?

GRETCHEN

Lots of it.

The Mayor smiles.

MAYOR

Well, I think I can squeeze you into my schedule. What do you have in mind?

GRETCHEN

This is my husband, Herman. He's a shoemaker.

MAYOR

This town already has a shoemaker. You should open your business somewhere else.

The Mayor leans back and closes his eyes.

HERMAN

But my shop's been here for ten years.

The Mayor's eyes snap open and he leans forward.

MAYOR

Really? I didn't know we had two shoemakers in this town. I

always buy my shoes from
Hannah.

GRETCHEN

That's the problem. Everybody
buys shoes from Hannah.

MAYOR

That's no problem. She makes
very good shoes.

GRETCHEN

How much does Hannah pay you?

MAYOR

Nothing.

GRETCHEN

How would you like to make
money every time somebody buys
a pair of shoes?

MAYOR

Why would Hannah pay me? I
don't make the shoes.

GRETCHEN

She wouldn't pay you. But we
would.

MAYOR

Well, if you want to pay me, I
won't stop you. When do I
start getting the money?

GRETCHEN

As soon as you help us get rid
of Hannah. When she's gone,
everyone will have to buy shoes
from Herman. That's when we'll
start paying you.

MAYOR

But I can't get rid of Hannah.
She hasn't done anything wrong.

GRETCHEN

Not yet. But what if she broke a promise? What if you ordered ten pairs of shoes and told her you had to have them by tomorrow morning. When she didn't deliver, you could arrest her and throw her in jail.

MAYOR

I suppose I could.

GRETCHEN

Once Hannah is in jail, we'll start paying you off.

MAYOR

Wait a minute. This isn't a bribe, is it?

GRETCHEN

Oh no. It's a campaign contribution.

MAYOR

Oh! Well in that case, it's all perfectly legal! I'll go order the shoes right now.

GRETCHEN

Wait! Do it at the end of the day. That will give her even less time to make the shoes.

MAYOR

Good idea. Then I can get back to what I was doing.

HERMAN

Goodbye Mr. Mayor.

The Mayor puts his feet back on the desk and is already asleep.

HERMAN

That man must work very hard if he's so tired all the time.

Gretchen pulls Herman out of the office.

HANNAH' SHOP.

Tin the evening, the Mayor comes into the shop.

MAYOR

Service! I want some service
here!

Hannah comes out from the back room. The elves scurry
behind her and hide from view at the side of the counter.

HANNAH

Mr. Mayor. What a pleasure to
see you. What can I do for
you?

MAYOR

I need 10 pairs of shoes.

Delfina is happy to hear this. She turns to the other
elves.

DELFINA

Great! This should give us
lots of practice!

Randelf rolls his eyes.

RANDELF

Yeah. Great.

Hannah is confused by the Mayor's shoe order.

HANNAH

Ten pairs? Why so many?

MAYOR

Because...uh...I like shoes.

HANNAH

I like them too, but you can
only wear one pair at a time.
It makes sense to have an extra
pair if you can afford it, but
ten pairs of shoes will last
you the rest of your life.

The Mayor locks into this. Now he's got an explanation.

MAYOR

That's it! I can't be bothered buying shoes every time a pair wears out, so I'm going to buy all my shoes right now. That way, I'll never have to think about buying shoes again. And I want them all tomorrow morning.

HANNAH

What?

Hannah is confused by the unreasonable deadline. Randelf is also worried.

DELFINA

That's a lot of shoes to make in one night!

MELFIN

Maybe the Elf King wants us to learn how to work faster.

The Mayor presses his case.

MAYOR

If I'm going to forget about buying shoes, I want to forget about it as soon as possible.

HANNAH

But Mr. Mayor, I'm afraid I can't make ten pairs of shoes by tomorrow morning.

MAYOR

Why not? Stay up all night if you have to. That won't bother me.

HANNAH

Even so...I don't think I can make all ten.

MAYOR

(into campaign speech mode)

It's your civic responsibility
to deliver those shoes. In
these uncertain times, when we
are beset by problems on all
sides, only one man stands
between this town and disaster.
That man is me, your Mayor!

The elves look at each other, dazzled by the political hot
air.

MAYOR

With those shoes in hand, I
will be free to concentrate my
full attention on protecting
the well being of every man,
woman and child in this town,
guarding against threats to
their future safety and
prosperity. So you see, if you
don't deliver those shoes,
you'll be undermining the very
foundations of good government.
Is that what you want?

HANNAH

Of course not.

MAYOR

Very well, then. Ten pairs of
shoes by tomorrow morning. Our
futures depend on it!

The Mayor slams his fist on the counter, turns and walks
out of the shop.

HANNAH

Goodbye, Mr. Mayor. Even I
didn't think that shoes could
be so important! I better get
to work.

Hannah heads into the back of the shop. The elves huddle.

MELFIN

Too bad we have to keep out of sight or we could start helping her now.

DELFINA

We'll just have to wait until she falls asleep. Then, we'll take over and start making shoes.

RANDELF

We'll be up all night again. When are we going to get some rest?

It's night. Hannah is at work at her bench by candlelight.

HANNAH

<Yawn> I'll never finish this tonight. This is only my fourth pair and I can't keep my eyes open. I'm going to bed. The mayor will just have to understand.

Hannah gets up and goes into her bedroom and closes the curtain.

The elves peak out from behind various things in the room. They all run to the workbench.

DELFINA

We'll have to hurry. It's late and there's a lot to do.

Melfin holds up an elf-sized hammer.

MELFIN

At least we can use our own tools.

RANDELF

Let's get started. The sooner we finish, the sooner we can go to sleep.

Delfina pulls out her scissors and starts cutting away on the leather.

Randelf sits on a shoe that's been turned on its side and pushes his needle back and forth, sewing the leather to the sole.

Melfin wraps a thread around a button and plays with it like a yo-yo. Delfina comes over and when the button is at its lowest, cuts the thread. The button hits the ground and rolls over to Randelf, who picks it up and sews it onto a shoe.

Delfina pulls a finished shoe over to the pile of shoes that Hannah finished.

Melfin has set up nails all along the heel of a shoe. He sits on the top of the second nail while he uses his hammer to pound the first nail in. Then he sits on the third nail while he pounds in the second one.

Delfina and Randelf each push a shoe over to the pile.

DELFINA

And those two make ten pairs.
We're done!

Randelf uses a shoe as a pillow.

RANDELF

Good night.

Delfina and Melfin grab Randelf and pull him away.

DELFINA

Let's get out of sight and get
some sleep.

The next morning, Gretchen is pushing the Mayor through the street. Herman brings up the rear.

MAYOR

Why did you wake me so early?
Don't you know that Mayors
sleep until ten?

GRETCHEN

The sooner you arrest Hannah,
the sooner we can start paying
you.

MAYOR

But I'm tired.

GRETCHEN

You can go back to sleep as soon as you put Hannah in jail.

MAYOR

Is the jail open this early?

They arrive at Hannah's shop.

GRETCHEN

Now go in and ask for those ten pairs of shoes.

The Mayor tries the door, but it's bolted.

MAYOR

It's locked. She must be asleep. Why don't we take a nap and come back later?

GRETCHEN

Knock.

The Mayor taps.

GRETCHEN

Not like that. Like this!

She pounds on the door with her fist loudly.

Hannah is still in her bedroom. The sound of the pounding makes her jump out of the room and stumble through the workshop.

HANNAH

Just a minute! I'm coming.

The elves are also awakened by the noise. They rub their eyes.

RANDELF

What does an elf have to do to get some sleep around here?

Outside the shop, Gretchen speaks to Herman and the Mayor.

GRETCHEN

She's coming. We'll wait
outside.

She gestures to Herman and the two of them go around the side of the building, leaving the Mayor standing at the door by himself. Hannah opens the door.

HANNAH

Mr. Mayor? I didn't expect to
see you so early.

MAYOR

Um...uh...affairs of state, my good
woman, wait for no one. Now,
about those shoes I ordered
yesterday.

HANNAH

The shoes? Oh. Yes. Just a
minute.

They enter the shop and Hannah goes into the back room.

HANNAH

I can't even remember how many
pairs I finished last night.

Hannah picks up a pair, then another, and another, and another.

HANNAH

My goodness. I got further
than I thought.

She examines one pair.

HANNAH

Hmmm. The stitching is a
little off, but I'm sure the
Mayor will understand how
rushed I was.

The elves watch from their hiding place.

RANDELF

What does she mean, a little off? I copied hers exactly!

Hannah is still picking up shoes.

HANNAH

Eight...nine...ten pairs? I finished the whole order? I can't believe it. At least the Mayor will leave me alone now.

Hannah exits the workshop and heads to the front of the shop.

In the front room, Hannah puts the ten pairs of shoes on the counter.

HANNAH

There you are, Mr. Mayor. Ten pairs of shoes.

The mayor is dumbfounded.

MAYOR

T...T...Ten pairs?

HANNAH

That's what you ordered, right? That will be 40 marks please.

MAYOR

That's a lot of money!

HANNAH

4 marks a pair is what I always charge.

MAYOR

Can't I get a discount?

HANNAH

I'm sorry, but I have to pay for the leather and the thread and to keep my tools sharp. Besides, this was a rush order. You're lucky I'm not charging you extra.

The Mayor is not happy. He digs out his purse and starts counting out coins.

MAYOR
You're sure there's no special
price for mayors?

HANNAH
Sorry.

The Mayor pays for the shoes.

HANNAH
Do you need help carrying them?

MAYOR
(annoyed)
No. I'm fine, thank you.

The Mayor gathers up the ten pairs of shoes in his arms. Hannah runs around the counter to open the door for the Mayor.

HANNAH
Good day, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR
(disgusted)
Good day.

The Mayor looks around the side of the shop for Herman and Gretchen.

MAYOR
Where are those two?

He starts marching off in the direction of their shop.

MAYOR
Wait 'till I get my hands on
them!

Hannah returns to her back room.

HANNAH
I'm going back to bed.

She goes back into her bedroom.

MELFIN

Looks like your stitching still
needs work.

RANDELF

Listen, wise guy...

DELFINA

No fighting! Melfin, stop
picking on Randelf.

MELFIN

All right.

DELFINA

And Randelf, don't you realize
you're getting better? The
first night, the shoemaker
redid your stitching. This
time, she left it in.

RANDELF

(looking at Melfin)

That's right. She did.

DELFINA

In just a few more nights,
we'll know everything we need
to and we can go home.

RANDELF

In the meantime, I'm going back
to bed.

DELFINA

No. If the shoemaker is
asleep, we should be using the
time for practice.

RANDELF

Can't I practice sleeping
first?

DELFINA

Sorry.

The door bursts open to Herman's shop and the Mayor walks in. He dumps ten pairs of shoes on the floor. Herman and Gretchen are surprised.

GRETCHEN

She did it?

MAYOR

She certainly did. And she charged me 40 marks! You said that I'd be making money, not spending it. Give me 40 marks now or I'll throw the two of you in jail.

HERMAN

But we haven't got 40 marks.

MAYOR

You haven't got...? This is a disaster!

HERMAN

Look at the bright side. You've got ten pairs of shoes.

MAYOR

I don't want these shoes. I wouldn't have ordered them except that you told me to. Now I've lost money and one way or another you're going to pay for this!

GRETCHEN

Just a minute, Mr. Mayor. Calm down. I know how to fix this. Nobody thought that Hannah could make ten pairs of shoes in one night, right? Our idea was a good one but we have to think bigger.

MAYOR

What do you mean?

GRETCHEN

Instead of ordering ten pairs of shoes, you should have ordered a hundred! There's no way anybody could make 100 pairs of shoes in a night. When Hannah fails, you can throw her in jail and then we'll start paying you a commission on every pair of shoes we sell. You'll have your 40 marks back in no time and then you'll be making a profit.

MAYOR

A hundred pairs, eh? What if she makes them? That would cost me 400 marks!

GRETCHEN

Mr. Mayor, nobody can make a hundred pairs of shoes in a night. And we'll make it even tougher for her. Instead of the same style of shoe, you'll ask for a hundred different kinds. She's got to fail at that.

MAYOR

You better be right. Because if you're not, you're both going to jail!

GRETCHEN

This time it will work, Mr. Mayor. You'll see.

MAYOR

All right. I'll go back to her shop this afternoon.

The door opens to Hannah's shop and the Mayor walks in.

MAYOR

I need some service!

HANNAH

Mr. Mayor! Is there something wrong with those shoes I made for you?

MAYOR

No. They're perfect. I never have to think about buying shoes again.

HANNAH

That's a load off my mind.

The elves come into the front room to see what's going on.

DELFINA

It's the mayor again.

RANDELF

What does he want this time?

MAYOR

Hannah, I have another idea. I don't have to worry about buying shoes, but what about slippers?

HANNAH

You need slippers?

The elves confer.

DELFINA

We could do that.

MAYOR

Not just slippers. Also boots for the winter. And hiking boots for walking in the mountains. And fancy shoes if I ever get a chance to meet the King.

Hannah is writing this down.

HANNAH

Slippers, winter boots, hiking boots, dress shoes. I'll get right on it.

DELFINA

That's only four pairs.

RANDELF

(relieved)

Then maybe we'll get some sleep tonight.

MAYOR

I'm not done! I want you to make me a hundred pairs of shoes.

RANDELF

What?

The elves look at each other in shock.

MAYOR

Every kind of shoe you can think of. That way, no matter what I want to do, I know that I'll have the right pair of shoes for it. Oh, and I need them all tomorrow morning.

Randelf's knees go wobbly and the other two elves have to hold him up.

RANDELF

Oh no!

HANNAH

One hundred pairs of shoes by tomorrow morning? Mr. Mayor, that's impossible! It will take me weeks.

MAYOR

What if the King visits tomorrow?

HANNAH

Then I'll make the dress shoes for you first.

MAYOR

But what if I need to go hiking tomorrow?

HANNAH

Then I'll make the hiking boots first.

MAYOR

The problem is that I don't know what I'm going to do tomorrow. Or the day after that! I can't let official business wait until I have the proper shoes, so I must have them all tomorrow!

HANNAH

Mr. Mayor, I'll do what I can, but I cannot promise to finish everything.

MAYOR

You must not fail me, Hannah! I am an important man with important business and I need those shoes.

The Mayor turns and exits the shop.

HANNAH

I must have made the Mayor's shoes too tight. I never heard such nonsense.

RANDELF

Me either!

Out in the street, Gretchen and Herman are waiting for the Mayor.

GRETCHEN

So? Did you do it?

The Mayor nods.

MAYOR

One hundred pairs of shoes to be picked up tomorrow morning.

GRETCHEN

That's perfect! We've got her now!

HERMAN

We'll finally have some customers!

MAYOR

And you'll pay me what you promised.

GRETCHEN

Oh yes, Mr. Mayor! All you have to do is put Hannah in jail tomorrow. And there's nothing that can stop that now!

Tin Hannah's work room, the elves discuss their problem.

RANDELF

What are we going to do? We'll never make all those shoes in one night.

DELFINA

Stay calm. I'm sure if we just plan it out...

RANDELF

It's impossible. No matter how hard we work, we'll never get it done.

DELFINA

You don't know until you try.

MELFIN

It might even be fun.

RANDELF

Not for me. I say we get out of here.

DELFINA

I think we should stay.

MELFIN

Me too.

RANDELF

You always vote against me!

MELFIN

Maybe this is what the Elf King wants us to learn.

RANDELF

How to work until we fall over?

MELFIN

No. How to work smarter.

DELFINA

Right! And I'm sure if we plan it out...

RANDELF

We still won't be able to make the shoes on time.

Delfina is annoyed at Randelf's negativity.

DELFINA

Come on, Melfin. Let's see what kind of ideas we can come up with.

Delfina and Melfin talk in the corner. Randelf is standing a distance away, trying to hear what they're saying.

DELFINA

That sounds good. We'll give it a try.

Randelf approaches them.

RANDELF

Still think you're going to make this work?

DELFINA

We do. We've got some good ideas to try.

MELFIN

Want to hear them?

RANDELF

No thanks. I'm not going to waste my time.

DELFINA

Does that mean you're not going to help us?

RANDELF

That's right. I'm going to get a good night's sleep and then tomorrow I'm going home.

DELFINA

The King will banish you!

RANDELF

Don't get me started. What's the idea of sending us out to learn something without telling us what it is? And what's the point of giving us an elf wand if we're not allowed to use it?

The elves hear a voice from the front of the shop.

Voice

Hello?

DELFINA

Oh no. I hope that isn't the Mayor.

RANDELF

I'll bet it is and now he wants two hundred pairs of shoes.

In the front of the shop, Hannah sees PETER, a boy in rags standing by the door.

HANNAH

Good evening. Can I help you?

PETER

I was wondering if you have any old pairs of shoes that nobody wants.

Hannah looks down at the boy's shoes and sees how ragged they are. You can see the boy's feet through several large holes.

HANNAH
I'm sorry, I don't have anything in your size. But I could make you a new pair.

Delfina is upset to hear this.

DELFINA
Another pair? But that would make a hundred and one!

RANDELF
What's the difference? You've got a plan, don't you?

Delfina is annoyed with Randelf.

Peter is staring at the ground.

PETER
No, that's all right. Thank you anyway.

The boy moves towards the door. Delfina relaxes.

DELFINA
That was a close call!

Hannah isn't willing to give up, though.

HANNAH
You wouldn't have to pay me now. You could pay me when you get the money.

Delfina tenses up again.

DELFINA
Don't talk him out of leaving!

HANNAH

I could talk to your parents
about it if that would help.

PETER

They're dead.

Hannah is visibly sorry to hear this.

HANNAH

Oh. I'm sorry.

Hannah is now very concerned about the boy.

HANNAH

Where do you live?

PETER

I'm walking to Bremen. I think
that I have some family there.

HANNAH

Bremen? That's a three day
walk from here! Those shoes
will never hold up. Come with
me.

She grabs Peter's arm and takes him into the back room.

DELFINA

The more time Hannah spends
with that boy, the less time
we'll have to do our work.

RANDELF

Why don't you just give up and
take the night off?

DELFINA

Not yet. There's still a
chance we can get the job done.

The elves head for the back room.

Peter is sitting on Hannah's chair and Hannah is measuring
his foot. She looks up at Peter, who is glassy-eyed.

HANNAH

What's your name?

PETER

Peter.

HANNAH

I'm Hannah. Are you hungry?

PETER

No, I'm fine.

The boy's stomach suddenly gurgles loudly. He looks embarrassed.

HANNAH

Your stomach's telling the truth even if you won't. Let me make you something.

PETER

Please don't bother.

HANNAH

Nonsense. It's no bother at all.

Hannah moves over to her pantry. The elves are not happy about this.

DELFINA

She's going to cook for him, too? We'll never get started!

RANDEL

If Hannah doesn't care about the Mayor, why should we? Good night. See you in the morning.

Delfina is getting more and more upset. Melfin is balancing the needle on this finger.

DELFINA

Can't you be serious for just a moment! We're in big trouble here!

MELFIN

There's no sense worrying about
it until we can start work.

Delfina grabs the needle from Melfin and bends it over her
knee.

DELFINA

Am I the only one who cares
about this?

Peter is sitting at the table, eating. He seems livelier
now that he's had something to eat. Hannah is sitting at
her workbench, working on shoes for Peter.

HANNAH

It's good you are trying to
find your family.

PETER

I hope they are still in
Bremen. I sent them a letter,
but I never heard back from
them.

HANNAH

What will you do if they're not
there?

PETER

Keep looking for them, I guess.

HANNAH

Do you have any other family?

PETER

No.

Randelf is listening to the boy from under the workbench.

Peter has cleaned his plate.

PETER

Thank you. That was delicious.

HANNAH

You're welcome. Try these on.
I think they're finished.

Peter comes over to Hannah and slips on the shoes.

HANNAH
Walk around. How do they feel?

Peter walks several steps.

PETER
They're wonderful! The best shoes I ever had. These will get to me Bremen with no problem.

Randelf is watching the boy.

RANDELF
Hannah does make a good pair of shoes.

HANNAH
It's getting late. Why don't you spend the night here? You can start out in the morning.

PETER
Thank you, but the sooner I start, the sooner I can find my family. I think I should go now.

HANNAH
I understand.

Hannah gets up and walks to the pantry. She comes back with a sack filled with food.

HANNAH
Wait. Take this food with you.

PETER
You've been too kind already.

HANNAH
Take it. It's a very long walk and you'll need to keep up your strength.

Peter takes the sack. Hannah reaches into her pocket and fishes around.

HANNAH

And this, too.

Hannah hands Peter a handful of coins. Peter takes them, wide eyed.

PETER

Forty marks! That's a fortune!

Randelf is impressed with Hannah's generosity.

RANDELF

That's all the money the Mayor gave to Hannah.

Peter is still wide-eyed.

PETER

Why are you doing this for me?

HANNAH

Because you need help and I can give it to you.

PETER

But what if I can't pay you back?

HANNAH

It doesn't matter. What's important is that you find your family. That's all I want. I'm not worried about the shoes or the food or the money.

The two of them walk into the front room. Randelf follows them. Hannah opens the shop door for Peter.

PETER

I don't know how I can ever thank you.

HANNAH

Don't worry about it. Just write to me when you find your family.

PETER

I will. Thanks again and goodbye.

HANNAH

Goodbye. Keep safe.

Peter exits and Hannah closes the door.

HANNAH

I hope that boy will be all right.

Hannah goes into the workshop while the elves remain in the front room.

RANDELF

Me too.

Hannah goes into the work room looks down at her workbench.

HANNAH

Oh yes. The shoes for the crazy mayor. <Yawns> I'll never get them finished tonight. The mayor will just have to wait.

Hannah goes into her sleeping area and pulls the curtain.

MELFIN

Are we going to get started now?

DELFINA

Maybe Randelf's right. If Hannah doesn't care, maybe we shouldn't either. Let's go to bed.

Randelf runs over to them.

RANDELF

No! We can't!

DELFINA

What?

RANDELF

I understand the lesson that the Elf King wants us to learn! It isn't about shoes at all.

MELFIN

What is it?

DELFINA

Tell us!

Randelf struggles to collect his thoughts.

RANDELF

It's not really one lesson. It's a lot of lessons. But they all add up to the same thing. (To Melfin) Take you, for instance. It's okay to have fun, but not if it hurts the people around you. Do you understand?

Melfin looks confused.

MELFIN

No. What's wrong with having fun? I'm not trying to hurt anybody.

RANDELF

And you, Delfina. You're so worried about getting things done that you don't think about why they need to be done.

Now Delfina looks confused.

DELFINA

I'm sorry, Randelf. I don't understand.

RANDELF

Okay. Wait a second.

Randelf thinks.

RANDELF

You know how I complain all the time?

MELFIN

Yeah.

DELFINA

You do complain a lot.

RANDELF

Well my lesson is that I have to stop thinking about myself and start thinking about others. And that's really what all the lessons are about. We have to be less selfish.

DELFINA

I can understand that part.

MELFIN

Me too. So if we learned our lesson, does that mean we can go home now?

RANDELF

No! Don't you see? We've got to help Hannah the way she helped that boy, Peter. We have to make a hundred pairs of shoes to keep Hannah out of trouble with the Mayor.

DELFINA

But it's late. Even I don't think we can do it all now.

MELFIN

Maybe the Mayor will understand, as long as he gets some of the shoes.

RANDELF

No! The Mayor's like I was before I learned my lesson. The only one he's worried about is himself. If Hannah doesn't deliver all the shoes, she'll be in big trouble.

DELFINA

But how can we finish them all now?

RANDELF

We could use magic.

MELFIN

No. That would be selfish.

Randelf and Delfina turn towards Melfin.

MELFIN

The Elf King would say that we were too lazy to do the work ourselves, so we used his wand.

DELFINA

I think Melfin's right.

RANDELF

Then we'll try to do it all ourselves. And if we don't get finished, then maybe it will be okay to use magic.

(to Melfin)

If you stop playing around..

MELFIN

And if you stop complaining..

DELFINA

We might get the job done.
Let's get started!

Melfin breaks Delfina's scissors in two and ties each piece to one of her shoes. Delfina then skates along a roll of leather like a figure skater, cutting out shoe pieces as she goes. Melfin follows behind her picking up the pieces.

Randelf is sitting on a sideways shoe with a needle in each hand. He pushes the needles through the sole from both directions. Then he switches hands on the needles, pulls them through, and plunges them into the sole again and repeats.

Melfin has blocks of wood tied to his shoes and he stomps down the nails in a heel as he walks around the edge of it.

A montage shows Delfina cutting out leather, Randelf stitching and Melfin hammering. The shoes start to accumulate in a pile on the floor. We get close-ups of flying hands, swinging hammers, chopping scissors. As they finish, the elves are wobbly on their feet and glassy eyed as they stare at all the shoes they made.

RANDELF
I can't believe it!

Delfina is so excited that she jumps in the air.

DELFINA
We did it! We did it!

MELFIN
And without magic, too!

Randelf's legs are wobbly.

RANDELF
I've never been so tired in my
life. I could sleep for a
week!

DELFINA
Then come on. We earned this
rest.

The next morning, Herman and Gretchen are walking towards Hannah' shop.

HERMAN
Why are we up so early?

GRETCHEN

I don't trust that Hannah. I never thought she could make ten pairs of shoes in a night, but she did. If she made a hundred pairs last night, we're in big trouble.

HERMAN

Nobody could make a hundred pairs in a night.

GRETCHEN

We can't take any chances. We've got to get there before the Mayor does.

Gretchen and Herman approach the back of Hannah's shop. They look around as they approach, making sure that nobody sees them. They peek in the window.

HERMAN

Look at all those shoes!

GRETCHEN

I knew we couldn't trust Hannah!

HERMAN

The Mayor will have to pay 400 marks! Then he'll want the money from us! What are we going to do?

GRETCHEN

We've got to get those shoes! Bring that wheelbarrow over here!

Herman goes over and grabs a wheelbarrow from the back of the shop next door.

GRETCHEN

Now sneak in there and get the shoes!

Herman slowly opens the door. Herman wheels the wheelbarrow into the shop and starts loading the shoes. Gretchen watches from outside the window.

Herman drops a pair on the ground. Herman freezes in fear. Neither Hannah or the elves wake up.

Finally, he's done and he wheels the shoes out of the back door.

Herman comes out of the shop and quietly closes the door behind him.

GRETCHEN

Good work!

HERMAN

What do we do with them?

GRETCHEN

We have to hide them so that the Mayor will arrest Hannah.

HERMAN

Let's bring them to our shop.

GRETCHEN

No! We can't let anyone find out that we stole them.

HERMAN

So what do we do?

GRETCHEN

We'll put the shoes in the town warehouse.

HERMAN

Good idea!

Herman and Gretchen leave, taking the wheelbarrow with them.

They're about to reach the street when Gretchen spies the Mayor and a constable coming towards Hannah's shop.

GRETCHEN

It's the Mayor! Hide!

MAYOR

This way, officer.

The Mayor steps up to Hannah's door and pounds on it.

MAYOR

Open up! I've come for my shoes!

He pounds some more.

The noise wakes Hannah up. She's groggy.

HANNAH

Just a minute! I'm coming!

The knocking continues.

HANNAH

I said I'm coming!

Hannah exits the back room. The elves are stirring now.

MELFIN

What's all the racket?

DELFINA

Somebody's at the door.

RANDELF

Answer it so I can go back to sleep.

Melfin looks out from their hiding place.

MELFIN

The shoes are gone. I guess the Mayor already picked them up.

RANDELF

Good. Now maybe he'll leave everybody alone.

The elves listen to the conversation going on in front from the back room.

HANNAH

Good morning, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR

I've come for my shoes.

Melfin is surprised.

MELFIN

What? If the Mayor didn't take them, where did they go?

DELFINA

We better see what's going on.

The elves head for the front room and see the Mayor, with a policeman, facing Hannah.

HANNAH

Mr. Mayor, I couldn't finish making your shoes. If you'll just give me a few days...

MAYOR

I thought this might happen. Officer, arrest this woman!

HANNAH

But Mr. Mayor, be reasonable!

MAYOR

You agreed to make the shoes and you didn't. You broke your promise to the government.

(to policeman)

Take her to jail!

The elves are upset.

MELFIN

We made those shoes, didn't we? We weren't dreaming?

DELFINA

No, we made them for sure.

RANDELF

We can't let them punish Hannah.

DELFINA

We've got to find those shoes!
Then the Mayor will have to set
Hannah free.

RANDELF

But where did they go?

The policeman marches Hannah out of the shop. The Mayor exits, slamming the door behind him.

In the jail, the door to the jail cell is open. The constable's hand pushes Hannah into the cell.

Hannah
Stop! Wait!

The constable slams the cell door. Hannah turns and reaches through the bars.

HANNAH

How did I get here?

Hannah is alone. She pulls her arms in and looks around at the jail cell. The walls, floor and ceiling are all stone. There's no furniture except for a wooden bed without a mattress. The only window is small and too high to see out of. There's a small patch of sunlight streaming through the window and lighting up a square on the floor.

HANNAH

I never hurt anybody. I never
cheated anybody. All I ever
did was make shoes.

Hannah looks towards the window. She tries jumping to see out of it, but can't get high enough.

HANNAH

It's all the Mayor's fault.
Nobody needs a hundred pairs of
shoes. And if I delivered them
next week, what would be so
bad?

Hannah looks at the window and then at the bed. She tries to drag the bed over to stand on, but it won't move.

HANNAH

It's nailed to the floor. I
can't even look out the window.

Hannah sits down on the bed.

HANNAH
Nobody will know I'm here.
There's nobody to help get me
out.

Hannah covers her face with her hands.

HANNAH
What's going to happen to me?

In Hannah's shop, the elves are trying to figure out what
to do.

DELFINA
What are we going to do?

MELFIN
Let's bust her out of jail!

DELFINA
That's no good. They'll just
catch her and take her back
again. We need the shoes to
prove that the Mayor is wrong.

RANDELF
Who would steal a hundred pairs
of shoes?

MELFIN
Maybe the mayor stole them!

DELFINA
Why would he do that? He was
going to get them anyway.

MELFIN
But if he stole them, he
wouldn't have to pay for them.

RANDELF
He didn't seem happy about
paying for the first ten pairs.

DELFINA

Then let's start with the
Mayor. Maybe he'll lead us to
the shoes.

The elves go into the street and look around.

RANDELF

There he is. Hurry!

The elves run after the Mayor and catch up to him just as he reaches the door to Herman's shop. The Mayor opens the door and enters and the elves scurry in behind him. The Mayor walks in with a smile on his face. The elves hide behind some old shoes on the floor.

MAYOR

Hannah is now in jail. How
soon will you start paying me?

The elves look at each other, puzzled.

GRETCHEN

As soon as we sell our first
pair of shoes.

MAYOR

I want some money today! You
owe me 40 marks!

HERMAN

But we don't have any shoes to
sell.

MAYOR

That's not my problem. I did
what you wanted, and now you
have to do what I want. If I
don't get my money today,
Hannah won't be the only
shoemaker in jail!

The Mayor turns and leaves the shop. The elves watch him go.

RANDELF

They've been planning this together!

Herman is worried and turns to Gretchen.

HERMAN

What are we going to do now?
It will take time for customers to start coming to us. And it will take time for me to make their shoes.

GRETCHEN

It's simple! We've got a hundred pairs of shoes we can sell.

The elves all react to this.

DELFINA

They took them!

GRETCHEN

All we have to do is to bring them back here and start selling them. We can sell them for half price until we get the money to pay back the Mayor. Come on. We'll use the cart out back to get them.

HERMAN

But it's full of hay.

GRETCHEN

Good! We can use the hay to cover the shoes.

Herman and Gretchen exit at the back of the shop.

DELFINA

We've got to follow them!

Delfina and Melfin take off. Randelf stands there looking worried.

RANDELF

Hay?

He trots after the other elves.

The cart has two large wheels and two sticks at the front that can be pulled by people or by a horse. Herman and Gretchen take their places at the front of the cart. The elves scurry up the wheel and climb into the back of the cart with the hay. Randelf is the last one in.

RANDELF

Whew! We made it.

Herman and Gretchen drag the cart behind them towards the warehouse. The elves are sitting in the back.

RANDELF

Oh no! I'm going to...

Melfin sticks his finger under Randelf's nose. This stops the sneeze. Melfin takes his finger away and Randelf is relieved.

RANDELF

Thanks.

Randelf's face suddenly twists up.

RANDELF

Ah choo! Uh oh!

At the front of the cart, Gretchen hears the sneeze.

GRETCHEN

Gesundheit.

HERMAN

Thank you. Wait a minute. I didn't sneeze.

GRETCHEN

Of course you did. I heard you.

HERMAN

Then I must be catching a cold.

Herman and Gretchen pull the cart up to the warehouse door.

GRETCHEN
I'll get the door.

She walks in front of the cart, leaving Herman behind.

RANDELF (O.S.)
Ah choo!

GRETCHEN
Gesundheit.

HERMAN
Thank you. I must be sicker
than I thought.

Gretchen has the door open and she returns to the cart.
They wheel it into the warehouse and close the door behind
them.

The warehouse is stacked with furniture and wooden boxes.
In a far corner are all the shoes. Gretchen and Herman
wheel the cart up to the shoes.

GRETCHEN
Now let's get these shoes
loaded up.

RANDELF (O.S.)
Ah choo!

Gretchen is looking at Herman when she hears the sneeze,
and her eyes widen.

HERMAN
You didn't say Gesundheit!

GRETCHEN
That's because you didn't
sneeze.

HERMAN
Of course I did. I'm a very
sick man.

Gretchen gets close to Herman.

GRETCHEN
(whispering)

Quiet! There's somebody else
in here.

The elves dive into the hay.

DELFINA

Hide!

Gretchen starts walking around the cart, scanning the
warehouse. She gets to the back of the cart.

RANDELFF

Ah choo!

Gretchen sees the hay in the cart move slightly with the
sneeze. She smiles and picks up some rope netting.

GRETCHEN

(fake sympathy)

Oh my poor husband. You are
getting sick. You'll have to
get to bed at once.

HERMAN

(confused)

Am I getting sick or not?

GRETCHEN

Shhhh!

Gretchen throws the net over the back of the cart.

GRETCHEN

All right, whoever you are! We
know you're in there! Come on
out!

The hay doesn't move. There's nothing but silence.

GRETCHEN

If that's the way you want it!

Gretchen reaches through the netting with one hand and digs
it into the hay. She fumbles around and then pulls out
Delfina. She's shocked at seeing her.

GRETCHEN

It's an elf!

RANDELF

Ah choo!

Gretchen hears this and immediately looks back at the hay. She plunges her other hand into it, feels around and pulls out Melfin.

GRETCHEN

Another one! How many are there?

Melfin thinks fast and fakes a sneeze.

MELFIN

Ah choo!

GRETCHEN

We've got the sneezer. That's probably all of them. Herman! Find me a box!

Herman comes up with a box about the size of a cigar box, made out of wood. He comes up to Gretchen with the open box. Gretchen puts the elves into the box and then closes the lid on them.

GRETCHEN

Now we've got 'em!

HERMAN

What are elves doing in our hay?

GRETCHEN

Don't you get it? How do you think Hannah made a hundred pairs of shoes in one night?

HERMAN

She made them out of hay?

GRETCHEN

No, you knucklehead! The elves made the shoes for her! And now the elves belong to us!

Gretchen stares at the box in her hands and breaks into an evil grin.

GRETCHEN

This is perfect! Hannah is in jail. We've got these shoes to sell and the elves will make all the new ones. We'll be rich!

Inside the box, Delfina and Melfin are worried.

MELFIN

What are we going to do?

DELFINA

Maybe we should use the elf wand. This feels like an emergency to me.

MELFIN

Not yet! Randelf's still free. Maybe he can figure out a way to save us.

Randelf climbs out of the cart and lands on the ground, looking scared.

GRETCHEN

Hurry up loading those shoes.

Randelf approaches Gretchen with a shoelace and ties it around her shoe.

HERMAN

I could go faster if you'd help me.

Randelf attempt to tie the other end of the shoelace to a nail, hoping it will cause Gretchen to trip.

GRETCHEN

Can't you do anything without my help?

Gretchen starts walking before Randelf can finish and gets yanked away and goes flying into a crate with a bang.

GRETCHEN

Wait a minute! What was that?

Randelf panics and starts to run.

GRETCHEN

Look! Another one! Get him!

Herman picks up a shoe and throws it at Randelf. Randelf manages to avoid getting hit. Herman throws several more shoes, but Randelf keeps dodging them.

GRETCHEN

You idiot! Let me take care of this!

Gretchen goes stomping towards Randelf. She tries to step on him, first with one foot and then with the other. Randelf is running in circles at her feet, desperately trying to avoid getting squished. Finally, he leaps onto Gretchen's leg and starts climbing it.

Gretchen reacts as if she's got a mouse running up her leg.

GRETCHEN

Ah! It's crawling on me!
Help!

Herman picks up a board and approaches Gretchen. He sees a bulge under her skirt on her rear.

HERMAN

I see it! Don't move.

GRETCHEN

Get it off me! Get it off me!

Herman winds up with the board like a baseball player ready to swing for the fences. Randelf drops to the floor a split second before the board smacks Gretchen square on the ass.

GRETCHEN

Yeow!

The force of the blow knocks the box holding the elves out of her hands.

Randelf is on the ground near Gretchen feet and he sees the box take off. He runs in towards it.

The box slams onto the ground and breaks open. Delfina and Melfin tumble out and are stunned by the fall. Randelf runs up to them, grabs their hands and pulls them out of sight.

RANDELF

Hurry!

Gretchen is angry with Herman.

GRETCHEN

What's the idea hitting me like that?

HERMAN

I got him off you!

GRETCHEN

But now we've lost them!

HERMAN

Don't worry. We can make shoes without them.

She grabs the board out of Herman's hands and bops him on the head with it.

GRETCHEN

You idiot! They know they made the shoes for the Mayor and that we stole them. If those elves talk to anybody, we'll go to jail! We've got to get rid of those shoes. They're evidence!

HERMAN

What should we do? Bury them?

GRETCHEN

That will take too long! Burn them!

HERMAN

Okay. I'll take them out to a field and...

GRETCHEN

There's no time for that! Burn them here!

HERMAN

But the whole warehouse might burn down!

GRETCHEN

Who cares? So long as we stay out of jail!

Gretchen lights a match and tosses it onto the shoes. One of them starts to burn.

GRETCHEN

If they get caught in the fire, they can't squeal on us!

Delfina and Melfin have recovered from their fall and the elves are still out of sight.

RANDELF

We've got to use the elf wand.

MELFIN

The Elf King won't like it.

RANDELF

If they destroy those shoes, then Hannah hasn't got a chance. And we'll burn!

DELFINA

I'm not sure...

RANDELF

Give me the wand! If the Elf King is angry, I'll take the blame!

DELFINA

I hope we're doing the right thing.

Delfina hands over the wand. Randelf steps out of hiding, winds up like a pitcher and shoots a magical bolt from the wand at the shoes. The magic blows the fire out.

MELFIN

Nice shot!

Gretchen and Herman notice the fire's out.

GRETCHEN

Huh? Must have been a draft.
Don't worry, I've got another
match.

Randelf winds up and shoots another blast as Gretchen's match reaches the shoes. The magic blows the match out again, but this time, all the shoes glow and start to march in place.

GRETCHEN

What's happening?

HERMAN

I don't know!

The elves don't know what's happening either.

MELFIN

What did you do?

RANDELF

I don't know. I never had any
lessons!

The shoes start to march forward, advancing on Gretchen and Herman.

HERMAN

They're alive!

GRETCHEN

And they're coming after us!

Herman and Gretchen start running inside the warehouse. A shoe trips Gretchen and she lands flat on her face.

GRETCHEN

Ooof!

Shoes knock off Gretchen shoes, and a pair of ballet slippers tie themselves to her feet. Gretchen stands up and notices the ballet shoes.

GRETCHEN
Those aren't my shoes!

Suddenly, Gretchen starts dancing on toe, doing pirouettes and leaps against her will.

GRETCHEN
Ahhh! Make it stop!

She goes bounding across the warehouse floor, unable to control her feet.

GRETCHEN
Help!

Herman tries to catch her, grabbing her around the waist, but as the shoes make Gretchen leap, Herman gets carried along for the ride.

GRETCHEN
Let go of me!

HERMAN
I'm trying to help!

On one leap, he comes out of his own shoes. When Gretchen lands, Herman's feet land in some tap shoes.

HERMAN
What kind of shoes..

His feet start tapping up a storm.

The elves are stunned.

MELFIN
You're pretty good with that thing!

Randelf shrugs.

RANDELF
Beginner's luck!

Herman is actually enjoying the dancing.

HERMAN

This isn't so bad! I could get
to like this!

The tap shoes dance him under a beam and then leap repeatedly, causing Herman's head to crash into the beam several times.

HERMAN

Ouch! Ow! Ahhh!

Herman now looks semi-conscious from the blows, but his feet are still dancing a mile a minute.

GRETCHEN is still dancing away and for the big finish, the ballet slippers send her into a split. As her legs get further apart, it's obvious that she's in a great deal of pain.

GRETCHEN

Aaahhhhhh!

Both of them are exhausted from the dancing. Herman collapses on the ground and Gretchen is on her side, breathing heavily.

GRETCHEN AND HERMAN

Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

The elves watch from a distance.

DELFINA

Now what? Should we get the
shoes out of here?

MELFIN

Wait a minute. I don't think
the magic is finished yet.
Look!

The ballet slippers peel themselves off Gretchen's feet and a pair of roller skates attach themselves to Gretchen's feet. The same thing happens to Herman.

GRETCHEN

Now what?

HERMAN

I never saw shoes like these
before.

Randelf is puzzled.

RANDELF

Neither have I.

MELFIN

Those are mine. I invented
them.

DELFINA

What are they?

MELFIN

They're shoes, but they've got
wheels, so I call them shweels.

RANDELF

They'll never catch on.

Gretchen and Herman manage to stagger to their feet.

GRETCHEN

Steady.

They clutch at each other for support, but they both fall
to the ground.

GRETCHEN

Ahhhhhh!

The shoes line up in single file and start marching in
place.

GRETCHEN

Uh oh! Here they come again!
Give me your hand.

They clasp hands, struggle to their feet and start skating
away from the shoes, which are marching towards them. They
skate on either side of a support column, and as they're
still holding hands, they slam into each other on the other
side of the column.

GRETCHEN

Oof!

HERMAN

Ahhh!

They fall to the ground. The shoes are still marching towards them.

GRETCHEN

Let's get out of here. Head for the door.

The two of them start running on their skates and pick up some momentum. They start gliding quickly towards the door.

HERMAN

I can't stop!

GRETCHEN

Neither can I!

The two of them crash through the wooden warehouse doors, out onto the street with the shoes marching behind them.

RANDELF

Come on! Let's follow them!

The elves run to the back of the marching shoes.

Herman and Gretchen are now in the street.

HERMAN

Where are they taking us?

GRETCHEN

And what will they do to us when we get there?

DELFINA

What about that crooked mayor?

Randelf looks at a pair boots marching away from the group.

RANDELF

Don't worry. I think we're
about to give him the boot!

In the Mayor's office, the Mayor is asleep with his feet up on his desk. There's a knocking on his office door. The Mayor stirs a bit.

MAYOR
Go away! I'm busy!

The Mayor shifts in the chair and gets comfortable again. There's another, louder, set of knocks.

MAYOR
I told you to go away! Come
back later!

The Mayor settles back when suddenly, there's a loud crash and the office door falls into the office. The Mayor sits up straight and looks at the doorway, but there's nobody there.

MAYOR
Who's there? What do you want?

The Mayor stands up, still looking at the doorway. As he stands, a pair of army boots at the doorway comes into his view.

MAYOR
Huh?

The boots start marching towards the Mayor. The Mayor is frightened by boots that move by themselves and backs away from them. The boots split up, going around opposite sides of the desk and surround the Mayor. When he faces one boot, the other kicks him in the rear. When he spins around to see what kicked him, the other boot takes a shot at the Mayor's rump.

MAYOR
Ouch! Stop that! Stop I say!

The boots force him out from behind the desk and keep kicking him, driving him out of the door to his office.

MAYOR

Ah! Ooh! Where are you taking me? What's going on?

The Mayor arrives at the jail and is outside the cell holding Hannah. He's still getting kicked. Herman and Gretchen are there, still wearing the skates and still being kicked. They're holding on to the bars of an adjacent cell to stop from falling down. The shoes keep kicking the bad guys.

The elves are hiding, watching the action.

MAYOR

What's...Ouch!...wrong with these shoes? Did you two do this?

HERMAN

No, your honor! Ow!

GRETCHEN

It's the elves! That hurts! They did it!

MAYOR

What elves? Ouch!

GRETCHEN

The ones Hannah used to make the shoes.

Gretchen loses her grip and falls on her ass.

GRETCHEN

Ow! That hurts!

Hannah is watching all this from inside the cell, having no idea what's going on.

HANNAH

I don't know anything about elves.

The elves peak out from behind a corner.

DELFINA

You know, she's right. Don't you think we should introduce ourselves?

RANDELF

Not yet! Wait until Hannah
gets free!

The Mayor is still getting kicked.

MAYOR

You've got to...ouch!...stop these
shoes!

Hannah tries to grab them through the bars.

HANNAH

I can't reach them from here.

The Mayor fishes out the key to the cell and opens the
door.

MAYOR

Please! Make them stop!

HANNAH

You're letting me out?

MAYOR

Yes. You didn't do anything
wrong. It was these two who
plotted to put you in jail.

Hannah steps out of the cell. With the door open, the
shoes force Herman and Gretchen into the cell by kicking
them.

GRETCHEN

Ouch! We're not the only
guilty ones! The Mayor agreed
to help us!

Now the army boots that were kicking the Mayor kick him
into the cell too. Then a shoe kicks the cell door closed.
Another shoe kicks the key out of the lock and it flies
into Hannah's hand.

HANNAH

Should I let you out?

The shoes all stamp their feet in unison and advance on the cell.

MAYOR

No, you better leave us in here.

GRETCHEN

At least we're not getting kicked anymore.

The skates on Herman and Gretchen's feet lunge for the bars. Herman and Gretchen slam into the bars, getting knocked goofy. As they fall to the ground, their legs go through the bars and the skates come off their feet.

All the shoes except for the army boots start to walk away.

HANNAH

Where are they going?

MAYOR

Who cares? So long as they leave us alone!

Hannah starts following the boots.

MAYOR

Wait! At least get me some breakfast!

The Army boots tap the floor menacingly.

MAYOR

Never mind.

Hannah is following several pairs of shoes and skates that are walking (or rolling) through the street.

HANNAH

I've never seen shoes do anything like this.

The shoes stop at Hannah's door. Hannah looks up and notices where she is.

HANNAH

My shop! Why did they bring me here?

Hannah opens the door. The three elves standing on her front counter, surrounded on the floor by dozens of pairs of shoes. When they see Hannah, the elves cheer and the shoes dance. Some of the shoes bang their soles together as if they're applauding.

DELFINA, RANDELF, MELFIN

Hooray!

It's like a party. Melfin shakes Randelf's hand.

MELFIN

We did it!

Hannah is dumbfounded.

HANNAH

There really are elves!

She approaches them on the counter.

DELFINA

Hello Hannah. I'm Delfina and this Randelf and Melfin.

HANNAH

I'm pleased to meet you. Did you make all these shoes?

RANDELF

We did.

Hannah examines a shoe.

HANNAH

Very good work. Nice stitching.

Randelf breaks into a satisfied grin.

MELFIN

We came here to learn from you.

RANDELF

And we learned a lot.

DELFINA

When the mayor started ordering all those shoes, we thought we'd help you out. But we didn't find out the truth until they took you to jail.

HANNAH

Did you make these shoes come to life?

RANDELF

We put a spell on them to help you.

HANNAH

Thank you very much. I don't know what I would have done without you.

DELFINA

You're welcome. And now that you're free, we can go home.

HANNAH

What about all these shoes?

DELFINA

They're yours. They're too big for us.

HANNAH

Will they keep moving by themselves?

RANDELF

We don't know. We never did this before.

HANNAH

Well, I suppose it will be nice to have some company.

A shoe jumps into Hannah's arms and the shoe tongues lick her face as if the shoes are puppies.

HANNAH

Ho ho...stop that! You're tickling me!

The elves are at the door.

DELFINA

Goodbye.

RANDELF

Bye.

MELFIN

Bye.

HANNAH

Goodbye. And thanks again.

The three elves are walking down the street.

DELFINA

Good work, Randelf. You did the right thing by using the wand. I'm sure that the Elf King will think so, too.

MELFIN

Sure he will. Anyway, it will be good to get home.

Randelf stops walking. The other two stop and look at him.

DELFINA

Something wrong?

RANDELF

I was thinking. Would you mind if we went through Bremen on the way home? I'd like to see if that boy Peter found his family.

MELFIN

Okay by me. Delfina?

DELFINA

Well...it would make us late getting home.

Melfin and Randelf look at her with their eyebrows in the air. Delfina grins.

DELFINA
Just kidding.

Hannah opens the door to the shop.

HANNAH
Go on! You've got to hurry!

Three skates come out of the door and head down the road.

The elves are walking when the three skates pull up beside them.

MELFIN
I think they want to give us a
ride.

Melfin hops onto a skate's toe. Randelf lies down on his back on the top of a skate and Delfina climbs into the third one.

DELFINA
This sure beats riding in a hay
wagon!

RANDELF
Or with chickens. You know,
Melfin, maybe these shweels
will catch on after all!

MELFIN
Let's go to Bremen!

Randelf pushes his hat over his eyes.

RANDELF
Wake me when we get there.

The skates take off down the road.

THE END.