

# CHAOS IN A CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE

EXCERPT



TARA MEDDAUGH

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## EXCERPT

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## CHAOS IN A CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE

### EXCERPT

#### Character Breakdown

Cast: 11+ (1 male, 1 female, 8+ gender inclusive/neutral)

PENGUIN	Gender neutral/inclusive. Glides well on the snow globe ice rink. Might have a scarf. Always on the lookout for when the girl is near. Eager, if not wistful, for excitement and change.
ELF	Gender neutral/inclusive. Elf takes position very seriously within the snow globe. Rule follower. Tries to keep all in order. Holds a Christmas present.
CHILD	Gender neutral/inclusive. Human child dressed in outdoor winter attire. Holds a sled and hopes to be able to use it one day!
SANTA	Male. Holds typical red Christmas Santa bag. Married to Mrs. Claus. Needs to keep things in some kind of Christmas order but loves to make everyone happy.
REINDEER	Gender neutral/inclusive. Enjoys playing games and staying fit. One reindeer has a speaking role, but there may be additional non-speaking reindeer, or lines may be split among reindeer. <b>(1+ roles)</b>
POLAR BEAR	Gender neutral/inclusive. Enjoys a good nap and fairly easy going and accepting. Holds the Christmas star.
SNOWMAN	Gender neutral/inclusive. Dreams of being a bit more fashionable.
MRS. CLAUS	Female. Loves to sing, bake cookies, nurture others. Married to Santa Claus. Holds a tray of cookies.
GINGERBREAD PERSON 1	Gender neutral/inclusive. Always with Gingerbread Person 2. Wears sweater with image of Christmas lights.
GINGERBREAD PERSON 2	Gender neutral/inclusive. Always with Gingerbread Person 1. Wears sweater with image of Christmas lights.
JACK-O-LANTERN	Gender neutral/inclusive. Plastic Jack-o-Lantern Halloween toy. Longs to be part of the Christmas Snow Globe scene.

#### Setting

Inside of a Christmas Snow Globe in 8-year-old Stella's room. The snow globe is complete with Christmas tree, holiday train, and small ice skating rink (set may be as detailed or as impressionistic as desired or needed).

CHAOS IN A CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE  
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AT RISE: Characters are inside of a Christmas Snow Globe in 8-year-old Stella's room. The snow globe is complete with Christmas tree, holiday train, and small ice skating rink (set may be as detailed or as impressionistic as desired or needed). Enjoying their Christmas roles in the globe are: PENGUIN (on ice skating rink), ELF (with present), CHILD (with sled), SANTA (with red bag), REINDEER – 1 speaking and as many as desired non-speaking or split-role speaking (playing games), POLAR BEAR (dozing, while holding a Christmas tree star), MRS. CLAUS (with tray of cookies), SNOWMAN (black hat and scarf), GINGERBREAD PERSON 1 and GINGERBREAD PERSON 2 (always together). Suggestions: REINDEER and CHILD are playing an active game, running around. GINGERBREAD PERSON 1 & GINGERBREAD PERSON 2, SNOWMAN are having tea with MRS. CLAUS. SANTA and ELF are going over a present list. POLAR BEAR is napping. PENGUIN is ice skating.

PENGUIN

(Notices something from above. Stops skating and looks up)  
She's home from school! Stella's home from school!

(ALL, except POLAR BEAR, look up)

ELF

Finally!

CHILD

I've been waiting to catch a snowflake all day!

SANTA

Does my beard look all right?

MRS. CLAUS

Perfect, dear.

SANTA

Reindeer! Stop the games!

But I'm winning!

REINDEER

It's show time!

SANTA

Get up, Polar Bear!

REINDEER

I was taking a nap...

POLAR BEAR

You nap most of the day and night.

MRS. CLAUS

(stretches)

POLAR BEAR

But this is my *favorite* nap time...

SNOWMAN

I'll look dashing in a fresh layer of snow!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

I hope she brought a friend home from school!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

A friend from school would be so cool!

SNOWMAN

Maybe she'll compliment my crisp black hat!

CHILD

Maybe we'll get enough snow so I can go sledding this time!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1 /GINGERBREAD PERSON 2  
(doing a little happy dance. REINDEER joins in)

Shake! Shake! Shake! Shake! Shake!

SANTA

Places, everyone!

ELF

We can't let Stella see us move!

POLAR BEAR

I'm just going to lie down on the train this time.

ELF

Not on my watch you won't! You have to be in the same position.

SNOWMAN

You put the star on the tree.

PENGUIN

You're lucky you get to do that, Polar Bear.

POLAR BEAR

You can do it this time, if you want to, Penguin. My paw gets tired holding it.

PENGUIN

Oooh! That's so nice of you!  
(holds out hand)  
Star, please!

MRS. CLAUS

I'm afraid you're not tall enough, dear.

REINDEER

You can stand on my antlers. They're super strong.

PENGUIN

Thank you, Reindeer!  
(moves to prepare to stand on Reindeer)

ELF

No, no, no!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

Team-Work!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

Friendship perk!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

Team-Work!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

Friendship—

ELF

You can't change things!

SANTA

Elf is right, my friends.

ELF

See?

SANTA

We must all honor the Law of the Snow Globe. Penguin. Stop trying to climb on Reindeer's antlers.

REINDEER

They won't break. Honest. I work them out.

SANTA

That's not my concern, Reindeer. Penguin, please, waddle over to the ice rink.

PENGUIN

Aw...

(waddles back to the ice rink)

SANTA

Polar Bear, I know your nap was interrupted, and there will be plenty of time to sleep. But, it's *Jingle Bells* for now.

ELF

(to others)

Told you!

SANTA

Now, then, Elf. A winner without grace is not a winner at all.

ELF

Sorry, Santa.

POLAR BEAR

I'll stand by the tree...

(moves to the tree.)

PENGUIN



I was excited for—finally—something new...

REINDEER

But no...

SNOWMAN

If we're talking new, can I put in a request for a more stylish scarf?

PENGUIN

That will never happen, Snowman!

CHILD

Everything's always the same in here.

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

Pete and Repeat are on the Christmas train and Pete fell into the snow. Who's still on the Christmas train?

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

Repeat!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

Pete and Repeat are on the Christmas train and Pete fell into the snow. Who's still on the Christmas train?

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

Repeat!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

Pete and Repeat are on the Christmas train and—

CHILD/REINDEER/PENGUIN/SNOWMAN/POLAR BEAR

Stop it!/Not again!/We get it!

MRS. CLAUS

Come now, everyone. It's not that bad to keep doing and seeing the same thing over and over again, is it?

(ALL Christmas Characters, except Elf and Santa, heave a big sigh as they resume their places)

(SANTA looks around at the Christmas Characters)

SANTA

Oh, my friends...I don't use this often...but... I hate to see such disappointment...Well...There is always...Christmas Magic...

(throws hands into the air)

Ho Ho Ho!

(A MOMENT OF MAGIC: Jingle Bells ring. ALL stare with wonder, some gasp, looking around. Lighting effects may be used.)

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1 /GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

Yay!

SANTA

A magical change will come our way!

CHILD

Maybe we'll get a giant hill! Then I can sled down it like a rocket and taste the wind!

SNOWMAN

Or perhaps a purple top hat and matching bow tie?

POLAR BEAR

I just want a longer nap.

PENGUIN

Look! I see Stella's shadow!

REINDEER

She's about to wind up our music!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1 /GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

And then...Shake! Shake! Shake!

MRS. CLAUS

Is everyone ready to sing?

ALL

Yes!/Ready!/Here we go!

(Suddenly, ALL Characters jostle and sway, as though they are being shaken inside of a snow globe. They settle and the jostling stops. Mrs. Claus conducts them in singing *Jingle Bells*)

ALL

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,*

*Jingle all the way.  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way.  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!*

(While they sing, snow falls on them. This may be paper, confetti, or prop snow; it may be achieved through lighting, or other effect; or it may be conveyed by the actors miming the experience of snow falling on them, such as extending arms etc. CHILD opens his mouth to try to catch a snowflake.)

(As the snow settles, the singing also slows down, as wind-up music boxes do. JACK-O-LANTERN runs on stage and ends up in the very middle. The Christmas Characters stare at the Jack-o-Lantern, except for Snowman, who doesn't see Jack-o-Lantern at first.)

SANTA

What is—

SNOWMAN

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the—*

ELF

Stop singing!

PENGUIN

Stella's not making it snow anymore.

SNOWMAN

I thought I was having my first solo.

REINDEER

She's going to her tablet. Oh! I hope she puts on that workout dance video! I still need to practice the end of the routine.

SANTA

Everyone! Now we can move freely.

ELF

What is that thing?

(CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS gather around the JACK-O-LANTERN)

POLAR BEAR

Some sort of ornament? Do I have to put this on the tree now too, Santa?

SNOWMAN

It's an orange snowball!

ELF

How did it get in here?

PENGUIN

Maybe it's a Christmas present!

REINDEER

Or a toy for our reindeer games!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

A toy!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

What joy!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

A toy!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

What joy!

CHILD

No! It's not any of those things!

SNOWMAN

Then what is it?

CHILD

It's a pumpkin!

PENGUIN

Isn't that a vegetable?

MRS. CLAUS

I believe I can make a pie with that...

JACK-O-LANTERN

No! I'm made of plastic!  
(moves away from them)

GINGERBREAD PERSON 2

I think that pumpkin talked!

GINGERBREAD PERSON 1

And I think that pumpkin walked!

MRS. CLAUS

It seems to be as alert as one of us.

SANTA

It's a sort of decoration.

PENGUIN

Like us!

CHILD

For Halloween. I've heard of it from my cousins who live in a Haunted House Snow Globe.

REINDEER

Then why is it in a Christmas Snow Globe?

ELF

I think you should leave, Pumpkin.

POLAR BEAR

It's not causing any problems.

ELF

I'd say a pumpkin *Being Here* is big a problem.

JACK-O-LANTERN

I'm a jack-o-lantern.—**END OF EXCERPT**

**END OF EXCERPT**

For the complete play, [visit \*Chaos in a Christmas Snow Globe\*, visit:  
www.tameddaugh.com/chaos-in-a-christmas-snow-globe-a-oneact-play](http://www.tameddaugh.com/chaos-in-a-christmas-snow-globe-a-oneact-play)

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Tara's work has been presented by theater companies such as Fusion Theatre, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebbonne, Theatre One, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Possibilities Theater, Tagragg Productions, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, The Acme Theatre Company, The Harlequin Players, Woman Seeking..., and numerous schools, universities and colleges including Gardner-Webb, Prince Williams, and Colgate. Her work has also showcased at festivals such as the Artists of Tomorrow Festival in NYC, The Bangkok Community Theatre Fringe Festival, the Pittsburgh New Works Series and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Alaska. Tara's work has been published by YouthPLAYS, Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), Limelight Editions/Applause Acting Series, The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing, Applause Theatre & Cinema, Performer Stuff and Ace-Your-Audition. Tens of thousands of teachers, actors and students world-wide have utilized her monologues for competitions, course material, auditions, performances, and showcases. Serial monologues she wrote were performed for two years by the internationally recognized receptionist-robot, Valerie. She has taught Playwriting and Screenwriting at Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and for The Westport Country Playhouse, and she has taught Creative Dramatics Workshops for children throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Additionally, she toured in a Children's Theatre Troupe, which she wrote for, co-directed, and performed in. She has won writing awards such as the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award, and The Write Stuff Award. Tara is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's MFA program in Dramatic Writing and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. She lives near New York City, with her husband and two creative kids. At Christmastime, you might find her sipping (okay, guzzling) eggnog, watching Elf or organizing an outdoor candy cane hunt.

For more information about Tara Meddaugh and her work, visit:

[www.tarameddaugh.com](http://www.tarameddaugh.com)