

COLIN

Ho,ho,ho. I'll get my elves on that order right away! There are no banks at the North Pole and the only thing that breaks there are toys.

TESS

I won't hold my breath. But it would be a nice surprise.

MINDY

Look this way, Tess.

Tess and Colin look to her mom and Mindy snaps a picture.

Colin places Tess onto the ground.

COLIN

Merry Christmas, Tess. I'll be sure to put your gift at the top of my list.

TESS

Your myth depends on it. But it was nice to meet you, guy.

Tess runs back to her mom as Mindy gives a sorry look to Santa for her child's bluntness and they go walking off as the next kid pops up on Santas lap.

CUT TO:

41 INT. MALL HALLWAY - HOURS LATER - AFTERNOON

Colin is on break and is sitting in the hallway in a chair. Hatless and beardless, he dozes off.

When he wakes up, he is staring at the front page of the newspaper that has his picture plastered on it.

He looks up to see Mindy standing there.

MINDY

Oh my god, it IS you! This is so fucked up! And they allow you to play Santa and be around children? A god damn convict?

COLIN

Hold on, I'm...

MINDY

What's the world coming to? You shouldn't be around children!

COLIN

I was incarcerated for murder, not child molestation.

MINDY

So that makes it okay? And the whole management company thing? What's that about?

COLIN

That's a new business I'm venturing into.

MINDY

This coming from a murdering Santa working at the mall.

COLIN

I'm not a murderer. I'm not a criminal. Never have been. That's why I'm free. Because an innocent man was wrongly convicted. I'm just trying to find my way back.

MINDY

Well, I'm certainly not interested in attending your casting call now. And you seemed so legit.

Colin stands up.

COLIN

I am. Before my life was turned upside down, I was a successful independent contractor in entertainment.

MINDY

Doing what?

COLIN

Payroll and accounting.

MINDY

How did you wind up in a murder case?

COLIN

It's a complicated story. Would need more time to explain. But, please. I'm just trying to get my name back. Clear my name and go back to my life. It would be great if you had a little faith and come to the casting tomorrow. I really think you have something special.

MINDY

I don't think so. It was pipe dream to begin with. I was just looking for something different in this dead town of zombies. That's why I responded to the ad and came to the interview. But I'm not a model or actor. I'm just a girl with balls.

Colin laughs at this. Tess appears from the ladies room and looks at Colin.

TESS

See mom? Told you Santa isn't real.