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THIS IS YOUR LIFE

HOLIDAY EDITION



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THIS IS YOUR LIFE: HOLIDAY EDITION

written by

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Synopsis

A well-known game show is supposed to celebrate the life of Eddie the Elf, but quickly turns into a life-changing experience for its smug host, Buddy Swenson, when the mystery guests turn out to know more about him than he expected.

Cast of Characters

VO (ANNOUNCER)

BUDDY

EDDIE

VO (LITTLE SALLY)

SALLY

VO (LITTLE BOBBY)

BOBBY

VO (RUDOLPH)

VO (GRANDMOTHER)

GRANDMOTHER

VO (SANTA)

SANTA

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: A game show stage

At Rise: No one is on stage. Game show theme song music begins to play.

VO (ANNOUNCER)

Live from in , it's a very special holiday edition of everyone's favorite walk down memory lane – the game show that everyone is talking about – THIS IS YOUR LIFE! And now, the man you've all been waiting for – the guy who puts the pearly whites back into a White Christmas – let's hear it for your host, Buddy Swenson!!

(BUDDY SWENSON, a totally overblown and overdone game show host, enters and soaks up all the attention.)

(applause track)

BUDDY

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, so nice to see you all this evening and so glad you decided to make us part of your exciting and busy holiday plans this year. We promise: you won't be disappointed. And if you happen to be? Well, keep it to yourself, will ya?

(laugh track)

Kidding, just kidding. For those of you new to our program, the way it works is this. In a moment, I'll bring out our contestant who's going to be given a few clues and who will listen to a few voices. From these hints, they'll have to figure out which mystery guests – pulled from their past – we have hiding backstage. If they figure out all five guests in a brief window of time, they'll win something absolutely fabulous. Almost as fabulous as me.

(laugh track)

Kidding, just kidding. So, shall we meet today's contestant?

(game show theme song music)

BUDDY

Hailing from the North Pole, he can more often – around this time of year – be found sitting high atop shelves or pieces of furniture in the homes of children around the world, checking them out for his boss in a big red suit. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Eddie the Elf!

(applause track; EDDIE enters)

BUDDY

Howdy, Eddie, how's it going today?

EDDIE

Well, Buddy, I'm so excited to be here. It's such an honor. I love bringing holiday cheer and excitement to all the homes around the globe. I never dreamed that I'd be getting celebrated for it.

BUDDY

Well, you are! So just keep your pointed ears open and let's take a listen to our first clue, shall we?

EDDIE

Yippee!!

VO (LITTLE SALLY)

Last year, I was so excited about Eddie being at my house that I snuck out of bed one night to see if I could catch him moving from one hiding place to another. I came down the stairs, very quietly, being careful not to let the stairs squeak, I stuck my head through the rails of the bannister, and I peered into the living room. I *thought* Eddie might be hiding on the mantle over the fireplace, but nope. I was wrong.

BUDDY

Any idea who that lovely little voice might be, Eddie?

EDDIE

Jeez, Buddy, there are so many curious little children in the world. And many of them who like to sneak out of bed. I have to move fast and keep on my toes to find new hiding places when they're not looking.

BUDDY

And good luck getting away from those greedy, beady little eyes.

(laugh track)

Kidding, just kidding. Well, perhaps this musical cue might help. Mystery guest, what did you happen to see instead of Eddie when you came down the stairs?

("I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" plays briefly.)

EDDIE

Oh, silly me! Now I got it! It's Little Sally Jenkins!

(applause track)

BUDDY

That's right! Come on out, Sally, and say hello!

(LITTLE SALLY enters in PJs and with blankie; she hugs EDDIE.)

SALLY

Oh, hi, Eddie! I've missed you since last Christmas!

EDDIE

And I've missed you, too. But I'm heading back to your house tomorrow night.

SALLY

Hooray! I'm so excited! And I've learned my lesson: I'll stay in bed and wait until the morning to find you.

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EDDIE *(gently)*

Well, I think that's the voice of a woman who loved – and *loves you* – very much. Someone who wanted your Christmases to be brighter than they were.

(BUDDY is nodding his head.)

EDDIE

But who really did the best she could. Mother Swenson, is that you? Come on out!

(This time, no applause track; GRANDMOTHER creeps out very tentatively; BUDDY looks amazed.)

BOBBY

(running to her and hugging her)

Grandma!!

BUDDY

MOM!?!?

GRANDMOTHER

Hello, Buddy. And hello, Eddie. Thank you.

BUDDY

I'm so sorry, Mom. All these years I've been so stuck on my memories of all that I *didn't* have at Christmas that I never realized all the intangible things that you and Dad *did* provide us with. I guess I just got caught up in comparing and competing with all the other kids for who had the most and best stuff.

(a beat)

And come to think of it, I still do that today.

EDDIE

It's easy to do, Buddy, but that's not what's important. Forget about what you receive and start thinking about what you can give.

BOBBY

I like that idea!

SALLY

Shhhh.

GRANDMOTHER

After all, that's what Eddie's whole life has been about – giving joy and cheer and happiness to all of us this time of year!

BUDDY

You're right. I guess, somewhere along the line, I just stopped believing.

VO (SANTA)

Well, it's high time you started again!!

EDDIE

The fifth mystery guest!

VO (SANTA)

Eddie will tell you that I'm the best boss anyone could have. And I can even find a spot in my heart for smug, disbelieving game show hosts who want to make a new and fresh start of things.

BUDDY

Is it possible? Does he *really* exist?

GRANDMOTHER

Now this is a part I *didn't* know about!

VO (SANTA)

Of course I exist. And I am on my way, so it's time to shape up, Swenson!

(SANTA appears. He comes onstage and hugs EDDIE. As he does, BUDDY rambles.)

BUDDY

Well, this is sort of irregular, folks. I don't know that the show has ever gotten out of control like this before. But it does seem that Eddie has recognized all five of the mystery guests, which means that he's in line to win a tremendous prize -

EDDIE

Buddy, give it a rest! I'm not looking for a prize. The best thing that could come of today would be for you to remember the spirit of giving and loving that we've been talking about here today. So that when you leave this studio, you can spend some time with your mother and your son, focusing on the true meaning of what Christmas is - and what I'm - all about.

SANTA

Nothing would make us happier!

GRANDMOTHER

Do you think you can do that, son?

BOBBY

We'd love it if you could.

BUDDY

(after taking this all in and weighing it)

Well, I'll certainly try.

(Everyone onstage cheers and BUDDY is surrounded with hugs.)

(SANTA takes over.)

SANTA

Well, folks, that’s all the time we have for today. But until next time -

ALL

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

(End)



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