The States Collection – Washington – I Hate Christmas

By Claudia Haas

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CAST 2: (1 male, a female)

Noelle (female) 20’s; unlucky in Christmas love

Christine (female) 20’a; Noelle’s BFF; owns a coffee shop

Claus (male) 20’s; unlucky in Christmas love

PLACE: Leavenworth, WA; a coffee shop

TIME: December 26

SYNOPSIS: An after-Christmas love story.

 LIGHTS up on NOELLE drowning her sorrows in coffee. CHRISTINE joins her bringing her a gooey treat with her coffee.

 CHRISTINE

Not again!

 NOELLE

It’s the December 26th curse.

 CHRISTINE

But I saw you two by the gazebo. The snow was softly falling on the two of you. Noel gazed at you with such tenderness And then there was the kiss.

 NOELLE

And it was a good one. Better than Kristoffer’s kiss last year. We even went to the Nutcracker Museum together and picked out our first nutcrackers. Everything was Christmas-perfect.

 CHRISTINE

What was the excuse this time?

 NOELLE

He’s sick of flannel. He said he woke up, looked at all the plaid flannel in his closet and declared “enough.” He’s moving to California to become a surfer.

 CHRISTINA

What about his log cabin business?

 NOELLE

Up for sale. I don’t know which is worse. Kristoffer’s decision last year to live in an Ashram in India or Noel’s decision this year to be a surfer. I hate Christmas.

 CHRISTINE

You can’t hate Christmas. You live in Leavenworth, Washington also known as the prettiest Christmas city in the country.

 NOELLE

Then December 26th comes. Now it’s just dirty snow, streets crammed with people returning gifts, and cookie crumbs. And when Christmas is over, falling-in-love is over. I never want to build another snowman with a man, or be in a Christmas parade with a man, or decorate gingerbread houses with a man or have a snowball fight with a man or share a Christmas kiss under the twinkling lights/

 CHRISTINE

 /got it. You want real life. Fighting over whose turn it is to do the dishes or clean up after the dog or why we should get a car that actually runs instead of breaking down every third day and needing parts.

 NOELLE

That sounds so romantic!

 (CLAUS enters.)

 CHRISTINE

An actual paying customer. Be back in a moment.

 (Goes to CLAUS.)

Coffee?

 CLAUS

I don’t know. I don’t want to be wide awake. Because then I’ll start questioning, you know?

 CHRISTINE

No.

 CLAUS

I mean, why did she leave me? It was a magical month. We skated under the stars. She helped me wrap presents for children in need. We even went to the Nutcracker Museum together and picked out our first nutcrackers.

 CHRISTINE

Hot chocolate?

 CLAUS

Oh don’t get me started on hot chocolate! We made it from scratch, you know?

 CHRISTINE

No

 CLAUS

We bought the finest chocolate bars and slowly melted it, then mixed in the double-whipped cream… and don’t get me started on the homemade marshmallows. It’s as if a Christmas spell falls on me in early December. And I succumb to its magic. Now I need a cure to get rid of the Christmas spirit. And do you know why? I’ll tell you why. Because today Crystal decides she wants to become a mime in Paris. She just packed up and left. She doesn’t even speak French.

 CHRISTINE

Mimes don’t have to speak.

 CLAUS

Who are you?

 CHRISTINE

The owner of this coffee shop and apparently a part-time therapist.

 CLAUS

I hate Christmas.

 CHRISTINE

I’ll bring you a special pink elixir – there are no Christmas ingredients in it. But you’ll have to sit over there.

 (CHRISTINE gestures to where NOELLE is sitting.)

 CLAUS

Someone’s sitting there.

 CHRISTINE

I know.

 CLAUS

The place is empty.

 CHRISTINE

I know. Do you want to be cured of Christmas? Sit over there.

 (CHRISTINE brings CLAUS to NOELLE’S table.)

Noelle, this is….?

 CLAUS

Claus.

 CHRISTINE

Claus meet Noelle. Now tell each other your thoughts about Christmas.

 CLAUS and NOELLE

I HATE CHRISTMAS!

 CHRISTINE

Two Pink Elixir’s coming up. Perfect for Valentine’s Day.

 END OF PLAY