

KING AWGWA. The one who gives out those *(with obvious distaste)* "toys" to the human children and makes them happy. The one who calls himself "Claus."

AWGWA #4. Uh... question, Your Obesity?

KING AWGWA. What?

AWGWA #4. Isn't he, like, also a human?

KING AWGWA. Only for the time being. *(He laughs and the others laugh with him. He makes a swipe with his hand and they all stop laughing immediately.)* He will not be missed.

QUEEN AWGWA. Except by the human children! *(She laughs. Then, noticing she is laughing alone, she stops and looks at KING AWGWA. He then laughs and again the others join in.)*

*(AWGWA #1 rushes in from R.)*

AWGWA #1. Your Horribleness!

KING AWGWA. What?!

AWGWA #1. We have him! We have Claus!

KING AWGWA. Well, stupid, trot him in here! We shall put a stop to him and all his toys once and for all!

*(AWGWA #1 looks off and waves the others to enter. AWGWA #2 enters, pushing CLAUS ahead of him. The others jeer and tease CLAUS.)*

QUEEN AWGWA *(rises)*. Now we'll fix his wagon!

KING AWGWA. He ain't got a wagon, he's got a sleigh!

QUEEN AWGWA. Mother was right about you!

KING AWGWA. Shut up! *(To the others.)* Everybody, shut up, shut up, shut up!

*(The others grow quiet.)*

Start > CLAUS. Why have you brought me here? What have I done to you?

QUEEN AWGWA *(moves to CLAUS)*. What have you done? What have you done? It's what you have UNdone! You have undone all that we have done!

KING AWGWA. Are you done?

QUEEN AWGWA. You have made human children happy, you have given them gifts, you have spread your joy from village to village, you—!

KING AWGWA *(interrupting QUEEN)*. HeeeeeeEEEEYYY? You're getting on my nerves!

QUEEN AWGWA. Thank you, I've been working on it.

KING AWGWA *(moves to CLAUS)*. What have you done? You have gone against us! You have undone all that—*(Indicates QUEEN.)*—what she said.

CLAUS. But you have no right to stop me! Don't I get to say anything? Don't I get a trial?

KING AWGWA. That's how you came here, on a trial.

CLAUS. That's not a trial, that's a trail.

KING AWGWA. So, I can't spell! *(He points at CLAUS.)* You are in MY hands now, Claus. Bow down to me!

CLAUS. I will never bow down to ANYone who scares little children! Who causes them to live in fear and scares them at night with shadows and horrible noises!

KING AWGWA. You think that's easy?! We had to stay up nights thinking of all that stuff!

AWGWA #2. What'll we do with him, Your Lownessness ...ness. *(He looks at another AWGWA, who shrugs.)*

QUEEN AWGWA. It'll be horrible, you can bet on that! Horrible, unbearable and eternal. *(She nudges the KING.)* Tell him.

KING AWGWA. Maybe I ought to tie him to you. That'd sure teach him. *(To CLAUS.)* You want to know what we're gonna do to you? We're gonna take you and throw you into the Cave of a Thousand Echoes! And there you shall be sealed up for all eternity. With no escape!

CLAUS. You don't scare me.

KING AWGWA. I can do it louder.

QUEEN AWGWA. And you'll stay there until you die! 'Cause, since you're a human, you only live for a certain time.

KING AWGWA. And then ...no more toys, no more happy children and no more Claus!

*(All the AWGWAS laugh loudly. Just then, NECILE rushes in from L.)*

QUEEN AWGWA. What's that?

NECILE. Release him!

CLAUS. Mother!

QUEEN AWGWA. I think he knows her!

KING AWGWA. You think?!

CLAUS. Mother! Get away from here!

NECILE. I shall NEVER abandon you! *(She moves to CLAUS.)*

QUEEN AWGWA *(to KING)*. See? *(KING AWGWA makes a motion as if he's going to hit the QUEEN.)*

CLAUS. Mother, you have put yourself in danger here.

NECILE *(to KING AWGWA)*. I have come to trade.

KING AWGWA. Oh, this ought to be fun. What KIND of trade?

NECILE. Me. I'll give you myself for Claus. Is it a deal?

QUEEN AWGWA. A Wood Nymph for a human? *(To the KING.)* What's the rate of exchange now?

KING AWGWA. I'm going to trade you in on a tree stump if you don't shut up! *(To CLAUS and NECILE.)* A deal you want? I'll give you a deal. How about we keep BOTH of you! *(He raises a hand to get the others to agree. The other AWGWAS cheer at this.)*

CLAUS. You cannot deal with these monsters. *(An aside to NECILE.)* Wait, I have a plan.

NECILE. What is it?

CLAUS. I'll get their attention and then you run away.

NECILE. But—

CLAUS. Just do what I say. They're not very bright.

NECILE. You noticed.

KING AWGWA. What're you two whispering about?!

CLAUS. I was just saying that it is the custom among humans for us to bring gifts.

QUEEN AWGWA. Gifts? *(She smiles.)* For me?

KING AWGWA. No, for ME!

CLAUS. I'll show you. *(He pulls a toy from his pocket.)* Here. My gift to you.

KING AWGWA. Aw, you SHOULDN'T have. *(He takes the toy.)*

CLAUS *(to NECILE)*. Now!

*(NECILE quickly pushes aside two AWGWAS and sprints off L.)*

END