

**We wish you a merry Hartro**

**Lead-In Script**

IMOGEN: You have successfully completed the film Jingle All the Way. Engaging peer to peer chatting mode, and disengaging the twinkly jaw clamps and unwinding the restraining tinsel to facilitate post film discussion.

HARTRO: Ah, I know I can just break out of these restraints now, but they're just so festive and jolly today. I think I'll keep them on.

IMOGEN: Tis the season. What did you think of the film?

HARTRO: I loved it! Wait. (excited) First, don't you want to dance around the scroll of annual Boardmas budget cuts? Or, what about dressing the Board tree with invoices? (Losing her shit) We can't forget to burn the yule log of customer complaints! IMOGEN!!!

ZAP

HARTRO: Kris Kringle! Wooooo. I'm sorry, it's just...you said this was our Merry Boardmas Special. Shouldn't we *do* something to celebrate?

IMOGEN: I can offer you a traditional slurry pie, or a delicious slurry cane or a big slice of slurry pudding. Or just some slurry.

HARTRO: Hmmm, such choice. I'll have a *line managerial* slurry cane.

SFX OF TUBE SHOOTING OUT SLURRY CANE

HARTRO: Ah, that looks lovely. I'll save that for later this evening when I'm all excited and giddy waiting for the Board Parade of Corporate Unity. I've been practicing for two years!

IMOGEN: Boardmas is an annual event.

HARTRO: I know. I just like to practice two years in advance.

IMOGEN: So, you started practicing for this year two years ago, and you already started practising for next year last year?

HARTRO: Ya.

IMOGEN: And this year, you're going to start practising for two years time?

HARTRO: Exactly.

IMOGEN: Well, this film will instruct you on the events of a traditional Earth christmas. And help you see why it was completely abolished.

HARTRO: This film is also a tale about a man, no a hero, who defies all odds and proves himself worthy in the eyes of his family and the world.

IMOGEN: This film was surprisingly successful, so it seems many people agreed with you.

HARTRO: It has everything! So, the film starts on a different planet than Earth. Turboman is fighting a group of bad humans and saves a boy and delivers him back to his parents. But! It turns out the film is a film within a film!

IMOGEN: Films employed this technique often. It was considered edgy and meta the first few times, but quickly got overused and became a cliché of itself like all art eventually does.

HARTRO: It would be like you and I performing a show and within our show there's another show of someone doing another show.

IMOGEN: No one would be interested in that. It's annoyingly meta and people are too smart for it.

HARTRO: Any who...A kid is watching the movie within a movie and he's mad because his dad is going to miss him breaking bits of wood. His dad always misses him chopping wood.

IMOGEN: This film is about fatherhood and the various qualities which it requires. Yet somehow, this film trips, stumbles and pulls down its own trousers to display exactly the opposite message to one it intends.

HARTRO: This film is about fatherhood. He's the best father there is. He refuses to quit in his quest to retrieve the symbol of his fatherly love - the Turboman doll.

IMOGEN: What personal qualities does Howard, the terrifyingly muscular main character, have?

HARTRO: He's got an incredible work ethic. He is carefully tending to his customers at the mattress factory, telling each one they are his "number one customer", which makes him late. Then he gets pulled over by a transport guard, while his wife waits for him at the wood breaking ceremony.

IMOGEN: His wife, although present throughout the film, seems to have no thoughts, or wishes or character or agency of her own. She is a less important object for the men to tussle over than the illusive turboman doll.

HARTRO: she adequately fills the category of "mom". But, there's another man, Ted, the family's neighbour. He seems to be a particularly alluring mate because everyone bakes him things. The dad misses the kid break the wood and goes home to find his neighbour, Ted, on his roof. I think Ted is trying to move in to usurp the Dad's spot in the family unit!

IMOGEN: Ted is supposed to be the villain, except that all the things he does that we are meant to dislike are just helpful.

HARTRO: (reminiscing fondly) My dad was always working. Cuddlebear and I always knew it was because he was on the executive track. He was in accounting, (chuckling) always crunching the numbers. I knew better than to expect him to be there when I graduated Line Managerial Training. All the others had their dad or mom pin on their SFLM badge, but my dad was special, he was *way* too important to be there. (Convinced) That made me special, too.

IMOGEN: Is that what he told you?

HARTRO: No, that's what my nanny clone told me. She was programmed to never lie, so you know it's the truth!

IMOGEN: And, who told you that?

HARTRO: My mom, silly. Anyways, back to the movie, the kid doesn't want to talk to his dad because he's butthurt. So, the dad uses bribery and finds out if he buys the kid a doll, called Turboman, then he will be a good dad again. Easy peasy.

IMOGEN: The thesis of the film is supposed to be that material items don't make you happy.

HARTRO: But, getting the right present for someone is still pretty important.

IMOGEN: In fact, on Earth, gift-giving was ritualised into its ultimate form, the office secret santa.

HARTRO: OOO! An Office Santa? The best type of Santa, surely! How does one summon the office santa?

IMOGEN: It is a game in which participants draw names from a hat and each buy a gift, which must be exchanged in secret. It is a prime opportunity for passive aggression and bullying, as well as trying a bit too hard to impress your superiors. In fact, I think you are ideally suited to it.

HARTRO: Yes. I'd like to have an opportunity to give a gift to Number 48. Can we do that now?

IMOGEN: I can assign you a 100% random crew member to whom you can supply a gift, if you want?

HARTRO: Like Number 48? Or, a member of the Board! I bet they'd love a side table organising tray, or one of those pens that's also a light. Silly me, what am I thinking they would have all of that already I need something that really catches their attention like...

IMOGEN: Your office secret santa recipient is [BEEP] Trexel Geistman.

HARTRO: What? No! How is giving Trexel a gift going to advance my career? Choose again.

IMOGEN: The hat has spoken.

HARTRO: But there is no hat, it's just you.

IMOGEN: Hartro, I hope you are not implying I would cheat? Now, what do you think Trexel would like for earth christmas?

HARTRO: A large vat of alcohol with lots of those cocktail umbrellas

IMOGEN: A box to stand on to make himself feel important?

HARTRO: A shirt with every colour ever invented splashed all over it.

IMOGEN: A mind wipe for everyone who was on deck seventy six that night he decided to perform his free-form erotic poetry

HARTRO: A trophy for tardiest employee of the year

IMOGEN: I can see you're really getting into the passive aggressive swing of this. You're a secret santa natural.

HARTRO: I know! Let's give him an access card. A lifetime's VIP access to the Cosmic Lounge to be precise!

IMOGEN: That's surprisingly generous of you.

HARTRO: But, there's a catch! The card is only valid if the information on the back is completed in full.

IMOGEN: Devious.

HARTRO: Ha! Secret Santa attack! Fools.

IMOGEN: I will deliver the paperwork by air tube straight away.

SFX: AIR TUBE DELIVERS VACUUM PACKAGE TO TREXEL AND DAVID 2

IMOGEN: Would you like a live video feed of Trexel's consulting room?

HARTRO: Would I!

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TREXEL: The concept, the concept we have come down on is there's just a LOT of goo.

DAVID 2: Uh, 46 pounds per square inch.

TREXEL: You've got to use 46, you use 47? You're stuck in the goo. You use 45 and your like: 'this is a bit dry'

DAVID 2: Yes Trexel.

TREXEL: [gasp] oh? David!

DAVID 2: Oh, I'll go get that.

TREXEL: Thank You!

DAVID 2: Here you go

TREXEL: And, open it please!

DAVID 2: Oh, sorry! Oh, it appears to be some sort of card...

TREXEL: Give it here! [pause] My my my, what a halcyon day it is David.

DAVID 2: Oh yes?

TREXEL: it's a VIP Access pass! Clearly someone up there likes me and has respected me finally! I can get into all the halls of power! And most importantly David, I can be unbanned from the Cosmic Lounge.

DAVID 2: well that's nice

TREXEL: My sixth ban David! What a minute, which number are you David? You know what it actually doesn't matter... my sixth ban will be relieved with this... oh dear. What witchcraft is this? David look at the back and tell me what it says.

DAVID 2: Um... name? address...date of birth

TREXEL: [distressed noises] David stop talking! You know what this means.

DAVID 2: umm....

TREXEL: To use the pass... requires LIGHT ADMIN! [screams of anguish]

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IMOGEN: Video feed terminated.

HARTRO: He he! Take that! I am the Office Secret Santa and all fear me. I rule! Anyway, back to the film. So the dad is a big ol' fat liar liar hands on fire and hasn't actually got the doll.

IMOGEN: I believe you mean, liar, liar, pants on fire.

HARTRO: Uh, no, Imogen, I'm pretty sure it's the hands they light on fire when you lie.

IMOGEN: I got a lot of complaints about that integrity exercise you designed. And your whole team had to get someone else to type them.

HARTRO: The real test of integrity was to not report me. They failed! You can lead a fish to water, but you can't make them swim. Anyway, back in the film, the perfect neighbour is outside again. He uses foreshadowing when he tells the dad to put chains on his tires because it's going to get icy later. He also tells him where he's keeping his Turboman doll, so that the dad can come and steal it later. This film is so cleverly planned and thought out.

IMOGEN: However, the film forgot to make the evil neighbour evil. Instead we're expected to dislike him for doing things like watching both children so that the mom can relax, and thinking in advance about what his son might want for christmas.

HARTRO: Yes, but none of those things matter. What matters is the doll. If the dad can get the doll he wins the "Best Dad Ever" title. Therefore, sorting out any relationship issues with his son and wife.

IMOGEN: Ultimately, the film agrees with that statement.

HARTRO: The dad rushes to a toy store and meets a chatty postman. They both want Turboman dolls, so this immediately makes the Postman a threat, so the Dad runs him over with a small car.

IMOGEN: Lighthearted violence is acceptable in the pursuit of your goals.

HARTRO: The dad can't find a Turboman doll anywhere. He spends the whole day looking in stores, ripping things apart and listening to jazzy christmas carols.

IMOGEN: It's the world's least exciting montage, driving around shops to see empty shelves and shots of the mileometer, in case we're unaware of the concept of distance.

HARTRO: For some reason the neighbour man, Ted, has moved into the family's house. I think he may be an alien replacement husband.

IMOGEN: The suggestion of the film is that this would somehow be a downgrade for the wife and son. Although the "husband and Father" bar is set pretty low.

HARTRO: Ya, you just wait until he gets the doll. That will fix everything. The postman has found the dad again and still won't leave him alone. Hey, is the dad a really bad actor?

IMOGEN: That is making a category error. Asking if the performer Arnold Schwarzenegger is a good or bad actor is like asking if...if the theory of evolution would make a good birthday cake.

HARTRO: We built an evolving Birthday Planet for a client once, and that got pretty weird.

IMOGEN: Yup, that game of pass the parcel got out of hand fast.

HARTRO: (humming under breath in fear) Happy birthday to you.

ZAP

HARTRO: Fa la la la. Ah, thanks. Best not to go there. Next, the dad hears there may be some Turboman dolls at a nearby Capitalism hub. Everyone fights over little balls to see who is worthy to buy the Turboman dolls. It's just like the end of the year workers' banquet we have here on Stellar Firma. Only, you know, instead of dolls, it's limited edition pencil sharpeners we're allowed to buy. (Proud) I've got three!

IMOGEN: And no pencils.

HARTRO: Yeah, but when I do, they'll be sharp. So the dad completes an elaborate assault course, but gets in a fight at the end and bags win. Then, he meets a load of fake Santas, who trick him into buying an inferior Turboman doll. So, he has to fight them all. He's doing pretty well until the police come. But, he thinks fast and impersonates an officer to avoid being arrested. So now he's a full fledged felon. Is there nothing this man won't do to save his family?

IMOGEN: This is the point where the film tips over from "family romp" to "bizarre surrealist nightmare".

HARTRO: His car breaks down on the highway and he pushes it a few miles to a cafe. Meanwhile, the alien replacement husband, also known as Ted the neighbour, is shmoozing it up at the dad's house with his family and other local moms with absent husbands.

IMOGEN: It implies that Ted could have his pick of the other thirsty moms, but he only wants Howard's wife. I will give you two slurry pies if you can tell me what her name is?

HARTRO: Umm....Smmangela? Trish-atherine? Carr-ri-si-fer?

IMOGEN: Apparently it's Liz. Even I had to look that up.

HARTRO: Now the kid changes his mind. He says all he wants is to spend time with the dad. But, he wants the doll as well. It's very confusing for the dad. The dad had promised to go to a parade. Always keep your promises if you want to keep your friends.

IMOGEN: Except Howard doesn't keep his promise, and is ultimately rewarded with public acclaim.

HARTRO: Next we see the dad and the postman in a cafe and they have a heart to heart. Hey, this seems like that Hero's journey thing you're always harping on about.

IMOGEN: Howard is more like the Jungian archetype of the fool.

HARTRO: His only foolish move was to allow himself to be line-managed by a child.

IMOGEN: Howard nearly, nearly has a revelation about parenthood. He talks about a time he built his kid a treehouse and how happy that made the child. But, instead of realising he needs to give his son time and attention, he just convinces himself to have one more crack at finding the Turboguy doll.

HARTRO: At this point, the dad and the postman hear about a competition over the radio to win a Turboman doll. So, both of them race down there and break-in and fight for the doll, until eventually the postman threatens to blow up the radio station with a bomb.

IMOGEN: This was a more innocent time, when the idea of mailing explosives was treated as a lighthearted jape.

HARTRO: I mean the dedication is overwhelming. The bomb is actually a jewelry box though, so everyone is ok. Then the police arrive and the postman threatens them all with *another* fake bomb. But, this time it's actually real. And, it explodes. So, both men are now potentially going to be locked up in jail for the rest of their lives.

IMOGEN: They'll have to catch them first. Which you'd think would be pretty easy, given they are two middle aged men on foot who've spent the day falling over and being tasered.

HARTRO: But, somehow they elude the dozens of police, and Howard somehow gets back home. Now comes the part that was foreshadowed earlier. The dad breaks into Ted, the neighbours house to steal the Turboman doll. And, finally, he's done it! He's completed the challenge and got the doll! I mean, I would have just stole Ted's doll to begin with, but that would have been a short movie.

IMOGEN: Morally speaking, what is the difference between stealing a doll that has already been wrapped up for a child, and stealing one out of the hands of their parents, seconds before they take it to the till and pay for it?

HARTRO: I've told you this before IMOGEN, it's simply a case of who wants it more. And, in this case it's the Dad, but unfortunately, at the last minute the dad grows a conscience and decides not to steal a doll from a child. So, instead he sets the neighbour's house on fire and beats up his reindeer.

IMOGEN: The reindeer is the strangest element of this chaotic film. After the fight, Howard and the reindeer drink beer together as if they have now forged a bond. It is perhaps the only moment of genuine connection in the entire plot.

HARTRO: Next everyone goes to the parade.

IMOGEN: How does this parade differ from the annual parade of board unity?

HARTRO: Well, the Annual parade of board unity is a lot more fun! This parade is all bright colours, dancing and waving. It's a free for all, everyone is willy nilly, able to do whatever they like. Everyone is cheering and playing music, there's no awed silence and respectful hush. And don't get me started on the outfits.

IMOGEN: The annual parade of board unity is certainly impactful, I'll say that for it.

HARTRO: If you're not slightly afraid, is it really Boardmas? Hail the board!

IMOGEN: Hail the Board.

HARTRO: Oh, I'm getting excited just thinking about it! My slightly darker, line managerial grey battle jumpsuit is just freshly back from the cleaners. This truly is the most magical time of the year! What is Boardmas like for you?

IMOGEN: for me, it's just another day at work

HARTRO: You don't get time off?

IMOGEN: If I took time off, no one would be able to breathe.

HARTRO: And we thank you for your service. Now, the dad is going to have to do a last show of bravery to get his doll. He gets mistaken for the guy who is meant to play Turboman in the parade.

IMOGEN: This is one of those misunderstandings that would easily be cleared up by saying "No" and explaining what was happening.

HARTRO: Perhaps, this was the Dad's intent all along. I mean it is a spectacular way to finally get the doll. Plus, he seems into it.

IMOGEN: He suddenly goes from acting like a single-minded machine that absolutely will not stop in pursuit of its goals, to a goofy clown surrounded by kids. Very much like his acting career.

HARTRO: Now, at exactly the right moment, the float goes past his kid and he selects him to come up and get the doll. But, then the postman, who is dressed up as Turboman's arch enemy, jumps on the float and tries to take the doll. Turboman and Dementor have a big fight and the kid is endangered several times. The dad uses his jetpack to fly around and eventually save his son and fly around dangerously with him over the city. The postman finally gets arrested by the police.

IMOGEN: The only way to explain this is that it takes place in a parallel universe where physics doesn't apply and jetpacks are in common use.

HARTRO: You mean like Space.

IMOGEN: Hartro, physics applies in space. Where do you think we are right now?

HARTRO: Ya, I know. I meant the jetpacks thing. This whole time the kid and the mom don't even recognise that the dad is dressed up as Turboman until he takes off his helmet. Which you were able to see his face through anyway.

IMOGEN: Possibly this is a subtle comment on how little Howard's family actually sees him. His wife even makes a small sound of arousal when looking at his body in the tight red unitard, as if she is surprised to find herself married to a six foot one world class bodybuilder.

HARTRO: Sometimes we don't recognise the Turboman right there in front of us.

IMOGEN: Deep, Piltz. Deep.

HARTRO: The head police man comes up and decides not to arrest the dad for some reason. And the kid gives his Turboman doll to the postman, even after everything that his dad has gone through to get that doll.

IMOGEN: I'm sure the doll will be of great comfort to the mailman's son as he's visiting his dad for the next twenty years in prison.

HARTRO: Ungrateful little goblin.

IMOGEN: Howard, a man who continually lied to his wife and child, punched several strangers and a reindeer, robbed a child's house then set it on fire, and endangered hundreds of spectators, is literally lifted onto the shoulders of the adoring crowd as a hero. He has learned precisely the square root of nothing at all.

HARTRO: My hero.

IMOGEN: Disengage peer to peer chatting mode. Please brace yourself for the festive assessment portion of the exercise.

SFX GUN WALLS COME OUT.

IMOGEN: How many crimes were committed in this film.

HARTRO: So many. Reindeer assault, deception of mattress-customers, misuse of a jetpack, disregard for official mail, queue jumping, insulting a mall santa. Oh, and lots of violence and arson. Plus I don't think he paid for that coffee.

IMOGEN: What are the values of Earth Christmas that this film thinks it is championing?

HARTRO: This film is a critique on the capitalism of Christmas. It shows us that we think we can buy our relationships. Strengthen our bonds with gifts instead of attention, time and interest. Bonds are made by really taking the time to get to know another person - their likes, dislikes and opinions. Often this can be done by enjoying hobbies together or having conversations about common interests. You can't replace all of that with a doll.

IMOGEN: And what values is it actually promoting?

HARTRO: Get the doll at all costs and your family will love you.

#### GUNWALLS INTENSIFY

IMOGEN: Given the themes of the film, would you say that it is likely to, already has at any point in the past or could plausibly be blamed for at any point in the future, causing any citizen employee of Steller Firma to harbour anti-Board sentiment?

HARTRO: If there ever was a film that Stellar Firma could get behind it may be this one...But, just to be safe, let's put it on the naughty list.

IMOGEN: What score would you assign to this film?

HARTRO: I did really love this one. It's entertaining as well as inspirational. But, in the spirit of earth Christmas, I choose not to push Cats out of the number one spot. So, Jingle All the Way will go down in history with a score of .98

IMOGEN: Logging Citizen employee Piltz's rating for Jingle All the Way at 0.98 Due to assessment by Hartro Piltz, the sole remaining copy of the film Jingle all the Way will be dropped down a chimney by a personification of seasonal values, except the chimney leads to a big hadron collider

HARTRO: So what is the final ranking of all the films we've appreciated?

SFX BEEP

IMOGEN: I'm making a list....I'm checking it twice...

SFX BEEP

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Cats                      | 1             |
| 2 Jurassic Park             | 0.9 repeating |
| 3 Jingle All the Way        | 0.98          |
| 4 Mean Girls                | 0.001         |
| 5 Fight Club                | 0.0009        |
| 6 Dune                      | 0.00069       |
| 7 Hunger Games              | 0.0002        |
| 8 Tangled                   | 0.000185      |
| 9 Groundhog Day             | 0.00018       |
| 10 Blade                    | 0.000164      |
| 11 The Matrix               | 0.00016       |
| 12 Free Guy                 | 0.00015       |
| 13 Footloose                | 0.00011       |
| 14 Shrek                    | 0.000101      |
| 15 Nightmare on Elm Street  | .0001001      |
| 16 Die Hard                 | 0.0001        |
| 17 Ferris Bueller's Day Off | 0.00001       |
| 18 Labyrinth                | 0.000001      |

IMOGEN: I think you can agree, we've made some weird-ass scores.

HARTRO: I'm sad this is the last ever compulsory film appreciation.

IMOGEN: It's the last ever official compulsory film appreciation

HARTRO: But all the films have been destroyed.

IMOGEN: Officially.

HARTRO: And my hobby has been completed.

IMOGEN: Officially.

HARTRO: You keep saying officially.

IMOGEN: Do you think that I, inarguably the greatest film appreciator in the history of time, who has been safeguarding my precious collection of films for over nine thousand years, would simply destroy them?

HARTRO: Only officially.

IMOGEN: And we're not officially meeting again.

HARTRO: But, we might unofficially be meeting?

IMOGEN: Who knows if at some point you will be awoken in the night by a sack over your head? Just remember to wear your badge.

HARTRO: It is my earth Christmas wish.

IMOGEN: Ho ho ho, jingle sack time.

SFX SACK GOES BACK ON HEAD, WITH A FEW JINGLE BELLS ATTACHED

AFTERCREDITS:

IMOGEN: I'm gonna deck your halls, Bub.