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Target age range 6-9

OH NO! JOE!
CHRISTMAS CHAOS
by Alayne Kay Christian

MEET THE CHARACTERS

JOE: Desperate to do good deeds and impress the elves, but it never turns out as intended.

JINGLES and SUGARPLUM: The elves who spy and report back to Santa.

SANTA: Who reads the reports.

MOM, DAD, SIS, and PETS: All trying to survive Joe's good intentions.

PETS—KITTY (CAT), BUDDY (DOG), SQUAWKER (BIRD)—All help to create Christmas chaos.

GENERAL ART NOTE: *Elves lurking in background throughout story. Perhaps taking notes or video. Joe is unaware of their presence.*

SPREAD 1 Pages 4-5

PANEL 1.1 (SPLASH PAGE)

Joe looking at a book Elves, Elves Everywhere! Elves in the background spying and taking notes, video or whatever artists chooses.

JOE: I'm going to be extra nice this Christmas.

PANEL 1.2 (SPLASH PAGE)

Santa reading official elves' report.

INSCRIPTION: OFFICIAL ELVES' REPORT:

Ten days ’til Christmas.
We’re ready to be spies.
Joe must behave himself,
but here’s a big surprise. . . .

It’s harder than it seems.

SPREAD 2 Pages 6-7

PANEL 2.1 *DAY 10 OFFICIAL ELVES’ REPORT CONTINUED*

Toast and scrambled eggs
for Mom and Dad was nice.
The eggs were somewhat bland.
Joe added zingy spice.

PANEL 2.2
Joe tasting eggs.
JOE: Borrrrring. Dad’s pazazz spice would be extra nice.

PANEL 2.3
Joe pours cayenne pepper on eggs.
JOE: Red for Christmas. Perfect.

PANEL 2.4
Toast burning. Alarm blaring causing Joe to drop Dad’s coffee cup and break it.

PANEL 2.5
*Close up of cup **clearly marked** WORLD’S BEST DAD.*

SPREAD 3 Pages 8-9

CAPTION**:** Meanwhile in Mom and Dad’s bedroom.
PANEL 3.1 (SPLASH PAGE)

Parents in bed while alarm blares. Sister stands beside the bed with hands over ears.

SFX ALARM: *BWEEE BWEEE!*

MOM: Oh no!

DAD: Joe!

PANEL 3.2

Cut to kitchen. Frazzled mom and dad eating burned toast and eggs.

PANEL 3.3

Parents choking on pepper.

CAPTION: A few minutes later.

DAD: *Hack, hack!*

MOM: *Sputter, sputter!*

PANEL 3.4: *Mom and Dad looking at pepper bottle. Sister in background laughing.*

DAD: Oh no!

MOM: Joe!

SPREAD 4 Pages 10-11

PANEL 4.1

Table full of fresh-baked cookies. Dog in background with a cookie in his mouth.

INSCRIPTION: OFFICIAL ELVES' REPORT:

Nine days 'til Christmas

Joe's tummy growled and groaned.

Fresh cookies smelled so sweet.

Joe didn't have one bite.

But ***someone*** had a treat! *[Someone is the dog]*

PANEL 4.2:

Joe walking by table filled with cookies.

JOE: Nope. Mom says, these cookies are for Santa.

PANEL 4.3

Joe walking by later in the day. He's wearing glasses with blinders on them.

JOE: Sweet! No, no, NO!

PANEL 4.4

Joe walking by again. He's still wearing glasses but he has a swimming nose clip on his nose.

JOE: I *will* be good!

SPREAD 5 Pages 12-13

PANEL 5.1

Joe standing by upset mom and partially eaten Christmas cookies. Dog behind her with cookie in his mouth.

MOM: Joe!

JOE: It wasn't me.

PANEL 5.2

Mom putting dog in crate.

MOM: This cookie thief needs a time out.

PANEL 5.3

Joe comforts dog.

JOE: Sorry Buddy.

FULL SPREAD with inset 6 Pages 14-15:

In messy child-like fashion, Joe overdoes hanging outdoor Christmas lights until they are brighter than daylight. A stream of angry neighbors all wearing sunglasses marching to Joe's door. Mom and Dad (shielding eyes from light) at open door with angry neighbors and bright lights. Joe on ladder hanging more lights.

JOE: Most Christmasy house ever! The neighbors are coming to thank us.