

# The Chronicles Of Arnica extract

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*Suddenly we hear a loud booming voice through the PA.*

**Christmas** Who dares enter my secret grotto?!

**Asda** Argh!

**Sophie** It's okay Asda, it's just a voice.

**Asda** Gave me such a start.

**Mrs Dodo** Have a sit down Asda, would you like some spiced cider...?

**Christmas** Who is that? Who dares enter?

**Jess** My name is Jess, and this is Sophie.

**Mrs Dodo** They are both daughters of Susan oh great Father Christmas. My name is Mrs Dodo. I've written you letters many times. Mind you, so has my mother and she has the same name.

**Christmas** Silence! Is that Asda with you.

**Asda** Oh hello Father Christmas. You alright?

**Christmas** Yes thanks, bit of a busy day. You know, Christmas and all that.

**Asda** I understand. We don't mean to bother you really. We can come back another day.

**Sophie** No... go on Asda...

**Jess** What Asda means to say is. We want your help to defeat the Wicked White Witch Queen.

**Christmas** Defeat her? Why would you want to defeat her? She is a very... a very nice woman.

**Mrs Dodo** Nice?

**Sophie** What do you mean?

**Jess** Why would you say that?

**Christmas** I'm telling you why. Because I, more than any, know when people have been bad or good. And she's been good.

**Asda** Are you sure?

**Christmas** Well I've checked twice.

*Sophie spots something off-stage. And whispers to Jess. Sophie then goes to the back of the stage and creeps along towards the thing she pointed at.*

**Jess** (*Bluffing*) I guess we better be going then.

**Christmas** Yes, leave me, I have much to do.

**Asda** Sorry about this guys. But we can't say we didn't try. Maybe we could try keeping our heads down and hope things improve?

**Mrs Dodo** How can you say that Asda?

*The others go to leave but Sophie continues sneaking towards the edge of the stage.*

**Christmas** What are you doing? Pay no attention to the funny looking man in the corner with the Christmas hat and microphone.

*Sophie dashes off-stage, grabs Father Christmas and drags him on stage. He wears a Christmas hat and holds a microphone.*

**Sophie** Ha! – got you.

**Mrs Dodo** Who's that.

**Jess** I believe this is Father Christmas.

**Christmas** (*Still speaking into the microphone*) Yes hello everyone, nice to meet you.

**Mrs Dodo** Well he's not a bit how I pictured him.

**Jess** What are you doing hiding in the corner?

**Christmas** I didn't want anyone to see me.

- Sophie** I think you can stop using the microphone now.
- Christmas** Sorry.
- Asda** Father Christmas. Why on earth would you be hiding? Were you scared? I'd understand that.
- Christmas** Why am I hiding? Well because I have to.
- Sophie** You have to?
- Christmas** It's the Wicked White Witch Queen's orders. No one is allowed to see me.
- Mrs Dodo** But you're Father Christmas – you bring Christmas. Every day!
- Christmas** Not anymore I don't. Not since the She took over. She'd worked in my distribution office to start with, in order to gain popularity from all the animals but then she wanted to make Christmas every day. I said no, and she locked me in here and threatened to turn me into a toy if I ever told anyone.
- Mrs Dodo** So all those stories about you on TV?
- Christmas** She makes them up. It's just to please everyone. I hate what she's done with Christmas. Making it every day has ruined the fun of it completely!
- Jess** But why did she do that?
- Christmas** It's simple. Everyone is so busy celebrating Christmas now, they don't have time to notice what she's done to this fine land. They don't have time to build an army.
- Mrs Dodo** He's right. Just putting up all the decorations and then taking them down and putting them up again each day tires me out.
- Asda** So what you're saying, Father Christmas, is there isn't much we can do. We should just try and live with it and maybe write a strongly worded letter.
- Christmas** Not at all. Now you four have seen me it's too late. It's all set in motion. Are you two humans?
- Sophie** We are.
- Mrs Dodo** Daughters of Sally.
- Christmas** Well then we must rise up and fight. This Wicked White Witch has been naughty not nice. It's time we gave her a lump of coal.

- Mrs Dodo** Oh I knew we could count on you really Father Christmas!
- Asda** Well sure, I mean if you want to get violent. I guess we can do that as well.
- Jess** We must gather all the willing animals, rescue Matthew, find Georgie and then take on the Wicked White Witch Queen. There's no time to lose. Sophie and I will lead.
- Sophie** Will we?
- Jess** Yes we will.
- Asda** I'm sorry Daughters of Sally. You're bravery is very noble but I'm afraid the law of the land makes clear that women are not allowed to fight. It is too dangerous.
- Mrs Dodo** That's a good point.
- Sophie** Women aren't allowed to fight?
- Christmas** I'm afraid not oh Daughters of Sally.
- Jess** Well the only male members of our party are Matthew, who's defected to the Wicked White Witch Queen, and Asda, who is terrified of his own shadow. So I think it might be about time to change that old law of yours and accept that we're your only hope.
- Christmas** Well... okay. As it is Christmas.