

MARY

We were always able to speak with Warden Franklin any time. He was always interested in the shelter. He would even help us set up summer programs for the kids.

KATE

It's too bad he retired.

SANTA

What about the new warden?

MARY

We don't even know who he is. Like I said, we can't even get him on the phone.

They exit. Five children sneak in. They are TOMMY, BILLY, HOLLY, JILL and SKEETER. Tommy, about 11 years old, is the ringleader. Billy, Holly and Jill are younger by a year or two. Skeeter, is the youngest. About 6 years old. They peer in to see if the adults have left.

TOMMY

(making sure the coast is clear)  
Come on. They're gone.

The other kids follow in tentatively. Holly is holding Skeeter's hand.

JILL

Do you really think we should give everything away, Tommy?

TOMMY

Sure we're going to everything away. It's Christmas, isn't it?

BILLY

But, won't Kate and Mary notice the missing food?

TOMMY

They've never noticed before, right? Why should it be any different now? And besides, what can they do to us if they catch us, send us to a children's shelter?

BILLY

Funny.

TOMMY

Anyway, look what we have going for us.

HOLLY

Nothing.

TOMMY

Wrong. We may not have parents, but we have each other. And Kate and Mary do their best to take care of us. At least we have a place to live and food to eat. Some people wish they had it so good.

HOLLY

Yea, I guess. But sometimes...

TOMMY

Sometimes it gets to you. I know. It gets to me too. It gets to all of us.

SKEETER

Me too.

TOMMY

Look at it this way.

NO. 9 - "YA GOTTA GIVE"

TOMMY (cont'd)

YOU THINK YOU GOT IT ROUGH?  
YOU THINK YOU GOT IT BAD?  
WELL WE GOT MORE IN THIS HERE DUMP  
THAN SOME KIDS EVER HAD.

HOLLY

YOU THINK WE GOT IT TOUGH?  
YOU THINK YOUR LIFE'S A DRAG?  
SOME PEOPLE LIVE THEIR WHOLE DARN LIFE  
OUT OF A PAPER BAG.

JILL

IT AIN'T A BAD DEAL  
THE WAY WE ENDED UP.

TOMMY

THERE'S OTHER KIDS EVERYWHERE  
WHO DON'T EVEN GET A MEAL.  
SO WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO?

BILLY

AIN'T NO REASON TO BROOD.

HOLLY  
CAN'T SIT AROUND AND POUT.

TOMMY  
I'LL TELL YA WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE UNTIL IT HURTS.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE.  
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.  
DON'T WASTE YOU TIME SINGIN' JINGLE BELLS.

ALL (V.O.)  
JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS,  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY.

TOMMY  
DON'T WISH FOR A SNOW WHITE CHRISTMAS DAY.

ALL (V.O.)  
DON'T BE DREAMIN' OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS.

TOMMY  
DON'T MAKE OUT A LIST.  
DON'T WAIT BY THE MISTLETOE TO BE KISSED.  
THERE AIN'T NO FUN  
'TILL YOU GIVE SOME STUFF AWAY.

SKEETER  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE UNTIL IT HURTS.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE.  
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

ALL (V.O.)  
YA GOTTA GIVE IT AWAY.  
DON'T BE A SCROOGE TO ME.  
NOW YOU'RE LIVIN'.  
WAH, WAH. DO, WAH, WAH.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

They dance.

TOMMY  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME.  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE UNTIL IT "HOITS".  
YA GOTTA GIVE, GIVE, GIVE.