

# Once on a Housetop

## SONG – ONCE ON A HOUSETOP

SPEAKER 1: (coughing) Wow! It is so smoky in here. I can hardly breathe!

SPEAKER 2: (choking) I can hardly see my hand in front of my eyes!

SPEAKER 3: Every time we light a fire in that fireplace, this whole house gets filled up with smoke.

SPEAKER 4: No kidding! It's like living in an ash tray.

SPEAKER 5: I think it's time to get that chimney cleaned out.

SPEAKER 6: Somebody call that chimney cleaning company and see if they can come out today.

ALL SPEAKERS: Hey, Chimney Sweeps!

SPEAKER 7: Maybe they'll give us a deal if they can clean all the chimneys in the neighborhood.

## SONG: ASHES TO ASHES

BIG SWEEP: Attention Sweeps! Brooms up! Shoulders down! Stomachs in! Look sharp now! We've got a soiled... Oops, I mean solid reputation to uphold here. Now, who are we?

ALL SWEEPS: Sweeps, sir!

BIG SWEEP: And what do we do?

ALL SWEEPS: Sweep, sir!

BIG SWEEP: And what do we sweep? (All the Sweeps look at each other, scratching their heads and shrugging as if they have no idea. Some ad lib lines: "Beats me." "I don't know?" etc. BIG SWEEP is exasperated.) Chimneys! You turkeys! We sweep chimneys!

ALL SWEEPS: Oh yeah, that's right. We sweep chimneys, sir!

BIG SWEEP: We do? I mean, that's right. We do. That's right. We sweep chimneys. (He looks in a chimney.) They sent us here to clean a whole neighborhood of dirty, sooty chimneys. And by the looks of things, this must be the place. I've never seen such a bunch of clogged up chimneys in my entire career.

ASH CAN: Me neither. We better get to work or these people are going to have some smoky surprises for their holidays.

SWEEPSTAKES: And we don't mean smoked sausages.

BIG SWEEP: Now, let's spread out and get to work. Let's make this the best holiday these folks have ever had by making sure their chimneys are safe, sound, and sanitary. (Huddle) One, two, three...

ALL SWEEPS: Go Sweeps! (The Sweeps spread out. Cobweb and Sooty go to the center chimney, but Cobweb can't get in.)

COBWEB: This is the most clogged up chimney I've ever tried to clean. I can't even get down far enough to get a good look at it.

SOOTY: Here, let me try. I've never seen a chimney I couldn't conquer. (Cobweb climbs out, and Sooty stomps on the chimney.)

SANTA: (Voice from the chimney) Ouch! Ho! Ho! Ho!

SOOTY: (to Cobweb) What happened? Did you hurt yourself?

COBWEB: (Confused) I didn't say anything. (Sooty stomps again.)

SANTA: (Louder voice from the chimney) Ouch! Ho! Ho! Ho!

SOOTY: (to Cobweb) What's the matter with you? Why do you keep saying ouch and laughing?

COBWEB: I didn't say anything. It came from in there. (Cobweb points to the chimney. Sooty stomps again.)

SANTA: (Voice from the chimney) Ouch! Ho! Ho! Ho! (They look down the chimney and then scream like "Home Alone.")

COBWEB and SOOTY: Ahhhhhh!

### **SONG: A BIG RED FELLA IN THE CHIMNEY**

SANTA: Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas, everybody!

COBWEB and SOOTY: It's Santa Claus!

SANTA: Of course! Who did you expect? Mary Poppins? Ho! Ho! Ho!

ASH CAN: Hey, Santa. What were you doing halfway down that chimney?

SANTA: I was trying to deliver presents to that wonderful family down there, but halfway down, I'm afraid I got stuck. I guess I've been enjoying a few too many of Mrs. Claus' Christmas cookies. Ho! Ho! Ho!

SWEEPY: Maybe this year, you'd better just use the door instead of the chimney, Santa.

BIG SWEEP: (Sarcastically) Yeah right. Santa coming through the front door. That's festive. Don't worry, Santa. You haven't gained too much weight. This chimney is so full of carbon and cobwebs that nobody

could fit down it. Nobody, that is, except professional Chimney Sweeps like us. Sweeps, ten hut! (The Sweeps stand at attention.) Little Ash, do your thing. (Little Ash jumps into the chimney and throws out objects.)

LITTLE ASH: All finished, sir! Clean as a whistle! There's plenty of room for you now, Mr. Claus!

SANTA: Ho! Ho! Ho! Thank you ever so much for all your help. Now I can deliver my presents and be on my way. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good (Santa falls into the chimney.) niiaiiiiight!

(At another chimney, FLUEY is calling to the others to come have a look at a little girl who is sitting alone and crying.0

FLUEY: Hey Sweepstakes, come over here and have a look at this!

SWEEPSTAKES: What is it, Fluey?

FLUEY: Look down there. I've never seen such a sad little girl in my whole life.

SWEEPSTAKES: What do you think is the problem?

FLUEY: Sadness, Sweepstakes. Simply sadness.

SWEEPSTAKES: Oh, how awful. And right in the middle of the holidays.

FLUEY: We can't just stand here. We've got to do something about it. (All the SWEEPS gather to listen.)

KWANZAA CHILD: (aloud to herself) I've had a very bad year. I don't even deserve to celebrate Kwanzaa with the rest of my family.

SWEEPSTAKES: Wow! What could she have done that was so terrible?

ALL SWEEPS: Shhh!

KWANZAA CHILD: I could list a million things I did wrong this year, and still not list them all. I deserve to be left out of the Kwanzaa festivities now and forever.

SMOLDER: A million things is a LOT! But she doesn't look like she could ever be that bad.

SOOTY: No way. In fact, I think she looks adorable.

SWEEPSTAKES: Doesn't that little girl know that Kwanzaa is a holiday that helps us celebrate all the wonderful things in our lives?

SOOTY: Yeah, like family and friends...

SMOLDER: Faith and creativity...

BRICKETTE: Unity and purpose!

FLUEY: Not only that, but Kwanzaa is a time for new ideas, new dreams, a fresh start!

SOOTY: Well, what are we going to do about it, Sweeps?

FLUEY: Quiet, give me a moment to think.

FLUEY: I've got it!

ALL SWEEPS: She's got it!

FLUEY: We've got to convince this little girl that every year during Kwanzaa, we can start all over again. We celebrate our past and look forward to our future. This little girl needs to believe that she deserves that chance, too.

ALL SWEEPS: And?

FLUEY: Come on, Sweeps. Gather around the chimney. We've got a message to deliver. (calling down the chimney) Yoo hoo! Little sad girl. Yoo hoo! (KWANZAA CHILD looks up.)

ALL SWEEPS: Yoo hoo! (KWANZAA CHILD sits next to the fireplace and listens.)

**SONG: KWANZAA**

BIG SWEEP: Okay, Sweeps. Good work. Now take a good long lunch break. About three minutes or so.

COBWEB: Get over here, Sweeps. We've got an emergency!

BIG SWEEP: What is it now?

COBWEB: Poor family, boss. Mighty poor. So poor they don't have the ingredients for latkes.

ASH CAN: Latkes? You mean those yummy potato pancakes?

SHINGLES: No latkes? That is an emergency.

COBWEB: That's right, Shingles. No latkes for Hanukkah.

(Scene inside a home)

CHILD 1: Daddy! Mommy! Is it time to make the latkes?

FATHER: I am sorry, children. We don't have enough money this year to buy all the ingredients to make latkes.

MOTHER: We will have to celebrate our Hanukkah without latkes this year.

CHILD 2: No latkes?

CHILD 1: It's okay, Daddy. We can still have a good time together, even without latkes.

CHILD 2: Yeah, I don't like those old potato pancakes anyway, not much.

MOTHER: We are sorry, children.

FATHER: Yes, children we are so very sorry.

BIG SWEEP: Sweeps! Stop eating immediately! (The Sweeps stops eating mid-chew.) Ten hut! (They all stand at attention.) What does it take to make a potato pancake anyway?

SWEEPY: (holds up a potato) Well, I think a good place to start is with potatoes! Let's toss some down the chimney. (BIG SWEEP tosses the potato down the chimney. CHILD 1 sees it.)

CHILD 1: Look, Daddy! Potatoes!

FATHER: How can this be?

BIG SWEEP: Now, what else?

SWEEPY: Some onions would be nice. (The onions are dropped down the chimney. CHILD 2 gets them.)

CHILD 2: Look, Mother! Onions!

MOTHER: Just what we need for latkes!

FATHER: How is this possible?

SWEEPY: Some flour!

BIG SWEEP: Dump it! (MOTHER gets a bowl and collects the items.)

SWEEPSTAKES: Salt!

SHINGLES: Parsley!

LITTLE ASH: Lemon juice!

FLUEY: Vegetable oil!

BRICKETTE: How about a carrot?

BIG SWEEP: Why not?

SMOLDER: And eggs!

ALL SWEEPS: Oooooo!

BIG SWEEP: Is that it?

ALL SWEEPS: That's it!

FATHER: That's it!

MOTHER: I have everything I need to make latkes.

CHILDREN: Hooray! Latkes!

BIG SWEEP: Latkes for everyone!

**SONG: LOTSA LATKES**

SHINGLES: Hey, you guys! Come over here! I'm seeing the most miraculous thing.

ASH CAN: Get off that roof, Shingles! We don't have to sweep the chimneys on the stables, too.

SHINGLES: No, really. You've got to see what I see down there.

ALL SWEEPS: Ah, it's a baby!

**SONG: JUST A TINY BABY** (Enter Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Men, and sheep)

(After the song, a Sweep drops a broom down the chimney.)

SHEPHERD 1: What was that?

SHEPHERD 2: (holds up the broom) Myrrh!

WISE MEN: Ahhhh!

ANGEL 1: Hello, Sweeps. What are you all looking at?

SWEEPS: Ahhh!

ANGEL 1: I hope I'm not too late to see the baby.

LITTLE ASH: Are you really an angel?

ANGEL 1: I'm not the fairy godmother. Who are you, small fry?

BRICKETTE: She's not a small fry. She's Little Ash.

LITTLE ASH: I'm a chimney sweep.

ANGEL 1: So you are! And you are most definitely in need of a bath.

ANGEL 2: We just got a distress call from a kid who says she's having a piñata problem.

ANGEL 1: Sounds serious.

ANGEL 2: Do you Sweeps know anything about piñatas?

SMOLDER: No sir, Angels, we don't know anything about piñatas.

SWEEPY: They probably have something to do with all the holiday celebrations going on around here.

ANGEL 2: This sounds pretty serious. It seems there is a piñata party going on at one of the houses in this neighborhood. And one small child is very unhappy because she can't seem to ever break the piñata.

COBWEB: How sad. All that candy stuck inside.

BIG SWEEP: So, angels, how can we help?

ANGEL 2: Well, you can help me find the right house,

ANGEL 1: Yes, then we can help make that little senorita's holiday party a little more fun.

COBWEB: And we can help get all that delicious candy out.

SOOTY: And maybe some toys, too.

BIG SWEEP: You came to the right place, ladies, I mean, angels. Sweeps, Ten Hut! (The Sweeps line up at attention.) I want you all to spread out. Search every chimney and find that piñata party! We'll find that little girl or my name's not Big Sweep. Ready, Sweeps. Move!

(The Revelers enter. One small girl is blindfolded. A taller girl is holding a piñata on a stick.)

REVELERS: Break it! Break it! Break it!

SOOTY: Hey, boss, I think we found the place right over here!

REVELERS: Break it! Break it! Break it!

ASH CAN: It's obvious that the problem is not that the girl isn't tall!

SMOLDER: Not at all! The stick she is using is too small!

### **SONG: BREAK THE PINATA**

ASH CAN: Wow! I never realized there were so many ways to celebrate the season.

ANGEL 1: From the little baby born in a stable to the Kwanzaa celebration of new ideas...

BIG SWEEP: From the beautiful candles of the Hanukkah season to the piñatas of Las Posadas...

LITTLE ASH: And don't forget that big red fella in the chimney!

ANGEL 2: All around your neighborhood

ANGEL 1: and all around the world,

ANGEL 2: people use this time of year to get together with family and friends,

ANGEL 1: share the bounties of the earth with each other,

ANGEL 2: and get a new lease on life.

SOOTY: It's like a breath of fresh air!

COBWEB: Sure, now that we've cleaned out all those chimneys.

BIG SWEEP: And this year we all helped make everybody's holiday a little bit better.

LITTLE ASH: That's because we're "ashes to ashes and dust to dust!"

ALL SWEEPS: Ashes to ashes and dust to dust!

ASH CAN: And it was so easy.

ANGEL 1: Amen, brother.

ANGEL 2: Sometimes miracles happen in the smallest and most unassuming places.

BRICKETTE: Like here, on these housetops.

ANGEL 1: Like here, in these homes!

ANGEL 2: Happy holidays everyone!

SANTA: Ho! Ho! Ho!

ALL: Happy holidays!

**SONG: ONCE ON A HOUSETOP**