

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

"CHRIS-MAS SPECIAL"

Written by

Ellie Martino

Previously on WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS**:

Vampires and housemates Nandor, Nadja, and Lazlo have been playing host to the terrifying Baron Afanas for several weeks. Over time, their revered admiration for the Baron has waned as they have discovered that he is actually sort of a dick and a pretty annoying houseguest. Despite their annoyance, they must continue to keep the Baron happy and or they will likely be killed (again).

With the help of Nandor's trusty familiar (and vampire wannabe) Guillermo and the *anti*-help of their energy vampire roommate Colin, the vampires must make it appear as though they have toototally already conquered the New World, when in reality they have conquered *maybe* two streets of Staten Island.

*** As this show is only semi-serialized and features several one-off episodes such as this one, this episode can take place any time between Episodes 1-6 of Season 1, while the Baron is still alive (R.I.P. Episode 6 Baron, if only I could warn you).*

*

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS, STATEN ISLAND - LATE EVENING

Snow falls. NANDOR THE RELENTLESS (bearded vampire, heavy Middle Eastern accent) walks around his Staten Island neighborhood. He is followed by his familiar, GUILLERMO (Latino, human).

GUILLERMO

We should head back soon, master.

NANDOR

Guillermo, has anyone told you that you are a nag?

GUILLERMO

No, master.

NANDOR

You are a nag.

GUILLERMO

I'm just trying to keep you safe.

NANDOR

I am literally invincible. I regularly kill people with my bare hands. Look at your hands. They are sad pancakes. "Oh, I am Guillermo, I punch you with my sad pancake hands. Pleh! So scary!" That was you. But you are not scary.

GUILLERMO

Yes, master.

NANDOR

You would be very easy to kill.

GUILLERMO

...Thank you, master. I really think we should-

NANDOR

Enough with the naggy nag! I tell you that NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN.

On cue, BAM! The neighborhood is lit with CHRISTMAS LIGHTS and DECORATIONS. A CHOIR sings a frantic "Carol of the Bells" as we see POPS of decorative CROSSES, inflatable nativity scenes, lights that spell CHRISTMAS.

It's a cacophony of Christian symbolism - a vampire's worst nightmare! Nandor hisses and covers his ears, in great pain!

NANDOR (CONT'D)
AAAAAAGGHHHH!

INT. NANDOR TALKING HEAD - NIGHT

Nandor, comfortable at home, addresses camera calmly.

NANDOR (CONT'D)
You could say this is a difficult
time of year for vampires.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS, STATEN ISLAND - (SAME)

Nandor rolls on the ground, still screaming. Guillermo watches him, frozen, no idea what to do.

NANDOR
My EYES!

INT. NANDOR TALKING HEAD - SAME

NANDOR
There are many lights, crosses, many
religious symbols. The whole month
of December is very trying. You
know, with-
(trying to not say it)
Crees- Chis- Chis-nast. Chin-mees.
Chimneys.
(off camera crew)
No, I can say it. It is not a big
deal.
(with pain)
Chris*mas.

As he says the full word, a small HISS of smoke comes out of his mouth on the "T."

NANDOR (CONT'D)
Hmm. Tingly.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS (SAME)

Nandor rolls on the ground. His eyes and ears are bleeding.

NANDOR
Make it stop!

Guillermo grabs a SANTA HAT off of a nearby SNOWMAN and pulls it over Nandor's eyes and ears. Nandor stumbles blindly.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Why did you insist we go out? I'm going home!

POOF! Nandor turns into a bat and flies off, tiny Santa hat on his bat head. We follow Guillermo as he walks home. He takes in the Christmas lights.

GUILLERMO (V.O.)

I grew up Catholic and Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. Of course, when I become a vampire, I'll have to give it up.

EXT. GUILLERMO TALKING HEAD

Guillermo talks to camera, decorated neighborhood behind him.

GUILLERMO

But then I think about being able to turn into a bat and it's like-
(raising one hand)
Christmas?
(raises other hand higher)
Turning into a bat.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS (SAME)

Guillermo does some swishy walks, swinging his arms like wings.

GUILLERMO (V.O.)

Bats always win. They're such graceful creatures.

Behind him, we see Nandor-Bat CRASH into a rooftop display and fall down a chimney. Guillermo continues on his merry way.

Through the window, we see now-human Nandor crash land into the fireplace. He stands, takes in his surroundings. Nandor's hair and beard are now white with ash and he still wears the Santa hat. He looks like Santa, guys. A crowd of CHILDREN cheer.

CHILDREN

Santa!

Nandor looks out the window at the camera. "You're Dead" by Norma Tanega plays as we SMASH TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back at the Vampire House, LAZLO (English vampire) and NADJA (Romani vampire with heavy accent, married to Lazlo) watch THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS on TV, bored out of their minds. Nadja hums along.

VOICE (FROM TV)

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch-

LAZLO

He's the Grinch, but now they're calling him Mr. Grinch. Is Grinch a given name or a surname? This doesn't make any sense.

NADJA

Sure it does.

(singing off-key)

Bad nanana with a greasy blah eeeeeel.

Lazlo gives a growl of annoyance.

INT. LAZLO & NADJA TALKING HEADS

Lazlo and Nadja address camera, in their usual fancy outfits.

NADJA

Yes, tensions are a little high this time of year.

LAZLO

It should be an amazing time, cold weather, long nights, but no.

MONTAGE of historical illustrations of crosses, vampires burning, eyes bleeding, nuns tearing out organs, etc.

NADJA (V.O.)

Vampires do not do well with religious holidays. They tend to end with burnt skin, bleeding eyes, intestines turned to mold.

END MONTAGE. Back to talking heads.

LAZLO

I walked under some mistletoe once and I got a rash on my asshole so bad, I couldn't shit for a week.

NADJA

I put the asshole cream on him and
he scream like little boy in
holiday movie who lose his parents.

She does a little "Home Alone" gesture. Lazlo isn't pleased.

LAZLO

Suffice to say, we will be staying
inside this season. Self-isolation
is the only option.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Lazlo and Nadja continue watching THE GRINCH.

LAZLO

It's clearly a species! He is A
grinch. But you still don't address
anyone that way. I don't see the
raven from across the street and
call him Mr. Raven. I call him
Jermaine, because that's his name.

NADJA

That is a stupid name.

LAZLO

I know!

BARON (O.S.)

What are you watching?

Reveal BARON AFANAS (Ancient vampire, disgusting to look at),
standing behind them. Lazlo and Nadja jump and turn off the TV.

NADJA

Nothing!

BARON

I will join.

He squeezes between them on the couch. They exchange a look.

INT. LAZLO & NADJA TALKING HEADS

NADJA

We are also still hosting the Baron
at our house.

LAZLO

It is an honor. Of course.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

LAZLO

We were actually just about to turn in for the night.

BARON

Pussies. It is barely midnight. We must go out!

NADJA & LAZLO

NO!

INT. LAZLO & NADJA TALKING HEADS

LAZLO

You see, The Baron doesn't know that "you-know-what" is still a holiday here. He expects that we have conquered all of the New World.

NADJA

Which we still have not done.

LAZLO

I'd say we're about thirty-two percent there?

NADJA

Percents, really? We have conquered it or we have not. And we have not.

LAZLO

And if the Baron finds out, he will certainly kill us.

NADJA

Oh, yes. A hundred percents.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

LAZLO

I know! Let us play a game.

BARON

Stab the Shopkeeper?

LAZLO

No.

BARON

Disembowel the Shopkeeper?

LAZLO

No.

BARON

Ah. Burn the Shopkeeper Alive.

LAZLO

I was thinking more like Bridge.

BARON

Is it like Burn the Shopkeeper Alive?

LAZLO

In some ways.

BARON

Teach me.

NADJA

Lazlo, we need four for bridge.

LAZLO

Yes, you, me, the Baron, and
Nandor. Say, where is Nandor?

INT. CHRISTMAS PARTY LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

At the Christmas party, Nandor sits, stiff as a board, as a TODDLER sits on his lap, poking his face with a candy cane.

NANDOR (V.O.)

I am at a human holiday festival. I
seem to be utterly powerless.

Nandor tries to bite the toddler's hand, but she just moves it and giggles. He almost gets a bite, but the toddler's MOTHER leans down to pick her up.

MOTHER

That's enough time with Santa, Kimmi.

Mother's CROSS NECKLACE dangles in Nandor's face. He HISSES.

INT. NANDOR TALKING HEAD

Nandor stands in front of the fireplace at the party.

NANDOR

It is an abomination. I am surrounded
by crosses and sticky children and-
(noticing garlands)
Oh, look at this.

(MORE)

NANDOR (CONT'D)

They have displayed their sex beads
above their hearth. I like this. This
is cute.

INT. CHRISTMAS PARTY LIVING ROOM - SAME

A PARENT hoists a LITTLE BOY onto Nandor's lap.

NANDOR

Gah! What do you want?

PARENT

Jason, tell Santa what you want.

LITTLE BOY

I want a Xbox.

NANDOR

Little boy, you do not want an Ex Box.

LITTLE BOY

I want a Xbox.

NANDOR

I used to have an Ex Box, where I
imprisoned all of my ex-wives, but
they found the hidden key and
climbed out and killed me with a
thousand knives.

The Parent quickly removes the Boy from Nandor's lap.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

(to himself)

I probably should not have hidden
the key inside of the Ex Box...

The HOST of the party pulls Nandor aside.

HOST

Thanks again for coming on such short
notice. The chimney thing- total hit.
Liability waiver covers that, right?
Cuz MAN that looked painful.

NANDOR

I feel no pain.

HOST

I like your style! Hey, we're doing
the gift exchange now, before the
big feast. You good to go?

NANDOR

Yes I would like to go.

HOST

Awesome. Bacon-wrapped fig?

He hands Nandor a tray and walks away. Hundreds of toothpicks (aka, tiny wooden stakes) are now INCHES from Nandor's eyes. Nandor HISSES and falls to the ground, tray goes flying.

INT. VAMPIRE HOUSE - LATER

Nadja, Lazlo, and the Baron play bridge.

NADJA

Three spades. Your bid.

COLIN (O.S.)

Okay, now Spades, as we know, is a major suit-

Reveal COLIN ROBINSON (Energy Vampire) is playing too.

COLIN (CONT'D)

-But in Hearts, you try to avoid tricks with spades, because you could get the queen, worth thirteen points, which is bad, unless you're shooting the moon, in which case, you'd want to acquire all of the spades. Then spades are good. ...But we're not playing hearts, soooo-

Everyone is slumped, eyes glazed over. Finally:

BARON

Enough! I am hungry. Let us hunt.

NADJA

Oh no, we cannot hunt.

BARON

Why not?

NADJA

We have ordered delivery.

BARON

We had delivery last night.

The doorbell RINGS.

NADJA

Ah, food is here! It is Tex Mex.
Your favorite!

The Baron GRUMBLES, but follows her to the foyer.

EXT. VAMPIRE HOUSE - NIGHT (SAME)

A DELIVERY GUY stands outside. The door opens a crack.

DELIVERY GUY

Fajita Fiesta platter for "Nad-jay"?

Delivery Guy is yanked inside. We hear SCREAMS and GOBBLING.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lazlo, Nadja, and Baron lounge, blood all over their faces.

BARON

You were right. I do love Tex Mex.

Guillermo enters, stepping over Delivery Guy entrails.

GUILLERMO

Is Nandor back yet?

LAZLO

I thought he was with you.

GUILLERMO

He was, but he sort of took off-

LAZLO

You lost your master. Great job.

BARON

Let us search for him!

LAZLO

NO! This was Gizmo's duty and he failed. He must suffer the consequences.

BARON

I love consequences! Can we do Pin the Tail on the Familiar?

LAZLO

You know it, my good man.

The Baron CHEERS, Guillermo looks to camera. *Gulp*

INT. CHRISTMAS PARTY LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Nandor passes out gifts at the party.

NANDOR

And this one is for Melanie.

A middle-aged aunt, MELANIE, takes the gift.

MELANIE

I think I know who this is from.
Carrooooooolllll?

She unwraps a KNITTED SWEATER with a PAPAYA sewn on it.
Another middle-aged aunt, CAROL, pipes up.

CAROL

You're always saying how you love
papaya, so I put it on a sweater!

The aunts SQUEAL and hug. Nandor observes, intrigued.

NANDOR (V.O.)

So they give each other gifts, but
the givers are a secret!

Melanie puts on the sweater and shows it off. The party
claps. Nandor claps too, delighted!

INT. NANDOR TALKING HEAD

NANDOR

I had no idea Chreesnast was so
pleasant. It reminds me of the
parties in my village. We would
exchange prisoners of war and take
turns decapitating them.
Decapitation parties were very big
in the 1320's. Decapitation parties
and very big hats.

INT. CHRISTMAS PARTY DINING ROOM - LATER

The family sits down to a huge Christmas dinner.

HOST

Before we eat, let's give a big
toast to Santa!

The party CHEERS for Nandor, who revels in the attention.

NANDOR (V.O.)
I do find the concept of Santa to
be very interesting.

INT. NANDOR TALKING HEAD

NANDOR
This man flies around to people's
houses in the night and is revered
by all. He is clearly a vampire.
(off camera guys)
What!? It makes sense!

INT. CHRISTMAS PARTY LIVING ROOM - LATER

Dancing! Music! Nandor is the life of the party.

GUESTS
Go Santa! Go Santa!

NANDOR (V.O.)
This holiday, it grows on me.

Nandor busts his moves. Nandor cries out in full ecstasy.

NANDOR
I LOVE CHRIS*MAS!

A HUGE FLAME bursts from Nandor's mouth. The music screeches
to a halt. All stare at Nandor for a long, awkward beat.
Suddenly, a GUY DRESSED AS SANTA comes through the front door.

GUY DRESSED AS SANTA
Ho-ho-ho! Santa's here!

The guests look from the Santa they hired back to Nandor,
clearly an imposter.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

NANDOR
(to camera)
I ate the Santa. ...Okay, yes, and
the other guests. I must say, their
blood was great. Minty.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Guillermo stands against a wall, covered in pins. The Baron
charges, pinning a tail inches from Guillermo's face.

BARON

I am champion!

GUILLERMO

Shouldn't we give the Baron's
familiar a turn?

THE BARON'S FAMILIAR (dour old lady) gives her usual scowl.
Nandor stomps in, pumped up!

NANDOR

Everybody gather! Gather!

LAZLO

We are gathered, old chap.

NANDOR

Can I have your attention please?

NADJA

Why you do that? You stomp in very
loud and then you shout at us, so
we are obviously going to pay
attention to you, but then you ask
us to pay attention again anyway.
It's just redundant, is all.

LAZLO

It's been a long night.

GUILLERMO

(re: his pin-covered body)
For some, longer than others.

NANDOR

Everyone shut up. I have big
announcement to make! Are we ready?
(beat)
Are we ready?

NADJA

Yes! We are ready! Geez, this guy.

NANDOR

I have decided that we are going to
have...a CHRIS*MAS PARTY!

BARON (O.S.)

A what?

Reveal the Baron, standing in the corner.

END ACT ONE.

[SAMPLE]

**[REMAINING PAGES
OMITTED]**