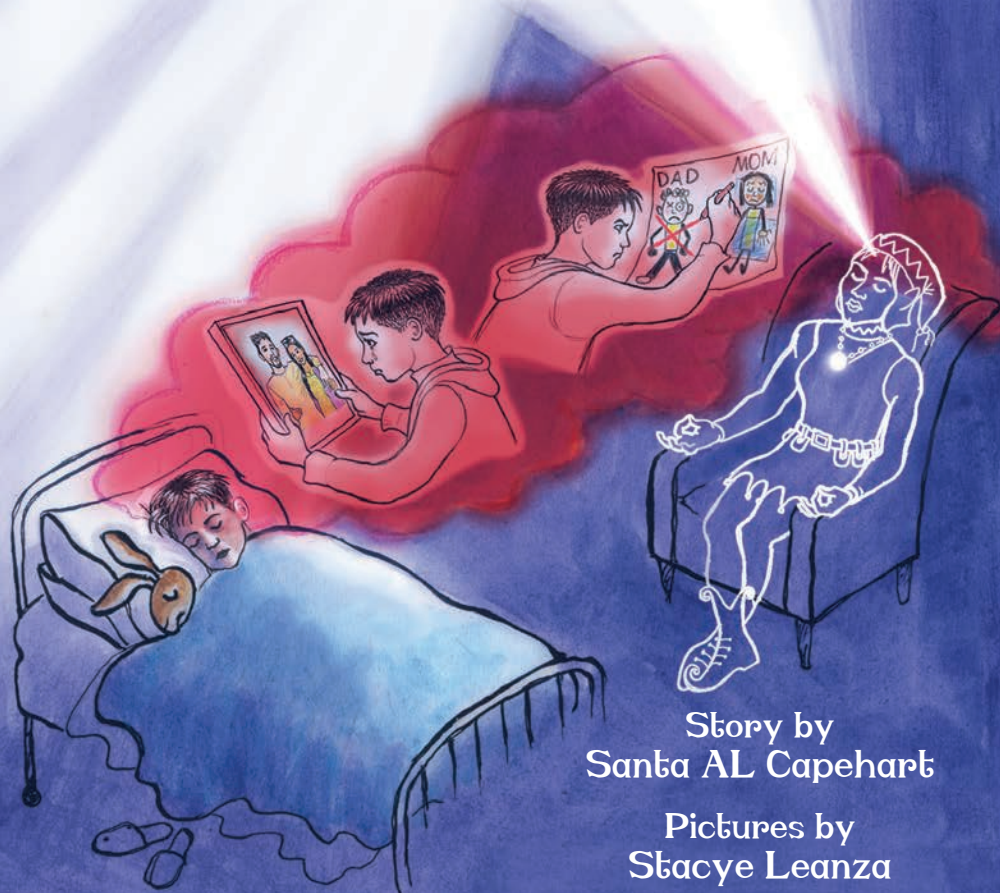


Elf Judy's

Dream Intervention



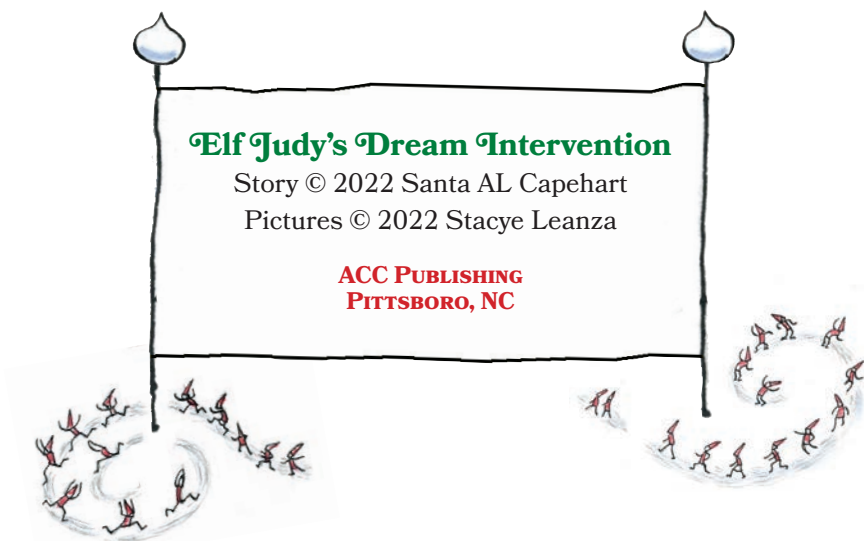
Story by
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While collecting my notes from the first orientation session for our new Elf on the Shelf trainees, Elf Larry, our youngest elf recruit, said to me, “Elf Judy, tell us about how you helped Elf Tony to get Eric on Santa’s good list.” He had heard about Eric’s transformation.

I filled Elf Larry in: “Yes, Eric was a real challenge for us, but Elf Tony and I were able to help him. It all began when my Elf Global Positioning System, or EGPS, showed that Elf Tony had lost his Elf on the Shelf travel magic. His image showed his bar code was altered and he had lost his capacity to return to the North Pole. But I had his latest coordinates at the hearth of the fireplace in Eric’s front room”

“What did you do?” asked Elf Larry.





“Well, Santa Claus knew Eric was struggling. Six-and-a-half-year-old Eric acted out and had difficulty controlling himself. Santa asked me to help. This mission required me to use the invisibility powers of my Pearl necklace medallion and my powers of mental telepathy.”

“Ooo!” said Elf Larry, “Invisibility and mental telepathy too. Wow, you are Special.”

My mission had been to help Eric to begin accepting responsibility for his actions and experience the Christmas Spirit. I could use my telepathic powers of mind reading, thought and image implantation, and expectation management. But, I could not make him do what he didn't want to do.

Eric lived in a small house in a neglected neighborhood, with his mother and grandmother. A couple of houses were empty and boarded up. His father was in prison. His mother was disabled. His grandmother worked two low-paying jobs to pay the rent, the light bill, and buy food. She loved Eric and wanted him to grow up healthy and productive. But with her working, she had very little time for him.

I continued, "Santa knows wonder and gratitude can change behavior from fleeing in fear to stopping to take a look at other ways to make a healthy response. Santa knows our choices reflect who we are and who we are becoming. Santa and I wanted positive outcomes for both Eric and his Elf Tony.



“With my mental telepathy, I projected desirable images of Eric’s future. To have an effect on his feelings and thinking, I had to be in his personal energy field. In order not to frighten him, I had to make myself invisible. In Eric’s presence I could sense his feelings, anticipating the direction of his thinking and actions. I could introduce alternative outcomes. For example, Eric’s feeling of being spied on could be transformed into feelings of wonder and gratitude for being watched over by ‘Elf Tony.’”

“Oh,” said ‘Elf ‘Larry, “An ‘Elf on the Shelf can be comforting.”

Eric felt lost and alone. He tried to torture the neighbor’s cats by pulling their tails, threw rocks at their dogs, and tipped over trashcans to hear the noise and see the mess. Eric’s grandmother knew he was causing unhappiness for himself and others. She wanted to help him be happy and to know she loved him.

She had heard how the ‘Elf on the Shelf watches over and reports to the North Pole on the behavior of their child. She hoped by introducing an elf to watch over Eric his behavior would improve.

On the first Sunday of Advent—27 days before Christmas—Eric’s grandmother placed a bright red ten-inch-tall Elf on the Shelf doll on the mantle over the fireplace. The elf was a set of eyes to watch Eric and report his behavior. Santa rewards good behavior with useful gifts and bad behavior with lumps of coal. Eric’s grandmother wanted him to want to be good.

Elf Judy said that Eric named his elf Anthony and gave him the nickname of “**Tony**.” The mantel over the fireplace was Elf Tony’s shelf, out of Eric’s reach.

Eric was not to touch the elf because if touched by its child, the elf would lose its travel magic, which means the elf could no longer make the required round trip to give its report.

Elf Larry said, “And the loss of our travel magic means we can’t do our job.”

I nodded in agreement. Elf Tony had passed his basic Elf on the Shelf training at the North Pole and had become Eric’s elf. The next morning, Eric went to check on Elf Tony. Eric found the elf was in a different position on the mantel, having landed from his overnight North Pole reporting trip. Santa Claus’s elf communication rules require face to face reporting.

Almost immediately Eric began to feel spied on by the elf on the mantel. So, he did his mischief out of Elf Tony's sight. Eric's behavior improved at home, but his naughty behavior moved onto the streets. He let air out of tires, put sticks up under car chassis to make loud dragging noises, and threw rocks through the windows of abandoned houses.

Eric's grandmother reminded him that Elf Tony reported his behavior nightly to the North Pole. She "lost it" when she heard Eric had let the water out of the kindergarteners' aquarium at school. Water and goldfish were found all over the floor.

"You've done it now," she said. "I'm telling Elf Tony to tell Santa Claus not to bring you anything. No gifts for Christmas." Eric was defiant, shocked, and sad. He did not want Elf Tony to deliver such a message.



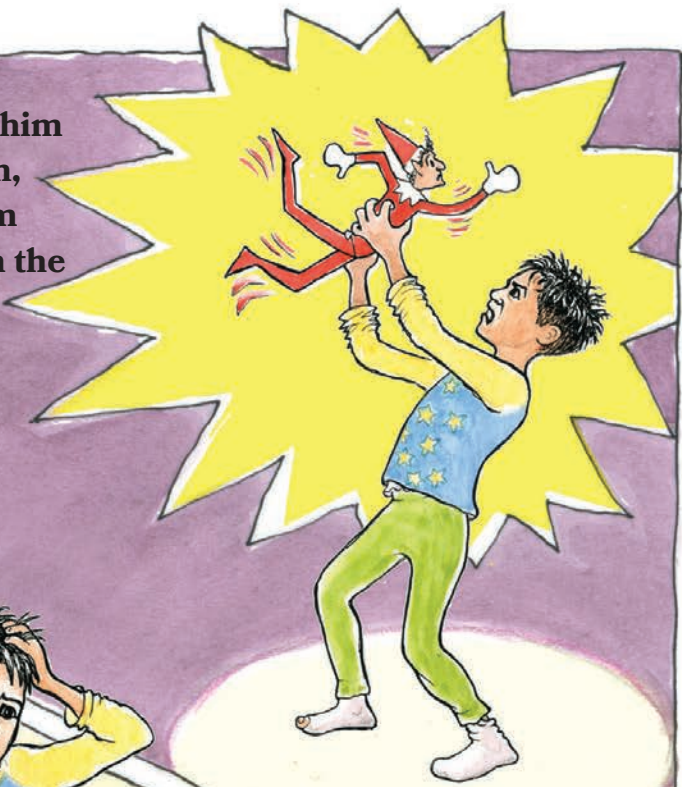
Then he remembered that if he touched Elf Tony, he would lose his magical connection to the North Pole and not be able to get there to report.

Later that night with three stockings hanging from the mantel and the Yule log slowly smoldering at the back of the grate, Eric snuck into the front room. With a long stick, he moved Elf Tony to the edge of the mantel.

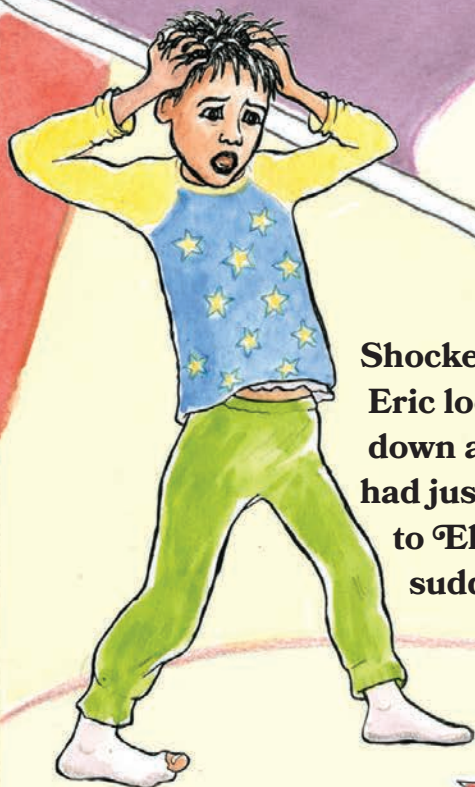
Eric had thought, “No report is better than a Naughty report.” So he’d disable the reporter. With the stick, Eric gradually pushed Elf Tony off the mantel. Elf Tony fell onto the hearth.



Eric grabbed him up, shook him, and threw him back down on the hearth.



Shocked, Eric looked down at what had just happened to Elf Tony and suddenly stopped.



He was shocked by what he had done to his own elf!

He felt shame. A great sadness fell over him. He quietly crept back into bed feeling guilty about what he had just done to his own Elf Tony.

In the morning his grandmother found Elf Tony crumpled on the hearth. Putting the elf back on the mantel, she reminded Eric that Tony had now lost his North Pole travel magic.

I explained to Elf Larry, “The only way Elf Tony could regain his travel magic would be to sprinkle him with Santa’s special magic dust. And Eric would need to apologize to Elf Tony and his grandmother. Then he would need to ask for forgiveness and promise to try to do better.”

It had been at this point that Santa asked me to help both Eric and Elf Tony. By pressing the invisibility Pearl on my necklace I could be unseen in Eric’s presence while Eric slept.



Using my Dream Intervention techniques and telepathic image connecting powers, I projected into Eric's mind a dream of how he could make things right. Eric saw himself talking with his grandmother, saying he was sorry he had hurt Elf Tony, and promising to do better. The dream helped him feel relieved. He now had a plan. He soon apologized to his grandmother and Elf Tony and promised to do better.







He then began to think of Elf Tony as his friend. Eric felt like Elf Tony was both his friend and his personal contact with Santa Claus. As a friend, Elf Tony could listen and be a supporter of Eric's healthy growth.

I explained to Elf Larry, “Dream Intervention requires me to use a keen and intense focus on the Eric’s subconscious. This energy concentration is very demanding and tiring for me. I can refresh my energies by a brief invigorating reindeer ride on Sam in the North Pole’s fresh air. Sam looks forward to our rides.

“To restore his Elf on the Shelf travel magic, Santa gave me a big pinch of his special magic dust to sprinkle over Elf Tony. I stored it in the sterile airtight pocket on my magic utility belt for safety for my trip back to Elf Tony.”

Santa had told me, “Eric needs friends to develop personal relationships. He needs assurances that he is known and accepted by others. This year, rather than lumps of coal, I have decided to give Eric a three-year membership to his local Boy’s and Girl’s Club and the Karate Center. The club will assign Eric a mentor, or ‘big brother,’ who will be a companion and help guide him in relationship building. Karate will help him to appropriately channel and express his energies while making friends.”

“So you see Elf Larry,” I said,
“By using Dream Intervention, I
had helped Elf Tony get his travel
magic back and got Eric on to
Santa’s Good List.

“We know that Santa gives fun,
thoughtful, and useful gifts. And
we also know that Santa’s elves are
his helpers in spreading love and
sharing his Christmas Spirit.”

“Yes,” said Elf Larry. “Christmas
is about loving and caring for one
another.”



AL Capehart began Santa work in 1992 and has done it all, from parades to malls. He published his first book, *Behind Santa's Smile*, in 2014, available at amazon.com. Elf Judy emerged as a character in a speculative fiction writing class at Central Piedmont Community College in Pittsboro, NC, in 2012.

Stacye Leanza is an illustrator, art coach, and teacher who is happiest when she gets to use her imagination to serve the greater good of the planet and its people. Find her artwork and ideas at www.leanza-art.com

