

why werent you at elf practice

why werent you at elf practice is a question that often arises in various contexts, especially during preparations for holiday performances, school plays, or community theater events themed around elves or Christmas. This phrase captures concerns about attendance, commitment, and participation in rehearsals that are critical for the success of such events. Understanding the reasons behind absences can help organizers improve communication, scheduling, and engagement strategies. In this article, the focus will be on exploring common causes for missing elf practice, the impact of absences on group dynamics and performance quality, and strategies for encouraging consistent attendance. Additionally, the article will discuss how to manage and prevent absences effectively to ensure smooth rehearsals and successful outcomes. The keyword "why werent you at elf practice" will be examined in depth to provide insight into attendance challenges and solutions.

- Common Reasons for Missing Elf Practice
- Impact of Absences on Elf Practice and Performances
- Strategies to Improve Attendance at Elf Practice
- Communication and Scheduling Best Practices
- Managing Absences and Maintaining Group Cohesion

Common Reasons for Missing Elf Practice

Understanding why participants might miss elf practice is essential for addressing attendance issues effectively. Various factors contribute to absences, ranging from personal circumstances to logistical

challenges. Identifying these reasons helps organizers tailor their approach to improve participation and reduce the frequency of missed rehearsals.

Conflicting Schedules and Time Management

One of the primary reasons for the question "why weren't you at elf practice" is conflicting schedules. Participants often juggle school, work, and family commitments, making it difficult to attend rehearsals consistently. Time management challenges can lead to missed practices, especially if rehearsals are scheduled during busy periods.

Health and Personal Emergencies

Health issues or personal emergencies frequently cause absences. Illness, injury, or urgent family matters may prevent participants from attending elf practice. Such situations are unpredictable but must be accounted for when considering attendance patterns.

Lack of Motivation or Interest

Sometimes, participants may miss practice due to a lack of motivation or waning interest in the event. If individuals do not feel engaged or connected to the project, they are less likely to prioritize attending rehearsals. This can be a significant factor in repeated absences.

Transportation and Accessibility Issues

Transportation challenges can also explain why participants are absent. Limited access to reliable transportation or inconvenient rehearsal locations may impede attendance, particularly for younger participants or those without independent travel options.

Unclear Expectations and Communication Gaps

When expectations about attendance are not clearly communicated, participants might not understand the importance of elf practice. Communication gaps such as inconsistent reminders or ambiguous scheduling details can lead to confusion and missed rehearsals.

Impact of Absences on Elf Practice and Performances

Missing elf practice sessions can have multiple negative effects on both the individual and the group. Understanding these impacts underscores the importance of regular attendance and highlights why the question "why weren't you at elf practice" is significant in ensuring overall success.

Disruption of Group Dynamics

Each absence can disrupt the flow and cohesion of the group. Elf practice relies heavily on teamwork and synchronization, and missing members can affect rehearsals by causing delays, requiring repeats of scenes, or forcing others to adjust their performance unexpectedly.

Reduced Performance Quality

Consistent attendance is vital for mastering lines, choreography, and cues. Absences often result in participants being less prepared, which can reduce the overall quality of the final performance. This can reflect poorly on the entire group and diminish audience satisfaction.

Increased Stress on Other Participants and Organizers

When participants miss elf practice, the responsibility often falls on others to compensate. This can increase stress levels among cast members and organizers who must adjust plans or manage last-minute changes, potentially compromising the rehearsal experience.

Strategies to Improve Attendance at Elf Practice

Improving attendance requires proactive strategies that address the underlying reasons for absences. Implementing effective measures can enhance participation rates and contribute to a more successful elf practice schedule.

Flexible Scheduling and Advance Notice

Offering flexible rehearsal times or multiple practice sessions can accommodate diverse participant schedules. Providing advance notice of rehearsals also allows individuals to plan accordingly, reducing scheduling conflicts.

Engagement and Motivation Techniques

Increasing participant motivation through engaging activities, clear goal-setting, and positive reinforcement can encourage attendance. Recognizing efforts and fostering a sense of community helps maintain interest throughout the rehearsal process.

Transportation Assistance and Accessibility Improvements

Organizers can improve attendance by facilitating transportation options or choosing accessible locations for elf practice. Carpool arrangements, public transit information, or venue selection close to participants can alleviate travel barriers.

Clear Communication and Attendance Policies

Establishing and communicating clear attendance policies ensures participants understand expectations. Regular reminders through various channels and transparent consequences for absences help reinforce commitment to elf practice.

Communication and Scheduling Best Practices

Effective communication and scheduling are crucial components in preventing absences and answering the question "why weren't you at elf practice" before it arises. Implementing best practices in these areas significantly improves attendance consistency.

Utilizing Multiple Communication Channels

Employing emails, text messages, phone calls, and group messaging apps ensures that rehearsal information reaches all participants promptly. Redundancy in communication methods reduces the risk of missed messages.

Providing a Detailed Rehearsal Calendar

Distributing a comprehensive rehearsal calendar at the start of the project helps participants organize their time. Including important dates, times, locations, and expectations in one document fosters transparency and preparation.

Regular Check-Ins and Feedback Opportunities

Scheduling periodic check-ins allows organizers to address attendance issues early and gather feedback from participants. This ongoing dialogue can help identify obstacles to attendance and improve future planning.

Managing Absences and Maintaining Group Cohesion

Despite best efforts, absences may still occur. Effective management of these situations is necessary to preserve group cohesion and ensure the success of elf practice and the eventual performance.

Developing Contingency Plans

Having backup plans for key roles or parts of the rehearsal allows the practice to continue smoothly despite absences. This may include understudies, flexible scene adjustments, or modified rehearsal activities.

Encouraging Accountability and Responsibility

Promoting a culture of accountability encourages participants to communicate proactively about absences and take responsibility for catching up on missed material. This attitude strengthens group commitment and performance readiness.

Supporting Reintegrating Participants

When participants return after an absence, providing support such as recap sessions or peer assistance helps them reintegrate without disrupting the group. This approach minimizes the negative impact on both the individual and the team.

Attendance Tracking and Incentives

Maintaining accurate attendance records helps organizers identify patterns and address chronic absenteeism. Offering incentives for consistent attendance, such as recognition or rewards, can motivate participants to prioritize self practice.

- Regular attendance tracking
- Recognition programs
- Incentive-based motivation

- Peer support systems

Frequently Asked Questions

Why weren't you at elf practice yesterday?

I had a last-minute family commitment that I couldn't reschedule.

Did something come up that made you miss elf practice?

Yes, I was feeling unwell and thought it was best to rest and recover.

Were you aware that elf practice was scheduled?

I was, but I got caught up with work and lost track of time.

Is there a reason you haven't been attending elf practice regularly?

I've been struggling with my schedule, but I'm working on making more time for practice.

Can you catch up on what you missed during elf practice?

Absolutely, I plan to review the notes and practice at home before the next session.

Additional Resources

1. *Missed the Elf Practice: Understanding Holiday Commitments*

This book explores the common reasons people miss holiday gatherings and events like elf practice. It discusses time management, social anxiety, and competing responsibilities during the busy festive season. The author offers practical advice on balancing holiday cheer with personal obligations.

2. The Elf Practice Dilemma: Navigating Festive Expectations

Delve into the social pressures and expectations that come with participating in holiday traditions. This book examines why some individuals feel overwhelmed or excluded during events like elf practice. It provides strategies for communication and setting healthy boundaries.

3. Behind the Scenes of Elf Practice: Stories Untold

This collection of personal stories reveals the varied experiences of those who missed or skipped elf practice. From family emergencies to mental health struggles, the narratives highlight the complexity behind a simple question. Readers gain empathy and understanding for diverse holiday experiences.

4. Elf Practice and Holiday Mental Health

Focusing on the psychological aspects, this book addresses how festive events impact mental well-being. It discusses anxiety, depression, and burnout during the holidays, explaining why someone might avoid elf practice. The author suggests coping mechanisms and self-care tips.

5. Why Weren't You at Elf Practice? A Sociological Perspective

This book analyzes elf practice from a cultural and societal viewpoint. It explores how traditions evolve and how inclusion or exclusion affects community dynamics. Readers learn about the role of social rituals in shaping holiday experiences.

6. Balancing Work, Life, and Elf Practice

Highlighting the challenges of juggling professional duties with festive activities, this guide offers time management solutions. It addresses common conflicts that prevent attendance at events like elf practice. Practical scheduling tips help readers create more space for holiday fun.

7. Elf Practice: When Family Comes First

This heartfelt book discusses prioritizing family needs over social commitments during the holidays. It shares stories of sacrifice and understanding when one cannot attend elf practice. The author emphasizes the importance of compassion and support within families.

8. The Art of Saying No: Declining Elf Practice Gracefully

Learn how to politely decline invitations to holiday events without guilt or offense. This book provides communication strategies for setting boundaries, including when missing elf practice is necessary. It empowers readers to maintain their well-being while respecting relationships.

9. *Elf Practice and the Holiday Spirit: Finding Your Own Path*

This inspirational book encourages readers to embrace their unique traditions and ways of celebrating. It discusses how missing events like elf practice can lead to discovering personal meaning in the holidays. The author offers creative ideas for fostering joy and connection on one's own terms.

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why werent you at elf practice: Dragon Age: The Stolen Throne David Gaider, 2012-08-28
A dark heroic fantasy novel in BioWare's newest role-playing universe!

why werent you at elf practice: Just Roll with It Veronica Agarwal, Lee Durfey-Lavoie, 2021-12-14
Starting middle school is hard enough when you don't know anyone; it's even harder when you're shy. A contemporary middle-grade graphic novel for fans of Guts and Real Friends about how dealing with anxiety and OCD can affect everyday life. As long as Maggie rolls the right number, nothing can go wrong...right? Maggie just wants to get through her first year of middle school. But between finding the best after-school clubs, trying to make friends, and avoiding the rumored monster on school grounds, she's having a tough time...so she might need a little help from her twenty-sided dice. But what happens if Maggie rolls the wrong number? A touching middle-grade graphic novel that explores the complexity of anxiety, OCD, and learning to trust yourself and the world around you. "A charming, compassionate story that's sure to resonate with anyone who's ever stayed up worrying." —Gale Galligan, adaptor and illustrator of the Baby-Sitters Club graphic novel series

why werent you at elf practice: Shadow Hunters Marc Van Pelt, 2025-04-06
Bettsam was trained to fight in the shadows. But no training could prepare him for betrayal. A year after the mysterious Shadow Elves attempt to devastate his village, Bettsam and his best friend Coleton are sent on a mission to destroy a deadly Lich Lord. With Liona, the strong-willed daughter of the village elder, they expect a simple hunt—until everything goes wrong. What they find is not an enemy, but an ally—Almas Vaten, a boy cursed by dark magic. The truth shakes them to their core: they've been betrayed. The new king has set them up, igniting a war that threatens their world. As armies gather and ancient grudges resurface, Bettsam must wield Memory, a mystical scythe of untold power, and choose who to trust in a game of shifting alliances. But the shadows hide more than just enemies—they hide secrets that could change everything. Loyalty will be tested, friendships shattered, and an empire brought to its knees. Can Bettsam and his friends survive the coming

storm?

why werent you at elf practice: Dragon Age: The Stolen Throne Deluxe Edition Bioware, 2018-09-25 Written by Dragon Age lead writer David Gaider, The Stolen Throne is a prequel story to Dragon Age: Origins! This deluxe edition features twenty-four brand new illustrations by Stefano Martino, Álvaro Sarraseca, Andres Ponce, and German Ponce; and an intricately designed, foil stamped hardcover! After the Queen of Ferelden is betrayed and murdered, her son, Maric, becomes the leader of a rebel faction struggling to free their nation from the control of a foreign tyrant. With few allies save Loghain, a brash young outlaw, and Rowan, a fierce warrior and his betrothed, Maric must find a way to free Ferelden from the clutches of the enemy and restore his family to the throne.

why werent you at elf practice: Enough with This Slow Life! I Was Reincarnated as a High Elf and Now I'm Bored: Volume 6 rarutori, 2024-05-10 In the west-central region of the continent, Acer finds himself drawn to the Kingdom of Inelda. While it was once ruled by humans, rumor has it that the region's elves gathered there and drove the humans out to establish their own nation, seeking protection their forests could not offer against the spread of the Western religion. The elves there ask our high elf to help them build a thriving kingdom for elves that can defend itself against their enemies. Acer promises to stay for ten years before he returns to his search for Win in the Far West.

why werent you at elf practice: Yowliday Inn Susan C. Daffron, 2019-11-01 Since the accident that killed her fiancé, Erin Quinn's life has been on hold. Locked in grief, she's in no mood to embrace holiday cheer, but she runs out of excuses to avoid her family when her parents send her a plane ticket so she can spend the holidays with them in Alpine Grove. Erin hasn't been back to her hometown in more than two decades. And she never tells anyone that until she was twelve she lived in a hippie commune with no electricity or indoor plumbing. The years at the Dancing Cedars commune was a drama-filled part of her past she's worked hard to forget. When her childhood friend Dylan Bryant picks Erin up at the airport, the past starts to catch up with her. Since the commune disbanded, he's been working at his family's Christmas tree farm, a place chock full of elves, twinkle lights, questionable baked goods, and family crises. Sure, he might be three feet taller than the last time she saw him, but Dylan's offbeat personality hasn't changed. Neither has his ability to see through her defenses. At an eccentric Thanksgiving gathering, everyone discovers the old Hodgepodge Lodge at Dancing Cedars is filthy and overrun with feral cats--and maybe a skunk. Against her better judgment, Erin agrees to help Dylan clean up and repair the abandoned log structure, which has more holes than a cheese grater. In between bizarre dreams filled with oversized Santa possums and jingle bears, Erin reconnects with Dylan and finds herself increasingly drawn to the timeless serenity and beauty of the Dancing Cedars property. But when a developer makes a play for the land, they might need a miracle to save it.

why werent you at elf practice: Iron Night M.L. Brennan, 2014-01-07 Underemployed by day. Undead by night. Underachieving film theory graduate and vampire Fortitude Scott may be waiting tables at a snooty restaurant run by a tyrannical chef who hates him, but the other parts of his life finally seem to be stabilizing. He's learning how to rule the Scott family territory, hanging out more with his shapeshifting friend Suzume Hollis, and has actually found a decent roommate for once. Until he finds his roommate's dead body. The Scott family cover-up machine swings into gear, but Fort is the only person trying to figure out who (or what) actually killed his friend. His hunt for a murderer leads to a creature that scares even his sociopathic family, and puts them all in deadly peril. Keeping secrets, killing monsters, and still having to make it to work on time? Sometimes being a vampire really sucks.

why werent you at elf practice: Hottie for the Holidays Lili Valente, 2021-12-07 Three steam-up-your-holiday reads featuring a single mom Cinderella, two sworn enemies catching a streaking Santa (and the love bug), and a Scroogy cowgirl who gets a second chance with the one who got away. MILF ON THE SHELF Single mom, Maggie, has given up on love. And dating. And hope that she'll meet a man who isn't better left on the shelf. That is, until her socialite nemesis swears Maggie couldn't get a date to the Christmas Ball if her life depended on it... Scrambling to

find a plus one, Maggie calls in a favor from her childhood friend, Penny. The one who works for a male escort service... UP TO SNOW GOOD The only thing worse than a streaking Santa dashing naked through my Christmas tree farm? Answer: Lawrence Beverly, the insufferable Brit who opened a competing farm down the lane, finding out about it. I loathe Lawrence like cocktail sauce in my cocoa, and there's no way I'm letting him use Mr. Jingle Balls against me. Luckily, I have a foolproof plan to take care of my Santa problem. Or so I think, until it goes hideously awry and Lawrence sweeps in to save the day. Now we're making out in front of my fireplace and he's saying all the right things, but can I trust this man with my heart? Or is he still up to snow good? THE TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS It's the time of year for miracles...Once upon a time, Lula and Carter were inseparable. But when their romance faltered, the holiday lights went out in Lula's heart. She gave up on love and embraced a hermit's existence, until Carter pops back up in Lonesome Point, begging for a second chance... She gives him twelve days—and twelve dates—to make his case before she sends him packing. Soon, however, not even Lula Scrooge can deny she and Carter go together like cocoa and cookies. But when her old fears are reawakened, it may take a holiday miracle to keep them together. Keywords: holiday romance, Christmas romance, single mom romance, single parent romance, second chance romance, enemies to lovers, friends to lovers, fairy tale romance, romantic comedy romance, rom com, rom com novella, steamy holiday reads, heartwarming holiday reads, heartwarming holiday romance, cowboy romance, western romance.

why werent you at elf practice: Unidentified Funny Objects 2 Robert Silverberg, Ken Liu, Mike Resnick, Esther Friesner, Jody Lynn Nye, Jim Hines, Tim Pratt, 2017-01-21 UFO2 is the second annual collection of humorous science fiction and fantasy short stories. Inside you'll find: - A golem on an interstellar cruise ship - Dragon-taunting for fun and profit - Time travel gone really wrong - Cubicle farm wizardry - Alien behemoths in Central Park

why werent you at elf practice: Snared: Escape to the Above Adam Jay Epstein, 2024-05-01 A band of thieves take a sheltered boy on a wild journey in this dark yet humorous middle-grade fantasy adventure series debut. Chopping blades, scorpion nests, giant spider webs—no one makes traps better than Wily Snare. Wily Snare has never seen the sun, or the blue sky, or even his parents. He lives underground, creating traps to keep treasure seekers away from the gold in an ancient wizard's dungeon. He mops up giant slug slime, avoids poison darts, and herds undead skeletons. It's all he knows. Until an unusual band of adventurers—an acrobatic elf, a warrior with a magic arm, and a giant made of moss—successfully defeat Wily's traps. And they want the ultimate treasure: Wily himself. His skills can help them invade every other dungeon in the kingdom. He might even aid their fight against the Infernal King, whose gearfolk and prisonaunts terrorize the land. But for a boy who has never been outside, dungeons aren't nearly as scary as the world above. Or an evil king who builds the trickiest traps of all . . . Praise for Snared A Junior Library Guild Selection Snared will ensnare you! —Michael Scott, New York Times-bestselling author of The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series Pure dungeon-crawling fun. I can't recommend it enough. —Zack Loran Clark, coauthor of The Adventurers Guild A heartfelt tale filled with whimsy, wonder, and magic . . . truly satisfying. — Publishers Weekly, starred review Epstein has created a world that is funny, compassionate, and entertaining. . . . Readers will be immersed into this dark yet humorous world filled with unique characters. — School Library Journal

why werent you at elf practice: Daemons Are Forever Simon R. Green, 2008-06-03 Join supernatural agent Eddie Drood on a dangerous adventure in the second Secret Histories novel from New York Times bestselling author Simon R. Green. "Fans of fast-paced heroics, featuring a snarky knight armored in silver and sarcasm, need look no further; Eddie Drood is your guy."—SF Revu For centuries, the Droods have been fighting the monsters in the shadows so that the rest of you lot can go about your everyday lives. These days, I'm the head of the family, and it's fallen to me to deal with a bit of a mess left over from World War II. Seems that back then the Droods made a pact with a bunch of demons known as the Loathly Ones to fight some really nasty buggers called up by the Nazis. Once the war was over, we couldn't get rid of them. Now they're calling their masters to invade and destroy our world...and we Droods are the last, best hope of stopping them. I'd say that

the world is in a major lot of trouble.

why werent you at elf practice: The Aegis of Merlin Complete Omnibus James E Wisher, 2018-07-19

why werent you at elf practice: *The Coyote's Chance* Holley Trent, 2019-09-15 Becoming the new alpha of Maria's chaotic pack is coyote shifter Blue Shapely's long-awaited chance to be his own man. Unfortunately, the pack's hapless patron can't help but thwart him at every turn. After being magically attached to the Coyote group for more than a century, Willa Matheson has a soft spot for them—even the dangerous ones threatening to expose them to humans. She may have hired Blue to rein in the pack, but the two constantly disagree on strategy. She's afraid to ruffle feathers, but take-charge Blue will do whatever it takes to get his Coyotes in line. And to complicate things even more: all signs point to the anxious demigoddess being his mate. Developing a tenderness for Willa will be an obstacle to Blue's determination to be as ruthless as he needs to be, but if the duo can't find a way to retract their claws, and soon, it may be too late to protect the pack's secret—and their own hearts.

why werent you at elf practice: Masters of Maria Holley Trent, 2022-09-12 Demigods, gods and goddesses, angels, shapeshifters, witches, fae and more powerful beings collide in small-town New Mexico in this full series collection of paranormal and fantasy romances by Holley Trent. Maria's magic users and immortals get more than they bargain for as they guard the town's paranormal secrets, battle their personal demons, and—finally—accept the mates Fate has long had in store for them. Presented in chronological order are: *The Demigod's Legacy* *The Angel's Hunger* *The Wolf's Joy* *The Coyote's Chance* *The Coyote's Cowboy* *The Coyote's Bride* *The Coyote's Comfort* *The Angel's Fire* *The Angel's Desire* Each story in the series follows the romance of a different Maria couple, but all the stories are connected. *Masters of Maria* takes place following the end of the *Desert Guards* series—also set in Maria.

why werent you at elf practice: Awakened (Cursed Magic Series: Book Two) Casey Odell, 2013-04-21 After escaping from the elves and the General, Claire is on the run again with the last person she'd thought she'd end up with—Farron. Shadowy forces are nipping at their heels, and soon they are attacked. But they have bigger worries. An old friend of Farron's shows up: a beautiful woman with a mark shockingly similar to her own. As it turns out, she is not alone. And the new woman isn't exactly on their side. Claire is kidnapped and lands in the middle of Farron's biggest secret of all. Once again she is a prisoner and the people that surround her want to use her and her powers, people that she doesn't have the option of refusing. The wolves are circling, but to pick a side means giving up everything she holds dear. Book two of the *Cursed Magic Series*.

why werent you at elf practice: The Digger Douglas Milewski, Somebody has to talk to the gods. This is a sacred duty. For Maran, there's no glory in this role. She's the messenger, and she can't risk making the gods any angrier than they already are. Her only power is brokering a compromise and hoping that everyone agrees. There's no school for this. There's nobody to call if she's in trouble. Nobody will call her a hero. In the end, she'll see this through, because souls are on the line and life will rise and fall based on her intervention. When gods are involved, she only has one chance to get it right. This book collects *Weeds Among Stone*, *Earth and Heaven*, and *As Justice Demands* into a single volume.

why werent you at elf practice: Hope in Time Naomi Hoggan, 2015-02-20 Elizabeth, Elf Princess of the East Elf Kingdom, is being held as a slave by Lord Collin, an evil dark wizard, bent on ruling the world. Longing to regain her freedom, Elizabeth escapes from the dark wizard's clutches with the aid of Lance, a gallant Elf Prince of the West Elf Kingdom. Lance and Elizabeth are unaware at the time, but the two are betrothed to one another by destiny, as each holds a missing piece of an important royal seal. Reunited with her people at last, Elizabeth learns that it's her ancestral duty to destroy Lord Collin. However the dark wizard is aware of the danger that Elizabeth poses to him and will stop at nothing to recapture her. Aided by Lance and Maurice, a powerful wizard who travels in the guise of a simple woodsman, Elizabeth does battle with the dark wizard. Will the Elf Princess be able to defeat the treacherous Lord Collin and be happily joined together with Lance her betrothed,

so that the two may reign over the reunited Elf Kingdoms? Find out in the epic conclusion of *Hope in Time*, an exciting fantasy novel from first-time author Naomi Hoggan.

why werent you at elf practice: Black Witch, Death Mage A.S. Etaski, 2020-12-07 I am the dark foreigner among pale-skinned mercenaries, crossing exposed grasslands. My only ally is a sinister scholar hiding scars from past rituals. He alone knows I carry a child. Each day assaults my senses and leads me farther away from home. Inevitably, my mission will lead out of isolation to the first Human settlement in my path. With few watching my back and more tempted to exploit it, I wade into an unforgiving test of my training and vigilance, determined not to be pulled down. Twisted portents and pious zealotry expose danger in every direction, while new, threatening dreams of distant sands muddle my Queen's past with my present. As all close in around me, I must find a way to serve the Valsharess and slip free of man-made chains which would enslave me. In *Black Witch, Death Mage*, far-reaching threads and mystical visions constrict to bind those within it, pulling the tales of present and past closer than they've been in thousands of years. *Sister Seekers* is adult epic fantasy with an ever-broadening scope, perfect for fans of entwined plots, challenging themes, elements of erotic horror, immersive worldbuilding. Sexuality and inner conflict play into character growth with nuance, intrigue, intense action, and fantastical magic. The series begins underground with an isolated race of Dark Elves whose intricate webs first ensnare then catapult us to places a Red Sister can only imagine in her dreams.

why werent you at elf practice: Oh, Holy Night Bethany Maines, 2017-12-29 Christmas is a lot more dangerous than it used to be. Graphic designer Violet "Merry Christmas!" Harper is usually found at her local Starbucks. Roman "Bah Humbug!" Knox is usually carrying a gun. But on a cold Christmas Eve, a barista, her idiot ex, and childhood game of "Are You Smarter Than a Criminal" will bring Roman and Violet together... in a bank vault. It's a mess, a robbery and almost the worst day ever, but maybe a Christmas miracle can get them out of the bank and into love.

why werent you at elf practice: Dryland Sara Jaffe, 2015-09-01 Sara Jaffe's engrossing debut novel, *Dryland*, is a smart coming-of-age novel that charts the murky waters of adolescence. Anything can happen when Julie hits the water. It's 1992, and the world is caught up in the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the Balkan Wars, but for Julie Winter, 15, the news is noise. In Portland, Oregon, Julie moves through her days in a series of negatives: the skaters she doesn't think are cute, the Guatemalan backpack she doesn't buy at the craft fair, the umbrella she refuses to carry despite the incessant rain. Her family life is routine and restrained, and no one talks about Julie's older brother, a one-time Olympic hopeful swimmer who now lives in self-imposed exile in Berlin. Julie has never considered swimming herself, until Alexis, the swim team captain, tries to recruit her. It's a dare, and a flirtation—and a chance for Julie to find her brother, or to finally let him go.

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