

CHICAGO SHUFFLE - SYNOPSIS

Harvey Goodman, a mild-mannered Prohibition era accountant, is sent to Chicago to see an "important" client who turns out to be his identical twin, Shad Pendrake -- a brother he never knew he had, and a bootlegger facing charges of tax evasion.

Shad takes Harvey, a teetotaler, out on the town to celebrate their reunion-- and Harvey wakes up the next morning, hung over -- and trapped in his brother's life, with Federal Agents who want to put him in jail and bloodthirsty rival, Rudy Colossi, who wants to put him in the ground.

When Harvey attempts to convince Shad's girlfriend and right hand man, Cuddles and Bugsy, of his true identity, they assume their "boss" is having one of his "episodes", requiring a "treatment" from Doc Sawyer -- a frightening enough prospect that Harvey is forced to play along and pretend he's Shad. He subsequently tries to escape, is caught by the Feds, tossed in jail, has a near-death encounter with Rudy "The Iceman" Colossi, is sprung by Shad's lawyer, Felix Culver, supervises the bombing of Rudy's nightclub, and negotiates the price of gin with a rum-runner -- at gunpoint -- on a schooner in the middle of Lake Michigan.

Meanwhile, Shad masquerades as his brother, taking Harvey's family to his mountain hideout, "King's Roost" -- with plans to lay low until Harvey solves his tax problems. Harvey's wife, Shirley, grows increasingly uneasy with her "husband's" atypical, odd behavior.

Felix informs Harvey that his boss, Arthur Fenwick, has lied to prevent Harvey from receiving his inheritance -- his father's half of the firm he works for -- but if Harvey plays ball, Shad will help him make things right. Harvey gains control of Shad's business records and uses that as leverage to blackmail Felix into not interfering when Harvey publicly announces that he, "Shad Pendrake", is going legit -- turning over his distilleries to the Feds and making plans to marry Cuddles, who by now has figured out Harvey's true identity and shares his desire to flush Shad out.

This news hits the front pages and infuriates Shad. He comes out of hiding and confronts Harvey in a department store, disguised as a Salvation Army Santa. But another Santa shows up -- Rudy Colossi, who has escaped from jail. Add to the mix the Feds and Rudy's henchmen, and a wild shootout ensues. During the melee, Harvey loses track of Shad -- and is back to square one.

When Harvey learns from Cuddles that Shad has a mountain retreat, he heads there hoping to find his family. Rudy gets the same information from Felix, his hostage, and heads there as well -- looking for Shad.

Shad returns to the hideout second-guessing his plan. Pepper, Harvey's four-year-old daughter, mistakes him for the "real" Santa -- and tells him all she wants for

Christmas is for her daddy to “get better”. Moved, Santa/Shad decides to end the charade.

At Kings Roost, all parties converge -- Harvey, Rudy and his henchmen, Shad and Cuddles, and Buggy. The final “nobody gets out of this alive” confrontation is interrupted when Shirley goes into labor. She winds up having twins, the sight of which causes Rudy to pass out. The Feds show up and take custody of Rudy and his henchmen so we end with a family tableau – Harvey and his kids with Shad and Cuddles, each holding one of the newborn twins.

A denouement reveals Harvey as the new “boss” of Goodman & “Pendrake”, now partnered with his brother – who has a pregnant Cuddles on his arm.