

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

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INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAY

The curtains are drawn. All is quiet. Until...

The handle to the door slowly lowers, stopping briefly on every CREAK.

Superimpose: **23rd December**

IZZY (5), a curly haired, sweet looking girl, spills light from the landing into the dark room as she opens the door and tiptoes to a large wardrobe at the far end of the room.

She opens the wardrobe door, kneels down and pushes a strategically placed blanket aside to reveal the box of a brand new DOLLS HOUSE.

She can't contain her joy.

IZZY

Yes!

A baby wakes. CRIES.

Izzy looks left to a crib containing her baby brother, DYLAN.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Shut up!

The light comes on.

She spins around to see...

Her parents, JOHN and SARAH (30s) standing in the doorway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Izzy is on the naughty step in the corner of the room, next to the Christmas tree.

Exhausted, Sarah paces the room with Dylan in her arms who cries relentlessly.

SARAH

Come on little man.
(To the other room)
Have you found it?!

John, equally tired, rushes in, dummy in hand.

JOHN

Dad to the rescue! It was behind
the desk.

He puts it in Dylan's mouth and the crying instantly stops bringing a much welcome silence to the house.

SARAH
How did it get the?

In unison they both turn to Izzy.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A child's hand maneuvers through branches, pines and lights of the Christmas tree to a chocolate, dangling deep inside.

Superimpose: **24th December**

SARAH (O.S.)
Not till tomorrow, young lady!

Izzy spins round to find her parents standing behind her.

IZZY
I'm just looking.

Sarah kneels down to her eye level.

SARAH
We have something very special...

John pulls from behind his back a wooden elf.

IZZY
An elf?

SARAH
Santa sent him. He has a very special job.

John kneels down.

JOHN
When Santa can't decide if a child belongs on the naughty or nice list he sends one of his elves to the house on Christmas eve to help him decide.

Izzy takes the elf and looks into it's big, exaggerated eyes and wide smile.

SARAH

If he can see that the child has been well behaved on Christmas eve then he'll tell Santa to leave an extra present under the tree.

Izzy smiles.

JOHN

But... If that child does anything naughty on Christmas eve then Santa will take a present away.

IZZY

(Smirking)

I only want one present.

JOHN

Well, he takes the thing you want most for Christmas.

Izzy's smile disappears as John takes the elf and positions it on a shelf above the fireplace.

JOHN (CONT'D)

There, now he can see everything.

Izzy looks at the elf, unsure of what to make of it.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sarah washes dishes and sings along to 'All I Want For Christmas' playing from the radio.

Izzy appears by her side.

SARAH

You've been quiet. Should I be worried?

IZZY

I've been tidying my room.

Izzy looks through to the living room at the elf.

SARAH

I'm sure he saw.

Izzy smiles with relief as Dylan starts crying from the bedroom. Sarah dries her hands.

IZZY

I'll go!

SARAH
Well aren't you being extra NICE
today? He wants his--

IZZY
Dummy... I know...

She grabs the dummy and as she walks through the living room she makes sure the Elf can see her good deed.

Sarah goes back to washing up. John sneaks up behind her and wraps his arms around her waist.

He sings along to the track...

JOHN
"All I want fooor Christmaaas,
iiiiis..." a PlayStation five?

Sarah shrugs playfully.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I've been good...
(Points at the elf)
He can attest to that.

SARAH
Are we being mean parents? I mean,
it's not a legitimate threat and
all I want is for her to wake up
Christmas morning and have a--

JOHN
She's going to have a great
Christmas and this year she won't
spend it sitting on the naughty
step.
Honestly, we should have thought of
this elf thing years ago. Maybe we
could introduce an elf for every
holiday? Easter, birthdays --

SARAH
Weekends, weekdays...

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The family are in full Christmas spirit. Jumpers, Christmas music... Izzy places a cookie and a glass of milk by the fireplace.

Superimpose: **Christmas eve**

JOHN

What a lucky Santa. And I think a certain someone has been very impressed with you today.

He motions to the elf. Izzy sighs with relief.

SARAH

We're going to put Dylan down. Get ready for bed and we'll come say goodnight.

Sarah and John take Dylan to bed.

Izzy collects a teddy from the sofa and takes a moment to admire the twinkling warm lights on the Christmas tree.

But as she turns to leave something drops from the tree and rolls across the hard wood floor and stops at her feet.

She looks down and picks up a chocolate Christmas decoration.

She looks at the doorway. Her parents are mid way through their nightly rendition of silent night to Dylan.

In a moment of weakness she unwraps the chocolate and eats it. She wipes her mouth, not a trace remains.

She heads for bed, under the watchful eyes of the elf.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Dressed in her pajamas, Sarah cradles a hysterical Dylan, crying at full volume as John frantically searches the room.

Superimpose: **Christmas morning**

SARAH

Come on little man, it's Christmas.
It's happy time.

(To John)

The dummy must be here?

Close up - The elf's grinning face.

John is under the tree, moving presents around.

JOHN

No dummy or PlayStation.

He gestures to his pile of presents.

SARAH
I tried, okay?

Close up - The elf's grinning face.

With a sigh of disappointment John pays extra attention to another pile of presents.

JOHN
Where's Izzy's dolls house?

SARAH
It's there. I moved everything last night.

Close up - The elf's grinning face.

JOHN
It's not here.

In unison they both understand...

JOHN (CONT'D)
I did wonder why she wasn't up at four this morning.

John stands and heads for the bedroom.

SARAH
See if she's got Dylan's dummy.

As Sarah tries to sooth Dylan's crying we move slowly to the wide eyed, grinning elf above the fireplace.

JOHN (O.S.)
Sarah! Get in here!

Sarah rushes out of the room but we stay on the elf, moving ever closer...

JOHN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
She's not moving!

SARAH (O.S.)
What!? Izzy! Izzy! Wake up!

JOHN (O.S.)
Izzy! Please wake up!!

Close up - The elf's grinning face...

FADE TO BLACK.