

A WISH

Written by

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INT. COLTON'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Colton's front room. A simple family home. A couple of sofas facing each with a thick rug in the middle of the floor.

Colton enters wearing a suit and tie. The tie has been made far too tight. He wrestles with it, desperate to loosen it.

COLTON
(grunting)
I can't breath.

There's a loud knocking, like several people are knocking on his front door all at once. Colton looks over his shoulder.

COLTON (CONT'D)
Go away!

Three teenage boys, same age as Colton now enter.

DEAN
Well this is the last place I'd expect to find you.

COLTON
(stunned)
What, at my house? That's the last place you'd expect to find me? You know I live here right?

DEAN
You blew us off again.

COLTON
I don't want to go out playing in the river with you guys anymore. It's childish. And I'm not interested in childish things.

DEAN
You're crazy, you should have seen the size of this rock we threw in the water today. The size of a car. A record breaker. A huge splash. Almost drowned us. Like to see what children could do that.

COLTON
Childish.

NICK
Have you got a girlfriend is that what this is? You're changing.

COLTON

Eww, gross.

NICK

Men change when they get a girlfriend.

COLTON

And how would you know, the only girl you get close to is your grandma and she's close to a hundred by now.

NICK

Shut up. I don't even see my grandma anymore. She's so lame. Since she slipped into a coma I don't get any money from her anymore. I don't have anything to do with her.

DEAN

Not true. I saw you holding hands with her at the supermarket the other day.

NICK

My hands were cold. She's like a giant walking hot water bottle, I was just using her to warm up.

COLTON

And she's in a coma?

NICK

We had her strapped in a wheelchair.

COLTON

That's some how a lot worse.

KAI

Forget all this, are you done with us or something Colton? You should show us a little respect and just say it. If you don't want to be friends with us anymore. Just tell us.

Colton thinks this over and shrugs.

COLTON

Alright. I don't want to be friends with you guys anymore. Feel better?

Kai shakes his head.

KAI
(disappointed)
You've got no honour.

COLTON
Oh no, not this again. Kai takes
one free karate class at the mall
and he thinks he's a kung fu
master.

KAI
Well my sensei says I could become
a kung fu master if I wanted to.

COLTON
Then it can't be that hard. If you
can do it so can I.

KAI
You wouldn't even know what to do.

COLTON
Then what did your sensei tell you?

KAI
Take three of his advance classes
for \$149 each and I'll be able to
kick anyone butt, including yours.

COLTON
Oh yeah. So your Mom is going to
give you \$400 bucks just so you can
kick my butt. Get real. This is
what I'm talking about. You guys
are still kids when I'm already an
adult.

DEAN
You're the same age as us.

COLTON
My sprint is already in it's 30's.

DEAN
That sound depressing.

COLTON
Well, good. Being depressed is part
of being an adult.

NICK

Well my dad says dating women ages you, drains the life out of you. Sucks a man dry he says. And I've already had three girlfriends this summer. So I've must have been aged as well.

COLTON

I don't even remember inviting you into my house. Do you maybe want to leave?

The three friends gather together. Huddled. Having a discussion that they don't want Colton to hear.

A pause.

COLTON (CONT'D)

What are you fools muttering about?

They break away from their huddle and look towards him.

DEAN

We've found something pretty magical. Literally magical. And we're just trying to decide if we should tell you or not.

COLTON

(smug)

Well I'm sorry, I don't believe in magic. So I don't care. That's something for children and I'm not a child.

KAI

You should always keep an open mind. That's the first thing you get taught when on your way to black belt.

COLTON

Well my mind is firmly closed. Shut. Never opening. That's what it means to be an adult.

NICK

You're going to want to see this.

COLTON

I doubt it.

NICK

People are going to go nuts when we take him to school.

COLTON

Him?

DEAN

We think it's a guy. I'm not sure. Could be a woman. Maybe we should ask. It might just be an it. Not have a gender?

COLTON

What is it, who is it?

KAI

Now look who's interested. Looks like that mind of yours isn't closed all the way just yet?

DEAN

Are we really taking him to school?

NICK

Of course. Everyone will go nuts. The girls will be all over us.

KAI

We need to be careful.

DEAN

I don't think he'll want to go to school.

Colton stamps his feet and yells out over the top of them.

COLTON

I don't care. I've quit school. Don't mention school to me again.

DEAN

(dumbfounded)

You can't quit school. That's not allowed. You can't do that.

COLTON

Yes you can. And I have.

KAI

He who thinks there are no more lessons to learn is truly not learnt the most valuable lesson of all.

COLTON
I've learnt enough.

NICK
You can barely read and write your own name.

COLTON
I've got enough to get by just fine.

NICK
You can't even count to ten without using your fingers.

COLTON
Look, this was a nice game, thanks for asking me to play. But I'm done. Can you please leave.

DEAN
What game? Who won?

COLTON
You guys just need to go. It was nice getting a visit from my childhood friends, but it's bye bye time.

KAI
Bye bye time? Now who sounds childish?

COLTON
You were my childhood friends, but I'm an adult now.

DEAN
So why can't we be your adulthood friends too?

COLTON
I'm sorry, but this is me cutting ties with all of you. And I mean ALL of you.

Nick has his hands on his hips, shaking his head.

NICK
Damn, you're breaking up with us? This is giving me a lot of flashbacks. But still, it's not the worst breakup I've ever had.

DEAN

Well this is my first break up so it's definingly the worst one I've had.

NICK

My worst, I was asking this girl out everyday. I even used to follow her home. Just begging her to go out with me.

COLTON

This doesn't sound like a very romantic story.

NICK

It gets better. She even used to run away from me. As fast as she could. But I would just chase after her. Love makes you do crazy things.

COLTON

That doesn't make the story better.

NICK

Well, I knew she liked me.

COLTON

Are you sure?

NICK

Then one night I was outside her house. Just banging on the front door with both hands. Just screaming as loud as I could, 'will you go out with me?' Over and over and over. Until my throat was sore.

DEAN

Apparently girl's like it when you're persistent.

KAI

(frowns)

I don't know if that's true.

NICK

Anyway, her older brother opened the door and punched me so hard he broke my nose and knocked out two of my teeth. That's the worst break up I've ever had.

DEAN
That's so sad.

COLTON
That wasn't a breakup. And it sounded like you got what you deserved. Asking for it if you ask me.

Kai acts out over the top karate moves. Recreating the fight as he imagines.

KAI
I would have blocked it. Countered his strike with a chop to the throat.

COLTON
Genius.

Nick reaches over and tugs at the tie.

NICK
What's the suit for?

DEAN
You look good.

Colton slaps his hand away.

COLTON
It's for my dad.

NICK
Your dad?

DEAN
Isn't your dad a lot bigger than you. How's it going to fit him?

COLTON
It's to show him. I've asked to move away with him. I need to show him that I'm grown up. An adult.

Kai crosses his arms.

KAI
(disgusted)
Well, your tie is all wrong. You've basically turned it into a weapon against yourself. If I pulled on it, even just a little, I'd choke you out.

COLTON
Then don't touch.

DEAN
Your dad is a soldier right?

COLTON
Yeah.

DEAN
So doesn't that mean you'll be moving wherever a war is?

COLTON
I don't care. I want to be with my dad. And he said he'd love to have me. Wants nothing more in the world. Than for me and him to be together, but...

KAI
(interrupting)
There's a but? But's aren't ever good.

NICK
Unless it's a girl's butt. They're very good.

COLTON
The military has a very strict no child policy.

DEAN
What about child soldiers?

COLTON
Not in this country. So all I need to do is show them I'm not a kid. I'm a adult. Simple. Then I can be with my dad.

His three friends all share a knowing look amongst each other. Once more getting into a close huddle and start muttering amongst each other.

COLTON (CONT'D)
Please, not this again.

The three friends break from each other, all turn to face Colton, grinning.

DEAN

Would you say, you WISH you were
with your dad?

COLTON

Well, yeah.

NICK

Then you're really going to want to
see what we've found.

KAI

Get ready for that close mind of
yours to be blown right open.

COLTON

Magic?

DEAN, NICK, KAI

(altogether)

Magic.

Dean goes to the edge of the stage.

DEAN

Yo, Mr magic man. Come on in.

The Genie enters the room. Dressed in long tattered clothes,
looking homeless. He carries several plastic shopping bags in
each hand, filled with trash. The sound of empty cans
rattling together echoes out as he walks.

COLTON

You've got to be kidding me.

DEAN

He's amazing isn't he?

COLTON

No.

KAI

Don't judge a book by its cover.
Look at Yoda from star wars. Small
and green. Like you could just step
on him. But he's the greatest jedi
of them all. So don't judge a book
by its cover.

COLTON

(points at The Genie)

Well this book cover is dirty,
ripped and smells real bad.

(MORE)

COLTON (CONT'D)

And if you found that in the school library, you're not picking it up.

NICK

It's real Colton, you've just got to believe.

COLTON

This is what I mean. Childish nonsense. I'm trying to be mature, to be a grownup. And you guys bring a homeless man into my house and tell me he's made of magic.

The Genie makes his way over to one of the sofas, sits down. Keeps a tight hold of his shopping bags.

THE GENIE

(burps and yawns)

I'm not homeless by the way.

COLTON

Ok, so where do you live? In a magic lamp I suppose?

THE GENIE

Why yes, your friends found me.

Dean raises a hand.

DEAN

(proud)

I found him actually.

COLTON

This is the dumbest thing I've ever heard.

THE GENIE

A guy once wished to have six fingers on each hand. That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. He thought it would make him a better piano player. But if he'd just wished to be a better piano player I could have done that for him easily. But people are strange.

COLTON

They certainly are.

KAI

Colton, he's the real deal. Honestly.

COLTON

And what is the deal. What is it that you do Mr Genie?

THE GENIE

I grant wishes.

COLTON

Oh yeah, that's right. Three each isn't it?

THE GENIE

Don't be stupid. It's only one per person. Three per person. I wouldn't have any time for myself.

COLTON

This is so childish. You might have fooled them, but you're not going to trick me.

KAI

Colton, be careful what you say next, this kind of magic is powerful. You don't want to upset him.

COLTON

And all three of you have made wishes?

Nick points at himself and Kai.

NICK

Me and Kai have.

COLTON

I can't believe I'm asking you this, but what did you wish for?

Kai takes up a kung fu pose and respectfully bows to Colton.

KAI

To be a black belt in karate.

COLTON

You're joking?

Kai performs a few different karate style moves, as though fighting off several invisible enemies all at once.

THE GENIE

Oh right, that reminds me.

The Genie goes rummaging inside his bags, finds and pulls out a karate blackbelt.

THE GENIE (CONT'D)

Here you go young man.

Kai run over, excitedly takes the blackbelt and ties it proudly around his waists.

KAI

Awesome. Fits.

COLTON

It's a belt.

Kai models with his new back belt, like he's on a catwalk.

KAI

Fits perfectly.

COLTON

Oh whatever.

KAI

What more evidence do you want?

NICK

(pointing)

Do you see what's around his waist?

DEAN

(stunned)

And he just made it magically appear. How do you explain that?

Colton throws his arms up into the air in disbelief.

COLTON

Made it appear? Magically? He pulled it out of one of those bags. The guy is dragging around about half a ton of trash, so no it doesn't impress me. You guys are crazy.

The genie leans back, crosses his legs and lets out a yawn.

THE GENIE

(tired)

Then why don't you wish for something that would impress you.

(MORE)

THE GENIE (CONT'D)

Like a horse, but with a dog's head, a crocodiles tail and butterflies wings? Something like that?

DEAN

(curious)

You could do that?

The Genie now lays back on the sofa, gets as comfortable as he can.

THE GENIE

(closing his eyes)

Sure, I can do anything. You've just got to wish for it.

Dean holds a hand to his chest.

DEAN

(earnestly)

I still haven't made my wish yet.

COLTON

Well I'm not playing your game. Your stupid, childish game.

THE GENIE

Your loss.

COLTON

(to Nick)

And what did you wish for?

Nick puffs his chest out, hands on hips. Takes up an almost superhero like stance.

NICK

(confidently)

To be irresistible to girl's.

COLTON

(laughing)

What?

NICK

Keeping laughing Colton, you're the one who's missing out.

Colton approaches the Genie. Kicks out at one of the shopping bags, sounds like it's filled with empty cans. He points at Nick.

COLTON

So what have you got in here to make Nick irresistible to girls? Something to change his whole face and personality? I don't think an empty can is going to do that. I don't think your bags of empty cans are going to do anything at all.

The Genie stands up, makes sure to gather up all of his shopping bags behind him. He holds his arms out, taking up a protective stance.

THE GENIE

(suddenly angry)

You stay away from my cans, don't even think about wishing for them. I'm serious.

COLTON

(nervous)

Why would I wish for empty cans?

The Genie takes another step closer to Colton, wags a finger at him.

THE GENIE

(emotional)

Just don't, I'm warning you. I mean it.

COLTON

I don't want your empty cans.

THE GENIE

Then why do you keep looking at them? You're obsessed.

COLTON

I'm not.

THE GENIE

You're going to wish for them, I just know it. Steal them from me. Do you have an idea how long it took me to collect them all? They're all different, they're all unique.

Kai joins the Genie.

KAI

Please don't wish for them Colton, it's not right.

COLTON

I'm not going to wish for empty cans.

Nick joins the Genie, stands on the other side of him.

NICK

I thought you were better than that. It's shameful that you're even thinking about it.

Colton throws his arms up, desperately protesting his innocence.

COLTON

I'm not interested in his collection of empty can, honesty. I swear.

DEAN

Then why do you keep mentioning them? You're talking about them nonstop.

COLTON

(yelling)

He's just trying to change the subject. To take the focus away from himself. That's what con artists do. You three are all too immature to see it, but I can. I see it because it's right there in front of me.

THE GENIE

Oh, how so?

COLTON

Well, from where I'm standing, Nick still isn't looking irresistible to girls. It's almost as if nothing has happened, nothing has changed.

THE GENIE

That's because I haven't granted it yet.

Nick steps forwards, holds out his arms like he's ready to receive a blessing.

COLTON

I can't wait to see this.

The Genie moves in front of Nick, he starts making noises, bizarre and loud. He then starts to dance, freeform, interruptive. All very stupid.

COLTON (CONT'D)
Ok, now this is just ridiculous.

KAI
Colton, shut up, show some respect.

COLTON
Respect this? How?

DEAN
I think it's beautiful.

The Genie suddenly stops, he claps his hands loudly together right in front of Nick's face.

THE GENIE
There, wish granted.

The Genie slumps back down onto the sofa, grabs a hold of all his bags again. A tight hold.

NICK
Oh thank you, thank you, thank you.

COLTON
Nothing has happened!

KAI
You just don't want to believe, no matter what happens?

Dean raises his hand above his head.

DEAN
I believe.

COLTON
But nothing's happened, nothing.

THE GENIE
I made him irresistible to girls.

COLTON
Have you?

THE GENIE
They aren't any girls here. But if there were, then you'd see. They would be all over him.

Dean jumps up and down, shaking his hands above his head.

DEAN
(excited)
Me next, me next.

COLTON
Nonsense.

Nick spins on the spot, runs his hands across his chest.

NICK
I do feel something. I really do
feel like I'm a lot more
attractive.

DEAN
I wish to be able to fart on
demand.

COLTON
What?

KAI
(worried)
I don't think you're seeing the
true possibilities that this
opportunity is presenting.

NICK
Wish for something you really want.

A pause. Dean thinks about it, shrugs.

DEAN
(confident)
That is something I really want.
It's funny.

The Genie clicks his fingers several times at Dean, makes a couple different weird sounds then smiles.

THE GENIE
There you go little fella, your
wish is granted.

DEAN
(farts on the spot)
Wow. This is going to change my
life so much.

KAI
Alright then Colton, how do you
explain that?

COLTON

He's full of wind, and he's gross.
There you go mystery solved.

THE GENIE

(annoyed)

Colton, make a wish. Go on. Really test me. I dare you.

COLTON

I've already told you once, I'm not playing your childish game. And I meant it.

THE GENIE

Then I guess you'll never really know if I'm telling the truth or not? You'll always be wondering, what if.

Dean lets off a couple more loud farts on demand.

DEAN

Go for it Colton. What have you got to lose?

COLTON

(smug)

Alright, my dad's in the military.

THE GENIE

(more smug)

I already know that.

Colton rolls his eyes.

COLTON

Of course you do, liar.

THE GENIE

Just make the wish.

COLTON

(smirking)

He's stationed in Germany. I want one plan ticket to Germany please. First class. Can your magic handle that?

THE GENIE

You've got to make it a wish.

COLTON

OK, I wish for one plane ticket to Germany. Thank you very much.

THE GENIE

Alright.

The Genie goes rustling through his bags. Spends a good while searching.

COLTON

You see, he's full of it.

The Genie pulls out a plane ticket, waves it at Colton.

THE GENIE

Here you go. First class.

COLTON

That can't be real.

Colton snatches the plane ticket from The Genie, holds it up for a closer inspection.

COLTON (CONT'D)

(shocked)

That's my name. And today's date.
This is real. How did you get this?

Colton waves the ticket at the Genie.

COLTON (CONT'D)

How did you do this?

KAI

(happy)

We told you.

NICK

Awesome isn't he?

DEAN

(farts)

I bet you wish you didn't waste
your wish now?

COLTON

This can't be real. How did you do
it? Slight of hand? How?

THE GENIE

I'm a Genie. Granting wishes is
kind of what I do.

Suddenly the sound of several people banging on Colton's front door echoes out around them.

COLTON

What's that? What's going on now?

THE GENIE

That's the sound of more granted wishes. You know the old saying. Be careful what you wish for. Well, this is it.

Suddenly several teenage GIRLS burst into the front room. They're desperate, out of breath, crazed.

They make a run on Nick. Surrounded him. Screaming and pulling at his clothes. As though he's a world famous pop star. Screaming and cheering his name.

NICK

What's going on?

THE GENIE

It's what you wished for.

Nick struggles to stay up on his feet, the girls overpowering him.

NICK

Make it stop.

THE GENIE

It's not how this works.

COLTON

I didn't know something like you could be real.

THE GENIE

(smug)

I told you so.

More teenage girls appear. Nick is getting swamped. A sea of screaming teenage girls.

COLTON

I want to change my wish.

THE GENIE

Sorry. Too late.

Nick is pulled apart. He collapses down to the floor. The girls surrounded him, still yanking at his clothes. If this is allowed to go on, they'll strip him naked.

KAI
(to Dean)
We've got to do something.

DEAN
Agreed.

Kai goes into action, karate chopping the girls, forcing them away from Nick. Using his wish to protect him. Dean too stays close, continually making his on demand farts noises.

These girls keep coming for Nick, but hiding behind Kai, he's able to use his blackbelt karate skills to keep these screaming girl's away.

COLTON
I was just being stupid. I'm not catching a plane all on my own. I'm just some kid.

THE GENIE
(annoyed)
You've been calling me a lair since I got here. Eyeing up my collection of cans. Waiting for your chance to steal them. Why should I be nice to you?

COLTON
I'm sorry.

THE GENIE
You're just saying that.

COLTON
Normally you'd be right, but not this time. I'm really sorry.

THE GENIE
Really?

COLTON
I'm just a kid. Look at me.

THE GENIE
And?

COLTON
I don't want to grow up. I mean, I've just learnt that magic is real. Why would I want to grow up?

THE GENIE
And what do you want?

Colton looks at the madness behind him. Kai fighting a small army of teenage girls whilst Nick cowers on the floor with Dean fating. He returns to the Genie.

COLTON

I just want to be a kid. I like it.
I really do.

THE GENIE

And what else do you want, there's more. I can see it on your face.

COLTON

Just one more wish.

The Genie shakes his head.

THE GENIE

You only get one.

Colton drops down onto his knees, begging.

COLTON

I want my dad to come home. I want to be a kid and I want my dad.

THE GENIE

That's not a wish.

COLTON

I wish my Dad would come home.

THE GENIE

That's a nice wish. And I can see that you mean it.

COLTON

It's my only wish.

THE GENIE

You promises to not make anymore?

Colton nods.

COLTON

Please. This all I want.

The Genie nods.

THE GENIE

Granted.

COLTON

Granted?

THE GENIE

Sure.

COLTON

Just like that?

THE GENIE

Well, what else do you want?

COLTON

Aren't you going to make any weird noises? Do any stupid dancing?

THE GENIE

No, don't need to. People just seem to like it when I do it.

The Genie stands up, holding onto his bags he makes his way across the room.

There's another knock on the door.

COLTON

Who's that?

THE GENIE

(smiling)

I think you already know.

Colton gestures to the madness going on behind him.

COLTON

What about all this?

THE GENIE

(rolls his eyes)

You really do make a lot of demands don't you.

(looks across at the others)

Anyone else want to change their wishes?

NICK

(screaming)

Me!

KAI

(still Karate chopping)

I don't want to beat up anymore girls. I really don't feel good about any of this.

DEAN
 (still farting)
 I'm keeping mine.

THE GENIE
 Fine.

The Genie stamps his feet and claps his hands together twice above his head.

As he does this, all those teenage girls who had been fighting just to get close to Nick all come to their senses and start screaming for a different reason, fear and confusion washes over them. None of them sure what they're even doing here. They all run back out of the room.

As the girls exit. DAD, 45, in a military uniform enters. He's just as confused. First the girls and now he's met with the sight of Dean still farting.

The Genie walks past him with all of his shopping bags.

THE GENIE (CONT'D)
 (nods to Dad)
 Evening.

DAD
 What's going on?

Colton runs up to him, wrapping his arms around Dad's waist and pressing his face into his chest.

COLTON
 You're home.

DAD
 How did I get here? Who are all of these people? What's going on? Is this a dream?

COLTON
 I hope not.

DAD
 Then what?

COLTON
 I can explain.

DAD
 You can?

Colton shrugs, laughing.

COLTON
I'm not sure, but I'll try. I'm
just so happy you're home.

DAD
You are?

COLTON
I love you Dad.

DAD
I love you too.

The two of them embrace in a loving hug.

Dean continues with his farts, Kai reaches over and delivers
a slap to the back of Dean's head, brining him to a sudden
stop.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END