

Happy Birthday

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A front door swings open. Tommy (12), slender, pimples fight for facial real estate, plugged to music, belts out tunes as he closes the door.

HALLWAY

A small dog sits next to a double door.

TOMMY
Hey, Tiger. Where's everybody?

Tommy squats, rubs the dog.

TOMMY
You're not allowed in there.

The dog whimpers, scratches on the door.

TOMMY
Promise not to tell?

He cups the dog's face, bobs it.

TOMMY
Okay.

LIVING ROOM

Whispers in darkness.

A shaft of light expands across the floor as the door opens.

MARY
Oscar. Lights.

OSCAR
Can't find the switch.

MARY
Come on.

OSCAR
Got it.

As the door closes, lights on.

OSCAR (50), pudgy, with a hand on a wall light switch stands next to Mary (40), lanky. A dozen RELATIVES gather around a table with cakes, balloons and presents.

EVERYONE
(sings)
Happy birth ...

Lights off.

OSCAR
Damn.

HALLWAY

The dog gets on all fours, barks, wags tail.

TOMMY
Make up your mind, Tiger.

LIVING ROOM

Whispers as the door opens.

MARY
Lights. Quick.

OSCAR
Shit, wrong switch.

MARY
For heaven sake.

As the door closes, lights on.

EVERYONE
(sings)
Happy birthday ...

OSCAR
What the hell is he doing?

Lights off.

MARY
Hush.

HALLWAY

Tommy shakes his head as the dog rubs his snout against the door.

TOMMY
Don't get you, Tiger.

He opens the door, leaves.

LIVING ROOM

The dog sneaks in, sits on the floor as lights come on.

EVERYONE
(sings)
Happ ...

OSCAR
You got to be kidding me.

KITCHEN

As Tommy spreads peanut butter on a slice of bread, knocks on a window.

His face lights up when he eyes LISA (12), cute blonde with a contagious smile.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Lisa and Tommy hug.

LISA
Happy birthday.

TOMMY
Thanks.

LISA
Where's your family?

He shrugs.

TOMMY
Don't know. Nobody home.

LISA
I'll take you out for a birthday
dinner. Burger, fries and a shake.

With the dog in Oscar's arms, everyone gawks through a window as Lisa and Tommy pace down a sidewalk.

FADE OUT.