

MAGIC MUSIC BOX

Written by

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Based on the book, Claire Annette and the Magic Music Box,
by James P Brosnahan.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY (MORNING)

CLAIRE ANNETTE (9), a timid girl with her hands tucked into her pockets, stares at her glum face in the mirror. Her shirt has music notes on a staff.

An '*I Love Music*' sticker is affixed to the upper left corner of the mirror and a note is taped on the mirror's upper right corner.

Claire Annette's eyes wander to the handwritten note.

FLASHBACK:

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire Annette's DAD (40s) scribbles the note while she watches wide-eyed in fear.

DAD

Claire Annette; you can sing like
Linda Ronstadt, fly like Amelia
Earhart or climb mountains like
Ashima Shiraishi. It is up to you.

END FLASHBACK.

Claire Annette gazes wide-eyed at the note.

INSERT - NOTE

"1. Sing solo 2. Climb rope 3. Fly in airplane"

BACK TO SCENE

Claire Annette sighs.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dad waits for his coffee to brew.

Claire Annette, wearing her school backpack, shuffles in and retrieves her lunch from the refrigerator.

DAD

Good morning. Is today the choir
auditions for solo parts?

Claire Annette nervously nods. She goes to grab an apple from the counter and topples the fruit bowl. Head droops.

Dad helps her clean up the mess.

DAD (cont'd)
Turn your nervous energy into
creative power and you will sing like
an angel.

INT. SCHOOL - HALL - LATER

Claire Annette anxiously taps her feet as she sits with the other students awaiting their turn to audition.

Music room door opens and out walks a confident STUDENT (9). Student notices Claire Annette and appears perplexed.

STUDENT
Are you in the choir?

CLAIRE ANNETTE
Third row. Alto.

STUDENT
Oh. I guess I hadn't noticed.

Student struts down the hall.

TEACHER (20s) smiles at the music room door.

TEACHER
Claire Annette, it's your turn.

Claire Annette gasps!

INT. SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette is a bundle of nerves as she forces out the notes and sings off key.

EXT. STREET - SIDEWALK - LATER (AFTER SCHOOL)

Claire Annette, her eyes cast downward, shuffles along.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT STOOP - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette gently knocks on the front door.

GRANDMA (60s) answers with a beaming smile on her face.

GRANDMA
Happy birthday, Claire Annette!

Grandma, being emotionally aware, hugs Claire Annette.

CLAIRE ANNETTE
My audition was a disaster.

GRANDMA
Come in. I have a special gift for
you.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette unwraps a tiny music box.

GRANDMA
It's magical. It knows when you're
afraid.

Claire Annette is perplexed. Grandma looks her in the eyes.

GRANDMA (cont'd)
The music will give you courage.

INT. HOUSE - GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Claire Annette hides in bed under her comforter.

CLAIRE ANNETTE
I wish I was brave.

Claire Annette pulls back the comforter enough so one eye
peers out at the room.

Curtains turn into dancing fairies as air whistles through
the window!

Claire Annette is slack-jawed. She directs her gaze to the
music box.

The music box sparkles with magical energy!

Claire Annette's eyes are full of wonderment. She retreated
beneath her comforter and dreams about the music box.

INT. HOUSE - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Claire Annette safely tucks the music box in her pocket.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette sits in class.

Teacher writes on the whiteboard.

INSERT - WHITEBOARD

"Reading Day"

BACK TO SCENE

TEACHER

Claire Annette, would you like to go
first?

Claire Annette looks bug eyed at Teacher.

Claire Annette, book in hand, stands in front of the class.
Her eyes are wide in fear.

Music box in her pocket begins to play!

Claire Annette glances around nervously but nobody seems to
notice!

GRANDMA (V.O.)

(voice in Claire
Annette's head)

Only you can hear the magic music.

Claire Annette shakes away her fear, opens the book and the
words flow from her mouth. It is her best reading ever!

INT. SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER

Claire Annette is intimidated by the long rope hanging down
from the ceiling. She is next in line to climb. Her turn
arrives. She gulps and nervously wipes her sweaty hands on
her gym shorts.

Music box in her pocket begins to play!

Again, Claire Annette looks around and still no one notices.

Claire Annette confidently grabs the rope and up she
scurries in record time!

INT. HOUSE - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Claire Annette blissfully reads her dad's note on the mirror.

INSERT - NOTE

"1. Sing solo 2. Climb rope 3. Fly in airplane"

BACK TO SCENE

Claire Annette snatches her dad's note and stuffs it into her pocket alongside the music box.

INT. SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Claire Annette confidently approaches Teacher.

CLAIRE ANNETTE
May I have a second chance at a solo?

Teacher is thrown off-kilter. She nods and hands sheet music to Claire Annette.

Music box begins to play! Again, only Claire Annette can hear the magic music.

Claire Annette sings freely!

Teacher applauds with joy and enthusiasm.

TEACHER
Well done! You earned a solo!

INT. SCHOOL - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette struts to her next class.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Claire Annette holds court in reading circle as she captivates her classmates with a fluent reading while music box plays music only for her ears.

BELL RINGS!

All heads turn towards Teacher.

TEACHER
Recess!

Students line up by the door and march out behind Teacher.

Claire Annette places her music box in her cubbyhole.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

STUDENT (9) returns to the room. In the process of grabbing a jacket, Student inadvertently knocks the music box from the cubbyhole.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Teacher leads students into the room.

Claire Annette finds her music box broken into smithereens.

STUDENT

It wasn't my fault. It was too close to the edge.

Claire Annette's eyes well up with tears.

Student is caught off guard and softens.

STUDENT (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I will get you a new one.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT STOOP - LATER

Claire Annette knocks and Grandma answers. Claire Annette's mood is gloomy.

GRANDMA

What's wrong dear?

CLAIRE ANNETTE

Nothing.

Grandma gives her a deep stare. Claire Annette sighs.

CLAIRE ANNETTE (cont'd)

The music box broke at school today.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Grandma sits down next to Claire Annette.

GRANDMA
Sweetheart, the music box was just a
pretty box. The spring broke years
ago. It hasn't played music since
before you were born.

Claire Annette is puzzled.

CLAIRE ANNETTE
The music box did play.

Grandma gives her a look. Claire Annette looks quizzical.

CLAIRE ANNETTE (V.O.)
(her thoughts)
I was the only one who heard its
music.

GRANDMA
The real magic music comes from
inside your heart. It has been there
the whole time.

Claire Annette peers at Grandma as she tries to comprehend.

GRANDMA (cont'd)
All you need to do is listen.

Claire Annette pulls her dad's list of things to do from her
pocket. She takes a long look at the list.

CLAIRE ANNETTE
Grandma, it is time for me to fly.

Grandma beams with joy.

GRANDMA
Dance to the rhythm of your heart,
and you will soar with the stars.

EXT. COUNTY AIRPORT - HANGER - DAY

The private airplane sparkles in the sun.

Claire Annette sprints up to the airplane as her dad looks
on with pride.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Claire Annette buckles herself into the co-pilot seat. Her dad tests her seat-belt and then buckles himself into the pilot seat.

Claire Annette dances to the music of her HEARTBEAT while her dad talks to the tower over the radio. He smiles.

DAD

We are cleared for take-off.

Claire Annette gives her dad a big thumbs-up!

Whoosh down the runway and away they fly!

Claire Annette marvels as houses grow smaller and smaller.

A glance in the airplane's mirror catches her dad's grin.

DAD (cont'd)

How does it feel to be on top of the world?

Claire Annette speaks to the fearless girl in the mirror.

CLAIRE ANNETTE

I feel massive and mighty.

FADE OUT.