

ST. Nick

by

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EXT. WOODS - DAY

A frosty December morning. A whistling breeze. Cheap Walmart-brand sneakers encroach the earth; cracking frozen branches and leaves.

The culprit, twelve year old NICK KARES, walks through a wide grove. He's a bit chubby. Detached. His backpack is just high enough to obscure his face from behind.

But forty year old MISS CANTOR recognizes Nick from her deck anyway. She's on her phone. The forest is her backyard.

MISS CANTOR  
Hurry Nicholas. Better not be late.

Nick looks up at her, annoyed she's there, says nothing.

MISS CANTOR (CONT'D)  
(To whoever's on the  
phone)  
The creepiest kid ever walks through  
my property everyday.

Nick is gone.

EXT. LANECREST MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

Kids pile into the front entrance from the buses, but --

Not Nick. He exits the woods on the side of the school where no one sees him.

The way he likes it.

He heads for the back of the school.

EXT. BACK ENTRANCE - MORNING

When Nick approaches the janitor's door, it opens. REZI, the former thug, turned janitor, let's him in.

Nick stops, opens his backpack and hands Rezi a Mcdonald's breakfast sandwich.

REZI  
Teachers catch you coming in this  
way, I don't know you.

NICK  
Understood.

Nick heads for class.

REZI

Wait.

Nick stops. Rezi looks him up and down.

REZI (CONT'D)

Their gonna start with your sneakers first, then your smell, because you walked so far here. Finally your weight. They'll do that all day.

NICK

Got it. Thanks.

Nick starts walking.

REZI

(Stopping him again)

Wait. Have some responses that make you seem like you don't care. Could take the wind out of their sails.

NICK

Appreciate it.

Nick heads for class. Rezi watches. Helpless.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Nick walks through the halls, head down, wishing he was invisible.

Not too far away is his class. He's just about there when --

A BODY walking the opposite way slams right into him.

Nick stumbles back, banging the lockers hard.

A muscled, MMA shirt wearing kid gets in Nick's face; thirteen year old PETE WALKER. He's the class clown, but more a man-child nightmare. The only kid in school allowed to wear a hat.

PETE

(Nick's sneakers)

What the hell you doing bro? You going with those for the third year in a row?

All one hundred or so kids in the hall go silent. The phone cameras come out.

NICK

Times are rough bro.

Nick puts a hand up to give dap. The hall of students laugh.  
Good comeback.

Pete slaps Nick's hand away.

PETE

Don't touch me. And you smell.  
Stop eating mcdoubles, move your fat  
ass once in a while, and you won't  
smell after standing more than two  
minutes.

NICK

I love Mcdoubles.

More laughter from everyone. Nick's doing great.

PETE

Don't try ta square off with me bro.  
Kyle walked by your window yesterday  
and saw you pleasuring yourself to  
Lena's instagram.

The hall groans in disgust. Nick tenses, wasn't ready for  
this one.

NICK

Don't pleasure myself, sorry.

Pete's got him.

PETE

Wait, you don't? Everybody does.  
Wanna know what happens after?

NICK

I thought I pleasure myself?  
Apparently Kyle saw me right?

PETE

(Shocked)  
What?

The hall erupts into laughter.

PETE (CONT'D)

So you do pleasure yourself to Lena.  
You sick pervert.

Mortified, thirteen year old LENA watches everyone laughing  
at her.

Nick can't look at her; ashamed she was brought into this.

INT. JEAN'S HOME - DAY

Nick walks through the door, heads straight for his room.

He reluctantly has to pass the living room where GRANDMA JEAN, 50's, who just got home herself, opens mail.

JEAN

Hey!

NICK

Hey.

JEAN

I ordered pizza if you're...

But Nick has already made it to his room. She hears the door shut.

Jean stares at the hallway where Nick just was. Sighs.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - DAY

Dark. Messy. Cobwebs on the blinds from never being opened.

Nick takes off his clothes, drops them on the floor, jumps right in the bed.

It's 4:07pm

Nick falls asleep.

Nick wakes up at 9:00pm, to a pitch black room.

He lays on his side, stares at the wall.

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jean approaches the door with two slices of pizza on a plate.

JEAN

You hungry? Just heated two slices  
in the oven.

NICK (O.S.)

I'm good thanks. I'll get some later.  
Gonna get some homework done.

JEAN

(He's lying)

Okay. Let me know if you need  
anything.

NICK (O.S.)

Yep.

Jean hesitates at the door. She wants to say something.

Nick sees her shadow from inside the room. He's worried. But then the shadow goes back to the kitchen.

Nick goes back to sleep.

LATER

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick darts up in the bed. Dripping sweat. A bad dream.

He looks down; a pool of sweat on his pillow and the bed-sheets.

He looks at the clock on the wall. 3:00am on the nose.

He climbs out of bed.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Silent as a mouse, Nick opens the foil with the two slices of pizza inside.

He destroys them quietly.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Nick disarms the alarm, opens the door as softly as possible.

He's dressed in the previous day's clothes.

INT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

Nick gets in the back seat as the Uber driver stares at him in the mirror.

NICK  
How's it going?

UBER DRIVER  
Don't you have school soon?

NICK  
That's why I'm trying to get home.

UBER DRIVER  
(Makes sense)  
Oh.

NICK  
Which way you going?

The driver touches the screen on his phone.

UBER DRIVER

Looks like it has us taking the Tappan Zee.

NICK

Great.

FORTY MINUTES LATER

EXT. TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Uber car enters the Tappan Zee bridge.

Very few cars enter this early in the morning.

INT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

Nick can't take his eyes off a bridge sign.

THE SIGN

THERE IS HOPE. MAKE THE CALL. THE  
CONSEQUENCES OF JUMPING FROM THIS  
BRIDGE ARE FATAL AND TRAGIC.

There's a number at the bottom of the sign for people to dial.

NICK

People actually jump off this thing?

UBER DRIVER

Yes sir. Sad.

Nick tries to get a good look at the distance from the bridge to the water.

NICK

How long is the drop?

UBER DRIVER

I have no idea. Well over a hundred feet probably.

NICK

So you're pretty much done when you hit the water.

UBER DRIVER

Sure are.

The Uber driver thinks about the conversation.

UBER DRIVER (CONT'D)

You're not thinking about jumping are you?

Nick and the Uber driver crack up laughing.

NICK

Yeah.

UBER DRIVER

(Joking)

Well, hope it's quick.

NICK

(Not joking)

Me too.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

While walking, Nick watches a Youtuber on his Galaxy phone.

It's INVISIBLE MAN, who's really just a scrawny thirteen year old boy from Indianapolis, too close to the camera.

INVISIBLE MAN

People will leave you alone if they think you're doing what they feel is "appropriate" for the setting that you're in.

Miss Cantor watches Nick. The whole look of him in the dark woods disturbs her.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Loud. Students having fun. All of them standing in a circle. Some sort of trivia game is happening.

When you're out, you sit down.

Nick sits at his desk. He intentionally made himself lose first so he can stare blankly at the chalkboard in front of him.

Also out, a NOSEY GIRL in front of Nick, laughs at what's going on in the game.

She haphazardly turns around, sees the way Nick looks. What the hell?

INVISIBLE MAN (O.S.)

So in a classroom situation, pick up your phone like you just got a text.

Nick senses the girl noting him as the next school shooter and grabs his phone out of his pocket.



INVISIBLE MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Open one of your messages and just  
 type anything. Don't send it  
 obviously, unless you really wanna  
 send something to the person.

Nick opens up an old **I LOVE YOU** text from mom.

He starts typing away as the girl watches.

NICK  
 (Typed on phone)  
 Nick kares nick kares nick kares  
 nick kares...

The Nosey girl turns back to the game.

INVISIBLE MAN (O.S.)  
 This is my go to move. People will  
 forget all about you and leave you  
 alone.

INT. GYM CLASS - DAY

Kickball day. Nick's team lines up to kick.

Nick stands next to TJ and GREG. Both 13. Tj's all bones,  
 colossal head, and big ears. Greg's short with an oddly  
 shaped head, almost deformed looking.

The three of them stand out next to the attractive kids around  
 them.

Not in a good way.

TJ  
 We meet at my house. My brother  
 drops us off at the dance. Boom.

GREG  
 Why don't we just meet there?

TJ  
 Because we don't have dates idiot.  
 It eliminates the chance of one of  
 us getting there too early and being  
 all alone, looking like a bum.

GREG  
 I have a date though.

Nick and TJ stare at Greg.

NICK  
 You do?

GREG

Yeah.

TJ

You do not have a date.

GREG

Yes I do.

TJ

Your mom dressed up young doesn't count.

Nick smiles, sort of. The first time we see him even come close.

BUT THE MOMENT DISINTEGRATES.

He takes a fast, powerfully thrown kickball to the face, stinging him tremendously.

NICK

(Pete)

What the hell is wrong with you?

Pete walks right up to him.

PETE

What. Do something bro.

They are now the center of attention.

PETE (CONT'D)

Cause I'll choke you out right here.

Nick and Pete square off. Face to face. Neither backing down.

Nick clenches his fists. He wants to kill this kid.

PETE (CONT'D)

Go head. See what happens.

The gym teacher steps in, separating Nick and Pete.

GYM TEACHER

Knock it off right now.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bags of different flavored popcorn are being passed around.

A handful of Nick's similarly aged COUSINS sit on the couch with Jean.

Movie night with Grandma.

NICK'S COUSIN  
Where's Nick?

JEAN  
He went to bed a little early.

The cousin's look at each other. It's 5:00pm.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
He'll probably be out later though.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Nick lays on his side, staring at the wall. A stream of tears down both his eyes.

He closes them and falls asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Squashed into half it's length. Blown out windows. Spread about like glassed sand.

The legs of Nick's sister RACHEL, and father JOHN, are awkwardly entangled.

Their upper bodies are not visible, crushed somewhere else.

Impaled with something metal, Nick's mom CAROLINE, tries to sit up. Badly Marred, and still fastened to his seat, Nick reaches out to her.

NICK  
(Crushed lung)  
Mom...

CAROLINE  
It'll be okay.

CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick darts up in bed; the same bad dream from the night before.

THE SAME BAD DREAM EVERY NIGHT.

Wiping his soaked face, Nick looks at the clock. 3:00am sharp.

INT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

Nick stares at the dark HUDSON RIVER as they enter the Tappan Zee bridge.

NICK

There's no one here to stop anyone  
at this time.

DIFFERENT DRIVER

Hopefully a good Samaritan will jump  
out of his car and do it.

NICK

But where do people even jump from?

DIFFERENT DRIVER

(Pointing)  
Over there I think.

Nick looks.

NICK

That's crazy.

DIFFERENT DRIVER

(Uncomfortable)  
Yeah. Hey aren't you a little young  
to be out this time of night?

NICK

My aunt's really sick. We're not  
sure how long she has.

DIFFERENT DRIVER

I'm sorry to hear that.

NICK

Thanks.

EXT. LANECREST MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Alone, Nick sits on a stone bench, staring at the ground.

There's no windows, no people around to interrupt him, except  
for --

Two YOUNG HIPPIE WANNABES who enter the area.

They goof off with each other before spotting Nick alone,  
staring at the ground. What in the world?

INVISIBLE MAN (O.S.)  
If you're going to do zombie mode,  
always have your bluetooth in your  
ear.

Nick scratches his ear, making the hippies see his bluetooth earpiece.

The hippie's relax, less creeped out now.

INVISIBLE MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
And just talk. Make it seem real  
though.

NICK  
What? No. I just kissed her. Why  
you yelling at me?

The hippies look at each other. Girlfriend drama. They respectively leave.

Nick returns to staring at the ground in silence.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nick and Jean eat at the table. Nick keeps his eyes on his plate.

Jean watches him.

JEAN  
Thanks for having dinner with me.

Nick looks up at her, smirks.

NICK  
It's all good Gramma. That's what  
families do.

JEAN  
How are you doing?

Nick shuts the subject down immediately.

NICK  
Good. I'm sorry you haven't seen me  
the last few days. There's some bug  
going around school. Everyone's  
getting sick.

JEAN  
I'm glad you feel better.

NICK  
Thanks.

Jean wants to stay on the subject but --

NICK (CONT'D)

Did you do something different with the pot-roast? It's really good.

JEAN

New seasoning.

NICK

(Could care less)

Wow.

JEAN

I also invited Jenna over for dinner tomorrow night.

Nick's not happy to hear this.

NICK

The therapist?

JEAN

Yes. She wants to see how you're doing.

NICK

Man, I wish I could see her but I have the dance at school.

JEAN

(Fake surprise)

You're going?

NICK

Yeah.

JEAN

Well, I'll just have to hang out with her alone then.

NICK

I'm sorry.

JEAN

Don't worry about it.

They continue to eat in silence.

Jean has a faint smile on her face. The conversation went exactly how she wanted it to go.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Crowded. Blasting rap music. Disco lights zip around the room.

Girls dance in grown up dresses. Boys look stiff in Easter suits, including --

Nick, TJ, and Greg, huddled at the punch table.

TJ

(Nick)

Still didn't think you'd show up.

NICK

Of course I'd show up.

GREG

You always plan with us, then leave us hanging.

Cut the crap --

TJ

What happened?

NICK

My grandmother invited my therapist over for dinner.

TJ

Damn kid.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jean watches TV alone. No therapist present.

BACK TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

NICK

It was a trick to get me out of the house.

TJ

Sucks.

GREG

Guys I gotta tell you something.

Nick and TJ turn to Greg.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Tonight's my last night at this  
school.

NICK & TJ  
(Shocked)  
What?

GREG  
My parents are getting me out of  
public school. Transferring me to  
that Christian school across town.

TJ  
Damn son. What happened?

GREG  
Yeah man, too many kids here always  
bothering me about my head. I've  
been depressed.

A blow to Nick. He stares at Greg, surprised by his  
transparency.

Greg stares around the gym. Kids are either talking about  
the three of them, or laughing.

The three of them notice.

GREG (CONT'D)  
See? Kids at Christian schools aren't  
like this. They're nicer. You guys  
should transfer too.

TJ  
(Considering)  
I don't know.

NICK  
I'm good.

GREG  
Whatever. It is what it is. Let's  
go stand behind the DJ. No one can  
see us over there.

LATER IN THE DANCE

Back at the punch table, Greg and TJ surprisingly have dates  
now.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Guys this is not my cousin, Pricilla.



Everyone laughs, all shaking hands. PRICILLA'S pretty, so is TJ's date KASIE, both Thirteen.

TJ

You sure?

PRICILLA

(A bit offended)

I'm sure.

GREG

She's from my new school.

TJ

Look. Guys this is our last night at the same school together. Nick, you have to find a date to make this night legit.

Nick glares at TJ, the betrayal in his eyes.

NICK

Thanks.

PRICILLA

I see a girl over there all alone. I think she's looking for a dance partner. Just saying.

They all look. It's Lena.

NICK

I'm good.

TJ

I swear, if you say that again...

KASIE

Girls like confidence.

PRICILLA

You'll never know if you don't try.

GREG

What's the worst that can happen. She says no. Next.

Nick thinks about it. They won't get off his back otherwise.

INT. BOYS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Nick struggles to look at himself in the mirror. He doesn't like what he sees.

KASIE (O.S.)  
 Girl's like confidence.

Nick straightens up his tie, trying to muster up a confident face when --

He hears two girls walking to the girls room.

LENA (O.S.)  
 Why are you following me? I don't even know you.

PRICILLA  
 Just dance with Nick. One dance. I'll pay you.

Lena stops walking.

LENA  
 What?

PRICILLA  
 I'll pay you. Please.

Nick turns to the door. He listens closely.

LENA  
 No way. That kid's ugly as hell.

The girl's voices fade as they walk away.

Nick looks down. Hurting.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Nick's birthday. Relatives huddle around the table. A cake is lit up with candles.

NICK'S RELATIVES  
 (Singing)  
 Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you...

Nick watches the cake. No expression. His eyes lost in the flames.

NICK'S RELATIVES (CONT'D)  
 (Singing)  
 Happy birthday dear Nicholas. Happy birthday to you.

Nick blows out the candles. His family claps. Party horns erupt.

NICK

Thanks.

Jean watches Nick. The forced smile on his face. She waits for it to be natural. Never happens.

LATER IN THE PARTY

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick's cousins play a party game, though Nick's out first, staring at his phone.

Jean sighs, watching him. She knows the losing first trick.

BOB (O.S.)

It's going to take time.

Jean's equally aged neighbor BOB, watches Nick with her.

JEAN

I know.

EXT. JEAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Nick walks down the long driveway, taking out the trash.

Bob walks with him.

BOB

I slept there with my wife in the hospital, but when I woke up, she had already passed.

Nick looks up at Bob; the remnants of someone who's experienced tremendous loss.

BOB (CONT'D)

When I finally realized that she was truly gone, I didn't wanna live any more.

Nick's eyes suddenly fill with water against his will.

He blinks it away, angered by it.

BOB (CONT'D)

You're in immense pain right now son. I know you are.

Nick can't take this conversation anymore.

BOB (CONT'D)

Now do you pray?

NICK

No.

BOB

I'm telling you, that's the best thing you can do for yourself.

The bag Nick's holding clings to something sharp on the ground.

Nick stops, pulls on the bag. Bob stops too. Hovering.

BOB (CONT'D)

Do you read the bible?

NICK

No.

Nick bends, trying to lift the massive bag to see what's under it.

It's too heavy to lift with one hand and keep it closed with the other.

Nick tugs on the bag harder.

BOB

And you guys don't have a church that you regularly attend do you?

NICK

(Distracted)

What?

BOB

A church. That you guys go to often.

NICK

No.

BOB

You need a church son. That's the key to your help.

Frustrated with Bob, Nick yanks the bag with all his might, causing it to separate. Garbage spreads everywhere.

NICK

Leave me alone!

Bob stops talking, eyes wide, shocked by the outburst.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Nick walks through Jean's dusty, cluttered basement.

He passes a complete furniture set that doesn't match anything upstairs.

**IT'S FURNITURE FROM HIS PREVIOUS HOME WITH HIS PARENTS AND SISTER.**

Nick stops amidst a plethora of boxes. The names of his mom, dad, and sister are written on either of them.

He sits down on a chair he's placed here months ago.

He opens the box of CAROLINE'S (MOM) JACKETS.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Nick lays on his side. One of Caroline's jackets is wrapped around his pillow.

He opens the voicemail app on his phone, scrolls through a bunch of old messages he hasn't deleted.

He plays one of them.

MOM, DAD, & SISTER  
(Singing slowly)  
Happy birthday to you, happy birthday  
to you...

Nick listens intently to their voices.

MOM, DAD, & SISTER (CONT'D)  
(Singing slowly)  
Happy birthday dear Nicky. Happy  
birthday to you.  
(Now talking)  
Happy birthday Nicky. We love you.

And finally --

RACHEL  
We love you dummy.

CAROLINE  
Rachel!

The voicemail ends.

Nick takes a deep breath, inhaling as much of his mom's scent as he can.

A surplus of pain boiling over inside him. Nothing helps but closing his eyes.

He does.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The squashed car is on it's side. Two thirds of Nick's family are already deceased.

Caroline desperately fights for her life. Her breathing stops, then continues; stops, continues.

CAROLINE

(painful)

I...lo..

The fear of dying overcomes her. She stares at Nick, unable to comprehend her death.

Her last breaths happen before --

Her gaze freezes and her chest deflates.

She's gone.

NICK

Mom!

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick darts up in bed, drenched in sweat. 3:00am on the nose.

EXT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

Nick exits the back door of the Uber.

ANOTHER UBER DRIVER

Hey, have a good night. Sorry to hear about your aunt.

NICK

Appreciate it.

Nick shuts the door. The Uber pulls off.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Nick glances around him. He spots a road sign that leads back to the Tappan Zee bridge.

EXT. TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Nick stands, facing the railing.

He looks down at the expansive rippled darkness of the Hudson River.

He turns, spotting a better spot to climb the railing.

He walks to that spot.

VOICE (O.S.)

Nicholas!

Startled, Nick turns around.

Jean stands thirty feet away, watching him.

Nick stares at her, like a deer in headlights, shocked she's here. He looks away, ashamed to meet eyes with her.

He stands still, unsure what to do as Jean runs to him as fast as she can.

She bear hugs him.

Nicholas breaks down and cries in her arms.

JEAN

I love you sweetheart, Okay? Oh  
God...

Jean holds Nick tighter.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jean and Nick sit on the couch. Nick is still in Jean's arms.

It's now well after noon. They've been sitting here a while.

Jean releases Nick from her arms.

JEAN

You okay?

Nick nods yes, keeping his eyes down, still ashamed he was caught on the bridge.

Jean rises from the couch.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

Jean walks to another room.

Nick looks at the time on the cable box. Almost 1:30pm. School is just about over.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Alright...

Back, Jean places a small, aged chest on the table in front of the couch before sitting down.

JEAN (CONT'D)

You were suppose to find this out when you turned fourteen, but I think it's probably best you know now.

NICK

What?

Nick gawks at the seemingly ancient chest, confused at what's happening.

JEAN

You were named after one of your great grandfathers who lived in the third century.

EXT. STREET (YEAR 279) - DAY

A bustling shopping district. Vendors boast about their goods to passing shoppers who are mostly --

MIDDLE CLASS and POOR.

JEAN (O.S.)

He lived in an ancient Greek town called Myra, in Asia minor, now known as modern day Turkey.

An elegantly dressed, affluent couple stands out in the crowd, trying to keep up with their nine year old son NICHOLAS.

Nicholas runs through the crowd with something his parents just brought, tucked under his jacket.

EXT. DARK ALLEY (YEAR 279) - DAY

Winded, Nicholas stops at a YOUNG MOTHER huddled on the ground with her two CHILDREN; all of them starving.

Nicholas gives the mother what's under his jacket. A LOAF OF BREAD.

NICHOLAS'S MOTHER

Nicholas!

Panting, and having caught up, Nicholas' mother proceeds to chastise him, until --

She sees what he's done. It melts her heart.



JEAN (O.S.)

Even at a young age, he made it his responsibility to care for humanity. A passion that followed him into adulthood.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Year 292. Foreign invaders pillage the town of Myra.

The invaders strip young girls from their parents and load them into carriages.

INT. DECREPIT HOME (YEAR 292) - NIGHT

A SINGLE FATHER pleads with the invasion leader not to take his three DAUGHTERS.

The invasion leader strikes the father and leaves, for now.

VERY LATE THE SAME NIGHT.

The single father stands guard, watching for invaders as his daughters sleep.

He hears a noise and rises with a meager sword.

INT. DECREPIT KITCHEN (YEAR 292) - NIGHT

The single father enters with the sword in hand. Nothing is out of the ordinary, except for --

A BAG OF GOLD COINS ON THE TABLE.

Transfixed, the single father stares at the bag.

JEAN (O.S.)

As Nicholas grew older, he became more modest, and wanted to help people in secret.

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT

INT. DECREPIT HOME (YEAR 292) - NIGHT

The invasion leader presses a blood-stained knife against one of the daughter's necks.

The single father hands the leader the bag of gold.

Befuddled, the leader lets the daughter go.

JEAN (O.S.)

When Nicholas' parents died, he grew closer to his Christian upbringing, and his uncle ordained him as a priest.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A formal gathering of priest, bishops, and elders, some time around year 300.

Garbed in clerical attire, Nicholas bows his head. He receives prayer from the head priest.

EXT. MYRA - DAY

Year 310. Nicholas prays on top of a hill, overlooking the city.

A white ribbon of light showers him from the sky.

JEAN (O.S.)

Because of his pure benevolent heart, God endowed him with powers to assist him in helping humanity. And he became known in Myra as Saint Nicholas.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick gets the point of the story.

NICK

Santa Claus.

JEAN

What's that?

NICK

We're related to Santa Claus.

JEAN

Well, Santa Claus is more of a western name that derived from your great grandfather, but yes. If you wanna look at it that way.

Nick processes this, intrigued.

Jean removes her necklace which is actually an oddly shaped key for the chest.

She opens the chest with the key. A small bottle with a clear white liquid rest inside.

JEAN (CONT'D)

This is myrrh exuded from the relics  
of Saint Nicholas.

Jean picks up the bottle, holding it in her hand.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Every hundred years or so, one of  
Saint Nicholas' descendants is chosen  
by God to continue Saint Nicholas'  
legacy.

Jean hands Nick the bottle. When it touches his hand, the  
clear liquid inside changes to red.

NICK

Whoa...

The color change startles Nick.

As he moves the bottle between both hands, the color shifts  
from red to green repeatedly.

The color change appears to be determined by each new contact  
with Nick's skin.

NICK (CONT'D)

That's crazy.

CUT TO:

OVER TWELVE YEARS AGO

INT. JOHN & CAROLINE'S HOME - DAY

Sitting on a sofa, Caroline cradles Nick in her arms. He's  
a few days old.

As family tradition, Jean places the bottle of myrrh against  
Nick's bare feet.

The clear liquid inside the bottle changes from red to green  
repeatedly.

Caroline and Jean stare at each other in complete shock.

JEAN (O.S.)

We found out when you were born.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick looks down, switching the bottle between both hands.  
His face seems less dejected.

NICK  
So I'm suppose to be the new San...  
(Corrects himself)  
Saint Nicholas?

JEAN  
You are.

Nick takes this in, confused and overwhelmed.

NICK  
So what happens now?

JEAN  
Well, when a chosen descendant is  
close to the age of fourteen, and  
the bottle makes contact with his  
skin, his training starts the  
following day.

NICK  
You're joking.

JEAN  
No.

NICK  
Well what if it's something I don't  
wanna do?

JEAN  
I don't think you have a choice.

NICK  
What?

Angered, Nick stands.

NICK (CONT'D)  
How do I not have a choice?

JEAN  
You just don't when it comes to this.

NICK  
And you knew this?

JEAN  
I did. And I also knew that I just  
almost lost you. So anything other  
than that is fine with me at this  
point.

Nick can't argue that. He backs off, still pissed.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Someone will be here tomorrow.

Nick sits back down. He and Jean sit in silence.

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

In bed, Nick awakes to a pair of eyes staring at him.

LUCIEN

Good morning. My name is Lucien.  
Congratulations on being chosen for  
such a high calling.

LUCIEN sits on Nick's bed.

He's gratuitously cordial, possibly 20's, but only sort of human looking; like if humans evolved differently on another planet.

His neck balances a large head and upper face, considerably smaller than his mouth and Jaw.

Incompletely getting a good look at Lucien, Nick sits up, squinting from the blinding sunlight assaulting the room.

Lucien must have opened the blinds.

NICK

Can you get off my bed please?

LUCIEN

Yes. I'm very sorry Nicholas.

Lucien gets off the bed, allowing Nick to get up and close the blinds.

The sunlight becomes less intrusive.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

I love the sun. The sun is good for  
us Nicholas.

Nick finally gets a good look at Lucien. It scares the beJesus out of him.

Nick backs into his opened closet, falls inside.

NICK

Jesus Christ!

LUCIEN

I'm sorry to have frightened you  
Nicholas.

NICK

What the heck are you?

LUCIEN

I'm Lucien.

NICK

No, what are you?

LUCIEN

I'm an auxiliary.

NICK

A what?

LUCIEN

An auxiliary. I help prepare the  
successor of Saint Nicholas. Were  
you not aware of my visit today?

NICK

Yeah, but I'm not doing the Santa  
Claus thing.

LUCIEN

I'm sorry?

NICK

The training.

Lucien's affable demeanor changes to worry.

LUCIEN

Oh I'm sorry Nicholas, but you can  
not reverse what's already been  
ordained.

NICK

Look, you need to get out of my room  
right now.

(Shouting)

Gramma!

Jean doesn't respond.

LUCIEN

I'm sorry to have upset you Nicholas.  
I will leave you alone now.

Lucien exits the room, closes the door.

NICK  
(Shouting)  
Gramma!

Nick walks to the window, to see how Lucien leaves.

He's not sure if he'll see a spaceship, or sleigh with reindeer outside.

He sees neither as he hears an indistinct conversation coming from the kitchen.

JEAN'S TALKING TO SOMEONE.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Bursting into the kitchen, Nick sees Lucien sitting at his usual seat of the table.

Lucien smiles in extreme elation as Jean places a full stack of pancakes on his plate.

LUCIEN  
I just love pancakes, yes I do.

Lucien eats, sort of animalistic.

JEAN  
(Confused)  
You're pretty chipper today.

Lucien continues destroying the pancakes inhumanly, unbeknownst to Jean, who's washing dishes.

NICK  
What the...

Jean washes dishes peacefully without ever looking at Lucien.

NICK (CONT'D)  
(Getting her to look)  
Gramma.

Jean remains silent, ignoring Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Hey!

Unacknowledged, Nick walks over to Jean, touching her arm.

HIS HAND GOES RIGHT THROUGH HER BODY.

Jean has no response to the interaction, causing Nick to recoil, completely horrified.

Lucien raises his hand, freezing time, freezing Jean.

LUCIEN

I'm sorry Nicholas but unfortunately your evolution into Saint Nicholas has already begun. My hope is that in time, you'll welcome this path to a better version of yourself.

NICK

What did you do to her?

LUCIEN

It's not what's been done to her.  
It's what's been done to you.

NICK

What did you do?

LUCIEN

I have taken your place to exemplify to you what you must be to succeed as Saint Nicholas.

NICK

I told you I'm not being Saint Nicholas!

LUCIEN

I'm very sorry Nicholas but you can not reverse this process.

NICK

Gramma!

Nick tries to wake Jean up, touches nothing but thin air.

LUCIEN

I've replaced you with myself, until you're ready to be the Saint Nicholas of this generation.

Nick stops.

NICK

What?

LUCIEN

You will not be seen or heard by anyone. Only I. But I will look and sound like you.

NICK

What are you talking about?



Lucien rises from the table.

LUCIEN

Come here.

Nick follows Lucien to a mirror that Nick is made to stand in front of.

Nick has no reflection, but Lucien does.

LUCIEN HAS NICK'S REFLECTION.

NICK

Change it back.

LUCIEN

I can not.

Nick walks to the phone, attempts to pick it up. His hand goes through it.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

The things you touch will be out of necessity. Like the floor you're standing on, or food when it's time to eat, but you will have no footprint. No one will know you touched something.

Spotting a POLICE CAR out the window, Nick rushes out of the kitchen.

EXT. JEAN'S HOME - DAY

Nick runs to the police car that brakes for a stop sign.

NICK

Hey! I need help.

Oblivious to Nick, the police car begins to move.

NICK (CONT'D)

Stop!

Nick reaches the cop car in time, but it's no use. His entire arm goes through the back of it.

The police car continues down the street as Nick watches, terrified.

Lucien approaches from behind.

LUCIEN

I can help you reach your destiny.

NICK  
Get away from me.

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - DAY

Panicking, Nick tries to climb back in bed. Unfortunately, his hands start going through it.

NICK  
No, no, no, no, no.

Nick sits on the floor instead. He's able to lay his back against the wall.

He sits on the floor, uncomfortable.

LUCIEN  
(Entering)  
Nicholas, you can not lay in the bed  
until it is time to rest.

NICK  
I said get away from me!

Nick lays down on the floor, wanting to be left alone.

He can't get comfortable. It's agonizing.

LUCIEN  
We must go to school Nicholas.  
Education is good for us.

NICK  
I'm not going anywhere with you.

Nick turns away from Lucien.

INT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Nick finds himself laying on the sidewalk, in the middle of a dozen kids.

He's at the school bus stop, still in pajamas.

He hops off the ground as quickly as humanly possible, mortified.

LUCIEN  
You must go where I go. This is  
your life. You must learn how to  
live it.

A REDHEAD GIRL standing next to Lucien looks at him. Who's this kid talking to?

Lucien freezes time, also everyone.

Nick looks around, having a hard time making eye contact with the other kids even though their frozen.

He's extremely out of his element.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)  
It's okay. They can't see you.

NICK  
I don't care.

Lucien unfreezes time, everyone.

Redhead girl is still watching him.

REDHEAD  
Who are you talking to?

LUCIEN  
Oh I'm sorry. No one my dear.

The girl frowns. My dear?

Nick shakes his head, knowing the girl really sees and hears him, not Lucien.

The bus arrives. Lucien and the other kids pile in.

Nick stands still with his arms folded.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)  
Are you coming Nicholas?

NICK  
No.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Nick finds himself standing in the middle of the packed bus with his arms still folded. Unseen. Unheard.

He realizes that he can touch the seat near him and holds on.

Next to Nick, Lucien sits next to the Redhead girl, in a full blown convo.

LUCIEN  
What's wrong with Crystal?

REDHEAD  
Besides her being a bitch?  
(MORE)

REDHEAD (CONT'D)

She's a ho. We put crap bags on her porch for Halloween.

LUCIEN

Really?

REDHEAD

(Laughing)

Yessir.

Redhead looks out the window as she starts talking about something else.

Nick watches Lucien open an App on Nick's phone. An app called NAUGHTY OR NICE.

Lucien gives Nick a look. We already know what Redhead is.

Nick rolls his eyes as Lucien finds Redhead's picture out of the thousands of pictures on the app.

Lucien swipes left for naughty.

EXT. LANECREST MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Lucien exits the bus with the rushing students. He turns around to see if Nick will follow.

Realizing he has no choice, Nick exits the bus, stopping in front of Lucien who stops suddenly.

Lucien looks at the sky, closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

A mad rush of students dodge Lucien to get into the school.

LUCIEN

Can you believe this Nicholas? Such a beautiful day. This is good for us.

Nick stands there with Lucien. Done with him.

But something catches Nick's eye.

All kids walking through him don't have looks of judgment or ridicule towards him.

Nick makes eye contact with them. He sees the vulnerability in people when they don't know they're being watched.

He calms down.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Kids pour in from the buses, grabbing breakfast.

Lucien sits at a table, gorging on eggs, grits, and bacon. Two plates are in front of him.

Nick sits across from Lucien watching him, disgusted, embarrassed at kids watching nearby.

The kids near Lucien imitate and laugh at him, really imitating and laughing at Nick.

NICK

Thanks. I'm gonna do great in this school now.

LUCIEN

You should eat something Nicholas. Your health is more important than someone's thoughts of you eating.

NICK

You just ate a whole plate of pancakes.

Nick's well aware that to everyone, it looks like he's talking to himself.

NICK (CONT'D)

And stop talking. You're making me look crazy.

LUCIEN

But I'm still hungry Nicholas. I must eat. A healthy breakfast is good for --

Nick gets up and walks away. He can't deal with this guy.

Nick walks through the tall glass windows, into --

EXT. CAFETERIA PATIO - DAY

Nick sits down on a bench, surprisingly able to.

He takes a deep breath, covering his face with his hands, beyond frustrated.

When Nick's hands come down from his face, he finds himself back in the --

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Nick's sitting at the table again. He looks down to Lucien's second plate of food in front of him.

NICK

I told you, I'm not eating anything.

TJ

Dude, who you talking to?

Nick looks up at TJ, now standing behind him. Is TJ talking to him? Nick looks around himself.

Lucien's gone.

Nick touches the plate in front of him, confirming he's back to his normal self.

His shirt's a mess from Lucien gorging with his body.

To make matters worse, Lucien used a napkin for a bib.

Nick looks mentally disabled sitting at the table.

TJ (CONT'D)

Dude you okay?

NICK

I gotta go.

Nick gets up and leaves. Kids nearby laugh at him.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

Nick heads straight for the exit. He could care less about --

MISS KAREN

Hi Nicholas.

Nick walks through the doors, unfortunately they don't lead to outside.

The doors lead to --

INT. MATH CLASS - DAY

Nick stands unseen, near a desk where Lucien sits.

LUCIEN

You must eat a healthy breakfast.  
We shall not start our day until you  
do.

NICK  
Guess we won't be starting our day.

MATH TEACHER  
Nicholas did you want to say something?

As the entire class waits for Lucien to respond, he freezes them.

LUCIEN  
Your defiance is very unfortunate.

NICK  
Leave me alone and put my life back to normal.

LUCIEN  
I'm afraid I can not do that.

NICK  
(Mimicking)  
Well I'm afraid I can not do breakfast.

LUCIEN  
Saint Nicholas has a tremendous burden to satisfy the needs and lift the spirits of all humans in a single night. This starts with a balanced diet.

NICK  
Not doing it.

Nick stands defiant as Lucien watches him, thinking.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I can do this all day.

Nick folds his arms; time to get rid of this guy.

INT. BOYS BATHROOM STALL - DAY

Lucien takes a loud painful dump on the toilet.

He's watched by Nick who stands next to him, against his will.

LUCIEN  
Human food just passes right through me. Yes it does.

NICK  
Oh hell no.

Covering his nose, Nick walks right through the bathroom stall, into another stall.

IT'S THE SAME STALL.

Nick has gotten nowhere. He just walked right back into the same stall where Lucien's taking a dump.

LUCIEN

Sometimes it comes out watery.  
Sometimes it comes out solid. Today's watery.

Grossed out, Nick takes off out of the stall --

Right back into the same stall with Lucien.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

I'm quite fond of a time where I communed with a toilet for an entire day. It was good to relieve myself.

Nick runs out of the stall again, ending up right back in the stall.

This time, he trips and falls into Lucien's lap.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

I could do this all day.

NICK

I'll do it!

LUCIEN

I'm sorry?

NICK

I'll eat breakfast! Please! Let me out of here!

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Nick sits at a table alone; a new plate of food before him.

Lucien's nowhere to be found.

Nick stares apprehensively at the plate, still grossed out from the bathroom experience.

NICK

(Knows Lucien's watching)

I need a minute.



A TIMID GIRL sitting near Nick, notices he just talked to himself.

TIMID GIRL  
I do that too.

Nick turns to her, confused.

NICK  
What?

TIMID GIRL  
Talk to myself.

NICK  
(Realizing)  
Great.

Nick begins to eat.

CAFETERIA WORKER  
(Passing by)  
Back at it again huh?

Nick looks up at the cafeteria worker, knowing how ridiculous he must look.

TIMID GIRL  
Screw her.

Nick turns back to the Timid Girl. He smiles genuinely.

NICK  
Yeah.

INT. MATH CLASS - DAY

Back in math class, Lucien sits at the same desk he was in earlier. Nick stands next to him.

LUCIEN  
All done with breakfast?

NICK  
Yes.

LUCIEN  
Grab a seat. You'll need your math  
in our business.

Nick takes a seat in front of Lucien, surprised he's able to.

Lucien unfreezes the class.

The Math Teacher's still waiting for Nick to say something.

MATH TEACHER

Nicholas?

Nick looks. Lucien's gone.

NICK

(Remembering)

No, I'm good.

MATH TEACHER

Okay then. Let's move on.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Nick and Lucien stand in a clearing, in front of a vast wooded area.

LUCIEN

I'm going to show you something amazing.

NICK

(Sarcastic)

Great.

LUCIEN

When you're spreading happiness to your fellow man, you'll be doing so while soaring through the sky.

NICK

(Apathetic)

Sounds fun.

LUCIEN

You won't believe what you'll be using. Never.

NICK

(Fake excitement)

A reindeer and a sleigh?

Lucien gapes at Nick in befuddlement.

LUCIEN

How did you know this?

Nick gives Lucien a look.

NICK

You serious?

Lucien stares at the ground dolefully. He wanted to surprise Nick.

Nick shakes his head, seeing that Lucien's really sad.

Nick reaches in his pocket for his phone. His hand goes through it, forgetting his invisibility.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Take out my phone.

Confused, Lucien grabs Nick's phone out his pocket.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Go to youtube.

Lucien stops.

LUCIEN  
What is your tube?

NICK  
Youtube. An app like your naughty  
or nice thing.

Lucien finds youtube and open's it.

NICK (CONT'D)  
(Pointing)  
Type Santa Claus right there.

Lucien types Santa Claus in the search section.

NICK (CONT'D)  
(Pointing)  
Click the search button.

Lucien clicks the search button.

A hundred videos populate the screen.

The movie ELF with Will Ferrell somehow is the first video.

Lucien clicks the ELF video before Nick can stop him.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Whatever.

The video shows Will Ferrell's character BUDDY, flying in a sleigh with Santa.

NICK (CONT'D)  
(Pointing)  
What I'll be doing right?

Lucien stares at the video, like it's some weird prophesy.

LUCIEN

Yes.

Lucien's still perplexed and a bit despondent.

NICK

Yeah I gotta go. Don't want Gramma thinking I jumped off a bridge.

LUCIEN

You are right. We should depart.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - DAY

Finally home, Nick heads straight for the bed.

He falls through, crashing to the floor.

NICK

Damn it!

Nick has no choice but to sit on the floor.

He sits there, uncomfortable, wanting to be alone.

JEAN

Dinner Nick!

NICK

Jesus Christ.

Lucien walks into the room.

LUCIEN

Nicholas did you hear that? Gramma said we're having meatloaf. I'm so excited. I've never had meatloaf before.

NICK

Not hungry.

Lucien sighs.

LUCIEN

We discussed this earlier.

NICK

I'm not hungry. Why should I be forced to eat when I'm still full from breakfast?

LUCIEN

You must get accustomed to a balanced diet.

NICK

Like yours? Why do you think I'm so fat and ugly as hell? No.

LUCIEN

Do you not want to eat because you have a negative perception of yourself?

NICK

Can you just leave me alone? Please?

Nick stares at Lucien. Pleading.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucien and Jean sit across from each other at the table.

Nick sits on the floor watching, pissed.

Lucien and Jean have big smiles on their faces as Lucien eradicates his food.

LUCIEN

Gramma I appreciate you coming home after a long day of work to prepare dinner for me. I love you.

Nick rolls his eyes. Jean looks flabbergasted.

JEAN

Wow.

LUCIEN

What's wrong gramma?

JEAN

I'm...I'm just happy to see you like this.

LUCIEN

Well I'm sorry I haven't been like this gramma. I really am.

JEAN

Well you've been through a lot sweetheart. I know.

Nick watches the mushy moment, wants to puke.

Lucien freezes Jean/time.

LUCIEN

A true heart for humanity is always  
conscious of one's need. Sometimes  
it's a simple gift. Sometimes it's  
a mended heart.

Lucien draws an MRI type of screen with his finger, out of  
thin air, in front of Jean's chest.

Her arteries are displayed, pumping blood diligently to her  
heart.

A light flashes on an area of heart tissue not functioning  
properly.

Nick gets off the floor and walks to Jean, concerned.

NICK

What's that light flashing mean?

LUCIEN

That moments like these can help.

Nick gets it.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Are you ready for dinner?

NICK

Yes

Lucien erases the screen, unfreezes Jean/time.

LUCIEN

Gramma may I have a second plate  
please?

JEAN

Of course.

Jean gets up and walks to the stove. She prepares a new  
plate of food.

Lucien rises to his feet, gestures Nick to take his seat.

Nick sits down as Lucien disappears.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Here you go sweetheart.

Jean places a new plate of food in front of Nick. She grabs  
Lucien's plate and places it in the sink.

When Jean sits back down --

NICK

Do you mind if I go to bed? I'm not feeling good.

JEAN

(Confused)

Sure sweetie. I'll wrap this up for you.

Jean grabs Nick's plate, taking it to another side of the kitchen where she wraps it in foil.

Nick leaves the kitchen before Lucien appears watching him, a bit frustrated with Nick.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

The clock hits 3:00am. Nick wakes up gasping, and soaked in sweat.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

6am. Sunshine peeks into the room from the window.

Lucien opens the blinds, letting more sun in.

LUCIEN

(Singing)

Oh he's making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out if you're naughty or nice...

Nick squints from the sun, turns over in the bed.

NICK

Shut up, please!

LUCIEN

(Singing)

Santa Claus is coming, to town.

Lucien grabs a towel, soap, and one of Nick's boxers.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

I've been watching your tube. I like that Santa fella. There's so many songs about him.

Lucien stands in front of Nick who's faced away in bed.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Rise and shine. There's plenty to learn, and many lives to enrich.

NICK

Go away!

Lucien stares at Nick.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Lucien enters, whistling Santa Claus is coming to town.

He places the towel, soap, and boxers down, then opens the shower curtain.

NICK IS NOW SLEEPING IN THE SHOWER, COURTESY OF LUCIEN.

Continuing to whistle, Lucien activates the shower. High pressured water douses Nick.

Nick jumps up, screams, and stumbles out of the shower.

JEAN (O.S.)

Alright in there?

LUCIEN

Yes gramma. The water's a little cold.

JEAN (O.S.)

(Laughing)

Okay.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Nick follows Lucien into the park entrance.

LUCIEN

Gathering your reindeer is very important. They're crucial to operating your sleigh.

Nick rolls his eyes. He follows Lucien to the edge of a clearing, just before the woods. The same area from the previous day.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

You'll need nine reindeer for your sleigh.

Lucien bends down to his knees, extending his hand out.

Nine young reindeer exit the woods consecutively. They approach Lucien's hand.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

You'll name them Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen...



Lucien continues naming all nine reindeer, ending with Rudolph.

He pets them.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Come say hi.

The reindeer crowd a now tangible Nick, rubbing their faces against his legs.

Nick reluctantly pets them.

Passing park-goers stop in awe, gather behind Nick.

CAROLINE

So adorable.

Nick pauses, recognizing that voice. He turns around.

In the congregation of park-goers, CAROLINE stands next to JOHN and RACHEL, all watching the reindeer.

Nick pushes through the crowd, running into Caroline's stomach, squeezing her tight.

NICK

Mom!

He begins to cry.

Caroline looks at John, unsure what to do.

CAROLINE

Did you lose your mom hunny?

Nick let's go of her. Something's not right.

NICK

What?

Caroline freezes, so does everyone else.

LUCIEN

Even Saint Nicholas gets his heart's desire at Christmas time. Before everyone else of course. He's too much of a busy bee the whole month of December.

NICK

What? Unfreeze them.

LUCIEN

They're not who you think they are  
Nicholas. Unfortunately, I can't  
bring back the dead. But one's  
perception can be adjusted to see  
three strangers who resemble  
relatives.

Nick get's it.

NICK

Why would you do that?

LUCIEN

To motivate you to provide that same  
feeling that you expressed when you  
just saw your family to people all  
over the world. Do you see the joy  
it gave you?

NICK

Unfreeze them.

LUCIEN

I don't really recommend seeing them  
as anything other than a motivational  
tool.

NICK

Do it!

Lucien unfreezes everyone.

JOHN

Where's your mother son?

Nick looks at Caroline.

CAROLINE

Do you think she's still at the park?

Nick looks away, like an idea has just percolated.

NICK

No, she's not. Can you give me a  
ride home?

CAROLINE

Of course we can.

Nick knows Lucien's about to make him invisible.

NICK

My address is seventy seven uppole  
circle.

CAROLINE

Do you have a cell phone? Let's try calling her first.

LUCIEN

You know what? Never mind.  
(Pointing)  
I think she's over there.

NICK

No!

Nick stands beside Lucien, now invisible. No one can hear him.

CAROLINE

Okay then. Let us know if anything changes.

LUCIEN

Will do.

Nick's family walks away. The reindeer aggregating around Lucien continue to dazzle park-goers.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Nick and Lucien cross an intersection, trailed by all nine reindeer.

Motorist and pedestrians stare completely perplexed.

LUCIEN

You must stay focused. Saint Nicholas can not stop being Saint Nicholas to look at his presents.

NICK

You mean my family.

LUCIEN

They were not your family. I explained this to you.

NICK

Maybe stop explaining things to me.

Nick and Lucien ascend the steps of Jean's porch, followed by the reindeer, as many as can fit on the porch.

Lucien takes Nick's key out of his pocket.

LUCIEN  
It's time to safely keep your  
reindeer. This is apart of your  
bond with them.

NICK  
I don't want them here.

LUCIEN  
Well, wherever you feel is best.

Lucien opens the door with the key. He let's Nick walk in  
first.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jean sits on the couch, watching TV.

NICK  
Hey.

Nick passes Jean with all nine reindeer following him.  
They're well behaved in the house.

JEAN  
Um...

NICK  
Training.

JEAN  
Okay?

NICK  
(Reindeer)  
Go!

The reindeer hurry as fast as possible, stumbling a bit on  
the floor.

Jean smiles at the absurdity of it all.

EXT. BASEMENT - DAY

Nick opens the basement door, points at Blitzen to go down  
the stairs.

NICK  
Move it!

Blitzen descends the stairs, followed by his peers.

Down the stairs, the reindeer look up at Nick.

LUCIEN

It's not wise to keep them down there.

NICK

Yep.

Nick slams the door anyway.

EXT. JEAN'S HOME - DAY

Nick and Lucien stand on the roof, having climbed a ladder beside the home.

Lucien takes a deep breath. He revels the scenery.

LUCIEN

You'll spend a lot of time on top of homes.

NICK

And you just found out about Santa Claus yesterday.

Lucien is confused by the statement.

LUCIEN

Yes.

Nick keeps quiet. He can't with this guy.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Okay, what are we missing?

NICK

(Lying)  
I'm not sure.

LUCIEN

(Excitedly)  
A sleigh.

NICK

Right.

LUCIEN

Now, putting your sleigh where it needs to be will take a little handy dandy magic.

Lucien takes a few steps back.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Think about it. Believe it. And...

A massive SLEIGH appears on the roof.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Viola.

Nick walks towards the sleigh completely awed.

It's exterior is ancient, ominous, though the interior's the opposite. It's similar to a car's, technologically advanced, and updated with time.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

You have the power to do this too.

NICK

Power?

LUCIEN

Yes, but you can not reverse most of what you create or establish. Keeps Saint Nicholas' earnest, and from destroying the planet.

Lucien reminisces.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

The fifth century was not Saint Nicholas' greatest.

NICK

If we can't reverse this, how are we getting this thing off the roof?

A passing neighbor gives Nick a thumbs up, thinking the sleigh is decoration.

Nick nervously smiles at the neighbor.

LUCIEN

You can not reverse something that you create or establish. You didn't create the sleigh, but you can send it back to where it was previously located.

NICK

Okay do it. People are gonna start flipping out.

LUCIEN

Now if you wanted to alter the shape of the sleigh, or create a new one, you can't reverse it, because you already created, or established the change.

Lucien makes the sleigh disappear. Nick relaxes.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Now you try.

NICK

What?

LUCIEN

Bring the sleigh back.

Nick looks at where the sleigh disappeared from. He doesn't know what to do.

NICK

I can't.

LUCIEN

Yes you can. You have the power to.

Nick keeps looking at where the sleigh was. Nothing happens.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

Nick closes his eyes.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Visualize the sleigh being there.

Nick takes a deep breath, giving into sincerity.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Think about it. Believe it. And...

The sleigh appears back on the roof.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

See that? You did it.

NICK

Oh shoot.

Nick's genuinely astounded.

LUCIEN

Now send it back.

Nick makes the sleigh disappear again.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Great job.

Nick smiles, pretty excited about his new ability.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Do something else.

Nick closes his eyes, then opens them.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)  
What did you do?

Lucien vanishes.

NICK  
Get rid of you.

Nick takes in the balmy November breeze; peace and quiet on the roof now.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Much better.

EXT. BASEMENT - DAY

Nick opens the basement door. Several pairs of eyes look up at him.

NICK  
Thanks guys, but why don't you take the year off.

Nick stares at the reindeer, preparing to make them history --

JEAN  
Nick.

Nick turns around.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

Jean watches him from the kitchen. Popcorn pops in the microwave.

NICK  
Checking on the reindeer.

JEAN  
Come watch a movie with me. Your cousins are coming over.

Nick frowns when Jean looks away to check the popcorn.

NICK  
I can't. I'm still training.

JEAN  
You can take a break so people can see you.



NICK  
I'm not going to kill myself.

JEAN  
I didn't say that. Now living room.  
Go.

Nick pouts.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
You better not pout.

Jean and Nick look at each other. A silent moment. Jean starts laughing.

NICK  
Hilarious.

JEAN  
Gotcha.

Nick shuts the basement door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick turns on the TV. Through the window, he spots his cousins coming up the street.

He stares at them. They disappear.

Popcorn in hand, Jean enters the room. She checks her watch.

JEAN  
Where are they?

Nick shrugs.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
Well let's just pick out a movie.

Jean and Nick sit on the couch.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
What do you wanna see?

Jean selects the Amazon Video app with the remote.

NICK  
I don't know.

JEAN  
Pick one.

Nick thinks.

NICK  
You know what? There is one movie  
I've been wanting to see.

JEAN  
What is it?

NICK  
Disappearing Acts.

JEAN  
Disappearing Acts? Never heard of  
it.

Jean finds the movie, staring Wesley Snipes as Nick stares  
at her, about to make her vanish.

A MOMENT OF JEAN HUGGING NICK ON THE BRIDGE FLASHES BEFORE  
US.

Nick can't do it.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
Doesn't look like something  
appropriate for you. Pick another  
one.

NICK  
You're not gonna believe it's a movie  
because of the name.

JEAN  
Just...what is it?

Nick eyes Jean.

NICK  
Leave me alone and stop trying to  
help me.

JEAN  
That's not a...

Jean abruptly stops talking, moving.

Like a zombie, she rises from the couch and walks to the  
door.

NICK  
Gramma.

Jean exits the home, then heads down the street.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Oh no.

Nick hops off the couch, runs after her.

EXT. JEAN'S HOME - DAY

Jean walks down the street, aimless, but resolute.

Nick catches up to her.

NICK  
Gramma come back! Where you going?

Jean watches the ground. She's confused, withdrawn, like a person mentally ill.

JEAN  
I have to get away from you.

Nick grabs Jean's arm.

NICK  
Gramma stop! I'm sorry.

Jean pushes Nick off. Nick stares at her.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Don't leave me alone and keep trying to help me.

It has no effect on Jean. She keeps walking uncharacteristically.

JEAN  
I have to go.

Spooked, Nick has no idea what to do.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
You're too close. I have to get away.

NICK  
Okay, okay.

Nick stops, backs away. He let's Jean continue on alone.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Just, don't keep walking. Stop somewhere. I'll figure something out.

Walking backwards and watching Jean, Nick trips onto a perfectly manicured lawn.

Bob's lawn.

EXT. BOB'S HOME - DAY

Nick hurries up Bob's walkway towards the front door.

NICK

Unlock.

Nick opens the door.

INT. BOB'S HOME - DAY

Startled, Bob stops cycling on his Nordic Track machine.

BOB

Are you crazy? You don't barge into my home like that.

NICK

Right now your only mission in life is to follow my grandmother and take care of her.

BOB

Get out of my house right now before I --

Nick's power kick's in.

BOB (CONT'D)

Where is she?

Bob turns emotionless as he dismounts the bike. He has an eager look plastered on his face.

NICK

Down the street.

BOB

Got it.

NICK

Protect her. And make sure she has somewhere to stay, and food and clothes.

BOB

Will do.

There's only one problem.

NICK

Money. You'll probably need money right?

BOB

Yes.

Nick looks at his pocket, pulls out a fat wad of cash previously not there. He hands it to Bob.

NICK

Go.

BOB

Going.

Bob scurries out of his home after Jean; no care to shut his door.

INT. JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick closes the front door. He stands in the middle of the living room.

The house belongs to him now.

He takes a glance around it, stopping on a picture of himself, his parents and Rachel.

More specifically, he eyes the furniture in the photo.

THAT SAME FURNITURE IS NOW THE FURNITURE IN JEANS HOME.

It's the furniture from the basement.

THE BASEMENT, that reminds Nick of something.

EXT. BASEMENT - DAY

Nick opens the basement door. Rudolph and Donner are looking up at him.

NICK

The year off's been canceled.

INT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Nick stands beside all nine reindeer in the middle of the park, on display purposely.

NICK

Where are they?

The reindeer look up at him. They have no clue obviously.

MID-THIRTIES DAD

(The reindeer)

How in the world did you do that?

Nick changes the subject.

NICK  
Have you seen these people?

Nick shows MID-THIRTIES DAD a picture of his deceased family and himself on his phone.

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
I haven't. Sorry.

NICK  
(Remembering)  
Nevermind. They actually don't look like this. That's how I see them.

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
I'm confused.

NICK  
Nevermind. You're good. See ya.

A HIPSTER GIRL AND WOMAN join Mid-thirties dad. They're his daughter and wife. They gawk at the reindeer.

HIPSTER GIRL  
Oh my God.

HIPSTER WOMAN  
So freaking cute.

Nick stares at the family, their potential.

NICK  
This your family?

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
It is. My wife Donna, and my daughter Isabelle. I'm Nathan by the way.

NICK  
Nick.

THE FAMILY  
Nice to meet you Nick.

NICK  
Nice to meet you.

They all shake hands.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Just you guys? Any other kids?

Feeling a little weird about the question --

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
We do. An older son.

NICK  
You don't have an older son.

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
(Confused)  
Actually we don't have an older son.  
I don't know why I just lied there.

HIPSTER GIRL  
(Laughing)  
Why would you say you have an older  
son dad?

Mid-thirties dad looks perplexed and mortified.

MID-THIRTIES DAD  
I don't know.

HIPSTER WOMAN  
Better not have any other kids showing  
up at our door.

NICK  
I hope not.

They all laugh, but mid-thirties dad not so much. He's still  
a bit confused, also oblivious to Nick's power.

NICK (CONT'D)  
You guys look just like my family.

A gust of wind sprays reindeer saliva on Nick's face.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Gross.

Nick closes his eyes. He wipes off the saliva.

When Nick's eyes open, he sees JOHN, CAROLINE, and RACHEL,  
instead of Mid-thirties dad and his family.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, why don't we walk you guys home.

John smiles.

JOHN  
That's kind, but we live all the way --

Nick's power kicks in.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Sure.

NICK

Great.

EXT. UPPOLE CIRCLE - DAY

Nick walks down the street with his family and the reindeer.

NICK

We're almost home.

JOHN

(Looking)

No, this isn't our street. We're  
all the way across town.

NICK

This is your street.

Nick's family looks confused.

CAROLINE

You know what, it is our street  
actually. It's just our house is  
not where it should be.

Rachel looks terrified.

RACHEL

Where the hell's our house?

CAROLINE

Isabelle! Language.

Nick laughs.

NICK

Mom always got on you for blurting  
stuff out Rach.

Nick's family looks at him, no idea who he's talking to.

NICK (CONT'D)

(Pointing at each one)

Right, your names are John, Caroline,  
and Rachel.

JOHN

You nailed it.

CAROLINE

And you're Nick right?



NICK

Yep.

Nick, his family, and the reindeer stop in front of Jean's home.

NICK (CONT'D)

Well, here we are.

His family stares at Jean's home. They're lost.

RACHEL

This definitely isn't our house.

CAROLINE

No...

JOHN

Where the hell are we?

NICK

This is your house. Also, I was adopted into your family at birth. You're just having trouble remembering my childhood. I'll fill in the blanks as we go.

JOHN

Well guys, let's get inside.

NICK

Sure dad.

They all prepare to go in the house until Caroline stops.

CAROLINE

Question.

JOHN

Shoot.

CAROLINE

Why do we have nine deer with us?

NICK

Right, I'm good with animals so sometimes I get them to follow me home.

CAROLINE

They're not coming in our home Nick.

NICK

You call me Nicholas when you're upset.

CAROLINE  
I'm not joking Nicholas.

NICK  
Okay Mom, I won't bring them in the house.

JOHN  
Let's go. I'll make some coffee.

NICK  
Hot chocolate.

JOHN  
Hot chocolate.

Everyone heads inside as a TOYOTA PRIUS screeches to a stop, in front of the house.

AUNT DEE (Diane) jumps out of the car in a full blown panic attack.

AUNT DEE  
Nicholas!

NICK  
Aunt Dee.

AUNT DEE  
Where the hell's Kevin and Jaclyn?

NICK  
I don't know.

AUNT DEE  
What do you mean you don't know?  
They came over here to watch movies.

NICK  
They never showed.

Aunt Dee freaks out even more.

AUNT DEE  
What? And it never dawned on you guys to call someone? Or answer your phones when I've been trying to call for three hours?

JOHN  
Nick do you know this woman?

John stands at Jean's door.

NICK

Yeah it's okay Dad. I'll be in, in a minute.

Aunt Dee looks at John, a total stranger to her, then she looks at Nick.

AUNT DEE

What the hell's going on?

NICK

Just calm down.

AUNT DEE

Don't tell me to calm down! Where's my mother?

Aunt Dee heads for the house.

NICK

Wait.

Nick steps in front of Aunt Dee, holding her back.

AUNT DEE

Don't touch me!

NICK

Your kids went missing somewhere in your neighborhood. Gramma's already out looking for them. You should get going so you can help.

Aunt Dee's expression changes instantly. She's no longer angry at Nick, just extremely distressed.

She heads back to her car.

AUNT DEE

I gotta go. Call me if you hear from them.

The prius peels off.

Nick turns back to John.

NICK

Now, where were we?

JOHN

Hot chocolate.

NICK

Hot chocolate.

When John goes inside, Nick turns back to the reindeer.

NICK (CONT'D)

Basement.

The reindeer disappear.

INT. JEANS DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

A room hardly ever used, except for now. A big table is spread with a home-cooked meal.

Nick and his family eat, laughing at jokes, having a good time.

Nick watches them laughing. He couldn't be more overjoyed.

RACHEL

Mom, this is so good.

NICK

Yeah. Good call sis.

CAROLINE

Why thank you.

JOHN

Great job dear.

CAROLINE

Thank you.

NICK

(Looking at John)

You always call her hunny bunny.

JOHN

You're right. Thanks hunny bunny.

CAROLINE

You're welcome hunny bunny.

NICK

(Caroline)

And you just say babe.

CAROLINE

Babe.

JOHN

Yes hunny bunny?

Rachel's eyes go up.

NICK

I use to get embarrassed when you  
guys did that.

Nick's family keeps quiet. They can't remember.

NICK (CONT'D)

I was stupid.

Nick saddens, more hard on himself than they think he should  
be.

Rachel sees this. She changes the subject.

RACHEL

I'll tell you what was stupid. When  
we were at Mcdonald's, and Dad started  
dancing at the table because he  
thought a roach was on him.

CAROLINE

(Laughing)  
I remember that.

JOHN

(Lying)  
I don't.

RACHEL

And my friend Lisa who was with us  
tried to use the way Dad was moving  
at a dance we went to.

Nick's family laughs without him. It's one of their memories  
together.

They continue with more stories that only they know. Nick  
can't participate.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick and his family sit on the couch together, watching a  
movie.

Nick situates himself to where his back rest against Caroline.

Disliking this, Caroline moves over, causing Nick to lay  
back against the couch.

CAROLINE

No hunny, you know I don't like too  
much heat.

NICK

You always let me lay on you, and  
then you put your chin on top of my  
head.

Nick lays back against Caroline again. She lets him this time, resting her chin on his head.

It looks awkward, and Caroline's uncomfortable.

She picks up a piece of mail on the table to fan herself. Nick doesn't like the extra air.

He sits up straight, off of Caroline.

CAROLINE

You okay hunny?

NICK

Of course.

But Nick's not okay. He stares straight at the movie. The bliss on his face dims.

CAROLINE

Sorry guys. I'm burning up over  
here.

Caroline fans away.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick sits up in the bed. Dripping sweat. 3:00am on the nose. His nightmares haven't stopped.

He rotates himself until his feet rest on the floor. He sighs, bending his head downward, unable to sleep.

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Drowsy, Nick heads for the bathroom, passing the guest bedroom that's been converted to Rachel's room.

Her door is partially open.

Rachel sits on her bed, staring blankly at the wall. Expressionless.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - MORNING

Nick opens the door all the way.

NICK

You okay?

Rachel snaps out of it.

RACHEL

Yes.

NICK

You sure?

Rachel thinks about it.

RACHEL

I don't know. I can't really explain it. It's like, one day my life was on track, and then one day it wasn't.

Nick knows exactly why. It's because of him.

NICK

What if you knew why, but couldn't reverse how you feel?

RACHEL

I don't know. I'd be happy at least.

Nick ponders this. He can't tell her.

NICK

Do you want to be happy?

Rachel smiles faintly.

RACHEL

That's a start.

NICK

Then be happy.

Rachel smiles faintly again.

RACHEL

Easier said than --

Nick's power kick's in.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'm so excited for school. What are we still doing here?

Rachel hops off the bed, a complete one eighty on her face. It's gleaming with euphoria.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Nick and Rachel take Nick's usual route to school.

They walk amongst dozens of VOLUNTEERS AND DOGS rummaging the woods for someone.

Rachel's excessively chirpy in everything that she does and says.

RACHEL  
Who are they looking for?

NICK  
Two kids that disappeared.

RACHEL  
Do you know them?

NICK  
Yeah.

RACHEL  
How could someone do this to kids?

NICK  
(Regretful)  
I wish they could just find them  
right here in the woods, right now.

Nothing happens. Nick can't reverse what he's done.

Nearby volunteers notice Rachel's redundant jollity. They scowl at her given the situation.

Nick pretends not to notice.

Watching from her deck, Miss Cantor is more flabbergasted at Nick walking with a girl than the search party.

EXT. BACK ENTRANCE - MORNING

Nick and Rachel approach the janitor's entrance. Nick knocks on the door.

RACHEL  
Why are we going in this way?

NICK  
You'll get to your class quicker.

RACHEL  
And I want to get to my class quicker  
because...

NICK  
You're so excited for school remember?



RACHEL  
 (Remembering)  
 Oh right.

Rezi opens the door.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Oh hi awesome janitor who does a  
 fabulous job cleaning our school  
 everyday.

Confused, Rezi stares at Rachel, then Nick.

NICK  
 Probably best that she gets to her  
 class as quickly as possible right?

Rezi looks at Rachel's extreme giddiness. The bullies will  
 eat her alive.

He opens the door all the way, letting Nick and Rachel enter.

NICK (CONT'D)  
 Hey sis, I'll see you at lunch.  
 Have a good morning.

RACHEL  
 Okay, you too bro.

Rachel walks to her class.

Rezi has no idea what just happened.

NICK  
 I forgot your sandwich. I'll be  
 back.

Nick walks out the door, leaving Rezi speechless.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Phone to his ear, Nick walks down the sidewalk.

CAROLINE  
 Hello?

NICK  
 Hey mom.

CAROLINE  
 Hey son. Everything okay?

NICK  
 Everything's perfect.  
 (MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

I just called because I missed you,  
and I wanted to say hi.

CAROLINE

Awe, that's sweet hunny.

NICK

Also, I was just thinking about the  
time Dad did that dance at Mcdonald's.  
When was that?

CAROLINE

(To herself)

When was that.

Caroline's quiet for a moment, thinking.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

It was four years ago. Rachel's  
birthday.

NICK

When's Rachel's birthday again?

CAROLINE

October eighth.

NICK

So it was October eighth, twenty  
sixteen.

The entire city around Nick changes to exactly the way it  
looked four years ago. 10/8/16.

CAROLINE

Yes.

NICK

Okay thanks. I was just curious.

CAROLINE

You're welcome hunny. Have a good  
day at school. I love you.

NICK

I love you too mom.

Nick hangs up. A big smile spreads on his face.

He stops in front of Mcdonald's, back in time, on the day of  
October eighth, twenty sixteen.

INT. MCDONALD'S 10/18/16 - DAY

Nick stares at his family having lunch together.

He watches the fifteen year old boy sitting next to Caroline, who's really her son.

Nick looks away, remorseful.

CASIER

Can I help you sir?

Standing in line, Nick looks up at the casier.

NICK

Yes, I'll have a bacon, egg, and  
cheese biscuit please.

Nick turns back to his family. He spots John stand and move frantically in response to the spider on his clothes.

It's the dance.

Nick laughs.

CASIER

Will that be all?

NICK

Yes.

INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick and his family eat dinner together. Everyone's laughing, having a good time.

NICK

Either way, nothing will ever be  
funnier than Dad's dance.

Nick gets out of his chair, does John's dance perfectly.

His family explodes into laughter.

CAROLINE

Oh my God!

RACHEL

That's it!

Nick watches his family laughing as he does the dance. He laughs with them, pure happiness on his face.

JOHN

You're still not gonna find a more original dance move than that.

Caroline holds her stomach while laughing.

CAROLINE

Stop, I can't.

Nick sits down.

NICK

That was a fun day.

CAROLINE

It was.

NICK

And going to the theater afterwards.

RACHEL

(Remembering)

That's right. We saw Wicked.

CAROLINE

We did.

NICK

It was so cold in there. Dad had to give you his jacket mom, and you put it over me too.

CAROLINE

I'm sure I did.

RACHEL

(Remembering)

That's right. It was cold in there.

JOHN

You remember that like you just did it son.

NICK

Maybe like two hours ago.

His family laughs.

INT. JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Freezing, Nick's family sits on the couch, watching trailers before a movie. Their breaths can be seen rising from their faces.

CAROLINE

I don't know what happened. The heat just stopped working.

JOHN

Someone's coming by in a few hours to look at it.

Nick enters the living room with a round of hot chocolate, also a blanket under his arm.

NICK

Guess we'll need these.

His family looks relieved.

CAROLINE

Thank God.

Nick joins his family on the couch. He passes out the hot chocolate as they snuggle under the blanket.

Nick lays his head on Caroline's shoulder. She lays her head against his head.

Nick smiles gleefully.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Jean and Bob sit on the sidewalk, in front of a make-shift hobo shelter they created.

They fold clothes before putting them into a grocery store cart.

BOB

Please, come stay with me for a while.

JEAN

No.

BOB

He could've went to a relatives house.

JEAN

No he didn't. He can be everywhere. You don't know our family.

Bob has no idea what she's talking about.

BOB

This is ridiculous. He's your grandson for Christ sakes.

JEAN  
I can't be near him.

BOB  
Why?

JEAN  
I think he put a hex on me.

BOB  
That's absurd.

JEAN  
You don't know our family.

Nick approaches Jean and Bob, having been watching them.

NICK  
Gramma.

JEAN  
No.

Jean gets up and starts speed walking away.

NICK  
Come back! Please!

Jean continues walking.

NICK (CONT'D)  
All your stuff's here.

Jean yells back.

JEAN  
I'll find new ones.

Nick shakes his head, nothing he can do.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick sleeps peacefully in bed. The clock switches to 3:01am.

He remains sleeping.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Nick awakes, yawning and stretching. It's the best sleep he's had in a while.

He gets out of bed, walks to the window.

The sunshine and cold air whelms him as he takes a deep breath, indulging.

He closes the window.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Nick exits the shower, whistling Santa Claus is coming to town; particularly the part about him finding out who's been naughty or nice.

It makes him check his phone on the sink counter. It's December twenty third.

Nick opens the Naughty or Nice app. A flashing message displays --

**WARNING! TASK NOT YET COMPLETE. TWO DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.**

Nick swipes away the warning, then clicks on the flashing inbox symbol.

He has twenty five unopened messages.

Nick opens --

-- **The latest message:** LUCIEN WHERE ARE YOU? ST. NICHOLAS NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE LIST. HE HAS TO DO AT LEAST HIS TOWN OF RESIDENCE FOR IT TO PROCESS. WE COMPLETED THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR HIM. PLEASE RESPOND!

The auxiliary team who sent the message ends it with a panicked smiley face.

Nick responds to the message.

NICK

I'm on it.

There's an immediate reply.

AUXILIARY TEAM

Lucien?

NICK

Santa.

AUXILIARY TEAM

Who?

Nick shakes his head.

NICK

St. Nicholas.

AUXILIARY TEAM

Yay!! Can't wait to meet you!  
(MORE)

AUXILIARY TEAM (CONT'D)

See you at the north pole on Christmas eve.

NICK

What time do I come?

AUXILIARY TEAM

9pm.

NICK

Got it.

The auxiliary team responds with a thumbs up.

Nick puts the phone back down on the counter; a bit astounded by what just happened.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Nick and Rachel saunter through the woods, unrecognizable in their coats and hats.

They walk amidst a larger search party still looking for Nick's cousins.

A SEARCH PARTY MEMBER hands Nick a paper with the pictures of his cousins and now his family --

-- The way his family really looks.

Regardless, Nick still sees his family on the paper.

NICK

(Remorseful)

Thanks.

The search party member doesn't recognize Rachel all bundled up.

RACHEL

They're still looking for those kids?

NICK

Yep.

Nick folds the paper, pockets it before Rachel sees it.

He leads Rachel away from the search party, exiting the woods.

He opens the Naughty or Nice app on his phone.

With his GPS on, the pictures of the entire search party automatically populates first.



Nick swipes right (Nice) for all of them.

When he's done, a MESSAGE appears.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEND PRESENTS TO SACK?**

Nick clicks yes.

The pictures of all search party members disappear.

NICK (CONT'D)

Maybe you should stay home today.

RACHEL

Okay.

Rachel heads back home.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Nick walks through the crowd of students, eyeing each one, swiping naughty or nice.

Pete's face appears on the app, causing Nick to brace for impact.

Nothing happens.

Pete's nowhere to be found.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Nick's class stands in a circle, laughing uncontrollably.

They're playing the trivia game.

When you're out, you sit down.

Nick is one of the few people still left in the game.

He stands alert, laughing, but determined to win.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

The middle of the park. All nine reindeer are attached to Nick's sleigh by reins.

Nick sits in the front seat of the sleigh, in full Santa garb.

John and Rachel stand beside the sleigh, disguised as elves.

Also disguised as an elf, Caroline manages a humongous line of kids waiting to ride in the sleigh with Nick.

CAROLINE  
Are you sure about this?

NICK  
Yeah.

CAROLINE  
Okay, I'm gonna send like twenty of  
them this time.

NICK  
Okay.

CAROLINE  
They're gonna swarm you. You won't  
have any room to move.

NICK  
Let's do it.

CAROLINE  
Okay.

Caroline sends twenty kids to the sleigh.

John and Rachel help them climb the sleigh as they horde  
around Nick.

Nick smiles at the children, not in the least bit  
uncomfortable.

NICK  
Ho, ho, ho, merry Christmas!

Nick pulls on the reins. The reindeer begin walking forward.

The children scream in total excitement.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Let's go Dasher, prancer, blitzen,  
Donner...

Nick's parents gaze at him; Proud mom and dad.

Nick notices his parents watching him. He shouts at the  
reindeer louder, getting more into the Christmas spirit.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick watches TV without the cable box on. He's broadcasting  
real lives instead.

He changes the channel to what's currently happening in Jean's  
life.

Jean and Bob sleep in their sidewalk tent, shivering from the cold.

Nick makes a barrel lit with fire appear next to them to keep them warm.

He flips the channel, checking on Rachel.

She sits on her bed, staring blankly at the wall. The sad look she had earlier is back.

Nick flips the channel to his parents room.

They lay awake in bed with the same stare as Rachel; Sad and lost; yearning for something they don't know.

Nick looks away sorrowful, knows it's because of him.

Nick changes the channel to Pete's life.

To his surprise, Pete lays frail in a hospital bed. His body is half it's normal size.

Confounded, Nick stares at Pete's parents sleeping in chairs beside Pete's bed. His mother's mascara is all over her face.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Pete sleeps in the hospital bed, head shaven, body marred with debility.

Dressed as Santa, Nick watches him from the door.

NICK

Back to your normal self.

But nothing happens. Pete remains feeble. Bald.

Confused, Nick walks closer to Pete's bed, to spot any noticeable change.

Nothing.

NICK (CONT'D)

Come on.

Hearing Nick, Pete opens his eyes and stares at Nick, not recognizing Nick in disguise.

NICK (CONT'D)

(Grown up voice)

Merry Christmas Peter.

Pete begins to cry. Nick holds his hand.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Wanna go for a ride?

Weeping, Pete nods yes, going along with this seemingly arranged Santa visit from the hospital.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Close your eyes.

Pete closes his eyes.

Nick freezes time, also the entire hospital.

He grabs Pete's coat and hat.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Just sit up a little bit for me.

Pete complies as Nick helps a sluggish Pete put on his coat and hat.

NICK (CONT'D)  
There you go.

INT. SLEIGH - NIGHT

In the back seat of the sleigh, Nick zips up Pete's coat.

A glassed roof, created by Nick, shields the cabin of the sleigh from the outside elements.

NICK  
Just a sec. Don't open your eyes yet.

Nick turns up the heat and makes a cup of hot cocoa from the hot chocolate maker he's installed.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Okay, open them.

Pete opens his eyes, immensely bewildered. He recoils back, eyeing his surroundings. No clue how he got here.

NICK (CONT'D)  
It's okay. You're okay.

Pete relaxes, too weak to do anything about being in a sleigh with Santa Claus.

PETE  
What is this?

NICK  
I know some people who can help you.

Pete sits back in the sleigh, exhausted.

He nods at Nick, too weak to argue.

NICK (CONT'D)

Lets go boys.

Nick yanks the reins, making the reindeer move.

A harness wraps around Nick and Pete as the reindeer and sleigh slowly ascend from the roof.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hold on!

The sleigh darts into the night, faster than imaginable.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

The sleigh coasts over the clouds, passing a full bright moon.

The sleigh and reindeer casts a picture perfect silhouette against the moonlight.

INT. SLEIGH - NIGHT

Pete arduously climbs into the front seat with Nick, deteriorating in health, reaching for whatever's in front of him.

He falls. Nick catches him.

PETE

I need my mom.

Nick sits Pete down -- sits close to him -- holds him.

NICK

We're almost there.

Nick checks a dashboard display that shows their current distance from the north pole. They're not too far away.

NICK (CONT'D)

Come on guys.

Nick pulls on the reins.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

The sleigh descends towards a luminous estate in the middle of an arctic wilderness.

Shifting direction, the reindeer aim for a small runway, lit up with red and green lights.

Two SANTA AUXILIARIES guide the reindeer's descent like two airport marshalers.

With the sleigh landed, the auxiliaries direct the reindeer into a well lit cave entrance.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The reindeer pull the sleigh through a bright downward spiral.

Awed, Nick watches each reindeer detach from the reins, veering off into a personal stable.

An auxiliary stands by in each stable, waiting to care for the reindeer.

The sleigh continues down the spiral, into --

INT. THE WORKSHOP - NIGHT

A high-tech, hyperactive factory operation of blue-collar, working auxiliaries.

A complex conveyor belt system feeds presents into a mountain-sized sack.

A digital countdown near the sack is displayed under a message that reads --

MINIATURIZING FOR SLEIGH IN 47 MINUTES.

The auxiliaries halt operations and stare at Nick and Pete as the sleigh slides into the workshop.

INT. SLEIGH - NIGHT

Seeing that Pete passed out, Nick quickly opens the glassed roof.

NICK

Guys I need your help! He's dying!

Nick drags Pete out of the sleigh, stumbling to the floor with him.

NICK (CONT'D)

Please!

The auxiliaries snap out of shock and run to Nick and Pete.

The HEAD AUXILIARY checks Pete's pulse.

HEAD AUXILIARY

This human has a light pulse.

NICK

I tried to help him but nothing happens.

HEAD AUXILIARY

What is his condition?

NICK

I think he has cancer. Can you do something for him.

HEAD AUXILIARY

Sir, you have more power than all of us. There is nothing we can do that you can not.

NICK

So that's it? He dies?

LUCIEN

There is one thing.

Recognizing the voice, Nick turns around to see Lucien.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

But it's a serious decision.

Nick stares at Lucien, extremely grateful to see him.

NICK

What is it?

LUCIEN

As Saint Nicholas, you are guaranteed a hundred years of life. If you give up your birth right to be Saint Nicholas to him, the hundred years of life transfers to him. Including your powers.

NICK

How do we do it?

LUCIEN

Are you sure? Everything you created will be reversed, and your family will not regain the powers of Saint Nicholas until the next one hundred years.

Nick envisions the recent time he's spent with his mom, dad, and sister. We see it with him.

NICK

Yes.

Lucien stares at Nick, knows the sacrifice he's making.

LUCIEN

Okay.

INT. TRANSFER ROOM - NIGHT

Pete lays scantily conscious in a sealed, glassed tube-like pod.

He recognizes Nick, out of the Santa suit, climbing into another pod connected to his.

A bevy of auxiliaries stand by as Lucien helps Nick position himself correctly in the pod.

LUCIEN

Sometimes we build toys, sometimes  
we build this.

NICK

I'm sorry.

Lucien looks at Nick, seeing he's deeply sincere.

LUCIEN

It's okay.

Lucien straps Nick in.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Are you ready?

NICK

Yeah.

Lucien closes the pod door, still able to see Nick through the glass.

LUCIEN

Merry Christmas Santa.

Nick looks at Lucien through the glass, surprised by his choice of name.

They both smile as Nick vows to never forget Lucien with his eyes.

Lucien walks to a console near the pods. He presses a few buttons.

The sound of something enormous powers up, and --



INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

It's Christmas morning. The sun spreads bright yellow light over Nick's face.

He awakes, quickly becoming alert.

He sits up in the bed, realizing he's back home.

He stares at something in his room. He tries to make it move or disappear; nothing happens.

HE'S POWERLESS.

Nick drops his head sadly, until a song coming from a radio makes him look at the bedroom door.

THE RADIO

He knows when you are sleeping, he  
knows when you're awake.

It's coming from the kitchen. Nick also hears a voice singing along to the radio.

He jumps out of bed.

EXT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Opening his bedroom door, Nick sees Jean making breakfast and singing to the radio on the counter.

His face lights up.

NICK

Gramma!

Nick runs to Jean and bear hugs her.

JEAN

(Taken back)  
Merry Christmas sweetie.

NICK

I love you so much.

Jean looks at the boy hugging her, making sure it's her grandson.

JEAN

I love you too sweetheart.

Nick hugs Jean tighter, not wanting to let go.

Jean kisses the top of Nick's head. Her Christmas is complete.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick laughs with Jaclyn and Kevin as they open gifts with their other cousins.

Aunt Dee, her husband, and Nick's other aunts and uncles, sip egg nog and converse with Jean. Bob's here too.

Nick rips the wrapping off a nice pair of sneakers he got from Santa, with a note.

The note: *BRO, DON'T BE WAITING ANOTHER THREE YEARS FOR NEW ONES!*

Nick smiles at the note, knowing who it's from.

EXT. JEAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Aunt Dee hugs and kisses Jean on the porch.

AUNT DEE

Nicky really looks good mom. Like he's doing well.

JEAN

Well he's been training for you know what. That's gotta be it.

AUNT DEE

Yep, that'll do it. Good night mom. Love you.

JEAN

Love you too sweetie.

Aunt Dee gets in the car with her family.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Closing the front door, Jean notices a large unopened box near the Christmas tree.

She looks at Nick who's focused on another gift.

JEAN

You didn't open all your gifts.

NICK

It's a Tv. I already have one.

JEAN

Well let's open it anyway and see how it looks.

LATER

Nick and Jean place the new TV on the TV stand, replacing the old TV.

Jean grabs the remote before nudging Nick in the arm.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Nice gift Santa.

Jean winks at Nick who smiles slightly; if she only knew what happened.

NICK

Yeah.

Nick and Jean sit on the couch. Jean powers on the new TV.

She notices an app titled FAMILY VIDEOS.

JEAN

Hmmm...

Jean clicks on the app. It displays over a hundred thumbnail video pics of Nick, his parents, and Rachel.

JEAN (CONT'D)

What?

Nick stares transfixed at the screen.

Jean clicks a video. It's a video of Nick riding a carnival ride with his real family, some time before their deaths.

It's a perfect but impossible angle of recording, undeniably not recorded by a person.

Nick watches his family on the screen like he's there with them. He smiles. Tears fall from his eyes.

Jean holds him.

EXT. LANECREST MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Nick exits the school bus, joking around with TJ.

A HAPPY NEW YEARS BANNER attached to the school, welcomes the students back from winter break.

From a distance, Rezi spots Nick walking into the school.

When Rezi and Nick make eye contact, Rezi gives Nick a thumbs up.

Nick laughs and gives Rezi a thumbs up back.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Nick places his lunch on the table, next to TJ and a bunch of other kids.

Nick sits down as all conversations stop. This is the first time that most of the table has seen Nick at lunch.

It's a quiet, awkward moment.

TJ

Yaw need to see what I got for Christmas though.

TJ steals the attention with his new phone, glancing at Nick as he talks. Nick smiles back at him. Thanks.

TJ continues gabbing away.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Almost late for the bus, Nick rushes to the school exit.

But before reaching the door, something sends him flying into the lockers with a devastating bang.

On the ground, Nick looks up to see Pete towering over him.

Pete's back to his normal size, with a full head of hair.

PETE

Hey!

The kids in the hall whip out the phone cameras, but --

Pete helps Nick up and gives him a hug.

PETE (CONT'D)

Where you been bro? I've been looking everywhere for you?

NICK

I was looking for you too.

Pete puts his arm around Nick's shoulder as they head for the exit.

PETE

You need a ride?

NICK

Depends. You still using the sleigh?

PETE

Heck yeah.

Nick laughs.

NICK  
Let's do it.

THE END