

Where's Santa?

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

CASEY JR., a ten year old boy, and his MOM stand in front of a tombstone. The tombstone reads: CASEY KETZ SR. November 15th, 1968 - December 12th, 2013. And under that it reads: Beloved Husband, Father, and Friend.

But Casey is small for his age and he wears thick black rimmed glasses, basically the ones Woody Allen wears. He also wears a plain button up.

Casey's mom has a very welcoming face. She's forty years old, and in a way she looks like a fifties housewife.

Casey's mom hugs Casey and a tear comes from his eye.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

CASEY looks discontent with his surroundings. He sits in the back of the class with his head down. The other CHILDREN in the class seem engaged with whatever the TEACHER is about to say.

The teacher is a young and preppy looking person. She's clearly new to teaching so she still has that initial spark, and she always has a smile on her face.

TEACHER

Okay. Today class we have someone very special giving us a visit.

SKINNY CLASSMATE

Is it Santa?

TEACHER

Oh, no. It's one of the last living humans to be visited by Santa.

The kids start MURMURING and the speaker enters the classroom. The speaker's a very old looking woman.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now please give your undivided attention to Miss Krinkly.

MISS KRINKLY looks so old that it appears her legs could give out on her at any moment. They shake back and forth when she walks, and she struggles to do anything but sit. So when she enters the classroom she immediately takes a seat.

MISS KRINKLY

They say never to ask a lady her age, so I'll tell you. I'm ninety-five, and boy do I have a story for you children.

CHUNKY CLASSMATE

You're ninety-five?

MISS KRINKLY

Yes. But the story goes like this. It was snowing. Real snow.

NERDY CLASSMATE

(skeptically)

Real snow?

MISS KRINKLY

Yes. Real snow existed back in my day. But it was snowing. The family was drinking their hot chocolates, and we were ready for winter. We decorated our tree, we made the cookies, and we hung the stockings... Everyone loved this time of year because the family came together... But we left the food for the reindeer, and everything was just right, and perfect. Just like it was every year.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Miss Krinkly lies in her bed, however she's not ninety-five, she's seven. At age seven she has short brown hair with bangs and the bangs don't look silly on her. But her alarm clock goes off, and she looks over to see that her clock reads: 12:00.

MISS KRINKLY (V.O.)

You see, we were supposed to be sleeping. And everyone was except me.

Miss Krinkly gets out of bed and starts walking out of her room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Miss Krinkly walks down the hallway and stands by the stairs. From the chimney ash and dust start falling from it, then two legs. Every second more and more of the big man starts to come down. Eventually he plops down and hits the bottom of the chimney rather hard. On the stairs, Miss Krinkly's popping her head out from the wall.

But Santa looks jolly, his cheeks are red, and he wears his signature red jacket.

SANTA

I know you're there.

MISS KRINKLY

How? Oops.

She covers her mouth.

SANTA

It's no secret, every child wants to see me. You can come out I'm not going to hurt you.

Miss Krinkly comes out from hiding and walks down the stairs.

MISS KRINKLY

How come you're letting me see you?

SANTA

I must keep the faith. If people stop believing, I become nothing.

MISS KRINKLY

So... Am I supposed to tell people about this then?

SANTA

That would be the plan. Every now and then I must get caught. If I don't my name stops being spread, and Christmas will be no more.

Santa begins to unload the presents from his large red bag. The presents vary in wrapping paper, but they all have a large golden bow on top.

MISS KRINKLY

Santa, you can trust me. You can believe in me that I'll spread your name. I'll keep you and Christmas alive.

SANTA

I know you will, child. I just don't let any ordinary kid see me. Now go back up to bed, and remember this experience very well.

Miss Krinkly starts to walk upstairs, but turns around. She then runs up to Santa, and gives him a great big hug.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

We're back in the classroom.

MISS KRINKLY

So I-

The bell RINGS.

TEACHER

Well. It looks like it's time for lunch. Miss Krinkly's story will resume when you return.

INT. LUNCH LINE - DAY

Casey, and his friend ROBERT, who is stubby looking, stand in the lunch line. The lunch line is crowded and as they past the food you could tell they don't want to partake in eating it.

CASEY

Do you believe that?

ROBERT

I don't know. It's hard to imagine something like that could be believable.

CASEY

Yeah, I guess. Don't you want to believe it though?

ROBERT

Of course I do. What kid wouldn't want free presents?

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTER LUNCH

The kids are now back in the classroom. By this time everyone is engaged in what Miss Krinkly has to say, even Casey.

MISS KRINKLY

So as I was saying. Like any kid would do, I carried out Santa's wish. I told everyone I possibly could.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Miss Krinkly's once again, a kid, and still seven years old. She's in her classroom explaining to another KID what she saw. However we can't hear what she's saying, but the kid she's telling this to has her arms crossed, and is shaking her head, "no." Clearly she doesn't believe Miss Krinkly.

MISS KRINKLY (V.O.)

But even though I told everyone I could, not everyone believed me. In a way, this hurt Santa more than it helped him.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

We're back to present day.

MISS KRINKLY

I didn't do a well enough job. I failed Santa. I failed the kids, I failed everyone.

(beat)

Santa never came again. It was the last year of Christmas. Presents weren't delivered. Snow didn't fall. Cookies weren't left out. The reindeers were never used again. And most importantly Santa disappeared. No one knows what happened to him. Many tried to find him, but all have failed.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Young Miss Krinkly hides behind the wall.

MISS KRINKLY (V.O.)

I waited all year for him to return. I even stayed up late enough to see him again. But he never showed, and it was all my fault.

Miss Krinkly checks her watch. It reads: 2:33. She gets a very sad look on her face, and starts to doze off.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

We're back in the classroom.

MISS KRINKLY

I waited every year for him to come, and I still do until this day... Hopefully he will return... But he needs the help from you kids. You need to spread his name.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Casey enters his house.

CASEY

Mom!

CASEY'S MOM (V.O.)

What?

CASEY

Do you believe in Santa?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Casey and his MOM sit at the kitchen table.

CASEY

Do you believe in Santa?

CASEY'S MOM

Of course I do.

CASEY

They why doesn't he come? Why don't we get presents? Why doesn't real snow fall?

CASEY'S MOM

I don't know. Did it ever?

CASEY

That's what the speaker I had at school say. She said she was one of the last people to be visited by Santa.

(MORE)

CASEY (CONT'D)

She said that everyone needs to spread the word about him or else he won't come.

CASEY'S MOM

Spread the word, huh?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Casey, and his mom are printing out "Have you seen Santa?" posters. They are also printing out a poster that reads, "Come to the town center December 20th." It also reads that they are holding a town meeting.

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

-Casey and his mom staple some fliers to a wooden post.

-Casey and his mom put the fliers under a car windshield wiper.

-Casey and his mom put the fliers in a mailbox.

-Casey and his mom give some fliers to a store owner.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. OUTSIDE - AFTERNOON

An OLDER MAN, who looks quite evil stumbles upon one of these fliers. This man has a hunched back and really bushy eyebrows, which are bent at twenty degree angles. He then takes a good look at the fliers.

EVIL OLD MAN

What is this? Someone's trying to bring Santa back?

The old man rips off the two fliers.

EVIL OLD MAN (CONT'D)

I have to get these down before anyone sees them.

INT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

Casey, his mom, and Miss Krinkly sit in chairs on the stage in front of sixty or so people. Since they planned for more people, there are a lot of empty chairs. But Casey's mom gets up and walks towards the microphone.

CASEY'S MOM

Hello everyone. I'm sure you know why you're here, but just to refresh, we'll be discussing Santa. I thought the turnout would be better, but we're thankful for you to come. First to speak is going to be my son, Casey.

Casey's mom sits down and Casey gets up and walks towards the microphone.

CASEY

Hi... Umm, to start off I just want to say that maybe Santa hasn't been apart of your lives. Maybe you feel bitter for that, but I want him to be a part of mine. Miss Krinkly who's sitting behind me told me a wonderful story about Santa, and what he used to do for this world. She really showed me how much better we are with him, and how much joy he has brought to us. With just a little hope from all of us maybe we could bring him back. But I'm going to sit down now, and I'm going to let Miss Krinkly take over.

Casey sits down and Miss Krinkly gets up and walks towards the microphone. She then sits down on the chair in front of the microphone.

MISS KRINKLY

Hello, and thank you for coming. Santa used to be apart-

Out in the crowd we see that evil old man from before. Miss Krinkly notices him and stops talking. There is a beat.

MISS KRINKLY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Where was I?

Another beat.

MISS KRINKLY (CONT'D)

Robbie... Is that you?

The evil old man, who's name is ROBBIE quickly gets up and scampers away.

MISS KRINKLY (CONT'D)

I'm-I'm... sorry.

CASEY'S MOM

Are you okay, Miss Krinkly?

MISS KRINKLY

I'm fine, yes. It's just... That was my brother whom I haven't seen in over seventy years.

(beat)

I told this story over a thousand times, but this time I'm going to tell the truth... It started when my brother and I were both five.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Miss Krinkly and her brother Robbie are opening up Christmas presents. The tree looks beautifully decorated, it has all different colored ornaments hanging from it, and a big golden star on top.

MISS KRINKLY (V.O.)

Robbie loved Christmas. He loved it more than anyone I ever met. Once Christmas was over he began his count down to the next one.

Robbie's opening one of his presents.

ROBBIE

Yes! Dad look, it's the fire truck I wanted.

DAD KRINKLY

Yeah, I see. Did Santa bring everything you wanted?

ROBBIE

Yes, and more. This was the best Christmas ever.

DAD KRINKLY

What about you Jennifer, was this the best Christmas ever?

MISS KRINKLY

Not at all.

MOM KRINKLY

What was wrong with it?

MISS KRINKLY

I didn't get everything I wanted.

MOM KRINKLY

Well, you got your barbie doll, and you got your barbie truck.

MISS KRINKLY

I'm out growing barbies.

DAD KRINKLY

Hey, you're only five. And just last week you said that's what you wanted.

MISS KRINKLY

Well, I changed my mind.

INT. TOWN CENTER (PRESENT DAY)

We're back at the town center.

MISS KRINKLY

You see, I never particularly enjoyed Christmas. I felt like Santa gave more to my brother than me. And the next year was no different.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Miss Krinkly and Robbie are once again opening presents. They are now six though. The tree once again looks beautiful, and it's decorated in the same way.

ROBBIE

(to Jennifer)

I hope you get what you want this year.

MISS KRINKLY

Me too.

Miss Krinkly opens up one of her presents. It's a baseball bat.

MISS KRINKLY (CONT'D)

What's this?

She starts to cry.

MISS KRINKLY (CONT'D)

Why would Santa give me this?

MOM KRINKLY

Are you sure it said your name on it?

She looks at the ripped up wrapping paper, and it does indeed read Jennifer.

MISS KRINKLY

Yeah, it says it right here.

DAD KRINKLY

Maybe Santa had a mix up. You know, he has a lot on his plate?

MOM KRINKLY

Open another.

She starts to open up another present. This time it's a pony.

MOM KRINKLY (CONT'D)

There you go. That's something you wanted, right?

MISS KRINKLY

No! This is terrible. Santa stinks!

She then runs up stairs.

MOM KRINKLY

What are we going to do about her?

DAD KRINKLY

I don't know. You'd think she'd be thankful for what Santa has given her.

INT. TOWN CENTER (PRESENT DAY)

We're once again back at the town center.

MISS KRINKLY

I wasn't thankful for what Santa had given me. I was a rotten child who didn't deserve anything. And since I was so rotten I cost everyone their Christmas, and that happened when I was seven.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Miss Krinkly's hiding behind the wall of the stairs. Santa begins to come out from the fireplace and Miss Krinkly begins to peek. This time Santa doesn't look too well. He looks sick.

SANTA

I know you're there.

MISS KRINKLY

How?

SANTA

I'm Santa. I know everything, and I know you haven't been pleased with your last couple Christmases.

MISS KRINKLY

You're right. I haven't.

SANTA

You have to understand, I'm not the one who decides these things. Every year I get Mrs. Claus to talk to your parents, and every year they tell her what you want. This is how it works. It works like this because your parents know you best, and they know what you want. I'm just the man who delivers it. My elves are just the ones to make it. And Mrs. Claus is just the one to put the order in.

MISS KRINKLY

You're lying. You're a liar Santa, and if it was up to me you wouldn't exist.

Santa starts to flicker, like he's fading away.

SANTA

Don't say that. Don't say that.

MISS KRINKLY

(mockingly)

You don't exist anymore, Santa.

SANTA

Stop. You don't know what you're doing.

MISS KRINKLY
(mockingly)
Santa, your times up.

Santa disappears in the blink of an eye.

INT. TOWN CENTER (PRESENT DAY)

We're back in the town center.

MISS KRINKLY
I was the last house he delivered
to, and the presents he gave me
that year were the presents I
exactly wanted. I should have never
wished him away.

There's a long pause. After the pause Miss Krinkly gets up
and goes by Casey and his mom. Casey's mom then gets up and
walks towards the microphone.

CASEY'S MOM
While that wasn't the ideal story
to be told, it did teach us a
lesson. Yes, we might not always
get what we want, but we have to be
thankful for what we have. Since
Miss Krinkly was being a selfish
child she ruined Christmas for
everyone else. But she's now trying
to make it right, so please, never
stop thinking of Santa. And please
pass this on. There are kids out
there who need the joy.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Casey and his mom are driving home.

CASEY
Mom.

CASEY'S MOM
Yeah?

CASEY
Do you think he's gonna come back?

CASEY'S MOM
Do you?

CASEY

Yeah.

CASEY'S MOM

Then me too.

INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey's in his bed. Casey's room looks like your average ten year old kids room, as in, he has a race car theme room.

CASEY

Santa. Please come back. Not just for me, but for everyone. Even if you skipped my house and went to everyone else's I would be happy... I just want the world to be happy.

INSERT: 5:00 PM - 7 HOURS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

MAP

We're looking at a map of the United States.

The camera zooms in on West Virginia. It's snowing and we're coming in on a trailer park. We zoom into a child's bedroom where he is praying for Santa to come.

WEST VIRGINIA CHILD

Santa, I know you're out there. So please return. It would mean so much to me.

The camera then zooms out back to the map, except this time we are looking at Europe. The camera then zooms in on Italy, and it zooms into a child's bedroom there.

ITALIAN CHILD

Babbo Natale si prega di ritorno.
Il mondo sta contando su di voi.

The camera once again zooms out and this time it zooms in on a child's bedroom in Australia.

AUSTRALIAN CHILD

Oh, Santa. Please, please, please come back.

EXT. NORTH POLE - NIGHT

The snow's coming down heavily. There's a house and next to the house there's a huge factory. Both the house and the factory look old. They have moss and dirt coming from every angle.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Santa and Mrs. Claus are sitting in chairs watching static on the TV. Both of them look lifeless and dull. Santa even has some drool coming from his mouth.

The children's voices from before are finally reaching Santa. First we hear the boy from West Virginia. The words hit Santa's ear and he begins to get his color back, and his plumpness, as does Mrs. Claus. Next the Italian child's voice is heard. The words appear on screen and hit Santa's ear.

He gets even more plump and colorful. And lastly, the Australian child's voice is heard. Santa and Mrs. Claus both regain all their color and plumpness. Santa Claus then jumps up, and looks at Mrs. Claus.

SANTA

Well, you're looking... Fine, Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS

Oh, you too.

SANTA

What day is it?

The calendar on the wall sheds off all the days that have past, and stops at December 24th.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Oh my. I must only have a few hours to get ready.

Santa runs outside and looks at the factory. The factory is now working as we could see the smoke coming from it. The moss and dirt are magically disappearing from it.

INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

Santa bursts through the doors. The elves are making, wrapping, and putting the presents into Santa's bag. The presents are wrapped in various colors, but they all have a golden bow on top. And Santa's bag is huge and never ending, and when a present is placed inside it, it grows larger.

SANTA

How many more hours do I have?

ELF

Not a lot. It's almost the 25th in Japan.

EXT. REINDEER STABLE - NIGHT

Santa runs up to the reindeer stable. The reindeer look weak and way too skinny to be flying.

SANTA

The reindeer look weak. Too weak to fly.

(beat)

Ah, wait.

He takes some sort of reindeer food out of his pocket and begins feeding the reindeer. As he feeds them they begin to grow bigger and stronger, and their nice brown color comes back.

INT. SANTA'S HOUSE

Mrs. Claus's pouring Santa a big glass of milk.

EXT. RUNWAY

Santa's sleigh's on the runway. The sleigh is rather large and it looks like it was handcrafted from the finest of the woods. But some of the elves are bringing over the bag full of presents, and some of the elves are hooking up the reindeer to the sleigh.

As this is happening Mrs. Claus brings the glass of milk over to Santa.

MRS. CLAUS

Before you go.

She hands him the milk, and he drinks it in one big gulp.

SANTA

Thanks.

He gives her a kiss, and gets on his sleigh. He starts to take off, but it seems the reindeer can't carry the weight.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Come on. Come on. Lift. Lift.

The sleigh drops low and begins to scratch off the ground. But Santa uses his whips to motivate the reindeer. After a whip or two then begin to fly without any problem.

Then on his sleigh, his center console goes off. The center console looks futuristic.

CENTER CONSOLE

Warning. Warning.

Santa taps on the screen. The warning message disappears and the time 12:00 appears on screen.

SANTA

Dang. I'm going to have to synch the time zones, and freeze them.

(beat)

I just hope everyone is asleep.

He taps the screen and goes to the awake/sleep screen. It shows 7 billion people sleeping, and one person awake. He clicks on the one person and we see it's Casey's house. From the screen we zoom into Casey's house and are inside his bedroom.

INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM

Casey's laying in his bed.

CASEY

Santa I've said it before, but I'll say it again. Please return. Not just for me, but or the sake of humanity.

Casey closes his eye.

EXT. SLEIGH

We look at the screen and this time it says 7,000,000,001 people asleep and zero people awake. Santa then goes back to the main menu, and works his way to the synch time zone/freeze time screen.

He clicks it and a wave of blue light shoots from his sleigh. He then goes to the clock where it blinks 12:00.

MAP

We then go to a shot of a map.

On the map is a bunch of houses all over the country.

We start to see Santa hitting each house, and every time he hits a house it turns blue and connects with the next house he hits. Santa eventually reaches the US.

EXT. ABOVE CASEY'S HOUSE

Santa lands his sleigh on Casey's roof, gets out of his sleigh, and goes down the chimney.

INT. CASEY'S HOUSE

Santa enters Casey's house and begins to walk upstairs.

HALLWAY

Santa walks into the hallway. He gets stuck because the hallway is either too narrow or he is too large, or perhaps both. But eventually Santa worms his way through the hallway and into Casey's room.

CASEY'S BEDROOM

Santa enters Casey's bedroom, and looks at his watch. On his watch he clicks a few buttons and unfreezes time. Once time is unfrozen, Casey wakes up.

At first Casey is startled, but he regains his composure quickly after realizing who is standing in front of him.

CASEY

San-

SANTA

-Casey. Yes, it's really me.

CASEY

I... I can't believe this.

SANTA

Believe it, Casey.

CASEY

You heard my prayers and wishes?

SANTA

I heard everybody's prayers, and wishes. But I heard yours the loudest.

(MORE)

SANTA (CONT'D)

(beat)

You're single-handedly the reason
why I'm back.

(beat)

I can't talk long, but I just
wanted to say, thank you. Thank
you, Casey. You've brought peace
and happiness back to the world.

Casey gets out of bed and hugs Santa.

CASEY

Well, what are you waiting for? Go
finish your routes.

Santa LAUGHS.

EXT. SKY

Santa's flying his sleigh and he waves to Casey as he bolts
off into the night.

INT. MULTIPLE HOUSES - DAY

On screen is four different scenes. From left to right is
Casey and his mom opening presents. They both look happy as
can be. Next is the child from West Virginia opening presents
with his family. Then the child from Italy. And lastly, the
child from Australia.

They appear to be interacting within their households, but we
can't hear what they are saying. And after a beat or two
Casey's scene becomes bigger and bigger until it's the only
scene on the screen.

CASEY'S MOM

Well, you did it Casey. You really
did it.

FADE OUT.