

Just Another Frustrated Observer

By

Yet Another Frustrated Observer

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FADE IN:

INT. KEGMASTER HOUSE NIGHT

Bored out of thier brains, two young children, **RUDY** (8) and **HOLLY** (10) sit on the floor in front of the Christmas tree ad an empty chair.

SANTA enters, bits of snow brush off his black boots. His fake beard and oversized suit give him away as Uncle **MICK** (40s) He carries an hardcover dusty book that looks like it was plucked from the bowels of a forgotten attic.

Takes the empty seat.

RUDY

I'd rather be playin' video games.

Mick opens the book. Blows off the cloud of dust in the kid's faces. Kids fake the cough, Mick blows again. It isn't faked the second time. The kids lightly brush their pajamas.

MICK

Rudy, Holly..
No video games tonight. Sorry.

HOLLY

Shouldn't have lost that bet.

MICK

Yeah. Could have been worse. Tell you what. Bear with me, listen to the story, and if you two are really, really good. Old jolly Santa here will let you play all videogames you want.

The children applaud.

MICK (CONT'D)

Except for Commander Carnage.

Moans from the kids.

MICK (CONT'D)

I know, It's tragic. No Tapper either.

No response.

MICK (CONT'D)

Anyway...the story.

HOLLY
Is it about Frosty?

RUDY
Reindeer?

Mick shakes his head.

MICK
Nope. Not exactly. But Snowmen and
reindeer are in it. Promise to be
good kids now?

HOLLY RUDY
Yes, Uncle Mick. Yes, Uncle Mick

MICK (CONT'D)
For now, Saint Nick. Or just Santa.
Fact, let's just keep it Santa.
Less complicated.

HOLLY RUDY
Okay, Santa Okay Uncle Nick.

Holly lightly elbows her brother.

RUDY
Alright Santa.

MICK
That's better. Alright, Let's get
to it.

EXT. WINTER WONDERLAND - DAY (ANIMATED)

A countryside made of white felt. Fake trees peppered in
glitter and flakes. A ghostly figure of Nick's Santa looms
over the sky. It's cold enough where we can see his breath,
which become clouds.

MICK
Once upon a time, in an enchanted
forest, there lived ...Mister Toe.
Mister Toe loved his sanctuary, his
solitude.

Nick's Santa fades from view.

One one of the trees, a plant takes hold, grows into a
Mistletoe.

MICK (CONT'D)

But the peaceful creatures of the
lad got his name wrong, and the
misunderstanding just called him
...mistletoe.

ANDY (V.O.)

That's a plant.

MICK

Don't get naughty...

ANDY (V.O.)

Yes, Santa.

A piano medley. A animated mouth appears on Mistletoe.

MISTLETOE

Home sweet home, this fine oak.
There's snow and some bloke...

A top hat snowman with a huge celery nose and buttons for
eyes tip toes up to the tree, looks up. Overjoyed to see
Mistletoe.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)

Who wants to bring someone else
around...
Showin' someone else just what he
found...

An animated light bulb goes off over the snowman's head.

Snowman waves his stick arms to encourage a SNOW-WOMAN in a
pink scarf and a flower hat to come closer. She does so. When
she's beside him, he points up. She sees the Mistletoe and
shivers in a frown.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)

Meant to be, that's what they seem
to think.

The Snowman bear hugs Snowwoman. His celery nose impales her
and burrows to the back of her head. Thier faces collide and
mesh together. Both wobble back and forth until they topple
over as one and become a mound of snow. A wind blows both
hats away.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)

Until they kiss under me and get
the jinx.

A Reindeer prances up, kicks the mound of snow. Looks up. Sees Mistletoe. The red glow on his nose suggests it's Rudolph.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 Another fine dandy, his breath like
 cotton candy.

A DOE joins Rudolph. Rudolph nods upwad. Doe sees the Mistletoe. Looks concerned. Shrugs.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 And with him a fine lass
 Must be quick; but not too fast.

The Reindeer awkwardly bump heads attempting to kiss. They are both stunned. Rudolph gets an idea as an animated light bulb briefly appears over his head.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 It's a season to celebrate and be
 merry. But why I ask do you mess
 with my berries?

Rudolph jumps, grabs a berry off the Mistletoe. Spits it over to Doe, who catches it with her mouth. Smiles. Rudolph grabs another berry off the Mistletoe. Both reindeer munch down.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 I was relieved when the grifter
 wasn't who I thought.

It isn't Rudolph. During the chewing, his red glow nose drops off, revealing a regular deer nose. The Doe, shocked. Fake Rudolph laughs. Doe spits out the berry in Fake Rudolph's eye, runs away.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 And when she left, the fool
 deserved what he wrought.

Fake Rudolph chokes. Falls over, X's for eyes.

A MORNING DOVE and a CARDINAL land on opposite branches of the tree. Both chirp in harmony with the omniscient piano.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 Oh it seems dark and grim...

INT. KEGMASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Rudy flashes a Time Out.

RUDY
Whoa! Whoa! Hold on!

MICK
Yes, Rudy?

RUDY
That really wasn't -

MICK
Of course not! Said right there, he
was a poser.

RUDY
Oh okay. 'Cuz mom named me after -
(beat)
Please go on Uncle Mick.

MICK
Santa.

RUDY
Santa.

MICK
Now where were we? Yes. Here we
go...

HOLLY
Are the birds still chirping?

Mick stares down at her. Rudy gives his sister a frown. A
moment of silence.

MICK
"It seems dark and grim..."

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (LIVE ACTION)

Right out a Hallmark movie. Chestnuts and fireplace. Norman
Rockwell couldn't have done better. And on a CHRISTMAS TREE,
lights and silver bells all around the MISTLETOE.

MISTLETOE
But maybe next Christmas Eve you
won't feel bad for him.

Hallmark Handsome GARY (30s) finds his Christmas Gift "From
"Claire to Gary" on the tag. CLAIRE (30s) opens hers "From
Gary To Claire"

She gets a a pair of shiny diamond earrings and a gold bracelet.

He gets...

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 His luck can only get better
 If the trade off is an ugly
 sweater...

Claire encourages Gary to try the sweater on. He tries to hide his disappointment, but he puts it o anyway. He's not thrilled.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 The wool itches and tickles. Where
 oh where is the Christmas pickle?

Claire lip syncs to Mistletoe's rhyme this once.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 Not to worry, my sweet candy cane.
 I got something extra that Santa
 didn't bring.

She points to the Mistletoe. She tackles him, they both knock over the tree in the process. The mistletoe tumbles off, lads around torn wrap.

MISTLETOE (CONT'D)
 I am Mister Toe, sometimes called
 the Mistletoe. I see a lot of
 kissing, but there's not much I'm
 missing, And if there was my
 friend, I say ...

INT. KEGMASTER HOUSE NIGHT

Uncle Mick closes the book. More dust spits out. Kids run their fingers through their hair. Rudy sneezes.

MICK
 Have a Merry Christmas and The End.

The kids are dumbfounded.

MICK (CONT'D)
 Well, what'd you think? Did you
 like that story?

HOLLY

What's it called again? I didn't hear the title.

MICK

Oh, I'm sorry. My bad. My Bad. That's on me. I should have have told you. "Just Another Frustrated..."

MOM (O.C.)

Dinner's ready!!

DAD (O.C.)

Come and get it!

The children take off like rockets to the kitchen.

MICK

How 'bout them video games...?

No answer.

MICK (CONT'D)

Okay...guess that's that.

"DAD" steps in the room. It's GARY, with that same ugly sweater and his hair messed up.

GARY

Thanks a bunch, bro. You're a life saver.

Mick turns to "us", breaks the fourth wall. Shakes his head.

FADE OUT.