



'SLEIGH BELLS RING'

Synopsis

Mayor Howard Finnegan (Chad Riley) instructs Mission City Parks and Rec's Laurel Bishop (Erin Cahill) to produce a Christmas Parade. With just two weeks until Christmas, Laurel already has her hands full with decorating and shopping for her ten-year-old daughter Scarlett (Dakota Guppy), the apple of her mother's eye. Still, she attacks the project with her usual enthusiasm and, with help from Park and Rec receptionist Betty Carlucci (Jenna Romanin), Laurel starts lining up a marching band, floats, and everything needed for a spectacular parade.

Laurel spots an old broken-down sleigh near a small cabin, and asks a rather stout older gentleman with a white beard named Mr. Winters (Donovan Scott), if she can borrow it for the parade. He agrees, but extracts from her a promise to restore the sleigh to its former beauty, "with love." Back in town Laurel bumps into Alex McCord (David Alpay), who is visiting his aunt for the holidays. Laurel and Alex were romantically involved in college, but it ended badly when Alex moved to NY to pursue his career and Laurel returned to Mission City. It's awkward at first, but overwhelmed as she is, Laurel agrees to let Alex help by restoring the sleigh.

Working side by side on the sleigh, the pair begin to develop feelings for one another again; Alex and Scarlett are hitting it off as well. And, as good as it feels, once Laurel realizes that Alex will be leaving at holiday's end, she pulls back emotionally. She says it's to protect Scarlett from disappointment, but she's also steeling herself against Alex's eminent departure. Matters are complicated when the sleigh goes missing ... twice, Laurel loses her parade Santa, and Alex skips town early to avoid the pain of another goodbye. But when he finds the sleigh abandoned on a side road, Alex tows it back into town just in time to get it into the parade lineup. Remembering she has no Santa, Laurel rushes to the sleigh in a panic and, looking up, sees Mr. Winters, sitting atop the sleigh in an exceptional Santa suit, almost as if by magic. His wink tells Laurel he's got this covered. And when Alex informs Laurel he has decided to turn down his promotion in NY and remain in Mission City, no mistletoe is required for the kiss between them that says everything is going to work out just fine this time around.

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