

THE SANTA SLEIGHER

Written by

Danyell Monk

INT. APARTMENT ENTRYWAY - AFTERNOON

The entryway of a NYC apartment sits peaceful and quiet, nobody in sight.

Suddenly, the door bursts open and a little girl, MADISON, rushes into the home licking a candy cane. Her mother, RACHEL, follows close behind her.

RACHEL

Honey why don't you go turn on the TV? I think Frosty the Snowman is coming on soon!

MADISON

Okay mom!

Madison exits but Rachel lingers at the door, looking around the corner to make sure Madison is far away. The coast is clear and she motions for someone to enter.

WILLIAM carefully walks into the home balancing many boxes and bags in his arms.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

MUSIC CUE: UPBEAT CHRISTMAS MUSIC

A) INT. MADISON'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON - Rachel hands Madison her advent calendar. Madison opens one of the small cardboard doors to reveal a piece of chocolate which she shoves in her mouth.

B) INT. WILLIAM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON - William and Madison sit at the table doing crafts. He tries to teach her how to make a paper snowflake. She fails.

C) INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING - Madison sits on the carpet watching a Christmas cartoon where Santa is going down the chimney. She crawls over to the radiator and tries to figure out how Santa gets in through it.

D) INT. KITCHEN - EVENING/NIGHT - The family finishes up dinner when William pulls out a gingerbread house kit which the family fails at putting together.

END MUSIC CUE

END MONTAGE

INT. MADISON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Madison lays in bed while William sits on the side of the bed holding up a picture book.

WILLIAM

(reading)

"But I heard him exclaim ere he  
drove out of sight, 'Merry  
Christmas to all and to all a good  
night!'"

William closes the book and sits it on the table next to Madison's bed.

MADISON

Dad can we please read another  
story?

Madison gets out of bed and rushes over to her bookshelf. William walks over and scoops her up.

WILLIAM

Honey it's time to go to sleep.

MADISON

But it's Saturday.

William places Madison back in her bed.

WILLIAM

Madison, Santa is keeping an eye  
out for naughty kids and he's not  
going to be too happy if he sees  
you staying up past your bedtime.

William turns around to exit the room but is stopped by Madison who has crawled to the end of her bed and is tugging on his shirt.

MADISON

How can he tell? He's all the way  
in the North Pole!

WILLIAM

Well, he's magic so he can see what  
all the kids in the world are  
doing.

MADISON

How can he see every kid in the  
world? That's so many!

WILLIAM  
Like I said, he's magic.

MADISON  
Do you think Santa will get me the  
huge stuffed unicorn from the toy  
store if I'm extra good until  
Christmas?

WILLIAM  
Did you put it on your Christmas  
list? Then Santa should know to get  
it for you.

MADISON  
You just said that Santa's magic!  
He can just see how much I want it!

William tucks Madison in.

WILLIAM  
You'll just have to wait and see on  
Christmas morning won't you? Right  
now it's time to go to sleep  
though. Goodnight Madison.

He gives her a kiss on the forehead.

MADISON  
Goodnight dad.

William turns off the lights.

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rachel dumps out bags of toys and wrapping supplies onto the  
bed.

RACHEL  
Do you think we went a little  
overboard this year?

WILLIAM  
She's been pretty good this year.

RACHEL  
Well you haven't had to deal with  
her complaining when I brush her  
hair in the morning. 'Mom you're  
going to rip my brain out!' 'Mom I  
want the pink bow not the purple  
one!'

WILLIAM  
(chuckling)  
Well it's a little late to change  
our minds now.

William and Rachel start wrapping the gifts. Rachel clearly has the hang of it while William struggles trying to wrap an unusually shaped box.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Hey did Madison mention anything to  
you about wanting some big stuffed  
horse from the toy store?

RACHEL  
Oh my god, that stupid ugly rainbow  
unicorn! She already has more than  
enough gifts and I'm not making  
another trip to the toy store!

Suddenly the door to William and Rachel's bedroom creaks open and reveals a sleepy Madison.

MADISON  
Toy store?

Rachel grabs Madison's shoulder and starts guiding her back out the door.

MADISON (CONT'D)  
Why do you have all of the toys  
that I had on my list for Santa?

WILLIAM  
Santa gave us a call and told us to  
help him out.

Madison escapes Rachel and goes over to the bed where she finds a bunch of gift tags and a Sharpie. The gift tags all say, "To: Madison, From: Santa."

MADISON  
How do all to these say from Santa?  
He isn't here and he only gets help  
from his elves!

WILLIAM  
Well... uh... we just... I mean the  
elves...

MADISON  
(crying)  
Is Santa even real?

The parents look at each other, both hesitating to give an answer.

Madison sprints out of the room with William and Rachel chasing behind.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Madison runs into her room SLAMMING THE DOOR AND LOCKING IT just before William and Rachel can get to her.

RACHEL  
Madison please let us in. We're sorry.

WILLIAM  
Santa is real honey! You just have to listen to me!

Rachel and William look at each other in confusion of what to do. They move down the hallway, a bit farther from Madison's door.

RACHEL  
(whispering)  
William, I think it's time we just tell her the truth.

WILLIAM  
(whispering)  
No! She's still so little! She's got so many more years to believe!

RACHEL  
(whispering)  
She's basically already knows, we should just admit it so she doesn't hate us.

WILLIAM  
(whispering)  
But Rachel, she's going to hate us even more when she's older if we take away the fun of Santa now. It broke my heart when I was her age and...

Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, William sees Madison's door cracked open and her peeking out with tears in her eyes.

MADISON  
(yelling)  
Liars!

Madison slams the door to her room again and locks it.  
William and Rachel stand frozen in complete shock.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Rachel and William carry plates of delicious looking breakfast food. Waffles with whipped cream and sprinkles, bacon, and mugs of hot cocoa steam as they are placed on the table.

WILLIAM  
This better work.

RACHEL  
At least it should get her on our good side again.

As William and Rachel make the final preparations at the table, an irritated looking Madison comes trudging into the room still in her pajamas.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Good morning Madison! Doesn't breakfast smell so good?

WILLIAM  
All of your favorites!

Madison pulls out a chair and takes a seat. She aggressively stabs a waffle from the pile and flings it onto her plate. She chomps down a bite of it, the same irritated look still plastered on her face.

RACHEL  
We have to remember to go open your advent calendar after you finish breakfast! Only a few more days left!

WILLIAM  
Aren't you excited?

Madison sits in silence, still angrily shoving bits of waffle into her mouth.

RACHEL  
So what should we do with this last day of the weekend?  
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

We could go play in the snow, maybe  
watch some more Christmas movies...

WILLIAM

(uneasy)

We still have to make cookies for  
Santa too!

Madison looks up from her plate with rage in her eyes.

Madison gets up from the chair and marches away, William  
following behind her.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Madison he's real! I am telling you  
he's real! I can prove it!

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING - William sits on the couch  
with Madison flipping through YouTube videos of Santa  
entering into people homes. Madison grabs the remote and  
scrolls down to the comments which all say the video is fake.

B) INT. KITCHEN - LATE MORNING - William pulls up a recipe  
for reindeer food on his phone while Madison sits angrily at  
the table.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Alright we need two cups of oats  
and a tablespoon of glitter.

Madison grabs Williams phone. She opens the phone's virtual  
assistant and it makes a DING.

MADISON

Can glitter kill a reindeer if it  
eats it?

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Non-edible craft glitter is known  
to be deadly to most animals.

C) INT. MADISON'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - Madison sits on her  
floor putting all of her Christmas books into a box. William  
walks into the room excitedly handing Madison his phone.

WILLIAM

It's for you!

Madison reluctantly puts the phone to her ear.



SANTA

(V.O.)

Ho ho ho! Hi Madison, it's Santa Claus! I just wanted to call you to say how good you've been this year!

Madison gets a pleasantly surprised look on her face.

MADISON

What? Santa? Is that really you? I'm sorry that I didn't think you were...

SANTA

(V.O.)

Ho ho ho! What do you want for Christmas this year?

MADISON

Santa? You know I want the...

SANTA

(V.O.)

Ho ho ho! That's a good choice and I'm sure you can find that at Brad's Bargain Outlet where we only have the best-

Madison hangs up the call and angrily tosses the phone back at William.

D) INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON - Madison sits on the couch flipping through TV channels trying to find a show that isn't Christmas themed. William peeks around the corner and motions for someone to walk with him.

With William walks a SANTA IMPERSONATOR.

SANTA IMPERSONATOR

Ho ho ho! Why hello there...

The Santa impersonator looks over to William who mouths Madison's name to him.

SANTA IMPERSONATOR (CONT'D)

Madison!

The Santa impersonator sits down next to Madison on the couch.

SANTA IMPERSONATOR (CONT'D)

Now what do you want for...

Madison grabs onto the Santa's fake beard and yanks it off in one swift pull.

END MONTAGE

INT. WILLIAM'S OFFICE - EVENING/NIGHT

William sits at his computer rapidly working. His computer screen shows a search for ways to convince your child that Santa is real.

Rachel enters the room and stands behind William. She places her hands on his shoulders which startles him.

RACHEL  
Dinner's ready.

WILLIAM  
I'll be out in a few minutes, I  
just have to finish this up.

Rachel looks closer at the screen and sighs.

RACHEL  
You've been at this all day. It's  
pretty clear that she's not  
changing her mind.

WILLIAM  
There's still a chance! She can't  
have her childhood ripped away from  
her like this.

RACHEL  
I think it's time to let go.

WILLIAM  
Okay. I'll be done soon.

Rachel exits the room while William still furiously types and scrolls.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING/NIGHT

An OVEN TIMER sounds and Rachel opens the oven and takes out a pizza. She turns around she to see that a still pissed Madison has appeared at the table.

RACHEL  
Hi honey, how was your day?

Madison says nothing as she grabs a paper plate off of a stack on the table.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Madison, you're being rude. I know you're mad at us but you have to talk at some point.

MADISON

I don't want to.

RACHEL

What can we do to make this better?

MADISON

Nothing! Christmas is ruined because of you and Dad!

RACHEL

Now come on honey, don't you think that's a little...

Suddenly a PROPELLER NOISE can be heard outside of the window. A drone with small Santa and reindeer figurines taped to it flies near the kitchen window. Madison and Rachel stare out the window in confusion.

The drone suddenly starts going out of control, hitting the window and crashing to the ground.

WILLIAM

(O.S.)

Dammit!

Rachel and Madison turn around to see William peeking around the corner with a controller in his hand.

Madison storms out of the room.

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING

Rachel and William approach the bus stop with Madison. William crouches down next to Madison and hands her a lunch box.

WILLIAM

I think there might be a little surprise in your lunch.

Madison sighs and opens the box to pull out a letter.

It says:

HO, HO, HO! I'M REAL! LOVE, SANTA

She crumples the paper and throws it on the ground.

MADISON

You've always told me not to lie!  
I'm telling everyone at school the  
truth!

Other parents and children around look at the family with concern as a large yellow school bus approaches the bus stop.

Madison lines up to get on and sees her friend ALICIA.

ALICIA

Hey Madison, are you excited to do  
the school announcements today?

Madison looks back at her parents and gives them an evil smirk.

The two freeze in shock but finally snap out of it and go to stop Madison but it is too late as the bus drives away.

The two begin running down the New York City street.

EXT. NYC STREET CORNER - MORNING

William and Rachel get trapped in a sea of Santa impersonators RINGING BELLS for the salvation army.

SALVATION ARMY SANTA #1

Donate?

SALVATION ARMY SANTA #2

Any spare change ma'am?

SALVATION ARMY SANTA #1

Hey I asked first!

SALVATION ARMY SANTA #3

Wanna help the poor?

William and Rachel empty their pockets of any change they have, parting the sea of Salvation Army Santas.

EXT. BUSY NYC SIDEWALK - MORNING

William and Rachel see a bike-rack with rentable bikes. Only one bike is left on the rack.

William swipes his credit card and unlocks the bike. The two awkwardly pile onto it.

William begins to try and pedal but looks down to see a flat tire.

EXT. TOURIST SHOPPING AREA - MORNING

William and Rachel are stopped by a wall of tourists slowly moving with many shopping bags. Elderly people block traffic while window shopping and parents drag their crying children.

TOURIST #1  
(approaching William)  
Excuse me sir but do you know where  
the...

WILLIAM  
(pointing in a random  
direction)  
That way!

TOURIST #2  
Hey man can you help me get to  
the...

Rachel grabs William and starts dragging him through the crowd, nearly knocking over old people and getting lots of nasty looks.

EXT./INT. TAXI - MORNING

Rachel runs to the curb and hails a taxi. William and Rachel quickly hop in.

RACHEL  
Get us to River East Elementary  
School as quick as possible!

TAXI DRIVER  
You got it.

William and Rachel lean back in the seat and take a deep breath.

Suddenly, red and blue lights appear behind the taxi.

WILLIAM  
Shit!

The two get out of the taxi and continue running.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

Heavily breathing and sweating, William and Rachel rush into the school. Madison's voice is finishing the announcements as they enter.

MADISON

(V.O.)

Lunch today will be chicken nuggets with french fries. Please clean out your lockers before the end of the day for Christmas break.

William and Rachel rush into the main office where they see Madison speaking into the microphone.

MADISON (CONT'D)

And finally, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas! I hope Santa gets you everything you want!

The parents look at each-other in shock. Madison walks by to exit the office.

RACHEL

Madison?

WILLIAM

What made you...

Madison gives her parents a glare that shuts them up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Madison rushes into the living room with William and Rachel sleepily slinking in behind her.

Under the tree is a large rainbow unicorn stuffed animal which Madison runs up and tackles in a hug.

William and Rachel sit on the couch smiling.

WILLIAM

Hey slow down! I promise the gifts won't run away!

RACHEL

Looks like somebody got what she wanted.

WILLIAM  
(reluctantly)  
Yeah... you uhhh... must've been on  
Santa's good list.

RACHEL  
William!

MADISON  
(annoyed)  
Daaaaaaaaaaaaaad!

WILLIAM  
Then how come you didn't tell your  
friends?

MADISON  
I thought about it and realized I  
still need to be really good if I  
want candy from the Easter Bunny.

William and Rachel look at each other in terror.

**THE END**