

My Girlfriend Believes in Santa

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

DAPHNE, 7, sleeps on a couch. There's stockings hung on the chimney and a Christmas tree in the corner.

Daphne opens her eyes as the chimney rumbles. A red bag full of toys drops to the chimney floor. Followed by SANTA CLAUS who lands on top of the bag.

DAPHNE

Santa! It's you! It's really you!

SANTA CLAUS

Yes, I am totally Santa.

Daphne hugs Santa.

DAPHNE

Santa, you smell like my Dad.

SANTA CLAUS

Yes, and he's a very good smelling man. The best smelling man in Buffalo. And one of the most handsome too.

DAPHNE

Yeah, I guess. Merry Christmas, Santa. I knew you would come.

SANTA CLAUS

Of course, Daphne. I come every year as long as you believe.

DAPHNE

And I'll never stop beleiveing.

SANTA CLAUS

Good, now, where are those cookies?

INT. PAST, PRESENT, AND MORE PRESENTS OFFICE - DAY

Daphne is now 35. Her hair is tied back with a ribbon, her dress, personality, and smile are brighter than a Sunday morning. She wears green bracelets and red earrings.

She sits at a desk across from JACK, 32, balding hair, average height, pot belly.

DAPHNE

That concludes your exit interview. Here's your last check. Thank you for being a gift wrapper at Past, Present, and More Presents.

JACK

Yeah, my fingers are numb, but it was fun.

DAPHNE

Maybe, we'll see you again next holiday season. If you have any questions, feel free to let me know.

JACK

Yes, actually, I do have a question. Would you go out with me?

DAPHNE

Excuse me?

JACK

For lunch or something. Do you like tacos?

DAPHNE

I'm sorry. Are you asking me out on a date?

JACK

Yes. I had other questions, but if I started asking those questions then I wouldn't have the guts to ask this one.

DAPHNE

Sir, this is an exit interview.

JACK

I know we haven't really talked a lot over the past month, but I like you and this might be the last time we see each other.

DAPHNE

Is this a trick to make me hire you full time?

JACK

No, this was only a job. There's lots of those, but there's only one of you.

DAPHNE

Do you do this every time you get
laid off?

JACK

No. You're the only human resources
lady I've ever been attracted to.
Believe me.

DAPHNE

You're really doing this?

JACK

This entire check is going towards
my rent, but I have thirty-three
dollars in my pocket and I want to
apply to date you.

DAPHNE

This is unorthodox.

JACK

So?

DAPHNE

My last boyfriend just broke up
with me last week on Christmas day.
So I'm a little flabbergasted.

JACK

He broke up with you on Christmas.
What an idiot. You deserve better
and I can be better.

DAPHNE

It's not all his fault. I get a
little crazy with Christmas. I can
be a little much in December.

JACK

Well, it's January 3rd today. Let's
start the new year right with a
first date.

DAPHNE

You're not really my type, but I do
love your name.

His check reads Jack Frost.

JACK

I've been made fun of my name all my life, but if it scores me a date with you then it'll all be worth it.

DAPHNE

Okay, why not? I just laid you off so it won't effect this workplace. Yeah, let's go out.

EXT. DOWNTOWN BUFFALO - DAY

Daphne and Jack walk by local shops on both sides of the street. There's a light snowfall.

JACK

So, do you like tacos? Or we could brisket or chicken wings or beef on weck. Whatever you like.

DAPHNE

I could eat brisket. Nothing beats a cold day like a hot brisket.

They walk on a small bridge.

GIRL (O.S.)

Give it back!

A GIRL is being taunted by her older brother on the other side of the bridge. The

GIRL (CONT'D)

Santa gave it to me! Give it back, Derek!

The BOY holds a ballerina musical jewelry box above his head.

BOY

No! If Santa didn't give me what I wanted then you shouldn't get what you wanted.

Jack gets closer.

JACK

Hey kid, give it back!

The boy jumps. He accidentally throws the ballerina musical jewelry box over the bridge.

It hits the cement below. The ballerina snaps off as the box shatters.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, no.

BOY

Dude, look what you did.

GIRL

He didn't do it! If you didn't take it away, it would be fine.

The girl runs off the bridge and onto the cement below.

BOY

Whatever.

Daphne and Jack chase after her.

The girl collects the pieces of her jewelry box and starts to cry. The boy scatters off.

JACK

I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to.

DAPHNE

You didn't do anything wrong, Jack. You were just trying to help. Little girl, are you okay?

GIRL

My ballerina. She's broken.

JACK

Daphne, I'll be right back.

Jack runs off toward the boy.

GIRL

It was my favorite Christmas gift.

The girl tries to piece together her music box, but it's impossible to fix. Daphne tries to help.

GIRL (CONT'D)

My brother is such a doofus.

DAPHNE

Seems like one.

GIRL

Santa gave this to me. It's the one toy I wanted most.

DAPHNE

Sorry about that. Santa knows how much it meant to you. I'm sure he'll give you another one in 11 months if that's what you still want.

GIRL

My stupid brother thinks Santa isn't real.

DAPHNE

That's because your brother is probably on the naughty list.

GIRL

Yeah, Derek is probably the first kid listed.

DAPHNE

He might be.

GIRL

I don't know. I'm starting to think Santa doesn't exist either.

DAPHNE

Santa is real. Believe me. I know.

GIRL

How do you know?

DAPHNE

Want to know a secret?

GIRL

Yeah, I love secrets.

DAPHNE

I see and talk to Santa every year. He's a personal friend of mine. I know he's real.

GIRL

Really? Then how come I know kids who don't get presents? Like my brother and his friends.

DAPHNE

It's most likely because they stop believing. I still get presents every year from Santa.

GIRL

You do?

DAPHNE

Santa only delivers presents to the true believers. When you stop believing, he stops delivering.

GIRL

So, don't stop believeing.

DAPHNE

Exactly. Even when everyone and everything is against you, you have to believe.

GIRL

Good to know. I will.

DAPHNE

I'm sure Santa Claus will buy you a new music box at the end of this year.

JACK (O.S.)

There's no need to wait that long.

Jack comes back. He holds a brand new ballerina musical jewelry box.

DAPHNE

You got her a new music box?

JACK

Yeah, I saw it in the window when we walked by the toy store.

The girl grabs it.

GIRL

Thanks, Mr.

JACK

It's the least I could do.

On the bridge, the GIRL'S DAD yells.

GIRL'S DAD

Emma! It's time to go! That nice man snitched on your brother so I grounded him until next year.

GIRL

Yes! Double thanks, Mr.

The girl runs towards her dad.

DAPHNE

That was really nice of you.

JACK

Yeah, but there's a slight setback.

DAPHNE

What's that?

JACK

That thing cost me \$32.78. Not really sure how I'm going to afford lunch. I maxed out all my credit cards over the holidays.

DAPHNE

Don't worry. I'll get it.

JACK

I can't let you do that.

DAPHNE

You better. You just made me and that little girl very happy. Let's get some brisket and see where this goes.

RELATIONSHIP HOLIDAY MONTAGE:

* Jack and Daphne have lunch together that day. Employees take away Christmas decorations behind them, but it still feels like Christmas for Jack and Daphne.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Every boyfriend I ever had broke up with me around Christmas.

JACK

Well, they're all idiots. We all get a little crazy around the holidays. I promise you that will never happen with me.

DAPHNE

We'll see about that. One date at a time. But wow, this brisket is so good and hot.

JACK

Best brisket in the city, but it's not as hot as you.

DAPHNE

Do you always say cheesy things?

JACK

They didn't call Monterey Jack for nothing. And by they, I mean nobody calls me that, but I'm trying everything I can to make you smile.

DAPHNE

It's working.

* They celebrate St. Patrick's Day in an Irish Pub. With every holiday, Daphne goes all out on her holiday outfits.

JACK

Top of the morning to you!

DAPHNE

Jack, it's 11:22 at night.

JACK

I know, but I'm always on top of the world when I'm with you.

Daphne rolls her eyes.

DAPHNE

You are drunk, Jack.

JACK

Daphne, I know I'm hammered, but I want to tell you something. That something is I freaking love you.

DAPHNE

Do you feel the same way when you're sober?

JACK

Absolutely.

DAPHNE

Then make sure to tell me that again tomorrow morning.

JACK

I'm gonna tell you that every day for the rest of my life. I love this woman!

He turns to other drunk people.

JACK (CONT'D)

Everyone, I love this woman! I love her! This is the best St. Paddy's of my life because I'm with her!

Drunk people cheer.

* A balloon reads "Happy Mother's Day." Daphne and Jack have brunch with Daphne's mother, BETTY, 65, curly hair, slender, and a boss.

DAPHNE

Mom, This is my boyfriend, Jack.

BETTY

Hi, Jack, heard a lot about you, but you seem shabbier than the last guy.

JACK

I look shabby on the outside, but on the outside, I'm like Jell-o.

BETTY

I don't really like Jell-o.

DAPHNE

You like steak, Mom. Jack is like steak.

JACK

Yeah, you could say I'm the A.1. of boyfriends. Get it? A little steak humor.

BETTY

A.1. is not a steak.

JACK

Yeah, but I'm also saucy.

* In a building hallway, pumpkins, ghosts and witches are everywhere. Everyone is dressed up in costumes except Daphne and Jack who move furniture inside their apartment.

JACK (CONT'D)

You know this is the first Halloween in years I haven't gone to a party.

DAPHNE

We can party later after we move in the furniture.