

MIGHTY MIKE'S CHRISTMAS

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FADE IN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Conservatively decorated. Two couches share an end table in one corner, two chairs share a wall.

SUPER: AUGUST

MIKE (5) watches a Speed Racer cartoon on a television across the room. The show goes to a commercial.

ON SCREEN:

A small, motorized, four-wheel-drive Jeep-like toy car crawls across a floor. The oversized tires have a transverse tread that resemble gears or shallow paddle wheels.

ANNOUNCER

Kids love the Mighty Mike Jeep with its four-wheel drive traction and powerful motor. It can go anywhere, climb anything... Now Remco introduces the new Mighty Mike Deluxe Set! Not only does it come with a Mighty Mike, it comes with --

BACK TO SCENE

Mike sits wide-eyed and stares with an intoxicated smile.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Cozy with a plain, modern table in the middle, a china cabinet against a wall.

SUPER: THANKSGIVING

Mike sits alone with an oversized slice of chocolate cake before him. A turkey carcass remains the only other evidence of the finished feast.

His mother RAMONA (35) takes a seat at the table.

RAMONA

What do you want Santa to bring you this Christmas?

MIKE

I want the Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

RAMONA

Santa Clause doesn't peddle in garbage. Think of something else.

MIKE

It's not garbage!

His father FOREST (37) enters the room eating a banana.

FOREST

(full mouth)

What's this?

RAMONA

Oh, he wants this Mighty Mike thing for Christmas. I told him that Santa doesn't give out junk. Right?

FOREST

Don't you already have a Mighty Mike?

MIKE

Yeah but, this is the Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

FOREST

What's so special about it?

MIKE

It comes with a new Mighty Mike with things you can clip on the back. And it come with the Mighty Mike Truck! It has six-wheel drive of Mighty Mike power! I can make it a tank truck or a fire truck or a dump truck or a regular truck with doors that open and can carry real loads on the Mighty Mike track that only Mighty Mikes can go on because Mighty Mikes are tough, like me! That's why they named it after me. I'm Mighty Mike!

FOREST

Well, you heard your mother. Santa will you bring a lot of nice things for Christmas. Don't get your hopes up over this Mighty Mike thing.

MIKE

You say that every year but I write Santa and he always delivers what I want! You told me that I'm going to meet him this year so I can tell him myself in person.

(MORE)

MIKE (cont'd)
So now I know I'll get it.

Mike's parents exchange a glance and leave for the -

KITCHEN

They peek into the dining room before they engage in a conversation, keep their voices down.

RAMONA
It's our fault. We're spoiling him.
We can't keep giving in every year.

FOREST
But every year he spends the previous
week in the hospital with croup.

RAMONA
I know, but we still have to stick to
our guns. We have to promise not to
give in this year.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ramona and JUDY (35) sit at the table and drink coffee.

SUPER: DECEMBER 16th

JUDY
So how's Mike doing? Any symptoms?

RAMONA
Just a touch of sniffles but no
cough. No sign of croup this year. I
think he's outgrown it.

JUDY
Thank heaven.

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Forest and Ramona lie in bed, eyes wide open.

SUPER: DECEMBER 21st

Raspy, labored breathing is accompanied by an occasional
barking cough (O.S.)

The breathing chokes to a halt, resumes after a long beat.

The parents spring from the bed. They know the drill.

RAMONA

You get him out to the cold air. I'll
get his sister and start the car.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Mike stands in the only occupied hospital crib in a small pediatric ward full of cribs. He stares out the gallery windows in anticipation of visiting hours.

SUPER: DECEMBER 24th

His parents enter and awkwardly gather before him. Ramona stands with moist eyes and clenched teeth. Choked with emotion, she's unable to speak.

Forest clears his throat and breaks the long silence.

FOREST

We asked the North Pole to wrap
everybody's presents this year.
They'll all be under the tree waiting
for you to come home; even your
sister's. That's when we'll all
celebrate Christmas.

MIKE

(somber tone)

That's okay. I didn't get a chance to
see Santa and tell him what I wanted.
Now I'm not going to get it.

He slumps and takes a seat in his crib.

A voice booms from the hallway.

SANTA CLAUS (O.S.)

Ho ho ho. Merry Christmas!

Santa enters the hospital room. Mike rises and stands at attention.

SANTA CLAUS

Ho ho ho. What's your name?

MIKE

Mike.

SANTA CLAUS

Have you been a good boy this year?

Mike smiles and nods, crosses his fingers behind his back.

SANTA CLAUS
What do you want for Christmas?

MIKE
I want the Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

SANTA CLAUS
The wha?

MIKE
The Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

Mike goes through the whole sales pitch. Santa looks at his parents. They slowly shake their heads in unison.

SANTA CLAUS
Well, I don't know about Mighty Mikes
but here's a truck.

He reaches into a sack, hands Mike a small metal dump truck.

RAMONA
Say "Thank you Santa Claus."

MIKE
Thanks Santa.

Santa Claus leaves for another room.

FOREST
That's a nice truck.

MIKE
It's not a Mighty Mike.

FOREST
You heard it from Santa. Don't get
your hopes up.

MIKE
He just doesn't want to spoil the
surprise. You'll see.

DR. WEST (45) enters, greets the parents and examines Mike.
He checks his chart.

DR. WEST
So how are you today?

MIKE
I'm sick and I'm in the hospital.

DR. WEST
What do you want more than anything?

MICHAEL
I want the Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

DR. WEST
The what?... What's that?

Mike goes through the whole sales pitch again. The doctor looks to Mike's parents. They slowly shake their heads.

DR. WEST
Well, I don't know anything about about Mighty Mikes, but you can check out after lunch.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CHRISTMAS DAY

A pile of gift wrapped boxes sit under a well-lit Christmas tree. Mike and his sister CINDY (3), race to the tree.

The parents sit on a couch and exchange a celebratory smile to the sound of SHREDDING PAPER (O.S.) until a CHEER (O.C.) interrupts their bliss.

MIKE (O.S.)
Wow! A Deluxe Mighty Mike Set! I knew Santa would come through.

Ramona glares at her husband. He recoils in response.

FOREST
I know we promised each other but... he's home.

The RIPPING OF PAPER (O.S.) drowns out the argument.

RAMONA
Oh, how could you.

FOREST
It was all that he wanted.

She grits her teeth, her complexion turns red.

MIKE (O.S.)
Wow! Another Deluxe Mighty Mike Set!

Ramona closes her eyes as her surprised husband does the math and lights up with a knowing grin.

RAMONA
(to Forest)
Shut up.

FADE OUT