

**Timeless Tidings:  
Reclaiming the Heart of Christmas**

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

We open with home video footage from Christmas day 1989. A brightly decorated living room, with a splendidly lit Christmas tree next to the fireplace.

MICHAELA CLARKE (4) excitingly bursts through the living room door, dressed in pink Pajama's and fluffy bunny slippers. She spots the big pile of presents next to the tree. Her father PETER (30's) narrates her every move.

SUPER: CHRISTMAS 1989

PETER (O.S.)  
Merry Christmas Michaela!

MICHAELA  
(excited)  
Santa's been, Santa's been!

PETER (O.S.)  
He sure has!

MICHAELA  
Did he drink his milk I left for  
him?

Peter walks over to the table to reveal an empty glass of Milk.

PETER (O.S.)  
He sure did.

MICHAELA  
Can I open my presents?

Peter pans the camera to the pile of presents

PETER (O.S.)  
Go ahead.

As Michaela begins to open her presents, he pans the camera to his wife BEVERLEY (30's) sat looking glamorous with curlers in her hair, while rocking the couples baby son ADAM.

BEVERLEY  
(embarrassed)  
Peter.. Stop filming me!

Michaela shows her excitement as she opens her present to find a cabbage patch doll.

MICHAELA  
Wow! A cabbage patch doll!!

PETER (O.S.)  
It looks like Santa got your  
letter.

Michaela holds up the cabbage doll in delight to the camera.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Peter waits anxiously for his children to enter the living room, he stands ready with his video camera.

Suddenly Michaela, now aged eleven, enters with her younger brother Adam (5)

SUPER: CHRISTMAS 1996

MICHAELA  
Look Adam.. Santa's been!

ADAM  
Wow! Look at all these presents.

MICHAELA  
Mom.. Dad.. Can we open them?

PETER (O.S.)  
Go ahead.

Michaela and Adam begin to open their presents. Michaela raises a Tamagotchi high in the air.

MICHAELA  
A Tamagotchi.

ADAM  
I got one too.

Adam raises his Tamagotchi in the air.

MICHAELA  
Thanks Santa!

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

SUPER: CHRISTMAS 2006

The door opens as Peter awaits his children to enter the living room. Michaela, now in her twenties enters first.

MICHAELA

Dad, why do you still film us on  
christmas day?

PETER (O.S.)

It's tradition!

Next up Adam (15) enters the living room to no longer find piles of presents, instead a gift bag awaits them both.

He pans the camera to the two gift bags near the Christmas tree.

PETER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Let's see what Santa brought you  
this year.

MICHAELA

Dad, Really?

PETER (O.S.)

Go ahead.. Grab you gifts.

Michaela and Adam pick up their gift bag from under the Christmas tree and take a seat on the couch.

PETER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I want you to open them at the same  
time!

ADAM

Okay Dad.

Adam and Michaela open their gift bags and both pull out an iPod.

MICHAELA

Dad.. You shouldn't have.

PETER (O.S.)

They're not from me?

ADAM

Are they from Mom?

Beverley pops her head in from the kitchen.

BEVERLEY

They're not from me either?

PETER (O.S.)  
Well.. If they're not from me or  
your Mom. Then they must be from  
Santa.

Adam and Michaela smile at each other.

MICHAELA  
Thanks Santa!

PETER (O.S.)  
You may be 21 years old.. But  
you're never too old to believe in  
Santa.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

SUPER: LAST CHRISTMAS

Peter stands ready with his video camera. The living room  
door bursts open as a young girl, GRACE (5) with the cutest  
smile, enters the room.

GRACE  
Granddad!

PETER (O.S.)  
Grace!

She rushes to a pile of presents near the christmas tree.

GRACE  
Santa delivered you some presents.

PETER (O.S.)  
He did.. But none of them have my  
name on.

GRACE  
This one have my name on it.

PETER (O.S.)  
Then they must all be for you.

GRACE  
Can I open them?

PETER (O.S.)  
Of course you can!

Adam, now an adult enters alongside his wife SUSAN (20's)  
Pretty with a striking resemblance to her daughter.

ADAM  
Merry Christmas Dad!

Adam hugs his Mom.

SUSAN  
Merry Christmas Peter, Merry  
Christmas Beverley.

She hands Beverley a gift bag.

BEVERLEY  
Thank you Susanne.

SUSAN  
It's a little something for you and  
Peter.

ADAM  
Where's Michaela?

PETER (O.S.)  
She should be here any minute.

The Doorbell rings.

PETER (O.S) (CONT'D)  
Sounds like her now.

Peter exits the living room while continuing to film on his  
camera. He takes us on a journey to the front door.

He opens the door to see Michaela stood holding two suitcases  
while sobbing.

PETER (O.S) (CONT'D)  
Michaela....

MICHAELA  
Richard broke up with me.

PETER (O.S.)  
On Christmas Day?

Michaela continues to sob.

PETER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
What about the wedding?

MICHAELA  
It's off!

Michaela stares into the camera.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Dad.

PETER (O.S.)

Yes?

MICHAELA

Please stop filming me.

The Camera cuts out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

In the darkness on a bedside cabinet next to the bed. A radio alarm clock flicks onto 6:00am.

RADIO DJ (V.O.)

Good morning everyone. It's  
Christmas eve, do wrap up warm  
outside. It's a cold one with more  
snow on the way!

Michaela emerges in a tired daze from under the duvet as her messy hair covers her face. She hits the snooze button and disappears back under the duvet.

The radio alarm turns back on.

RADIO DJ (V.O.)

Here's the perfect Christmas song  
to get you in the Christmas spirit.

The song: LAST CHRISTMAS plays on the radio as Michaela gets out off bed hitting the alarm clock to turn it off.

MICHAELA

Okay.. I'm up, I'm up!

INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Michaela stands brushing her teeth while staring blankly in the mirror. She spits out the toothpaste in the sink and gargles some water before exiting the bathroom.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

She enters the living room in her apartment with no Christmas decorations in sight. Dressed in business attire, She grabs her car keys and a stack of papers and heads towards the front door.

Suddenly the telephone rings, she stops at the door and waits for it to go to the answer machine.

ANSWER MACHINE (V.O.)

Hi Michaela, It's your pops here. I know it's been a tough year for you and you've been keeping yourself busy with work. I just wanted to wish you the best of luck for your interview today, we hope you get the promotion. We have our fingers crossed for you, Me and your Mom would love for you to come home for Christmas. I thought maybe we could watch some of our old Christmas tapes and reminisce.

Michaela looks towards the answer machine, She sighs and exits the apartment.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Inside the real estate office of Dean Parker Griffin Associates. Christmas decorations surround the place, along with the goodwill feeling of Christmas eve.

A young female LACEY (20's) A Christmas enthusiast, sits behind a desk wearing a novelty headband and ugly sweater.

TELEPHONE RINGS.

LACEY

(into phone)

Dean Parker Griffin associates.

Lacey speaking, how may I help you?

She sits and listens to the call.

LACEY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

One moment. I'll put you through.

Lacey enters the extension number on the keypad. She spots MARCUS (30's) Chiseled good looking male, entering the office. Lacey rushes over to greet him.



LACEY (CONT'D)

Marcus!

MARCUS

Whoa! There's something different about you today Lacey. I'm just not sure what it is?

LACEY

Do you like the headband?

MARCUS

More than the sweater.

LACEY

It's Christmas eve! I wanted to make an effort.

MARCUS

Well i'd say it's a solid ten out of ten.

LACEY

Everything ready for the big day?

MARCUS

Is Michaela here yet?

LACEY

I haven't seen her.

MARCUS

Good, Follow me.

They enter a nearby office.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

LACEY

Are you finally going to tell Michaela how you feel about her?

MARCUS

Let me run my plan by you.

LACEY

Okay.

MARCUS

After Michaela gets the promotion.

Marcus opens a draw and pulls out a bottle of Champagne.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
I will make a toast.

LACEY  
(excited)  
Yes.

MARCUS  
And then.

Marcus hesitates.

LACEY  
And then you ask her out. Come on  
Marcus, how many times have we been  
over this?

MARCUS  
But what if she says no?

LACEY  
Look, Michaela likes you. She  
really likes you. All you gotta do  
is ask her out.

MARCUS  
That's the problem. What do I say?

LACEY  
You say, hey Michaela. I'm so happy  
you got the promotion. Shall we  
head to the office party and then  
maybe go out a few drinks later?

MARCUS  
I think I've got it.

LACEY  
Practice on me.

MARCUS  
I'm so happy you got the promotion.

Michaela enters the office unknown to Marcus and Lacey.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Shall we head to the office party  
later and then maybe go out a few  
drinks tonight?

LACEY  
Sure! I'd love too.

MICHAELA  
Oh, Sorry I didn't mean to  
interrupt.

MARCUS  
Michaela!

LACEY  
Oh you're not interrupting. Marcus  
was just.. Never mind.

MARCUS  
I'm going to grab some coffee. Can  
I get you ladies anything?

MICHAELA  
No thank you.

LACEY  
I'm good.

Marcus exits the office slightly flustered.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Are you coming to the office  
Christmas party?

MICHAELA  
Jeez.. I don't know.

Michaela spots the disappointment on Lacey's face.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
I might make an appearance.

LACEY  
(excited)  
Please do.

MICHAELA  
Is Mr Griffin here yet?

Lacey looks through the office window.

LACEY  
Looks like he's just arrived and  
he's summoned Marcus into his  
office.

MICHAELA  
Marcus?

LACEY  
Yeah, not sure why? What time is  
your meeting?

MICHAELA  
In Five minutes.

LACEY  
This Promotion has your name  
written all over it.

MICHAELA  
I'm just a little nervous. I've  
worked so hard for this.

LACEY  
You've got this.

MICHAELA  
I got this..

Marcus enters the office.

MARCUS  
Michaela, Dean is ready to see you.

LACEY  
Good luck.

As Michaela exits the office, Marcus stares at Lacey with a  
stunned look on his face.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
What is it?

MARCUS  
I'd rather not say.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Michaela enters the office and spots her boss, DEAN PARKER  
GRIFFIN (60's) Sophisticated well dressed male.

DEAN  
Michaela, take a seat.

MICHAELA  
Thank you Mr Griffin.

Dean Interrupts.

DEAN

Come on Michaela, you've known me a while. Call me Dean.

MICHAELA

Okay.

DEAN

I'm going to make this quick. I know the past year has been rough ride for you.

MICHAELA

I can assure you I have worked extra hard and met my sales targets.. I've gone above and beyond what was expected of me.

Dean Interrupts.

DEAN

Which is why I feel you're not ready for this promotion.

MICHAELA

Sorry? What?

DEAN

I've given the promotion to somebody I feel deserves a shot.

MICHAELA

Who deserves a shot more than me?

DEAN

Marcus.

MICHAELA

Marcus? But I've sold way more real estate than him this year. I'm the company's top seller.

DEAN

Which is why I want you to work along side him after the holiday season.

MICHAELA

(sarcastic)

Great!

DEAN

You're one of my top real estate agents.

(MORE)

DEAN (CONT'D)

In January, I will be looking for a new assistant manager, I'm going to need you to study this during the holidays.

He hands Michaela a huge stack of papers.

MICHAELA

What is it?

DEAN

It's the company's strategy for the next ten years. I need you to know this information inside out.

MICHAELA

Okay.. Thank you Dean.

Dean turns around and heads towards the door, while his back is turned Michaela pulls a funny face at him. He turns towards Michaela

DEAN

I knew you'd understand.

Michaela exits the office, while looking sunken as she tries to hide her frustration.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Oh! Michaela, One more thing.

Michaela stops in her tracks and turns around hiding her disappointment.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas.

Michaela nods at Dean as she begins to walk through the office looking dejected. Lacey rushes up to her.

LACEY

Did you get the promotion?

Michaela ignores Lacey while shutting everybody out. As she exits, Lacey calls out to her.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Michaela wait.

The telephone rings.

Michaela stands at the elevator. She looks down the corridor and spots Marcus hugging Dean as everyone congratulates him.

The elevator doors open.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME

Michaela steps inside and begins banging her head against the wall several times.

MICHAELA  
Why.. Why.. Why?

She begins to imitate Dean and Marcus.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Congratulations on the promotion  
Marcus. Why thank you Dean.

The elevator door opens unknown to Michaela.

MARCUS  
Michaela.

MICHAELA  
What?

MARCUS  
I'm so sorry. I know how hard  
you've worked for this promotion.

MICHAELA  
Clearly not hard enough.

MARCUS  
This wasn't how I planned this out  
in my head.

MICHAELA  
Planned what out?

MARCUS  
Well..

MICHAELA  
Stealing my promotion from under my  
nose.

MARCUS  
No, not at all. Look, Michaela. I  
really..

MICHAELA  
Spit it out, I'm waiting.

Michaela awaits as Lacey interrupts.

LACEY  
Are you still coming to the  
Christmas party?

MICHAELA  
I don't think so.

LACEY  
Marcus, you need to tell her now.

MICHAELA  
Tell me what?

Lacey stares at Marcus and encourages him to tell Michaela.  
But Marcus hesitates.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Oh, I see. It looks like my  
promotion wasn't the only thing  
stolen from me today.

LACEY  
No Michaela, You've got this all  
wrong.

Michaela hits the button in the lift as the doors begin  
closing.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
By the way your brother just  
called.

Marcus looks on disappointed.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Michaela arrives home, she tosses her handbag to the side and  
throws down her keys on the table.

She enters the living room and face plants onto the couch in  
frustration.

Suddenly there is a knock at the door. Michaela peels her  
face off the couch and looks towards the door.

MICHAELA  
I'm not home!

The knocking gets louder. Michaela gets up from the couch and  
marches to the door.

She pulls open the door and spots her brother Adam and Grace,  
who pretend to be Christmas carolers.



ADAM  
(singing)  
We wish you a merry christmas.. We  
wish you a merry Christmas..

GRACE  
(singing)  
And a happy new year!!!

Michaela shuts the door in Adam's face but he stops it before  
it closes and enters the apartment along with Grace.

ADAM  
Whoa! Somebody's being a grinch.

MICHAELA  
What do you want?

ADAM  
I called your office and tried your  
mobile several times.

MICHAELA  
I switched it off.

ADAM  
After ignoring all of my calls, I'm  
here to chauffeur you to Mom and  
Dads.

MICHAELA  
Not this year Adam.

ADAM  
But it's Christmas.

MICHAELA  
And?

ADAM  
It's tradition. I thought we could  
sing along to our favorite  
Christmas songs on the way.

Michaela interrupts.

MICHAELA  
Christmas is cancelled this year.

Grace steps forward.

GRACE  
Aunt Michaela you've got to come.

MICHAELA  
I'm Sorry Grace but I can't.

GRACE  
Why not? Granddad said he was going to show me his Christmas videos of you and Daddy.

ADAM  
At least turn up for that Michaela.. Dad's really excited to show Grace our old christmas tapes.

MICHAELA  
Well ... I hope you all have fun.

Grace looks at Michaela disappointed.

ADAM  
Hey Grace, Why don't you go and wait in the car with Mommy.

GRACE  
Okay.

Grace exits the apartment.

ADAM  
I don't get it, What's gotten into you? You used to love Christmas.

MICHAELA  
Yes Adam.. I used to love Christmas. Not anymore!

ADAM  
This about Richard?

MICHAELA  
No.

ADAM  
Is this about the promotion?

MICHAELA  
How do you know about the promotion?

ADAM  
I spoke to Lacey.

MICHAELA  
Damn it Lacey.

ADAM

Just forget about all that and come  
and spend Christmas with your  
family.

Michaela looks on unimpressed.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Do you really want to spend  
Christmas here.. Alone?

Michaela sighs.

MICHAELA

Adam.. The amount of Christmas  
spirit I have right now isn't  
enough to convince me! In fact..  
Roll on New year!

Adam shakes his head in disappointment.

ADAM

You know what.. I take it back.  
You're not the Grinch. You're more  
like Ebenezer Scrooge..

Adam heads to the front door, as he is about to exit the  
apartment, he turns to Michaela.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas Michaela.

MICHAELA

Bah humbug.

Adam exits the apartment, Michaela takes a seat on the couch,  
she sits looking irritated until a knock at the door diverts  
her attention, She gets up from the couch and heads to the  
door.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Adam... I'm not coming! How many  
more times do I have to tell you?

She opens the door to find nobody stood outside.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Hello?

She looks down the empty corridor until she slams the door  
shut. She walks towards the couch, Once again there is  
another loud knock at the door.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Whoever this is, it's not funny!

Michaela marches towards the door and pulls it open to find nobody stood outside. She stares at the floor and notices a present, addressed to her, gift wrapped with a bow.

FOCUS ON PRESENT

She looks at the tag and reads it out aloud.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
To Michaela. A little something to  
help you find your Christmas  
spirit.

Unimpressed she picks up the present and heads inside the apartment and places it onto the table.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
I will find my Christmas spirit, as  
soon as I open my bottle of vodka!

She begins to unwrap the box to reveal a VIDEOCASSETTE PLAYER. Also in the box, a shiny sparkly red remote. She stares at it unimpressed.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Who watches video tapes in this day  
and age? Really Adam.. You could  
have saved money on this piece of  
junk and just got me a Netflix  
subscription. Nice remote though.

She leaves the VCR in its box on the table and heads to the kitchen. She grabs a bottle of vodka and pulls herself a glass.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Tis the season to be jolly!

She heads back to the couch and drinks the whole glass. She lays down and sighs.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Wake me up when Christmas is over!

With heavy eyes, she tries to resist the urge of falling asleep. Within minutes she's in dreamland on the couch.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Pan to clock which shows it's three thirty in the morning. Michaela continues to sleep on the couch, We hear a thud on the roof followed by the sound of someone arriving down the chimney.

We get a glimpse of Santa in Michaela's living room as she sleeps.

SANTA (O.S.)  
Not even a Christmas tree to put  
the present under.

Santa places the present on the floor and disappears up the chimney. A big thud on the roof, along with bells jingling wakes up Michaela.

MICHAELA  
Huh.. What was that?

She stares towards the clock unimpressed by the time. She spots the present gift wrapped on the floor waiting for her. Next to the present are footprints leading towards the fireplace. She looks around confused.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
What is going on?

Michaela gets off the couch and makes her way over to the wrapped gift.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
This has Adam and Pops written all  
over it.

She picks up the wrapped gift and examines it.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
I'm guessing it's a video tape.

She unwraps it to find a video tape with the label "CHRISTMAS PAST".

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Yep. Definitely Adam and Pops.

She looks over towards the VCR box and makes her way over to the table to grab it. She takes it to the living room and places it down on the floor. She takes out the VCR from the box and connects it up to the TV.

Michaela picks up the video tape and stares at the label.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Christmas past?

Michaela places the tape into the VCR. She grabs the shiny sparkly remote and takes a seat on the couch.

On the remote are four buttons. Play, fast forward, rewind and pause. She presses the play button and sits back on the couch.

A home video of her family's Christmas in nineteen eighty nine begins to play.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME 1989 - DAY

A young excited Michaela bursts through the living room door as her father, Peter narrates her every move.

PETER (O.S.)  
Merry Christmas Michaela!

MICHAELA  
(excited)  
Santa's been, Santa's been!

PETER (O.S.)  
He sure has!

MICHAELA  
Did he drink his milk I left him?

Peter walks over to the table to reveal an empty glass of Milk.

PETER (O.S.)  
He sure did.

MICHAELA  
Can I open my presents?

Peter pans the camera to the pile of presents

PETER (O.S.)  
Go ahead.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - SAME

Michaela sits smiling to herself as she watches the home video.

MICHAELA  
I wish I could go back to that  
year.. Life was so simple back  
then.

Suddenly the TV begins to flicker as the tape becomes unwatchable.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
What's happening?

A big white flash hits the room.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

From an unknown POV we see someone wake up excited as they exit their bedroom and hurry down the stairs.

The person bursts through the door into the Living room as Peter stands filming.

Pan to person to reveal MICHAELA, who has gone back to 1989 as an adult. She stands in her pink Pajama's overly excited.

MICHAELA  
Santa's been. Santa's been!

Peter stares at her confused and scared.

PETER  
Who the hell are you?

MICHAELA  
Dad, it's me!

PETER  
What have you done with my  
daughter?

Michaela looks in the mirror and screams.

MICHAELA  
Oh my god!

Beverley enters the living room carrying baby Adam.

BEVERLEY  
Ahhhh! Burglar!

MICHAELA  
No.. Mom, It's me!

PETER  
Bev, take Adam into the kitchen and  
call the police.

Beverley hurries into the kitchen.

MICHAELA  
That wont be necessary. Don't call  
the cops!

Peter puts his video camera down and picks up the fire poker.  
He begins stalking Michaela around the living room.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
It's okay.. You can put the fire  
poker down.

The two go around in a circle as Michaela tries to avoid  
being caught by Peter.

PETER  
Where is my daughter?

MICHAELA  
I am your daughter! Dad it's really  
me. It's Michaela.

Michaela picks up some artwork she made her parents at  
school. The artwork is a christmas tree made on card with  
tinsel stuck to it.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Look, here is the tree I made for  
you before we broke up for the  
holidays.

Michaela places the artwork back onto the coffee table as  
Peter destroys it with the fire poker which startles her.

MICHAELA (ANNOYED) (CONT'D)  
That took me hours to make!

Michaela picks up a present.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Look at this present! I don't even  
have to open it and I can tell you  
It's a cabbage patch doll.



She unwraps it to reveal a Cabbage patch doll.

PETER

I'm going to give you one more chance. Where is my daughter?

MICHAELA

I'm right here.

Peter snaps and begins to chase her around the living room.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

In the kitchen, Beverley is on the phone to the police. She struggles to hear through the chaos that is erupting in the Living room.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

911, What's your emergency?

BEVERLEY

There is a strange lady in our home claiming to be our daughter.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

Can you describe what this lady looks like?

BEVERLEY

Erm.. She's tall, long hair.. Pink pajama's and bunny slippers.

More Chaos is heard from the kitchen as the christmas tree takes a tumble in the living room.

BEVERLEY (FRANTIC) (CONT'D)

Please send somebody! She's destroying our home!

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

In the Living room, Peter continues to Chase Michaela around like an episode of Tom and Jerry.

PETER

Come here!

Michaela trips over and lands on the floor. Peter lifts up the poker ready to strike. Michaela shows panic on her face and covers up.

MICHAELA  
Don't hurt me!

She waits in anticipation as she slowly lowers her arms to see her Dad not moving, frozen like a statue.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
What is going on?

She hears bells jingling from the fireplace. A big thump hits the fire place floor. Michaela spots two big black boots and red trousers.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

A jolly SANTA steps out from the fireplace.

SANTA  
Ho Ho Ho.

Michaela looks at Santa bewildered.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Sorry.. Force of habit.

MICHAELA  
Are you supposed to be.

SANTA  
Santa?

Michaela stares at Santa unimpressed.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Father Christmas.

She continues to stare at him bewildered.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
St. Nick... Babbo Natale!

MICHAELA  
Babbo what?

SANTA  
That's Italian.

MICHAELA  
What is going on?

SANTA  
You've gone back in time for  
Christmas.

MICHAELA

Right? Your telling me I've time travelled back to Christmas eighty nine!

SANTA

That's right.

MICHAELA

Come on Babbo Natale, I've seen phone booths, Delorean's. But a VCR, Really?

SANTA

It's something the my Elves designed way back in two thousand and five.

MICHAELA

Oh my god! Does that mean I've ruined Christmas eighty nine?

SANTA

Don't worry Michaela. This is just a re-run. You can't change the past. But the future depends on what you do today.

Michaela points to her Dad.

MICHAELA

What's happened to my Dad?

SANTA

He's currently experiencing the Santa Claus pause. Don't worry he won't feel a thing.

MICHAELA

The Santa Claus pause?

Santa waves a sparkly remote control towards Michaela.

SANTA

The reason my Elves designed this time machine was because once youtube came out in 2005. Kids would try and capture me delivering presents. This remote came in handy as it's able to Pause for Santa Claus, so no children were able to capture me delivering presents.

MICHAELA

You expect me to believe that  
sparkly remote control can pause  
time..

SANTA

Not time.. Only people!

MICHAELA

Yeah right.

SANTA

Ask yourself. Have you ever seen a  
video of me delivering presents on  
Youtube?

Michaela ponders.

MICHAELA

I've..

Santa interrupts.

SANTA

The answer your looking for is no!

MICHAELA

Does it Un-pause people?

SANTA

Of Course... As soon as I hit the  
play button, the craziness will  
resume. I had to step in Michaela.  
This was Christmas chaos at it's  
best.

MICHAELA

What am I doing back in Christmas  
eighty nine?

SANTA

I granted you your Christmas wish.  
Everyone is entitled to one.

MICHAELA

My Christmas wish?

SANTA

To go back to Christmas 1989.

MICHAELA

I said that in figure of speech. I  
didn't actually mean it.

Michaela tries to figure out what is going on.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Wait a second. The VCR and the video tape was really from you?

SANTA

Indeed!

MICHAELA

Why?

SANTA

It seems you have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas.

MICHAELA

Santa incase you didn't know.. Last Christmas destroyed my Christmas spirit!

SANTA

I know.. Richard is still on the naughty list.

MICHAELA

Not to mention I didn't get the promotion, I worked so hard for!

SANTA

Yes.. You seem to have lost your way. That's why I'm here to help you.

MICHAELA

With all due respect Mr Kringle.

SANTA

That was good!

MICHAELA

I'm a little too old for all this make believe stuff.

Santa looks at Michaela in shock.

SANTA

You're never too old to believe.

MICHAELA

I think I am Santa. Maybe visit my niece Grace.

SANTA  
Close your eyes.

Michaela laughs at Santa's request.

MICHAELA (AMUSED)  
Close my eyes.

While Michaela has her eyes closed, there is a magical flash.

SANTA  
Open your eyes.

Michaela opens her eyes and stands in shock to discover she is no longer in her parents living room. Instead she has transported to NORTH POLE HQ.

INT. NORTH POLE HQ - SAME

Inside North pole Hq, Michaela looks around mesmerized.

MICHAELA  
Where are we?

SANTA  
Have a guess.

MICHAELA  
The north pole?

SANTA  
Well yes we are!

MICHAELA  
Why is it so quiet?

SANTA  
Our Christmas assignment for this year is complete.

MICHAELA  
Where are the elf's? Where's Mrs Clause?

SANTA  
On vacation.

MICHAELA  
Vacation.. Yeah sure?

SANTA  
It's true and I will be joining them, once I am finished with you.

They begin walking through North Pole HQ.

MICHAELA  
What about the reindeer? They on  
vacation too?

SANTA  
Let's find out.

Santa exits the room as Michaela follows.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Santa stops outside a barn. He pulls open the doors to reveal all his reindeers inside. He walks over to the nearest reindeer.

SANTA  
Dancer!

He walks over to Prancer.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Hello Prancer.

MICHAELA  
Okay Santa! You have reindeers.

SANTA  
I'd show you the sleigh but it's in  
the workshop.

MICHAELA  
Actually Santa can we head  
somewhere a little warmer. It's  
freezing out here.

SANTA  
Why that's because it's the North  
pole!

MICHAELA  
Feels like it.

Michaela wraps her arms around her trying to keep warm.

SANTA  
I know just the place, Follow me.

Michaela exits the barn and heads inside to a cosy looking room full of bookshelves. She heads towards the open log fire to warm up.

INT. NORTH POLE HQ - SAME

SANTA  
You warming up?

MICHAELA  
A little.

Santa reaches inside his jacket and pulls out a hot cup of cocoa.

SANTA  
Here.. This should help.

Michaela looks at Santa confused by the magic.

MICHAELA  
How did you do that?

SANTA  
Starting to believe yet?

MICHAELA  
No.

SANTA  
Oh.

She takes a sip of the cocoa.

MICHAELA  
This is the best cocoa i've ever  
tasted.

SANTA  
Mrs Claus secret recipe.

MICHAELA  
What is this room?

SANTA  
I'm glad you asked.

Santa heads over towards the bookcases full of files that has every child's name on. He begins looking for Michaela's file.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Clarke.

He runs his finger across the shelf.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Aha!



He pulls out a file that has Michaela's name on. He opens up the folder to reveal every Christmas letter she has written to Santa.

MICHAELA

Are those?

SANTA

Every letter you've ever written to me.

Santa picks up a letter.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Christmas eighty nine. Dear Santa,  
for Christmas I would like a  
cabbage patch doll.

Michaela smiles to herself.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Christmas ninety six. Dear Santa,  
For Christmas please can I have a  
puppy? If I can't have a puppy then  
I will settle for a tamagotchi.

Michaela laughs.

MICHAELA

Okay Santa. I believe in you. There  
I said it, now can I get back to  
reality.

SANTA

Right through that door.

Santa points to a door in the room. Michaela heads towards the door apprehensive.

MICHAELA

This door?

She opens the door and steps inside to find she is back in her parents living room and back in Christmas 1989.

INT. FAMILY HOME 1989 - SAME

MICHAELA

I'm back in eighty nine.

Santa appears next to Michaela which startles her.

SANTA

Yes you are..

MICHAELA

So how do I get back to the future?

SANTA

You're currently in Christmas past.  
You'll need to visit Christmas  
present and then Christmas future.

MICHAELA

How do I do that?

SANTA

You'll figure it out and then  
hopefully, you will find that  
Christmas spirit you've always had.

Santa begins to exit the home.

MICHAELA

Santa, Where are going?

SANTA

On Vacation.

Michaela looks on unsure what to do.

MICHAELA

But.. Santa.. I need... Guidance!

SANTA

Don't worry.. I've got it covered.

MICHAELA

Covered.. How?

SANTA

Don't worry about that. What you  
should be concerned about is this.

Santa Pulls out a sparkly remote control.

SANTA (CONT'D)

Christmas eighty nine is about to  
resume.

Santa presses the play button on the remote and exits the home. Peter Un-pauses as Michaela runs out of the home unseen by Peter.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Michaela rushes out to the front yard looking for Santa.

MICHAELA

Santa?

Michaela looks on concerned.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

You can't leave me.. I need you...  
Great!

Suddenly she hears the voice of a sweet old lady next door.

VOICE (O.S.)

Michaela.. Is that you?

She turns around to see her elderly female neighbor. MARY (60's) stood on her porch with a suitcase.

MICHAELA

Mary?

MARY

What's with the Pink Pajama's.

MICHAELA

Long story.

MARY

Interesting choice of footwear.

Michaela looks down at her fluffy Bunny slippers.

MICHAELA

Yeah.

Michaela makes her way over to Mary.

MARY

Hello dear.

MICHAELA

You look exactly the same as you do  
in 2022.

MARY

2022?

MICHAELA

No.. I can't.. It's sounds crazy.  
Even to me.

MARY  
I'm listening.

MICHAELA  
I've managed to time travel back to  
nineteen eighty nine.

Mary looks at Michaela concerned.

MARY  
You've time travelled?

MICHAELA  
By using a VCR!

MARY  
VCR? Interesting choice of time  
machine.

MICHAELA  
See.. I told you it sounded crazy.

MARY  
Sometimes the craziest things  
happen for a reason.

MICHAELA  
I guess your right. Anyway, forget  
I said that. It's christmas day.  
Where are you going?

MARY  
On vacation dear.

MICHAELA  
On your own?

MARY  
With my husband.

MICHAELA  
Husband?

MARY  
Yes, he's meeting me there. He  
worked late last night.

A taxi cab pulls up.

MICHAELA  
Is that your taxi?

Mary waves towards the Taxi cab.

MARY

So it is, Well.. I'm off.

MICHAELA

Let me help you with your case.

Michaela helps Mary with her suitcase to the taxi.

MARY

Thank you Michaela, that's very kind of you.

Mary gets into the taxi.

MICHAELA

Hey Mary.. Can I possibly hop in your taxi?

MARY

Where are you heading to?

MICHAELA

Anywhere away from here! If it was possible, up state. Not far from the airport.

MARY

Sure.

MICHAELA

There is one slight problem. I don't have any money on me.

MARY

Oh Don't worry! True spirit of Christmas is kindness.

Michaela suddenly has a epiphany.

MICHAELA

What did you say about the true spirit of Christmas?

MARY

Hop on in and I'll tell you all about it on the way to the airport.

MICHAELA

Okay.

Michaela hops into the taxi.

INT. TAXI TRAVELING - DAY

Michaela sits in the back seat of the taxi with Mary.

MICHAELA

So what was it you was saying about  
the true spirit of Christmas.

MARY

It's lots of things Michaela.

MICHAELA

I feel like i've forgotten.

MARY

Then you need to find your true  
spirit of Christmas.

MICHAELA

But how?

MARY

Look at this way. It's not what's  
under the Christmas tree that  
matters. But rather who is around  
it.

The taxi comes to a stop.

MARY (CONT'D)

I believe this is your stop.

Michaela looks out the window and spots her apartment.

MICHAELA

Yes. Thank you Mary.

EXT. APARTMENT - SAME

Michaela steps out of the Taxi and begins to walk towards her  
apartment. She stops and turns towards the taxi.

MICHAELA

Mary.

Mary rolls down the window.

MARY

Yes dear.

MICHAELA

Merry Christmas.

MARY

And to you. God bless us everyone!

Michaela smiles to herself as the Taxi drives away.

Still dressed in her pink pajama's and fluffy bunny slippers. Michaela walks over to the entrance door of her apartment and tries the door handle.

MICHAELA

Locked!

She checks her pockets.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Key.

But doesn't find anything.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Great! How am I supposed to get in?

She looks up at the open window of her apartment.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

No.. No.. No.. Stupid idea.

She looks around to see if anybody is watching her and then rushes over to a huge dumpster outside the apartment and wheels it in line with the open window. She climbs on top of dumpster.

INT. HOME - SAME

Across the street, an elderly male, BILL (60's) is sat watching TV. He notices Michaela trying to climb up to the window. He gets up from his seat and rushes to the window to take a closer look.

BILL

My Oh My!

He picks up the receiver of his rotary telephone. He dials nine clockwise, followed by one and another one. The call connects to an operator.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

911, What's your emergency?

BILL

I'm witnessing a burglary taking place across the street.

OPERATOR (V.O.)  
OK sir, Can you describe the  
person?

BILL  
Female.. Pink Pajama's... Fluffy  
Bunny slippers.

EXT. APARTMENT - SAME

Michaela manages to climb up to the window, She tries to  
squeeze through the small gap in the window but gets stuck as  
her legs dangle outside the window.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME

MICHAELA  
Oh no.

She continues to try and wiggle through the small opening.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
A little stuck here..

She looks up and spots a young girl, HOLLY (4) playing with  
her dolls in the living room. Holly stares at Michaela  
confused.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Little girl. Can you help me?

Holly calls for her Mom.

HOLLY  
Mom!

Holly's Mom KAREN (40) enters the room.

KAREN  
Yes sweetie.

HOLLY  
There is a lady in the window.

Holly points towards the window.

KAREN  
What are you talking about?

Karen looks over at the window.



KAREN (CONT'D)

Oh my!

Karen is startled and rushes towards the telephone.

MICHAELA

No.. No.. Please don't call the  
cops! I live here.

Karen looks at Michaela confused.

KAREN

What? I live here.

MICHAELA

No.. I live here!

KAREN

This is my apartment!

MICHAELA

No.. It's my apartment.

From inside the apartment sirens are heard approaching the building.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Uh oh.

EXT. APARTMENT - SAME

Michaela tries to wiggle free from the window but can't move. A cop car pulls up outside. A black male policeman, OFFICER RAY (40's) steps out the vehicle.

OFFICER RAY

Okay Miss Pink Pajama's. Climb away  
from the window.

MICHAELA (O.S.)

I can't .. I'm stuck!

OFFICER RAY

Get yourself unstuck!

Michaela manages to free herself from the window, She climbs down into the arms of Officer Ray.

OFFICER RAY (CONT'D)

You seem to be causing a lot of  
Christmas chaos.

MICHAELA  
It's just a little understanding. I live here.

OFFICER RAY  
Oh really? Because to me it looked liked you were trying to break into this apartment.

MICHAELA  
I wasn't.. I swear!

OFFICER RAY  
Like you didn't break into 282 Maple this morning.

Michaela laughs..

MICHAELA  
No... That's my parents house.

OFFICER RAY  
What is your name?

MICHAELA  
It's Michaela Clarke.

OFFICER RAY  
Michaela Clarke?

MICHAELA  
Yes.

OFFICER RAY  
That's the name of Beverley and Peter's missing daughter.

MICHAELA  
She's not missing.. She's right here!

OFFICER RAY  
You expect me to believe you are a 4 year old girl?

MICHAELA  
I'm telling you the truth. Let me explain.

OFFICER RAY  
You can explain alright!

MICHAELA  
Thank you.

OFFICER RAY

Down town.

Officer Ray grabs Michaela's arm and marches her to his car.  
He places her in the back of the vehicle.

MICHAELA

No! Officer Ray.. Let me explain.

Officer Ray gets into the car and heads off towards the station.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION - DAY

Officer Ray enters the station with Michaela, in front of them is another criminal dressed as Santa, being booked in by OFFICER DEANE (50's) he looks up to see Officer DANIEL'S (30's) stood next to him.

OFFICER DEANE

Name.

He looks at the man dressed as Santa.

SANTA CRIMINAL

Santa.

OFFICER DEANE

Real name?

SANTA CRIMINAL

Kris Kringle.

Officer Daniels interrupts.

OFFICER DANIEL'S

His real name is Robin. Which is ironic because that is what I caught him doing.... Again!

SANTA CRIMINAL

I still maintain I was just helping Santa out.

OFFICER DANIEL'S

You climbed down someones Chimney and tried stealing their presents.

SANTA CRIMINAL  
I would have gotten away with him  
too if it wasn't for those pesky  
kids!

Officer Daniel's and the Santa criminal step aside.

OFFICER DEANE  
Next.

Officer Ray marches Michaela to the front desk.

OFFICER DEANE (CONT'D)  
Name?

MICHAELA  
Michaela Clarke.

OFFICER DEANE  
Date of birth.

MICHAELA  
October fiftieth nineteen eighty  
five.

Officer Deane looks up.

OFFICER DEANE  
Nineteen eighty five?

MICHAELA  
Yes.. Nineteen eighty five.

Officer Deane looks towards Officer Ray unimpressed.

OFFICER DEANE  
If you were born in nineteen eighty  
five, then that would make you four  
years old.

MICHAELA  
I erm..

They both look at Michaela awaiting her response.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
I time travelled from the year  
twenty twenty two.

Officer Ray looks at Officer Deane.

OFFICER RAY  
Time travelled?

MICHAELA

By VCR!

OFFICER RAY

By a video cassette recorder?

MICHAELA

To be more precise a video tape.

OFFICER RAY

So now you time travelled by a video tape?

MICHAELA

Yes. I placed a tape that said Christmas Past into the VCR and it made me time travel back to Christmas nineteen eighty nine!

OFFICER RAY

Are you positive you've definitely time traveled?

MICHAELA

Yes! I hit play and I ended up in eighty nine.

They all burst out laughing..

OFFICER DEANE

I mean.. That's a new one, I time traveled! We gotta write that one down.

SANTA CRIMINAL

At least make it more convincing.

MICHAELA

I'm telling you the truth.

OFFICER DEANE

Yeah sure.

They continue to laugh at Michaela's comment.

OFFICER DEANE (CONT'D)

Take her in for further questioning.

OFFICER RAY

Time travelled.

OFFICER DEANE

By VCR!

They continue to laugh as Michaela is led towards the interview room.

OFFICER RAY

This way.

SANTA CRIMINAL

I forgot to mention.. I must have time traveled down the chimney.

OFFICER DANIEL'S

Get him outta here!

The Santa criminal is led towards the cells.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

OFFICER RAY

Take a seat.

Michaela takes a seat, Officer Ray sits opposite her.

OFFICER RAY (CONT'D)

Now.. I want answers, are you going to tell me the truth? The whole truth and nothing but the truth.

MICHAELA

Yes.

OFFICER RAY

What was you doing at the Clarke's residency this morning?

MICHAELA

I woke up. Went downstairs to open my presents and then Dad started chasing me around the living room.

OFFICER RAY

You still expect me to believe this crazy story?

MICHAELA

It's the truth.

OFFICER RAY

What was you doing at the apartment in Chestnut?

MICHAELA

I live there.

OFFICER RAY

When I arrived, It looked like you were trying to intrude on another Christmas.

MICHAELA

I was trying to get into my apartment.

OFFICER RAY

But the apartment is owned by Mr and Mrs Thompson. So explain to me how it is your apartment.

MICHAELA

Oh.. I purchased it at the start of the year. I needed to find a place after I broke up with my finance.

OFFICER RAY

The start of the year?

MICHAELA

January twenty.

Officer Ray looks at Michaela.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Twenty two.

OFFICER RAY

Okay.. That's it. Time for you spend Christmas in jail.

MICHAELA

No! Officer Ray.. It's the truth.

Officer Ray gets up from his seat.

OFFICER RAY

Let's go.

Suddenly the door opens. Mary enters the interview room.

MICHAELA

Mary?

OFFICER RAY

Hey! Only authorized personnel in this room only.

MARY  
I'm sorry to intervene Officer Ray.  
But I have evidence that supports  
Michaela's case.

OFFICER RAY  
Oh really? And what evidence is  
that?

Mary pulls out a video tape from her handbag and hands it to  
Officer Ray.

TAPE READS "CHRISTMAS PRESENT"

OFFICER RAY (CONT'D)  
Christmas present.

Michaela looks at Mary.

OFFICER RAY (CONT'D)  
What is this?

MARY  
Play it and you'll find out.

Officer Ray begins setting up the TV and VCR as Michaela  
turns to Mary.

MICHAELA  
(whispers)  
What are you doing here?

MARY  
Not now dear.

Officer Ray puts the video tape into the VCR.

OFFICER RAY  
Oh! I think Officer Deane was the  
last one to use the VCR.. I think  
the remote is on the front desk.  
Wait right here.

Officer Ray exits the room.

MICHAELA  
Mary.. Your name is Mary isn't it?  
What is going on?

MARY  
It's okay.. Santa sent me.



MICHAELA

Santa sent you? What is happening right now?

MARY

All will be explained. Right now, We have to get you out of here.

MICHAELA

We need to wait for officer ray to come back with the remote control.

Mary pulls out the red sparkly remote from her hand bag.

MARY

Oh no we don't.

INT. STATION - SAME

At the front desk Officer Ray approaches Officer Deane.

OFFICER DEANE

I thought I saw you earlier.. Did you time travel back here?

OFFICER RAY

Very funny. I'm actually looking for the remote for the VCR.

OFFICER DEANE

It's in the interview room.

OFFICER RAY

Are you sure?

OFFICER DEANE

That's where I left it.

Suddenly a big flash is seen from the interview room. Officer Ray and Officer Deane rush to the room to find out what the big white flash was.

They enter the room to find Michaela and Mary have disappeared.

OFFICER RAY

They've gone!

OFFICER DEANE

You don't think.

OFFICER RAY

Don't even say it.

OFFICER DEANE

Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Michaela and Mary appear in a rough looking part of town.

MICHAELA

Okay ... I need answers. Last time  
I saw you, You were going on  
vacation.

MARY

I had to put my vacation on hold. I  
couldn't see you locked up in jail.

MICHAELA

What is this.. Christmas Past,  
Christmas Present and Christmas  
Future. You're waiting for me to  
have an epiphany and suddenly  
realize Christmas is great!

MARY

That's what we're hoping.

MICHAELA

Well forget it. Right now I can't  
wait to see the back end of  
Christmas. Roll on New year!

MARY

Before we get to the new year.. I  
wanted to show you something.

MICHAELA

Where are we? Feel like we're still  
stuck in the past.

MARY

We are still in the past.. We are  
in the most deprived area in the  
city.

MICHAELA

Who lives here?

MARY

Marcus.

MICHAELA

Marcus.. As in Marcus from work who stole my promotion.

MARY

Or Marcus Wilson as he is known.

MICHAELA

I would never have guessed he grew up in this neighborhood.

MARY

He lived in this house with his brother and sister and his father.

MICHAELA

What happened to his Mother?

MARY

She abandoned her family and moved away. Which left Marcus to bring up his brother and Sister.

They move to the window to take a closer look.

MICHAELA

Where's his father?

MARY

Probably at the local bar. Where he spends most of his time and money.

They hear a man stumbling down the road. They turn around to see DEREK (50's) heading towards the home.

MARY (CONT'D)

It looks like Derek is on his way home now.

MICHAELA

Can he see us?

MARY

I doubt he can see what's in front of him, let see alone us!

INT. MARCUS HOME - NIGHT

Marcus (5) along with his siblings Amy (4) and Daniel (3) All sit patiently as they wait for their dad to arrive home, So they can open their presents. Derek stumbles into the living room singing.

DEREK  
(singing)  
Tis' the season to be jolly..

Michaela and Mary watch from outside the window.

EXT. MARCUS HOME - NIGHT

MARY  
They haven't opened one present  
yet.

MICHAELA  
Why? It's getting late.

MARY  
Because.. They don't have any!

MICHAELA  
What are you talking about?

INT. MARCUS HOME - NIGHT

MARY (O.S.)  
They've been sat waiting for their  
Father to come home.

MARCUS  
Daddy, can we open our presents?

DEREK  
Presents?

MARCUS  
It's Christmas.

DEREK  
Of course it is.. Wait until you  
see what I got for you.

Marcus and his siblings sit excited.

DEREK (CONT'D)  
Are you ready?

Derek reaches into his pocket and pulls out a soggy beer mat  
and hands it to Marcus.

DEREK (CONT'D)  
Don't look so disappointed!

MARCUS

But.. I wrote to Santa and asked  
for a G.I Joe.

DEREK

A G.I what?

MARCUS

A G.I Joe.

DEREK

Well Santa obviously didn't think  
you were good enough to bring you  
one!

Marcus and his siblings sit looking sad as Derek slumps into  
his arm chair.

EXT. MARCUS HOME - SAME

MARY

He never did get that G.I Joe.

MICHAELA

That's just awful.

DEREK (O.S.)

Now be a good boy and get your  
Daddy a beer from the fridge will  
you.

MICHAELA

Wow! I feel so bad for him.

MARY

The love of a family is life's  
greatest blessing. Unfortunately  
Not everyone is lucky enough to  
have that blessing.

MICHAELA

I feel guilty that I begrudged him  
that promotion.

MARY

People like Marcus deserve a bit of  
a break in life.

MICHAELA

Why did you bring me here?

MARY

Because it was important for you to see this. That promotion has taken over your life. You've become distant from friends and family and that has it's consequences.

MICHAELA

What do you mean?

MARY

Sometimes people forget the good things that they have around them.

MICHAELA

Wasn't this supposed to be Christmas Present. After seeing this. I no longer want to be stuck in Christmas past.

MARY

The past leads to the present.

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the fast forward button.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. APARTMENT 2022 - DAY

Michaela and Mary arrive at Michaela's apartment.

MICHAELA

I'm home. Finally! What day is it?

MARY

It's New years eve.

MICHAELA

New years eve?

MARY

You did say roll on New years.

Michaela notices someone sat on the couch in the living room.

MICHAELA

Who's that?

MARY

Take a look.

Michaela heads to the living room and spots herself working tirelessly on a presentation with a huge stack of papers next to her.

MICHAELA

It's me.

MARY

Yes it is.

MICHAELA

Can the present me see us?

MARY

Don't worry, now we're in the present. Nobody can see you. They can't hear you. Only you can hear them.

MICHAELA

I seem to be working hard.

MARY

Yes... You look a little stressed.

MICHAELA

That's because I'm working on my presentation for the assistant manager promotion.

MARY

There's that word again.

MICHAELA

What word?

MARY

Promotion.

MICHAELA

What's wrong with that?

MARY

It seems like it's the most important word in your life right now.

Telephone rings.

Present Michaela sighs as she gets off the couch to answer the telephone.

PRESENT MICHAELA

Hello.

PETER (V.O.)  
Michaela.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Oh, Hi Dad.

PETER (V.O.)  
We've haven't seen you through the holidays.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
I've been busy with work. Preparing my presentation for another promotion at work.

PETER (V.O.)  
What is the promotion for?

PRESENT MICHAELA  
It's to get promoted to assistant manager.

PETER (V.O.)  
Your Mother and I have missed not seeing you during the holidays. In fact we'd love to spend New years eve with you.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
I'm sorry Dad, but i'm really swamped. I can't make it.

PETER (V.O.)  
Okay (sigh)

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Happy New Year.

Present Michaela hangs up the telephone.

MICHAELA  
How did my Dad react to that?

MARY  
Let's head to your parents home to find out.

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the fast forward button.

CUT TO:



INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Michaela and Mary watch on as Peter hangs up the telephone.

BEVERLEY  
What did she say?

PETER  
She can't make it.

Beverley heads over to Peter and hugs him.

BEVERLEY  
I'm sorry Peter. I know how much it means to you spending Christmas with your family.

PETER  
Well if she can't make it to us, then we take New years to her!

BEVERLEY  
What do you mean?

PETER  
Grab a couple of bottles of Wine and let's go and see the new year in with our daughter.

Mary turns to Michaela.

MARY  
They wanted to surprise you on New years eve. But never got the chance to.

MICHAELA  
What do you mean?

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the fast forward button. They end up back in Michaela's apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

There is a knock at the door. Present Michaela sighs as she gets up from the couch to answer the door.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Why do people bother me when I'm busy.

Michaela turns to Mary.

MICHAELA  
That must be them now?

MARY  
I'm sorry Michaela.

Present Michaela answers the door to an older looking Officer Ray.

OFFICER RAY  
Miss Clarke.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Yes?

OFFICER RAY  
Can I come in?

Officer Ray enters the apartment. He stands opposite Michaela and takes off his hat.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
What's going on?

OFFICER RAY  
I'm really sorry to have to be the one to tell you this.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Tell me what?

OFFICER RAY  
There was an incident tonight where a drunk driver collided with another vehicle.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Drunk driver.. I don't understand?

OFFICER RAY  
The drunk driver survived, but the people in the other vehicle didn't.

PRESENT MICHAELA  
Who was in the other vehicle?

Beat

OFFICER RAY  
I'm really Sorry.

PRESENT MICHAELA

No.

OFFICER RAY

It was your parents.

PRESENT MICHAELA

No.

Michaela turns to Mary.

MICHAELA

This can't be happening!  
This is all my fault.

MARY

Michaela.

Michaela interrupts.

MICHAELA

Take me to my parents house! I need  
to get out of here.

MARY

Okay.

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the  
skip button.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Mary and Michaela arrive at her parents home. Outside  
fireworks are heard as the clock on the wall shows it's  
midnight and officially New years day.

MARY

Happy New Year.

MICHAELA

Happy New year? Are you kidding me?  
I need Adam. Can I see him?

MARY

Sure. I'll fast forward.

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the  
fast forward button. There is a big white flash.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Michaela turns to Mary as she realizes she is still in her parents home.

MICHAELA

I thought you were going to take me to Adam.

MARY

He was in a bad way coping with what happened. Telling Grace was the hardest thing he's ever had to do.

Michaela spots Adam and Susan sat dressed in black waiting in the living room.

MICHAELA

Who are they waiting for?

MARY

You.

ADAM

I don't know where she's got to? She was supposed to be here half hour ago.

SUSAN

She's probably held up in the morning traffic.

Adam sits on the couch looking stressed. He looks at his watch.

ADAM

Come on Michaela. Don't be late for Mom and Dad's funeral.

Michaela turns to Mary.

MICHAELA

It's my parents funeral.. Where am I?

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote and looks at Michaela disappointed.

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - SAME

In Mr Griffin's office. Michaela sits opposite Dean being interviewed for the assistant manager job.

DEAN

Michaela.. Tell me why you should get the assistant manager job.

MICHAELA

Mr Griffin. I've worked so hard on my presentation.

DEAN

That you did.

MICHAELA

Not only did that presentation show you my sales figures since i've been with the company. It also showed you my drive and commitment after I discovered there's more important things than Christmas which was why I was prepared to put in all the extra work to land this job role.

DEAN

Michaela, I'm certainly impressed with your work ethic. So therefore I would like to offer you, assistant manager of Dean Parker Griffin associates. That's if you want the job?

MICHAELA

Of course!

DEAN

Would you like a glass of champagne? I can get Lacey to bring us two glasses unless you have somewhere to be?

Michaela has a sudden realization.

MICHAELA

Oh no.. Mr Griffin, I'm so sorry I've got to go.

DEAN

That's okay.. We will put those glasses on hold.

Michaela rushes out of the office.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - SAME

Michaela rushes to the empty graveyard. She stops and realizes she has screwed up.

MICHAELA  
It was today.

From behind we hear her brother Adam.

ADAM (O.S.)  
Yeah, it was. How could you miss  
your own Mom and Dad's funeral?

Michaela turns to Adam.

MICHAELA  
Adam.. I can explain!

ADAM  
It better be a good excuse.

MICHAELA  
Since Mom and Dad passed, My heads  
been all over the place. I've been  
keeping busy trying to distract  
myself with a promotion at work.

ADAM  
That's the best excuse you can come  
up with?

Adam begins to walk away.

MICHAELA  
Adam .. Wait!

ADAM  
If you'd rather work yourself to  
death than attend your own parents  
funeral. Then you do that!

MICHAELA  
Adam.. I'm sorry!

ADAM  
So am I.

Mary turns to Michaela who looks on mortified.

MARY  
That's the last time you and Adam  
have spoken. He did obtain you  
parents home. But that's another  
story for later!

There is a big white flash as Michaela and Mary end up back  
in the family home.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. FAMILY HOME - SAME

MICHAELA  
This can all be changed right?  
Technically it hasn't taken place.

Mary pulls out the remote.

MARY  
Yes it can.

MICHAELA  
I need to fix this.

Michaela rushes over to the TV.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
My Dad was showing Grace our  
Christmas tapes! I can play the  
eighty nine tape again and try not  
to screw up Christmas and try not  
to get arrested. I can go back and  
change things.

Mary pulls out a tape.

MARY  
You can't change the past Michaela.  
Going back to Christmas eighty nine  
will not help you.

MICHAELA  
Then what will help?

MARY  
The last tape.

Mary holds up a tape. On the label are the words "CHRISTMAS  
FUTURE."

MICHAELA  
Christmas Future.

MARY  
This is your future Michaela.

FOCUS ON TAPE THAT READS "CHRISTMAS FUTURE"

MARY (CONT'D)  
Are you ready to see your Christmas  
future.

MICHAELA  
I think so.

Michaela takes the tape from Mary. She places it into the  
VCR.

MARY  
Will you do the honors.

MICHAELA (NERVOUS)  
Okay.

Mary hands Michaela the sparkly remote. Michaela anxiously  
reaches for the play button. She pushes the button as the  
room absorbs the big white flash.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Michaela and Mary enter the office, It's Christmas eve and  
looking far from jolly without any decorations in sight.

MICHAELA  
Where are we?

MARY  
At the office.

MICHAELA  
It looks so different.

MARY  
Can you guess what time of year it  
is?

MICHAELA  
I don't know .. Spring?

MARY  
It's Christmas.



MICHAELA  
Christmas?

MARY  
Yep.. Christmas eve.

MICHAELA  
Where's all the decorations? Lacey normally decorates the whole office.

MARY  
She did when Dean was the boss and the office was a fun place to work during the holiday season.

MICHAELA  
Dean isn't the boss? Who's running the company now? I bet it's Marcus.

MARY  
Not quite.. You fired him.

MICHAELA  
Wait a second?

MARY  
That's right. Congratulations! The promotion payed off!

Michaela and Mary spot Lacey placing a picture on her desk, drawn by her children.

MICHAELA  
Is that Lacey?

MARY  
Sure is.

MICHAELA  
Wow! She looks so miserable.

MARY  
Are you surprised when you have a boss like you.

Future Michaela enters the office with her nose high in the air. She spots the picture on Lacey's desk.

FUTURE MICHAELA  
What is this?

She pulls the picture from the desk.

LACEY  
Sorry Michaela.

FUTURE MICHAELA  
You address me as Miss Clarke.

LACEY  
Sorry Miss Clarke. But my son drew  
me this picture.

FUTURE MICHAELA  
Well, It's rubbish and it's making  
the place look messy.

Future Michaela tears the picture up and throws it in the  
bin.

FUTURE MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Do you understand?

LACEY  
Yes Miss Clarke.

FUTURE MICHAELA  
By the way. I've just extended your  
finish time.

LACEY  
But.. Miss Clarke.. It's Christmas  
Eve.

FUTURE MICHAELA  
Oh! Merry Christmas.

Future Michaela struts to her office as Lacey looks towards  
the bin upset.

LACEY  
(sad)  
Merry Christmas.

Mary turns to Michaela.

MARY  
There is no Christmas spirit here  
anymore.

MICHAELA  
Can we please leave?

MARY  
No Christmas bonus!

MICHAELA  
Ok.. I get it.

MARY  
No Christmas party.

MICHAELA  
Okay Mary.. I get it! I'm a  
horrible boss.

MARY  
Horrible is an understatement.

MICHAELA  
Can we get out of here.

Mary Pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the  
skip button.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. HOME - DAY

Michaela and Mary end up outside a home.

MICHAELA  
Where are we?

MARY  
I thought we'd pay Marcus a little  
visit.

MICHAELA  
Great!

MARY  
He's a single father. Bringing up  
his Daughter. Except, he hasn't  
been paid for Christmas. After his  
boss fired him for standing up to  
her.

MICHAELA  
If you wanted to make me feel any  
worse. You just did!

MARY  
Take a look.

Mary points towards the window. Michaela takes a peak through  
the window. She spots Marcus sitting with his five year old  
daughter Lilly.

INT. HOME - SAME

MARCUS

You know Daddy wanted to get you  
lots of nice presents right?

LILLY

Yeah.

MARCUS

Well you see.. Daddy lost his job  
sweetie and..

Lilly interrupts.

LILLY

It's okay Daddy .. We get to spend  
Christmas together, instead of you  
being at work all the time.

MARCUS

That's right Lilly. Being fired by  
Michaela was the best thing to ever  
happen to us.

Lilly and Marcus embrace in a hug.

LILLY

Merry Christmas Daddy!

EXT. MARCUS HOME - DAY

Outside Michaela wipes her tears away.

MARY

The one that got away.

MICHAELA

What's that supposed to mean?

MARY

He really likes you Michaela.

MICHAELA

No he doesn't? He likes Lacey.

MARY

That's what you think.

MICHAELA

Can you just get me outta here!

MARY  
Certainly.

Mary pulls out the sparkly remote control and presses the skip button.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Michaela and Mary arrive at her parents home. They stand outside and spot a family celebrating inside her parents former home.

MICHAELA  
I thought Adam obtained the house?

Mary hesitates.

MARY  
He did.. But after all the fighting with lawyers about an equal split of the home, he couldn't afford to keep it.

MICHAELA  
Who was he fighting with?

MARY  
You.

MICHAELA  
Me?

MARY  
I'm afraid so.. Adam has since moved out of Town and it looks like you have a nephew on the way.

MICHAELA  
A nephew.. Mom and Dad would have been over the moon.

MARY  
Yes, they would have.

MICHAELA  
This all comes down to money?

MARY  
Time and Money.

MICHAELA

What do you mean Time and Money?

MARY

You see Michaela, in life people value things differently. Certain people value Money. Others value time. You hear people say Time is money and Money is time.

MICHAELA

I've heard that.

MARY

It's about making the most of the time we have with our loved ones. Time is precious, More precious than money.

MICHAELA

I wish I could turn back time.

Michaela looks towards the home upset while feeling regretful.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Can you take me to their place of rest, So I can say goodbye properly?

MARY

Certainly.

Mary pulls out the Sparkly remote control.

MARY (CONT'D)

This is the last place we are going to visit Michaela.

For the final time, Mary presses the fast forward button.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

They arrive at the grave yard, mist covers the gravestones as visibility is poor.

MARY

Michaela.. This is where I say goodbye.

MICHAELA

What do you mean? You can't leave me.

Mary points to a grave stone in the distance. Michaela looks ahead and spots it beyond the mist.

Michaela turns back to Mary who has disappeared.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Mary?

She begins walking towards the gravestone. As she gets closer, she spots the name "CLARKE" engraved on the gravestone.

She continues to walk towards the gravestone until she gets a good view of it. She reads out what is written on the gravestone.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Here lies Michaela Clarke who died a workaholic.

She looks around in panic.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

No.. This isn't real.. Mary?

She looks for Mary who is nowhere in sight. She suddenly finds herself inside her coffin in the darkness.

INT. COFFIN - SAME

From inside the dark coffin, Michaela kicks and flaps to get out.

MICHAELA

No.. No.. Please take me back.. I don't want to work myself to death. I want to live! I want to live.

- BIG WHITE FLASH-

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

On the bedside cabinet. A radio alarm clock flicks onto six am in the morning.

RADIO DJ (V.O.)  
Good morning everyone. It's  
Christmas eve, do wrap up warm  
outside. It's a cold one with more  
snow on the way!

Michaela pops up from under the duvet. She looks around the  
room with a feeling of deja vu.

RADIO DJ (V.O.)  
Here's the perfect Christmas song  
to get you in the christmas spirit.

The Christmas song: LAST CHRISTMAS plays on the radio.

MICHAELA  
It was a dream. It was just a  
dream!

Michaela rushes to the living room. She picks up the  
telephone and dials her parents.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Please pick up..

Peter answers the telephone with a tired sounding voice.

PETER (V.O)  
Hello?

MICHAELA  
(ecstatic)  
Dad!

PETER (V.O)  
Michaela.. It's 6am!

MICHAELA  
Dad.. It's Christmas eve. I just  
wanted to let you know, I'm coming  
home for Christmas.

PETER (V.O)  
Really? I thought you were busy  
with the promotion. Me and your  
Mother was going to come and pay  
you a surprise visit.

MICHAELA  
Nooooo!!

PETER (V.O.)  
Oh?



MICHAELA

Why don't you let me come and spend  
the holidays with you.

PETER (V.O)

That will be great. We will have  
the whole family here.

MICHAELA

It will make up for last christmas.

Michaela hangs up the telephone and smiles to herself.

INT. CAR TRAVELING - DAY

On her way to work. Michaela pulls up at some traffic lights  
and spots a vintage toy shop nearby. The traffic lights  
change, Michaela pulls into the vintage toys shop.

CUT TO:

INT. TOY SHOP - DAY

Michaela enters the vintage toy store, She begins looking at  
all the vintage toys. Her eyes light up when she spots a  
certain toy. She takes it up to the cashier desk and hands it  
STEVE (20's) A young cashier.

STEVE

As it's Christmas eve, we are  
offering a free wrapping service.  
Would you like it gift wrapped?

MICHAELA

Yes.. That would be great.

Steve begins wrapping the gift.

STEVE

Who do I make it out to?

MICHAELA

Marcus.

Steve writes on the label.

STEVE

Okay.. That will be twenty four  
ninety nine.

Michaela hands over the cash.

MICHAELA  
Merry Christmas.

She exits the store with a smile on her face.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Lacey sits behind her desk and answers the telephone.

LACEY  
(into phone)  
Dean Parker Griffin associates.  
Lacey speaking, how may I help you?

She sits and listens to the call.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
I'll put you through.

Lacey types on the keypad on the telephone and spots Michaela entering the office. She jumps up to greet her.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Michaela! Are you coming to the  
office Christmas party later??

MICHAELA  
I would love to Lacey.. But I'm  
heading home to my parents for  
Christmas. It's tradition..

Lacey shows warmth towards Michaela.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Is Mr Griffin in his office?

LACEY  
Yes, He is expecting you.

Michaela looks towards Mr Griffin's office.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Just wanted to wish you good luck  
on the promotion.

MICHAELA  
Thank you Lacey.

Michaela knocks on Mr Griffins door.

DEAN (O.S.)  
Come in.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - SAME

Michaela enters Mr Griffin's office.

DEAN  
Michaela.

MICHAELA  
Hello Dean.

DEAN  
Take a seat.

Michaela takes a seat opposite Dean.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
I'm going to make this brief  
Michaela. I think you've done a  
tremendous job here at Dean Parker  
associates and therefore I'd like  
to offer you the promotion.

MICHAELA  
Well.. Dean.. I am absolutely  
flattered. But I'm going to have to  
turn it down.

DEAN  
What?

MICHAELA  
I don't want the promotion.

DEAN  
Help me out here a little, I  
thought you wanted it?

MICHAELA  
I did.. But there is somebody else  
who I think deserves it more than  
me.

DEAN  
Who?

MICHAELA  
Marcus Wilson.

DEAN  
Marcus?

Dean sits in deep thought.

MICHAELA

Marcus has sold homes that I would never have dreamt of selling. I have an easier client base, where as Marcus has it tough. But he's proved himself and therefore should get any promotion over me.

DEAN

Wow! I'm a little shocked. But if you think that it's the right move for our sales department. Then I'm happy to take your word for it.

MICHAELA

Thank you Dean.

DEAN

Well.. If you're not interested in this promotion. What about an assistant manager role. Ricky is leaving in.

Michaela interrupts.

MICHAELA

No, thank you.

DEAN

But I thought you would be all over this promotion Michaela?

MICHAELA

I'm sorry Mr Griffin but recently I've realized time is precious and i'd rather spend that time with loved ones, rather than at work.

Michaela gets up from the seat and exits Dean's office. Dean gets onto the telephone.

DEAN

Hello Lacey. Can you send Marcus to my office.

LACEY (O.S.)

Certainly.

INT. OFFICE - SAME

Michaela enters the office with her head held high as Lacey approaches her.

LACEY

Mr Griffin wanted me to send Marcus to his office. What's going on? Did you get the promotion?

MICHAELA

I turned it down.

LACEY

What?

MICHAELA

Marcus deserves it more than me.

They both watch as Marcus steps outside the office shaking hands with Dean. He looks over and spots Michaela and smiles towards her.

LACEY

But I thought you really wanted that promotion.

MICHAELA

Sometimes you need reminding that there are other important things in life, rather than having my head buried constantly in paperwork.

LACEY

You're right, Time is precious.

MICHAELA

It is.

Michaela begins walking towards Marcus's office. She turns back towards Lacey.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Oh and Lacey, never stop decorating this place. You do an amazing job. You bring so much christmas cheer to the office.

Lacey smiles towards Michaela.

LACEY

Thank you Michaela. Can I tell you something?

MICHAELA

Sure.

LACEY

Marcus really likes you.

MICHAELA

He does?

LACEY

Oh come on, you guys are always  
flirting with each other.

MICHAELA

Well he is cute.

LACEY

He wanted to ask you out for  
drinks, but I know your heading  
home.

MICHAELA

Well he knows where I am if he  
wants to ask me.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Michaela knocks on Marcus's office door.

MARCUS (O.S.)

Come in.

Michaela enters the office holding the wrapped gift.

MICHAELA

I just wanted to stop by and  
congratulate you on the promotion.  
You deserve it.

MARCUS

Thank you Michaela. Dean said you  
recommended me. That's the nicest  
thing anyone has ever done for me.

MICHAELA

Good guys deserve a break.

MARCUS

Are you coming to the office party?

MICHAELA

I can't.. I'm about to drive home  
for Christmas.

MARCUS

Going home for Christmas?

MICHAELA  
Yeah.. Up state to my Parents  
house.

MARCUS  
Michaela.

MICHAELA  
Yes.

MARCUS  
Before you go.. I just wanted to.

Marcus hesitates as Michaela awaits his response.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Wish you a Merry Christmas.

MICHAELA  
Thank you Marcus, oh that reminds  
me, before I go.

Michaela hands Marcus the wrapped gift.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)  
Merry Christmas!

She smiles at him and exits the office. Lacey rushes inside.

LACEY  
Did you tell her how you feel?

MARCUS  
(disappointed)  
No.

LACEY  
Oh Marcus.

MARCUS  
Believe me, I really wanted to.

LACEY  
What's that?

MARCUS  
Just a gift from Michaela.

LACEY  
Open it.

He begins to unwrap the gift to reveal a G.I Joe. He looks at  
the toy in awe.

MARCUS

A G.I Joe.

LACEY

What's so special about a G.I Joe?

MARCUS

This was the one toy I always  
wanted for Christmas.

Marcus sits grinning, playing with the toy.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

But now there's something else I  
want for Christmas.

He gets up from his chair

LACEY

Go get her!

Marcus exits the office as Lacey looks on smiling to herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Michaela pulls up outside her parents home. She gets out the car and takes a few moments to enjoy the sight of Christmas lights in the neighborhood, the family across the street sat around the table about to say grace and in the distance, Christmas carolers singing a beautiful rendition of silent night.

MICHAELA

God.. I love Christmas!

She begins making her way towards the front door when suddenly a familiar voice summons her.

MARY (O.S.)

Michaela.

Michaela's facial expressions turn to excitement as she turns around to see Mary stood on the porch next door. She makes her way over to her.

MICHAELA

Mary!

MARY

Hello dear.



MICHAELA

I had the craziest dream last night.

MARY

Really.. What was it about.

MICHAELA

Well.. You were in my dream.

MARY

I was in your dream?

MICHAELA

I know right.. I time traveled.

MARY

You time traveled?

MICHAELA

Yes.. Back to Christmas past. Then I went to Christmas present and finally Christmas future. It was one of the strangest dreams i've ever had.

MARY

That wasn't a dream..

MICHAELA

What?

MARY

You really did go back in time for Christmas. Which helped you rediscover that Christmas spirit.

MICHAELA

It did help rediscover my Christmas spirit.

MARY

I knew you'd pull through.

MICHAELA

Thank you so much for helping me Mary. Honestly .. I never thought I'd find it again.

MARY

The true spirit of Christmas lies within you.

MICHAELA

If this wasn't a dream. Then how  
did I end up back on Christmas eve?

MARY

Everyone is entitled to a Christmas  
wish.

MICHAELA

What Christmas wish?

MARY

You wished you could turn back  
time. Wish granted

MICHAELA

I'm a little curious. Can I ask you  
something?

MARY

Anything.

MICHAELA

If you're able to grant Christmas  
wishes. What are you? An angel, One  
of santa's little helpers? Because  
I could have sworn you were just  
the sweet old lady who looked out  
for me and Adam next door.

A big thud is heard on the roof.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

What was that?

MARY

My husband.

MICHAELA

Your Husband?

The front door opens to reveal Santa dressed in his red suit  
in the doorway.

SANTA

Hello Michaela

MICHAELA

Santa.. Wait a second. He's your  
husband?

MARY

Yes.

MICHAELA  
That would make you Mary  
Christmas..

SANTA  
Mrs Claus!

MARY  
That's right.

MICHAELA  
Wow.. That would explain why you  
look like you never age!

SANTA  
Mrs Clause is 1,137 years old!

Mary points towards Santa and whispers

MARY  
He's older!

SANTA  
I heard that! Don't make me put you  
on the naughty list!

Michaela laughs at Santa's comment.

MARY  
Our work here is done. It's time to  
get back to North pole HQ. This  
years Christmas assignment is about  
to get underway.

SANTA  
The sleigh is on the roof, We will  
have to take the chimney. We better  
go, those presents won't deliver  
themselves.

MARY  
Goodbye Michaela.

SANTA  
Oh that reminds me. Michaela, you  
are first on the Christmas list to  
receive a present.

MICHAELA  
I am?

SANTA  
After all. You've been a good girl  
this year. Follow me.

Santa walks over to the chimney as Michaela follows him. A present drops down the fireplace into Santa's hands. He walks over to Michaela and hands her the present.

SANTA (CONT'D)  
Merry Christmas!

Michaela unwraps the present to reveal a video tape with nothing written on the label. She looks at it confused.

MICHAELA  
It's blank.

MARY  
That's because it's your Christmas future.

MICHAELA  
I don't get it.

SANTA  
Your future is what you choose it to be.

MARY  
It's down to you to create it.

SANTA  
Go ahead, Put it in.

Santa points to the VCR nearby. As Michaela places the video tape inside.

MICHAELA  
What now?

Mary pulls out the red remote.

MARY  
Hit the button.

Michaela hits the play button on the remote. The VCR magically disappears before her eyes.

MICHAELA  
What just happened?

SANTA  
Now we better get back to North pole HQ before the elf's send out a search party.

Santa and Mary head towards the chimney.

MICHAELA

Bye Santa.

Michaela exits the home and stands on the porch, looking up at the sky. She hears commotion on the roof.

The sound of Reindeers gearing up to take flight is heard, She hears Santa Yell.

SANTA (O.S.)

Ho Ho Ho!

There is a big white flash from inside the home as Peter pops his head out from next door and looks around wondering where the big flash came from.

PETER

Michaela.

MICHAELA

Oh, hi Dad.

Michaela walks over towards Peter.

PETER

You forgotten where we live?

MICHAELA

I was just talking to the lady next door.

PETER

Lady next door?

MICHAELA

Yeah. The sweet old lady next door.

PETER

The house is empty.

Michaela stares towards the house which is now in complete darkness, looking like nobody has lived there for a while.

MICHAELA

Oh.. Must have been somebody else.

Another car pulls up outside the home. Grace exits the vehicle and runs towards Michaela and Peter excited.

GRACE

Aunt Michaela!

She hugs Michaela.

MICHAELA  
You've gotten much bigger since I  
last saw you.

Grace rushes over to Peter.

GRACE  
Granddad!

PETER  
Hello Grace.

Adam and Susan make their way towards the home. Adam embraces Michaela with a hug.

ADAM  
So good to see you.

MICHAELA  
You too.

Susan greets Michaela as Adam Hugs Peter.

ADAM  
Hey Pops!

GRACE  
Granddad, are we still going to  
watch Daddy's and Aunt Michaela's  
Christmas videos?

PETER  
We sure are.

GRACE  
Daddy was telling me all about how  
great his Christmases were when he  
was little.

MICHAELA  
He's not lying.. They were amazing.

Beverly pops her head out the door.

BEVERLEY  
I hope you're all hungry as I think  
I have prepared food that could  
feed the whole neighborhood.

ADAM  
You do this every year Mom!

PETER  
Well.. Let's head inside. Hope  
you're all hungry.

GRACE  
I'm starving!

PETER  
Me too.

MICHAELA  
Me too.

They begin entering the home one by one. Pan to street to see another vehicle pulling up outside the family home. Marcus steps out the car and looks towards the home wondering if he has the right address.

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Inside the home everyone is sat around the table laughing and smiling, with the warmth of being surrounded by loved ones and enjoying the moment.

Adam helps Grace select her food for her plate, while Peter begins to open bottles of wine.

PETER  
Who wants white?

Michaela puts her glass forward as Peter fills up her glass.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Anyone for red?

Beverley puts her glass forward the quickest.

BEVERLEY  
Me first.

They laugh at Beverley.

BEVERLEY (CONT'D)  
Just give me the bottle instead.

ADAM  
No Dad.. She will be singing in  
about an hour.

BEVERLEY  
What a great idea. We could go and  
join the carolers down the street.

They all laugh at Beverley's comment.

PETER  
Don't give her any ideas.

Peter turns to Susan.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Susan, White or red?

ADAM  
Neither.

BEVERLEY  
It's Christmas! She can have a  
glass.

SUSAN  
I can't.

They all stop and look at Adam and Susan.

ADAM  
We have something to tell you.

PETER  
What is it?

ADAM  
Our Present to you.

Susan hands over a baby scan photo to Beverley and Peter.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
You have a Grandson on the way.

BEVERLEY  
(excited)  
Oh my.

PETER  
Are you serious?

BEVERLEY  
I'm so happy for you both!

Beverley and Peter celebrate by rushing over to Adam and Susan hugging and congratulating them. Grace turns to Michaela.

GRACE  
I got a baby brother coming.



MICHAELA

I know.

GRACE

Wait, how did you know?

MICHAELA

Um..

The door bell rings.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

I'll get it.

Michaela gets up from the table and rushes to the front door. She opens the door in shock to see Marcus.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Marcus?

MARCUS

Hi.

She steps outside.

MICHAELA

What are you doing here?

EXT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

MARCUS

I'm sorry to intervene on your Christmas eve. But I never got a chance to say thank you for the gift you got me. You have no idea how much this means to me.

MICHAELA

I think I do.

MARCUS

I wanted to give you this.

Marcus leans in and kisses Michaela on the lips. They pair share a kiss. Marcus smiles at Michaela and turns to leave.

MICHAELA

Where are you going? It's Christmas eve.

MARCUS

Home. I'll probably grab a take out, have a beer and sit and watch TV.

MICHAELA

Did you want to come inside?

MARCUS

No. I don't want to intrude on your christmas.

MICHAELA

Come on inside. My family will welcome you with open arms.

MARCUS

No.. I can't.. Feel so rude. I never really had Christmas gatherings. So I wouldn't know how to act.. I better go.

Marcus begins to walk away as Michaela looks on. Suddenly Beverley pops her head out the door.

BEVERLEY

Excuse me young man.

MICHAELA

Oh no!

Marcus turns around.

BEVERLEY

I believe my daughter has invited you to join us for Christmas. Now I have cooked a lot of food.

MICHAELA

She really has..

BEVERLEY

And even though you have declined my daughters invitation. I can't allow you to decline mine.

Marcus looks at Michaela.

MARCUS

I'm not intruding?

BEVERLEY

Absolutely not! Come on inside, I insist.

MICHAELA  
Told ya.

MARCUS  
Well.. If you insist.

Marcus makes his way into the home. Beverley turns to Michaela and quietly whispers.

BEVERLEY  
He's very easy on the eye.  
She winks at Michaela and heads back to the dinner table.

MICHAELA  
Mom!

INT. FAMILY HOME - SAME

Beverley, Marcus and Michaela enter the room.

MICHAELA  
Everyone. This is Marcus.  
They all begin to greet Marcus.

ADAM  
Hey Marcus. Can I get you a beer?

MARCUS  
That will be great.

Adam hands Marcus a beer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

BEVERLEY  
Marcus, why don't you sit next to Michaela.

Michaela looks at her mom as Marcus takes a seat feeling welcomed by The Clarke family.

CUT TO:

INT. NORTH POLE HQ - SAME

SUPER: NORTH POLE HQ

At north pole HQ. Mary sits at a desk, wearing a headset, opposite her are lots of screens that are monitoring different places in the world.

Pan to screen to see The Clarke family with Marcus sat around the table enjoying themselves.

MARY

Aww.. I love a happy ending. I'm so glad she got her Christmas spirit back. It looks like she's found the perfect Christmas present too.

Suddenly one of the monitors begins flashing red.

FOCUS ON SCREEN

On the screen we see a child not in his bed sleeping. Mary communicates with Santa on her headset.

MARY (CONT'D)

Santa.. Come in. We have a code red!

SANTA (V.O.)

Pause for Santa Clause in motion.

Mary looks at the screen.

MARY

He knows when your awake!

She carry's on scanning the screens.

MARY (CONT'D)

You're coming up to hope street. This is where you need to deliver the VCR this year to a female named Nia Phillips.

SANTA (V.O.)

Affirmative.

MARY

This one is gonna be fun.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

The family are gathered in the living room. Peter stands up and taps his glass.

PETER

I just wanted to say how lovely it  
is to have our family here tonight.

ADAM

Aw Pops.

PETER

This is what Christmas means to me.  
No other present could compare to  
this. So i'd like to raise my glass  
to Family, Family on the way and  
new family.

Peter raises his glass towards Marcus.

PETER (CONT'D)

To family.

ALL

Cheers!

GRACE

Granddad. Can we watch Daddy and  
aunt Michaela's video's now.

MICHAELA

You don't want to watch them.

MARCUS

I do.

Marcus smiles towards Michaela

PETER

I did promise.

Peter pulls out a box of video tapes.

MARCUS

Is that all of your Christmases?

MICHAELA

My Dad filmed every Christmas.

ADAM

It was tradition.

PETER

So many to chose from.

ADAM

What year do you want to take us  
back to Pop.

PETER  
How about we let Grace decide.

GRACE  
(excited)  
Yay!

PETER  
Grace, reach into the box and pick  
out any tape.

GRACE  
Any tape?

PETER  
Any one you'd like?

Grace reaches into the box.

GRACE  
This one.

She pulls out a tape and hands it to Peter.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
Which one did I pick?

PETER  
What does that say on the label?

Peter examines the tape.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Oh, Christmas eighty nine!

Michaela looks on in shock.

MICHAELA  
Uh oh!

FADE OUT.