

My Dad's Robin Hood

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

SUPER: OCTOBER 2010

TOMMY and JIMMY, 7, both play a game of CONKERS. Tommy dangles his conker to be smashed by Jimmy's conker.

Tommy sniffs his nose and wipes it using the sleeve of his rain coat.

TOMMY

What you getting from Santa?

JIMMY

That's months away.

TOMMY

No it is not. It's like two, so says my ma this morning.

JIMMY

Don't know. What are you getting?

TOMMY

Santa's bringing me a X-Box, a football top, games, a watch, anddd sweets.

Tommy adjusts his hat as his eyes search for answers.

TOMMY

Hmmm, I think that's it.

Jimmy misses.

TOMMY

My go.

Jimmy holds his barely scratched conker.

JIMMY

You know Santa doesn't exist?

Tommy swings and misses.

TOMMY

Hey! That's not fair. You can't say that to put me off.

JIMMY  
It's the truth. He is your dad.

TOMMY  
My dad?

JIMMY  
Yep. Discovered last year.

TOMMY  
Why did you not tell me?

Jimmy swings his mammoth conker.

JIMMY  
Thought you knew?

SMACK, Jimmy's conker breaks Tommy's into three separate segments.

TOMMY  
Wow, I'm sure to get what I want,  
every year.

Tommy laughs.

The BELL chimes signaling the end of lunch.

INT. CAR - DAY - LATER

Tommy jumps into the family car. EDDIE, 29, Tommy's father, starts driving away from the school.

EDDIE  
Did you enjoy school today?

Tommy stares out at the passing scenery.

TOMMY  
Yes I did. Dad.

His eyes never leave the road in front.

EDDIE  
What son?

TOMMY  
I want a X-Box, games, watch, a new  
football top, and sweets for  
Christmas.

EDDIE  
That's not for two months  
son. Why'd you ask?

Tommy looks at his dad in the rear view mirror.

TOMMY  
Cause you're Santa Claus.

The car rolls to a stop at the traffic lights.

Eddie turns back to Tommy.

EDDIE  
Son, I'm not Santa, but I am Robin  
Hood.

TOMMY  
Really?

EDDIE  
Yep.

TOMMY  
Cool.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING - LATER

Eddie opens the front door to an open spaced living area,  
and lets Tommy run in first.

He steps in, brushes his feet, throws the car keys onto a  
bowl of keys, then picks up the mail from the floor.

He walks into the-

KITCHEN

Pulls out a beer, then drops each letter onto the  
worktop. Each coloured red with big bold text stating the  
bill's due date.

Other letters read unsuccessful to failed employment  
applications.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The front door closes and echoes throughout the home.

LIZ, 28, walks in carrying her high-heeled shoes.

LIZ  
Any good news buried in there?

Eddie, raises his head, sets his drink down, smiles, pulls Liz in closer, and kisses her.

EDDIE  
No.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: CHRISTMAS EVE

The snow gently falls outside. The Christmas tree's decorations suffocate it's branches, contrary to the sparsely filled base.

Tommy strolls into the room, wearing his pyjamas, with a wish list in hand.

He walks over to the fake fireplace, grabs a tack from a string holding up Christmas cards, then pins his list to the wooden hearth.

Tommy walks over to the window, then rests his arms on the window sill. His snowman has fallen backwards, as if he's trying to do angels in the snow.

TOMMY  
Awww, Mr Snowman, what are you doing?

LIZ (O.S.)  
Tommy, come get your breakfast before it gets cold.

Tommy heads to the kitchen.

The front door opens, bringing with it the arctic cold.

Eddie steps in with snow caked around his shoes.

He sets down a thin shopping bag filled with wrapping paper.

He kicks off his shoes, throws off his winter gear, then walks into the-

LIVING ROOM

To the hearth and angles the wish list.

He furrows his eyebrows.

EDDIE

Let's hope tonight will be better  
than last night.

Eddie grabs the wrapping paper, sets it down on the dining  
room table, then pulls out a black bag from a wall cabinet.

EDDIE

Liz, keep Tommy in the kitchen for  
a while.

LIZ (O.S.)

Why?

EDDIE

Just doing some wrapping.

LIZ (O.S.)

Okay dear.

He pulls out a wrapped present, looks at the tag:

TEXT: To Franklin From Nana

He rips off the tag, then the wrapping paper.

He flips the box around to reveal a Buzz Lightyear toy.

EDDIE

Sweet, Tommy will love this.

He sets the toy down and begins to wrap the toy.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Tommy sits between Liz and Eddie on the couch.

He's wide awake even though the clock nears midnight.

Eddie stands up.

EDDIE

Come on soldier, time for bed.

Tommy slowly gets up.

TOMMY

Just ten more minutes, pleaseee.

LIZ

Go get Santa his milk and cookies.

Tommy runs off to the kitchen. A moment later and he returns with Santa's night-time snack.

He sets it down on the table opposite the couch.

He kneels down and picks up a piece of paper, folds it, so that it stands, then writes a message with a blue crayon:

TEXT: Thank you Santa for my presents. Go easy on Rudolph, he's my favourite.

He draws a snowman, writes Mr Snowman above his head, a Christmas tree, then a present under the tree. He draws an arrow to the present and writes:

TEXT: To Mr Snowman From Santa

He throws the crayon amongst a box of crayons.

Liz leans over to read the card.

LIZ  
Aw, isn't that sweet.

EDDIE  
You forgot something.

Eddie quickly goes into the kitchen.

Tommy looks puzzled.

TOMMY  
What?

Eddie returns and sets carrots next to the plate.

TOMMY  
Carrots?

EDDIE  
For Rudolph and his buddies.

TOMMY  
Ohhh, good one dad.

EDDIE  
Before you go to sleep. Which friend is it that's getting the presents you want?

TOMMY  
Jimmy.

TOMMY  
And where does he live again?

Tommy points to the left.

TOMMY  
Down the road, one road over. You  
know dad.

EDDIE  
Just checking kiddo. Off to sleep.

LIZ  
Give your mother a kiss goodnight.

Tommy, kisses his mother, then waves goodnight to Eddie.

TOMMY  
Night dad.

EDDIE  
Night son.

Tommy leaves the room.

Eddie smiles and dives into the plate of cookies.

EDDIE  
Great, just what I needed.

He picks up a red cranyon then writes:

TEXT: Thank you for the cookies, love Santa

He takes a bite out of the cookie and sets it down.

LIZ  
Finish the cookie.

EDDIE  
Santa couldn't finish that one.

Eddie walks over to the wall cabinet and takes out the empty  
black bag.

EDDIE  
Can you return the carrots to the  
fridge dear. I'm going out for a  
smoke.

Liz grabs a cookie and the carrots with her other hand.

LIZ  
Okay, don't be long.

BEDROOM - DAY

Liz awakens from the screams of delight Tommy shrieks from downstairs.

She looks over to Eddie who has slept in the clothes from last night, except with extra mud stains his shoes have made to the bed.

She punches Eddie on the shoulder.

LIZ  
Wake up.

A groan emanates from within his pillow.

LIZ  
You've messed up my lovely  
bedsheets you animal.

Eddie raises his head groggily, eyes still closed.

EDDIE  
Sorry dear, it won't happen  
again. I promise.

Liz jumps out of bed.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
No way!

LIZ  
You hear that? Tommy's opening his  
presents the rascal. I'm getting  
the camera. Come on!

LIVING ROOM

Liz enters the room, camcorder in hand, portable camera in the other.

LIZ  
Smile Tommy for the camera.

Tommy, turns around with a present in both hands.

TOMMY  
Look mum, Santa got me an X-Box.

He walks over to the demolished cookies.

TOMMY  
Look mum, look.

LIZ  
I'm looking.

Tommy grabs a half eaten cookie, then raises it towards the camcorder.

TOMMY  
Santa couldn't finish this one.

He sets the cookie down.

He points to muddy footprints on the carpet.

TOMMY  
Look again mum. Santa left his footprints. They go all the way upstairs. Did Santa give you your present?

LIZ  
Not quite.

TOMMY  
Can Jimmy can come here and play with me?

LIZ  
Of course he can.

LATER

Tommy sits opposite the television. X-Box hooked up, joypad locked in his ninja grip, game on the screen.

There's a knock on the front door.

EDDIE  
I'll go see who that is.

A moment later Jimmy walks in.

Tommy pauses the game, and turns around.

TOMMY  
Hey Jimmy, grab a joypad.

A downbeat Jimmy sits next to Tommy.

TOMMY  
What's wrong?

JIMMY  
I don't like Santa.

TOMMY  
What?!

JIMMY  
I never got what I wanted for  
Christmas. Just some aftershave  
and socks that were too big for me.

TOMMY  
Aftershave?

JIMMY  
I don't even like the  
smell. Smells horrible.

TOMMY  
Is that what that smell is?

JIMMY  
Yeah.

Jimmy looks around at all the unopened presents.

JIMMY  
Why haven't you opened these  
presents?

TOMMY  
I will. Just been  
playing. They're games. Open one  
up.

Tommy's eyes never leave the screen.

Jimmy rips off the wrapping of one present, to reveal more  
wrapping paper, only of a different colour.

JIMMY  
What's going on?

He sees a tag and flips it over.

JIMMY

To Jimmy from mum and dad.

Tommy pauses the game, looks over to Jimmy.

TOMMY

What?

Eddie and Liz, on the couch, look at each other.

Jimmy surveys the room.

An awkward silence fills the air.

TOMMY

Must be my dad.

JIMMY

What?

TOMMY

Yeah. You're dad's Santa Claus,  
and he gave you presents. My dad's  
Robin Hood and he took them from  
you.

FADE OUT.