

THE TRUE GIFT

Written by

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Based on, If Any

Adaptation of

"The Gift of the Magi"

Address
Phone Number

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

ALICIA, 8, wearing a school uniform with a hello kitty backpack, walks down the sidewalk reading a book.

SAM, 35, wearing dress slacks and shirt, pulls the family car in the driveway of house.

Alicia runs up to the car.

ALICIA
Hey Daddy, I got another book to read.

SAM
That's good sweetheart.

Sam exits car, breathes heavily and walks past Alicia into the house.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Sam sets two plates of food down on the table.

SAM
Ali, dinner's ready.

Alicia walks down the stairs reading her book and sits at the table.

Sam picks up his fork and stabs a piece of steak. As the fork reaches his mouth, he looks up and sees Alicia's book in one hand and her fork in the other empty of food.

SAM (CONT'D)
So, how was school kiddo?

Alicia's face doesn't move from looking down at her book.

SAM (CONT'D)
You know it's customary to simply eat at the dinner table rather than read or do other activities.

Alicia lets out sigh and looks up. She shuts her book and continues to eat.

SAM (CONT'D)
How did your art project go?

Alicia stares blankly at Sam and shrugs.

Sam and Alicia continue their dinner in silence.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam rests on the edge of his bed watching television. He sinks back into his pillow as a commercial comes on advertising about the holidays.

TELEVISION (O.S.)

During this holiday season, we wish
you and your loved ones a very
merry and jolly holiday season.

Sam looks over at his nightstand where a picture of him and Alicia pose at a holiday function.

SAM

I got to do something to get closer
before it's too late and she grows
up. Life can be so difficult
sometimes.

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alicia brushes her hair as she listens to the radio.

RADIO (V.O.)

From all of us to you and your
special loved ones, we wish you a
happy and dear holiday season.
Cherish these times of making
memories.

Alicia looks over at her nightstand where a picture of her and Sam sit.

ALICIA

Daddy needs a break, we both do. I
need to come up with something
special to get him for Christmas.

Alicia makes a note on her pad and switches the nightstand off.

INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING

Alicia sits at table eating breakfast and sketching in her art pad. Sam walks down adjusting his tie.

SAM

Oh I can't believe this. My shirt
has a stain.

Sam takes a wet rag and rubs the stain on his shirt vigorously.

ALICIA
Why don't you go slip on another
one daddy.

SAM
I would love to sweetheart but this
is my only business shirt.

Sam tosses the rag on the table.

SAM (CONT'D)
I guess I'm going out like this
then.

Sam kisses Alicia on the top of her head.

SAM (CONT'D)
Have a good day at school.

ALICIA
I will daddy, you too.

Alicia gets up, swings her bag over her shoulder and runs out the house.

Sam looks out the window at Alicia getting on bus. He looks down on the table at her art sketches.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Sam walks past shopping stores filled with people. He comes up to an Art studio with a sign advertising art classes.

SAM
Hmm, That would make a great gift.

Sam walks in and grabs an application.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - LATER

Alicia walks past busy shoppers with her friends and their mom's.

Alicia stops in front of a Men's suit store.

Alicia walks into department store. THE MANAGER, 40, heavyset, walks over to Alicia.

THE MANAGER

Why hello there lil lady, what can we do for you today?

ALICIA

Um, yes sir, I wanted to see if you would put that dress shirt on hold that you have in the window.

The Manager looks up at the shirt.

THE MANAGER

Hmm, well I don't see why not. But store policy only let's us hold it for a day.

ALICIA

Oh okay, I'll be back as soon as I can to get it for my daddy.

The Manager takes the shirt off the rack and folds it and places it behind the counter.

THE MANAGER

Okay then, well it'll be here when you come back.

ALICIA

Thank you sir.

Alicia waves at the manager and walks out.

INT. HOME - EVENING

Alicia walks in and starts going up stairs. Sam peeks around the corner from kitchen.

SAM

Hey there Ali, dinner is almost ready. Get washed up and we'll eat.

ALICIA

Um, I'm not hungry at the moment dad.

SAM

Well you gotta eat, now go wash.

Alicia rolls eyes.

ALICIA

Daddy, I said I wasn't hungry. I need to do homework first.

SAM
That can wait sweetheart. Nutrition
comes first.

Alicia stomps up the stairs.

SAM (CONT'D)
Sometimes I just don't know what to
do.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - CHRISTMAS EVE

Sam rushes past busy shoppers towards the Art studio.

Sam walks into the studio and is greeted by THE ART
PROFESSOR, 28.

INT. ART STUDIO - CHRISTMAS EVE

THE ART PROFESSOR
Hello, how may I help you?

SAM
Yes, I know it's late but I would
like to sign my daughter up for
those art classes that you have
advertised.

THE ART PROFESSOR
Yes, those classes are filled up at
the moment. You can wait for an
opening, if you wish.

SAM
But I gotta get this. She's very
talented and would benefit
tremendously.

THE ART PROFESSOR
Sorry sir, our hands are tied.

Sam looks down and over at the side counters.

SAM
Well, how much for the art set over
there.

THE ART PROFESSOR
Fifteen dollars.

SAM
I'll take it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - LATER

Sam walks past shoppers. He holds Alicia's gift in his arms.

Some construction workers walk past. A BULKING MAN, 45, shoves Sam as he walks past.

BULKING MAN
Watch it small fry!

SAM
Hey, excuse me would be nice to hear or are you too busy for that.

BULKING MAN
Oh, I'm sorry I pushed you.

The bulking man pushes Sam again and smiles.

SAM
Look Mister, if you insist, I'll have to call over the authorities.

BULKING MAN
Oh I'm real scared.

The bulking man gives Sam another push. Sam falls back and his shirt catches on a fence and rips off.

BULKING MAN (CONT'D)
Now if you'll excuse me, I go to do real work over here.

The bulking man walks away. Sam gets up and gathers his shirt pieces.

Sam shakes his head and continues to walk home holding his shirt and Alicia's gift.

INT. MEN'S SUIT STORE - LATER CHRISTMAS EVE

Alicia walks into store. Another CLERK, 20, walks up to greet her.

CLERK
Hello there Merry Christmas, we're about to close but let us know if you need anything.

ALICIA
Yes sir, I had a shirt put on hold for my daddy. The gentleman put it behind the counter.

CLERK
Hmm, let's check it out.

The clerk looks behind the counter.

CLERK (CONT'D)
I'm sorry miss, I don't see any
shirt back here. Can I help you
find another one.

Alicia looks down.

ALICIA
That was going to be my daddy's
Christmas gift. Do you have any the
same price mister?

The clerk looks in the back room. He comes back empty handed.

CLERK
Close, but they are a tad bit more
due to the holidays. I'm sorry
ma'am.

Alicia wipes her eye. She walks over to a tie rack.

ALICIA
How about this sir, how much are
these?

The clerk walks over and flips the sign.

CLERK
Looks like they are on sale for
five dollars.

Alicia looks in her bag.

ALICIA
All I got is four dollars.

The clerk looks down at Alicia's art sketch pad and smiles.

CLERK
Well in the spirit of Christmas,
that'll do just fine. That is if
you'll exchange your art pad too.

Alicia looks down at her pad and up to the clerk.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Yes, my daughter wants that very
same art pad and I haven't seen it
anywhere.

Alicia looks at her pad and at the tie.

ALICIA

I just gotta get this for my daddy.

Alicia hands her four dollars and the art pad to the clerk.

The clerk takes the money and the pad and wraps the Tie up.

CLERK

Okay, there ya go lil lady. You
have a Merry Christmas.

ALICIA

Thank you sir, and you too.

INT. HOME - CHRISTMAS DAY

Alicia wakes up and rushes down stairs with gift in hand.

Sam sits on the couch drinking his coffee.

SAM

Good morning love, Merry Christmas.

ALICIA

Merry Christmas daddy.

Sam takes a gift from under the tree and hands it to Alicia.

Alicia holds out her gift for Sam.

SAM

Oooh, what it this?

ALICIA

Open it daddy.

Sam opens his gift. He looks down at the tie. He wipes his
eye and smiles.

SAM

It's wonderful sweetheart.

Sam sets the gift down.

ALICIA

Go try it on daddy.

SAM

Well, I can't really now. My dress shirt is ripped. Some rude man shoved me downtown.

Alicia looks down and back up to Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

But that's okay darling, it's the thought that counts and you made me very happy and always will my dear.

Alicia hugs Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

Now, open up your gift.

Alicia rips the wrapping off of her present.

Her eyes widen as she pulls out the art set from the box.

SAM (CONT'D)

I know your good at your drawings and needed a proper art set to go with your art pad.

Alicia looks at the set and back at Sam.

ALICIA

I love it daddy. But I traded my pad in for your tie.

Sam looks at Alicia and back at the tie.

Alicia looks at her art set.

Sam start laughing and hugs Alicia.

SAM

This is the best Christmas ever sweetheart.

Sam smiles.

ALICIA

I don't get it daddy.

SAM

You see, this is just like that classic story The gift of the Magi.

ALICIA

Really?

SAM

Yes, two people love each so much
that they give all that they own to
try to make their loved ones happy.
At least I think that's how it
goes.

ALICIA

I love you daddy. I'm sorry you
can't try on your tie.

SAM

That's quite alright sweetheart.
This is the best Christmas because
we had the best intentions and our
hearts were in the right place for
each other.

Alicia and Sam hug and sit back to listen to holiday music.

Alicia draws her daddy's portrait with her new art set.

Sam sits back in the recliner and sips hot chocolate.

THE END.