

40 ~~INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE - MIA'S STUDIO - DAY~~ 40

~~Mia is cleaning her brushes when her phone buzzes with a very excited Michael on the line.~~

~~MICHAEL (V.O.)
(through phone,
breathless)
Mia!~~

~~MIA
Michael? Shouldn't you be on a
plane?~~

INTERCUT WITH:

41 ~~EXT. BUFFALO AIRPORT - DAY~~ 41

~~Snow flurries begin to fall while Michael is on the phone.~~

~~MICHAEL
Mia... do you believe in Christmas
miracles?~~

~~MIA
Yes...~~

~~MICHAEL
We may have a chance to finish what
we started.~~

~~Mia is quiet, unsure of what he means.~~

~~MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(clarifying)
...for the wishes tree.~~

~~MIA
(a moment)
Okay. If it's for the wishes tree.~~

~~MICHAEL
(relieved, into phone)
Write down this address.~~

~~PUSH IN ON MIA...~~

42 ~~EXT. FITZ THEODORE'S HOUSE - DAY~~ 42

~~Snow falls a bit harder as Mia and Cruz stand on the front porch of the purple, slightly whimsical Victorian home.~~

~~Mia checks her notebook again to make sure it's the right address when a cab honks off screen. Mia and Cruz turn to watch Michael and Daphne pull up. Luggage in tow, they join them on the front porch. Daphne and Cruz give each other a big hug.~~

~~CRUZ
I knew you guys would come back.~~

~~Daphne winks at him conspiratorially. Mia and Michael are awkward at first, the tension from last night still lingering.~~

~~MIA
Did you miss your flight?~~

~~MICHAEL
(with a big smile)
I'd rather be here.~~

~~Michael motions to Mia, who rings the doorbell. They can hear the magical chime from beyond the door. A melodic voice follows from inside.~~

~~FITZ (O.S.)
I'll be there in two shakes of a
reindeer's antler!~~

~~The Older Gentleman, now, FITZ THEODORE, opens the door, surprised to see the four familiar strangers standing on his porch. He immediately welcomes them in.~~

~~FITZ (CONT'D)
Oh! Good to see you again!~~

~~As if he's been waiting on them for days. Michael and Mia exchange a curious glance. Daphne and Cruz are all smiles.~~

43

INT. FITZ THEODORE HOUSE - DAY

43

~~The walls are adorned with bits of art, collectibles, and a grandfather clock whose hands are winding backwards.~~

~~CRUZ
Wow! This is your home?~~

~~FITZ
Home, workshop, laboratory of
wonder, and occasional dance floor.~~

~~The surfaces are all covered with half-wrapped presents, toys, etc.~~

Start

FITZ (CONT'D)
Come in, make yourself at home, I
always do.

MIA
Thank you so much.

MICHAEL
I love your place!

Fitz ushers them toward the faux fireplace to reveal a stack of felted logs and felted flames. Michael dusts off an ottoman near the fireplace, and Cruz and Daphne reach in to touch the felted flames--totally awestruck at the eccentric home. They look at the ceiling revealing hundreds of cut out snowflakes dangling above them. Mia settles onto the sofa, immediately feeling something beneath her. She pulls out a small wrapped present that had been tucked underneath a cushion.

FITZ
Oh, yes, sorry about the mess. I'm
just finishing up my wishes tree
lists.

The group suddenly notices the coffee table is littered with wishes tree lists.

MIA
These are all yours?

DAPHNE
How many did you get?

FITZ
(eyes twinkling)
Well, I go to the diner almost
everyday and grab one on my way
out. It's the least I can do.
(beat)
In fact, you can help me wrap the
final gifts, if you don't mind!

Fitz begins distributing wrapping paper, boxes, and tape to Mia, Cruz, Michael, and Daphne. They eagerly join in, creating an impromptu wrapping assembly line.

FITZ (CONT'D)
Tonight's Christmas Eve, you know.
Everything on the wish lists must
be collected and back at the diner
this evening.

MICHAEL
(trying to get stuck tape
off his fingers)
Well, actually, it's the wishes
tree that brought us here.

FITZ
(in his signature sing-
song rambling cadence)
Here about the wings--the Golden
Gliders?

MICHAEL
Yes!

MIA
We've been on quite the quest to
find them.

FITZ
I have so little to do with the
business side of my toys--I wanted
to call them magic wings.

DAPHNE
They really must be magic--we can't
find them anywhere.

The kids carefully stack their wrapped presents in an available spot among Fitz's organized chaos.

FITZ
They tell me they've been quite
popular this Christmas, and I have
seen some children gliding around
town--that does bring such a smile
to my face!

CRUZ
I bet it does!

FITZ
And I suppose you're here hoping I
have a pair to give to you?

Cruz, Daphne, Michael, and Mia stop wrapping and hang in anticipation, hope written across their faces.

FITZ (CONT'D)
I hate to disappoint, but I don't
have a single pair. Not a single
pair to spare.

Mia and Michael exchange looks.

MIA
That's okay. It was a long shot.
I'm just happy to have a chance to
meet Buffalo's most famous
toymaker. We had no idea.

MICHAEL
I agree. Thank you again for
welcoming us into your very...
(looking around again)
...creatively inspiring home.

FITZ
I just tinker around here, as you
can see--always looking for ways to
make the everyday more fun, for me
and for others. I like to surround
myself with joy and love and art.

MIA
(studying the walls)
I can see that. Your art collection
is amazing. You have such a
wonderful eye.

FITZ
Ah! Allow me to show you more! In
fact...THIS is the very inspiration
behind the wings.

He gestures to the blank space above the fireplace, then
freezes in confusion. Only a lonely nail remains where the
artwork should be hanging.

FITZ (CONT'D)
(muttering)
That's...peculiar. It really is my
most treasured piece.

His brow furrows as he glances around the room.

MICHAEL
Perhaps we should head out before
the weather gets worse.

FITZ
I move things around so often...

CRUZ
Maybe you accidentally wrapped it
with the presents?

Daphne nudges him. Fitz snaps his fingers suddenly, eyes
brightening.

FITZ
Maybe I left it in the workshop!
Let's go check!

MIA
Oh, as much as we would love to see
your workshop, I'm still hopeful
that...I'm hopeful we can somehow
still fulfill our wish list. We
should get back to it.

FITZ
Are you sure you don't want to wait
just a bit? It's really coming down
out there.

The group turns toward the windows to see snow pouring down,
already accumulating rapidly on the sills.

MICHAEL
You know what? Maybe we should wait
this out.

MIA
We could stay a little bit.

Fitz pivots on his heel, beckoning them excitedly.

FITZ
Wonderful! This way to the
workshop!

Mia looks out the window one last time before the group
follows Fitz. They stop at a door adorned with a whimsical
wooden sign inscribed: "This way," and directly below it,
another sign reads "To the Workshop." As Fitz reaches for the
handle...

end

ACT NINE

44 ~~INT. FITZ THEODORE HOUSE - WORKSHOP/FACTORY - DAY~~ 44

~~The door swings open revealing a room where childhood dreams
take physical form...a kaleidoscope of wonder: shelves
stretching from floor to ceiling crammed with toys in various
stages of completion. Big Christmas trees are scattered
throughout, each decorated in different whimsical themes.~~

~~Workbenches overflow with curious contraptions--wind-up
Ferris wheels, exposed gear music boxes, and tiny dollhouse
furniture crafted with meticulous detail.~~