

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS OPENER

Written by

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INT. STUDIO - PRERECORDED

MCU of TODD in the studio. He turns his camcorder on.

He leans in close.

TODD
(whispered)
Hey guys, before we get started
tonight, I wanna let you in on a
little secret.

He holds up a MAGIC BELL.

TODD (CONT'D)
This is my magic Christmas bell.

He jingles it.

TODD (CONT'D)
Wanna know how I got it?

He waits for a response.

TODD (CONT'D)
Well...it was after last year's
Home for the Holidays live show and
I was putting away the stage
decorations...

FLASHBACK BEGINS.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Todd comes up the stairs with a ton of Christmas decorations
in arms from last year's show.

He drops a few down the stairs.

As he picks up the decorations, he hears FOOTSTEPS on the
roof and a JINGLE. He looks up comedically.

He walks up the stairs to look.

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

His eyes shift around. No ones there.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Todd keeps looking, which leads him to the stage rafters.

INT. STAGE RAFTERS - CONTINUOUS

Todd looks around. No one here.

FOOTSTEPS and JINGLE below. He looks down. It's SANTA!

Todd gasps, unable to speak. He leaves frame.

TODD (V.O)

I wanted to yell out his name, but
I lost my voice from singing too
many Christmas carols the night
before.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Todd races down the stairs.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Todd makes it to the stage. Santa is gone.

A JINGLE from across the auditorium.~

He whips his head around. Santa is leaving the auditorium.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Todd walks quickly towards the door. He opens it.

INT. AUDITORIUM LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

No one is there. He looks around. Another JINGLE down the stairs.

He looks down to see just the top of Santa's hat.

He goes to run down the stairs, but his shoelace is caught on the doorstep. He comedically pulls his leg, but the shoelace only gets tighter. Frustrated beyond belief, he rips his shoe off and bounds down the stairs.

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Again, Todd can't find Santa.

He spots a shiny twinkling bell on the ground. It's obviously magical.

The glow fills Todd's wonderlust face.

Todd picks up the bell like it's the One Ring. In the background, we see Santa out of focus entering the banquet room.

Mesmerized, Todd rings the bell. The doors close behind Santa. Todd snaps out of it - Santa!

He runs towards the banquet room.

He pulls open the doors.

INT. BANQUET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Santa is gone.

Todd sees presents and coal on the table under a tree.

TODD (V.O.)
And just like that, Santa was gone.

Todd lifts up the bell again in wonder.

TODD (V.O.)
But he left behind one of his magic bells...

FLASHBACK ENDS.

INT. STUDIO - PRERECORDED

MATCH CUT: Todd holding up the bell.

TODD
And I still have it to this day...

Todd jingles it a little.

TODD (CONT'D)
Don't go anywhere! Because tonight we're going to do some Christmas magic and have a chat with the man himself, Santa Claus.
(MORE)

TODD (CONT'D)

I made sure to schedule my caroling
for tomorrow.

DEREK (O.S.)

Todd the show is about to start!

TODD

Alright, I gotta go! See you soon!

Todd shuts off the camera OR jingles the bell and disappears.

SLATE: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS