

INT. LIVING ROOM- CHRISTMAS TIME

OPEN on a fireplace mantle decorated for christmas. DAD dances (bounces) with BABY daughter in the living room to the song *Rockin Around the Christmas Tree*. They bounce in circles a few times.

MOM(O.S.)

Baby's first christmas!

(title card)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, BEHIND/BESIDE A COUCH- CHRISTMAS TIME

The BABY daughter has grown into a TODDLER. Toddler is hiding beside the couch, peeking around being stealthy. Dad's foot comes into picture,

DAD

What are you doing?

TODDLER

Shh! I'm waiting for Santa

Toddler looks away from dad as he laughs quietly.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN TABLE- CHRISTMAS TIME

The TODDLER has grown into a KID. Mom and Dad sit Kid down at the table. Kid is wearing a Santa hat, and looks happy, but confused by her parent's tone.

The parents are telling the kid (something upsetting). Kid's smile quickly fades as she looks back and forth from Mom to Dad. She rips off her santa hat and runs away down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. FLOOR- LATER

Kid is sitting on the floor, still upset. Dad sits beside her, and scoots a present close to her. She gives a smile and hugs him.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR- CHRISTMAS TIME

The doorbell rings. Mom and Dad, looking older open the door. The KID has grown into a COLLEGE STUDENT. She stands at the door wearing a university sweater and a suitcase. Mom and Dad smile, and welcome her inside.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR- CHRISTMAS TIME

The front door opens to reveal the college student that's now an ADULT. She stands at the door with a suitcase. Mom and Dad smile, and welcome her inside.

CUT TO:

INT. FIREPLACE MANTLE- CHRISTMAS TIME

Hold on the mantle decorated for christmas. Two picture frames are visible. One is of Mom and Dad holding BABY, the next is of her college graduation. Incoherent shouting ecos from the background.

DAUGHTER (O.S.)

I shouldn't have even come!

DAD (O.S.)

You shouldn't have!

DAUGHTER (O.S.)

Fine!

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR- CHRISTMAS TIME

DAUGHTER is just barely seen storming out the door. Dad walks over to the open door and stares out. Off screen, we hear a car start. Dad angrily slams the door shut.

CUT TO:

INT. LONELY APARTMENT KITCHEN- CHRISTMAS TIME

DAUGHTER is living alone in her apartment. She's microwaving her christmas dinner. She sits at her table. She's about to take a bite when *Rockin Around the Christmas Tree* starts playing on her radio. She looks up, listening. Her eyes are shiny. She looks down at her dinner. She sighs.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR- CHRISTMAS TIME

The doorbell rings. The door opens to reveal Daughter standing there looking uncomfortable. She struggles to find the words at first,

DAUGHTER

I'm sorry.

Dad and Mom, standing in the door frame smile, then they step aside to let her in. She smiles and walks through.

CUT TO:

INT. FIREPLACE MANTLE- CHRISTMAS TIME

Hands decorate the fireplace mantle for christmas with all the items we saw in the beginning. A new picture is placed on the mantle of Daughter and her husband.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER SCREEN- CHRISTMAS TIME

Daughter and her husband sit in front of their computer on Zoom holding up their baby. Mom and Dad are on the other end of the Zoom call waving.

DAUGHTER

Say hi to your grama and granpa!

Daughter moves her baby's arm to wave.

CUT TO:

INT. DAUGHTER'S LIVING ROOM- CHRISTMAS TIME

Daughter and her baby dance in her living room to *Rockin Around the Christmas Tree*, just like her Dad did with her.

END