

"CLAUDIA"

"All I Want for Christmas"

Draft dated: 10/08/06 7.

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~~He exits the car. Danni barely notices. Slips the Polaroid into her pocket. Turns the ignition on and pulls away.~~

6 INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

6

A social services rep, CLAUDIA, 40s, heavysset and pleasant-looking, drives. In the passenger seat is a pretty, plainly dressed 13 year-old girl, RACHEL TRIPP. She's gloomy and more than a little apprehensive.

CLAUDIA (O.S.)

Okay, one more time, their name is the Bradleys... C'mon, Rachel, help me out here...

RACHEL

(reciting by rote)

Richard and Eve. Two children. Sam and Dodie. They run their own business and are members of the local chapter of the Rotary Club. He likes fishing and soccer on TV. She has a custom knitting business on the side. Oh, and they really, really like kids.

Just the slightest tinge of sarcasm in that last comment. It goes straight over Claudia's head.

CLAUDIA

Good. You'll see, this is going to be a good placement.

RACHEL

Still a foster home.

Claudia glances over at her.

CLAUDIA

Rachel, I know. And I'm sorry the last one didn't work out.

RACHEL

Hey, they found out they were expecting. Your own kid's always better than a hand-me-down, right?

CLAUDIA

No one would ever call you a hand-me-down, Rachel. You're an original.

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Claudia squeezes Rachel's arm. Rachel looks back at her, not knowing if she should even hope or not.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

You'll see. And to make it even better, we've managed to place you in a private school not far away. It's very exclusive.

RACHEL

Great. Rich kids at Christmas. That should be sooooo much fun.

A beat while Claudia concentrates on the road. She chooses her words carefully.

CLAUDIA

Honey, you've been through a lot. And I know you deserve something good to happen now. But let's can the attitude and see if we can make this work, okay kiddo?

Her tone is light, but suddenly Claudia doesn't look quite so cheery anymore. Rachel offers back a little shrug.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Good. And look; they have horses! How can that be bad??

END

~~7 EXT. BRADLEY HOME - DAY~~

~~The rental car pulls into the drive of the Bradley home. A sign out front bears the silhouette of a horse and reads "Bradley Stables."~~

~~EVE (O.S.)~~

~~It's so very wonderful to have you with us.~~

~~8 INT. BRADLEY HOME, KITCHEN DAY~~

~~8~~

~~Claudia and Rachel sit with EVE and RICK BRADLEY at the kitchen table. SAM (14) and DODIE (12) glower at Rachel menacingly.~~

~~EVE~~

~~...and I think you're going to be real happy here, Rachel.~~

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