

Happy Birthday

By

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Based on a true story

For Katie

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INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Opens with an establishing shot of MEGAN, age 7, laying in her bed. The room is abundant with Hello Kitty merchandise, stuffed animals, toys, and various pink fabrics. There is a framed picture and a ring on a chain on the nightstand. DAD walks in with a Hello Kitty gift bag and sneaks over to the bed to wake Megan up.

DAD  
(Softly)  
Happy Birthday Megan.

Megan rolls away from him.

MEGAN  
I don't have a birthday.

DAD  
Meggie... Of course you do sweetie.

Megan grabs the framed picture off the nightstand.

MEGAN  
No, I don't. It's Mom's day now.

She is clutching the picture to her chest.

DAD  
Don't you think Mom would want you to be happy today?

MEGAN  
No because she's not here and it's all my fault.

DAD  
It was an accident Megan, there was nothing we could do.

MEGAN  
She left to get my birthday cake! She asked me to go with and I didn't want to Dad. I should have went with her.

DAD  
Then I'd be here all alone. Is that what you'd want?

MEGAN  
No... I'm sorry Daddy, I won't ever leave you all alone.

(CONTINUED)

DAD  
And I'll never leave you sweetie.

MEGAN  
Promise?

DAD  
Promise.

MEGAN  
Pinky swear?

She extends her pinky to him. He reaches out and they interlock pinkies.

DAD  
Cross my heart and hope to die.

They embrace. Megan has an idea.

MEGAN  
Let's do all the stuff Mom loved to do with us.

Dad reaches over, picks up the necklace, and puts it on Megan. They get up and exit.

INT. LIVING ROOM. MORNING

Dad and Megan sit in the living room watching the TV and eating cereal off a TV tray or coffee table. A box of Lucky Charms and a bottle of chocolate syrup are used and exchanged as they eat their breakfast together. Dad gets up and takes the dishes away. He reenters.

DAD  
(Playfully)  
Ugh, I have a terrible tummy ache.  
Oh no, Meggie! Run!

He begins to turn into a "monster", roaring and such.

MEGAN  
Daddy no!

DAD  
Rawr!

Dad slowly approaches Megan with his very "convincing" monster walk. She laugh-screams and makes her hands into a gun shape and fires.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

Bang, Bang!

Dad clutches his chest and starts to fall.

DAD

Oh! You got me!

Dad goes down and Megan pounces on his chest.

MEGAN

Don't worry Daddy, I'll make you  
all better!

She does the "Circle Circle Dot Dot" (CCDD) ritual.

MEGAN

Circle, circle, dot, dot, now you  
got your monster shot.

He springs to life and grabs Megan and tickles her. It's  
almost too cute to watch.

DAD

Come on, let's get dressed.

They exit.

!!!MONTAGE!!!

There is a montage of Megan and Dad going shopping or  
getting dressed. They try on clothes and Dad is being silly  
by trying on girly hats and such. A few shots of them on a  
mini-golf course having a wonderful time celebrating a good  
putt.

INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING

Megan and Dad are on the floor putting a large jigsaw puzzle  
together. They are putting the finishing touches on the  
puzzle.

MEGAN

We did it!

DAD

Yes! Now we celebrate with some  
birthday cake.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN  
(deadly serious)  
No! No cake Dad.

DAD  
Meggie, it's just in the kitchen,  
I'm not leaving.

They share a long look of understanding.

MEGAN  
Okay.

Dad turns to go but stops.

DAD  
Ugh, that tummy ache is back.  
Oooooooooooo! Meggie look out!

MEGAN  
Oh no Daddy!

DAD  
Rawr!

Dad chases her around for a moment before Megan turns and reveals her powerful "Hand-Gun" and fires.

MEGAN  
Bang, Bang!

DAD  
Oh! You got me!

Dad starts to feel a pain in his arm and chest. He clutches his chest in pain. He is having a heart attack. He starts to fall.

DAD  
Agh, Megan help. Call 9-1-1.

He falls down on the puzzle scattering pieces about the room. Megan rushes over to him and pounces on his chest.

MEGAN  
Don't worry Daddy, I'll make you  
all better.

Megan performs the CCDD. Nothing happens. She does it again and again faster each time. Nothing. She begins to sense something is wrong.

MEGAN

(Scared)

All better Daddy... Dad? Are you  
okay?

Megan jumps up and grabs the phone bringing it back to Dad. She stands over his body shaking. She looks at the phone and cannot dial. She breaks down and begins to cry into his chest.

MEGAN

Daddy! I'm sorry! Daddy please come  
back, don't leave me... Daddy I'm  
sorry... I'm sorry.

Camera cranes up and leaves Megan weeping on Dad's chest as we fade to black.

Title Card: Happy Birthday.

END.