

A Wish

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CHARACTERS:

COLTON, 13.

DEAN, 13.

KAI, 13.

GENIE, 40's.

DAD, 30's.

EXTRAS:

Group of teenage girls.

SETTING:

Front room of a house.

ACT ONE:

SCENE ONE:

Colton's front room. A simple family home. A couple of sofas facing each with a thick rug in the middle of the floor.

Colton enters wearing a suit and tie. The tie has been made far too tight. He wrestles with it, desperate to loosen it.

COLTON

(grunting)

I can't breathe.

(There's a loud knocking, like several people are knocking on his front door all at once.

Colton looks over his shoulder.

Go away!

Three teenage boys, same age as Colton now enter.

DEAN

Well this is the last place I'd expect to find you.

COLTON

(stunned)

What, at my house? That's the last place you'd expect to find me? You know I live here right?

DEAN

You blew us off again.

COLTON

I don't want to go out playing in the river with you guys any more. It's childish. And I'm not interested in childish things.

DEAN

You're crazy, you should have seen the size of this rock we threw in the water today. The size of a car. A record breaker. A huge splash. Almost drowned us. Like to see what children could do that.

COLTON

Childish.

NICK

Have you got a girlfriend is that what this is? You're changing.

COLTON

Eww, gross.

NICK

Men change when they get a girlfriend.

COLTON

And how would you know, the only girl you get close to is your grandma and she's close to a hundred by now.

NICK

Shut up. I don't even see my grandma any more. She's so lame. Since she slipped into a coma I don't get any money from her any more. I don't have anything to do with her.

DEAN

Not true. I saw you holding hands with her at the supermarket the other day

NICK

My hands were cold. She's like a giant walking hot water bottle, I was just using her to warm up.

COLTON

And she's in a coma?

NICK

We had her strapped in a wheelchair.

COLTON

That's some how a lot worse.

KAI

Forget all this, are you done with us or something Colton? You should show us a little respect and just say it. If you don't want to be friends with us anymore. Just tell us.

COLTON

(thinks this over and shrugs)

Alright. I don't want to be friends with you guys anymore. Feel better?

Kai shakes his head.

KAI

(disappointed)

You've got no honour.

COLTON

Oh no, not this again. Kai takes one free karate class at the mall and he thinks he's a kung fu master.

KAI

Well my sensei says I could become a kung fu master if I wanted to.

COLTON

Then it can't be that hard. If you can do it so can I.

KAI

You wouldn't even know what to do.

COLTON

Then what did your sensei tell you?

KAI

Take three of his advance classes for \$149 each and I'll be able to kick anyone butt, including yours.

COLTON

Oh yeah. So your Mom is going to give you \$400 bucks just so you can kick my butt. Get real. This is what I'm talking about. You guys are still kids when I'm already an adult.

DEAN

You're the same age as us.

COLTON

My sprint is already in it's 30's.

DEAN

That sound depressing.

COLTON

Well, good. Being depressed is part of being an adult.

NICK

Well my dad says dating women ages you, drains the life out of you. Sucks a man dry he says. And I've already had three girlfriends this summer. So I've must have been aged as well.

COLTON

I don't even remember inviting you into my house. Do you maybe want to leave?

The three friends gather together. Huddled.
Having a discussion that they don't want
Colton to hear.

A pause.

COLTON

What are you fools muttering about?

They break away from their huddle and look
towards him.

DEAN

We've found something pretty magical. Literally magical. And we're just trying to decide if we should tell you or not.

COLTON

(smug)

Well I'm sorry, I don't believe in magic. So I don't care. That's something for children and I'm not a child.

KAI

You should always keep an open mind. That's the first thing you get taught when on your way to black belt.

COLTON

Well my mind is firmly closed. Shut. Never opening. That's what it means to be an adult.

NICK

You're going to want to see this.

COLTON

I doubt it.

NICK

People are going to go nuts when we take him to school.

COLTON

Him?

DEAN

We think it's a guy. I'm not sure. Could be a woman. Maybe we should ask. It might just be an it. Not have a gender?

COLTON

What is it, who is it?

KAI

Now look who's interested. Looks like that mind of yours isn't closed all the way just yet?

DEAN

Are we really taking him to school?

NICK

Of course. Everyone will go nuts. The girls will be all over us.

KAI

We need to be careful.

DEAN

I don't think he'll want to go to school.

Colton stamps his feet and yells out over the top of them.

COLTON

I don't care. I've quit school. Don't mention school to me again.

DEAN

(dumbfounded)

You can't quit school. That's not allowed. You can't do that.

COLTON

Yes you can. And I have.

KAI

He who thinks there are no more lessons to learn is truly not learnt the most valuable lesson of all.

COLTON

I've learnt enough.

NICK

You can barely read and write your own name.

COLTON

I've got enough to get by just fine.

NICK

You can't even count to ten without using your fingers.

COLTON

Look, this was a nice game, thanks for asking me to play. But I'm done. Can you please leave.

DEAN

What game? Who won?

COLTON

You guys just need to go. It was nice getting a visit from my childhood friends, but it's bye bye time.

KAI

Bye bye time? Now who sounds childish?

COLTON

You were my childhood friends, but I'm an adult now.

DEAN

So why can't we be your adulthood friends too?

COLTON

I'm sorry, but this is me cutting ties with all of you. And I mean ALL of you.

NICK

(hands on hips)

Damn, you're breaking up with us? This is giving me a lot of flashbacks. But still, it's not the worst breakup I've ever had.

DEAN

Well this is my first break up so it's definingly the worst one I've had.

NICK

My worst, I was asking this girl out everyday. I even used to follow her home. Just begging her to go out with me.

COLTON

This doesn't sound like a very romantic story.

NICK

It gets better. She even used to run away from me. As fast as she could. But I would just chase after her. Love makes you do crazy things.

COLTON

That doesn't make the story better.

NICK

Well, I knew she liked me.

COLTON

Are you sure?

NICK

Then one night I was outside her house. Just banging on the front door with both hands.

Just screaming as loud as I could, 'will you go out with me?' Over and over and over.

Until my throat was sore.

DEAN

Apparently girls like it when you're persistent.

KAI

(frowns)

I don't know if that's true.

NICK

Anyway, her older brother opened the door and punched me so hard he broke my nose and knocked out two of my teeth. That's the worst break up I've ever had.

DEAN

That's so sad.

COLTON

That wasn't a breakup. And it sounded like you got what you deserved. Asking for it if you ask me.

KAI

(acting out karate moves)

I would have blocked it. Countered his strike with a chop to the throat.

COLTON

Genius.

Nick reaches over and tugs at the tie.

NICK

What's the suit for?

DEAN

You look good.

Colton slaps his hand away.

COLTON

It's for my dad.

NICK

Your dad?

DEAN

Isn't your dad a lot bigger than you. How's it going to fit him?

COLTON

It's to show him. I've asked to move away with him. I need to show him that I'm grown up. An adult.

Kai crosses his arms.

KAI

(disgusted)

Well, your tie is all wrong. You've basically turned it into a weapon against yourself. If I pulled on it, even just a little, I'd choke you out.

COLTON

Then don't touch.

DEAN

Your dad is a solider right?

COLTON

Yeah.

DEAN

So doesn't that mean you'll be moving wherever a war is?

COLTON

I don't care. I want to be with my dad. And he said he'd love to have me. Wants nothing more in the world. Than for me and him to be together, but...

KAI

(interrupting)

There's a but? But's aren't ever good.

NICK

Unless it's a girl's butt. They're very good.

COLTON

The military has a very strict no child policy.

DEAN

What about child soldiers?

COLTON

Not in this country. So all I need to do is show them I'm not a kid. I'm a adult. Simple.

Then I can be with my dad.

His three friends all share a knowing look amongst each other. Once more getting into a close huddle and start muttering amongst each other.

COLTON

Please, not this again.

The three friends break from each other, all turn to face Colton, grinning.

DEAN

Would you say, you WISH you were with your dad?

COLTON

Well, yeah.

NICK

Then you're really going to want to see what we've found.

KAI

Get ready for that close mind of yours to be blown right open.

COLTON

Magic?

DEAN, NICK, KAI

(altogether)

Magic.

Dean goes to the edge of the stage.

DEAN

Yo, Mr magic man. Come on in.

The Genie enters the stage. Dressed in long tattered clothes, looking homeless. He carries several plastic shopping bags in each hand, filled with trash. The sound of empty cans rattling together echoes out as he walks.

COLTON

You've got to be kidding me.

DEAN

He's amazing isn't he?

COLTON

No.

KAI

Don't judge a book by its cover. Look at Yoda from star wars. Small and green. Like you could just step on him. But he's the greatest jedi of them all. So don't judge a book by its cover.

COLTON

(points at The Genie)

Well this book cover is dirty, ripped and smells real bad. And if you found that in the school library, you're not picking it up.

NICK

It's real Colton, you've just got to believe.

COLTON

This is what I mean. Childish nonsense. I'm trying to be mature, to be a grownup. And you guys bring a homeless man into my house and tell me he's made of magic.

The Genie makes his way over to one of the sofas, sits down. Keeps a tight hold of his shopping bags.

THE GENIE

(burps and yawns)

I'm not homeless by the way.

COLTON

Ok, so where do you live? In a magic lamp I suppose?

THE GENIE

Why yes, your friends found me.

DEAN

(raises a hand)

I found him actually.

COLTON

This is the dumbest thing I've ever heard.

THE GENIE

A guy once wished to have six fingers on each hand. That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. He thought it would make him a better piano player. But if he'd just wished to be a better piano player I could have done that for him easily. But people are strange.

COLTON

They certainly are.

KAI

Colton, he's the real deal. Honestly.

COLTON

And what is the deal. What is it that you do Mr Genie?

THE GENIE

I grant wishes.

COLTON

Oh yeah, that's right. Three each isn't it?

THE GENIE

Don't be stupid. It's only one per person. Three per person. I wouldn't have any time for myself.

COLTON

This is so childish. You might have fooled them, but you're not going to trick me.

KAI

Colton, be careful what you say next, this kind of magic is powerful. You don't want to upset him.

COLTON

And all three of you have made wishes?

Nick points at himself and Kai.

NICK

Me and Kai have.

COLTON

I can't believe I'm asking you this, but what did you wish for?

Kai takes up a kung fu pose and respectfully bows to Colton.

KAI

To be a black belt in karate.

COLTON

You're joking?

Kai performs a few different karate style moves, as though fighting off several invisible enemies all at once.

THE GENIE

Oh right, that reminds me.

The Genie goes rummaging inside his bags, finds and pulls out a karate blackbelt.

THE GENIE

Here you go young man.

**Kai run over, excitedly takes the blackbelt
and ties it proudly around his waits.**

KAI

Awesome. Fits.

COLTON

It's a belt.