

William's Wishes

By

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EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

A two-story house in the suburbs, just like all the other houses on the street.

The door opens and WILLIAM (18), all in black, appears and stands in the doorway. His MOTHER yells at him from inside.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
Don't you walk away from me!

William dismisses her with a roll of his eyes and pulls a pack of cigarettes out of his back pocket. He pulls one out and puts it in his mouth.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
You'd better not be smoking!

William closes the door behind him, grabs the cigarette and tosses it behind a bush into a pile of similarly discarded cigarettes. He sniffs the pack and rears his head back, repulsed by the smell. He pockets the pack.

A car drives by and honks. William's auto-response is the finger. The driver waves to his neighbor who is visible in her window. She looks at him, shocked, and he gives her the finger too. She shuts her curtains.

William stands on the sidewalk with his hands in his pockets. He looks left, right. He decides on left.

EXT. CITY STREET - SAME DAY

William walks in a crosswalk. A car pulls into the intersection waiting for him to cross so it can turn left. William notices and stops to tie his shoe - slowly.

EXT. CITY PARK - SAME DAY

A park bench amongst trees. William arrives and sits. He watches a group of kids play tag across a field. He smiles slightly then looks around to make sure nobody saw it.

He stops when something catches his eye at the base of a large tree. He leans forward, then looks around again to verify his aloneness.

EXT. CITY PARK TREE - CONTINUOUS

William sits on his knees with an old oil lamp in his hands. He rolls his eyes, lets out a breath and rubs the side of the lamp.

The corner of his mouth goes up when nothing happens.

WILLIAM

Figures.

He opens the top of the lamp and light spills out. He holds the lamp out and shuts his eyes.

The light gathers in the form of a human. It fades and a woman stands in its place. She is dressed in black leather.

William slowly opens his eyes and takes in the figure before him.

WILLIAM

Who are you?

GENIE

You've never heard this one? I'm a genie.

William's eyes give her another once-over.

WILLIAM

You don't look like a genie.

GENIE

Why does everyone say that? Have you met a lot of genies?

WILLIAM

I wish.

She looks at him and shakes her head.

GENIE

Alright, out with 'em.

WILLIAM

What?

GENIE

OK, you've never met any genies, but you do know what a genie does, right?

William stands up, an incredulous look on his face. He raises his eyebrows and holds up three fingers.

The genie answers with a half-smile and a half-nod. She folds her arms, and cocks her head to one side.

William walks back to the bench and sits down.

WILLIAM

Well, gee. My life is just so peachy I don't know what to do.

The genie walks toward him.

GENIE

Why does everyone think of themselves first? Don't you have any friends or family who might need a free wish? Someone who is sick, hurting, poor...?

WILLIAM

Maybe, but I hate my family and my friends are imaginary so they can have whatever they want.

GENIE

Hmm, like me.

He sits back and puts one hand on his chin.

GENIE

I assume they hate you too? Your family?

William shrugs.

GENIE

'Cause maybe if you did something nice for them they wouldn't hate you and you wouldn't hate them.

William shoots her a look that says "unlikely".

GENIE

As much.

William leans forward.

WILLIAM

(matter-of-factly)

I hate everyone, OK? I wish they would all die.

Immediate silence. No children playing, no cars driving, a plane falls out of the sky and crashes somewhere in the distance.

William's face goes white.

WILLIAM  
Did you really...?

GENIE  
Me? You wished it.

William stands up, waving his arms violently.

WILLIAM  
That wasn't a wish! I was just  
saying!

GENIE  
You said "I wish". That's a wish.

William is speechless.

GENIE  
Yeah, nobody's ever wished that one  
on me before.

William looks around at the death that surrounds him.

WILLIAM  
Well, I get three wishes right?

The genie nods. William sighs.

WILLIAM  
OK, bring everyone back to life.

The genie turns her head slightly as if she didn't hear.  
William rolls his eyes.

WILLIAM  
I wish you would bring everyone  
back.

GENIE  
Everyone?

WILLIAM  
No, not EVERYONE. I wish all of the  
people who just died as a result of  
your stupidity would be made  
undead. No, no, no wait-

Moaning. William looks toward the kids who were playing.  
They get up slowly and awkwardly and walk towards him with  
their arms out.

GENIE

Once again, you were the one who wished it.

William waves his arms around violently again.

WILLIAM

I wanted them back the way they were!

GENIE

Then you needed to say that. Your word choice has been remarkably poor considering you were just given three wishes.

The zombie-kids continue to move across the field.

GENIE

You may want to think about that third wish, I don't think you'd understand the wishing process as a zombie. They're pretty dumb.

William stands up on the bench and looks around. He looks back at the genie and ponders. She looks disgusted.

GENIE

Are you really debating?

William thinks for a moment.

WILLIAM

Maybe I do really hate everyone.

GENIE

So, what, you're going to see if you can annoy them all to death? You're a psycho. I should-

She stops herself from saying something she shouldn't and looks for William's reaction. None. He is looking up at the sky and did not hear.

The genie gives an inaudible "whew!" and looks toward the zombie-kids.

GENIE

Uh, look, not to press, but you really don't have much time to-

WILLIAM  
I wish I could fly.

The genie looks confused, but throws up her arms.  
William looks back at the zombie-kids and smiles.

INT. WILLIAM'S ROOM - DAY

A long empty case lays open on the floor.

William stands just outside his window on the roof with his back to the window. Shuffling footsteps. A moan.

Two gray arms reach out to the window and William beyond.

As they reach out the window, William quickly turns and  
SLASH!

EXT. WILLIAM'S ROOF - CONTINUOUS

A zombie head rolls down the rooftop.

William stands triumphant holding a sword with a tag still attached to the handle. He walks to the edge of the roof and looks down.

Dozens of zombies. William rips off the tag.

WILLIAM  
Who's next?

Hundreds more zombies appear in the streets.

He zooms up into the air and holds out his weapon.

WILLIAM  
Ready to die?

All of the zombies zoom into the air as well, angry and hungry.

William's face goes white again.

WILLIAM  
No way.

The zombies rush William as tactfully as flying zombies can. He swings the sword wildly to fend them off.

EXT. THE STREET BELOW - CONTINUOUS

The genie comes strolling up with the oil lamp in her hand. She drops it on the ground and steps on it, smashing it. She looks up to the sky.

GENIE

Psycho.

She walks casually down the street.