

MAX & GERALD

Written by

Lynn Walek

EXT. POLK HIGH SCHOOL. DAY.

Kids are seen shoving their way to the entrance.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY.

We see MINNIE, 16, wearing a baggy sweater and mom jeans that have a hanky in the back pocket and MAX, 16, wearing his football jersey. The two are having an intense conversation.

MAX

Come on. Come to the dance with me.

MINNIE

No. I can't.

MAX

Why?

MINNIE

Well, I already promised Todd.

MAX

Todd the tuba player?

MINNIE

Mhmm. He just got picked for all state marching band.

MAX

(under his breath)
Stupid Todd.

The bell rings. Max reaches for Minnie's hand. She pulls away.

MAX (CONT'D)

Let me walk you to class.

MINNIE

No.

Minnie looks around nervously.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

I told you. No one can know.
The marching band is very prestigious. I just got first trombone and I just can't okay?

Minnie picks up her bulky trombone case and begins to walk down the hallway.

MAX

Minnie!

MINNIE

No, I don't know where that
classroom is sorry!

INT. LOCKER ROOM. NIGHT.

The locker room is nearly empty. Max is still sitting in his football uniform. There is mud smeared on his face. JACK, 17, in warm up sweats walks towards the door.

JACK

Max. Buddy, you gotta shower.
Everyone else is gone.

MAX

Huh?

JACK

Never seen anyone on this team take
a loss so hard.

Jack shakes his head and leaves Max in his pool of mud. Max punches the locker then whimpers in pain.

MAX

Stupid locker. Stupid band. Stupid
football team. STUPID TODD.

There is a POOF sound and a cloud of dark smoke. The smoke clears and a large, grungy man in a stained t-shirt can be seen. GERALD strikes a majestic pose and begins his speech.

GERALD

Your despair calls to me young one.

Max is making a horrified face.

MAX

Are you. ... Are you some kind of
fairy god mother?

GERALD

I show up, clearly a man and I
still get called fairy god mother.
Ungrateful brats.

MAX

So you're not a fairy god mother?

GERALD

I am a magical creature and have been drawn to you in your time of need.

MAX

So.. You are a fairy god mother?

Gerald is visibly annoyed. He wiggles his shoulders and wings unfold from his back.

GERALD

Yes. I am your fairy god mother. Make your fucking wish.

MAX

I didn't know fairies could swear.

GERALD

Hell yeah we can, ya little shit. Now what is it that you want?

MAX

I just wanna win for once.

Gerald raises his wand.

GERALD

One win coming up!

MAX

No wait! I don't think I said that right.

Gerald puts his wand back down and looks at Max with disdain.

MAX (CONT'D)

Um. I wish I had...

GERALD

If the next words out of your mouth are more wishes

Gerald raises his wand threateningly.

MAX

I wasn't gonna wish for that! But now you made me lose my train of thought.

GERALD

Kid. That train never existed. Now make your wish, I've got other losers to visit.

MAX
Don't rush me!

GERALD
Why couldn't I have applied to be
the tooth fairy? Those kids have to
be asleep.

MAX
Okay. I wish my football team will
always win...

GERALD
Okay.

MAX
AND! I wish I could skip ahead to
our first win!

Another POOF sound is heard.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD. NIGHT.

The scoreboard is flashing and Polk has won their first game.
The crowd has stormed the field.

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER
POLK HAS WON! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
OVER 40 YEARS POLK HAS WON A
FOOTBALL GAME.

A confused Max looks around. He spots Minnie fighting through
the crowd with her trombone. Max elbows his way over to her.

MAX
Minnie! Minnie we won!

The other band kids stare at Minnie. TODD, 16, has a
sousaphone wrapped around his neck.

TODD
This guy bothering you Minnie?

MINNIE
No. I don't even know him.

MAX
But. We won. You don't have to be
ashamed of me.

TODD

Whoa. Back off. Minnie said she didn't even know you.

MAX

(under his breath)
Stupid Todd.

MINNIE

(to the band kids)
Just give me a minute guys.

Minnie pulls Max aside.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

MAX

I thought if I won...

MINNIE

Win or lose you're still a

Minnie cringes.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

.. football player. Secrecy is key.

Minnie flounces away back to the band. They are lined up on the field. The band begins to play the school fight song.

MAX

Yeah. Well I wish the band was the losing team and that stupid Todd only wished he could be me.

A POOF is heard and there is a cloud of smoke above the band. The perfectly in tune song turns to a screeching cacophony. The band is in chaos as the crowd boos.

MAX (CONT'D)

Fairy god mother?

GERALD V.O.

(annoyed)
My name is Gerald.

MAX

I thought I only got one wish?

GERALD V.O.

The powers that be think you are particularly pathetic so you get more than one.

MAX
How many more?

GERALD V.O.
Until they decide you're
sufficiently less pathetic... or I
kill myself.

MAX
Cool. Can I like wish to be home?

A POOF is heard.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Max is lying in bed. Glow in the dark stars form a picture
above his bed.

MAX
Excellent.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM. DAY.

Max's alarm sounds and an arm shoots out from under the
covers to hit snooze. Max sits up, he is disheveled with bed
head. Max's dad DAN, 40, can be heard knocking at the door.

DAN
Max. Come on buddy. I'm already
late. I don't have time for this.

MAX
(groaning)
I wish today was a holiday.

A familiar POOF is heard. Max jumps and screams. Gerald sits
with his legs crossed on a beanbag chair in the corner.

DAN
Don't forget, today is cat
appreciation day so there's no
school. I'll see you after work!

Max sits in his bed looking confused. It's clear he is trying
to put the pieces together.

GERALD
Are you legitimately a moron, or is
that just how your face is?

MAX

I'm hallucinating right? Someone slipped a mushroom in my salad or something?

GERALD

Yep. That's exactly how drugs work. I slipped you a tiny mushroom and now your brain is pudding.

MAX

I...I thought last night was a dream.

GERALD

(to himself)
I thought it was a nightmare

MAX

What?

GERALD

No. It was not a dream. It was real. Your football team won and the band sucks.

MAX

That's.... AWESOME.

Gerald continues to look at Max with disdain. Max jumps out of bed and goes to his closet.

MAX (CONT'D)

Wait.

Max looks at Gerald.

MAX (CONT'D)

I wish... for um cool, no suave clothes to wear.

GERALD

One closet full of SUAVE clothes.

A POOF is heard and Max's closet full of sports jerseys turns into a closet full of designer clothes. He quickly grabs an outfit that doesn't quite match. He looks at Gerald.

MAX

Dude. Could you um turn around?

GERALD

The last thing I'm interested in is your scrawny mortal body.

MAX

It's just polite man.

Gerald slowly turns to face the wall grumbling profanities under his breath. Max puts on his new clothes and nods at himself in the mirror.

MAX (CONT'D)

Now what?

GERALD

Are you actually asking me? Because I don't care.

MAX

For someone who grants wishes you're really cranky.

GERALD

I grant other people's wishes. I never get to grant my own. I'd love a nice Alaskan cruise. But noooo. I'm stuck here with the likes of you.

MAX

Didn't ask for your life story. I was just saying you're cranky. I guess I should throw a party. Empty house, cat appreciation day. All signs point to party.

GERALD

I need it in wish form.

MAX

Right! Um. I wish... that I will throw the best cat appreciation day party. And I wish everyone will be there. AND I wish that Minnie will be totally in love with me.

GERALD

You done?

MAX

Yeah. Grant my wishes, baby.

GERALD

Never say that again.

MAX

Sorry, I get a little carried away sometimes.

A POOF is heard and suddenly there is loud music coming from downstairs. Laughing and whooping can be heard. Max runs downstairs and pauses at the door to the living room.

MAX (CONT'D)

You did it.

Gerald stands next to him.

GERALD

I don't know why you sound surprised.

A crash is heard. Todd the tuba player jumps up.

TODD

I'm okay guys! I just tripped. Again.

Max laughs hysterically. Todd and Minnie spot Max and run over to him.

MINNIE

MAX! Where have you been? I've just been sitting here. Waiting for you.

MAX

Excellent.

Minnie is petting Max's face.

MINNIE

I just love your face. And you.

MAX

(uncomfortable)
Okay. Stop petting me. Please.

TODD

Minnie. I gotta talk to Max. So... can you leave?

MINNIE

No. I need to talk Max. I need to tell him that he's perfect. I love him more than I love my trombone.

TODD

(under his breath)
Stupid Max!

Max smiles until Minnie starts petting his face. Max tries to keep Minnie's hands off his face but she's insistent. Todd watches Minnie intensely.

TODD (CONT'D)

Max. I want you to teach me how to football.

MAX

What?

TODD

The tuba is old news. I want to play football. I wish to be like you.

MAX

So find a football. I'm not gonna teach you. Minnie! Stop touching my face.

Minnie puts her hands in her lap and pouts. Todd's eyes never leave Minnie.

TODD

Find a football that's brilliant.

A crowd surges around Max. Various cries of "this is the best party ever" can be heard. Max tries to escape but can't.

MAX

Gerald! Gerald where are you? Make this stop.

GERALD V.O.

No can do. No refunds allowed.

Todd stands on the coffee table holding a football. Everyone turns to look at him.

TODD

I am a football player.

Todd slips off the table with a crash, everyone gasps. Todd hops back up with a smile on his face. He holds the football above his head this time.

MAX

(pointing to Todd)
Okay, but I didn't do that.

GERALD V.O.

You wished for it last night.

MAX

Definitely not.

GERALD V.O.
Yes you did.

MAX
I DID NOT

GERALD V.O.
YOU DID TOO. DON'T ARGUE WITH ME
YOU LITTLE SHIT. YOU WISHED THAT
TODD WISHED TO BE LIKE YOU. SO NOW
HE IS.

TODD
No worries guys. Held onto the
football.

Max scoffs and walks straight up to Todd.

MAX
Nice try Todd. I only invited you
here to laugh at your sorry ass.
Now that everyone's had a good
laugh. You can leave now.

MINNIE
Oh Todd....

MAX
Minnie don't. Some losers just
can't be helped.

Minnie looks between Todd and Max.

MINNIE
I thought I was so in love with you
because you were so fabulous and I
wanted to touch your face. But now
I see Todd and he's just like the
Max I fell in love with...

MAX
HA. Todd is nothing like me.

Gerald's laughter can be heard.

MINNIE
You're right. I think he might be
even better.

Minnie runs over to Todd and the two embrace. They have a
rather sickening display of PDA.

MAX

Oh this is bullshit. Gerald! I wish
this party was over.

Nothing happens.

MAX (CONT'D)

GERALD!

Gerald appears at Max's side, he is smiling.

GERALD

I told you. No wish refunds. You
got what you wanted. My work here
is done.

MAX

That's not fair. It didn't work.

GERALD

I can't help that you fucked it up.
Powers that be have called me
elsewhere. See ya!

Gerald disappears. Todd with his arm around Minnie addresses
the crowd.

TODD

Hey everyone! Party at my house!
Let's go!

Todd and Minnie lead everyone out of the house. Max is left
at the foot of the stairs by himself. He slides down the wall
and sits dejectedly.

CLARA, 16, a shy looking girl with long curtains of hair
obscuring her face approaches Max. She pushes the hair out of
her face.

CLARA

Hey. You coming to the party?

MAX

No. I hate Todd. And Minnie. Stupid
Todd. Stupid Minnie.

CLARA

So? Go and have fun anyway.

Max looks at Clara as though seeing her for the first time. A
smile spreads across his face.

MAX

I get it. You want me to go with you.

Clara looks horrified.

CLARA

Oh god no.

MAX

I thought, you were gonna tell me that I wasted my time with Minnie because you liked me all along.

CLARA

No. I'm dating Ryan.

Clara points to a RYAN, 18, a tall handsome boy standing near the front door. Ryan waves.

MAX

Oh...

CLARA

I just thought you looked kind of pathetic sitting here by yourself after your lame party.

MAX

My party was cool.

CLARA

Yeah until everyone walked out.

MAX

Stupid Todd.

CLARA

You're hopeless.

Clara gets up and flounces to the door. She grabs hands with Ryan and exits.

MAX

Am I pathetic enough again Gerald?

Gerald reappears next to Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

Aw man. Back at square one.

GERALD

No. See, every time you whine and yell my name I can hear it. Fairy thing.

MAX

Cool.

GERALD

Not cool. I'm sick of hearing your annoying little voice in my ear. I already granted your wishes.

MAX

I thought fairy god mothers were supposed to be helpful?

GERALD

Yeah until midnight.

MAX

What?

GERALD

I was referencing Cinderella, which isn't even an accurate portrayal of fairy god mothers. Anyway, I'm out.

Gerald disappears again and Max is left alone. He gets up and looks around. He finally notices the cat appreciation party decorations. His walls are plastered with cat pictures.

MAX

Stop staring at me!

Max shakes his head and quickly exits the house. He walks aimlessly around the neighborhood. He turns the corner and spots Minnie.

MAX (CONT'D)

Minnie? I thought you were at Todd's party. Stupid Todd.

MINNIE

Oh! Max hi.

MAX

Who's this?

Max points to the GAWKY KID standing next to Minnie.

MINNIE

I don't know him! He just asked for directions.

GAWKY KID
Minnie I thought you liked me.

MINNIE
I told you, secrecy is key.

Minnie looks at Max. Gawky Kid looks down dejectedly.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
You won't tell anyone will you?

MAX
What that you're making out with a
chess club kid?

GAWKY KID
Hey. I'm president of the chess
club.

MINNIE
Max, please.

MAX
I won't tell anyone.

MINNIE
Oh thank you Max!

MAX
Don't flatter yourself, I just
don't care.

MINNIE
But... our hallway...

Max turns and starts walking back to his house. He runs into
Todd who is spastically running around the neighborhood
calling for Minnie.

TODD
Have you seen Minnie?

MAX
Oh Todd, stupid, stupid Todd.

TODD
Well, have you seen her?

Max shakes his head and walks away.

MAX
Damn. Hey Gerald! Did I really look
like that?

GERALD V.O.

What did I say about using my
name?! And yes, you really did look
that pathetic.

MAX

Stupid Max.

FADE TO BLACK.