

"THE BIG SURPRISE"

by
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(Based on characters from Give Kids the World)

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EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

All is still. All is quiet. BUILDINGS gently expand and shrink in the shadows--they are snoring. The glowing SUN rises over the horizon, washing the town in golden light.

TWIGGY, a blue sparrow, flies through the sleeping town to the HUTCH. Through the window: MAYOR CLAYTON snores peacefully in his bed.

MS. MERRY creeps out of the front door. TWIGGY, flutters to her shoulder.

MERRY

We've got lots of work to do.

PIP (OC)

Is that because of the surprise!?

Pip crawls out of a hole at the foot of the Hutch.

PIP (cont'd)

Need help? Can I help?
Can I help with the surprise?

Merry gives a weary smile.

MERRY

I'm sure we can find something.

PIP

Oh goodie! Goodie gumdrops! I get
to help with Mayor Clayton's--

Merry puts a finger to his mouth.

MERRY

Shhhh.

Pip gives a manic nod.

MERRY (cont'd)

Now let's see how everyone is doing
with the preparations.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

RUSTY, the knight, heaves a box marked "DECORATIONS" across the floor. TINY, a giant purple brontosaurus, follows, pulling a cart stacked high with PRESENTS. Merry struggles with a giant bucket of ICE CREAM in her arms.

Hundreds of birds flutter overhead. Each one holds a GOLDEN STAR in its mouth. The Birds drop stars from their mouths, showering the cobblestones.

MERRY

Well then, it looks like we're all ready for the big surprise.

EVERYONE

Hoorah--

MERRY

Shhhhhhhh!

INT. HUTCH - DAY

MAYOR CLAYTON's nose twitches and then his eyes open. Smacking his dry mouth, he slips on his spectacles and looks about the room. He scrunches his nose, something's wrong.

CLAYTON

Ms. Merry?

EXT. HUTCH - DAY

Clayton steps from his front door fully dressed.

CLAYTON

Sure is quiet around here today.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Clayton strolls into the middle of town, whistling. He FREEZES, mid-step. A trail of GLITTERING STARS marks the cobblestones in front of him. He looks around, suspiciously.

CLAYTON

Hello?

He sniffs at the stars, twitching his nose.

CLAYTON (cont'd)

I wonder where this leads?

EXT. GRASSY KNOLL - DAY

The trail of stars disappears around the edge of the Castle.

CLAYTON

Huh. It's leading me to Ol' Elmer.

GIGGLING from around the corner. Clayton's ears perk up.

CLAYTON (cont'd)

Hello?

"*SHHHH!*" silence. Clayton shrugs and steps around the corner.

EXT. OL' ELMER'S - DAY

Everyone BURSTS out from behind OL' ELMER, who has tinsel and lights in his branches.

EVERYONE

SURPRISE!!!

Clayton stumbles back, startled. His shock melts into a smile when he realizes what's going on.

CLAYTON

You remembered!

A picnic table waits for him, stacked high with presents and ice cream. Birds struggle to hold up the corners of a BANNER: "Happy Birthday Mayor Clayton!" Everyone clamors around him, offering congratulations.

PIP

Were you surprised? Were you? Huh?

Merry hugs Clayton, who blushes.

MERRY

Happy birthday, honey-bunney.

CLAYTON

Thank you all so much!

Rusty steps through the crowd carrying a BIRTHDAY CAKE crammed full of burning candles.

CLAYTON (cont'd)

Aww. You shouldn't have.

He sets down the cake.

RUSTY

You're right, I shouldn't have.

Merry JABS Rusty in the side.

TINY
Make a wish.

Clayton closes his eyes and takes a deep breath ...

Whoosh! A dark SHADOW moves over the party. Wind howls across the grass, blowing out the candles. Clayton opens his eyes.

MERRY
What's happening?

Pip points to the sky in horror.

PIP
L-l-look!

High above, A CLOUD mopes through the sky. The townsfolk shout: "Go away! You're ruining everything."

Ka-BOOM! LIGHTNING flashes. Rain pours from the sky.

RUSTY
I'm gonna rust!

Everyone huddles under Ol' Elmer's canopy to keep dry. Merry flops onto the bench, frustrated.

MERRY
Our big surprise is ruined!

Clayton looks around at the disappointed guests.

CLAYTON
Come on, guys. We can't let this ruin our celebration.

Ka-BOOM! Another bolt of lightning flashes across the sky.

CLAYTON (cont'd)
Well maybe we can talk to the cloud? Ask it to stop raining?

MERRY
But how are we gonna get up there?

PIP
I could help!

RUSTY
Not now, small fry. We're trying to think.

CLAYTON

I'm sure if we just work together,
we'll think of something.

TINY

If we had something that floated...

OL' ELMER

Will these do the trick?

Ol' Elmer looks up. Red BALLOONS hang from his branches.

CLAYTON

Balloons! That's a great idea!

All of the birds flutter around, snatching the balloons and making a BALLOON BOUQUET.

MERRY

But who will go up there?

*****EXTENDED SCENE: Rusty pushes through the crowd, grabbing the bunch of balloons.**

RUSTY

Leave it to me. We'll have sunshine
in no time!

The others cheers as he starts to float into the air. He extends his sword above his head ...

RUSTY (cont'd)

Up, up, and Away--!

Pop! Pop! Pop! His sword pops the balloons above him.

CLAYTON

Rusty! Be careful!

THUD! Rusty lands back on the ground clutching a fistful of popped balloons. Only one remains intact.

TINY

Oh no!

MERRY

We're too heavy for one balloon.

The group lets out a communal sigh. Clayton's eyes light up.

CLAYTON

Wait, I know just the person!

He looks to the ground. Everyone else's eyes follow. Pip looks up at them. A giant smile breaks across his face.

PIP
Y-you mean it?

EXT. SKY - DAY

Kip rides in a Hot Air Balloon (made from an ice cream bowl) through the air. Far below, everyone cheers him on.

The Hot Air Balloon rises higher and higher. Finally it reaches WINDY, the crying cloud. The raindrops are her tears.

PIP
E-excuse me?

WINDY
What are you?

PIP
I'm Pip. I'm a mouse from below.

WINDY
Oh. My name's Windy. I'm a cloud.

PIP
Why are you crying, Windy?

WINDY
I don't know.

PIP
Are you hurt?

WINDY
No. Some days I just wake up and I feel so sad. Sorry if my rain is bothering you. I guess I can move.

PIP
Well that's no good. Not if you're just gonna keep crying. Say! Do you want to join our party?

WINDY
Y-You really want me to come?

PIP
Sure! Anyone can come!

EXT. OL' ELMER'S - DAY

Pip and Windy glide down from the ground.

CLAYTON

Pip! You stopped the rain; I'm proud of you!

PIP

Yeah! And I made a new friend! Everybody: this is Windy.

EVERYONE

Hi windy!

WINDY

I'm sorry for wrecking your party.

RUSTY

No prob. We needed a bath anyway.

MERRY

We're having a party for Mayor Clayton, do you want to join us?

WINDY

It sure sounds like fun. Only, I don't have a present.

CLAYTON

Oh, that's not a--

WINDY

Wait! I *do* have something!

Windy holds her breath and shakes her nose. A BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW shoots out of her over the sky.

FATHER TIME

It's party time!

Everyone cheers. Windy looks at the extinguished Birthday cake; she winks and a bolt of lightning RE-IGNITES the flames.

CLAYTON

All right. Everyone on the count of three make a wish ...

EVERYONE

One ... Two ... THREE!

FADE OUT.