

AMELIA

Written by

Merinda

FADE IN:

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE

The store is full of busy shoppers bundled up against the cold. It's decorated for Christmas with banners and garlands and a pile of wreaths near the entrance. AMELIA, about eight years old, enters the store, tugging excitedly on her GRANDMA's hand as she looks around. Amelia points at a display of DVDs for a superhero show.

AMELIA

See! This is what I've been telling you about. Superhero Squad! They protect the city and Captain Helena is a hero and she saves the day and..

GRANDMA

(Cutting her off)
That's nice dear. Now let's find you some clothes.

Pulling her along, Grandma takes her to the girl's clothes section, which is nearly a cloud of pink. Grandma pulls out various skirts and dresses and shirts and holds them up against Amelia, laying a few over her arm. Rolling her eyes, Amelia waits until Grandma is distracted, digging through a rack, before she darts off to find the boy's clothes.

After a little bit of looking, she finds the graphic t-shirts. There are quite a few with the guys from the series, but Captain Helena is not on any of them. Frowning, Amelia can't quite believe it as she looks for any sign of her hero.

Grandma finally walks up behind her with an armful of clothes and pulls out one from the top.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

What about this one?

Amelia looks at the shirt, which proclaims the wearer is a princess and shakes her head. Grandma reaches for her hand to take her to the dressing room.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Well superheroes are for boys.
That's why they don't make anything for girls. It's just how it is.

AMELIA

But Captain Helena is a superhero too.

(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)

She saved the others from evil
Baron Blue. How come they don't
have Captain Helena on any of
these?

GRANDMA

I guess boys don't want to wear
things with girls on them. Come on,
you need to try these on.

Reluctantly Amelia follows Grandma towards the fitting room. They pass a display of plastic cups for the series. Amelia pulls away and starts to look for one with Captain Helena, only to find one near the bottom and underneath the rest. Of course it is pink. But at least it is something and she offers it to Grandma. Reluctantly, Grandma nods and takes it from her, carrying it as they go into the dressing room.

Amelia tries on one thing after another. She likes one of the pink dresses but rejects the princess shirt. Once they finish, Grandma hangs up the unwanted items while Amelia darts away from her yet again.

Hurrying through the store, Amelia finds the toy aisles and quickly, the action figures. There is a wall of merchandise with all the male characters on it. A bit desperate, Amelia starts digging through the figures.

A SALESPERSON walks up behind her and watches for a moment before speaking.

SALESPERSON

Where are your parents?

AMELIA

(startled)

My Grandma is coming.

SALESPERSON

You shouldn't be in the store by
yourself.

Salesperson is reaching for their walkie talky when Grandma walks up, shaking her head at Amelia.

GRANDMA

(to Salesperson)

Was she causing a problem or making
a mess?

SALESPERSON

We just can't have unattended
children in the store.

GRANDMA

Well as you can see, she's
attended. Let's go.

Amelia turns to the Salesperson.

AMELIA

Do you have any Captain Helena
toys?

SALESPERSON

This is the boys section.

AMELIA

But this is where all the Superhero
Squad stuff is, and Captain Helena
is the second in command.

SALESPERSON

There might be one that comes with
the rocket ship, but we don't sell
any toys that are just her.

Amelia looks around and finally finds the rocket ship that
comes with miniature versions of the whole team.

GRANDMA

That's too expensive. Ask Santa,
Amelia.

AMELIA

(Surrendering)

Okay.

Salesperson watches them go and they head for the checkout.
Grandma hands Amelia the cup as they walk and she hugs it a
bit like a doll.

INT. HOUSE DAY

Amelia is curled up on the couch watching television with her
cup. Grandma walks in, watches her for a moment and then
leaves. The doorbell rings and after a moment TABBY walks in.
She's the same age as Amelia and climbs up next to her on the
couch.

TABBY

You're watching Superhero Squad
again?

AMELIA

This is my favorite episode though,
look at Captain Helena.
(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)

This is where she figures out where the Baron is hiding and how to rescue the rest of the team.

Tabby shrugs and climbs up on the couch next to Amelia, watching it with her. It finishes and she nudges her friend.

TABBY

Come on, let's go play.

Tabby and Amelia head outside.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Grandma sets out two mugs of hot chocolate on the counter. Amelia hesitates, then takes the purple one so Tabby can have the Superhero Squad mug. She smiles at her friend and accepts it.

TABBY

Did you go see Santa yet?

AMELIA

Next week I think. It's almost Christmas.

TABBY

I asked Santa for a dollhouse. What are you going to ask for?

AMELIA

Well, they have this really cool rocketship from Superhero Squad, but I don't know...

She glances at Grandma who is busy putting away their wet coats.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

It's really expensive. I'll be happy with whatever Santa brings me. Maybe I can get a Captain Helena shirt or something. If they make those.

TABBY

I bet they do. Someone has to. Lots of people like Superhero Squad, and I know lots of other girls do too.

AMELIA

Really?

TABBY

Well maybe not as much as you. But they like it.

Amelia smiles at her friend and they finish their hot chocolate. Grandma has left the room and Amelia looks in the direction she's gone.

AMELIA

Grandma thinks I like it too much.

TABBY

Gracie has like five hundred ponies. You can like Superhero Squad. Come on, let's watch another episode

INT. LIVING ROOM

Amelia is on the couch watching Superhero Squad again. Grandma walks in and turns it off, pointing at a mess at the table. Amelia rolls her eyes when Grandma turns away, but goes to clean up.

INT. MALL

Amelia heads up to see SANTA CLAUS. We can't hear what they're saying, but she's animated as she speaks with him. He smiles and nods and pats her head and sends her on her way.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Amelia and Grandma decorate a small tree. On the mantle is a picture of a woman in uniform. Amelia sets a certain ornament by it and smiles. Grandma walks over and gives her a hug and they go back to decorating the tree.

INT. CLASSROOM

The classroom is decorated for the holidays. Amelia doodles Captain Helena in a corner of her paper as she watches snow fall outside. The TEACHER is going over something and she's not paying attention. She adds a Santa hat to the drawing and smiles. The bell rings and everyone hurries to pack up their things and go.

TEACHER

Have a good holiday kids!

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Amelia rushes down the stairs. There are presents under the tree and she goes to shake them. Glancing up the stairs there is no sign of Grandma, so she goes to the television and turns on that same episode she was watching when Tabby came over. She starts to nod off when there are footsteps on the stairs.

Grandma is coming down the stairs, tying her housecoat. She heads into the kitchen and returns with a cup of coffee as Amelia turns off the television and waits impatiently. Finally Grandma has a seat and nods.

Amelia hands her a present then starts opening the other ones. Most of it is typical little girl stuff, clothes and socks and stickers. There are a couple books, but no sign of the rocketship.

Trying to be grateful, Amelia sucks on a candy cane and goes to hug Grandma.

AMELIA

Thank you. Merry Christmas.

GRANDMA

There's one more thing for you.
Look behind the television.

Amelia goes and looks, pulling out a package. She opens it carefully and finds a doll. And not just any doll, this one is wearing a perfect replica of Captain Helena's costume. Amelia hugs it and looks at Grandam.

AMELIA

You made this for me?

GRANDMA

Merry Christmas.

Amelia runs and hugs Grandma, squishing the doll between them. Grandma pulls back and looks at her.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Do you really like it? I know it's
not the toy...

AMELIA

It's perfect, thank you.

