

WISH

## SYNOPSIS

Tom Hanlin speeds along a coastal mountain road, on his cell with his beautiful marketing VP, Amanda. Two weeks ago he was the golden boy of the company he co-founded. Then Tom "freaked out" in front of the board and lost his shot at stopping the merger with Snork! he'd adamantly opposed. Now he's in charge of the signing party itself, she says, blowing off any hint of anything more between them beyond business.

Tom still can't believe it as he sorts through his father's belongings this late, lonely night. The call that his dad had died came only minutes before the big meeting and Tom didn't tell a soul. Now he's losing his company and Amanda. He spies a bottle of rum and twists the cap off. "Flabazom," announces the doleful genie that erupts from inside.

It doesn't take Tom long to reckon he's got three wishes coming. Only one wish, Gene Genie corrects. "The wishing well's run dry," and first he must help figure out the wishes of three others selected by Geniedom's Grant A Wish Foundation. They're introduced on GNN (the Genie News Network):

-- Anoop Dubey, owner of Casa de India, a restaurant blending meals from his immigrant past with Mexican cuisine.

-- Dionne Barboza, a young-teen pianist who dreams of tickling a different set of ivories.

-- Maggie Frazier, a fledgling party planner teetering on the dark side of thirty.

Before disappearing back into his bottle the genie warns, "You have three days."

The next morning Tom shrugs it off as effects of cheap rum, until he spots Maggie's storefront. He hires Maggie on the spot to run the signing party so he can focus on the Snork! financials and find a reason to stop the deal. Considering Amanda's new interest in his co-founding partner, Peter, if he can't figure out all three wishes, he wants a backup plan.

In short order Tom finds Anoop wishes he was an Iron Chef, Dionne simply wishes she didn't have to take piano lessons anymore, and Maggie, what she wishes for is a man. He informs

Gene and gets the bad news. Having blown the other wishes pleasuring himself in his bottle, there's only one wish left. The only way Gene can grant it is if Tom fulfills the others' wishes without forfeiting his own to do so.

Making people's dreams come true is what Tom's all about. He hooks Maggie up with Peter, convinces Dionne's piano instructor to drop her, and hires Anoop to cater the party. The mad day of sly machinations behind him -- with yet another call from the mysterious insider, "Alvinator," and still no clue on underhanded dealings at Snork! -- Tom goes to Maggie's place and confirms she and Peter hit it off.

When Gene disagrees that Maggie's wish is fulfilled, Tom blows a gasket. As soon as he's back in the pole position, "Amanda will be back on my side of the aisle allowing the matrimonial doors to swing open for Maggie since nothing will be standing between her and Peter!" he argues. But Gene's not buying it.

Exasperated, Tom chills with Maggie and inadvertently connects with her on a level he's not prepared for. He learns of her Peace Corps upbringing, the bitter breakup of her parents, and the selflessness of her heart, then kicks himself for confiding the one thing he's told no one else.

The next day, the merger signing mere hours away, Tom and Gene try in vain to break the code Jules has uncovered in the Snork! books. Tom tells him to stay on it as he goes to help Maggie with preparations, keeping Peter in play to ensure their affections are expressed that night.

Then, moments before the party begins Maggie tosses a coin into a wishing well and Tom realizes he was wrong about her wish. The man she falls in love with, "He's the one whose every wish will be fulfilled," he tells Gene, but the genie is satisfied. Anoop's a big hit, Dionne got the acceptance she wanted, and Maggie and Peter are clearly in love. "Take your company back," he says, "win Amanda back, name your wish and I'll grant it!"

Jules reports his failure to break the Snork! code as Tom watches Maggie take the arm of Peter. He knows that he's fallen in love with her himself. Worse, he now knows that her real wish is only to have her parents reunited. Tom doesn't have to think twice. In his love for her, her wish becomes his own.

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