

## **'PETE'S CHRISTMAS'**

### **SYNOPSIS**

On Christmas Eve in a sleepy small town, the Kidder family is singing carols around the piano. Squished between his athletic older brother Jake and his younger brainy brother Kenny, fourteen-year-old Pete is the middle child and always feels overlooked and picked on. His parents Pamela and Ronald hardly notice, especially since Ronald recently lost his job and Pamela is working long hours. Before she rushes out to work the night shift, Pamela answers the doorbell and is surprised to see Ronald's dad, a grumpy man who isn't very excited to spend the holiday with his son's family.

In the morning, Jake and Kenny excitedly go downstairs to open gifts by the tree. After Jake opens a football and Kenny receives a telescope, Pete's parents realize they forgot to buy Pete a present. They explain he is just too hard to shop for, since every hobby he's tried—tennis, guitar, art—he's tossed aside. Pete is upset, forgotten once again. Throughout the day, Pete feels constantly ignored by his family. When he steps outside to get away from it all, Pete is pegged by snowballs from two bullies while the cute new girl next door, Katie, watches by the fence. Embarrassed, Pete rushes inside.

Later, when Jake foolishly plugs his video game console into a crammed electrical strip, sparks fly. Trying to stop him, Pete accidentally knocks the telescope over, which triggers the Christmas tree to come tumbling down right on top of him. Jake, Kenny and their parents all blame Pete for breaking the telescope and creating a mess. Then, at the annual football match with another family, Pete is roughly tackled and ends up embarrassing himself when he scores the winning goal for the opposing team.

Then, Pamela discovers the elaborate dinner she was making to impress her family didn't cook in the oven and realizes the power outage from the earlier disaster ruined their meal. Of course, the family blames Pete for this too. With everyone on edge, they go out for hamburgers. Pamela is upset, Grandpa chastises Ronald for losing his job and Jake and Kenny are still blaming Pete. Everyone suddenly starts to feel queasy and ends up with food poisoning. After fighting with Ronald all day, Grandpa packs his suitcase after dinner, feeling unwelcome. As a shooting star streaks overhead, Pete is ready for the terrible day to be over.

In the morning, Pete wakes up to find Kenny in his room, just like Christmas morning. Kenny announces it's Christmas and Pete is confused, wondering if this is a practical joke. As the events of the morning play out just like the previous morning, Pete puts up a protest, wondering why his family is pretending like yesterday never happened. Thinking he is dreaming, Pete tries to snap out of it, but the day is happening all over again and only Pete realizes it. He goes back to bed, confused and frustrated.

The next morning, Pete awakes to the same scene of Christmas morning—Grandpa is still there and everyone gathers around the tree to open presents. Pete wonders what's really going on. When Jake's video game blows the fuse, Pete finally realizes he is stuck in Christmas on

(more)

## **HALLMARK CHANNEL/ 'PETE'S CHRISTMAS' – Synopsis – Page 2**

repeat. He falls asleep looking at medical encyclopedias, wondering what's wrong with him.

Pete wakes up in the morning already knowing exactly what will happen that day. As the family walks to the football game, Pete laments to Grandpa he is being forced to live the same day over and over again. Grandpa, however, thinks it is great. If he keeps reliving the same day, Pete doesn't have to suffer any consequences and always gets a do-over. Taking this into consideration, Pete decides to play according to his own rules. At the game, knowing he's about to get tackled, Pete turns the tables and trips his opponent, but gets benched for unsportsmanlike conduct. Grandpa is still proud of Pete for trying.

When he wakes up the next morning, Pete decides to experience the day his way. He switches around the tags on the presents under the tree so he gets a present. When his bullies are positioned to attack with snowballs, Pete surprises them by striking first from behind. He steers completely clear of the power plug incident and even starts working on his football toss to impress Jake with his new throw. As the days go on, Pete gets better and better at perfecting the day: timing the football game so he scores the winning goal for his own team and ordering pizza just in time for dinner when Pamela's meal is ruined. Pete has a whole new confidence.

With no tomorrow to worry about, Pete convinces Grandpa to go on a shopping spree and they spend the day laughing and swapping stories. They end their day at an ice cream parlor, eating as many banana splits as they can. Pete even starts talking to Katie, the cute new neighbor, impressing her by knowing a lot about her already as he has the advantage of remembering all their conversations. As the day winds down, Pete is surrounded by his new toys and sweets in bed. But he knows it'll only last so long until the day starts all over again.

Pete realizes even though he's doing everything he wants, he isn't happy. He confides in Katie about his problem and asks her for advice. She grows serious, knowing if she could, she'd relive every day when her dad was alive. Realizing Katie has been through something very tough, Pete sympathizes and thinks hard about his own problem. She encourages him to use this gift for good and appreciate what he has around him. Likewise, as Grandpa leaves that night, he laments to Pete he is grumpy because he took the important things in life for granted—especially when his wife was still alive. He tells Pete if he ever gets a second chance in life, he should take it. Pete takes all this in and comes up with a plan.

Pete picks up his discarded electric guitar and starts to teach himself how to play. Soon, he is waking up early to practice and surprising his family members by being extra nice. When the family goes out caroling, Pete keeps everyone in high spirits and surprises them when he pulls out his guitar to make the performance extra special. At the football game, when Jake admits to Pete the coach at his high school benched him from the varsity team, Pete sets Jake up for the winning pass, boosting Jake's confidence.

Next, Pete tackles another problem—the disastrous dinner. After the power outage, he flips the oven back on so his mom's beef wellington can cook. But even when it's cooked, the dinner tastes awful, leaving Pamela disappointed in herself. The next time, Pete secretly adds some

(more)

### **HALLMARK CHANNEL/ 'PETE'S CHRISTMAS' – Synopsis – Page 3**

ingredients to her recipe and the beef turns out great, leaving Pamela pleased and everyone full. Pete even invites Katie and her mom over for dinner, having noticed they were eating alone. With his new cheerful attitude, Pete is determined to make Christmas perfect. But even with all his efforts, he still can't make Grandpa and Ronald stop fighting. After Grandma died, Grandpa pushed everyone away and Christmas reminds him of how his wife made everything. Pete knows when Grandpa is grumpy, he's really just missing Grandma.

Knowing Grandpa loved his wife's tradition of a beautiful golden star on top of the tree, Pete decides to make a gold rotating ornament decorated with old and new pictures of the family. Just as Grandpa is about to leave again, Pete stops him and points to the tree. Grandpa and Ronald are mesmerized by the star, reminding them of happier times when Grandma was alive. Ronald and the boys all stand in front of Grandpa, not letting him leave. Touched by the gesture, Grandpa agrees to stay and the whole family cheers and hugs. Pete smiles, glad to be stuck in this day after all.

Pete wakes the next morning and is shocked to see it is finally the day after Christmas. The family is gathered in the living room, reflecting on how nice it is to be together and what a great holiday it was. Pete is relieved, he finally made the day perfect. He convinces his brothers to throw a party at the house. All the neighbors and friends, including Katie and her mom, come over for the holiday celebration. As the Kidder family comes together, closer than ever before, they bask in each other's company as a shooting star streaks in the sky.

--HALLMARK CHANNEL--