

MISTLETOE MAN AND HOLLY

HOLIDAY MUSIC plays as the following lines appear over a BLACK SCREEN:

"THOUGH MANY ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF KISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE..."

The music switches to a more SOMBER, HOLIDAY TUNE when the following line appears.

"FEW ARE AWARE OF THE TRUE PARASITIC NATURE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PLANT..."

FADE IN:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Bright, festive, holiday lights and ornaments decorate local businesses and homes. HOLIDAY MUSIC plays from outdoor speakers.

HOLLY (female, 20's) is walking down a mostly empty block when she hears approaching FOOTSTEPS behind her.

She looks over her shoulder to see...

The MISTLETOE MAN (tall and thin male, mysterious with his face covered in a scarf and hat) following her.

Holly quickens her steps and rounds the corner into a...

EXT. SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

As Holly reaches the end of the block, she looks behind to make sure he is gone.

Satisfied, she turns around...

Only to run into him when he emerges from a corner.

She is about to scream when...

MISTLETOE MAN

Please listen! I don't want your money.

HOLLY

Whatever it is, you can have it.

MISTLETOE MAN

I want a kiss.

HOLLY

...A what?

The Mistletoe Man reaches into his pocket with his gloved hand and pulls out...

A mistletoe.

He holds the mistletoe above both their heads.

MISTLETOE MAN

Please. It's Christmas.

HOLLY

...if this is your way of trying to get me to come close so you can rob me--

MISTLETOE MAN

It's not. I swear. Search my pockets if you like. I've got no weapons. Just this mistletoe.

Holly considers Mistletoe Man's offer.

MISTLETOE MAN

If it will make it any easier, I'll put both hands behind my back and you can hold the mistletoe over us.

HOLLY

...No, it's fine. Just one kiss and that's it.

As Mistletoe Man pulls down his scarf with his free hand...

Holly reels back in horror at...

The clusters of mistletoe wrapped around his deathly pale face and neck.

HOLLY

...Are you sure you don't want to take my money, instead?

MISTLETOE MAN

But, you promised!

HOLLY

Fine!

She blows him a KISS.

HOLLY
Well that was fun. Merry Christmas!

Holly turns and tries to get away as fast as she can...

MISTLETOE MAN
Wait!

But Mistletoe Man catches up to her.

MISTLETOE MAN
I meant a real kiss.

HOLLY
I can't. I'm sorry!

MISTLETOE MAN
You're sorry? What about me?

He points to his face.

HOLLY
Get away from me!

MISTLETOE MAN
(grabs her hand)
You promised!

As Holly breaks free from his grip, she accidentally rips his glove off to reveal his frail, bony hand which is also covered in mistletoe.

Holly kicks him away. The mistletoe falls from his hand and onto the snow-covered ground.

She's about to run off when she hears SOBS behind her. Holly looks over her shoulder to see...

Mistletoe Man curled up against a wall, CRYING like a wretched, pathetic soul.

MISTLETOE MAN
...I'm sorry. I shouldn't have even asked. I understand. Really, I do. Please... just leave me alone and have a Merry Christmas.

A guilt-ridden Holly finally walks over, picks up the mistletoe and holds it over both their heads. She leans in...

KISSES him on his pale, discolored lips, then hands the mistletoe back to him.

A brief moment passes before...

Holiday magic!

The mistletoe clusters disappear from his hands and face and his pale features vanish as Mistletoe Man transforms into a strikingly handsome man before Holly's eyes.

Holly takes a moment to soak all this in as she stares at him with an amorous gaze.

HOLLY
 You know, if you like, we can head
 over to my place and make some real
 holiday magic...

But, the man formerly known as Mistletoe Man just tosses the mistletoe to the ground and takes off.

HOLLY
 ...or not. You're welcome... and
 Merry Christmas!

She looks down at the mistletoe.

HOLLY
 (sotto voce)
 At least try not to litter...
 ingrate.

Holly picks up the mistletoe, puts it in her pocket and walks off.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Holly continues down the street, then stops.

Something's wrong.

She looks down at her hands. Her eyes are filled with terror...

HOLLY
 ...Oh, no... no!

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

A handsome GENTLEMAN carrying a bag of holiday gifts strolls down the block whistling a HOLIDAY TUNE...

When he is startled by Holly, who walks up to him.

She is now recognizable as her pale face is now covered in clusters of mistletoe.

The Gentleman is taken aback as Holly raises the mistletoe above both their heads.

HOLLY
Please... kiss me!

He SCREAMS while in the background as the outdoor speakers now play the familiar SOMBER, HOLIDAY TUNE that was heard in the beginning.

FADE OUT.