

"Danny MacIntyre Meets the Molecule"

by
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1 INT. TV NEWS STUDIO - MORNING

1

A WEATHERMAN stands in front of a screen showing the New England area. The map indicates that a snowstorm is headed out to sea. The weatherman gestures at the screen behind him as he speaks.

WEATHERMAN

The snowstorm that deposited a widespread five inches of the white stuff across the area will soon be nothing more than a March memory. Temperatures will rise dramatically beginning tomorrow, and the snow will soon turn into slop.

(beat)

Sorry, kids. No more days off from school.

FADE OUT.

2 EXT. MACINTYRE HOME - LATE MORNING

2

DANIELLE ("DANNY") MacINTYRE, a ten-year-old girl dressed in a pink snowsuit and white mittens and hat, is busy in the snow. She has already built a snowman (complete with a carrot nose) and is now working on a fort. The occasional car passes by on the semi-plowed street well behind her.

The door to the house is opened. MOM pokes her head outside and speaks to Danny.

MOM

Danielle?

Danny stops what she's doing.

DANNY

Yes, Mom?

MOM

Lunch will be ready in about five minutes - grilled cheese sandwiches. You'll have to finish that snow fort after you eat.

DANNY

OK.

(CONTINUED)

MOM

And *please* be quiet when you come in. I think the baby has *finally* fallen asleep.

DANNY

I'll be in in a couple of minutes.

Mom shuts the door.

DANNY

Nothing like a Friday off from school with grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch!

SNOWMAN

(suddenly)

What's a "sandwich?"

Danny looks around, alarmed.

DANNY

(alarmed)

Who said that?

The voice *seems* to be coming from near the snowman.

SNOWMAN

I did.

Danny stands and walks over to her snowman.

DANNY

(surprised)

But you're a. . .

SNOWMAN

(exasperated)

Go ahead. Say it. I've heard it before.

DANNY

Snowman.

SNOWMAN

Well. . . not *exactly*.

DANNY

Snowmen can't talk.

SNOWMAN

Do you ever talk to yourself?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

No.

SNOWMAN

Well then, Danielle?

DANNY

(surprised)

You know my name?

SNOWMAN

I heard your mother call you that.

DANNY

I prefer "Danny."

SNOWMAN

If you say so.

DANNY

But how. . .

SNOWMAN

What's a sandwich?

DANNY

Huh?

SNOWMAN

A *sandwich*. You said you were going to have one for lunch, whatever that is.

Unsure, Danny starts easing her way toward the house - away from the snowman.

DANNY

I'll. . . uhm. . . tell you later.

SNOWMAN

Will you be coming back outside after. . . lunch?

DANNY

(unsure)

Probably.

SNOWMAN

Good, because I could *really* use your help with something.

Danny stops and turns.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

DANNY

What?

SNOWMAN

(urgently)

I'll tell you after your sandwich,
but it's a matter of life and
death!

FADE OUT.

3 INT. MACINTYRE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

3

Danny is seated at the kitchen table eating her sandwich
and sipping her milk. She has taken off her snowsuit and
is now wearing the jeans and sweatshirt that were
underneath. Her mother is seated across from her, opening
the mail.

MOM

How's the sandwich, honey?

DANNY

(nonchalantly)

It's OK.

Surprised, Mom puts down the mail.

MOM

(insulted)

Just OK?

DANNY

(over-
enthusiastically)

I'm sorry.

(beat)

It's *really, really* good.

MOM

What's wrong, Danny?

DANNY

(beat; shyly)

Mom, can snowmen. . . talk?

MOM

(chuckles)

Of course not.

(beat)

Have you been talking with one?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
(hurriedly)
Uh uh. Not me.

MOM
Good, because if you thought you
were, I was going to take you to
see Dr. Mulcahy.

DANNY
(longish beat)
You're *certain* about the snowmen?

MOM
Of course I am.
(beat)
Maybe in your storybooks or in the
movies they can, but in real life,
no. Snowmen can't talk. *Ever*.

Perplexed, Danny takes a big bite of her sandwich.

FADE OUT.

Danny is seated in the snow in front of the snowman.

DANNY
My mom said snowmen can't talk.

SNOWMAN
She's right.

DANNY
(confused)
But you said. . .

SNOWMAN
I *never* said I was a snowman.

DANNY
Of course you're a snowman. I made
you this morning.

SNOWMAN
Right, but *I'm* not a snowman. I'm
only a *part* of it.

DANNY
(confused)
Then what are you?

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

(proudly)
I'm a water molecule.

DANNY

(beat)
A mol-e-what?

SNOWMAN

Molecule. It's kind of like a drop
of water.

DANNY

And you're *inside* the snowman?

SNOWMAN

Right: B-17.

DANNY

What's *that*?

SNOWMAN

That's where I'm located. When
you've been a part of as many
snowmen as I have over the years,
you use a little shorthand.

(beat)
Everything's mapped out in here,
and I'm at B-17.

DANNY

Where's that?

SNOWMAN

In the head, just behind the
carrot. I can see and hear you
through the little cracks in the
snow.

DANNY

Do you like it in there?

SNOWMAN

It's alright. I've been in worse
places.

(beat)
The last snowman I was in, I was
at L-31 - the bum.

DANNY

Being a part of the head sounds
better.

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

It *is*. A lot of times, I don't even make it into a snowman. I just get shoveled off of driveways and walks by adults. It's better to be part of a snowman than to just lie off to the side somewhere.

DANNY

You said you needed my help?

SNOWMAN

I need you to save me.

DANNY

How can I do that?

SNOWMAN

It's going to get warm over the next few days. All this snow is going to melt.

DANNY

How do you know that?

SNOWMAN

I know about the weather. I can feel it. I'm *part* of it.

(beat)

Once this snowman melts, I'll just be in a puddle on the ground, which is no fun at all.

DANNY

What do you want me to do?

SNOWMAN

I want you to change the weather so it stays cold.

DANNY

(surprised)

Me?

SNOWMAN

Why not you?

DANNY

I'm just a kid, and people can't control the weather.

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

(confused)

No? Many times, when grown-ups
have been shoveling me off of
driveways, I've heard them angrily
talking about the meteorologist.

(beat)

Who's he?

DANNY

That's a fancy name for a
weatherman.

SNOWMAN

So he controls the weather?

DANNY

Nobody controls it.

SNOWMAN

What?

DANNY

It just. . . *happens*.

SNOWMAN

(incredulously)

You're kidding?

DANNY

No. When it gets cold - like this -
it just. . . gets cold.

SNOWMAN

Then what does this weatherman do?

DANNY

He tells us what the weather is
going to be.

SNOWMAN

How does he know?

DANNY

He has all kinds of sciency stuff.
He goes to school for a *long* time
so he can be on the news every
night. *That's* how he knows.

SNOWMAN

So he predicted this storm I fell
in?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Uh huh.

SNOWMAN

(beat; hopefully)

Are there places that are cold all the time?

DANNY

Yeah, but they're *awfully* far away.

SNOWMAN

Oh my!

DANNY

What's your problem? You said it was a matter of life and death.

SNOWMAN

It is. *Mine*.

(beat)

After this snowman melts, I'll *evaporate*.

DANNY

What's that mean?

SNOWMAN

I'll dry up, go away, and rise back into the clouds so I can fall again somewhere else.

DANNY

Sounds boring.

SNOWMAN

(sighs)

It *does* get repetitive. Boy, have I grown to hate those chats in the waiting room.

DANNY

The what room?

SNOWMAN

After I go back to the clouds, I go into a waiting room with the other water molecules until Mother Nature needs me. The other molecules are *always* bragging. . .

DISSOLVE TO:

5

INT. HEAVENLY WAITING ROOM - FLASHBACK

5

Three water molecules - 1, 2, and 3 - are floating near each other in a white, featureless room. They brag as they speak in an echo.

1

(bragging)

I was part of the rainy season in Madagascar.

2

(bragging)

I was part of a super-blizzard that hit Buffalo. We tied up the city for *days*!

3

(bragging)

I was part of a big hail storm that fell in Alabama. You should have seen all of us bouncing on the roads and sidewalks. What fun!

1 addresses another molecule, which is floating alone.

1

And how about *you*?

We see the other molecule. It speaks with the snowman's voice.

SNOWMAN

(ashamed)

I was part of a snowstorm in New England.

2

Again?

SNOWMAN

(sighs)

Yeah.

3

That's too bad.

(beat)

Maybe you're not ready for the big time?

DISSOLVE TO:

6

EXT. MACINTYRE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

6

Danny is still seated.

DANNY

That doesn't sound like fun.

SNOWMAN

It's not! I know that recycling is a good thing, but I'm *sick* of it.

DANNY

What can I do to help?

SNOWMAN

I can't simply evaporate again and go back to the waiting room with those snooty molecules.

(sighs)

They'll kid me even more when they learn that I was only a part of this little storm that didn't even happen in Madagascar.

DANNY

Where's that?

SNOWMAN

I have no idea.

(beat)

Danny, I need to go out in a *big* way this time - some way that none of the other molecules has ever done. I need something to brag about while I linger in the waiting room.

(longish beat)

Any ideas?

DANNY

(beat)

Not now, but I'll think about it.

SNOWMAN

We'll figure something out.

(beat)

Until we do, though, I need you to keep me from evaporating so quickly.

DANNY

How can I do that?

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

Do you have something in the house that you can put me in before the warm weather comes and I get recycled again?

DANNY

Mom probably has something in the kitchen we could use.

SNOWMAN

Great. Go get it, and I'll tell you what to do. Then we can decide how I can go out with a *bang*!

FADE OUT.

EXT. MACINTYRE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Danny holds her mom's spaghetti pot in front of the snowman.

DANNY

This ought to do it.

SNOWMAN

What is it?

DANNY

It's my mom's spaghetti pot. It's the biggest one she has.

SNOWMAN

Will she miss it?

DANNY

She shouldn't need it again for a week or so. We had spaghetti the other night. We won't have it again for a while.

SNOWMAN

Great, Danny. Get going!

DANNY

(beat)
Uhm. . . one problem.

SNOWMAN

What?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

How am I going to fit the snowman into the pot? It's not big enough.

SNOWMAN

You don't have to fit the *whole* snowman in there. Just the head. That's where I am - B-17.

DANNY

But what about all the *other* water molecules? Won't they melt too?

SNOWMAN

Is any other one of them talking to you?

DANNY

No.

SNOWMAN

Then they're fine with going back to the clouds. *I'm* not! Don't you worry about them.

DANNY

What do I do?

SNOWMAN

Pull the head off the snowman and stuff it into the spaghetti pot.

DANNY

Won't that *hurt* you?

SNOWMAN

Not at all, and you can leave the carrot behind.

Danny reaches out and, with a grunt, pulls the head off of the snowman.

DANNY

(hopefully)
Are you in there?

SNOWMAN

Yeah! Now push the head into the pot.

She does as asked.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Done!

She brushes her mitten-covered hands together to get rid of the clinging snow.

DANNY

Are you alright?

The snowman now speaks from the spaghetti pot.

SNOWMAN

Couldn't be better.

(beat)

Thanks.

DANNY

Now what?

SNOWMAN

We have to figure out my big day.

DANNY

But Mom will want me in soon.

SNOWMAN

Bring me with you.

DANNY

But you'll *melt* in the house. The heat's on.

SNOWMAN

Not a problem. I should evaporate slowly in the house. Maybe some of my more-content friends in the pot will evaporate *first*?

(beat)

Is there some place you can hide me until we make our plans?

DANNY

You can stay in my room - if you're quiet and don't get me into trouble.

SNOWMAN

No one will ever know I'm there. I'll be as quiet as a field mouse.

FADE OUT.

8

INT. DANNY'S ROOM - LATER

8

Carefully holding the pot in both hands and trying not to spill anything, Danny walks into her room, closing the door with her foot. She opens her closet door and carefully puts the spaghetti pot down on the floor.

DANNY

There!

(beat)

If anybody comes in, I'll close the door. Then you be *quiet*.

NOTE: THE SNOWMAN'S VOICE NOW HAS SOME BUBBLING WITH IT, AS HE HAS MELTED SOME.

SNOWMAN

Whatever you say.

DANNY

(concerned)

You sound different. Are you OK?

SNOWMAN

Sure - just melting a little.

(beat)

It's time to think about my big day.

DANNY

OK.

SNOWMAN

What do people do with water?

DANNY

Well. . . we *drink* it.

SNOWMAN

What does that mean?

DANNY

We put it into our bodies when we get thirsty.

SNOWMAN

Then what happens to it?

DANNY

Well, it. . . nah, forget that one. You wouldn't like what happens.

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

What else?

DANNY

We use it to wash our hands and
take showers.

SNOWMAN

That sounds promising!

(beat)

What happens then?

DANNY

It goes down the drain and into
the sewers.

SNOWMAN

(beat; uneasily)

Is that a . . . a *nice* place?

DANNY

Not really.

SNOWMAN

Strike two.

(beat)

What else?

DANNY

My mom *cooks* with water sometimes -
like when she made the spaghetti.

SNOWMAN

And then?

DANNY

No. You wouldn't like that either.

SNOWMAN

There must be *something* really
important that people do with
water. I don't mind going back up
to the clouds as long as I have a
cool story to tell the other
molecules for once.

DANNY

I'll sleep on it.

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

Me too.

(beat)

Uhm. . . what's "sleep?"

FADE OUT.

INT. DANNY'S ROOM - MORNING

Danny gets out of bed and quickly opens the closet door. She looks down at the spaghetti pot, which is now *only* holding liquid.

DANNY

You're all melted!

NOTE: THE SNOWMAN'S VOICE NOW HAS MUCH BUBBLING WITH IT, AS HE HAS MELTED ENTIRELY.

SNOWMAN

It was bound to happen. I'm fine.

DANNY

If you say so.

SNOWMAN

Did you think of any *big* thing for me to be a part of?

DANNY

(despondently)

No.

(beat)

Did you?

SNOWMAN

No. But we won't give up yet!

DANNY

You *bet* we won't.

(beat)

I have to head downstairs for breakfast or Mom might come up here to get me and find you.

SNOWMAN

And we don't want that!

(beat)

Will this "breakfast" involve water?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
Maybe, if she makes oatmeal.

FADE OUT.

As Danny enters, Mom is at the stove making oatmeal. Danny's eight-month-old little sister, MICHELLE, sits in her high chair, occasionally eating some Cheerios laid out in front of her.

DANNY
(approaching)
Good morning, Mom.

Danny gets nose to nose with Michelle.

DANNY
Hiya, Michelle.

MICHELLE
(giggles loudly)

MOM
Good morning, dear.
(beat)
Did you dream of talking snowmen
last night?

Danny pulls out her chair and sits at the table.

DANNY
Don't be silly!

MOM
Your oatmeal will be ready in a
few minutes. Have some juice.
(beat)
Say, I got some good news last
night.

DANNY
(sipping her juice)
What news?

MOM
Uncle Matt and Aunt Sharon are
coming over tonight. They just got
back from their vacation in
Ireland.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Is that anywhere near Madagascar?

MOM

I don't *think* so.

(beat)

What made you think of Madagascar,
of all places?

DANNY

Oh, I don't know.

(beat)

I think Mrs. Whitburn mentioned it
in school the other day.

MOM

Well, anyway, they'll be over for
dinner tonight, and I'm going to
make my special beef stew. You
like my stew, right?

DANNY

Oh yeah!

MOM

And Matt *loves* it.

(beat)

After I give your sister her bath,
I'm going to get started making
the stew. It takes a while.

DANNY

(nervously)

Will you need your spaghetti pot
for that?

MOM

Yes. It's the only pot I have
that's big enough.

FADE OUT.

The closet door is open. Danny holds a paper cup, which
she dips into the water in the spaghetti pot. She removes
the now-full cup.

NOTE: THE WATER IN THE POT BUBBLES WHENEVER THE SNOWMAN
SPEAKS.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Did I get you?

SNOWMAN

No.

DANNY

Darn!

She empties the cup back into the pot and tries again.

DANNY

How about now?

SNOWMAN

Nope.

(beat)

A little to the left.

She tries again.

SNOWMAN

My left.

Danny tries again. The water bubbles in the cup.

SNOWMAN

You got me, Danny!

DANNY

Finally.

Danny carefully puts the cup down on her night stand.

SNOWMAN

Why are we doing this?

DANNY

Mom's going to need her spaghetti pot.

SNOWMAN

I thought you said -

DANNY

I *did*. She surprised me. Parents do that sometimes.

(beat)

You'll be safe in the cup.

SNOWMAN

But I don't like it. It's cramped.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

DANNY
It'll have to do.
(beat)
Now I have to sneak the pot back
into the kitchen.

FADE OUT.

12 INT. DANNY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

12

Danny enters, closing the door behind her.

SNOWMAN
Did you do it?

DANNY
Yup. It's where she always puts
it. She'll never know it was gone.

SNOWMAN
That's good.

DANNY
She won't need it until after. . .

SNOWMAN
(beat)
What is it, Danny?

DANNY
I *think* I know what you can do to
go out with a *bang*.

FADE OUT.

13 INT. MACINTYRE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

13

Mom is giving a giggly Michelle a baby-tub bath in the
sink. A big, fluffy towel is on the counter top beside
her. Danny walks in, cup in hand.

DANNY
(approaching)
Hi, Mom.

Mom looks up and sees the cup in Danny's hand.

MOM
Hello.
(beat)
Thirsty?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

(quickly)
Oh yeah!

The water in the cup bubbles a little.

DANNY

How's Michelle's bath coming along?

MOM

Nearly done.

(beat)
She *really* needed one. She fell asleep early last night, and I didn't want to wake her for her bath.

Danny glances out the window.

DANNY

Who's that in the driveway?

MOM

Let me see.

(beat)
Mind your sister.

Mom puts down the washcloth, takes a few steps away, and looks out the window at the driveway. Danny quickly pours the bubbling water into Michelle's baby tub.

Mom returns to the sink.

MOM

There's no one there.

DANNY

They must have pulled away.

(beat)
What do you still have to wash?

MOM

Just her face.

Danny picks up the washcloth.

DANNY

This looks like good water.

She dips the washcloth into the "snowman water," which bubbles slightly.

(CONTINUED)

MOM
(chuckles)
If you say so.

Danny pulls the washcloth from the water.

DANNY
Can *I* wash her face?

MOM
If you like. Just be gentle.

Danny gently washes Michelle's face.

DANNY
(talking baby talk)
Scrub, scrub, scrub, Michelle.

MICHELLE
(giggles happily)

SNOWMAN
(sotto voce)
Oh boy! Oh boy!

Mom looks around.

MOM
(confused)
Did you say something, dear?

DANNY
Not me.

Done, she lays the washcloth over the rim of the baby tub.

MOM
(in baby talk to Michelle)
Who's a *clean* girl?

MICHELLE
(giggles)

Mom grabs the bath towel and scoops Michelle up in it, wrapping it tightly around her.

MOM
Thank you, Danny.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

MOM (CONT'D)

Could you empty the baby tub
outside while I take Michelle
upstairs to get dressed?

DANNY

Sure, Mom. I'd be *glad* to.

FADE OUT.

14 EXT. MACINTYRE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

14

Danny (now wearing her jacket) is seated on the stoop,
the full baby tub in her lap. The water bubbles as the
snowman speaks.

DANNY

You're *sure* you don't mind me
pouring you out?

SNOWMAN

Not at all. I need to head back up
to the clouds.

(beat)

Boy, what a day! That was a *great*
idea you had. Thanks, Danny.

DANNY

You're welcome.

(beat; grows a bit
misty)

Will I. . . ever see you again?

SNOWMAN

Maybe. I fall to Earth as Mother
Nature needs me. You'll see a lot
more storms before you grow up.
It's *possible*.

DANNY

(sniffs)

SNOWMAN

Are you alright?

A tear trickles down her cheek.

DANNY

(sniffs)

I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

SNOWMAN

(concerned)

What's that coming out of your
eye?

(beat)

It looks like. . . water.

Danny's tear plops into the baby-tub water.

SNOWMAN

Now we'll *always* be together.

Danny tips the tub slowly, watching the water glide down
the driveway.

SNOWMAN

(fading)

Goodbye. . .

DISSOLVE TO:

The three other water molecules are still floating
together.

1

(sarcastically)

And what about *you*?

2

Yes, what did *you* do this time -
another *little* snowstorm in New
England?

SNOWMAN

(proudly)

Nope. *I* washed the face of a human
baby girl.

Eager to hear, the other water molecules float toward
him.

3

(surprised)

Really?

SNOWMAN

Yes!

(CONTINUED)

1
(eagerly)
What was it like?

2
Tell us.

SNOWMAN
(teasing)
I don't know if I should.

3
C'mon!

2
It will pass the time.

1
Please.

SNOWMAN
(longish beat)
Well. . . since you said "please."

1
(eagerly)
What was it like?

SNOWMAN
(longish beat)
It was the *best* day of my life.

FADE TO BLACK.