

Belle's eyes water as she looks out the window. She is torn. Sadness or optimism? A "SOLD" sign wavers in the breeze as her father, Greg, argues with the moving truck man. Belle turns away. Breathes in. Closes the blinds. Smiles. She begins to tidy her room, one that looks like it hasn't changed since childhood: kid's books, toys, trinkets, and a dollhouse remain prominently featured.

In the living room, Belle plucks an old Christmas toy from one of the many cardboard boxes littering the floor and places it on the mantle. She puts a Christmas record on, lights the fire, and makes herself hot cocoa. As she sits about to put her head into a book, Greg enters with a stack of boxes. He is young, but tired and worn down. Belle glances at the boxes hopefully, but he shakes his head. Moving boxes, not presents. Greg warns that Christmas is going to be a little different this year. Belle rejects such a blasphemous notion. She will plan the perfect Christmas for them both. Greg is torn. He wants to support Belle, but worries that a perfect Christmas isn't realistic, especially this year. But he chooses support and Belle is off and running.

She develops a plan. Step one is getting the tree. Belle draws a picture-perfect tree and sticks it up on her vision board. As she pins it up, a loud noise echoes through the house. Belle goes to investigate. Greg seems to be dragging something in through the door. He is, clearly, struggling, and asks her for help, of which, it takes her a moment in her shock, before she helps him. Greg explains that he ordered a tree online this year. Cheaper and more convenient. Seeing Belle's crestfallen expression, Greg points out that they can still do decorating night.

Back in her room, Belle paces and takes deep breaths. She crosses out her tree drawing with red marker and tacks up one for decorating night. In the living room, the Christmas toy stares at her from its spot on the mantel, taunting her with memories of happier times. Greg pulls out cookie ingredients, and Belle is back in her element. As Greg watches Belle bake, his smile melts into wistful sadness.

While the cookies bake, Greg goes to get the decorations. He returns empty handed. He put the wrong boxes in the moving truck. The decorations are gone. Belle stands frozen. The perfect plate of cookies sits on the counter, untouched.

Before going to bed, Belle takes a final look at the dinky tree in the corner, adorned with lights and construction paper rings. In her room, she crosses out the second picture on her vision board.

The final steps are candle and pie making. Greg hands Belle apples from the grocery store. He starts to apologize about not being able to go apple picking like they usually do, but she stops him and gets to work... and it's impressive. She expertly lines up the apples and candle supplies. Once the pie is in the oven, Belle starts the process with the candles: melting the wax, prepping the wicks, and finding the right scents. Unfortunately, this activity distracts her from the pie. She turns around to find a smoke-filled oven, and then turns back to find the wax on fire. Belle panics and frantically puts out both fires. Greg runs in, worried, before seeing her safe with frizzled hair, face, and messy set up. He laughs, and she storms to her room.

Belle rips the final two drawings off the wall and sits in the middle of her now empty room. Greg comes in with the Christmas toy, and recounts the story of the day they bought it. Belle had a very specific vision of the toy that she wanted. None of the toys in the store were right. On the way home from the store, they stopped at a yard sale and discovered this one. Belle loved it. Greg tells her that it's time to accept that different doesn't always mean bad. Imperfection and happiness are not mutually exclusive. Greg leaves, and Belle starts packing up her room. She puts away all of the toys and trinkets but leaves the Christmas toy propped up on her bed, bringing it with her as she heads out.

For the first time, we see Belle leave the house. Belle and Greg drive to a downtown area. They buy candles and go to a cafe. Belle orders apple pie. It's not homemade, but it is delicious. The toy still watches, but it sees a different scene. The film closes once again with Belle's eyes, but this time filled with joy and hope.