

A Keepsakes Christmas

By Rich Orstad

Brief Description:

A KEEPSAKES CHRISTMAS is about the memories and magic of Christmas: think “Fried Green Tomatoes” meets “It’s a Wonderful Life”. Memories about holidays and loved ones are universal; we all have them. What if the only way to recall them was to hold an object, like an ornament or a keepsake, and rub a mysterious Christmas Stone which magically transports you back to the place and time of that specific memory. And what would you do if your lifetime of memories were threatened to be taken from you?

Logline:

When a social worker discovers that an elderly woman’s Christmas keepsakes have the power to magically transport them both back in time to the memory each holiday memento represents, she takes on the fight to save the senior’s home and her lifetime of precious holiday memories.

Summary:

A KEEPSAKES CHRISTMAS is about DEANA PRESTON (36), a social worker for the city of St. Louis with no time for Christmas who is assigned to visit and assess CLAIRE KELLEY (84) for wellness in an affluent suburban neighborhood. When Deana and her colleague-in-training, PETE HEDLEY (34) arrive, they find the house packed from stem to stern with Christmas souvenirs, tchotchkes, keepsakes, and mementos from around the world. It’s Santa’s Workshop on steroids.

When Pete leaves the room to take a call, Claire hands Deana a Niagara Falls snow globe and instantly the two of them are transported to the deck of the Maid of the Mist in 1958, in front of the mighty falls. As the deafening sound fills Deana’s ears and mist blows into her face, a young woman with a scar on her head winks at her from across the deck.... it’s Claire. Stunned, Deana lets go of the keepsake and instantly finds herself back in the present, confused yet amazed. And she leaves in a panic.

Deana later returns to learn that Claire has the power to magically transport to whatever memory a specific Christmas keepsake represents using her Christmas Stone trinket, given to her by her deceased husband and true love, SHAWN KELLEY, but also learns that she can’t retain those memories in the present day. These trips down memory lane start to reveal the mystery behind the Christmas Stone, how she gained possession of it, and Claire’s unique situation that led Deana to her doorstep.

But as outside forces, including Deana’s own department, threaten to separate Claire from her lifetime of precious memories, Deana takes the knowledge of these memory trips from the past and brings them into the present to help save Claire’s home. The quest to save Claire and her lifetime of Christmas memories helps bring Deana closer with her teenage daughter, BECCA, going through trials of her own with friends at school and the memory of her deceased father during the holidays.

When Claire is almost forced from her home and separated from her priceless keepsakes due to County regulations, Deana steps in and uses all the resources behind her to keep Claire in her home and connected to her precious Christmas memories. Deana entrusts the powers of Claire’s gift and her work friends to find what she needs through these memory trips and in the County system to keep Claire with her memories in time for Christmas. And in doing so, spreads the gift of Christmas through giving to others around her. And through Claire’s Christmas spirit and the magic of the Christmas Stone, Deana and Becca grow closer together while creating great memories along the way.