

# Keepsakes

## **Logline:**

When a social worker discovers that an elderly woman's hoarded keepsakes have the power to magically transport them both back to the memory each souvenir represents, she takes on the fight to save not only the elderly woman's home, but also her lifetime of precious memories.

## **Summary:**

'Keepsakes' is a family drama about DEANA PRESTON (29), a disillusioned and burnt-out social worker for the city of St. Louis who is assigned to visit and assess CLAIRE KELLEY (84) for wellness in an affluent suburban neighborhood. When Deana arrives, she finds the house in complete disarray and packed stem to stern with souvenirs, tchotchkes, keepsakes and mementos from all around the world. While Deana works to determine if Claire can take care of herself, Claire picks up a Niagara Falls souvenir and hands it to Deana. When Deana takes it, Claire rubs a trinket on her wrist and the two of them are instantly transported back in time to that specific memory, on the deck of Maid of the Mist, before the mighty falls. Stunned and amazed, Deana jumps back and finds herself back in the present, drenched to the bone. She leaves quickly confused and amazed.

Knowing something fantastical has occurred, Deana returns to learn that Claire has the power to magically transport them both to whatever memory a specific keepsake represents using her Navajo Memorystone trinket, the same used by the Native Americans to pass tradition from generation to generation. She also learns that Claire is unable to actively recall key aspects of life, risks losing her home to unpaid bills and her nosy neighbor JANIE WILCOX and promises to help her preserve her memories and keep her home. Through several 'trips' down memory lane, Deana learns about Claire's dead husband, her violent relationship with her alcoholic mother, and how Claire has ended up in her current situation. She takes this knowledge of the past into the present and tries to help Claire remember specific parts of her life to help her find out how she can save her home and her memories.

But when Claire is forcibly removed from her home because of fraudulent paperwork and outside influences, Deana attempts to use all the resources before her to free Claire from being held against her will by the County, allow her to stay in her home, and recover the memories of her life. As Claire's life hangs in the balance, Deana entrusts the powers of Claire's gift and her work friends to find what she needs to save her. This quest to save Claire and her keepsakes brings her closer together with her own alcoholic and troubled mother, more connected to the friends around her, and ignites a renewed purpose to her work and her outlook on life.

## **Setting and Scope:**

Based in St. Louis, this Family Drama script at 109 pages is meant to be low-budget.

## **Author:**

'Keepsakes' is a 2018 PAGE Finalist and also a 2018 Austin Film Festival Second Rounder. I have written seven additional feature screenplays and developed three TV pilots. I currently reside in Los Gatos, California.