

Keepsake Christmas

By Rich Orstad

Logline:

When a widowed 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 souvenir represents, she fights to save the senior's home and her lifetime of precious holiday memories, while learning to re-ignite those warm feelings of Christmas for her still mourning daughter. [Family, 100 pages]

Summary:

Widowed single mother DEANA PRESTON (36), a busy social worker just trying to get through the holidays is assigned to assess CLAIRE KELLEY (77) in her Saint Louis home. When Deana and her colleague PETE (34) arrive, they find the house packed with Christmas souvenirs, keepsakes, and mementos from around the world. It's Santa's Workshop on steroids.

When Pete leaves to take a call, Claire hands Deana a Niagara Falls snow globe and, in a FLASH, the two of them are transported to the deck of the Maid of the Mist in 1965 in front of the mighty falls. As the deafening roar fills Deana's ears and mist blows into her face, a young woman with a scar on her head winks from across the deck; it's Claire! Stunned, Deana drops the keepsake and finds herself zapped back to the present moment, confused yet amazed. So, of course, she runs away in a panic.

Unable to shake this experience, Deana returns the next day. Again, Claire takes her into the past and Deana realizes that Claire has the power to magically transport to whatever memory a specific keepsake represents using her Christmas Stone trinket given to her by her deceased husband and one true love, SHAWN. But Deana also learns that Claire can't retain those memories in the present day due to the accident that happened so long ago, and these trips down memory lane reveal the mystery behind the Christmas Stone, how Claire gained possession of it, and her unique wellness situation that led Deana to her doorstep.

But as a seedy City Councilman and her own Social Services department threaten to separate Claire from her home of precious memories, Deana uses information from these memory trips to help save Claire's home. The quest to save Claire's lifetime of Christmas memories also helps bring Deana closer to her daughter, BECCA (14), going through her own trials at school and home with the loss of her dad.

Deana steps in and uses all the resources behind her to keep Claire in her home 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 while creating wonderful new memories and honoring love and memories lost along the way together.

In the end, Deana realizes that we are only the collection of memories we make in our lives...so we might as well make good ones.

KEEPSAKE CHRISTMAS is a Top 3 Big Break Finalist and three-time Page Awards Finalist, and recent #1 All-Time Family Feature Screenplay on Coverfly Redlist.