

CHRISTMAS IN EVERGREEN

Written by

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**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

1	OMITTED	1
2	OMITTED	2
3	OMITTED	3
4	OMITTED	4
4A	TIGHT ON A STORYBOOK	4A

Open on the cover of a storybook, "CHRISTMAS IN EVERGREEN." The cover opens to reveal a GREENLEAF DRAWING of the town of Evergreen (TOWN\_SCENE\_FIN) as a folksy narration begins.

NARRATOR

In northern Vermont - so far north that on clear days you might be able to see the North Pole - lies the magical town of Evergreen.

DISSOLVE TO:

4B	EXT. EVERGREEN - TOWN SQUARE - DAY	4B
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A live shot that evokes the Greenleaf drawing - a snowy town all done up for Christmas with a tree in the town square and festive decorations on the buildings. We PAN over to The Kris Kringle Kitchen, a cute diner with a yuletide spin.

NARRATOR

Some say it was the decorations that made this little town so special. But others believed it was because of something else entirely... something you wouldn't expect at all.... a snow globe.

On this we push INTO the Kris Kringle Kitchen.

4C INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

4C

The inside of the restaurant is just as festive as the outside, and in a place of honor near the front counter, is a SNOW GLOBE with a miniature version of Evergreen inside it. A sign says "Make a Christmas Wish... But Only if You Know What Your Heart Really Wants."

NARRATOR

But this wasn't just any snow globe. No, they say that if you shake this one just so...

A child's hand reaches to grab the snow globe and shake it.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And make one wish, the true wish of your heart, Christmas magic will make it come true.

The child puts down the snow globe and we follow her and her parents out the front door.

4D EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

4D

The family comes out of the diner and we focus on a person getting out of an old, red pickup truck and walking the other direction, ALLIE SHAW (30s, fresh-scrubbed, All-American) who waves and says hi. We follow her as she walks, enjoying the Christmas scenery, and greeting others as she goes.

NARRATOR

Now, I know what you're thinking. Could a snow globe really grant wishes? Well, maybe the story of Christmas in Evergreen will help you believe.

As the narration ends, Allie heads off down the street.

4E EXT. ALLIE'S VETERINARIAN OFFICE - DAY

4E

Establishing shot of EVERGREEN VETERINARIAN CARE, which has a placard that tells us this is the business of ALLIE SHAW, DVM.

ALLIE (V.O.)

Okay, these guys have got their shots and are ready for their first Christmas.

4F

INT. ALLIE'S VETERINARIAN OFFICE - LOBBY - DAY

4F

Allie is standing next to a basket filled with 8(ish)-week-old puppies, sitting on the floor near the reception desk, on which sits a goldfish bowl.

HANNAH WHITFIELD (30s, bubbly, always wears a Christmas sweater), joins her, smiling broadly.

HANNAH

I can't get over how cute they are!

ALLIE

How's our new mother doing?

HANNAH

Molly definitely has her paws full with these guys. Oh, they sure are going to miss you.

ALLIE

I'll miss them, too. I'm going to miss all my furry patients.

HANNAH

Won't you have furry patients at your new job in Washington DC?

ALLIE

I'm going to be running a big clinic. I probably won't have time to tend to a bushel full of beagles.

HANNAH

(points at puppies)

Allie, aren't you going to miss this? Aren't you going to miss Evergreen?

ALLIE

Of course. But this is such a great opportunity. I can't pass it up. Hannah, you've got Dr. Myers' number in Montpelier, right? He's great.

HANNAH

But it's going to be different.

ALLIE

I know. But different can be good. For instance, having a bunch of puppies is different, and that's a good thing, right?

HANNAH

Definitely.  
(to the puppies)  
I hope I can find good homes for all you guys!

As Hannah pays attention to the puppies, Allie stands and sees the goldfish bowl on the desk.

ALLIE

Now, we just have to find a new home for you, Frank.

Allie leans over to get a better look at Frank.

5

INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

5

Allie comes into the restaurant carrying the goldfish bowl just as her parents, CAROL SHAW (60s, down to earth mom) and JOE SHAW (60s, pragmatic dad) come out of the kitchen.

CAROL

(tearing up)  
Oh, Allie! There she is, our baby.

ALLIE

Mom, no goodbyes yet. I just came to drop off Frank. Besides, you said you wouldn't cry.

CAROL

I'm not! I was... chopping onions.

ALLIE

I'll be back after Christmas.

CAROL

And then you'll be leaving again... For good. And all I'll have to remember you by is a goldfish.

JOE

Maybe I should take care of Frank.

Joe takes the bowl into the kitchen.

ALLIE

(take Carol's hands)  
 Mom, Washington DC has modern  
 conveniences - phones, Internet. I  
 hear they even have an airport now.

CAROL

I just want to make sure you're  
 sure about this. It's a big  
 change.

ALLIE

Mom, I'm sure. It's a great job.  
 And it's time for a change.

CAROL

I'm not talking about just the job.

ALLIE

We've talked about this. Spencer  
 and I are just testing the waters.

CAROL

You two broke up for a reason.

ALLIE

Because we couldn't make the long  
 distance thing work. Now we're  
 going to be in the same city. It's  
 really not a big deal.

CAROL

You're spending Christmas with him.  
 That seems like a big deal.

Allie goes to her mother and hugs her.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You're just hugging me to hush me  
 up, aren't you?

ALLIE

I'm hugging you because I love you.  
 The hushing part is just a bonus.  
 (glances at watch)  
 I have to go. I'll stop by on my  
 way to the airport.

She kisses her mom on the cheek and leaves while Carol goes  
 into the kitchen. A moment later Allie pokes her head back  
 in the door. She looks around to make sure her parents  
 aren't around and goes to the snow globe. She picks it up  
 and holds it, reverently. She shakes it so the snow inside  
 whirls around in a storm.

She looks around the diner lovingly and out the window at the town the same way, then closes her eyes and silently makes a wish. She holds it for a moment, then opens her eyes and smiles as she sets the globe down and goes to the door.

6 EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

6

Allie comes out of the diner and literally runs into NICK (60s, Santa-esque, jolly with a jaunty cap).

ALLIE

Oh, my gosh! Sorry about that.

NICK

(chuckles)

Nothing to be sorry for, my dear. In a hurry to get your Christmas plans started?

ALLIE

Yes. Heading out of town.

NICK

Well, be sure to check the weather before you go to the airport.

ALLIE

I did. It's supposed to be clear.

NICK

You never know. Mother Nature can be unpredictable!

He gives a jolly laughs, a wink, and a tip of his cap, then heads into the diner. Allie smiles and walks to her truck.

6A OMITTED

6A

6B EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

6B

Establishing shot of Allie's cute country cottage, which has some cheery Christmas decor on the outside.

6C INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

6C

Allie's house has some moving boxes around indicating she is going to be leaving soon, but it is still decorated for Christmas with lights, garland, a wreath, and more.

Allie rushes into the room with a suitcase and her purse, patting her pockets in the universal "did I forget something" sign, when her phone rings. She fishes it out of her purse.

6D EXT. WASHINGTON DC - DAY

6D

We hear a phone ringing over an establishing shot of Washington DC.

ALLIE (V.O.)

Hello?

7 INT. SPENCER'S OFFICE - DAY

7

SPENCER BURRIS (30s, handsome and slick) is on the phone in his fancy office, done with modern furnishings all framed around a nice view of Washington DC out the window. We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

SPENCER

(smiling)

Happy "Moving to DC Day!"

ALLIE

It's not moving to DC day yet!  
It's "Visiting DC to Sign the Lease  
on My New Apartment Day."

SPENCER

Do they make a card for that?

ALLIE

Probably.

SPENCER

I can't believe we're going to be  
living five blocks from each other.

ALLIE

The commute will be easier.

SPENCER

Well, I have incredible stuff lined  
up. Parties, dinners, oh, and  
Christmas day we're going to my  
boss' swanky estate out in the  
Hamptons. One of the partners said  
he'd let us use his helicopter to  
get there!

ALLIE

Helicopter? Spencer...

SPENCER

Get used to it. You're going to running a big practice here. It's not a little mom and pop shop in Evergreen, Vermont.

ALLIE

I know. And I'm ready for a change, but I just want to make sure we're on the same page. This is a trial run.

Allie exits her house.

7A

EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

7A

Allie comes out of the house with her luggage, takes it to her red truck, and puts it in the back.

SPENCER (V.O.)

Allie, I get it. I just want to put the last couple of months behind us and have a great time.

ALLIE

(tries to be positive)  
You're right. Absolutely.  
(fake enthusiasm)  
I love swanky parties.

She looks at her significantly less than swanky pickup truck.

SPENCER (V.O.)

Good. I have to get back to work.  
I'll see you tonight.

ALLIE

Okay. Bye.

Allie disconnects the call and looks at her truck, the house, and the neighborhood around her. She takes a deep breath, opens the door to the truck, and gets in.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

I can do swanky.

She tries to start the truck. It whirs and grinds but doesn't fire up. She puts her head on the steering wheel.

8

OMITTED

8

8A EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

8A

A sedan travels a highway through the snowy Vermont woods.

9 INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

9

RYAN BELLAMY (30s, handsome professional) is on a headset phone call while driving and his daughter ZOE (8, cute, too smart for her own good), is in the back seat, bored.

RYAN

(into headset)

No, the presentation went great.  
The hospital staff seemed very  
receptive...

Zoe sighs dramatically. Ryan notices and smiles.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Listen, I gotta go. Christmas  
calls. Bye.

(disconnects call)

Sorry. Last work call, I promise.

ZOE

You said that after the last one.

RYAN

Zoe, I'm officially on vacation.  
Now it's off to Florida and our big  
cruise on Christmas day! Won't  
that be fun?

ZOE

(tries to be enthusiastic)

Sure! We can have fun in Florida.

(innocently)

I mean, Christmas is supposed to be  
cold with snow...

RYAN

According to who?

ZOE

Santa. That's why he wears a suit.

RYAN

Okay, how about this? We'll turn  
up the air conditioning really high  
and we'll fill the pool with ice.

ZOE  
 (laughs)  
 Dad.

RYAN  
 (approaches her)  
 Or maybe we don't need any of that  
 because what's colder than... the  
 tickle monster!!

He starts to reach back to try to tickle her and she screams  
 in delight. He loves seeing her laugh. Then his phone rings  
 - he sighs.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
 Sorry, sweetie... just one more.

It's obvious that Zoe doesn't believe that but she puts on a  
 smile as if she does anyway.

ZOE  
 It's okay, Dad.

Ryan smiles back at her as he answers the phone.

10

EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

10

Allie is under the hood of the truck when MICHELLE LANSING  
 (40s, no-nonsense, a little high strung) walks up carrying a  
 box of large decorative plastic snowflakes.

MICHELLE  
 You could've walked to DC by now.

Allie extricates herself from the truck and sees the sheets.

ALLIE  
 We don't have enough real snow?

MICHELLE  
 They're for the Christmas festival.  
 You know, the one you're going to  
 miss?

ALLIE  
 Thanks for reminding me.

Allie tweaks one more thing under the hood.

MICHELLE  
 I'll tell you, whoever is taking  
 over the planning after you did it  
 for all those years must be crazy.

ALLIE  
You're doing it!

MICHELLE  
Like I said...

Allie slams the hood and goes to get in the truck.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Please tell me you're not taking  
this with you when you move.

ALLIE  
Michelle, this was my grandpa's  
truck. I love this truck.

MICHELLE  
Well, it obviously it doesn't love  
you.

ALLIE  
Why are we friends again?

MICHELLE  
(smiles)  
Because only a real friend would  
tell you that you're never going to  
get this thing started.

The truck starts up finally. Allie smiles at Michelle.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Great! Now you can give me a ride  
to the town square.

ALLIE  
I have to get to the airport.

MICHELLE  
It's on your way! And this is  
heavy!

Allie smiles, sighs, and nods. Michelle puts the box into  
the back of the truck and goes to get in the passenger seat.

11

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

11

Early preparations are underway for the annual Christmas  
Festival, for which we see a banner on the Town Hall that  
reads: "48th Annual Evergreen Christmas Eve Festival" Allie  
and Michelle, carrying the fake snow, come up to the front of  
the Town Hall where people are clearing real snow.

ALLIE

I really need to go...

MICHELLE

I just want you to see the layout.  
We're changing some things.

They go into the town hall.

11A INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

11A

The inside of the town hall is also abuzz with activity as people are working on the very early set-up of the festival. Michelle hands off the fake snow as she and Allie walk in and they barely have a moment to breathe before they see EZRA GREEN (30's, a bundle of motion and energy), the mayor of the town, approaching with a festival map.

MICHELLE

Oh, no. Here comes the "mayor." I haven't had enough coffee for this.

EZRA

Michelle! I have an idea.

ALLIE

Good morning, Ezra.

EZRA

(scowls)  
Former resident.

ALLIE

I haven't left yet!

MICHELLE

What's your idea this time, Ezra?

EZRA

I think we should have an app. You know, an interactive experience.

MICHELLE

The festival is in five days. We can't get an app made in five days.

EZRA

Well, we need to find some way to make the festival current. We need to shake things up.

MICHELLE

This is my first year in charge. I don't want to shake things up.

EZRA

It's my first year as mayor and I want things shaken.

MICHELLE

Your dad was mayor for 30 years and this was good enough for him.

EZRA

That's my point! We don't want this to be our parents' festival.

MICHELLE

(turns to Allie)  
Allie?

ALLIE

(hands up)  
Don't look at me. Soon to be non-resident, remember?

They are approached by BARBARA ROUSSEAU (50s, reformed professional type).

BARBARA

Hi, everyone. I came to help out.

ALLIE

Barbara! How's the inn coming?

BARBARA

Good! We're opening in two weeks. I can't believe it.

EZRA

It's so nice to have someone move to Evergreen to open a business...  
(pointedly to Allie)  
...instead of business owners moving away.

ALLIE

Ezra, if you keep being mean to me I'll tell them about the incident in second grade.

EZRA

(beat)  
Best of luck in your new job.  
(to Michelle)  
(MORE)

EZRA (CONT'D)

Michelle, since Doc Hadley retired and moved away, we need someone new to play Santa. I'm thinking we go against type: younger, handsome...

MICHELLE

(skeptical)

You want to play Santa?

EZRA

Well, I do fit the bill...

MICHELLE

I already found a guy in Burlington.

ALLIE

I think I saw him. He looks like Santa even without the costume.

MICHELLE

He's here already? I guess he needed to prepare for the role.

EZRA

Well, okay. If you want to be "traditional." But what about the children's choir? Can't they do some newer Christmas songs?

Michelle shakes her head and walks away as Ezra follows. Allie and Barbara laugh and follow.

12 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 12

The sedan continues through scenic, snowy Vermont.

13 INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY 13

Christmas music plays on the car stereo as they continue their drive.

RYAN

Okay, what letter are we up to?

ZOE

F.

RYAN

Let's see... Angels, Blitzen, Candy Canes, Decorations, Elves...  
Fireplace!

ZOE  
Fireplace isn't a Christmas word.

RYAN  
It's what Santa comes down.

ZOE  
Santa comes down the chimney.

RYAN  
I want a ruling from the judges.

ZOE  
Mmmmm... judges say no, sorry.

RYAN  
Man, they're tough. Okay... how about... fruitcake!

ZOE  
That's good. Okay, my turn for G... Hmmm... Angels, Blitzen, Candy Canes, Decorations, Elves, Fruitcake, and Gingerbread

RYAN  
Good one.

ZOE  
Except now I'm hungry.

RYAN  
(glances at watch)  
Okay... I think we have time to stop but not for very long. We've got a plane to catch.

She looks out the window and sees a merrily decorated sign that says "EXPERIENCE HOLIDAY MAGIC! SPEND CHRISTMAS IN EVERGREEN!" and has an arrow pointing off to the right.

ZOE  
Evergreen! Let's go there!

RYAN  
(shrugs)  
Okay... Sounds nice, I guess.

He slows and turns the wheel toward Evergreen.

15 OMITTED 15

16 EXT. EVERGREEN STREET - DAY 16

Allie is walking to her truck parked along the street all done up for Christmas - garland is strung around door frames and windows, the street signs and lamp posts are done like candy canes, a light snow gives it all a festive sheen. Her phone rings.

ALLIE

(into phone)

Allie Shaw. Henry? What's wrong?  
But she's not due for... Henry, I  
have to get to the airport, can't  
you call Dr. Myers? Okay. I'll be  
out there as soon as I can.

Allie gets in the truck and... it won't start again.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, come on. I know you don't want  
me to leave either, but this is  
getting ridiculous.

As she continues to try to start the truck, Ryan and Zoe pull up in the rental car and park behind her. They get out and Zoe is overjoyed by the holiday decorations.

ZOE

See? This is what Christmas is  
supposed to look like.

RYAN

Florida will look like Christmas,  
too. Only with palm trees.

Ryan notices Allie having trouble getting the truck started and he approaches the passenger window with Zoe. He knocks on the passenger window, startling Allie. She reaches over and rolls it down.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Hi. Do you need some help?

ALLIE

Oh, no, thank you. It'll start.  
Eventually.

RYAN

Are you sure? Because I know...  
absolutely nothing about old trucks  
but I can call someone who does.

ALLIE

(laughs)  
I appreciate that, but I...

The truck starts suddenly. They are all surprised.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, hey!

ZOE

Did you do that, Dad?

RYAN

You know, when I tell the story  
later, I fully intend to take  
credit for it, so yes.

ZOE

Can I say I helped?

RYAN

Sure.

ALLIE

(another laugh)  
How can I ever thank both of you?

RYAN

You could direct us to a good place  
to eat lunch.

ALLIE

The Kris Kringle Kitchen just down  
the street. Best diner in town.  
And I'm not just saying that  
because my folks run the place.

RYAN

Kris Kringle... Wow. You guys  
really take Christmas seriously  
around here, don't you?

ALLIE

Yes, we do. Thanks again for your  
help. Couldn't have done it  
without you.

RYAN

Anytime.

ALLIE  
Merry Christmas.

ZOE  
Merry Christmas!

Zoe waves as Allie pilots the truck away from the curb. Ryan watches her drive off for a moment, thinking about the chance encounter with someone he'll never see again. He and Zoe continue walking down the street.

16A INT. ALLIE'S TRUCK - DAY 16A

Allie glances in her rear view mirror, seeing Ryan and Zoe and smiling as she thinks about the chance encounter also.

17 EXT. HENRY'S FARM - DAY 17

Establishing shot of Henry's farm, a sprawling complex with a farm house, a large "new barn," and a smaller "old barn." Allie's truck pulls up.

18 INT. HENRY'S OLD BARN - DAY 18

Inside amongst the stalls with cows, horses, and a few chickens scattered about, Allie is examining a cow while HENRY HOLLOWAY (50s, curmudgeon) stands nearby watching.

ALLIE  
She's not in labor.

HENRY  
Are you sure? I heard her mooing.

ALLIE  
Cows moo, Henry. It's a fairly common occurrence.

HENRY  
It was a different kind. It was an "I'm about to give birth" moo.

ALLIE  
Well, you need a new cow to English dictionary because she's fine.

HENRY  
What are we going to do if it happens while you're gone?

ALLIE

Call Dr. Myers in Montpelier.  
Daisy will be in good hands.

They walk toward the entrance of the barn.

19

EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - DAY

19

They come out of the new barn toward her truck, which is parked in front of the old barn.

HENRY

That big city living is going to change you.

ALLIE

There's nothing wrong with change. I mean look at you. You built a new barn. That's a big change.

HENRY

Haven't moved into it yet, but it's still a barn.

ALLIE

And I will still be Allie. Just in a different place.

They continue toward her truck.

19A

EXT. HENRY'S OLD BARN - DAY

19A

They reach her truck parked in front of the old barn.

ALLIE

What are you going to do with the old barn after you make the move?

HENRY

Dunno. Tear it down probably.

ALLIE

See? More change. It's in the air. I have to get going. Merry Christmas, Henry.

HENRY

Merry Christmas, Doc.

She gets in the truck and it cranks but doesn't start.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Then again, some things never  
change.

It catches and grumbles to life. She waves and pulls away.

20

INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

20

There are quite a few people in the restaurant including the jolly Nick, sitting in a corner booth with a cup of hot chocolate. Joe is in the kitchen while Carol is at the counter where Ryan and Zoe are just finishing up lunch. Carol brings change from the check he has just paid.

CAROL

Here you go. Merry Christmas.

RYAN

Thank you.

Zoe is looking at the snow globe, sitting in its place of honor on a shelf near the cash register.

ZOE

Does the snow globe really grant  
wishes?

CAROL

Like the sign says, "Only if You  
Know What Your Heart Really Wants."

ZOE

Where did it come from?

CAROL

Nobody knows. We had just opened  
the diner, a long time ago, and it  
showed up on our doorstep with that  
sign. It's been here ever since  
and people come from all over to  
make wishes! It's an Evergreen  
tradition.

ZOE

Have you ever made one?

CAROL

I have. When I first got it, I  
wished to have a little girl just  
like you. And you know what? It  
came true. Why don't you give it a  
try?

Zoe goes to pick up the globe.

RYAN  
Be careful with it.

Zoe thinks for a moment then turns her back on her dad and the others for privacy. She shakes up the globe and watches the snow fall for a moment. She glances at her dad to make sure he can't hear her.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
I wish we could have Christmas here... like Christmas is supposed to be... not in Florida.

She turns back around and holds the globe out to Ryan.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
It's your turn, Dad.

RYAN  
No, that's okay.

Nick approaches with his check and money.

CAROL  
Oh, don't be shy.

RYAN  
(skeptical)  
I'm sure that whatever Zoe wished for is good enough for both of us.

Nick hands the check and money to Carol and smiles with a twinkle in his eye at Ryan's comment. Zoe puts the globe back on the shelf as Nick exits.

ZOE  
Thank you!

CAROL  
You're welcome! Come back and tell us how that wish turned out, okay?

ZOE  
Okay! Bye!

Joe and Carol wave as Ryan and Zoe exit.

22 OMITTED 22

22A EXT. EVERGREEN STREET - DAY 22A

Ryan and Zoe walk up to their rental car and Ryan opens the back door for her but she hesitates.

ZOE  
Can't we stay a little longer?

RYAN  
Zoe, the sooner we go to the airport the sooner we get to Florida!

ZOE  
(trying for her Dad)  
Florida will be great. But...

RYAN  
But what?

ZOE  
Just look at the place. Mom would've loved it here.

They both look around at the festive Evergreen decorations. It seems to thrill Zoe but it seems to make Ryan wistful.

RYAN  
Yes, she would've.  
(shakes it off)  
But Florida is going to be so much fun. I promise we'll have the best Christmas ever, okay?

ZOE  
(brave smile)  
Okay.

Ryan glances up at the sky, which is clouding up, as they get into the car and drive away.

23 EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY 23

Ryan's car drives past the Kris Kringle Kitchen just as Allie is pulling up to the diner in her old red truck, suitcases in the back. She gets out as her parents come outside.

JOE  
You on your way?

ALLIE

Yes. All packed and ready to go.  
Mom...?

CAROL

I'm not going to cry. You'll be  
back next week.

ALLIE

Exactly. We save the big emotional  
goodbye for then, right?

CAROL

Right.

ALLIE

Merry Christmas, Mom.

CAROL

Merry Christmas, sweetheart.  
Travel safe, okay?

ALLIE

I will. Bye Dad.

She hugs them and then goes to the truck. Carol looks at  
Joe, who is obviously emotional.

CAROL

Chopping onions?

Joe shakes his head at her and they turn toward Allie getting  
in the truck, waving with "goodbye" and "Merry Christmas" and  
it's a big emotional moment... and the truck won't start.

ALLIE

(to the truck)

Come on... it's time for me to go.

Finally the truck starts and Allie drives away just as the  
first flakes of snow start to fall.

23A

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

23A

Establishing shot of a small-city airport. It is snowing  
heavily now.

24

INT. AIRPORT - TICKETING - DAY

24

Ryan and Zoe have their tickets and head to security just  
missing Allie who is standing in line with her bags.

25 OMITTED 25

26 OMITTED 26

27 INT. AIRPORT - GATE AREA - DAY 27

Allie sits in a seat in an area servicing multiple gates with multiple flights. A few moments later, Ryan - who is on a call again - come into the same area and sit in the seats directly behind Allie (facing the opposite direction).

RYAN

Tell him that Dr. Bellamy called.  
I'll be back after the New Year.  
Okay. Thanks.  
(to Zoe)  
Last call. I promise.

ZOE

It's okay, Dad. I'm having fun.

RYAN

Yeah? What's been your favorite part so far?

ZOE

Evergreen, of course.

Allie hears this and turns around, recognizing them.

ALLIE

Well, if it isn't my mechanic and his assistant.

Ryan and Zoe turn and see her, surprised.

RYAN

Hey! What are you doing here?

ALLIE

(smiles)  
Well, this is an airport, so I think I'm flying somewhere.

RYAN

This is the place to do that.  
We're heading to Florida.

ALLIE

Washington DC. I'm Allie by the way.

RYAN

I'm Ryan and this is Zoe.

ALLIE

Hi, Zoe. How was lunch?

ZOE

It was great! I made a wish on the snow globe. I'm pretty sure it's what my heart wanted.

ALLIE

Well, my grandpa used to say "your heart knows what it wants even when your head doesn't." What did you wish for?

ZOE

I can't tell you or it won't come true. I'm starting to get worried that it's not going to.

ALLIE

Well, maybe if you just wish it again - give it a little boost.

ZOE

But I don't have the snow globe.

ALLIE

Oh, that's okay. It's very powerful and it'll hear you even all the way from here.

Allie looks at Ryan who smiles appreciatively. Zoe closes her eyes and makes her wish silently again. While she is doing so, a voice comes through the speaker system.

AIRPORT ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, due to the heavy snow we are closing the runways and cancelling all flights.

There are moans and groans from everyone but Zoe, who just sits back in her seat and smiles.

28 OMITTED

28

29 OMITTED

29

END ACT ONEACT TWO

30 OMITTED 30

31 OMITTED 31

31A GREENLEAF DRAWING 31A

Tight on a Greenleaf drawing - PLACEHOLDER TBD.

DISSOLVE TO:

32 INT. BURLINGTON COFFEE SHOP - DAY 32

Ryan and Zoe are standing near the hostess station of an airport coffee shop. He is hanging up the phone just as Allie comes in with her luggage.

ALLIE

(to Ryan)

Did you get a hotel?

RYAN

Yes. We're just going to grab a bite to eat. You?

ALLIE

I'm going back to Evergreen. It's not that far.

RYAN

Are you sure you want to drive in this storm?

ALLIE

My truck has seen worse than this. Hopefully everything will be back up and running tomorrow morning.

ZOE

(hopeful, but trying not to show it)

Does the plane getting cancelled mean we aren't going to Florida?

RYAN

We'll still have plenty of time to catch our cruise.

ALLIE

(for Zoe's benefit)

Oh, wow. A cruise? That sounds like a fun Christmas. Certainly a lot warmer.

ZOE

(for Dad's benefit)

Yeah. It'll be great.

ALLIE

Well, it was nice meeting you.

RYAN

Nice meeting you, too. Maybe we'll see you here tomorrow.

ALLIE

Maybe. If not, Merry Christmas.

ZOE

Merry Christmas, Allie!

Allie waves goodbye and heads for the door of the coffee shop as the hostess comes to seat Ryan and Zoe. They each give a quick glance back over their shoulder at the person they are both sure they will never see again.

33

INT. SPENCER'S OFFICE - DAY

33

Spencer is packing his briefcase and shutting the computer down when his phone rings. He answers.

SPENCER

Allie?

34

INT. ALLIE'S TRUCK - DAY

34

Allie is sitting in her truck talking to Spencer. We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

ALLIE

Hi. Bad news. The flight got cancelled because of the snow.

SPENCER

I was just heading out to the airport to pick you up.

ALLIE  
 Sorry. It'll be sometime tomorrow,  
 hopefully.

SPENCER  
 I'm working tomorrow.

ALLIE  
 That's okay. I can take a cab from  
 the airport.

SPENCER  
 I wanted to be there when you  
 landed. I even had one of those  
 signs with your name on it made.  
 Do you remember?

Sure enough, he has a sign that says "SHAW" on it.

ALLIE  
 (laughs)  
 Of course. I still can't believe  
 you thought I was your driver.

SPENCER  
 Well, I'm glad I did, otherwise we  
 never would have met.

ALLIE  
 I am, too.

SPENCER  
 (beat)  
 No second thoughts, right?

ALLIE  
 I didn't make it snow, Spencer.  
 Let's just get me there and then...  
 we'll see, okay?

SPENCER  
 Sure. Call me tomorrow?

ALLIE  
 (beat)  
 Okay.

She disconnects the call and thinks about it for a moment.  
 Maybe she is having second thoughts? She shakes her head and  
 tries to start the truck. It won't.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
 Oh, come on. Not now. I thought  
 you wanted me in Evergreen!

She continues to try to get the truck started.

34A

INT. BURLINGTON COFFEE SHOP - DAY

34A

Allie enters the restaurant, shaking the snow - and perhaps that phone conversation - off of herself.

ZOE (O.S.)

Allie!

Allie is surprised to see Ryan and Zoe at a nearby table, having just finished their meal. She approaches.

RYAN

I thought you were going back to Evergreen.

ALLIE

I was. I've been trying to get my truck started for the last hour.

RYAN

Do you want me to go pretend like I know how to fix it again?

ALLIE

(laughs)

No, that's okay. I'm going to grab a bite and try again. If it still won't start, I'll just get a hotel here. Anyway, good to see you...

ZOE

Sit with us, Allie! You can tell us about Evergreen.

Allie looks to Ryan who nods and offers her a seat at the table and she joins them.

ALLIE

Okay. Thanks.

(to Zoe)

So, what do you want to know?

ZOE

What do you do for Christmas?

ALLIE

Well, we have a big festival every year on Christmas Eve with games and a choir and food. People come from all over. It's one of the town's biggest traditions.

RYAN

What do you do there?

ALLIE

I have a veterinarian practice.  
Or, I did.

RYAN

Did your patients fire you?

ALLIE

(laughs)  
No, I'm moving to Washington DC for  
a new job and...  
(was going to say Spencer)  
...a change of scenery.

ZOE

So you weren't going to spend  
Christmas in Evergreen?

ALLIE

(nostalgic)  
No, for the first time in... ever.

ZOE

The festival sounds like fun.

ALLIE

It is.

Ryan gives her a look.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, but not as fun as Florida. I  
mean, come on. The beach! A  
cruise?!

ZOE

(smiles for her dad)  
Yeah. It'll be great.

ALLIE

Here, I've got an idea. Give me  
your napkin.

Allie takes the napkin and tears a few pieces out of it, then  
unfolds it to reveal a simple snowflake. Zoe is delighted.

ZOE

Cool!

ALLIE

My mom showed me how to do that.  
She said this way I'd always have  
some of the Evergreen Christmas  
magic wherever I went.

ZOE

Neat! Dad, look!

RYAN

I see. That's very nice.

ZOE

My mom used to make a lot of our  
Christmas decorations.

Allie sees the land mine here and there is a brief moment of  
silence at the table as Allie realizes that her troubles with  
Spencer are insignificant.

ALLIE

(to Zoe)

Do you want me to show you how to  
make these?

ZOE

Yeah!

ALLIE

Okay. We need more napkins.

Allie turns around to flag down a waitress. When she turns  
back around she catches Ryan's eye - he is smiling at her and  
mouths "Thank you." She smiles and nods and turns back to  
Zoe while he watches, maybe a little surprised by how much he  
is enjoying her being there.

34B EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

34B

Establishing the exterior of the Kris Kringle Kitchen as the  
snow comes down heavily.

34C INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

34C

Inside the restaurant, Joe is hanging up the phone and he  
turns to Michelle, Ezra, and Carol who are waiting for news.

CAROL

What did Allie say?

JOE

She got a hotel room. She'll try to fly out tomorrow morning.

EZRA

See? You know it's bad if they've closed the airport.

MICHELLE

Luckily we're not landing planes, we're just having a festival.

EZRA

My first festival and we get a blizzard. If we had an app, we would've known about this!

MICHELLE

Ezra, it's just snow. We live in Vermont, we're familiar with snow.

EZRA

Maybe we should have a contingency plan. In case something goes wrong

JOE

Ezra, relax. I'm sure everything will be just fine.

Michelle is hopeful, Ezra is skeptical.

- |     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 34D | EXT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT   | 34D |
|     | Establishing shot of the Town Hall with the Evergreen Festival banner as the snow comes down hard. The banner comes loose, flaps in the wind, and then blows away. |     |
| 34E | EXT. BURLINGTON - NIGHT/DAY  | 34E |
|     | Transition shot of Burlington from night to day.   |     |
| 35  | EXT. BURLINGTON HOTEL - DAY  | 35  |
|     | Establishing shot of a hotel in Burlington as it snows.  |     |

36 INT. BURLINGTON HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

36

The lobby of the hotel is crowded with unhappy travelers. Ryan is on the phone standing next to Zoe while Allie is at the front desk talking to the clerk who is emphatically shaking her head "no." Allie gives up and goes to join Ryan just as he hangs up the phone.

ALLIE

With all the flights cancelled again today they're full. They won't let me stay another night.

RYAN

Us either.

ALLIE

Well, I'm going to try one more time to get the truck started. If it does, you're welcome to come back to Evergreen.

ZOE

Yes!!

(eye toward her dad)

I mean, yeah, we could go to Evergreen again, right Dad?

RYAN

That's very nice but where would we stay? Is there a hotel there?

ALLIE

(beat - smile)

Sort of...

She pulls out her phone.

36A EXT. BARBARA'S INN - DAY

36A

Establishing shot of a charming country inn, complete with gabled windows, a cute front porch, and some Christmas decorations. Barbara is outside adjusting the wreath on the door when she hears the phone ring.

37 INT. BARBARA'S INN - LOBBY - DAY

37

Barbara walks through the lobby with Allie on the phone.

BARBARA

I'd be delighted to have them stay here.

(MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D)

As long as they understand that things aren't quite done yet. But I can make up a guest room in no time. Wonderful. I'll see you then. Bye!

She hangs up the phone and looks around the inn.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

How about that? My first guests!

She goes off to get things ready.

38

EXT. AIRPORT - PARKING LOT - DAY

38

Allie, Ryan, and Zoe all pile into Allie's truck.

ALLIE

Okay... fingers crossed.

Everyone crosses their fingers. Allie turns the key... and the truck starts on the very first try. There is much cheering and celebration.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Evergreen here we come!

She puts the truck into gear.

39

OMITTED

39

40

OMITTED

40

41

OMITTED

41

**END ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

FADE IN

41A GREENLEAF DRAWING 41A

TIGHT on a Greenleaf storybook drawing of people in a sleigh (SLEIGH RIDE FIN.PSD).

DISSOLVE TO:

42 OMITTED 42

43 INT./EXT. ALLIE'S TRUCK - DAY 43

We see a similar shot of a sleigh being pulled along a path and then PAN around to see Zoe looking out the window of Allie's truck at the scene. Zoe is delighted by it.

ALLIE

And about a mile down that road is the Christmas tree farm. Best one in Vermont.

ZOE

Dad, we should get ours there.

RYAN

It's a long way to go for a tree.

ALLIE

Every year, my grandpa would take me out here and let me pick our tree. I've always had a soft spot for the runt of the litter so I'd pick the smallest, neediest looking thing on the farm.

RYAN

That's actually kind of noble.

ALLIE

My mother never thought so. She'd take one look at the tangle of branches we'd drag in and... sigh.

RYAN

So you were looking out for the underdog... And still are.

ALLIE

(laughs)

Dog, veterinarian. Nicely done.

ZOE

Allie, my dad's a people doctor and you're an animal doctor. So you're kind of the same.

RYAN

Kind of. Except my patients can tell me where it hurts.

ALLIE

You've obviously never been near an unhappy animal.

Allie's phone rings. She answers.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Hello? Henry, I told you she's not due for another week... She what? Okay. No, I'm just heading back into town. It's a long story. I'll be right there.

(disconnects call)

I'm afraid we're going to have to take a detour.

Ryan looks at Allie wondering what is going on.

44 OMITTED

44

44A INT. HENRY'S OLD BARN - DAY

44A

Henry, Ryan, and Zoe are watching while Allie examines the cow.

ALLIE

Okay. Henry, you were right this time. She's definitely in labor.

HENRY

Told you I knew their moos.

RYAN

What can I do to help? I mean, I've never delivered a calf but I've delivered plenty of babies.

ALLIE

It all kind of works out the same in the end and I'll take all the hands I can get. Henry, go get my bag. It's behind the seat. Ryan, come over here and I'll show you what we need to do.

ZOE

What can I do?

ALLIE

(looks around)

You see those blankets over there? Can you get those and fold them up into squares?

Everyone heads off to do their respective chores.

RYAN

What are the blanket squares for?

ALLIE

To give her something to do to feel like she's helping.

Ryan smiles - a bud of affection blooming - and they get to work.

45

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

45

Michelle and Ezra are at the front of the town hall squabbling as it snows.

MICHELLE

We can fix it!

EZRA

We don't have the money to fix it!

Hannah comes up the steps to join them.

HANNAH

I just got your message. What's going on?

MICHELLE

I was just getting a lesson in municipal finances from Stingy McCheapskate over here.

EZRA

A water pipe burst in the town hall. Water everywhere, which then froze. It's like an ice skating rink in there.

MICHELLE

But we could fix it in time.

EZRA

Sure we could if there was enough in the town hall preservation fund, but the festival was raising money for the town hall preservation fund.

HANNAH

Which is kind of ironic if you think about it.

Michelle and Ezra look at her with glares that indicate they don't want to think about it.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Michelle and Ezra turn their glares on each other.

45A INT. HENRY'S OLD BARN - LATER

45A

While we don't see the actual event, we do see the newborn cow trying to stand for the first time. Allie, Ryan, Zoe, and Henry are watching in proud amazement.

Zoe tugs on Allie's sleeve and Allie kneels down next to her.

ALLIE

What's up, Zoe?

ZOE

Is the baby going to be okay?

ALLIE

(smiles)

Yes. Thanks to you.

ZOE

Me?

ALLIE

I wouldn't have been able to do it  
without you.

Zoe hugs Allie, surprising her for a moment, but then Allie  
hugs her back. Ryan watches, smiling.

HENRY

You know, Allie has a point there.  
Zoe, I think you should be the one  
to name her.

Zoe, eyes wide, goes to the edge of the pen and looks at the  
young calf.

ZOE

Okay, but this is big. I gotta  
think about this for minute.

Ryan and Allie smile at each other and Ryan nods his head to  
indicate to Allie to step away from Zoe's naming  
concentration. They step over toward the doors.

RYAN

Thank you.

ALLIE

For what?

RYAN

For making her feel... special.

ALLIE

There's lots of special in a moment  
like that. I'm happy to spread it  
around.

RYAN

Yeah... I had almost forgotten what  
delivering a baby is like.

ALLIE

You don't do maternity cases?

RYAN

I mainly do administrative work  
these days. I don't see patients  
as often as I used to. Days like  
today make me miss it.

ALLIE

(smiles)  
Yeah.

(MORE)

ALLIE (CONT'D)

My new job in DC is going to mean a lot less of hands on work like this. Days like today make me think I will miss it.

RYAN

I was just lucky enough to see how good you are with animals and I have a feeling that they're going to miss you being "hands on" as much as you will.

That statement makes Allie think.

ZOE (O.S.)

Okay, I'm ready.

Allie and Ryan head back over to the cow pen.

Zoe is standing by the pen, serious.

ZOE (CONT'D)

I have decided that the baby's name should be... Snowflake!

Everyone laughs.

HENRY

Seems appropriate.

They all go back to looking at the miracle in front of them.

46 OMITTED 46

46A OMITTED 46A

46B EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY 46B

Ezra, Michelle, and Hannah are still trying to figure out what to do as it snows around them.

MICHELLE

So what are we going to do? Cancel the Christmas festival?

HANNAH

No! You can't cancel the festival! The entire town looks forward to it all year.

EZRA

Well, the only way we're going to have it this year is if we find someplace else to do it.

MICHELLE

There's no place in town with enough space!

EZRA

(pulls out phone)  
That's it. I'm calling Allie.

MICHELLE

No, you're not! This is not her problem anymore!

She tries to grab for his phone but he walks away quickly.

47 OMITTED 47

48 EXT. HENRY'S OLD BARN - DAY 48

It's snowing hard as Allie, Ryan, and Henry come out of the barn. Ryan looks back inside.

RYAN

Zoe, we need to go.

ALLIE

A few more like that, Henry, and you might have to keep this old barn.

HENRY

Or finally put the new one to good use.

(looks at the storm)

It's really coming down again.

Allie's phone rings. She answers it.

ALLIE

Allie Shaw. Ezra? Ezra... Why are you saying ouch? Oh, hi Michelle. No, it's okay, I'm out at Henry's farm. What happened? Oh, no!

(to Ryan and Henry)

A pipe burst at city hall. They might have to cancel the festival.

(into phone)

(MORE)

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
Someplace else to do it? Oh, I  
don't know.

RYAN  
(into the barn)  
Zoe, come on!

When Ryan says that, it makes Allie turn back, smiling. But then her smile fades as she looks at the barn and then looks around.

ALLIE  
(turns to Henry)  
Henry... I might have a way that we  
could put that new barn to *really*  
good use.

On that we PULL BACK to get a wide shot of the barn and the snowy fields around it.

49

OMITTED

49

**END ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

49A GREENLEAF DRAWINGS 49A

Tight on a storybook drawing of a house in the snow (DIECUT SCENE RED FIN.TIF).

DISSOLVE TO:

50 EXT. BARBARA'S INN - NIGHT 50

A live action shot of the falling snow at Barbara's inn. An SUV pulls up and Allie, Ryan, and Zoe get out.

ZOE

It's beautiful! Dad, look!

RYAN

I see, Zoe.

Zoe goes running up to the door and Allie and Ryan collect the luggage from under a tarp in the back of the truck and follow.

51 INT. BARBARA'S INN - LOBBY - NIGHT 51

The inside of the inn is gorgeous and looks like it is ready for both guests and Christmas with beautiful decorations everywhere. Barbara leads Allie, Ryan, and Zoe through the lobby. Ryan puts down the luggage.

ZOE

It's like we're in a storybook!

ALLIE

When did you have time to decorate?

BARBARA

I did most of it this morning. I'm just sorry I didn't have time to get a tree!

ALLIE

I didn't get one either.

RYAN

Well, the inn looks beautiful, Barbara. Thank you so much for letting us stay here.

BARBARA

Are you kidding? I'm thrilled to have you. Let me show you the rest of the place.

RYAN

Go on ahead. We'll be right there.

Barbara and Zoe go into the adjacent living room while Allie stays with Ryan.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I just wanted to say thank you one more time for taking care of us today.

ALLIE

My pleasure. Hopefully the airport will be open tomorrow and you two can be back on your way.

RYAN

Yeah, although as detours go this has been a pretty eventful one. I doubt we'll be seeing too many cows on the cruise.

ALLIE

(smiles)

So why Florida for Christmas? If you don't mind me asking.

RYAN

No, I...

Ryan takes a beat, trying to decide how much to share with her - but he takes a deep breath and dives in.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Sarah... my wife... she died just before Christmas last year. It was hard, you know? Every Christmas tree, every candy cane, was like a reminder. So this year I wanted Zoe to have sunshine and palm trees and to stay as far away from Christmas as possible.

ALLIE

So of course I bring you to the Vermont version of the North Pole.

RYAN

North Pole adjacent. It's like a suburb of the North Pole.

ALLIE

(smiles)

If it's any consolation, she seems like she's doing okay. Better than okay. She's a great kid.

RYAN

Thanks. I wish I could take credit for it, but that's all Sarah. Even after pulling back from patient care, I work so much that...

ALLIE

I think you're too hard on yourself. You don't have to be Super Dad to be a good dad.

RYAN

(nods)

Well... anyway, thanks.

They smile at one another - there is a moment of connection between the two of them beyond just a simple smile.

Barbara comes back in from the living room. She points to something above them.

BARBARA

Careful, you two. You're standing under the mistletoe.

They both look up and... sure enough, they are. They quickly step away from each other.

ALLIE

Well... have a good night.

RYAN

You, too.

Allie goes out the front door and Ryan goes into the living room, both obviously awkward and embarrassed. Barbara just smiles.

51A

EXT. BARBARA'S INN - NIGHT

51A

Allie comes out of the inn into the falling snow and stands there for a minute, a little flushed.

She smiles and starts to head for her truck when her phone rings. The smile fades as she sees who it is.

ALLIE  
Spencer. Hi...

She gets in the truck.

52 EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 52

Establishing shot of Allie's house.

53 INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 53

Allie and Carol come into the kitchen, also decorated for Christmas like the living room we saw earlier. Carol is carrying food.

ALLIE  
You didn't have to bring me food.

CAROL  
I'm your mother. Of course I did.  
Why did you put up Christmas  
decorations when you're not going  
to be here to enjoy them?

ALLIE  
I couldn't help myself. I didn't  
get a tree so I'm not totally  
Christmas obsessed.

CAROL  
Just a little obsessed.

ALLIE  
Exactly.

CAROL  
Did you get Ryan and Zoe settled?

ALLIE  
They're at the inn.

CAROL  
He seems like a good guy.

ALLIE  
He is. Doctor. Single dad. I  
don't know how he does it.

Carol thinks that comment is interesting - does she like him?

CAROL

(beat)

So... have you talked to Spencer?

ALLIE

Just a little while ago, yes.  
Everything is fine.

CAROL

Okay. As long as you are doing  
what you think is going to be best  
for you, then I'm on board.

ALLIE

I am. And thank you.

CAROL

Evergreen is not going to be the  
same without you.

(beat)

I think that's part of why your  
father and I are talking about  
retiring.

ALLIE

You are?

CAROL

We're just talking about it. Well,  
your father is doing most of the  
talking. I'm listening politely.

ALLIE

You don't want to do it?

CAROL

I can't imagine leaving Evergreen.  
But if my brave daughter can start  
a new chapter in her life then  
maybe your father and I can, too.

Allie hugs her mom.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Don't tell anyone. Especially  
Ezra. I don't think his heart  
could take it.

Allie and Carol share a laugh as they let go.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I better get going. I'm going to  
be late.

ALLIE  
Where are you off to?

CAROL  
To spread a little Christmas cheer.  
(brainstorm)  
You know, I think maybe we'll swing  
by the inn for Ryan and Zoe.

ALLIE  
(tries to be casual)  
Christmas cheer, huh? Maybe I'll  
tag along. I could use some, too.

CAROL  
Great!

Allie goes to get her coat and Carol has moment where she seems to silently say "isn't that interesting?".

53A EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 53A

Allie and Carol come out of the house as we hear a classic Christmas carol being sung.

54 INT./EXT. BARBARA'S INN - LOBBY - NIGHT 54

The carol continues, now heard outside as Barbara comes into the lobby and Ryan and Zoe come down the stairs. Barbara opens the door to reveal the caroling group including Allie, Carol, Joe, Hannah, and others. As they sing, the snow continues to fall, making the scene even more magical. Allie and Ryan catch each other's eye more than once.

54A EXT. EVERGREEN - NIGHT/DAY 54A

Transition shot of Evergreen at night then at daybreak as the carol comes to a conclusion.

55 EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY 55

Establishing shot of the Kris Kringle Kitchen. There's more snow than the last time we saw it but it isn't actively snowing and it's a beautiful day.

56 INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY 56

Allie and Michelle are sitting at the counter while Joe and Carol work behind the counter. Ryan enters.

RYAN  
Good morning.

ALLIE  
Ryan, hi. Where's Zoe?

RYAN  
She's at the inn with Barbara. I heard the airport is open again so I thought I'd come and see if we could hitch a ride back with you.

ALLIE  
Of course. Oh, Ryan, this is my friend Michelle Lansing and I think you already met my mom.

RYAN  
(shakes Michelle's hand)  
Nice to meet you.  
(waves at Carol)  
Hi again.

Ezra enters just as Allie is finishing her intro.

ALLIE  
This is Dr. Ryan Bellamy.

EZRA  
(his ears perk up)  
Doctor?

ALLIE  
And this is our mayor, Ezra Green.

EZRA  
(shakes Ryan's hand)  
You're a doctor?

RYAN  
I am.

EZRA  
You know, our town doctor just retired and...

ALLIE  
Ezra, leave him alone.

EZRA  
Right. Sorry. More important matters at hand. Bad news, everyone. They had to shut down the highway.

ALLIE

What? Why?

EZRA

The storm last night caused a rock slide.

ALLIE

I can't believe this.

RYAN

Why is this a problem?

ALLIE

There's only one road in and out of town.

EZRA

And now it's blocked by a bunch of big rocks..

RYAN

(not happy)

Well, when will it be cleared?

EZRA

Tomorrow, maybe...

RYAN

Tomorrow? This is ridiculous. There must be some way to get out of here. Snowmobiles? Skis? Sled dogs?!

MICHELLE

(starting to panic)

Forget about getting out, what about people getting in? Nobody will be able to come to the Christmas Festival.

CAROL

Everyone in Evergreen can go.

MICHELLE

But people come from Montpelier, Burlington...

RYAN

Does anyone have a helicopter?

Everyone looks at him.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Just thinking out loud.

Ryan steps away looking at his phone.

MICHELLE  
Allie, what are we going to do?

ALLIE  
Why don't we meet at Henry's barn this afternoon and start setting up for the festival? If the road gets cleared, then great. If not, then this year it'll be just for Evergreen... and guests.

MICHELLE  
(calming down)  
Okay. Yeah... that's good.

EZRA  
You know, I think this is another good example of something that could be solved if we had an app.

MICHELLE  
Ezra, I swear...

She walks away and Ezra follows. Carol smiles at Allie.

CAROL  
I'll make sure they don't hurt each other.

Carol goes after Michelle and Ezra while Allie goes to Ryan.

ALLIE  
This is all my fault. If I hadn't brought you guys here...

RYAN  
No... you didn't cause the rock slide. Did you?

ALLIE  
(smiles)  
It wasn't me. I lent my jackhammer to a neighbor.

Ryan smiles and then sighs and shakes his head.

RYAN  
I really wanted this Christmas to be better...

ALLIE  
 (gently)  
 For Zoe?

RYAN  
 (beat)  
 Yes, of course.

ALLIE  
 Well, Since you guys are going to  
 be stuck here another day, how  
 about you let me help try to make  
 this Christmas better... For Zoe.

They both know they are not just talking about Zoe.

RYAN  
 (smiles - relief)  
 Okay... what did you have in mind?

ALLIE  
 Well... we have lots of snow...

Ryan wonders where she's going with this.

57 EXT. BARBARA'S INN - DAY 57

Ryan, Zoe, and Allie are in front of Barbara's inn, building  
 a snowman - laughing and having fun.

Allie's phone rings. She steps away and answers it.

ALLIE  
 (into phone)  
 Spencer?

58 INT. SPENCER'S OFFICE - DAY 58

Spencer is at work again. We begin INTERCUTTING between  
 them.

SPENCER  
 Hey. Are you at the airport?

ALLIE  
 No. The storm last night shut down  
 the highway. We're stuck here  
 another day... maybe longer.

SPENCER  
 Why didn't you stay in Burlington?

ALLIE  
 Because the hotels were full. I  
 would've had to sleep in the truck.

SPENCER  
 (sighs)  
 So, what's the plan?

ALLIE  
 Well...

She looks at Ryan and Zoe and the fun they are having.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
 I'm thinking at this point it might  
 make more sense for me to stay  
 here.

SPENCER  
 Allie, what about Christmas?

ALLIE  
 Spencer, my folks are talking about  
 retiring. This could be my last  
 Christmas in Evergreen.

SPENCER  
 I was really looking forward to  
 spending it with you.

ALLIE  
 I know. I was, too. But I'll be  
 there after the holidays and we  
 can... we can see what happens.  
 I'll call you tomorrow, okay?

SPENCER  
 Okay. Bye.

We stay with Spencer as he hangs up. He sits there for a  
 moment thinking, obviously not happy with this turn of  
 events.

59

EXT. BARBARA'S INN - DAY

59

Allie is looking at her phone, a bit thrown by that  
 conversation. She turns back to the snowman building to find  
 Ryan looking at his phone and Zoe making a snow angel.

ALLIE  
 Hey, I'm back.

ZOE  
Look, Allie. I made a snow angel.

ALLIE  
It's beautiful. Nice job.

ZOE  
Dad? What are you doing?

RYAN  
Looking up snow mobile rentals

Allie and Zoe look at him.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding. I'm emailing the  
airline about travel stuff.

ZOE  
That can wait. We have to finish  
our snowman!

RYAN  
You know what? You're absolutely  
right.

Allie puts on her best smile and goes over to rejoin the fun.

60 OMITTED 60

61 OMITTED 61

**END ACT FOUR**

ACT FIVE

FADE IN

61A GREENLEAF DRAWING 61A

TIGHT on a storybook drawing of Allie's red truck with a Christmas tree in the back (TRUCK W TREE FIN.PSD).

DISSOLVE TO:

62 EXT. BARBARA'S INN - NIGHT 62

A live action shot of Allie's red truck pulling up to the inn with a Christmas tree in the back.

63 INT. BARBARA'S BED &amp; BREAKFAST - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 63

Barbara is in the living room where a fire is roaring. She is going through some boxes of Christmas decorations, finding things to put up around the room. We hear the door open in the adjacent lobby.

ALLIE (O.S.)

Hello?

BARBARA

In here.

Allie, Ryan, and Zoe come in with a beautiful Christmas tree.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

What's this?!

RYAN

Well, we figured since we have impose on you for one more night the least we could do is get you a Christmas tree.

BARBARA

(overjoyed)

You didn't have to do that!

She directs them to a corner where they put the tree.

ZOE

Can we decorate it?

BARBARA

Of course! There are ornaments in the boxes in the lobby.

RYAN  
I'll get them.

ALLIE  
I'll help.

Ryan and Allie go into the lobby while Barbara and Zoe start to develop a strategy for the tree.

63A INT. BARBARA'S INN - LOBBY - NIGHT

63A

Allie and Ryan come into the lobby and start looking through boxes of ornaments.

ALLIE  
This was a very nice idea you had  
but doesn't exactly fit in with  
your stay as far away from  
Christmas as possible strategy.

Ryan looks over his shoulder to make sure Zoe is out of earshot. He speaks quietly to Allie.

RYAN  
I know. But there's something  
about this place that makes it  
tough to resist the holiday spirit.

He glances at her when she is looking in boxes, obviously meaning that she's the "something" but unable to say that.

ALLIE  
Evergreen will do that to you. I  
decorated my house even though I  
wasn't going to be here.  
(realizes)  
Although, I guess it's a good thing  
I did.

RYAN  
What do you mean?

ALLIE  
Oh... I don't think I'm going to DC  
for Christmas after all.

RYAN  
Why not?

ALLIE  
It's complicated.

This is where Allie does the same calculations Ryan did earlier - how much to share. She dives in.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
There's a guy.

RYAN  
(a bit disappointed)  
Oh.

ALLIE  
(quickly)  
An ex. Spencer. Two years of a long distance relationship that couldn't take the distance but we were going to spend Christmas together and...

RYAN  
Got it. You know, Sarah and I were long distance when we started out. I was in Boston and she was in this little town in Ohio.

ALLIE  
And you were able to make it work?

RYAN  
I guess we just knew we'd wind up together so it helped us get through it.

Allie is impacted by that statement, wondering why her and Spencer couldn't get past it.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I actually considered going there and becoming a small town doctor.  
(looks at Zoe)  
Now, I kind of wish I had. My job doesn't give me the kind of time I want to spend with Zoe.

ALLIE  
I think Mayor Ezra would love to hear you say that.

RYAN  
(laughs)  
Doc Bellamy. It's got a good ring.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
 (looks around)  
 This is not at all where I expected  
 to be three days before Christmas.

ALLIE  
 Same here.

RYAN  
 But... I guess it's not so bad.

ALLIE  
 (beat - smile)  
 Yeah. Not bad at all.

They glance at each other and share a smile. Zoe calls out  
 from the living room.

ZOE (O.S.)  
 Dad we need the ornaments!

Allie and Ryan smile and start taking boxes into the living  
 room.

64

INT. BARBARA'S BED &amp; BREAKFAST - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

64

The tree looks beautiful as they put the finishing touches on  
 it during the following.

ZOE  
 This is like the best tree ever!

BARBARA  
 I agree. I bet the one at the  
 festival won't be anywhere near as  
 nice.

ZOE  
 (to Allie)  
 Do they have a Christmas festival  
 where you're moving to, Allie?

ALLIE  
 Not like the one we have in  
 Evergreen.

ZOE  
 Then why do you want to move there?

ALLIE  
 I've lived here my entire life and  
 it's wonderful, it really is.  
 (MORE)

ALLIE (CONT'D)

But there's a whole big world out there beyond Evergreen and I'm ready to see it - I'm ready for a change. My grandpa used to say, sometimes the further away you get from where you started, the closer you get to where you belong.

ZOE

But what if you belong here?

Allie doesn't have a response to that.

BARBARA

Okay, Zoe... last ornament. Do you want to do the honors?

ZOE

Yes, please!

Barbara hands her the ornament and Ryan lifts her up so she place it on the tree. Barbara goes to the light switch.

BARBARA

Everyone ready?

She flicks the switch and the lights in the room go out while the Christmas tree and its lights go on. They all applaud and cheer the successful decoration job.

65 OMITTED 65

66 EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT 66

The barn is a buzz of activity with townsfolk setting up tents outside and booths and a stage inside, visible through the open barn door. Allie, Ryan, and Zoe walk up just as a children's choir, led by Hannah, starts to rehearse a traditional Christmas song inside the barn.

ZOE

Dad! Can I be in the choir?

RYAN

That's for the festival and we're not going to be here, remember?

Michelle walks out of the barn, looking stressed, followed quickly by Ezra, the source of her stress.

EZRA

Are you sure you want to put the craft booths in the back?

MICHELLE

(losing it)

Ezra! You are making me crazy. I am in charge of the festival. Me, not you.

EZRA

The festival is an important part of the town and I am the mayor of the town. Me, not you.

MICHELLE

Your dad retired and nobody else wanted the job!

EZRA

A win is a win.

MICHELLE

Ezra, I have everything under control and there are no problems.

Her phone rings and she answers it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Hello? Right. Okay. Got it.

She disconnects the call and all of her bravado is gone, replaced by panic.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Okay, now we've got a problem.

EZRA

I knew it!

ALLIE

Michelle, what's wrong?

MICHELLE

We're not going to have any food for the festival.

EZRA

What?!

MICHELLE

Mrs. Wallace and the ladies from the church usually handle the feast and the cookies but they went to Montpelier yesterday for a prayer breakfast and now...

CAROL

They can't get back because of the road.

MICHELLE

Yes. And even if it gets fixed tomorrow they're not going to have enough time to cook everything we need.

ALLIE

Well, then we just need to draft some other volunteers.

(addresses the crowd)

Hey everybody! Could I have your attention please? Raise your hand if you have a free kitchen.

People start raising their hands and we have a plan in place.

67 EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 67

Establishing shot of Allie's house.

68 INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 68

Allie, Ryan, and Zoe are hard at work making Christmas cookies while carols play in the background. They have made a lot of progress with cookies all over the kitchen and flour all over themselves. Allie and Ryan have a moment where they look at each other and smile, then look away a little embarrassed.

Ryan goes to the counter where all the ingredients are at. He picks up an empty bag of flour.

RYAN

What happened to all the flour?

ZOE

It's all over you, Dad.

RYAN

(laughs)

Yes, it is.

ALLIE

We're almost out of butter, too. Tell you what, why don't you take my truck and run down to the restaurant. My Mom and Dad will have plenty of extra supplies.

RYAN

Zoe, you're okay staying here with Allie for a little while?

ZOE

Uh-huh. Bye Dad!

ALLIE

(to Zoe)

Zoe, while we're waiting for your dad to get supplies, why don't I show you how to make more Christmas decorations?

ZOE

Yeah!

Allie goes to Zoe and Ryan smiles as he takes the keys.

69

EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

69

Carol and Ryan come out of the restaurant with a box full of ingredients to make cookies. Carol stops at the doorway.

CAROL

Well, that should cover you. If you need more, just come on back.

RYAN

Thanks, Carol.

She goes back inside and he heads for the truck but gets interrupted by Nick who ambles up.

NICK

Making cookies for Santa?

RYAN

It's for the festival. I don't think Santa could eat all the cookies we're making.

NICK

You might be surprised. But it's nice you're doing that.

RYAN

It's the least we can do. Everyone has been so nice to us.

NICK

Especially Allie.

RYAN

Yes. She's been great. I just wish I could return the favor.

NICK

Well, a little birdie told me that she doesn't have a Christmas tree.

RYAN

(smiles)

No... she doesn't. Thank you... uh.. I didn't catch your name.

NICK

I'm Nick. Merry Christmas.

Nick smiles, tips his cap, and toddles off.

70

INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

70

Allie and Zoe are having a great time making Christmas stockings.

ZOE

This is fun! It's like we're making Christmas.

ALLIE

That's true. You're having a good time?

ZOE

Uh-huh! Be sure to tell Dad, okay?

ALLIE

Why?

ZOE

He doesn't want me to be sad. He worries about that a LOT since Mom died. So I like to make sure he knows that I'm okay.

ALLIE

(beat)

You know, it's okay to be sad  
sometimes.

ZOE

I know. And I am sometimes. And  
so is Dad.

ALLIE

Well, that's normal. But you also  
get happy sometimes, right?  
Remembering all the great things  
about your mom. Stuff she used to  
do for Christmas, maybe?

ZOE

Yeah! Our favorite was finding a  
Christmas thing for each letter of  
the alphabet. Me and Dad play now.

ALLIE

That's nice.

Zoe holds up her stocking.

ZOE

What do you think?

ALLIE

I think it's beautiful!

ZOE

Me, too! See, isn't this better  
than boring old Washington DC?

Allie laughs as there is a knock at the door.

ALLIE

That probably your dad. I'll be  
right back.

She heads toward the living room.

71

INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

71

Allie comes into the living room and opens the front door.  
Nope... not Ryan... Spencer is standing there! A local taxi  
is pulling away from her house.

ALLIE

Spencer?!

SPENCER

Surprise!

He steps in and hugs her.

71A OMITTED 71A

72 EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE STAND - NIGHT 72

At the Christmas Tree stand in town, Ryan is picking out a Christmas tree for Allie.

73 OMITTED 73

**END ACT FIVE**

ACT SIX

FADE IN

73A GREENLEAF DRAWING 73A

TIGHT on a storybook drawing of a cute cottage in the snow with a wreath on the door (PPC.1029337AO.1)

DISSOLVE TO:

74 EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 74

Establishing live action shot of Allie's cottage.

75 INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 75

Allie is still stunned at Spencer being there.

ALLIE

Spencer, how did you get here?

SPENCER

Remember I told you about the partner who was going to let us use his helicopter?

ALLIE

Wait. You took a helicopter?!

SPENCER

Yes! Landed just outside of town and took a cab here. Come on! You have to admit that's really something.

ALLIE

Yeah, that's... something.

SPENCER

Look, I don't totally understand this whole "one last Christmas in Evergreen" thing, but I couldn't bear the thought of not spending it with you. So here I am.

Allie doesn't know what to think about all of this but doesn't have a chance to say anything as Spencer finally notices Zoe.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Oh... Hi. Who's this?

ALLIE

Oh, this is Zoe. Zoe this is Spencer.

SPENCER

Hey, Zoe. How do you know Allie?

ZOE

Me and my Dad met Allie on the plane and then we made snowflakes and then we came here and a cow gave birth and we built a snowman and now we're making Christmas cookies and decorations!

Spencer looks at Allie.

ALLIE

I was just going to say "it's a long story" but that pretty much sums it up.

Spencer is still confused.

76

EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT

76

Establishing shot of Henry's barn - a lot of the set up of tents and the like is done - everyone is gone for the night.

77

INT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT

77

Michelle is by herself working furiously but not terribly successfully on putting up lights. Hannah enters.

HANNAH

Michelle?

MICHELLE

Hannah? Why aren't you at home making fruitcake. You're in charge of fruitcake.

HANNAH

I finished.

MICHELLE

Well, then make something else!

HANNAH

Half the town is cooking. We're going to have enough food for the next five years of festivals.

MICHELLE

There is no such thing as "enough"  
when it comes to a Christmas feast.

Hannah goes to Michelle and takes the lights from her,  
guiding her to a bale of hay.

HANNAH

Michelle, come here.

Michelle sits reluctantly.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

You really need to relax.

MICHELLE

I can't. There's too much to do.

HANNAH

And we still have plenty of time to  
do it. It'll be fine.

MICHELLE

It has to be better than fine. It  
has to be incredible.

HANNAH

It will be. You're doing an  
amazing job.

MICHELLE

It's just... Allie always made this  
look so easy.

HANNAH

Allie had a lot of help. She  
didn't try to do it all by herself.

MICHELLE

Yeah. Okay.  
(chuckles)  
Maybe I should go make a wish on  
the Christmas snow globe.

HANNAH

You wouldn't be the only one.

MICHELLE

You made a wish? For what?

HANNAH

(beat - embarrassed)  
Well... you know how much I love  
Christmas.

Michelle opens Hannah's coat to point out the Christmas sweater she is wearing.

MICHELLE  
I'm familiar, yes.

HANNAH  
I... this is silly... but I wished that I could meet someone special, you know? Someone who loved Christmas as much as I did.

MICHELLE  
That's not silly. It's sweet.

HANNAH  
I just figured it couldn't hurt. I mean, it is Christmas. It's a time when magical things happen, right?

MICHELLE  
(beat)  
How late is the diner open?

Hannah smiles and puts her arm around Michelle.

78

INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

78

Allie and Spencer are in the living room but she is keeping an eye on Zoe who is in the kitchen making decorations.

SPENCER  
So you just brought this guy and his kid back here?

ALLIE  
Yeah, kind of. I know it sounds strange but there just weren't any other good options at the time.

SPENCER  
(beat)  
Did this have anything to do with you wanting to stay in Evergreen for Christmas?

ALLIE  
No! No, that's about me.

A honk is heard from outside. Zoe comes running in.

ZOE  
Dad's back!

They all head to the door.

79

EXT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

79

Allie, Zoe, and Spencer come outside to find Ryan pulling in with a Christmas tree hanging out of the back of Allie's truck. Ryan emerges with the box of ingredients, all smiles.

RYAN

What do you think?

ZOE

It's a Christmas tree!

RYAN

Yes! It's for...

That's when he sees Spencer.

ALLIE

Ryan, this is Spencer.

RYAN

Spencer? Washington DC Spencer?

ZOE

He took a helicopter to get here.

RYAN

Really? Can we borrow it?

SPENCER

No, they just dropped me off. So who's the tree for?

RYAN

(thinks fast)

Barbara. At the inn.

ZOE

We just got her a Christmas tree.

RYAN

Right. Well... that was the living room tree. This is the lobby tree. You can never have too many Christmas trees. Am I right?

ALLIE

(smiles)

Absolutely.

There is a bit of an awkward silence.

RYAN

So, listen we should go. Hopefully  
the road will be open tomorrow and  
we get can out of here.

SPENCER

Right. Escape from Evergreen!

RYAN

(forced laugh)  
Exactly.

ALLIE

Why don't you take my truck to  
deliver the tree and Spencer and I  
will walk up to the inn - see if  
Barbara can fix up another room.

She takes the box of cookie ingredients from Ryan.

RYAN

Okay. Nice meeting you Spencer.

SPENCER

You, too. Bye Zoe.

ZOE

(perfunctory wave)  
Bye.  
(big hug)  
Good night Allie.

Ryan and Zoe get in the truck and drive away. Allie and  
Spencer stand there for a moment silently.

ALLIE

Are you okay with walking?

SPENCER

(smiles)  
It's no helicopter, but... sure.

They set out for a walk.

80

INT. ALLIE'S TRUCK - NIGHT

80

Ryan and Zoe are driving back to the inn in silence.

RYAN

(shakes his head)  
I thought of a helicopter first.

ZOE  
What?

RYAN  
Nothing.

ZOE  
You should have gotten a tree for  
Allie's house.

RYAN  
(beat)  
Yeah. That would have been nice.

ZOE  
I really like Allie.

RYAN  
(beat)  
So do I.

Zoe sits back in her seat, unconvinced.

81

EXT. EVERGREEN STREET - NIGHT

81

Allie and Spencer walk down the main street where the Kringle Kitchen and her vet office are, cheery holiday lights and displays are everywhere.

ALLIE  
(beat)  
I still can't believe you took a  
helicopter to get here.

SPENCER  
Pretty cool, huh?

ALLIE  
Doesn't it seem a little...  
Extravagant?

SPENCER  
It only seems like that because  
we're not used to it.

ALLIE  
Still, you know me. I have pretty  
simple tastes.

SPENCER  
You have Evergreen tastes. You  
need to get used to Washington DC  
tastes.

ALLIE

I can still be me even if I'm  
living in a different place.

SPENCER

Oh, come on, Allie. Aren't you  
excited about starting your new  
life? Aren't you happy to finally  
be getting out of this little town?

ALLIE

I love Evergreen! I know it  
doesn't seem like much to you, but  
it's... this is my hometown. I  
mean, look around. This is what  
Christmas is supposed to look like.  
Not swanky parties in the Hamptons.

SPENCER

Look, I know you have a soft spot  
for this place. That's why I came  
all the way here to be with you.

ALLIE

And I appreciate it, but Spencer,  
we're supposed to be taking things  
slow. Testing the waters.

SPENCER

That's why I had to see you. I  
don't want to just test the waters.  
I want us to dive in. We love each  
other and we should be together. I  
don't need to take it slow. I know  
what I want.

(beat)

The question is, do you?

Allie is stunned by this development and it's pretty obvious  
that no, she has no clue what she wants at this moment.

82

OMITTED

82

**END ACT SIX**

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN

82A GREENLEAF DRAWING 82A

TIGHT on a storybook drawing of a Christmas wreath on a door  
(HANGING WREATH FIN.PSD).

DISSOLVE TO:

83 OMITTED 83

83A EXT. BARBARA'S INN - DAY 83A

Establishing shot of Barbara's inn with the wreath hanging on  
the door.

83B INT. BARBARA'S INN - LOBBY - DAY 83B

Spencer is checking his email on his phone when Ryan comes  
down the stairs. Ryan hesitates for a moment when he sees  
Spencer, but then continues on down.

RYAN

Good afternoon.

SPENCER

Hey. I was just checking flights  
to DC.

RYAN

You're not taking the helicopter  
back?

SPENCER

(laughs)

No. We can't use that favor more  
than once.

RYAN

We? I thought Allie said she was  
staying here for Christmas.

SPENCER

Well, she was, but we talked last  
night and I'm hoping she might  
change her mind.

RYAN

Oh... well, that's... that's good.

SPENCER

Yeah. I think once we get to DC  
and she gets settled in her new job  
it's going to be smooth sailing.

The front door opens and Allie comes in. She stops short  
when she sees both Spencer and Ryan together.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

There she is!

He kisses her on the cheek, taking her by surprise.

ALLIE

Hey, hi, Spencer.  
(to Ryan)  
Hi, Ryan.

RYAN

Hey.

Spencer can't help but notice that their greeting is a bit  
fraught. The three of them stand there awkwardly for a  
moment until Zoe comes down the stairs. She stops,  
immediately sensing the discomfort but not understanding it.

ZOE

Why is everyone just standing  
around?

That snaps them out of it.

ALLIE

Uh, we should get to the diner.  
Ezra is going to stop there with an  
update on the road.

SPENCER

Great. Let's go.

He heads out the door and then Ryan, Allie, and Zoe.

84

INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

84

Allie, Spencer, Ryan, Zoe, Carol, Michelle, and Joe are all  
standing by waiting to hear news from Ezra.

EZRA

Listen up, everybody. I have an  
update on the road situation.

RYAN  
It is open yet?

EZRA  
It's not.

There is a collective groan.

EZRA (CONT'D)  
But it will be by tomorrow night so  
we can have The Christmas Eve  
festival the next day as planned!

A cheer this time. As people shake hands and celebrate,  
Michelle steps over to the snow globe.

MICHELLE  
(whispers)  
Thank you.

Carol pulls Allie to the end of the counter.

CAROL  
Spencer flew in on a helicopter?

ALLIE  
Mom, don't start.

CAROL  
What happened to it not being a big  
deal? This seems pretty big.

ALLIE  
It's not. It was a small  
helicopter.

CAROL  
What about Ryan?

ALLIE  
What about him?

CAROL  
Allie, please. I can tell there's  
something happening between you.

ALLIE  
No, there's not. There's nothing  
happening and no big deal.

Carol obviously wants to continue this conversation but Allie  
gets a break as Ryan and Zoe approach.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
 (to Ryan - forced cheer)  
 Isn't this great? You can still  
 make it to Florida for Christmas.

RYAN  
 (also forced cheer)  
 Yes, that is great. Zoe, isn't  
 that good news?

ZOE  
 (for her Dad)  
 It sure is!

We follow her as she goes to the snow globe.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
 (whispers)  
 I'm counting on you!

She looks very determined.

85

EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

85

Allie, Ryan, Zoe, and Spencer all come out of the diner and  
 gather on the sidewalk in front.

SPENCER  
 So, if the road opens tomorrow  
 night, we can still make it to  
 Washington DC for Christmas.  
 (quickly to Allie)  
 If we decide that's what we want to  
 do, of course.

ALLIE  
 Right. We just have to decide...

She shoots a quick glance at Ryan who senses that there's  
 something going on but wisely decides to let it rest. Nick  
 comes out of the restaurant.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
 (to Ryan and Zoe)  
 So, we're all here for at least a  
 little while longer. What do you  
 want to do?

NICK  
 (smiles - to Zoe)  
 You know, I have heard it's going  
 to be a beautiful evening for ice  
 skating.

Nick tips his cap and ambles off.

ZOE  
 Good idea, mister.  
 (to Ryan, Allie)  
 Can we go skating?

ALLIE  
 There's a rink at the park.  
 Spencer, do you want to go skating  
 tonight?

SPENCER  
 I've got a conference call with an  
 overseas client. It might take a  
 couple of hours.

ALLIE  
 Okay, well do you mind if I go?

SPENCER  
 (beat)  
 No, of course not.

ALLIE  
 Okay. I'll check in later.

Spencer gives her a kiss on the cheek then goes back inside  
 the restaurant and Allie watches him go, deep in thought.  
 She shakes herself out of it and turns back to Ryan and Zoe.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
 Now we just need to find you some  
 skates!

ZOE  
 Yay!

They walk off down the street.

86

EXT. ICE SKATING POND - NIGHT

86

We see a few moments of Allie, Ryan, and Zoe having fun on  
 the skate pond with a few other people also enjoying the  
 beautiful evening. Whatever may have been troubling Allie  
 seems to be forgotten and the same goes for Ryan. Zoe keeps  
 skating as Allie and Ryan go off to the side to take a break.

ALLIE  
 (out of breath)  
 Does Zoe ever get tired?

RYAN

(same)

No. She would be out here all day  
if we let her.

ALLIE

How can there be that much energy  
in such a tiny little body?

RYAN

Medically speaking it's impossible.

They lapse into silence as Allie becomes contemplative. Ryan notices this.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Is everything okay?

ALLIE

What? Oh yeah. Great.

RYAN

Because if you want to go spend  
time with Spencer...

ALLIE

No, I'm having a great time.  
Besides he's working. It's fine.

RYAN

He seems like a good guy.

ALLIE

He is. I just don't know if...  
It's funny, we used to be in the  
same place even though we lived so  
far apart. We wanted the same  
things. Now that we're going to be  
living in the same place, I'm not  
sure we do anymore.

RYAN

What do you want?

Allie looks at him and Ryan realizes how that may have sounded. He softens it with a jokey smile.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I mean, what's on your wish list  
for Santa?

ALLIE

(smiles)

Let's see, a fairy tale castle.

RYAN

Well, sure.

ALLIE

A pony.

RYAN

Probably more reliable than your truck.

ALLIE

Hey, don't make fun of my truck. I love my truck.

RYAN

Hey, I'm your mechanic, so I do, too. Seriously, it's got character.

ALLIE

That was my grandpa. A real character. He always had wise sayings for any situation. Oh, and he loved to draw. He did these beautiful, snowy scenes of people taking sleigh rides and sledding and getting their Christmas trees. It felt like home.

RYAN

It felt like Evergreen.

ALLIE

Yeah. I guess that's what I really want for Christmas. That feeling I got when I looked at my grandpa's drawings.

RYAN

More than a pony?

ALLIE

(nods)

More than a pony.

(beat)

What about you? What do you want for Christmas?

He looks at Allie, thinking he could get used to that, and then he hears Zoe laughing. They look and watch her skate for a moment, a huge grin on her face.

RYAN

That. That's all I need.

He glances back at Allie.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Almost all.

Zoe skates by and yells out at them.

ZOE  
Come on, you guys!

RYAN  
I need to check to see if she has a battery pack or something.

Allie and Ryan laugh and then Allie's phone rings. She pulls it out of her pocket and looks at the screen.

ALLIE  
It's Michelle.  
(answers phone)  
Hey. Whoa, whoa... just slow down.  
What's wrong? Yes, Ryan is here.  
Okay, we'll be right there.  
(disconnects call)  
I hate to do this to you, but we need a doctor.

Ryan looks at Allie with concern.

87

INT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT

87

The new barn has been transformed with a stage, some tables for crafts and food, and more Christmas decoration than seems possible - trees, lights, garland, poinsettias, and more.

Hannah and Zoe are looking at the Christmas tree while Ryan and Allie tend to Michelle, who is sitting on a bale of hay looking pale. Ezra stands over her, worried.

RYAN  
What happened?

EZRA  
I don't know. We were talking about the festival and then she got all woozy and... is she okay?

MICHELLE  
No, I'm not okay. We don't have enough garland. The barn is... and outside... and there's just too much in two days and not enough and there was supposed to be...

Ryan slips into comforting doctor mode.

RYAN

Michelle, I need you to breathe.

MICHELLE

I don't have time to breathe!

RYAN

Michelle, do you remember the Twelve Days of Christmas? On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... what was it?

MICHELLE

Uh... Drummers. Twelve drummers drumming? Right?

RYAN

Yes. That's right. And then what?

MICHELLE

Uh... Pipers piping. Eleven.

RYAN

Right. Keep going.

MICHELLE

It's uh... I don't remember ten.

ALLIE

Lords...

MICHELLE

Ten lords a leaping. Right! And then it was nine ladies dancing, uh... eight maids a milking...

(calming down)

Swans, geese, five golden rings, calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and partridge in a pear tree.

RYAN

Good. How are you feeling?

MICHELLE

Better. What did you do?

RYAN

You were having a panic attack. Counting is one of the things that can alleviate it. I just thought we'd stick to a Christmas theme.

Allie sits and puts her arm around Michelle.

ALLIE  
Are you okay?

MICHELLE  
I am. I just... I really was crazy  
to think I could do this as well as  
you have for so long.

As Ryan speaks, Allie looks at him - affection growing.

RYAN  
Let me tell you something... I have  
never seen a group of people more  
dedicated to anything in my life.  
The way you have pulled everyone  
together and turned this place  
into... look at all of this.

They look at the barn, which does look great.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
This is what Christmas is about.  
The festival is going to be great  
and it's because of you.

MICHELLE  
(smiles)  
Thanks, Doc.

The children's choir starts rehearsing another traditional Christmas tune. They look and see that Zoe has snuck her way into the group. Allie and Ryan both smile and look at each other - she motions toward the door to ask him to outside.

88 OMITTED

88

88A EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT

88A

The tents and games are still being worked on outside as Allie and Ryan come out of the barn.

ALLIE  
That was impressive in there.

RYAN  
You birthed a cow. I think that  
wins the battle of impressive  
things that happened in barns.

ALLIE  
(smiles)  
Thank you.

RYAN  
(smiles)  
You're welcome.

Ryan holds her gaze for a moment and then glances over his shoulder.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I should...

She nods and he turns to go back inside. Allie is about to stop him when her phone rings. She looks at the caller ID and it is Spencer. She looks one more time at Ryan and then answers the phone.

ALLIE  
Hi, Spencer.

She watches Ryan go back into the barn, her smile fading.

**END ACT SEVEN**

ACT EIGHT

FADE IN

88B GREENLEAF DRAWING 88B

TIGHT on a storybook drawing of PLACEHOLDER TBD.

DISSOLVE TO:

88C EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY 88C

Establishing shot of the diner, a light snow is falling.

JOE (V.O.)  
Ezra just called...

89 INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY 89

Joe is behind the counter; Allie, Ryan, Zoe, and Carol are all on the other side waiting to hear the news. Nick is also at the counter close to the snow globe.

JOE  
...the road will be cleared  
tonight!

There are general exclamations of cheer about this although perhaps a bit muted from Zoe. She walks over to it.

ZOE  
I thought we had a deal.

Nick hears her and leans over to her.

NICK  
What's wrong, Zoe?

ZOE  
I made a wish and I thought it was coming true but now I'm not sure.

NICK  
Oh, well, was it something your heart truly wanted?

ZOE  
Yes! My whole body wanted it.  
Even like my toes.

NICK

(laughs)

In that case, I don't think you have anything to worry about.

ZOE

Are you sure?

NICK

I'm sure. You just have to be patient. Wishes are like Christmas cookies... it sometimes takes awhile for them to be fully baked.

Zoe smiles as Ryan comes over.

RYAN

Zoe, we need to get going.

NICK

What about you, Ryan? Have you changed your mind about making a Christmas wish?

RYAN

(laughs)

No. I don't really believe in that sort of thing.

NICK

You know, people get busy... and they forget about the magic of the holidays. But all they have to do is stop for a moment and open their eyes... because that magic? It's all around us. Even when they weren't paying attention, it still happens because no matter what... Christmas believes in you.

Nick pats Ryan on the shoulder as he leaves the diner. Ryan thinks about it for a moment and then picks up the snow globe, making sure no one can see him doing it. He shakes it and watches the snow fall inside of it over the mini version of Evergreen. He smiles, then glances over at Zoe and then Allie. He closes his eyes and makes a silent wish.

Ryan smiles again, opens his eyes, and then puts the snow globe down.

90

EXT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

90

Allie's red truck is at the curb. Allie and Ryan comes out of the diner as she is handing him her keys.

ALLIE

You can take my truck and just leave the keys with Barbara.

RYAN

Thank you.

They turn and look at the magical Christmas scene in front of him, a wistful smile breaking out on his face.

RYAN (CONT'D)

This really is a special place.

ALLIE

Yes. It is.

(beat)

So, you're all set?

RYAN

(wants to say no, but can't)

We are. Off to Florida.

ALLIE

That's what you wanted, right?

RYAN

(beat)

Right. And you're off to DC?

ALLIE

We're going to spend one more Christmas in Evergreen but then... Yeah. That's the plan.

RYAN

So you're getting what you wanted, too.

ALLIE

(also wants to say no)

Yes. It looks like it.

There is another beat of silence. Allie turns to him...

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Ryan...

Ryan turns to her, hopeful... but she just can't do it.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
Merry Christmas.

RYAN  
Merry Christmas.

They look back toward the town for a moment, then it's Ryan's turn to try.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Allie...

Allie turns to him, hopeful, but before he can say anything, Zoe comes out of the diner.

ZOE  
Allie, will you send me pictures of the festival? I want to see the stockings and the choir and the tree. Don't forget the tree.

ALLIE  
I won't. Especially since it's the only one I have this year!  
(beat)  
Merry Christmas, Zoe.

ZOE  
Merry Christmas, Allie.

They hug and then Allie turns to Ryan.

ALLIE  
Goodbye, Ryan.

RYAN  
Goodbye, Allie.

They hold their gaze for a moment and then he turns and heads to the truck with Zoe. Allie looks like she is holding back tears as she watches them get in the truck and drive off, waving.

91 INT. ALLIE'S TRUCK - DAY

91

Zoe is looking out the back as they drive away.

ZOE  
Dad? Where is Santa going to leave all of Allie's presents if she doesn't have a tree?

Ryan thinks about that for a moment and then smiles.

92 OMITTED

92

93 EXT. EVERGREEN MAIN STREET - NIGHT

93

A light snow has started to fall as Allie makes her way down the main street, which is merrily decorated with twinkle lights. Nick is standing on a corner, a beatific smile on his face. Allie sees him and walks over to join him.

ALLIE

Hi, are you ready for the Christmas festival tomorrow?

NICK

I'm definitely ready for Christmas. It's a time when wishes come true.

ALLIE

(unsure)

That's what I've always thought.

NICK

But you don't anymore?

ALLIE

No, it's not that. I still believe in Christmas wishes. But what if you're not sure what to wish for?

NICK

Is this about leaving Evergreen... or Spencer?

ALLIE

(surprised)

How did you...

NICK

It's amazing how much you learn while sitting in a booth at the town diner.

ALLIE

(smiles)

Right.

(beat)

Well... I guess it's about both.

NICK

You know that sign by the snow globe.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

"Make a Christmas Wish But Only if You Know What Your Heart Really Wants." It's been said that your heart knows what it wants even when your head doesn't.

ALLIE

My grandpa used to say that.

NICK

So what did you wish for on the snow globe?

ALLIE

I wished for all the people I love to have a Merry Christmas, even if we couldn't all be together.

NICK

And yet here you are, in Evergreen with all the people you love.

ALLIE

But I was supposed to be in Washington DC.

NICK

Well, you know... sometimes the further away you get from where you started, the closer you get to where you belong.

ALLIE

My grandpa used to say that, too!

NICK

He was a wise man. But there's more to the saying... Sometimes you wind up right back where you started, because that's the place you're supposed to be.

This is revelatory to Allie and she struggles to not cry.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oh, my dear. There, there.

He puts his arm around her and comforts her.

Allie is walking up to her house just as a cab pulls into the drive. Spencer gets out and goes over to her.

SPENCER

Hey, I was just on my way to the inn. I figure if we leave first thing in the morning, we can get to the airport and still make the firm's Christmas Eve party.

ALLIE

Right. The swanky one.

SPENCER

Unless you don't want to go to DC.

ALLIE

(beat)

Spencer, I'm sorry but... I want to stay in Evergreen.

SPENCER

(beat)

For Christmas or...

ALLIE

For Christmas and... I don't know.

(beat)

Why don't you stay here for Christmas? I know it's not a swanky party but I love this place and I love these people and I want you to understand why.

SPENCER

Allie... I love Washington DC. And I love my job and the people that I work with are really great. That's where I belong.

Allie nods and reaches out to take his hand.

ALLIE

I'm sorry, Spencer. I don't think it was just the distance that was getting in our way.

SPENCER

Allie...

ALLIE

You're supposed to be in Washington DC. And I'm not. I'm supposed to be here.

SPENCER

But what about your job?

ALLIE

I have a job. One where I get to deliver puppies and birth a cow! That's incredible! And I have a family and friends and Christmas in a place I love.

SPENCER

I think you're just nervous about making such a big change.

ALLIE

That's the thing, Spencer. I kept telling myself I was ready for this big change and I am but I don't need to go to leave Evergreen to find it. I think I've been telling myself that I needed more when everything I needed was right here all along.

SPENCER

What can I do to convince you that I'm right about this?

ALLIE

Spence... I think you're trying to convince yourself.

Allie leans in, kisses him on the cheek, and pats his arm.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas, Spencer.

SPENCER

Merry Christmas, Allie.

They let go and he walks back to the cab and gets in. It drives away as Allie turns toward her house and goes inside.

95

INT. ALLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

95

Allie flicks a light switch but instead of the lamps coming on, the room is illuminated by Christmas lights including a bunch on a festively decorated tree in the corner.

Allie gasps and her hand goes to her mouth as she walks around the room, looking at what has been done.

She gets to the tree and, in addition to ornaments, there is an envelope hanging from one of the branches with her name on it.

Allie takes the envelope from the tree, opens it, and pulls out a Christmas card. She opens it and we hear Ryan's voice reading what is inside.

RYAN (V.O.)

Allie... Zoe was worried that Santa might not have a place to put your presents if you didn't have a tree. We hope you get everything you want for Christmas. Even the pony. Thank you for everything. Ryan and Zoe.

Allie begins to tear up as she looks at the tree.

96

OMITTED

96

**END ACT EIGHT**

ACT NINE

FADE IN

96A GREENLEAF DRAWING

96A

TIGHT on a storybook drawing of PLACEHOLDER TBD.

DISSOLVE TO:

97 INT. ALLIE'S VETERINARIAN OFFICE (ALT: INT. ALLIE'S LIVING ROOM) - DAY 97

Allie is putting the goldfish bowl with Frank in it back on the reception desk as Carol stands nearby.

CAROL

Have you talked to him?

ALLIE

No, he went back to DC.

CAROL

Not Spencer. Ryan.

ALLIE

Why would I talk to Ryan?

CAROL

Allie, he bought you a tree! He bought you two trees, even if one of them did wind up in Barbara's lobby.

ALLIE

Mom, it wasn't like that.

CAROL

I know, I know. And I'm not saying that what happened with Spencer had anything to do with Ryan. Those are two totally separate things. But they are both... things. And you should make sure you're okay with how both of them ended.

Allie considers this for a moment, then glances at her watch.

CAROL (CONT'D)

They might not have left yet.

Allie kisses her mom on the cheek and rushes out the door.

98 INT. BARBARA'S BED & BREAKFAST - LOBBY - DAY

98

Barbara is behind the desk in the lobby when Allie comes in.

BARBARA

Allie! What are you doing here?

ALLIE

I was hoping to catch Ryan and Zoe before they left.

BARBARA

Oh, I'm sorry, sweetie. The cab picked them up about an hour ago. They're probably already at the airport by now.

Allie smiles a disappointed smile.

99 INT. AIRPORT - GATE AREA - DAY

99

Ryan and Zoe are seated in the gate area waiting to board. A gate attendant makes an announcement.

GATE ATTENDANT (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen in the boarding area for flight 993. We have been informed that there is a small mechanical issue on the plane and we will need to delay boarding. I apologize for the inconvenience.

RYAN

(sighs)

This sounds familiar, huh?

ZOE

We should go back to Evergreen!

RYAN

Zoe, the flight isn't cancelled, just delayed.

ZOE

So if it gets cancelled we can go back to Evergreen?

RYAN

No, honey, I'm sorry.

ZOE

I want a ruling from the judges!

RYAN  
 Sorry, kiddo. They're on my side  
 this time.

ZOE  
 But don't you miss it already?  
 Don't you miss Allie?

RYAN  
 (beat)  
 She's not mine to miss.

Zoe doesn't quite get what that means but she accepts her  
 father's arm around her shoulder anyway.

100 EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT 100

Establishing shot of the barn and the festival, with lots of  
 people having a very merry time. Outside there are carnival  
 style games with a holiday spin like "Pin the Red Nose on the  
 Reindeer" and "Snowball Toss" to knock over bottles in candy  
 cane wrapping.

101 INT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT 101

Inside the barn, the festival seems to be a huge hit. Adults  
 and children alike are laughing, enjoying the refreshments,  
 marveling at the big Christmas tree, looking at the crafts  
 tables of wreaths and stockings, and generally embracing the  
 spirit of the holidays. Allie, Michelle, and Hannah are  
 walking through the crowd appreciating the scene.

ALLIE  
 Congratulations, Michelle!

MICHELLE  
 (all smiles)  
 Thank you! I think we actually  
 pulled it off... maybe with a  
 little help from a snow globe.

Allie and Hannah are surprised and laugh in camaraderie.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
 (to Hannah)  
 What about you, Hannah? Any  
 developments on your wish?

HANNAH  
 (embarrassed)  
 Shhh, no! Mine was just a silly...

She is unable to finish that sentence because a man bumps into her. This is CHARLIE MCKINLEY, 30s and cute.

CHARLIE  
Oh, sorry. I'm so sorry...

HANNAH  
That's okay, it's...

They both realize that they are wearing the EXACT SAME CHRISTMAS SWEATER!

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
(love at first sight)  
I'm Hannah.

CHARLIE  
(ditto)  
Charlie.

They wander off as Ezra, Barbara, Henry, Joe, and Carol approach.

CAROL  
Merry Christmas, everyone!

MICHELLE  
Merry Christmas. Henry, thank you for letting us do the festival here. You saved Christmas!

HENRY  
Ah, no...  
(a small smile)  
You think?

JOE  
Michelle, everything looks amazing. Isn't it amazing, Ezra?

EZRA  
Well, actually, there's...

Everyone looks at him like "really?" He gets it.

EZRA (CONT'D)  
Not a single thing I'd change.

Michelle smiles and he and Ezra shake hands.

EZRA (CONT'D)  
And I just heard the great news that Evergreen's veterinarian is staying put.

ALLIE  
Yes, she is.

EZRA  
I just wish we could've convinced  
that doctor to stay.

ALLIE  
(sad smile)  
Yeah, me too. But he's probably in  
Florida by now.

Nick, in full Santa gear, comes into the barn much to the  
delight of everyone. Children and adults go over to greet  
him as he shakes hands, gives hugs, and more.

NICK  
Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!

Everyone in the group heads toward Santa.

102 EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT 102

Establishing shot of the Burlington airport.

103 INT. AIRPORT - BOARDING AREA - NIGHT 103

Ryan and Zoe are waiting to board their flight.

RYAN  
It shouldn't be much longer, honey.

ZOE  
It's okay, Dad.

RYAN  
I'm going to go see what's going  
on.

He stands up and someone bumps into him. It's Spencer!

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Sorry... Oh, hey. Spencer?

SPENCER  
Hey. What are you doing here?

RYAN  
We're still trying to get to  
Florida. You?

SPENCER

I'm still trying to get to DC. All the flights have been booked.

RYAN

(beat - hopeful)  
Is Allie with you?

SPENCER

No. She's... staying in Evergreen. Permanently.

RYAN

Oh. I'm sorry.

SPENCER

Thanks. I'm going to go check with the other airlines, see if I have better luck. Merry Christmas.

RYAN

You, too.

Spencer walks away and Ryan takes that in for a moment. Then he sits down next to Zoe.

ZOE

What's wrong, Dad?

RYAN

Nothing. This Christmas...

ZOE

It's been the best!

RYAN

Really? You think so?

ZOE

It felt like Christmas again. Like before Mom...

Ryan is shocked by that statement but thinks about it and realizes she's right. He puts his arm around her.

RYAN

It did, didn't it?

ZOE

I just don't understand why the snow globe didn't work.

RYAN

What did you wish for?

ZOE  
That we could have Christmas in  
Evergreen.

Ryan's face falls a little on that.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
(brave face)  
But Florida will be fun, too.

Another hug.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Did you make a wish?

RYAN  
I did. I wished for a merry  
Christmas.

ZOE  
And did it come true?

RYAN  
As long as I'm with you it's going  
to be a very merry Christmas.

ZOE  
So then your wish came true. I  
wonder why mine didn't?

A gate attendant comes on the PA.

GATE ATTENDANT (V.O.)  
Attention in the gate area all  
passengers for flight 993 to  
Orlando. I'm sorry to tell you  
that we are having some mechanical  
difficulties with the airplane and  
at this point it looks like we're  
going to have to cancel the flight.

Everyone in the gate area groans - except for Ryan and Zoe  
who look at each other and smile.

Santa is taking the last of the presents from a bag and  
giving them to kids. Michelle, Ezra, Hannah, Barbara, Henry,  
Carol, and Joe are all participating in the fun, laughing and  
having a great time. Allie is watching from near the door  
with a smile, feeling at home finally. She turns and exits.

105

EXT. HENRY'S NEW BARN - NIGHT

105

The outside of the barn is all lit up with lights, garland, wreaths, and Christmas decorations. It's provides a magical backdrop as Allie walks out and looks up at the clear sky.

NICK (O.S.)  
Merry Christmas, Allie.

Allie turns to see Nick as Santa standing behind her.

ALLIE  
Thank you, Santa. You did a great job in there. The kids loved you.

NICK  
They are the true spirit of Christmas.

ALLIE  
Do you need a ride back to town?

NICK  
(twinkle in his eye)  
Oh, no. I have my own transportation. But before I go, I have to ask you... did your Christmas wish come true?

ALLIE  
(smiles)  
I think it did. Maybe not in the way I was expecting it to, but... I guess I learned a little something.

NICK  
And what's that, my dear?

Allie turns to look up at the sky again.

ALLIE  
Sometimes you end up exactly where you're supposed to be.

RYAN (O.S.)  
I guess that's why they call it Christmas magic.

Allie smiles and turns around to see Ryan and Zoe - Santa is nowhere to be seen.

Zoe runs to her and they hug.

Ryan comes up and joins them.

ALLIE  
You came back!

ZOE  
Uh-huh! We missed you.

ALLIE  
(smiles)  
I missed you, too.

Hannah comes outside.

HANNAH  
Zoe! You're here. Do you still  
want be in the choir? We're on in  
a couple of minutes.

ZOE  
Can I Dad?

RYAN  
Go have fun.

Zoe runs off with Hannah. Ryan and Allie face each other as  
a light snow starts to fall. They are framed by the large  
barn doors, the stage visible in the background, and the  
colorful festival all around them.

ALLIE  
What are you doing here?

RYAN  
(shrugs)  
I heard you might be looking for a  
town doctor.

ALLIE  
(laughs)  
Careful. Ezra might hear you and  
never let you leave. Did your  
flight get cancelled again?

RYAN  
Yes, but that's not why we came  
back.

ALLIE  
It's not?

RYAN  
No. This has been a completely  
unexpected, amazing, magical  
Christmas... for both Zoe and me.  
And it's all because of you.

ALLIE  
I'm not moving to Washington DC.

RYAN  
I know.

ALLIE  
How...

RYAN  
It's where you're supposed to be.  
Allie, I don't know if this is  
where I'm supposed to be or not.  
But something keeps bringing me  
back here... like it's trying to  
tell me that I need to find out.

ALLIE  
(smiles)  
Maybe a Christmas snow globe?

RYAN  
(smiles)  
Maybe.

They look at each other and smile, then come together for a  
kiss. As they do, we hear the sound of sleigh bells and  
Nick's voice fading as it moves further away.

NICK (O.S.)  
Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!

Behind Allie and Ryan, the kids choir is on stage and they  
start singing a yuletide classic as the kiss continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

106 INT. KRIS KRINGLE KITCHEN - DAY

106

As the narration begins, we start a long slow PUSH down a  
long table set with a huge Christmas. As we PUSH down the  
table we see everyone... Barbara then Hannah and her new beau  
Charlie... then Michelle across from Ezra, still bickering  
but happily... then Joe and Carol, appreciating what they  
have created...

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Everyone agreed that the Christmas  
feast that year was truly special.  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Surrounded by family and friends  
old and new, the spirit of the  
holidays was all around them. And  
it lived on, for many yuletide  
seasons to come... but perhaps  
those are stories for another time.  
Until then, hold tight to the magic  
of Christmas... you never know when  
the next wish might come true.

As the narration concludes, we get to Zoe and the finally  
Ryan and Allie who kiss one more time, leaning into each  
other to reveal the snow globe on the shelf behind them. We  
PUSH IN TIGHT on the snow globe in which the snow is falling  
magically and then...

DISSOLVE TO:

107

GREENLEAF DRAWING

107

A storybook drawing of the snow globe, which we now see is a  
page in the book storybook we saw at the beginning. The page  
turns to one that says "The End."

FADE TO BLACK