

5 CONTINUED:

5

EVE

It's three weeks until Christmas.
There's still time.

SADIE

So, you're going to meet a guy,
fall in love, and get married in
the next three weeks?

EVE

If Santa got my letter.
(off Sadie's laugh)
You know, maybe you should be
writing one of your own. You broke
off your engagement over a year
ago. Isn't it time to put yourself
back out there?

SADIE

Eve, I haven't had time to find my
own place yet. I need a minute.

EVE

Okay. I get it. But maybe Santa
could bring you something else
you've been missing.

SADIE

Like what?

EVE

Come with me and I'll show you.

SADIE

Eve, I need to go back home to drop
off these sprinkles to my mom
before I go to work.

EVE

It'll be fast, I promise!

Eve smiles and heads toward the check-out and Sadie takes a
beat and follows, wondering what Eve is up to.

6 **EXT. CAMILLA'S PROPERTY - DAY 1**

6

Two cars pull up along a road adjacent to a wooded field. A
large sign reads "Mendoza Tree Farm" while another, smaller
one, says "CLOSED."

Sadie and Eve get out of their respective vehicles and Eve
points to the field.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

EVE
Merry Christmas.

SADIE
Why are we here?

EVE
Remember how the Mendoza's used to have all those holiday events?

SADIE
(smiles)
Of course. Santa's Village. The light festival. It's so sad that it closed. The town lost so many of its Christmas traditions.

EVE
Camilla Mendoza is one of my clients and she needs your help.

SADIE
Does she need a law professor to give a lecture here?

EVE
Camilla and her brother signed a contract to sell the land to a company that isn't doing what they said they'd do.

SADIE
Sounds like she needs a lawyer. Oh wait, you're a lawyer.

EVE
I do family law, not property.

SADIE
I don't practice anymore, Eve.

EVE
But you love this stuff! You did cases for Legal Aid. You brought in pro bono cases to your firm. You fought for the little guy. David vs. Goliath.

SADIE
Yes, but now, I teach future Davids how to fight future Goliaths.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

EVE

Sadie, you were one of the best property law attorneys around.

SADIE

Were. Past tense.

EVE

This is a one-time thing. Don't tell me you don't miss trying to help people since you moved back here.

SADIE

I like the new life I have here. I enjoy teaching law. I get to spend time with my mom and brother and you, my best friend since fourth grade. Santa has given me everything I need. Sometimes you have to let go and move on.

EVE

(beat - nod)

Okay. I had to give it a shot.

They go toward their cars.

SADIE

Oh, hey, I saw cars parked at the drive-in as we came over here. Do you know what's going on with it?

EVE

If they went to see a movie, they've got a long wait until it opens again in the spring.

SADIE

Who's been running it since Cole died last year?

EVE

Billy from the movie theater in town did it this past summer but he moved back to Pittsburgh.

SADIE

Cole was such a good guy. I hated that I couldn't make it back for the funeral, but I had that court date.

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED: (3)

6

EVE

Didn't you get the drive-in listed as historic or something?

SADIE

Yes. I did it as a favor for Cole a few years ago. We hoped it would help preserve the drive-in for future generations to enjoy.

(beat - smile)

Oh, I loved that place. I went every weekend until I turned sixteen and then I begged Cole to let me work at the snack bar.

EVE

And it didn't hurt that you had a massive crush on his son.

SADIE

(beat - lots of memories)

Holden.

EVE

That summer you two dated? It was like you were made for each other. I still can't believe you broke up after that.

It's clear that Sadie might have thought they were made for each other, too, but she changes the subject.

SADIE

(beat - looks at watch)

I really need to get going. Can't be late for the last class before winter break.

EVE

With all that time off, you're going to need something to do. Hmm, like what? I know! You could work on a really interesting property law case.

SADIE

Goodbye, Eve.

Eve smiles and gets into her car. Sadie takes a moment to look at the old tree farm then gets into hers as well.

9

CONTINUED:

9

HOLDEN

An hour. She wants to see the land before we sign the contracts.

BOBBY

Anything you want me to cover?

HOLDEN

You're the mayor, Bobby. Just talk up the town.

BOBBY

I'm good at that.
(looks at Holden)
Feeling nostalgic?

HOLDEN

(beat)
No. Not really. I worked here as a kid, but this was my dad's thing, not mine.

BOBBY

The distribution center is a huge win for Chesterfield but people are going to miss the drive-in.

HOLDEN

Not enough people. I've seen the books. It hadn't been making a profit for years. My dad was propping it up with his savings.

BOBBY

Being closed for half the year probably didn't help.

HOLDEN

Yes, but I think it was more about the times, you know? People just don't go to drive-ins anymore. Keeping it open doesn't make sense to the bottom line.

BOBBY

Still, it's a big part of Chesterfield's history. Oh, you should go look at the town's anniversary exhibit. There's a great picture of you and your dad down there.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

HOLDEN

Where's that at?

BOBBY

The library at the college. Today is their last day before winter break so you'll have to hurry if you want to see it

HOLDEN

I'll head over there later.

BOBBY

(beat)

Holden, let's keep the sale under wraps until it's a done deal. Chesterfield is the perfect location for Excelsia - they're going to be able reach all of upstate New York. But people in this town love their traditions and the drive-in was one of them.

HOLDEN

Got it. I'll make sure it's all wrapped up with a pretty bow and get it delivered by Christmas.

BOBBY

See? You are Santa Claus!

The sound of a car is heard and Holden and Bobby look toward the front drive to see a vehicle pulling up.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Show time.

They head toward the car.

10 **EXT. JUNE WALKER'S HOUSE - STOCK - DAY 1**

10

Christmas music plays as we establish a nice suburban house in Chesterfield, festively-decorated for Christmas.

SADIE (O.S.)

Mom?

JUNE (O.S.)

We're in the kitchen!

11 INT. JUNE WALKER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1

11

Sadie, carrying the sprinkles, enters the kitchen, which is overwhelmed with Christmas treats on every available surface. Managing the cooking chaos is LUKE WALKER (early 30s, impish grin) and their mother, JUNE WALKER (60s) who is at a table decorating cookies. A decorative sign hangs on the wall near the door that reads "Don't Give Up Before the Miracle."

SADIE

Mom, I got the sprinkles.

JUNE

Those are for Luke.

SADIE

(stops - stunned)

This is what I imagine the inside of Santa's workshop must look like.

Luke grabs the sprinkles and replaces it with a mixing bowl.

LUKE

Thanks. I'm catering a Christmas party for 150 people tonight and the snowmen profiteroles won't make themselves.

SADIE

What's wrong with your kitchen?

JUNE

It caught fire.

LUKE

It didn't catch fire. The oven overheated a tiny little bit.

JUNE

A fire extinguisher was used, ergo it caught fire.

LUKE

Sadie, please. Charlie Decker is going to let me borrow the food truck he doesn't use in the winter, but until then Mom's kitchen is all I've got and everything is taking twice as long as it should.

SADIE

You got this. I have to get to work.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SADIE (CONT'D)
(points at plaque)
Don't give up before the miracle.

LUKE
You stopping by WAS the miracle.

Luke hands her a mixing bowl and looks at her with barely controlled, pleading panic.

SADIE
(sighs)
Five minutes!

Sadie sits and starts to stir.

SADIE (CONT'D)
Hey, have either of you heard anything about what's going on at the drive-in? I saw cars in front of it this morning and the gate was open.

JUNE
Maybe Holden is selling it.

SADIE
What?

LUKE
(teasing voice)
Oh, Holden! She was in looove.

SADIE
I was not!

LUKE
He was the first boy she kissed.

SADIE
How do you know that? Did you read my diary?

LUKE
I was your bratty little brother. Of course I did.

JUNE
I remember you and Holden being an item and then...

SADIE
(not a good memory)
He went off to college.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

We can tell there's a lot more to this story.

JUNE

You really loved that place. Cole was like a second father to you.

SADIE

(with nostalgic affection)
Yeah, he was a good guy.

JUNE

Well, I can ask around.

SADIE

(stands)
Thanks. Okay, I'm late.

LUKE

No! Snowman profiteroles!

SADIE

(hands him the bowl)
Not a creature was stirring, especially sisters whose privacy was invaded by their little brothers.

LUKE

I'm never going to get this done!

Sadie points at the "Miracle" sign, smiles, and exits.

12 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - DAY 1**

12

Holden and Bobby are finishing their tour of the grounds with KENDRA OLDSTON (50s, business-focused but friendly).

HOLDEN

There's about another acre beyond the fences to the property line.

BOBBY

Lots of space to expand, Kendra. Fourteen beautiful acres, easy access to the highway, the long driveway you needed, and the center of town is only a mile away.

KENDRA

Relax, Mr. Mayor, I think it's perfect. Well, almost perfect.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Ideally, we like our centers to be surrounded by a wall of trees for beauty and privacy. But you can't have everything. Holden, you have other properties like this, right?

HOLDEN

I do. My company has holdings all over New England.

KENDRA

Well, we're in an aggressive growth mode. Once we get this done, I may be keeping you very busy.

HOLDEN

I like being busy.

Kendra notices a plaque on the wall of the snack bar about the drive-in's historic designation.

KENDRA

Now, the historic designation. Is that going to be a problem?

BOBBY

No. State and local governments set the rules, and they're different everywhere, but here, having it registered as historic doesn't mean it can't be sold or even torn down. It just means the local historic commission has to approve the plans.

KENDRA

And your local commission is...

BOBBY

Meeting this afternoon. And I'm on the board. It's just a formality.

KENDRA

Holden, this place must've meant a lot to your family.

HOLDEN

(beat)

To my dad, yeah. And listen, I loved and respected him, but this business. All we can do is remember the good times and move on.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

KENDRA

(kindly)

To moving on. Well, I guess we
have some contracts to sign.

Bobby and Kendra walk away as Holden takes a beat with his
memories, and then follows them.

13 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE - STOCK - DAY 1**

13

Establishing a small town college campus.

14 **INT. CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE - LIBRARY - DAY 1**

14

Sadie, who is carrying a small stack of books, is talking to
a couple of students in the library.

SADIE

I hear what you're saying, but
property law claims have to follow
the same rules as every other type
of lawsuit. For example, let's say
the Abominable Snowman wanted to
sue Santa over who owns the North
Pole. Santa could hire one of his
elves to be his lawyer, but the
Abominable Snowman couldn't. The
elf would want Santa to win, so
that would be a conflict of
interest. Even if the elf drew up
the contract for the snowman, it
could voided and thrown out
entirely. I think the moral of the
story is, property law saved
Christmas.

The students chuckle appreciatively at this.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Have a good break, everyone. Merry
Christmas.

The students walk away and Sadie starts toward a nearby desk
to drop off the books, but sees the Chesterfield history
exhibit nearby. She walks toward it just as Holden enters
the library - they barely miss seeing each other.

15 **INT. CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE - LIBRARY EXHIBIT - DAY 1** 15

The exhibit is a standing panel in the library that can be viewed from both sides.

Sadie approaches and looks at the material on one side.

Among photos and memorabilia of the town are many items about the drive-in, showing its popularity over the years.

One of the photos is of a man with a young boy standing proudly near the snack bar - Holden and Cole.

Sadie views it for a moment with melancholic nostalgia.

16 **INT. CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE - LIBRARY EXHIBIT - DAY 1** 16

Holden goes to the history display on the opposite side from Sadie so he doesn't see her at first.

There is a beat as they work their way around it, barely missing each other.

Holden sees the same photo that Sadie noticed - the one of him and his father. He looks at the photo, filled with nostalgia, a slight smile showing.

Sadie works her way back around to the side of the exhibit where Holden is standing and sees him. The surprise of him being there makes her drop a few books, drawing Holden's attention. He rushes to help.

HOLDEN
Here, I got it.

In the confusion, more books are dropped. Holden finally gets a good look at her and is surprised as well.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
Sadie?

SADIE
Holden. Hey! How are you?

HOLDEN
I'm... wow, I haven't seen you in what, twenty years?

SADIE
That sounds about right.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

HOLDEN

(beat)

So, what are you doing here? I thought you were in Chicago.

SADIE

I was. How did you know that?

HOLDEN

I may have looked you up on social media a few times. Plus, my dad would tell me things.

SADIE

Oh, sure. Of course. I'm sorry for your loss.

HOLDEN

Thank you.

SADIE

I was very fond of your dad. And I wanted to come back for the funeral but I was in court.

HOLDEN

It's all right. He would've understood. He was very fond of you, too. I heard all about you being a big-time lawyer. And you got engaged.

SADIE

I'm not anymore. Either of those things. I left Chicago about a year ago and moved back to Chesterfield over the summer. I'm teaching here, now.

HOLDEN

Oh, that's great.

SADIE

Yeah, no, it is. I love it.

(beat - change subject)

And I may have looked you up once or twice, too. You're a big hot shot real estate developer now.

HOLDEN

Well, I don't know about the hot shot part.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

SADIE

What brings you back to town?

HOLDEN

Oh, you know, just taking care of some stuff with the estate.

Sadie sees the photos of the drive-in on the display and goes over to them. Holden follows. She points at the one of the man and the young boy.

SADIE

How old were you there?

HOLDEN

I think, probably four?

SADIE

Wow. I mean, I went as often as I could but it must've... growing up there must've been magical.

HOLDEN

(beat - holding back)
It had its moments.

SADIE

Well, when it reopens in the spring I will be the first in line.

There is an awkward pause.

HOLDEN

Listen, I should get going.

SADIE

Me, too. It was good seeing you.

HOLDEN

Yeah, same. I'm leaving tomorrow or I'd say we should catch up.

SADIE

That's okay. We'll do it the next time you're in town.

HOLDEN

Right. Well... Merry Christmas.

SADIE

You, too.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

Holden smiles and walks away. Sadie stands there, a bit overwhelmed by the unexpected reunion. Her phone rings and she answers it.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Hi, mom.

17 OMITTED

17

18 INT. JUNE WALKER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1

18

The chaos continues in the kitchen but June ignores most of it while she talks to Sadie on the phone.

We begin INTERCUTTING between the two scenes.

JUNE

I just talked to Marie Cunningham. You remember Marie? She's the one who puts all the dancing elves on her lawn at Christmas?

SADIE

Sure. Hard to forget that.

JUNE

Well, she heard from Adele Myers that the drive-in is being sold and is going to get torn down.

SADIE

What?! Wait. Adele Myers? From Adele's bakery?

JUNE

She's also the head of the Chesterfield Historic Commission. They're meeting about it this afternoon. Holden is supposed to be there.

SADIE

(beat - not happy)
Mom, I'll call you back.

Sadie disconnects the call and looks around for Holden but he is long gone.

21 CONTINUED:

21

BOBBY

(politician smile)

Adele, I've told you, that's up to the planning commission to approve.

ADELE

But they don't meet until February and it'll be too late to get the patio done by spring. Now, if the mayor encouraged them to call a special session...

BOBBY

You know how Tom runs that commission. He won't change it just because I ask him to.

Bobby gives her a reassuring pat on the shoulder and heads toward his seat. Adele smiles but obviously isn't pleased.

22 INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 1

22

The meeting is in progress.

ADELE

Okay, on to our final item. Should the historic commission approve of the demolition of McCarthy Drive-In? Speaking in favor?

Holden raises his hand and approaches a lectern.

HOLDEN

Good afternoon. I'm Holden McCarthy. My dad was Cole McCarthy.

ADELE

We're very sorry for your loss.

HOLDEN

I appreciate that. I'll be brief. You've all seen the proposal for the Excelsia distribution center. This region has had a bit of an economic slowdown, and this could be the thing that turns it all around. It'll create hundreds of new jobs and have a huge economic impact on the town. And while I understand that losing the drive-in will be sad for some people...

(glances at Sadie)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

I believe this will be a good thing for Chesterfield.

ADELE

Thank you, Holden. Are there any speakers against the proposal?

Sadie gets up and passes Holden as she goes to the lectern.

SADIE

I'm Sadie Walker, I'm an attorney and professor specializing in property law, which means I could stand up here and talk to you about things like restraint on alienation and equitable conversion, but we'd be here all day. So, what I really want to talk to you about is Christmas.

ADELE

Christmas?

SADIE

Yes. Christmas is all about tradition. It's friends and neighbors coming together in a shared experience, creating memories that last a lifetime. The McCarthy Drive-In is like Christmas. It's a place where the community comes together. It's people laughing together or getting teary eyed together or holding hands and falling in love.

Sadie tries not to glance at Holden.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Our traditions are the people and the places that bind us. Christmas is a tradition. And so is the drive-in. If it goes away, how can that possibly be a good thing for Chesterfield?

Some of the people in the audience applaud as Sadie goes back to take her seat.

On the dais, Adele and several other members of the panel appear to be moved.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

ADELE

(beat)

Thank you, Ms. Walker. That was very inspirational. I move we take a recess to confer and grab some dinner. We'll reconvene afterward.

Adele bangs the gavel and the members of the panel start to head off the dais. Bobby looks concerned.

Sadie throws Holden a satisfied smile and he crosses the room to face her.

HOLDEN

What are you doing?

SADIE

What are you doing? Why didn't you tell me that you're tearing down the drive-in?

HOLDEN

I'm not. I'm selling it.

SADIE

To someone who wants to tear it down! Holden, the drive-in is important to this town. It meant everything to your father.

HOLDEN

Okay, look, this is just a business decision. I don't live here, so I can't run it. And even if I did, it's not profitable, so it doesn't make any sense to keep it open.

SADIE

This is about history and tradition. It's more than just a business decision.

HOLDEN

Sadie, it can't be.

SADIE

So, what? You're just going to bail on it? Break everyone's heart and run off to the next big thing?
(shrugs and nods)
History repeats itself.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

Holden takes a beat as he realizes she is talking about what happened between the two of them.

HOLDEN

Well, if it does, then I guess you'll be losing interest in this as soon as something else catches your eye, right?

SADIE

I'm going to stop this from happening.

HOLDEN

It already happened. I've already signed the contracts. And the commission is going to rule in my favor.

SADIE

Didn't you see the looks on their faces when I was talking about the drive-in? Everyone is on my side.

HOLDEN

I wouldn't be so sure.

SADIE

Well, I am. Very sure. You should get ready to void those contracts. If you need a good property lawyer, I can give you a referral.

Sadie starts to walk away from him, then turns back.

SADIE (CONT'D)

(points at herself)

David.

(points at Holden)

Goliath.

Sadie walks off. Holden is perplexed by that for a moment, then sighs and exits.

22A OMITTED (COMBINED WITH SCENE 22)

22A

22B EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - NIGHT 1

22B

Establishing the town hall at night.

23

INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAIS - NIGHT 1

23

LATER: The members of the panel retake their seats.

ADELE

I'm sorry to say that we have not reached a decision. So, we have a new motion. Ms. Walker?

Holden looks at Bobby who shrugs and shakes his head.

Sadie gets back up and returns to the lectern.

ADELE (CONT'D)

Since the commission is split, it's going to be up to you to make your case. If you believe the drive-in is more important to the town as the distribution center would be, you're going to have to prove it.

SADIE

Uh, okay. How?

ADELE

You equated the drive-in to Christmas That's coming up in three weeks. So, in the spirit of the holiday, you have until then to show Chesterfield why it shouldn't be demolished.

Holden is shocked by this.

SADIE

Wait. You want me to what?

ADELE

Prove that the drive-in is the important gathering place that creates... how did you put it? "Memories that last a lifetime."

SADIE

But it's winter. It's cold and covered with snow.

ADELE

We can't delay this decision until next summer, Ms. Walker. We're giving you a chance here.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

SADIE

(thinks fast)

And I appreciate that. But what I'd like to suggest is that you form a committee to study this as it relates to... defeasible estate and uh... the doctrine of worthier title.

ADELE

I thought you said this wasn't about property law. It's about Christmas, remember? Besides, we're not going to fund a study or the operation of the drive-in. That's going to be up to you and Mr. McCarthy.

HOLDEN

What? No. I want to sell it.

ADELE

Yes, but if she has to prove that the drive-in has value, then you have to prove it doesn't. You need to put in a good-faith effort to make the business work. Otherwise, how do we know if you have the town's best interest in mind? It could impact our vote on whether to allow the Excelsia plan to proceed.

Holden and Sadie are both flabbergasted by this.

ADELE (CONT'D)

All in favor of giving Ms. Walker and Mr. McCarthy three weeks to prove their cases, raise your hand.

Everyone on the committee except Bobby raises their hand.

ADELE (CONT'D)

Against?

This time just Bobby raises his hand, strenuously.

ADELE (CONT'D)

There you have it. See you in three weeks. Good luck.

Adele bangs the gavel and the group disperses. Bobby goes to Adele.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

BOBBY

Adele, you're just doing this to
get back at me, aren't you?

ADELE

No, Mr. Mayor. I was genuinely
moved by what Ms. Walker said.

(beat - smile)

Anything else is just a bonus.

Adele smiles, gives him the same reassuring pat on the
shoulder he gave her, and walks off, leaving Bobby to look at
Holden with a shrug.

Holden turns to look at Sadie as if to say, "see what you got
us into?"

We end on Sadie, who appears to be thinking the same thing.

24 OMITTED

24

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

25 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

25

A small crowd has gathered in front of the tree. The sign near it now says "Meet Santa Claus Today!"

Sadie and Luke are toward the back of the crowd handing out cups of hot chocolate to people in line.

SADIE

Do you see Holden? We're supposed to meet here and then go to the drive-in. You're going to be there to help later, right?

LUKE

Yes, but... you're really going to try to open it tonight?

SADIE

This is the only way to make sure Holden can't sell it to Excelsia.

LUKE

Can't you just talk him out of it? Reason with him? Bat your eyes and say "pretty please?"

SADIE

That didn't work when we were kids, it's not going to work now. And it's not even up to him anymore. He signed the deal. It's up to the historic commission now.

LUKE

Okay, but even if you can somehow prove to them that it's worth saving, he could still sell it, right?

SADIE

(grudgingly)

Yes, just not to anyone who's going to tear it down. Look, Cole asked me to help get the historic designation because he wanted it to be there for future generations. That's what I'm trying to do. I owe it to him.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

LUKE

Are you sure he's the McCarthy that
you're doing this for?

Sadie gives him a dirty look.

26 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

26

Holden and Bobby are near the tree, out of view of the crowd.

HOLDEN

Santa passing out candy canes?
This is the big Chesterfield
Christmas event?

BOBBY

The Mendoza tree farm used to do
everything, so we didn't have to.
By the time we found out they were
closing, we didn't have the time or
the budget to do anything else.
Just go with it, okay?

(beat)

Have you talked to Kendra?

HOLDEN

Yes. She isn't happy, but they're
going to wait the three weeks to
see what happens.

(shakes his head)

I don't understand why Sadie got
involved in this.

BOBBY

Is this about you two dating in
high school? Because it seemed
pretty serious at the time.

HOLDEN

It was. We'd known each other
since we were kids, but we finally
got together my Senior year and it
was the best. We went to the
Christmas Dance and Prom, all the
magic of the first time you fall in
love.

27 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

27

Back to Sadie and Luke.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

LUKE

Why did you guys break up?

SADIE

I was going into my senior year and he was going off to college. We had this great summer. He was my first real boyfriend. But of course, since that was in my diary, you already knew that part.

LUKE

Sorry.

SADIE

What you don't know is that the night before he was leaving for college... the night they had the Labor Day weekend fireworks... we were supposed to meet at the drive-in but he stood me up.

28 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

28

Back to Holden and Bobby.

HOLDEN

When I got there I saw her kissing another guy.

BOBBY

Oh. Ouch. What did you do?

HOLDEN

Nothing. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't face her. She called but I was so... it was stupid and childish but I felt so betrayed.

29 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

29

Back to Sadie and Luke.

SADIE

He didn't return my calls. Didn't reply to my texts.

LUKE

If I had known about it, I would've beat him up for you.

(off her skepticism)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

LUKE (CONT'D)
Or said something mean about his shoes and run away quickly.

30 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

30

Back to Holden and Bobby.

HOLDEN
But that was a long time ago.
What's important now is that this deal gets done. I could get a lot of business from Excelsia.

BOBBY
Sadie has to make the drive-in work in the dead of winter. I wouldn't worry about it.

31 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

31

Back to Sadie and Luke.

SADIE
It'll be a challenge, but I'm sure the town will turn out.
(confident)
Besides, with Holden helping me, what could go wrong?

32 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 2**

32

Back to Holden and Bobby.

BOBBY
Just do the bare minimum. Hire a snow plow, show Sadie how to turn on the projector.

A person dressed like Santa approaches.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
But just to be sure, maybe that can be your Christmas wish to Santa.

Bobby and the Santa, followed by Holden, walk around the tree to greet the crowd. Sadie sees Holden and vice versa.

They awkwardly exchange smiles and half-hearted waves.

33 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - DAY 2**

33

Sadie and Holden are walking the snow-covered grounds. She is carrying a list on a clipboard.

SADIE

We'll need to clear all the snow.

HOLDEN

Bobby said he knows a guy.

Sadie makes a notation on her list.

SADIE

Is all the equipment working? I know a lot has probably changed since we were kids, but I'm presuming the projector is digital. Is it run from a central server? And what about the audio broadcast? I see some of the old speaker stands are still there from when we used to have the speakers you hooked over the windows, but now they can listen to the sound through their radio, right?

HOLDEN

(with a smile)

I see someone's been doing their homework. Yes, you're right about all of that and everything should be working fine, but I'll look it over and make sure.

SADIE

Great. And the snack bar. We need popcorn and hot dogs and all the usual suspects. I want to make it as close to the normal drive-in experience as we can.

HOLDEN

Only much, much colder.

SADIE

We'll serve coffee and hot chocolate. Oh! Maybe apple cider.

HOLDEN

We don't have a coffee maker or... whatever you make apple cider in.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

SADIE

We can run to the store and get all of that by tonight.

(off his reticence)

You heard what Adele said. You have to put in a good faith effort to make this work.

HOLDEN

Okay, how about a middle ground? Coffee, no hot chocolate or cider.

SADIE

I'll let the cider go, but the hot chocolate is non-negotiable.

HOLDEN

Fine.

SADIE

We're already working on getting people in for the opening tonight. My mom is calling everyone she knows and I've sent out emails and done some social media posts, but to drum up business for the next few weeks, I think we should run a commercial on local TV. Maybe a billboard?

HOLDEN

How about we post some flyers around town?

SADIE

That's not going to be enough.

HOLDEN

I'm just trying to be realistic about costs. Showing that this place can be a success has to include turning a profit. It's basic business. So, you're going to have to be frugal unless you can find people to work for free.

SADIE

Oh, I already did. They're going to be here in 20 minutes.

Sadie smiles and walks away. Holden has to smile a bit, too, then follows her.

34

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - DAY 2

34

Later that morning, June, Eve, and a few others are standing by as Sadie hands out sheets of paper. Luke is passing out cups of warm apple cider to the obviously-cold group. Holden stands nearby watching with interest.

SADIE

Thank you all for coming out to help today.

JUNE

(looks at list)

This is a really long list and we only have, what? Seven hours?

SADIE

I know it's a lot, but I really think we can do it.

June refers to an older lady in the line.

JUNE

Marie offered to run the snow plow.

SADIE

I think we'll leave that to the professionals, right Ed?

A blue-collar type nods his agreement.

SADIE (CONT'D)

But good initiative. That's exactly the kind of Christmas spirit we need. Which is why Luke made warm apple cider for everyone!

Sadie raises hers in a toast - the others follow.

SADIE (CONT'D)

To Christmas at the drive-in!

Everyone cheers, toasts, and drinks. Sadie sees Holden obviously enjoying the cider.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Told you cider was a good idea.

Holden holds back a smile.

HOLDEN

We're not getting a cider maker.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

SADIE
(smiles)
We'll see. Come on. You're with
me in the snack bar.

Sadie walks off whistling a Christmas tune. Holden takes a
breath then follows her.

35 INT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - SNACK BAR - DAY 2

35

Sadie and Holden are working on cleaning things up inside the
snack bar. There is an awkward silence.

SADIE
I guess you're... extending your
stay?

HOLDEN
Just until all this is straightened
out.

SADIE
Right. So, where do you live, now?

HOLDEN
I don't.

SADIE
Okay, fine. Never mind. Just
trying to make conversation.

HOLDEN
No, I mean, I don't have a full-
time residence anywhere.

SADIE
A real estate developer without
real estate? How does that work?

HOLDEN
I have commercial and residential
properties all over New England. I
stay in one of those depending on
where I'm needed to oversee the
projects we're working on.

SADIE
So, you don't have an actual house?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

HOLDEN

Nope. Our main office is in New York City so I guess that's my North Pole, so to speak.

SADIE

(beat)

But no Mrs. Claus?

HOLDEN

No. I've never been great at... sharing my workshop.

(beat)

And you? Mr. Claus?

SADIE

No. I thought I had found one, but he wasn't the right guy to fill those particular boots.

There is another lull in the conversation.

HOLDEN

So, do you like being back here in Chesterfield?

SADIE

I do. It's different.

HOLDEN

Why did you give up practicing law?

SADIE

(beat - evasive)

I just thought it was time for a change.

HOLDEN

It's what you wanted to do even back when we were kids. You said you wanted to try to be a "defender of justice."

SADIE

(laughs)

Yeah. But that was only because I thought I'd look good in a cape.

HOLDEN

(remembers)

The first time I ever saw you - we were maybe nine? You were wearing a cape!

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

SADIE

(warm memory)

The costume party at school! I can't believe you remember that.

HOLDEN

Hard thing to forget. And, by the way, you're right. You did look good in a cape.

SADIE

Told ya.

HOLDEN

You don't miss it? Being a lawyer?

SADIE

(beat)

No. Not really. It was time to let it go. Besides, teaching is very fulfilling. I'm preparing the next generation of cape-wearers.

They share a smile as he leans over to check on a loose fixture on a shelf, bumping into Sadie as he does. It gets awkward quickly.

HOLDEN

I should...
(looks at his list)
Check the projector.

He excuses himself, leaving Sadie alone. She takes a beat then goes back to work cleaning up.

36 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - DAY 2**

36

MONTAGE: GETTING THE DRIVE IN READY

A montage of scenes shows Sadie, Holden, June, Luke, Eve, and others getting the drive-in ready to open.

Ed, the blue-collar type, starts up the snow plow.

37 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - SNACK BAR - DAY 2**

37

Holden and Sadie string some simple Christmas lights.

41 CONTINUED:

41

HOLDEN

It's like you're starring in your own Christmas movie.

SADIE

I'd watch it. What about you? What are your merry plans?

HOLDEN

Since the drive-in was closed in the winter, my dad used to come to the city every year and we'd see shows and the tree at Rockefeller Center. But this year I didn't really have any plans.

Another gust of wind batters them.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

It's freezing out here. You know this isn't going to work, right?

SADIE

It's not that cold. It'll work.

HOLDEN

You're shivering. Take my scarf.

SADIE

I have a scarf in the snack bar.

HOLDEN

A lot of good it's doing you there. Just take it. You were always so stubborn.

He starts to wrap the huge scarf around her neck.

SADIE

I was not stubborn, I was...

But the scarf muffles the rest. He smiles at her and she can't help but laugh a little as she pulls the scarf down.

They have reached the main gate. Someone on the other side honks their horn.

HOLDEN

(re: scarf)

Should've thought of that years ago.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

SADIE

Very funny. It sounds like the crowd is anxious to get in here.

Holden goes to open the gate.

42 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN GATE - NIGHT 2**

42

Holden opens the gate and Sadie steps up to greet the crowd.

SADIE

Welcome to the McCarthy Drive-In!

That's when we see there are all of three cars in line... the first one driven by Eve.

EVE

Woohoo! Let's do this!

Sadie is obviously disappointed.

END ACT TWO

44 CONTINUED:

44

SADIE (CONT'D)

Upgrade the projector bulbs to make it brighter so you can see the movie better in the snow. Oh, and then we have the concessions. Theaters make a huge profit from that, so we need to up our food game.

EVE

In that tiny little snack bar?

SADIE

Luke has a friend that's letting him borrow a food truck he doesn't use during the winter.

EVE

That sounds like a lot of work that's not exactly in your wheelhouse. But you know what is? A property case for Camilla Mendoza.

SADIE

Eve, I don't have time. Look at all this stuff I have to buy.

EVE

You're putting your own money into this? Even if this crazy plan works, it's not yours to keep.

SADIE

I know, but I believe in this. The town needs the drive-in and I want to save it. I want to try.

(beat)

Besides, I'm going to convince Holden to pay for at least some of it. Which is why I'm putting together this presentation. He's all about business, so all I need to do is show him the numbers. He won't be able to say no to that.

QUICK CUT TO:

44A OMITTED

44A

45 INT. ADELE'S BAKERY - DAY 3

45

Sadie, with a stack of research and a computer, and Holden are at a table inside the bakery, which has Christmas treats in the display cases.

HOLDEN

No!

SADIE

Holden, it's all right there in the presentation. Some heaters. Blankets. It's not that much.

HOLDEN

(re: presentation)

Sadie, this is twenty pages long. It's definitely too much.

SADIE

It's Christmas. Don't be a Scrooge.

Adele approaches the table with some sweet Christmas-themed treats, which she tries to find room for on the table.

ADELE

(re: papers on table)

Is this all for the drive-in? You've been busy. How's it going?

SADIE

Great.

HOLDEN

Not great.

SADIE (CONT'D)

It will be great.

ADELE

(small smile)

Well, I can't wait to see what you come up with.

Adele walks away.

SADIE

See? Scrooge.

HOLDEN

I am not a Scrooge. I'm just treating this like a business because, you know, it is one.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

SADIE

First of all, if you read the research you'll see that it makes sense financially, but what I've been trying to explain to you is that it's so much more than that.

HOLDEN

More than a business?

SADIE

Yes, it's a movie theater. It's about the fantasy - never quite knowing what's about to happen but dreaming about the possibilities. And the surprise when you find out.

HOLDEN

Like a Christmas present.

SADIE

Exactly! What's the best Christmas present you ever got?

HOLDEN

A snorkel. I was eight. I wanted to be a marine biologist until I saw too many shark movies as a kid.

SADIE

There was one playing the first time you kissed me! I got scared and you put your arm around me.

HOLDEN

I remember the movie, but you kissed me first.

SADIE

No, you definitely kissed me.

HOLDEN

If that's the way you want to remember it. It's wrong, but...

SADIE

(shakes her head - smiles)
Anyway... my favorite Christmas present ever was a book about the Supreme Court when I was ten.

HOLDEN

Did it come with a cape?

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

SADIE

Sadly no. But that's what I'm talking about. Going to a movie at the drive-in is like Christmas morning. You never know what's going to happen next.

It's clear that this has had an emotional impact on Holden. He takes a beat, wrapped up in the memories of the drive-in.

46 INT. JINGLE AND THINGS BOUTIQUE - DAY 3

46

Sadie is putting strands of Christmas lights into a hand basket, while Holden continues to review the research.

HOLDEN

Okay, I'm actually afraid to say this, but some of it does make good business sense. The concessions, for instance.

SADIE

It's a huge opportunity. Luke can get his hands on a food truck and we can dress it up for the holiday with a few strings of lights.

HOLDEN

How many is a few?

SADIE

(looks at basket)
We're going to need a bigger basket.

HOLDEN

See what you did there?

(beat)

Okay, I'll tell you what... I don't agree with everything in your presentation, but the things we do agree on? I will pay for those upgrades.

SADIE

I'm willing to put my money where my big ideas are.

HOLDEN

Sadie, I'll take care of it. These are all investments in my property.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

SADIE

Investments you wouldn't be making if it wasn't because of me. How about we split it fifty-fifty?

HOLDEN

You're on a teacher's salary. You shouldn't be spending your hard-earned money on...

(refers to research)

A cider maker? Sadie...

SADIE

It's a professor's salary and I have savings. I can pull my own weight on this.

HOLDEN

Okay. We split it eighty-twenty.

SADIE

Sixty-forty.

HOLDEN

Seventy-thirty and when the Historic Commission rules in my favor, I reimburse you for your expenses.

SADIE

Seventy-thirty and when Historic Commission rules in *my* favor, I get free apple cider every time I come to the drive-in.

HOLDEN

(laughs, shakes his head)

Deal.

They shake on it and head off with the lights.

47

EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 3

47

Holden's SUV pulls to a stop in front of the town hall. Sadie and Holden get out.

SADIE

Okay, I'll go in and get the permit for the food truck and you hand out flyers to anyone who walks by. And don't forget, it's Christmas, so be merry. Sing Jingle Bells.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

HOLDEN

I'm not singing.

SADIE

You have to do something. Embrace the holidays. Be jolly. You have to at least say "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

HOLDEN

You were always really into the whole Christmas spirit thing.

SADIE

Not always. I think I fell away from it for awhile. But being back in Chesterfield with my family...

HOLDEN

How are you handling the changes?

SADIE

It's all pretty new. But good. Never thought I'd be living back at home with my mom again.

HOLDEN

How's that going?

SADIE

It's just temporary until I find my own place, but you know what? It's actually been pretty nice.

HOLDEN

(genuine smile)
I bet it is.

SADIE

(beat - gently)
Thinking about your dad?

HOLDEN

Yeah. He loved Christmas. He'd ask everybody "What are you doing for the holidays? What did you ask Santa for? He was always so good at connecting with people, no matter who they were.

SADIE

That's another reason I love Christmas.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

SADIE (CONT'D)

Everybody does it differently, but
it's also the same, you know?
There's this through-line that
connects us all.

HOLDEN

I wish I was more like my dad.

SADIE

I think you're more like him than
you give yourself credit for.

Holden smiles - the two of them have a moment of connection.
Holden is the first to back away from it.

HOLDEN

You should go get that permit
before the office closes.

SADIE

Yeah. Be merry.

Sadie hands Holden the flyers, then goes into town hall.

48 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 3**

48

Holden is handing out flyers to people as they pass by.

HOLDEN

McCarthy Drive-In. Tonight! Come check
it out. Hope to see you at the drive-
in. It's going to be fun.

Holden hands a flyer to someone then realizes it's Bobby.

BOBBY

She's got you handing out flyers?

HOLDEN

No. I mean, I'm just... good faith
effort, remember? And besides,
you're the one who said this was
going to be a slam dunk. I'm doing
what I can here.

BOBBY

(looks at flyer)
You're not having second thoughts
about selling, are you?

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

HOLDEN

No. Not at all. And I already signed the contract so there's nothing I could do about it even if I was. But as much as I hate to admit it, Sadie presented a strong business case.

BOBBY

Holden, you better be careful. If she gets enough of the town worked up about this, we're in trouble.

HOLDEN

It's still a drive-in during the winter. That's a hard sell no matter what.

BOBBY

And yet here you are selling it.

HOLDEN

Bobby, relax. The historic commission wants me to play along and Sadie came up with some good ideas that could keep me from losing a ton of money while I do. That's hard to say no to.

BOBBY

The ideas are hard to say no to, or Sadie is?

Holden takes a beat and then chooses to ignore that, handing out a flyer to a passerby instead.

HOLDEN

Hey, come out to the McCarthy Drive-In tonight. You're going to love it.

Holden smiles, then sees Bobby scowling.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

They're not going to love it.

Holden goes back to work handing out the flyers and chatting with people while Bobby watches, a bit concerned.

49

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN GATE - NIGHT 3

49

Sadie, Holden, June, Luke, and others are ready to try again and have gathered at the main gate to open for the night.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

SADIE

Okay, we've got all the blankets?

HOLDEN

Ready and waiting.

SADIE

Warm and toasty goodies at the snack bar?

LUKE

Gourmet hot chocolate, warm cookies and cobblers. I've been in the food truck over at Charlie's all day but this will be easier when we get it on the grounds tomorrow.

SADIE

We took out a big ad, we handed out flyers and put up posters. I think this is going to do the trick. Ready?

Everyone says they are and Holden goes to open the gate. This time there are six cars - Sadie is disappointed. The first car has Eve in it. She pulls up and rolls down her window.

EVE

It's better than last time.

SADIE

It's only six cars.

EVE

That's double what you had. That's not nothing.

SADIE

It's not enough.

Holden joins her.

EVE

Why didn't you put up more Christmas decorations? I figured you'd go all out with the holiday cheer.

Sadie thinks about this then turns to Holden.

SADIE

Remember what we were talking about? How Christmas creates this immediate connection with people?

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

HOLDEN

Yes?

(off her smile)

Uh-oh. I've seen that smile before.
That means I need to go get my
check-book, doesn't it?

SADIE

(smiles wider)

See? You're getting the hang of
this already.

Sadie pats him on the shoulder and walks off. Holden takes a
moment for a deep breath, then follows.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

50 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN DRIVE - DAY 4**

50

Sadie and Holden are standing at the gates looking up the main drive toward the parking area and screen. She is all smiles. He is a bit agog.

HOLDEN

How many Christmas trees did you get?

We see the drive is now lined with undecorated trees.

SADIE

All of them.

Sadie grabs Holden's arm and pulls him toward the trees to start the decoration process.

51 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN DRIVE - DAY 4**

51

Sadie and Holden are stringing lights on one of the many trees that are lining the drive.

HOLDEN

Explain the forest again?

SADIE

We're embracing Christmas. Our problem is that people don't understand the concept of a drive-in during the winter. But now we're giving it an identity.

HOLDEN

A place with a lot of trees?

SADIE

A place to celebrate Christmas. People used to go to the tree farm, but now all Chesterfield has is...

HOLDEN

Santa passing out candy canes.

SADIE

Exactly. We can make this the holiday central for the entire town.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

SADIE (CONT'D)

We'll add lights and Christmas food at the snack bar. I got Christmas movies for tonight and we'll have holiday events.

HOLDEN

You really are a dreamer like my dad.

(smiles in spite of himself)

At what point do I get to complain about how much this is going to cost us?

SADIE

Ah, but see that's the brilliance of the plan. If everyone comes here to celebrate Christmas, it'll be very good for business.

HOLDEN

Tell the truth. You weren't a lawyer, you were in marketing.

SADIE

No, but I think the two aren't as far apart as you think they are. Both law and sales are about identifying what people need and then finding the best strategy to get them the result they want.

HOLDEN

Only with much bigger stakes in the law. I mean, if it doesn't work out here, we just close the drive-in. If you lose a case...

SADIE

(beat - personal)

Yeah. It can have a huge effect a person's life.

HOLDEN

Sounds like you know what that feels like. Did that have anything to do with you coming back to Chesterfield?

SADIE

(beat - shrugs it off)

Like I said, it was time for a change.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

The two of them exchange a glance, each knowing there is something more to this story, but before Holden can ask, they hear a horn honk and look toward the gate.

SADIE (CONT'D)
That's Luke with the food truck!

HOLDEN
I haven't seen it yet.

SADIE
(enjoys the pun)
Well, you're in for a treat!

HOLDEN
Ouch.

SADIE
No, no, I got more. You're going to love it, even though we've got a lot on our plate.

HOLDEN
Are you finished?

SADIE
Not even close.

Holden walks off and Sadie follows him.

SADIE (CONT'D)
Here's some food for thought...

52 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - SNACK BAR - DAY 4**

52

A food truck is parked next to the snack bar. Sadie and Holden approach as Luke posts a menu by the open door and then presents the truck with a flourish.

LUKE
Ta da!

SADIE
Luke, it's beautiful! I love it.

HOLDEN
Nice work, Luke.

LUKE
If you like that, wait until you see the Christmas menu!

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

SADIE

(reads)

Christmas cookies. Popcorn balls.
White chocolate snowman cake pops?
I don't even know what that means,
but I'm in.

LUKE

Good. Because you two are making
them. I have a catering gig.

HOLDEN

What? No. I'm not a cook.

LUKE

You build things right?

HOLDEN

Yeah, buildings!

LUKE

Same basic concept.

SADIE

Luke, we really have a lot of other
stuff we need to get done first.

LUKE

Aren't you the one who told me that
concession sales make up over half
the profits?

SADIE

Well, yes, but...

LUKE

These cost about forty cents apiece
to make and we're going to sell
them for five bucks.

Sadie and Holden look at one another then back at Luke.

HOLDEN

Where's my apron?

SADIE

You're totally forgiven for the
whole diary thing.

They follow him toward the food truck.

53 INT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - FOOD TRUCK - DAY 4

53

Sadie and Holden are standing in the food truck in front of a counter set up to make the cake pops. They are silent for a moment or two.

HOLDEN

I have walked across a steel beam more than a dozen stories in the air, but this intimidates me.

SADIE

This is how I feel when I'm waiting for a jury to return their verdict.

HOLDEN

Okay, we'll just break it down. I'll roll the cake, you dip it in the chocolate, we both decorate.

Sadie nods and they get to work on the cake pops.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry if I struck a nerve earlier. You know, about losing a case.

SADIE

That's okay. I... it's just...

HOLDEN

You don't have to talk about it.

SADIE

No, it's okay. About a year ago, I did a Legal Aid case for a woman against the city and a big company.

HOLDEN

David versus Goliath?

SADIE

Something like that. Only in this case, Goliath won.

HOLDEN

Because of something you did? Or didn't do?

SADIE

No, I put on the best defense I could.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

SADIE (CONT'D)

I tried everything, but at the end of the day she had to leave her home. The place where she had raised her family. Celebrated Christmas. She had to watch the place she loved get torn down.

Holden suddenly has a better understanding of why Sadie is doing what she's doing for the drive-in.

HOLDEN

I'm sorry.

SADIE

I had lost cases before, but this one happened around the same time I ended my engagement. It all made me feel like everything was off track.

HOLDEN

You needed a course correction.
(beat - looks out)
You know, this was my dad's dream. He fell in love with drive-ins when he was a kid and... He worked hard and made his dream come true and it was successful for a long time. Then the world changed. But my dad didn't. And I couldn't help but feeling like he kept loving a dream that didn't love him back anymore.

SADIE

I never knew that.

HOLDEN

I thought "dreams don't pay for themselves," so when I left I had a course-correction, too. I focused on building things in the world - tangible things you can touch. But now, I look around at my dad's dream and I wonder if I forgot about building the things you can't touch. Building a life.

SADIE

Hopefully you can do both.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

HOLDEN

But can you? I mean, I don't know if the best way to honor my dad is to preserve this place he loved, or to help the town he loved prosper. Because I don't know how to do both.

Holden nods. The both look at the fanciful cake pops.

SADIE

Do you ever wonder if maybe you overcorrected?

HOLDEN

Maybe we both did. But look where it landed us. Snowman cake pops.

He holds one up and it is adorable. The smile and laugh and get back to work.

54 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD MAIN STREET - NIGHT 4**

54

Sadie and June are walking down Main Street.

SADIE

Mom, I don't have time for a dinner break.

JUNE

It'll be good for you, I promise.
(as they pass a store)
Hey, what are you getting for Holden for Christmas?

SADIE

I hadn't really thought about it. I'm not sure we're in a place where we'd exchange gifts.

JUNE

You're still not getting along?

SADIE

Well, no, it's not that we're not getting along, we're just not Christmas present getting along.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

JUNE

Do you think about what would've happened if you hadn't broken up?

SADIE

No.

(off June's skepticism)

No! I mean, would my life have been different? Maybe. We might've gone to the same school and we probably would've kept dating. Who knows? Maybe someday we would've even gotten married.

By now June is looking at her with a smile.

SADIE (CONT'D)

But that's just a fantasy. It also might not have worked out. It probably *wouldn't* have worked out. We're very different people.

JUNE

Yeah, but maybe if you'd stayed together you would've become different people together.

Sadie considers this for a moment, then shakes it off and heads off down the street. June smiles knowingly and then follows her.

55 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN GATE - NIGHT 4**

55

Sadie and Holden are near the main gates, ready to try again. The trees are currently dark.

HOLDEN

Shall we?

SADIE

We shall. Three... Two... one...

Holden throws a switch. The Christmas trees all light up at once, creating a magical pathway to the screen.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Wow. It's...

HOLDEN

Beautiful.

The two stand there looking at the lights for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

SADIE

You're sure they're not going to be too bright for the screen?

HOLDEN

The new projector bulbs should handle it, but I put these lights on a dimmer so we can turn them down once the movie starts.

(off her look)

Good faith effort.

Holden goes to the gate and opens it. There is a much longer line of cars waiting. While not a blow-out, it is a much better turn out than what we've seen so far.

They both smile as they start waving cars in.

56

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 4

56

While a Christmas movie is playing, Sadie and Holden look at the half-full lot of cars while eating the snowman cake-pops.

HOLDEN

It's not a bad turn out.

SADIE

Not good enough. But it's not over until the Historic Commission votes.

HOLDEN

(laughs)

You never wanted the movie to end.

SADIE

What do you mean?

HOLDEN

When we were kids, we'd sit here under the stars, holding hands, watching the big screen. And every time the movie was over you were disappointed. It was like you wanted it go on forever.

SADIE

I guess I kind of did.

They stand there in silence for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

HOLDEN

I have to ask... why did you let us end?

SADIE

What are you talking about? You're the one who stood me up. You're the one who didn't return my calls.

HOLDEN

Because I saw you kissing Donald Kopeki.

SADIE

I... what? Donald Kopeki?

HOLDEN

Yes! We were supposed to meet the night my dad was doing the Labor Day weekend fireworks.

(points)

I saw you right over there.

SADIE

We were supposed to meet...

(points different way)

...but I was over there and I waited for hours. Alone.

HOLDEN

(points again)

I saw you over there. You had on that jacket you always wore.

SADIE

What jacket?

HOLDEN

The one with the yellow flowers.

SADIE

(beat - remembers)

I lent that jacket to my friend Kathy. I never got it back. You saw her kissing Donald Kopeki, not me.

HOLDEN

You... But...

SADIE

Why didn't you talk to me about it?!

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

HOLDEN

Because seeing you... or who I
thought was you... broke my heart.
The only thing I could do is let
you go.

SADIE

You didn't let me go, you gave up
on me. On us. That night broke my
heart, too.

(beat)

But obviously that's ancient
history, right?

HOLDEN

(beat)

Yes. I guess it is.

SADIE

Yeah.

The two of them have a moment - obviously not so "ancient."
Sadie snaps out of it.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Well, we still need to fill up
every one of these empty parking
spaces.

HOLDEN

How are we going to do that?

SADIE

We need more Christmas.

Sadie walks away and Holden looks at the trees and other
decorations they already have up.

HOLDEN

"More" Christmas?

He appears to not be convinced that's possible.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

57

EXT. CHESTERFIELD MAIN STREET - DAY 5

57

Sadie and Holden come out of the Christmas store with even more Christmas decorations.

HOLDEN

I think maybe we're overdoing it on the Christmas decorations.

SADIE

(apropos of nothing)
I can't believe you thought I'd kiss some other guy.

HOLDEN

Oh. Okay. So, I guess we're not done talking about that.

SADIE

No. We are. Sorry.
(shakes her head)
There is no such thing as too much Christmas, my friend.

HOLDEN

They know us by name in there. They offered you a line of credit.

SADIE

At zero percent interest!

HOLDEN

(ditto the above)
And by the way, I did call you afterwards.

SADIE

So, now you want to talk about it.

HOLDEN

No. Just needed to say that.

SADIE

It's been three days since we added the trees and the drive-in is doing better with the Christmas theme. If we go bigger, we'll get a bigger crowd. A month later.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

HOLDEN

We don't have a month.

SADIE

No, I mean you called me a month later.

HOLDEN

And you didn't pick up. Or return my call.

SADIE

Because by then you were off at college. I figured you were trying to get closure or something.
(obviously not true)
I'd already moved on.

HOLDEN

You mean you had given up.

SADIE

(looks at him)
Maybe we both did.
(beat)
But we're not giving up on the drive-in. We just need to get creative and find ways to connect to the community. That's why we're doing the toy drive today.

HOLDEN

Okay. But other than having it at the drive-in, I still don't understand how it will connect us to the community. I mean it would be different if, I don't know, they got something related to the drive-in for dropping off a toy.

SADIE

We could give them a free ticket?

HOLDEN

That'll kind of defeat the goal of selling more tickets, won't it?

SADIE

Okay, then Mr. Bottom Line, what's your idea?

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

57

HOLDEN

Uh... well, what about when someone drops off a toy, we put their name on an ornament that goes on one of the trees along the main drive. Or we give them one with the drive-in's name on it that they can take home and put on their own tree. That might remind people of why they used to love seeing movies there.

SADIE

That's brilliant!
(points at store)
They make custom ornaments here in an hour! Although, we may need to open that line of credit after all.

HOLDEN

No. This is for the community. I'll take care of this one.

SADIE

Are you sure?

HOLDEN

You're the one who said we're not giving up, right?

Sadie smiles at Holden and they head back into the store.

58 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - DAY 5**

58

The toy drive is underway with people bringing unwrapped toys and getting beautiful, decorative ornaments with the drive-in's name on them.

Sadie and Holden are off to the side wrapping presents, while Eve and June are managing the line of people eager to participate. Luke is handing out samples of Christmas themed snacks from the concession stand.

SADIE

This was a brilliant idea.

HOLDEN

If I do say so myself.

EVE

I have heard so many stories from people who loved coming here.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

JUNE

Me, too. People watch movies on their phones now, which I totally don't understand. But this is reminding them how much they enjoyed seeing them on the big screen with a big crowd of people.

EVE

The way it was meant to be.

LUKE

And they're loving the free samples. I think people will be coming back for the food alone.

SADIE

See, you guys? This is what I've been talking about. This is what an engaged community looks like. You can't tell me you'd get that with an Excelsia distribution center.

HOLDEN

No, but I'm sure the community will be engaged with the jobs it'll provide.

LUKE

(to Sadie)

You're right, he is a Scrooge.

HOLDEN

I paid for the ornaments!

EVE

Has the ghost of Christmas past visited you yet?

HOLDEN

I'm going to get more wrapping paper out of the car.

Holden goes off while the others continue with the toy drive.

Eve glances at her watch.

EVE

As fun as this is, I need to get back to work.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

SADIE

What? No. We need your help.

EVE

Sadie, I really can't.

SADIE

Eve, please?

EVE

(beat - considers)

I'll make you a deal. The only way I can stay to help you with your work, is if you help me with mine.

(off Sadie's confusion)

You know, like meeting a client who has a property case she needs a little pro bono advice on?

Sadie sighs and smiles.

SADIE

I will talk to her. Just talk. I don't practice law anymore. I'm not going to take the case.

We hold on her resolve.

59 **EXT. CAMILLA'S PROPERTY - DAY 5**

59

Sadie and Eve are next to their cars at the property we saw earlier. Joining them is CAMILLA MENDOZA (50s, kind face and warm spirit). Sadie looks at the snow-covered woods. She smiles; points.

SADIE

I remember there was a Santa's Village over there.

CAMILLA

Yes, we had it dressed up like the North Pole.

SADIE

Right! There was a workshop and a giant candy cane.

CAMILLA

Yes. People would pose with their tree and take pictures.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

SADIE

(laughs)

I think we still have one of those
in a photo album somewhere.

(beat - shakes it off)

Sorry, you were saying?

CAMILLA

I didn't really want to sell, but
this company came along with an
offer we couldn't refuse.

SADIE

What did they say they were going
to build?

CAMILLA

Houses on lots that would preserve
most of the trees. The rest was
going to be a park. They even said
they'd name it after my dad.

EVE

But after she signed the contract
she found out that they're going to
build twice as many houses as they
said and condos and a golf course.

CAMILLA

They're going to clear-cut almost
the entire property. All these
trees, all this nature. Everything
my family loved... gone.

SADIE

Did you have a lawyer review the
contracts before you signed them?

CAMILLA

I did. A guy that was recommended
to me. But he told me it was fine
and cashed my check. I've known
Eve for years, so I called her.

EVE

I went over everything but it's not
my area of expertise. We need
someone who knows property law to
find a way out of this.

CAMILLA

We need you.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

EVE

Sadie, I know you don't practice law anymore and I totally respect that, but you've spent the last week and a half talking about Christmas magic and memories and traditions and community.

SADIE

(stops her)

Eve. She had me at North Pole.

Eve hugs Sadie and then Camilla does the same.

CAMILLA

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Sadie looks out at the land again, nostalgic.

60 **OMITTED**

60

61 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 5**

61

The message projected on the movie screen says "Holiday Lights Pre-Show."

Surrounding the parking area of the drive-in, festive holiday lights are twinkling on and off in time to cheery Christmas music. The lot is almost full and people are watching from both inside their cars and standing outside, all with big smiles on their faces.

Likewise are Sadie and Holden who are enjoying the spectacle as well.

SADIE

This was a great idea.

HOLDEN

And very un-Scrooge-like.

SADIE

Let me know how much my thirty percent of this is.

HOLDEN

(shrugs)

Consider it my Christmas present.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

SADIE

I didn't know we were exchanging gifts. I Guess I'm going to have to go shopping again.

HOLDEN

Get me a pair of socks and call it a day.

SADIE

I'm not getting you socks. That's what you get someone you don't care about.

Sadie realizes what she said and Holden does, too. It hangs there for a moment and then Holden changes the subject.

HOLDEN

Hey, I have to go to this thing at town hall tomorrow night.

SADIE

The mayor's Christmas party?

HOLDEN

You know about it?

SADIE

My brother is catering it. It's the hottest ticket in town.

HOLDEN

Oh, I thought it was just like a Christmas party. You know, people in gaudy sweaters singing a few carols around the tree.

SADIE

No, no. It's a big deal with all of Chesterfield's movers and shakers.

HOLDEN

That's good to know. I was going to look seriously out of place in that light-up reindeer sweater.

SADIE

(laughs)
I would pay to see that.

HOLDEN

Anyway, I get a plus one, so if you want to go...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: (2)

61

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

Not as a date or anything. Just business. We can promote the drive-in to the movers and shakers.

SADIE

"We" can promote it?

HOLDEN

Good faith effort. Although, Bobby probably wouldn't be happy with us handing out flyers to his guests.

SADIE

I'm sure we can find a more subtle way to do it.

HOLDEN

Very subtle. He really wants that distribution center.

SADIE

So do you. Right?

HOLDEN

(beat)

Right. Of course, I do.

Sadie and Holden return their attention to the light show happening around the drive in. Each steals a glance at the other when the other isn't looking, smiles firmly in place.

62 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN GATE - NIGHT 5**

62

A line of cars is pulling out of the drive-in at the end of the night - a slide on the big screen reads "Thank You For Coming!" It was a good evening with a big turnout.

Sadie and Holden are waving at Eve in her car as she leaves. They give each other a high five and then go start to go back into the drive-in but Holden's phone rings. He waves Sadie on and he steps off to the side to take the call.

HOLDEN

Hello? Kendra? Is everything okay?

63 **EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 5**

63

Kendra is standing by her car watching the cars exit the drive-in, having seen Holden and Sadie looking very chummy and pleased with the performance of the drive-in.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

KENDRA

I hope so. I'm just checking in to make sure everything is still on track.

We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

HOLDEN

Of course it is.

KENDRA

Nothing I should know about? No second thoughts.

Holden watches Sadie giddily walking back up the main drive. He takes a beat.

HOLDEN

No. We're all good.

But it is clear that maybe Holden isn't telling the whole story.

END ACT FIVE

65 CONTINUED:

65

SADIE

This is not a date. It's business.

LUKE

I'll remember that when I see you
two twirling on the dance floor.

SADIE

There will be no twirling.

JUNE

I thought you said you straightened
out the whole break-up thing.

SADIE

We did, but that doesn't mean we're
picking up where we left off. Or
picking up at all. Once the drive-
in issue is settled, he'll go off
to his next big project and I'll go
back to teaching and we'll probably
never see each other again.

JUNE

That's too bad. Second chances to
try again don't come along very
often.

Sadie is obviously affected by that statement. She shakes it
off, both literally and figuratively, as she dusts her hands.

SADIE

I need do some work on Camilla's
case before the party. Are you
guys good here?

LUKE

No! Sprinkles!

Sadie shrugs and leaves the kitchen as Luke and June pause
for a moment until they hear the front door open and close.

JUNE

There will be twirling.

LUKE

Absolutely. I'll take pictures.

They get back to work.

67 CONTINUED:

67

Holden doesn't reply to that.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Holden, please tell me you're still
100% on board.

HOLDEN

I'd say it's more like 98%.

BOBBY

Holden!

HOLDEN

I'm sorry, but seeing the drive-in
up and running again... it's hard
not to get nostalgic. If you could
just see it with your own eyes,
Bobby.

BOBBY

Are you sure this is about
nostalgia for the drive-in and not
for the person trying to save it?

HOLDEN

It's not always easy to separate
the two.

BOBBY

Well, you need to. Look, I like
Sadie and if you want to see what
might happen there, I'd be totally
for that. But the rest is business
and you can't let yourself get all
starry-eyed.

HOLDEN

I'm not. I'm...

Holden turns to see that Sadie has entered the party. She
looks stunning in a dress that definitely makes Holden more
than a little starry eyed. He walks away from Bobby who sees
what is happening.

BOBBY

Yeah. Definitely no starry eyes
there.

Bobby shakes his head, more than a little concerned.

68

INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - NIGHT 6

68

Holden approaches Sadie near the front doors of the hall.

HOLDEN
Hi.

SADIE
Hi.

HOLDEN
You look... is it okay if I just
say "wow?"

SADIE
(smiles)
Yes. Thank you. You look pretty
"wow" yourself.

There is a bit of an awkward pause.

SADIE (CONT'D)
So, what's our strategy?

HOLDEN
For?

SADIE
The party.

HOLDEN
Uh, food, drinks, general Christmas
merriment?

SADIE
No, I mean, about the drive-in.
Who do we need to talk to? Who are
the people who have influence?

HOLDEN
To be honest, I don't know. Our
best bet is probably to just start
chatting with people and see who we
can find.

SADIE
Okay. Where do you want to start?

HOLDEN
(looks around)
How about the dance floor? There
are a lot of people there.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

SADIE
(beat - uh-oh)
The dance floor?

HOLDEN
Come on. We'll take a twirl around
and see who we can meet.

He takes her hand and gently pulls her toward the dance floor. Sadie is concerned.

SADIE
"Twirl?"

And they're off.

69 INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 6

69

Sadie and Holden take up a place amongst the other couples on the dance floor as a romantic Christmas song starts. There is a bit of an awkward moment as they try to find the correct dance partner hold but they eventually settle into it.

HOLDEN
Slow song. We should probably wait
for something more upbeat to start
making conversation.

SADIE
We can always try the buffet line.
There's plenty of people there.

HOLDEN
We're here. We might as well enjoy
it.

They do for a moment, loosening up a little as they dance.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
So, what do you want for Christmas?
Besides the light show I got you at
the drive-in.

SADIE
I'm sure I'll love whatever Santa
brings me. What about you?

HOLDEN
Socks.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

SADIE

Come on. Serious. You get one Christmas wish. What is it?

HOLDEN

Wait a minute. I was talking about Christmas presents. Now you're talking Christmas wishes. That's a whole different ballgame.

SADIE

How?

HOLDEN

Christmas presents are the things you want. The things you unwrap on Christmas morning. Christmas wishes are the things you need. The things that you unwrap every day for the rest of your life.

SADIE

(moved)

Yeah, I get that. So, what's your Christmas wish then?

HOLDEN

That's a good question. If you had asked me a few weeks ago I probably would've said continued success in my business. Peace on earth?

SADIE

And now you don't want success or peace on earth?

HOLDEN

No, I do, but maybe the business shouldn't be at the top of the list anymore. Maybe it's time to find someone I can trust again...

There is a moment as they meet eyes.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

To help me with the company, I mean.

SADIE

Sure. Of course.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

69

HOLDEN

What about you? What's at the top
of your Christmas wish list?

SADIE

(beat)

I don't know. But I think it might
be time for me to try to figure
that out again.

HOLDEN

You better hurry. Christmas is
only a week away.

SADIE

Plenty of time.

Sadie smiles and leans into Holden.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Do you remember the Christmas
school dance?

HOLDEN

You wore a green dress. Off the
shoulder.

SADIE

And I was too shy to...

HOLDEN

Dance to anything fast? Yes, I
remember that night very well.

SADIE

Will you...

HOLDEN

Lead you off the floor?

She takes a breath and looks up at him.

SADIE

I was going to say twirl me.

HOLDEN

(beat)

With pleasure.

Holden smiles and they begin to twirl around the dance floor.

On the other side of the room, Luke sees this, smiles, and
takes a picture.

70

INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - NIGHT 6

70

Kendra enters, surveying the party for a moment - she sees Holden and Sadie on the dance floor and the look of concern returns. Bobby sees her and goes quickly to welcome her.

BOBBY

Kendra. Welcome. Merry Christmas.

KENDRA

Thank you. Merry Christmas to you.

Kendra looks at Holden and Sadie again.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I saw her with Holden at the drive-in. Who is that?

BOBBY

That's Sadie Walker.

KENDRA

The one that's trying to keep the deal from going through? How concerned do I need to be about that?

BOBBY

Not at all. They were friends in high school. I think they're just reliving old times.

KENDRA

Because if the historic commission is going to get in the way, I'd really like to know sooner rather than later so we can start looking for other towns.

BOBBY

No, no. Chesterfield is the right place for you. I promise there is nothing to worry about.

Adele enters the hall and Bobby sees her.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(to Kendra)

Why don't you go grab a drink and some food and I'll catch up with you in a few minutes?

Kendra nods and heads off as Bobby goes to Adele.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Adele.

ADELE

Mr. Mayor. What a fun party.
Thank you for the invitation.

BOBBY

You're welcome. Listen, I've been
thinking... maybe you were right.

ADELE

I love hearing that. About what?

BOBBY

How much Chesterfield needs an
outdoor dining patio at the local
bakery by the spring.

ADELE

Bobby, I really was moved by what
Sadie Walker said at the meeting.
Many of the other members on the
commission were as well. I would
not hold this town's economic
potential hostage for a patio.

BOBBY

(abashed)

I understand. I'm sorry. But
Adele, this is about the town's
future. And I'm worried that it's
at risk because of nostalgia for...

Bobby looks at Sadie and Holden on the dance floor.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

The past.

ADELE

(beat - nods)

Then let's see what we can get
done.

Adele and Bobby go off to discuss the issue as we see Sadie
and Holden still enjoying the dance floor.

END ACT SIX

72 CONTINUED:

72

HOLDEN

I didn't think this was going to work, so I hadn't really thought too much about it. But, Sadie, even if the Historic Commission rules in your favor, all it means is it can't be torn down. So, the deal with Excelsia would be dead, but I could still sell the drive-in to someone who would want to keep it open.

SADIE

You'd do that?

HOLDEN

I can't run this place forever. I have a business to get back to. Unless you want to do it.

SADIE

I've got a full-time job. Maybe you can hire someone to run it like you did this past season.

HOLDEN

I don't know. I think part of the reason this is working is because you love the place as much as my dad did.

SADIE

And you do, too. No matter what you say.

HOLDEN

(shrugs)

Who are we going to find that is going to care as much as we have?

The two of them ponder that idea for a moment but before they can go any further, an errant snowball thrown by a group of kids hits Holden (gently).

Sadie laughs.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

Oh, you think that's funny?

SADIE

Very much so.

Holden picks up some snow and starts forming a ball.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED: (2)

72

SADIE (CONT'D)
Holden! Holden, no! No!

She runs as he tosses the ball at her. He scores a hit and she starts grabbing snow to return fire. They laugh as they enjoy a playful snowball fight, thoughts of "what's next" forgotten for now.

73 **EXT. ADELE'S BAKERY - DAY 8**

73

Establishing Adele's bakery.

74 **INT. ADELE'S BAKERY - DAY 8**

74

Sadie, Eve, and Camilla are sitting at a table in Adele's bakery with cups of coffee, baked goods, and papers spread in front of them. Adele is busy in the background.

SADIE
I have gone over every inch of this contract and it's pretty clear. Regardless of what they told you they would do with the land, they can do whatever they want.

EVE
And there's no way out of it?

SADIE
Not that I've been able to find. A good lawyer will usually include a loophole or an exit clause just in case something changes.

CAMILLA
But not this contract?

SADIE
I'm afraid not. This is totally in the company's favor. But we have other options to explore.

CAMILLA
Such as?

SADIE
(beat)
I'm not sure yet. The important thing is I'm not giving up. And neither should you.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

CAMILLA

Thank you. I'm going to go call my brother. I'll be back.

Camilla excuses herself to make the call. Eve turns to Sadie.

EVE

Look at you Ms. I Don't Want To Practice Law Anymore.

SADIE

I was recently talking with someone about the possibility that maybe I overcorrected when I said that.

EVE

A certain handsome real estate developer?

SADIE

(smiles)

The point is, I'm enjoying doing this again.

EVE

Even though it might not be winnable?

SADIE

I think I've missed trying.

We hold on Sadie, looking hopeful in a way she hasn't before.

75 OMITTED

75

76 EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - SNACK BAR - DAY 8

76

Holden is fixing lights on the snack bar when Bobby walks up with a bottle of fine wine, complete with a bow.

BOBBY

Hey. I come with good tidings.

HOLDEN

What's that for?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

BOBBY

For a toast to success. The Historic Commission approved the plan for the distribution center.

HOLDEN

How could they do that? The meeting isn't for another week.

BOBBY

Adele realized we were in danger of losing the Excelsia deal. So, we moved up the meeting.

HOLDEN

Bobby, why didn't you tell me?

BOBBY

Kendra was talking about pulling out of Chesterfield entirely. I couldn't let that happen. It's too important to the town.

HOLDEN

The drive-in is important to the town, too. You should have seen it last night. We ran out of room; we ran out of food! Bobby, there's something about this place. It might have taken Christmas for me to see it, but it's... special.

BOBBY

Holden, I understand that there's a lot going on here, but you already made a deal with Kendra Oldston. All we needed to do was clear this one little hurdle. She's thrilled.

HOLDEN

You told her already?

Holden grabs his jacket and leaves.

BOBBY

Holden. Holden!

But Holden is gone. Bobby looks at the bottle of wine with the bow and sighs a bit.

77

EXT. CHESTERFIELD MAIN STREET - NIGHT 8

77

Holden and Kendra are walking down Main Street.

HOLDEN

Thank you for meeting me.

KENDRA

My pleasure. I'm thrilled it's under such happy circumstances.

HOLDEN

Right. About that...

KENDRA

I have to admit I was getting a little worried. I saw what you and your friend were doing at the drive-in and I was thinking you were having a change of heart.

HOLDEN

Well, to be honest, I am.

Kendra absorbs that for a moment.

KENDRA

Look, Holden, I get it. It's a part of your history. A part of the town's history. It's natural to get nostalgic when faced with the idea of it going away.

HOLDEN

Kendra, I know I said that the drive-in hadn't been important to the town for a long time... or to me. But the last couple of weeks have shown me that I was wrong. I think Chesterfield got distracted by the newest and latest and greatest and they just forgot. I think I forgot, too.

KENDRA

But along came a Christmas miracle?

HOLDEN

'Tis the season.

KENDRA

I understand.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

HOLDEN

You do?

KENDRA

Absolutely. I'm not some heartless corporate type who doesn't have feelings. I'm a wife and a mom and a daughter and I get what it means to hold onto things you love, especially at the holidays.

HOLDEN

Thank you.

KENDRA

But at the same time, I am the COO of a multi-billion dollar company that already told her bosses this was a done deal. I don't know how we get out of that.

HOLDEN

There is a break-up clause in the contract.

KENDRA

Yes, but it comes with a very hefty break-up fee. Do you really want to have to pay all that just to save a drive-in movie theater?

HOLDEN

(beat)

There must be a way.

KENDRA

If you can find one, I'd be happy to hear it. Otherwise, I'm sorry, Holden.

She starts to walk away, then turns back.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

But hey... you already got one Christmas miracle. Maybe you can find another.

She walks away leaving Holden at a loss over what has happened.

78 OMITTED

78

79

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 8

79

A group of carolers, led by Sadie's mom June, is going car to car in the packed drive-in to sing Christmas tunes before the movie.

Sadie is watching the scene with pride.

Holden comes around the snack bar and sees her, pausing a moment to watch her. The smile on her face makes what he needs to tell her even more painful for him.

He takes a breath and approaches her.

SADIE

Oh, hey! There you are. I was afraid you were going to miss the carolers. If we get anymore Christmas in here I think we're going to have to change the name to the North Pole Drive-In.

HOLDEN

(a bit uncomfortable)
It looks like a lot of fun.

SADIE

It is. And I need this kind of merriment right now. I've been working on Camilla's case all day and I still haven't found a solution.

HOLDEN

Is there one? Because sometimes no matter how hard you try, it doesn't turn out the way you want it to.

SADIE

I know. Believe me, I know. But property law is tricky. Just when you think there's no hope, you find something small like a comma in a sentence that you can argue changes the meaning of the whole thing.

HOLDEN

So, even done deals could be undone?

SADIE

Happens all the time.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

Holden takes that in and it gives him some renewed hope. Maybe he can turn this around with Kendra after all.

HOLDEN

You seem to be enjoying yourself.
Fighting for Camilla, I mean.

SADIE

I am. Helping her and...
(points at the drive-in)
This... it makes me feel like I
have a purpose again.

HOLDEN

(tries to tell her)
Sadie, there's something I need to
tell you.

SADIE

And listen, I've been thinking
about my Christmas wish list. I'm
loving this too much to let it go.
So, I will figure out a way to make
it work.

HOLDEN

Sadie, the Historic Commission...

SADIE

They're going to rule in our favor.
I'm sure of it.

Holden sees how much this means to her and in the moment,
just doesn't have the heart to tell her what happened.

From off, June waves at them to come join the carolers.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's go sing.

Sadie pulls Holden off to join in the song with the rest of
the carolers and he does his best to force a smile.

END ACT SEVEN

81 CONTINUED:

81

SADIE

Luke, would Charlie Decker sell this truck to you?

LUKE

He might. He only used it a few times last summer. Why?

SADIE

Forget catering. This could be the restaurant you've always wanted. A drive-in diner during the day and a drive-in movie theater at night.

LUKE

Oh, hey, that's interesting. I could do modern interpretations of drive-in food. You know, fancy hot dogs and gourmet burgers.

SADIE

That's a great idea! And we could have car-hops and a little picnic area. I need to write all of this down!

Sadie, flush with excitement, goes to look for something on which she can write down all the great ideas.

82-84 OMITTED

82-84

85 EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 9

85

A Christmas movie is playing as we see people in cars and at the concession stand enjoying the feast - all served in festive containers that fit into cupholders.

Sadie walks away from the food truck with a tray of food just as Holden approaches.

SADIE

Can you believe this? Now I'm waitress, too. I need roller skates to keep up.

HOLDEN

I don't think that's going to work in the snow.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

SADIE

Well, this is just a preview. Wait until you hear what Luke and I came up with. I think we solved the "what do we do if we win" problem.

HOLDEN

(forces a smile)
Really? That's great. I can't wait to hear about it.

SADIE

I think my Christmas wish is going to come true. And it's all because of you.

HOLDEN

(beat - feels badly)
No, I didn't...

SADIE

Thank you, Holden.

She leans in and gives him a kiss on the cheek. Holden accepts it, but we can tell it makes him feel a bit guilty.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I need to get this to the mayor before it gets cold.

HOLDEN

Bobby's here?

SADIE

Yeah. Row four. He ordered via text message. Luke's idea.

HOLDEN

(takes the tray)
Why don't I take this one? I need to say hi to him anyway. Row four?

SADIE

Yep. Thanks.

Sadie smiles and goes back into the concession stand as Holden takes a deep breath and then goes to find Bobby.

86

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 9

86

Bobby is standing by his car looking at the packed house and merriment happening as Holden approaches with the tray.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

HOLDEN

So, what do you think of all this?

BOBBY

Can I have my food before I tell you?

HOLDEN

(smiles)

No.

BOBBY

I'm impressed.

Holden hands him the tray.

HOLDEN

What about now?

BOBBY

Still impressed. And I'm sorry about not telling you about the meeting. But I still think we did the right thing.

HOLDEN

Bobby, we've been friends for a long time. You know me. I've always been focused on business. I'm not the type of guy who believes in things like Christmas magic, but look around! There's something magical about what the drive-in is doing for this town.

BOBBY

Holden, you weren't always about business. You used to believe in things like Christmas magic when we were kids. But then you got your heart broken. I'd hate to see that happen again.

Bobby gets into his car with the tray of food, leaving Holden to feel even worse than he did before. His phone rings and he walks away to answer it.

87

EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - SNACK BAR - NIGHT 9

87

Sadie is near the snack bar holding a Christmas-decorated gift bag as she scans the crowd. Eve approaches.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

SADIE

Eve, have you seen Holden?

EVE

Yeah, he was heading toward the main drive. What did he think about your grand plan for running the drive-in?

SADIE

We were too busy to talk about the future.

EVE

Yours or the drive-in's?

SADIE

Stop it. Holden is not... One way or another, he's still going to leave when all this is done.

EVE

(points at bag)
Is that for him?

Sadie reaches in the bag and pulls out a pair of socks with sharks wearing Santa caps on them, which tie together the running gag they've had between them and the movie they were watching when they first kissed.

EVE (CONT'D)

Shark socks?

SADIE

(smiles)
It's a long story.

Sadie puts them back in the bag, just as Adele passes by.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Adele! Hi.

ADELE

Sadie, Eve. Hello. Merry Christmas.

EVE

Hi, Adele.

SADIE

I'm so happy you decided to come down and see what we've done here.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: (2)

87

ADELE

I must admit, it is very merry.
And I'm so glad there are no hard
feelings.

SADIE

Over what?

ADELE

That we moved up the meeting. That
we voted to approve tearing down
the drive-in so they can build the
distribution center.

SADIE

What?!

ADELE

Oh, no, I thought Holden would've
told you.

SADIE

Holden knows about this?

ADELE

I'm very sorry.

Adele walks away quickly. Sadie is shocked speechless for a
moment, but then heads off quickly in search of Holden.

88 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN DRIVE - NIGHT 9**

88

Holden is on the phone, pacing as he speaks.

HOLDEN

You didn't find anything? Not even
a comma? What about in the
historic commission bylaws? And
the contract is...

(beat - defeated)

Okay. Thanks.

He disconnects the call just as Sadie comes storming up.

SADIE

I just ran into Adele.

HOLDEN

Oh, no. Sadie...

SADIE

How could you do this?

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

HOLDEN

I didn't! It was Bobby and Adele.
They made some sort of deal. I
didn't know anything about it until
it was already done.

SADIE

When did you find out?

HOLDEN

Yesterday.

SADIE

And you didn't tell me?

HOLDEN

I was trying to...

SADIE

(interrupts)
How much longer do we have?

HOLDEN

(beat)
Tonight is the last night.
(beat)
Sadie, I'm sorry.

SADIE

So, it's really over?

HOLDEN

Sadie, we both knew this was a long
shot. We got caught up in the
spirit of Christmas. The magic of
the movies. But it was a fantasy.
That's the thing about dreams,
Sadie. At some point, you have to
wake up.

She hands him the shark socks.

SADIE

I understand. Merry Christmas.

Sadie walks off leaving an equally devastated Holden behind.

END ACT EIGHT

90 CONTINUED:

90

SADIE

It doesn't matter. He made it very clear that it was over. All of it.

JUNE

(sits with her)
You're really going to give up?
(points to the sign)
Before the miracle?

SADIE

(beat)
How do you know the difference between giving up and letting go?

JUNE

(pats her hand)
That depends. Is there still a miracle to be had?

June leaves Sadie alone to contemplate all of that.

91 **EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 10**

91

Establishing the town hall.

92 **INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 10**

92

Holden is at town hall with Kendra and Bobby. A few placards on easels show renderings of the new distribution center with grand proclamations about it coming to Chesterfield.

BOBBY

These are for the press conference tomorrow. We'll have big ones we can use as a backdrop.

KENDRA

I love it. Holden?

HOLDEN

Yeah. It looks good. But I still don't understand why we have to do this tomorrow.

BOBBY

We want to do it before Christmas. We're giving the entire town a huge present.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

HOLDEN

And you really need me there?

BOBBY

Yes. We need Chesterfield to see that you're on board with this.

Holden gives Bobby a look that clearly says he's not.

KENDRA

Bobby, may I have a moment with Holden?

Bobby pauses, then nods and leaves the room. Kendra pauses and then turns to Holden.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Are you? On board with this?

HOLDEN

(beat)

I'm sorry, but no. I haven't decided what I'm going to do about it yet, but...

KENDRA

Holden, you understand that if you pull out now, it'll have serious repercussions on your business? You're risking everything.

HOLDEN

I know. But that just might be a risk that's worth taking. But we're not there yet. I still think there's a solution here somewhere that can make everyone happy.

KENDRA

(beat - not unkind)

And if there is one, I'd love to hear it. But Holden... I think it might be too late for miracles. I'm sorry.

She pats him on the shoulder and walks away.

Holden takes that in, trying to figure out if there is a way he can make a Christmas miracle happen, but unsure how.

94 CONTINUED:

94

HOLDEN

Maybe if I had listened to you from the start. Maybe if I...

SADIE

You tried. We both did. But you were right. We got caught up in the fantasy. Hoping for a miracle.

HOLDEN

I kept hoping there was a way to save this place.

SADIE

The fact that you wanted to means a lot. I'm sorry I couldn't.

HOLDEN

Don't be sorry. You brought Christmas magic to Chesterfield. My dad would've loved it.

SADIE

I loved him. But I didn't do it for him. Not entirely. I did it for me. For what this place meant to me. To us. This was our place. Our movie. You and me. It ended once and I just couldn't bear to see it end again.

HOLDEN

(overwhelmed - beat)
Maybe it doesn't have to.
(off her look)
I'm going to tell Excelsia the deal is off.

SADIE

Holden, you can't do that.

HOLDEN

Why not?

SADIE

I know property law. It was one thing if the historic commission said no. But now that they've said yes, if you break the contract it would cost you a fortune. It could ruin your business.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: (2)

94

HOLDEN

That first night, outside town hall, you told me that this place is about more than a business decision. Over the last few weeks you proved you were right. And not just about the drive-in.

(takes her hands)

Sadie, I don't want this movie to end either.

He pulls her toward him and it appears as if they are going to kiss when headlights wash across them and they hear a horn honk. They take a beat, pull apart, and go to investigate.

95 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - MAIN GATE - NIGHT 10**

95

Sadie and Holden come out the main gate to find a long line of cars waiting. June, Luke, Eve, and Camilla - along with Cora, Marie, and Ed who we saw earlier - are standing at the head of the line.

SADIE

What's going on?

EVE

Camilla and I saw the lights on and called your mom.

JUNE

I knew you were here, so I made a few calls. And then they made a few calls.

EVE

We all wanted to say goodbye to the drive-in.

CAMILLA

We know you did your best. Just like you're doing your best to save my land.

SADIE

Camilla, I'm sorry, but I've been over every word of your contract. It's like your lawyer was working for the other side.

CAMILLA

I guess that's not surprising considering they recommended him.

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

95

SADIE

Wait, the company that you sold the land to knew your lawyer? Why didn't you tell me that?

CAMILLA

He said he worked for them all the time so he was really familiar with their contracts. He said it was a good thing.

SADIE

(gears are turning)
That's a conflict of interest.
That could void the contract.

She turns to Holden.

SADIE (CONT'D)

How much land does Excelsia need?

HOLDEN

I don't know. Fourteen acres.
Long driveway. A lot of... trees.

Holden gets what she's talking about. He smiles.

SADIE

And there's our miracle.

Sadie turns to Camilla.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Camilla, do you have that lawyer's phone number handy? I think we need to call him up and renegotiate your contract.

CAMILLA

Do you think you can get me out of it?

SADIE

He's not going to want an investigation by the State Bar.
So, yes. I think we can.

Sadie pulls out her phone.

96

EXT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 11

96

Establishing the town hall.

97 INT. CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL - DAY 11

97

The room is packed as Bobby, Kendra and Holden are on the dais. June, Luke, and Eve are in the audience.

BOBBY

And so, I am pleased to announce, that Excelsia will be building a new distribution center, right here in Chesterfield.

(holds for applause)

This is their COO Kendra Oldston, who is going to tell you more.

KENDRA

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We're very excited about this project and even more excited about where we're going to build it. Holden?

Holden, Sadie, and Camilla step in.

HOLDEN

The distribution center will be located on a plot of land that is probably familiar to a lot of you.

SADIE

The former Mendoza family tree farm!

KENDRA

Excelsia will build our center there and the rest of the land will be preserved with hiking trails and picnic grounds and will be known as the Mendoza Family Park.

There is cheerful applause from the crowd.

HOLDEN

And the drive-in will remain open. Year round!

The crowd goes wild.

SADIE

Who wants to watch a Christmas movie with us tonight?

The crowd cheers even more.

98 **EXT. MCCARTHY DRIVE-IN - GROUNDS - NIGHT 11**

98

The drive-in is back in business and the place is packed. A Christmas movie is showing on the screen.

Sadie and Holden are sitting on the tailgate of Holden's pick-up truck, with a blanket around them.

SADIE

Congratulations on your big new contract with Excelsia. It seems as if Kendra was impressed by you doing the right thing.

He points to the movie screen, playfully "shushing" her.

HOLDEN

(whispers)
Thank you.
(smiles)
And congratulations to you, too.

SADIE

For the drive-in? Or Camilla?

HOLDEN

For finding your cape again.

Sadie smiles, then playfully "shushes" him.

SADIE

I'm trying to watch the movie.
(off his laugh)
This is the best Christmas present ever.

HOLDEN

Technically, this is the present.

Holden lifts his pant leg a little to show that he is wearing the shark socks she bought him. He then gestures out...

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

All the rest of it?
(looks at her)
This is the Christmas wish.
(leans in)
Merry Christmas, Sadie.

SADIE

Merry Christmas, Holden.

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

98

They kiss as the Christmas music playing from the movie swells. After the kiss...

SADIE (CONT'D)

For the record, you kissed me first.

HOLDEN

I'm good with that.

They lean in and kiss again.

We PULL BACK to see the very merry scene of the full drive-in, surrounded by Christmas lights.

The movie on the big screen fades to black and is replaced by the words "THE END."

END ACT NINE