

TAKING CARE OF CHRISTMAS

Written by
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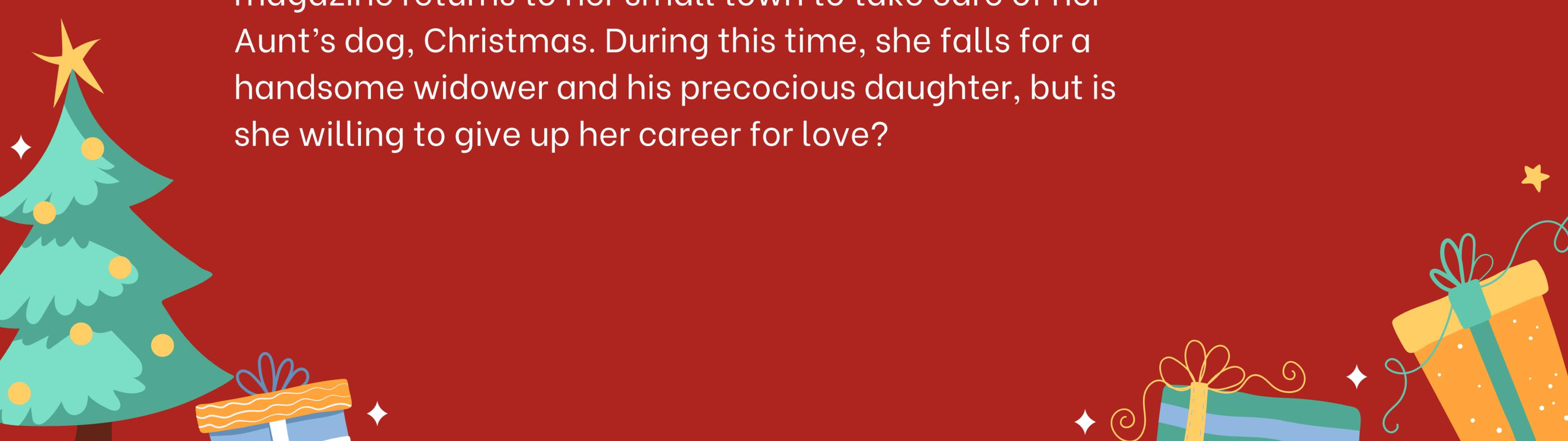
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Logline

A successful marketing director for a top fashion magazine returns to her small town to take care of her Aunt's dog, Christmas. During this time, she falls for a handsome widower and his precocious daughter, but is she willing to give up her career for love?



Synopsis



Hope Weston, 30s, is a successful marketing director for the fashion magazine “Sparkle,” although deep down inside her true passion in life is to be a baker. Shortly before Christmas, Hope is offered a promotion as Chief Marketing Officer for the magazine by its owner, Meryl Edwards, a no-nonsense businesswoman, whose handsome son, Brock, 30s, will replace Meryl as CEO of the magazine when Meryl retires in the New Year. Brock has a thing for Hope, and while she finds him attractive, she also finds it a ‘slippery slope’ knowing he’s going to be her boss. Still, Hope accepts Meryl’s offer to join them at their Cayman Islands home for Christmas.

When Hope’s favorite Aunt, Stella, a spry woman in her 60s falls off her bike at spin class, Stella asks Hope to return home to take care of her dog, ‘Christmas.’ Hope tells Meryl that she needs to return to her small-town of Evergreen Valley. Meryl agrees, but states that Hope must return by December 23rd for their holiday vacation in the Cayman’s.

Hope returns to Evergreen Valley and meets Kenzie, 10, who lives across the way from Stella. Kenzie is waiting on the front steps when Hope pulls up to Stella’s home. Kenzie loves Christmas and visits her daily because she doesn’t have a dog of her own. Hope instantly takes a liking to Kenzie and then meets Kenzie’s father, Matt.

Hope and Matt have sparks between them and slowly, a relationship develops, but Matt is skeptical if Hope is “the one” because of Brock’s constant texts and calls. Hope reassures him that her relationship with Brock is strictly business.

When Hope throws a surprise ‘Welcome Home’ party for Stella’s return from the hospital, Brock unexpectedly shows up and boasts about his upcoming trip to the Cayman Islands with Hope. Matt is livid and says that he’s ‘done’ says that he can’t believe Hope lied to him.

Hope is devastated, but returns to her job in the city. Thinking that her relationship with Matt is over, Hope packs for the Cayman Islands as planned. She then receives a text from her best friend, Maggie, which has her rushing back to Evergreen Valley to celebrate Christmas with Matt and Kenzie... only Matt and Kenzie aren’t there.

But it’s Christmas, where miracles do happen, and what happens next changes Hope’s life forever.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Hope Weston 30s - successful marketing director, who secretly wants to be a baker – she makes the most amazing cookies – she is stylish, kind and you want to be her friend *



Matt 30s – a local vet who is handsome, yet guarded since losing his wife – he loves his daughter and will do anything to protect her



MacKenzie "Kenzie" 10 – precocious, adorable and smart who desperately wants a 'mom' figure in her life, but will settle for a dog instead



Aunt Stella 60s – Spry, fit, a character* who basically raised Hope – she's fun and taught Hope all her secrets about baking



SUPPORTING CAST:

Maggie 30s – Hope's best friend since high school. She's supportive and funny, will tell you like it is, no holds barred!



Brock 30s – drop-dead hunk of a man, successful, rich, likes and respects Hope.



Christmas – a cute Shih Tzu dog





Production Specs



- Minimal Principal Performers
- Limited Locations
- Strong Female Characters - we really want a diverse cast
- No F/X
- Minor Stunts
- Very few background actors



Writer Bios



Tony has extensive writing credits for his feature films, including “Pretty Girls Aren’t Funny“ based on Rhonda Shear’s book “Up All Night,“ which he was hired to adapt as both a screenplay and limited series. It was a recent semifinalist in both The Page Turner & Wiki Screenplay Contests. He has optioned/sold several TV reality series and sitcoms, and placed in a variety of other contests, including The Nicholl Fellowship Awards, Project Greenlight and Writer’s Digest Screenplay Contests. He is also a published author and playwright and currently in pre-production with the stop-motion animated movie “The Potters“ starring Frances Fisher, Jessie Cave & Kurt Fuller.

www.tonyjerris.com



Shannon has sold four short films and optioned two solely-written feature films and along with Tony has optioned 2 Christmas Scripts. Her solely-written screenplay, “Undercover Grandpa“ was a semi-finalist in the Austin Film Festival TRMS contest in 2019 and her TV pilot, “Red Flags“ was a quarter-finalist for PTS in 2021- she is an actor first, but has always had a love for writing/creating stories. She and Tony were recently hired to write the cable movie, “Deadly Stage Mom“ and are currently under NDA for a comedy TV series they created, which is in development at a major network.

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