



*Finding
Christmas
at Wheeler Lodge*



WRITER

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I am a business woman with an extensive background in banking and government contracting. In the past 5 years, I've turned more to my creative side; published two books and started screenwriting.



LOGLINE:

After movie star Kate is left publicly heartbroken, she finds love again with pilot Mike in the place she least suspects. Unfortunately, their Christmas love story has an expiration date.

FORMAT:

Feature

NUTSHELL:

Hallmark Christmas Movies
Notting Hill with a twist.

GENRE:

Holiday Romcom



MEET KATE

Like Actresses:

1. Rhiannon Fish
2. Holland Roden
3. Lacey Chabert

- Kate is single; mid to late thirties.
- Introspective; loves to write and act.
- Kate has strained relations with her dad, Tom, who is a prominent NYC art dealer and Executive Director of The Priceless Art Foundation.
- She left her passion in community theatre for Hollywood (for all the wrong reasons).
- She has a childhood rival, Brice, the son her dad never had.
- Now, twelve years later, she's at a crisis point: running on empty, overshadowed by a competitor, amid public breakups.
- Kate is searching for inspiration and purpose.
- To appease Tom she agreed to spend Christmas at Wheeler Lodge connecting to previously unknown family history.



MEET MIKE

Like Actors:

1. Tyler Hynes
2. Paul Campbell
3. Paul Greene

- Mike is single; mid to late thirties.
- Mr. Personality; quick wit; kind. Airline captain.
- Loves his family; perfect uncle to his niece and nephew.
- Not keen on romantic commitment; especially after his heart was broken a year ago.
- Looking to relocate to Tokyo to clear his head (code for: I don't want to deal with the real issue).
- Mike's family has an annual tradition of spending the week before Christmas at Wheeler Lodge with their best friends.

MOVIE SETTINGS



NYC



Jackson Hole

Family-owned and operated Wheeler Lodge & Ski Resort is a winter playground nestled in the Grand Tetons.

Structure: 3 Acts; 9 Sections

(Length: Estimate 100 Minutes)

WGA West Registry: 2180569

United States Copyright Office: PAu 4-175-459

Final Draft Software

ACTs	Sections	Estimated Minutes	Percentage of Total Script	Script Page Number References	Beat Sheet Info
1	1	22	22%	Page 1 to top of page 23	14 beats
2	2 - 8	71 <i>(Avg 10 min each)</i>	71%	Top of page 23 to mid page 93	36 beats
3	9	7	7%	Page 93 to page 100	7 beats
Totals	3	100	100%	1 - 100	57 beats

ARC – Act 1 / Section 1

Positive Change: Protagonist, Kate Channing

Male Lead: Mike Kelly

ARC Trajectory	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The lie that Kate believes</u>: she has to make a name for herself to prove her worth. <u>The lie that Mike believes</u>: don't make commitments. What if there's something better tomorrow?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inciting Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate's meltdown when she learned she did not get the lead in the "big" opportunity. Mike making a decision to transfer to Tokyo for two years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Plot Point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate agrees to go to Jackson Hole/Wheeler Lodge for Christmas. Mike joining his family for their annual Christmas trip to Wheeler Lodge.

ARC – Act 2 / Sections 2 - 8

Positive Change: Protagonist, Kate Channing

Male Lead: Mike Kelly

ARC Trajectory	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Pinch Point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Snow Walk – Stop#3 The Snow Box. Kate and Mike identify the issues keeping each of them awake at night.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mid-Point (2nd Plot Point) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate and Mike are stranded in Aunt Bev’s cabin overnight where Kate discovers the inspiration wall. Mike supports Kate through her discovery. Mike and Kate are developing a deep friendship and feelings of romance are building. Kate learns that Mike is leaving for Tokyo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Second Pinch Point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate and her dad, Tom, have heart-felt communication and resolve long-standing issues that have kept them apart. Mike’s sister talks straight to him. Mike leaves for Tokyo.

ARC – Act 3 / Section 9

Positive Change: Protagonist, Kate Channing

Male Lead: Mike Kelly

ARC Trajectory	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Third Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kate decides to put Hollywood on hold and go back to her roots: community theatre. She gets a contract from Greenlea Community Theatre for her play, <i>You're My Forever</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Climax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Premiere night for, <i>You're My Forever</i>.Mike surprises Kate at the end of the premiere. Explains that he no longer needs to run away.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kate remaining in community theatre.Mike and Kate go to Aunt Bev's cabin for Valentine's dinner.Kate and Mike get engaged.



Finding Christmas at Wheeler Lodge – Overview

- Kate Channing (female lead) is returning home for a very brief visit to NYC to launch her scholarship program at the community theatre where she got her start.
- This is the first time she's been back in December since her mom passed 12 years ago. Kate has a strained relationship with her dad. She doesn't find much to celebrate at Christmas. She has the constant reminder of the rival she grew up with named Brice; the son her dad never had, and the man her dad is determined for her to marry.
- Kate's career in Hollywood has been bittersweet. Numerous successes; however, she's in the shadow of another actress. She faces this reality every time the "big" opportunities come up.
- She's had a couple of high-profile break-ups in the past five years and the tabloids won't let the stories die.
- When Kate's agent calls to let her know she just lost the big lead part that was going to 'prove her worth,' Kate decides to stay with her dad through the holidays. She's going with him on his annual Christmas trip to Wheeler Lodge in Jackson Hole. Kate is unaware of her family's rich history in that area.



Finding Christmas at Wheeler Lodge – Overview

- Mike Kelly (male lead) is the type of person everyone wants for a best friend; but he's carrying baggage from his long-standing fear of commitment, reinforced by a bad break-up last year. He's planning to move to Tokyo for two years to avoid dealing with his issues.
- Before Mike leaves he's going with his family on their annual Christmas trip to Wheeler Lodge.
- **Falling in love isn't the point. Kate needs to find inspiration and purpose. Mike needs to find contentment. We have a lovely week at Wheeler Lodge with two people who find true friendship; then love as they work through their personal issues.**
- Stranded by a blizzard, Kate spent the night in her great-aunt's cabin, and discovered the wall of inspiration. This prompted her to rethink her path and start a course correction.
- Mike left for Tokyo on Christmas Day as planned.



Finding Christmas at Wheeler Lodge – Overview

- Kate took some time away from Hollywood and decided to go back to her roots: community theatre. She wrote a play that premiered a year after the trip to Wheeler Lodge.
- Leaving the theatre on premiere night, Kate bumps into a MAN. Mike had come to surprise her on opening night.
- They get engaged on Valentine’s night during a private dinner at her aunt’s cabin. Mike asked Kate how a Christmas wedding at Wheeler Lodge sounds. She agreed that’s appropriate since Wheeler Lodge is where she found Christmas.



6 MAIN CHARACTERS

- Kate Channing - Female Lead
- Mike Kelly - Male Lead
- Ava - Mike's sister
- Caroline (V.O.) - Kate's best friend
- Tom - Kate's father
- Annie - Mike's 8-year-old niece