

FINDING CHRISTMAS

Screenplay by: Donna Douglas Walchle/donnadhere@gmail.com

LOGLINE: A billionaire widower, who's not celebrated Christmas since his wife died, gains immeasurable insights into giving and receiving what money can't buy.

CHARACTER TYPES:

Sam: Tom Hanks; Greg Kinnear; Harry Connick, Jr.; Tim McGraw; Hugh Grant;
SSV: Delroy Lindo; Willie C. Carpenter; Terry Crews; Danny Glover;
Marianna: Elisabeth Shue; Rita Wilson; Faith Hill; Jennifer Anniston; Kate Winslett;

SYNOPSIS:

They were married thirty years. Several years after Becca's death, Sam Waters, a billionaire, finds that he has lost his drive for business, his interest in life and any desire to celebrate Christmas. Becca was a giver and that was the way she lived her life. She always told Sam that they needed to do more with their fortune that spoil their kids and grands. Christmas was her favorite time of year.

Sam has two grown children; Robert, a trust fund baby, married with two children and Callie who Sam disowned when she married a pastor who didn't meet up to Sam's expectations for his treasured princess. He refused to attend their wedding and the last time he saw them was at Becca's funeral. Sam has a five-year-old granddaughter that he's never met.

Early one morning while visiting Becca's grave, Sam is startled when a man wearing warm winter clothing and a hat with the initials, SSV, approaches him. When Sam inquires what the initials stand for he is taken aback when the friendly stranger discloses that the letters are short for his name, Still Small Voice.

SSV tells Sam that he has no power to control him, only to guide and direct him and that Sam always has the option to embrace or discard any suggestions. With those ground rules, SSV proposes to Sam that he consider championing Becca's passion by taking a walk through town and getting a sense of the people and needs in his community. SSV serves as Sam's tour guide.

Marianna, Sam's personal assistant, was Becca's best friend since they were ten years old. Marianna usually delivers all of the Christmas donation checks. But this year, Sam decides to deliver them himself. In doing so, he begins to understand why Becca was so determined to leave an imprint of love and kindness wherever she went.

For the first time since Becca's passing, Sam allows his home to be decorated for Christmas. Marianna coaxes Sam into helping her with the big tree in the family room that she and Becca decorated for so many years. Spending this personal time together causes Sam to see her in a way that he never has until now. Marianna also helps Sam make amends with Callie, as well as some long needed adjustments with Robert during the family Christmas dinner and gift exchange.

On his way back to finding Christmas, Sam rediscovers himself and the things that comprise life at its best and most meaningful. His generosity changes a lot of lives. But, the life most changed is his. It all started with one idea: Love well and pass it on; a reality that for any opened heart changes everything.

