

FINDING CHRISTMAS

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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.

SYNOPSIS:

Several years after his wife's death, Sam Waters, a youthful- looking, mid-fifties, billionaire, still finds that he's lost his drive for business, his interest in life and any desire to celebrate Christmas. It was Becca's favorite time of year. Any reminder is too painful.

Becca always told Sam that they needed to do much more with their fortune than to live lavishly and spoil their children and grandchildren. She was a joyful and enthusiastic giver all year long. However, because her favorite time of year was Christmas those efforts got magnified.

Sam has two grown children; a son Robert, who is married with two children and lives a life of luxury mostly due to a generous trust fund rather than hard work, and a daughter, Callie who was disowned by Sam 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.

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 and that he is Sam's, Still Small Voice.

SSV suggests to Sam that he consider championing Becca's life-long mission and take a walk through town to get a sense of the people and needs in his community. SSV serves as his tour guide and points out a variety of people and situations that could use some attention. Included in the tour is running into his son- in- law, Pastor Jack, whom Sam doesn't recognize and his six-year- old granddaughter, Megan, that Jack pushes in a wheel chair. Sam was unaware that Megan existed.

Marianna, Sam's personal assistant, was Becca's best friend since they were ten years old. This year, rather than have Marianna deliver all of the Christmas donation checks, Sam decides to deliver them himself. In doing so, he puts names with faces with circumstances and is surprisingly moved as he slowly 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 also allows his home to be decorated for Christmas. Marianna coaxes Sam into helping her decorate the big tree in the family room. Spending this personal time together causes Sam to see her in a way that he never has. SSV encourages Sam to think about the possibility of expanding their relationship. Marianna has never married because she says she's waiting for someone to ride up on a white horse and sweep her off of her feet. Sam has horse stables on his property. If things continue to develop, making that happen would not be a stretch.

From the terminally ill husband of a beloved bus driver having his hospital bill paid in full, to provisions for foster children and orphans, to starting a job training program, to a new SUV for an Army wife and her kids whose husband is serving in Afghanistan, to buying an electric wheel chair for his little granddaughter, the spirit of giving quickly captures Sam's heart and is emulated throughout the community.

Sam also takes up the gauntlet and corrects some errors he's made as a father by enabling Robert, his wife and two children to live a life of elitism. He reconciles his relationship with Callie who is only too happy to forgive him. He relishes the process of redeeming the lost time and getting to know his spunky little granddaughter.

When everyone gathers for the much- anticipated Christmas program at church, the Army wife with three children experience an answer to prayer that comes in the back door of the church as the service is concluding. It's nothing short of an absolute Christmas miracle, not only for them but also, for the entire community!

On his way back to finding Christmas, Sam rediscovers 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.