

'ONE STARRY CHRISTMAS'

SYNOPSIS

Holly Jensen arrives home after a long day of teaching astronomy to find her boyfriend, Adam, has decorated their Chicago apartment for Christmas. Although the pre-decorated tree he picks is not her style, Holly is still excited to celebrate the season. Unfortunately, Adam has decorated for Christmas as a pre-emptive apology: he will be leaving Holly alone this Christmas to interview for a legal position in New York.

As she is too afraid of air travel to fly to New York to spend time with Adam and her parents, Holly is devastated to be ringing in the season alone. She is also waiting to hear about her dream job, a grant and full-time teaching position at a Chicago college and is concerned about the possibility of relocating. Adam's promise that his job opportunity could mean the next step in their relationship, however, brightens her spirits.

When Holly tells her parents, Ken and Betsy, that she will be spending Christmas alone, they sympathize with their daughter. Betsy is not a fan of Adam's to begin with and wishes on a Christmas star that her daughter will have a merry Christmas...and even find true love.

Holly is miserable preparing for Christmas on her own, but is thrilled when an ad for discount bus tickets from Chicago to New York pops up on her computer! Holly books a ticket immediately and plans to surprise Adam and her parents when she arrives in New York.

On the bus, Holly finds a solo seat and falls asleep. When she wakes up, though, a cowboy is sitting right next to her! She chats with the saddle-toting gentleman, Luke Stetland, who is on his way to New Jersey to meet his brother at a rodeo. The two have an instant connection and agree that it is important to spend Christmas with the ones you love. Luke is disappointed, then, when Holly tells him she is headed to New York to surprise her boyfriend.

When the bus makes a rest stop, Holly and Luke stargaze together. Holly's mom used to tell her Orion's belt was actually Santa's belt and she made Christmas wishes on it as a child. She tells Luke how this sparked her passion for astronomy, and now, she is waiting to hear if she has been awarded a grant named after her late astronomy hero. At Luke's behest, Holly wishes on a star that they make it to New York safely and that she wins the award.

Despite her wish, the bus breaks down. When Holly calls Adam to tell him that she got stranded on the way to seeing him, he tells her he can't risk missing his job interview to pick her up. Luckily, while she is on the phone, Luke rents a truck to drive the two the rest of the way to New York.

Grateful for her heroic cowboy, Holly invites Luke to join her family for dinner that evening. Her father Ken is excited to have a real cowboy at the house and her mother Betsy senses a connection between Holly and the rugged Luke right away. Betsy invites Luke to stay the night and to invite his brother, Bull, over for Christmas Eve dinner the next evening.

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Adam arrives later to the Jensen's home, receiving a cool reception from Betsy. An instant rivalry forms between Adam and Luke. Adam brags about his meeting with the firm and tells everyone about a fancy firm Christmas party he'll be attending the next evening. Holly agrees to join him, but insists that they have Christmas Eve dinner with her parents first.

Holly stays at her parents' house, while Luke returns to his hotel. As Betsy wishes her daughter a good night, she tries to push Holly to see Adam's shortcomings...and Luke's potential.

Late that night, Holly stargazes on the patio. Luke joins her and tells her a story he was told about the constellation she knows as Orion/Santa's Belt. When trying to get home to his soul mate, Josephine, for Christmas, Wild Bill was sucked up by a tornado to the stars. The constellation is, in fact, Wild Bill's belt. Luke can't remember the rest of the story, which Bull tells better, but they both agree it's a tragic tale.

The next morning, Holly and Luke wake up early for a day filled with shopping and site seeing. Luke looks so nice cleaned up that Holly makes herself up as well. Luke leads Holly through horseback riding in Central Park - her first time on a horse! Holly, in turn, takes Luke's hand and guides him through his first time ice-skating. The single Luke and still-taken Holly have a wonderful non-first date! Both are thrilled when Holly receives a call that her Christmas wish came true: she received the award and a grant!

Back at the Jensen's, Ken is excited to talk Westerns with Bull when he arrives for dinner. Adam arrives next and only contributes talk about the weather. When Holly and Luke return from their day of fun, Luke and Adam's rivalry continues. Adam brags about getting the job and the big salary that comes with it.

At dinner, Holly announces her news about the award. Hearing her interest in astronomy, Bull tells the rest of the Wild Bill story that Luke had tried to remember the night earlier. The story concludes with Wild Bill saving Josephine from marrying a rich man that she didn't want to marry by sweeping her up to spend forever with him in the stars.

Adam invites Holly's parents to join him and Holly at his new company's Christmas soiree. They agree, but first, Ken wants a lasso lesson from Bull. During the lesson, Ken throws his back out, disabling him from attending the party. Bull stays home with Ken and Luke joins Holly, Adam and Betsy in his place.

Though Adam is embarrassed by Luke's big hat, the cowboy look is a big hit with everyone else. Even Adam's CEO is excited to have a cowboy at the party - especially when Luke helps him talk to girls and starts up a line dance. Even the jaded New Yorkers (other than Adam) join in on the line dance and have a blast. After that song is over, Luke brings Holly in for a slow dance.

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When he sees Luke and Holly together on the dance floor, Adam decides to take action. He gets on the microphone and proposes to Holly in front of the whole party. Even though he doesn't have a ring, she says yes. Luke is crushed and leaves the party shortly thereafter.

When they arrive home, Adam tells Holly she doesn't look as happy as she should be, having just become engaged. She questions the timing of his engagement and feels like it was all part of the imaginary competition he had with Luke. Holly realizes that she and Adam are not truly in love and breaks up with him on the spot.

Ken comforts his sad daughter with some pie and gives her words of wisdom about finding true love. She realizes the love she had been looking for was right in front of her with Luke. She asks the stars for a sign that love exists.

Luke, who is also hurting, receives similar advice from Bull. Bull tells him to go after what he wants and to tell Holly how he feels. Luke rides a horse from the New Jersey rodeo all the way to the Jensen's New York City home to tell Holly how he feels.

Holly, Betsy and Luke all get their Christmas wishes when Luke arrives on horseback and he and Holly profess their love to one another.

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