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FAMILY NETWORKS



'HOME FOR CHRISTMAS DAY'

Synopsis

War widow Jane McKendrick (Catherine Bell) has raised her daughter Betsy (Matreya Fedor) on her own in their close-knit Wisconsin town, where locals and soldiers from a nearby base gather at the diner owned by Jackson (Victor Webster). Jane intends to keep Betsy on a straight and narrow path so she can realize her lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian.

Betsy works after-school at the diner and there she meets a handsome soldier, Tyler (Anthony Konechny). Everyone, except Jane, sees how perfect Betsy and Tyler are together. Everyone, except Jane, also sees how much Jackson loves her. But Jane, who hustles from home to her job as a Realtor, only sees Jackson as her best friend, but no more than a friend.

As Christmas nears, Jackson grows weary of being just a buddy. He's so tired of it he considers accepting an offer to sell the diner and move away. Meanwhile, Jane does her best to discourage the burgeoning love between Tyler and Betsy. Tyler, who grew up on a farm, helps Betsy at the local veterinarian clinic where she volunteers. He even serves as a mechanic, trying to fix the beat-up car Betsy drives. When Betsy has an accident, Jane mistakenly blames the soldier for his previous repairs and orders him out of Betsy's life. When Jane learns the truth, she hightails it over to the base to apologize to him before he's deployed.

Jane only wants to shield Betsy from the pain she suffered when her husband was killed while she was pregnant. Once Jane makes amends and Tyler ships out, Betsy tries to go about the last half of senior year. When the town gathers for the Christmas concert, in which Betsy has a solo, the principal announces the names of soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Tyler's name is called out.

Betsy is shattered and this new pain cuts deep, leaving her to believe her mother was right about not letting yourself be vulnerable to the hurt of love lost. Christmas Day arrives and though it's muted, Jane and Betsy are with friends. When the doorbell unexpectedly rings, they find a Christmas miracle standing on the other side and mother and daughter learn an important lesson about taking chances.

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