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## **'THE CHRISTMAS CLUB'**

### **Synopsis**

When dance teacher Olivia (Elizabeth Mitchell) and business consultant Edward (Cameron Mathison) first cross paths they're each helping Gertrude (Gabrielle Rose), an elderly lady, whose Christmas Club savings just blew away. Replacing the four twenties with their own money, Olivia and Edward pretend they've found Gertrude's money then walk off together. Passing the park, set up for the Christmas festival, they go to buy some pecans but realize they gave all their money to Gertrude. But the vendor knows budding romance when he sees it and offers the pecans for free. It's the first of many pay-it-forward acts Olivia and Edward will experience.

Obviously attracted to each other and on the same wavelength, the two spot some swings and end up in a "who can go higher" battle, ending with a heart-to-heart conversation and a connection so strong they awkwardly feign they must go to work. But when Olivia gets to her dance studio, her wonderful day turns sour. The woman who owns the studio has decided to sell and it's Edward's client who's made a full-price cash offer. With the sale of the studio happening so fast Olivia will lose her job, and even worse, there'll be no place for her students to have their recital.

Knowing it's not Edward's fault, Olivia is still upset and hopes he won't be at the tree lighting ceremony. But when Edward shows up with his nephew Conner (Elliot Ledlow), who instantly takes a liking to Olivia's daughter Maeryn (Zoe Fish), it's clear Edward and Olivia were fated to meet, especially when they take the kids to see the stores lit up for the holidays. That's when Edward spots an empty storefront perfect for Olivia's new dance studio. Afraid she can't get a loan but unable to deny owning her own studio has always been a dream, Olivia says she's in.

A few days later Olivia hasn't heard about the loan but Edward's not bothered at all, even suggesting they grab lunch to brainstorm about her new studio. Wandering into the park, Edward buys them hotdogs, giving the vendor a twenty, tipping him an extra five, and telling him to use the change to pay for the next people. Oddly enough, the vendor says someone just did the same thing, giving him a twenty they found and telling him to pay it forward. Stunned, Edward and Olivia look at each other in wonderment, not seeing Gertrude smiling on a bench nearby.

But with Christmas so near, Olivia learns her loan might be delayed until the New Year, making it impossible to hold her students' recital in her new studio. Determined, she heads to the bank and declines Edward's offer to help, claiming she must do this herself. And unbelievably, word comes that evening that the loan has gone through. Beside herself with joy, Olivia tells Edward, who says he's had faith in her all along. But later Olivia spots Edward hugging the loan officer. Confronted, Edward admits he gave his endorsement and Olivia is livid, declaring they can't have a relationship if he doesn't believe in her. It looks like not even a little Christmas magic is going to bring these two back together, unless somehow fate steps in.

-- HALLMARK CHANNEL --