

'AFTER ALL THESE YEARS'

SYNOPSIS

Hours after seemingly perfect couple Audrey and Michael Brandon celebrate their 30th Anniversary, Michael tells Audrey he is leaving her for his much younger work colleague, Christine Vole. After spending the summer grieving her failed marriage, Audrey awakes late one evening to an unexpected visitor: Michael, stabbed to death on her kitchen floor.

The lead detective - Sergeant Mulligan - questions Audrey while police investigate the crime scene. With both motive and opportunity, she is his prime suspect. Audrey's friends Anita and Phyllis advise Audrey to get a lawyer.

After the lawyer tells Audrey she'll be arrested after the funeral, she reviews the details of the case with Phyllis. Audrey can't figure out why Michael was at her house, with his shoes off, or why there were two sets of tire tracks on her driveway. Phyllis, who was dropped off at home that night by her friend Mandy, hadn't noticed anything strange. Her husband, Carter, cuts them off, convinced that Audrey killed her husband - his best friend.

Audrey confronts Christine at her apartment. Christine believes Audrey is guilty and wants her out. An older man wearing a bathrobe emerges, who Christine claims is her father. Before Audrey leaves, she destroys the art piece that Michael had given her at their anniversary.

Audrey's son Alex returns home from a camping trip and learns of his father's death. He is still angry at his father for abandoning Audrey.

Feeling the police closing in, Audrey disguises herself and skips town in Alex's car to find Michael's real killer.

Audrey interviews Michael's former friends and colleagues. She starts with Artie Green, who has been a paranoid shut-in since Michael severed their business partnership. Artie reluctantly hacks into Michael's company's database and prints out call logs and calendars for Audrey and leads her to Gretchen Van Horne, a publicist Michael had recently fired.

Using the threat of a (non-existent) gun, Audrey leads Gretchen into her apartment for questioning. Gretchen reveals that Christine was using Michael to advance professionally and was bored of him. Gretchen presses a hidden panic button and the police are called. Audrey rushes out, narrowly escaping the police and leaves her handbag with everything in it behind.

Audrey runs into a former student, J.J. Sefton, who informs her of the \$100,000 reward on her head. She spends the night at his apartment researching and uncovers some of Christine's lies, including that the man in Christine's house couldn't have been her father.

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The next morning, J.J. gives Audrey new clothes, a wig and money. He confirms that it was Christine that authorized the reward on Audrey and that she is now Acting President of the company. Audrey questions Michael's former secretary Helen Nickerson and learns that the man she saw at Christine's apartment was Jeff Sheldrake, head of Metropolitan-Armbuster. She also learns that Carter had introduced Christine to Michael and that it wasn't Michael's first affair. He left a woman named Mandy for Christine; Audrey remembers that Mandy had dropped Phyllis off the night of Michael's murder. Michael's friend Joan Larrabee would know more about Mandy.

Audrey calls Anita and learns that Detective Mulligan suspects Audrey skipped town to bring attention away from the real killer - her son Alex. Audrey considers turning herself in, but decides to keep investigating. J.J. has her meet a lawyer: Joey Lilac. They discuss the possibility that Jeff Sheldrake may have killed Michael, but are still stuck on why Michael was in her house the night he was murdered...and why his shoes were off.

Audrey hides in Carter's car and proceeds to question him at (fake) gunpoint. Carter reveals that he was having an affair with Christine, who left him for Michael. Christine was going to leave Michael for Jeff Sheldrake and Michael was desperate to get her back.

Audrey meets up with her former love, David Larrabee, and asks him to call his wife for more details on Mandy. Although Joan is annoyed to hear from him during her plastic surgery recovery, she answers his questions about Michael's past affairs. She reveals that the reason that Michael was at Audrey's house the night of the murder was to pick up the receipt for the modern art so he could return it and buy something new for Christine.

Audrey and David reminisce about old times. The chemistry picks up after David reveals he hasn't been happy in his marriage with Joan for years. Exhausted from the past few days, Audrey falls asleep; David falls asleep next to her.

David calls Christine to his office under the guise of discussing his account with her company and records the conversation for Audrey. Christine had received threatening calls prior to Michael's murder from a woman she assumed to be Audrey. David and Audrey believe Mandy made the threats. After the meeting, David and Audrey review all the possible suspects to date: Christine, Jeff Sheldrake, Gretchen Van Horne, Artie Green, Carter and Mandy.

Despite David's offer to fly Audrey away to a new life, she returns home to investigate. David and Audrey share a moment before she leaves. On her way home, Audrey meets with Joey Lilac who confirms that there were two sets of tires on her lawn.

Audrey surprises Phyllis at home and asks her about Mandy. Phyllis tells her that Mandy is unattractive, but doesn't have more information. The police arrive suddenly and Audrey is shot escaping through the woods. She then goes to Anita's to clean up.

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While she is there, David calls. Despite what Phyllis reported, David heard from Joan that Mandy was beautiful. Anita drives Audrey back to Phyllis's house in her trunk to clear up details about Mandy, once and for all. Phyllis reveals that she wasn't actually with Mandy the night of the murder, she was by herself. From this, Audrey realizes that Phyllis IS Mandy and had been having an affair with Michael before Christine. Phyllis is Michael's murderer.

Detective Mulligan bursts in on the women during this realization and - guns drawn - Audrey recites all of her evidence against Phyllis. Detective Mulligan says that none of his officers fired on Audrey, it was, in fact, Carter that shot her to try to save Phyllis from arrest.

Phyllis makes a run for it, but is apprehended. Carter fills in the rest of the details, including how the receipt for the painting had been in Phyllis's pocket the day after the murder and that he had figured out she was the murderer at that point.

Cleared of all charges, Audrey returns home, where she finds David at her house with Alex. The three have dinner together. David tells Audrey that he is leaving Joan; he and Audrey will be together after all these years.

--HALLMARK MOVIE CHANNEL--