

'THE THANKSGIVING HOUSE'

SYNOPSIS

Busy Boston lawyer Mary Ross is surprised to discover that she has inherited a house in Plymouth from her late aunt Phyllis. She heads to Plymouth with her boyfriend, Rick Allen, to take inventory and prepare it for sale. Upon seeing the house for the first time in years, Mary becomes sentimental for the happy times she had in this house prior to her parents' divorce. She even finds her treasure box, filled with trinkets and family photographs that she hid the last time she visited the house in her childhood. Rick, on the other hand, is only concerned with the monetary value of the house and the plans to move forward with its sale.

While at the house, Mary and Rick meet local historian and history teacher Everett Mather, who is literally digging around her property. Everett believes he has made the biggest discovery of his career in Mary's backyard: the site of the first Thanksgiving. Mary, sensing this will compromise her ability to keep her aunt's house, shoos Everett off of her property and heads back to Boston to put her legal skills to use against this potential problem.

Meanwhile, Everett mails the proof of his discovery to the National Historical Society. Plymouth's postman, Quincy, a gossipy busybody, guesses that whatever Everett is mailing is big news and tips off sexy local gossip blogger, Ashleigh Mulligan. Neither Everett nor Mary divulge any information to Ashleigh, but she continues investigating.

While Mary and her assistant Victoria work on redecorating Mary's new house over the weekend, Everett stops by to say hello. To prevent any further research on her property, Mary tells Everett he is legally no longer welcome at her house.

In a goodwill gesture, Everett surprises Mary at her office in Boston to take her out to dinner. Although the two seem to hit it off, their growing affection is cut short when Ashleigh publishes the rumor that Mary's house may be the site of the first Thanksgiving. Mary assumes Everett leaked the story and serves him with legal papers threatening to sue him for the damages he has caused by illegally digging on her property.

Everett retaliates by serving Mary with legal papers of his own. Mary, who is already annoyed that her house is now frequented by tourists, is infuriated with Everett's legal posturing. She immediately heads to Everett's lawyers to give them a piece of her mind, but is surprised when Everett's lawyers turn out to be his parents, Abigail and Parker Mather. Mary squares off with Parker, a formidable opponent, while Abigail is a gracious hostess and Everett steams. She leaves with no resolution and increased tension with Everett.

Despite Everett's disdain toward Mary, he still wants Ashleigh to stop invading her privacy with her unfounded gossip blog posts. Ashleigh is unrelenting—she thinks Mary's true motive is to make money from the house. Ashleigh's theory hits Everett hard and he begins to wonder if he's the only one whose career is driven by more than just the almighty dollar. He voices these doubts to his friend, Spence, who assures him that history is his true calling. Besides, contrary to Ashleigh's theory, Mary continues to argue with Rick against selling the house, to the detriment of their relationship.

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Abigail makes an impromptu visit to Mary's house and gains some more insight about Mary's family, including her strained relationship with her father. Legal battle aside, the two women are becoming friends. Abigail suggests Mary take in some of the town history at Plymouth's library, where Mary is surprised to find Everett giving a talk about American History. She is impressed by how well he engages with his students and her feelings about Everett soften. After the lecture, Mary and Everett talk, leaving on much friendlier terms than their previous meetings. Mary leaves the library smiling, but her good mood is immediately ruined when she comes home to a huge picket line of protestors Ashleigh organized in front of her house.

Everett watches coverage of the protest online and feels sympathy for Mary—and maybe a hint of romantic feelings. He stops by her house to take her out for dinner and lets him in the house while she gets ready. The two have a strong chemistry and Everett is happy to find out Mary and Rick aren't as serious as he assumed. At the end of the pseudo-date, Mary agrees to be a guest speaker in Everett's class. After Everett leaves, Mary realizes Rick has been in her driveway watching their whole interaction. They argue about the house and Mary tells him to find another place to sleep that night.

While Rick steams at the town diner the next day, Ashleigh, tipped off by Quincy, "runs into him" and joins him for coffee. The two, clearly cut from the same cloth, discuss the specifics on how Mary's house could be a profit-generating landmark. Meanwhile, Mary talks to Everett's class about the legal system, gaining major points with Everett. Later, Rick comes by Mary's house to discuss selling it again. Fed up with how condescending and controlling Rick is, Mary officially breaks up with him.

That evening, Mary meets Everett for another dinner, this time at his parents' house. Mary bonds more with Abigail, who not-so-subtly encourages her to work on her relationship with her father. After dinner, Everett shows Mary his years of research about the site of the first Thanksgiving and she is duly impressed. Might it be worth letting her house become a landmark, after all?

Inspired by the Thanksgiving spirit, Mary decides to host Thanksgiving at her house. While taking some cooking tips from Abigail, the two women decide to combine forces and host a big Thanksgiving together. Abigail again encourages Mary to invite her father, but she's still not sure that she's ready to forgive him for leaving her mother.

On Thanksgiving, Rick leaves for the cruise he and Mary had planned...with Ashleigh. Meanwhile, Mary's house truly becomes The Thanksgiving House. Together with Abigail, she hosts Victoria, the Mather family, Spence and even her father for a holiday dinner. Mary and her father finally talk about their troubled relationship and plan to make an effort to rebuild it.

After dinner, Everett tells Mary he received the analysis of his research from The Thanksgiving House, but hasn't opened it yet. Mary tells Everett she won't put up a fight if the results show that her property is a historical site that she needs to vacate. Everett, who has also had time to reconsider his priorities, presents her with a mock up of a plaque to put outside the house,

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indicating it as the site of the first Thanksgiving. That option, while ending Everett's research, would allow Mary to keep the house.

Mary is touched and even more so when Everett leads her out to a swing set he installed in her backyard - just like the one from her happy childhood memories. The two kiss and whatever the findings, there are sure to be many future Thanksgivings held in Mary's house.

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