

SCRIPT TITLE

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1

EXT. MAIN STREET HOPE HARBOR - DAY

1

The camera zooms in on the idyllic Hope Harbor Main Street. There is a chill in the air that makes the townsfolk walk just a bit brisker, but not without waving hello to their neighbors. Soft Christmas instrumental music plays.

The store owners are setting up their Christmas window displays, decorations are being placed on telephone poles, lights and garland being strung on storefronts.

There is a sign being placed over the street. "Christmas Paws Festival and Gala benefiting Hope Harbor Animal Shelter."

CUT TO:

2

EXT. HOPE HARBOR ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

2

The Hope Harbor Animal Shelter sign. It's a bit worn down, but has been repainted many times.

The camera falls on CHARLI MOORE, 30's, a smile as big as her heart. She is as smart and hard-working as she is beautiful and kind. She wears her heart on her sleeve.

CHARLI waves goodbye to a mini-van that is pulling away.

CHARLI

Bye sweet Rusty. We'll miss you
bud.

LAUREN NICHOLS, 30's, bubbly and full of spunk, walks to meet her with a clipboard and bag.

LAUREN

Oh shoot, I missed them! He's
going to want his duck.

She pulls a worn duck out of the bag.

CHARLI

I'll drop it by their shop after
work.

LAUREN

I can do it.

CHARLI

I'm meeting mom and dad for dinner
anyway. It's right there. You
wanna come?

LAUREN
I've crashed the last three
Wednesday night dinners.

CHARLI
Well, you're basically family at
this point.

LAUREN
Thanks, but I think I'm going to
decorate tonight.

They walk back into the shelter. There are boxes of
decorations everywhere. The sound of dogs barking in the
background.

CHARLI
You're inspired?

She gestures to all the decorations

LAUREN
100 percent. If I'm already in the
Christmas spirit, might as well go
all the way.

CHARLI
Well, if you get hungry, or just
want a little company, you know
where I'll be.

LAUREN
Yes, Mom.

CHARLI laughs and she and LAUREN put up decorations.

TOM GELLER, early 20's, shy and soft-spoken, approaches the
girls.

TOM
(nervously) Ms. Moore?

CHARLI
Tom, it's Charli, please.

TOM
Ms. Charli, there's a Mr. Turner
on the phone for you from
Riverside Development.

LAUREN
Again?!

CHARLI
I'll call him back.

TOM
I told him that once already
today. He's pretty insistent.

LAUREN
Just tell him you aren't selling.

CHARLI
I have, numerous times. He doesn't
seem to get it.

LAUREN
Or doesn't want to.

CHARLI
Or that. Most likely that. I'll be
right there, Tom.

TOM leaves and CHARLI brushes off the glitter from the
decorations.

CHARLI (CONT'D)
Wish me luck.

LAUREN
You don't need it.

CHARLI makes her way down the hall to her office.

3 INT. HOPE HARBOR ANIMAL SHELTER CHARLI'S OFFICE - DAY 3

CHARLI walks into her office. Her senior retriever mix rescue
dog, VERA is asleep in her bed. She wakes up and greets
CHARLI as she comes in.

CHARLI
Hey my sweet girl. You nappin? Lay
back down. I gotta save the
shelter again.

VERA settles in next to her. CHARLI picks up the phone and
takes ALEX off hold. *NOTE: Alex is VO.*

CHARLI (CONT'D)
Mr. Turner. You know my answer.

ALEX (V.O.)
Ms. Moore. You know my question?

CHARLI

You have called me every week for the past 2 months asking the same one. I'm not selling the building.

ALEX

The amount you could make on this investment...

CHARLI

It's not an investment to me. My investment is this building.

ALEX

The money you could make on this sale could get them a bigger and better building...

CHARLI

I don't need that. We are just fine as we are. Please. Stop calling. My answer isn't going to change.

CHARLI hangs up the phone. She looks at VERA who gets up and comes over to her, tail wagging.

CHARLI (CONT'D)

He's so frustrating isn't he? Yes he is.

CHARLI pets VERA and LAUREN comes to the door.

LAUREN

Same old, same old?

CHARLI

You know it. Why does *everyone* from some big city think *everything* needs to be bigger and newer? We're fine. Right?

LAUREN

Well...I actually just came to let you know that Bill and Sandy just sold.

CHARLI

What?! No, the bookstore? Why?

LAUREN

My guess is they're ready to retire and the money is better than anything they could ever save.

CHARLI

That means we're the only ones left on the block *not* selling.

LAUREN

Maybe we could make something better with the money you could make...

CHARLI

E tu, Brute?

LAUREN

I just mean...

CHARLI

I know what you mean. It's not that I haven't thought about that...it's just, it's more than just a building. It's what all of this change could mean for the town.

LAUREN

Change doesn't have to be bad.

CHARLI

We've been just fine...

LAUREN

But we could be great. New businesses mean more tourism. Which might mean more homes for our animals.

CHARLI

You always know how to hit me where it hurts.

LAUREN

Just think about it.

CHARLI

Fine. How's the decorating.

LAUREN

The other reason I came in. It's time to decorate the tree and I know it's your favorite part.

CHARLI

Alright. Let's go. You coming V?

VERA gets up and follows them to the lobby.

CUT TO :

4

INT. ALEX TURNER'S OFFICE - DAY

4

ALEX TURNER, late 30's, handsome, intelligent, confident, and extremely good at his job, sits at his desk. He is drawing up contracts. His assistant KYLE comes into the office.

KYLE

Close it?

ALEX

The shelter deal? No. But I will.

KYLE

With the bookstore under contract, the shelter's the last piece, right?

ALEX

Yes they are. And the owner is infuriating. I just can't get her to understand the value of selling?

KYLE

Maybe she just needs to see it in a different way?

ALEX

How? Money is money.

KYLE

Maybe that's not what matters to her.

ALEX

That's absurd.

KYLE

I mean, not really. I came from a small town.

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

There are just...I don't know,
different values there. They see
things differently.

ALEX

Well, I haven't lost a sale yet.
Get me a ticket to this Hopeville.

KYLE

Hope Harbor.

ALEX

Whatever. I'll make the sale in
person.

KYLE

You got it boss. Just remember,
they have a different view on
life, so maybe...de-city-fy a
little.

ALEX looks at him, confused.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Loosen up. Lose the tie. Try
denim. And a smile.

KYLE turns to leave.

ALEX

I have a better idea.

As the next dialogue occurs, It is overlaid on a scene at the
SHELTER, where CHARLI, LAUREN, and TOM work to trim the tree.
VERA brings them ornaments.

A close up of the ornaments. Photos of all of the animals
that have been adopted with their "paw-rents"

KYLE

It makes me nervous then you use
those words.

ALEX

You're coming with me.

KYLE

Do I have a choice?

ALEX

No. Here's the story. I'm looking
to move. You are my assistant, so
not too far-fetched. I'm in real-
estate.

KYLE

The best lies are rooted in facts.

ALEX

And we mention nothing about the sale of the block.

KYLE

That's a little dishonest for Christmas - time, don't you think?

ALEX

Not dishonest. Resilient.

KYLE

(beat) Okay, I'll make the reservation. When do we leave?

ALEX

Tonight.

CUT TO:

5 INT. HOPE HARBOR ANIMAL SHELTER - AFTERNOON

5

CHARLI and LAUREN are finishing up the tree. VERA is now sleeping under it. TOM approaches with an ornament in his hand.

TOM

Here you go. From today's adoption.

LAUREN

This really is such a great idea Charli. Every year it reminds me of all the good this place has done.

CHARLI

I needed that reminder today more than ever.

CHARLI places the newest ornament on the tree. Stands back and admires their work.

CHARLI (CONT'D)

There. Done.

CHARLI puts her arms around TOM and LAUREN.

CHARLI (CONT'D)
I need you both to know, this
place would be nothing without
you. Thank you.

LAUREN
Ugh, Mush.

CHARLI
(laughs) Take the rest of the day
off. It's Friday and we're closing
early. Tomorrow is the opening of
the festival. I need you up bright
and early.

TOM
Thanks Ms. (beat) ...Charli.

LAUREN
I'll bring the coffee tomorrow.

TOM and LAUREN begin walking away to grab their things.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Hey Tom, how do you like your
coffee?

TOM
I'm, more of a tea drinker...

CHARLI laughs as LAUREN and TOM exit. She sits down next to
VERA and admires the tree.

The camera zooms in on the ornaments showing the smiling
faces of the humans and fur babies adopted. Christmas music
fills the silence.

The camera ends on VERA under the tree. She wakes up,
stretches and looks at CHARLI.

CHARLI
Best present I could ever ask for.

VERA goes to her and licks her face.

CHARLI (CONT'D)
Come on girl, let's get ready for
tomorrow. Then, dinner.

VERA follows CHARLI down the hall.

CUT TO:

6

INT. ALEX'S CITY APARTMENT - EVENING

6

ALEX packs and talk on the phone with his boss and Father, RUSSELL TURNER. He holds up clothes to himself in the mirror, trying to follow KYLE'S "small town" guidelines for dressing.

ALEX

Yes, leaving in an hour with Kyle.
I'll come back with the final
sale.

RUSSELL (V.O.)

I'm counting on you. This will be
huge for the growth of the
company. Not to mention your
acceleration within it.

ALEX

Believe me, I am crystal clear on
that point.

RUSSELL (V.O.)

Good. We need this done by
Christmas Eve. That gives you a
week. I trust that is plenty of
time.

ALEX

I closed the entire block in two
months, I think I can get Ms.
Moore by then. Ciao

Looks at his closet full of suits. Then ALEX finds some old boxes in the back of the closet full of old clothes. His, but from years ago. Jeans, t-shirts, less stuffy button-downs.

He roots through the clothes. The camera catches glimpses of ALEX'S past. An old dog collar and leash. A picture of ALEX, as a kid (10 or so) smiling with a goofy black dog by his side. The camera is on it for just a moment and then another shirt is thrown on top of it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

This will do.

ALEX takes the clothes and pops them in a duffle bag. Folding a bit haphazardly. He grabs his phone, keys, bag, and is out the door.

The camera goes back to the picture tossed on the floor, revealed again after the clothes were packed. Next to it is the collar with a tag that says "Ben".