

# HOMESTEAD

based on a true story

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## **Logline:**

When Child Protective Services takes Olivia away from her unstable mother, she must live in the country with her estranged grandfather and help him save the family farm from foreclosure.

## **Synopsis:**

Olivia, a 10-year-old city girl, waits in a police station for her mother, Cheri, to be released following a drunk driving stop. The officers coming onto the graveyard shift greet Olivia by name. *She's been there before.*

A social worker tells Olivia that her mother won't be going home tonight or anytime soon. She's told that someone else will take care of her for a while. Someone she hasn't seen in a long time. Someone she doesn't even remember. Her Grandpa, Lyle.

Grandpa arrives at the station to take her home. To his home... in the country... on a farm... Homestead Acres.

Grandpa and Olivia don't know what to do with each other. Mercurial Cheri didn't provide structure or boundaries for Olivia, and Grandpa is a stickler for rules. With Cheri in court-ordered rehab, Olivia and Grandpa must figure out how to get along.

As Olivia explores her new world, she discovers that Grandpa's big house is a sad, empty place. The kitchen is a disaster, the ceiling leaks, and cobwebs cling to dusty Christmas decorations. All Olivia wants is to go back home.

Grandpa is struggling to adjust to widowhood. His wife, Ruby, lost her battle with cancer a few months prior. Before Olivia arrived, the only other person in his life was Angel, a Mexican migrant farmhand who lives in a small house on the property.

Over time, Grandpa and Angel give Olivia a routine and teach her to be more responsible. In return, she helps Grandpa move past his grief and helps Angel, whose wife and kids live in Mexico, feel less lonely. As Grandpa, Olivia, and Angel discover each other, they start to feel like a family.

Still dreaming of returning home, Olivia learns the farm is in trouble. Because of the massive medical bills from Grandma's cancer treatments, the farm is teetering on the brink of foreclosure.

Angel offers a lifeline, but Grandpa refuses the "charity" and employs various side hustles to pay the bills. He rehabs racehorses, rents out storage space in his barn, and repairs broken-down farm equipment. It's not enough. At his age, he can't keep up the pace he once did.

One night, a big storm rips the roof off Grandpa's house, pushing Grandpa and Olivia to take refuge with Angel. This setback leaves Grandpa with no way to save Homestead Acres.

Olivia hatches a plan to pay the mortgage by winning the grand prize at the upcoming Frontier Days festival. Grandpa and Angel explain that it's not enough money to save the farm, but they decide to support her effort anyway, seeing that she needs some hope to cling to. Together, the trio practices for the competitive events, and their familial bond grows stronger.

In bitter defeat, they don't win the Frontier Days Festival, and the bank moves forward with foreclosure. The loss devastates Olivia and Grandpa, but Angel surprises them with good news. Angel reveals he bought the farm from the bank using money he'd saved to buy a home for his family.

In the end, Angel moves into the big house with his wife and kids, and Grandpa and Olivia take up residence in the smaller house. The farm stays with the family, and Olivia realizes her true home is Homestead Acres.