

CHRISTMAS IN MARCH

Written by

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SYNOPSIS

Act 1

Grace Chavez discovers that her favorite uncle, Christian Chavez is dying and only has a few weeks to live so she sets off on turning their LA home into a white Christmas in the middle of March to grant his wish of peace within the family. After having trouble within the family, the only time they ever got along was during Christmas. So she puts together a Christmas gathering at her family house to bring everyone closer together and have one last peaceful moment before the uncle passes.

Grace runs into her uncle at the hospital where she does her residency. Christian gives her an explanation to which she decides to take it upon herself to follow her moral code and give the next few weeks the most memorable ones for her uncle.

Act 2

At the start of spring, she arranges holiday decorations at her family home and breaks the news to everyone. She invites her uncle and aunt to join the family and have a traditional Christmas. Under the household a lot of unraveled secrets are let out by each family member. Everything seems to spiral down until Christian begins to feel ill. He falls into a desperate state and is sent to the hospital. He gives final words to each relative and the most precious one to Grace.

Act 3

The funeral allows the family to have a place to vent and apologize. Each member gives thanks to Christian for being the light in the darkness of their family drama. Thanks to Christmas in March, the Chavez family could finally live in peace like how Christian always wanted.

EXT. THE CHAVEZ HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Crisp, spring air ruffle trees.

Birds dance within wind.

Single ONE-STORY HOUSE with CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS all over.

GRACE CHAVEZ (21), a do-gooder future doctor with CHRISTMAS outfit exits LARGE FRONT DOORS and places a WREATH on door.

SHATTER!

Grace sighs and marches inside.

INT. THE CHAVEZ HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - LIVING ROOM - DAY

LARGE FAKE CHRISTMAS TREE shines in corner near WINDOW. BRICK FIREPLACE cover in GARLAND and STOCKINGS.

CLAIRE CHAVEZ (25), older sister to Grace and a single mother to FERNANDO (6) hover by Christmas tree.

Holds broken ornament, Claire scolds Fernando.

DANTE CHAVEZ (19), younger brother to Grace and Claire leans against fireplace, scrawny arms crossed. Eyes glaze over.

BENEDICT CHAVEZ (49), father to Grace. Stubborn man both at home and work as landscaper. Leans on wall under family portrait, hand covers mouth and eyebrows furrow.

ALBA CHAVEZ (47), loving mother to Grace, Claire, and Dante. Florist too Americanized for Mexican heritage picks up broken ornament shatters by tree.

LOLITA (75) and ARMANDO (77), strict Mexican grandparents to Chavez siblings rest on MEDIUM COUCH.

Grace enters room.

DANTE

Grace? Is he really dying?

Grace closes eyes and nods.

Lolita sobs. Armando comforts her.

ALBA

Did he not want to burden us?

BENEDICT

Bullshit!

ARMANDO
(in spanish)
Watch your mouth!

Benedict paces room.

BENEDICT
What dad?! He didn't tell us
because he doesn't want us to help.
See what's happening, he's dying!
He's dying...

Alba wraps arms around Benedict.

BENEDICT (CONT'D)
...my little brother is dying.

Claire sniffles.

CLAIRE
What does he have, Grace?

GRACE
Stage 3 pancreatic cancer.

Everyone sighs.

GRACE (CONT'D)
He's in pain. But not scared.

CLAIRE
Is that what Christmas in March is
all about? For Tio Christian?

Grace nods.

GRACE
He loves Christmas. So I thought he
would enjoy his final moments with
us in a Christmas-y way.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

All stare at front door.

Grace inhales, holds breath. Strides to door.

INT. THE CHAVEZ HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - FOYER - DAY

Door swings.

CHRISTIAN CHAVEZ (44), handsome, pale, bald man on top
wheelchair grins wide.

CECILIA CHAVEZ (40), a snob and wife to Christian pushes wheelchair.

CHRISTIAN

Grace! How's my favorite niece and doctor to-be?

Grace forces smile.

GRACE

I'm...fine.

CECILIA

I'm going to take you to the rest.

INT. THE CHAVEZ HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone rises up.

CHRISTIAN

Hello everyone.

They stare.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

I'm not a ghost yet guys. You don't have to give me those looks.

Silence.

BENEDICT

What the hell, Chris?

CHRISTIAN

I guess you all want an explanation.

INT. THE CHAVEZ HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
(LATER)

Christmas LIGHTS shine through window.

Christmas tree glitters in LIGHTS.

FIREPLACE ROARS a fire.

BENEDICT

No. No. No! This is not happening.
I'm...I need some air.

Dashes out front door.

DOOR SLAMS.

Alba grabs coats and follows.

Grace fidgets with sleeve.

CHRISTIAN

Hey, fruitcake. Can you take me by the tree. I want to see the lights out the window.

She rolls him near tree.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Thanks, Grace. For all of this.

Tear trails down Grace's cheek.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

And this Christmas theme. In spring.

(chuckles)

It's the greatest. I cannot thank you enough.

Grace sobs.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Oh, kid. It's going to be fine. Hey look at me. Grace, look at me.

She stares into his eyes.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

I will always be here with you. No matter what happens.

Grace jumps for hug.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Now go on and make me the proudest Uncle in the world.

(whispers)

As if I can get any prouder.

GRACE

I lo...

Dante darts into living room, sweat drips from temples.

DANTE

Grandma fainted!