

Forgive & Forget?

FADE IN:

1. INT. - O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - EVENING

At the Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, CHRISTINA ARMEDI, a smart, independent 18 year old finds herself saying goodbye to her mother and her sister, AMELIA.

CHRISTINA
(fighting back her tears)
Mom, please stop crying, there is nothing to cry about.

VICTORIA
(sobbing)
Oh, my beautiful daughter, you won't understand what I'm feeling till you become a mother.

CHRISTINA
I promise to make you proud mom, just you wait and see, soon you'll witness more of my success and accomplishments.

AMELIA
(sarcastically)
I guess you won't miss me much huh? Don't I get a hug, is it only for mom?

CHRISTINA
(laughs)
You're my baby sister, we've been through everything together - I love you to pieces

Christina takes a last glance at her family, then later turns and disappears into the checking area.

2. INT. - IN THE PLANE - EVENING

Later, as she waits for the plane to take off, she turns and looks at the window to have a last look of the African soil. Christina thinks of all the memories she has come to restore in this place; the good, bad and ugly. She is deeply saddened she's leaving her mother and younger sister as well as her high school friends. The thought of being independent

(CONTINUED)

scares her a bit, she's been brought up in an environment where family and friends have always been around for her. While looking through the window, she gets lost in her thoughts.

3.INT. - ARMEDI'S RESIDENCE, SOUTH AFRICA - MORNING(11 YEARS AGO)

It is 1973, Christina is an innocent seven year old having breakfast with her family on a Saturday morning. Her father, DNIHO ARMEDI, is about to leave on yet another trip to Cape Town on business. She hates it whenever her father has to leave, it makes her feel lonely and sad. Though she adores her mother, the bond she has with her father is a special and irreplaceable one.

DNIHO

Victoria! Please hurry up or I'm going to leave without having breakfast. I don't want to be late.

VICTORIA

(annoyed)

Ok, ok, relax Dniho, it's almost ready

CHRISTINA

Daddy, when are you taking me with you?

DNIHO

Soon my sweetheart, soon...

VICTORIA

Don't lie to your daughter Paul, you are not taking her with you

DNIHO

Who says I'm lying? I am taking her. I want her to see what her daddy really does

VICTORIA

(frustrated)

I told you she's too young and it's not a good idea

As they're debating, PAUL JOHNSON, her father's co-worker and best friend, walks in.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Good morning good people

VICTORIA

Paul, please have some breakfast

He sits down, has breakfast, and then he and Dniho go to work.

4.INT.- MARIAMA'S RESTAURANT IN SOUTH AFRICA - AFTERNOON

As they are driving to Cape Town, Paul suggests that they have lunch at Mariama's, a small restaurant just outside of Johannesburg. This restaurant was owned by MARIAMA ZOKELI, a bitter woman who loved to complain. Every now and then Dniho and Paul would pass by her restaurant to have lunch or dinner, she never makes them pay and the food is always terrific.

MARIAMA

(smiling)

Well, look who it is...my two favorite people in the world

She walks towards them and greets them both with big hugs. Later, she guides them to their table.

PAUL

(flirtation tone)

Beautiful lady, how are you?

MARIAMA

(politely)

What can i get you gentleman today?
The usual?

DNIHO

The usual will be just fine

MARIAMA

(flirting)

I can get you the extra special menu. Something that's only prepared for you...

DNIHO

(serious)

Thank you, the usual will be fine

MARIAMA

(leaning)

How i missed those hazel eyes and lips of yours...

(CONTINUED)

Dniho does not appreciate Mariama's behavior and pushes her.

DNIHO

I have a wife and two daughters
need i remind you

MARIAMA

(irritated)

No one asked you about that wife of
yours, you don't have to mention
her every time you come here

PAUL

Please you two, stop quarreling
like children

Mariama gets upset and walks to the kitchen to prepare their order. A few minutes later, she comes back out with the food. She sits down on the table with them like she usually does.

MARIAMA

You two will love this...

They all start eating from one big tray

PAUL

(mesmerized)

Wow, this is wonderful. Dniho take
a bite what you waiting for man?

MARIAMA

He wants me to feed him, that's
what he wants

She then forces a bite to him even though he didn't want to be fed by her. Dniho takes it not to be rude, but then decides to warn her again

DNIHO

I don't think that was appropriate
Mariama, I'll feed myself. Do you
want me to just stop coming here?

MARIAMA

You talk as if you pay when you eat
here, you never do.

DNIHO

Well, it's because you say not to
pay

(CONTINUED)

MARIAMA

(calm)

Can't you see I do all of this to please you. Hoping you will one day wake up and realize just how much I love you Dniho. Why?

DNIHO

Why do you push me so hard into doing something I don't want to do. Don't even think about it. Why can't you leave me alone?

PAUL

You two stop it please, you're attracting attention. You're arguing all the time.

DNIHO

Don't waste your time on me Mariama, live your life!

PAUL

I'm seriously sick of your drama. Ouff, I'm stressed out myself, i can't deal with this.

DNIHO

(worried)

What stress are you talking about?

MARIAMA

(sarcastically)

What? Are you going to throw another wedding? (laughs)

PAUL

(annoyed)

You have a lot of free time on your hands woman, don't you? I don't have the luxury of such playful thoughts.

He then turns to Dniho and looks at him with pitiful eyes

PAUL

Actually i have been wanting to tell you about it, but after all that you have done for me I don't want to impose.

(CONTINUED)

DNIHO

What is it?

PAUL

The IRS is after me. They say I owe business tax. If I don't pay everything within two weeks time they are gonna shutdown the auto shop. It's my fault, I should have paid my taxes on time

DNIHO

How much do you owe them?

PAUL

(ashamed)

About 10000 rand

DNIHO

(dissapointed)

10000 rand? Why didn't you pay it on time?

PAUL

I was going to pay it, but i kept putting it off. You know how i am sometimes...

Silence reigns on the table for some time. After they finish eating Dniho suggests to leave.

DNIHO

Let's go, we will talk about everything in the car.

He turns to Mariama

Ms. Zokeli take care of yourself

MARIAMA

(calmly)

Drive safe

As they are walking towards the car, Paul remembers he left his key on the table and goes back

PAUL

Oh, i forgot my key, I'll be right there.

He walks back to the restaurant and sees Mariama sitting by the bar

(CONTINUED)

MARIAMA

Listen to me, if you want to get
out of this stress, call me as soon
as you can.

PAUL

I'll call you as soon as we reach
Cape

MARIAMA

(to herself)

I'll show you who i am and my worth
Dniho!

5. INT. - HOTEL IN CAPE TOWN - EVENING

After a long day of driving, Dniho and Paul reach the hotel
of Cresta in Cape Town. They each check into their rooms to
relax before the day commences again. Worried about his
friend Paul's situation, Dniho calls his wife.

DNIHO

Hey sweetheart, how are you?

VICTORIA

Hi, I am well, except for the fact
I miss you. How was your day?

DNIHO

I miss you too. Ohhh you know
nothing special happened, it was ok

Victoria and Paul always have an open marriage, where they
discuss about each and every issue. Even before he tells her
she knows that there's something bothering her husband.

VICTORIA

What is wrong honey?

DNIHO

(hesitant)

It's Paul, he's facing some
financial struggles

VICTORIA

(frustrated)

Ouff, you worried for that man
again? You have done so much for
him already, let it go

Paul was never Victoria's favorite person; she believes he
takes too much advantage of her husband. She strongly

(CONTINUED)

believes that Paul is a selfish and lazy person who doesn't make much effort. On top of it all, she hates him for the fact he hits on her non-stop even though he's friends with her husband.

DNIHO

(agreeing)

I know, he's just been irresponsible and he messed up. I can't help but to support him

VICTORIA

He doesn't deserve your support, till when do you plan to pay his bills and run his life? He's a grown man, he should take care of himself

Dniho respects his wife's opinion. They say their good nights and Dniho goes to sleep.

6. EXT. - ON THE HOTEL BALCONY - MORNING

It's a warm and sunny day in the city of Cape Town. Dniho and Paul enjoy their breakfast on the hotel balcony. While eating they discuss Paul's financial situation.

DNIHO

So, i spoke to Victoria to see if we can help you out with your situation... Ehh she thinks you should find some other alternatives, she just doesn't want me to hand you some money again

PAUL

(irritated)

Why does she control your money? Your money is yours and if you choose to help me you can.

DNIHO

(affirmative)

You very well know i don't go against Victoria's wishes. What's mine is hers and she has equal say in anything and everything

PAUL

(egoistic)

Alright whatever you say, but I'll tell you no woman is ever going to control me

(CONTINUED)

As soon as they finish eating, they get in the car and head back home.

7. INT. - LIVING ROOM, ARMEDI'S RESTAURANT - MORNING

The Armedi's sit to have breakfast before Dniho has to leave for his next trip. This time he would bring Christina with him. She always begs him to take care with him, the fact he travels so much fascinates her.

DNIHO
(enthusiastic)
Somebody's about to be very happy
today... Somebody's going on a road
trip...

CHRISTINA
(excited)
What? Me? Am i coming with you
daddy?

DNIHO
You sure are sweetheart

CHRISTINA
(jumping)
Oh, daddy, daddy, thank you, thank
you, i love you

Her mother didn't support much the idea of her going on the trip with her dad; she got a bad feeling about it.

VICTORIA
(worried)
I would rather you not go this time

DNIHO
Come on Victoria, she'll be fine,
she should see what i do

8. EXT. - IN THE CAR - DAY

Dniho, Christian and Paul get in the toyota 4WD and get on the road. Paul turns looks at Christina and then to look at Dniho

PAUL
Why did you bring her of all days
today?

(CONTINUED)

DNIHO

What do you mean? It's a gorgeous
day today

He doesn't reply and they proceed.

9. INT. - MARIAMA'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

As Dniho and Paul are driving, Paul suggests they have
dinner at Mariama's. Dniho has no complaints and drives
there.

DNIHO

(sarcastically)

You are truly addicted to this
place my friend

PAUL

(smiling)

What can I say, they make the best
food in town

The minute they enter, Mariama walks up and greets them
warmly. She attentively looks at Christina

MARIAMA

Hi beautiful girl, what's your
name?

CHRISTINA

(hesitant)

My name's ...

Dniho cuts her off before she could finish saying what she
had to say

DNIHO

Her name is Christina.

MARIAMA

A name as beautiful as she is. Ehh
anyways please have a sit on that
table by the window

They order, eat, talk for a little while and decide to
leave. They thank Mariama and leave. Paul claims to forget
something again and goes to the restaurant.

PAUL

Oh shoot, i forgot something, you
two go ahead, I'll catch up

(CONTINUED)

MARIAMA

Here's all the money i promised you
for your situation. Now, deal with
mine, i want it done by the end of
the day.

PAUL

(impatiently)

Fine woman, you'll see it done

10. INT. - IN THE CAR - EVENING

As they drive to the hotel, they notice a man standing on
the corner of the street waving his hand supposedly asking
for a ride.

PAUL

I think that man's looking for a
ride, let's help him out

DNIHO

(doubtlessly)

It's a little too late to be
letting strangers in the car don't
you think?

PAUL

(persistent)

Come on D, he seems completely
innocent

Dniho then decides to stop the car and let him in. After
riding for an hour, Paul asks Dniho to stop the car at a gas
station.

PAUL

Hey man, i need to use the
restrooms, stop at the next
possible stop

Paul leaves the car, the rest remain. There aren't that many
people in the gas station. A few minutes after Paul left,
the man pulls out a sword and stabs Dniho in the neck, then
leaves the car, running away. Paul returns, looks at the
scene, screams and gets on the driver's seat to take Dniho
to the hospital.

11. INT. - HOSPITAL - EVENING

Paul asks around and finally finds a hospital not too far away from the gas station. Once they reach the hospital, Paul carries Dniho and runs towards the emergency section. The service is poor; it took them 20 minutes to assist Dniho despite all the blood he is losing. They take him in to perform surgery. Half an hour later the doctor comes out with the news.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, he didn't make it, he
lost a lot of blood

PAUL

(bursting in tears)
Oh no my brother, my one and only
friend. No!!

DOCTOR

Please calm down sir... We tried
our best

Christina, still in shock from the brutal scene she witnessed, cries like she never cried before.

12. INT. - ARMEDI'S RESIDENCE - MORNING

Paul drives Christina back to Johannesburg to deliver her to her mother. Victoria still hasn't heard the news. She has her morning coffee, when she looks through the living room window and realizes that it is Paul driving her husband's car. Before Victoria could ask what is going on, Paul bursts out crying.

PAUL

(crying)
Victoria, Victoria my sister, we
lost our brother

VICTORIA

(confused)
What?

PAUL

They killed him

Victoria loses control and faints. They wake her up and try to calm her down. Her husband's corpse came two days later, where his funeral took place.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

Everything changed after my father died. My mom was broke in and outside, she had to sell the car and a few other things to make ends meet and raise me and my sister. My wish was to help her in every possible way.

DISSOLVE TO:

13. EXT.- BALCONY OF ARMEDI'S RESIDENCE - DAY (PRESENT)

Eleven years later, Christina is blessed with the opportunity to go study abroad. She receives an envelop. She wins a full scholarship to the University of Portsmouth in Brighton, England. She runs to the balcony to tell her mother the news. Her mother is next to her as she opens her acceptance letter.

CHRISTINA

(thrilled)

I got it! I got in!

VICTORIA

(proud)

You are truly a blessing my star

CHRISTINA

I will excel in my education, come back and help you and other family members here

They hold each other and cry.

14. INT. - BRIGHTON SHOREHAM AIRPORT - EVENING

Five days later, she finds herself in Brighton, England, ready to start the new chapter of her life she's been dreaming about for a while now. Her aunt, JULIA NDEGO, on her mother's side, picks her up from the airport. She would stay with her for a few days before she starts school next week and moves to the dorms.

JULIA

(enthusiastic)

My little Christina all grown up,
look at you

They give each other a tight and warm hug.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA
 (appreciative)
 I'm so happy to be here. I feel
 lucky to be in a family's hand.

For the next few days, Julia will give her niece a tour of Brighton, so she familiarizes herself with the city.

15. INT.- WILKERSON HALL DORMS AT UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH-
 DAY

Christina moves into the dorms a day before the first day of classes. She meets her roommate, ELIZABETH PATTINSON, who receives her with a big smile. Elizabeth is excited about meeting her roommate, she introduces herself.

ELIZABETH
 (friendly)
 Hey, my name is Elizabeth, but you
 can call me Eli. I was really
 looking forward to meeting you

CHRISTINA
 Hey, I'm Christina, nice to meet
 you. Are you a freshman too?

ELIZABETH
 Yup!

Christina is convinced that she and her roommate would get along just fine. They talk and try to get to know each other more for the rest of the day.

16. INT. - CLASSROOM IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND - DAY

Christina Armedi finds herself in her first college class, English 101, with Professor EARL EDWIN. After going through the syllabus for the course, Professor Edwin asks his students to introduce themselves to the class. Innocent and reserved as she is, Christina didn't feel comfortable opening up to a bunch of strangers. She never likes to talk about her life because it always takes her back to the killing of her father, which she'd like to avoid. However, that day she decides to unveil herself and tell her story.

Students introduce themselves to the class turn by turn, then Professor Edwin turns to Christina.

PROFESSOR EDWIN
 What about you young lady?
 Introduce yourself to the class.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

(uncomfortable)

Well, my name is Christina....ehhh
I really don't have much to tell
about myself.

PROFESSOR EDWIN

Non sense, everyone has a story to
share about who they are and where
they come from.

CHRISTINA

(blushing)

I come from South Africa, where i
was raised by my mother. My father
got murdered in front of me, before
my eyes when i was only 7 years
old. I'm here mostly to make my
parents proud; my father wanted me
to go here and I bet he's looking
down and smiling today. I want to
continue his legacy, I'm going to
be the next great journalist like
he was. And, i also have plans to
help my people, especially my
mother for how hard she's worked to
raise me and my sister...

Christina thinks of her mom and the pain she went through
and starts weeping. Professor Edwin notices and tries to
change the subject

PROFESSOR EDWIN

(hesitant)

Alright, thank you for sharing that
with us Christina and I'm deeply
sorry to hear about your father.
Now, for next class, i want you to
read chapter one of the textbook
and be ready to discuss

Christina gathers her things and gets ready to head out of
class, when Professor Edwin calls her. She turns and goes to
his desk.

PROFESSOR EDWIN

(curious)

I can't help but wonder, did they
ever catch the killer?

CHRISTINA

Sadly, no, but one day they will. I
will fight for justice

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR EDWIN

(impressed)

You're a strong lady, I see a lot of potential in you. Write about this, you know what they say... Writing is always a good therapy. Stay strong!

Christina nods to her professor and leaves the classroom.

17.INT. - HALLWAY OF UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH -DAY

In a crowded hallway, CHARLES SMITH approaches Christina after class and starts a conversation.

CHARLES

(doubtfully)

He... Hello! How do you do? My name is Charles, i'm in your English 101 class with Professor Ed...

Christina cuts him off.

CHRISTINA

Edwin, Professor Edwin, yes I know. I saw you in class.

CHARLES

Your story was really appealing, I was touched, I'm sorry to hear about your father.

CHRISTINA

Thank you. Well, I better get going...

CHARLES

Would you maybe like to grab a cup of coffee? Eh... there's a Starbucks near campus

CHRISTINA

Sure, i got a few minutes

CHARLES

Let's go then.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

I am usually a reserved and quiet person by nature and have a hard time trusting people after my father's murder. But, there is something about Charles that lured

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (V.O.) (cont'd)
me in and made me trust him. I look
deep into his eyes and see through
him. I knew then and there I can
rely on him and trust him with my
life. Weird feeling to get about
someone on the first day, but true.

18. EXT. - STARBUCKS, BRIGHTON, ENGLAND - DAY

It's mid- September and the leaves are falling. Christina
loves fall, she loves school and fall represents the
beginning of a new school year, a new beginning. The weather
is pleasant, so they decide to stay outside and enjoy their
coffee while talking.

CHARLES

(curious)

You know I once lived in South
Africa myself when I was younger.
Which neighborhood did you live in?

CHRISTINA

Near Varmos, it's a small town in
Johannesburg, very nice place. How
did you live there?

CHARLES

My father was a diplomat and after
my mother passed away, he took me
everywhere with him.

CHRISTINA

What happened to your mother?

CHARLES

(saddened)

She died in a car accident when I
was 7 years old. And after she
passed away, my father had no
choice but to take me everywhere
with him. He really didn't trust
anyone enough to leave me alone.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

The fact he was open to me like he
was made me trust him even more. We
both felt comfortable with each
other and the conversation just
went on.

19.EXT.- CEMETERY,BRIGHTON, ENGLAND - DAY

Charles takes Christina to the cemetery his mother was buried in. He takes her back to when she died. He is only seven years old, same age Christina was when she lost her father.

CHARLES

(descriptive)

I was playing puzzles at my cousin CALVIN OMALEY's place. My aunt walks in the house crying and screaming at the top of her lung "My sister! Why? Why? Why?"
Though...

He starts to cry. Christina pats on his back trying to calm him down. Then, he continues his his story.

Though I was a young boy, I realized that the scream has to do with my mother. My aunt squeezes me so hard and whispers "I will always be here no matter what, don't you worry."

He took Christina back to this day to tell her about what pained him; he usually never shares this with nobody.

20.EXT. - UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH CAMPUS - DAY

Christina is walking towards the parking lot to wait for her aunt to pick her up. She plans to spend her weekend with family. She reaches and realizes her aunt is still not there, so she sits down on the bench next to a girl, who is also supposedly waiting for someone to pick her up. Coming from a friendly and loud environment, Christina never likes it when it's quiet, so she starts a conversation with the girl. JUDITH BENNETT is also a freshman from Ireland. She is not very friendly, she gives short answers.

CHRISTINA

Hey, I think you're in one of my classes if I'm not mistaken. I'm Christina, we haven't officially met

JUDITH

Yeah you're in my chem class, I'm Judith

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

It's a beautiful day, I like the weather here. Have any exciting plans for the weekend?

JUDITH

Something like that. I am waiting for my boyfriend to come pick me up

Before they get a chance to speak more, her boyfriend pulls over and Judith gets up to get into the car. Christina is shocked by what she sees, Judith boyfriend's face seems familiar, but she can't exactly remember where she knows him from.

21.INT. - IN AUNT JULIA'S CAR - DAY

Christina walks in the car with a disturbed expression on her face.

JULIA

(shocked)

What is wrong with you? You look like you've just seen a ghost

CHRISTINA

I think I just saw dad's murderer

JULIA

Now look you're mother has told me about this assumptions you have every now and then. You are not in Johannesburg anymore, you can not go around pointing fingers at people, accusing them of being murderers.

CHRISTINA

I don't accuse people out of the blue. I was there when he got murdered you know, I witnessed it. The man i just saw now looks like the man i saw then

JULIA

(furious)

I am telling you Christina and I will not repeat this, you are here to pursue your education, not to solve a murder. That is in the past and you can't do anything about it, all you can do is let go and move on.

(CONTINUED)

Christina is unsatisfied by her aunt's response, but decides to stay quiet. She is so set in finding her father's killers and she won't let anything or anyone stop her from attaining it.

22.INT. - ENZO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

Christina and Charles have their first official date at Enzo's, a nice and cozy Italian place. Christina had mentioned she loves Italian food when they went out for coffee the first day they met, so Charles thought it would be a good idea to bring her here.

CHRISTINA

(happy)

It's a really nice place and it's cute how you remember me mentioning how I like Italian food.

CHARLES

I'm glad you like it. We should try the house special, they only have Saturday nights.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

As he was talking, I was just observing him not really listening to what he was saying. I wanted to tell him that i might have seen my father's killer, but I didn't want to ruin our good time by bringing up her dead father.

They have the house special, talk for some time and end their evening.

23.EXT. - UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Three days later, there is a soccer game on-campus. Christina decided to buy something to drink after cheering for such a long time. As she walks, she bumps into Judith's boyfriend, KURESHI, and this time stays calm.

CHRISTINA

(apologetic)

I am so sorry, I was looking the other way, silly me. I didn't mean to bump into you

(CONTINUED)

KURESHI

Oh, it's perfectly alright, it happens.

CHRISTINA

(laughs)

Yeah. I think I've seen you before, I believe your Judith's boyfriend, correct?

KURESHI

Right. I think we saw each other in the parking lot last time, but we haven't officially met. What are you studying here?

CHRISTINA

Journalism. Are you a student too?

KURESHI

Oh no, I'm not that into school and I'm too old to be in college. I have a restaurant business downtown, you should come check it out one day.

CHRISTINA

That's nice. How long have you been living here?

KURESHI

I've been living here for the past 11 years.

That number dwindles in her head, 11 years, that's exactly how long ago her father got killed. She keeps calm and walks away as if nothing has shocked her. It bothers her, but she keeps it to herself.

24.INT. - CHRIS'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

University of Portsmouth wins the game 4 - 2. Charles is enthusiastic about the win and decides to take Christina out for dinner to celebrate. Christina knows that winning this game meant the world to him and she didn't want to spoil it by talking about her father's killer.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

I didn't want to ruin his good mood, but I just couldn't keep it bottled up inside of me anymore; I had to let it out and most of all

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (V.O.) (cont'd)
to Charles, the person I trust
most.

Without any further hesitation, Christina jumps into it.

CHRISTINA
So, I think I saw my father's
killer and even met him...

CHARLES
(shocked)
What?

CHRISTINA
At the game, I wanted to tell you,
but I didn't want to distract you

CHARLES
Regardless, you should have told
me. Are you sure of it?

CHRISTINA
Not a 100 percent, but something
tells me he's the one. The time
frame meets.

Charles is surprised by what she tells him, he doesn't judge her or anything, he just listens.

25.INT. - CHRIS'S PLACE - DAY

It is Christmas and the spirit is high. Charles invites his cousin, who is a policeman. JOHN GARVISH is a criminal justice graduate from the University of Portsmouth. Charles introduces them.

CHARLES
Hey John, this is the gorgeous
Christina I've been telling you
about

JOHN
Ah, Christina, you're even prettier
than he described

CHRISTINA
(appreciative)
Why thank you. He's told me quite a
lot about you too

Charles tells Christina's case and John wants to help. He

(CONTINUED)

advices Christina not to point fingers without concrete proof.

JOHN

(with confidence)

I will find some things out and help you get at the bottom of this.

26. INT. - BRIGHTON POLICE STATION - MORNING

The following day, John goes to work and tells his boss about Christina's situation. His boss, DARWIT CANCAVE, is a bold man with a serious face.

DARWIT

Without concrete evidence there is nothing she can do.

His co-worker, MAGGIE SANDERS, overhears their conversation and jumps in.

MAGGIE

Actually, it's not impossible to put Christina father's killer behind bars. I can tell you about a similar situation that got resolved. A girl gets raped at 8 and her rapist manages to escape. Ten years later, she sees him and gets him arrested.

JOHN

(hopeful)

That's encouraging, I really want to help out my cuz's girl

27.EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Christina is leaving a South African store after picking up a few items to cook. She gets into her car and starts the engine. The car doesn't start. It is a cold winter day. A man comes and helps her start the engine. She then realizes that the man is Paul Johnson, her father's best friend and travel buddy from back home.

CHRISTINA

Uncle Paul?

PAUL

Yes?

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Is that you?

PAUL

My apologies, I don't recognize you. Where do you know me from?

CHRISTINA

It's Christina, Christina Armedi. Your friend Dniho's daughter.

PAUL

(surprised)

Oh my word, little Christina, all grown up. I can't believe this. Come here, let me give you a hug. You live here or you visiting?

CHRISTINA

I actually am attending the University of Portsmouth, studying Journalism like my father would have wanted me to.

PAUL

He would have been proud. How is your mother?

CHRISTINA

She's doing well, she's good.

PAUL

I'm glad. Well, I am running late for work now, but I would love for us to sit down and catch up one day. Give me your number

They exchange numbers and each head to their destination.

28.INT. - PAUL'S CAR - DAY (ON PHONE)

After he talks to Christina, Paul rushes to his car and makes a call. He calls Mariama Zokeli, his partner in crime. The phone rings and she picks up.

PAUL

Woman, why does it always take you ages to pick up the damn phone?

MARIAMA

Well hello to you too.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

No time for sarcasm now, I've called to tell you something very important

MARIAMA

What now? What is so important you had to bother me at this time?

PAUL

Dniho's daughter is in town. We better get moving before she figures things out

MARIAMA

What are talking about?

PAUL

(impatiently)

Look, just meet me at the Cafe Ruze in an hour and we shall find a cover. Bye.

29.INT. - WINTER BALL - EVENING

Christina is at a ball. She loves art and would die for balls. She meets TRISHA OUTRA ZOKELI, a South African girl who is also a college student. They along well.

CHRISTINA

I love your dress, it's very Afrocentric.

TRISHA

Thank you, my mother got it for me. It's a very traditional South African dress

CHRISTINA

Yeah, I remember my mother wearing them on special occasions or holidays. I love this ball, i live for balls in general

TRISHA

Me too. There are more coming up, i'd be more than glad if we'd go together, I like someone who can appreciate art.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

I'd love to. What's your number?

They find that they have a lot in common. Since that day, they exchange numbers and start hanging out.

30.INT.-TRISHA'S RESIDENCE - DAY

Christina goes over Trisha's house. Her mother, Mariama, opens the door and lets her in. She doesn't recognize her.

MARIAMA

Hi, you must be one of Trisha's friends, please come in. Trisha's getting ready, she'll be out soon. Please have a seat. I was on my way out anyways.

She tells her daughter she's leaving and heads out in a rush.

CHRISTINA

Thank you ma'am

TRISHA

Hey girl, how are you? Sorry not ready yet, my mom asked me to do some things.

CHRISTINA

It's fine I'll wait

TRISHA

You can either watch TV or look at old albums of my family, so you don't get bored

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

As Trisha's getting ready, I started watching TV, then decides to look at the albums as well. To my surprise, I came across an old black and white picture of my father, Trisha's mother and the man I claimed to be my father's killer together. I couldn't think anymore, I was in shock. I kept asking myself "Why are they all together?" "How do they know each other?". Thoughts and questions just ran in my head. I then took the picture out of the album, told Trisha I had

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (V.O.) (cont'd)
to be somewhere and left the house
running.

31.INT. - INDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - EVENING

Once Christina tells Charles about what she discovered, he calls his cousin, Darwit the policeman. They meet up at the Varsity Fitness Center, where they get together every now and then to play indoor basketball. Charles takes Christina with him. Christina shows Darwit the picture and he comes up with a solution. He runs to his car and comes back with a device in his hand.

DARWIT

Here, this is a recording device.
You will put this around yourself
and try to get as much out of
Trisha's mom. But, be sure not to
ask direct questions.

CHRISTINA

(doubtlessly)

I've never done this before

DARWIT

Don't worry, Charles and I will be
sitting outside in the car and
listening to your conversation. If
something goes wrong, we will come
in.

CHARLES

If you don't feel comfortable you
don't have to do it

CHRISTINA

No, I will do it. I owe to my
father.

32.EXT. - ABANDONED ALLEY - NEXT MORNING

Christina goes to an abandoned alley, in a neighborhood considered to be dangerous, and purchases a gun.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

I was determined to get my father's
killer and proclaim justice. I
wasn't going to let nobody get away
without paying for what they did to
him and my family in general. And,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (V.O.) (cont'd)
so i made sure I was ready in every
way possible. Though I was scared,
I couldn't back down now. I'd come
far enough.

33.INT. - CHRISTINA'S DORM ROOM - EVENING (ON PHONE)

Christina gets ready to go over to Trisha's house. She is nervous. Her phone rings and she pick up.

CHARLES
Hey, we're outside waiting for you.
Come down and let's go.

CHRISTINA
Will be down.

Before she leaves the house, she asks herself whether she should take the gun or leave without it.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)
As I was about to step out, I
suddenly started getting
flashbacks, I remembered dad, I
missed him enormously. I, then, put
the gun in my purse and walked out
my dorm. The fear of carrying a gun
suddenly vanished with dad's
thoughts and memories, they made me
stronger.

34.INT. - TRISHA'S RESIDENCE - LATER THAT EVENING

Trisha opens the door and let's Christina in. The house is lit up and the table is neatly set.

TRISHA
While I get dinner ready, sit down
and keep my mother company

MARIAMA
Christina, we officially finally
meet. Last time I saw you, I was in
a rush I didn't even get to
properly introduce myself. But,
anyways Trish has told me about
your great personality.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

That's good to know. But, you actually know me from before.

MARIAMA

Pardon?

CHRISTINA

Look at me attentively, you know me.

MARIAMA

(confused)

No, I would have remembered you if I knew you.

CHRISTINA

(insisting)

Trust me you know me very well. Here, take a look at this, maybe it will refresh your memory

MARIAMA

(shocked)

Where did you get this from? Who sent you? What do you want?

CHRISTINA

Why? You hiding from someone? It's my father in the picture

MARIAMA

What? Your father? Your Dniho's daughter?

CHRISTINA

So now you remember me

Mariama gets up and opens the first drawer of the shelf and reaches for a gun. Before she could turn and point it, Christina had already hers pointed. Trisha hears the noise and comes to see what's going on. Once she witnesses the scene, she's in shock

TRISHA

What is going on here? Mom? Chrissi?

CHRISTINA

(emotional)

Why don't you tell your mother what you did to my father? How you left me with no father? Huh?

(CONTINUED)

MARIAMA

This is a misunderstanding.

CHRISTINA

(insisting)

Admit it! Tell the truth! You
killed my father

MARIAMA

I wasn't alone

Silence reigns in the room for a few seconds. Then, Mariama continues speaking.

And it's not like he didn't deserve
it. He took all the love I had for
him and threw it in the trash. I
was nothing to him, all he cared
about was that wife of his, your so
called mother

TRISHA

(in shock)

Mother?

MARIAMA

Yeah Trish, your mother was a
monster. I was deeply in love with
her father and when he rejected me,
I couldn't take it. You know I
don't do well with rejection

CHRISTINA

Now, stop it with your dramatics
and call whoever was involved in my
father's murder or I'll use this
gun

Mariama reaches for the phone and makes two different phone calls asking both of her accomplices to come. Mariama and Trisha sit and Christina remains standing by the door. About half an hour later, one shows up. Christina opens the door, lets him in and tells him to sit next to Mariama.

CHRISTINA

(pushing)

Go! Sit!

KURESHI

What's going on?

No one answers him and sits down. About ten minutes later, the second one comes. He rings the door bell and Christina opens the door. Christina can't believe what she sees.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Uncle Paul?

PAUL

What? What are you doing here?

He turns and looks around in the room.

What is going on here?

CHRISTINA

You hurt dad? I can't believe this!

MARIAMA

Tell the girl what you did to her
father

CHRISTINA

Now, shut up and tell me what
happened, how you killed my father.
If you try to lie I will kill each
and every one of you

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

I couldn't believe the words that
were coming out of my mouth. I've
never been violent or even liked
violent words, like the word
"killing" for instance, but at that
time anger had taken over me and I
couldn't control myself

PAUL

What I did? You made me do it
Mariama. Listen to me Christina,
this witch tricked me into killing
your father. I needed money so bad,
I was in debt and so close to
loosing my business, then I asked
your father to lend me money. He
refused because of your mother, she
didn't want him to help me out.
Then, Mariama offered to pay all of
my debt if I hire someone to get
your father killed. That's when I
hired Kureshi here to do the work.
I am so sorry, I don't know what
got into me, but this witch was the
one who brainwashed me.

CHRISTINA

(breathless)

But my father was like a brother to
you, you did everything together.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA (cont'd)
Money had more value than
brotherhood for you?

PAUL
(crying)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!
I would take it back if I could.

Mariama gets up and picks the gun she had dropped on the floor and points it to Christina and says

MARIAMA
I will not let Dniho control me
anymore

However, before she pulls the trigger, Christina beats her to it. She aims for her elbow. Mariama falls on the floor. Trisha calls the ambulance. Darwit and Charles run to the house once they hear a gun shot. Darwit calls in back up and bursts the door open.

DARWIT
Police! Freeze. You are under
arrest, anything you say can and
will be used against you in the
court of law

The minute she sees Charles, Christina runs and wraps her arms around him weeping. Charles holds her with care

CHARLES
Shh, it's ok I'm here, it's all
over now.

TRISHA
Hey Chrissi, I'm sorry to hear
about your father. I swear I had no
idea.

CHRISTINA
It's ok.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)
At that time I was really angry and
looking at Trisha was liking
looking into her mother's eyes,
somehow it gave me the feeling that
she was responsible to, but then I
chose to forgive and forget. I
decided to let go of all the anger
I had bottled up inside of me for
years and just let go. I'm sure
dad's resting in piece up there

The ambulance arrives and Mariama is rushed to emergency room. The two were taken to the police station.

35. INT. - REXTON HOTEL - EVENING

About two weeks later, Charles decides to take Christina out of town to take her mind of things. They are in a hotel room enjoying the company of each other. Christina has been so worried about the verdict the court room will take about the three killers of her father. Suddenly, Charles phone rings.

CHARLES

Oh, it's Darwit. Hey man?

Christina observes with curiosity.
Really? That's awesome news then.
You've done it again, served
justice right. Alright, I'll let
her know, take care

CHRISTINA

So? What has been decided?

CHARLES

They are sending Mariama to prison.
Once relased from the hospital,
she'll be served with papers. As
for Paul and Kureshi, they're being
deported back because they're here
illegally.

CHRISTINA

Once there, will they walk free?

CHARLES

Nop, they're going straight to
prison from the airport, Darwit
made sure of that. They will pay
babe. Come, let's go to bed.

CHRISTINA (V.O.)

I felt satisfaction thinking of
the fact they were going to prison.
Though I knew it wouldn't bring my
dad back, it felt good knowing that
my search finally paid off. And
most of all it felt good knowing
that I finally forgave. I have now
started a whole new life with this
incredible man in my life. I'm
offcially in happy and in love.
Life is really what we make it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

34.

Charles and Christina fall on the bed and make love for the very first time.

FADE OUT: