

Life's Unexpected Blessings

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *Life's Unexpected Blessings*

by Michelle Copeland

Logline

Sheila's life does not turn out as planned with the obstacles she's facing, but her faith in God gets her through the bad times.

Characters

Sheila (F) - A thirty-five-year-old single woman who lives with her mom and sister. She feels unfulfilled in life. Strengthened by her faith in God, she takes her art seriously, and her life changes.

Evelyn (F) - Sheila's mother. Her love for her daughter makes her extremely supportive of her despite life's challenges.

Linda (F) - Sheila's sister with a health condition. She dies due to complications in her illness.

Eliza (F) - Sheila's friend.

James (M) - He meets Sheila through her boss. He spends a lot of time with Sheila and her family and decides to start a serious relationship with her.

Mr. Logan (M) - James' dad. He is supportive of James' actions. He bonds easily with Sheila and her mom.

Samantha (F) - James' niece. She is a charming little girl who loves Sheila's company as much as her uncle.

Three Act Summary

Act One

- Sheila and her mom are in the kitchen. Sheila's mom, Evelyn, disrupts her thoughts about her life as she stands over the stove, frying chicken. Her mother tries to know what she's thinking about. Sheila says she's thinking about putting on an art show. Linda calls out from the sitting room for her food, and Sheila serves it. Sheila goes to her room to sleep. She feels like God speaks to her.
- The light from the window wakes Sheila. As she leaves her room, she hears Linda requesting a sausage from her mom. Her mom asks her to empty Linda's ostomy bag. After taking care of her cooking chores, Sheila goes to the garden. Her mom meets her there. They plant the flowers together.
- Mrs. Ladune, their neighbor, calls out to them, and Evelyn waves back. After exchanging pleasantries, they decide to go in, check on Linda and start dinner. While they do their evening chores, Sheila's thoughts return to the art show she plans to do, and she feels courageous enough to continue.
- Sheila gets up the next day to her same routine. She tells her mom about entering an art festival, and her mom agrees to pay the fee. Evelyn and Sheila take Linda to her doctor's appointment.
- Sheila grills out paperwork for her art festival. When Sheila goes to drop it in the mailbox, she sees the plumber, Carlos, pull up in the driveway, and she leads him to the faulty tub. When they exchange pleasantries, she

learns that he'd gotten divorced. She signs his cheque, and he leaves.

- Sheila thinks about things to do and decides to go outside and cut the front yard. Her mom joins her again. After that, they make dinner. Sheila spends time deciding which artwork to use in her art festival while Linda helps her.
- Sheila's mom helps her load her art into the car since she has to stay home with Linda. When Sheila gets to the festival, she sets up her booth and calls her mom. A few people compliment her piece. Carlos comes to her stand with his two children, Sophia and Max.
- As Carlos leaves Sheila's stand, his children ask him to invite Sheila over. The festival judges come to Sheila's stand, and she wins \$500 for her art. Later, Carlos and his children help her pack her art. Carlos invites her to hang out at the weekend.

Act Two

- Sheila heads home, stopping at KFC to pick up dinner. Sheila shares details of her day at the art festival with her mom and her sister, Linda. Evelyn and Linda also share how their day went.
- Sheila skypes her friend Eliza, and they talk about their life. Sheila brings up Carlos. Sheila and Carlos have an early dinner and a movie, so she meets him at a restaurant. They talk until the restaurant ends. Carlos tries to kiss her but hesitates.
- Sheila wakes up the next morning, worried that she had slept in. Her mother relieves her of her duties. She does some more work on her art and talks to Eliza about the date with Carlos. Sheila worries that she hasn't heard from Carlos in a few weeks.
- Linda starts feeling sicker than usual and is rushed to the ER. The doctor maintains that she needs a blood

transfusion. Sheila and Evelyn visit Linda and get angry at the doctors for not being helpful.

- Sheila and her mom finish their chores and pray together. Sheila and her mom arrive at the hospital to see that Linda is not in her room. The nurse informs them that she's moved her to the ICU. Linda's case worsens. Even with the surgery, she goes into a coma.
- Evelyn and Sheila discuss pulling the plug on Linda. The next day, Sheila gets a call from a gallery owner but cancels the meeting because of her family situation. Later, the doctor meets with Sheila and Evelyn to discuss a new surgical procedure for Linda, but Linda calls them together and breathes her last.
- Sheila and Evelyn arrange Linda's funeral. Sheila skypes with Eliza to tell her what has been going on. The funeral home calls, and Sheila and Evelyn go to get Linda's ashes. They place the ashes in an urn next to Sheila's dad. Later, Sheila is working in the garden when she hears the whisper comforting her again. Sheila's mom asks her about the job search.
- Sheila and her mom go to church. They run into Mrs. Sutton and have dinner with them after church. Later, Sheila calls the gallery owner to set up a meeting. She meets up with Ms. La Rue, who eventually offers her work. Ms. La Rue introduces Sheila to Mr. James Logan, who joins them.
- After Sheila leaves, Ms. La Rue talks to Logan about being friends with Sheila. After working at the art gallery for months, Ms. La Rue offers to put up Sheila's art. Ms. La Rue visits Sheila's home in preparation for Sheila's art show.
- On the night of the art show, Sheila's mom comes to calm her nerves. Sheila and her mom walk into the gallery, and Ms. La Rue introduces her to others in the room. James shows up at Sheila's show. After a few days, James visits Sheila at Ms. La Rue's art shop with flowers, but Sheila

tells him that Ms. La Rue is unavailable. Sheila's mom helps her around at work.

- Ms. La Rue gives Sheila more responsibilities and starts missing work often. Sheila's mom and James help out occasionally. Sheila daydreams at her desk when a little girl comes looking for her uncle, James. The little girl, Samantha, asks James if they can bring Sheila to the park. Sheila agrees to go with them.
- Sheila's mom comes to work with her and shares details of her date with James. Sheila is awoken by a call from James telling her that Ms. La Rue has died. Sheila and her mom arrive at the memorial service. After the service, Ms. La Rue's lawyer, Mr. Wilkerson, offers to meet Ms. Sheila and Mr. James.
- Mr. Wilkerson informs them that Ms. La Rue left her property to them. Ms. La Rue left the gallery to Sheila but insisted that James and Sheila share the estate. The pastor assumes that Sheila and James are married. On the way home, Sheila tells her mom what the lawyer said. When they get home, Sheila gets the lawyer's letter out and reads it.
- Sheila's mom comes into her room to comfort her, and Sheila asks her mom why she thinks Ms. La Rue left her gallery to her. While Sheila wonders what to do with her inheritance from Ms. La Rue, she puts her faith in God's word.

Act Three

- In the morning, Sheila wakes up with clearer ideas which she shares with her mom. Later, Sheila and her mom visit Ms. La Rue's estate and check it out. James visits the house too. Sheila and James sit in the gazebo to discuss what to do with the estate.
- Sheila attends her first class on campus. She starts working on the gallery with her mother, and James comes in to help, bringing Samantha along. Ms. Lauren Grant visits them, and Sheila notices a different vibe between James and Lauren.

- Later, Sheila and her mom are working in the yard. After working in the yard, Sheila decides to skype Eliza. Sheila and her mom clean up the house to prepare for James and his family to come over. James visits Sheila's home with his dad and Samantha. Sheila's mom shows James' dad the backyard and asks about Lauren.
- Sheila and James go to Home Depot to pick out wood flooring. The attendant teases them that they will make a good couple. They return home to unload the flooring and eat lunch together. Sheila and James dance while James' dad and Samantha walk in on them. Later, James's dad and Samantha leave first, and James leaves after discussing with Samantha her passion for art.
- Lauren confronts James about restarting their old relationship. James talks to his father about his dilemma with Lauren. Sheila plans the reopening of the gallery. She picks her friend, Eliza, and her family up at the airport.
- Eliza's family joins Sheila and James in fixing the art in the house. Eliza questions James about his life and relationship. James asks Eliza what Sheila was like in college. They all go to Ms. La Rue's estate to spend time. Sheila puts up James' sister's paintings on the wall.
- Sheila sets up the gallery and renames it to become "The Soulful Art Gallery." James steals Sheila out for discussion. They dance and kiss, and Sheila looks around to see her family and loved ones there. James eventually asks Sheila to go on a date with him.