

## **BIG SKY**

based on a true story

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### **Logline:**

When Child Protective Services takes Olivia away from her unstable mother, she must go 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.*

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

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

Grandpa and Olivia don't know what to do with each other. 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 deal with each other.

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.

Grandpa is struggling to adjust to widowhood. His wife, Ruby, was taken by 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.

One day, Olivia discovers that the farm is in trouble. Because of the massive medical bills from Grandma's treatment, the farm is teetering on the brink of foreclosure.

Angel offers a lifeline, but Grandpa doesn't want charity, so he 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 the farm.

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

In a dramatic turn of events, they don't win the Frontier Days Festival, and the bank moves forward with foreclosure. Olivia and Lyle are devastated, but the farm is saved in the most unexpected of ways. Angel reveals that 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 is saved and stays with the family, and Olivia learns to love life on the farm under the big sky.