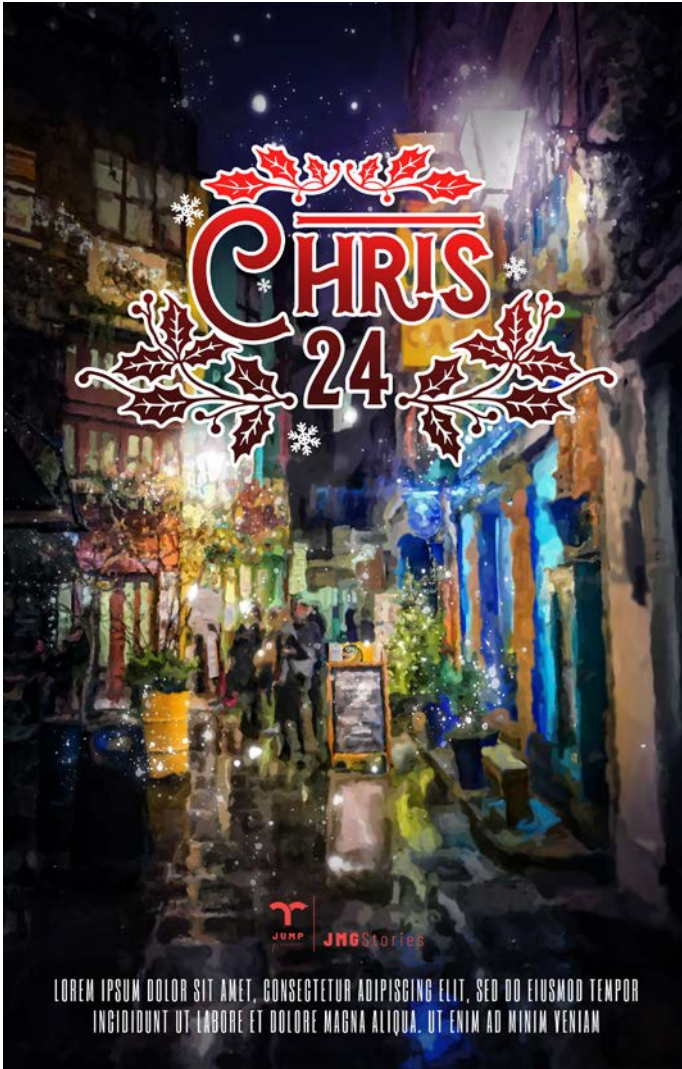


CHRIS 24

— *The gift that keeps on giving* —

Created by: JMG Stories | Written by: Rebecca Sandeman / Alice Holt / Emily O'Hara



— ” —

Chris and Shola are out the back of the store sorting through old stock and polishing some dusty Christmas baubles.

CHRIS: You my friend, are not only looking at a guy who owns a shop but one who woke up to 11 new matches and I only downloaded the app last night. This Christmas, I'm honestly expecting my balls to get at least half the treatment these baubles are getting.

SHOLA: Chris that's disgusting.

CHRIS: Thank you.

Genre: *Comedy, Period piece*

Format: *24 episodes of 25 mins each*

Targetgroup: *15 years old and over*

Potential buyers: *Netflix, Amazon, HBO, various TV channels*

At Pitch-level Q1 2021

>>>



Chris 24 is a completely new and innovative format. Based on the Norwegian Julekalender-concept, it's 24 episodes that centre around the build up to Christmas, one each day, that inter-weave a romantic comedy narrative whilst also capturing the magical spirit and nostalgia of the festive period.

After inheriting a crumbling Christmas shop from a mysterious relative, directionless and in his early twenties, Chris attempts to prevent the shop from ruin over the days of Advent. He is joined by his quirky friends, infuriating family and Emma, his love interest.

Chris, an awkward graduate in Classics (excellent job prospects there Chris!) has inherited, to his exasperation, a rundown Christmas shop near Neal's Yard from his Great Uncle George. A relative he's never met and only heard bizarre rumours about on the family grapevine, including something to do with modern piracy?

What's even worse is that Chris isn't even that bothered about Christmas. An absolute travesty for any self-respecting protagonist of

a CHRISTMAS-THEMED TV series. He attempts to navigate the disorganized clutter and chaos that George has kindly left him. The mounting bills, the fact the roof and walls are damp and caving in, visits from a jobsworth building inspector... not to mention the eccentric and peculiar customers that 'George's Christmas Emporium' attracts. A sausage roll eating pervert. A Lululemon clad mummy-blogger, hell-bent on leaving bad Google reviews. A cheese and pineapple hedgehog wielding confidant. An elderly lady 'accidentally' shooting her husband with a decorative musket for watching porn.

Every time the front doorbell rings, Chris is left cowering, wondering what could possibly go wrong next. And is it even worth the hassle; the shop a seemingly endless time and money pit? Chris is joined by his useless but well-meaning best friend Hugo, recently disinherited from a confectionary dynasty, and Shola, a gutsy and smooth-talking tattoo artist he met at school.

And then there is Emma. His first ever kiss in the ball pit at GymBobs. She kicked him in the



mouth when she was doing a handstand. He lost a tooth and a tiny slither of his heart that day. Fast forward twenty years, she's a music teacher/aspiring singer and now that she has moved back to London permanently, the four friends are as close as ever. She also teaches his grunge-wannabe nephews, who are terrifying and keep asking Chris to buy them fags. Deep down Emma and Chris secretly harbour feelings for each other, not that they will even admit it to themselves.

Chris's family are an assortment of highly-strung, dysfunctional messes. His mother, a ghastly portrayal of middle class obliviousness. She voted Brexit, despite spending 6 months a year at her second home in Spain. 'Well darling, I just thought it would stop those immigrants from coming over here. I didn't realise the free movement bit would work both ways. That wasn't on the buses was it?' Then there's Beth, the mildly sociopathic sister, with the wayward twins Oscar and Henry, the browbeaten Dad Richard, and Beth's husband Jeremy who has suddenly developed a conscience, much to the annoyance of Beth and their cutthroat law firm representing London's elite white-collar criminals. It's a family that can't communicate with each other, all quick to offer advice (or better scorn) when it's not warranted. This is now only

exacerbated by Chris' sudden windfall; if you can even call it that.

Chris 24 is a rom-com set against the backdrop of Christmas; leaning into its magical and fantastical elements with a satirical edge. It's hyper-aware of its predecessors, *Love Actually*, *The Holiday*, *Last Christmas* and the feel-good factor with a bit of cheese a festive spin on the genre can bring. And it has it all: love (naturally), friendship (obviously), families coming together in spite of their hypocrisies, tears, adversity...and an antique advent calendar that appears to be marginally psychic?

Over the 24 episodes it has an omniscience of the character's thoughts and feelings, giving presents that are insightful, mysterious, or propel the action forward in a further episode. Towards the climax, the advent calendar drops hints of an explosive family secret that will shake Chris' world to its foundations. Who was his Great Uncle George, really? And why on earth did he leave him this Christmas shop full of (how would you say this politely...) junk?

