

Montana Blue

Genre: Drama/Romance

Format: TV Movie

Logline: When a successful Manhattan businessman meets a strong-willed single mother in Montana, they're both forced to re-evaluate life's priorities.

OVERVIEW

New York City executive Virgil Haynes returns each year to his hometown of Livingston, Montana to celebrate his birthday with close-knit extended family. Single mother Sarah Hanson recently relocated to Livingston, but meeting someone to share her life is the last thing on her mind. Little do these two co-protagonists know that they're on a literal collision course when a minor car accident thrusts them into each other's lives.

Montana Blue weaves a multifaceted tale full of unexpected twists and turns that force Virgil and Sarah to decide if they're willing to risk it all to fall in love.

CHARACTERS

VIRGIL HAYNES (40's) – Montana native who moved to New York City where he owns a highly profitable consulting company. His deep-running country roots have instilled in him the values of honesty, kind-heartedness and hard work, resulting in fiercely loyal employees. Despite financial success, he yearns for emotional fulfillment.

SARAH HANSON (30's) – A down on her luck single mother who doesn't have many opportunities to smile. She spends most of her day caring for her frail mother, her younger sister and her little daughter while trying to make ends meet. Determined to succeed on her own, she's a resourceful woman who doesn't shy away from hard work. Despite many offers, she believes that there's no room for a man in her life and is wary of anyone who tries to convince her otherwise.

MARTHA (70's) – Virgil's mother. Kindly family matriarch whose wisdom and love are treasured by her two sons. She's always looking for ways to help others and gladly volunteers at the local hospital.

ASHLEY (30's) – Virgil's discontented wife. A native New Yorker she has little tolerance for her husband's country family and dreads Virgil's annual pilgrimage home to celebrate his birthday where she is forced to acknowledge his humble beginnings.

AUSTIN (40's) – Virgil's older brother. A prankster with a heart of gold who'd do anything to help another person. When Austin's first wife died of cancer, Virgil put his life and career on hold to insure his brother and his two young children were cared for. Now remarried, Austin is fiercely loyal to his younger brother and instinctively knows that Virgil is not happy.

EMILY (30's) – Sarah's younger sister; she often frustrates her serious older sibling by being irresponsible. She constantly encourages Sarah to begin dating again.

SUMMARY

From humble beginnings in rural Montana, Virgil Haynes has overcome incredible odds and now owns one of the premier management consulting firms in New York City. His easy-going personality and ready smile are in sharp contrast with his demanding corporate responsibilities. But his extensive business expertise and impeccable track record have made his company the first choice of the shrewd executives that inhabit Manhattan boardrooms.

SUMMARY (cont'd)

Married to a sophisticated native New Yorker, most casual observer would think he's got it all. But over the years Virgil and his wife Ashley have grown apart. Unfortunately Virgil's multiple attempts to fix his broken marriage have fallen on deaf ears. Despite his rewarding career and financial success, Virgil feels an emptiness that's hard to ignore.

While celebrating his fortieth birthday in his hometown of Livingston, Montana, Virgil is reunited with his extended family, including fun-loving brother Austin, whose comical antics are openly disdained by Virgil's cosmopolitan wife. Uninterested in Virgil's passion for hiking, fishing and the outdoors, and unwilling to tolerate his backwoods friends and down-to-earth family, it's not long before Ashley flies back to the Big Apple...alone.

After another sleepless night contemplating his hopeless marriage, Virgil takes his vintage Corvette for a drive, savoring the amazing Big Sky morning. He finds himself in downtown Livingston, where he parks and strolls aimlessly in and out of the small country shops. As he exits one of the stores, he watches in horror as an old pickup truck backs into his flawless car. He quickly rushes over to confront the reckless driver. But as her hat falls off and her chestnut hair tumbles down, he is shocked to see an attractive young woman, Sarah Hanson.

Sarah had married right after high school, but quickly found herself a single parent. Now in her thirties, Sarah struggles to keep her family afloat by running a horseback riding business for tourists. Her young daughter was diagnosed with a rare form of epilepsy and her aging mother has health issues of her own. Despite feeling like every day is an uphill battle, Sarah possesses an unrelenting passion for a better life. She prioritizes her family's needs over her own, burying any desire for emotional fulfillment.

Proud and feisty Sarah insists on paying to repair Virgil's car over time. Although Virgil doesn't want Sarah's money, he agrees in order to have an excuse to get to know her better. He eventually meets her young daughter and wheelchair-bound mother. Virgil learns that Sarah recently moved to town in order to be close to the hospital. He assumes that her mother requires medical care, but he couldn't be more wrong. Virgil devises many excuses to see Sarah and he slowly begins to gain her trust.

Although surrounded by Montana's idyllic landscape, Virgil continues working on a multi-billion dollar corporate merger with a challenging deadline. In order to move the project forward, a female executive travels to meet with Virgil at his house. When Sarah shows up unannounced and notices an attractive woman resting on Virgil's couch, she overacts and wrongly assumes there's a romantic connection. Deeply hurt, Sarah refuses to give Virgil a chance to explain, hopelessly sabotaging their relationship. Virgil copes with his heartbreak by fleeing back to New York and burying himself with work. He's not surprised when he learns that his wife Ashley has filed for divorce and her big city lawyers plan on taking much of his hard-earned fortune.

Now Virgil is willing to risk everything to convince Sarah to give him a chance. He yearns to fly back to Montana even though she never wants to see him again. However when Virgil's mother encounters Sarah's young daughter in the hospital and discovers that she has a life-threatening medical condition, she quickly alerts Virgil, who feverishly races against time, secretly utilizing his corporate connections to get the little girl the advanced treatment she so desperately needs.

Once Sarah discovers Virgil's role in her daughter's miraculous recovery, she is forced to reevaluate her self-imposed emotional isolation and finally decides to give herself a chance at true happiness. Days before Christmas, she frantically races to the Big Apple in the midst of a blinding snowstorm and begins a desperate search for Virgil, determined to express her hidden feelings before it's too late.