

Feature Film Proposal  
Holiday Comedy / Adventure  
Author: Lize Jacobs

# AN AFRICAN THANKSGIVING

[guy@namibfilms.com](mailto:guy@namibfilms.com)  
[www.namibfilms.com](http://www.namibfilms.com)

**An estranged African American family must work together to obtain their inheritance by completing an unusual scavenger hunt in the Namibian backlands over Thanksgiving.**

## SYNOPSIS

Thirty-years ago. AARON Carter, his wife, VANESSA, and his three young children, SHANICE, DARIUS, and JAYLA are on holiday on a Namibian game farm. When Aaron pulls a comical prank on his kids, it is the perfect image of a happy, close-knit family.

Present-day New York. Shanice scrambles to keep her marketing agency afloat, and waves off another call from her mother, thinking it's an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner. Meanwhile, in the suburbs, Darius drops his wife and children off at school and receives a call from his broker. He has lost his family's savings on bad investments. Then, his mother calls with upsetting news.

Shanice, Darius, his wife, and a suspiciously unemotional Vanessa is in a lawyer's office, with Jayla on video call from Bali. The siblings are noticeably estranged as the lawyer reads their father's last will. Each one will inherit a substantial sum of money after completing an adventure scavenger hunt - together, by traveling with their father's ashes through Namibia and arriving at an appointed time at an undisclosed destination for Thanksgiving dinner.

Upon arrival in Namibia, Shanice meets the handsome THOMAS, who is their guide on the scavenger hunt, and Jayla drags along a German backpacker, HANS, who she's met on the plane. The challenges immediately have them push each other's buttons by forcing them to work together, climbing dunes, quad biking, sand sledding, and keeping track of their father's urn. When they're confronted by the importance of family and teamwork at a tribal village, a moment of unity and celebration brings them together, where Shanice admits to Thomas that she feels she belongs in Namibia and they share a romantic moment.

However, the relationship between Darius and his wife strains because he's more focused on his siblings and she suspects him of hiding something. Shanice and Thomas have a fallout because she blames him for wasting her time with this ridiculous trip. The siblings end up at the wrong final destination, losing precious time. Shanice and Darius blame one another for everything, and Jayla fears their relationship hasn't changed. Darius' wife finds out about his bad investments and drives off with her kids.

Shanice and Darius give up on the challenge, and Jayla admits that she mainly wanted to come on the trip to bond with her brother and sister. Darius tries to convince them that they can all still make it before the deadline, but Shanice and Jayla are willing to give up the inheritance so that Darius can go after his family.

Darius races to catch up to his family and they reconcile. Shanice, Jayla, and Thomas travel to the game farm to fulfill their father's wishes to have Thanksgiving dinner, but Darius and his family arrive after the deadline. There is an extra chair, and without warning, their father shows up – he's not dead. Aaron faked his death to get his family back together, the most extreme prank he's ever pulled. He reveals that the siblings will get the money they played for but offers Shanice the opportunity to run the lodge on the game farm. Thomas is elated, and the siblings sit down for Thanksgiving dinner as the sun sets in the Namibian sky.

