

Three Lives

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A Triality Productions Project

PROLOGUE

EXT. BEACH, SUNDERLAND - DAY

It's a beautiful summer day in the 1980s. The seagulls fly above in the sky. We hear some laughs, and then we find two girls arriving at the beach: MAUREEN, 9, and KATIE, 11. Katie has cerebral palsy, in a level that compromises her development speed and motor coordination. Both enjoy ice cream, one each other, Katie struggles to handle hers.

Katie, stumbling, chases the ocean.

LESLIE (O.S.)
Watch your sister!

Maureen worries about how far her parents are: LESLIE, a 45 years old woman, is sitting on a bench eating fish and chips alone, and TOM, 48, old style mustache, smokes while talks to a friend. There's some effeminate in the way he gesticulates.

Maureen finds her sister enjoying the water on her feet. She gets excited with the temperature and lets her ice cream fall.

Before Katie starts crying, Maureen gives hers to her sister.

MAUREEN
Don't cry. Here! You can have mine.

She gently pushes her sister out of the water.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)
Wait here.

Always checking on Katie, Maureen reaches her mother.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)
Mum, can I have another one? Mine fell...

LESLIE
You're not the retarded one. My money doesn't grow in trees.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH, SUNDERLAND - MOMENTS LATER

Katie entertains herself with the sand and some rocks while Maureen glances the sea, a bit sad.

MAUREEN

Right after the sea, there is Denmark, but if you look a bit more to the south, it will be Germany. To the north, Norway...

Katie shows Maureen a daisy.

KATIE

Maureen, what is name of this flowee'?

MAUREEN

Daisy. Plural: Daisies.

KATIE

Da-i-sy...

We can hear an airplane passing through the clouds.

MAUREEN

One day I will travel around the world, huh... Americas, Asia, Australia, Africa...

KATIE

Far?

MAUREEN

Yeah, far away... What about you, Katie?

KATIE

I-- I...

We hear the ocean louder and louder to find...

FIRST ACT

EXT. STREET - DAY

MAUREEN, 17, is a beautiful blonde girl. With her backpack, she rides a bike near the beach after school, as nothing really matters. Her hair flies in the wind glamorously. She could be a Californian girl, except that she is too British. But she has the same vibe.

SUPER: 1996

She is going home. It's a modest neighborhood as it is her house: a small non-detached property with two or three vases with plants by the door.

She drops her bike at the fence and goes inside her house.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAUREEN AND KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

KATIE, 19, is watching a horse racing on TV, sitting on the carpet next to it. She is thoughtful and excited, biting her nails. Her motor coordination is far better now.

Maureen comes in, puts her backpack on the table and takes out of it some books: War & Peace, Sense and Sensibility, and her school books.

MAUREEN

What do you want for lunch, Katie?

KATIE

(Cheering up to the TV)

Go! Go! Go! Yeah! Fast!

Maureen opens the fridge and checks it. There's nothing appetizing. She grabs a pot with some pasta and then grabs a pan in the cupboard, puts the pasta and heats it on the stove.

It doesn't look better on a plate, and she serves two. She eats while reads alone on the table.

MAUREEN

Katie!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The bell rings... Everyone is in a rush. Maureen is finishing writing on her notebook as she haven't heard anything.

GIRL 1
See ya tomorrow, Moe!

MAUREEN
See ya!

GIRL 2
You're going to the party on Friday,
huh?

MAUREEN
I wouldn't miss it!

She gets her attention back on writing a couple of things more.

CLAIRE, a 32 years old teacher, with this young spirit and style, watches Maureen with interest.

Hastily, Maureen finishes, signs her name, rips the page and gives it to Claire. She packs her stuff, and, before she can leave, Claire catches her.

CLAIRE
Have you thought about where you
will apply for?

MAUREEN
Oh! Hum... Nowhere...

CLAIRE
How so?

MAUREEN
Well, university is not for
everyone...

CLAIRE
I agree. It's for the best students.

MAUREEN
Only if they can afford it.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAUREEN AND KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

There's a painting on the wall: birds flying in a blue sky. We hear beats coming from behind the wall, and the frame warps.

On the couch, Maureen tries, without success, to read. She even hits the wall in attempt to stop people from the other house to make noise. No success.

MAUREEN
(to the other room)
KATIE! DO YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?

EXT. STREET - ONE HOUR LATER

Katie wears her best clothes: a yellow dress, a pink jacket and purple shoes. Her hair is beautifully made, and she has some lipstick on.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Maureen, on her pajamas, brushes her teeth with the door open.

Katie runs into the bathroom and locks the door abruptly, scared. She runs to the sink and washes her mouth.

LESLIE (O.S.)
I told you to not use my things. You look like a whore with this on your face.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. STREET - SAME

Maureen is dressed exactly how she was at home. She holds Katie's hand when they cross the street.

Two kids on the other side of the street laugh at Katie, but she doesn't see it. Maureen, on the other hand, shows them her middle finger, without Katie being aware also.

They arrive at the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - SAME TIME

The coffee shop is a desert.

LEWIS, a 17 years old guy, is cleaning the balcony.

They sit at a table and Maureen sees Katie's lips.

MAUREEN

Katie!

KATIE

Please don't tell her...

Maureen grabs a book in her backpack and also her lipstick and gives it to Katie.

MAUREEN

Now you have yours. Don't use mom's, okay? And don't let her see you with it on!

KATIE

For me?

Maureen nods, making Katie clap her hands excited.

When Lewis sees that Maureen is there, he tries to look better passing his fingers into his hair and adjusting his clothes and apron. Quickly, he grabs the menus and slides to their table.

LEWIS

Wel-- welcome!

MAUREEN

Two flat whites, please. Small size.

Lewis stares at Maureen.

LEWIS

Would you like some--

MAUREEN

Hum, no, thank you.

Katie desperately wants some cream, but she knows Katie won't pay for it.

Watching her, Lewis winks at Katie with a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Lewis brings the coffees, Katie's with a lot of cream on the top and also a biscuit. Katie smiles at him, thanking him for the treats.

Maureen focuses on her book and doesn't see it.

LEWIS

You are Maureen, right?

Maureen finally takes her attention off the book.

MAUREEN

Uh, yeah...

LEWIS

I remember when you won the speech contest at school last year. Very convincing...

MAUREEN

Ah, eh, thank you...

LEWIS

Lewis, Lewis Cassell... More coffee?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

We can hear some music playing nearby. Teenagers get out of a corner market with beers in plastic bags.

Maureen looks like a singer from an indie musical group, but sexier. She waits for her friends outside the shop.

An old woman is sitting on a bus stop.

OLD WOMAN

(to herself)

Poor kids, ruining their lives at such a young age.

CARLI, 17, rich blond girl, dressed like Gwen Stefani; and STEVEN, 21, typical football player, get out of the market with a package of beers.

Maureen rushes out, running from the old lady's judgment when she sees her friends.

CARLI

Wooooooh! Let's get the party started!

MAUREEN

Yeah, let's go! I'll pay you back on Monday. Okay?

Before turning to the other street, Maureen looks back to the old woman, who lost her attention into her bag. Maureen finally gets a beer and a have a big sip.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

In a corner, Lewis has a can of Coca-cola and tries to follow minimally the music with his feet. It's cute, but not very promising as a dancer.

Teenagers drink and dance all around. Some kissing, some smoking.

On the table, Maureen dances while everyone watches and cheers her up. On her hand, another bottle of beer.

The crowd start to encourage her with "Go! Go! Go!", she turns the bottle and just stops when she has drunk every drop of beer.

Her eyes meet Lewis'. He nods saying hello from distance.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

There's no music anymore. Maureen is on the couch with a group of people. Carli kisses a guy beside her. Steven covertly flirts with a guy on the couch. Silly hands.

GIRL 1

I just can't wait for this bullshit ends. My parents are sending me to Manchester to study there.

GIRL 2

Oh I can't believe! We can be roommates there!

BOY 1

Manchester? I'd rather London...

GIRL 2

Yeah, a place where you can find other faggots, Mr. Oscar Wilde...

BOY 1
Hopefully, huh!

BOY 2
I am very happy going to Newcastle
University...

Maureen, gets up showing her empty bottle to pretend that she is just going for another beer when she's actually avoiding the conversation.

INT. KITCHEN. PARTY - SAME TIME

Lewis leaves his friends from the yard and gets inside to look for another soda in the fridge.

MAUREEN
Can you get me a beer, please?

Maureen shows up behind the fridge door.

LEWIS
Sure.

He grabs a beer for her and his soda.

MAUREEN
Thank you! You're kidding me, Lewis!
Come on, you came to a party to
drink soda?

He is surprised that someone so popular remembers his name.

LEWIS
Uh, I have to work tomorrow, you
know...

Maureen sits on the balcony, dropping some cups.

MAUREEN
Oh, I see...

Lewis looks at the guys who Maureen were with.

LEWIS
They think their money is enough,
huh?

MAUREEN
I guess they are just happy to go to
university.

LEWIS

That's why you're here avoiding them?

MAUREEN

I just came for a beer...

Silence. She is about to leave when...

LEWIS

Your sister is just lovely...

MAUREEN

Yeah, she is the best, I know. Just a little annoying sometimes.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE - LATER

The city sleeps, except from Maureen and Lewis, who are walking in the middle of the road.

Maureen is quite drunk and cold, but is still holding a beer.

MAUREEN

(laughing)

...I know she was young, but she almost broke my leg with the mop on purpose!

Maureen looks around. Nobody's in sight. She throws the bottle on the river and runs, with wobbly legs, to the fence to see it falls.

LEWIS

Mind your feet, huh!

(beat)

I must say I can't blame her.

MAUREEN

Oh, come on!

Silence. They stare the ocean from the bridge.

LEWIS

You know, sometimes there's this will to jump from here, feel the impact into the water and swim. Swim to wherever I can and appear back here. Ha, just this subtle sensation of being alive and being able to do the most of life.