

**MAUDIE**

Written  
by

**Sherry White**

1 EXT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY -- DIGBY, NOVA SCOTIA, 1937

1

MAUD DOWLEY, (32) an odd, impish little creature, with huge saucers for eyes, is lying on the tall, overgrown grass staring up at the sky, smoking a cigarette. Her fingers are gnarled, her knuckles swollen with arthritis. A shadow repeatedly moves across her face and leaves it.

The shadow is from an old swing made of rope and wood, dangling from the branch of a tree. The swing is swaying back and forth. As it slows down, Maud reaches up and gives it another push. She keeps staring at the sky, blowing her smoke towards the sky and watching as it blends into the clouds above. She stares at the clouds curiously, suddenly finding shapes and objects: *A bunny rabbit. A steam engine. Kittens.*

AUNT IDA (55), a sturdy, robust woman comes out, carrying a mop and bucket. She is wearing an apron and a scarf around her head. Her sleeves are rolled up passed her elbows. She's heavily into her spring cleaning. Beads of sweat run down her forehead.

Maud picks herself up from the ground and takes a seat on the swing. Her feet dangling, unable to reach the ground. Ida hurries past Maud, a woman on a mission.

The clothesline is filled with sheets, billowing about in the wind. The fence is lined with hooked rugs, out for freshening. Aunt Ida chucks the water from the bucket off to the side of the house. She takes the mop and starts to whack the rugs. Little clouds of dust appear with each whack.

IDA

Look at that, *tsk tsk*. The dust is going on the sheets.

Ida takes the sheets off the line piling them up in her arms. Maud chucks her cigarette butt, gets up and starts to help. She takes the armload of sheets from Ida.

MAUD

I got it.

But then Maud gets tangled in a sheet still on the line, and stumbles. She drops a sheet.

IDA

Maud. I'll have to rewash it now. It's easier if I do it alone, you're too awkward.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Ida takes the sheets from her and heads into the house.  
Maud sits back down on the swing - discouraged.

But then, she leans back, stares up at the clouds, as they  
move swiftly across the sky. The rabbits in the clouds are  
almost bunny-hopping their way across the sky.

Maud gets up and walks towards the house. As she stands on  
the veranda, she looks out on the landscape in wonder. \*

\*

Then she lights up another cigarette....

**TITLE: MAUDIE**

2 INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- DAY

2

Maud sits at the table, while Ida brings her tea and biscuits  
into the austere dining room.

AUNT IDA

Here you go. Would you like jam?

MAUD

That'd be nice.

As Ida leaves the dining room:

MAUD (CONT'D)

But I can get it myself Aunt Ida.

Moments later, she places the jam down in front of her. As  
Ida fusses around the dining room:

AUNT IDA

Your brother is coming by tomorrow.

Maud looks up, surprised.

MAUD

Why? Is he taking me back home?

AUNT IDA

He's moving to Halifax. So he's  
dropping off a few of your things.

MAUD

If Charles and his wife are moving  
to Halifax, the house'll be empty.  
I can live there and take care of  
it.

Irene says nothing. Maud takes a sip of her hot tea and it  
slips from her hand, spilling everywhere.

(CONTINUED)

2

2

MAUD (CONT'D)

Ow.

AUNT IDA

Stay there, I'll clean it.

MAUD

I can do it.

AUNT IDA

I'll clean it.

Irene rushes to grab a cloth.

3

**INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - MAUD'S BEDROOM -- MORNING**

3

Maud is standing in the mirror, fixing her hair, a little smile on her face.

MAUD

I'll be down in a minute, okay?

Her suitcase is on the bed, with her belongings packed neatly inside. She struggles to put the last bobby pin in her hair, then grabs her belongings, and hurries out of the room.

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\*

4

**INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- MORNING**

4

\*

CHARLES DOWLEY (37), Maud's handsome brother, is leaning against the door frame as Ida brings in his tea.

AUNT IDA

Take a seat.

CHARLES

I can't stay long.

AUNT IDA

At least stay for a cup of tea and a bit of cake.

CHARLES

So has she been out, looking for trouble?

AUNT IDA

So far, no. She keeps to herself. She's been asking to go home.

CHARLES

Did you tell her?

4

4

AUNT IDA

Not yet. I thought it best you do it.

By now, Maud is standing in the doorway, having overheard the last bit of this conversation. She tries to hide her nervous concern with a smile.

\*  
\*  
\*

5

OMITTED

5

Maud stands awkwardly, shy and nervous in front of her opposing brother.

\*  
\*

MAUD

Hi Charles. Nice to see you.

Sizing him up:

MAUD (CONT'D)

Oh my, that's a good jacket you're wearing, it's a good fit. You're always such a spiffy dresser.

She smiles at him.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I can't tell the difference between a rag and a ball gown.

She chuckles, nervously. Then:

MAUD (CONT'D)

So? You've come to take me home?

He shifts on his feet, and says nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

What's the big secret?

CHARLES

It's business. Financial matters.

MAUD

Well, I'm a natural at math. Remember, I used to double check your numbers when you were in school?

CHARLES

I don't have much time, I've got to be going, but I wanted to drop off a few things.

CONTINUED: (2)

He points to a little stack of things: books, photographs, and old blanket.

MAUD

Lordy. You cleared out my room.  
Why?

CHARLES

Because I sold my house.

MAUD

What house. Our house?

CHARLES

It was my house. Mom left it to me.  
I sold it and I'm moving to Halifax  
with the band.

Maud is taken aback.

MAUD

You can't sell that house. I woulda  
moved back there. I'd be more than  
happy to have my own place, I'd look  
after it --

CHARLES

You can't look after yourself, let  
alone a house, and a yard, and bills.

MAUD

I'd get a job, or something.

CHARLES

Job doing what?

MAUD

I don't know, something.

CHARLES

I'm sorry Maud. It's gone.

He smiles tightly, then heads towards the door. Maud follows him.

MAUD

Did you spend all the money they  
left behind? Because I haven't seen  
any of that either.

CHARLES

They didn't leave it for you Maud.

(CONTINUED)

4

4

MAUD

We both know mother would have expected you to look after me.

CHARLES

She also would have expected you to behave like a decent girl. But you didn't.

He keeps going towards the door.

MAUD

Wait. Charles.

AUNT IDA

Maud, come get your tea.

MAUD

Charles!

He turns to her.

CHARLES

Good-bye sister.

He leaves. Maud watches out the door, a little stunned. Ida sees she is upset.

AUNT IDA

He's a busy man, Maud.

Maud fights back tears.

MAUD

Yeah. I know.

Maud takes the package and goes back into her room.

6 OMITTED

6 \*

6A **EXT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - VERANDA -- DAY**

6A \*

Maud is sitting on the swing, looking through the contents of the package of her things: photos, trinkets. A photograph of her as a little girl with her cat Fluffy. *Some old paint brushes and paints.* Melancholy.

\*

\*

7 **INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - MAUD'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT**

7

Maud is still sitting on the edge of her bed, the lights now off. She's still waiting, waiting. She watches through the crack in the bottom of her bedroom door as the SHADOW of Aunt Ida's footsteps pass by her room.

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

7

Seconds later, the light from the hallway is turned off, and the CLICK of a bedroom door being shut.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

Moments later, Maud gets up and gently opens her bedroom door and sneaks out.

7A **EXT. JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT**

7A \*

Music pours out of the jazz club as Maud approaches, trying to contain her excitement. She smiles at a couple who giggle their way out of the club, arms around each other. Maud gathers her nerve and heads inside.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*8 **INT. JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT**

8

Inside a jazz club, filled with people, the flame on a cigarette illuminates a dark corner...

It is Maud, puffing on a cigarette, hiding from the crowd, her eyes scouring the room. She has become an expert at being inconspicuous. She smokes with one hand, and with the other she fiddles with her sweater, pulling it up over her chin as she sways to the music.

She spots a couple dancing. Studies them for a bit. She looks to another couple sitting at a table, talking intimately. She scours the room. Her eyes land on a group of women. She studies them with quiet admiration as they laugh. She takes note of one woman, **DINA SHEA** who is obviously pregnant. As she makes her way toward them, she bumps into a short, stubby, and bald MAN. Maud sees him, and her face lights up.

MAUD

Not sure who was gonna knock over  
who.

(quickly searching  
for what to say next)

Mmmmm. You smell like turkey supper.

In a good way.

(giggles.)

He tries to make his way around her, but she stops him.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I love this music. Gets my feet  
going like a couple a hammers.

He shoves her aside, annoyed.

MAN

Christ, get out of my way. Who let  
you in here?

He walks around her. She watches him for a moment, feeling the sting. But then moves on, with a hopeful determination.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 8  
Men everywhere. But she is completely invisible to them.

9 **INT. JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT** 9  
With the band now on break, Maud maneuvers her way through  
the dark club. She is smaller than everyone else in the  
room, and mostly goes unnoticed. She's feeling discouraged.

9 CONTINUED:

9

She is about to give up and go home, until she sees Dina, the pregnant woman, sitting on a bar stool by herself. Maud sidles up next to her.

MAUD

Bet you're seven months.

Maud smiles at the woman. She's very attractive, even though she's tired. She's smoking a cigarette.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Have you started nesting? Getting your house all fixed up nice and cozy?

DINA

Yeah, a little.

Maud smiles, looking somewhat envious.

MAUD

If you're looking to hire a sitter, I'm looking for work.

Dina smiles politely.

DINA

We won't be hiring a sitter.

MAUD

No harm in asking.

Awkward silence for a beat.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Not often you sees a lady in your condition out at night.

DINA

Yeah, well, my old man is the guy with the trumpet, I like to make sure he gets home alright, if you know what I mean.

Maud smiles and leans in.

MAUD

You love it when it kicks? Fluttering like a fish in a bowl.

Maud stares at the woman's belly.

(CONTINUED)

MAUD (CONT'D)

The heartburn, that's no fun. And  
the trips to the bathroom.

Maud laughs to herself - as if remembering. The woman isn't  
sure how to take Maud.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Oh my, worth it though.

Since Maud isn't going away, the woman finally engages.

DINA

How old is your baby?

MAUD

Oh, I don't have a baby.

The woman is surprised.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Died at birth.

DINA

Sorry.

MAUD

I didn't see her, but they told me  
she was really deformed. Sad.

Then she looks at Dina, who is mid-puff of a cigarette,  
somewhat disinterested.

Maud can't resist:

MAUD (CONT'D)

Always worried it was cuz I smoked.

Dina stops inhaling.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Prob'ly wasn't. Still, you never  
know.

Dina hands her cigarette to Maud. Maud takes it, takes a  
big inhale. She smiles at the woman.

MAUD (CONT'D)

(referring to the  
cigarette)

Thanks.

10      **INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT**

10

Maud sneaks her way back to her room, tip toeing up the stairs, carefully trying not to make noise. All the lights are off in the house. But as she arrives at the top --

Aunt Ida is standing there. A stern look on her face.

AUNT IDA

You better not tell me you were out at that club.

MAUD

I wasn't going to tell you that.

AUNT IDA

Where were you?

MAUD

I was at the club. But I wasn't gonna tell you.

She smiles. Ida is pissed.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I couldn't sleep.

AUNT IDA

You get in trouble again, I'm tossing you out on your duff. Do you understand me?

MAUD

I'm only looking to meet friends.

AUNT IDA

That's what you said last time, and look where that got you. In your room.

Maud keeps her head down and walks to her room.

11      **INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- MORNING**

11

Maud is standing in the doorway as Ida and the Presbyterian Women's Group gather for morning prayer.

AUNT IDA

*Prepare our hearts and minds, O God, to receive your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may obey your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

(CONTINUED)

11

11

ALL WOMEN

*Amen.*

DONNA

*Lord, open our hearts and minds by  
the power of your Spirit that we may  
hear your living Word as the  
Scriptures are read and interpreted.*

ALL WOMEN

*Amen.*

Maud tries to get Ida's attention.

MAUD

*Pssst. Psssst.*

Aunt Ida notices her, but it's her turn to pray. She glares at Maud while she says her next bit.

AUNT IDA

*Speak to us, O Lord, as you open to  
us the Scriptures and interpret them  
to us for this day.*

ALL WOMEN

*Amen.*

Then everyone looks to Maud.

MAUD

I wanted to get your tea ready for  
after your prayer but you're out of  
tea bags. And you need flour.

AUNT IDA

Not now, Maud.

MAUD

Do you want me to run to the store?

AUNT IDA

I'll do it later.

MAUD

Let me do it, I'll take the wagon.

AUNT IDA

Fine, fine.  
(to the women)  
Sorry about that.

Maud walks out the door.

12     **EXT. DIGBY STREET - DAY**

12

Maud walks up the street, pulling a little wooden wagon. She is somewhat hunched and walks with a little limp, so she moves slowly.

As she passes by one house, she admires a family playing with their **LITTLE GIRL** in a *pink dress*. She smiles to herself as the little girl squeals over something.

She continues on, and gets many strange looks from people on the street, but she does her best to ignore them.

13     **INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY**

13

Maud walks into the general store, her wagon left outside. She immediately heads towards the aisles. Her eyes pour over the shelves. **MR. MCDUGAL**, the storekeeper, nods at her.

MR. MCDUGAL

Can I help you with something Miss Dowley?

\*  
\*

MAUD

I need a sack of flour.

MR. MCDUGAL

You won't find it on the shelves, I have that over here.

MAUD

I know. I like to look at the cans. All the different colours. It's pretty.

She smiles at him - he gives an awkward smile back, not knowing how to take her.

As Maud walks through the aisles, the bell on the door rings as someone else enters the store. Maud continues to study the shelves.

MR. MCDUGAL (O.S.)

Well look who's gracing me with their presence today. What can I do for you, Everett?

EVERETT (O.S.)

(quietly)  
I'm looking for a woman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

12A.

13

13

A what? MR. MCDOUGAL (O.S.)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

By now, Maud's interest is piqued. She gazes around the corner, catching a look at **EVERETT LEWIS** (45), a tall, gaunt, curmudgeonly man. Everett shifts on his feet, awkwardly.

EVERETT

A *housemaid*, a housemaid.

Mr. McDougal looks at him, not sure if he understands.

MR. MCDUGAL

Not the kind a thing we sell.

Everett gives him an angry look.

EVERETT

Am I an idiot? I want to put up a *sign*. A whadayacall. I need you to write it.

Everett hands him a square of paper. The store keeper looks at him skeptically for a moment, then takes up a pen. Everett dictates.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

"Looking for a housemaid. Must bring their own..."

Everett struggles to find the word.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

What's the word I'm looking for?

MR. MCDUGAL

Sense of humour?

EVERETT

"Cleaning tools". That's good enough. Sign my name onto it. Say my house is over the road in Marshalltown.

MR. MCDUGAL

You really need a housekeeper at that little house?

EVERETT

What does size got to do with anything? You don't got that big of a store, and you got three or four people works here. I need a hand, I need a hand.

Everett takes the note and heads toward the back of the store. As he goes, MAUD tip toes along to continue to observe.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

Everett POSTS the sign.

CLOSE ON: the sign - *"Looking for a housemaid, must bring cleaning supplies. Contact Everett Lewis, Main Rd, Marshalltown.*

Everett leaves without another word. After the bell on the door jangles, indicating Everett's departure, Maud approaches the bulletin board. She looks up and sees Everett's sign: *Looking for a housemaid...*

She studies it with great interest. She reaches up to get the note, but it's too high. Maud sees a stool, and she drags it across the floor, climbs up on it. She reaches once more for the piece of paper, this time she snatches it.

Then Maud runs to the door and watches as Everett pushes his wheelbarrow down the street. She continues to watch him as he heads off in the distance.

14 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING**

14

Everett wheels a wheelbarrow along a winding, lonely road. Dogs are barking loudly in the near distance. This alerts Everett, causing him to speed up.

He approaches a TINY HOUSE that sits on the side of the road. His yard is littered with junk. His two dogs are tied on outside a woodshed. The dogs are both very agitated, aiming their attentions at the house.

EVERETT

What's going on?

Everett creeps over to his house carefully once he sees his door is swinging opened.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

I said who's there?

The **INTRUDER** bolts out of the house, and makes a run for it.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Hey! What did you take!

Everett chases him up the road. But he's not fast enough, the man heads off through the back woods.

\*  
\*

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Lord Jesus.

Everett debates continuing the chase, but realizes it's useless.

\*

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

Everett stops chasing him and stomps back to the house, and glares at the dogs.

14

14

14

EVERETT (CONT'D)

What good are you if you don't scare anything away? Useless mutts.

15

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

15

Everett is taking his money, and stashing little bits in different places - a bill inside a mug, a few coins in a jar. Then he lifts up the cold storage trap door in the floor and hides more money in a tin can, then stuffs it into the cold storage and closes the hatch once more.

\*  
\*  
\*

He grumbles to himself. His 13x13 house is cluttered and messy. Lit by a lantern, and heated with a wood stove.

After Everett finishes stashing his money, he climbs the ladder up to his loft.

16

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - LOFT -- NIGHT**

16

Everett pulls off his two socks and lays them side by side, dangling over the bedpost. He climbs under the cover and tucks himself down in his bed. He reaches towards the lantern and turns down the flame until the room goes black.

He lays there, in the dark, a tiny bit of moonlight illuminating his face as his heavy breathing attempts to settle into a rhythm. He closes his eyes.

17

**EXT. LANDSCAPE - MORNING**

17

A wide, landscape shot of the fields and landscape surrounding Everett's little house, which sits small and alone among the huge, overcast sky.

18

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

18

Everett is alone in a small, dimly lit shack, stoking the fire in the potbelly stove. It's quiet, not a sound except for the hiss and dull roar of the fire.

As he sips on his tea, he picks up a little toy tin badge, and tries to fix the broken clip on the back, that has come loose.

19

**EXT. MAIN ROAD, MARSHALLTOWN - DAY**

19

Maud is now dressed in her Sunday best, wearing a dainty pair of shoes, as she makes her way up the road.

To one side, a large, old Poor House, **DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE**, set back from the road.

19 CONTINUED:

19

A few young children, dressed in modest grey clothing, run about on the field playing a game of tag. She smiles as she passes them.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Then she looks across the field, and pauses to watch the COWS grazing.

MAUD

Hello big boys.  
(whistles)  
Hello there.

She smiles at them, and keeps going.

Finally, she comes upon Everett's lone, small, gloomy house. The yard is filled with junk, wood piles, and an old Model T Ford in the driveway.

She stops, and looks around, a little bewildered. Then she sees the wheelbarrow parked outside the house. She gathers her courage and heads towards the door. The dogs see her approaching.

20 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

20

Everett continues to fiddle with the tin badge, when he hears the dogs start barking outside.

MAUD (O.S.)

Hello little pups. Hello little pups.

Everett is startled by the sound of a voice. He stands frozen.

**INTERCUT WITH:**

21 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

21

Maud looks down at the dogs, smiling.

MAUD

Whatcha got on your feet? Woolens?  
Are you wearing a pair of woolens?  
Down. Down. Ouch.

The dogs are barking more aggressively. Everett sneaks over to the window, tries to steal a look.

He can't quite make her out.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Think I'm the enemy, do ya? Dying to chew on my limbs, aren't you? Want my jacket? Take it, creature, you can have it. Good boy.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

ON EVERETT as he creeps over to the other side, standing next to the wall, and peers out the other window. No sign of her at all. Then suddenly, she KNOCKS on the door.

Everett jumps. He hesitates for a moment before opening it. Maud looks up at him with her two huge bright brown eyes, and smiles widely.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
I'm Maud. Dowley.

Her nose is running from the cold.

EVERETT  
Dowley.

MAUD  
That's right.

She sniffs again. He just stares at her. She continues.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
I was, I got the ad at the store,  
the one you posted, looking for a  
house maid, I'm answering it.

He looks at her distastefully.

EVERETT  
I'm looking for a *woman*.

Maud giggles.

MAUD  
What do you think I am?

Everett sizes up the tiny, odd looking, misshapen woman as he walks past her, and heads towards his shed.

EVERETT  
Don't know.

She follows him.

MAUD  
I walked here from Digby. My feet  
are knobbed off.

\*

He gathers an armload of wood. She huddles her arms close to her body for warmth.

(CONTINUED)

21

21

MAUD (CONT'D)

Wouldn't mind a cup a tea, you can  
tell me what your lookin' for.

He looks at her skeptically, then jerks his head for her to  
come in. She follows him into the house.

22

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

22

He tries to watch her out of the corner of his eye, as she  
takes the place in, a grin on her face. Suddenly, Everett  
is more aware of his rundown, filthy little house. The air  
is thick with heat and smoke from the stove. Every surface  
is filled with clutter and dust.

MAUD

So...you're looking for a cleaner.  
A live in?

EVERETT

I dunno about live in.

Maud looks around the one room house.

MAUD

Gonna say. You're lookin' for a  
small woman.

Maud gives him a big smile as she refers to herself.

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Mom always joked that I was a size  
"tiny".

Maud chuckles. Everett doesn't.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I was hoping you were looking for a  
live in just the same.

Everett is surprised at her boldness. Maud walks towards a  
chair. She sits, a polite smile on her face. She looks  
around some more, "admiringly".

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

So this is all yours? This house?

Everett can't help but boast.

EVERETT

Used to belong to Captain John Ryan.  
I moved it all the way from the wharf  
to here.

(CONTINUED)

MAUD

Lordy. You own this land too?

EVERETT

Was given to me by the Orphanage for all the work I does for them.

MAUD

You must do some good work.

EVERETT

Guess how many Ox it took to move her here?

Maud smiles, glad to be having conversation.

MAUD

Two?

EVERETT

Seven Oxen.

Everett stokes the fire, tosses another chunk of wood in on top of it. Silence for a moment. \*

MAUD

Be nice for you. Have someone give you a hand around here.

He says nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Yeah, be hard to do it all.

EVERETT

I been doing it all my whole life.

MAUD

Every business man needs staff.

EVERETT

Well, you got that right, Madam.

MAUD

What sort of stuff do you do?

EVERETT

I sell fish, I sell chopped wood, does work for the Orphanage down the road -

MAUD

Lordy. How do you keep it straight?

(CONTINUED)

EVERETT

I've got a lot on my plate. A lot of valuable things in this house, too. With nobody here all day, there's always someone lurking about, trying to rob me.

MAUD

Well, I'm good at scaring off people.

She chuckles. He doesn't. She looks around once more.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'd like the job.

Everett hesitates.

EVERETT

You're a bit older than I was picturing.

Maud laughs uncomfortably.

MAUD

They says I get on like I'm twelve, so...

She pulls the sweater up over her chin, an obvious nervous tick. Everett gets an old dirty mug, pours a bit of water in it, swishes it around and gives the water a flick. It sprays across Maud. She giggles again.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Oh, there you go. No need for a wash tomorrow.

She giggles again. He doesn't.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Just joshin'.

Everett sticks a teabag in the mug and takes it over to the stove. He splashes some boiling water from the kettle into the cup and brings it over to Maud.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Oh thank you.

EVERETT

Are you sick or something? Can't bring in a cripple, next thing I'd be lookin' after YOU.

22 Maud smirks.

22

MAUD

Nah, I was just born funny. I can do the work of five women.

EVERETT

Where you from?

MAUD

Born in Ohio, Yarmouth County, but I lives with my Aunt over in Digby. Aunt Ida. Ida Dowley on Point Road?

Everett gets a look of recognition in his eye.

EVERETT

That bag of wind. Is that where you live? She kickin' you out?

MAUD

Lordy, no. She'd never do that, she's too Christian. She's good as gold, but a woman needs to have her own life, right? Her own purpose, her own home - not that this'd be my home either, it's yours -

She sips her tea. The dogs are now curled up at her feet. She continues to nervously ramble:

\*

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Never had dogs growing up, don't know why, Momma always loved em. I did too, but they made my brother sneeze. I had cats. Weren't allowed in the house, but oh my I love cats.

Everett stares blankly at Maud, making her more nervous, which makes her talk more.

MAUD (CONT'D)

We had one, Tom. Big ole cat. Some fat. Used to sit on the ledge of my window.

She sips her tea.

MAUD (CONT'D)

He went missing. Sad. Likes dogs though.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

Everett gets up, opens his door. He gives his foot one stamp, the dog jumps up and obediently runs out the door. Maud lights up a cigarette.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You got an ashtray?

Everett points to the floor.

EVERETT

Flick em there.

She does.

MAUD

Many people apply for the job?

EVERETT

You finished your tea?

Maud looks at her almost empty mug.

MAUD

Might as well say.

She swallows the last of it.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Well, you do need the help, I can see that.

23 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE -- DAY**

23

Everett practically shoos Maud out the door.

MAUD

Long walk home alone. Kids'll throw rocks at me again. Buggers.

EVERETT

Who throws rocks at you?

MAUD

People don't like a different sort of person. I don't care. Be easier if I wasn't alone, but...

She looks up at him, hopefully. Everett doesn't know what he is supposed to do.

EVERETT

S'pose I can walk you home. I'm doing my rounds anyway.

(CONTINUED)

23

23

MAUD

That'd be nice.

24

**EXT. MARSHALLTOWN ROAD -- DAY**

24

Everett and Maud walk along the road in silence together, the dog running along beside them. Everett pushes his fish trolley.

Maud covers her mouth with her sweater. The two make an odd pair as they walk along the road.

Everett is almost twice the height of Maud. Maud walks even more awkwardly than usual. She smiles up at Everett.

MAUD

It's a lot of work to break in a new shoe. My heels are galled off.

She giggles.

EVERETT

This is as far as I'll go.

MAUD

Oh. Okay.

(thinking fast)

Oh, could you come by our house tomorrow? She needs a good piece of fish.

EVERETT

Who?

MAUD

Aunt Ida. She told me to tell you she wanted to buy fish.

Maud smiles. He heads back towards his house.

MAUD (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow.

She heads back towards her house, filled with new hope.

24A

**EXT. WHARF - THE NEXT DAY**

24A\*

Everett is standing by, waiting for Frank to finish splitting the fish. Arms folded, shifting from one foot to the next:

\*

\*

EVERETT

You getting paid by the hour or the fish.

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

24A

24A

FRANK

You want it to be clean.

\*  
\*

EVERETT

I don't care either way, just give  
it to me.\*  
\*  
\*

He takes the fish from Frank and puts it in his wheelbarrow.

\*

25

**EXT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY**

25 \*

Maud is looking out her window when she sees Everett  
approaching the house with fish. She picks up a feather  
duster and hurries towards the door, opens it.

MAUD

Oh, hello. You caught me in the middle of my chores. I'm sweating buckets.

He holds out the fish.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Aunt Ida. There's someone here to see you.

Aunt Ida rounds the corner and shows up at the door. When she sees Everett she bristles.

AUNT IDA

Never thought I'd see you on this step again.

Everett stands there, holding a stick with several fish on it, dangling from their gills.

He shifts on his feet, agitated.

EVERETT

I thought you wanted fish.

IDA

Not from you I don't.

EVERETT

She said you did. Plus you still owes me a nickel from the last time.

Maud hurries off towards the kitchen.

**INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY**

She comes back, wearing an apron, with a cloth in her hand. Making sure she is in Everett's full view, Maud starts to vigorously polish the furniture.

IDA (O.S.)

I don't owe you anything.

EVERETT (O.S.)

Y-y-you do so, you owe me for that split fish.

ON IDA AND EVERETT:

IDA

I'm sure I paid you.

(CONTINUED)

26

26

EVERETT

You did NOT pay me.

Suddenly Everett notices Maud cleaning in the background. Once she sees him look her way, she scrubs even harder.

IDA

And the truth is it was fausty.  
So...

Everett glares at Ida, angrily.

EVERETT

The only thing fausty around here is  
you...plus you got a face like a  
prune and an arse like a sack a  
potatoes.

Maud stifles a giggle.

Ida is shocked. She slams the door on Everett. Maud hurries back into the dining room...

27 **INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY**

27

...And reaches her hand into Aunt Ida's change purse and swipes a nickel. She takes her hand out of the purse in the nick of time, as Ida walks into the room, all in a huff.

IDA

The manners of a horse. Why would  
anyone talk to me like that? I'm a  
good Christian.

She stomps through the house, paying zero attention to Maud as she passes. Maud walks out of the room...

28 **EXT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH -- DAY**

28

...And heads out the front door.

29 **EXT. DIGBY STREET -- DAY**

29

Maud looks up the road and sees Everett off in the distance, pushing his wheelbarrow. She heads towards him.

Several children scatter, giggling and screaming, when they see Everett coming. Everett embraces it.

EVERETT

RUN!!!! Pile a monkeys. Oooga booga  
booga!!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everett raises his arms and dances, makes as if he is going to chase the children. They scurry off, TRULY terrified. Maud is amused. She hurries to catch up with him. He sees her coming and speeds up.

MAUD  
Wait. Hold on.

He doesn't.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
She got a mind like a sieve. She musta forgot. Wait. Hold up.

He keeps going.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
I have something for you.

This intrigues him. Without looking at her, he stops to wait until she catches up. She arrives by his side, winded.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
Here... A nickel.  
(catching her breath)  
Sorry about...Aunt Ida....she don't know it but...she's a bit...odd.

He looks down at her big brown eyes. Her strange little face, beaming up at him. She smiles.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
Some job to keep up to your legs.

She holds her hand out further.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
Here. Take it.

She motions for him to take the nickel. He finally reaches out and she drops the coin in his hand. He puts it in his pocket and says nothing.

He keeps going.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
When are you gonna make a decision?

EVERETT  
I'm not in any rush.

(CONTINUED)

MAUD

I understand. So I should let you know, I do have another job offer.

This catches his attention.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Yeah. Cleaning a house over the road. Starting in a couple of days.

She smiles. He looks displeased.

MAUD (CONT'D)

But this house is big, really big.

EVERETT

Piff. Nothing worse than a big house.

MAUD

I feel the same way. It's not cozy. Some people got too much money, you ask me.

EVERETT

Makes people lazy.

MAUD

I like a good hard worker myself. But oh well. That's it. I need a job now, so I'm going to have to take it.

He shifts on his feet, wanting to say something. But he doesn't. So she continues.

MAUD (CONT'D)

So, yeah. Starts in two days.

She laughs nervously.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Who am I to complain? I love a bit of work, so I should just be grateful. But you'll find someone else, I bet loads of women applied.

She smiles at him.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Whoever you end up hiring, she's a lucky woman. Nice meeting you.

- 29 CONTINUED: (3) 29
- Everett watches as Maud heads back towards Ida's house. As Maud walks away, she's grinning from ear to ear.
- 30 **INT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - WASHROOM -- DAY** 30
- With a bar of soap in his hand, Everett is waiting in line with a bunch of boys, various ages. Each boy takes a few seconds to slap some water and soap on the face and hands, then hurry off.
- Once they leave, Everett is alone. He pulls off his shirt, then slowly starts to lather up his soap and begins to wash himself.
- 31 **INT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - DINNER HALL -- DAY** 31
- A long table of boys, all of them eating. And among them, the tall, lanky and freshly cleaned Everett. Everyone is focused on their food. No attempts at interacting with the children, but comfortable just the same.
- MR. HILL** (60) WALKS through the dining hall, nodding and smiling at the boys. He sees Everett and salutes him - a friendly gesture. \*
- 32 **EXT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - DAY** 32
- Everett roots through a stack of junk, sorting things he deems useful and putting them in his wheelbarrow.
- Mr. Hill is clipping the weeds that are growing around the fence.
- MR. HILL  
Not much there worth anything Everett.
- Everett keeps sorting.
- EVERETT  
Might not be worth anything to you.
- He finds a piece of tar paper, throws it in his wheelbarrow.
- EVERETT (CONT'D)  
I've got to stock up on everything,  
because I keep getting robbed.
- MR. HILL  
Who's robbing you now?
- EVERETT  
Who's not robbing me.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Every time I turn around. No matter where I hide my money, they sniff it out.

Everett spits.

MR. HILL

I told you, open a bank account.

EVERETT

I'm not paying someone to hold my money.

MR. HILL

Weren't you thinking about hiring a woman?

EVERETT

Yeah. But there's slim pickins applied for the job.

MR. HILL

Someone actually applied?

EVERETT

Maybe I'd be better off with one of those young fellas. They could look out for the house during the day.

MR. HILL

These kids are under ten. They can't stay home alone all day.

EVERETT

I did the work of ten men when I was his age. I cleaned this yard, chopped up all the wood -

MR. HILL

Yes, but you were here, around people. Your house is up the road in the middle of nowhere.

\*

Everett has finished loading his wheelbarrow. He starts to walk away.

MR. HILL (CONT'D)

Everett, if someone applied for that job, hire them.

Everett waves him off without looking. But as he walks away, it's obvious that he's considering...



36 CONTINUED:

36

He stiffens up, and looks away.

EVERETT

Well don't stand there all day.

37 INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY

37

Ida watches from the window. She looks up and down the road in a panic, checking to see who else might be a witness to this.

Maud leaves the truck and heads back towards the house. Everett's truck stays parked outside the fence.

IDA

God in heaven.

Maud comes back in the house and walks right by Ida, ignoring her glare. Maud heads towards her bedroom, Ida follows.

IDA (CONT'D)

What's going on?

38 INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - MAUD'S BEDROOM -- DAY

38

Maud is hurriedly packing up her things.

MAUD

I'm gonna be his housemaid.

Ida nearly chokes.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'm a grown woman. I need to go off and have my own place.

IDA

You can't look after *yourself*, Maud.

MAUD

I know you think that.

Maud starts to pack her things in a bag, when Ida, in a desperate move, KNOCKS her belongings out of her hand. A hand mirror, a hair brush. She and Maud stare at each other for a moment. Then Maud softens.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You been nice to take me in.

Maud picks up her things and leaves the bedroom.

39 INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY -- DAY

39

As Maud walks through the house:

MAUD

I'll make sure to tell everyone that you're a good Christian. I've been nothing but a scourge to you.

IDA

You're determined to put a stain on our family name.

Maud leaves though the front door. Ida follows Maud onto the veranda. \*

40 EXT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY

40

Maud keeps walking towards the truck, determined not to look back.

IDA

Think of your mother. What would she think if she were alive?

This stops Maud for a moment.

MAUD

Ma wanted me to have what everyone else had.

IDA

That includes a bit of pride. Common sense. Dignity. She would be ashamed of you.

Maud feels stung by this.

MAUD

I'm sorry.

IDA

If you leave you are not coming back. You know that, right?

Maud looks at her for a moment, considering this. Then Everett "toots" the horn.

EVERETT

Don't got all day, woman.

Maud turns and continues towards him. Everett gets out of the truck and takes her bags, throws them in the back.

41     **INT. EVERETT'S MODEL T FORD - DAY**

41

Maud stares out the window as they drive down the road in silence. He watches her out of the corner of his eye.

EVERETT

You're not bawling, are you?

She takes a breath, gathering herself.

MAUD

Trying to figure out how to ask you about pay.

He wasn't expecting this.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'm assuming I'm working for room and board, but I was thinking an extra twenty five cents a week spending money as well.

He snarls at this.

MAUD (CONT'D)

To make it feel official.

His silence is a begrudging "yes". She smiles.

42     **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

42

Everett walks into his shack, Maud follows behind. He leaves Maud standing there by the door with her bag as he stokes the fire.

She looks around the place. Everett stands, awkwardly shifting on his feet, after a moment, he turns and leaves the house again.

More awkwardness as Maud looks for a place to lay her bag. There is no room. Everything is caked in dirt and grime. Finally, Maud sits in a chair, her bag on her lap. She studies several old worn mugs that hang on nails along the wall. Mugs that are chipped and stained, but that had once been quite pretty.

Everett comes back in with a stack of wood in his arm.

MAUD

There you are, thought you left me.

She giggles. He drops the pile of wood by the fire, and a chunk of wood lands on Maud's foot.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

She tries to hide the pain.

MAUD (CONT'D)

So...what do you want me to do first?

EVERETT

I dunno. I guess -

He looks around, not sure what to say. Their mutual discomfort thickens the air. Finally...

EVERETT (CONT'D)

If I got to stand here and tell you everything, I'll just do it myself.

He leaves again. Maud looks around the tiny home. ONE room with a tiny staircase going to a loft upstairs.

Nothing but a table, two chairs, an arm chair, a wood stove, and some shelves. Some potatoes and a turnip, some carrots sit on the floor next to the stove. A bucket with water in it as well. Maud stands up. Where to begin?

Finally, she unzips her little bag, and starts to unpack a few of her things.

She notices a horizontal wooden beam, and neatly lays her things on it, in a row: her brush, her mirror, a picture of her mother, one of FLUFFY, her cat, etc.

43 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

43

Everett is outside, curious about Maud, as he discreetly peers in through the window. He watches as she hobbles around collecting the dirty dishes.

He can hear the sounds of her humming to herself. He turns up his nose at this cheeriness. As he pulls a trolley, Everett does a sharp whistle to the dogs. They follow him as he heads down the road.

\*

44 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING**

44

Maud has a pot of soup on the stove, and she has a portion of the house cleaned.

But she has gotten distracted by Everett's things, unable to resist poking around. She sits in a rocking chair as she sifts through his old tin can filled with tattered photographs and oddities: A photograph of a young boy, with a woman, looks like his mother. A tiny wooden incomplete chiseled wooden horse. The little tin toy sherrif's badge, we saw him fix. A little toy gun, made out of wood and nails.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

Maud studies them with interest. Then Everett walks in the door, startling Maud.

EVERETT

What is going on here?

Maud drops the can of photos.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Get outta my stuff! You think that's what I brought you here for?

Maud gets on her hands and knees, picking up the photos.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Look. You hardly lifted a finger since I left. Rootin' around in my gear.

He sees a pot cooking on the stove.

MAUD

I was taking a break. I made soup.

He dips the ladle in, tastes the soup. He sneers and throws the ladle down aggressively. Maud jumps with fright.

EVERETT

What you put in that? I might look stupid, but I'm far from it. Look, you haven't even cleaned the table.

MAUD

I was getting to that...

Everett looks at her, it suddenly dawning on him.

EVERETT

You wanting money, and for what? You don't know a click about cleaning. Do you?

MAUD

I just need to get the hang of it.

EVERETT

I don't want a lazy arse around here. Pack up AND GET.

He swipes her little belongings off the shelf and onto the floor. Then he gets up and climbs the ladder to the loft. Maud can't believe her ears.

(CONTINUED)

44

44

MAUD

Where am I s'posed to go?

EVERETT

You shoulda thought about that when you were sitting around twiddling your thumbs.

MAUD

I needed a day to find my feet, you never told me where anything was, what you wanted me to do with your stuff, I'm just gettin' a lay of the land.

\*

EVERETT

I'm not gonna look after ya!!! I wants someone who'll do the lookin' after.  
Not some crippled up little thing looking to rob me. Now get out.

\*

He climbs up to the loft. Maud watches in disbelief, unsure of what to do.

EVERETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Get OUT!!!

Maud fights back the tears as she gathers her things and leaves.

45

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING**

45

Maud stands outside of Everett's house. The wind blows wildly.

Maud starts to walk towards the road, but she stops and looks back to Everett's house. She is completely lost as to where to go. Standing in the middle of nowhere, Maud looks as if she's about to cry. But instead...

...She turns her back to the wind and leans against it. It is so powerful that it almost holds her up. She outstretches her arms and lets the wind beat against her.

This action starts to soothe her. She finally closes her eyes, a smile spreading across her face.

46

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT**

46

Everett stares out his window at Maud as the wind gives her a beating while she stands in the middle of the yard.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

He blows out his lantern, and climbs into bed.

47      **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - MORNING**

47

The next morning, Everett wakes up to sounds coming from downstairs. He climbs down from the loft and sees Maud scrubbing the floor.

He stares at her in disbelief. She is sweating buckets, as she uses all her force to ring out what is left of her cloth. It is killing her hands, but she presses on.

Meanwhile, she has made an attempt to set the table. His mug and his plate are neatly placed. Two slices of toast wait for him. Some freshly picked wildflowers are placed in a bottle.

Everett completely ignores her and climbs down the stairs. He gathers his things to head out for work. He grabs the toast, slugs back the tea, and heads out the door, without saying a word.

She smiles. Then starts to clean the smoke stains from the walls. Her crippled hands makes scrubbing very difficult, but she withstands the pain to get the job done.

48      **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

48

Maud digs a chicken out of the coop, but it breaks free. She chases it around the yard. She finally catches it.

MAUD

Don't blame you my son. I'd run too.

She takes it over to the wood stump, it fights to break free, but she holds on tightly.

MAUD (CONT'D)

God bless you, poor soul.

Maud sends the ax down on the chicken's neck. Feathers and blood fly about as Maud winces.

49      **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

49

Maud has a stew cooking on the stove as she continues to clean, despite the pain it is causing her.

As she removes things off the shelf, she notices the once blue shelf is thick with dust. She looks at it thoughtfully for a moment before she closes her eyes and BLOWS on it. Some of the dust blows away, but revealing more dust and grime. The blue is still buried.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

On her way to get the scrub brush, she notices an old can of green paint. Maud eyes it.

50 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY

50

Maud has just finished the last touches of paint on the shelf. It is now a bright green. She smiles, pleased with herself.

51 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

51

Everett comes in late at night. Maud sits waiting nervously in the arm chair.

Everett says nothing. He sits on a broken chair by the door and removes his boots. He sees the steamy pot of stew on the stove. He looks around, checking the place out, then looks at Maud.

EVERETT

That's my chair.

She gets up.

MAUD

Let me get you a bowl a' stew.

She goes over to the stove and scoops up a hefty serving, then places it at the table.

Everett sits down and eats. He eyeballs her little things on the shelf, bothered by the presence of her belongings.

Maud goes over to Everett's boots and neatly places them side by side. She watches out of the corner of her eye as he eats.

EVERETT

Where'd you get the chicken.

MAUD

Killed it. The scrawny one.

Everett is surprised, and silently impressed.

MAUD (CONT'D)

So...am I able to stay then?

EVERETT

We'll see if you can follow my rules.

Maud watches him eat, half afraid to speak.

(CONTINUED)

51

51

MAUD

Where am I to sleep?

EVERETT

You clean upstairs?

MAUD

Only one bed up there. I'm wondering where I should settle in.

Everett gets up, scoops himself up another bowl of stew.

EVERETT

No room for princesses here. When I was a youngster, sleeping in the orphanage, there'd be seven or eight of us in the bed. Feet up my nose, elbows in my arse. You're too fancy to pile in up there, you can pack up your little knick-knacks and go on.

Maud has no choice.

MAUD

I'm only the size of a flea. S'pose I can fit somewhere.

52

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE, UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT**

52

Everett and Maud lay on either side of the mattress in the loft bedroom.

It is awkward, and silent. Maud tries to keep her eyes closed, but she can't sleep. She hears heavy sighs coming out of Everett lying next to her.

Meanwhile, on Everett's side of the bed, he is forcing the sound of his breathing, feigning sleep, while he lies there, completely awake, his wheels turning.

53

**TIME PASSAGE - NIGHT**

53

The moon slowly disappears, while the light begins to change from black to orange. As the sun rises over the landscape, Everett's little house stands alone against the colorful sky....

54

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

54

Maud is trying to feed the dogs as they jump up on her.

54

54

MAUD  
Off. Get. Brown.

She shoves them off of her.

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
Go on, Blackie. Out of my way.

Everett is loading up wood in his truck. He looks at her, suddenly resenting her presence.

EVERETT  
Who said you could talk to them like that?

MAUD  
They were gettin' mud on me.

EVERETT  
They been here longer than you, and I tell you, they been a lot more useful.

MAUD  
I'm only tryin' to feed them.

EVERETT  
Shut your gob woman! I'll tell you how it goes. It's me. It's them dogs. Them chickens. Then it's you.

He climbs in the truck and leaves. Maud watches resentfully, biting her tongue as Everett drives away. She continues to feed the dogs while they jump all over her.

55 **EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY**

55

Maud sits on the bench outside the general store, eating a can of sardines with her fingers, when Aunt Ida approaches the store. When she sees Maud, she stiffens.

MAUD  
Hi there. I'm taking a break from work.

IDA  
Nobody believes you are working for that man, he's practically a beggar. Everyone's talking he has you barred up in there as his love slave. It's disgusting.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

Maud bursts into a fit of laughter. She covers her mouth, shyly, but can't stop laughing.

MAUD  
(laughing)  
Everett with a love slave.

Ida keeps walking into the store.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
Would it make it more proper if I  
married him? Then maybe they won't  
talk so much.

Ida ignores this.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
Would you like to visit me sometime?  
At my new house?

Ida balks.

IDA  
I wouldn't be caught dead. I wouldn't  
even drive by that house.

Ida turns and walks into the store. Maud waits for a moment, then gets up and makes her way down the road.

56 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

56

Maud sits at her spot at the table, painting a picture. A little girl in a PINK DRESS at the centre.

57 **INT. EVERETT'S TRUCK - DAY**

57

Everett is driving his truck, with a young, pleasant looking man, **FRANK (30)** in the passenger seat.

EVERETT  
We're dumping this stuff off, then  
you go on, don't go lingering around  
like a horsefly. I got work to do.

Frank laughs.

FRANK  
Gee, really? You're not going to  
invite me in for tea?

But Everett is agitated. They pull into his driveway.

58     **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

58

Frank is helping Everett unload some scrap metal from the back of the truck.

FRANK  
What are you gonna do with all this,  
Ev.

EVERETT  
Sell it. Leave it here.

FRANK  
Who'd buy that?

Maud comes to the door, smiling. Frank is taken aback.

MAUD  
Nice day.

Frank takes Maud in, then smiles at her.

FRANK  
Ahhh. Hello there. Everett got a  
woman.

Everett, embarrassed, glares at Maud.

EVERETT  
Go in the house, you.

He looks back at Frank.

FRANK  
What's this?

EVERETT  
She's working for me. I gotta have  
someone to mind the house while I'm  
away, otherwise they'll rob me blind.

FRANK  
(laughing)  
You've got a tiny little woman to  
guard your house? Couldn't you get  
a meaner dog? Or a gun?

Frank lays down his end of the scrap metal.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
(to Maud)  
Wait, come'ere. I'm Frank.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FRANK (CONT'D)

I'm the fisherman Everett tries to cheat every day.

MAUD

He wouldn't cheat you, he's a good man.

FRANK

Oh, so you don't know Everett well I see.

Frank smirks at Everett, who sneers back. Maud walks towards him, timidly smiling.

MAUD

Oh hi. I'm Maud.

FRANK

Nice to meet you. You're working here?

MAUD

I'm living here.

Everett bristles.

EVERETT

That's enough.

FRANK

So you've got a live in Maid, do ya?

Frank looks at Everett, teasing. Everett reacts defensively.

EVERETT

I'm gone all day, every day.  
I'm a busy man. I deserves a clean house when I get home.

FRANK

(to Maud)

Where do you fit in there?

Maud is happy to be having pleasant conversation. Everett is staring in disbelief and outrage.

MAUD

Oh, I'd fit anywhere, I'm sure.  
More room in there than you'd think.

She smiles. Looks to Everett.

(CONTINUED)

58

58

MAUD (CONT'D)

We find it cozy in there, don't we?

Then out of nowhere, he raises his hand to Maud, and SLAPS Maud in the face. Maud is taken aback. So is Frank. Even Everett is a little stunned by his actions. But he stiffens, refusing to apologize.

EVERETT

Get in the house.

A shocked Maud turns and runs inside.

**INTERCUT with:**

59

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

59

Maud runs into the house, humiliated.

OUTSIDE: Everett continues to rant to Frank.

EVERETT

I'm the boss of this house, and if she don't know it, she'll learn it.

INSIDE: Maud looks - with all the chairs still outside, Maud has nowhere to sit, so she flops down on the floor in the corner, leaning into the wall.

OUTSIDE: Frank continues to unload the truck.

FRANK

Nobody in their right mind will put up with that for long.

EVERETT

Yeah, well she ain't in her right mind, that's one thing I know.

INSIDE: Maud sits there, holding back all her tears. Then she notices the can of GREEN PAINT again. She slides the cover off and dips her finger in the paint. Then she draws a little picture of a TREE on the wall. It comforts her. Calms her.

Moments later, Everett walks into the house. He sees her on the floor. As she wipes her finger off in her apron, she glares at Everett.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I hope you learned your lesson.

(CONTINUED)

59

59

MAUD

I'm learning something, for sure.

EVERETT

Sulkin' in the corner.

MAUD

Do you want me here or don't you?

Everett says nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Cuz I'll go, I'll walk out right now. Do you want me here or not?

He refuses to answer.

MAUD (CONT'D)

If you're just gonna kick me out one of these days anyway, say it and I'll get.

He stares at her angrily, but doesn't speak.

MAUD (CONT'D)

And If you're gonna keep on being that kind of boss... I'd like my pay please.

He sneers at her, but she stands defiantly, her crooked hand held out.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You haven't paid me yet, not once.

After a moment, he reaches into his pocket and pulls out a couple of quarters. He flicks them on the table and leaves. After the door shuts, Maud gets up off the floor.

She exhales, relieved, then takes a seat - in EVERETT'S chair.

60 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

60

Maud is in the midst of cleaning when there is an aggressive knock on the door. She looks up, startled.

SANDRA (O.S.)

Open the damn door, I know you're in there.

Maud freezes in her spot.

(CONTINUED)

60

60

SANDRA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
There's smoke coming from the chimney.  
I know you're home.

Maud gently tip toes over to peer out the window. But just as she does the woman moves towards the window, so Maud hits the floor.

61

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

61

The woman, SANDRA (40) a spunky, attractive woman, presses her face to the window.

SANDRA  
You can't hide in there forever.

62

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

62

Maud gently crawls over towards the door, and peaks through the crack between the door and the floor.

SANDRA (O.S.)  
I suppose you think I'm a dumb woman  
and I wouldn't notice. You are wrong.

All she can see are the woman's shoes. Beautiful, burgundy leather shoes with a tiny bow on them. Maud studies the detail of the shoes.

63

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

63

Sandra is getting agitated. She lights up a cigarette.

SANDRA  
You don't know who you're dealing  
with. I invented the word stubborn.

She sits there, in silence for a moment.

Then...

MAUD (O.S.)  
They're some snazzy shoes.

Sandra stops inhaling the cigarette. Is she hearing things?

SANDRA  
Hello?

Sandra looks around. She can hear someone shuffling around inside.

Maud creaks open the door.

(CONTINUED)

MAUD

I said you're wearing snazzy shoes.  
They comfy?

Sandra looks at Maud in disbelief. Who is this creature?

SANDRA

Ah, they're not bad. Sorry, are you  
the fish peddler's wife?

MAUD

Gonna ask you the same thing. You're  
so mad, I figured you had to be  
married to him.

SANDRA

He short changed me one time too  
many. Is he around?

MAUD

Who?

SANDRA

The fish peddler.

Maud chuckles to herself.

MAUD

"Fish peddler". I usually calls him  
the old crab.

(then serious)

But not to his face.

Maud, realizing the woman has business on her mind.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Everett's out on the rounds.

SANDRA

Well...I paid him for fish and he  
never delivered.

Maud hides her embarrassment and tries to cover for Everett.

MAUD

He's doing so much, sometimes he  
forgets.

SANDRA

I paid him, plus a handsome tip.  
Now, I'm here from New York for the  
whole summer, I can give him my  
business or not.

(CONTINUED)

63 Maud smiles.

63

MAUD

From New York the city. That must be different.

SANDRA

I'm having a dinner party tonight, I need three fish.

Maud is determined to give Everett the benefit of the doubt.

MAUD

You sure he never dropped the fish off? Maybe your dog ran off with it -

SANDRA

I don't have a dog -

MAUD

- Or your cat. Cats love a fish.

Sandra gets firm with Maud.

SANDRA

No cat.

Sandra tries to take a bold step inside.

Maud stands her guard, all while smiling up at Sandra politely.

MAUD

I'll tell him you came by.

But Sandra is distracted when she sees the paintings on the walls. She studies them: *A happy looking Chicken, and several bright flowers.*

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'll tell Everett to square up with you when he gets home.

Sandra looks at Maud with a new interest.

SANDRA

I'd appreciate that. Did you paint that happy little chicken?

MAUD

Oh, yes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

63

63

MAUD (CONT'D)  
 (looking at the chicken)  
 That's Ches. He was a chicken out  
 in the yard. I killed him.  
 For supper. I wanted to remember  
 his happier days.

Sandra smiles, charmed.

SANDRA  
 What's your name?

MAUD  
 I'm Maud.

Sandra looks at Maud curiously.

SANDRA  
 Nice to meet you Maud. I'm Sandra.

They smile at each other, and Maud closes the door. Maud goes back to the table by the window, and finds a scrap of card stock.

64 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING**

64

Maud is standing fairly close to Everett as she attempts to serve up his supper. He watches her, but she's clumsy and slow. Finally he grabs the serving spoon out of her hand.

EVERETT  
 Gimme some elbow room woman.

Maud backs off. Everett scoops up his own plate of food.

EVERETT (CONT'D)  
 Whole goddamned place is taken over.  
 Feel like squirrels moved in. Who  
 told you to put them rat tracks on  
 my walls?

MAUD  
 Just doing what you asked.

EVERETT  
 Yes, I told you to paint fairies all  
 over my house.

Maud giggles.

MAUD  
 That's a bird.  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAUD (CONT'D)

You told me to make the place look  
alright. I think it looks alright.  
You?

He looks around. Then begrudgingly gives in.

EVERETT

Leave that wall behind the stove  
alone. That's MY wall.

Maud sits down at the table with him as he eats. She waits  
a moment before speaking.

MAUD

Thinking about my brother Charles.

Everett doesn't look up.

MAUD (CONT'D)

He used to run one a them jazz clubs  
for awhile. Always people on his  
back for money he owed them.  
He always said people were trying to  
rob him out, but he couldn't prove  
it. Must be tough running a business.

EVERETT

I owes nobody.

MAUD

Apparently Charles never owed anyone,  
but he never had proof. It was hard  
to keep track of it all.

EVERETT

Only if you're stupid.

MAUD

Maybe. And you're not. You're a  
really smart man. Too smart probably.  
You can keep track of all this in  
your head but most people can't.

Everett likes the sound of this, but says nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You got to dumb it down.

EVERETT

What's that?

64

64

MAUD

Well. I guess you gotta think like  
a dumb person, and write it all down.  
I can help you, you want.

Maud holds up one of her little cards. She has made crooked  
lines on it, a place for the name/amount in/amount out.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Never mind who you owe money to.  
Who owes you money?

Everett thinks, skeptically. Then...

EVERETT

The Donovan's owes me for two fish.

He thinks some more. Can't think of anyone else. Maud writes  
the name down on the card, and the amount owed.

MAUD

And can you think of anyone you owes  
fish to?

Everett slinks back in his chair.

EVERETT

S'pose I owes Linehan's, I owes them  
two fish.

Maud writes this on a new card.

When she is finished, she turns the card over, revealing a  
simple, scenic painting on each card. Flowers, Trees, birds.  
He looks at the paintings.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

What's this?

MAUD

Oh, I thought it'd make the cards a  
little friendlier looking.

She smiles at him. He shakes his head at her, but lets it  
go.

65

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT**

65

Maud and Everett are tucked in their bed. Maud's eyes are  
closed, while Everett is wide awake. He stares at Maud for  
a bit. Then gathers the courage to approach her, albeit a  
little ungracefully.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He gently touches Maud's hair. Then he rolls over and lies on top of her, and fumbles around, trying to lift up her nightdress. Maud looks at Everett strangely.

MAUD

Are we gonna get married?

Everett looks at her, almost surprised to hear her speak.

EVERETT

Foolish. Money racket, that is.

Maud giggles.

MAUD

Only if you invite people, and have a dance and stuff. Give everyone supper.

EVERETT

It all costs money, even the license to do it costs money. Won't catch me at it.

Maud stares at the ceiling.

MAUD

Hmmmm.

Everett snorts.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Charles had a wedding. His wife wanted a fancy wedding, so he had to scrounge up every cent he had. I said, if I ever get married, I won't be inviting anyone. I'd just do it for cheap, at the town hall.

Everett yanks the blanket up over his shoulder. Maud keeps talking.

EVERETT

Why are you yakking about him, I don't care about him.

MAUD

Well. If you plan on rolling over to my side of the bed, I think we better get married. I got in that sort of trouble once before, I don't think I should be at it again.

(CONTINUED)

65

EVERETT

What trouble?

Maud hesitates, then...

MAUD

Oh. You know. Wasn't married, had a baby, shamed my family.

Everett looks at her, in disbelief. She looks at him, hoping he'll understand.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Baby died. Never even saw her. Charles and Aunt Ida buried her while I was sleeping.

Everett stares at Maud for a moment, a little dumbfounded. Then he turns over on his back again, and closes his eyes to go to sleep. After a moment, Maud does the same.

66

**EXT. MARSHALLTOWN ROAD - DAY**

66

Maud walks with Everett who pushes his wheel barrow. She has a scarf tied around her head, as she walks proudly down the road. She has a hard time keeping up to him, but does her best.

MAUD

You're gonna have to wait up.

EVERETT

You're gonna have to speed up. Or I'll put you in the wheelbarrow.

People stare at the two of them strangely.

67

**EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY**

67

Maud hangs back on the step as Everett knocks on Sandra's door.

After a moment, Sandra answers it. She's a complete disaster - covered in flour, and holding a wooden spoon in her hand.

SANDRA

Well, look who it is. You've caught me at my most domestic. I'm making a thing called "chocolate chipped cookies".

Everett's not in the mood for small talk.

(CONTINUED)

EVERETT

Here, look.

He hands her three fish.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

The three fish you wanted. I only owed you for two fish. Now you owes me for one.

Sandra looks at him strangely.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

We figured it out on the card, look. Now you owes me back for one fish.

Maud steps up.

MAUD

We're rendering accounts, so there won't be a mix up.

EVERETT

I never told you to speak.

Maud puts her head down.

Sandra looks at the card, skeptically.

SANDRA

How do I know this is right?

EVERETT

Cuz I said it was.

Maud looks up again.

MAUD

Maybe we should just start clean, from now on we'll keep track.

Everett shoots her another look.

EVERETT

I said shut UP.

Maud looks down again.

Sandra looks at Everett, annoyed.

SANDRA

Give me a minute.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

Then she takes the card and goes back in the house.

Maud picks a speck of paint off of her hands as Everett rants. Everett glares at Maud who waits on the lower step, eyes to the ground.

EVERETT

I'm the boss, you does what I say.  
I'm the boss, don't forget it. Who  
brings in the money?

MAUD

You do.

EVERETT

That's right. Don't forget it.

68 INT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY

68

As Sandra goes to get her purse, she tosses the card down on the table, finally noticing the beautiful little painting on the back - A winter wonderland scene.

69 EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY

69

Sandra comes out again, with money and the card in hand.

SANDRA

I'll pay you. If you make me some  
more of these cards.

She looks at Maud, who looks back, stunned.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Christmas cards. More like this.

Everett doesn't know what to think. Maud looks to him.

MAUD

I dunno. It's up to the boss. I  
does what he says.

Everett is dumbfounded for a moment.

EVERETT

Alright. Throw in an extra five  
cents.

SANDRA

Fine. How about ten cents a card.

Wow. Even better than he intended.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 69  
 Everett grabs the money from Sandra, who ignores him, but smiles at Maud.

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
 I look forward to them very much.

She and Maud smile at each other warmly. Everett clocks this.

70 **EXT. STREET - DAY** 70

As they walk down the road, Maud struggles to keep up.

MAUD  
 You're good Ev. I gotta say, I never woulda thought to ask for that money. You really know what you're doing.

Everett is somewhat pleased as well, as he walks ahead of her.

EVERETT  
 Get in second gear woman.

71 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY** 71

Maud sits at the little table in the corner by the window as she paints an apple tree on a little card. A bright beam of sunlight shines in on her.

She looks out the window and sees a group of children walking by - one little girl in a pink dress among them. She studies her closely....

72 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY** 72

More of Everett's house has been painted - a butterfly on the door, flowers around the windows. Maud is now painting the stairs on the way up to the loft.

73 **EXT. WHARF - DAY** 73

Maud is with Frank. He has found some old cans of paint, and he's handing them off to Maud.

74 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY** 74

Maud sits at the table with her paints. She dips a paintbrush into a little container of paint. She scrapes it against a paint splattered sardine can.

\*

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

She looks at herself in the mirror for a moment. It's difficult for her. But she smiles a little, and takes her paint brushes and paints a little tiny flower on the frame.

Then she turns back to a *large painting* on a wooden board that is half-way finished. She makes her large, unrefined paint strokes. An outdoor scene. A tire swing now hangs from a tree. A little girl in a pink dress.

Maud looks out the window, and sees Everett chopping wood. He effortlessly splits each wood chuck in two with one fell swoop. He is concentrated, and relentless.

Maud stops her painting for a moment and watches him admiringly. A sweet, shy smile comes across her face.

She turns her attention back to the painting, and starts to paint Everett, in his plaid shirt, hard at work.

75 **INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY**

75

Everett is collecting money from Mr. McDougal.

EVERETT

Here's a few more to sell.

The storekeeper looks at the cards skeptically.

MR. MCDUGAL

I don't know why people are paying money for these. My five year old can do better.

Everett looks out the window of the store, where Maud is waiting outside. Then, he leans into the storekeeper, angrily.

\*  
\*

EVERETT

You don't know what you're talking about. How foolish are you. These are good drawings, and that's why people are paying good money for it. You, my son, are an idiot.

Everett stomps off, outside the store to join Maud.

\*

76 **EXT. DIGBY FIELD - DAY**

76

Maud and Everett walk across the wide open field, two colorful specks among the dull yellow grass.

77      **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

77

Maud and Everett are in the house, Everett is poking the wood stove as Maud sits at the table, painting. Everett leans over and sneaks a peak at what she's doing.

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

77 It's one of Three Black Cats.

77

\*

MAUD

You like em?

He looks away.

EVERETT

Like what?

MAUD

My paintings.

EVERETT

How am I supposed to know if they're good or not. That's women's stuff.

But he stops and looks at them. Takes them all in. Then he notices down at the bottom, where her name is signed, it says...

Maud *LEWIS*.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

What's that? I know what that says, that's my name there. But you're a Dowley.

Maud bites her lip.

MAUD

Well. Yeeeeeah. But I figured, where we're partners, and the painting is half yours. So... part of your name should be on it too. Right?

He looks around the house. Nothing's been done. It's a bit of a mess.

EVERETT

You gonna get at some of the housework now, or what?

MAUD

I've got to finish a few more of these first.

EVERETT

Lord, woman, you can't neglect the chores.

(CONTINUED)

77

77

MAUD

I know, but there are only so many hours in the day.

EVERETT

Might as well start doing it all myself.

He grabs the apron. Maud smiles to herself.

\*

78

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING**

78

Maud and Everett are sitting down to a quiet supper when there is a knock on the door.

EVERETT

Whoever it is, tell 'em to vamoose.

Maud gets up to open it. It's Sandra.

SANDRA

It's cold out here, may I come in?

Maud looks back to Everett. Everett gives a sharp point towards the road - in other words "get". Maud looks back at Sandra and smiles.

MAUD

Um, we're just gettin' supper ready.

But Sandra isn't deterred, taking in Maud and her surroundings.

SANDRA

Smells like it. I won't stay long.

Sandra smiles at Maud, as she nudges her way in.

79

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

79

Everett looks up from the table, in disbelief. Maud stands nervously between the two of them.

MAUD

He likes it quiet when he eats -

SANDRA

I didn't think he could hear.

EVERETT

I hear fine.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

Everett glares at her as she plunks herself down on a chair. She ignores Everett and turns to Maud excitedly.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Show me one of your larger paintings.

MAUD

Don't do larger paintings, just the cards.

SANDRA

Oh, you must. I'm willing to pay your price.

Maud just shakes her head.

EVERETT

Yes she does.

Everett reaches down under the couch, and pulls out the painting of the little girl and the tire swing. Maud looks at him, shaking her head "no". But he grins.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Some fine gobs of paint flicked on this board. Right up your alley -

MAUD

I'm not even finished that.

SANDRA

Let me see it.

Sandra studies it.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Beautiful.

Maud shrugs, smiling shyly.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

This tree has red leaves, and this one has green. What season is it?

Maud shrugs again.

MAUD

Oh, guess it's everything that's pretty about all seasons.

EVERETT

How much?

(CONTINUED)

SANDRA  
What's your price.

MAUD  
Nah, not for sale, sorry.

EVERETT  
Five dollars.

SANDRA  
Done.

MAUD  
No. I'm not selling it.

EVERETT  
Already sold.

Everett takes the painting and hands it to Sandra. Maud throws Everett a look.

MAUD  
But, I'm not finished it.

He sees something in her eyes. A pleading look. Sandra doesn't notice, she's absorbed with the painting. He grabs the painting from Sandra.

EVERETT  
Only joshing you. It's not for sale.

Sandra looks back at Maud, realizing she's not getting her to budge.

SANDRA  
You know what would be even better?  
If I commissioned you to paint  
something for me.

She takes out five dollars and goes to give it to Maud. Maud refers it to Everett. Sandra begrudgingly gives it to Everett.

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
Paint me anything. On a board like  
this, just whatever you want. You  
can send it to me in New York. Show  
me how you see the world.

Maud smiles shyly.

80 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY

80

Maud looks at the framed scenery outside her window. It's a cold, dreary, bleak day. Rain is pelting down hard. EVERETT is outside, carting loads of wood out of the shed. Maud watches through the window as Everett heads towards her with the wheel barrow. His face stern. Serious, as he shields himself from the pelting rain. She can hear him muttering curses. Vulnerable, but hard. She smiles to herself.

She looks back down at the painting. It is of Everett, enjoying his work on a sunny day.

81 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE, UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT

81

Maud and Everett are in bed. It is almost completely dark, and Maud is nearly asleep.

Everett reaches under the blanket and pokes at Maud.

EVERETT

You awake?

Maud can barely open her eyes.

MAUD

Yeah.

He pokes at her some more. Then moves a little closer to her and starts to rub up against her. She doesn't respond, but she fully wakes up.

Everett gropes at her more aggressively. She turns to him.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You know, I think we can afford that marriage license.

EVERETT

Foolish.

MAUD

Well, we can.

Everett rolls over and away from her.

She looks at him, a little beam of moonlight shines across his face. His eyes glisten as he stares at the ceiling.

EVERETT

Everyone wants wants wants. If I want something, I gotta fork out.

\*

(CONTINUED)

81 Maud listens.

81

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Stay on your side of the bed, you  
won't catch me over there again.

Maud stares at the ceiling, so does Everett.

MAUD

I want to, I just think we should  
get married first.

EVERETT

Never mind your bribing. Leave me  
alone.

He turns his back to her.

MAUD

I'm sorry. I'm not bribing. I  
just...

She moves over and puts her arms around him. She snuggles  
into his back. Everett looks at her, his face softening.

He moves closer to her and fumbles around under the blanket.  
Maud lays still as the dark room is filled with the sounds  
of Everett's awkward grunts.

Maud hangs onto Everett, appreciating the closeness. She  
hugs tightly into him.

But it lasts only momentarily. Within moments, he is finished  
and he rolls off of her.

She smiles at him. He suddenly seems shy and nervous.

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

That was nice.

Everett says nothing. He seems pained. Awkward. She reaches  
over and touches him, but he recoils.

EVERETT

Don't.

He is suddenly really uncomfortable with the closeness.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Don't think you're worming your way  
into my life, like this, cuz you're  
not.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

81

81

EVERETT (CONT'D)

If you stop doing your job, you are out on your duff in a flash, you understand? And if you think I'm going marrying you so I can do that, you're sick in the head. Rather do it to a knot in a tree.

Maud glares at him, furiously, then climbs out of bed.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Where you goin' now?

Maud says nothing, but disappears down the ladder.

After a moment, he hears the sound of the door slam.

82

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

82

Maud sits outside and smokes a cigarette while sitting in between the two dogs, Blackie and Brownie.

She looks at the dog who stares at the house.

83

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

83

Everett is downstairs, watching Maud through the window. He can see that she is talking to the dogs, and she doesn't look too happy. But he stubbornly heads back upstairs.

84

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - MORNING**

84

Everett comes outside with two cups of tea. He sees Maud, curled up next to the two dogs where she spent the night. She hears the door slam closed and sits up.

Everett approaches her, holding out the cup of tea. She won't take it.

MAUD

S'pose you'll throw that in my face next.

EVERETT

I might.

She refuses the tea. After a moment, he tosses the tea across the ground.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

If you don't know what I'm like by now, you're stunned-er than you look.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

84

She looks down at her feet.

MAUD

We live together in this house, we might as well get married.

EVERETT

Just cuz I don't have women beating down my door, doesn't mean I got to marry up with the first one who'll have me.

MAUD

Well. Why not? We've been living in this house together now for almost a year.

Silence. Everett is biting the side of his cheek.

MAUD (CONT'D)

It'd be nice to be like normal people, wouldn't it? That's what normal people do, they get married.

EVERETT

You're not a normal woman.

MAUD

You need me.

He looks away.

EVERETT

I don't need anybody. Never did.

MAUD

Foolish. Everybody needs somebody. That's life. And you don't need many people. But you need me.

85 INT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - DAY

85

Maud is wearing her best dress, her lovely brooch pinned to her chest, and a flower in her hair. She stands, nervously, waiting for...

86 INT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - WASHING ROOM -- DAY

86

Everett is putting on a tattered suit that has been cleaned and pressed. He stands in the mirror, straightening himself out. Smoothing down his hair.

87      **INT. DIGBY COUNTY ORPHANAGE - HALLWAY -- DAY**

87

Maud stands against the wall, observing as a line of young boys pass by her. She smiles, tickled by their cute faces. Mr. Hill is at the end of the line.

Then, Everett comes out, shiny clean.

MAUD

You look nice.

EVERETT

Let's go.

As they walk down the hall, Mr. Hill smiles at Maud.

MR. HILL

Big day for you two. Congratulations.

She smiles, and tucks her chin into her sweater. She's nervous. Happy. Because...

88      **EXT. CHURCH - DAY**

88

EVERETT and MAUD come out of the church having just gotten married. Maud is holding a bouquet of flowers. Frank is there with his wife. Frank smiles at Maud. \*

FRANK

I don't know if I should offer congratulations or condolences, Maud, but give me a hug.

He hugs her. Then offers his hand to Everett.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You be nice.

EVERETT

Yeah yeah yeah.

But Everett shakes his hand. Maud links her arm into Everett's as they walk down the step. At first he tenses up, but then he relaxes.

A smile almost appears on his face.

89      **EXT. DIGBY FIELD - DAY**

89

Maud, still in her modest wedding dress, sits in the wheelbarrow, proud as a princess, as Everett pushes her through an open field filled with yellow daisies.

90     **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**     90 \*

The sound of Maud and Everett having sex in the loft.

91     **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE, UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT**     91

Maud looks at him with love as they have sex. It is awkward, but gentle.

He rolls over when they are done.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Don't go thinking that everything's all mushy now. I'm still contrary.

MAUD

I know.

EVERETT

Every time I says something cross, you can't run off to the shed and bitch to the dogs.

Maud smiles.

MAUD

We're like a good pair of socks.

He gives her a sarcastic look.

EVERETT

Oh yes. One shriveled up sock, all clingy, the other one long, too thin, full a holes -

\*

She laughs.

MAUD

Better than only one sock.

EVERETT

Yeah, maybe.

She gently lays her head on his arm, wanting the intimacy, but not wanting to scare him off. She smiles. Happy.

92     **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - TIME PASSAGE - 1953**     92

*The sun begins to set into the landscape, as a flock of birds head off in a hurry across the darkening sky. The tinny sound of music blares from the minuscule house...*

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

A 1950's car cruises along the road, passing by the Lewis' home...

93 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING

93

An older Maud is sitting down at the table, her increasingly feeble hands hold a copy of the Star Weekly magazine, which she reads from. Everett is now washing the dishes, wearing the apron that Maud sometimes wears.

A tiny transistor radio plays music in the background.

MAUD

*"...Her paintings can be found on display at her home in Marshalltown Nova Scotia, where she lives with her husband, Everett Lewis", see they do mention you "a local fish peddler."*

EVERETT

They said my name? Let me see?

She holds out the paper as his eyes study the words, looking for a word he recognizes. He spots it and points to it.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

That's it there.

She smiles proudly as she places the paper down. He wipes his hands dry, and starts to slice and butter a few pieces of bread.

MAUD

Bet we'll sell more paintings now.

EVERETT

Next you'll be wanting us to get electricity or something.

MAUD

Foolish.

EVERETT

We'll have to buy a television.

MAUD

What do we want a television for? I got that radio. Might need some new batteries soon.

He brings over a plate of sliced bread. They both eat a piece.

(CONTINUED)

93

93

MAUD (CONT'D)

We can afford batteries.

Quiet moment as they eat their bread. She looks back at the article.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I wonder who is out there reading this right now?

EVERETT

Nobody. You know what people are doing with this article? They're lighting their wood-stoves with it. So don't go getting too big for your britches. You're still my employee.

Maud laughs.

MAUD

I'm not your employee. I'm your wife.

EVERETT

Well, I'm still the main earner.

MAUD

Of course. I'm only practicing up. If people pays money for it, that's your doin', not mine.

He nods, satisfied with this "agreement".

EVERETT

As long as you don't start getting fancy.

94 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

94

Maud's hands are clearly worsening as she carries an old painted board with the words "Paintings for Sale". She walks out towards the road. Then, she leans the board against an old rock.

95 **EXT. MARSHALLTOWN ROAD - DAY**

95

Everett walks home from a day's work, looking tired and worn out. As he nears his own house, he slows down as he passes by the sign.

96     **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

96

He walks into his driveway, and looks at Maud, who is standing next to Sandra, and several other curious visitors. Maud has many paintings leaning up against the house. A few interested people have pulled off on the side of the road, and are now milling about the house, admiring Maud and her work.

Everett looks on nervously. When Maud sees him, she smiles. He smiles back. Awkward, but slightly excited. As Sandra is distracted with talking to potential customers, Everett walks over to Maud.

EVERETT

How much money we get today?

MAUD

I think around eighteen dollars.  
Maybe more.

Everett looks pleased by this.

EVERETT

Give it, I'll put it somewhere safe.

Maud takes the money out of her apron pocket and hands it to Everett. He looks at Sandra, annoyed.

MAUD

She still bugs you.

EVERETT

I don't trust her.

MAUD

She's my friend.

EVERETT

Pff!

Everett goes back to chopping his wood.

Sandra rejoins Maud.

SANDRA

Shall we have a cup of tea?

MAUD

Why don't we go for a walk. Give  
Everett some peace.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

96

As they walk away, Everett doesn't notice. He keeps chopping his wood, his back to them.

97 **EXT. FIELD - MORNING**

97

Maud and Sandra are strolling along a wide open field.

SANDRA

If he made you some stretched canvases, you'd get a lot more money for those paintings.

MAUD

I wouldn't ask him.

Sandra helps Maud along. Maud's much more feeble than Sandra, and the walk is a little difficult for her.

SANDRA

So what's it like being married to such an ass?

(off Maud's look)

Sorry. "Grump".

MAUD

Never been married to anyone else, so what would I compare it to?

Sandra looks at her for a beat before speaking.

MAUD (CONT'D)

What?

SANDRA

I've been dying to ask you for years. Do you ever feel you are in love?

Maud smiles shyly.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

You do? You mean you think you love Everett? Actual love?

Maud shrugs, embarrassed.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

And is he in love with you?

MAUD

This is foolish talk. How would I know that?

(CONTINUED)

97

97

SANDRA

Well...does he smile at you when you walk into the room, does he do little nice things to show you he cares? Does he pay you compliments.

Maud and Sandra sit on the grass, and Maud slips off her shoes, and gives this some thought.

MAUD

If that's what it means, then no, I wouldn't say Everett loves much.

Maud SCRUNCHES her feet in the grass. Sandra does the same.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Guess your husband must be nice to you.

SANDRA

God, no. I didn't marry for love, I married for...I don't know. Money? To make my parents happy? Boredom? Stupid really. Marriage should be preserved for great love.

MAUD

Nah, we need to be happy with what we got.

They sit side by side, it's peaceful.

98

**EXT. EVERETT'S WOODSHED - DAY**

98

Everett is still splitting wood when he looks over and sees his dog Brownie, lying on her side, looking ill.

He goes over to her.

EVERETT

Brownie, get up. What's going on?

He whistles sharply. The dog doesn't respond. He bends down toward the dog, suddenly worried.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Brown?

No movement. Very laboured breathing from the dog. The other dog, Blackie, stands beside Everett, looking on. Everett looks over to where Maud was.

(CONTINUED)

98

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Miss. Miss!

But she's not there.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Something's wrong with Brownie!  
Miss.

Everett is becoming extremely upset. He looks back at the dog.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Don't leave me Brown.

He heads towards the house.

99

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

99

When he opens the door to the house, he is surprised to discover Maud's chair empty.

EVERETT

Maud?

100

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

100

He looks up the road. No Maudie. Down the road. No Maudie.

EVERETT

God Damnit.

Everett stands still, the world suddenly spinning. He looks around frantically.

Then Everett goes back to the dog. The dog is dead. He's unsure of how to deal with his emotions.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Woman! Woman!!!

Then he sees Maud walking towards the house in the distance. His frantic panic turns to anger as he steadies his breath, watching her as she hurries towards him.

As she gets closer:

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Where the hell where you?

MAUD

Went for a walk with Sandra. What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

100

100

EVERETT

Brown's dead.

MAUD

No.

She hurries over and looks at Brownie.

EVERETT

But never you mind, go off on your fancy prance around town with the priss bag.

MAUD

Want me to help you bury her?

EVERETT

No.

101 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

101

Everett and Maud sit on the ground next to Brownie's body, just the two of them.

Everett looks pained, but he sucks on his teeth and pulls himself up off the ground. He scratches Blackie on the ears.

Everett gets up and gets the shovel. Maud walks over and takes the collar off of the dead dog. She looks back at Everett.

MAUD

Poor old girl.

EVERETT

Yeah yeah yeah, she had a good life. Blackie's the poor one now.

She reaches out for Everett's arm, but he brushes it off.

She gets up, giving him the space.

MAUD

I'll go make sure the kettle's on.

She walks back to the house, feeling uneasy.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I wasn't here. When you needed me.

EVERETT

I didn't need you.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: 101  
 She goes inside.

102 **EXT. FIELD - TIME PASSAGE** 102  
 A beautiful vista of the house sitting alone against a crispy morning sky as the vista is covered in a blanket of bright white snow...

103 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE -- DAY** 103\*  
 Maud is outside of her house, placing her paintings as a car pulls up. Maud is surprised to see who's driving - it's her brother CHARLES. He looks older, and more tired. When he sees Maud he forces a big smile.

MAUD  
 Charles?

CHARLES  
 Sister.

He comes over and gives Maud a hug. It's polite, but awkward.

MAUD  
 What are you doing here.

CHARLES  
 I read about you, had to come see for myself. An artist.

MAUD  
 Foolish. I painted when we were kids, you never called me an artist then. No different now.

Charles studies the house, trying to be polite.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
 Can I get you some tea?

CHARLES  
 No, thank you for asking.

Charles walks around.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
 Where's your man?

MAUD  
 Out on his rounds. Should be back soon, if you want to meet him.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES

Don't have a lot of time. Wanted to come by and maybe get one of your paintings.

Maud smiles.

MAUD

Pick whatever one you want.

CHARLES

That's kind of you.

Then...

MAUD

Big ones are five dollars.

Charles is taken aback.

CHARLES

Aunt Ida said he is a miser. That you don't see a nickel of money from these paintings.

Charles bites his lip, changing tactics.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What's he doing with your money, Maud?

Maud doesn't know how to answer.

MAUD

Saving it, I s'pose.

CHARLES

Why isn't he building onto the house? Getting the place wired?

MAUD

Don't s'pose we need it. That's his choice to make.

CHARLES

You're capable of making decisions aren't you?

MAUD

You never thought so.

CHARLES

When I read about you in the paper, I thought to myself, "that girl went out and got a life for herself after all." But here you are. Still being ruled by someone else.

Maud can't argue with this. Charles walks around, staring at the paintings politely.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You need someone to give you advice on how to handle your money. Someone a little more savvy than him. Someone who can find the proper investments.

MAUD

Like you?

CHARLES

I know money.

MAUD

You had to sell momma's house to pay off your debts. So I bet you do know money. And how slippery it is.

Charles bristles, then glances up the road and sees Everett heading towards the house on his bicycle.

Everett pulls up on his bike. Hops off, sizing up Charles, but saying nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You know my brother Charles.

EVERETT

Yup.

Charles shifts uncomfortably. As he looks back to the paintings:

EVERETT (CONT'D)

You gonna buy one or what?

CHARLES

Maybe another time.

Charles nods a polite "goodbye" to Everett, then gets into his car. Everett waits for the car to pull out then, then goes straight to his shed and gets at his work.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: (3) 103

Maud watches Charles' car pull away. Then, she glances back at Everett feeling conflicted.

104 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY** 104

The house is buzzing with flies.

Maud sits at her table, even more stooped and her hands more gnarled. She swats away the flies. Coughs periodically. A nagging, recurring tickle. Everett is peeling carrots.

MAUD

We need to get a screen door put up.

EVERETT

Where is the money coming from? I'm working fourteen hours a day just to keep you going with your hobby over there in the corner.

MAUD

I bring in money with the paintings -

EVERETT

You bring in a few pennies but you don't do a lick of work, I got to do everything.

Everett puts a pot of water on the stove. He puts the carrots in the pot. Silence for a moment. Maud senses something is wrong.

He pulls potatoes out of a bag, and starts peeling them.

Maud looks at him, with his back to her. A quiet unease between them. Maud goes back to painting at her spot in the table. Swatting away the flies. She COUGHS again.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Think you can manage to keep that fire going? I like to have a cup a tea when I get home.

MAUD

Gets hot in here in the day.

EVERETT

Well open the door.

MAUD

Then we get more flies. The screendoor --

(CONTINUED)

104

104

EVERETT

Shut up about the screendoor.

Maud sees a letter on the table, and quickly hides it. But he sees this, and goes to grab it.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

What was that?

MAUD

Oh, nothing.

EVERETT

Give it to me.

He grabs it, and looks at it. The envelope has the U.S. Presidential seal on it.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Who is it?

MAUD

Vice-President Nixon.

EVERETT

What does he want?

MAUD

Oh nothing. Paintings.

Everett sneers up his lip. Maud catches this, and immediately downplays it.

MAUD (CONT'D)

But I'm telling him, I don't care  
how fancy he is, if he sends the  
money like every body else, I'll  
send him a painting.

\*  
\*  
\*

She looks to him, hoping this pleased him. But Everett leaves the house, without saying a word.

Maud sits at her table, watching out the window as Everett heads up the road. Maud's eyes are filled with worry and uncertainty. After he is out of sight, she turns back to her painting. She coughs again.

105

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

105

Everett walks away, a nervous, insecure man. He starts his way up the road, then stops.

(CONTINUED)

105

105

EVERETT

God dammit.

He turns back towards the shed and gets his wheelbarrow - he'd forgotten it. Then he heads down the road again.

106

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY - 1965**

106

*The road outside Everett's house is now painted, and a post office box is placed on the side of the road as well. The little house is looking more shabby, with paint fading and peeling a little....*

107

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - FIELD -- DAY**

107

It is a cold, grey day outside. The wind is blowing. Everett looks well shaven. Tidy and clean.

But he is on his knees, diggin up potatoes. He does it with ease. But he seems aggravated. Self-conscious. He shakes his head and starts mumbling to himself.

EVERETT

Don't know what's so interesting about pulling potatoes out of the ground.

WE realize he's talking to a film crew.

They are set up behind him. Everett puts the potatoes in a bucket. He picks up the bucket and walks towards the house.

The camera crew scurries to follow him...

108

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - LATER**

108

Everett walks around the front of the house, where there is a CBC van parked, and several other crew members. Maud is standing up talking to the two filmmakers. As the camera person repositions the camera, Maud looks up at Everett and smiles.

MAUD

There you are.

Everett wipes the dirt off his knees as he looks at the crew skeptically.

109

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

109

They are interviewing Maud. Everett sits in the background, trying desperately to smile politely and naturally. Maud is being interviewed by a young man named **STEVEN**.

(CONTINUED)

109

109

MAUD

Yeah. I'm working on another one of Oxen, yeah.

STEVEN (O.S.)

You like Oxen, why is that?

MAUD

Dunno. They're strong, but helpless.

STEVEN

You always paint outdoor scenes?

MAUD

Yeah. Always.

STEVEN

Why is that?

Maud shrugs.

MAUD

He works outdoors a lot. People like pictures of outdoors. No big reason I guess.

Maud laughs uncomfortably. She looks over at Everett, seeing he's also uncomfortable. She motions for him to move closer. He does so, awkwardly, trying to force a smile.

110 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

110

Maud and Everett now side by side, being interviewed outside their house, showing the paintings she has displayed for sale.

MAUD

This one is of seagulls. There's flowers painted on the door, here.

Maud refers to Everett.

MAUD (CONT'D)

He thinks I'm foolish for painting on the walls.

(looking at Everett)

Don't you?

He looks at the camera, trying to force a smile.

EVERETT

It's-it's not you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

110

110

EVERETT (CONT'D)

The people who comes around are the-  
the-the foolish ones.

Maud tries to cover up with a chuckle.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

One chap come up, wanted to buy the  
bird on the door, I said lord man,  
you can't buy our door.

Maud smiles.

MAUD

He got me to whip him up another  
bird on a board.

EVERETT

The man wanted to fork over his money,  
I wasn't about to say no.

MAUD

Everett's good at selling. We each  
does our thing, and it all works out  
pretty good. I paint most of the  
time, he does everything else.

Maud smiles at Everett. He is very uncomfortable, but  
struggles to keep it hidden.

STEVEN (O.S.)

Everett you must feel very lucky to  
have Maud as your wife.

The camera goes in closer on Everett's face, revealing his  
nervousness, his insecurity. He swallows, then clears this  
throat, trying to find something clever to say.... The  
pressure is mounting.

EVERETT

...Yes.

Steve waits for him to say something else.

MAUD

We're lucky to have each other.

His stiff smile twitches in the uncomfortable moment.

111 INT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - NIGHT

111

Sandra and a FEW FRIENDS mingle with drinks, as Sandra shushes  
everyone, while standing in front of the TV.

(CONTINUED)

111

111

SANDRA  
Here she is, look.

WOMAN  
She's a sweet talented lady. Why  
does she stay with that man?

Sandra watches with delight, as her friends gather around.

112

**INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

112

Ida is propped up on the couch, looking sickly and exhausted,  
but awake enough to watch Maud and Everett on TV.

TV SHOW HOST (O.S.)  
- Her paintings have even been sold  
to Vice-President Nixon. This happy  
couple who only live with the bare  
necessities of life, and yet somehow  
they flourish...

Ida stares at the image ON THE TELEVISION: Maud and Everett,  
walking around their yard, talking.

ON IDA'S FACE, filled with regret and sadness.

113

**INT. JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT**

113

Maud's brother Charles, worn out and tired, is sitting on a  
bar stool, drinking a scotch, as a band sets up in the  
background. He is watching Maud on the little TV playing  
behind the bar, a sad look on his face.

\*  
\*  
\*

TV SHOW HOST (O.S.)  
Who would have thought that this  
little arthritic woman, living on  
the fringe of society, would have  
such incredible and far-reaching  
success. You can find Maud Lewis  
still selling her paintings from the  
front step of her little house in  
Marshalltown, Nova Scotia...

114

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

114

Everett is across the road from his house, getting the mail  
out of his mail box. A STACK of envelopes.

He stands there, ripping open the letters, taking the money  
from them and shoving them in his shirt pocket, then ripping  
the letters up into bits. Then, he hops on his bike and  
rides away...

115     **EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY**     115\*

Everett is riding his bike as he pulls up to the store,  
looking more slouched and self-conscious than ever.     \*

A few PEOPLE trickle out of the store, staring at him with  
more interest. He keeps his eyes to the ground, ignoring  
the stares. He mutters to himself.     \*

But then Everett notices Ida, who is in a wheelchair, being  
helped into a car. She looks deathly ill, but when she sees  
Everett, she props herself up anyway, just to glare at him.     \*

                  IDA     \*

                  I saw you on the news. You lucked  
                  into it with her, didn't you? She's  
                  all smiles, and you nothing but  
                  grumbles.     \*

                  EVERETT     \*

                  Pfff.     \*

He starts to ride off, but she calls out.

                  IDA

                  Wait. I want you to tell her to  
                  come see me. Please.

He rides down the road.

116     **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**     116

As Everett pulls up to his house, he sees a LINEUP of cars  
outside his home. Crowds of people admire the house, and  
Maud's paintings.

He pushes through the people.

                  EVERETT

                  Watch it. Move. Move.

He bumbles through them, flustered, and heads into the house.

117     **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**     117

Maud is sitting at the table, across from Everett.

                  MAUD

                  How sick was she?

                  EVERETT

                  Never mind how sick she was. I asked  
                  if I came across nasty on the TV.

(CONTINUED)

117

117

MAUD

No Everett.

EVERETT

Well why is everyone giving me queer looks. I'm starting to feel like I can't show my face without people talking.

MAUD

Never mind what anyone is saying.

EVERETT

Easy for you to say. Everyone thinks you're sweet and so good at your painting, they don't know what you're like to live with.

Maud gets up from the table, ignoring his jibes.

MAUD

I got to go see Aunt Ida.

Maud grabs her jacket.

EVERETT

What for?

MAUD

Because what if she dies and I never went to say goodbye.

She hurries to the door.

EVERETT

What if I dies and you're not here? You're always going off here, going off there. Starting to get fed up.

Maud is about to walk out the door.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

I said no. You can't go.

She turns back to Everett.

MAUD

I have to.

She grabs a little painting and hurries out the door.

Everett stares out the window, watching as she walks away. His breathing heavy. Fuming. He paces the tiny floor space.

(CONTINUED)

- 117 CONTINUED: (2) 117
- Then brushes his hand across Maud's table, filled with her paint supplies, scattering everything across the floor.
- He goes back to the window and watches her again as she's walking off in the distance.
- 118 **EXT. MARSHALLTOWN ROAD - CONTINUOUS** 118
- Maud is walking out the long, empty paved road, a little painting tucked under her arm. A tiny speck in a vast empty space. Nothing between her and their little house, behind her in the distance. She hurries, as fast as her little crooked legs can move.
- 119 **INT. AUNT IDA'S HOUSE - DAY** 119
- Maud walks into the front hallway. The nurse sees Maud and smiles.
- NURSE
- She's awake in her room, go on up.
- Maud goes in.
- 120 **INT. IDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS** 120
- Maud walks into Ida's room, clutching her painting. Ida looks up, is clearly ill. She sees Maud and smiles feebly.
- Maud hands her a painting.
- MAUD (CONT'D)
- I like painting flowers. Here.
- IDA
- Thank you.
- Ida takes the painting, and looks at it.
- MAUD
- You don't need to stay mad at me forever.
- Ida is about to fight back, but then resigns from it.
- IDA
- I watched you on the TV and it dawned on me. You are the only one in our family who ended up happy. I thought it was impossible for you to have a good life.
- Maud sits on the side of Ida's bed.

(CONTINUED)

120

120

IDA (CONT'D)

I don't want to die full of regrets.

MAUD

You're not gonna die --

Maud takes Ida's hand.

IDA

I regret not letting you see her, at least. Your baby.

MAUD

You did it to protect me. She was dead and deformed, it would have be too much --

Ida hoists herself up a bit.

IDA

Maudie. She wasn't deformed.

This is startling to Maud.

MAUD

What do you mean? Why'd she die?

Ida looks at her for a moment. Then...

IDA

She didn't.

MAUD

What?

IDA

Charles sold her.

Maud stumbles backwards.

MAUD

He sold her. For money.

Finally...

IDA

He sold her to a good home. Older people. The man was a minister.

Maud stares off, in complete shock..

(CONTINUED)

120

120

IDA (CONT'D)

We didn't think you would be able to  
take care of a child.

Maud recoils. She stands up, not sure what to do next.

IDA (CONT'D)

Charles and I decided --

Ida reaches out to Maud's arm.

IDA (CONT'D)

I was told she's been well loved.

Maud paces a little, trying to process this.

MAUD

And is she normal? Was she a normal  
baby, or was she crooked, or what?

IDA

She was fine.

Maud gathers herself.

MAUD

Have your soup, Ida. I gotta go.

She leaves the painting on the bed.

IDA

I'm sorry. Maud...

Maud hurries out of the room.

121 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

121

Everett is now taking all of Maud's painting supplies and  
throwing them into an wooden crate. Sardine cans, paint  
brushes, cans of paint, old boards, all aggressively being  
chucked into the box.

He knocks over the table, dishes.

122 **EXT. DIGBY STREET - DAY**

122

Maud has left Ida's house, and she wanders up the road, lost  
in her confusion. Looking around, at people's faces, at  
houses. Who could she be? Where is she?

It begins to rain. Maud hugs her coat tightly into her and  
hurries down the road.

123 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY

123

When Maud comes home, she is still in a daze. She hardly notices Everett, who is sitting in her chair, with a scowl on his face.

EVERETT

I'm sick of you.

MAUD

Ev, don't, not now.

EVERETT

I never asked for this.  
Go out in the morning, *people*, come home for lunch, *people*, back at the end of the day, more *people*. Didn't like 'em before, don't like em now. I never wanted my face on the TV for the whole world to laugh at.

MAUD

Everett. Ida told me -

EVERETT

If I'm not good enough for you, you want to find something better than what I can give you, go. Go find it.

But Maud is desperate to talk to him - her husband. She persists.

MAUD

Listen to me Everett. All these years, I've figured I was half a woman cuz I gave birth to some little gnarled up creature that couldn't live. It wasn't even true.

She bites her lip.

MAUD (CONT'D)

The baby lived. My brother - he sold her.

Everett stares at her for a moment, then suddenly he pounds his fist down on the table.

EVERETT

Give up talking about that God damned baby. The brother, the baby. Christ.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

123

123

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Nothing but a pain from the minute you stepped into my life. You want to go find your bastard baby, go. You want to whine to your invisible brother, go. Leave me alone.

MAUD

My brother is as good as dead to me --

EVERETT

And you're dead to me. I like my life simple, you brings nothing but misery. I was better without you.

He starts to shove her out the door. She braces herself.

MAUD

Wait - what are you doing.

EVERETT

Get the hell out of my house, this is my house, I don't want you here.

She grabs hold of the sleeve of his checkered jacket.

MAUD

Everett stop.

EVERETT

You are half a woman, not even that. Get out, and don't come back.

He picks her up and hoists her out the door, and slams it behind her.

Everett leans on the door, as Maudie knocks on it. He is full of pain and sadness, as he closes his eyes and grits his teeth.

124 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

124

Maud knocks on door repeatedly, as the rain pelts down on her. After a few moments, Maud kicks the door, and turns to leave.

125 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY**

125

Maud walks down the road in the rain, alone and confused. She's coughing, and exhausted.

126 **EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY**

126

Maud approaches the steps of Sandra's cottage. Tears stream down her face, and she wipes them away with her little hands. She is soaking and frozen. She knocks.

Moments later, Sandra comes out on the step.

SANDRA

Maud. What's wrong?

Maud hurriedly wipes her face dry, and puts on a brave face.

MAUD

Oh.

She looks up at Sandra and smiles.

MAUD (CONT'D)

I thought I'd pop in for a visit.

Sandra looks at her - a little shocked.

MAUD (CONT'D)

But it's probably not a good time,  
I'll go.

SANDRA

No. Come. Otherwise I'll be getting  
drunk by myself in here, so come in.  
Let's get you warmed up.

127 **INT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - BATHROOM - NIGHT**

127

Maud is immersed in the bathtub. Only her eyes and nose are above the water, the rest is completely enveloped by bubbles. She nervously looks around the brightly lit, cheerily decorated bathroom as Sandra talks from outside the room.

Maud doesn't know what to think of it.

SANDRA (O.S.)

Is the water warm enough?

MAUD

Too warm, I'd say. I love it, but  
you shouldn't be wasting all this  
hot water. Be a different story if  
you boiled it. Even then. Don't  
get me wrong, I love it. My mother  
used to have long baths. But I coulda  
just used a wash cloth.

(CONTINUED)

127

127

SANDRA (O.S.)

You're not in there to get clean,  
you're in there to relax.

Maud giggles, and continues her nervous chatter.

MAUD

Can't see me relaxin'.  
But everything looks so perfect.  
Almost too perfect. It's lovely,  
really, but I'm half afraid I'll  
break something.

SANDRA (O.S.)

Do you like shrimp sandwiches?

MAUD

I don't need to be that fancy. Not  
that I don't love em, but bread and  
butter's just as good. You want me  
to get out now?

SANDRA (O.S.)

Stay as long as you like.

Maud sinks back down in the water, her eyes still gazing  
around the room curiously.

128

**INT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - THE NEXT DAY**

128\*

Maud is now walking around the immaculate, cozy country home,  
wearing Sandra's mauve coloured housecoat, her head wrapped  
in a towel. The housecoat drags on the floor, and Maud looks  
ridiculously out of place. She looks out the window at the  
clouds in the sky.

Sandra is drinking a glass of wine, sitting on the sofa.

MAUD

When I was young, me and my brother  
would gawk at the clouds. He'd see  
monsters and dungeons. Or guns.  
I'd see hearts and puppy dogs. He'd  
get mad at me for turnin' his  
nightmares into something simple.  
It's not that I couldn't see monsters.  
But if it's a game, and if the rule  
is we get to choose to see what we  
want, why make it dark and dreary?

Sandra smiles, charmed by Maud's simple wisdom.

128

128

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
Come to New York with me.

MAUD  
Nah. Wouldn't like it.

SANDRA  
You could have an actual career,  
Maud. As an artist. I could help  
you. \*

Maud smiles awkwardly.

MAUD  
That's a word Everett would have no  
time for. Career. Sounds too fancy.

129 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY

129

Everett is sitting down to a meal by himself. Lonely in his little house. He stares around the room, seeing Maud's paintings all over the walls.

Very lonely. He gets up and storms out of the house.

130 INT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY

130

Maud is now dressed. Staring off into space. Sandra sees that Maudie is bothered.

SANDRA  
When I'm mad at someone, I find it  
helpful to let it out.

Maud says nothing.

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
It feels good. Watch.

Sandra pours herself another glass of wine, takes a gulp and then...

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
Ahhhhhhhhh!

Maud is startled by this aggression. Sandra composes herself.

SANDRA (CONT'D)  
Your turn.

MAUD  
No thanks.

CONTINUED:

93A.

130 Sandra takes another swig of wine.

130

(CONTINUED)

130

130

SANDRA

My husband Jacob is an arrogant pompous know-it-all, his voice is like nails on a chalkboard, I am sick of his feet, I'm sick of his breath, I'm sick of his stttt-uuupid face.

She looks at Maud, relieved.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Ahhhh. Now your turn.

Maud chuckles.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Go ahead. I know you're mad at him.

MAUD

Nah. Not like that.

Sandra holds up the bottle of wine.

SANDRA

Then you need more wine.

Maud pauses for a moment, then holds out her glass.

131 OMITTED

131\*

131A **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

131A\*

Everett is cutting the weeds around his house, aggitated.  
Impatient.

\*  
\*132 **EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - FRONT PORCH -- EVENING**

132\*

Sandra and Maud now sit on the swing on the front porch, their feet kicked up. Maud is now piss eyed drunk. So is Sandra.

MAUD

Um...He's a complainer -

SANDRA

Let it out. Come on. He's a bastard.

MAUD

He's cranky. He's mean. But he's sweet in his own way -

SANDRA

You're doing it again.

(CONTINUED)

132

132

MAUD

He gets mad if I don't, if I paints  
all day he's mad, if I don't paint  
all day he's mad, no pleasin' im.  
But I miss him.

SANDRA

Maud you aren't playing right.

She hiccups.

MAUD

I gotta go to bed, I feel like I  
might heave up.

Sandra watches her go, then pours herself another glass of  
wine. She stares up at the sky.

133 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE, UPSTAIRS LOFT - NIGHT**

133

Everett lies on his side of the bed, staring at Maud's side.

134 **EXT. WHARF - MORNING**

134

Everett is down on the wharf with Frank, gutting fish. Frank  
notices Everett seems different.

FRANK

Something up, Pal?

EVERETT

She left me.

FRANK

Oh well. About time.

Frank smiles, teasingly.

EVERETT

Stop. Stop your wise cracking.

Everett slits open another fish, and hauls the guts out,  
then flicks his hand into the bucket.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

If someone had a baby and they give  
up to another family, around here,  
how would I go about finding out who  
it was give up to?

Frank processes this for a second.

(CONTINUED)

134

134

FRANK

How in the hell would I know?

Everett starts to walk away, frustrated. Frank feels for him. He calls after him.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Everett. You grew up in the poor house, you still do work for them sometimes don't ya?

EVERETT

Mr. Hill died fifteen years ago.

FRANK

Well, Mr. Higgins is there, he'd help you. There's still records there, or paper work or something.

EVERETT

You think they'd know?

FRANK

It's the orphanage. If someone gave up a baby around here, they'd know what happened to it.

Everett nods.

135

**EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - MORNING**

135

There is a knock on the door. Sandra answers it. It's EVERETT.

EVERETT

Looking for my woman.

SANDRA

Maud?

Maud stands up, secretly delighted to see him. She goes to the door.

EVERETT

Get your things and come on.

MAUD

Why should I, when you talk to me like that?

Maud stands firmly, playing tough. He grabs her by the arm and starts to haul her out the door.

(CONTINUED)

135

135

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Stop it!

Sandra intervenes.

SANDRA

Hey!!! Let her GO!!!

EVERETT

You're coming home!!!

MAUD

Leave me ALONE Everett!

Maud is furious, Everett is taken aback. Embarrassed, he marches out the door and down over the steps. Maud, still spittin' mad, follows him out on the step.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Don't know why you can't be nice for once in your miserable old life.

He stops and turns to her, then finally lets his guard down.

EVERETT

For crying out loud, woman.

Maud looks at him, winded and frustrated, but concedes.

136

**EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - BACK YARD - DAY**

136

Maud and Everett both awkwardly sit on the hammock.

EVERETT

You'd never last here. You'd have to walk seven miles to the store.

MAUD

Well I'm not one of your old dogs. \*

EVERETT

No cuz at least they knew how to listen. They did what they were told. \*

MAUD

I'm better than a dog. \*

EVERETT

Maybe. Bigger pain in the ass too.

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

MAUD

I'm more than that. I want you to say it.

Everett lies back in the hammock, staring at the sky. The changing shape of the hammock unsteadies Maud and she falls back on him. She starts to get up, but he puts his arm around her, keeping her by his side.

EVERETT

(whispering)

You're more than that.

He holds her there for a moment. He takes a deep breath. Calming himself. They stare up at the clouds. Maud lights up a cigarette.

MAUD

That cloud looks like a rabbit.

Everett shrugs. Maud decides to quiz him.

MAUD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What do you see?

Everett stares at the sky for a moment longer.

EVERETT

Clouds.

MAUD

You can see more than that. Try.

Everett looks at her skeptically, then back up at the sky.

EVERETT

I sees a woman. With a big arse. A few teeth missin'.

Maud laughs. Despite herself.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Bald on the one side of her head.

She laughs harder.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

She's in her old man's drawers.

Maud playfully shoves him as she laughs even harder.

(CONTINUED)

136

136

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
 Foolish are you. That's your job  
 Maudie. I sees what's there, you  
 sees what could be there.

MAUD  
 Kinda how you sees me as something  
 to own. I sees me as your wife.

Everett unfolds his arms.

EVERETT  
 I sees you as my wife, miss. Always  
 did. Didn't want you to leave me.

MAUD  
 Why would I leave you?

EVERETT  
 You could find better than me.

MAUD  
 I got everything I want with you Ev.  
 Everything.

137 **EXT. SANDRA'S SUMMER HOME - DAY**

137

Everett is putting Maud's things into his truck as she says  
 goodbye to Sandra.

SANDRA  
 Now I have no excuse not to go back  
 home to my boring husband.

MAUD  
 Go on.

Maud smiles at Sandra.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
 You're my only friend. You know  
 that? Since momma died.

Maud smiles at Sandra. Maud heads to towards the truck, and  
 Everett helps her to get in. Sandra watches, thoughtfully  
 as Maud and Everett drive down the road.

138 **INT. EVERETT'S TRUCK - DAY**

138

As Everett and Maud drive down the road, he turns onto a  
 road that she doesn't recognize.

(CONTINUED)

138

138

MAUD

Why we going up here?

He says nothing.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Where we going Ev?

Tight-lipped, he keeps driving. Eventually, he pulls off onto the side of the road. The Street is lined with nice, modest little bungalows. He stares ahead, she looks at him, a little confused.

MAUD (CONT'D)

What are we doing here, Ev?

He takes a breath, and exhales.

EVERETT

Her house is there. The white one.

MAUD

Who?

EVERETT

Her. Your girl.

Maud looks on, in disbelief. She sees the house where he is pointing.

MAUD

She lives in there? My baby?

EVERETT

She's a woman now.

Maud nervously opens the door.

139 **EXT. STREET - NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY - DAY**

139

As Maud walks up the street, she sees **KAY** (late 20's), a slight, attractive young woman, out doing gardening, wearing a bright pink sun hat. A young man comes out.

PAUL

Hungry?

KAY

A little. I think I'll make something with the raspberries for dessert.

\*

(CONTINUED)

139 CONTINUED:

139

Maud watches with overwhelming delight as Kay smiles at her husband. Maud studies her hands. Her feet. Her face. She is beautiful and perfect. Maud can hardly take her eyes off her.

\*

She decides to walk past them.

Maud hobbles along the side of the road, getting closer to the couple

PAUL (O.S.)

I'm going to wash up for dinner.

\*

KAY (O.S.)

Okay, I'll be in shortly.

Maud observes them, without looking up. But she studies the young woman out of the corner of her eye.

140 **INT. EVERETT'S TRUCK - DAY**

140

Everett sits in the truck, his eyes closed. Working even harder to steady his breath.

141 **EXT. STREET - NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY - DAY**

141

Maud slows down as she is in front of the house, she bends down and picks a pebble out of her boot.

Maud watches Kay through the fence, now almost being eye to eye. The RASPBERRY BUSH is between them. At this exact moment, Kay eyes one of the berries, as Maud eyes the other. Together they both take a raspberry off the bush and EAT IT, savouring the taste.

Kay is so preoccupied with the berries, she doesn't even notice Maud.

Maud smiles watching her, then stands up and continues on past the house, without looking back. As she walks towards Everett, she smiles. Sitting in the truck, he beams a smile back at her.

142 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - LOFT - NIGHT**

142

Everett and Maud lie in bed, only lit by moonlight. He can't sleep. Neither can she.

MAUD

I couldn't believe it was her. But  
I knew it was her.

143 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY -- 1969**

143

*The wide, open landscape surrounding Everett's house, as Everett, older, more stooped, carries wood into his house. The paint on the house has faded with time...*

144 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

144

Everett walks into the house and dumps the wood by the stove, as The DOCTOR continues doing a check up on Maud.

MAUD

I'm more concerned with the state of  
my arthritis than my lungs. It's  
getting harder and harder to hold a  
paintbrush. Ev thinks I should strap  
the brush onto my hands.

He's holding the stethoscope to her back.

DOCTOR

Breathe.

She does. It's labored.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You haven't given up smoking yet,  
have you?

MAUD

I gives it up sometimes.

She smiles.

DOCTOR

You have Emphysema Maud. You can't  
smoke.

EVERETT

She won't be smoking again, I tell  
you that.

(CONTINUED)

144

144

DOCTOR

And air this place out a bit Everett.  
The air's too thick.

Everett walks the doctor to the door.

145

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

145

Fewer paintings outside.

Maud comes out of the house, gathers her unsold paintings for the night and takes them inside. Her breathing is a little laboured. She seems tired.

146

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

146

EVERETT (O.S.)

You coming to bed, Maudie?

Maud tries to go upstairs, but she can't hoist herself up.

She goes over to Everett's chair and sits down. \*

MAUD

I'll be up in a minute.

147

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - MORNING**

147

Maud wakes up to Everett hovering over her on the chair. \*

EVERETT

What's wrong with you?

Maud wakes up for a moment, she is not feeling so good.

MAUD

Guess I fell asleep.

EVERETT

I've had enough of this! Falling asleep, up all night coughing, lounging around the house, you don't paint anymore you does nothing. Now smarten up and get lively!

She tries to smile.

MAUD

I'll get up in a minute. Come sit by me Ev.

Everett can't hide his concern as he sits next to her on the floor. \*

(CONTINUED)

147

147

MAUD (CONT'D)

You should get more dogs. Less lonely with dogs.

EVERETT

Don't need dogs, I got you.

MAUD

Still. Be nice if you had more dogs.

148

**EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

148

Maud sits in a chair outside as Everett displays her paintings - there are less than before. Maud is getting to be too tired and ill to paint as much as she used to. But there are still some paintings, and some visitors, admiring them.

Maud doesn't really engage in conversation, but then she looks up and sees KAY AND PAUL approaching her house.

She watches carefully as Kay weaves through the crowd, admiring Maud's paintings.

After a few moments, Maud hurriedly goes into the house. Then, she comes out, holding the painting of the girl in the pink dress.

Maud looks around for Kay, unable to find her at first. But then she sees her and approaches her with the painting.

MAUD

Bit chilly today.

Kay looks up and smiles brightly at Maud.

KAY

Oh, hello. Your paintings are so cheerful and optimistic.

Kay smiles at the work.

KAY (CONT'D)

I like that you ignore the shadows.

Maud smiles, unable to think of what to say. Finally she holds out the painting.

MAUD

You might like this one.

Kay studies it for a long time. Maud watches Kay proudly. Kay seems almost speechless. Her face is serious.

(CONTINUED)

148

148

KAY

I need this painting. I love it.

Maud smiles.

MAUD

Have it.

KAY

How much do I owe you?

Maud shakes her head.

MAUD

You don't owe me for that, take it.

KAY

No no, you can't give it away. How much?

Maud sees Everett walking towards her. She speaks quietly.

MAUD

I think that little girl is you.  
Please take it.

She smiles at Kay. Kay smiles back, somehow understanding. She takes the painting and walks away.

Maud discreetly tries to keep her eye on Kay as she climbs into the car. She watches, fixated, as the car pulls off the side of the road and drives off into the distance. Everett stands by her for a moment.

149

**INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

149

Maud sits at her table painting, her work only half finished. She works quietly. Then without warning, she suddenly BURSTS into tears. She lets herself cry, and after a moment she flops over on the table, onto her painting. She cries and cries.

Then she gets up. The paint from her picture now on the side of her face and her shirt. She looks at her ruined painting, wipes away her tears and starts to fix it.

Everett is up in bed, Maud still sits at her table, staring out the window into the black, quiet night. She wipes the paint off of her face and her shirt with an old wet rag. Then Maud hoists herself out of the chair and heads towards the ladder.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED: 149

Her foot slips on a rung, and Maud tumbles over and falls to the ground.

EVERETT (O.S.)  
What's going on down there?

Everett pokes his head down to see what has happened, and sees Maud laid out on the floor.

150 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY 150

Frank and Everett CARRY in a little day bed, as Maud sits, feebly, at her table.

FRANK  
Back your end in there, Ev.

MAUD  
That's lovely. Lovely.

EVERETT  
Watch out.

Everett lays his end down, and they squeeze the day bed in the corner.

151 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - EVENING 151

Maud now lays back on a DAY BED that has been squeezed into the small home. Her things have been rearranged downstairs. She paints a painting from her bed. She's slower now. Still thoughtful, but there is less joy in it. Everett brings her a cup of tea.

MAUD  
Some housemaid I became.

EVERETT  
The only one applied for the job.

Everett gives her a slight smile.

152 INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT 152

Everett comes downstairs and stokes the fire.

Maud is asleep on the couch, her breathing is sounding increasingly laboured.

EVERETT  
Maudie? You alright?

(CONTINUED)

152 CONTINUED: 152  
 Everett goes over to see her, and realizes she isn't very responsive.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Maud.

She tries to open her eyes and speak.

MAUD

Ev.

153 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER** 153

Everett has Maud bundled up in a blanket and carries her to the truck. He lays her in the passenger seat, then gets in the truck.

They speed away down the road.

154 **INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER** 154

They drive down the road, Maud tries to speak but can't. Everett is in a panic.

EVERETT

Shut up Miss. Don't go tryin' to speak til the Doctor's see you.

155 **INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT** 155

As they wheel Maudie away, Everett is frantic. He runs up to the nurse with money in his hand.

EVERETT

Here, look, ten dollars, just make sure she's alright.

NURSE

Sir, we don't need your money -

EVERETT

Take it take it. Just go look after her.

156 **INT. HOSPITAL - DAY** 156

Maud is hooked up to tubes in the hospital bed, Everett is by her side. She is more alert now. She reaches out to touch Everett, but he's too far away. He moves in closer.

EVERETT

I knew you were getting sicker, every time I'd ask you, you'd lie to me.

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

He sits on the edge of her bed.

She slowly, feebly traces the outline of the rose on his arm.

He gently strokes her face.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
You got beautiful eyes Maud Lewis.

Maud smiles feebly, flattered. He points to her chest.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
So much beauty in there, it's spillin'  
out your two peepers. Sometimes I  
look at them eyes, I think the sun  
is shining in my face.

MAUD  
Go on.

EVERETT  
It's true. I look at your face and  
I can't believe I ever thought you  
weren't perfect.

She reaches over with her gnarled up hand, and struggles to  
outstretch her fingers. She wraps them around his hand.

MAUD  
I wish...I wish I was better at  
looking after you, everyone always  
had to be looking after me.

EVERETT  
Shut up. You looked after me. You  
looked after me.

He points to his heart, as he fights back tears.

EVERETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
You looked after me Miss. Now gimme  
five more years.

She "shhhh's" him. She pulls him in closer to her face.

MAUD  
I know you love me Ev.

MAUD (CONT'D)  
We didn't have the things people  
think you need in order to be lovable.  
But yet we had love.

(CONTINUED)

156 Maud is fading.

156

MAUD (CONT'D)

Who woulda thought two odd socks  
would make such a perfect pair.

He looks at her pleadingly, but she closes her eyes and fades away...

157 **EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY**

157

Everett is trying to start his truck. It won't start. He punches the steering wheel.

EVERETT

God DAMN stupid truck.

He gets out of the truck and lifts up the hood. He fiddles around with it, trying to fix it. Swallowing all his emotions. He gets back in the truck, tries again. This time, it starts. He pulls out.

158 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

158

Everett is home by himself. The brightly painted, jam-packed little house feels empty. Everett sits in Maud's chair and paints a little "Maud-like" painting on a card. He paints dogs. Nowhere near her detail or charm.

He stops and stares at her paintings on the wall. The little chicken. So cheerful. So happy. He reaches out and touches the bird. Then turns back to the painting. He scrapes the paintbrush on an old sardine tin, thick with Maud's paint.

Then he signs the card "Everett Lewis". He stares at it long and hard, his eyes filling with tears. Having a second thought, he PAINTS over the name.

He looks out the window. No cars. No visitors. Nothing.

He looks back to the painting, and once again paints her name on the board. Then he THROWS the paintbrush across the room.

159 **EXT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - DAY**

159

Everett sits outside his house, with paintings propped up against the house, to sell. His poor knock-offs, which lack Maud's care or detail. He stares off into space as a couple of stragglers walk around looking at the art work, the faded paintings on the walls.

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED:

159

Then suddenly SANDRA pulls up. She gets out of her car. She stares at Everett. He looks sad, and incomplete.

She stands at a distance for a moment. Then finally walks towards him. Then she sits down next to Everett.

SANDRA

I missed the funeral.

He doesn't look at her. She doesn't look at him. They just sit in silence together.

160 **INT. EVERETT'S HOUSE - LATER**

160

Everett walks into the house. Everywhere he looks, everywhere he rests his eyes, there is the hand of Maud.

He sits down on the day bed. He kicks off his boots and pulls off a sock. He stares at his feet, one sock on, one sock off. He runs his hand along the empty space of Maud's bed, before clutching her pillow.

Then, he looks out the window, and looks up at the clouds. Suddenly, he's able to see the clouds take shape: a cheerful puppy dog, surrounded by white puffy flowers.

As we fade out...

*Everett Lewis died in 1979, nine years after Maud, in their little 13x13 home.*

*This little house can be found at a permanent exhibit at the Nova Scotia Art Gallery in Halifax, Nova Scotia...*

**THE END**