

LIFE'S CURVE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. DAVID FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ETHAN DAVID, 12, freckled and blonde wears a baseball cap and glove in front of the television. ANNA DAVID, 38, slender with a wrist tattoo sits on the couch next to him.

SUPER: "2000"

ETHAN

Look! Dad's coming in to pitch!

ANNA

Top of the ninth. Man on first.
We're up by one.

(beat)

Come on, Connell!

ETHAN

Let's go, Connell! I mean, Dad!

ON TV

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Cincinnati needs one out to win this series against the Pirates.

(beat)

The Red's just brought out the *Irish Flame Thrower*, Connell David to close this out.

ETHAN

I need a nickname like Dad. How about the *Blonde Flame Thrower*!

Anna pulls Ethan's baseball cap down over his eyes.

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Connell David eyes the catcher.
Nods. Throws. It's a strike!

ANNA

Two more strikes, Conn. You can do this!

Ethan stands. He mimics his dad's pitching stance.

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The batter sets. Connell winds up.
Strike two!

Anna stands up. She yells at the television. Ethan mimics her.

ANNA

Flame thrower! Torch him!

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Connell David's fast ball is
legendary. Let's see if he uses it?

(beat)

He winds up, throws...oh my, game
over! The Reds win five to four!

Ethan throws down his glove. He celebrates with his mother.

ETHAN

Dad was awesome! One day I'll pitch
in the majors too!

ETHAN (V.O.)

Although my mother and I were close,
my father was my hero. Once the
baseball season was over, we were
always together. He taught me how
to fish, work on the family car and
play baseball. "Son, he would tell
me. Never let anyone or anything
keep you from realizing your
dreams." His advice would change my
life.

EXT. COLLEGE BASEBALL FIELD - BATTING CAGE - DAY

Ethan David, now 21, throws batting practice to a TEAMMATE.
He swings, misses.

TEAMMATE

Take it easy! At least let me hit
the ball.

ETHAN

Sorry, I'll slow it down.

SUPER: "2009"

College roommate, PETE CARRILLO, 21, approaches the cage.
Ethan pauses, takes off his glove.

PETE

I hate finals week. It really gets
in the way of my social life.

ETHAN

My kinesiology final is tomorrow.

PETE
 You take classes I can't even
 pronounce!
 (beat)
 I've got a date later on with Stacy.

ETHAN
 On the basketball team?

PETE
 Oh yeah!

ETHAN
 She's about three inches taller than
 you?

PETE
 Not when we're lying down.

Ethan's teammate waits with crossed arms.

TEAMMATE
 Come on Ethan! I need the practice!

ETHAN
 Be right there!

Pete waves at a group of COEDS sitting in the stands.

ETHAN
 What about your accounting final?

PETE
 I'll cram for it later.

Ethan shakes his head, puts his glove back on.

ETHAN
 Ready for Ireland? Just two more
 weeks!

PETE
 Are we doing a medieval banquet?
 Hot Irish women singing and serving
 food get me excited!

ETHAN
 It's already reserved.

PETE
 Still projected in the first round?

ETHAN

The Reds said they'll take me fifth if I'm available?

PETE

That could be a huge signing bonus! I need to be your agent.

(beat)

Why Ireland?

ETHAN

What do you mean?

PETE

Lauderdale is much closer.

Ethan removes his baseball cap.

ETHAN

Just a way to remember my dad. You know, him being Irish.

TEAMMATE

Ethan!

Ethan puts his ball cap back on.

ETHAN

I better go!

Pete waves again at the coeds in the stands.

PETE

My fans await. See you back at the dorm.

ETHAN (V.O.)

I suppose life isn't guaranteed to any of us, but losing my parents as a college freshman was especially hard. Honoring my mother and father's legacy through baseball seemed only natural. Dad's Irish ancestry was the main reason I chose to visit Ireland for Spring Break. Would I feel a closer connection with him? I wasn't sure, but the possibility excited me just like the upcoming draft.

INT. SHANNON, IRELAND - MURPHY'S PUB - NIGHT

Ethan and Pete are greeted by a shapely, red-hair FEMALE HOSTESS as she fights to be heard over *Brown Eyed Girl*, blaring from the overhead speakers.

FEMALE HOSTESS
First time at Murphy's?

PETE
(over-dramatized
southern drawl)
Eit shore is.

FEMALE HOSTESS
Now I can tell by your accent that
you boys aren't from around here.

PETE
(moving in closer)
Don't tell anybody, but I'm the odds-
on favorite to become the next
governor of Kentucky and looking for
someone to become my First Lady,
interested?

FEMALE HOSTESS
(laughing)
You two will fit in here
brilliantly!

Ethan and Pete head towards the bar, squeezing past a throng of local revelers.

ETHAN
I wonder if the local Fire Marshal
is on duty?

PETE
He's probably in a corner tossing
down with the Mayor and Chief
Constable. As much ale and whiskey
as I see flowing, a fire could be
pissed out by the patrons in a
matter of seconds.

A BARTENDER approaches.

ETHAN
An ale for me.

PETE
Make it a Guinness.

ETHAN

We don't have much time before the banquet.

PETE

I hate to leave Ireland. Getting a real job and paying off my student loans is going to suck!

The bartender sets down their drinks.

ETHAN

If the Reds choose me, I'll probably start out in Daytona for their Class A team.

PETE

I could think of worst places to be.

ETHAN

I also plan on restoring my dad's Jeep Wagoneer.

A group of attractive COEDS catch Pete's attention.

PETE

Hey, look over there.

ETHAN

We don't have time.

PETE

It's an opportunity. Come on.

Pete approaches the coed's table.

PETE

My eyes aren't Irish, but they sure are smiling!

CATHERINE KELLY, 20, brunette with plunging knit top points to Ethan.

CATHERINE

Who's your friend?

COED ONE

Yeah, he's cute!

PETE

Come on ladies, what about me?

COED TWO

I'm used to driving a basic compact,
but experiencing something or
someone that's luxurious and sporty
wins out every time!

The girls exchange high-fives.

ETHAN

Sorry, my friend loses his mind
around pretty girls.

CATHERINE

I'd love to lose something else
with you!

Ethan leads Pete back to the bar.

PETE

Are you crazy? She wants you!

ETHAN

Not my type.

Ethan and Pete finish their drinks.

PETE

Always remember, hunting the female
species just takes confidence and
being aggressive.

ETHAN

Coaching would have been a better
major for you than finance.

PETE

Not a chance! I would always be
broke. Chicks like guys with money.

Ethan checks his watch.

ETHAN

Time to go.

INT. CONROY CASTLE - CHAMBER HALL - NIGHT

Ethan and Pete sit at one of several long wooden tables
filled with other TOURISTS and LOCALS.

Irish SINGERS serenade while serving drinks and appetizers to
those in attendance. The animated BUTLER, 30, enters, center
stage.

BUTLER

(dramatic)

Welcome to Conroy Castle. You are the chosen guests of my Lord, The Earl of Thomond. Tonight you will be expected to enjoy our drink, delectable food, and specially chosen entertainment. If you have any compliments, beckon me. If you have any complaints, talk to the cook, he is the largest man in Ireland.

MAURA DOUGALL, 20, alluring in a period dress and flowing black tresses, approaches Ethan's table with a large tray of drinks. Maura loses her balance as a glass spills, soaking Ethan's shirt.

MAURA

Sir, I'm so sorry! I didn't mean--

Ethan grabs a napkin and wipes at his shirt. He looks up.

ETHAN

(spellbound)

It's...okay.

Staring back at Ethan, Maura pauses.

MAURA

(captivated)

I'm...so...clumsy.

Maura grabs Ethan's napkin and begins to dab his shirt.

ETHAN

It's really not a problem.

Ethan continues to fixate on Maura.

MAURA

Would you like another drink?

ETHAN

Promise not to pour it on me?

MAURA

No guarantees.

ETHAN

Then how about an umbrella?

Maura crosses her arms. A wry smile widens across her face.

Maura picks up her tray.

MAURA
(amused)
I'll be right back.

Maura turns, she glances back at Ethan.

PETE
You got her attention.

Ethan pulls aside another FEMALE SERVER from the adjacent table.

ETHAN
(pointing)
Who's that?

The female server scans Ethan.

FEMALE SERVER
Maura Dougall. I wouldn't bother.

ETHAN
Something I should know?

FEMALE SERVER
She's extremely selective.

ETHAN
I am too. What do you suggest?

FEMALE SERVER
Be creative.
(beat)
If it doesn't work out, I'm available.

PETE
That makes two of us.

The Butler re-enters the stage carrying a scroll. He lets it unravel.

BUTLER
Here ye, here ye! Ordered by my Lord, The Earl of Thomond, a royal decree will now be read. There shall be one person among you who will be chosen to occupy the castle dungeon for a time yet to be determined.

(MORE)

BUTLER (CONT'D)

This prisoner will remain in solitary confinement, and can only gain his or her freedom by singing a melody that is approved by you, the Earl's invited guests. As butler and curator I now ask you to shout aloud your choice.

Various names echo throughout the chamber hall. Pete leads the surrounding tables in a rhythmic chant.

PETE

Ethan, Ethan, Ethan, Ethan!

The Butler motions for the shouting to stop.

BUTLER

So...we have a winner? Or should I say a looser? Guards, fetch the prisoner.

Ethan is escorted by the castle guards and placed in an imaginary cell located just off stage right.

BUTLER

Why should I consider releasing you?

ETHAN

(in character)

I am falsely accused of my crime, but willing to sing my way to freedom.

BUTLER

What are you prepared to sing?

ETHAN

An original composition, but with one stipulation. I want to serenade, Maura Dougall.

The crowd murmurs with excitement.

BUTLER

Well my boy, I like your grit.

Ethan points to a small upper-level balcony overlooking the main room.

ETHAN

I want her to stand up there.

BUTLER

Someone, go and fetch Ms. Dougall.

Ethan readies himself on the stage. The audience awaits the next series of events.

ETHAN (V.O.)

As I waited for Maura to appear, I wasn't sure if, in baseball terms, I was about to hit a home run or strikeout. Would my song and voice impress Maura or cause her to laugh out loud for those in attendance to hear? At this point, I wasn't backing down. It was time to PLAY BALL!

A MALE SERVER emerges from the kitchen.

MALE SERVER

We found her!

Maura appears up in the balcony. Ethan stands center stage, looking up. He announces.

ETHAN

I dedicate my song to Maura Dougall. It's titled, "If She Only Knew."

Ethan begins.

VERSE:

(sings)

If she only knew how much I needed her, if she read my mind to know how I think of her. Would I be the one that she would choose, then I could be the one if she only knew.

The audience is mesmerized. Poker faced, Maura intently listens. Ethan continues.

CHORUS:

(sings)

If she only knew these words, I want to say. Then I could be the one, to take her heart away. And I need her so, but she doesn't even know. I'm the one she needs, if she only knew.

Maura allows a slight smile to crease her face.

Ethan finishes. Applause erupts.

Maura descends the balcony, she approaches Ethan, then whispers in his ear.

MAURA

Meet me in the reception hall after the show.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Ethan approaches Maura as she serves beverages to banquet guests.

ETHAN

Did I embarrass you?

MAURA

I didn't think American guys were that romantic.

ETHAN

Most aren't.

MAURA

Since you had the cunning audacity to feature me as your own Juliet, I deserve to at least know more about you. There's a quiet cafe just around the corner. Wait here while I gather my things.

Pete and the female server approach holding hands. Pete whispers to Ethan.

PETE

I'll catch you later back at the hotel.

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Ethan and Maura chat in a quiet corner.

MAURA

Why me? There were other pretty girls serving.

Ethan takes a sip of coffee. He stares into Maura's eyes.

ETHAN

No there weren't. There was only you.

Maura takes a longer drink of tea.

MAURA

You're good.

ETHAN

Why so defensive?

MAURA

Oh, maybe it's because every guy
I've ever dated has either cheated
or lied to me.

ETHAN

So in the back of your mind you
think I'll do the same?

Maura eyes Ethan. She takes another drink.

Ethan pulls out his wallet. He removes a picture and hands
it to Maura.

MAURA

Who is this?

ETHAN

My mother and father.

MAURA

I don't understand.

Ethan finishes his coffee.

ETHAN

They were both killed in a car
accident.

MAURA

I'm so sorry.

ETHAN

My dad was a major-league pitcher
and my hero. I always wanted to be
like him.

Maura leans in closer to Ethan.

MAURA

And your mother?

ETHAN

She held our family together
especially when dad was away on road
trips.

MAURA

And that tattoo on your arm?

Ethan reveals an underarm tattoo in tribute to his parents.

Ethan starts to get up.

MAURA

Wait! Where are you going.

ETHAN

Look, I don't cheat or lie. I respect women.

MAURA

Please! Don't leave. I...I'm sorry.

Ethan stands then begins to walk away. He hesitates.

ETHAN

Want some more tea?

Maura smiles. Ethan flags down a waiter. He returns to his chair.

MAURA

Losing both parents...I couldn't imagine.

ETHAN

God got an earful. Sometimes, HE still does.

Maura takes a sip. She smirks.

ETHAN

Why the look?

MAURA

Just that God gets unfairly blamed for a lot of things.

Ethan moves in closer.

ETHAN

What are you saying?

MAURA

What happened to your parents is tragic, but sometimes things in life happen which are out of our control.

ETHAN
But why didn't HE stop it?

MAURA
I don't know.

Maura takes a longer sip.

MAURA
Your turn. Ask me anything.

Ethan settles back in his chair.

ETHAN
What about you?

MAURA
Except for my dad, the rest of my family is still alive.

ETHAN
(cynical)
Figures.

Maura pauses.

ETHAN
I'm sorry.

MAURA
He was a casualty of war. I live on a farm with my mum and sister in Caherconlish. A small village south of here.

ETHAN
Any goals or dreams?

MAURA
One, to get off the farm!
(beat)
Maybe one day I'll meet someone and have a family.

A WAITER approaches with more drinks.

ETHAN
What about singing?

MAURA
I perform at Conway to make some extra money until I get promoted at the bank. Tellers aren't paid well.
(MORE)

MAURA (CONT'D)

(beat)

How much longer will you be in
Ireland?

ETHAN

A few more days.

MAURA

I see.

Ethan raises his coffee cup.

ETHAN

Let's make a toast.

Maura raises her beaker.

MAURA

What should we toast?

ETHAN

To new beginnings!

EXT. CAFE - NIGHT

Hand-in-hand, Ethan and Maura slowly walk along a stone
walkway.

Maura turns to face Ethan.

MAURA

Got a girlfriend?

ETHAN

No.

MAURA

Want to see me again?

ETHAN

Do I have to?

Maura pushes Ethan away.

MAURA

Ethan David! You better apologize!

ETHAN

How about Sunday?

Maura pulls her car keys out of her purse.

MAURA
I'll pick you up at noon.

ETHAN
What are we doing?

MAURA
It's a surprise.

INT. MAURA'S CAR - DAY

Maura swerves in and out of traffic. Ethan reaches for the overhead grab handle.

ETHAN
You must watch NASCAR.

MAURA
Sunday drivers. Can't stand them!

ETHAN
I feel like I'm being kidnapped?

Maura checks her lipstick in the rearview mirror. She accelerates even more.

MAURA
I don't want us to be late.

Maura screeches to a stop. She slams the car into reverse then speeds down a tree covered gravel road.

ETHAN
Late for what?

EXT. LOUGH DERG - SAILING CENTER - DAY

The car skids to a halt. Maura fixes her hair.

MAURA
We're going sailing! Have you ever been?

ETHAN
It's been a while.

MAURA
Great! Then you can show me how.

Ethan shakes his head as he and Maura walk towards the boat slips.

ETHAN (V.O.)

I quickly learned that Maura was not only impulsive, but free-spirited like a Kentucky Thoroughbred. Could I accept that? I was about to find out.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Ethan and Maura sail across Lough Derg.

-- Maura splashes Ethan as he adjusts the sails.

-- Ethan and Maura wave at other boaters as they pass in the distance.

EXT. LOUGH DERG - SHORELINE - DAY

Ethan and Maura lie atop a patch of heather under a swaying willow.

MAURA

You've disrupted my life.

ETHAN

Any regrets?

Maura moves closer to Ethan.

MAURA

Having to say goodbye.

ETHAN

You make it sound so final.

Maura touches Ethan's face

MAURA

Is it?

ETHAN

It doesn't have to be.

Maura gazes into Ethan's eyes.

MAURA

What are the odds I'll see you again?

ETHAN

I don't bet. If I want something I go for it.

MAURA

Do you want me?

Ethan and Maura kiss. They disappear underneath their blanket.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Making love to Maura was unplanned, but seemed natural. I felt something much deeper than her body moving in rhythm next to mine. From that moment, I knew that Maura Dougall would always be a part of my life. What I didn't realize was how complicated our future would become.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Ethan and Maura are seen talking on the phone.
- Ethan and Maura take and text goofy selfies to one another.
- Maura hugs her postman when she receives a card from Ethan.
- Ethan eyes an opposing batter from the pitcher's mound.
- Ethan is swarmed by his teammates after winning a game.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. AIRLINE PASSENGER SEAT - NIGHT

Ethan stares outside into the star filled sky.

SUPER: "One Year Later"

ETHAN (V.O.)

During my first season as a closing pitcher, I quickly climbed up the Cincinnati Reds minor league system. My desire to be with Maura over these last twelve months dominated my every thought. This time, as I returned to Ireland, I had one goal.

EXT. IRELAND - CLIFFS OF MOHER - DAY

Ethan and Maura frolic and chase one another across Moher's windswept fields towering above the Atlantic Ocean.

Maura grabs Ethan's hand. She leads him towards the cliff's edge.

MAURA

Make a wish!

Ethan clutches a coin. He closes his eyes then throws it into the crashing surf.

MAURA

What did you wish for?

Ethan's silence teases Maura as wind gusts swirl about.

MAURA

Promise you won't leave me?

(beat)

Ethan, answer me!

Ethan drops to one knee. He reveals a ring.

ETHAN

I don't plan on it.

Maura gasps as the ocean waves crash below.

MAURA

You're serious?

ETHAN

I want you with me.

Maura walks towards the cliff's edge. She stares into the distance. She turns back towards Ethan.

ETHAN

Well?

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - STANDS - DAY

Maura sits with a tub of popcorn and drink, cheering, surrounded by dozens of FANS.

MAURA

Go, Ethan!

SUPER: "2010"

EXT. PITCHER'S MOUND - CONTINUOUS

Ethan, as the relief-pitcher, adjusts his glove. The CATCHER throws him a baseball.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Ethan takes a couple of warm up throws.

- Ethan pitches to several opposing batters.
- Ethan strikes out the final batter for the win.
- Maura jumps to her feet cheering, spilling her popcorn.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ethan opens the back of his father's restored Jeep. Maura walks around to help him unload their groceries.

MAURA
Did we buy too much?

ETHAN
Not to worry. We'll knock this out
in one trip.

Ethan grabs multiple grocery bags and heads inside the front door.

Maura grabs the last couple of bags. She makes it halfway up the front steps then pauses, breathing deeply. Ethan reappears on the front porch.

ETHAN
Are you okay?

MAURA
(labored breaths)
I think so. Probably moved too
fast.

ETHAN
Here, I'll take those.

MAURA
Careful, eggs, remember?

Ethan steps inside the front door.

ETHAN
(humored)
I feel like I'm already married.

MAURA
What was that?

ETHAN (O.S.)
Nothing, Dear!

Maura continues panting as she grips the stair rail.

INT. ETHAN'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Ethan sits at the kitchen table eating cereal. Maura pours a steaming tea kettle into a cup near the sink. She thumbs through the local newspaper.

MAURA

Lot's of sales going on.

ETHAN

I better cancel our paper subscription.

MAURA

Don't forget, I have my doctor's appointment today.

ETHAN

Want me to take you?

Maura sets her beaker of tea down next to Ethan. She hugs him from behind.

MAURA

I'll drive. I'm finally getting used to Americans driving on the wrong side of the road.

(beat)

Besides, this is your big day!

ETHAN

Being called up to the Reds main roster is a dream come true.

MAURA

Exactly. You focus on practice, and I'll be fine.

Ethan looks for a kiss. Maura delivers.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

DR. FRAN MCGUIRE, 50s, reads a chart. She pauses. Maura dresses.

MAURA

Something wrong?

DR. MCGUIRE

Any recent discomfort or fatigue?

MAURA

Not really. Why?

DR. MCGUIRE
I'm looking at your lab results.

Maura puts on her shoes.

MAURA
And?

DR. MCGUIRE
You're pregnant.

MAURA
What? Impossible! We--

DR. MCGUIRE
You're well into your first
trimester.

MAURA
But I feel fine!

DR. MCGUIRE
There is something else.

Dr. McGuire removes her glasses. Maura sits down.

DR. MCGUIRE
Your tests also reveal some
abnormalities.

MAURA
What are you saying?

DR. MCGUIRE
I've ordered some additional lab
work.

MAURA
You're scaring me.

DR. MCGUIRE
I'll see you next week to go over
the results.

Maura stands, she approaches Dr. McGuire.

MAURA
(stern)
I need to know...now!

DR. MCGUIRE
Ms. Dougall. I have to be sure.
Please sit down!

MAURA
 (screaming)
 Tell me!

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - PITCHER'S MOUND - DAY

Cincinnati Reds pitching coach, DUSTY SANDERS, 51, peppered hair, sun glasses, cradles a clipboard.

Ethan assumes his pitching stance. Teammates and coaches gather to watch.

DUSTY
 Start with your slider.

Radar gun operator, SAL BRUNNO, 57, short, balding, aims from behind the mound.

Ethan spits a chaw of tobacco. He winds up, throws.

Dusty writes on his clipboard.

ETHAN
 Well?

DUSTY
 Curve ball.

Ethan pretends a runner is on first. He looks him off, waits, then throws.

Players nod in approval.

ETHAN
 Got to admit that was pretty good.

DUSTY
 I never admit to anything.
 Fastball.

Ethan spits another chaw of tobacco. He winds up. Throws.

SAL
 Ninety-four.

DUSTY
 Release it faster. Throw it again.

Ethan spits, he winds up again. Throws.

SAL
 Ninety-eight.

Ethan winks at Dusty.

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Team manager, HANK "COACH" WEBER, 61, grizzled, tan, stands with team owner, TED STERNS, 63, gruff, corporate.

TED

Not bad.

COACH WEBER

The kid should really help us. His minor league numbers were impressive.

TED

For a first-round draft pick, they better be! Everyone is tradable. Even you.

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - PITCHER'S MOUND - CONTINUOUS

Dusty crosses his arms.

DUSTY

Pretend you're pitching to the Yankees.

Ethan stares down at the CATCHER. He spits, grins, throws.

Silence fills the ballpark.

Sal does a double-take at the radar gun.

DUSTY

What is it?

SAL

One hundred and one!

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Coach Weber turns to Ted.

COACH WEBER

I think we found our closer.

Ted moves towards the exit.

TED

Just keep him healthy.

INT. REDS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Players change. Others congregate in the background.

Ethan removes his cleats.

Fellow pitcher, BODEAN BRADSHAW, 26, hefty, wild and woolly looks, approaches.

BODEAN
(southern accent)
We could go squirrel huntin' with
your fastball.

Veteran third baseman, PEDRO MARTINEZ, 36, Latino features, exchanges a high-five with Ethan.

PEDRO
Smokin', Amigo!

Outfielder, REGGIE WASHINGTON, 28, black, fist-bumps Ethan.

REGGIE
The women gonna love us!

Ethan smiles, takes off his baseball cap.

Dusty walks up. He hands Ethan an envelope.

PEDRO
Traded already?

DUSTY
It's a card. He's getting married.

Ethan opens the envelope.

ETHAN
Thanks, Coach.

BODEAN
After you get back from
honeymoonin', I'll take you two
huntin'.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Maura pulls at her hair as she sits and scans the sparsely decorated examination room.

MAURA (V.O.)
What did they find? Is it serious?

SUPER: "One Week Later"

Dr. McGuire enters, staring at her notes. She sits down across from Maura.

DR. MCGUIRE
Your lab reports came back.

MAURA
(wry)
It's about time.

Dr. McGuire removes her glasses.

DR. MCGUIRE
I'm afraid...

As Dr. McGuire continues to talk, Maura, stoic, stares at the floor.

DR. MCGUIRE
...I'm sorry.

INT. DOWNTOWN BAR - NIGHT

Maura sits at a corner table. Ethan approaches with two beer mugs.

ETHAN
One for the Irish lady, and one for
the fine American gent.

Maura forces a slight grin as Ethan powers through two quick gulps.

ETHAN
One week of practice is in the
books!
(beat)
We have a home game against the
Pirates on Sunday. I might be
pitching!

MAURA
(subdued)
That's great.

ETHAN
How was your day?

Maura pulls at her hair.

MAURA
I ran some errands. Nothing too
eventful.

ETHAN

The travel agent texted me and said
our honeymoon vouchers came in.
Would you be able to pick them up?

Maura stares at the floor.

ETHAN

You okay? I bought you a beer.

MAURA

I'm not thirsty. Sorry. Just
thinking about everything I have to
do before the wedding.

Ethan reaches for Maura's hand.

ETHAN

Hey, don't worry! I love you!

MAURA

I know. It's just--

ETHAN

Say the word and we'll elope!

MAURA

(beat)

I'll be okay.

INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

A shrieking alarm startles Ethan. He reaches to turn it off.
He rolls over towards Maura. She isn't there.

Groggy, Ethan looks in the bathroom. He stumbles towards
Maura's closet. It's empty.

ETHAN

Maura?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ETHAN

Maura! This isn't funny!

Ethan see's a handwritten note on the kitchen island. He
reads.

MAURA (V.O.)

My dearest, Ethan. I know that none
of this makes sense.

(MORE)

MAURA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 My heart breaks for you knowing the
 pain you must be feeling and the
 questions about why I left? Part of
 me doesn't understand it either, but
 in time I hope you can forgive me?
 Pray that I will find my answers,
 and maybe one day, my way back to
 you? Love always, Maura.

Frantic, Ethan retrieves his cell phone. He dials.

MAURA'S VOICE MAIL (V.O.)
 I'm sorry. The number you have
 reached has been discontinued or is
 no longer in service. If you
 feel...

Ethan throws his phone.

ETHAN
 (screams)
 Why?

ETHAN (V.O.)
 At this point, it didn't matter why
 Maura left. Nothing else mattered to
 me if she wasn't in my life. I had
 to find her!

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Ethan knocks on the Dougall family's front door. Maura's mother implies she has moved away.
- Ethan searches for Maura at Conroy Castle.
- Ethan asks the local bank about Maura.
- Ethan roams Limerick City's downtown streets.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - PITCHER'S MOUND - DAY

Ethan acknowledges the HOME CROWD as they cheer wildly.

Ethan meets Coach Weber and the catcher.

SUPER: "2019"

COACH WEBER
 You've been here before.

ETHAN

You can buy me a beer after the game.

COACH WEBER

Rodriguez will swing at any thing outside. Let's go!

INT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - PRESS BOX - DAY

Reds game announcer, CHET JONES, 58, with a loosened tie and rolled up sleeves watches the on-field game monitor.

ANNOUNCER CHET JONES (V.O.)

The second game of today's double-header has been a classic! Let's see if Ethan David, the *Blonde Flame Thrower* can earn his new twenty-million-dollar extension.

Ethan takes a couple of practice pitches.

ANNOUNCER CHET JONES (V.O.)

The Reds can sweep the Yankees for the first time since two thousand four.

Yankee's pinch hitter, RICO RODRIGUEZ, 30s, enters the batter's box.

A large UMPIRE settles in position.

The catcher flashes a curve signal.

Ethan spits, nods, looks over at the base runner at third then throws.

UMPIRE

Strike one!

The home crowd roars their approval.

Ethan readies himself again.

The catcher signals a changeup.

Rodriguez waits.

Ethan winds up.

UMPIRE

Strike two!

Rodriguez slams his bat on home plate.

The home crowd chants.

HOME CROWD
Loser, loser, loser.

Rodriguez reenters the batter's box. He crowds the plate, pointing towards the left-field fence.

RICO RODRIGUEZ
Come on!

Ethan gets set.

The third-base runner has a large lead.

Ethan quickly throws to third base, just missing the pick-off.

Ethan resets.

The catcher signals for a slider.

Ethan steadies himself. He looks off the runner at third. He throws.

Rodriguez connects.

UMPIRE
Foul ball!

ANNOUNCER CHET JONES (V.O.)
That ball was headed to Dayton!

The crowd claps and stomps in unison.

Rodriguez glares at Ethan.

The catcher signals curve ball.

Ethan disagrees.

The fastball sign is given.

Ethan nods. He spits, smiles, points up towards heaven then throws.

Rodriguez swings.

UMPIRE
Strike three! You're out!

The crowd is in a frenzy.

Rodriguez breaks his bat.

Ethan is crumpled on the pitcher's mound holding his right throwing arm.

Reds players and coaching staff rush towards Ethan.

The crowd is silent.

INT. RED'S TRAINING ROOM - DAY

The TEAM PHYSICIAN hovers over Ethan.

Coach Weber and Coach Sanders stand nearby.

TEAM PHYSICIAN

It's a tear.

Ethan winces.

ETHAN

No big deal.

COACH WEBER

What's the rehab time?

Ethan tries to get up.

Coach Weber pushes him back down.

DUSTY

He'll be okay, right?

TEAM PYSICIAN

I'm afraid...your career is over.

ETHAN

The hell it is!

Ethan breaks free. He stands, cradling his shoulder.

COACH WEBER

Ethan, please. Calm down!

TEAM PYSICIAN

Look, I'm sorry.

ETHAN

Sorry? No damn doctor is going to cut my career short. I've got at least another ten years!

Ethan begins to wobble. He faints. Dusty rushes to catch him.

COACH WEBER

Doc, it's okay.

ETHAN (V.O.)

After further medical evaluations,
it was confirmed that I would never
play the game I loved so much again.
I had already lost my parents along
with Maura, and now baseball. Was I
being punished or maybe cursed?
Could it be that I was being
punished or maybe even cursed?

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - NIGHT

Ethan and former college roommate, Pete Carrillo, with beer
mugs raised make a toast.

PETE

To health, wealth, and great
friends!

ETHAN

It has been much too long.

PETE

Look, you were busy being a baseball
star and I'm teaching high school
history.

ETHAN

Any regrets?

PETE

Of course! So far I haven't
convinced the opposite sex that
history can be a real turn on!

Ethan shakes his head and takes another drink.

PETE

What? I've got potential!

ETHAN

That you've got my friend.

PETE

How's your arm?

Ethan rubs his shoulder.

ETHAN

Unfortunately the doctor was right.
I'll never pitch again.

PETE

With your twenty million dollar extension guaranteed, you'll never have to work.

ETHAN

Yeah, but I still miss the game.

PETE

Become a coach like I did! My varsity team has a chance to go to State!

ETHAN

If I'm correct, you once said coaching was out of the question.

PETE

I'm sure I was misquoted.

Ethan checks his watch.

ETHAN

I should be getting back.

PETE

Any romance brewing you haven't told me about.

ETHAN

Not at this point.

Pete moves in closer.

PETE

(whispering)

I've been thinking. Maybe settling down isn't a bad idea?

ETHAN

You're kidding!

Pete looks around.

PETE

If you say anything to anyone, I'll deny it!

ETHAN

(whispering back)

Alright, Coach, I won't tell a soul!

Ethan and Pete fist bump. They finish their beer.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

A boisterous CROWD of families and friends fill the metal bleachers. Coaches and players yell from their dugouts.

The Stingrays' freckle-faced relief pitcher, CHRISTOPHER DAVID, 8, approaches the mound. Bases are loaded with two outs. The Stingrays lead seven to six.

Ethan David watches from the stands.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Finally coming to terms that my father would never be able to see me pitch, I could now fill that void by watching my son carry on the family tradition.

SUPER: "2023"

ETHAN (V.O.)

Show him your curve.

An UMPIRE, squats behind the catcher.

The catcher signals curve.

Christopher winds up.

The batter stiffens. He swings. Misses.

The crowd roars.

UMPIRE

Strike one!

ETHAN (V.O.)

Keep him guessing.

Christopher watches the catcher signal the next pitch. Christopher nods, looks off the runner on third, throws.

UMPIRE

Strike two!

ETHAN (V.O.)

Changeup.

Christopher winds up again. He throws a changeup. The batter swings. The ball flies out of bounds.

UMPIRE

Foul ball!

ETHAN (V.O.)

Fastball.

The catcher signals slider.

Christopher disagrees.

The catcher shows fastball.

Christopher nods. He winds up. The crowd is in a frenzy.
The batter swings.

UMPIRE

Strike three! You're out!

Christopher and his teammates celebrate.

Ethan makes his way down to the field.

Christopher approaches. He and Ethan high-five.

ETHAN

Awesome!

CHRISTOPHER

Just like you, Dad.

ETHAN

You've got some heat on your
fastball.

CHRISTOPHER

Release it quick. That's what you
told me.

ETHAN

Let's celebrate.

CHRISTOPHER

Pizza?

Ethan puts his arm around Christopher's shoulder.

ETHAN

Sure.

(beat)

Erin's watching you tonight.

CHRISTOPHER

Got a date?

ETHAN

Just a social event.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - NIGHT

A gala Derby's Eve party. Celebrities and socialites mingle and dance. A band plays in the background.

Ethan, in suit and tie, nurses a drink. Pete, dressed in jeans and an open collar, sucks down a beer.

PETE

My god, these fillies are incredible!

ETHAN

I thought you might enjoy the scenery.

PETE

They're all staring at you.

ETHAN

Maybe it's you they want.

PETE

A pudgy Italian? I don't think so.

ETHAN

You once told me that hunting the female species was your specialty.

Pete grabs another beer off a roving waiter's tray.

A middle-age PHOTOGRAPHER approaches.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Hey, aren't you Ethan David?

ETHAN

I am.

PHOTOGRAPHER

I loved watching you play. Your fastball was blinding!

(beat)

Too bad about your arm.

Pete tips his beer towards an attractive attendee.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Could I get a picture of you and your friend? I'm covering Derby parties for the local paper.

ETHAN

Romeo! Get over here!

The photographer focuses.

Ethan and Pete strike a memorable pose.

PHOTOGRAPHER
That should do it. Have a nice
evening, gentlemen.

Ethan continues to ignore the throng of female onlookers.

PETE
You could have your pick!

ETHAN
No thanks.

PETE
Scared?

ETHAN
Nope, just wiser.

PETE
Yeah, your history with women suck.

ETHAN
Thanks for noticing.

PETE
Ever hear from Maura?

ETHAN
Change the subject.

PETE
Okay!
(beat)
What about Heather?

Ethan stops.

ETHAN
My ex-wife is the last thing I want
to talk about.

PETE
Does Christopher ever see her?

ETHAN
A couple of years ago.

Ethan and Pete walk up to a table full of hors d'oeuvres.

Pete indulges. Ethan abstains.

PETE

I saw Christopher pitch a couple of weeks ago.

ETHAN

Trying to recruit my son?

PETE

Could be a future star?

An alert signal beeps from inside Ethan's jacket. He retrieves his cell phone.

ETHAN

I promised the sitter I'd be home by ten.

PETE

Is she good looking?

ETHAN

She's seventeen!

Pete looks at Ethan with a sheepish grin.

ETHAN

That's just wrong.

PETE

There are two types of women. Users and choosers.

ETHAN

I'm afraid to ask.

PETE

Users are my favorite. They want something from me. I want something from them. Choosers are looking for commitment.

ETHAN

So I keep attracting users?

PETE

Keep swinging, you're bound to hit a home run.

NICOLE, 30s, a buxom brunette in a revealing low-cut dress approaches Ethan.

NICOLE

Haven't I seen you on television?

ETHAN
I don't think so.

NICOLE
Well you should be. Like to dance?

ETHAN
I need some extra batting practice.

NICOLE
I'm not sure what you mean?

ETHAN
Dance with my friend. His on-base percentage is much higher than mine.

INT. ETHAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan reaches for his wallet while babysitter ERIN POESY, 17, mousy, gathers up her belongings.

ETHAN
How was Christopher?

ERIN
He doesn't like to lose.

Ethan holds out two \$20 bills.

ETHAN
Here's a little extra. Sorry for the last-minute call.

ERIN
Oh, Mr. David, I couldn't.

ETHAN
Please.

ERIN
You're so kind. Thank you!

ETHAN
I'll call you again.

ERIN
Bye!

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan tucks Christopher into bed. The room is filled with trophies, baseball posters, scattered athletic gear.

ETHAN
Did you behave for Erin?

CHRISTOPHER
I kicked her butt in every video game.

ETHAN
Was that right?

CHRISTOPHER
You said always play to win.

ETHAN
Yeah, I guess I did.

Ethan walks over to a nearby shelf. He picks up a baseball.

CHRISTOPHER
How was your party?

ETHAN
I saw Coach Carrillo. He watched you pitch a couple of weeks ago.

CHRISTOPHER
What'd he say?

ETHAN
He was impressed.

CHRISTOPHER
I'm gonna make it to the majors just like you!

ETHAN
I just want you to be happy.

CHRISTOPHER
Dad, why doesn't my mother ever see me?

Ethan starts flicking the baseball towards the ceiling.

ETHAN
It's just you and me, Son.

CHRISTOPHER
I'm not a bad kid am I?

Ethan kneels beside Christopher's bed.

ETHAN
Off course not!

CHRISTOPHER
 It's okay. You're an awesome Dad!
 (beat)
 What was your dad like?

ETHAN
 (pausing)
 He was very loving and patient. We
 were always together.

CHRISTOPHER
 Just like us!

ETHAN
 He was also firm but fair. He
 expected me to behave and encouraged
 me to go after my dreams.

CHRISTOPHER
 I wish I could have met him.

Ethan bows his head.

ETHAN
 Me too, Son.

Ethan glances at the clock on Christopher's nightstand.

ETHAN
 Six o'clock comes early. We better
 say your prayers.

CHRISTOPHER
 Dear God. Thank you for watching
 over me and my Dad. And God, please
 help my Dad find someone who can
 really love him besides me. Amen!

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - INFIELD - DAY

Coach Weber and a hobbled Coach Sanders, now with a cane roam
 as they monitor the Reds team members as they take fielding
 practice.

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Ethan watches as pitchers practice their throws. Bodean
 Bradshaw jogs up.

BODEAN
 Ain't the same without you here.

Ethan begins to sniff.

ETHAN

Did you change cologne?

BODEAN

Naw. Must be from last night. Went
frog giggin'.

ETHAN

How's the arm?

BODEAN

Rotators a little sore, but nothin'
chewin' baccar can't draw out.

Ethan cringes at the visual of Bodean covering his shoulder
with freshly chewed tobacco.

Ethan observes tall, muscular, rookie pitcher, MITCHELL
HAINES, 21, as he fires repeated fastballs at the pitcher's
net.

ETHAN

I like his velocity.

BODEAN

That's Mitch. Just called up from
Triple A. Reminds me a little of
you.

Ethan walks over to Mitchell. Coach Weber and Coach Sanders
move in closer.

ETHAN

Mitchell? I'm--

MITCHELL

Ethan David! Wow! I'm a big fan!

ETHAN

Nice fast ball. What about your
other pitches?

MITCHELL

My curve seems to break pretty good,
but my changeup needs more work.

ETHAN

Let's see.

Mitchell winds up, throws. The ball travels well outside the
net's strike zone

ETHAN

Show me your grip.

Mitchell demonstrates how he holds the ball.

ETHAN
Move your fourth finger slightly to
the left.

Mitchell makes the adjustment.

ETHAN
Now throw it.

Mitchell winds up, throws.

MITCHELL
Right down the middle. Thanks!

ETHAN
Also, your fastball, release it
quicker.

Ethan looks over at Coach Sanders. He nods, smiles.

MITCHELL
Would you be able to help me out
again?

ETHAN
Anytime.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOME - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Ethan cradles a cup of coffee. A MAIL CARRIER approaches.

ETHAN
Hey, Frank!

MAIL CARRIER
Just a couple of things for you, Mr.
David, including a letter from
Ireland. Always liked their stamps.

Ethan takes the small bundle of letters and coupons.

MAIL CARRIER
The Reds could use your pitching.
They're six games behind Saint
Louis.

Ethan rubs his elbow.

ETHAN
No more velocity.

MAIL CARRIER

See you tomorrow.

Ethan pulls out a card-sized envelope. The return address is unexpected.

ON THE SCREEN

Maura Dougall, Ballyhobin, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick
Ireland.

BACK TO SCENE

Ethan stares.

INT. ETHAN'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Ethan sits at a neatly organized desk. Pictures of he and Christopher hang. A "Pitcher of the Year" trophy sits upon a nearby shelf.

Ethan takes a deep breath. He opens the envelope. He reads Maura's letter.

MAURA (V.O.)

Dear Ethan. I'm sure my letter is a shock, especially after all the time that has passed between us. Some unfortunate changes have taken place in my life that I need to talk to you about. I've included my contact information. I hope to hear from you soon. Sincerely, Maura.

Ethan crumples up Maura's letter and throws it. His cell phone rings.

ETHAN

What!

INT. PETE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pete weaves in and out of traffic. He juggles his cell phone as he checks his hair in the mirror.

PETE

Definitely a wrong number.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ETHAN

Sorry. I'm a little tense.

PETE
Not if you had gone out with Nicole.

ETHAN
Who?

PETE
The brunette...at the party? You
okay?

Ethan stares at Maura's crumpled-up letter.

ETHAN
Maura sent a letter.

PETE
What does she want?

ETHAN
For me to contact her.

PETE
You never know?

ETHAN
She had her chance.

Pete pulls up to a stoplight next to a cute girl in a red convertible. He winks. She rolls up her passenger window.

PETE
Maybe Nicole has a friend?

ETHAN
No more distractions.

PETE
Just call her.

Ethan picks up Maura's letter. He throws it in the garbage.

ETHAN
Too late.

INT. ETHAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Christopher sits at the table. Ethan sets down a freshly cooked breakfast.

ETHAN
Your favorite.

CHRISTOPHER
This is awesome!

Christopher pours syrup. He digs in.

ETHAN
Last week of school.

CHRISTOPHER
Finally!

ETHAN
Want to see the Reds play on
Saturday.

CHRISTOPHER
Of course!

Ethan checks his watch.

ETHAN
Better hurry.

Christopher gulps down his milk, puts on his baseball cap,
grabs his backpack.

CHRISTOPHER
See you after school.

ETHAN
I love you!

Ethan's cell phone rings. He waves. Blindly answers.

INT. IRELAND - MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

Maura Dougall, now 32, thin, sits curled up on a leather
couch in sweats. Her flat is contemporary with hardwood
floors and exposed brick.

MAURA
Ethan?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Ethan pauses. He starts to hang up.

MAURA
Did you get my letter?

ETHAN
(surly)
Yeah.

MAURA
I see. Look--

ETHAN
We have nothing to talk about!

MAURA
I thought--

ETHAN
You just disappeared! No warning.
Nothing!

MAURA
I know it was cruel. I've had my
regrets too.

ETHAN
Leave me alone!

Ethan hangs up. Seconds later his phone rings again. He glances at the international number on the caller ID. He doesn't answer.

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

SUPER: "One week later"

Maura, dressed corporate casual, paces in stocking feet, phone to her ear.

INT. ETHAN'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Ethan types on his computer. His phone rings. He picks up.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

MAURA
Don't hang up.

ETHAN
I told you!

MAURA
I'm sick.

ETHAN
So call a doctor.

MAURA
Please, just hear me out.

Ethan leans back in his leather chair.

ETHAN
You got twenty seconds.

MAURA

The physicians are still running tests. It could be serious.

ETHAN

Fifteen.

MAURA

You have every reason not to believe me.

(beat)

There are other complications.

Ethan slowly stands.

ETHAN

Five seconds.

MAURA

I need to see you!

ETHAN

Time's up. Goodbye.

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - INFIELD - DAY

Coach Weber watches as players take batting practice. MIGUEL RAMIREZ, 32, stands in the batter's box.

COACH WEBER

Ramirez! Don't crowd the plate!

EXT. RED'S BASEBALL STADIUM - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Dusty Sanders yells instructions as two pitchers throw. Ethan and Christopher approach.

DUSTY

Damn, has he grown!

CHRISTOPHER

I'll be pitching for the Reds one day!

ETHAN

Son!

DUSTY

I'm sure you will. I like his confidence.

ETHAN

How's our bullpen?

Dusty spits, then puts a fresh chaw of tobacco in his mouth.

DUSTY

Bradshaw is Mr. Dependable, but we're having to limit his pitches.

CHRISTOPHER

Felipe's slider is unhittable, but his fastball is slower than mine. Baker's E.R.A. needs to be lower.

DUSTY

Your boy is good!

CHRISTOPHER

I learned from the best!

DUSTY

Speaking of which. Whatever you showed Mitchell Haines has really paid off.

ETHAN

I don't follow.

DUSTY

He closed out two wins in relief for us against the Cardinals and the Pirates.

Coach Weber walks up. He extends his hand towards Christopher.

COACH WEBER

How's your pitching?

ETHAN

His fastball and curve--

CHRISTOPHER

My fastball and curve are solid, but my change-up and slider will put me in the first round.

DUSTY

The boy has got major league confidence.

CHRISTOPHER

I'll be back!

Christopher dashes to the other end of the bullpen to get a closer look at the two pitchers.

COACH WEBER

Ethan, while you're here. I have a proposition for you.

ETHAN

You know I can't pitch.

COACH WEBER

We want you to be our new pitching coach.

ETHAN

What about--

DUSTY

I'm done! I need a hip and knee replacement. All those damn years of sliding into bases.

COACH WEBER

Our bullpen respects you. Think about it.

ETHAN

When do you need an answer?

DUSTY

As soon as you can. I'll schedule my surgery once you decide.

COACH WEBER

We also want you to represent the Reds at a pitching clinic next month in Dublin.

ETHAN

Ohio?

COACH WEBER

Ireland.

ETHAN

They play baseball?

DUSTY

At the club level. Major League Baseball is sponsoring the event.

Ethan looks at the ground. He pauses.

ETHAN

I can't leave Christopher.

DUSTY
Take him with you. Turn it into a
family vacation.

ETHAN
I'll let you know.

INT. DUBLIN, IRELAND - HOTEL CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

Ethan stands on stage in front of a large projector screen before an assembly of coaches and players. Christopher sits on the front row taking notes.

Ethan points to the screen. Slide images move across it.

ETHAN
Warm up is critical for any pitcher
at any level. These are some basic
stretches and movements the Reds
pitching staff use before throwing.

An AUDIENCE MEMBER raises their hand.

ETHAN
A question?

AUDIENCE MEMBER
How long should you stretch for?

ETHAN
We are very deliberate. A minimum
of twenty, sometimes thirty minutes
or until each pitcher is totally
loose.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Ethan continues speaking.

-- Ethan demonstrates how to hold a baseball.

-- Ethan shows his pitching stance and delivery form.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

ETHAN
In closing, I appreciate you
listening, and--

Ethan stares. He sees a familiar face on the back row.

ETHAN

(stuttering)

I hope your Irish Baseball League continues to grow.

(beat)

Baseball is truly an international sport. We are glad you are a part of it. Thank you.

Maura approaches Ethan.

MAURA

Hello, Ethan.

ETHAN

What are you doing here!

Christopher walks up.

MAURA

I heard that you were speaking. I told mum, and she invited you back to the farm for a visit.

CHRISTOPHER

A farm? Dad, that sounds awesome! Can we go?

ETHAN

Son, can you give us a moment?

Christopher skips back to his chair.

MAURA

He looks just like you.

ETHAN

Never mind! Leave me alone!

Other attendees are startled by Ethan's outburst.

Ethan grabs Maura's arm. He finds a private corner of the room.

MAURA

I wouldn't have come, but...

ETHAN

What we had is over!

MAURA

I'm truly sorry how I hurt you. I know we'll never be together.

ETHAN

Then why are you here?

MAURA

We really need to talk. I can't explain everything here. If you come to the farm I promise I'll never bother you again.

Ethan pauses. He looks at his watch.

ETHAN

I've got a flight to catch.

MAURA

Please, Ethan!

ETHAN

I don't know.

MAURA

You've got my number. I hope you'll reconsider.

Maura disappears. Christopher approaches.

CHRISTOPHER

Dad, who was that?

ETHAN

Someone I met a long time ago. We need to get going.

CHRISTOPHER

Could we stay in Ireland a little longer?

Ethan grabs Christopher's hand.

ETHAN

Let's go, Son.

INT. LIMERICK CITY - ETHAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ethan sets down their luggage as Christopher jumps on the distant bed.

CHRISTOPHER

The room is awesome! Can I have this bed?

ETHAN

If you can be quiet? I've got to make a phone call.

Ethan retrieves his cell phone. He dials.

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

Maura empties the dishwasher. Her cell phone begins to ring on top of the kitchen island.

MAURA

Hello?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ETHAN

Maura?

MAURA

I didn't expect to hear back from you, but I'm glad you called.

ETHAN

I'm actually in Limerick.

MAURA

You're kidding!

ETHAN

I'm willing to talk.

Maura raises her hands towards heaven. She mouths the words "Thank You."

MAURA

How about tomorrow? One o'clock at the farm? Still know how to get there?

ETHAN

I remember. See you then.

INT. ETHAN'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

Ethan maneuvers around slow-moving traffic. Centuries-old houses and Ireland's green rolling countryside pass by quickly. Christopher sits in the back seat.

CHRISTOPHER

That sign says Copper Cornish.

ETHAN

It's Caherconlish. We're getting close.

EXT. DOUGALL FARM - DAY

Ethan turns down a long, winding drive bordered by thick hedgerows and green carpet-like fields. A whitewashed stone house looms in the distance.

CHRISTOPHER

Sheep!

EXT. DOUGALL HOUSE - DAY

Ivy twists and climbs the front stone wall towards the thatched roof. A porch with chairs and a swing extend across the front.

Ethan parks. He and Christopher exit.

Maura and MRS. DOUGALL, 60s, trim, refined, with silver-streaked hair wave from the porch.

Nearby, chickens peck at the ground. A lone chestnut-colored horse raises its head.

CHRISTOPHER

Can I look at the horse?

MAURA

Of course! His name is Bingo!

The chickens scatter as Christopher races over to the fence.

Ethan approaches Mrs. Dougall. They hug.

MRS. DOUGALL

Ethan! So good to see you again.

ETHAN

You haven't changed a bit.

MRS. DOUGALL

I can't believe how much your boy looks like you.

ETHAN

Christopher! Come here.

Christopher pets Bingo.

CHRISTOPHER

Be right there!

Out of breath, Christopher runs up.

ETHAN
Son, this is Mrs. Dougall.

MRS. DOUGALL
It's certainly my pleasure to meet
you, Master Christopher.

Mrs. Dougall and Christopher shake hands.

MRS. DOUGALL
You're a fine looking young man!

CHRISTOPHER
Thank you, Mrs. Dougall.

MRS. DOUGALL
It's Grandmother Dougall.

CHRISTOPHER
Yes, Ma'am.

MAURA
Will you be staying in Ireland long?

ETHAN
Only a couple of days.

Ethan scans the farm.

ETHAN
Just as I remembered.

MAURA
Ireland doesn't change much.
Especially the countryside.

MRS. DOUGALL
Come, everyone. Let's go inside.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Ethan, Christopher, and Maura sit at a large table. Daylight
floods the country-style kitchen. Mrs. Dougall washes her
hands at the sink.

MRS. DOUGALL
I am so proud of you raising
Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER
Dad really keeps me in line.

Mrs. Dougall turns to Maura.

MRS. DOUGALL
How come you never married Ethan?

Ethan glares.

MAURA
(saucy)
Because I was blind and mentally
unstable.

Two car doors slam shut. Maura takes a deep breath.

MAURA
It must be Glenna.

GLENNA DOUGALL, 36, pierced belly button, tight jeans, shapely, appears in the kitchen archway with NOELLE DOUGALL, 10, black curls, tomboyish, but pretty.

Ethan stands. He and Glenna hug.

GLENNA
Still firm in all the right places.

ETHAN
And you're still turning heads.

GLENNA
My trainer tortures me.

Glenna turns towards Christopher.

GLENNA
Hello, I'm Glenna.

CHRISTOPHER
I'm Christopher.

GLENNA
Have you started dating yet?

CHRISTOPHER
I'm only eight.

GLENNA
I like younger men.

MAURA
Glenna!

CHRISTOPHER
(whispering)
Dad, she's hot!

Ethan looks at the young girl.

ETHAN
Who is this?

Noelle stands motionless. Glenna grabs her hand.

GLENNA
Can you say hi?

Noelle runs out of the room.

MAURA
She can be shy.

GLENNA
Christopher, want to ride Bingo?

CHRISTOPHER
Awesome!

MAURA
Ethan, let's take a walk.

EXT. DOUGALL FARM - DAY

Maura strolls with Ethan at her side through a field of glistening Irish heather. Brief rays of sunlight pierce the overcast gray.

MAURA
It's crazy that you're here. It feels like you never left.

ETHAN
What's going on?

Maura stops. She turns, touches Ethan's face.

MAURA
You haven't changed.

Ethan grabs her wrist.

ETHAN
I'm not interested.

Maura and Ethan continue to walk.

EXT. DOUGALL GRAVEYARD - DAY

Maura leads Ethan to a centuries-old graveyard enclosed by a waist-high, jagged stone fence. Weathered tombstones display surnames Dougall, Flaherty, and Dooley.

Maura pulls open the black iron gate. It groans loudly.

ETHAN

Why are we here?

Maura guides Ethan around several plots before stopping in front of two adjacent gravesites. One unmarked, the other displaying the name, Lieutenant Eamon Dougall.

MAURA

Dad was a great man. He was strong, demanding, and strict, but we knew he loved each of us.

ETHAN

You're not making any sense.

Maura heads towards a makeshift stone bench. She sits, Ethan stands.

MAURA

I've been diagnosed with a rare and incurable disease known as A.L.S.

ETHAN

(shaken)

That's Lou Gehrig's Disease.

MAURA

At first the symptoms were tolerable.

(beat)

At my passing I will be buried in that empty plot next to Dad.

ETHAN

There must be some mistake?

MAURA

It's no mistake.

Ethan lowers his head.

ETHAN

Are you in much pain?

MAURA

Nothing too unbearable.

(beat)

Noelle, is my daughter.

ETHAN

And the father?

MAURA
It's complicated.

ETHAN
Does she know?

Maura walks over to her own grave plot.

MAURA
Noelle understands that I'm really sick.

ETHAN
Why didn't you tell me sooner?

MAURA
You wouldn't let me. Remember?

ETHAN
I was angry.

MAURA
What I did to you was wrong. I can't change that.

Ethan paces. He laments.

ETHAN
I'm sorry for acting like an ass.

MAURA
You had every right.

ETHAN
Anything I can do?

MAURA
In time, but for now just being here means a lot.

ETHAN
Then I'll stay for as long as you need me.

A sudden downpour begins.

MAURA
We'd better go.

As Ethan closes the gate, he notices a lone grave setting off to itself. The inscription on its headstone reads.

ON THE SCREEN

COLLEEN DOUGALL, born 1991, died ____.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. LIMERICK CITY PARK - DAY

Ethan and Maura sit apart on a park bench. Joggers, walkers, cyclists pass.

Christopher swings nearby. Noelle sits off to herself.

Maura stretches towards a patch of sunlight. Ethan stares straight ahead.

MAURA
So you were married?

ETHAN
Briefly.

MAURA
Were you in love?

Ethan waves at Christopher.

ETHAN
Hardly.

Ethan shifts to face Maura.

ETHAN
You just took off! I deserved an explanation!

MAURA
What could I say? You already hated me.

ETHAN
How about I'm sorry, I changed my mind. Instead I got nothing!

MAURA
I know, I know!

ETHAN
And Noelle's father. Did you dump him too?

Maura reaches for Ethan's hand. He pulls away.

Christopher swings higher.

ETHAN
Careful, Son.

Maura composes herself. She looks over at Noelle.

MAURA
This is really about Noelle.

ETHAN
I don't follow.

MAURA
I asked you to come back because--
(beat)
She's your daughter.

ETHAN
What? There's no way!

MAURA
It's true.

ETHAN
We don't look anything alike.

MAURA
She takes after my dad's side of the
family.

Ethan moves in closer to Maura.

ETHAN
I still don't believe you.

MAURA
I was three months pregnant and then
found out I had A.L.S.

ETHAN
Why didn't you tell me?

MAURA
Having a baby with a terminally ill
wife would have destroyed your
baseball career.

ETHAN
It wouldn't have mattered!

MAURA
I couldn't take that chance.

Maura lowers her head. She begins to weep.

MAURA

I was scared.

Maura raises her head.

MAURA

I've prayed so much hoping you could
forgive me.

Maura's cell phone rings.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - SAME

Mrs. Dougall wipes off the kitchen countertop.

MRS. DOUGALL

Glenna and I thought about driving
up this evening so you and Ethan
could spend some time alone.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

MAURA

Let me ask him. He's right here.

Maura muffles her cell phone.

MAURA

Mum and Glenna have volunteered to
watch the kids tonight if we want to
go out.

Ethan nods his head.

MAURA

Ethan says yes. What time should we
expect you?

MRS. DOUGALL

Around seven.

Christopher falls off the swing. He lies on the ground
writhing in pain.

MAURA

Mum, I gotta go!

Ethan rushes to him.

Noelle starts laughing.

ETHAN

Son?

Christopher slowly gets to his feet. His elbow is bleeding.

CHRISTOPHER
Quit laughing!

MAURA
Noelle!

Large raindrops begin to fall. Multiple-colored umbrellas pop open in the background.

ETHAN
Everyone, head to the car.

Maura reaches the car first.

Noelle walks just ahead of Ethan and Christopher. She turns around.

NOELLE
Ha! Ha! You're clumsy.

CHRISTOPHER
(fuming)
Dad?

ETHAN
Ignore her.

INT. MURPHY'S IRISH PUB - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan and Maura take in the surroundings. The room is clamorous, traditional.

ETHAN
Little has changed over a decade later.

A casually dressed male WAITER approaches.

WAITER
Would you like to see a menu?

Maura looks at Ethan.

ETHAN
Bring us two salads, some bread and a pint of ale for each of us.

WAITER
Be right up!

MAURA
Thank you. My appetite is
dwindling.

Ethan surveys the room.

MAURA
Ever pursue your music?

ETHAN
I still play every now and then.

MAURA
You were very gifted.

The waiter approaches with their drinks.

ETHAN
What did you end up doing?

MAURA
I worked my way up to become an
investment banker at Anglo Irish
Bank.

Ethan starts to snicker. Maura crosses her arms.

MAURA
What's so humorous?

ETHAN
You always had expensive taste.

MAURA
There's a difference between
frivolous spending and investing.

Ethan takes a drink.

ETHAN
The Reds offered me a coaching
position.

MAURA
That's brilliant!

ETHAN
It's an incredible opportunity.

Ethan looks away.

MAURA
What's wrong?

ETHAN
I'd be gone a lot during the season.

MAURA
Hire a nanny.

ETHAN
Christopher and I have never been
apart.

The waiter sets down their meal.

MAURA
Having faith that everything is
going to work out can be difficult.

ETHAN
Especially now.

MAURA
Exactly! I'm going to die, but I
believe that God is going to take
care of Noelle, which brings me a
lot of peace.

Ethan leans back in his chair.

ETHAN
You seem so sure.

MAURA
What if our roles were changed?
What about Christopher?

He ponders as he searches Maura face.

ETHAN
I don't know? I guess my faith
isn't very strong.

MAURA
There was a time mine wasn't either.

ETHAN
So what changed?

MAURA
I dusted off my bible and started
having more conversations with God.

Ethan looks warily at Maura.

MAURA
We all have a choice to either
believe or not.

ETHAN
I believed our marriage would work
out.

Maura begins to eat.

MAURA
That was my fault.

Ethan reaches for his fork.

ETHAN
I took Christopher to church when he
was younger.

MAURA
I think God would be happy if you
did that again.

Ethan lifts his glass.

ETHAN
A toast. To faith and forgiveness.

MAURA
Amen!
(beat)
Ethan, do you think you could ever
look at me like you used to?

Ethan searches Maura's eyes. Her cell phone shrieks.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - NIGHT

MAURA
Mum?

Mrs. Dougall holds a pair of scissors and bath towel.

MRS. DOUGALL
It's Noelle. We've got a problem.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

MAURA
What's she done?

MRS. DOUGALL
She is being very unruly towards
Christopher.

Glenna sits at the kitchen table removing paste from Christopher's hair.

Noelle stands in the corner smiling.

CHRISTOPHER
Get away from me!

Noelle sticks her tongue out at Christopher.

GLENNNA
Hold still! I'm almost done.

MRS. DOUGALL
You might want to pick up some extra shampoo.

MAURA
We'll be right home.

ETHAN
What's going on?

MAURA
It's Noelle. She's still getting to know Christopher.

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT PORCH - DAY

Maura reads in a rocker. Noelle sits on the front steps.

Ethan and Christopher play catch.

NOELLE
I can do that.

MAURA
Do what?

NOELLE
Throw and catch.

MAURA
Are you sure?

NOELLE
No problem.

Maura closes her book.

MAURA
Can Noelle play?

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Ethan waves for Noelle to join him and Christopher.

Christopher runs up to Ethan.

CHRISTOPHER

Dad! She's a girl!

ETHAN

Girls can play sports too! Grab the extra glove.

CHRISTOPHER

This outta be fun!

Noelle walks up to Ethan. Christopher grins in the background.

ETHAN

Have you ever played catch?

NOELLE

No, but it looks easy.

Noelle returns Christopher's grin.

ETHAN

Then it's about time you learned.

Ethan hands Noelle a glove. He instructs her where to stand.

Maura continues to watch from the porch.

ETHAN

Get ready! Christopher, you go first.

Ethan throws a high-arching ball. Christopher makes an easy catch. He quickly throws it back.

ETHAN

Noelle, it's your turn. Look the ball into your glove.

Ethan throws a similar ball. Noelle catches it, throws it back effortlessly with zip. Stunned, Ethan looks over at Maura.

MAURA

Great job, Sweetheart!

CHRISTOPHER

Wow!

ETHAN

Let's try another one. Back up a little more.

Ethan throws a higher fly ball. Noelle catches it again, and zings it back.

NOELLE

This is really fun!

CHRISTOPHER

Try some grounders. I'll show her how it's done.

Ethan throws a grounder towards Christopher. Noelle races over, scoops it up. She throws it on target back to Ethan.

CHRISTOPHER

Hey, you didn't let me show you how!

NOELLE

Throw it some more!

Ethan catches Maura grinning widely.

ETHAN

Don't even say it.

MAURA

I'm just enjoying the exhibition.

CHRISTOPHER

You're really good!

NOELLE

Thanks!

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ethan and Maura sit at the kitchen table. Noelle and Christopher watch television in the adjacent living room.

MAURA

You seem distant.

ETHAN

Just a lot to think about.

MAURA

Noelle, could you and Christopher play in your room?

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Maura sit on the couch.

MAURA

Who's going to take care of her?

ETHAN

What about your mother or Glenna?

MAURA

Mum has raised enough kids, and
Glenna has her career.

ETHAN

I'll pay for someone to keep her.

Maura jumps to her feet.

MAURA

I don't want your money!

ETHAN

Then what?

MAURA

I thought having a daughter would
mean something to you!

Ethan stands.

ETHAN

You keep saying she's mine!

MAURA

Will a D.N.A. test convince you?

ETHAN

Another child complicates my life!

Maura faces Ethan. She slaps him!

MAURA

You selfish bastard!

ETHAN

And you're not?

MAURA

I was protecting her!

ETHAN

If I am the Father, you never gave
me a chance to love her!

MAURA
Now's your chance.

Maura sits back down. She begins to cry. Ethan walks over to the window.

MAURA
I never should have told you.

Ethan sits down beside Maura.

MAURA
I'm just so tired.

ETHAN
I needed to know.

Maura leans her head onto Ethan's shoulder.

NOELLE (O.S.)
Mother, are you through talking?

Maura wipes her eyes. She looks at Ethan.

MAURA
For now.

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT YARD - DAY

The children wrestle Ethan to the ground. He tries to escape. There's laughter. A sudden cloudburst.

ETHAN
Everyone inside.

NOELLE
Can I stay out here with you? I love watching the rain.

Christopher goes inside. Ethan and Noelle sit under the porch.

ETHAN
So you like Christopher?

NOELLE
Now I do. At first...not so much.

ETHAN
What about your other friends?

NOELLE
There's only a couple.

Ethan looks off into the distance.

ETHAN

What's it been like for you growing up?

NOELLE

Kinda lonely. Sometimes I write letters.

ETHAN

Who do you write to?

NOELLE

People I never met. Like Grandfather Dougall.

ETHAN

Anyone else?

NOELLE

My father.

ETHAN

What do you say to him?

NOELLE

Why he never came to see me.

A boom of thunder sounds. Noelle clutches Ethan. A downpour begins.

ETHAN

That was loud!

NOELLE

Thunder makes me nervous.

ETHAN

Just think of it as God walking around.

NOELLE

Like he's watching over me?

ETHAN

Exactly.

NOELLE

How long will you and Christopher stay?

ETHAN

Depends on your mother's health.

NOELLE

(sadly)
Oh, yeah.

ETHAN

Ever thought about living someplace
else?

NOELLE

Not really. Grandmother Dougall and
Aunt Glenna would miss me too much.

ETHAN

I suppose they would.

INT. DOUGALL PARLOR - DAY

Maura thumbs through a large binder. Christopher enters.

CHRISTOPHER

Whatcha doin'?

MAURA

Looking through some family
pictures.

CHRISTOPHER

Can I look too?

MAURA

Come. Sit next to me.

Maura takes a sip of tea. She starts leafing through the
pages.

CHRISTOPHER

Who's that?

MAURA

That is my father.

CHRISTOPHER

He looks like a soldier!

MAURA

He was. Served twenty years.

Maura keeps turning. She stops.

MAURA

Guess who that is?

CHRISTOPHER

You and my Dad?

MAURA

This was taken on our first date.

CHRISTOPHER

You went sailing?

MAURA

Pretty unusual, huh?

Christopher takes over.

CHRISTOPHER

And that's Aunt Glenna and
Grandmother Dougall!

MAURA

And there I am in my Conroy Castle
attire.

CHRISTOPHER

Were you a performer?

MAURA

I was a medieval banquet server and
singer! That's also how I met your
father. He serenaded me in front of
all those people.

CHRISTOPHER

Were you in love?

Maura takes another sip. She closes the picture album.

MAURA

Very much.

CHRISTOPHER

Can't you get back together? Dad
really needs someone.

MAURA

At this point I don't think that's
possible.

Christopher drops his head.

MAURA

Look. We'll always be friends.
Noelle really likes you too!

CHRISTOPHER

I know, but I want my dad to be
happy.

Maura pulls Christopher close.

MAURA

You father is an incredible man.
God knows exactly the type of woman
he needs. Until that happens, just
remind him how much you love him.
Okay?

Christopher hugs Maura back.

CHRISTOPHER

Yes, Ma'am.

EXT. LIMERICK CITY - RIVER WALK - DAY

Noelle, Christopher, and Glenna play tag.

Ethan and Maura watch the swells of the River Shannon pass
by.

MAURA

Water calms me.
(beat)
Have you thought anymore about the
coaching position?

ETHAN

I'm still unsure.

Ethan turns around. He watches Glenna chase Noelle and
Christopher.

ETHAN

It could lead to the manager's job
if I accepted it?

MAURA

That would seem very tempting.

ETHAN

But at what cost?

Ethan and Maura begin to walk arm-in-arm.

MAURA

Christopher knows you love him.

Christopher and Noelle run up.

CHRISTOPHER

Noelle thinks she can beat me in a
race.

NOELLE
I don't think, I know I can.

CHRISTOPHER
Can you start us?

Glenna approaches.

GLENNNA
(panting)
And I thought I was in shape?

CHRISTOPHER
I'll race you to that bench.

ETHAN
Son, you're taking a big chance.

NOELLE
Listen to your Father.

CHRISTOPHER
I got this.

Noelle and Christopher line up.

ETHAN
No false starts. Ready?

Christopher glares at Noelle. She returns the stare.

CHRISTOPHER AND NOELLE
(unison)
Ready!

ETHAN
On your mark. Get set. Go!

In a dead heat, Christopher and Noelle reach the finish spot.

CHRISTOPHER
(pants)
A tie?

NOELLE
I can run faster.

CHRISTOPHER
No way!

Ethan jogs up.

ETHAN
You're quite the athlete.

Maura and Glenna approach.

NOELLE
I guess so.

MAURA
You both did great!

GLENNNA
I need a massage.

Ethan fist bumps both children. They all begin to walk.

NOELLE
Mother says you used to sing and
play for her.

Ethan looks over at Maura.

MAURA
He serenaded me many times.

ETHAN
That was a long time ago.

NOELLE
Sing us something. Please!

CHRISTOPHER
Come on, Dad!

Ethan looks around.

ETHAN
Maybe a verse.

NOELLE
Anything is fine.

ETHAN
Your Mother and I used to sing this.

NOELLE
What's it called?

Ethan gathers himself.

ETHAN
"All I Have."
(sings)
*You can say you love me and I'll
believe it's true. Trusting you is
easy, 'cause I believe in you.*
(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

There is nothing I would miss. As long as we're in love like this. All I have is all I need. And it all comes down to you and me. How far away this world becomes in the harbor of each other's arms.

NOELLE

Your voice is awesome!

CHRISTOPHER

You should hear him play the piano!

NOELLE

Can we sing together?

ETHAN

You choose the song.

NOELLE

Do you know "The Water Is Wide?"

ETHAN

One of my favorites!

Passersby stop to listen as Ethan and Noelle sing.

ETHAN AND NOELLE

The water is wide, I can't cross over. And neither have I wings to fly. Give me a boat that can carry two. And both shall row, my love and I.

NOELLE

There is a ship, she sails the sea. She's loaded deep as deep can be. But not as deep as the love I'm in. I know not how I sink or swim.

ETHAN

Now love is gentle, and love is kind. The sweetest flower when first it's new. But love grows old, and waxes cold. And fades away like morning dew.

Maura wipes away her tears.

Applause erupts from the gathered crowd.

Ethan stares in wonderment at Noelle.

INT. ETHAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan types on his laptop. Christopher watches television.

Ethan's cell phone rings.

INT. CINCINNATI REDS MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Coach Weber lights a cigar.

Ethan answers.

COACH WEBER

Any decision?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Ethan closes his laptop.

ETHAN

Not yet.

Coach Weber walks over to his desk. He grabs a stack of papers.

COACH WEBER

I got at least a hundred applications!

ETHAN

I understand.

COACH WEBER

I'm not sure you do.

ETHAN

I know it's a great opportunity.

COACH WEBER

Damn right it is!

(beat)

Still in Ireland?

Ethan stands. He paces.

ETHAN

Yes, sir.

COACH WEBER

Dusty's knee gave out on him. The doctors want to push his surgery up. I need you!

ETHAN
I've got a situation here.

COACH WEBER
That makes two of us!

ETHAN
Can I let you know by next week?

COACH WEBER
No later!

A loud dial tone blurts from Ethan's cell phone.

CHRISTOPHER
Everything okay?

ETHAN
Coach Weber was concerned about me.

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

Maura languishes at the kitchen table in her bathrobe and mussed-up hair. Noelle watches television. A knock at the door. Noelle runs to answer.

ETHAN
We're early.

Ethan rushes over to Maura.

ETHAN
Are you okay?

MAURA
I can't get the room to stop spinning.

ETHAN
We should call your doctor.

MAURA
It's Sunday, he's out on the links.

ETHAN
What can I do?

MAURA
If I can just lay down; that might help?

Ethan helps Maura up. She disappears into the hallway.

Ethan leans with both hands against the kitchen sink.
Christopher sits at the kitchen island.

NOELLE
What's wrong?

ETHAN
Your mother.

NOELLE
Some days are really hard on her.

Ethan turns around.

ETHAN
I know she's a fighter, but this has
to be so hard for you.

NOELLE
Sometimes, but she needs me to be
strong.

ETHAN
You're a special girl.

NOELLE
She's my mother.

Ethan grabs his umbrella.

ETHAN
Will you kids be okay if I take a
walk?

CHRISTOPHER
Sure, Dad.

NOELLE
Christoper and I can play in my
room.

EXT. MAURA'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A steady downpour bounces off Ethan's umbrella as he trudges
past darkened storefronts and multilevel flats.

Ethan crosses an intersection. A lone cabby splashes by. He
notices a florist shop that is open.

INT. MCGUFFEY'S FLORIST - DAY

A hanging bell jingles. The wooden floor creeks as Ethan
approaches the abandoned front counter. ROSE MCGUFFEY'S
voice echoes from the back.

ROSE MCGUFFEY (O.S.)
May I help you?

Ethan scans for any movement.

ETHAN
I would like to order a dozen purple
iris.

ROSE MCGUFFEY (O.S.)
I'll have them ready for you
momentarily.

ETHAN
I'm surprised you're open on Sunday.

ROSE MCGUFFEY (O.S.)
An unexpected funeral demanded that
I come in.

ROSE MCGUFFEY, 60's, plump, merry, rosy cheeked, with tied
apron, emerges.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
There you are, a dozen iris.
Maura's favorite. That'll be nine
euros.

ETHAN
How did you know?

ROSE MCGUFFEY
I'm psychic.

Ethan's stare hinges on doubtful.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
Maura Dougall is a close friend.
She often talks about a young man
that fits your description to an
Irish tee.

Rose extends her hand.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
Rose McGuffey.

ETHAN
Ethan.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
She told me you were here.

ETHAN

Then you know she's very sick?

ROSE MCGUFFEY

Devastating news.

ETHAN

I'll hate to say goodbye.

ROSE MCGUFFEY

You won't have to. You just close your eyes anytime you want to see her.

Ethan walks over to a vase of roses. He smells.

ETHAN

Like memories?

ROSE MCGUFFEY

Mr. McGuffey died five years ago. I can still hear his awful snoring.

ETHAN

How long were you married?

ROSE MCGUFFEY

We celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary two months before he passed.

Rose walks from behind the counter.

ROSE MCGUFFEY

When someone you love passes away, it's tragic.

ETHAN

Maura asked me to raise Noelle.

ROSE MCGUFFEY

From what she has told me, you would do very well.

ETHAN

I've been offered a great job opportunity.

ROSE MCGUFFEY

What's the problem?

ETHAN

It demands a lot of time away.

Mrs. McGuffey tends to a sagging stem in a nearby vase.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
Children can easily adapt to most
situations as long as they know you
love them.

Ethan looks at the floor, then back up at Mrs. McGuffey.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
Your heart should lead you, not your
head.

ETHAN
Thank you, Mrs. McGuffey.

ROSE MCGUFFEY
Call me Rose. And stop by anytime.

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

Ethan sets a bundle of flowers on the kitchen Island. Noelle and Christopher enter.

NOELLE
What are those?

ETHAN
A little surprise I got for your
mother. Is she still lying down?

MAURA
Not anymore.

Maura pulls her hair back as she shuffles towards the kitchen.

Ethan hides the flowers behind his back.

ETHAN
Feeling better?

MAURA
What are you hiding?

Ethan reveals his surprise. He hands them to Maura.

Maura removes the outer wrapping paper.

MAURA
Purple Iris! You remembered!

NOELLE
Mommy, those are really pretty!

Maura hugs Ethan.

MAURA

Thank you!

ETHAN

I also met Mrs. McGuffey.

CHRISTOPHER

Miss Maura. Would my Dad be considered a romantic?

MAURA

Without question.

INT. MAURA'S FLAT - DAY

Maura, seated on the couch, takes a deep breath. She picks up her cell phone, then dials.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Mrs. Dougall closes a cabinet.

MRS. DOUGALL

I love hearing your voice, but I know something is up.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

MAURA

Could we move back to the farm?

MRS. DOUGALL

Everything alright?

MAURA

I feel like I should be home with you.

MRS. DOUGALL

Ethan and Christopher are welcome too!

MAURA

I'll tell him.

Maura's cell phone alerts her to another incoming call.

MAURA

Ethan is calling in. Got to go!

INT. ETHAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ethan sits on his bed. Christopher plays on his handheld.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Maura answers in a poorly contrived English accent.

MAURA
Hello, Buckingham Palace.

ETHAN
(aristocratic)
This is Prince Charles.

Christopher rolls his eyes.

MAURA
Touché, Mr. David.

ETHAN
How are you feeling?

MAURA
Wonderful and saucy.

ETHAN
Are we still on for the Cliffs?

MAURA
Of course.
(beat)
I'm moving back to the farm.

ETHAN
What about your flat?

MAURA
It'll be fine. Mum suggested that
you and Christopher come too.

ETHAN
Works for me. We'll pick you up in
an hour.

EXT. CLIFFS OF MOHER - DAY

Maura hangs onto Ethan as they and the children lean into the blustery wind.

CHRISTOPHER
We're up high!

ETHAN
About seven hundred feet.

MAURA
As a little girl I would pretend
that I could see your Statue of
Liberty.

Ethan now directs his attention to Maura.

ETHAN
Remember the first time we came up
here?

MAURA
We dared the wind or anyone else to
separate us.

NOELLE
Come on, they're getting mushy.

Christopher and Noelle dash off.

ETHAN
Stay away from the edge!

Ethan holds Maura's hand. They walk slowly, taking in the
view. Seagulls look suspended overhead.

MAURA
I also remember you throwing out a
coin and making a wish?

ETHAN
I almost forgot.

MAURA
What did you wish for?

ETHAN
That we would always be together.

MAURA
Your wish came true.

ETHAN
But you're--

MAURA
Oh, I'll be watching you.

ETHAN
Are you afraid?

MAURA

Not anymore.

Ethan faces Maura. He pulls her close.

ETHAN

I'll miss you.

MAURA

Of course you will.

ETHAN

I love you, Maura.

Maura's finger touches Ethan's lips.

MAURA

I love you too.

They kiss until a strong gust surprises them.

ETHAN

We should catch up with the children.

MAURA

Wait! I want to make another wish.

Maura leads Ethan closer to the edge. She reveals a large silver-plated coin.

MAURA

Dad carried this with him during the war. He gave it to me just before he died.

Maura closes her eyes. She tosses the coin over the cliffs.

ETHAN

What did you wish for?

MAURA

You'll find out soon enough.

INT. ETHAN'S RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Ethan and Maura, stylishly dressed, ride through rolling countryside dotted with stone-fence rows and thatched-roof houses.

Ethan turns down a long tree-lined cobblestone lane.

EXT. ADARE MANOR - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan parks in front of a sprawling 18th-century Gothic resort amidst flowered gardens, manicured lawn, and bubbling fountains.

Ethan and Maura walk arm-in-arm towards the entrance.

INT. ADARE MANOR - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Maura enter a grandiose marbled lobby. Guests mingle. A grand piano plays. They continue towards the restaurant entrance. A formal-attired MAITRE D' greets them.

MAITRE D'
Good evening. Welcome to Adare Manor.

ETHAN
I had a seven-o'clock reservation under Ethan David.

The maitre d' scans his guest list.

MAITRE D'
Yes, Mr. David, please follow me.

INT. ADARE MANOR - RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Maura are seated. Silk tablecloths, fine china, silverware adorn each table.

A string quartet plays in the background.

MAITRE D'
Our special of the evening is Grilled Loin of Berkshire Pork with Crimson Lentil Blini. Sir, would you like for me to bring your wine now?

ETHAN
Please.

MAURA
Ethan, you tricked me! Our same table? Just when I think I have you figured out.

The maitre d' returns with wine and a long-stemmed rose.

MAITRE D'
Excuse me, Mr. David, but I believe you requested this for your date?

MAURA

A rose!

ETHAN

Surprised you again?

MAURA

The last time we were here, you had a fireplace suite waiting for us.

ETHAN

It just so happens.

MAURA

Oh no! Now, it would probably kill me.

Ethan and Maura look over their menus. Maura closes hers, she stares. A candle flickers between them.

ETHAN

What?

MAURA

Just enjoying how handsome and wonderful you are.

A MALE WAITER approaches.

MALE WAITER

Good evening, folks. My name is Connor. Are you ready with your selections?

MAURA

I'll have the grilled salmon, garden vegetables, and Irish potatoes.

MALE WAITER

Sir?

ETHAN

I'll have the same.

MALE WAITER

Would you care for an appetizer?

ETHAN

Surprise us.

MALE WAITER

Very good, Sir.

Maura grabs her wine glass.

MAURA

A toast. To life, or what's left of
it and well behaved children.

Ethan and Maura touch glasses.

ETHAN

You're so beautiful.

MAURA

How can you say that? I'm dwindling
away.

ETHAN

I'm not talking about your outward
appearance.

MAURA

Then what?

ETHAN

Remember what drove us apart?

MAURA

Sure, I was afraid.

ETHAN

There's no more fear. You're
finally free.

MAURA

You've become very wise, Mr. David.

The male waiter approaches with their appetizers.

MALE WAITER

I trust you will find my choice
quite delectable.

ETHAN

I'm sure we will. Thank you.

Maura takes a sip of wine.

MAURA

What about you?

ETHAN

I don't follow.

MAURA

You know. Saying goodbye.

Ethan adjust his napkin.

ETHAN
It's been a process.

MAURA
Being able to love someone or
something, even for a moment, is a
gift. Your parents, baseball, and
me.

Ethan takes a drink.

ETHAN
I suppose you're right.

Maura touches Ethan's hand.

MAURA
Healing takes time, but I believe
you will love again. Promise me you
won't ignore the opportunity.

Ethan looks away then back at Maura.

ETHAN
(smiles)
I promise.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Ethan and Maura are serenaded by a strolling violinist.

-- Ethan and Maura converse, laugh as they eat.

-- Ethan and Maura feed dessert to each other.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. ADARE MANOR - RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Maura hold hands across the table.

MAURA
I wish this night could go on
forever.

ETHAN
I have another surprise for you.

Ethan reaches into his coat pocket. He unfolds a piece of
paper.

MAURA
A poem?

ETHAN
Close your eyes.

Ethan begins to read.

ETHAN
A prayer is always answered for one who still believes. A wish is often granted to the one who dares to dream. Our love will span the ages and dance upon the winds. I'll hold you in my thoughts just to feel you once again.

MAURA
That was brilliant!

ETHAN
I've made a decision.

MAURA
About the coaching job?

ETHAN
Partly.

Maura places her napkin on the table. Ethan takes a sip of wine.

ETHAN
I'm going to accept the Reds pitching position. I'll find a way to make it work with the kids.

MAURA
Kids? Like more than one? Are you implying?

ETHAN
I'm going to raise Noelle.

Maura wells up. She wipes away a tear.

MAURA
Thanks be to God!

Maura reaches to kiss Ethan. Other surrounding DINNING GUESTS smile and lightly clap their approval.

ETHAN (V.O.)
Tonight, with Maura's time fast-approaching, I felt a sense of fulfillment knowing that our love
(MORE)

ETHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 wasn't a mistake and that Maura's
 legacy would continue through
 Noelle. Although faith was never my
 strong point, I'm starting to agree
 with what the bible says, "Love
 Conquers All."

INT. MAURA'S DOCTOR - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

DR. JONATHAN O'HARA, 60s, robust, with neatly combed strands
 of silver looks over a medical chart. Maura lies on the
 examination table. He pauses, removes his reading glasses.

DR. O'HARA
 The Riluzole has run its course.

MAURA
 Meaning?

DR. O'HARA
 Your symptoms will rapidly get
 worse.

MAURA
 How much longer?

DR. O'HARA
 As I told you from the beginning of
 your diagnosis, medicine can only do
 so much. Your attitude will
 ultimately determine how long you
 survive.

MAURA
 I'm not going anywhere just yet.

DR. O'HARA
 I'll deliver a respirator in the
 next day or two.

Maura buttons the top of her blouse.

MAURA
 Ethan decided to raise Noelle.

DR. O'HARA
 I'm glad he came through.

MAURA
 Now I can die in peace.

DR. O'HARA
Does she know that Ethan is her
father?

MAURA
Not yet.

Maura wipes her eyes.

DR. O'HARA
Are you okay?

MAURA
I'll really miss you.

DR. O'HARA
Few people impress me. You're the
exception.

MAURA
Thanks for keeping me alive.

Dr. O'Hara and Maura hug.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ethan, Mrs. Dougall, and the children eat dinner. Deep,
heavy gasps escape from underneath Maura's nearby bedroom
door.

NOELLE
Mother is very brave.

Ethan tries to eat. He sets down his fork, and pushes away
from the table.

ETHAN
I'll be right back.

INT. MAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ethan enters the dimly lit bedroom. Pictures of Maura and
Noelle sit upon the dresser. A ceiling fan hovers overhead.

MAURA
(slurring)
Come, sit by me.

ETHAN
How are you feeling?

MAURA
Hard to catch my breath.

Ethan pulls a chair over to Maura's bed.

ETHAN
I don't know what to say.

Maura reaches for Ethan's hand. Her wire-like fingers delicately bend inside Ethan's palm.

MAURA
Hold me.

Ethan reaches to embrace Maura. Her body is fragile, thin. A teardrop free-falls behind Maura's back.

MAURA
Are you okay?

Carefully pulling away, Ethan kisses Maura's forehead.

MAURA
You won't forget me?

ETHAN
Every time I look at Noelle I'll see you.

MAURA
You better.

Ethan kisses Maura's cheek. He stands.

ETHAN
I'll see you in the morning.

MAURA
I'm not going anywhere just yet.

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT PORCH - DAY

Dr. O'Hara sets down a large medical apparatus. He knocks.

MRS. DOUGALL
Dr. O'Hara!

DR. O'HARA
Sorry for the intrusion. I brought Maura's respirator.

MRS. DOUGALL
That's very kind of you.

DR. O'HARA

Okay, Marie, enough of the formalities. I have mended, stitched, and delivered more Dougalls than I care to count.

MRS. DOUGALL

(humored)

That you have. I'm brewing a fresh pot of tea.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Dr. O'Hara sits at the table. Mrs. Dougall joins him with two beakers of tea.

MRS. DOUGALL

How long has it been now since Abigail died?

DR. O'HARA

Three years this November.

MRS. DOUGALL

She was a wonderful lady.

Ethan and Christopher enter the kitchen already dressed.

ETHAN

I heard we had company.

MRS. DOUGALL

Ethan, Christopher, I want you to meet Maura's physician, Dr. O'Hara.

CHRISTOPHER

(skittish)

You're not giving out any shots are you?

DR. O'HARA

Not today, young man.

Maura noisily bumps into the kitchen with a walker.

MAURA

(drawn out)

You met Ethan?

DR. O'HARA

I can already tell he's an honorable man.

ETHAN
You don't sound as raspy.

MAURA
I had a restful night.

DR. O'HARA
I brought over your respirator.

Glenna and Noelle enter in their bathrobes and slippers.

Maura draws a painfully deep breath, then announces.

MAURA
Could we gather in the parlor?

INT. DOUGALL PARLOR - DAY

Dr. O'Hara and Mrs. Dougall help Maura into a chair. Glenna sits between Christopher and Noelle on the couch. Ethan stands behind. A rhythmic steady downpour falls outside.

MAURA
(grimacing)
Since I don't know how much
longer...

Maura pauses, carefully inhaling, then begins.

MAURA
Dr. O'Hara. Thank you. I know
I've been a handful.
(beat)
Glenna, I pray you find a good man.

Maura motions for Ethan to come near. She feebly takes his hand in hers.

MAURA
I was so foolish to turn you away.
I love you.

Maura pauses again to fill her lungs.

MAURA
Christopher, I hope you and Noelle
can always be friends.

CHRISTOPHER
Me too.

Maura opens her arms towards Noelle.

MAURA

Sweetheart, I love you and will miss you.

NOELLE

I love you with all my heart, but I don't want to see you hurt anymore.

Maura openly weeps. Noelle brushes Maura's hair away from her face.

Maura regains her composure. She strains to stand.

MAURA

Mum, I know that dad will ask about you.

(break)

I will tell him you have gotten even more beautiful.

Mrs. Dougall and Maura embrace. The rest of the room's attendees respectfully observe.

ETHAN (V.O.)

We all knew Maura's end was near. When would I tell Noelle that I was her father, and how would she react? Maura's words rang true. Faith, Ethan, you need faith.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Mrs. Dougall stands at the sink drying dishes.

ETHAN

Christopher thought he left his baseball cap in here.

MRS. DOUGALL

It's on top of the fridge.

ETHAN

Has Dr. O'Hara given you any more news about Maura?

MRS. DOUGALL

Not yet. He's been with her for the last hour.

ETHAN

If this sounds too personal, please forgive me.

Mrs. Dougall turns around. She dries her hands.

MRS. DOUGALL
I'm listening.

ETHAN
I noticed a grave at the cemetery
with the name Colleen Dougall.

Mrs. Dougall walks over to the window.

MRS. DOUGALL
She is Maura and Glenna's youngest
sister. She was stillborn.

ETHAN
I had no idea.

MRS. DOUGALL
We never put the date of her death
to keep her alive in our hearts.

Mrs. Dougall quickly turns around.

MRS. DOUGALL
Maura will meet her little sister
for the very first time! Thank you!

INT. MAURA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dr. O'Hara checks Maura's vital signs. Short bursts of air
escape from the respirator's pressure gauge. Maura is pale,
deathly thin.

DR. O'HARA
You might be the most stubborn
patient I've ever had. Your pulse
is barely readable.

MAURA
(gasping)
Go ahead. Tell me how...pretty I
am.

DR. O'HARA
I wish I could my terminal beauty,
but we both know the truth.

MAURA
How much time...do you think I have?

DR. O'HARA
Three or four days. Maybe sooner.

MAURA
Death is so...inconvenient.

Dr. O'Hara shakes his head in amazement

MAURA
Get me...Noelle.

Noelle enters. She reaches for Maura's hand.

NOELLE
Mommy, are you okay?

MAURA
(laboring)
I need you...to know.

NOELLE
What is it?

Maura takes a short, painful breath.

MAURA
Ethan.

NOELLE
Do you need me to get him?

MAURA
He's your...father.

NOELLE
I don't understand.

MAURA
I never told him...about you.
(beat)
I'm sorry.

Noelle turns away. She sees Ethan standing on the porch outside Maura's bedroom window. She stares.

NOELLE
He's really my father?

Maura nods her head.

MAURA
He'll tell you...when it's time.

Noelle pauses. Tears begin to fall. She reaches for Maura. They embrace.

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT PORCH - DAY

Noelle colors on the front steps. Ethan kneels beside her.

ETHAN
What are you working on?

NOELLE
I'm making a get-well card for
mother.

ETHAN
You're amazing.

NOELLE
Not really. I just don't let anyone
see me cry.

Ethan walks down the front steps. He looks up at Noelle.

ETHAN
Your mother's sickness is what
brought us all together.

NOELLE
But you'll be leaving.

ETHAN
Yes. Our home is in Kentucky.

Noelle looks up from her card.

NOELLE
Could I come and visit?

ETHAN
We would really like that.

NOELLE
Could Grandmother Dougall and Aunt
Glenna come with me?

ETHAN
Of course they can.

Noelle stares at Ethan.

ETHAN
Is something wrong?

Noelle goes back to coloring.

INT. MAURA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Noelle cracks open Maura's bedroom door and peeks in.

NOELLE
Mother?

Barely able to speak, Maura, withered and feeble, tears up as she motions for Noelle to come closer. Noelle pulls a card from her pocket.

NOELLE

I love you so much! I made this for
you.

The crayon colored card reads.

ON THE SCREEN

"Noelle + Mother = Love."

BACK TO SCENE

Maura silently forms the words back.

MAURA

I...love...you...too.

Fighting the pain, Maura holds the card loosely in her hand.

NOELLE

Do you like it?

Squinting through her tears, Maura nods yes.

NOELLE

I'll be thinking of you while we're
gone.

MAURA

(faintly)

Ethan...I need...Ethan.

Noelle understands. She races away.

Ethan enters. He moves quickly to Maura's bedside.

ETHAN

(kneeling)

I'm here.

Maura drags her left arm across her body. She raises her left hand. Ethan's engagement ring hangs loosely around her finger. She strains to speak.

MAURA

I...do.

Maura's hand then drops, her eyes close.

ETHAN
Maura, Maura!

Ethan rises. He paces, weeping uncontrollably.

Ethan falls back to his knees. He groans with agony as he embraces Maura.

ETHAN
(sobbing)
Don't leave me!

Composing himself, Ethan wipes his face.

ETHAN
I love you.

Ethan kisses Maura's cheek then rises.

ETHAN (V.O.)
I couldn't explain it, but as Maura lay there, a glow began to cascade across her face. A peaceful warmth filled the room as if others unseen were present. I felt closure not only with Maura's passing, but I could say goodbye to my parents as well. In a spiritual sense, I had work to do, knowing that my calling was to now focus on raising Christopher and Noelle while pursuing my new coaching career.

INT. DOUGALL PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Dougall and Glenna chat. Ethan appears in the doorway.

MRS. DOUGALL
What's wrong?

ETHAN
(somber)
Maura just passed away.

Mrs. Dougall and Glenna rise to embrace Ethan. They grieve together.

MRS. DOUGALL
I had a feeling.

GLENNNA
I'll call the funeral home and Dr. O'Hara.

Mrs. Dougall wipes away her tears. She sits back down.
Ethan continues to stand.

ETHAN
How are we going to tell Noelle?

MRS. DOUGALL
I really think you should.

INT. DOUGALL BARN - DAY

Laughter swirls as Christopher and Noelle play on top of stacked bales of hay. Below is an aging tractor and Bingo's stall.

ETHAN
Kids, could you please stop playing
for a minute?

CHRISTOPHER
Is something wrong?

ETHAN
I need to have a talk with Noelle.

EXT. DOUGALL FARM - DAY

Ethan and Noelle walk along a nearby hedge row.

NOELLE
What's wrong?

Ethan stops. He slowly kneels. Noelle looks directly at Ethan.

ETHAN
I'm sorry.

She bows her head and weeps. Ethan holds her.

NOELLE
(sobbing)
I'm gonna miss her so much.

ETHAN
I promised your mother that I would
take care of you.

Noelle dries her eyes.

NOELLE
She told me.

ETHAN
That I was your Father?
(beat)
Look, it doesn't matter. We're
finally together.

Noelle pauses, looks away, then turns back to Ethan.

NOELLE
I hate you!

Noelle runs towards the house. Ethan drops his head.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Ethan nurses a cup of coffee. Mrs. Dougall sits down with a beaker of tea.

ETHAN
She really does hate me.

MRS. DOUGALL
Give her time. Losing her mother is
hard.

Glenna enters. She joins Ethan and Mrs. Dougall at the table.

MRS. DOUGALL
How is she?

GLENNA
Angry, hurt.

ETHAN
Maybe we should go back to the
hotel?

MRS. DOUGALL
Absolutely not! Noelle has to learn
that life isn't always fun and
games.

GLENNA
Maura's funeral is set for Thursday.

MRS. DOUGALL
She'll be okay. Don't worry.

EXT. DOUGALL FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Noelle sits by herself. Christopher approaches.

CHRISTOPHER

Hey.

Noelle continues to stare. Christopher sits next to her.

CHRISTOPHER

Dad told me.

NOELLE

He's a terrible father!

CHRISTOPHER

I know you're mad, but he's been a great father!

Noelle stands. She walks down the steps. Turns, looking up at Christopher.

NOELLE

I think he feels guilty!

CHRISTOPHER

He chose to raise me all by himself, and you too! It's not because of guilt, it's because he loves us!

NOELLE

I don't believe it!

CHRISTOPHER

Believe what you want. I'm thankful you're my sister. I really hope you will come live with us.

Christopher disappears. Noelle sits back on the steps. She begins to cry.

EXT. DOUGALL GRAVEYARD - DAY

A thick murk surrounds as a light drizzle beads up on the black, freshly waxed hearse. Purple iris abound. Immediate family and friends are gathered.

Atop the ridge, a bagpipe moans a dirge.

FATHER O'REILLY, 60s, tall, graying, begins the eulogy.

FATHER O'REILLY

(monotone)

Family, friends.

Mrs. Dougall and Glenna sit next to Dr. O'Hara. Ethan sits between Noelle and Christopher. The children bow their heads in front of the closed coffin.

FATHER O'REILLY

Today we pay our last respects to Maura Dougall. She fought off her illness with amazing dignity and courage.

Noelle raises her head. She whispers in Ethan's ear.

NOELLE

Daddy?

ETHAN

Yes?

NOELLE

I love you.

A tear cascades down Ethan's face. They hug. Mrs. Dougall and Glenna turn, observe, smile as they wipe their own tears.

ETHAN

I love you too.

FATHER O'REILLY

Mrs. Dougall will now share a few words.

MRS. DOUGALL

As Maura battled her illness, she never asked for sympathy, but wanted each of you to know how much she valued your friendship. She loved music, and wanted an uplifting song played before she was laid to rest.

Several Irish MUSICIANS and a VOCALIST from the back row approach Maura's casket with their instruments.

They begin to sing and play a lively song.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Title: TBA

Claps ring out at the song's conclusion.

FATHER O'REILLY

We will always remember you, Maura Dougall. Amen.

The attendees stand. Noelle places a single rose on top of the coffin before it's lowered into the ground.

Mrs. Dougall moves to embrace Ethan.

MRS. DOUGALL

We all dreaded this day, but an exciting new chapter for us all is about to begin.

Ethan holds Noelle and Christopher's hand as friends of the family offer their condolences.

The band begins to play again in the background.

INT. DOUGALL KITCHEN - DAY

Ethan, Mrs. Dougall, and Glenna finish breakfast.

Christopher, rubbing his eyes, drags himself in.

CHRISTOPHER

Promise me we won't bring that rooster back home.

ETHAN

I don't know. He would come in handy on school days.

Noelle enters wearing a Cincinnati Reds baseball cap.

NOELLE

I'm going to miss you Grandmother Dougall. And your cooking for sure!

ETHAN

Hey, your Dad's not a bad cook either.

NOELLE

Are we still going to the flat?

ETHAN

Right after breakfast.

NOELLE

I promise I will pack very light.

INT. ETHAN'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

Ethan's car is stuffed with Noelle's belongings. Ethan is pinned against the driver's door. He sees a church, and decides to pull over and park.

ETHAN

I'm going to run inside for just a moment. Will you two be okay?

CHRISTOPHER
Of course! We're responsible kids.

INT. LIMERICK CITY CATHEDRAL - SANCTUARY - DAY

Ethan kneels. Others pray. Rays of sunlight shine through large panes of stained glass.

ETHAN (V.O.)
Dear God, thank you so much for
bringing Maura back into my life.
And I'm so grateful for Noelle.

Ethan's cell phone rings. He quickly answers. A familiar voice is on the other end.

PETE
Did you move to Ireland?

INTERCUT - phone conversation

ETHAN
(whispers)
It's been eventful, but I'll have to
call you back. You might say I'm
with someone.

PETE
(suggestive)
A little romance going on?

ETHAN
I'll explain later.

Ethan hangs up then returns to his prayer.

ETHAN
I still don't understand Your ways,
but I have to believe that You know
what's best. Although Maura's final
request was for me to take care of
Noelle, I also have a request.
Could You send me some help? I'm
really gonna need it! Amen.

INT. LIMERICK CITY CATHEDRAL - VESTIBULE - CONTINUOUS

Ethan lights a candle. RACHEL DOYLE, 32, attractive, enters. She slips on the damp marble floor. Ethan races to catch her.

RACHEL
Sorry. I feel so clumsy.

ETHAN

That was close!

Rachel extends her hand.

RACHEL

I'm Rachel.

Ethan, smitten, stares.

ETHAN

Ethan.

RACHEL

I'm here visiting relatives.

ETHAN

Where do you live?

RACHEL

Lexington, Kentucky.

ETHAN

You're kidding! I'm from
Louisville!

RACHEL

Are you here by yourself?

ETHAN

My son and daughter are with me.

RACHEL

(disappointed)

Oh...so you're married.

ETHAN

Once, a long time ago.

RACHEL

In that case, here's my number. I'd
love to meet up with you.

ETHAN

Do you like baseball?

RACHEL

If I see it in person. It's too
boring to watch on T.V.

ETHAN

Maybe we could catch a game?

RACHEL

I would like that.

Reaching into her pocket, Rachel pulls out an exact replica of the coin that Maura tossed over the Cliffs of Moher.

RACHEL

I found this on the steps before I came in. What is it?

Stunned, Ethan looks heavenward then begins to smile.

ETHAN

You might say it's a rare coin that brings very good luck.

FADE OUT: