

"ONE MORE DAY"

BY

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FADE IN:

EXT. SEAFRONT BENCH - DAY

Sitting on a bench is TIM (80, looks 60, spectacles, well dressed). A bag of groceries is at his feet. A walking stick by his side.

TIM looks along the sea front to the next bench. A happy couple sits there, obviously in love.

Tim looks the other way and sees an old couple with linked arms out for a stroll.

TIM
(sad, to self)
I miss you.

Tim wearily rises from his seat.

EXT. BUSY HIGH STREET - CONTINUOUS

Busy office types, parents with children, shoppers and couples go about their business. A group of teenagers sit on a low wall.

Tim walks past the teenagers. They laugh at something. Tim keeps his eyes on the floor and picks up his pace.

Tim reaches a greasy spoon café. The sign says: "DONNA'S"

INT. DONNA'S CAFÉ - CONTINUOUS

Customers eat, drink and talk amongst themselves.

Through the window an ambulance drives past at speed, its SIREN and emergency lights are on.

Tim spots SIMONE (25, slim, pretty, in a hoodie). She is reading a magazine. Tim's eyes go wide and shocked. He recognizes her.

Simone senses Tim's gaze. She looks up from the magazine and smiles at him.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY - 1950

A Beautiful Girl (20, summer dress, long hair) smiles and laughs to someone o.s. The bright sunlight shrouds her, masking her face.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. DONNA'S CAFÉ - DAY

SIMONE
(to Tim)
Can I help you?

TIM
 Sorry, I didn't mean to stare, you
 just --

SIMONE
 It's ok, sit down if you like.

TIM
 You look like someone I know - I
 mean knew.

SIMONE
 I get that a lot.

TIM
 Well, sorry to have interrupted you
 my dear.

Tim tips his hat at Simone and sits down at a table across
 from her. He glances at Simone once more and shakes his
 head; must have been mistaken identity.

Janet the waitress carries two plates of food past Tim's
 table.

TIM (CONT'D)
 (to Janet)
 Good morning Janet, I'll have two
 toast, two eggs and a...

Janet ignores Tim and passes by.

SIMONE (O.S.)
 This place huh?

Tim smiles awkwardly. Simone joins Tim at his table.

SIMONE
 So, do you live around here?

TIM
 All my life... erm..?

SIMONE
 My name is Simone.

TIM
 Simone.

Simone thrusts her hand across the table. Tim gently shakes
 it.

TIM (CONT'D)
 Timothy, most people call me Timmy
 or Tim though. I'm sorry, do I know
 you? My memory isn't what it used
 to be and --

SIMONE
 Timmy? I like that.

TIM

I didn't mean to scare you, having a creepy old man staring at you while you're trying to read your magazine. It's just that - well you remind me of someone.

(beat)

Someone I knew a very long time ago. Do I know your mother?

SIMONE

Was she nice? I can tell she was special to you.

TIM

What? Your mother?

SIMONE

No silly, the person I remind you of!

TIM

Yes, of course, she was very special to me.

SIMONE

Tell me about her, was she your girlfriend?

TIM

(Changes the subject)

Well, I don't think...

Tim looks around. Janet swishes by again.

TIM (CONT'D)

(to Janet)

Janet?

SIMONE

Sorry, I didn't mean to offend you.

TIM

No, it's all right my dear.

(beat)

I'm just not very talkative that's all. I don't get much of a conversation out of the corpses in waiting at the home. I'm sorry, I must seem terribly rude to you.

SIMONE

Then talk to me. I am a very good listener and I love hearing other people talking.

Simone places her chin on her hands, elbows on the table. She leans forward.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

I am a very nosey person!

TIM

(laughs)

I can tell! Are you a reporter or something?

SIMONE

If she was that important to you then she deserves to be thought about. I'd like to think that when I am gone that someone special to me was thinking of me.

(beat)

You obviously loved her very much and that is very sweet.

TIM

With all my heart. We had a good life together, even if it wasn't very long. I know it probably sounds corny or old fashioned to a young girl like you but she was the love of my life.

SIMONE

Not at all. I am a bit of an old school romantic myself. Were you married?

TIM

Fifteen years, I met her summer 1950. We had our first date down by the river a few weeks later.

SIMONE

Not a very nice place for a first date!

TIM

It was a lot nicer back then, before they built the factories and the car plant.

(beat)

You're right. She didn't like it either! I thought it would be terribly romantic but it just stank to high heaven.

They both laugh.

Tim looks at her. Simone shifts and adjusts her hair.

SIMONE

I'm a mess. I've just been away and haven't been home for a while.

TIM

Do you have a sweetheart? I mean a boyfriend?

SIMONE

There was one person, I loved him very much.

(beat)

But I left him.

TIM

A shame.

SIMONE

A big one, but it couldn't be helped. It wasn't my fault. We just had to be apart.

A beat and then:

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Do you want to take a walk? The service in here is terrible!

TIM

Funnily enough, I don't feel hungry anymore and besides, it seems like Janet is in a foul mood again. Yes I think I would like a walk. I'm having a good day today with the old knees and hip.

SIMONE

Good!

EXT. SEAFRONT - LATER

TIM and SIMONE walk together.

Tim is missing his walking stick but there is little sign of his limp. Simone skips alongside him. She swings her arms, childlike. She looks around as if everything is wondrous and new.

They talk and laugh and use exaggerated hand gestures and expressions as they talk.

EXT. SEAFRONT - LATER

TIM and SIMONE sit on a low wall.

TIM

So why is a young girl like you wasting your day on an old fool like me? Surely you have lots of better things you could be doing?

SIMONE

Not at all!

(MORE)

SIMONE (CONT'D)

I don't know any people here anymore. Everyone is either in a real big rush or has come to a complete stop. This town has changed so much since I was last home. Anyway, I love listening to old people talking. They have so many stories to tell and experiences that I have never had.

(realizes)

Huh, I mean older people.

TIM

(laughing)

Well, I am old! My bones are pretty much in control of my days. Sometimes I can't even get out of my chair without help from one of the nurses.

SIMONE

You look like you could handle yourself.

TIM

On a good day like today. I was in the army. I still try to stay active when I can.

SIMONE

(teases)

World War One?

TIM

I am not that old young lady!

SIMONE

I was joking!

They stand and walk along the sea front.

TIM

I was too young for the war - The Second World War! But I did go to Korea. Do you know about the Korean War? Some call it The Forgotten War but I was there. And believe me.

(beat)

I haven't forgotten any of it.

SIMONE

You had to leave your wife?

TIM

Well, we weren't married at that point. We had been courting for a few months, then I was sent to Korea in the September.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

She wasn't there to see me off. She later told me that she was sorry that she never said good bye. That she couldn't bear to see me leave in case it was the last time she saw me.

A beat and then:

SIMONE

I am sure she regretted not being there.

TIM

Maybe. It wasn't mentioned again. I suppose we just didn't want to bring it up. But I could tell she was pleased to see me still in one piece!

SIMONE

It's alright; I didn't want you to tell me about the war. I hate war and violence.

TIM

She did too, that's why we didn't talk about it either. She said she could hear me screaming some nights. When the nightmares came.

A long beat.

TIM (CONT'D)

Anyway! You don't want to hear me prattle on all day about the past. What do you do for a living? Are you a student? Is that why you aren't at work right now?

SIMONE

I used to be.

TIM

A student?

SIMONE

Yes, I was training to be a nurse.

TIM

Good for you. Most of the nurses back at the home are angels! Were you going to be a medical nurse? In a hospital?

SIMONE

Yes I was going to work in hospitals but... I just couldn't go anymore. I had to go far away.

TIM

Well, that's a shame. You are still young though. Maybe you should think about going back, you know, now that you are home again.

(beat)

You'd make a good nurse.

(beat)

And an even better angel my dear.

Tim and Simone arrive in front of:

EXT. FAIRGROUND - DAY

It is grey, wet and out of season so the place is deserted. The rides are covered with tarpaulins.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FAIRGROUND - NIGHT - 1952

FAIRGROUND MUSIC, laughter and screams of joy from the crowds.

YOUNG TIM (20, handsome, well dressed), carries a giant teddy-bear prize.

The Beautiful Girl shoots at metal targets on a stall. Her face is obscured by balloons and fairground lights.

She hits one of the metal targets and screams in delight.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BUS SHELTER - LATER

It is raining. TIM and SIMONE sit in the bus shelter.

SIMONE

You still haven't told me about when you married her.

TIM

You really are nosey aren't you?

SIMONE

Intolerably!

Tim regards Simone with amusement.

TIM

1953, as soon as I got home from Korea. It was a quiet wedding with just a few friends and family. We had a small reception at The White Lion.

Tim looks into the distance for a beat.

TIM (CONT'D)

We danced all night and she was a really good dancer. I think I couldn't dance properly because I was transfixed by her. That's my excuse anyway.

FLASHBACK:

INT. THE WHITE LION PUB - NIGHT - 1953

A 1950's pub. Smoky, a little grim. It is decorated with flowers and a banner that reads "CONGRATULATIONS!" A wedding cake, empty and half full glasses, confetti and finger food on paper plates are on the tables.

JIMMY YOUNG - "ETERNALLY" from 1953 plays.

Guests talk loudly, drink, smoke and laugh. Some dance with their partners.

THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL and YOUNG TIM are in modest wedding attire. They dance closely, eyes only on each other.

TIM (V.O.)

We didn't notice any of the other guests. I know it's a cliché but it's true. After the horrors of Korea just a few months before, here I was, with the woman of my dreams in my arms.

The Beautiful Girl looks the same as Simone. She smiles at Young Tim and places a hand on his cheek.

TIM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They probably said goodbye, and we may have even said goodbye back to them but we didn't really notice that they had all gone.

Young Tim spins her around and under his arm. "Simone" giggles.

The guests have gone. Young Tim and "Simone" are alone.

TIM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You always think you are going to die together.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BUS SHELTER - DAY

Tim and Simone sit together at the bus shelter. The rain has stopped.

Simone places her hand on top of Tim's. Tim looks at her and smiles.

EXT. SEAFRONT - CONTINUOUS

TIM and SIMONE walk along the seafront. Tim walks in a strong and upright manner.

SIMONE
(sadly)
How did she..?

TIM
Cancer.

A beat.

TIM (CONT'D)
She was 18 when we married and we were together for 21 years. She was always such a strong person but with the innocence of a child and the mischievous streak to boot!

Tim smiles and chuckles to himself.

TIM (CONT'D)
She ran rings around me it was never dull!

SIMONE
(laughing)
I can't imagine anyone making fun of you!

TIM
Well you did!

SIMONE
(proud of herself)
Yes I did, didn't I?

They look at each other for a beat then burst into laughter.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
I am so sorry Tim.

TIM
(still laughing)
No, it's alright my dear. It's nice to talk about her again after so long. The stiffs at the home are either asleep or can't hear what you are saying anyway.

SIMONE
(seriously)
No, I don't mean that.

Tim looks at Simone. He takes his glasses off as if they are in the way.

TIM

Who are you? I feel like I know
you. Are you family? Or the
daughter of somebody I know?

Simone places her hand on his cheek. They stop walking.

EXT. SEAFRONT BENCH - CONTINUOUS

They are back at Tim's bench.

A crowd of people, police officers and an ambulance are near the bench. Two paramedics try to revive an old man on the ground. Tim's walking stick and bag of shopping are next to them.

EXT. SEAFRONT - CONTINUOUS

SIMONE

I have missed you too.

TIM

Simone? I --

SIMONE

Don't be afraid.

Simone has changed in appearance. She wears a 1950's summer dress, her hair is down.

Tim has also changed in appearance. He is now YOUNG TIM.

YOUNG TIM

Why?

SIMONE

I just wanted one more day with
you.

Young Tim looks around.

They hold hands and walk away.

The paramedics stop working on Tim's body. They shake their heads. They've lost him.

JIMMY YOUNG - "ETERNALLY" from 1953 fades up.

The paramedics cover Tim's face with a blanket.

FADE OUT.