Saved by the Whales

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INT. SAM’S APARTMENT - DAY

SAM FEHR, late 30’s, sits on a chair on his desk. On the desk lays still his divorce papers.

He signs it reluctantly and places it on an envelope. For five seconds, he looks at the envelope.

SAM (V.O.)
I’ve been stood up on the end of the aisle two times by Joanna. Now, I’m signing divorce papers to separate myself from the girl whom I’ve waited two years to get married to.

He stands up and walks to his piano. He places his hand on the keys and strokes them lightly.

SAM (V.O.) (CONT’D)
I just got fired from a composing job for a sitcom and now, my future’s nothing but a piece of shit piled up with a crapload of problems and I’m not even gonna go any younger.

EXT. LOCAL PARK - DAY

MADISON IRVIN, mid-20’s, sits on a park bench. She unwraps a burger wrapper.

She takes a bite on the burger. Two or three more bites later, the burger is finished.

She flattens the burger wrapper with the outsides of her hand. She takes out a pen from her coat’s pocket.

CU on Madison writing on the burger wrapper.

INSERT - WRAPPER

On the wrapper, the following words are written in a legible writing: “Warm feet gone on the icy shore/The waves are getting bigger/And it’s better way to die/But I’m not sure about this.”

She crumples the wrapper and leaves it on the bench. She stands up and leaves.
We can see people walking by the bench but no one bothers to pick up the wrapper.

LATER

Sam sits on the bench, earphones on his ears.

We can hear slightly something like NIRVANA. He rocks his head lightly to the music.

A JANITOR passes by. He notices the wrapper.

JANITOR
Excuse me, sir.

Sam removes the earphones.

SAM
Yeah?

JANITOR
Could you pick up your trash? The park is being maintained regularly for a contest and if we don’t win, I’m fired and my family would go hungry.

Sam picks up the burger wrapper.

SAM
Alright now?

JANITOR
Thank you for sparing my job, sir. I can’t thank you enough.

The janitor leaves.

SAM
(to himself)
Yeah, I saved your job but I don’t even have a job.

Sam looks at the wrapper. He notices the slight traces of writing inside. He unfurls the wrapper.

SAM (V.O.) (CONT’D)
(reading)
Warm feet gone on the icy shore.
The waves are getting bigger.
And it’s a better way to die.
But I’m not sure about this.

He pockets the wrapper and leaves.
INT. LOCAL BOOKSTORE - DAY

SIDNEY, a bubbly cashier on her late 20’s, sits on a chair behind the counter. She reads a book titled ‘How to Quit Your Job Without Doing Anything (How to Get Fired)’.

Madison enters the store. As the door closes, her coat gets stuck. She trips but regains back her composure. She removes her coat from the door.

SIDNEY
Careful, Maddie.

Madison removes her messenger bag. She places it on the counter.

MADISON
Any moral-fibered job openings you know about, Sidney?

Sidney brings down the book she is reading. She looks up to Madison.

SIDNEY
There’s one janitorial job available over Welkshire Mart. It pays $15 a week. Illegal pay, if you ask me.

MADISON
Welkshire Mart?

SIDNEY
Think about a store two notches lower than K-Mart.

MADISON
(chuckling)
That’s called slavery, not a job.

Sidney chuckles and returns to her book. Madison sorts through a random bookshelf. She takes out a blue book titled ‘Poetry and Everything About It’.

MADISON (CONT’D)
I’ve never seen this before.

Sidney looks up to see the book.

SIDNEY
That’s a book I used to own for two hours.

(MORE)
SIDNEY (CONT'D)
I sold it to the shop owner for four bucks and I bought it for a dollar from this guy over the Downter Street.

MADISON
Three bucks is good profit for doing nothing. What did you do with the money?

SIDNEY
I gave it to my ex. I told him to buy himself condoms so that he could not impregnate his new girl.

Madison returns the book. She walks towards the counter.

MADISON
That's rude but that's the first thing that I know you'll be doing.

SIDNEY
How's your boyfriend?

MADISON
Oh, we broke up two nights ago. I went away from our apartment. You know, the usual woman pride.

SIDNEY
Why didn't you tell me earlier? I'll let you sleep in my apartment until you get a job that will support you.

MADISON
Thanks for that. I really need that.

(beat)
Was that an insult or you want me to realize how useless I am?

Sidney looks out to the glass window display.

EXT. LOCAL BOOKSTORE - DAY - CONTINUOUS
Sam peruses over the window display which shows different publications of Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

SAM (V.O.)
Pride and Prejudice. Joanna's one and only favorite book.
EXT. LOCAL PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK
Sam sits on a bench. On his side is JOANNA, much younger than Sam.
Sam reads a book. His lips move but we can’t hear anything.

EXT. LOCAL BOOKSTORE - DAY - PRESENT
Sam stuffs his hands on his coat’s pockets.

INT. LOCAL BOOKSTORE - DAY
Sidney looks at Sam.

MADISON
Who are you looking at?

Madison looks at Sam too.

SIDNEY
That hot dude over there.

MADISON
He’s gay. I mean, even girls don’t drool over copies of Pride and Prejudice in crappy second-hand bookstore.

SIDNEY
He isn’t gay.

MADISON
He is.

SIDNEY
You like him, don’t you? That’s the reason why you are pushing me away from him.

MADISON
Well, I’ll admit it he’s cute but I’m not interested even if he’s straight where there is around 1 out of 100 chance that he’s straight.

We can see Sam leaving in the BG. Madison and Sidney watches him as he leave.
INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sam sits on his keyboards stool. He takes out the crumpled burger wrapper.

MONTAGE STARTS:
1.) Sam is playing the keyboards.
2.) Sam eats pizza while in front of the keyboards.
3.) Sam writing on a music sheet while in front of the keyboards.
4.) Sam yawning in front of the keyboards.
5.) Sam falling asleep on the keyboards.

MONTAGE ENDS

He sits on the couch.

SAM
Warm feet gone on the icy shore.
The waves are getting bigger.
And it’s a better way to die.
But I’m not sure about this.

He had the whole poem memorized in his mind.

EXT. LOCAL BANK - DAY

Madison stands by the ATM. She inserts her card and keys her pin.

ON ATM SCREEN: CARD REJECTED; REASON: LACK OF SAVINGS

Madison retrieves her card.

EXT. LOCAL BEACH - DAY

Winter. The beach is nearly empty and the waves are gigantic. She collects rocks on the beach shore. She puts every rock she finds on her messenger bag.

On the BG, we can see Sam sitting on a big boulder in a distance. He watches the birds up in the sky.

Tears forms on Madison’s eyes. Her bag is full of rocks already.

She walks to the sea. She fights the waves that covers her.
Sam jumps off the rock and lunges into the sea.

**SAM**
What are you doing?

He gets hold of Madison and tries to swim her back to the shore.

He gets her back to the shore. They are both dripping wet.

Sam is panting while Madison just looks down.

**MADISON**
Why did you save me?

**SAM**
You are making the biggest mistake in your life. Killing yourself isn’t the key to fix your life.

**MADISON**
It is. You’ll never get it since you’re not like me.

**SAM**
What if you survive and you wash up alone in a deserted island? What will you do? Extra problems only, right?

Madison sits on the beach floor. The sand sticks to her clothes and skin.

**MADISON**
You win, mister lawyer.

Sam sits besides her.

**SAM**
Believe me, weeks ago, I was in your situation.

**MADISON**
Oh, how I wished you continued on committing suicide. It would have been much better if we met in hell.

**SAM**
Well I was on a same situation but something changed my mind.

**MADISON**
What changed your mind, then?
SAM
A burger wrapper.

Madison chuckles.

MADISON
And now what? You’ve gone mental?

SAM
It wasn’t a normal burger wrapper
you see in park benches. It had a
poem written on it about suiciding
the way you just tried to. But, it
says that the person trying to
commit suicide is unsure.

MADISON
Sounds familiar.

SAM
Warm feet gone on the icy
shore.
The waves are getting bigger.
And it’s a better way to die.
But I’m not sure about this.

MADISON
My warm feet’s gone on shore.
The waves are getting
gigantic.
And it’s the best way to die.
But I’m not so sure about
this.

Madison smiles.

MADISON (CONT’D)
It’s mine.

SAM
So, you were the one who saved my
life after all.

MADISON
You returned the favor.

Sam stands up. Sand covers his clothes.

SAM
Come on, I’ll give you a treat.

MADISON
I cannot return the favor.

SAM
You don’t have to.

MADISON
Could you do one favor for me?
SAM
Yes.

MADISON
Help me up.

Sam helps Madison to stand up.

SAM
There you go.

MADISON
You look familiar. Were you the cheap ass guy who did nothing at a bookstore but to cry over a copy of Pride and Prejudice?

SAM
I was but I didn’t cry over the copy.

MADISON
I’m Madison Irvin.

SAM
Sam Fehr here.

MADISON
Nice to meet you, Sam.

SAM
Nice to meet you, Madison.

MADISON
Let’s take a walk since I want to know more about you.

Sam and Madison starts to walk.

SAM
I’m 38 and I just signed divorce papers with my 29-year-old wife last week.

MADISON
Sorry to hear about that.

Sam rubs his eyes.

SAM
No, it’s fine. It’s just that I’m 38-year-old already and I’m ugly which means I have no chance to get a date and get a new life.
MADISON
Unless you’re rich, that is.

SAM
I’m unemployed.

MADISON
Same here.

Madison smiles.

SAM
Is it okay that I experimented on your poem and I tried to make into a song?

MADISON
If you sing it to me right now, it’s fine.

SAM
Are you sure?

The music starts playing.

MADISON
Yes.

SAM
I added some parts but, yeah.
(singing)
Warm feet gone on the icy shore.
The waves are getting bigger.

Sam chuckles and so is Madison.

SAM (CONT’D)
(singing)
And it’s a better way to die.
But I’m not sure about this.

Madison tucks her hair before her ear.

SAM (CONT’D)
(singing)
The water levels my waist,
But I got saved, by the whales.

Madison chuckles. The music continues as Sam and Madison hugs each other.

Sam kisses Madison.
MADISON
I can’t believe you just called me a whale but I still let you kiss me.

SAM
I have no ring but since you saved my life, will you marry me?

MADISON
No.

SAM
Why?

MADISON
Because I don’t even know you that much.

SAM
That’s great. I just got rejected.

MADISON
I barely know you and there’s no way I’m gonna marry you.

Sam chuckles.

SAM
I’ll count that as a yes.

MADISON
Why is that?

SAM
Because I’ll get to know you by a year or two.

MADISON
Well, how about try to propose to me again after two years in front of the Hollywood sign and in front of ten A-listers.

SAM
Too specific, eh?

MADISON
I’m just trying to make it a little bit more special. Just the way I want it to.

SAM
It’ll be hard to do that, though.
MADISON
What's the hard part?

SAM
The proposing part.

MADISON
Not the A-lister part and the Hollywood sign?

SAM
Not that.

MADISON
Okay, so forget about that part and just make sure you give me a good ring.

SAM
Probably, I'll have a good job by then which means a good ring but that only works if you're still not married by then.

Madison and Sam starts to kiss.

FADE TO BLACK.