

PERHAPS, A NEW START

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

PHIL (77) bent, grey, bow-tied and wearing a very old, tweed, three piece suit, stands before a simple gravestone.

His hands caress a bouquet of WILD DAISIES.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

MARGARET (75) plain, spectacled and simply dressed sits at a small table, hands clasped, eyes closed.

The table is neatly set for two. No one sits at the second place setting.

A single RED ROSE lies on the plate of this vacant setting.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - DAY

Phil, donned in a white apron and paper chef's hat stands behind a long counter.

He smiles and ladles mashed potatoes onto the plates of hungry patrons as they pass in line.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

EMPTY QUIET

Margaret rises from her seat at the end of a pew. She walks to an isolated alcove and lights a votive candle

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Phil sits in the center of a bench tossing kernels of pop corn from a bag to the ground. A dozen pigeons swarm at his feet.

He raises his head as Margaret walks past.

INT. ART MUSEUM - DAY

Margaret sits on a cement bench that is conveniently positioned in front of several large paintings.

A group of school children are ushered by. Margaret smiles and waves as they pass.

INT. CINEMA - DAY

In the last row of the theater sits Phil.

ALONE ASLEEP

A muffled, breathy snoring, occasionally, upsets the open bag of pop corn in his lap.

INT. CITY LIBRARY - DAY

Margaret pushes the "returned books" wagon down an aisle. She stops mid aisle and replaces several books.

INT. FOOD MART - NIGHT

Phil works the register and scans several items for Margaret. Margaret pays with cash.

Margaret does not acknowledge Phil's silent greeting as she accepts her change.

Phil's eyes follow Margaret as she exits.

EXT. HOUSE OF PETS - DAY

Margaret stands nose against the store window and taps softly at a litter of beagle puppies.

INT. FOOD MART - NIGHT

Phil exits an aisle pushing a shopping cart. He bumps head on into Margaret's cart.

FORGIVE ME SMILES are exchanged.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Phil sits alone, CENTER BENCH; feeds pigeons.

Margaret enters the park, book in hand. She looks for a place to sit.

All other benches are occupied.

Their eyes meet.

A MOMENT OF RECOGNITION

Phil slides over and creates a space for Margaret. Margaret sits.

Book opened, she starts to read.

Phil continues pigeon feeding.

The pop corn bag extends to Margaret. Margaret smiles, puts down the book and accepts the bag.

She joins Phil tossing kernels to the pigeons.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Phil and Margaret sit across from each other. A bottle of wine is poured; glasses clinked.

There are two vacant place settings between them.

On one plate, a bouquet of WILD DAISIES.

On the other, a single RED ROSE.

FADE OUT.

