

Saved by the Whales

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FADE IN

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 moves 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.