

ONE FINAL WISH

by

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

An ELDERLY WOMAN'S HANDS meticulously measure healthy ingredients into a blender: VEGETABLES, ENERGY POWDER, ICE, JUICE.

One hand quickly cleans a small drop of spilled juice off the counter with a SPONGE.

A finger checks an old-style RECIPE CARD on the counter, the words written in impeccable handwriting.

Everything about the cute, but dated, kitchen is orderly and clean.

Seeing her only from the neck down, the woman moves gingerly as she prepares her smoothie. A PICTURE of an elderly man sits on the counter.

The LOUD ROAR OF MOTORCYCLES breaks the calm.

ELDERLY WOMAN (O.C.)
Oh Lord, they were serious.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

TWO ELDERLY WOMEN dismount from their MOTORCYCLES. Both wear full MOTORCYCLE LEATHERS.

SEDUCTIVE MUSIC plays as RUTH BARLOW, 60'S in DARK-FRAMED GLASSES, striking in her gray hair against her slightly-tan skin.

SLOW MOTION - She removes her HELMET and shakes out her hair, as though in a shampoo commercial.

The other woman, HELEN FLOWERS, 60's with an ear-to-ear smile, follows suit. Her jacket unzipped, showing off her cleavage.

SLOW MOTION - Helen removes her HELMET and attempts to swing her matted-down hair in a sensual fashion, not realizing her WIG is stuck inside her helmet.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

MAGGIE MASON, the elderly woman from the kitchen, watches the two motorcyclists from the porch.

Maggie, 60's, is as tidy and together as her kitchen, in a CONSERVATIVE DRESS safely covered in an APRON.

Ruth approaches the house with Helen close behind, adjusting her wig. Ruth carries an ADDITIONAL LEATHER JACKET, while Helen carries a HELMET.

RUTH

Maggie Mason, this is a "no-apron" trip.

MAGGIE

Ruth, I'm not so sure ...

Helen pulls a CARD from her cleavage and waves it in the air.

HELEN

We all agreed. You agreed... No, you promised. We do whatever the others wish ... and this is my wish.

Maggie snatches the card from Helen.

MAGGIE

How did you get that? I'm in charge of holding the wishes.

Maggie tries to zip up Helen's jacket. Helen slaps her hand.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Ruth ... please tell me again ... why do we have to do Helen's first?

Maggie pulls a DECORATIVE BILL FOLD from her apron pocket and places Helen's card inside.

HELEN

(interrupting)

The deal was: Brave one first. Then uptight, never-eat-bad-food, or take-a-single-risk-in-her-entire-life goes second... That's you.

(beat)

Then it's Ruth turn.

MAGGIE

But a wish is high tea at the Ritz. With a yummy lemon scone. Not motor-biking all over Arizona.

Helen turns to Ruth, feigns weighing her options as though her hands are a scale.

HELEN

(sarcastically)

Oh my, Ruthie, what to do? Lemon scones or the adventure of a lifetime.

MAGGIE

(mouthing ... begging)

Lemon scones ... Lemon scones.

RUTH

They are good scones.

HELEN

Maggie, stop being a baby and put this on. And no one calls it motor-biking anymore.

Helen chest passes the helmet toward Maggie who seems oblivious, making no effort to catch it as it flies past her and breaks a FLOWER POT. The three pause.

MAGGIE

Ruth, this whole wish thing was your idea. Look at the monster you've created.

Ruth hands Maggie a leather jacket.

RUTH

Come on dear, it'll be fun. You said yourself, Albert would have wanted you to be less cautious.

Maggie pauses.

MAGGIE

Only because I promised. And I'm riding with you, not Helen Knievel.

HELEN

(striking a rapper's pose)

All right bitchees... let's fly this crib.

RUTH

(to Maggie)

Listening to her grandkids' music again.

MAGGIE

At least let me clean up first.

Maggie bends down to pick up pieces of the broken flower pot.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Two motorcycles with the three women ride away from the house. Maggie's dress flaps in the wind beneath her leather jacket.

MONTAGE - THE ADVENTURE

Riding with the red rocks of Sedona in the background.

A picture of the women posing as gunslingers in front of the OK Corral sign in Tombstone.

Riding over the London Bridge.

A picture with a group of bikers in front of a bar in Jerome, Helen making out with one.

Riding over Glen Canyon Dam, Lake Powell in the background.

A picture of Maggie squatting to pee in Monument Valley, holding up a hand to block the camera.

A picture at Powell Observatory, the women looking through telescopes.

INT. SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

Pull back from BIG SCREEN TV, displaying a slide show of the trip, the picture of Powell Observatory on the screen.

RUTH (O.C.)
... and Powell Observatory, where
they discovered Pluto.

Maggie, Helen and Ruth sit on a sofa, surrounded by OTHER SENIORS, laughing and smiling as the pictures continue.

SENIOR
My goodness, you ladies are brave.

HELEN
The whole experience was amazing.
(beat)
The wind in our faces.

MAGGIE
(under her breath, but
audible)
Bugs in our teeth.

HELEN
Powerful machines beneath us.

MAGGIE
Blisters on our bottoms.

HELEN
The sun on our shoulders.

MAGGIE
The sun on Helen's boobs.

Helen turns to Maggie.

HELEN
Don't make me tell them about your
public drunkenness on Whiskey Row.

MAGGIE
I wasn't drunk. I was remaining
properly hydrated.

HELEN
I don't remember anything proper
about that night.

RUTH
Girls! Hold on.
(looking at the TV screen)
Wait. What's that up there for?

A picture of the Grand Canyon appears on the screen.

RUTH (CONT'D)
We didn't go to the Grand Canyon.

Maggie displays a mischievous look.

MAGGIE
I put it there.

RUTH
But why?

MAGGIE
Well, the next wish is mine, right?
And I want to change my wish.
(suddenly concerned)
Oh, can I do that?

RUTH
(laughing)
Of course you can do that. It's
life, Maggie. There are no rights
and wrongs.

MAGGIE
 (glancing at Helen)
 Oh, I can think of a lot of wrongs.

RUTH
 All right, all right. There are
 some wrongs, but there are
 soooooooooo many rights.

MAGGIE
 Excellent. Then here it is.

Maggie excitedly pulls out the DECORATIVE BILL FOLD and
 removes an envelope. Holds it out for Ruth.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 Oh nabs, it's bent. Let me print
 you a new one.

Ruth grabs the envelope from her. Smiles at Maggie.

RUTH
 Are you sure you don't want high
 tea at the Ritz? We've done bus
 tours to the Canyon before.

MAGGIE
 Not a bus tour.

Ruth removes the card from the envelope and grows wide-eyed.

RUTH
 (reading the wish)
 Oh no... Maggie Mason.

MAGGIE
 Oh yes. You know it was always
 Albert's dream to hike the Canyon.
 It was me. I was too afraid. I was
 the reason he never got to do it.

Ruth pauses to study Maggie's seriousness. Ruth's stare
 slowly turns to a smile as she shakes her head.

HELEN
 What are you old hags waiting for?
 We need to start searching for a
 sexy, rugged tour guide.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Ruth sits on an examining table in a hospital gown, looking down.

A DOCTOR stands next to Ruth, gently rubbing her back.

DOCTOR

Since you still prefer not to go through treatment, our prognosis remains the same.

RUTH

So one year.

DOCTOR

Four to six months.

RUTH

(forcing a smile)
Just checking your math.

EXT. THE GRAND CANYON - SOUTH RIM - DAY

The sun lights the majestic canyon walls.

EXT. THE GRAND CANYON - TRAIL INSIDE - DAY

Maggie and Helen with BACKPACKS, hike at a steady pace. Ruth, with WALKING STICKS and a BACKPACK, lags behind.

HELEN

(yelling to Ruth)
Come on girl. We're almost to the top.

MAGGIE

I cannot believe we accomplished this. Can you believe us? I can't believe us.

A handsome HIKER approaches. Helen loosens her blouse, smiles as he passes. Maggie tries to button Helen's top. Helen slaps her hand.

Helen notices that Ruth has stopped.

HELEN

Ruth?

Helen begins to walk back down the trail. Maggie follows.

As they approach, Ruth slumps down on the trail. Leans back against her backpack, propped up by the canyon wall.

Helen and Maggie quicken their pace.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Ruth? What's wrong?

MAGGIE
(panicked)
Do something Helen. Ruth? Come on, we're so close.

Helen and Maggie get to Ruth.

RUTH
(in soft voice)
Sit with me.

MAGGIE
No. No sitting. Get up Ruthie. Come on, the sun's going down.

Helen sits next to Ruth.

RUTH
Look at that.

Helen and Ruth take in the beautiful sunset.

RUTH (CONT'D)
(patting the ground)
Come on Maggie. There's no need to rush now. We did it.

Maggie sits, but her focus is on Ruth, not the sunset.

MAGGIE
Are you okay?

RUTH
Maggie ... What do you think Albert sees right now ... as he's looking down on you?

MAGGIE
(slowly smiling)
I think he sees a brave woman who's not so afraid of the world.
(beat)
And Helen's big, fat boobs.

HELEN
Will you please ...

RUTH

Girls.

Helen and Maggie pause their bickering and lean back against the canyon wall, one on each side of Ruth, their heads resting next to Ruth's.

The three women take in the sunset together.

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A BLOWN-UP PICTURE OF RUTH rests on an EASEL, surrounded by a few BRIGHTLY-COLORED FLOWERS.

Maggie sits at a table looking at something as Helen says goodbye to the last guest at the door.

GUEST

I'm just surprised she kept it to herself for so long.

HELEN

(smiling)
You know Ruth.

They hug and Helen closes the door.

Helen walks up behind Maggie and bends forward, looking over her shoulder. Helen puts her arm around Maggie, who grabs her hand.

Maggie looks disapprovingly at Helen's cleavage.

Helen closes her top with her hand. Maggie smiles.

A COLLAGE of pictures from their motorcycle tour surround the handwritten card containing Helen's wish, "Motorcycle tour of Arizona".

The DECORATIVE BILL FOLD that held their wishes sits on the table.

Next to it is a SIMILAR COLLAGE from the hiking trip with Maggie's handwritten card, "Hike the Grand Canyon".

Maggie touches a fold in the card.

MAGGIE

I really should replace that awful bent card.

HELEN

It's so sad. If she had just told us, we would have done her wish first.

Maggie pulls an ENVELOPE marked "Ruth" from the decorative bill fold.

MAGGIE

Yes, very sad.

Both women pause and stare at the envelope.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Wait.

(beat)

She never got to do it, but that doesn't mean we can't.

HELEN

Maggie Mason. What are you suggesting?

MAGGIE

It's the least we can do. If she hadn't pushed us, we never would have gotten off our asses.

HELEN

Did you just say "asses"?

(beat)

But we don't even know what her's was. What if it's dangerous?

The two women look at each other.

Helen rips the envelope from Maggie's hand and starts to tear it open.

Maggie grabs it back and stares at Helen.

MAGGIE

Were you raised by wolves?

Maggie carefully opens the envelope with a LETTER OPENER. She removes the card and lays it on the table in front of them.

Helen peers over Maggie's shoulder as the writing in Ruth's wish comes into focus.

"See Maggie's and Helen's wishes come true."

Stay on the card.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END.