

ONE FINAL WISH

by

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FADE IN:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - 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. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - 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. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - PORCH - 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

Not sure? We all agreed.

RUTH

Helen's right... you did agree.

Helen reaches the porch first. Maggie snatches the card from her.

MAGGIE

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

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

HELEN

We do whatever the others wish... and this is my wish.

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

MAGGIE

(toward Ruth)

But a wish is high tea at the Ritz.
With a yummy lemon scone.

(toward Helen)

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.

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, what did Albert
 always tell you?

MAGGIE
 (reluctantly)
 To be less cautious.

Ruth smiles at her, offers her a leather jacket. She struggles for a moment. Finally, she takes it.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 But I'm riding with you -
 (glares at Helen)
 - not Evel Knievel.

Helen smiles at Ruth, who smiles back.

Helen grabs Ruth with one arm, Maggie with the other and escorts them away.

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

RUTH
 (to Maggie)
 Grandkids' music.

They exit frame.

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - 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 over an open road surrounded by the saguaro-filled desert.

A still of the women at Montezuma's Castle. Ruth and Helen smiling on the cliff dwellings, Maggie clinging to the railing.

Riding through the red rocks of Sedona.

A still with a group of bikers in front of a bar in Jerome, Helen making out with one, Maggie trying to keep her distance from the motley group.

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

Riding through Monument Valley.

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

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

INT. SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

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

RUTH (O.C.)

... and Tombstone, Arizona, sight
of the Gunfight at OK Corral.

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!

Ruth notices something about the last slide, still showing on
the screen.

RUTH (CONT'D)
What's that up there for?

Helen turns, then Maggie. The slide shows the Grand Canyon.

HELEN
We didn't go to the Grand Canyon.

Maggie displays a mischievous look.

MAGGIE
I put it there.

Helen and Ruth turn, confused.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 I want to change my wish.
 (suddenly concerned)
 Wait, can I do that?

RUTH
 (laughing)
 Of course you can.

MAGGIE
 Excellent.

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 make
 you a new one.

Ruth grabs the envelope from her. Smiles at Maggie.

HELEN
 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 as she reads the wish.

RUTH
 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.

A moment of kinship passes between them. Ruth puts her arm around Maggie as Helen jumps from her chair.

HELEN
 What are you old hags waiting for?
 We need to start shopping for a hot
 tour guide.

EXT. THE GRAND CANYON - SOUTH RIM - DAY

The sun lights the majestic canyon walls.

EXT. THE GRAND CANYON - TRAIL INSIDE - DAY

CLOSE-ON three pairs of HIKING BOOTS moving steadily up the dusty red trail.

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 did 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.

Maggie notices that Ruth has stopped.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Ruth?

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

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

Helen and Maggie get to Ruth.

HELEN
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.

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
 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 ...

(beat)

... off our asses.

Helen pauses, shocked by Maggie's colorful language.

HELEN

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

MAGGIE

Are you scared?

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 (CONT'D)

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.