

**Life's Curve**

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and

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. FINNEGAN'S PUB, LIMERICK CITY, IRELAND - DAY

The warm glow of a crackling fire casts a soft light over a cozy, bustling pub. MAURA DOUGALL (32), pale but dignified, sits across from ALICIA MOSS (35), poised and sharp. Maura's trembling hands clutch a worn photo, which she passes across the table.

MAURA

Here we are—thirteen years ago.

Before Alicia can take a hold of the photo, it falls from Maura's hand. Alicia snatches it up.

MAURA

Sorry. I'm not having such a good day.

Alicia studies the photo: a vibrant smiling, younger Maura with a very handsome young man.

ALICIA

You were happy.

MAURA

Blissfully so. Then. I never told him why I called things off. He deserves to know the truth—before it's too late. I still love him, always have.

Alicia hesitates, assesses Maura's hopeful gaze.

ALICIA

Are you sure? This isn't about you. This could change his life forever.

MAURA

I know, Alicia. Look at me, I'm dying. I have nothing left to lose. He has so much to gain.

(tears build in her eyes)

Please. Ethan needs to know everything, but I have to be the one to explain it all before, before I...

Alicia takes her hand and exhales, resolved.

ALICIA  
I know exactly where to find him.

FADE OUT

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. THE BROWN HOTEL, CHARITY BALLROOM, LOUISVILLE, KY -  
NIGHT

An elegant charity gala is in full swing. ETHAN DAVID (32), dressed sharply but visibly uncomfortable, navigates the crowd. At the bar, across the room PETE CARRILLO (35), scruffy and underdressed, signals with a beer.

Ethan looks at Pete, smirks, and lightly taps two fingers at his forehead. As he makes his way toward Pete, RENNA ALBERTSON (28) intercepts him, her smile as devilish as her dress.

RENNA  
Ethan David. Still dodging the  
spotlight?

ETHAN  
Just trying to enjoy the evening.

RENNA  
(leans in, her voice a  
purr.)  
Enjoy it with me.

She drags him into a sea of couples dancing cheek to cheek.

AT THE BAR Pete downs the beer. THE BAR TENDER grabs up the empty.

PETE  
Two more.

BAR TENDER  
We do have a one at a time limit.

PETE  
One for me, one for my friend.

He points to the dance floor.

HIS POV: Ethan's eyes plead as he tugs on his bowtie.

Alicia Moss settles against the bar gives Pete a smile.

PETE  
And one more for the pretty lady.

ALICIA  
Just a tonic, thank you.  
(looks Pete over)  
You're Pete Carrillo.

PETE  
And you are definitely my sunshine on  
a cloudy day.

ALICIA  
Please tell me that never works.

PETE  
Touche, Miss --

ALICIA  
Moss. I'm looking for Ethan David.

PETE  
Seriously? What's he got that I  
don't?

ALICIA  
A 325 batting average, two gold  
gloves, 307 home runs, four time MVP.

The Bartender sits two beers and a glass of tonic on bar.

ALICIA (CONT'D)  
And a mutual friend. Maura Dougall.

Pete swallows hard, swoops up the beers, then heads toward  
the dance floor.

BAR TENDER  
You can't drink on the --

Pete makes his way to Ethan and Renna.

PETE  
Pickoff?

Ethan nods and steps back from Renna, leaves room for Pete  
to cut in.

RENNA  
I am not dancing with you!

PETE  
(laughs)  
Oh, you thought. No. You, see. I  
don't dance with feral cats.

He wiggles his eyebrows at her, hands Ethan a beer then  
steps in, faces Ethan and sways his hips.

Renna huffs and storms off through the crowd.

ETHAN  
You're a lifesaver.

Pete keeps dancing. Ethan pulls on his arm.

PETE  
I'm doing this for you.

He stops and takes a big swig of his beer.

ETHAN  
Funny. But, we can't drink out here.

Ethan heads toward the bar. Pete follows.

BACK AT THE BAR

Alicia straightens and takes a deep breath as she watches Ethan approach.

ALICIA  
Hi, Ethan David? I'm Alicia Moss with  
The Legacy Bridge Foundation.

She pulls an envelope out of her purse.

ETHAN  
I don't sign autographs.

ALICIA  
Cute. I am a baseball fan, Mr. David,  
but I am far from being one of your  
groupies.

She extends the envelope to Ethan. Pete leans close to Ethan's ear.

PETE  
(whispers)  
You're gonna wish you stayed out  
there dancing with me.

ETHAN  
I'm retired. Whatever it is, Miss  
Moss. I'm not interested.

ALICIA  
This isn't about baseball. It's about  
Maura Dougall. She wanted me to give  
you this.

Ethan freezes. Pete takes the envelope.

ALICIA  
My card's inside if you have any  
questions. I'm staying here at the  
Brown, room 417-through the weekend.

INT. ETHAN DAVID'S HOME - NIGHT

A well maintained 1920's Craftsman, warm and inviting with  
all its original period charms.

ELEANOR "ELLIE" BENNETT (64), a nurturing presence sits on  
the sofa with a book open in her lap and a mug cradled in  
her hand. She looks up at Ethan as he enters the room.

ELLIE  
You're home early.

ETHAN  
Yep, only so much "gala" I can take.

Ellie chuckles, sits her mug aside as she rises from the  
sofa.

ELLIE  
Want me to pour you some tea?

ETHAN  
Thanks, Ellie, but I think I'll just  
call it a night.

Sensing his unease, she grabs up her shawl and drapes it  
over her shoulders with practiced ease.

ELLIE  
Christopher's sound asleep.  
(picks up her book)  
That boy's a gem.

ETHAN  
I know. Thanks for looking after him  
tonight.

ELLIE  
Oh, hush. You know I love spending  
time with him. Besides, what are  
neighbors for?

ETHAN  
Still, I owe you-again.

She gives him a warm smile.

ELLIE  
He showed me his report card.  
Impressive.

ETHAN  
(proudly)  
Straight A's! Very impressive.

Ethan walks with Ellie to the front door. As they reach it, she rests a hand lightly on his arm.

ELLIE  
You know, you're doing just fine  
without her.

ETHAN  
I don't know, Ellie. Most days, it  
feels like I am just keeping my head  
above water.

ELLIE  
From where I am standing, I see a  
happy boy. A loved boy. And that's  
because of you. Her loss.

Ethan nods, manages a faint smile as he opens the door. Ellie steps out onto the porch, and he follows. She continues down the steps.

ETHAN  
I'll watch you to your door.

ELLIE  
Then consider your debt paid when I'm  
safe and sound inside.

ETHAN  
Good night.

She follows the sidewalk to her front walk, up her front porch steps...

ELLIE  
Until tomorrow then.

...and through her front door. Her shadow lingers as a silhouette in the glass.

Ethan draws in a big breath and exhales as he pulls the envelope from his inside jacket pocket he taps it absently against his palm.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LIMERICK CITY, IRELAND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

YOUNG ETHAN (early 20's) athletic, red haired, and full of life, pedals a bicycle across Thomond Bridge.

YOUNG MAURA (early 20's), radiant and carefree, perched on the handlebars, laughs with wild delight as the wind tousles her hair.

Young Ethan pedals hard, grins as he weaves around a corner. They coast to a stop in a grassy patch alongside the River Shannon.

Young Maura hops off the handlebars, her eyes gleaming. On impulse, she grabs Young Ethan's face and kisses him, breathlessly.

YOUNG ETHAN  
I thought you weren't too fond of  
American men.

YOUNG MAURA  
You are very good at changing a  
girl's mind.

She kisses him again, softer this time, lingering. He breaks away.

YOUNG ETHAN  
Marry me.

YOUNG MAURA  
(stunned, laughs)  
What? Are you serious? What about  
baseball? You're career --

YOUNG ETHAN  
Do you love me?

YOUNG MAURA  
Yes, of course.

YOUNG ETHAN  
Then marry me.

Young Maura's smile widens and her laughter softens as tears of happiness build in her eyes and she nods.

Young Ethan steps off of the bike, lets it fall to the ground as he lifts her effortlessly into his arms and spins her around in a dizzying circle. Their laughter echoes across the river sparkling in the background.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MAURA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON (FLASHBACK)

Sunlight filters through the curtains, casting a warm glow over the room. Young Maura and Young Ethan lie side by side in bed.



She rolls toward him, traces a finger across his chest.

YOUNG MAURA

I want to spend every hour of every day with you, Ethan David - for the rest of my life.

YOUNG ETHAN

That could be a very long time.

YOUNG MAURA

I do hope it is.

She snuggles into him, rests her head on his chest. Young Ethan smiles, his hand gently brushing over her hair. He kisses the top of her head, then exhales a deep sigh.

YOUNG MAURA (CONT'D)

What is it?

YOUNG ETHAN

Nothing.

YOUNG MAURA

(softly teasing)

A sigh is never nothing. If we are going to be together for the rest of our lives, you can't go about saying "nothing" when it is clearly something.

He laughs - warm and unguarded.

YOUNG ETHAN

Okay, okay. I was just thinking about how good this feels. This, being here - with you.

He pauses, rests his hand over hers.

YOUNG ETHAN (CONT'D)

Feels like home.

Maura smiles as she nestles into him. Ethan tightens his arm around her and kisses the top of her head once again as the sunlight shifts across the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ETHAN DAVID'S HOME, OFFICE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Ethan opens the envelope, pulls out the letter and reads to himself.

MAURA (V.O.)  
I am sure this is quite a shock for  
you, especially after all the time  
that has passed between us.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FLOWER SHOP, LIMERICK CITY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Rain streaks the windows. Young Ethan watches Young Maura as she smells a beautiful pure white rose.

MAURA (V.O.)  
I realize that the way I treated you  
was very selfish and unfair.

She moves on and touches the delicate petals of a purple iris. She's sad and distant.

YOUNG ETHAN  
I like those.

YOUNG MAURA  
They are my favorite.

YOUNG ETHAN  
That's why I like them. Are they what  
you want?

Young Maura doesn't respond.

YOUNG ETHAN  
Maura?

MAURA (V.O.)  
I could never give you a perfect  
explanation and expect you to  
understand, but I would like to try.  
Even if it means you will never  
forgive me. I won't blame you if you  
don't.

Young Ethan steps toward her, concerned.

YOUNG ETHAN  
The irises. Are they what you want?  
For the wedding?

Young Maura looks up, her eyes brimming with unshed tears.

YOUNG MAURA  
There's not going to be a wedding.

Young Ethan, stunned, drops his jaw. Young Maura breezes past him toward the front of the shop.

YOUNG ETHAN  
Oh, ha ha! Very funny. Maura.

She stops, turns back, tears streaming down her face.

YOUNG MAURA  
I'm not joking, Ethan. I can't marry  
you.

She races out into the rain. Ethan races after her.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP, LIMERICK CITY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Young Ethan grabs Young Maura's arm, spins her around. His  
hurt and confusion on full display.

MAURA (V.O.)  
Please know that not a day goes by  
without regret. Not a day goes by  
without a thought of you. Not a day  
goes by without a reminder of how  
much I love you.

Ethan's grip loosens as Maura pulls away and disappears into  
the storm.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ETHAN DAVID'S HOME, OFFICE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Ethan wipes a tear from his eye, the letter trembling in his  
hand.

MAURA (V.O.)  
This is important, Ethan. There is so  
much that needs to be resolved. I can  
only hope and pray that you will meet  
me here in Ireland. With love, Maura.

He crumbles the letter in his fist.

INT. BROWN HOTEL, ROOM 417 - DAY

A very luxurious two bedroom suite. A three piece matching  
luggage set sits by the door. SONYA BLAIR (28) petite,  
mousy, modest with a quirky flair, lugs her vintage bag out  
of the bedroom and into the living room with a thud. Alicia  
steps out of the other bedroom, sleek and composed.

ALICIA  
You really need to upgrade.

SONYA  
Who needs wheels when I've got Old  
Faithful?