

"SISTER MAY I"

By

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FADE IN:

Scene 1

SUPER: credits

EXT. EARLY MORNING - CHESAPEAKE BAY - DOWNTOWN ANNAPOLIS - MARYLAND

A bird flies in off the water and over the docks of downtown Annapolis, a bustling historic town. The bird

Soars over and out of the town into more an open landscape dotted with clusters of neighborhoods. The bird flies over small forests broken up by grassy hills. Leave bird and Close in on small farmhouse sheltered in a clearing.

TITLE CARD "SISTER MAY I".

EXT. EARLY MORNING

The farmhouse is old with a dirt driveway winding up to it. A small barn. More like a shed. Sits to the side of the house. A large mastiff trots around outside in between raised garden beds and under a large cherry tree.

INT. MORNING - MASTER BEDROOM - FARMHOUSE

A woman's body, shifts hidden under the covers of the bed. She pulls a pillow over her face to hide it from the sun that is streaming in from open curtains and showering over the bed.

WILL a tallish medium build woman, steps out of the bathroom, she pats her wet and already coiled hair in the towel. She drapes the towel over the shoulders of her creme blouse to protect from moisture. And walks down to the kitchen.

INT. MORNING - KITCHEN

Will fries some eggs, grounds some coffee, and sits down at the kitchen island. She scrolls on her phone as she waits. Her face is disappointed as it takes in her notifications.

INT. LATER - KITCHEN

YAZ comes down the stairs in her long flannel robe as Will is pouring her coffee in a thermos. Her hair wildly frames her face like a halo. Or a helmet.

YAZ

(Gruffly)

Hruff, ehh

She waves a greeting at Will as she fills an extra-large coffee mug she pulled from the cabinet.

WILL

Late start? There are some eggs by the stove hon.

Will walks over to kiss Yaz good morning and goodbye. She hugs her waist from behind but is interrupted from kissing her.

YAZ

Hmmm waaait

(beat)

Real quick, any word bout Margot?

WILL

(shakes head no)

I just checked.

YAZ

Damn okay. Keep me updated yea?

WILL

Of course. I'll see ya later okay I gotta go.

Will finishes the kiss and takes a sip of Yaz's coffee. She grabs her backpack and laptop off the counter top and walks out the door.

Cut to:

SCENE 2

EXT. MID-MORNING - A WOMEN'S SHELTER - ANNAPOLIS, MD

The building is a large, yellow, modern two-story farmhouse. Outside is cheery thanks to well-kept gardens around house.

INT. LARGE ROOM - MAIN FLOOR - MID-MORNING

Women of vary ages and in various states sit on folding chairs in a circle. They sit in softly colorful room lit by the natural light of large bay windows. JENNY, a young - in her early 20's - pregnant woman with immaculately curled platinum hair leans over in her chair amidst the circle of other women. Tears glisten in her eyes as she speaks.

JENNY

I kept thinking of this lil' life growing inside me, you know...?

Jenny speaks with her head bowed towards the stomach she's cradling

For the longest time the whole thing with Chris, was just me. I could handle it. I chose to be with him, so I deserved it. But she, she didn't choose that, and I knew it wouldn't matter that she was a kid, his kid...

(Beat)

Without her I'd still be sitting in his kitchen.

Some women in the circle nod their heads. SIDNEY, a slightly grungy looking woman about the same age as Jenny looks incredulous/annoyed as she picks her acrylic nails.

I'm starting at that new Salon soon and my mom said she'd watch the baby.

Jenny Looks around for validation

I'm starting to feel like I can give her a decent life.

SIDNEY

(Growls)

Fuckin **shut up**.

(clicks tongue)

We don't all have a kid or mom making our lives better. Jenny.

Sidney Shoots Jenny a venomous side eye

Some of us don't need em'.

GENESIS

A 24-year black women with a slight build and a colorful and comfy wardrobe smiles weakly.

Sure but, how are broken toys like us supposed to make a new life when **they** are just

Genesis waves hand indicating the outside world

waiting.

WILL

Looks at Sidney then to Jenny and back to Sidney

You're out. That's done. They can't hurt you. Or the people you love.

SIDNEY

(Chuckles)

That's what restraining orders are for I guess.

No one else laughs

ROSIE

Rosie - 35ish - Darker skinned Latina woman - is sitting next to Jenny. She places her hand on Jenny's hand and looks in her eyes before surveying the circle of women.

CARMEN could be so sweet. I always forgave her and when JOEY came into our lives I thought "*CARMEN will stop*". She didn't. I'm so ashamed that I waited until she laid hands on him. I can't stand it sometimes. I really can't. But that was what it took.

Will Looks around at the group of women, a small sad smile on her face

WILL

Thank y'all for opening up today. I know things are weird and even scary for many of you right now. But you have shown such strength.

(Beat)

I want to continue this next time but for now the session is over.

Will shares a look with both Jenny and Sidney

WILL (CONT'D)

If anyone wants to see me, I'll be 'round later this week just check with the bulletin like usual.

The women begin to disperse. As Will grabs her things, Jenny approaches her.

JENNY

WILL?

WILL

Uh huh?

Will turns to look at Jenny.

JENNY

Do you think we could go grab coffee or something? I want to talk to you without...

Jenny gestures at the room and its occupants.

WILL

Sure thing. I'll be just a sec a gotta lock up.

Will walks over to her office, grabs her laptop bag and locks the door while Jenny walks over to the front door to wait.

JENNY

All Good?

Will nods yes and leaves the shelter with Jenny.

Cut To:

SCENE 3

INT. MID-DAY

They are in a small but bustling café. They are seated in front of a large window. Will sends a text while Jenny grabs their food. Once they have eaten, Jenny nervously shifts in her seat and begins to speak.

JENNY

(Rapidly)

I know this may be a bit weird or taboo so feel free to say no but I was thinking..

Jenny fidgets with her empty dishes

Would you be her godmother? Please?

WILL looks up her eyes wide.

I don't really have anyone else in my life except my mother and honestly it just feels..

(speech slows)

like, right somehow that it's you..

WILL

Are you sure? I mean what about YAZ...? You're okay with her? With us?

JENNY

Of course! The two of you are exactly the kind of people who should be in my child's life. You have helped me so much so *please* let me know if this crosses a boundary, but it would mean so much to me.

Will looks away

WILL

Then..

Will turns to look at Jenny

I'd be honored.

JENNY

Really?

WILL

Really.

A phone buzzes and Will quickly looks at hers. Jenny's mother texted to ask when she'll be home. The two women finish their food. Jenny gets up to leave. Will pulls out her laptop and stays at the table to work.

Fade to:

SCENE 4

EXT. EARLY EVENING - FARMHOUSE

A mini-SUV that's a few years old drives down a rough paved road through a Wood. The car turns down a side street and stops. Will grabs the mail and then continues to drive towards a clearing where a small farmhouse waits. Will parks and then walks up to porch where a large box sits. Struggling to carry the package, she opens the door. A large mastiff named HONEY bounds up to her as she enters the house.

WILL

Hey, hey beautiful girl. Down. Good.

Will puts her stuff away as she greets her dog.

Where's YAZ Honey? Huh where's she?

HONEY walks towards the back door.

(Lightly chuckles)

Oh, I should've known.

Will goes out the back door to a relatively large and well landscaped backyard crammed with vegetation.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - BACKYARD

YAZ is caring for her tomatoes near the backdoor. Flowers and vegetables are scattered throughout the yard. The only clear area is a small deck clearly meant for entertaining. Will approaches her girlfriend YAZ, a brown woman with short curly hair and an artist's wardrobe - early thirties

WILL

Hey sweets.

YAZ

Oh! Hey! Try this.

Feeds her a cherry tomato

WILL

Mmmmm. How're you?

YAZ

(laughs)

Good! The Peterson case finally made settlements in mediation thank god.

WILL

Its 'bout time.

YAZ

How was your day?

WILL

I've got news actually, but first, there was a package for you out front. A BIG one.

YAZ

AH! Really?

WILL

It's in the living room.

YAZ takes off her gloves and darts inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - FARM HOUSE

YAZ kneels on the rug of the living so she can cut open the package. The room is an eclectic but cozy living room full of plants and with packed walls. The hardwood floors are covered by numerous rugs piled on top of each other. Will slowly walks up to Yaz munching on another tomato.

WILL

What'd you get?

YAZ mischievously holds up a finger as she opens the package. WILL holds up her hands in mock surrender

YAZ

Various planks and pieces begin to peek out from the packaging

Okay. Soooo, I *might've* got a bit ahead of myself after we started talking about redoing the guest bedroom. I ordered some new furniture. You think she'll like it?

WILL

(laughs)

I mean I don't know what it looks like babe.

YAZ

Oh right. Well, it's cute and kind of vintagey looking. You did say she was into that now right?

WILL

I mean she's a quirky teen who reads a lot so I'm sure it's fine

Will heads to the kitchen to prepare dinner. She begins pulling out a cutting board and some vegetables.

YAZ

(calls out)

Wait! I almost forgot.

Will walks back into living room and leans against doorway

You said you had news. What'd she say?

WILL

Oh, *Jenny* asked us to be godparents.

Yaz stops unpacking the box to look up with surprise

YAZ

Jenny? Wait Really? WOW. That's a lot. Is that okay? You work with her. I mean I'm on board if you are, but I want to check.

WILL

Yea its fine. Plus, she's pretty much independent now and won't really be one of mine by the time the baby is born so, it's not like a problem or a conflict of interest.

YAZ

So, you said yes then?

(WILL nods)

YAZ (CONT'D)

WOW. Godparents. How exciting! But wait rewind because I was expecting your news to be about MARGOT. I thought you were going to tell me she was moving in with us...

WILL

I wish. She hasn't responded to me.

YAZ

What? You sent that like a week ago? I mean I've heard you guys talk about it in the past so I kind of thought this was just finalizing it...

WILL

Yeah, no that's what I was expecting too. But uh I haven't heard back from her.

YAZ

You guys talk like every day...

WILL

(inhales deeply)

Yeah she hasn't texted or called me back in about a week.

YAZ

Walks up to Will and leans against the wall in front of Will.

She's probably grounded. I wouldn't worry too much. Maybe her phone is broken.

Yaz gently pulls her from the wall to embrace her.

WILL

Yeah but Yaz, it's the middle of the school year. Last time something like that happened she just texted me using her friend's phone or over Google...

Will pulls back slightly from Yaz

I was actually going to call my mom tonight to see what was up.

YAZ

Yaz also pulls back slightly out of shock. They are now just holding hands.

Your mom?

WILL

Yeah.

YAZ

Are you sure?. I can't remember you calling your mom, or anyone else in your family, besides your sister. Ever. I mean It makes sense with your all's history but still.

WILL

Yeah. I know but honestly, I'm worried. I need to know what's going on.

YAZ

Do you want me around for that?

WILL

Hmm stay in room?

(Yaz Nods)

Scene 5

INT. EVENING - LIVINGROOM - KITCHEN

Will paces all around the living room and the adjacent kitchen walking on the phone. Next to the Living room Yaz is tidying up the kitchen from dinner. Yaz's head cocks towards the living room as Will begins to speak

WILL (O.S)

Yeah. Hi mum, It's me

(listens)

WILL

I know. You can't be at a loss as to why I haven't called you.

(listens)

You're still with him, and what's worse you're keeping Margot near him.

(listens)

Will stops pacing for a moment

WILL (CONT'D)

(louder)

You want me to apologize? Jesus. No way. I'm not having this conversation with you right now.

Will clenches and unclenches fist and resumes pacing

WILL (CONT'D)

I only called to check on MARGOT, Mom. She hasn't texted me or called me back in over a week.

(listens)

We text nearly every day. She always makes time for me. What's going on. What aren't you telling me?

(listens)

No. stop evading. Did he do something to her?

WILL's face recoils in dismay

An accident? Is she OK?

(listens)

Will sits down

She's in the hospital? For how long?

Yaz comes into the doorway of the living room when she hears this.

WILL (CONT'D)

(listens)

How long's "not long"?

WILL's face is scrunched in confusion and anger and she rises from her seat.

What the actual hell mom. What? No.

(Hangs up)

YAZ

She's in the hospital? Shit.

I'll start packing.

WILL

Thank you.

SCENE 6

EXT. BEFORE DAWN - OUTSIDE AIRPORT - TERMINAL

Will and Yaz arrive at the airport with just a carry-on each.

EXT. DAWN - AIRPORT

Plane pulls off tarmac

INT. DAWN - IN THE AIR OVER THE U.S.

Will looks out the window of the plane while Yaz nods off.

EXT. DAY - AIRPORT - MEDFORD - OR

Will and Yaz leave Medford airport. It is overcast.

EXT. DAY - MEDFORD - continuous

The car drives through the dish of the valley town and up the lip of the mountains. Through winding wooded roads until they reach their motel. Will's eyes linger on a modern style house clings to the hill side

EXT. AFTERNOON - MOTEL - MEDFORD

The car pulls up to a dated one story motel just outside town. The structure is 60's organic mod. It was once painted a bright green and white but has faded to muted colors. The grounds are well kept with pansies and other plants growing in window boxes.

INT. ROOM - HOTEL

Yaz And Will empty their luggage out of the car. They enter their room and get settled. Yaz hops in the shower while Will makes some coffee and calls the hospital.

YAZ

I'm almost done here.

WILL (O.S)

Same.

YAZ

Should we stop by your parent place first?

WILL (O.S)

I already called the hospital.

Yaz leans out of the bathroom

WILL (CONT'D)

I was going to go straight there.

YAZ

I can drive if you want.

Transition: Instrumental Music begins to play - Bad Omens -
Kurt Vile

Fade out:

Music continues to play

SCENE 7

INT. LATE AFTERNOON - FLORIST SHOP - MEDFORD

Will and Yaz walk around a florist shop looking for something to bring to Margot. Will's hands linger over a bouquet of daisies and peonies.

EXT. - FLORIST SHOP

Yaz and Will walk out of the small shop with the bouquet of bright yellow and pink flowers along with an assortment of balloons. Some of them say "get well soon" and "we love you".

INT. - CAR

They get in their car and Will pulls away from the shop. The whole way there, Will grasps Yaz' hand.

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON - HOSPITAL - MEDFORD

YAZ and WILL walk into the hospital. They ask for Margot's room number and find out she's in the ICU. When they arrive, Will hesitates at the door. Yaz grabs her hand and they walk in together.

END Music.

WILL

(gasps)

Margot is lying unconscious on the hospital bed and is hooked up to numerous machines. She has bandages over her hands and face. The lower half of her body is hidden under blankets.

YAZ

An accident?

Yaz quickly walks around Margot's bed taking in the equipment and state of the room. She sets up the flowers and balloons on the bedside table. They are the only foreign objects in the stark empty room. Will is still standing in the doorway.

YAZ (CONT'D)

Has anyone even been to see her?

WILL

(clenches jaw)

Will approaches her sister's side and caresses the bandaged parts of her body before sitting and grabbing her hand. At this point she begins to cry.

(Beat)

WILL

What the hell happened? Fuck! This isn't just an accident.

Yaz cups Will's face in her hands and wipes away a stray tear.

YAZ

We're going to find out.

There's a knock at the door. A nurse walks in with the DOCTOR BROOKE a tall clean-cut man in his 50's. He has salt and pepper hair with more salt than pepper. It emphasizes how the lack of wear on his face contrasts with his profession. He is wearing a gold Rolex watch

DOCTOR BROOKE

Hello? I'm Doctor Brooke. I understand your family of Margot?

Will stands up to shake the Doctors hand. The handshake is brisk.

WILL

I'm Will Geoffreys, her sister and this is Yasmin.

DOCTOR BROOKE

Oh. So that's the case. I thought I had met all of the family, even your uncle CARSON.

WILL

We'e not really on speaking terms.

DOCTOR BROOKE

Ah I see. Well 'suppose that explain it. It's a shame to betray family bonds like that though -

Yaz interjects

YAZ

That's a bit presumptuous isn't it? You don't know the full story do you. No one would've stayed in Will's situation if they didn't have to.

Will places a calming hand on Yaz. Doctor Brooke looks curiously at them, but he says nothing

YAZ (CONT'D)

(softly)

Sorry

WILL

Doctor Brooke, I was told my sister had some kind of accident while hiking?(

beat)

I was not expecting this.

Will waves her arm indicate room

What happened to my sister? Why is she hooked up to all these machines?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Your sister Margot has sustained extensive abrasions and lacerations as you may be able to tell from her bandages. Her jaw has some minor fractures and she experienced blunt force trauma to her head. Because of these injuries, she has been put in an induced coma in order to support her healing process.

WILL

How long has she been in a coma?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Oh about 2 days.

WILL

Wait hasn't she been here about a week?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Oh no, she was injured last week but she's only been in for a few days.

Will looks confused

WILL

How can that be?

Cut away:

Scene 8

Ext. EARLY MORNING - MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Margot, an Athletic build 17 year old with long Green hair, and Carson, A stocky slightly grungey man in his early 60s carrying camping gear, hike up a mountain trail. Margot's old blue chevy truck sits at the bottom of the mountain in a small lot at the trailhead. They set up camp near a stream and fish.

Ext. NIGHT - CAMPSITE

Night falls and they roast fish over a campfire.

EXT. DAWN- MTN. TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

The sun is beginning to peak through the trees. Margot gathers her gear and sets off in the early morning mist. Deep in the forest she finds a waterfall coming over an overhang. She climbs to the top to take pictures on an old Canon. She walks along the overhang taking in the sights in her notebook. She begins to climb down when suddenly she slips and tumbles down the cliffside.

NIGHT - MTN TRAIL

A flashlight scans up the river. Carson shouts Margot's name. He's barely hears her weak voice calling back in hoarse mangled cries. Eventually he finds her at the bottom of the overhang.

DOCTOR BROOKE (V.O)

She went camping with your uncle last week but apparently one morning she left early to go hike alone. When she didn't return by sunset your uncle began searching for her. He wasn't able to find her till long after nightfall. She had fallen down a cliff or something. He had to carry her down the mountain trail.

WILL (V.O)

He searched alone. Why didn't he call for help?

DOCTOR BROOKE (V.O)

Apparently there's no cell service.

WILL (V.O)

So she was alone at the bottom of a cliff for a day? What the fuck? And they didn't tell me?

Cut back:

Scene 9

INT. - ICU ROOM- HOSPITAL- MEDFORD

A standing Will roughly runs her hands through her hair as she blinks away the threat of more tears.

WILL (CONT'D)

(hisses)

Fuckers!

YAZ

Will Margot be alright? Once she wakes up?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Yes, she should make a full recovery.

(beat)

Though there is some possibility of slight damage to her cognitive functions

WILL

HUH? What does that mean?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Well, she may experience some issues memory recall or motor function because of the swelling in her brain. But they shouldn't anything major.

YAZ

You mean amnesia?

DOCTOR BROOKE

Possibly but difficulties with memory recall can also manifest in other ways such as difficulty memorizing things or difficulty with short term memory storage.

Scene 10

INT. CAR

Will drives their car up the mountainside they passed early on the way to the hotel.

WILL

Yaz, something's going on here.

YAZ

It does seem like something's off

WILL

I mean that's not just an accident and they were downplaying it

YAZ

you don't think?

WILL

what that my dad did that? I wouldn't put it past him but no he is

(hesitates)

Controlled, meticulous even when it comes to that kind of stuff. I mean you seen my scars they're all out of sight.

They reach a gate chained shut that reads "private property. NO TRESPASSING".

(car door opens)

Will gets out and undoes the chain.

(Car door slams shut)

YAZ

Maybe he just lost it

WILL

Maybe

YAZ

Either way something's up

They approach a modern looking house that clings to the hill side. It's the same one as before. There's only 2 Cars in the drive way. Margot's old blue chevy pick-up and a small Mazda.

WILL

Perfect my dad's not home

Yaz looks at will skeptically.

WILL (CONT'D)

His car's gone

Yaz nods her head in understanding

YAZ

do you want me to come in?

WILL

No, I think I'd rather you're not there for this. Just stay in the car OK? I won't be long.

EXT. GEOFFREYS FAMILY HOME

The house is large. The front of the house is mainly windows, shaded by the forest 100 yds away.

Will walks up to the glass front door and rings the doorbell.

A small shivering chihuahua begins yapping through the glass. CAROLINE GEOFFREY'S, A medium build woman with her blonde highlighted hair in a twist, picks up the dog. She looks at Will in surprise and opens the door.

CAROLINE

(to the Dog)

Shhhhh Tina.

Tina ceases barking but shivers violently

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Will? What are you doing here?

WILL

Hello Mom.

CAROLINE

how long have you been in?

WILL

about a day.

You're not going to invite me in?

CAROLINE

OH

Will leans and looks over her mother's shoulder towards the inside of the house

WILL

Dad's not in.

Caroline Nods and looks around as if to check he didn't pull up.

CAROLINE

Why did you come?

WILL

Mom you know the answer. You know why I'm here

Caroline's face relaxes into a tight smile. She lightly taps her head. As if a lightbulb went off.

CAROLINE

Oh, how silly of me. Your sister.

WILL

Yep

Will makes her way past her mother and into the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - GEOFFREYS' FAMILY HOME

Caroline's smile draws tighter. They enter a minimalist modern living room. The walls show diplomas and awards. Her

mother award for her work as a emergency Veterinary. Her father's Law degree.

CAROLINE

it's just a small accident you know. She's going to be fine.

WILL

Mom I've already been to the hospital.

CAROLINE

OH. Well then you know what I mean.

Caroline sets Tina down on a black leather couch.

WILL

That was not just an accident.

Why didn't you call me and tell me?

CAROLINE

Oh, I'm sure it just slipped my mind.

Caroline grabs a bottle of wine from the bar cart and pours herself a glass.

I haven't spoken to you in years why would I think to do that now?

Caroline offers a glass to will. Who nods her head no.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

you made it quite clear don't want nothing to do with us after you left on that scholarship.

WILL

Mom, you know it's because of him.

CAROLINE

I don't know why.

WILL

of course, you do.

you turn a blind eye what's worse you even help
him cover it up.