

EXT. FAROE ISLANDS - HILLSIDE - EVENING

Right at the coordinates, on a green hill, is a small idyllic house, bathed in golden sunlight. She walks toward it.

EXT. FAROE ISLANDS - HOUSE - EVENING

Nellie knocks. The door opens and it's a beautiful woman. This is FARRAH (20's). Wise beyond her years. She's seen the world and she's made her peace with it. Her suffering has made her stronger and kinder. She looks totally unsurprised to see Nellie.

FARRAH

Is he here?

NELLIE

No.

FARRAH

(nods)

How is he?

NELLIE

I don't know. Okay I think.

FARRAH

Is he still an asshole?

NELLIE

Very much.

Farrah smiles, puts out her hand.

FARRAH

Farrah.

NELLIE

Nellie.

FARRAH

Come in.

INT. FARRAH'S HOME - EVENING

Nellie looks around the room. There are artifacts everywhere, from all over the world. Farrah brings her tea, they sit. Nellie notices Farrah has a tattoo that matches Ben's.

FARRAH

It was our meeting place. In case we got separated.

(MORE)

FARRAH (CONT'D)

It was the earliest one he could remember, so I knew it would come the latest.

NELLIE

Everything repeats.

FARRAH

Right. I'm assuming you found the notebook?

Nellie nods.

FARRAH (CONT'D)

You must have a lot of questions.

NELLIE

I do.

FARRAH

And I'm guessing he didn't answer any of them?

NELLIE

Not really.

Farrah laughs.

FARRAH

So?

NELLIE

How did it start?

FARRAH

When he was 10. He grew up in Bristol. Parents reported him missing in August. He turned up the following December in Tanzania with the Masai. He'd been there 13 months. Local ranger found him and called it in. That made a few papers.

She hands Nellie a book of clippings. The headlines proclaim lost child recovered in Africa, show photos of young Ben with his parents.

FARRAH (CONT'D)

But he's only home 2 weeks before he's gone again. That was the last time they found him.

NELLIE

Who were they?

FARRAH

Teachers. But after the second disappearance, they stopped and spent all their time searching for him. We found out later. I was the one who insisted we track them down. But by the time we got there, they'd already passed.

NELLIE

My God...

Nellie looks at the photo of Ben and his parents. They look happy, close.

NELLIE (CONT'D)

When did you meet?

FARRAH

We were 15. Caught him stealing lunches at my school. Most beautiful boy I had ever seen. I didn't stand a chance. We had 4 amazing years together. First kiss. First everything. Then things changed.

NELLIE

He told me that part.

FARRAH

What part?

NELLIE

Why you left. The rip tides.

FARRAH

They were bad. But they weren't why.

NELLIE

Then why?

Farrah gets a curious look.

FARRAH

He really didn't tell you?

INT. FARRAH'S HOME - SIDE BEDROOM - EVENING **FARRAH - SCENE 1**
 START

Farrah leads Nellie into another room. It's covered with crayon drawings, toys, arts and crafts. In the corner is a 6-year-old girl, painting on an easel. This is GRACE. She's clearly a mix of Farrah and Ben.

NELLIE
Holy sh-- I mean...

FARRAH
It's okay. Holy shit is right. You can imagine his reaction when I told him I was late. The math was simple, it could only be two of us. But now there would be three. So we had to make a choice.

(to Grace)
Gracie sweetie. Meet mommy's new friend.

Grace turns to them, hazel eyes shining.

NELLIE
Hi. I'm Nellie.

GRACE
Hi Nellie.

NELLIE
Nice to meet you.

Grace smiles at her, turns back to her painting.

NELLIE (CONT'D)
(whispers to Farrah)
Does she know...?

Farrah shakes her head.

FARRAH
He never let me. Said he didn't want someone in her life who would disappear. Wanted me to find someone who could be there for her. Someone stable. He knew I'd always wanted that.

NELLIE
So you...?

Farrah holds up her hand, shows the wedding ring.

NELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh wow.

FARRAH

3 years ago. Arthur. He's just at work now.

NELLIE

But then why did you stay here?

FARRAH

I was done moving around. I wanted a home. But also... I just wanted her to be able to meet him.

NELLIE

Has she?

FARRAH

Never.

(points)

She thinks they all come from a friend.

END SCENE 1

Nellie looks around the room. Along every ledge are dozens of small hand-carved wooden figurines, exactly like Ben had been carving. She walks over and sits next to Grace, at a small toy piano.

NELLIE

What are you painting?

GRACE

A castle.

NELLIE

Is that an ice castle?

GRACE

Ice cream. See?

NELLIE

Oh, right... looks delicious.

GRACE

You can't eat it though.

NELLIE

Of course not.

Nellie smiles, plays a little song on the piano.

GRACE

What is that?