

MAPLE HOUSE
(working title)

WRITTEN BY

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1 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - SUNNY

On a sunny late summer afternoon in a small seaside town you appear in front of an old but cozy two-story wooden home. Grass and trees fill the lawn around you and a stone path up to the front porch door looks inviting. The front door is open. You slowly walk up the path, no footsteps are heard. There is a slight breeze and rustling of leaves and grass as you pass the calm scene into the old house. You travel past a room and hallway full of a lifetime of objects and memorabilia. There is soft light pouring in from the approaching sunset at the back of the house. It pulls you further into the house near the back. The porch door is closed but you can see a figure beyond the window on the back deck. You want to open the door to see the sunset and this figure and realise you can easily use the door knob to do so. You open the door and the figure turns around as the sun sets right behind them which results in only their silhouette being visible and the flash of sunset light turns blinding as everything fades to black in that moment.

2 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - PARTLY CLOUDY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. The grass is a little taller and still lush. It's a little windier and some clouds appear but still otherwise fair weather. The pathway up is still inviting but this time you must open the front door into the house. As soon as it's open you hear some soft piano music playing from somewhere in the house. After travelling through you realise it's coming from the top of the stairs that is now cleared of boxes. You travel to the top of the stairs and as you turn the corner beside the bedroom is a balcony. Beside the balcony there is an upright piano facing a window looking out to the sea. There is an older yet stylish and cozy-looking woman seated at a small upright piano playing very slowly and softly. She doesn't notice you are there and continues to play facing away from you. You approach the piano and are drawn to the last key on the right. It begins to sunset and you press the key as the last light runs out and she stops playing as everything fades to black once more.

3 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - RAINY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. It's raining today, enough that you want to go inside as everything appears foggy and dusty and all the house lights are on and very warm looking. You hurriedly travel up the path, up the porch steps and open the front door. As you open the door it closes behind you and everything is much warmer and glowing and as you make your first steps inside you hear a soft laugh and muffled chatting. It came from the windowed rec room at the back of the house.

WOMAN

(generic repeating lines: yeah, that's really lovely dear, ok yes, of course, ok, etc)

You enter the kitchen on your left and see the same older woman outside the kitchen opening in the rec room but she is on her phone speaking to someone while facing the ocean. There is a boiling kettle in front of you and tea pot with a teabag inside. The kettle is boiling over slowly as you look around in the kitchen at pictures and fond memories.

WOMAN

(now coherent once you enter the kitchen) It's raining here too but it's quite beautiful. It's very kind of you to check on me today.

The kettle begins to whistle until it's all you hear. It's splashing violently and you are drawn to it to make the distraction stop. You pick up the kettle and the whistling and splashing stop.

WOMAN

I better run. The kettle is ready. Bye dear.

She turns around the corner shuffling around. You pour into the teapot and put the kettle down. (If any water lands outside the teapot it disappears) She travels inside not once facing you in the corner, puts the phone slowly down beside the teapot as she realises it's been filled. She stares at it and crosses her arms then hugs herself slightly, not breaking eye contact with the teapot as it steams. There is a clearing in the sky at the horizon where you can see the sun peak through and start to set. You see a smile spread across her face.

WOMAN
Errrr...hmmm....

Sunset and fade to black.

4 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - SUNNY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. It's a bit windy but sunny. The porch door is wide open and you hear sniffing. You enter the house and look to the right to the library and dining table and see many items are in various states of being packed into boxes, mostly a man's items. The woman is facing the bookshelf putting the items in the boxes and pauses a few times in her struggle. She comes upon one item on the shelf that is very odd. She sighs and smiles with a single tear. She brings the item to the porch outside and places the item on a pedestal and pats it smiling and sighing.

Fade to black.

5 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - PARTLY CLOUDY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. The front door is blocked by boxes and objects, there are many more vines growing and overgrown bushes and there is some damage on the side of the house. You notice a pathway around the screen right side of the house where a large flower bush is blooming and overgrown. You walk up to it but a particular stem with a large flower is blocking your way so you pluck it to clear the path, carrying it with you. As you travel to the back of the house you can hear the waves crashing and a beautiful ocean-side rolling hill scene is laid out before you.

You hear a cough. It's coming from inside on the second floor. You travel to open the back porch door and go up the stairs. The bedroom door is open and inside you see the woman in the bed turned away from you, bundled up, medication on the bedside table. You walk up and realise you can place the flower by her side. She doesn't move and you can hear her laboured breathing. The sun is going down. You hear a sound from the balcony so you go to see the source and the sunset. She coughs behind you so you turn around to see she has turned over in the bed and is clutching the beautiful flower like a teddy bear and is smiling.

Flash of a sunset and fade to black.

6 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - SUNNY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. The house is very old now and you didn't seem to notice until now. Vines are everywhere, paint has chipped, grass is very long, unkempt. The front porch door is wide open. Leaves have blown inside. There are candles lit inside and the woman can be seen in the windowed rec room. She is playing a record and is dancing by herself and humming. She has very little hair and it's white. She still smiles so wide and wider still as you move around her more. She is beginning to let herself loose and dances as if she is 16 and is lost in the freedom of the feeling. The song ends and she stops dancing right as you view her, the sunset in her eyes, and she makes eye contact with you at the last moment.

Fade to black.

7 EXT. FRONT YARD PATH ENTRANCE - 5PM - SUNNY

You appear in the same place again in front of the old house. It's completely boarded up. You travel to the backyard around the path. The bushes are in full bloom and petals are in the air like snow. A small crowd in the very far distance is travelling away. Petals graze over a bouquet and whiskey bottle-laden grave in the breeze.

The woman is in front of you by the grave watching the distant crowd. She is somehow transparent but looks much younger and more youthful.

WOMAN

I've missed you so much.

She is all smiles and glows the most beautiful you have ever seen her.

She embraces you as the sun sets for the last time, the environment begins to disintegrate into the air with the petals twirling around you both as you float upwards into bright white.

END