The Link with the Past

By Robert Sacchi

LOGLINE: Bridget O’Connor left Ireland with her family in 1850 when she was 14 years old. Cathy MacGrew is Bridget O’Connor’s last living descendant. Cathy is unaware Bridget O’Connor ever existed. Cathy is 50 years old and had little to show for her or her ancestor’s existence.

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FADE IN:

EXT. IRISH COAST - DAY

There are ruins of an ancient castle on a grassy hill. The hill ends in a cliff and below the cliff is the ocean.

It is late afternoon on a cloudless day.

SUPER: ‘The Irish Coast – 1850’

BRIDGET O’CONNOR (14, freckles, wavy red hair) steps out of her small house and gazes at the castle ruins that are near her home.

She walks towards the castle ruins.

EXT. CASTLE RUINS - DAY

Amid the ruins, she looks out at the ocean. The ocean breeze blows through her hair. She marvels at the sun setting in the western sky.

Bridget’s brother PATRICK (10) approaches.

Bridget notices Patrick when he is next to her.

BRIDGET

This is such a beautiful sight. We leave for America tomorrow. We will never see this again.

Bridget and Patrick take in the beautiful view.

EXT. SUNNYVALE, CA – NIGHT

Cars drive down the streets of Sunnyvale with the lights from Hanger One, a former zeppelin hanger, beaconing in the distance.

Cars drive past a strip mall where all the stores are closed.

INT: A SAILING SHIP 1850 – DAY

Bridget is making another pencil drawing of a giant bird in flight with many people sitting on the bird. The drawing has more detail than her previous drawing.

INT. A ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT – KITCHEN – NIGHT

A tired CATHY MACGREW (49) steps into the apartment.

She flips the light switch and steps into the kitchen nook. She takes some leftovers out of the refrigerator. She puts the leftovers inside the microwave and presses ‘Start’.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cathy eats her dinner at the small table in her kitchen nook.

INT. LATER IN THE APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy cleans her dish and utensils. She glances at the wall clock: 11:17.

She gives a sigh.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cathy flips through TV channels. She stops on a channel.

INSERT – TV SCREEN

There are images of the Irish countryside.

INSERT – END

Cathy smiles and puts down the remote.

INT. LIVING ROOM – LATER – NIGHT

Cathy sits on her couch, watching television, and is nodding off.

DREAM SEQUENCE

There is an image similar to Bridget’s image of the castle ruins.

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

An *Aer Lingus* commercial wakes Cathy.

INT. SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE – DAY

Cathy and DORIS (54) carry their sandwiches and drinks to an empty table.

CATHY

I didn’t get out of here until 10:30 last night.

DORIS

Yes, you look tired.

CATHY

I didn’t want to work, go home, eat dinner, go to bed, and get up to go to work so I decided to watch some television.

DORIS

What did you watch?

CATHY

It was some movie about Ireland. Watch is a relative term. I kept nodding off during the movie.

Doris giggles.

INT. THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy’s Microsoft Outlook tells her the 3 o’clock meeting is in 5 minutes.

Cathy gives a frustrated look. She makes some quick keystrokes and selects the “Save” icon. She stands and walks away from her desk. She walks into a conference room.

INT. THE CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

Cathy steps inside the conference room. Her coworkers are already in the conference room.

There is a birthday cake with two candles. The candles are 5 & 0.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

Surprise!

(They laugh.)

Some of the people in the room point behind Cathy.

Cathy looks behind her.

One of her co-workers is dressed as the Grim Reaper, complete with a cardboard scythe.

Cathy joins the laughter.

A coworker lights the candles.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

(Sing)

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday dear Cathy,

Happy Birthday to you!

Cathy blows out both candles on the cake.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy rummages through her walk in closet.

She opens a photo album that has “Our Wedding” on the cover. She looks through the album. In the pictures she looks in her early 20s. The wedding ceremony pictures are in a Catholic church.

Cathy has a sad look as she puts that wedding album aside.

She picks up a second Wedding Album. In the pictures she looks in her early 30s. The wedding ceremony pictures are in a Protestant Church.

Cathy has a disgusted look as she puts that wedding album aside.

She comes across a gold plated picture frame with a calendar from 5 years ago. The frame reads, “In appreciation of 10 years of outstanding service.” She gives it a smirk and set it on the floor.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Doris and Cathy eat their lunch at a table. Cathy looks sullen.

DORIS

Cathy you look down today.

CATHY

Turning 50 hit me last night.

DORIS

Yes, it’s bad until you consider the alternatives.

Cathy forces a chuckle.

CATHY

It’s just what I have to show for it. I have 2 failed marriages. I gave up on 2 religions. My career has gone absolutely nowhere.

DORIS

You should look at the bright side, you’re working and your finances are in good shape.

CATHY

You’re right I should consider myself lucky.

(Pause)

That does sound like people who survive terrible accidents. They say they are lucky to be alive. If they were lucky they wouldn’t have been in the accident in the first place.

DORIS

I guess we are musing about paradoxes today.

Cathy turns cheerful.

CATHY

I just remembered the phrase “Luck of the Irish.” I’m half Irish so I guess I’m half lucky.

Doris and Cathy laugh.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy steps into the apartment. She looks tired.

She steps into the kitchen nook and opens the refrigerator. She takes some leftovers out of the refrigerator. She throws the leftovers into a dish and puts the dish inside the microwave.

She sets the microwave timer and presses the start button.

She opens a drawer and takes out some utensils.

She waits until the microwave beeps then takes her dinner out of the microwave and brings it to the small table in the kitchen nook.

She sits down and eats her dinner.

The wall clock shows 9:30.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy sits on the couch she is watching television.

She nods off.

EXT. THE CASTLE RUINS - DREAM SEQUENCE – DAY

The grass is green. The castle ruins are in the distance. A girl plays among the ruins.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy is asleep on her couch the television set is on.

An ancestry web site commercial wakes her.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

There is a heavy rain outside.

Cathy is at her computer. She brings up an ancestry web site on her browser.

There are a series of scanned copies of old documents.

Cathy looks intently at the screen.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Cathy and Doris are having lunch together.

CATHY

I searched through an ancestry site over the weekend.

DORIS

It was a good weekend for it.

CATHY

Yes it was. I found myself suddenly curious about my roots. I figured for $20 why not.

DORIS

So what did you find? Are there any thieves and cut throats in your family?

CATHY

No, there was nobody that exciting. On my mother’s side it was rather sad.

DORIS

Oh.

CATHY

On her side I’m descended from an Irish family the immigrated in 1850

DORIS

Was that during the potato crop famine?

CATHY

That’s right. The family’s name was O’Connor. They immigrated with their 2 children, a boy and a girl. The boy, Patrick, died in the Civil War.

DORIS

That’s sad.

CATHY

It gets worse. It seems most of that family’s descendents died in World War I and during the 1918 pandemic.

DORIS

What we use to call the Spanish Flu before things got politically correct.

CATHY

Yes. As best I can tell from my research I’m the last living descent of that O’Connor family.

DORIS

What about the other side of your family?

CATHY

There seems to be a number of them left.

DORIS

It seems you have a new hobby.

CATHY

It does, doesn’t it?

EXT. THE CASTLE RUINS - DREAM SEQUENCE – DAY

A young girl stands among the ruins as she looks at the ocean.

INT. CATHY’S BEDROOM – DAY

The sunshine wakes Cathy.

She looks at her clock.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

There is a Christmas tree in the corner.

Cathy is eating lunch at a table when Doris, with her lunch in hand, walks over to Cathy’s table and sits.

DORIS

You are beaming today.

CATHY

I decided I’m going to go on a real vacation.

DORIS

A real vacation, you mean something more than a couple of days off around a holiday weekend?

CATHY

Yes, I haven’t had one since my last divorce so I’m long overdue.

DORIS

I’ll say. Are you planning to go anywhere or are you just going to relax?

CATHY

I want to visit Ireland.

DORIS

That sounds nice.

CATHY

I want to get in touch with my roots.

DORIS

You’re only half Irish.

CATHY

Well a root. My mother always talked about taking a trip to Ireland but she never did. As far as I know since her descendants left Ireland no one in her family ever went back.

DORIS

You’re still searching on those online ancestry sites?

CATHY

Yes, I haven’t found any new information in months.

DORIS

An overseas vacation seems an expensive way to get in touch with a root.

CATHY

You’re right good sense says I should put the money for such a trip in an IRA.

DORIS

You know this but you’re still going to go, aren’t you?

CATHY

Yes, because if I listen to those financial advisers on the radio I’ll save every dime I earn for my retirement.

DORIS

That way you could afford to go to a good retirement home.

CATHY

Exactly, I think I should live a little while I can still enjoy living.

DORIS

You know it’s not like the old days? You just can’t hop on a plane and go to another country.

CATHY

That’s why they invented travel agents.

INT. A TAXI – MOVING - DAY

The taxi drives by Moffett Naval Air Station. Hanger One, the zeppelin hanger, dominates the area.

Cathy looks back until Hanger One is out of sight.

DRIVER

Do you have a morning flight?

CATHY

Yes.

DRIVER

It’s a nice morning for flying. We are supposed to get showers in the afternoon.

CATHY

I hope to be on my way to Chicago by then.

DRIVER

You’re going to Chicago on business or pleasure?

CATHY

O’Hare is just to change planes. I’m going on vacation to Ireland.

DRIVER

You are going to Ireland for St. Patrick’s Day?

CATHY

Yes, I guess I saw **The Quiet Man** too many times.

DRIVER

**The Quiet Man** is that a television show?

**CATHY**

No it’s a movie. It’s the one with John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara where he is a retired boxer that goes to Ireland.

DRIVER

The only John Wayne movies I can remember are the westerns and war movies.

INT. THE TERMINAL AT O’HARE AIRPORT - DAY

Cathy waits in the terminal.

She looks out at the tarmac. In the distance there is an *Aer Lingus* jetliner.

Cathy puts on a broad smile.

INT. INSIDE A JETLINER – NIGHT

Cathy is in her seat. The plane is taxiing as a young female flight attendant with red hair and freckles demonstrates as the video screen in front of her gives the safety instructions. The video’s narrator also speaks with an Irish brogue.

INT. A JETLINER – NIGHT

The airplane takes off.

The landing gear retracts.

The “No Smoking” light goes out.

CATHY

(Whispers to herself)

Next stop Ireland.

EXT. JETLINER – NIGHT

A jetliner flies across the night sky.

 INT. A JETLINER – NIGHT

Cathy sleeps in her seat.

INT. A SAILING SHIP 1850 – NIGHT

Bridget is in a bunk with Patrick. Patrick is sleeping. Bridget can’t sleep.

There is the sound of a couple of people VOMITING. There is a distant sound of someone WEEPING.

Bridget whispers to herself.

BRIDGET

Why did they do this to us?

EXT. THE AIRPORT TERMINAL – DAY

Cathy rolls her luggage outside of the terminal.

She goes to a waiting tour bus where the driver loads her luggage into the bus.

Cathy walks a few steps past the front of the bus. She scans the area.

CATHY

(Whispers)

Good morning Ireland.

INT. THE TOUR BUS – MOVING - DAY

The tour bus passengers are mostly of middle age and elderly couples. There are two elderly women who are traveling together. There is a middle age woman traveling with an elderly woman. There is another woman, ELIZABETH, 65, who is traveling alone.

Cathy looks out the window in amazement as the bus drives through the Dublin streets.

EXT. DUBLIN – DAY

The bus drives through the streets of Dublin.

The bus stops in front of a 3 floor hotel with a brick facade.

INT. INSIDE A HOTEL ROOM - DAY

It is a typical single hotel room with one king sized bed. Cathy draws open the curtain and enjoys taking in the view of Dublin.

INT. INSIDE A HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT

Cathy turns off the lights in her hotel room and looks out the window at the view of Dublin by night.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOTEL – DAY

It is early morning. The sidewalk is damp.

Cathy and the other tourists are waiting for the tour bus to arrive. Elizabeth walks next to Cathy

ELIZABETH

It’s bit damp this morning.

CATHY

The sky looks clear so it should dry out soon.

EXT. OUTSIDE DUBLIN CASTLE – DAY

Cathy is with her tour group is outside Dublin Castle.

EXT. OUTSIDE ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL – DAY

Cathy is with her tour group is outside St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

EXT. OUTSIDE TRINITY COLLEGE – DAY

It is an overcast day. The tour group stands in front of the timber-tiled archway.

EXT. ON GRAFTON STREET – DAY

It’s an overcast day. Cathy, Elizabeth, and the other members of the tour group stroll down Grafton Street. The street is crowded with people.

A street performer dances, as there is the sound of a street performing band that is performing off camera.

Cathy smiles in amazement and stops to watch the dancer perform.

ELIZABETH

This is wonderful.

(She whispers to Cathy.)

You can see such things in Chicago but you have to worry about somebody snatching your purse.

CATHY (TRACKING)

(Whispers back)

It’s nice to know Chicago is still the same as I left it.

They resume walking down the street. They continue walking until they come to Bewley’s Oriental Café.

ELIZABETH

It’s Bewley’s Oriental Café. Let’s get something to eat here. This is an Irish institution.

CATHY

Ok.

They hurry to the front door.

INT. INSIDE BEWLEY’S ORIENTAL CAFÉ - DAY

Cathy and Elizabeth sit at a table by a window on the second floor. They take glances out the window as they drink their coffee. There is a slight drizzle outside.

CATHY

This is great. I still can’t believe I’m here.

Cathy glances out the window and snaps a picture with her cell phone.

CATHY (CONT’D)

Even doing something as simple as this is like something I see people doing in the movies in a place I’ll never go.

ELIZABETH

And now you’re here.

CATHY

Yes!

ELIZABETH

We are having coffee at Bewley’s Oriental Café.

CATHY

This place is world famous?

ELIZABETH

Yes, this is one of the things to do when people visit Ireland.

CATHY

I’ll have to see if anyone in the office knows about the place.

ELIZABETH

If not you can tell them about the place.

CATHY

(She speaks in an aristocratic tone.)

I had coffee at Bewley’s Oriental Café in Dublin.

INT. INSIDE THE TOUR BUS – MOVING - DAY

It is a sunny day. The bus is driving along the Irish countryside. Cathy has a window seat. Elizabeth sits next to her.

Cathy takes pictures as she talks with Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

It’s St. Patrick’s Day and we’re in Ireland.

CATHY

Yes, touring the Irish countryside.

ELIZABETH

Tomorrow it’s back to America.

CATHY

Yes, it has been an amazing vacation.

(Pause)

Back in Sunnyvale there is a zeppelin hanger that was built in the 1930s. They make a big deal out of that.

(Pause)

Here they have castles that are 1,000 year old castles and other structures that are hundreds of years old.

Cathy snaps another picture.

EXT. BRIDGET’S HOUSE – 1850 – DAY

There is a horse drawn cart on the dirt road next to Bridget’s house.

Bridget and her family load the last of their meager belongings onto the cart.

Bridget’s parents get in the front of the cart and Bridget and her brother get onto the back of the cart.

The cart travels away from the house.

EXT. SITE OF BRIDGET’S HOUSE – TIME LAPSE – DAY

The house and the cart fade away and the dirt road morphs into a paved road and the tour bus is coming toward where the house was.

The bus drives past where the house was and continues towards the castle ruins.

TOUR GUIDE (OC)

This is our last stop on the tour.

EXT. AT THE CASTLE RUINS - DAY

Cathy and the other tourists exit the bus.

Cathy looks over the ruins and snaps a picture.

She explores the area and snaps pictures.

She stands among the ruins of the old castle.

She looks out at the ocean. The ocean breeze blows through her hair. She turns her head to the left and slowly turns it to the right.

Elizabeth walks to Cathy and stands next to her so she has the same view as Cathy.

ELIZABETH

It’s breathtaking isn’t it?

CATHY

You know I have this strange feeling I have been here before.

Cathy and Elizabeth walk back towards the tour bus.

As they walk Bridget and Patrick walk besides them.

EXT. THE SKY – DAY

An Aer Lingus jetliner flies across the sky.

EXT. THE OCEAN – 1850 – DAY

A mid-19th century sailing ship is on the water.

EXT. A 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP – DAY

Bridget is making a pencil drawing. It is of a giant bird in flight with people sitting on the bird.

BRIDGET’S MOTHER (late 30s) she appears older than her age. She looks down at the drawing.

BRIDGET’S MOTHER

Have you nothing better to do with your time than doodle all day?

(Pause)

No bird is that big. Stop wasting time daydreaming about such nonsense.

Bridget’s mother takes the drawing and tears it in half. She takes Bridget’s pencil away.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE - DAY

Cathy walks briskly into her office. Some of her co-workers are in the office.

JILL OLSEN, 40, sits at the desk next to Cathy’s cubicle.

CATHY

(Melodically)

Good Morning!

JILL

How was your vacation?

Cathy presses the power button on her computer.

CATHY

It was wonderful! I toured Dublin Castle and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The countryside is beautiful. The weather wasn’t always the best though.

(Beat)

On top of that I had coffee at Bewley’s Oriental Café in Dublin.

JILL

I’m glad you had a great time.

Cathy’s computer boots up.

Cathy opens her Microsoft Office.

CATHY

What has been happening around here?

Jill walks to Cathy’s desk.

JILL

(Low voice)

The SPILCDUH Project has been cancelled.

CATHY

What happened?

JILL

You know how it is between the contracts we’ve been losing and that Zero Based Budgeting they’ve been doing to put the margins in the black.

(Beat)

It’s a small project so keeping it going didn’t make sense to the bottom line.

Jill walks back to her desk.

Cathy looks at her computer screen.

Cathy’s Outlook shows 811 email messages.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Cathy is eating lunch at a table.

Doris pays the cashier.

Doris walks away from the cash register and spots Cathy. She walks to Cathy’s table.

DORIS

Cathy, you’re back. How was your vacation?

CATHY

It was wonderful!

Doris sits at Cathy’s table.

DORIS

I’m glad. So what were the highlights of your trip?

CATHY

I visited some of the usual tourist spots. What seemed to touch me the most was seeing the Irish countryside.

(Pause)

It sounds odd but I had this feeling I was returning somewhere rather than visiting a place for the first time.

DORIS

No kidding, I’m glad you had a good time.

CATHY

(Low tone)

I heard about the SPILCDUH Project.

DORIS

Yes, this year started out good for me. My husband finally got a job in January, which paid half of what he was getting at his last job.

(Beat)

Now this happens.

CATHY

Have they offered you another position yet?

DORIS

They told me to look at the company’s job openings. I get that after 30 years working for the company.

(Pause)

The job openings either ask for application experience I don’t have or are much lower positions. I applied for the lower positions but you know how companies are. They don’t want to give employees positions that would represent a pay cut.

(Beat)

They think it would make them look bad, as if I will have any nice things to say about them when I’m collecting unemployment.

Cathy has a sad look.

CATHY

They’re bound to find something for you. They can’t just throw you away after 30 years.

DORIS

Thanks, I hope you’re right.

INT. THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy is reading through her emails.

The time on her computer reads 3:15.

A new message flashes on the lower right corner of her monitor. The subject line reads, “Urgent Deadline.”

Cathy clicks on the message.

The first sentence of the message reads, “This must be completed today.”

CATHY

(Under her breath)

He has to be kidding.

INT. THE OFFICE – NIGHT

Cathy is alone in the office. Only 1/3 of the fluorescent ceiling lights are lit.

Cathy exhales, closes her computer’s applications, and sets her computer to power down.

INT. A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT – NIGHT

Cathy eats at a fast food restaurant. Outside the window there is a view of a supermarket.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy steps into her apartment. She has two bags of groceries in her hands.

She turns on the light and looks at the wall clock that reads 9:35.

She shakes her head in disgust. She puts away her groceries then she turns on her laptop.

Cathy uploads her vacation pictures to her computer.

She logs on to her social media and uploads some of the pictures.

One of the pictures is of the castle ruins by the sea.

INT. THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy is at her desk. Jill walks into the office.

JILL

Good morning!

CATHY

Good morning.

Jill sets her purse on her desk and presses the power button on her computer.

She walks to Cathy’s cubicle.

JILL

How late did you stay last night?

CATHY

I left a little after 8.

(Pause)

I had dinner at a fast food place. While I was eating I remembered I had to get some food because I pretty much emptied out my refrigerator before I went on vacation.

(Pause)

I didn’t get home until after 9:30.

JILL

Not a good welcome back was it?

CATHY

(Chuckles)

I think whatever work getaway benefit I got from the vacation I lost yesterday evening.

JILL

(Giggles)

Isn’t that always the way? Anyway I like the pictures you posted.

CATHY

Thanks

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

There is a heavy rain outside.

Cathy takes some boxes out of her walk-in closet.

She picks up some old photo albums.

She hesitates for a few moments then takes them outside the closet and puts them on the floor.

She walks into the closet and moves another box.

She sees an unfinished painting. The painting is of some castle ruins by the sea. It looks just like the castle ruins she saw the day before she left Ireland.

She picks up the painting and gives it a long look.

INT. TEENAGE CATHY’S ROOM – FLASHBACK SEQUENCE – DAY

The room has the painting 50 year old Cathy was viewing. The painting is on a tripod. It is not as close to completion as the painting will be 32 years later.

The door has a poster of a male music star.

The room has a clean but lived in appearance.

TEENAGE CATHY opens the door and steps into the room. She has on a high school graduation gown and has the cap in her hand. She puts the cap on her dresser. She takes off the gown and hangs it up in her closet.

INT. THE LOWER FLOOR OF TEENAGE CATHY’S HOUSE – FLASHBACK SEQUENCE – DAY

There is a staircase in the living room that leads to the upper floor. In the living room the 25” color television set is on. The living room furniture is about 10 years old. CATHY’S FATHER, 45, watches television. CATHY’S MOTHER, 40, talks with her friends ANGIE, 45, a serious woman who is wearing a mid-calf black box dress and ZELDA, 40, a cheerful woman who is wearing white pedal pushers and a blue blouse.

Cathy walks down the stairs. She is wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

Zelda claps and cheers.

Everyone else joins in on the applause.

ZELDA

Congratulations!

Zelda gives Cathy a cheek to cheek kiss.

TEENAGE CATHY

Thank you.

ANGIE

Congratulations.

TEENAGE CATHY

Thank You.

ANGIE

What are you going to major in at college?

TEENAGE CATHY

I haven’t decided yet.

ANGIE

It’s very important to decide.

INT. THE LOWER FLOOR OF TEENAGE CATHY’S HOUSE – FLASHBACK SEQUENCE – NIGHT

Angie, Zelda, Cathy’s Father, and 3 of Cathy’s friends are sitting at the dining room table.

Cathy’s mother comes in from the kitchen with a graduation cake in her hands.

Cathy’s mother puts the cake on the table. The cake has a homemade appearance.

Cathy’s mother gives those at the table a chance to give the cake a good look before she cuts into it.

She cuts out pieces of the cake and passes them out to the guests.

INT. THE LOWER FLOOR OF TEENAGE CATHY’S HOUSE – FLASHBACK SEQUENCE – NIGHT

Cathy’s father is watching television in the living room. Everyone else is in the dining room. Cathy and her friends are drinking sodas and Cathy’s Mother and her friends are drinking coffee.

TEENAGE CATHY

(Blurts out)

Art, I think I’ll major in art.

Zelda bursts out laughing turns to Cathy’s mother.

ZELDA

I see it now Cathy is in her room painting and you saying ‘Cathy you’re 30 years old, when are you going to get a job?’

(Changes voice imitating Cathy.)

‘Mom, I have a job, I’m a painter.’

(Another voice change)

‘A painter, you haven’t sold a single painting.’

(Changes voice imitating Cathy.)

‘This one is going to make me a painter like Picasso.’

Cathy’s friends and Cathy’s mother laugh. Angie gives a reserve simile.

ANGIE

Seriously Cathy, Art isn’t a good major. You have to think about what will earn you a living.

TEENAGE CATHY

(Sadly)

Yes, you’re right. I’m not a child anymore.

ANGIE

You should consider business.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy has her unfinished painting on a tripod.

She dips a paintbrush into some paint and slowly paints a stroke on the painting.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy’s painting appears complete.

Cathy gives the painting a long look. She dips a paintbrush into some paint and paints on the canvas.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy paints her name on the bottom corner of her painting.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy is painting a field in the country. She has a picture of a field in the country paper clipped on the top right hand corner of her painting. She refers to her picture as she paints.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy carries a painting of the same field in the country. In this painting the vegetation is brown.

She carries it into the walk-in closet where she has many completed paintings. The painting on top is of the same field in the country with snow covering the ground.

INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy is drawing a painting of an immigrant ship in New York Harbor circa 1850.

Cathy puts down her paint brush and walks away from the painting. She walks over to her computer and checks her emails.

She opens an email from Doris.

DORIS (email)

Cathy, how are you doing? I haven’t gotten any responses to the resumes I’ve sent out. I have been sending out resumes to job openings that will pay about half of what I was getting. Doris.

Cathy ponders the email for a few moments.

CATHY (return email)

Doris, I hope something comes up for you. It seems you have already tried everything I can think of. I am doing alright here. Maybe you should consider some part time work.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy steps into the office.

She walks to her desk.

She presses the power button of her computer.

She sees she has a message on her phone. She plays back the message.

CEO (V.O.)

This is CEO Ken Gunston. Our company has been bought by VWL Solutions. The only person who lost a job is me. There are no immediate plans to make any changes. Details of the buyout will be sent to you in an email tomorrow.

Cathy waits for her computer to complete its boot up. She looks through her emails.

Jill walks into the office.

JILL

Good morning!

CATHY

You might not have that opinion when you read your phone messages.

JILL

Oh?

Jill plays back her voice mail as Cathy resumes looking at her emails.

CEO (Voice in background)

This is CEO Ken Gunston. Our company has been bought by VWL Solutions. The only person who lost a job is me. There are no immediate plans to make any changes. Details of the buyout will be sent to you in an email tomorrow.

Jill walks to Cathy’s desk and speaks in a low voice.

JILL

They never said anything about this.

CATHY

They never do.

JILL

He did say there were no plans to make any changes.

CATHY

He said there were “no immediate plans.” That is another thing they always say.

(Pause)

I’ve known a number of people who were in companies that got bought out. The new company would lay off people one small group at a time.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy walks into the office. Jill is working at her desk.

CATHY

Good morning?

JILL

You won’t think so after you’ve read the latest VWL grams.

Cathy presses her computer’s power button.

CATHY

Another one, I suppose we should have been expecting it. They haven’t sent us something about their plans and policies in what 3 days.

JILL

Yes, and as usual it is all from the VWL side of the house. They don’t seem to have any interest in our corporate knowledge.

CATHY

One would think when a company buys up another company they would want to know what the legacy company’s people know about what will and won’t work.

JILL

Yes, and this email is another example of something we know won’t work.

CATHY

You would think they would try to reassure us. Instead they seem to go out of their way to make us more apprehensive.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy puts the finishing touches on her New York Harbor painting.

Cathy gives the painting an approving look. She steps back, looks up and down at the painting, and gives an approving nod. She steps towards the painting. She takes a paint brush, dips it in paint, and signs the painting in the lower right hand corner.

She walks over to her computer and checks her email.

She opens an email.

DORIS (email)

Cathy, how are you doing? I got a job offer today. I wish I could be excited about it. The job pays half of what I was getting. The benefits package is equally pathetic. Sadly, I’m going to take the offer.

CATHY (return email)

Doris, it is too bad the job doesn’t pay well. At least it is something. You seemed to do everything right with your job search. I can’t think of anything I would have done differently. Things aren’t going well at the company. The new company seems to be run by people who don’t care if the legacy projects succeed or fail. I have taken up my old hobby, painting. It takes my mind off the situation at work. Good luck with your new job.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy carries her latest painting into the walk in closet. She puts it with her other paintings.

Cathy looks at the pile of her paintings.

CATHY

I’ll look into it.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Cathy eats lunch with Jill.

CATHY

I think I’m going to put on an exhibition for my paintings.

JILL

An exhibition, you mean you’re going to try to sell them?

CATHY

Yes, I figure I’d rent a place for an evening. I’ll get a caterer and see if I can sell something.

JILL

That sounds expensive and risky.

CATHY

My brain tells me it’s not a practical idea. Most likely I’ll be throwing a couple of thousand dollars out the window.

JILL

If your brain is telling you that then why are you thinking of doing it?

CATHY

My heart keeps reminding my brain while few artists are remembered no one remembers office workers.

JILL

So you want to take that 1 in a thousand shot?

CATHY

I think so. I want to at least feel I gave it a shot.

JILL

A couple of thousand dollars is an expensive bullet.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy is at her computer.

On her computer screen there is a PowerPoint page that has a flyer.

Cathy queues the page to the printer and for the printer to print 50 copies.

There is the sound of the printer.

Cathy switches to an internet browser and uploads the PowerPoint file to a social media site.

INT. JUST INSIDE THE ENTRANCE OF A RENTED ROOM AT A STRIP MALL – NIGHT

The area around where Cathy is holding her exhibit has a good crowd. The rest of the mall area is quiet. Cathy is standing by the entrance. She has on a blue ankle length evening dress.

A couple walks towards the entrance.

CATHY

Welcome.

A man walks towards the entrance.

CATHY (CONT’D)

Good evening.

Jill and her spouse, RON, 42, average height slightly overweight and male pattern baldness on the crown, approach the entrance. Jill is wearing a knee length dress and Ron is wearing a sports coat and tie.

CATHY

Jill, glad you came!

JILL

Cathy you look great! This is my husband Ron.

CATHY

Hello Ron.

Cathy and Ron shake hands.

JILL

How is it going?

CATHY

A good number of people have come. The question is did they come to browse and eat hors-devours. You know what? I’m going to put that thought out of my mind. For the next couple of hours I’m just going to enjoy the present. I am an artist and I’m putting on an exhibition.

JILL

That’s the spirit Cathy. Live in the moment.

INT. INSIDE THE RENTED ROOM AT A STRIP MALL – NIGHT

There are about 20 people in the room. Cathy is talking with Jill and Ron.

CATHY

I think it’s a good time for me to give the tour.

JILL

Go for it girl!

RON

Good luck.

Ron gives Cathy the thumbs up.

Cathy acknowledges with a smile and quick wave.

Jill walks to the first painting in the exhibit.

CATHY

(She speaks in a joyful voice.)

Thank you all for coming. I am Cathy MacGrew and yes I painted these pictures. I started this first painting when I was a senior in high school. I’d like to say it was 10 years ago but it was many years more than that.

CROWD

(Chuckles)

CATHY

I hadn’t worked on it for years. Then recently I decided to finish the painting. Part of what motivated me was the painting’s uncanny resemblance to a picture I took on a visit to Ireland in March. I have a copy of the picture I took of some castle ruins in Ireland. I finished the castle ruins and the scenery but I felt there was something missing. So I added a figure of a girl in mid-19th century clothes who is looking out at the ocean.

Cathy walks to another painting and the crowd follows her.

This painting is of a scene of budding flowers in Ireland. It is based on a picture I took when I visited Ireland in March. As in my previous and subsequent paintings the 19th century girl is something I felt the need to add to the painting.

Cathy walks to another painting and the crowd follows her.

It dawned on me I should draw paintings of the same scenes in different seasons and weather.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy steps into her apartment and turns the lights on. She has a cash box and a purse in her hand.

She walks over to the coffee table and puts the cash box and purse on the coffee table.

She sits on the couch, opens the cash box and takes out a stack of checks and some credit card receipts.

Cathy sits and puts on a satisfied smile.

She opens her purse and takes out some business cards.

CATHY

(She speaks with a big smile.)

Cathy MacGrew, an artist.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy is at her work station. Jill enters the office.

Jill hurries over to Cathy’s cubicle.

JILL

How did the exhibition turn out?

CATHY

Unbelievable! It was much better than I could have hoped for. I sold all the paintings. I even got business cards from some people who were interested in me doing paintings for them.

JILL

That is great. I am glad it worked out for you. By the way, I liked that touch of adding the girl to all your paintings.

CATHY

Thank you. Also thank you for coming.

JILL

Don’t mention it. I enjoyed doing the patron of the arts routine.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy goes into her walk-in closet.

She picks up the New York Harbor painting and gives it a good look.

CATHY

This will be the theme of the paintings for my next exhibit.

The painting includes her signature 19th century girl. The girl looks exactly as the 14 year-old Bridget O’Connor looked.

EXT. THE DECK OF A 19th CENTURY PASSENGER SHIP – DAY

SUPER: NEW YORK HARBOR 1850

Bridget O’Connor stands on the deck of the ship with her family as the ship sails into New York Harbor.

MALE PASSENGER

I see land! I see America!

Others in the crowd claim they see America.

BRIDGET’S FATHER

You see. Soon we’ll be in America and have a new and better life.

BRIDGET

(She speaks in a low voice to Patrick.)

I’m just happy we will soon be getting off this ship.

Patrick smiles agreement.

EXT. A STREET IN 1850 MANHATTAN – DAY

Bridget and her family walk through the streets of Manhattan. They are carrying their remaining belongings. The streets and the people are dirty.

Bridget surveys the area around her as she walks. Her expression alternates between dismay and disgust.

PATRICK

It smells bad.

BRIDGET’S MOTHER

Patrick, stop complaining. There is nothing we can do about the air.

Ahead of them is a rundown tenement.

BRIDGET’S FATHER

There it is.

PATRICK

(He speaks in a whinny voice.)

We are going to live there?

BRIDGET’S FATHER

What did you expect, a castle? Be grateful we have a place to stay.

INT. AN APARTMENT IN A 1850 TENEMENT – DAY

The apartment is small and dirty.

There is a young mother with her two children, an infant and a toddler, inside the apartment.

There are indistinct sounds of multiple conversations from other apartments on the floor.

Bridget shakes her head in disgust.

BRIDGET’S MOTHER

Well no time to lie about. We have to put away our things and other work to do.

INT. INSIDE THE TENEMENT OUTSIDE BRIDGET’S APARTMENT – DAY

Bridget walks away from her apartment door. MARY, 14, walks towards her.

MARY

Good day, I am Mary. Do you live here?

BRIDGET

Yes, I live in that apartment.

Bridget points to her apartment door.

MARY

Have you lived in America long?

BRIDGET

No, we came here a week ago.

MARY

I also came here a week ago. We must have come on the same ship.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Jill is at her desk. Cathy enters the office.

CATHY

Good Morning!

JILL

Did you do anything interesting this weekend?

CATHY

I spent most of it in an office building much like this one.

JILL

That doesn’t sound good.

CATHY

I painted a mural in the building’s lobby!

JILL

It seems your painting hobby is turning into a part time job.

CATHY

Yes, it is great when a hobby makes a profit.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE - DAY

Cathy returns to her desk. She has her handbag in one hand and a cup from a fast food restaurant in the other hand.

Cathy unlocks her monitor screen. The time shows 12:55. Cathy’s outlook shows a meeting request.

She opens the email. The meeting request is from her supervisor and it was sent to everyone under the supervisor’s supervision. The meeting is for 3 o’clock.

INT. INSIDE A CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

Cathy, Jill, and her other co-workers sit inside a conference room. The co-workers include KRISTY, 25, and SARAH, 22, both are attractive women. Another co-worker is SAMUEL, 24. The other co-workers are over 40. KRIS and DELLA are in their mid-50s. The clock on the wall reads 3 o’clock.

The SUPERVISOR, a man, 57, with white hair and a slight build, steps into the room.

SUPERVISOR

I got the news at noon. Our contract has been canceled effective the end of next month. So look for openings in the company I will be happy to give any of you recommendations. If any of you need references for jobs outside the company you can of course use my name.

Cathy and her co-workers sit with shocked expressions.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy finishes her painting of a young girl and her family looking at a tenement in mid-19th century New York.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

It is 1:17 PM. Cathy is working at her desk. Kristy walks over to her.

KRISTY

Hi Cathy, I just dropped by to say good-bye.

CATHY

Yes, it has been good working with you. Good luck at the new company.

KRISTY

Thank you. I’m real excited about the new job.

CATHY

Is the pay about the same?

KRISTY

It’s a 10% pay increase.

CATHY

That’s great!

KRISTY

Yes, the way they are with pay raises around here it would have taken me 5 years to get to that point.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy works on a painting showing the family just inside the door of an apartment. Disappointment is on the family’s face. The family looks just like Bridget and her family.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy is working at her desk.

Jill walks to her desk with a coffee cup in her hand. She passes her desk and walks over to Cathy’s desk.

JILL

I just found out they found another position for Sarah.

CATHY

That’s good news.

JILL

Good news for her. All the contracts we’ve lost. I’ve never heard of them finding another position for someone over 30.

CATHY

I haven’t either. I applied for a couple of the positions but I haven’t gotten any responses.

JILL

I applied for about a dozen positions no bites.

EXT. A RESIDENTIAL AREA – EXT

Cathy stops her car in front of a house.

She steps out of the car and takes a painting out of the back seat.

She walks up to the house and rings the door bell.

A woman opens the door. Cathy shows the woman the painting. The woman appears very happy.

The woman takes the painting from Cathy and hands Cathy a check.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy walks into the office. Jill is already in the office.

CATHY

Good morning.

JILL

Good morning.

Jill walks over to Cathy’s cubicle.

JILL (CONT’D)

I got my realtor’s license yesterday.

CATHY

That is great.

JILL

Yes, if they don’t come through with another position I think I’ll try being a realtor full time.

CATHY

Do you know of anybody getting interviews?

JILL

Just Samuel, the pattern seems to be holding.

INT. INSIDE AN OFFICE LOBBY – DAY

A man accepts a set of pictures. He hands Cathy a check.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy and Jill are at their desks. Samuel walks by.

SAMUEL

They found another position for me.

CATHY

That’s great!

JILL

Good for you. Where is the position?

SAMUEL

It’s in sales. I always wanted to get into sales.

CATHY

I’m glad.

SAMUEL

Thanks. Have either of you gotten any word?

JILL

No, just deafening silence.

CATHY

Not even a nibble here.

SAMUEL

I’m sure they’ll come up with something for you. I’ll talk to you later.

Jill watches Samuel until he is out of hearing range.

JILL

Oh the optimism of youth.

CATHY

I really am glad for him. Maybe he is right about us.

JILL

The pattern of finding jobs for the younger employees and forgetting about the more experienced employees is holding.

CATHY

You are probably right?

JILL

It looks like I had better be a good realtor.

CATHY

Have you gotten any clients yet?

JILL

No, I’d better start getting serious about finding some. I’m going to have to get a web site.

CATHY

Get a web site?

JILL

Yes, it’s another way to let people know your business exists.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy is painting a picture of mid-19th century New York.

INT. A SANDWICH SHOP INSIDE AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Cathy pays for her lunch, takes her tray, and scans the seating area. She sees Della sitting at a table.

Cathy walks to Della’s table.

CATHY

May I join you?

DELLA

Yes, of course.

Cathy sits across from Della.

DELLA (CONT’D)

Any offers yet?

CATHY

Not even an interview or a return email. How about you?

DELLA

I got nothing inside or outside the company.

CATHY

The only people they found jobs for were Sarah and Samuel.

DELLA

Yes, I talked it over with my husband. If I get laid off I’m just going to retire. I’ll go through the motions of looking for a job for the unemployment but there is no sense knocking myself out to find another job.

CATHY

Would you be able to get by with that?

DELLA

It is not as if there is much choice. The husband of a woman in my Bible study group lost his job. He’s about my age. He is working as a product demonstrator.

CATHY

What is a product demonstrator?

DELLA

You know those people in the stores that give out free samples.

CATHY

So that’s what they call them.

DELLA

Anyway Kris tells me he is also going to pack it in if we get laid off.

INT. THE END OF A CORRIDOR IN AN OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

The office is quiet. Cathy is painting a mural. Someone from the cleaning crew buffs the hall.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy sits in front of her computer monitor. There is a professional looking web site that identifies Cathy as an artist.

The page contains pictures of her paintings.

Cathy uploads a picture of the mural she painted.

INT. INSIDE THE OFFICE – DAY

Cathy is working at her desk. Jill looks over at Cathy.

JILL

Well today is the last day.

CATHY

Yes, barring a miracle between now and 5 o’clock.

JILL

How is your job search?

CATHY

No calls or return emails. How is the realtor business coming?

JILL

No clients yet.

Jill quickly reaches into her purse and takes out a business car.

JILL (CONT’D)

I did get some business cards made up.

Jill hands the card to Cathy.

JILL (CONT’D)

If you know anyone who is looking to buy a house, or rent one for that matter, I’m available.

Cathy takes the card and looks at it.

CATHY

Thank you, I’ll keep you in mind. I see you included your web site.

JILL

Yes, of course.

CATHY

I also got a web site for my art business last night. It was something to keep my mind off today.

JILL

I still can’t believe what has happened to us.

INT. INSIDE AN OFFICE – DAY

Jill sits in a small room with the Supervisor and the HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON, 30, a non-distinct woman who is dressed in a business suit.

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON

We really tried hard to find an opening for you.

She places a piece of paper in front of Cathy.

CATHY

Sign here?

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON

Yes.

Cathy signs the paper.

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON

You should get whatever money the company owes you within the next week to 10 days.

Cathy nods then puts her badge on the table.

Her supervisor takes the badge.

SUPERVISOR

If you need a reference I’ll be happy to give you one.

CATHY

Thank you.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Cathy steps outside the building. She has some personal belongings in her hands. She walks towards her car.

As she approaches the car she unlocks it. The car makes the beeping noises indicating it is unlocking.

Cathy reaches the car. She fumbles with her personal belongings as she opens the passenger door. She puts her personal belongings on the passenger seat.

She closes the passenger door and walks to the driver’s side door.

She opens the door and gives the building a long look.

She gets into the driver’s seat and closes the door.

She hesitates for a moment as she looks at the building.

She starts the engine, puts the car in drive, and pulls out of the parking space.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

The apartment door opens and Cathy steps inside.

She steps into the kitchen nook and opens the refrigerator. She takes some leftovers out of the refrigerator.

She throws the leftovers into a dish and puts the dish inside the microwave.

She sets the microwave timer and presses the start button.

She walks to her laptop. She opens it and presses the power button.

She walks back to the kitchen nook.

She gets a plate and a glass out of the cupboard.

She opens a drawer and grabs some silverware.

She places them on the table.

She opens the refrigerator and takes out a water bottle.

She walks to her laptop, sits, and logs into her social media.

CATHY (Typing)

I got laid off today. I don’t feel depressed though my head tells me I should. I worked all those years at that job and have little to show for it. The depression might set in when I wake up to no job tomorrow. Fortunately I have been doing well with my painting. I have been making almost as much from my painting hobby as I have been getting from my job.

The microwave sounds and Cathy clicks “send”.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy is sitting in front of her laptop. She has on a painter’s smock.

She fills out an application online and attaches a file named “resume.doc”. She presses send.

Cathy stands and walks over to a painting that is in progress and paints.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Her landline phone is ringing and Cathy answers the phone.

CATHY

Hello.

JILL (V.O.)

Hello Cathy, this is Jill.

CATHY

Hi Jill!

JILL (V.O.)

How are you doing?

CATHY

I’m holding up alright. I haven’t gotten any answers from the resumes I’ve sent out. How are you doing?

JILL (V.O.)

I’m doing alright.

CATHY

How is the real estate business?

JILL (V.O.)

I’m trying to find houses for a couple of people. I haven’t sold any houses yet. I’m also going through the motions of looking for another job. They pay a lot more for unemployment and for a lot longer than they did the last time I was out of a job.

CATHY

I think I’m going to take a vacation.

JILL (V.O.)

You’re going to take a vacation?

CATHY

Yes, I know the experts say not to take a vacation while you’re unemployed.

JILL (V.O.)

Yes, the axiom is “if you don’t have a job your job is looking for a job.”

CATHY

I figured this is the 21st century. I can search and send out resumes on my laptop while I’m on vacation.

JILL (V.O.)

That’s true.

CATHY

If I were to get another job I won’t be able to take a vacation for at least 6 months. These days many employers are reluctant to grant more than a couple of days off at a time. That vacation to Ireland was the only decent vacation I’d taken in all the years I worked for that company.

JILL (V.O.)

You have a good point, these days in between jobs is the only time many people have time for a vacation. Any idea where you will go?

CATHY

New York. Something seems to be drawing me to New York.

JILL (V.O.)

Maybe it is a good way to get your mind off the situation.

The painting Cathy is working on is a scene of mid-19th century South Street, Manhattan.

EXT. AN AIRPORT RUNWAY – DAY

It is raining heavily. A jetliner rolls down the runway and takes off.

EXT. OVER NEW YORK – DAY

It is a sunny day. There is view from the inside of an aircraft flying into JFK International Airport.

EXT. THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – DAY

A view of Cathy looking out a window that is in the crown of the Statue of Liberty.

There is a view of Manhattan from the crown of the Statue of Liberty.

EXT. THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART – DAY

There is view of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

INT. THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART ARMS AND ARMOR SECTION – DAY

Cathy walks past the display of suits of armor mounted on equestrian armor.

INT.THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART TEMPLE OF DENDUR – DAY

Cathy walks between the two structures of the Temple of Dendur.

INT. THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY – DAY

Cathy takes a long look at the blue whale on display.

INT. THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY – DAY

Cathy walks in a dinosaur gallery as she looks at the dinosaur bones on display.

INT. THE WHITNEY MUSEUM – DAY

Cathy walks through a gallery and studies the paintings.

INT. A SMALL ART GALLERY – DAY

Cathy looks at the paintings.

She exchanges business cards with a woman.

INT. A DIFFERENT SMALL ART GALLERY – DAY

She has some inaudible dialogue with a man. Their talking includes gestures, nods, and pointing at paintings.

She exchanges business cards with the man.

EXT. SAINT PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL – DAY

Cathy is across the street from St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Cathy gives a knowing smile then snaps a picture of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

EXT. SOUTH STREET – DAY

Cathy walks slowly through South Street.

Cathy has a smile of wonder on her face. She slowly turns her head from side to side as she walks down the street. She stops then snaps pictures with her cell phone. She turns around and snaps more pictures.

As she walks down the street the 14 year old Bridget walks next to her. On Cathy’s side there is present day South Street. On Bridget’s side there is 1850 South Street.

As they continue their walk Bridget ages and her side of the street changes until they reach the end of the street. Bridget is an elderly woman and her side of the street is South Street in the early 20th century.

The two women look directly at each other and give a look that seems to be mutual recognition.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT - NIGHT:=

Cathy is at her computer.

She posts New York pictures on her social media.

CATHY (Typing)

Here are some pics from New York. I found it both exciting and inspiring. I especially liked South Street. I really got the feel of 19th century Manhattan.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN 1853 - DAY

It is early morning.

BRIDGET, 17, walks down the street. She is dressed as a maid.

MARY, 17, is walking towards her. Mary is well dressed and made up.

BRIDGET

Good day, Mary.

MARY

Good day, Bridget.

BRIDGET

Where are you going?

MARY

I’m on my way home from the market. Where are you going?

BRIDGET

I am on my way to work.

INT. AN APARTMENT IN A TENEMENT - NIGHT

Bridget and Bridget’s Mother are in the apartment.

Bridget is 17 years old. Bridget’s Mother looks as if she aged much more than 3 years.

BRIDGET

(She speaks in an angry voice.)

Every night he drinks up our money.

BRIDGET’S MOTHER

(She speaks in an angry voice.)

It’s his money that puts food on the table.

BRIDGET

Patrick and I also work. How much of our money is he spending on drinking?

BRIDGET’S MOTHER

(She slaps Bridget’s face hard.)

You see here. You live under your father’s roof. I will not be having you speak that way about your father.

Bridget’s face turns from angry to acquiescent.

BRIDGET

(Speaking in a submissive voice.)

Yes mother.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy puts the finishing touches on a painting.

The painting depicts Bridget being slapped by her mother. They are in a small, dimly lit, apartment.

INT. AN APARTMENT IN A TENEMENT - NIGHT

Bridget watches the outside from the window by her bed.

The view is of a desolate street. Some street lights illuminate parts of the street.

Three men appear in the street. Their staggering reveals they are drunk.

When they walk into the light of a street light near the tenement Bridget can see one of the men is her father.

BRIDGET

(She whispers.)

He is coming home late and drunk as usual. He rarely drank when we were back in Ireland. This country brings out the worst in men. We should have never left Ireland.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy puts the finishing touches on a painting.

The painting depicts 3 drunken men walking down a street at night in mid-19th century Lower Manhattan.

In the foreground a young woman, who looks like Bridget at 17, watches.

EXT. A STREET IN MID-19TH CENTURY LOWER MANHATTAN – NIGHT

Bridget, dressed as a maid, walks down a dark street. It is quiet.

As she continues down the street there is low background noise. The noise gets louder as she walks.

She comes to an intersection.

The intersecting street is full of prostitutes and their customers.

As she crosses the intersection she looks down the street.

Mary, gaudily dressed, stands under a nearby street light.

Bridget stops walking and stares for a few moments. She has a shocked expression. She shakes her head ‘no’. She walks quickly towards home.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy puts the finishing touches on a painting.

The painting depicts a young woman looking down a street filled with street walkers and their “Johns”.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy’s paintings are spread out against the walls. They are positioned so they can all be seen.

Cathy looks over her works.

Her landline phone rings.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Call from Jill -

Cathy picks up the phone.

CATHY

Hello Jill.

JILL (VO)

Hi Cathy! I just called to tell you I had a telephone interview about a job today.

CATHY

Oh, how did it go?

JILL (VO)

It seemed a good interview but who knows.

CATHY

At least it wasn’t a train wreck. How does the job sound?

JILL (VO)

It’s a big pay cut from what I was getting.

CATHY

That’s too bad.

JILL (VO)

How are you doing?

CATHY

No job interviews. I have been doing good selling paintings.

JILL (VO)

It’s great to have talent.

CATHY

I’m going to put on another exhibition.

JILL (VO)

Hopefully it’ll do as well as the last one or better.

CATHY

The theme is on the 19th century immigrant experience. I’m told paintings with a 19th century setting are popular now.

JILL (VO)

That’s good.

CATHY

The only thing that bothers me is the paintings seem so negative. I would like to at least top it off with a painting that has a positive subject.

JILL (VO)

Have you set the date for the exhibit yet?

CATHY

Not yet.

JILL (VO)

Well let me know when you do. I enjoyed going to your last exhibit.

CATHY

Will do and hope you get the job.

JILL (VO)

Thanks, good-bye.

CATHY

Good-bye.

Jill hangs up. Cathy hangs up her phone.

She walks to about 6 feet in front of a blank canvas.

She thoughtfully looks at the canvas.

She grabs a brush and paints on the canvas.

INT. AN APARTMENT IN A TENEMENT – NIGHT

A distraught looking Bridget looks out the window.

She sees the nearby tenements.

On the street below there are a few staggering men who appear drunk.

She drops to her knees beside her bed and makes the Sign of the Cross.

BRIDGET

Blessed Mother, please give me a reason to hope.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Cathy completes the top half of her painting. It is an accurate depiction of present day Lower Manhattan.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy is at her computer.

The computer monitor has her web page which has a banner that announces Cathy’s next art exhibit.

INT. INSIDE A RENTED ROOM – NIGHT

There is a larger crowd than was at her previous exhibition.

Cathy has on a black ankle length evening dress.

Jill and her husband, Ron, are with Cathy.

Cathy’s paintings are on display throughout the room.

Servers with trays of hors d’oeuvres and drinks walk among the customers.

JILL

This looks like a bigger crowd than last time.

CATHY

Yes, it is. I think there are twice as many people as there was the last time.

JILL

That’s great.

CATHY

Tour Time!

Cathy walks to the first painting in the exhibit.

CATHY (CONT’D)

(Joyful voice)

Thank you all for coming. I am Cathy MacGrew and yes I painted these pictures.

The painting is of Bridget and other Immigrants on the deck of an immigrant ship.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I call this one “The Arrival”. The scene is New York harbor in the mid-19th century so there is no Statue of Liberty. I would think the immigrants would have mixed feelings about reaching America so that is the reason for the different expressions on the faces.

Cathy walks to the next painting. The painting depicts an immigrant family looking at a tenement in the distance.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I call this one “The First Look”. Here an immigrant family sees for the first time the building where they will live. It was different and probably no worse than what they had in Ireland. It certainly wasn’t the kind of home they were expecting.

Cathy steps to an adjacent painting. It shows the family stepping inside a dilapidated apartment. A mother with an infant and toddler are inside the apartment.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I call this one “The New Home”. The immigrant family steps inside their new apartment. The average apartment had 8 people living in it. They will be sharing it with another family that has an infant and a toddler.

Cathy walks across the room to another painting. It shows a woman slapping her teenage daughter.

CATHY (CONT’D)

This one needs no explanation. I call this one “The Scolding”.

Cathy walks to another painting. It is a night scene. It shows three men, apparently drunk, walking on a street. In the foreground a young woman watches.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I call this one “The Walk Home”. Here we have 3 intoxicated men staggering home after a late evening. This young woman with the forlorn look is the daughter of one of the men.

Cathy walks to another painting. It is a night scene. It shows a street of prostitutes and their customers. A young woman looks down the street with a surprised look on her face.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I call this one “The Discovery”. Here we have a young woman who glances down a street notorious for prostitution and discovers one of her childhood friends is one of the prostitutes.

Cathy walks to the painting at the end of the gallery. It is a painting of a young woman in the foreground and in the background are the tenements. Her head is such that she is looking above the tenements. Above the tenements is 21st century Lower Manhattan.

When I finished my paintings for this exhibit and looked over the paintings I felt they were all so bleak. I didn’t want to have it all be so negative. That is when I came up with the idea of showing our young woman who looks at the sad surroundings but is able to look above that. So there is the vision of present day New York.

INT. AN APARTMENT IN A TENEMENT – NIGHT

Bridget is on her knees.

FANTASY SEQUENCE

There is a fanciful vision of Lower Manhattan. It depicts the skyscrapers as a giant castle. The Hudson and East Rivers serve as moats and the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges serve as draw bridges.

END SEQUENCE

Bridget’s expression changes from despair to hopeful.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy is sitting by her lap top. She has a cash box next to her.

She takes a check out of the box. She signs the check and snaps pictures of both sides of the check with her cell phone. She puts the check on top of a stack of checks.

Her landline phone rings

Cathy walks to her cell phone.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Call from Jill -

Cathy picks up the phone and puts it to her ear.

CATHY

Hi Jill!

JILL (V.O.)

Hello Cathy, how did it go last night?

CATHY

It went great! I sold everything and some people are interested in having me do some painting for them.

JILL (V.O.)

It seems you found yourself another career.

CATHY

Yes, I wish I had started this career before I started any of the other careers.

JILL (V.O.)

Well better late than never.

CATHY

That’s true.

INT. INSIDE CATHY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Cathy hangs up the phone.

She looks at a blank canvas and smiles.

CATHY

Now what happens next in the story?

FADE OUT:

THE END