

FADE IN:

1

EXT. WRIGHT FARM FIELD - DAY

1

MAGGIE (21) labors in the potato field with her husband, JIM (22). They have their backs to each other with a substantial amount of distance separating them. But each is very aware of the other.

Maggie's appearance is disheveled. Her faded dress is dirty, her unkempt hair is tied in a scarf, and she has dark circles under her eyes. Jim is just as dirty, but a little neater with his flannel tucked into his jeans. His strong hands are calloused and worn, moving a hoe back and forth before him.

Maggie works distractedly, unaware of what she's doing until she realizes she has come up next to the **POTATO CELLAR**. A disturbing memory flashes in her mind, and she backs away.

She turns and walks toward a tree near the house, dragging her shovel, but stops. She takes a breath, but the memory still troubles her. She continues walking.

As she passes Jim, he tenderly takes her hand.

JIM

You alright?

Without thinking, she pulls her hand away from him. They take each other in a moment.

MAGGIE

Yeah.

He knows something's up, but can't make out what.

JIM

Okay. Inspection's today and I don't want any grief.

She nods.

2

EXT. WRIGHT FARM BACKYARD - DAY

2

She makes her way over to the tree. She checks to see if Jim is looking. He's not. She takes the shovel and starts digging.

Before long, she unearths an old ammo box and pulls it out of the hole. She opens it, pulls out an item, and begins admiring it. She repeats this a few times, pulling out more items from the box.

After a moment she realizes her brother FRANK (28), the sheriff, is standing over her. She puts the items back in the box, but he stops her.

FRANK
What's the rule?

Maggie doesn't answer.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I asked you a question.

MAGGIE
Keep it buried.

FRANK
Or what?

She doesn't answer again.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Take a look out there at Jim.

She does.

FRANK (CONT'D)
You got a good man there. Maybe not the smartest, but at least he works hard and doesn't talk much. How do you think he'd feel about all this?

She still doesn't answer. Frank begins putting the items back in the box and reburying it.

MAGGIE
I'm gonna tell him.

Frank sighs.

FRANK
I was afraid you'd say that.

He stands with the box, walking toward the cellar. Maggie notices smoke rising from a pile of garbage and guesses Frank's intent.

She runs after him and grabs the box out of his hands. He grabs it back from her but she is ready for him. They tug it back and forth.

MAGGIE
These things are mine.

FRANK
I'm trying to help.

MAGGIE
Let go.

FRANK
Stop acting crazy.

MAGGIE
(ferocious)
Give her to me!

JIM (O.C.)
HEY!

Frank and Maggie are startled by Jim.

They fall to the ground as the box is breached and the contents fly everywhere: a photograph, a baby dress, a crochet stuffed animal, some baby shoes, and a baby bonnet.

JIM (CONT'D)
What's going on here?

The two begin wrangling the scattered objects.

FRANK
Nothin.

As Maggie reaches for the photograph, Jim picks it up.

JIM
What is all this?

She doesn't answer. Jim looks at the photo more closely and flips it over to reveal a date: March 13, 1955.

JIM (CONT'D)
Whose baby you holding?

She shrugs. Jim, confused by her response, looks to Frank who avoids eye contact.

Jim looks again at the photo, then at the box, which has the name SUSAN on it. He connects the dots.

JIM (CONT'D)
No...

He searches her for a denial, but she gives him none. He rips the photo and tosses the pieces at her.

He stands up, grabs the hoe, and turns around the corner to the side of the house.

3 EXT. WRIGHT FARM SIDE OF HOUSE - DAY 3

Jim, breathless, takes the hoe and drives the end of it into the ground once. Twice. Three times. He sinks to his knees.

JIM
So she can have one...

4 EXT. WRIGHT FARM BACKYARD 4

Meanwhile Frank and Maggie have been speaking in hushed voices.

FRANK
Everything we've worked for will go down the drain.

MAGGIE
What's that? Another sheriff's election?

His eyes narrow at her.

FRANK
If that's what you think--

MAGGIE
(calling)
Jim?

Frank suddenly grabs the box and walks hurriedly toward the potato cellar. Maggie runs after him.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
No!

She catches up to him and pulls at his arm, trying to yank the box free.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I let you give her to someone else.
Please, don't take what I have left!

FRANK
Come on. It'll be like it never happened. Don't you want that?

MAGGIE
But it did happen.

Jim sees the two of them squabbling from the side of the house.

JIM
Maggie?!

FRANK
I don't mean to sound harsh but
this is my farm.

MAGGIE
I don't care, I can't take it
anymore!

Maggie finally gets a hold of the box but Frank won't let go. She slaps him. Jim makes it over and gets between them.

JIM
What's the matter with you?

She stops, Frank wrenches the box away from her. She scrambles to get the box back but Jim holds her back.

MAGGIE
Let me go.

JIM
Look at me.

MAGGIE
Don't touch me!

He lets her go. She moves toward Frank, but Jim gets in her way.

JIM
Who?

Maggie is about to tell but Frank butts in.

FRANK
You tell him I burn it.

Maggie is stuck.

MAGGIE
I want to tell you, I really do.
But you don't know what she means
to me.

Jim doesn't give up and Maggie struggles with the pressure.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 Why did you leave me alone with
 him?

JIM
 I'm sorry. I know Frank can be--

MAGGIE
 No, Uncle Billy.

Silence.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 (to Frank)
 Why? Why did you leave me alone
 with him?

FRANK
 I didn't know what he was gonna do.

MAGGIE
 You couldn't have guessed?

JIM
 Wait a minute. Used-to-be-Sheriff
 uncle Billy?

Maggie nods.

JIM (CONT'D)
 No. I don't...I voted for him.

MAGGIE
 So it's easier for you to believe I
 been with someone else?

This surprises Jim. He looks to Frank for an explanation.

FRANK
 So we had one bad egg.

Jim is unsatisfied with that response.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry I left you with him. If I
 could go back in time... But I've
 tried to make it right. Everything
 you have now is because I gave it
 to you.

Maggie digests this. Frank nods over to the smoke.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 It'll be like it never happened.

She grabs the shovel and raises it, ready to swing.

MAGGIE
Get outta here.

FRANK
What?

MAGGIE
You heard me, GO!

FRANK
You can't kick me off my own
property!

MAGGIE
Then we'll move.

Frank doesn't expect that.

FRANK
(indicating shovel)
Come on. You wouldn't do something
that stupid.

Maggie doesn't budge. Yes she would. Frank concedes and turns to go.

MAGGIE
Leave her things.

He does. He exits by the side of the house.

Maggie goes over to the hole by the tree and aggressively fills it in. The whole time, Jim has been watching her, spellbound by her resurfaced fiery spirit.

She finally notices him. They hold a moment of silence.

JIM
Why didn't you say anything?

Maggie sighs. Jim asks for the truth. She picks up the box.

MAGGIE
After it happened, I didn't want to
live. And I even...well...

She hands him some of the items.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
When she came, something changed.
Took me till today to know what.
(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I mean... I made her. I gave her
life.

JIM

Yeah.

She nods.

JIM (CONT'D)

But why'd you keep it from *me*?

MAGGIE

Because I--don't know if you can
love me now you know.

A moment passes as the truth sinks in.

He slowly approaches her, then timidly touches her face. She
lets him. They kiss.

They embrace.

FADE TO BLACK.