

ONE MORE SONG

Written by
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1 EXT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - NIGHT 1

WE OPEN on a small British pub in Cawsand, Cornwall. The muffled sound of music, laughter and singing can be heard from inside.

2 INT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - NIGHT 2

A young woman pours pints at the bar for various locals waiting to be served, most of them middle-aged. An elderly man, PHILIP, 80, is singing karaoke on a makeshift stage. Beside him stands CHARLES, 53, wearing a worn lather jacket with his hair slicked back. He mouths along to the words, occasionally leaning over to sing adlibs into the microphone.

BEATRICE, 71, wearing bright lipstick and a floral dress, sits in an armchair opposite the stage, nursing a gin and tonic. Across from her sits her best friends, MARGARET, 74. The table between them is littered with empty glasses.

BEATRICE
Charles doesn't half think he's
Elvis, up there.

MARGARET
I think if he had his way, this
would be a one-man concert.

Charles leans further into Philip's space and continues singing. The performance becomes more of a duet.

BEATRICE
Look at him, wrestling the
microphone away from poor Phil.

MARGARET
That's not alright, is it?

BEATRICE
No, it's not on.

Beatrice takes a sip of her drink.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)
I might be able to stand it if his
singing was any good, but he sounds
like a drowning cat.

Charles tries and fails to hit a final high note.

MARGARET
Good grief.

The room claps as Philip hands Charles his microphone and retreats back to the bar, Beatrice and Margaret join in reluctantly.

CHARLES

Cracking performance from Philip, there! It makes you appreciate just how much talent there is in this room.

Beatrice takes a quick look around. A man is feeding his dog scraps of meat from his fork, then continuing to eat from it himself. A couple are arguing over answers to a crossword in the corner. Another elderly man is asleep in his chair.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I want to remind all you talented people, then, about the annual "King's Hound Karaoke Competition" taking place again tomorrow.

There are a few lacklustre claps from the audience. Someone coughs.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Now, not to blow my own trumpet, but I do have a history of winning this contest...

Charles gestures to a series of photographs on the wall behind him. In each one he holds a certificate labelled "Karaoke Champion of the Year".

CHARLES (CONT'D)

But I welcome some friendly competition!

BEATRICE

(In a hushed voice)

This is the year, Mags. This year, one of us beats that smug bastard.

A child runs up to give Charles a song request, he smiles warmly and pats her on the shoulder.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

I can't wait to wipe that stupid smile off his face.

Margaret laughs.

MARGARET

Gosh, I don't know if I still have it in me, Bea.

BEATRICE

'Course you do, what are you on about?

MARGARET

Well, we're not getting any younger.

BEATRICE

(Indignant)

And I've never felt better.

Margaret gives Beatrice a sympathetic look.

MARGARET

I know, Bea. Just... look after yourself, okay?

Beatrice finishes her drink.

BEATRICE

It looks like half my lipstick's come off on this bloody glass, I'm gonna pop to the loo and top it up.

3

INT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - WOMEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

3

Beatrice reapplies her lipstick in the bathroom mirror. The sound of music and singing is heard faintly from the other room. Beatrice is deep in concentration when her phone starts ringing, startling her. She drops her lipstick on the floor. She slowly bends down to retrieve it, yelping in pain. The phone continues ringing. Eventually, Beatrice gives up and answers her phone, clutching her hip.

BEATRICE

Hello?

Beatrice's daughter, ANNA, 38, is on the other end.

ANNA (V.O.)

Hello, Mum.

BEATRICE

(Surprised)

Oh, hello, darlin'! You alright? What are you doing calling me? Especially at this time!

ANNA (V.O.)

I just wanted to have a chat, if that's okay.

BEATRICE

'Course it is!

ANNA (V.O.)

Well, I was thinking of travelling down to see you, possibly quite soon.

BEATRICE

Really?

ANNA (V.O.)

I've got the next couple of weeks off work, so I thought it would be nice.

Beatrice continues to attempt to pick her lipstick up, wincing whenever she puts weight on her hip.

BEATRICE

Yeah that... that sounds lovely, dear.

Anna pauses.

ANNA (V.O.)

Is something wrong, Mum?

BEATRICE

No, no, all fine!

Beatrice hisses.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

I'm just having a bit of trouble with my hip, that's all.

ANNA (V.O.)

Why don't I drive down tomorrow?

BEATRICE

What?

ANNA (V.O.)

If I leave London early in the morning I can probably be at yours by the afternoon.

BEATRICE

Are you sure? It's a long drive and, I don't know, I've got plans tomorrow... It's a bit sudden, isn't it?

ANNA (V.O.)
I think you could do with my help.

BEATRICE
(More insistent)
I told you, I'm fine!

ANNA (V.O.)
You don't sound like it, Mum.

BEATRICE
(Frustrated)
I'm more than capable on my own!

ANNA (V.O.)
But you're obviously in pain, I can
hear it over the phone!

Beatrice gets close enough to the ground to reach for her lipstick. An intense pain shoots through her body and she shouts.

ANNA (V.O.)
That's it; I'll be there tomorrow,
okay?

Anna hangs up the phone. Flustered, Beatrice accidentally kicks her lipstick across the room.

BEATRICE
Oh, blimmin' heck!

4 INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY 4

Beatrice lies asleep in bed, buried under a thick duvet. She is wearing fluffy pink pyjamas and an eye mask. An alarm clock sits on a table beside her bed.

The alarm clock beeps loudly. The time is 12pm.

Beatrice stirs and hits the clock's snooze button.

4A MONTAGE: 4A

- INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY - We see Beatrice's silhouette behind the shower curtain as she performs loud vocal warm-ups in the shower.

- INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY - Beatrice sings as she does her makeup, wearing a dressing gown with her hair wrapped in a towel.

- INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - CORRIDOR - DAY - Beatrice sings as she waters some houseplants, now fully-dressed.

- INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY Beatrice continues singing, pretending to perform to an audience in her kitchen as the toaster behind her starts smoking.

BEATRICE
(Noticing the smoke)
Oh, bugger!

END OF MONTAGE

5 INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 5

Beatrice sits in an armchair, eating a plate of burnt toast and watching *Bargain Hunt* on her TV.

The doorbell rings.

Beatrice pushes herself up from her chair and suddenly winces at the pain in her hip. She grips the side of the armchair to get her balance.

The doorbell rings again.

BEATRICE
I'm coming! I'm coming...

Beatrice hobbles out of the room.

6 EXT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY 6

Beatrice opens the door and sees Anna standing on her porch, dressed smartly in a long velvet coat.

BEATRICE
Anna!

ANNA
Hello, Mum.

BEATRICE
You're actually here! Blimey. Would you like to come in for a cup of tea and a biscuit?

ANNA
Actually, Mum, I wanted to take you out for lunch, the sooner the better, really.

BEATRICE

Oh? Well, that would be lovely.
Like I said, I've got plans later,
so-

ANNA

Come on then.

Anna turns and walks to her car. Beatrice trails after her.

BEATRICE

It's the pub karaoke contest
tonight, you see, and-

CUT TO:

7 INT. CAFÉ - DAY

7

Beatrice and Anna are sat opposite one another at a small table. The café is largely empty. Beatrice pours herself a cup of tea from a teapot while Anna sips at a black americano.

BEATRICE

-I can't let Charles win again this year. He's just one of those men, you know, who thinks the sun shines out of his arse. Margaret and I have always thought that.

Beatrice spoons some generous helpings of sugar into her tea.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

So it would be great, and I've said this to Mags, if we could put him in his place. And I think I've got a real chance this year, I-

ANNA

Do you want some tea with that sugar?

BEATRICE

What? Oh.

Beatrice stops adding sugar and starts stirring her tea.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

You know me and my sweet tooth!

They each take a sip of their drinks.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

So! It's been so long since I've seen you, sweetheart! How have you been? And how's Honey doing? Cor, she must be what, six or seven now?

ANNA

Eight.

BEATRICE

'Course she is! God, how time flies!

Anna stirs her coffee.

ANNA

She misses you.

Beatrice takes a sip of tea, watching the mug as she brings it to her lips.

BEATRICE

What about, Derek, then?

Anna stops stirring.

ANNA

What about him?

BEATRICE

Well, what's he up to these days? Still in accounting?

ANNA

Yep.

BEATRICE

He's okay, though?

ANNA

I think he's fine.

Beatrice takes a sip of tea.

BEATRICE

You two been getting on alright?

Anna drops her spoon.

ANNA

What about you, Mum? What happened to your hip?

BEATRICE

Hm?

ANNA

You said you were having trouble with it, over the phone. And I saw you limping to the car.

BEATRICE

Oh that! That's nothing, honestly.

ANNA

It didn't seem like nothing, the way you could barely stand up.

BEATRICE

It's just a little bit bruised. I'm fine.

ANNA

Okay.

Beatrice sips her tea. Anna stares at her.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Even if it is just bruised, I think we need to start thinking about the future, Mum.

BEATRICE

What do you mean?

ANNA

Well, you're all alone out here, aren't you? It took me hours to drive over.

BEATRICE

I've coped perfectly well on my own for the last eight years.

ANNA

But you're in your seventies now, Mum; if something happens to you, it's a big deal! And you know I never wanted you to be so far from us.

Beatrice sips her tea and looks away.

BEATRICE

I've got Margaret here, she looks out for me.

ANNA

She's not exactly a spring chicken either, though, is she?

BEATRICE

Charming!

Beatrice fiddles with a napkin.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

What are you saying then, what's this about?

ANNA

I want you to come back to London with me.

BEATRICE

What? For how long?

ANNA

Well, to live, Mum.

Beatrice meets Anna's eyes.

BEATRICE

We've been through this before Anna; me living with you lot, it just doesn't work. I love Honey so much, but being a stay at home granny... that's not a bit of me.

ANNA

But it might be, Mum! Especially now Honey is older-

BEATRICE

It's not, sweets. It's really not. And Derek knows that, which is why he's so funny with me. You know how we don't get on.

ANNA

Derek won't be a problem this time.

BEATRICE

But he will be. He always is with me. And anyway, I have my house here, and my friends, and things that keep me young, like karaoke at the pub!

ANNA

Oh, not this again, Mum. Trust me, okay? I'll drive you and your stuff home with me this evening and we'll get you all nicely set up at mine.

BEATRICE

No! I'm telling you now, I'm not missing my chance to sing later!

ANNA

Come on Mum, don't be silly-

BEATRICE

Oh, here we go; you think my life's "silly", do you?

ANNA

Well, it's just that you're choosing to spend your time out at the pub instead of being around for me and your granddaughter!

BEATRICE

Why not? Eh? Why should I have to sacrifice what makes me happy?

ANNA

Because it's what family does! We're supposed to make sacrifices for each other!

BEATRICE

Sod that! I'm living my life for myself, Anna, and you should too.

ANNA

But I don't like the thought of you on your own, especially in pain!

BEATRICE

Oh, don't act now like you're all worried about me; you should bloody-well worry about yourself!

Beatrice pushes her mug to one side.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

I'm going to the pub.

Beatrice stands up quickly. The table clatters. She staggers and groans from the pain.

ANNA

Mum!

BEATRICE

Just, leave me be, will you?

Beatrice leaves the café, attempting to disguise her limp. Anna watches helplessly.

8 EXT. CAFÉ - DAY 8

We follow Beatrice as she exits the café and starts walking up the road.

9 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS 9

Beatrice walks along the edge of the road, following it towards The King's Hound Pub.

The surface starts to become more uneven and Beatrice is losing energy. She is determined to carry on. She starts stumbling, battling the pain in her hip. Suddenly, Beatrice loses her balance and falls.

She tries to sit up but the pain is too great.

FLASHBACK - A week earlier

10 INT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 10

Beatrice lies on the floor. A step-stool is toppled on its side next to her. She groans as she attempts to move.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

11 EXT. ROAD - DUSK 11

Beatrice lies helplessly on the side of the road. She is unable to move.

BEATRICE

Help!

She begins to cry.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Help me!

We linger on Beatrice. Suddenly a car pulls up beside her. Anna opens the door.

ANNA
Oh my God.

Anna drops to her knees beside Beatrice.

ANNA (CONT'D)
I'm here Mum, I've got you.

Anna carefully lifts Beatrice into a sitting position. She hugs her and rubs her back. Beatrice continues to cry into her shoulder.

ANNA (CONT'D)
I'm going to call an ambulance.

BEATRICE
(Through her tears)
I don't need a bleedin' ambulance!

ANNA
Look at you, Mum! I'm ringin' them now.

BEATRICE
No! No ambulance!

CUT TO:

12 INT. ANNA'S CAR - DUSK

12

Anna is driving, looking both panicked and disgruntled. Beatrice sits in the passenger seat, her eyes red.

BEATRICE
Where are we going?

ANNA
A&E.

BEATRICE
No, no, no!

ANNA
You've just had a fall, Mum! You need their help!

BEATRICE
No, I'm fine! I need to go to the pub!

ANNA
You're not fine!

BEATRICE

Drive me to the pub or I'll open this door and have another fall. On purpose this time.

ANNA

That's insane! You're insane!

Anna sighs and makes a U turn at the next roundabout. Beatrice relaxes.

BEATRICE

What a palaver.

ANNA

There's something really wrong with your hip, Mum.

BEATRICE

Nothing a cup of tea won't fix.

ANNA

I think even cups of tea have their limits.

Beatrice kicks the inside of the car.

BEATRICE

If I can't even go for a bloody walk, what's the point?

ANNA

Stop that, Mum!

Beatrice and Anna stare forwards, watching as the car passes along the coast.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I need to tell you something.

Beatrice looks at Anna.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Derek and I split up.

BEATRICE

Good. I always thought he was a knob.

Anna chokes a laugh.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)
 Remember when I visited for
 Christmas and he called my
 chocolate log "dry" and then left
 us to do all the washing up? And he
 has funny-looking ears.

ANNA
 That's a bit unnecessary-

BEATRICE
 Honestly, Anna, I don't know how
 you put up with him for so long.

ANNA
 Neither do I.

Beatrice quietly looks out the window.

BEATRICE
 Well, if it is just you and Honey
 at home, that does change things.

ANNA
 If you come back, I promise I won't
 make you look after Honey. She's
 less of a handful, now, anyway.

Anna looks over at Beatrice.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 To be honest, I just miss you, Mum.
 I miss being around you.

BEATRICE
 I miss you too, Anna, of course I
 do. You're a part of me. I mean,
 you literally came out of me!

ANNA
 Yep, alright.

BEATRICE
 And I do need help, I know I do,
 but I have a life here, too. I
 don't want to let go of it, at
 least not while I'm still well
 enough to enjoy myself, you know
 what I mean?

Anna continues driving. The car passes a sign for The King's
 Hound.

ANNA

How would you feel about...
visiting me instead? Just until I
go back to work. And I'll help you
with your hip, whether that means
finding you a doctor or... making
some tea.

The car pulls into the pub's car park. Beatrice smiles.

BEATRICE

I would love that, Anna.

The car stops.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

But there is something else you
could do for me too...

ANNA

Right, I think I know what you're
going to say. No. I'm not doing it.
There's no way I'm-

CUT TO:

13 INT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - NIGHT

13

We hear the intro to ABBA's *Dancing Queen*.

Beatrice and Anna stand together on the stage. Beatrice sways to the music while Anna looks nervous. Charles watches in the corner with glee. Margaret sits in an armchair opposite the stage, clapping along as she drinks a gin and tonic. On the table next to her, we see a "Karaoke Champion of the Year" certificate. Anna and Beatrice then begin singing together.

The song continues over...

13A MONTAGE:

13A

- EXT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - DAY - We see Anna help Beatrice shove a big pink suitcase into her car. Margaret helps carry some more bags over.

- INT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - NIGHT - Beatrice dances around the pub's stage. Anna laughs and makes eye contact with Margaret, who smiles warmly and raises her glass to her.

- EXT. BEATRICE'S HOUSE - DAY - Anna closes the car boot as Beatrice hands Margaret a watering can for her houseplants. Margaret hugs her tightly.

- INT. THE KING'S HOUND PUB - NIGHT - Beatrice and Anna point at each other as they sing.

- INT/EXT. ANNA'S CAR - DAY - Anna helps Beatrice into the passenger seat of her car, then gets in herself. They wave to Margaret out of the window as Anna sets off.

END OF MONTAGE

14

INT/EXT. ANNA'S CAR - DAY

14

Anna drives the car down winding roads. Beatrice watches as Cawsand Bay fades into the distance. *Dancing Queen* begins to fade out. She smiles.

THE END.