

Resilience

By

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FADE IN:

INT. PUB. DAY

The Cafe is busy with people around, cupcakes and other bakery items are placed carefully inside the glass box at the front counter. The medium sized cup cakes are tagged with the price £1.20.

The server moves with an empty plate to pick up the cups on the tables. He encounters a crossword paper on the floor, when he bends to pick it up, Molly (25), a medium height young woman picks it up. Both exchange blank looks. The server gives her a known smile.

MOLLY
(little nervously)
S-sorry!

Molly keeps her head down into the crossword. While he picks up the empty cup from that table, Molly keeps her used nose tissue away from the empty cup.

SERVER
That's OK, I can take that off, you
can use another.

Molly hesitates.

SERVER
That's OK madam!

Molly backs her hand off and gives him an hesitant smile. The server picks it up and leaves. Molly hesitantly looks both ways and continues her crossword.

A moment later the server serves her a cupcake, Molly gives a confused look to him.

Server shows a person sitting at a different table, showing a newspaper and thumbs-up for letting him win some cash prize the other day. Molly seems diffident, smiles at him and buries her head again in her own world.

Server gives an 'I told you so' kinda look to that person and leaves.

Molly finishes the crossword, packs her things, leaves the place. The server comes back to pick up the plate. There is an change of £1.20 on the plate.

(CONTINUED)

Server looks at the door, she tries in a wrong way opening the door, then in a right way, server smiles again nodding his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD. DAY

Molly walking on the road, thinking about something and when she reaches the bend to her house, she holds her bag nervously, her heart is thumping little harder, there is a little anxiety in her eyes. She slowly starts limping now.

She opens the door with her keys and steps in. We hear faint laughing of MIKE(30), a tall man from the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. MOLLY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM. DAY

The hallway is clean and neat. There are various photographs of MOLLY on the side wall.

CLOSE IN ON THE PHOTOS: There's one photo of her on a hospital bed with an fractured leg which is plastered, another one is with a doctor and both of them show their thumbs up.

We look around and see a tea table that's filled with crossword puzzles in different news papers. We hear faint yelling from the hall.

MIKE V.O

There is a good life for ME in Spain. I thought this through Molly.

We head over to the hall and see Molly with a first aid band on her head. She stands on the other side of the table. Her eyes are blank.

MIKE

(impatiently)

Are you even listening to me! This is not the first time we are talking about this.

(beat)

But now.. it's the last!!

(beat)

What's your problem damn it!

(CONTINUED)

Molly nods her head looking at the job offer letter that's addressed on her name.

SLOW PAN ON THE LETTER AND--

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

EXT. ROAD. DAY - FEW HOURS BEFORE

Molly with no first aid band on her head walks down the street with a slight limp on her left leg. Her expression is sad and she looks lost.

MIKE V.O

Molly, trust me, if you want a good
life, come with me.

(beat)

I don't think you can have a better
CHOICE than this.

Choice word echoes in her ears and her eyes too well up with tears. She reaches a pub door and pushes the door.

But the door doesn't open because the sign says, 'PULL.' She then comes to her senses, slowly bangs the glass with her fist in frustration, and the echo stops at once. Molly inhales deeply and eventually heads inside.

CUT TO:

INT. PUB. DAY

Molly enters the pub while keeping her hand on the head. She looks around and sees her cousin GARETH (30), lean built, tremendous shine in his eyes, talking on his phone with a smile on his face.

Molly approaches him at the table and Gareth observes her limp. He looks at her, sees the head bump and offers her a seat while talking on his phone.

Molly notices the crossword puzzle on the next table and a well-dressed person is filling up the boxes. She chooses to see it for a moment. Gareth disconnects the call.

GARETH

Molls.

Molly looks away from the crossword and sits before Gareth.

(CONTINUED)

GARETH
So, fifth meeting this month, huh?

MOLLY
(Hesitantly)
Thanks for coming...

GARETH
(Smiles)
Hm, but you didn't bring what i am
looking for... again

Molly gives a confused look. Gareth picks up a boots medical cover which has few medicines and a first-aid kit, places it on the table and looks at her head knock which became red.

Then picks up the file from his backpack and places it on the table.

GARETH
Okay...
(sighs)
anyway!! This is the file you asked
me to bring.

Molly smiles softly. She opens the file without any interest, goes through few certificates, and observes a couple of photos. Gareth points to a photo of her along with doctor showing thumbs up at a hospital.

GARETH
This one is my favorite.

Gareth smiles but Molly half-smiles.

GARETH
You remember what the doctor said?

MOLLY
That I won't be able to walk again.

GARETH
(pouts)
No, forgetfulness makes my life
easy.

MOLLY
(sarcastically)
He said forgiveness, not to forget
someone and move on with another.

Both chuckle.

GARETH

Also.. Yes, but you did walk in just five months.

MOLLY

Four months actually. Four months of solving puzzles, crosswords and chess.

GARETH

Everything happens for a reason.

Molly exasperates.

MOLLY

(contemplatively)

Now if I look at it, I'm not sure how I did it myself.

GARETH

Molly-

He leans forward.

GARETH

You were an exemplar of courage and confidence ...What happened...? what changed?

Molly stares at Gareth as her eyes well up with tears.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. MOLLY APARTMENT. DAY

Molly opens the door with her keys and steps in. We hear faint laughing of MIKE(30), a white tall man, sitting on a sofa and talking to his friend on phone.

MIKE V.O

She says that it is her dream job!

(laughing)

Imagine how funny it sounds!

She walks in from the front door and glances at Mike. He doesn't even acknowledge her.

MIKE

No mate! I'm telling you, She is not qualified and I am not interested for her to take up that job.

(CONTINUED)

Mike notices her walking past him.

MIKE V.O
Anyway we are leaving to Spain
soon, then what's the point ...

CUT TO:

INT - MOLLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Molly stands right near the door, clutching the door handle tightly.

CUT TO:

INT. PUB. DAY

Gareth keeps his cup onto the table.

GARETH
How much time do you have to say
'Yes' to the job offer you got?

MOLLY
(nods)
today is the last day.

GARETH
so... ?

MOLLY
(interrupts)
I...I decided to give it up.

Molly looks aside to the person still struggling at the crossword puzzle.

GARETH
(frowns)
What? Why?

MOLLY
Mike is not interested in it!

GARETH
Did you tell him?

MOLLY
(glares and sighs)
Yeah, but look, I don't want to
annoy him...

(CONTINUED)

GARETH

(interrupts)

Molls, you need to stop walking on eggshells here.

(sighs)

Stop giving him reasons to dictate you what you should do.

MOLLY

But how can I accept when he is ...

GARETH

(interrupts)

You don't understand. You are the one who worked hard for that.. I think you should accept the offer and stay here.

MOLLY

(interrupts)

I don't know how to put this! I genuinely believe I am no use to anybody.

Molly looks aside to the person still struggling.

GARETH

Use to whom! Don't knock yourself down there.

(beat and sighs)

Its been two years Molly, Amy's death is not on you ... that accident was not your fault! And I heard that she was about to leave him before the accident.

Molly froze by looking at her cup.

GARETH

I understand the relation started with sympathy and affection but now I can see only guilt which is holding you there with him.

Molly looks aside to the person still struggling.

GARETH

I believe you should handle that first.

The person gets up moving the chair on the way and left to rest room. Meanwhile the server with many things in his plate has got blocked his view and didnt see the chair on the way. Molly immediately gets up to remove, but even before she reaches there, server helps himself removing the obstacle.

SERVER

(smiles)

It's part of my job here, I'll handle. Thanks anyway.

Server walks away. Molly looked the crossword paper at the table the person left. Gareth looked back, smiled at her. Molly sees him into his eye.

CUT TO:

INT. MOLLY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM. DAY

Molly is now with a first aid band on her head. She's standing on the other side of the table. Her eyes are blank.

MIKE

(impatiently)

Are you even listening to me! This is not the first time we are talking about this.

(beat)

But now.. it's the last!!

(beat)

What's your problem, damn it?!

Molly nods her head looking at the job offer letter that's addressed on her name.

GARETH V.O

Everything you've ever wanted is sitting on the other side of your fear. 'Your freedom'. If you don't help yourself, no one can!

MIKE

I don't believe why we are having this discussion for so long...

(beat)

Data Scientist in Cambridge! Wow ... believe me this offer is just a twist of fate. Don't try to--

(CONTINUED)

GARETH V.O

(interrupts)

Now or Never! One step, you idiot!
you can twist your fate.

Molly ascends her limping foot forward, bends down, picks up the envelope, turns back without looking at him, and starts limping away slowly.

MIKE V.O

If you leave me like Amy, you will
meet the same fate as her.

Molly keeps on walking.

MIKE V.O

There is a good life for US in
Spain. think it through Molly.

With a tiny smile on her face Molly walks back.

GARETH V.O

Now, You did bring what I was
looking for.

MOLLY V.O

What?

Molly continues smiling and walks out of the door with out limping.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. PUB. DAY

The well dressed person looks at Molly in awe as she leaves the pub and keeps the paper onto the table with the crossword filled with a word 'Resilience'.

THE END