

TAKE HOLD

by
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FADE IN:

1 EXT. VILLA MARIE, NEWFOUNDLAND, 1998

Villa Marie sits amid the former Argentia Air Force Base, shutdown, broken up pavement, isolated.

Military bungalows, abandoned barracks, concrete tunnels, cement walls close in on each other.

Graffiti, mottled, floats like art on tunnel walls.

The town sits alongside the Atlantic Ocean, land meets water, as far as your eye can see.

2 EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

SCREECH. School Bus slams on its brakes. Stops sudden.

Power pole blurs the bus in the background.

3 EXT. MONTYS STORE - DAY

ALICE (68) runs from the store. PANIC. Sees a young school girl lying on the ground. Screams.

4 INT. MONTYS STORE - DAY

Alice runs inside to call an AMBULANCE.

5 EXT. SCHOOL BUS - NEXT DAY

Iris (10) and Maeve (11) climb aboard, school books in hand.

6 INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Iris, all limbs, like a rag doll, is animated. Maeve, steady, sure of her looks and opinions.

IRIS
I can't believe Lisa was killed.

MAEVE

The bus driver didn't kill her.
He just didn't see her.

IRIS

She's dead.

MAEVE

Mom says he'll never get over
it. She said that turn in the
road was an accident waiting to
happen.

IRIS

Driver won't leave his house.

MAEVE

Do you have any money?

IRIS

I scrounged some from Mom's top
drawer.

MAEVE

Let's get to the store.

IRIS

Junk food?

MAEVE

Yeah.

7 EXT. STREET- DAY

Iris and Maeve walk past the military base, houses in
a row like a monopoly game, a long straight road with
a sharp turn at the end.

They walk into the corner store - a daily stop. Iris
starts to pull the money out of her hoodie pocket.

8 INT. MONTYS STORE - DAY

Iris and Maeve walk in between the chip racks, squeeze
bags of junk food to get the full bags.

Alice, STORE OWNER, is on the phone by the cash register. They look through the rungs on the rack.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

ALICE

She was only 5... Crushed right in front of me... Nothing left to her.

Alice gets squeamish, anguish on her face.

Iris and Maeve lean on the rack, look on in horror.

ALICE (CONT'D)

He'll never get over it... He won't drive that bus again... That's for sure. Ambulance sped away with her, my dear... Yes, dead... That's for sure.

Girls fall against the rack, make it rattle, and catch it just before it falls.

Girls look at Alice, spooked by her phone call.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I got to go... Don't want young ones to hear me.

Iris puts their chips and cheezes on the counter, scrounges for money in her pocket and starts to pay.

Maeve runs back, stuffs cheesy bags into her sweatshirt pocket, and runs to catch up to Iris at the door without paying.

Maeve drops a bag, and picks it up as she rushes out.

Alice catches Maeve out of the corner of her eye, and hurries to the door. She sings out to the girls as they rush to the edge of the curb.

ALICE (CONT'D)
You get back here. I'm not blind.

9 EXT. MONTYS STORE - DAY

Iris and Maeve jump back from the edge of the curb. Iris puts her arm across Maeve's chest, pushes her back.

10 EXT. STREET- DAY

BUS brushes past, rush of wind comes over them.

CLOSE UP: Alice face turns white in fear.

Maeve looks to Iris. Shaken.

11 EXT. IRIS'S HOUSE - DAY

Maeve sticks close to Iris's side.

IRIS
That was close. Too close. You're lucky Alice is so spooked. She'd have you by the throat.

MAEVE
Come on, let's get in. Is your mom home?

IRIS
No one's home. Ever.

12 INT. IRIS'S BEDROOM- DAY

Iris puts the junk food on the bed, lines it up in a row. Blanket is weathered, holes and unraveled. Washed out colours, pale pink and rainbows.

IRIS
What do you think it felt like?

MAEVE
What?

