

The Little Moira-maid

By

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2016

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TEASER

EXT. MOIRA'S CAR - MORNING

It's a sunny spring day in a parking lot outside MOIRA and EMILY's dorm. Either people went home for the weekend or they're inside still sleeping.

Moira and Emily walk to Moira's blue VW BUG. Moira carries a large BOX overflowing with clothes and some items. Emily carries a few SCIENCE BOOKS and a LAB COAT.

MOIRA

(exasperated)

I still can't believe you pulled an all-nighter on a Friday. I mean, who does that? Can you hold this?

EMILY

Yeah.

MOIRA

Thanks.

Emily takes Moira's box out of her hands. Moira unlocks the car and the trunk opens up. Emily touches Moira's FUR COAT.

EMILY

That's nice.

MOIRA

Well, I don't wear it. So off you go to the swim sale. Maybe it'll bring us a good couple dollars.

Moira takes the box back from her and places the box in the trunk. Emily continues talking.

EMILY

Anyhow, when a girl gets an idea on how to solve a nuclear fission particle problem she won't sleep until she attacks it.

MOIRA

At 2:30 in the morning??

EMILY

I grabbed some coffee.

MOIRA

Looks like Javed is failing at his job. He had one job...

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Yeah, well that's not the only thing he's been failing at lately. Haven't you noticed our room lately?

MOIRA

You mean the few beer bottles strewn around? I've noticed.

Moira closes her trunk with a slam.

EMILY

Well, it's not just that. He's been sleeping on the futon, leaving the milk *uncapped* on top of the fridge--I mean who does that??--and I found a thong on the floor and I know it wasn't either of ours.

MOIRA

How do you know it wasn't mine?

Emily stops and looks at Moira deadpanned.

EMILY

Moira. I *know* you don't own a tiger-striped, black-furred thong.

Moira gives her a concerned almost disgusted look.

EMILY

...At least I hope you don't.

Moira returns with a look that says, "you're kidding me, right?"

EMILY

Anyhow, our "dearly beloved, third roomie" hasn't been anything less than...

MOIRA

Javed?

EMILY

Javed.

MOIRA

Maybe you should just talk to him about it.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Yeah, I guess so.

MOIRA

Well, I gotta take this to the gym.
Oh! Remember I have to meet my
mother today.

EMILY

Got it. Good luck!

MOIRA

You too!

Moira climbs into her car and drives off leaving Emily at the dorm.

ACT 1

INT. EMILY AND MOIRA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Emily walks into the room and finds JAVED sleeping on the FUTON with BEER BOTTLE still in hand. She tries to collect herself.

EMILY

(calmly)

Javed?

No response.

EMILY

Javed?

He rustles about mumbling. Emily finds an AIR HORN on Moira's desk and honks it long and loud towards him. He shoots up, still hungover, covers his ears, raises a finger and makes the horn sputter to a stop.

JAVED

Don't you know it's dangerous to
wake someone in the middle of their
beauty sleep? I could become ugly,
you know.

EMILY

Yes, because you becoming ugly
would be a tragedy to this planet.

JAVED

It would be to half of the
population. Well, more than half
actually.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY
(annoyed)
We need to talk about your living habits.

JAVED
Huh?

EMILY
If we are going to make this thing work than you need to start acting like a third roommate. And not just as..as..

JAVED
A vagabond?

EMILY
Yes! A vagabond! Thank you! You need to start helping out around here and not just leaving it for Moira and I to pick up.

JAVED
Well, maybe you should chill out a bit instead of waking people up at odd hours of the night.

EMILY
I was doing something important!

JAVED
So was I!

All of a sudden the door flings open and Moira strides in with JAKE close on her heels. Moira is seemingly distraught. Emily and Jake don't stop their argument.

Javed snaps a beer into existence and takes a swig from it.

MOIRA
I can't believe she wants to go right before practice! I can't do that! I have to wait at least 45 minutes before getting into the water. The last practice before region!

JAKE
Uhh, maybe a light salad then?

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

I doubt sleeping for twelve hours
can be considered important.
Unhealthy is more like it.

MOIRA

Uh, no. If you go to DiNucci's and
you don't get their vegan lasagna,
do you really go at all? Maybe I'll
just ask "without cheese."

JAVED

You have no idea how long it takes
to look this good.

JAKE

I don't know about vegan, but we
learned about narwhal vegetation at
our last meeting. Thought you might
be interested...?

EMILY

Oh please, M.C. Hammer, it's not
like you couldn't snap your fingers
and look however you want.

JAVED

It's better than crawling back to
the lab to spend time with test
tubes people used as condoms.

Javed shoots a wink to Jake who looks at him oddly.

EMILY

TAKE THAT BACK!

There is a knock at the door. Moira goes to the door and
opens it up to find a box with her coat and a headless fish
body in it and a NOTE that says, "Turn yourself in or else."

EMILY

I am not talking to you until you
take that back!

JAVED

Go alphabetize your petri dishes!

MOIRA

Y'all!! I think I have a problem.

Emily walks over and takes the card from Moira. Jake takes
the coat.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

What does that even mean?

MOIRA

You know as much as I do.

JAKE

Well, this is...nice.

MOIRA

Yeah, I tried selling that earlier.

EMILY

Did someone buy it?

MOIRA

Not when I was there.

Javed comes over and takes the coat from Jake.

JAVED

What is this coat made out of?

MOIRA

Umm...polyester?

EMILY

Moira, can you please ask Javed why it matters?

MOIRA

Are you serious?

JAVED

Jake, can you please tell Emily that I actually have a brain.

JAKE

He has a brain.

EMILY

I heard him!

JAVED

That's a first.

Moira's phone buzzes and she looks at it. It's her mom.

MOIRA

Oh shoot! I'm late! Sorry, I gotta go. I'll...I'll figure this out later. Great, another thing on my plate.

EXT. DINUCCI'S RESTAURANT - DAY

A little corner cafe with white and green striped umbrellas is not very busy. We see Moira walk quickly up to a tall bush that surrounds it and before she walks around it she takes a deep breath.

Her MOTHER, tall, svelte, looks like a 40-year-old version of Moira, wears a flow-y top and long necklaces. Beach chic with a GALSS of rosé in hand.

MOIRA

Mother?

MOTHER

Oh, Moira, darling! It's so good to see you! Look how you've grown!

MOIRA

Yes, it's, umm, good to see you...too.

Moira's mother rise and kisses her on each cheek.

MOTHER

Come sit! I absolutely demanded to be outside in this gorgeous weather! Here, I bought us a bottle to share.

She starts pouring Moira a glass.

MOIRA

Uhh, I'm good. I actually have to go to practice soon.

MOTHER

Okay, then I'll cut straight to the chase. I know you've probably been wondering why I asked you to meet me.

MOIRA

Yes, I'm very glad to see you.

MOTHER

Well, of course! Every little darling is excited to see their mother! I was thinking of a way that maybe we can meet more often! You know, where I live in Maryland it's very lovely and there is a college nearby with a wonderful

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER (cont'd)
swim team and so many young Navy
gentlemen with the Academy right
down the street...

MOIRA
...are...are you asking me to move?

MOTHER
Neptune, no! I was thinking maybe
like summer class to see if you
like it...

MOIRA
I would have to think about that...

MOTHER
...and then if you want to transfer
you always could--

MOIRA
(overwhelmed)
Oh, look at the time! I really
should be getting to practice.
Sorry, but thanks for the rosé!
I'll talk to you...later.

Moira stands up and leaves quickly leaving her mother.

ACT 2

INT. GYM LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Moira talks to Emily on the PHONE as she is in her swim
suit.

MOIRA
No way! What? And leave you behind
with Javed? Yeah, like that'll
work. There is no way I'm moving to
Maryland with a woman I don't even
know.--Yes, I'll keep an eye out.

A TEAMMATE walks by Moira. Moira watches her with her eyes,
the rest of her still focusing on the phone call.

MOIRA
Yeah--Oh. And please keep our room
in *our* dimension this time.

She hangs up and walks to go outside of the locker room, but
is stopped short by AMY.

(CONTINUED)

AMY

Moira! I missed you at the sale this morning!

MOIRA

I actually had plans so I just dropped stuff off.

AMY

I saw that really awesome coat you left. It's a shame you sold it.

MOIRA

Yeah, well, I thought it could help the team out more than me.

AMY

I heard it brought in a pretty penny. So that's good. For the team.

Moira just smiles at her and walks out the door. Before the DOOR fully closes she hears:

AMY (CONT.)

You know, I feel pretty good about this meet.

INT. EMILY AND MOIRA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Moira, Emily, Jake, and Javed sit around the room. Moira continues to look at the card and holds onto the coat.

EMILY

So I guess we have our first suspect.

JAVED

That's our only suspect.

EMILY

Moira, can you please tell Javed that at least we have a lead. Not like he's been HELPING US OUT and TELLING US THINGS.

JAVED

Jake, can you please tell Emily that I actually have some information that could be useful to Moira.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

He has--

MOIRA

What is it?

JAVED

So I looked at your coat and do you know it's actually made from seal fur?

MOIRA

OH. MY. GODS.

Moira looks like she just realized she caught and skinned the seal herself.

JAVED

And there is a hint of magic, but I can't figure out where it's coming from.

EMILY

Brilliant. So Moira owns a coat that is both made of seal fur AND magic.

MOIRA

(stunned)

I...I...

JAKE

Here. So I just joined the WLMM club...

EMILY

The what?

JAKE

The WLMM? We Love Marine Mammals club?--Anyhow, Amy's in it. We have a meeting tonight so I'll go and keep an eye out for her.

MOIRA

You know, I think I have a plan.

INT. LAB CLASSROOM FOR WLMM MEETING- NIGHT

Many STUDENTS sit in seats chatting. The walls are covered with marine mammals and fish pictures. A tank full of fish and another one filled with frogs are on a bookshelf.

Jake sits kind of near Amy, her boyfriend, BLAKE, and a group of PEOPLE: near enough to hear them but not too close as to be obvious.

AMY

I'm really happy how the sale turned out. Hopefully we can afford new uniforms next year.

BLAKE

What did you sell?

AMY

Oh whatever people turned in. But--do you know Moira?--she turned in this awesome coat. I've never seen anything like it--

A PROFESSOR walks in. Hippie-like, she is wearing a "Save the otters" t-shirt. The DOOR is left slightly ajar and we see Moira, Javed, and Emily looking through the crack. Javed snaps his finger and his one ear gets larger to hear better.

PROFESSOR

Good afternoon everyone.

A chorus of different replies from the students.

PROFESSOR

We actually have a really great meeting today. We have a representative from the Save The Otters team, a presentation on how to repurpose batteries from Anna, and a few other things to discuss. But to start off: does anyone have any questions?

Amy raises her hand.

AMY

Could you tell us about selkies?...I was wondering...for a class.

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR

Oh, selkies. Yes. Well, they are a mythical creature originating in Celtic legends. Essentially they--usually females--are like mermaids except they can turn into seals with the help of their coats...

Jake seems puzzled. Amy takes down notes.

JAKE

Coats, professor?

PROFESSOR

Oh, yes. They are born with a coat and keep it with them at all times. If they lost their coat to, say, a human then they could become their wife...amongst other things...not the most feminist thing I can tell you.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Moira, Emily, and Javed are outside the door still listening. Moira turns to look at them.

JAVED

That makes sense now.

EMILY

Moira, can you please tell Javed that nothing about him makes sense.

(to Javed)

How would you even know this?

JAVED

I have my ways.

MOIRA

You know you two are still talking to each other.

EMILY

Moira, can you please tell Javed--

MOIRA

(to Javed)

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

JAVED

I think I know what's going on.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM - NIGHT

It is after the meeting now and Jake has joined them.

JAKE

You think Moira is what??

JAVED

I think Moira is a selkie.

Moira is sitting in a corner not too far away from them looking as if her entire life has been a lie.

JAVED

The coat, the swimming, the hint of magic. She owns a narwhal for Gods' sake!

JAKE

So? A lot of people own narwhals.

Emily spots Amy, Blake, and a few friends outside.

EMILY

I'll be right back.

Emily walks towards them and listens behind a post.

EXT. MARINE BIOLOGY BUILDING - NIGHT

The group chatters as they walk toward their cars.

AMY

Yeah, I loved that coat! It seemed so warm when I tried it on! I was sad when someone already bought it when I came back at the end.

FRIEND

Oh, that's too bad.

AMY

It's fine. Well, I gotta go work on that paper for Magical History! See you later!

Emily walks back towards Javed, Jake, and Moira.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Moira is still sitting on the floor, head between her knees. Jake is trying to console her. Javed is leaning coolly against the wall.

EMILY

Well, Amy is out of the picture now. Someone bought the coat before her.

JAKE

So back to step one.

Emily walks over to Moira and kneels down next to her.

EMILY

It's going to be okay. We'll figure this out.

Moira doesn't look up but hands Emily a severed fish head with a note that reads: "Turn yourself in before the swim meet. Or else." Emily sighs a deeply.

MOIRA

Found this in Jake's backpack. Must've been slipped in there during the meeting.

EMILY

I think you need to talk to your mother...again.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Moira is sitting at a table with a CUP of coffee and her mother sits across from her with a cappuccino.

MOIRA

So, you were saying about taking summer classes in Maryland?

MOTHER

Oh, yes. We have a lovely college not far from my cottage. It's actually right on the coast.

MOIRA

Oh ok...do you live on the coast?

MOTHER

Of course I do! Who wouldn't want to?

(CONTINUED)

MOIRA

I love the coast. There's nothing I like better than the sea.

MOTHER

Me exactly! There isn't a day I like to go out on the beach and sit on a chair with a mimosa in one hand and a book in the other.

MOIRA

You live on the beach? Like *right* on the beach?

MOTHER

Oh, yes! You can literally walk right off of the porch and in a few minutes cross the yard and there it is! Shimmering blue.

MOIRA

Have you always liked being on the coast?

MOTHER

As long as I can remember. Ever since I was a little girl.

MOIRA

Do you like seals?

MOTHER

What?

MOIRA

Never mind.

MOTHER

So I thought I'd come to your swim meet. I want to see my daughter fly through the waves.

MOIRA

(now frustrated)

...Sure...you know. I don't understand why all of a sudden you have an interest in me. What about the past fifteen years and those swim meets?

MOTHER

I--

(CONTINUED)

MOIRA

You know what? Forget it. Thanks
for the coffee.

Moira gets up from the table, grabs her stuff, and leaves.
Her mother is sat there shocked and then contemplative.

ACT 3

INT. GYM POOL - DAY

It is the day of the region swim meet. A lot of different
people and magical creatures who wear outfits representing
their college. Really loud upbeat Top 40 music blasts from
speakers.

Swimmers are in their swim wear. Moira stands alone within
reach of her team.

Moira seems a bit nervous and is aware of her surroundings,
but is also paying attention to those who are doing practice
laps.

Jake, with Emily and Javed on either side, walk in toward
Moira.

MOIRA

(nervously)

Hey. I'm glad you guys could come.

EMILY

Of course! Why wouldn't we?

A beat.

EMILY (CONT.)

Have you seen your mother yet?

MOIRA

Yeah, she's over there in the
middle top row. Probably to get a
good view of it all. Joy...

JAKE

Hey, hey, hey. You are going to do
good, okay?

JAVED

"Well."

JAKE

Don't crush her spirits!

(CONTINUED)

JAVED

I mean..forget it...Yes, Moira, you will do fine. And we plan on getting a good seat to keep a good eye on you and your...surroundings...

MOIRA

Okay, cool. Thanks guys.

ANNOUNCER

We will be starting in five minutes. Audience please take your seats and swimmers please take your lanes.

EMILY

Good luck.

Moira smiles at the three as they walk and find a seat. Moira gets her goggles ready and stands at her lane.

EMILY

...Hey, Javed?

JAVED

Yeah?

EMILY

You know...You've been taking this thing with Moira really well. You've been very...concerning.

JAVED

Eh, I just didn't want Moira to miss her swim meet.

Emily smiles really big at him.

JAVED

What?

EMILY

Aww, you really do care about us.

JAVED

No. I just didn't want a fish fillet and a psychotic petri-dish collector as roommates.

EMILY

Uh, huh. You love us. Don't deny it.

(CONTINUED)

JAVED

You know...I *do* have to tell you something...

The team gets ready at their lanes. Moira adjusts her goggles on her face. Amy walks by her to get in her lane.

AMY

Best of luck, Moira!

MOIRA

(reluctantly)

Yeah, you too.

They get ready.

EMILY

What?

JAVED

You know how I've been saying all these different things have been going on?

EMILY

Yeah?

JAVED

Well...

ANNOUNCER

Swimmers, ready!

A buzzer goes off and they jump into the pool. The crowd begins to cheer. Moira leads with Amy not far behind her.

JAVED

Well, that hasn't been true. The truth is that I'm actually a prince--a djinn prince--and my father was assassinated...

They continue to swim. It's close! They finish and Moira wins. Everyone cheers. Moira gets excited.

JAVED (CONT.)

...and I was supposed to take his place, but I know that the assassin is still out there. But my uncle gave me a faulty escape route and that's how we've been hooked up and I've liked this new freedom and I don't even know if I want to go back...

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Javed...

At the same time, Moira's not really paying attention and someone off screen hands her what we think is her towel. She dries off her face with it, but something is wrong: it starts sticking to her. She quickly turns into a seal.

EMILY

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

JAKE

Moira!!!

The two look over to where he is looking. They get up and run to her. Moira's mother also notices and runs over.

Moira as the seal looks at her in panic. She doesn't know what to do and barks at Emily.

EMILY

(to her)

It's going to be okay. I promise.

ANNOUNCER

Due to swimmer Moira Clidonah having a magical background, she is now forfeited from this and future swim meets. Thank you.

EMILY (CONT.)

(to the stadium now angry)

WHO DID THIS??

Blake comes forward.

BLAKE

I did!

The audience gasps.

AMY

Blake, why? What is going on?

BLAKE

I warned her! I told her if she didn't come forward there would be trouble!

EMILY

She didn't guess until last night and didn't know fully until five minutes ago! How did you know?

(CONTINUED)

BLAKE

Please, any Magical History major would be able to point her out as a selkie in two seconds. It wasn't until Amy told me about the coat that my thoughts were confirmed.

AMY

But why? Why did you do this?

BLAKE

I was so tired of you focusing more on wanting to beat her than spending time with me! You might as well date her with how obsessed you are.

JAKE

Uhh...she's taken...

AMY

You are psychotic! We are through! And I'm NOT obsessed with her!

Amy walks away and Blake follows her to the hallway.

BLAKE

Wh-what?

Moira jumps out of the pool annoyed and follows them.

INT. GYM -DAY

Mora barks and Blake turns around. He is mad as Amy walks out the gym door.

BLAKE

See what you did? You should have just turned yourself in like the good little seal--

Seal Moira is fuming mad. She charges towards him, jumps on top of him, and growls. Blake becomes afraid.

MOIRA

Bark! Bark bark you little bark! Don't you bark ever tell me what to do. Emily doesn't have the right to. My mother doesn't have the right to. And you sure as hell don't have the right to. You got that?

(CONTINUED)

Blake nods frantically. She climbs off of him and he runs away.

Her mother, Emily, Javed, and Jake come over to talk to Moira.

MOTHER

Moira, I'm so sorry this happened to you. I wanted to tell you sooner I just didn't know how. That's why I wanted you to come spend the summer with me. So I could tell you and show you everything. Can you forgive me?

Moira still in seal form looks at her mother understandingly and nods. Both her and her mother smiles.

She turns back into her human form. Moira quickly takes off her coat and hands it to her mother.

MOIRA

Maybe you should teach me...soon...but not right now.

Jake sweeps Moira up in his arms and starts taking her out of the gym.

Emily and Javed lag a bit.

JAVED

Well, that couldn't have been any worse.

EMILY

(stops and looks at him fiercely)

That *couldn't* have been worse?! How dare you put the three of us in danger this whole year!! And you never thought to tell us the truth?

JAVED

I know...I should have sooner...I...

EMILY

No. You *should* have told us months ago. You know what? Maybe it's a good thing that you didn't take your father's place. You are irresponsible and a coward.

Emily walks away leaving Javed stunned.

EXT. MOIRA'S CAR - MORNING

Once again we are at Moira's VW Bug with Moira and Emily.

MOIRA

Wow. I can't believe he never told us.

EMILY

Me neither. Just when I thought he cared about us.

MOIRA

Maybe he still does.

EMILY

Funny way of showing it. How are you? That's more important anyway.

MOIRA

I'm fine. Still in shock.

Moira throws a NEWSPAPER with the headline "Top Swimmer Is Selkie" into the trash.

MOIRA (CONT.)

I'm hopeful though. I started planning an intermagical swim team. I think it'll be a good new challenge. I already have a few interested.

EMILY

Well, that's good.

MOIRA

Yeah, I'm actually going to go meet with my mom for coffee. Want to come? You haven't met officially yet. I'm sure she'll want to talk to you.

EMILY

Actually, sure. That sounds like a good idea for a Friday afternoon.

They climb into Moira's car and zoom away.