

The Aging Klepto

Written By

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THOMAS (O.S.)
It's getting bad. I have no idea
what to do.

MAGGIE
We'll find something, Thomas.

THOMAS (O.S.)
Find what? We've tried everything.

FADE IN

INT. BEDROOM-DAWN

We see the face of MARTIN FINK, 72, with drooping skin and large, glossy eyes, sideways on a pillow. He opens his eyes and squints at his wife, MAGGIE FINK, 70, she's out of focus on a corded phone, clothed and ready for the day. All the while, we hear:

THOMAS (O.S.)
The doctors say his mood isn't
doing very well either

MAGGIE
What do you mean?

THOMAS (O.S.)
He's been down lately. I don't
blame him too, it's been nothing
but bad news lately.

MAGGIE
Well that's going to change.

THOMAS (O.S.)
No. I know you mean well, but you
can't keep doing this. It won't
solve all your problems.

MAGGIE
Well nice chatting with you! I'll
talk to you later. Love you!

Maggie groans and places the receiver down and looks at her husband. Martin reaches for his glasses. His eyes against the glass grow even larger. We finally see Maggie. She's wearing fashionable clothes with her white hair cut short. She smiles at him.

MAGGIE
Just Thomas again. The usual. I
just wish she'd pick a better time
(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

for chit chat.

Martin nods and smiles. He gets out of bed and walks across the room. Maggie exits as he rips a sheet off a calendar, revealing the date to be December 20th.

INT. DINING ROOM-MORNING

Papers litter a wooden table. Among them, a medical bill and drivers license suspension. Maggie enters and clears the table. Martin sits. Maggie places a line of pills and a list next to him. The list contain numerous retail stores and products they sell.

Martin looks up at Maggie. She nods.

MAGGIE

Yes. It's today. Are you okay with that.

Martin hesitates, then smiles.

MAGGIE

Then take your pills. We have an early start.

Martin notices the papers on the ground. Noticing the hospital bill he begins to tear up. Maggie places a hand on his shoulder, they exchange a look and both smile.

MAGGIE

We'll make it through. I promise.

She hurries away as he moves to the first of many pills. He looks at it, then to the list, and swallows.

INT. HALLWAY-EARLY MORNING

Maggie stands, peering in at the threshold of an empty room. Polaroid pictures dot the walls. They show various items: Converse shoes, a television, and a PS3, among other things. Martin joins Maggie.

MAGGIE

Did you get the converse? I added those last night.

Martin scribbles an addition on to the list.

MAGGIE

It's a lot. (she looks at Martin)
We've been through worse.

Martin stares into the empty room. He turns to her. A silent harmony between them.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Then we're off.

INT. CAR-MORNING

Maggie drives with Martin riding passenger. The rising sun shines through the windshield. Maggie continues to drive, and Martin puts down the sun visor. They pull up to the first stop. A grocery store.

MAGGIE
Stop number one. All passengers
please exit the vehicle.

A light snow falls. The two exit the car and head inside.

INT. GROCERY STORE-MORNING

Maggie looks around the store. She notices employees dotting the isles. She sees Martin. They make eye contact and Maggie nods. Martin struggles his way out of the isle, slips, and falls to the floor, pulling down a shelf with him.

MAGGIE
Yes!

The employees scatter, all rushing to help Martin up. Martin does his best to stand but struggles.

Maggie turns from the scene, staring at the bags of candy in front of her. The shelf just became her own personal pantry. She moves to stuff her brown tote bags with the loot.

As Maggie moves to exit the store, she spots a MOTHER and her SON, 7. The son cries and points at the candy littered near the check out.

MOTHER
Johnny don't make a scene! Stop it.
Stop it now!

Maggie grimaces and bumps in to the mother and child, dropping a few things. After exchanging apologies and gathering her things, Maggie exits the store, passing christmas trees as she leaves.

Ext. parking lot-morning

Maggie watches as the son and his mother leave the store. The son fiddles with something in his pocket and pulls out a candy bar, and looks at Maggie, stunned. Maggie smiles and waves, and he quickly places the candy back in his pocket. Martin limps out of the door.

STORE OWNER

I'm so sorry sir, our janitorial staff should have put up a wet floor sign. If there's anything you need just ask.

Martin looks back and smiles. The door closes. Maggie stands against a wall near the entrance. Martin's limp disappears when he sees her. She opens the bag revealing mounds of candy and soda.

MAGGIE

What's next?

Martin holds up the list smiling. The list reads "Best Buy".

EXT. BEST BUY-DAY-

Maggie and Martin stand in the entrance, looking up at the large price tag logo of Best Buy. Maggie laughs at the sign as the two enter the store.

INT. BEST BUY-DAY-

Maggie looks over the sea of electronics. Martin peers around, finding employees. Seeing the guard at the entrance, Martin tugs at Maggie's jacket.

MAGGIE

Since when have you been afraid of a mall cop?

Martin shrugs then looks at himself as to signal "We've changed".

MAGGIE

You know the drill.

Martin pauses, then nods. He wanders towards the guard. Martin opens his wallet showing the guard a picture and then shrugs.

MALL COP

Sir, I'm going to need you to tell me what's wrong.

Martin pulls at the guard and points at the picture.

MALL COP
Is this boy missing?

Martin nods.

INT. TELEVISION DEPARTMENT.

Maggie looks at a large lcd tv. She sighs then looks towards a much smaller crt monitor on sale for the holidays. She walks over and picks up the box, struggling with its size, trying desperately to look inconspicuous. A hand grabs her.

STORE EMPLOYEE
Can I help you with that ma'am?

Maggie stops cold. Her face becomes warm.

MAGGIE
Is that you Benji? Is it that time already?

STORE EMPLOYEE
I'm sorry?

MAGGIE
Oh I just love The Honeymooners. Is Jeremiah back from the war yet hun?

STORE EMPLOYEE
Ma'am I think you're confused. Do you know where you are?

MAGGIE
Why, I'm in my home.

STORE EMPLOYEE
Oh no. Ok ma'am come with me.

He begins to walk away. Maggie rushes out the store. The security monitor of the store shows her scurrying out the door. Martin, still with the security guard, looks over his shoulder to see this. He looks back at the guard, shrugs, laughs, and walks away.

INT. CAR-DAY

Maggie sits in the car alone. Martin joins her. Assorted electronics litter the trunk. Martin stares at Maggie, as if to scold her.

MAGGIE
Nothing I couldn't handle, Martin.
To the next stop?

Martin takes a moment, staring at Maggie, sighs, then shrugs. He sits forward in his seat. The car drives off as...

MONTAGE BEGINS

INT. MOVIE THEATER

Maggie and Martin sit in the back row. Martin holds up the camera to a torture scene a la "Saw" while Maggie chomps on popcorn from a paper bag. Maggie notices a light in the corner and pushes the camera down for a moment, never ceasing her chewing.

INT. OFFICE SUPPLY STORE

Martin sits motioning to an employee. Behind them Maggie tip toes, Grinch style, a computer past the employee and out the store.

INT. GAME STORE

Martin knocks over a case of video games. The store employee rushes over to help. Maggie rises up from behind the counter, grinning. She holds her hands up revealing stacks of videogames.

INT. SHOE STORE

Maggie searches the aisles. She finally spots the perfect pair of red converse. She rushes towards them, hands outstretched for the finish line. She grabs the shoes and begins to slide the pair down her sleeve when...

END MONTAGE

A guard grabs Maggie's hand. In slow motion we see Maggie turn to face the guard.

MAGGIE

Is this the home? Oh nurse thank you! Would you lead me to the cafeteria, I refuse to let Bernice take the final figgy pudding.

GUARD

Uh huh. And tell me, which home do you think you're in.

MAGGIE

Oh I don't worry about titles, my daughter does all that. Wait, where's your name tag. Guard!

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Guard!

GUARD

Hey! Hey, no need to yell. I just want to ask you one thing then we'll call your family.

MAGGIE

Uh okay.

GUARD

Now can you please tell me how it comes to be that a woman of your age comes to be at a shoe store claiming to have wandered away from an old folks home when the nearest old folks home happens to be close to five miles away.

Maggie is speechless

GUARD

Because as I see it, you don't seem to have the legs to carry you that distance at your-

Maggie slaps him, snarling.

MAGGIE

You watch your tongue.

GUARD

Oh ho ho, I am not dealing with this today.

The guard grabs Maggie's wrist and drags her away revealing Martin, alone and watching from afar. He's been hiding behind a shelf, watching the scene.

INT. JAIL CELL-NIGHT

Maggie sits in the cell, surrounded by convicts. She's shivering and clutching the last of her belongings to her chest. Another WOMAN, 56, in the corner of the cell cries out.

WOMAN

It wasn't me! It wasn't!

A guard hits the bars of the cell. The woman rushes to the bars.

WOMAN

Please! Please! I can't be in here.
It hurts. Oh god it hurts.

Maggie looks away from the woman as if the woman was a mirror to reality.

GUARD

What medical crisis is it this time? Pink eye? Or maybe you suddenly contracted ebola?

WOMAN

If you must know I'm experiencing severe vertigo.

GUARD

Uh huh.

Maggie pulls her knees to her chest and holds herself there for a moment.

INT. SHOE STORE-NIGHT

Martin wanders past a shelf. He's alone. He looks down another aisle. Nothing. He stops.

ANNOUNCER(O.S.)

Attention customers. The store will be closing in 10 minutes.

Martin looks around, frantic.

INT. POLICE STATION

OFFICER MENDES, 52, tall and stern, leads Maggie into a room and sits her down. He pushes papers towards her.

OFFICER

These are just your basic rights.
Please just sign them saying you understand the basic cop shtick.
You have the right to remain silent
etc.

Maggie remains silent. She stares at the paper in front of her. Her mouth hangs slightly open. She struggles for words.

OFFICER

Ma'am, I'm going to need you to cooperate. Just sign the papers then we can go about contacting your fa-

MAGGIE
No! Please no.

OFFICER
Ma'am we have-

MAGGIE
My husband. He's still...

INT. CAR NIGHT

Martin sits in the car behind the wheel, staring at the dashboard.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
I left him there. He's alone. And-
and he can't drive. He lost his
license and I'm...I'm the only one
who knows what to do with him.
Please officer-

INT. POLICE STATION

OFFICER MENDES
(leaning out the door)
Search the store, the woman's
husband may be missing.

MAGGIE
Please. Please

OFFICER MENDES
(sitting back down)
Ma'am, I don't really know your
situation, or why you were caught
at 7pm on a Wednesday stealing a
pair of size 6 boys converse, but
please, we need to call someone.
You can't be alone can you? Let
them help.

Maggie shakes her head.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)
Do you know why we have to keep you
here?

Again, a head shake.

MAGGIE
It was just a pair of sneakers.

OFFICER MENDES

Ma'am we have video footage of you stealing things from stores across the city. Do you really think we didn't know that?

Maggiie's eyes grow wide and she puts her head down.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

Now please. Is there someone we can call to get this sorted out? Any kids? Relatives?

Maggie stays silent. Officer Mendes sighs.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

Look I know how you feel. Being a police officer, I always feel like I need to work for myself, not let anyone else get caught up in my problems. But sometimes, we just need to take a step back. Breath. Because Sometimes our problems are too big for us alone.

Someone knocks at the door. The officer leans out the door. Whispers can be heard. The officer leans back in.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but the store closed minutes ago. There was no one left inside.

Maggie looks up, terrified. She looks around. Nothing. She looks at Officer Mendes

MAGGIE

(stuttering)

I guess...

INT. POLICE STATION

Maggie and Officer Mendes walk up to a glass door that leads to the front office of the station.

OFFICER MENDES

Your son is waiting for you just past this door.

Maggie looks up and through the glass. THOMAS, 32, tall and in a suit, looks around the station. He's holding the hand of a small boy, PATRICK, 8. The boy is bone thin and hairless, he wears a hospital bracelet around his wrist.

MAGGIE

No. No. He can't see me like this.
No.

She shoves her face into her hands and turns away. Officer Mendes looks to Maggie, then to the boy.

OFFICER MENDES

That's your grandson, isn't it.

Maggie nods, head still pressed in her hands. Officer Mendes looks to Maggie.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

Ma'am I'm sorry but we need to get moving.

Maggie turns from the door. Officer Mendes rubs his eyes.

MAGGIE

He's...he's sick. He shouldn't see me like this.

OFFICER MENDES

Ma'am it'll be okay. We can take-

MAGGIE

It won't. It won't. He's been getting worse, and God knows this won't do any wonders for him. He'll just see his grandma sad and defeated. And he won't get anything for it.

OFFICER MENDES

(a pause)

The stealing. It was for...

Maggie nods. She sits on the floor, never taking her head from her hands. Officer Mendes looks to the boy.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

Look...I'll tell them to take the boy outside, and...(he rubs his eyes) I really shouldn't tell you this but...

Maggie looks up.

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

We have a warehouse, its behind the station. We put all our confiscated goods there. Things that no longer

(MORE)

OFFICER MENDES (CONT'D)

have a home. They can't go back to the store of course, and obviously the perps can't take them. So...say tonight, for just a moment, the door unlocks and the cameras suddenly power down for maintenance...

MAGGIE

I...I couldn't

OFFICER MENDES

Do what? Your family's waiting.

Maggie nods and exits the door, approaching her son. He begins to say something, scolding her.

MAGGIE

Can it wait?

The son nods, disappointed and the two exit.

EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

Martin sits alone in the front seat of the car. He hasn't moved. His breath fogs the air in front of him. Headlights shine through the windshield. The car door open and Maggie hugs Martin.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Martin smiles and hugs her back. Maggie presses her forehead to his.

MAGGIE

I won't leave you like that again.

Martin nods. Maggie backs out of the car and looks at her family. They look back at her.

MAGGIE

There's one last stop we need to make.

THOMAS

Mom, now isn't the time. For christ's sake you just got out of jail!

MAGGIE

Trust me.

EXT. POLICE WAREHOUSE-NIGHT

The family stands at the entrance to a large warehouse.
Maggie steps forwards and easily pushes open the door.
Inside, electronics and toys pile high. The family walks in.