

Four Days of Maude

By

Grace Hildreth
11/8/16

FROM THE BLACK WE HEAR--

Screams and shouts from a loud crowd. "Hands up, don't shoot", "Black Lives Matter", "Justice for Mike Brown" are heard in a muffled tone. The rallying and scruffiness of the noise slowly crescendos for us to see...

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

Thousands of PROTESTERS march in the street. The heat lays on everybody like an itchy blanket. A frantic REPORTER darts her head between the crowd and her CAMERAMAN. A group of 20-something MEN forcefully push a group of teenagers in front of them, revealing a smaller group of 20-year old GIRLS behind them. It's complete chaos. The camera's perspective comes from someone watching the group of girls.

5 GIRLS march together in a line. KIM and COOKIE, inseparable best friends, have their arms locked together while they both watch Kim's long, pink acrylic nail tap through her phone. They're too bored to pay any attention elsewhere.

Next in line we have LULU and AMARA. They wipe away tears on their faces but look on with determination. They scream and holler. LuLu hands Amara a WATER BOTTLE.

Now all is left is CC, the ugly duckling of the group. She's short and deceptively beautiful but doesn't know it. She flicks her eyes around her surroundings and pulls at the straps of her BACKPACK. She awkwardly mimics some of Amara and LuLu's gestures.

LuLu looks over and offers CC her water bottle.

LULU

You want?

CC immediately shakes her head, "No." Suddenly the crowd picks up to an abnormal speed. People behind CC step on her heels.

CC

Ow!

Arms shove, the chants get louder, and CC's stuck in the middle of the commotion.

(CONTINUED)

AMARA

What's happening?

CC trips over an ORANGE TRAFFIC CONE and falls down. The crowd tramples over her until suddenly two dainty hands yank her up.

Now up, CC locks eyes with the person, a WOMAN, who helped her. MAUDE, 30-40 years old, wears a paper thin pinky-beige silk slip and paisley scarf wrapped stylishly around her neck. She looks like a fairy from CC's childhood dreams. Her giant doe eyes rest on CC's face and smiles. They stand together.

A pushy FAT GUY bumps into CC and she drops her backpack. She quickly picks it up off the ground. Maude disappeared from sight. CC searches for her in the crowd.

CUT TO:

INT. MCDONALD'S - EVENING

Amara, LuLu, Cookie, Kim and CC sit in a booth at McDonald's, eating FRENCH FRIES and drinking COCA COLAS. CC tries to fix the keyboard on her LAPTOP that got damaged from the fat guy earlier.

AMARA

I'm just saying, girl, it wasn't the best idea to bring your bag to the rally.

CC

(sheepishly)

Yeah.

Kim and Cookie, in the inner part of the booth, scroll through Kim's phone. Lulu watches CC work at her laptop, intrigued.

LULU

CC, where are you from?

CC

Oklahoma. Well, Florida first. Then Arkansas. Now Oklahoma.

LULU

Oh, shit.

AMARA

CC just moved here.

(CONTINUED)

LULU
Oh, shit!

CC
Yeah.

LULU
How you liking the city?

CC
(trying to play it cool.)
It's pretty dope.

Lulu hides a small smile at this response. She gets it.

CC makes a tiny pinch with her fingers and her keyboard breaks again.

CC
Shit!

AMARA
Oh man, that sucks dude.

CC
It's all good. I can just finish my homework by hand.

LULU
Homework already? Damn. We're only in the first week of classes.

AMARA
CC's smart as hell, that's why we got roomied up, right?

Amara nudges at CC's shoulder and smiles. CC tolerates it.

LULU
Amara you're a dumbass, what are you talking about.

CC
(begins packing up her things)
I think I'm gonna head back early, actually. I'll catch you guys later.

LULU
You sure? You know your way back?

(CONTINUED)

CC
Yeah I'll be fine. See ya.

AMARA
Alright, peace out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBWAY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

After hours and hours of being lost, winded and exhausted CC finally finds the right subway stop. She walks down the stairs and

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

rests by the wall. She checks her watch. 12:46am. Damn.

The SUBWAY TRAIN arrives and CC lugs her backpack on the bench. A HOMELESS MAN chats to himself at the end of the train. The doors haven't closed yet. CC opens her backpack to grab her TEXTBOOK and places her feet on top of the seat next to her. She's pissed.

A big, scary POLICE OFFICER suddenly appears in the farther doorway of the train.

POLICE OFFICER
Ma'am, remove your feet.

CC
Sorry?

POLICE OFFICER
Ma'am, I need you to remove your feet off of the bench.

CC
Why? Did I do something wrong?

POLICE OFFICER
Please move your feet off of the bench, you are vandalizing public property.

CC
(dumbfounded)
Are you-- Are you serious?

The officer starts heading over to CC.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER

If you refuse to cooperate then I'm going to have to ask for you to come with me.

CC

But I'm just sitting here. There's no one else around.

POLICE OFFICER

Come with me right now.

CC

No! What the fuck!!

CC just stares at the officer, unable to process her anger.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm going to ask that you--

Suddenly, a woman in a satin dress and scarf approaches CC. A slight lick of French is heard in her accent.

MAUDE

Oh, there you are darling!

POLICE OFFICER

Ma'am, this doesn't concern you.

MAUDE

Actually it does, you're speaking with my niece right now. What's the issue here?

POLICE OFFICER

Your niece?

MAUDE

Yes. We got separated from the rallies tonight. Are you okay, darling?

CC doesn't reply, just stares at Maude.

MAUDE

See, just look at how exhausted she is. Now why don't we all just drop it and go on with our nights, yes?

CC

Yes.

Maude doesn't blink. She gives the officer the same doe-eyed look she gave CC earlier.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER
Well, your niece here is
vandalizing public property--

MAUDE
By placing her feet on an empty
subway seat at 1:00 in the morning?

POLICE OFFICER
That's correct--

MAUDE
She wasn't doing any harm to anyone
here, was she?

CC
No!

POLICE OFFICER
Vandalism in subway trains is--

MAUDE
Come now, it's late. We all want to
go home. Aren't you tired? You
should go home. She's young, she
needs to get home. Yes?

The police officer hesitates a bit then looks at CC. He softens his look and slightly unwinds his shoulders.

POLICE OFFICER
It's just with everything going on.
Y'all have a good night.

MAUDE
Ah, yes. Thank you. Good night!

He exits the subway train and the doors close. CC stares at Maude who waves at the officer in the window. Maude plops down next to CC. The conversation is sharp and fast.

MAUDE
That wasn't too bad, was it?

CC
I-- I don't--

MAUDE
Hmm?

CC
Why are you here? Did you follow
me?

(CONTINUED)

MAUDE

Yes.

CC

I know you. You helped me today.
And you followed me? What the fuck?
Why? Why is everybody out to get me
tonight??

MAUDE

Relax, yes? No one is out to get
you. I want to help you.

CC

But why?? What the fuck, dude? Who
are you?

MAUDE

Do not speak to me like that. My
name isn't dude, my name is Maude.

The drunk guy coughs and yacks a loogie in the corner. Maude
and CC watch.

MAUDE

Such an stubborn girl. You must
always be like this.

CC

--What?

MAUDE

Ah, yes. There we go.

CC

Are you-- are you trying to like,
"figure me out" right now?

MAUDE

I just did.

CC

Okay listen I didn't ask for you to
come here and help me, I'm just
trying to get home and--

MAUDE

And yet you still accepted my help.
Where do you live?

CC

No, I didn't.

(CONTINUED)

MAUDE

Then you weren't playing along with me a few minutes ago? I saved you from what could have been a very stressful night. The least you can do is respect me.

Damn, she's right.

MAUDE

And you live where?

CC

South 1st and Bedford.

MAUDE

I do like you. What is your name?

CC

CC.

MAUDE

CC? Like Cecelia?

CC

Well, no. My real name is Ciara but I hate that name.

MAUDE?

Why?

CC

Well, because you know. The singer? Ciara?

CC sings a little bit of Ciara. Maude stares at her blankly.

CC

Everybody makes fun of me for it. So I go by CC.

MAUDE

(as sincere as she possible
can be)

I promise I won't. I think it's beautiful, no?

CC

(blushes)

Well, thanks.

(CONTINUED)

MAUDE

And so Ciara, you are doing what in three days?

CC

I wouldn't know.

MAUDE

I do. You'll be with me.

CC

Will I?

Maude takes out from her bra a BUSINESS CARD that only has a phone number on it and hands it to CC.

MAUDE

You'll contact this number when you get home, yes?

CC

I mean--

MAUDE

You'll contact this number and we'll be in touch. I'd love to see you again.

The subway train stops. The doors open.

MAUDE

You've got two more stops.

CC

Wait, but I--

Maude flees the subway train in a swift finesse.

CUT TO:

INT. CC AND AMARA'S APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Amara and CC sit on their COUCH with the business card in between them resting on the COFFEE TABLE. Amara smokes a JOINT and CC fidgets. They both stare at the card.

AMARA

You might as well just text it, it's not like she would know who it is.

(CONTINUED)

CC

I don't know, I feel like she would. This lady's kinda crazy.

AMARA

What's her name again? Claude?

CC

Maude.

AMARA

That's bougie as hell.

CC

I think it's French.

AMARA

Oui Oui.

CC doesn't move. Amara looks at her.

AMARA

Fuck it, I'm just gonna text it then.

Amara takes CC's PHONE out of her hand and grabs the business card to text the number.

AMARA

I said, "Hey." This better not be some scam she's pulling on you.

CC

It might as well be.

CC's phone lights up.

AMARA

Oh, shit! Ok here we go. "Hi, Ciara." Is that you?

CC

Yes, wait give it to me.

CC types then hits send. A response immediately follows. CC reads, smiles, then replies. Another response. She frowns. Ding, after ding. Amara's getting impatient.

AMARA

What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)

CC

Nothing.

CC gets up from the couch and walks into her ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. CC'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CC throws her phone on her bed. The screen shows an address from Maude and CC's response "Ok. See you then." CC stands over it and stares.

CUT TO:

INT. CC'S ROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

CC wears a skimpy black DRESS and puts on LIPSTICK. She messes up. Damn it. LuLu knocks on her door.

LULU

CC, you there?

CC

Yeah.

LuLu opens the door and stands in the doorway.

LULU

Damn, girl. Where are you going?

CC messes up her lipstick again.

CC

Shit! A club.

LULU

Oh yeah? Who with?

Amara, seen from the living room, sits on the couch smoking a joint.

AMARA

Well she COULD have asked me but apparently it's this big secret she has to keep with this French serial killer.

LULU

What?

(CONTINUED)

CC
It's nothing.

Lulu walks into CC's room.

LULU
No, really what?

AMARA
CC's gonna get murdered tonight.

LULU
Shut up, Amara. Who's this French
serial killer?

CC realizes she's drawn in Lulu. She makes the most out of
it. Plays it cool.

CC
Just this woman I met the other
day. She just wants to hang out,
so.

LULU
Oookay.

CC
It's not a big deal.

LULU
I guess.

AMARA
CC, can I have your cactus if you
die?

LULU
Shut up, Amara. Are you sure you're
good?

CC
No yeah, for sure.

LULU
I mean where's the club?

CC
It's at this address.

LULU
You're not even going to tell me
the address.

(CONTINUED)

CC
I'm going to be fine, like, chill
out.

Lulu and Amara exchange looks. CC finishes up her makeup and grabs her purse.

CC
I'll be back later.

LULU
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. CC AND AMARA'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

CC closes the door and heads down the hallway towards the stairs. She hears the door open.

LULU
CC, wait!

CC
What?

LULU
Just- let me come with you. I don't
know how I feel about this and I
just think you'd feel better to
have someone with you. You don't
have to tell me anything, I get it.

CC
I-- okay.

LULU
Yeah?

CC
Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

CC and Lulu show up to an ominous and obscure NIGHTCLUB. A BOUNCER waits at the door.

LULU
So this is it?

(CONTINUED)

CC

Yeah.

LULU

Where's your girl?

CC

I'm looking.

CC scans the area. No sign of Maude. CC takes her phone out. She sends a text. No immediate reply. Time passes, maybe an hour.

LULU

This is fucked. She probably scammed you.

CC

No I think she's going to come.

LULU

Still no reply?

CC

It's fine.

LULU

Alright, well if she doesn't come in the next ten minutes then I think we should dip.

CC doesn't reply. She scans, looking a little hopeless. Suddenly, she hears a French accent.

MAUDE

Ciara.

CC and Lulu turn to see Maude. She looks like hell: same satin dress, dirty and wrinkled. Dark circles under her eyes, irritated skin under her nose. She speaks rushed French into a shitty Nokia phone while smoking a cigarette.

CC

Hey.

MAUDE

And Ciara's friend.

LULU

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

CC
This is Lulu.

MAUDE
Maude.

She shifts her cigarette and offers her hand to Lulu.

MAUDE
(to CC)
I'm so glad you made it. You come
with me now, yes?

CC
Okay.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

Booming techno music washes over CC and Lulu as they enter the nightclub. Everyone and their cousin is here. A waiter stops by CC and LuLu and offers them green SHOTS. Maude gets lost in the crowd again.

LULU
This is insane!!

CC and LuLu join the fun. They dance, take shots with people, smoke out of other cigarettes. A MAN and WOMAN in fancy suits offer a line of coke to CC. LuLu pulls CC aside.

LULU
CC, whoa.

CC
What?

LULU
Have you done that before?

CC
I'm fine!

In her drunken haze CC breaks away from Lulu and does the line. Whoa. It's getting brighter and louder. LuLu's pissed and goes somewhere else. Maude finds CC.

CC
(stars in her eyes)
There you are!

MAUDE
Darling! Come with me?

(CONTINUED)

CC

Yes!

Maude takes CC's hand and guides her through the sea of people to a separate room.

INT. SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maude opens the door and CC walks in to find at least fifteen other GIRLS the same age as her. They look like Amazonian queens. Some sit on the red plush COUCH, others smoke CIGARETTES and fix each others hair. They stare at CC with disdain and disapproval.

MAUDE

Stay here.

Maude goes into a HALLWAY in the room. CC backs into the corner and fidgets. No one speaks. Meanwhile, we cut to

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

and see Lulu scanning the crowd looking for CC.

CUT TO:

INT. SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maude reappears from the hallway.

MAUDE

Ciara, you come to me please?

CC obeys and follows Maude.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They stand in front of a door.

MAUDE

I told you I'm here to help you,
yes?

CC

Of course.

MAUDE

And you are happy?

CC

So happy!

(CONTINUED)

MAUDE

Good. Come on in.

CC goes in to

INT. CREEPY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She freezes. There's a MAN there. 30-40 years old. Scraggly, slim, and perched at a desk.

CC

Hello!

(cont'd)

Bonjour.

MAUDE

Ciara, this is Sam.

(cont'd)

Hello, Ciara. Have a seat.

CC obeys. She stumbles to the COUCH in the corner. Maude sits down next to her and takes her hand. CC's all fuzzy.

CC

(laughing)

Sorry, I'm kinda fucked up.

MAUDE

Remember that surprise I was telling you about?

CC

Surprise.

MAUDE

Yes, surprise! And it's this. You see Sam over there? I work for him. You understand? I help him find beautiful girls like you.

CC

Beautiful.

MAUDE

You could be in our family, Ciara. Yes? You could do it. I need you to. I want you to. But we need to try something. I need you to show me you can be in our family.

(CONTINUED)

CC

I--what?

Maude looks over at Sam and gestures for him to come over. Sam approaches CC and switches places with Maude.

MAUDE

(in the coldest, most evil
tone ever)

Unzip his pants.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

LuLu stumbles into a corner and bumps into two MEN, aged 20-30 years, fashionable and drunk.

LULU

Sorry, where's the bathroom?

The men point in a direction and roll their eyes. Lulu looks on, and sees a tall GIRL leave a room. She walks down the HALLWAY towards the door and enters

INT. SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

to find a room full of women. One of the girls takes an attractive 20-something MAN by the hand and leads him into a separate room. Screams of sexual activity can be heard in the background.

LULU

What the fuck?

All the girls stare at Lulu. *Who the hell is she?* Suddenly, Lulu hears a shrill scream, "Stop!"

LULU

CC?

The scream gets louder and louder.

LULU

Oh my god.

Lulu desperately follows the sound to a hallway. One of the girls tries to stop her but Lulu pulls away. She finds the source and bursts through the door.

LULU

CC!

(CONTINUED)

CC's on the floor, curled up in a ball. Her dress is stretched and wrinkled. Sam buckles his belt and smooths his hair. Maude's in the corner, sitting in a CHAIR and smoking a CIGARETTE.

LULU

Maude? What happened? CC?

SAM

Get her out of here.

LULU

No! What did you do to her? Leave her alone!

Lulu rushes to CC and yanks her up. CC's body is limp; she's stunned. Maude approaches Lulu and tries to break her away from CC. Lulu punches Maude in the face. Sam's on the phone at his desk speaking French. Lulu and CC rush out of the room, down the hallway, through the harem room, and out the nightclub.

FADE OUT