

LIFE'S CURVE

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. DOUGALL FAMILY GRAVEYARD - COUNTY LIMERICK, IRELAND -
MORNING

SUPER: "2023"

A cold mist hangs over a small graveyard enclosed by an ancient stone wall.

MAURA DOUGALL (31) limps across the wet grass. Each step requires more effort than she wants anyone to see.

She passes generations of headstones bearing the Dougall name before stopping at the grave of her father, EAMON DOUGALL.

Beside it lies an empty plot.

Maura lowers herself onto a stone bench. From her coat pocket, she removes a weathered photograph of herself and ETHAN DAVID, young and in love.

NOELLE DOUGALL (10) approaches carrying two purple irises.

NOELLE
Grandmother said you shouldn't be
out here alone.

MAURA
I wasn't alone.

Maura looks toward her father's headstone.

Noelle places one iris on Eamon's grave. She offers the other to her mother then notices the photograph.

NOELLE
Who is he?

Maura looks at the photograph of Ethan.

MAURA
Someone I should have told you about
a long time ago.

Maura places the second iris on the empty plot.

CUT TO:

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD - KENTUCKY - DAY

Families and friends fill the metal bleachers. Coaches and players yell from their dugouts.

On the mound, CHRISTOPHER DAVID (8) freckled, glares at the batter. Bases are loaded with two outs. The Stingrays cling to a 7-6 lead.

In the first row, ETHAN DAVID (35) athletic, watches every breath his son takes. A faded surgical scar disappears beneath Ethan's right sleeve.

ETHAN
(under his breath)
Show him your curve.

An UMPIRE squats behind the catcher.

The catcher signals the pitch.

Christopher winds up.

The batter stiffens. He swings. Misses.

The crowd roars.

UMPIRE
Strike one!

ETHAN
(under his breath)
Keep him guessing.

Christopher watches the catcher signal the next pitch. Christopher nods, looks off the runner on third, throws.

UMPIRE
Strike two!

ETHAN
(under his breath)
Changeup.

Christopher winds up again. He throws a changeup. The batter swings. The ball flies out of bounds.

UMPIRE
Foul ball!

ETHAN (V.O.)
Fastball.

The catcher signals slider.

Christopher disagrees.

The catcher shows fastball.

Christopher nods. He winds up. The crowd is in a frenzy.
The batter swings.

UMPIRE
Strike three! You're out!

Christopher and his teammates celebrate.

Ethan makes his way down to the field.

Christopher approaches. He and Ethan high-five.

ETHAN
Awesome!

CHRISTOPHER
Just like you, Dad.

ETHAN
You've got some heat on your
fastball.

CHRISTOPHER
Release it quick. That's what you
told me.

They bump fists. A LITTLE LEAGUE FATHER nearby recognizes
Ethan.

LITTLE LEAGUE FATHER
Ethan David? The Reds could still
use that fastball.

Ethan instinctively rubs his shoulder.

ETHAN
That pitch retired before I did.

Ethan puts his arm around Christopher's shoulder as they head
toward the parking lot.

ETHAN
Let's celebrate.

CHRISTOPHER
Pizza?

ETHAN
My favorite victory food.

INT. DAVID FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: "2003"

ETHAN DAVID (12) freckled and blonde wears a baseball cap and glove in front of the television. ANNA DAVID (38) slender with a wrist tattoo sits on the couch next to him.

On the television screen: a baseball stadium under stadium lights.

ETHAN

Look! Dad's coming in to pitch!

ANNA

Top of the ninth. Man on first.

We're up by one.

(beat)

Come on, Connell!

ETHAN

Let's go, Connell! I mean, Dad!

ON TV

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Cincinnati needs one out to win this series against the Pirates.

(beat)

The Red's just brought out the *Irish Flame Thrower*, Connell David to close this out.

ETHAN

I need a nickname like Dad. How about the *Blonde Flame Thrower*!

Anna pulls Ethan's baseball cap down over his eyes.

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Connell David eyes the catcher.

Nods. Throws. It's a strike!

ANNA

Two more strikes, Conn. You can do this!

Ethan springs to his feet, mimicking his dad's exact pitching stance on TV.

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The batter sets. Connell winds up.

Strike two!

Anna stands up. She yells at the television. Ethan mimics her.

ANNA

Flame thrower! Torch him!

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Connell David's fast ball is
legendary. Let's see if he uses it?

(beat)

He winds up, throws...oh my, game
over! The Reds win five to four!

Ethan throws down his glove. He celebrates with his mother.

ETHAN (V.O.)

One day, I promised myself I'd pitch
in the majors too. My dad was my
hero.

EXT. COLLEGE BASEBALL FIELD - BATTING CAGE - DAY

SUPER: "2012"

Ethan David (21) throws batting practice to a TEAMMATE. He
swings, misses.

TEAMMATE

Take it easy! At least let me hit
the ball.

ETHAN

Sorry, I'll slow it down.

College roommate, PETE CARRILLO (21) approaches the cage.
Ethan pauses, takes off his glove.

PETE

I hate finals week. It really gets
in the way of my social life.

ETHAN

My kinesiology final is tomorrow.

PETE

You take classes I can't even
pronounce!

(beat)

I've got a date later on with Stacy.

ETHAN

On the basketball team?

PETE

Oh yeah!

ETHAN
She's about three inches taller than
you?

PETE
Not when we're lying down.

Ethan's teammate waits with crossed arms.

TEAMMATE
Come on Ethan! I need the practice!

ETHAN
Be right there!

Pete waves at a group of COEDS sitting in the stands.

ETHAN
What about your accounting final?

PETE
I'll cram for it later.

Ethan shakes his head, puts his glove back on.

ETHAN
Ready for Ireland? Just two more
weeks!

PETE
Are we doing a medieval banquet?
Hot Irish women singing and serving
food get me excited!

ETHAN
It's already reserved.

PETE
Still projected in the first round?

ETHAN
The Reds said they'll take me fifth
if I'm available?

PETE
That could be a huge signing bonus!
I need to be your agent.
(beat)
Why Ireland?

ETHAN
What do you mean?

PETE
Lauderdale is much closer.

Ethan removes his baseball cap.

ETHAN
Just a way to remember my dad. You
know, him being Irish.

TEAMMATE
Ethan!

Ethan puts his ball cap back on.

ETHAN
I better go!

Pete waves again at the coeds in the stands.

PETE
My fans await. See you back at the
dorm.

ETHAN (V.O.)
I suppose life isn't guaranteed to
any of us, but losing my parents as
a college freshman was especially
hard. Honoring my mother and
father's legacy through baseball
seemed only natural. Dad's Irish
ancestry was the main reason I chose
to visit Ireland for Spring Break.
Would I feel a closer connection
with him? I wasn't sure, but the
possibility excited me just like the
upcoming draft.

INT. SHANNON, IRELAND - MURPHY'S PUB - NIGHT

Ethan and Pete are greeted by a shapely, red-hair FEMALE
HOSTESS as she fights to be heard over *Brown Eyed Girl*,
blaring from the overhead speakers.

FEMALE HOSTESS
First time at Murphy's?

PETE
(over-dramatized
southern drawl)
Eit shore is.

FEMALE HOSTESS
Now I can tell by your accent that
you boys aren't from around here.

PETE

(moving in closer)

Don't tell anybody, but I'm the odds-on favorite to become the next governor of Kentucky and looking for someone to become my First Lady, interested?

FEMALE HOSTESS

(laughing)

You two will fit in here brilliantly!

Ethan and Pete head towards the bar, squeezing past a throng of local revelers.

ETHAN

I wonder if the local Fire Marshal is on duty?

PETE

He's probably in a corner tossing down with the Mayor and Chief Constable. As much ale and whiskey as I see flowing, a fire could be pissed out by the patrons in a matter of seconds.

A BARTENDER approaches.

ETHAN

An ale for me.

PETE

Make it a Guinness.

ETHAN

We don't have much time before the banquet.

PETE

I hate to leave Ireland. Getting a real job and paying off my student loans is going to suck!

The bartender sets down their drinks.

ETHAN

If the Reds choose me, I'll probably start out in Daytona for their Class A team.

PETE

I could think of worst places to be.

ETHAN
I also plan on restoring my dad's
Jeep Wagoneer.

A group of attractive COEDS catch Pete's attention.

PETE
Hey, look over there.

ETHAN
We don't have time.

PETE
It's an opportunity. Come on.

Pete approaches the coed's table.

PETE
My eyes aren't Irish, but they sure
are smiling!

CATHERINE KELLY (20) brunette with plunging knit top points
to Ethan.

CATHERINE
Who's your friend?

COED ONE
Yeah, he's cute!

PETE
Come on ladies, what about me?

COED TWO
I'm used to driving a basic compact,
but experiencing something or
someone that's luxurious and sporty
wins out every time!

The girls exchange high-fives.

ETHAN
Sorry, my friend loses his mind
around pretty girls.

CATHERINE
I'd love to lose something else
with you!

Ethan leads Pete back to the bar.

PETE
Are you crazy? She wants you!

ETHAN

Not my type.

Ethan and Pete finish their drinks.

PETE

Always remember, hunting the female species just takes confidence and being aggressive.

ETHAN

Coaching would have been a better major for you than finance.

PETE

Not a chance! I would always be broke. Chicks like guys with money.

Ethan checks his watch.

ETHAN

Time to go.

INT. CONROY CASTLE - CHAMBER HALL - NIGHT

Ethan and Pete sit at one of several long wooden tables filled with other TOURISTS and LOCALS.

Irish SINGERS serenade while serving drinks and appetizers to those in attendance. The animated BUTLER (30) enters, center stage.

BUTLER

(dramatic)

Welcome to Conroy Castle. You are the chosen guests of my Lord, The Earl of Thomond. Tonight you will be expected to enjoy our drink, delectable food, and specially chosen entertainment. If you have any compliments, beckon me. If you have any complaints, talk to the cook, he is the largest man in Ireland.

MAURA DOUGALL (20) alluring in a period dress and flowing black tresses, approaches Ethan's table with a large tray of drinks. Maura loses her balance as a glass spills, soaking Ethan's shirt.

MAURA

Sir, I'm so sorry! I didn't mean-

Ethan grabs a napkin and wipes at his shirt. He looks up.

ETHAN
(spellbound)
It's...okay.

Staring back at Ethan, Maura pauses.

MAURA
(captivated)
I'm...so...clumsy.

Maura grabs Ethan's napkin and begins to dab his shirt.

ETHAN
It's really not a problem.

Ethan continues to fixate on Maura.

MAURA
Would you like another drink?

ETHAN
Promise not to pour it on me?

MAURA
No guarantees.

ETHAN
Then how about an umbrella?

Maura crosses her arms. A wry smile widens across her face.

Maura picks up her tray.

MAURA
(amused)
I'll be right back.

Maura turns, she glances back at Ethan.

PETE
You got her attention.

Ethan pulls aside another FEMALE SERVER from the adjacent table.

ETHAN
(pointing)
Who's that?

The female server scans Ethan.

FEMALE SERVER
Maura Dougall. I wouldn't bother.