

**Along With You**

by

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21st September 2017

1. EXT. PARK - DAY

A beautiful hillside overlooking a quiet suburb. The tranquillity is cut with excited screams as Iris (60s) zooms Ella (8) down the hill in a shopping trolley.

Twisting & turning they suddenly take a turn too tight and the shopping trolley trips over itself sending Ella flying. Horrified Iris chases Ella as she rolls across the grass. Ella looks up & with a huge grin bursting into laughter.

ELLA  
Let's go again!

IRIS  
Ella! Anyone else would be scared  
for their life.

Iris takes a seat on the tumbled trolley next to Iris. She reaches into her coat pocket revealing a chocolate bar.

IRIS  
Fruit and nut?

2. INT. CARE HOME BEDROOM - DAY

A quiet, generic functional room. Echoing the previous setup Ella (now 19) sits opposite IRIS (70s), who is slumped in an armchair gazing vacantly out of the window.

ELLA  
Look Nan. Your favourite.

Ella offers her the chocolate. No reaction. Ella unwraps it and puts it on a saucer next to an undrunk cup of tea.

ELLA (CONT'D)  
You can have it later.

3. INT. SHOE SHOP - DAY

The background noise of a busy shoe shop: mothers telling off cranky children, couples arguing, annoying music. ELLA (19, uniform) scrabbles on her hands and knees putting shoes back into their boxes. JANINE (40s, power-trip manager) approaches and kicks a shoe box at Ella.

JANINE  
Come on hurry up.

4. INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY.

Ella packs her uniform into her bag. TESS (19, bright-eyed)

pops her head round.

TESS (CONT'D)

Right, no excuses. You are coming  
to my leaving drinks next week.

Ella knocks the box of pop socks over, Tess helps gather  
them up again.

ELLA

You're leaving?

TESS

I'm going backpacking.

ELLA

Backpacking. Where?

TESS

All round Europe. I've got a rail  
pass. So, what do you say? You  
coming to my drinks?

Ella's phone rings.

5. INT. CARE HOME RECEPTION - DAY

Ella rushes into the care home. The RECEPTIONIST gets Alison  
(50s, care home worker). They mutter together before.

ALISON

Thanks for coming down. We didn't  
want to panic you over the phone.

ELLA

What is it?!

ALISON

Your Grandmother's gone.

Ella backs away, runs down the corridor.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Wait.

Ella flings open Iris's door. The room is empty. She sags  
against the door, struggles to breathe. Alison appears.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I'm sure we'll find her. She seems  
to have left sometime around 10,  
maybe 11? We can't be sure.

Alison's phone rings - flustered she leaves.

ALISON (O.S.)  
She can't have got far....

6. EXT. CARE HOME GARDENS - DAY

A distraught Ella plods through the care home front door into the gardens. A glimmer of hope as in the distance she spots an old lady stumbling along.

IRIS  
Nan?

Ella rushes towards the old lady to find...

ELLA  
Nan!

...another old lady.

OLD LADY  
Hello dear.

ELLA  
Oh. Hello. Sorry I thought you were  
someone else.

Alison catches up to the pair and begins assisting the old lady.

ALISON  
Come on Heather. Let's get you  
back.

She looks to Ella hoping to offer some support.

ALISON  
Don't worry. Your nan will be fine.

Ella slumps to the ground utterly defeated. All is lost as a wheelchair user slowly hobbles along... dragging herself rather than wheeling.

Ella looks up. Could it be?!

ELLA  
Nan?

IRIS  
I'm making a getaway.

ELLA  
A getaway?

IRIS  
I tried to check myself out earlier  
and they all made such a fuss -  
they said I couldn't 'just leave'.  
It's a hospital not prison.

ELLA  
Nan, it's not a really a hospital.

IRIS  
I'm not staying in this place.

ELLA  
Where are you going?

IRIS  
As far away as I can.

Iris' getaway continues.

ELLA  
We need to go back.

IRIS  
Why? Why do I need to be cooped up  
here? I need to get out.

Ella looks to the home then back to a determined Iris.

ELLA  
Not for long. Where do you want to  
go?

7. INT. BAR - DAY.

They are sat at a table in a swanky bar. Ella's phone rings.  
She checks the ID 'Care Home'. She turns her phone off. A  
waiter places two fancy cocktails in front of them.

ELLA  
I thought you were getting tea?

IRIS  
This is no place for tea.

ELLA  
What is it?

IRIS  
Long Island Iced Sex. Cheers.

They clink glasses. Ella sips. Iris gulps appreciatively.

ELLA  
Careful.

Iris looks around in wonder.

IRIS  
Your grandad loved this place.

ELLA  
This place only opened last month?

Iris is lost in her own world reminiscing over another time.

IRIS  
He was a great dancer your grandad.  
So how's the revision going?

ELLA  
Revision?

IRIS  
Your A-levels.

ELLA  
That was last year.

8. EXT. PARK - DAY

Ella wheels Iris along. Iris eats a choc-ice and writes neatly on the back of a cocktail menu.

IRIS  
What am I scared of Ella?

ELLA  
Spiders.

IRIS  
Got that. What else?

They pass a heavily TATTOOED MAN, sunbathing, eyes closed. Iris throws the choc-ice onto the Tattooed Man. He yells and leaps up. Ella wheels faster. Iris assumes an innocent 'old lady' expression as the Tattooed Man looks for the culprit.

ELLA  
(mortified whisper)  
What are you doing?

Iris crosses the words 'Men with tattoos' off her list of 'Fears'. She hands it to Ella. The list reads: Spiders, men with tattoos, causing a scene in public, breaking the law.

9. EXT. PARK - DAY

Ella crawls round in the undergrowth.

ELLA

It's the wrong time of year.

Ella scrambles back out from the undergrowth. Iris leans over to collect something.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Got it.

ELLA

Got what?

She turns and hands Ella a spider - a piercing shriek!

IRIS

What's next?

10. INT. SHOE SHOP - DAY

Ella watches Iris clamber around the backroom.

IRIS

So this is where you work?

Ella smiles.

IRIS

Must be pretty boring...

Iris investigates the storefront as Tess appears.

TESS

My friend has dropped out.

ELLA

Dropped out?

TESS

The inter-rail trip. Her ticket is booked, all paid for but now she can't go. Pregnant apparently. Looks like I have spare ticket...

A pause. Tess looks to Ella with a smile. There's a huge crash. The pair turn to find Iris emptying shoe boxes onto the floor. Janine rushes over and tries to pick them up/restrain her.

ELLA

Oh god...

11. INT. NEWSAGENT'S - DAY

Iris gazes at the huge array of chocolate bars.

IRIS  
I didn't know your boss was going  
to be so unpleasant.

Iris refers to her list

IRIS  
Causing a scene in public. What's  
next?

Ella hands her a fruit and nut.

ELLA  
There's your favourite.

IRIS  
How do you know that's my  
favourite? I haven't tried this one  
or this one or this one -

As Iris leans across, a bag of Starburst stashed in her  
sleeve falls out.

ELLA  
That's it. We're going home.

Ella puts the Starburst back.

IRIS  
But I've still got breaking the law  
left to do.

Iris holds out her list.

12. INT. KITCHEN - DAY

An old fashioned homely room, shopping lists, out of date  
discount vouchers - the same as when Iris left. Iris looks  
around, runs her hand over familiar things.

IRIS  
I've been in that home a year?

ELLA  
13 months.

Ella moves away, busying herself with making tea. Iris gets  
a bin bag from a drawer and starts clearing things into it.

ELLA (CONT'D)  
Stop it. Gran no. No. You can't  
just change things.



Iris carries on. Ella tries to take the bag off her. A brief struggle until Ella rips the bag away from Iris. They look at each other, shocked. Ella bursts into tears.

ELLA (CONT'D)

I tried to look after you - but I was in school and they came round and you were - they said it would be better - and I visit you every day but I know it's not enough and I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Iris puts her arms around Ella who cries on her lap.

13. INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Iris looks through a box of photos finding one of young Ella. Ella brings them both tea on a tray, sits next to her.

IRIS

I want you to promise me something.

ELLA

What?

IRIS

You'll write me a letter once a fortnight. Pen and paper.

ELLA

Ok.

IRIS

And you'll stop visiting every day.

Ella spills tea over the table.

14. EXT. PARK - DAY

A golden evening. Ella pushes Iris up a hill.

IRIS

Fancy a sweet?

Iris takes a packet of Starburst out of her waistband.

ELLA

Gran!

IRIS

Come on. Give it some welly!

Ella breaks into a run.

15. EXT. PARK - DAY

A mirror of the opening. Ella hitches a lift on the back of Iris's wheelchair and they speed down the hill.

16. EXT. CARE HOME STREET - EVENING

They share a mini bottle of champagne. Turning the corner they stop as they catch sight of the home in the distance.

Iris hands Ella the list of her fears - all crossed off.

IRIS  
So silly really.

They look at the home. Iris takes a deep breath.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
Home James. Don't spare the horses!

They set off again.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
(sings)  
One more step along the world I go  
One more step along the world I go  
From the old things to the new  
Keep me travelling along with you  
  
Come on!

IRIS / ELLA  
And it's from the old I travel to  
the new. Keep me travelling along  
with you

17. INT. CARE HOME - NIGHT

Ella pushes Iris into the home. At the door Iris, now half asleep, mumbles something.

ELLA  
What was that Gran?

IRIS  
Tell Sid to stop leaving the  
windows open.

Ella notices Iris is retreating into her own world.

IRIS  
He should be home soon. I'll have  
tea ready then I want to go out  
(MORE)

IRIS (CONT'D)  
dancing, it's been ages since we  
went dancing.

ELLA  
Okay. I will. I love you.

Alison catches sight of them.

ELLA (CONT'D)  
Bye nan.

Ella kisses Iris. Alison snatches the wheelchair from Ella  
with a scowl. She fusses and wheels Iris away

18. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The flat is bare. A pile of cardboard boxes with labels like  
'Gran's shoes'. Ella takes a cassette from a pile, puts it  
in a tape player.

TAPE  
(singing)  
Round the corners of the world I  
turn. More and more about the world  
I learn. All the new things that I  
see. You'll be looking at along  
with me

Ella picks up a notebook and writes 'Fears'.

ELLA / IRIS  
(Singing)  
As I travel through the bad and  
good; Keep me travelling the way I  
should; Where I see no way to go  
You'll be telling me the way, I  
know. And it's from the old I  
travel to the new; Keep me  
travelling along with you.

19. INT. CARE HOME BEDROOM - DAY

A pin board above Iris's bed is filled with postcards and  
photos of Ella and Tess inter-railing in Europe. Iris sits  
in a chair that faces out of the window. There's a knock at  
the door. We hear the voice of Alison

ALISON(O.C.)  
Iris. There's someone here for you.

Iris doesn't respond, instead staring out of the window as  
Iris and eight-year old Ella play on the grass together.