

SCRIPT TITLE

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EXT. PODDERINGTON ST JAMES, TOP OF HILL - DAY

It is summer 2012. MAISIE GOLIGHTLY, 19, bubbling with optimism and fun is puffing her way to the top of a hill overlooking the sea and village. In front of her strides BEN FIDDLER, 21, very tall, open, trusting. Behind her, turning frequently and using her hands as a viewfinder is ALI GOLIGHTLY, a young looking 15, petite, serious and focused.

MAISIE (V.O.)

How do you convince your whole community to back you? Especially when your village has been deeply divided for years, decades even. In truth, even my little sister Ali thought I was bonkers, as did the rest of my family for that matter. That was my problem; well, one of them anyway.

A montage of shots of her family in the Golightly campsite showing it's attractive location near the sea and featuring some snippets of campsite events Maisie has 'organised': a fancy dress competition for a dozen children, a Karaoke event with several rockstar impersonators and a talent show with lots of teenage girls and a boy band; chaotic and fun rather than slick and polished.

MAISIE (V.O.)

I was 19 and wanted to change the world, make it happier, more fun, and where better to start than organising a festival in your own back garden? It seemed perfect. A large field, our family campsite, Golightlys, that stretched down to the beach in Podderington St James, my village, and a culmination of the years I had beavered away putting on events for captive campers.

On top of the hill now, Ali is setting up a camera whilst Maisie and Ben chat and flirt a little. There are amazing views across the countryside and down to the sea.

MAISIE (V.O.)

Ben Fiddler had just reappeared, fresh from a basketball tour, which may have had something to do with my scheme being a wee bit ambitious. He was 22 and completely gorgeous. I'd been smitten for years of course, but Ben was a Fiddler, one of the enemy. His family had run the other campsite in the village for yonks and it was one of the village rules. Golightlys shall not fraternise with Fiddlers. But we decided to break the rules that summer. We became friends and when my sister decided she was going to make a film it provided the perfect opportunity for us to spend time together. It was all looking so promising, but I hadn't counted on my uncle turning up out of the blue.

Maisie is smiling into a video camera. Behind her is a view down to the bay with a chocolate box village nestled on the hill between two holiday parks. Golightly's on the west flank and Fiddler's on the east. She reads, with difficulty, from a piece of paper covered in an almost illegible scrawl.

MAISIE

Hi, I'm Maisie Golightly and I live in this amazing place here in Devon. There's two campsites, both alike in Trip Advisor reviews, in fabulous Podderington St James, where we set our scene.

Maisie ceases up laughing. Ali is exasperated and turns off the video camera.

ALI

Cut! Can you try and be a bit more professional please. This is meant to be a promotional video. I could win £500.

MAISIE

I know, but I bet they don't have to deal with handwriting like this on Blue Peter scripts

Ben is standing behind Ali, trying not to laugh. Maisie can't stop laughing

MAISIE (CONT'D)

Sorry Ali. Do you want a go Ben? I need a drink.

Ben positions himself where Maisie was. He pulls his face into a serious look and starts to speak in a slow, deep, grave voice like David Attenborough being played too slowly.

BEN

Hello and welcome to the wonderful world of Podderington St James, a village steeped in history, mystery and with it's own fu-ed. What's a fu-ed. Oh sorry feud.

Ben starts laughing as does Maisie, again.

ALI

Stop it you two. This isn't Harry Potter world. It's a real place and I've got to get this done. You said you'd help.

Maisie and Ben, hands touching by accident, nod understandingly, trying to keep straight faces. They glance at each other surreptitiously but not at same time. Ben looks at his script on a bit of paper.

BEN

Right, so first it's about how the village used to be farms and fishing.

Ali nods.

ALI

Then Maisie, you talk about some of the stuff that's happened round here, like the feud.

MAISIE

And then the village today and my up and coming festival. Brilliant.

Ali nods at them, though very sceptically at mention of a festival. She gives a stern teacher look and Ben gets into position.

Cut to

INT. THE LAUGHING SEAGULL PUB - NIGHT

The film Ali has made is being projected onto the big screen in the pub, but that is only made clear when someone walks across with a drink, creating a silhouette on the screen.

A panoramic shot of Podderington St James from the top of a hill zooms in and out on different areas.

VOICEOVER

Welcome to Podderington St James,  
now a thriving holiday resort.

A sequence of shots show Golightly's camping, Fiddler's holiday park, the seafront buildings (including the Laughing Seagull pub) and the beach.

INT. THE LAUGHING SEAGULL - NIGHT

The commentary fades to background noise as the focus switches to the pub manager.

CAROLINE, 25, Irish and a lover of story telling, is watching the film, along with a fair sized crowd. She looks up when the pub door opens and JACK GOLIGHTLY, 55, Jon's brother and black sheep of family enters.

Caroline doesn't know him as it's been decades since he last visited, but assumes he's here to see the film.

CAROLINE

It's just started. What would you  
like?

JACK nods, points to a bottle of whisky and then takes his drink to a dark corner where he's not likely to be seen. The film is on in the background.

His gaze takes in a couple squashed behind a table. His estranged brother JON GOLIGHTLY, a serious looking chap 50 and CARMELLA GOLIGHTLY, exuberant and fiesty, 50 his partner. She is laughing enjoying at the film. Jon is cringing a bit. Sitting beside them gazing intently at the screen is MARJ, 80, white haired mum to Jack and Jon Golightly.

Another table, DANA FIDDLER, smartly dressed 50 something sits near VERNON, every inch an aging rock god, with leather jacket and crumpled face. Dana's small dog, on a chair between them, is enjoying him petting her. She is also smiling, but her body language and repeated glugging of wine suggest she is not at ease.

Ben comes on screen and there is a roar of approval from the audience. He and Maisie narrate the story of the Feud of Podderington St James as snippets of old film and photos are shown.

Prince Charles waves as he walks along a country path.

BEN (AS VOICEOVER)

Back in the seventies, Long Meadow was given to the two farms here - Golightly's and Fiddler's as common land for them to graze their sheep on.

Family photos from the 1970s show the two farmers presiding over their small herds of sheep.

BEN (CONT'D)

This was a very welcome move, but it brought an unexpected problem.

Grainy film footage of a shepherd with his sheep. A pretty hippy-style teenage girl with a headband of daisies is dancing around behind him. He waves at the camera.

MAISIE

Angus and his daughter Tina were shepherds for both flocks. Angus's job was to mark the sheep identifying the owner. Arthur Golightly gave Angus blue dye with which he marked the Golightly sheep. Felix Fiddler also gave Angus blue dye to mark Fiddler's flock. As a result, no one knew who's sheep was whose. Then, mysteriously, the sheep started disappearing, one at a time. Felix Fiddler found a few of the sheep, in the Golightly's old boat house and told Arthur Golightly he wouldn't speak to him again until the day he confessed to stealing his sheep. Arthur, not knowing how the sheep appeared in his boat house became outraged at the accusation, and the two went to their graves without another word passing between them.

Current video footage of both families in their domains in present day, with Maisie and Ben centre stage.

BEN

But that's all history now. And Podderington St James is soon to be the venue for some exciting new events.

MAISIE

Like the first proper festival for the village to be held at Golightly's! Watch this space.

Ben throws a friendly arm Maisie in the film which ends with footage of a firework display over the village.

Carmella and Jon are smiling brightly but whisper to each other.

CARMELLA

What's this about a festival?

JON

No way. Another of Maisie's mad schemes I think. I haven't forgotten her Pets have Talent event.

CARMELLA

Those poor goldfish, and we never did find the snake did we.

Jack Golightly slips out of the pub.

Lights go up. Bunting can now be seen saying 'Congratulations Ali' and 'World premiere of prize winning Podderington St James video'.

Wild applause. Caroline, the young Irish bar manager, raises her voice above the cheers.

CAROLINE

Fantastic and the drinks are on you Ali. Just kidding. Now while I have your attention, we have a raffle to draw in aid of the lifeboat fund. Top prize - a Harry Potter themed holiday for 2.

The crowd ooh. Caroline passes the hat to the person nearest, who takes out a raffle ticket.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And the winner is Blue 236.

A rustling as people find their tickets. Maisie looks at hers and her eyes widen with delight. Then she spots , Koray, the hardworking takeaway owner, a widower, sitting with a frail looking kid, like Tiny Tim, on his lap who is wearing Harry Potter gear. He checks his tickets, and the boy looks crestfallen.

The pub crowd mills around, lots of drinks being bought. Maisie catches Caroline's eye and pulls her to one side, handing her a raffle ticket and whispering.

Caroline's expression cycles through several changes and then she nods. Maisie returns to her seat. Caroline calls out again.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Owl post just arrived with news direct from Hogwarts that the top prize has been awarded to Mario Yilmaz! He will be going to Harry Potter World.

Mario looks ecstatic. His dad hugs him. Caroline gives him an envelope with tickets which he tears open. They are tickets to The Ladyboys show. Koray looks puzzled, bit pleased.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Ooh, wrong ones, sorry.

She takes them back and swaps them for the correct Potter world tickets.

Vernon winks at Maisie.

VERNON

That was sweet of you Maisie. And a brilliant film Ali. And your sister and Ben looked so sweet together - new romance eh!.

ALI

Thanks so much for coming Vernon.

VERNON

Yeah. It's such a hardship to drag myself back to Golightlys and sleep under the stars, listening to the sound of the waves breaking.

Ali beams at Vernon. and nods thankyou. Dana looks aghast. Vernon puts his hand on Dana's who is reaching for her wine. He nods towards Ben and Maisie who are sitting together chatting.



VERNON (CONT'D)

Ben and Maisie are made for each other Dana. Both water signs no doubt and I think Venus rising may have something to with it!

Ali moves away.

DANA

Oh no. I'm sure Ben has set his sights much higher than a Golightly girl.

VERNON

Dana! You can't stop what's in the stars.

DANA

I can have a dammed good try.

Ali, Maisie and Ben, are sitting together. CARMELLA GOLIGHTLY, 53, mum to Ali and Maisie, gets them on their feet and gets Ben to put his arm round both girls as she takes photos with her phone. Maisie seems to like this and Ali giggles.

In the audience, DANA FIDDLER, gets up to leave. She smiles warmly at Ben but with less warmth when her gaze takes in Maisie and Ali. JON GOLIGHTLY backs away as Carmella tries to organise more photos.

Dana catches Ben's eye and beckons him.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE LAUGHING SEAGULL - NIGHT

Dana seems relieved to be outside and hugs Ben warmly when he appears.

DANA

Well done darling. Superb despite that script, It's pretty clear that Fiddler's is the best. You deserve an Oscar. Must go. Now you won't be long will you.

Ben gives his mum a look.

BEN

We'll probably go skinny dipping mum.

Dana purses her mouth in disapproval.

DANA

Not with that girl I hope.

BEN

Mum I'm joking. And Maisie's a good friend.

Dana sniffs. Maisie starts to walk out of the pub but hangs back when she sees Dana and Ben talking.

DANA

Yes, but you could do so much better than a Golightly. That lovely cheerleader you were with, Bella. Are you still in touch.

BEN

Just leave it out mum. There's nothing going on between us. She's just a mate.

Maisie looks crestfallen and turns to nip back into the pub, but crashes into a door stop. Ben glances up and sees her.

DANA

Hmm. Oh, and I thought it best Dad didn't come. He can get a bit, you know. And he's fixing Bessie right now.

BEN

Who?

DANA

Bessie. She's the latest steam train engine thing.

Dana makes a grim face and then jogs swiftly off along the promenade. Ben eagerly returns inside the pub.

INT. THE LAUGHING SEAGULL - NIGHT

Maisie is chatting with JOE, the young chef at the pub. He seems shy, with puppy dog eyes. As Ben approaches, Maisie gives him a half smile, half shrug and turns her attention back to Joe.

Joe instantly clicks that something is going on between Maisie and Ben and gives a 'really' look.

JOSEPH

I've got to get back to my kitchen.

He hugs Maisie and then Ben and departs quickly. Maisie is preparing to move away, but Ben takes her hand in both of his and leans round to look into her eyes.

BEN

I don't think we're just mates  
Maisie. Do you?

Ben and Maisie gaze at each other, and a kiss looks imminent, but Ali pushing past them breaks the spell.

Ali sits at a table with her mum, dad, granny and Vernon. She tucks into a bowl of ice cream. Her dad keeps trying to steal mouthfuls and they are all laughing.

CARMELLA

So what are you going to spend your  
winnings on Ali?

ALI

A keyboard.

VERNON

Excellent idea. You're a talented  
musician Ali.

MARJ

Are you writing a book dear?

ALI

No, a music keyboard, like a piano.

Jon is looking a bit surprised at the conversation.

JON

I thought you were going to get a  
new video camera?

VERNON

Get with it Jon? That was last  
week. You go for it girl. Be a cool  
musician like me.