

SCRIPT of “TODAY” by Su Friedrich

Info about the identifying tags in the script, and about stylistic elements:

TXT: My text on screen

VO: My written voiceovers or other people’s written voiceovers

OCA: On Camera Audio, i.e. people speaking on camera when the shot was recorded. The names of the speakers are mentioned in the ID line but no need to include that in the translation, it’s obvious.

TITI: When the Text is In The Image

SONG LYRICS: There are some places where music can just be left as background, atmosphere, no need to transcribe or translate and others that should be translated are noted.

Within any section of **TXT**, when the lines follow, it means they’re on the same title card. When there’s a line space, they’re different title cards
Also true with VOs that are either continuous or in different places with gaps in between.

Text in bold and underlined are the brief descriptions or the main image of the scene in which there is a text/something to translate.

There are a lot of scenes without text, but in order to have the script show the sequence of scenes in the film, those are noted parenthetically **(in gray)**

TXT:
TODAY

A film by Su Friedrich

Lying on bed

TXT:
People say...

VO:
Try to pay attention to the moment

Try to see the humor in it

Look for the beauty in things

Just take some deep breaths

(Note: these song lyrics should be translated.)

SONG LYRICS:

Come on now, little Suzie, we are going to the country for a ride, oh la la la la la...

TITI:

Nib Geebles 2016 Relationship Calendar

(Running through the fire hydrant, the Chinese portrait artist, the piling with the single plant, the car mechanic)

Driving over the bridge

SONG LYRICS:

Moments to spare
with someone you care for
one love affair for two

Restaurant, black couple and cakes & pies

TXT:

I love cake.

I love pie.

I should resist.

Dude on paddle board & my feet

TXT:

But I'm on vacation!

Reading the Odyssey

TXT:

Cathy and I are reading "The Odyssey" aloud to each other.

Odysseus has finally gotten home and is hatching a plan to kill all the suitors.

OCA of Cathy, and it's also a TITI:

"...The moment he returns to native ground!

Once under his own roof, he and your friends,

Believe you me, won't part till blood has flowed."

With that,

He poured out honeyed wine to the gods and drank deeply,
then restored the cup to the young prince's hands.

Amphinomus made his way back through the hall,
his heart sick with anguish, shaking his head,
fraught with grave forebodings...
but not even so could he escape his fate.

Horses on the beach

TXT:

The “sand cowboys” of Chincoteague take care of the wild horses.

And every summer, they auction some foals to support the volunteer firefighters.

Fake flower house

TXT:

Diane is the first friend I made when I came to NY in 1976.

Pix of me and Diane, and Diane in the hospital

OCA between the nurse and Diane:

How about now?

Down

How about now?

Down

How about now?

Up

I'm gonna do the same for the left one.

Up

Uh huh, relax how about now?

Down

Okay

Now I'm going to bring the bed down a bit.

TXT:

July 30, 2016

She's diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

Plane, singer in airport, and poem with dad

(In other places in the film, the songs don't have to be translated, but I think it would be good to translate this one, or at least the beginning of it to get a feeling for the meaning in it.)

SONG LYRICS:

I don't want you to leave, hold my hand

Oh won't you stay with me
Cause you're all I need
This ain't love, it's clear to see
But darling, stay with me

Why am I so emotional?
Not it's not a good look, gain some self-control
And deep down I know this never works
But you can lay with me so it doesn't hurt

Oh won't you stay with me
Cause you're all I need
This ain't love, it's clear to see
But darling, stay with me
Won't you now?

TXT:

I've come to Chicago
because my dad is dying.

VO:

As I was sitting by his bed, he woke up and said "Hey Susie, I want to recite something for you. It's a gift for you."

In a garbled, slurry voice, he recited a poem. When he got to the line about the pillared dark, he clenched his teeth as he fought back tears, but then he continued to the end.

"Come In" by Robert Frost

As I came to the edge of the woods,
Thrush music -- hark!
Now if it was dusk outside,
Inside it was dark.

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night,
Though it still could sing.

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast.

Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went --

Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament.

But no, I was out for stars;
I would not come in.
I meant not even if asked;
And I hadn't been.

TXT:
Enough.

I want to go see my friend from high school.

Denise hooping class

(Song playing with Spanish song lyrics, can't identify it, no need to translate.)

OCA of Denise:

So this is about... This might be 125... it's an easy swing, so if I was swing dancing... so
this is about an easy swing... So... heel, heel, heel

OCA:

That's hard to do, it's hard to keep it up!

SONG LYRICS:

When I found you I found love
When I found you I found love
When I found you I found love

OCA:

Hug yourself
We're not done, we're just slowing down

(Swans clean themselves, subway trains, stained glass window)

Tre and basketball

OCA of coach & boys:

Get back, get back, stop the ball

Get back, get back!

Get back, know your back!
I'm back, I'm back!

Church sign

TITI:

Do not know what to do? Just pray

Can't nobody do you like Jesus

Greater is he in me than he in the world

This is the day that the Lord has made

My mother is so lonely

Birds in a glass house (with mom talking)

OCA of Mom:

Ha! Four of them.

That gray one is always hopping and popping back and forth.

Yeah, now all three of them...no...It just came, right?

One is sitting still alone over there

Marionette at Union Square

(Song lyrics inaudible)

Phone message from dad

OCA of Dad and Su:

One old message

Hi Su, it's Dad. I'll try and call your other number, but I don't think I remember too clearly...I wanted to thank you for the pictures of your apartment, especially meaning how you've... (fades out)

End of messages

Huh.

Uh...He died on August...something like August 17th

TXT:

(It was August 11, 2016.)

OCA: cont:

And it's now...I guess it's October 17th

To delete all messages, press delete again.

(Ghost)

(Next OCA starts under the Ghost shot)

SOS scene with man talking with bullhorn

OCA of man:

I'm proud to say I no longer walk with a gun, I no longer own a gun, I no longer want to shoot a gun.

TXT:

We're being visited by S.O.S. (Save Our Streets)

OCA:

I changed. You can change. We can do this!

TXT:

They come to a block after a shooting.
We just had another one.

OCA:

To our youth: Let's respect each other. Respect your parents! Respect yourself enough that you want peace in your life.

Marathon race

TXT:

November 6, 2016

Bill Withers subway singer

(The main first phrases of the song should be translated, the meaning matters.)

OCA: of the singer

Ain't no sunshine when she's gone, and she's always gone too long, any time she goes away. And I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know...

TXT:

To hell with the Electoral College!

Off to D.C.!

DC Women's march

OCA of the crowd:

My body, my choice!
Her body, her choice!

My body, my choice!
Her body, her choice!

My body, my choice!
Her body, her choice!

My body, my choice!
Her body, her choice!

My body, my choice!
Her body, her choice!

Video of a performance of "Chinchilla"

TXT:

Diane in "Disband" in 1979

OCA of the performers, & SONG LYRICS:

Chinchilla, chinchilla...

You take my form and make of it what you want!

Chinchilla, chinchilla...

You take my form you wormy wimp, you wimp, you worm!

Chinchilla, chinchilla...

You take my form and have it duplicated!

Chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla...

I'm gonna take... I'm gonna take... I'm gonna take everything you've got

Chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla, chinchilla

I'm gonna sneak into your flat and take that and that and that and that and that!

Cathy dances with Diane (on a laptop display)

TXT:

We've always loved dancing with Diane.

So Cathy and I are dancing from NY to Glasgow with her.

SONG LYRICS:

Come on and dance y'all...Hands up

(Translator, just put in the "Hands up!")

Cathy art show discussion in basement

OCA of man speaking:

...and they backed off. So, the utopian vision of Modernism—that it will improve society through technology and advancement—was shattered. You know, it was just a corporate entity. MoMA was nothing more than a Fortune 500 company. And artists collapsed. Against that you have...I think Pop Art is decidedly a post-Modern movement. It rejects the Utopian ideals, it rejects the high art idea, and presents it through commercialism to the society as it exists. So, I think it's very clear that it's a post-Modern movement, or that's one of the strongest elements of it.

And I don't think that irony saves anybody. I think irony is...The ironic artist is the bourgeois artist of today. They've gone to the bank and cashed it in through irony.

Yeah, definitely.

(Dortmund musicians)

Violinists

TXT:

Cathy and other friends are making last visits to Diane in Glasgow.

Taking care of Mom is using up all my energy.

I know I'll regret not going.

Email about Diane

TITI and also read as VO:

Thanks, Su, for your note. Diane recognized me, which made me happy. (She called Marcel David a couple of times.) She is clearly voyaging through all her memories, and it is not clear what she is experiencing. Also her physical decline has been extreme. But she is still Diane! Stubborn as ever, she asked me to help her make a break for it.

Love,
Martha

Irises on a fence

TXT:

She made her break on May 31, 2017.

Mother's Day party

TXT:

Mother's Day party, 2017

OCA between Mom and Maria:

Maria: I got Mumi this card, it was so funny. It's some chipmunks, and when you open it, they go, "M-O-M, that's what it spells, yay team!" and they've got pompoms, and the M and the O and the M light up...and it's like full-throttle madness.

Mom: Oh...grandma? I have to open those two... There's nobody to open those for me, huh? I have to do that myself.

Pamela: We'll have to hire someone.

Circus at Barclay's

OCA of various people:

Woman: Animals are abused!

Man: You know they're just going to sell these animals to other circuses

Man passing by: No one's listening, man, we're here for the circus

Man: It seems like you're listening!

Su: Actually, they're not.

Man: It might be time to teach your children some compassion!

Woman: Teach your kids compassion!

TXT:

Oh, fuck off, PETA

OCA:

Woman: Shame on you, animal abusers!

TXT:

May 21, 2017

OCA of the circus owner:

Good evening, everybody! It's incredibly heartwarming to see all of you that have come out for the final performance of Ringling Brothers' and Barnum and Bailey.

And it's the people, it's the spirit, the dedication, the perseverance of everyone that you'll see tonight that makes the impossible possible.

They have always been an inspiration for us, and they really should be an inspiration for everyone on how we conduct our life.

It has been incredible to have this experience—not with the people only—but to see how this town without a zip code works. The teamwork, the family, and how they come

together, day in and day out, as Olympians...No matter what it is, they rise to the top.
And they are the reason that they are, and this is, the greatest show on earth.
So, I'd like to thank every one of them who you see tonight, and behind the scenes.
They're very special people and we love them all.
So, from the bottom of our hearts, we want to say thank you all very much, and please
enjoy and celebrate the greatest show on earth for the very last time.

OCA of little girl and her mother:

Circus!

Circus!

C'mon sweetheart, let's go!

TXT:

I just can't believe that it's going away forever.

Knee surgery with fan, lifting leg

OCA of Su:

I have to be somewhat sedentary because I had minor knee surgery and they told me I'm
supposed to do this...and leg lifts.

I'm very glad it isn't hot out and I'm very glad I'm not in pain, so that's a good thing.

Uh...circle...

Actually, I was supposed to do this for the last three days and I didn't. So, if it weren't for
the fact that I was filming it, I still wouldn't be doing it.

Ow, shit! Now I've overdone it because I wanted to get that close-up.

TXT:

So much for deep breathing.

It's filming that gets me to be "in the moment."

(Ethan pulling on camera)

(Just sound of the radio show, nothing to note.)

Mom on couch and outside with flowers

OCA between Su and Mom:

Mom: Well, listen sweetie—Don't you want any lunch?

Su: Not really.

Mom: Not really?

Su: But we could go take a walk. It's pretty nice out.

Mom: Yeah—that might just be a good idea. Get out and get some outside air into our inside bones.

Su: And she's up!

(Outside with the flowers)

Mom: This is actually two together, I think...No, it's just...I mean it's one, but....

Su: Is it one?

Mom: No, I think it's two together.

On bed with a cold and look out the window

OCA of Su:

July 6th...Uh, what bird is that? Tweet, tweet, toot, toot, toot, toot! And I ran down to get my camera...Then a few minutes later I heard it again faintly, so it had just flown over to another block...And I have a cold.

Block party with woman dancing

TXT:

Our block party is on!

(No need to put in a translation of the song, just in here if needed for reference.)

SONG LYRICS:

...Off to someone else's arms
Breaking up my heart and soul
And leaving me stuck

With all my tears
Heartaches and emotions
I'm all hung up with
Love and devotions

So stop messing with my heart
If you don't mean it
And stop messing with my love
If you don't care

Don't come here
Talking 'bout loving, no

You are using me
Cause I ain't got no
Heartaches to spare

You're a runaway love
(Just a-running, just a-running
In and out of my life)
You're a runaway love
(Where you gonna
Run to this time, baby)

You're a runaway love
(You can go if you want to
You can go, you can go)
You're a runaway love
(Don't come back next time)

The baby birds

OCA of Su:

I think I'm keeping the mother from arriving.

Yeah—I would like to keep filming, but I think the mother won't come over while I'm here, so I'll turn off the camera and see if I can watch it happen.

Yeah, she's flying from there over to here, but she won't come up as long as I'm here.

Oh, there she is, and she wants me to go away.
It's like, "I wanna feed 'em, I wanna feed 'em."

Well, see, there she goes again.

Is she going to be brave enough to come over?
Like, "Get outta here, Su, get out, get out, get the fuck away!"
Okay, going down, going down...

TXT:

But not going away....

OCA of Su:

This is terrible! I'm freaking out the mom all over again! And this baby!

OCA between Su and Diane:

Su: Yeah...See? And there's one over here around the side.

Diane: Do you think they're okay?

Su: I have no idea.

Diane: Oh, darlings...Do you think the mother could pick them up?

Su: I don't know.

Diane: I don't know enough about this stuff...You see, the nest is so small!

Su: I know, they were totally squished in the nest.

Diane: What do we do with them? You know, some animal will get them.

TXT:

Mom why don't they shut up and leave?

The chicken farmer

OCA of farmer:

We got three plus acres. So, we started with thirty-two, we lost one on the shipment, now we're down to twenty-four. Hawk came and ate two. One got hit by a...ran into the fence over here. Two got hit by a car. But a hawk ate one, you couldn't believe it—like he did it with a scalpel. It's called a Cooper's Hawk. It's actually called a Chicken Hawk. Came down right here, right here, and wacked him. Wacked him right over there and ate him. Ate him like...nothing left. The whole neck, the whole breast. So then I put him out....The second one he ate, I put out there, frozen, so he'd come back, and I gave him a little religion—with a twenty gauge shotgun.

Sun and rain together

TXT:

Sunshine + a thunderstorm = A thing I love

(Cathy on deck looking at the water)

Solar eclipse in Von King Park

TXT:

August 21, 2017

There's a solar eclipse across the whole country.

The last one like this was 99 years ago.

OCA of people in crowd:

Man: In about two minutes it will peak.

Woman: Two minutes?
You got like what, 70% here?

Man: If you want to see the peak, here's your chance!

Woman: Yay!

Mom with bird on her shoulder

TXT: (in between all the OCA stuff below)

In Chicago when I was young, a cockatiel flew into our neighbor's window.

OCA all of Mom:

No kidding! That's a long story you're telling me. You know that? Yeah, that was a long... Yeah, I understand, it's a long story, I'm telling you!

TXT:

My mother rescued him and we kept George for many years.

I'm glad that Izzy lives in this rehab facility.

OCA:

Where are you going now? Where are you going? Where are you going? Are you going back to Chicago? Are you going back to Chicago?
Are you going back to Chicago with me?

TXT:

I feel so guilty for moving her to NY.

OCA:

Are you? Do you know how to go there? You know how to go there?
You do?
Well, I know, so I can show you the way. Okay? So...Okay? Okay? Okay?

Jezebel burlesque

TXT:

Cathy does a blog about painting.

Each year, an artist creates a holiday greeting.

In 2017, it's Jezebel Express!

Greece

TXT:

I'm so happy that we're in Greece.

Fireworks

TXT:

July 4, 2018

A week later...

OCA of presenter:

Good afternoon, Van Buren Block Association! Will Mrs. Johnnie Louise Cox step forward?

Mrs Cox event at the block party

VO of Su:

Our neighbor was given a Cornerstone Award by the Brooklyn Borough President's office. It's for people who have stayed in their communities through thick and thin, good times and bad.

Mrs. Cox is a formidable force for good.

In addition to raising seven children, she's always been active in community service.

And she's lived on the block...

OCA of presenter and Mrs. Cox:

Woman presenter: ...since 1958. Congratulations, Ma'am.

Would you like to say a few words?

Mrs. Cox: I just want to thank each and every one of you, especially Gigi... and the whole block and everybody...If I've been anything in your journey...to help you...I just want to thank you.

And thank each and every one for thinking enough of me to do this, because I love all of you and I'll continue to love you.

And most of all, I want each and every one of you to remember: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not upon your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will always direct your path. Thank you.

Woman presenter: Thank you Mrs. Cox, you are truly an example of love and faith, and we really, truly respect and love you for what you have done.

TXT:

Her sister, Miss Willa, has lived a few doors down from her since 1994.

And she made us feel welcome when we moved here.

The people at the virtual reality installation in a museum

TXT:

Seriously?

Gladys Knight performance

TXT:

August 24, 2018

Coney Island, and Gladys Knight!

(I'm not sure if this song needs to be translated, you can decide.)

SONG LYRICS:

Oh....

Can it be that it was all so simple then

Or has time rewritten every line

If we had the chance to do it all again

Tell me, would we?

Could we?

Memories may be beautiful and yet

What's too painful to remember

We simply choose to forget

Oh, it's the laughter we will remember

Whenever we remember

The way we were

The way we were

(The swan family swimming away, the subway train on the bridge)

Mom in a wheelchair in her room

OCA of Mom & Su:

Mom: I'm so tired, Susie!

Su: Yeah...

In car with Pete talking about touring nursing homes

OCA of Su:

Sorry, Pete, I have to record this because it's such a beautiful day—evidence, beautiful day—on, like, September 29, 2018, and we're about to go—according to her—we're about to go to tour the first nursing home and so all of this maybe begins all over again. So, anyway....

Mom birthday on couch

TXT:

Happy Halloween!

And Happy 98th Birthday!

OCA between Mom and Cathy:

Mom: Where, where, where, where is that? Where am I now?

Cathy: You're in your house, on your couch, and Su and Cathy are visiting you.

Mom: Whose house?

Cathy: Yours.

Mom: Where?

Cathy: In Atria! In New York.

Mom: In Atria?

Cathy: Yeah, where you live, the apartment building. In New York.

Halloween with Chris

OCA between Chris and Su:

Chris: I've been meaning to see you. I saw the way the ghost was at and I'm like, she must have said no.

Su: She said no.

Chris: She mashes on everything! But I told you that. I was like, that's why I told you, I said, "Run it by her" cuz if I would have just gave you the okay, oh, they would have had my collar like, "Who told you that..."

Su: Right

Chris: I said, "We do it every year!"

Su: She's like, "I just don't like Halloween."

Chris: I'm like, "That's you! Don't take it out on everybody else!"

Su: But I think it looks really good out here because you can see it all the way down the block.

Chris: Right, it's not hidden.

Su: Hello nurses, doctors!

Mom's feet covered by a sheet

OCA between Su and Mom:

Su: When you move your feet so much, it looks like you're taking a walk.

Mom: Oh, really?

Su: Yeah! Even though you're lying in bed, it looks like you're off taking a walk.

Mom: Yeah, well that's walking.

Su: That's walking?

Mom: Yeah.

Su: You always walked faster than I did

Mom: Yeah, I did.

Su: Hard to keep up with you.

Mom: It's okay.

Su: It's okay?

Mom: So...

Su: For who? For you or for me?

Mom: For all of us.

Su: For all of us.

TXT:

How much longer will she last?

OCA:

Mom: I want to, I want to get out in the air.

Su: Yeah. Maybe later we can take the wheelchair and we can go outside but the problem is that now it's raining, it's not very nice out.

Mom: It's raining now?

Su: Yeah.

Pete's phone call on the answering machine

TXT:

The call from my brother two nights later.

OCA of machine and Pete:

Tuesday, 11:54 pm

Hey Su, are you there?

TXT:

December 5, 2018

OCA of Pete:

I'll try your cell phone

Rosie the cat playing by the Christmas tree

(General radio talk about Bach...no need to translate)

TXT:

Rosie also gets a Christmas present.

Painter in Washington DC

(I'll let you decide whether or not this needs to be translated.)

SONG LYRICS:

Come on now, little Suzie, we are going to the country for a ride

A sweet joy ride oh baby

Come on now, little Suzie, because it's such a beautiful day by the tide, ay ay, Susie,
watching the birds as they glide in the country, slow and low...uh oh uh oh uh oh

Bad night on the block

TXT:

Whenever this guy

gets into an argument

his favorite strategy

is repetition

OCA of the guy in the fight:

Who gonna do what?

Who gonna do what?

(I can't understand the next line that he repeats)

What?

What?

What?

Who?

Who?

You talkin' crazy!

You talkin' crazy!

(White fan and ice cream truck)

(The song "Gently Down the Stream" is playing, but without lyrics, no need to mention.)

People on beach flying kites, and the ice cream truck drives away

OCA between Su and Cathy:

Su: Oh no!

Cathy: Go get it! Run! Excellent!

TXT:

(Btw, they got the kite back.)

Block party with ponies

OCA of various people:

Boy: Grandma! I'm gettin' a ride!

TXT:

We hired the Black Cowboys Association of Brooklyn for our block party this year.

OCA:

Mother: Okay, go ahead. Go ahead, Zoe. Say, "Yay! Horsies!"

Man: Look at the camera!

Cathy's garden, planting, view of various flowers and bees

TXT:

Over the past 5 years, Cathy has transformed a junk yard into a garden.

It has lots of native plants for the butterflies and bees.

She's trying to help out her tiny corner of the planet.

I have a lot of fear about the future.

So I really admire her for doing this.

Climate change at Foley

TXT:

And all of them also.

(LGBT stoplights)

The ferris wheel

TXT:

I want to keep watching

but I have to go do something.

Ulm trip

We're keeping our mother's ashes in New York, but I'm taking some photos to her hometown in Germany to bury in the family plot.

Mavis Staples

TXT:

November 10, 2019

Mavis Staples at NJPAC

(These lyrics should be translated.)

SONG LYRICS:

I know I've got love

I know, I know, I know I've got friends, yeah

I've got people, I've got people, I've got people

People who love me, People who love me, People who love, love me

Indoor race track

(General sound of announcer, not important.)

TXT:

February 5, 2020
We didn't yet know
this couldn't happen again
for a very long time.

(The following song starts at the end of this scene, no need to put in lyrics)

SONG LYRICS:

Behind the shelter in the middle of a roundabout
A pretty nurse is selling poppies from a tray
And though she feels as if she's in a play
She is anyway
Penny Lane, the barber shaves another customer
We see the banker sitting waiting for a trim
And then, the fireman rushes in from the pouring rain
Very strange

Valentine's Day party with two girls

OCA of girl:

My mom will like this.

TXT:

First death from Covid in the United States:
February 29

First Covid case in New York:
March 1

Start of the lockdown in New York:
March 12

We're getting anxious.

I wonder what sleep aids are on offer.

Ceiling fan on laptop

TITI:

Ceiling Fans for Sleeping

Mike doing ceramics

TXT:

Our tenant Mike teaches ceramics.

Covid closed the school

I'm glad he brought home his wheel.

OCA of Mike:

So, the top looks pretty decent...It's still got a little flutter.

But then there's something going on down here--If you look on the inside it's kinda got, like, a turn to it.

So, the only way to even that out is if I keep my hands incredibly static, meaning that equal parts...equal distances away from each other.

So if I keep my hands here, I can even the walls out as it gets to the top, and then the top becomes fluttery and then I'll cut that off.

People on the block

VO:

I was invited—along with 19 other filmmakers—to make a 2-minute film that would speak to the events of 2020 from wherever we were, so I filmed on our block on a sunny day in May.

OCA of Peggy:

A student sent them to me from China.

OCA of people with balloons:

Ready? 1, 2, 3, Happy Mother's Day, love you grandma!

Oh yeah, Happy Mother's Day, all you mothers!

Ceiling fan and footage of countryside and pond

VO:

So it's July 6, 2020 and while Covid rages, our friends let us come stay up at their place in the country, which has been really nice...really nice to be away from all of that, even though you're not really away from it because everywhere you go people are in masks, everything we think about doing we have to consider the ramifications. But it also gives you a lot of time to think. Everyone's been talking about how they're spending a lot of time thinking.

VO:

You can hear them, but you can never see them. You think they'd make themselves visible since they're so loud.

TXT:

My father died.

My friend died.

My mother died.

Even the cat died.

TITI:

2021

Life Could Be a Dream

Sammy

TXT:

The plumbing supply place on our block had an abandoned kitten.

They named him Stumpy because he had a tiny tail.

Now he's Sammy.

And his tail keeps growing.

Tenasia teaching me exercises

OCA between Su and Tenasia:

Su: Okay

Tenasia: Like how active do you anticipate being out there?

Su: Well, we tend to like...we go on bike rides, we go on long walks and stuff, so I'm gonna be quite active.

Tenasia: Okay!

Su: But if there are things that don't get covered by taking long walks, then, you know, I should take that into consideration.

Tenasia: Okay, yes, absolutely. So at minimum you'll be taking this baby. All right. So, first things first, we're gonna have you go ahead and just get on the ground and get in a comfortable position. You're gonna sit on the baby like this....

Su: Okay.

VO:

In 2021, my doctor warned me that if I didn't do consistent workouts to offset my advanced osteoporosis, I should start imagining things like having spinal fractures.

In other words, I couldn't fuck off anymore.

And I got very lucky. I found a trainer who lives near me and comes over twice a week to get my muscles and bones moving--some of them for the first time ever. She's really great, and I've learned something about not being able to ignore the present or the future.

OCA:

Tenasia: And then comfortable on that side.

Su: The foot side?

(laughing)

“And get comfortable”—I love that!

Tenasia: I know, right? (laughs) It's all about the language.

Su: I'm feeling fabulous!

Tenasia: Okay, fantastic, and then you're just going to use your foot and..... (it fades out as these credits roll in)

TXT:

The WHO WHAT WHERE and WHEN

For 27 years, Gordon Henderson has been making the hand-drawn Nib Geebles calendar.

Many thanks to the friends and family who provided our summer getaways.

Larry Stewart sang “Stay With Me” at O'Hare Airport.

Paul Friedrich (1927-2016) was an anthropologist, linguist and poet.

Denise E. Williams is an Occupational Therapist, a swing dancer and a Hooping teacher.

Tre Robinson organized the “Stop the Violence Basketball Tournament” in Bed-Stuy for 3 years.

Someone whose name I didn't get
sang "Ain't No Sunshine."

Half a million women and men
went to Washington, D.C. to protest
America's worst president.

The "Disband" performers are
Ilona Granet, Dona Henes, Ingrid Sischy,
Diane Torr and Martha Wilson.

Cathy Nan Quinlan is a painter who also
curates shows in her Brooklyn home.

The musical trio performing in Germany
are Romani people from the Balkan region.

Violinists Pamela Frank and Christian Tetzlaff
performed at Caramoor.

The Ringling Brothers' Barnum & Bailey
Circus began in 1871 and provided joy
— and jobs — for 146 years.

Brooklyn has many Block Associations
which, among other good things,
hold an annual block party.

Jezebel Express is a professional
burlesque dancer and teacher.

Gladys Knight was 75 years old
when she sang "The Makings of You."

Lore Friedrich (1920-2018) worked
in the Admitting Office at
La Rabida Children's Hospital.

The lesbian and gay traffic lights
are in Frankfurt, Germany.

Mavis Staples was 81 when she sang "Take Us Back."

Michael Gundlach is a ceramicist and musician.

Tenasia Hatch runs a personal training company called Souljourn Life.

(Note: Now there's a VO running underneath the final production credits. I've put the credits first and the final VO afterward.)

TXT:

Camera, sound, writing, editing, color grading
SU FRIEDRICH

Sound mixing
BILL SEERY

Consulting colorist
SHANNA MAURIZI

Production funding
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Special thanks to
CATHY QUINLAN
PEGGY AHWESH
CYNTHIA CARR

And thanks to all the people
who appear in the film,
usually without knowing
that they would be.

OCA between Su and Tenasia:

Tenasia: So what are you doing in the back of your left side? You could probably bring your hands closer up if that helps.

Um...That looks a bit more stable.

Su: Yeah, well I'm sort of feeling it a little more on the left side. Just a pull...

Tenasia: Okay. And then I want you to make sure that you feel yourself getting that entire cheekbone to the side, so you need to turn a little more.

Su: Turn to the right?

Tenasia: Uh-huh.

Su: OW!

Tenasia: Yeah...I call that the Bermuda Triangle. A lot of things get lost in there...That's where it's all...(laughs)...So just a few more seconds and then you'll switch sides.

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