

THE GOOD SIDE

Written by

Rose Mary McMahon

"The Good Side" tells the heartfelt story of Maggie and Max's perfect sisterhood relationship...or so it seems on the surface but with Maggie yet to come out as transgender and too afraid to open up about it to Max for fear of ruining the loving sisterhood. Maybe holding this inside will be more damaging than speaking their truth.

INT. NIGHT - BATHROOM

1

The scene is cast in shadow, looking down at a bathtub full of bright pink water swirling with the residue of bubbles, there is slow blues jazz music playing in the distance.

It is close on the face of a tanned and freckled boy with short brown hair (later Maggie) his eyes are peacefully shut, his face submerged just under the colored water. The camera slowly pulls away revealing the two lines of surgery just under where his breasts used to be.

Suddenly his eyes open under the water and he pulls up right towards the camera for a breath of air.

SMASH CUT TO:

2

INT. NIGHT - BEDROOM

The shot is exactly the same but MAGGIE (21) looks much more feminine in their face. They pulls up from their bed covered in sweat and clearly has just woken from the dream. The jazz music is super loud now

The bedroom is full of mess and still cast in blue shadows, there are shards of light coming through the curtains and from under the closed door.

Maggie pulls back the covers and stumbles out of bed. Wearing just a bra and underwear you see that they still has a "female" body. They pulls on a large shirt and opening the door she walks out into the hall swinging around the doorframe into the next room.

This room is also messy and the walls are plastered with posters and photos of old bands from the 40's/50's.

There are two guys and a girl of around 20 who are packing up band equipment they all stop when they see Maggie standing in the doorframe.

The girl Max is at the front, wearing baggy but still somehow stylish clothes is packing up cables.

MAX
Geez sis, put some clothes on.

Maggie rolls her eyes

MAGGIE
I shouldn't have to put on clothes
at 5am in my own home dipstick

MAX
Wow over the top much, it's 8:30

MAGGIE
8:30? Then you're gonna be late
for class if you don't get your
shit together

MAX
Ugh who even cares same shit,
different day.

Maggie gives her an "are you kidding" look.

MAX (CONT'D)
(Sarcastically)
I know, I know- education is
important bla bla bla

Maggie just gives her another look. The older of the two guys
(Asher) gives Maggie a smile.

ASHER
Sleep well?
(pause)

MAGGIE
It was fine- I guess, I did have
this really weird-

At that moment the other guy Caleb who is standing next to
Max calls out to Asher across the room.

CALEB
Come on Asher or we'll be late too.

Asher gives Maggie a nudge on the shoulder before backing
away

ASHER
We'll talk about it later aye

Maggie gives Asher a sarcastic thumbs up before swinging back
out of the door and down the hall.

3

Maggie walks down the hall and into the kitchen, she rummages through the drawers and cupboards until she has a bowl of cereal and coffee. And sits on the bench

Max comes out holding some clothes and Maggie hands her a cup of coffee.

MAX

You should wear these

She throws the clothes at Maggie who unfolds them and holds them in front of her.

MAGGIE

Whats wrong with my clothes?

Max looks into her coffee with a smile

MAX

Nothing- I just thought you could try something- different...

Maggie scrunches up her nose a little at the cute sweater and culottes.

MAGGIE

This would make me look like the artsy kid from an 80's sitcom

MAX

Well you normally look like the junkie from that same sitcom

MAGGIE

Oh shut up

Maggie throws the sweater back in Max's face

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'll try on the pants then, just for you.

MAX

What about the sweater?

MAGGIE

That fuzz ball can burn in hell.

Max is about to say something back when Asher and Caleb come out. Caleb dashes past Max giving her a quick kiss on the way.

CALEB
See you later babe.

ASHER
I'll text you about tonight
Mag

They both dash out the door. Max turns back to Maggie

MAX
Whats happening tonight?

MAGGIE
It's that party remember

Max nods and drinks more coffee

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
You're coming aye?

MAX
Yeah of course

MAGGIE
You sound ecstatic

MAX
It's Amber's birthday so I kinda
have to go

MAGGIE
Little miss popular aye

Max rolls her eyes and puts her cup on the bench, dashing out of the room and down the hall.

Maggie jumps off the bench and puts her own cup along with Max's into the dishwasher.

She looks at the pants in her hand for a second before yelling down the hall.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I'm leaving in five! See you later

INT. THAT NIGHT - MAX'S BEDROOM

4

There is some music like was playing before coming from Max's laptop. The two girls are sitting crosslegged on the floor facing each other, Max is doing her makeup and Maggie is eating a piece of toast with her eyes shut.

The music ends and Max leans over to push a button on top of the stereo, Maggie opens her eyes.

MAX

Thoughts?

MAGGIE

It's beautiful.

MAX

You have to say that

MAGGIE

Noooo-

Max changes something on the stereo and some different blues music starts playing.

MAX

Okay come here.

Max leans into Maggie with a makeup brush

MAGGIE

Oh no no no

Maggie leans back so far she lies down on the floor

MAX

Come on- just a little glitter.

Maggie tries to fight Max off who is now holding her down, as the two of them laugh.

INT. LATER THAT NIGHT - HOUSE PARTY

5

The main part of the living room is lit with some party lights but the corners fall into the shadows.

The party is starting to die down, people are drinking, talking or making out on the sofas while a few last survivors stumble around.

Max is surrounded by a group of girls about her age sitting on the floor giggling, Caleb walks up and puts a hand on her shoulder kneeling down next to her. He is holding a drink in the other hand and it is obvious he is just as drunk. He puts the drink in front of her and kisses her on the cheek.

CALEB

There you go pumpkin

Max smiles up at him and takes the drink.

CALEB (CONT'D)

What are you lot giggling about?

She giggles a little more.

MAX

Shhhhhh

(Holding a finger to her
lips)

Girl stuff

CALEB

Okay, okay, if that isn't a hint I
don't know what is

He stands up and ruffles her hair, she scrunches up her face and attempts to smooth it back down.

MAX

(In a joking tone)

Fuck off already then

Caleb gives her a stupidly big smile and walks off.

He walks into the kitchen, the table top is covered in bottles, half eaten snacks and empty cups.

He moves some of them around, lifting up half empty bottles, he picks up a half full bottle of Sprite and then fills it up the rest of the way with vodka. Putting it under his arm he walks out and down the hall.

6

INT. NIGHT - BEDROOM

He walks into the first open door, it's a bedroom. There aren't any lights on but the ceiling is covered in glow in the dark stars. He walks over and sits down on the edge of the bed, taking a sip of his drink he takes off his shirt and shuts his eyes.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

Asher?

Caleb squints into the darkness and leans to turn on the bedside lamp, which only provides a small glow.

CALEB

Maggie?

Maggie is sitting on the floor leaning on the wall, she is wrapped in a blanket and looks pretty worse for wear.

MAGGIE

What- what are you doing?

CALEB

I might ask you the same thing?

MAGGIE

Some ass hat spilt their drink all over me.

She opens the blanket a little showing that she is just wearing a bra that also looks wet

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

My clothes are in the dryer.

Caleb stands up and walks over, slouching down next to her. He holds out his shirt to her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh its okay-

CALEB
Max will probably kill me if you
freeze to death

Maggie laughs a little and takes the shirt

MAGGIE
Thanks

Maggie drops the blanket a little and pulls on the shirt.
Caleb reaches out the pulls her hair out from the collar.

CALEB
Oh you've got a little bit of sick
in your hair.

Maggie makes a grossed out face.

MAGGIE
Ewwwww-
It's probably Ashers

CALEB
Why the hell was Asher sick in your
hair?

MAGGIE
I don't even know-

Caleb laughs a little and Maggie smiles

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
He was throwing up his guts before
though.

CALEB
Sounds like him

Beat

Caleb takes a drink

CALEB (CONT'D)
You know he's been in love with you
since like the 4th grade

MAGGIE
Yeah I know

Caleb holds out the bottle of Sprite to Maggie who takes a
drink of it. She makes a face

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
How much Vodka is in here?

CALEB
Half and half

MAGGIE
Eww you weirdo

CALEB
Oh the classic Maggie insults- No wonder Asher thinks you're an angel

MAGGIE
Oh shut up

CALEB
Point proven

She laughs sarcastically

Beat

MAGGIE
You know I never got why he was so into me

CALEB
Who was?

Maggie play punches his shoulder

MAGGIE
Don't be a dumb, dumb

Caleb pauses for a minute

CALEB
Well you're probably the coolest girl he's ever known.

Maggies smile drops and she looks away from Caleb for a second

CALEB (CONT'D)
Sorry - did I say something else dumb?

Maggie shakes her head

MAGGIE
Can I tell you a secret?

CALEB
I don't really like secrets but sure..

Beat

CALEB (CONT'D)
How about I tell you a secret of
mine first so we are even?

MAGGIE
Okay

Caleb looks up thinking for a second.

CALEB
Promise not to blab?

MAGGIE
Pinky swear

CALEB
Are we twelve now

Maggie gives Caleb a very serious look and he sighs, holding
out his pinky finger and they shake on it

CALEB (CONT'D)
Okay- I got a scholarship to the
New York Music Academy...

MAGGIE
What? That's amazing con-

CALEB
Wait- before you get all excited...
I haven't told anyone because I'm
not going-

MAGGIE
Huh?

CALEB
It's only me, not the band. I
couldn't do that to the others- I'd
literally be nowhere without them

MAGGIE
They would understand, I mean Max
only-

CALEB
Maggie. I've already decided

MAGGIE
Sorry

Caleb looks down for a second a shadow falling over his face,
then back to Maggie with a smile

CALEB

Your go now miss secret keeper

Maggie takes another drink

MAGGIE

Well....I'm not a girl-

Caleb looks confused

CALEB

I've known you since we were three,
you are definitely a girl- like
I've seen al-

Maggie cuts him off

MAGGIE

No Caleb-
(She looks right into his
eyes)
I'm a boy.

CALEB

Oh

MAGGIE

You think I'm weird now don't you

She lets her head fall back against the wall her eyes
starting to fill with tears

CALEB

Hey, hey- of course not

He pauses and Maggie looks back at him

CALEB (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't know

MAGGIE

You aren't a mind reader, how would
you know

CALEB

I just should have

Maggie smiles and shakes her head gently

She reaches out and gently touches his chest

MAGGIE

I've always wanted to look like you-

CALEB

What, I'd get if you wanted to
looks like Chris Hemsworth but
this?

He laughs a little

MAGGIE

You know what I mean dumbass

Caleb puts his hand on top of Maggies and nods

CALEB

Of course I do

MAX (O.S.)

Maggie?? I've got your clo-

Max steps into the room and stops still. Caleb and Maggie look at her, realizing what this scene must look like they pull apart. Maggie stands up and the blanket drops off so you see she is just wearing Calebs shirt.

MAX (CONT'D)

Maggie? What the- what the fuck

Max's eyes fill with tears and she shakes her head

MAX (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no

MAGGIE

No, Caleb and I were just-

Maggie takes a step closer to Max but she takes a step back

MAX

I know exactly what you were-

Caleb stands up behind Maggie

CALEB

Max-

MAX

Shut up!

She looks back to Maggie

MAX (CONT'D)

You always want what I have! You selfish- you selfish - bitch.

MAGGIE

I would never- just wait.

Max throws Maggie's clothes on the ground and runs out, slamming the door shut behind her.

7

Max runs out of the house her eyes filling with tears she runs down the street till she reaches Maggie's car. She gets into the drivers seat and tries to start the car, tears stream down her cheeks.

Maggie comes running out onto the street and dashes towards the still parked car that Max is in.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Max! Get out of the car-

Max is still trying to start the manual and failing. Maggie grips onto the car door

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You are in no state to drive- you can't even drive.

Max stops for a second but only to yell at Maggie

MAX

I can if I want

MAGGIE

No you can't-

MAX

Because I'm not good enough!?!

MAGGIE

No because you don't have a license.

Max gets the car going but not in the right gear she moves forward about a foot before stalling

MAX

If you can drive it can't be that hard.

Maggie runs around the front of the car and gets in the passengers door.

MAX (CONT'D)

Get out!

MAGGIE

Calm down you psycho

MAX

No

She starts to bunny hop down the road again. Maggie puts her hand on the hand break to stop the car.

MAGGIE

Stop

Max tries to pull her hand off before failing and covering her face with her hands.

MAX

I suck at everything.

MAGGIE

No you don't- look I know you're mad but I've known Caleb since I was three

MAX

But he's my boyfriend

MAGGIE

You really think I would do that?
We were just talking-

Max looks up, her makeup a mess and covered in tears.

MAX

I'm sorry

Maggie leans over to pull the sobbing heap of Max into a hug.

MAGGIE

Come on

Maggie lets go of her and opens the door, walking around the front of the car to open the door and half drag out a still crying Max.

Max clings to her and then slowly pulls away

MAX

I know you would never hurt me-
you're my sister

Maggie looks away for a moment

MAGGIE
Yeah about that-

MAX
And no matter what you are always
gonna be my sister, my one
beautiful sister.

Maggie looks down before covering the pain with a smile. At that moment Caleb comes over and hugs Max as she flops onto him.

CALEB
She okay?

MAGGIE
Yeah

Caleb starts to walk away holding Max upright next to him, she turns back.

MAX
You coming back inside sis?

Maggie puts on another fake smile.

MAGGIE
Be there in a sec- just gonna move
back my car.

Max turns back and walks inside with Caleb.

Maggie stumbles back, falling onto her car. The car is still running and a slow, sad blues song is playing quietly over the radio. She looks up at the sky as a tear rolls down her cheek, she shuts her eyes tight.