

ELISA

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FADE IN

EXT. SMALL TOWN. -- DAY

Overview of a small town by the ocean, this is the town of BLONDUOS in Iceland. Dissolve to the exterior view of a white house that has seen better times.

INT. KITCHEN. -- DAY

ELISA, a blond eleven year old girl is chopping some vegetables. Her shoulder length hair is tied in a horsetail. Her MOTHER is working by the stove behind her.

ELISA V.O.

(01:02:16:22)

My name is ELISA and I am
eleven years old

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:02:20:03)

I recently moved here to
Blonduos with my mother and
older sister

Elisa's mother is frying onion on an old frying pan with half a handle. The onion is hissing in the hot oil.

MOTHER

(01:02:32:20)

Listen, we have just made
dinner for a whole army!

Elisa releases a short burst of laughter

INT. DINING ROOM. -- DAY

Elisa and her mother are sitting by the dinner table enjoying their dinner

MOTHER

(01:02:46:13)

Isn't this good?

ELISA

(01:02:46:13)

Yes

MOTHER

(01:02:54:10)

What did you say, is your

father coming to Stykkisholmur
tonight to fetch some people?

ELISA
(01:02:59:13)

Yes

MOTHER
(01:03:00:07)

Really?

ELISA
(01:03:04:01)

I think it is Ran, Iris,
Hilmar, Hronn and Fridrik

MOTHER
(01:03:09:15)

So many?

ELISA
(01:03:10:14)

YES

INT. ELISA'S ROOM. -- DAY

Elisa is packing her things in a bag sitting on her bed.

ELISA V.O.
(01:03:15:18)

I'm going to the island to my
dad because my mom and dad are
divorced

Elisa pulls a small rag puppy from a shelf.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)
(01:03:21:07)

I stay with my mother during
winter and my father over the
summer

Elisa gives the rag animal a short embrace before she
puts it in the bag.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)
(01:03:24:08)

That is a contract no one can
break

INT. LIVING ROOM. -- DAY

Elisa and her mother are looking at a map on a table.

ELISA V.O.

(01:03:32:20)

It takes four to five hours to
go to my dad in Flatey

Elisa's mother moves her finger along the route on the
map.

MOTHER

(01:03:37:01)

And then with the ferry over to
Flatey

Elisa's Mother puts her forefingers on the start and end
of the route on the map.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

(01:03:38:23)

Then we have traveled this
distance

Elisa's mother looks at her daughter.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

(01:03:43:17)

This will be exciting, the
weather is so nice

INT. CAR ON THE ROAD. -- DAY

Mother and daughter sit in silence in the moving
automobile. Mother is driving and Elisa watches the
landscape zoom by.

EXT. PIER. -- DAY

Mother and daughter are saying goodbye on the pier with
the ferry in the background.

MOTHER

(01:04:06:03)

Say also hello to dad from me

MOTHER (CONT'D)

(01:04:07:19)

Here is your ticket

MOTHER (CONT'D)

(01:04:11:15)

Make sure you don't lose it

ELISA

Yes

MOTHER

(01:04:14:12)

Don't fall into the ocean!

ELISA

No

MOTHER

(01:04:18:04)

Take care of doggy too

ELISA

Yes

MOTHER

(01:04:22:00)

Good bye dear

ELISA

(01:04:22:19)

Bye, bye

MOTHER

(01:04:24:11)

Love you

ELISA

(01:04:25:09)

Love you too

Elisa walks towards the ferry.

Her mother watches her board the vessel, they wave each other.

MOTHER

(01:04:31:05)

I hope you don't get seasick!

EXT. FERRY DECK. -- DAY

Elisa waves her mother as the ship moves away from the pier.

EXT. FERRY DECK. -- DAY

Elisa stands by the ship's railing and watches Flatey island as the ferry moves closer.

ELISA V.O.

(01:04:43:07)

Flatey is a small island with
few inhabitants but there is a
lot of wildlife

EXT. FLATEY PIER.-- DAY

The ferry sails close to the pier.

EXT. FLATEY PIER. -- DAY

Elisa walks off the ferry to meet her DAD who is waiting
her on the pier.

ELISA V.O.

(01:04:53:13)

It's fun to see dad as I see
him so rarely.

Dad gives his girl a quick kiss. Elisa then walks over
to an older woman who embraces her. This is GRANDMA.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:05:01:19)

Grandma and grandpa also live
in Flatey

EXT. FLATEY PIER. -- DAY

Elisa and dad take her luggage from a small luggage
container.

ELISA

(01:05:06:12)

No, this is not ours, at least
not mine

They walk up the pier.

ELISA (CONT'D)

(01:05:10:00)

I'm so very cold

They walk up to a tractor with a platform on the back end
and put the luggage down on it.

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

The tractor, with dad at the wheel, drives around a
corner and Elisa appears along with her dog among the

luggage on the platform on the back.

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

The tractor stops in front of a large house. This is grandma and grandpa house.

INT. GRANDMA'S KITCHEN. -- DAY

Elisa is sitting at the dinner table along with her dad and grandma. Dad is sipping his coffee and grandma is keeping up the conversation.

GRANDMA

(01:05:33:06)

Yes, did you do well at school?

ELISA

(01:05:37:13)

Yes

GRANDMA

(01:05:38:11)

When did you finish?

ELISA

(01:05:40:07)

Thursday.

GRANDMA

(01:05:43:06)

And got just good grades?

ELISA

(01:05:45:04)

Yes

GRANDMA

(01:05:45:24)

Good. It's good that this is over

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(01:05:49:11)

And now you have come to the school of life with grandma, grandpa and dad

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(01:05:56:18)

That's how it is, it's good to mix the two

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

An eider sits motionless on it's nest, hidden between like colored stones in similar color as the bird itself.

Elisa and dad come walking towards the nest.

DAD

(01:06:09:12)

Shall we look at the eggs?

Elisa bends down and pushes the reluctant bird carefully off its nest with her hand.

ELISA V.O.

(01:06:11:14)

There is lots to do in Flatey
and I often go with my dad to
collect down

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:06:17:03)

In Flatey and the neighboring
islands there is a lot of
common eider

Elisa backs away from the nest and waves her hand in front of her face.

ELISA

(01:06:20:20)

It pooped on the eggs

DAD O.S.

(01:06:23:05)

Then we just wipe them off.

Dad who's bent down by the nest next to Elisa, takes one egg and puts it up to his eye and looks through it towards the sun.

DAD

(01:06:32:13)

It has been laying for a while.

The eider watches from a distance as dad takes the down from the nest

ELISA V.O.

(01:06:42:01)

The eider pulls the down off it

self into the nest and we use
it for duvets and pillows.

DAD

(01:06:42:08)

Collect the puffs

Elisa puts the eggs back into the nest and covers them
with some withered grass.

ELISA V.O.

(01:06:34:18)

Then we put some withered grass
over the eggs replacing the
down

Elisa and dad stand up.

DAD

(01:06:39:04)

Come

Elisa and dad walk a little distance from the nest, sit
down and watch the eider make its way back to the nest.

DAD (CONT'D)

(01:07:08:10)

It hasn't quite sat down yet,
has it?

The eider sits down on it's nest carefully monitoring the
surroundings.

ELISA

(01:17:13:08)

Where do you think the male is?

DAD

(01:07:15:22)

Somewhere out on the ocean

Elisa points out to the sea.

ELISA

(01:07:19:16)

Maybe this is it!

A black and white male eider swims just off the shore.

DAD

(01:07:21:11)

Could be

DAD (CONT'D)
(01:07:23:23)
It's at least by it self

EXT. GRANDMA'S BACK YARD -- DAY

Elisa and DAD come walking towards a half built small shack, carrying some timber.

ELISA V.O.
(01:07:33:04)
In early summer when the eggs hatch, dad often finds orphan young birds on the islands

DAD is nailing at one end of the roof beam on the shack.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)
(01:07:38:16)
So we are going to be prepared and make a small cabin for the nestlings

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)
(01:07:42:18)
If there will be any coming this summer

Elisa puts a nail into the roof with a hammer. She looks at her dad.

ELISA
(01:07:51:01)
All the way?

DAD
(01:07:51:12)
Yes.

Elisa assists her dad sawing some planks and then looks under the roof of the cabin.

EXT. BIRD CABIN -- DAY (LATER)

Elisa is painting the cabin when GRANDPA comes to check up on her.

GRANDPA
(01:08:30:18)
Well Elisa, how is it going?

ELISA
(01:08:32:08)
Just fine

GRANDPA
(01:08:33:04)
Yes

ELISA
(01:08:35:04)
Grandpa, when will the
ducklings come?

GRANDPA
(01:08:38:05)
They will probably come next
week

ELISA
(01:08:42:03)
Oh, I can't wait

GRANDPA
(01:08:44:01)
Perhaps sooner, now this week

GRANDPA (CONT'D)
(01:08:47:23)
So you must finish painting

ELISA
(01:08:50:18)
At least the house

GRANDPA starts walking off.

GRANDPA
(01:08:54:23)
Alright then, this is looking
good

Elisa continues painting.

ELISA
(01:08:57:09)
Uhm.

EXT. GRANDMA'S BACK YARD -- DAY

Bird on a pole, singing.

EXT. GRANDMA'S BACK PORCH. -- DAY

Elisa is sitting on the porch as dad comes out with an open cardboard box.

ELISA V.O.

(01:09:23:03)

DAD said he had something for me

The cardboard box contains a small eider nestling.

ELISA

(01:09:26:06)

Oh, it's so cute

ELISA (CONT'D)

(01:09:32:22)

Can I pick it up?

DAD

(01:09:33:19)

Yes

Elisa picks up the duckling and cuddles it. She reaches over and gives her dad a kiss on the cheek.

ELISA

(01:09:49:18)

Thanks.

Elisa keeps on cuddling the duckling.

ELISA (CONT'D)

(01:09:57:08)

It's like me

DAD holds out a jar lid with water towards the bird.

ELISA (CONT'D)

(01:09:59:18)

Does it want to drink this?

The duckling has some water.

EXT. BIRD ENCLOSURE -- DAY

Half grown nestlings lay close together to keep warm.

ELISA V.O.

(01:10:25:21)

Birdnesting is very delicate and it was good that me and dad

built the little cabin

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:10:29:24)

As during the week the eggs
hatched it was very cold

Elisa and dad step into the bird enclosure to attend to
the nestlings.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:10:33:14)

And because of that there came
twenty orphan nestlings to us

Elisa pours some corn onto a plate.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:10:41:07)

And they have to be well cared
for, given corn and water

The nestlings eat the corn and gulp down the water.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:11:01:14)

The nestlings are incredibly
cute.

EXT. FLATEY PIER. -- DAY

RAKEL comes walking off the ferry and Elisa greets her on
the pier.

ELISA V.O.

(01:11:21:04)

There is my friend Rakel.
Rakel is going to stay with us
for a few days

The girls are walking above the pier. In the background
there are some boys throwing rocks into the water.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:11:29:00)

Rakel is my best friend and we
do everything together

INT. ELISA'S ROOM. -- DAY

The girls are sitting on Elisa's bed looking at some
comic magazines. Rakel reads out loud from her magazine.

RAKEL

(01:11:39:23)

If ten cats sat on a pole and
one went away, how many cats
would be left?

ELISA

(01:11:44:13)

None, they are copycats

RAKEL

(01:11:46:05)

You saw or did you already read
this?

ELISA

(01:11:48:01)

No, I know this joke by heart

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

A small bird is peeking out of a nest hidden in a grassy
tussock.

ELISA V.O.

(01:11:58:08)

This is the first time Rakel
comes to the island, so there
is much to see

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:12:03:02)

We found a meadow pipit in its
nest

The girls are sitting by the nest holding one bird each.

RAKEL

(01:12:12:20)

Yours is so calm

ELISA

(01:12:14:05)

It's just scared

The restless mother bird keeps close and flies over the
girls. They watch it flying.

RAKEL

(01:12:23:04)

Shouldn't we put them back in

the nest?

ELISA
(01:12:24:05)

Yes

The girls put the birds back in the nest and stand up.

ELISA (CONT'D)
(01:12:28:10)

Lets go home

EXT BIRD ENCLOSURE-- DAY

Elisa comes into the bird enclosure holding a plate full of corn. Rakel follows her.

ELISA V.O.
(01:12:40:23)

Rakel also helped me with the nestlings

They pick up a nestling, sit down with it on their lap and pet it.

RAKEL
(01:13:02:11)

It has nibbled at me three times

The birds are feeding and the girls watch them.

ELISA
(01:13:11:07)

I think this is a male

RAKEL
(01:13:13:16)

Is this a female?

ELISA
(01:13:15:18)

No, I think that's a male

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

Elisa gives Rakel a ride on her bicycle through the small village on Flatey. A dog jumps barking from one of the houses and runs along with them.

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

A bird is sitting on a stone singing when a burst of wind makes it fly up.

Three birds fly high downwind.

INT. GRANDMA'S LIVING ROOM. -- DAY

Elisa is sitting on the floor by a small table. She's writing a letter to her mom which she decorates with drawings of birds and a heart.

ELISA V.O.

(01:13:53:05)

Dear mom. I am in Flatey with dad, grandpa and grandma.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:13:56:16)

It has been lots of fun. Rakel came over and we have done a lot together. Love Elisa

Elisa folds the letter.

EXT. POST OFFICE. -- DAY

Elisa puts the letter in a mailbox on the smallest post office in Iceland.

EXT. GRANDMA'S BACK YARD. -- DAY

Elisa walks towards a gate by the bird enclosure. Half grown eider follows her.

EXT. BIRD ENCLOSURE -- DAY

Elisa and dad are feeding the nestlings.

ELISA V.O.

(01:14:22:06)

The summer goes by and nestlings grow bigger and bigger

One of the nestlings is nibbling at Elisa's fingers as in a fight. It is not afraid and it seems like a game. Another flaps its wings.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:14:32:05)

They have even started exercising their wings

A group of nestlings come running flapping their wings as if they were trying to take off but no one does. It's just a powerful wing exercise.

Elisa sits with her nestling in her arms and pets it on the head.

EXT. GRANDMA'S BACK YARD, OUTSIDE THE FENCE. -- DAY

Elisa is sitting and watching the grown nestlings gulping down some water from a large plastic box. They are all outside the enclosure.

ELISA V.O.

(01:14:50:21)

Even though the nestlings are a lot of work, they are fun to watch as they learn all kinds of new things

Elisa walks behind the nestlings as they walk determined in a tight group down a path.

EXT. ROCKY BEACH. -- DAY

The nestlings run across the beach and jump into the ocean.

ELISA V.O.

(01:15:09:21)

And now it's time to say goodbye to the young birds,

Elisa is above the beach sitting with her nestling, petting it.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:15:12:09)

and the nestling dad gave me

Elisa kisses the grown nestling on the head and lets it go as she stands up. The starts making his way across the beach, going faster as it gets closer to the sea and the other birds.

Elisa watches her nestling as it joins the rest of the group which swims towards it.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:15:45:08)

Now they have to take care of

themselves

Elisa smiles at them.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:15:51:22)

Perhaps I will see some of them
next summer.

EXT. FLATEY. -- DAY

Elisa is sitting on a small grassy hill watching the sun
set.

ELISA V.O.

(01:15:56:12)

The summer went by fast as
usually, tomorrow I will go to
mom.

ELISA V.O. (CONT'D)

(01:16:05:16)

When I'm with dad, I miss mom
and when I'm with mom I miss
dad

EXT. FLATEY PIER. -- DAY

Elisa and dad sit and chat on the platform on the back of
the tractor which is parked just off the pier.

EXT. FLATEY PIER. -- DAY (LATER)

A group of people are standing on the pier saying goodbye
to those that are leaving. Elisa and her dad are among
them.

ELISA V.O.

(01:16:20:18)

Now it's time to say goodbye to
dad

DAD bends down and gives her daughter a quick kiss.

EXT. FERRY DECK -- DAY

Elisa stands by the ships railing and waves her relatives
as the ferry sails away from the pier.

ELISA V.O.

(01:16:25:09)

It will be fun to see mom and

tell her about the summer

FADE OUT

CREDITS