

NONNA, MUM & ME

Written by

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Time stops for Francesca when her mother relocates to a nursing home, until an unusual friendship in a secluded cottage helps her see a new perspective.



Synopsis

FRANCESCA is a full-time carer for her mother who is in the late stages of Dementia. We begin with the mother's transition to residential care leaving Fran alone for the first time in 20 years. Tortured by the silence of her Mother's absence she makes to decision to leave the family home and embark on a new adventure she hasn't quite worked out yet.

Arriving at a secluded cottage she attempts to rediscover herself but fights intrusive thoughts as she battles with her own mental state and an uncertain future. Abruptly she is joined by HENRY, the owner of the cottage who she will be staying there with her. The house offers its own surprises during her stay, slowly transforming from a cold unwelcoming place to a loving home, like a welcoming hug from an old friend.

Henry and Fran are seemingly opposite personalities which results in Fran attempting to leave. However, the house won't let her. Trapped in this place by an invisible force she must confront the reason she came here to be able to leave.



CHARACTERS



FRANCESCA SIMPSON – 40s

Francesca Simpson likes Hallmark Movies, Junk Food and Wine. Other than being her mother's Primary carer there's nothing much more to Fran. Unremarkable in every way.

Becoming her mother's carer shortly after leaving University, her awkwardness and reticent nature allowed her to settle into solitary life and responsibilities of full-time care.

When her mother is relocated to a residential home finds herself confronted with a life alone with one question – Who is Francesca Simpson?

This prompts Fran to retreat to a strange cottage where she begins to explore perhaps undiscovered parts of her personality. Does she like this or maybe it's more that? Or could the solution be she should kill herself?

"No-one knows I'm here. My mother is sick, but it's okay, she doesn't know she's sick"



HENRY – 80s

First impressions of Henry are he's cold, blunt, doesn't do small talk and would like people to think that's the way he likes it.

We know little about Henry except he's a widow who lives in the cottage, spending most of his time doing needlework – just like his wife used to.

Fran is his first house guest since his wife passed and the experience for him is foreign. In many ways, like Fran he feels forgotten but can not leave the place which brings him comfort and memories of his late wife.

He's not going to leave but he's going to help Fran find a way out.

"People like us, need to remind the world that we exist"

THE HOUSE

Alongside the characters, THE HOUSE plays an integral role in the stories development. Transforming from a characterless shell to an inviting home, surrounding itself with an impenetrable wall. Using Magical Realism to enhance the transition. Offering reminders of where she's come from or the place she can go. A literal depiction of a metaphor and inspired by the Buddhist Parable 'The Phantom City'.



WHY DOES FRANCESCA SIMPSON MATTER?

An estimated 6.5 million people are caregivers in the UK and an average of 72% of carers suffer mental ill health. The existential crisis and blurred lines of loss of identity can be a landmine to many of those who care for others.

Nonna, Mum and Me has a global voice in the way it explores familial relationships and a unique perspective of coping through personal struggle and reconnection using Magical Realism. At its core the film explores Identity and survival filled with metaphor, dark humour, fragility and hope.



Act 1 - 1st June THE DAY I DISAPPEARED

Mum went into the Nursing home today, she was okay. I got drunk. The house feels...unhousey, like time has stopped and I'm roaming through it like a Victorian ghost. Invisible.

Thought I saw mum upstairs, it was my reflection - God I'm old.

Need to get out of this place. I'd say it's killing me but I already feel dead. - FRAN

Act 2 - 3rd June YOU CAN SEE ME?

In typical Fran fashion things have not gone as planned. The place where I'm staying comes with a house guest - HENRY. He thinks I'm depressed after he found me with my head in the oven (Long Story) Am I Depressed? Thinking of staying here for a while though. It feels nice: familiar. Like old slippers.

Turns out I CAN'T LEAVE! Maybe the outside doesn't want me? Lots of other changes, bleached my hair (Another Long Story) - thought Henry would die laughing. - FRANCIS X

Act 3 - 1st July I'M COMING HOME

I can finally leave - but am I ready? This place feel like home, like it breathes life into everything inside it and I've been holding my breath for too long. Being here has changed me and I have changed this place and of course there's Henry. I will miss him but this is Henry's "place". I'm ready to find mine. - FRANCESCA SIMPSON XX

THEME AND TONE



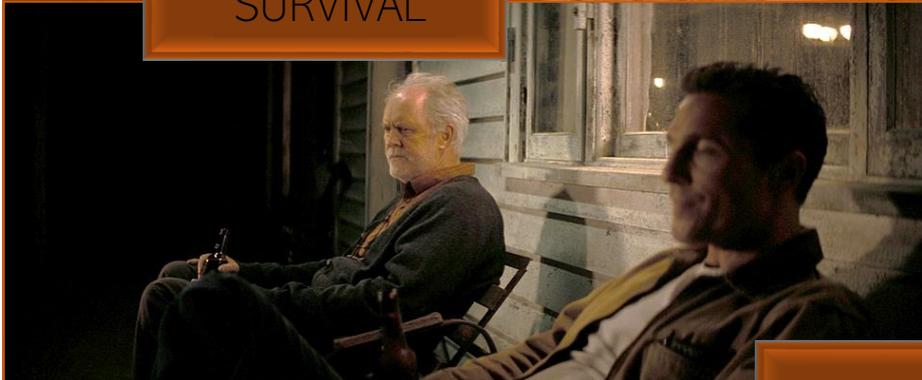
IDENTITY



GRIEF



SURVIVAL



HOPE

