

Little Orphans Log Line/Synopsis

Log line:

Still struggling with their childhood abandonment, three sisters reunite at a wedding. But coming home and making a new family can come at a high cost.

Short Synopsis:

The wedding of their youngest sister, Janet, brings Gwen and Kay home to St. John's, NL. While Janet struggles to hide her family's dysfunction, Kay can't help but create chaos wherever she goes and Gwen finds herself paralyzed by a past secret. The complicated web of relationships between the sisters, their Aunt Maureen, their absent mother, and Kay's young daughter Billie, is only illuminated by the wedding. Gwen's attempts to get Kay to take responsibility for her daughter highlights her own abandonment of her ex, Tom, leading them all to a not-so-perfect storm of a wedding.

Synopsis:

Gwen returns to her hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland, for her sister Janet's wedding — a place she's avoided at all costs since she packed up and left four years ago. Janet, the youngest of three sisters, is trying her best to mold a perfect family (even if only for a couple of days), in order to have her perfect wedding with her fiancé, Greg, who is from a well-to-do St. John's family. Her charming older sister, Kay — whose dysfunctions trump Gwen's — returns from Alberta. Gwen learns that Billy, Kay's four-year-old son, has been living in St. John's with their Aunt Maureen. Gwen also learns that their mother, Trudy, who abandoned the girls as children, is meant to be coming "home" for the wedding as well. In order to push these familial facts aside, Gwen goes partying with Kay, which, of course, only further complicates things. She runs into her ex, Tom, and he willingly entangles himself back in her family's complicated web. Gwen tries to push Tom away, but finds herself enjoying small moments with him when he resists.

Through all of this, the question looms over every plan and every word: will their mother actually show up? The wedding day arrives and the big question is finally, unfortunately answered - their mother, the large shadow looming over all three sisters, remains in absentia. She does not come to the wedding. Aunt Maureen reveals that she is not equipped to care for Billy much longer. Kay claims she will stay home and be his mother, but Gwen has her doubts that Kay will follow through. Poor Janet can't catch a break, when a wind storm causes a city-wide power outage during her ceremony, which has already been ruined, in her mind, by her mother's absence. The reception becomes a candlelit, intimate affair — beautiful, but Janet has a hard time seeing any beauty in a day where all her plans went awry. Predictably, Kay acts out at the wedding, and Gwen shuts down when Tom broaches the subject of her staying.

Janet gets blitzed, Kay takes off, and Gwen is left to grapple with the idea that sometimes people don't change. Can Gwen let go of her fears about her own supposed legacy as a deadbeat, and find a way to settle down and have a home?

