



EELS

“You an me are alike mate,
both slippery by nature but
destined to be
trapped.”

Eels is a short film set in 18th century Lincolnshire about the only female eel catcher in The Fens.

St. Valentines Day, dawn.

Alice Woods and her fourteen year old sister, Ciara, want to find their true loves. They huddle together, beside a long country lane, because Nicole Kent from Sunday school told Ciara the first unmarried man a woman sees on Valentines day will be her future husband.

Alice stares ahead like a condemned prisoner.

Ciara gazes at her sister and tells us how last time a man proposed Alice jumped into the nearest river and disappeared for two days.

Maybe that's what boys like?

While they wait for this mystery man they perform a love divination to discover the first letter of the name of their future husbands.

Karl, an eel catcher, overhears this and cheats the divination so he is the first man Alice sees.

Alice reluctantly becomes Karl's wife.

When Karl leaves to earn more money as a fisherman at sea, the most superstitious trade of all, Alice takes up his old job.

She becomes the only female eel-catcher in The Fens.

Alice loves her new freedom & independence. One day after their daily long-distance conversation, possible due to Karl's belief that two people can communicate over any distance just by putting their hands in a body of water, Karl tells Alice he'll be returning home soon.

Alice knows she will go back to just being someone's wife.

Alice takes an eel out of her trap and studies it wriggling in her hands. Her and the eel are alike - both slippery by nature but destined to be trapped.

In an attempt at gaining control over her future, Alice stops performing the protective ritual that Karl always demands she do while he's at sea - a ritual that supposedly prevents witches creating storms that will shipwreck sailors.

Don't worry it's just pretend.

Vicious waves engulf the screen, and suddenly we see Clive, a sombre fisherman, handing Alice a unique jumper she knitted for Karl so he could be identified if he ever drowned.

She's dumb struck.

She's free.

St. Valentines Day, one year later.

Alice & Ciara sit by the same country lane, in the early morning sun.

This time Alice waits hopefully. She takes off the boots she run away in when she was younger and sinks her toes into the mud.

This time she'll stand her ground.

This time she'll find her true love.

EELS is a story about the power that believing in something can give us and how in our post-truth world, full of skepticism, sometimes the only thing you can do is magic.

“There are some very strong moments in this idea. The eels, the independence of Alice; particularly in the current market for female-led narratives.”

Paul Fraser, Writer (Dead Man's Shoes, Somers Town, Once Upon A Time In The Midlands)



Characters

ALICE WOODS :

Alice is strong willed and independent - forced to be this way due to the solitude of fending for herself. She hates feeling trapped & doesn't want to get married, so she immediately resents Karl for how he cheats the divination, trapping her and forcing her to be his wife.

She's pretty unique for her time, taking on a man's job when women were expected to be housewives.

*Alice is in her mid 20's with piercing eyes and attitude. Below is **Alexandra Daszewski** who is confirmed to play Alice.*



KARL :

Karl is just as stubborn as Alice. It's an ongoing battle between them to be the one in charge. Alice isn't the wife Karl thought she would be. They're an odd couple, communicating in silence. Actions shout louder than words.

Karl is in his late 20's. Rugged, handsome, cheeky. A boy still trying to be a man.

CIARA WOODS :

Alice's younger sister. Ciara and Alice couldn't be more different: Ciara's a hopeless romantic, desperate to know who she'll one day belong to. She is also the only person who can melt Alice's exterior and expose her softer, maternal side.

Ciara is 14. Freckly and animated. Think Elsie Fisher in "Eighth Grade".

CLIVE:

Clive is a senior fisherman from the community, he rushes to tell Alice the news about Karl.

Clive is in his early 60s with gentle eyes & weathered face.