The Dig

by Simon K. Parker

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LUKE, 30, and REBECCA, 27, walk along the rows and rows of vegetable gardens.

Rebecca looks down at her mud covered shoes.

REBECCA

Oh great, now these are absolutely ruined.

Luke gently pushes Rebecca in the back.

LUKE

Keep going, I don't know which
one is ours.

Rebecca continues to lead the way, stops at a strip of empty soil. The strips of land on either side of it are filled with vegetables.

REBECCA

Right here.

LUKE

I think you're crazy for buying this.

Rebecca reaches down and lifts up Luke's top. Exposing a heart monitor strapped to his chest.

REBECCA

It's for you. I brought this to save you.

LUKE

I don't need saving.

REBECCA

Your heart disagrees.

LUKE

And what if I can't grown anything?

REBECCA

That's part of the fun, finding out.

LUKE

I don't know about this.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAY

Luke, on his knees and with a trowel in his hands is digging around in the soil whilst randomly dropping in seeds.

Luke keeps digging, moves from his strip over into the neighboring one.

Luke stops digging, takes a good look down at his neighbors vegetable patch. On closer inspection the vegetable plants are all dead. The entire strip of soil is filled with dead and rotting vegetable plants.

MARIO, 69, moves over to Luke with a shovel in his hands.

MARIO

Keep on your own patch.

Luke stands up.

LUKE

Oh, I'm sorry.

MARIO

Go on now, back off.

LUKE

Your vegetables, they don't look too good.

MARIO

They're fine.

LUKE

Are you sure about that?

MARIO

Yes, why?

LUKE

Dude, they're all dead.

MARIO

And what about your patch, you've got nothing.

LUKE

Well I've just started.

MARIO

Worry about your own patch.

LUKE

I'm sorry.

MARIO

Don't tell me how to garden, I've been doing this since before you were born.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAY

Luke is back to digging up the soil on his own patch.

Luke glances across at Mario's dead vegetables.

Luke looks around, can't see anyone else.

Luke creeps back over onto Mario land.

Luke reaches down and grabs a hold of a couple of the vegetable plants, easily lifting them up. They have no roots.

Luke quickly lifts up a few more vegetable plants. They're all dead, none of them have roots at all.

LUKE

What the hell is this?

Luke makes a space, inspects the soil underneath. It's recently been disturbed.

Luke digs with his bare hands. Luke finds a buried MANS body, still wearing his suit.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

Luke stands up.

Mario appears behind him.

MARIO

I told you.

Luke spins around to face Mario.

LUKE

You.

Mario swings the shovel and hits it hard across the top of Luke's head. Mario knocks Luke out, sends him crashing down to the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAY

Mario pushes Luke's lifeless body inside a hole in the middle of Luke's strip of empty land.

Mario picks up his blood soaked shovel and covers Luke's body over with loose soil.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAY

Mario, dirty and soaked in sweat puts back his dead vegetable plants which Luke had moved.

Mario puts them back where they were.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT - DAY

Rebecca looks around the empty plot of land, sees the freshly dug up earth.

REBECCA

Luke, where are you?

Mario approaches Rebecca, holding onto the shovel.

MARIO

Excuse me, are you looking for the young man who was here earlier?

REBECCA

Yes, you saw him?

MARIO

I spoke to him.

REBECCA

Oh.

MARIO

He didn't seem like he was enjoying himself to be honest.

REBECCA

I got him out here for his own health, but I just knew he wouldn't even try.

MARIO

He just dig a hole and left, I filled it back in for him.

REBECCA

Did he say where he was going?

MARIO

No, just told me about how stupid he thought being here was.

REBECCA

That dumb ass, buying this for him wasn't cheap either.

MARIO

I'll buy it from you. Same price is paid for it.

REBECCA

Really?

MARIO

Yes, I've been looking at expanding my business.

REBECCA

Thanks, that's really sweet of you.

MARIO

Don't mention it.

REBECCA

I'm so annoyed, I'm going to kill Luke when I see him.

Mario can't help but smile.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END.