

Stay Six Feet Apart

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Flooded with sunshine and socially-distanced walkers.

Among the strollers is PAIGE, 20s, fit, attractive, long-haired. Her N-95 mask can't hide her good looks.

Coming her way is AARON, 20s. His movie-star physique and wonderful head of hair stand out. He, too, wears a mask.

Aaron stops when he catches sight of Paige. He stares--transfixed by her appearance.

Same thing for Paige. Love at first sight.

A conversation starts. A joke/ice-breaker. They both laugh.

They remain six feet apart--proper social distancing.

A few moments later, they walk down the path together, keeping their distance. Safety first.

LATER

They stroll in a different part of the park. A little closer.

Paige reaches down and hands Aaron a leaf: A gift. He returns the favor. Paige holds her hand over her heart. They laugh.

LATER

Still walking, Aaron's hand brushes slightly against Paige. She nods.

Their hands almost intertwine, but they both step back slightly. Holding hands with a stranger is still taboo.

LATER

Evening. The sun glows low on the horizon. More walking.

Paige touches her lips underneath her mask and blows a kiss to Aaron. He reciprocates.

No more of this. Aaron takes her hand and guides her behind a tree. Paige nods and follows.

So close, hand-in-hand. They cannot be apart any longer. Distancing be damned. They embrace. Paige nods. Aaron nods.

She pulls the straps of her face mask and lets it fall away.

Rot and dead skin everywhere. Her nose is purple, the flesh around it blue, oxygen-starved, and rubbed down. Her lips have mostly peeled away, revealing yellowed teeth and a muddy tongue.

Aaron's eyes widen. Paige clutches him close. No escape, lover boy.

She tears his mask away with her eager hands:

Aaron has the same condition, an eaten-away nose and lips--slightly more horrific than hers.

They stare deeply at each other, taking it all in...

...and they move in for a kiss.

FADE OUT: