

Sunday is the Worst Day to Die of The Plague

By

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A Dramatic Cartoon

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FADE IN:

EXT. FAMILY PARK - DAY

Sun shines across an open grassy field. A FAMILY walks through the field towards a cropping of trees. They carry baskets and a blanket.

PICNIC AREA

The PARENTS spread the blankets out while the children, JORGE and VANESSA, set items of food out. Jorge stares off into the woods.

VANESSA

Mom, Jorge is daydreaming again!

MOM

Jorge, get to work.

She cuffs the back of his head.

JORGE

(whispers to Vanessa)

You remember what happened last time?

Vanessa trembles and runs away. She clings to her Dad's leg. Jorge mumbles to himself and stares back in the forest.

EXT. FOREST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Two squirrels, SAM and LORRAINE, watch Jorge from behind a tree. Lorraine trembles just like Vanessa.

LORRAINE

That's him, the son of a bitch. How did you know?

Sam puts his hand on her shoulder.

SAM

They're here almost every Sunday.

LORRAINE

I don't understand, why would you bring me back here?

SAM

It was a terrible thing that happened. I've lain awake nights, listening to you call Austin's name-

Lorraine turns away, tears in her eyes.

LORRAINE

Please, don't.

SAM

Since that day I've dreamed how to get that bastard -

The memory fills the air.

AUSTIN(V.O.)

Momma, help me, the boy's got me, daddy, heeeelp!

The sound of bones BREAKING. Sam snaps a small twig while staring at

PICNIC AREA

Jorge grinds a helpless ANT against his leg. His Parents and Vanessa play. Jorge stares at the forest. He licks his lips.

FOREST FLOOR

Lorraine sees Jorge and ducks behind the tree. Sam doesn't move.

LORRAINE

Sam, get over here, what's gotten into you?

Sam turns back to her. He takes a patch from one of his eyes, it is bloodshot.

LORRAINE

No, tell me no, tell me no.

SAM

Yesterday, foraging. Near the stream.

LORRAINE

I told you to avoid Plague Bay!

SAM

It's the only place left to forage,
baby, you know that.

LORRAINE

No, there are other places.

She collapses in front of him, weeping.

SAM

Not anymore.

The sound of snarling and chomping teeth as

EXT. EDGE OF STREAM - NIGHT

Sam tucks a day's worth of seeds under his arm. A RABID RAT jumps up behind him. He throws the seeds in its face but it lunges-

FOREST FLOOR

Sam lifts his arm. There are two very clear teeth holes. He helps Lorraine to her feet. He wraps his good arm around her.

LORRAINE

How long?

SAM

You know as well as me.

She puts her face into her paws.

LORRAINE

We could use the herbicine.

SAM

It only slows it down, it gets you
anyway. Lorraine, I want my death
to have meaning, I want-

LORRAINE

-revenge.

SAM

Justice.

LORRAINE

This is sick, nothing you do will
ever bring Austin back.

SAM

We can prevent that human from
harming anyone else, don't you see,
my death will have meaning?

Lorraine turns away from him.

LORRAINE

You can't ask me to watch this.

SAM

I just wanted to say goodbye
and...I love you, always have,
since we were little monks.

A shadow falls over top of them.

PICNIC AREA

The Parents play Frisbee in the open field. Vanessa and Jorge sit on the blanket. Vanessa chatters while Jorge searches the ground for insects.

VANESSA

Nina said that Mikey was going to
text her about my homework but she
was talking to Robbie and didn't
see his message so I was wondering
if you could do it for me, please?
This is the last time.

Jorge barely listens to her. He is frustrated, he can't find
any insects to torture.

VANESSA

Jorge?

JORGE

What?

VANESSA

Will you, please?

JORGE

What?

VANESSA

My math, I just can't figure it
out.

JORGE
Our usual deal?

VANESSA
That's the thing, I love the
chocolate pudding, and you never
even eat it, it's not fair.

JORGE
That's the point.

VANESSA
I'm thinking I could just tell mom
and dad about what you did to
Snider's cat, or Billy's hamster,
or -

Jorge lunges forward and holds a plastic knife over
Vanessa's eye.

JORGE
Nothing changes, understand?

She nods, tears leak from the corner of her eye. She
whimpers - Jorge laughs and lets her go.

JORGE
You let me know if Mikey forgets to
do your homework again, huh?

She nods again.

VANESSA
I'm gonna go play Frisbee with Mom
and Dad, okay?

He zips his lips to her. She throws away the key.

PICNIC BLANKET

A BEETLE squirms on the blanket, impaled by a toothpick.
Jorge slowly picks its legs off. He decapitates it and sighs
contentedly.

His family plays Frisbee and laughs in the b.g. He sneers
and looks around. Those Squirrels are still over at the
tree, but turned away from him.

He sneaks over to the edge of the forest. The Squirrels are
chittering softly to each other.

FOREST FLOOR

A shadow falls over Sam and Lorraine. She looks up and screams. Jorge looms over them. He snatches Lorraine from the ground. Sam jumps to bite Jorge's hand, but he swats Sam away. Sam strikes the tree and his leg CRACKS.

He whimpers and watches as Jorge throws Lorraine to the ground.

SAM
Lorraine! Noooooo!

LORRAINE
Help me!

She screams as Jorge steps on her chest.

Sam struggles to his other good legs. He limps over towards them. Jorge takes a slingshot from his pocket. He loads it and takes aim at Sam.

WHOOSH! A ball-bearing whizzes by Sam's head.

Lorraine struggles to her feet as Jorge aims again at Sam.

FOREST

Jorge laughs as the battle between the Squirrels ensues. He turns and sees one of them trying to escape.

JORGE
Oh, don't go, we're just getting started.

FOREST FLOOR

Jorge impales Lorraine with a metal spike.

SAM
Noooooooooooo!!!!!!!

He falls to the ground, arm outstretched to her.

SAM
(crying to himself)
This is all my fault.

He stands up and stretches out his arms. A good clear shot for Jorge.

Jorge smiles at the sight of the Squirrel opening its arms. He shrugs and fires.

WHOOSH! The ball-bearing finds the mark in Sam's gut. Blood pours from the hole and gushes out of his mouth.

FOREST

Shadows behind Jorge. His parents have just witnessed him shoot the Squirrel. His Family stands behind, him, shocked. His father grabs the slingshot from Jorge.

JORGE

Give it back! They were attacking me.

DAD

They weren't, we saw, they were -

MOM

- defenseless.

DAD

Son, what happened here, really?

Jorge crosses his arms, pouting.

JORGE

I want my slingshot back!

His dad kneels in front of him.

DAD

Start talking, now!

Jorge remains silent and stares at Vanessa, she trembles in fear.

MOM

Nessa? Do you know what's going on here?

Vanessa bursts into tears.

VANESSA

Last Halloween he set Snider's cat on fire and threatened to cut my eyes out like he did to my Suzy Patch Doll if I told on him and then last week he beat up Billy and stold his hamster, Eric -

Jorge lunges at her.

JORGE

Shut up, you little liar!

His dad grabs him and holds him.

VANESSA

-and I don't know how he killed
Eric, Billy's hamster, but I heard
it screaming in his room - and then
it stopped.

Vanessa sobs uncontrollably.

VANESSA

And I knowed Eric was dead, and
he'd never done nothing to harm no
one.

She falls to the ground.

DAD

Son?

His mom holds and soothes Vanessa. His dad gets down and
looks in Jorge's eyes. Not speaking, just watching.

DAD

Is this true?

Jorge tries to remain silent, but he cracks.

JORGE

So what?! They're just dumb stupid
animals, stupid and weak and -
AAAAAAGHHHH!!!!!!

FOREST FLOOR

Sam bites a chunk from Jorge's ankle. Jorge screams. Blood
sprays over Sam's face. He spits his own infected blood into
Jorge's wound. Jorge jumps back and Sam falls beside
Lorraine. The Family runs away.

Sam lays Lorraine's head in his lap.

LORRAINE

I didn't want to be here without
you anyway.

She shudders and exhales her last breath. Sam cradles her
head in his lap, rocking gently, slowly - their bodies fade
into

FOREST

A hand placing flowers on fresh mounds of soil. Vanessa tenderly pats the ground.

VANESSA

And I wanted to say thank you. The blackness grew from your bite and ate all of his skin. He died last week...I also wanted to say I'm sorry. I was scared, and he made me keep his horrible secret, but I just wanted to let you know - you saved me when I couldn't save myself.

FADE OUT