

LUSH GARDEN

By:

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EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Mostly barren except for a few patches of bright plants. It's clear this garden could be something wonderful. But in its current state it just looks a little sad.

KAREN, 23, dressed in overalls and armed with a hoe tires her best. Has a wheelbarrow filled with pretty flowers beside her.

She tries to turn over the soil. But it just doesn't go right. She only ends up with a mess.

Karen kneels down on the grass. Reaches inside a pocket and pulls out a folded over picture of an immaculate garden. Perfect in every way.

She takes a good long look at the picture. Then returns to her garden. She's a long way off from her goal.

CUT TO:

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

LILLY, 30, sticks her head over the fence that separates Karen's garden from her own.

She peers over at Karen. Still on her knees, continues to struggle to plant those flowers from the wheelbarrow.

LILLY

Karen. Hey Karen. A little birdie just told me something about you.

Karen glances over to see who it is. She stands up and goes over to the fence.

She looks across and into Lilly's garden. It's wonderful. A lovely space. With lots of bright colorful flowers and plants.

The kind of garden Karen wishes she could have.

KAREN

And what's that?

LILLY

You've entered?

Karen blushes red, tries to play dumb.

KAREN

Entered what?

Lilly gestures to Karen's garden.

LILLY

You've entered this.

KAREN

Oh, well yeah. I entered two months ago. I thought I'd have my garden looking a lot better.

LILLY

Are you going to pull out?

She shrugs.

KAREN

I don't know what I'm going to do.

LILLY

If I was you. I'd pull out. Gardening is hard. Not everyone is cut out for it.

KAREN

It's what I love to do.

LILLY

Well looking at the mess your garden is in maybe you should try loving something else. Don't embarrass yourself.

This hurts to hear. Cuts deep.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Karen drags herself over to the sofa. Tired and dirty. It's been a long day of hard work.

She dumps herself down, glances over at the gerbil cage positioned on top of a side table by the fireplace.

She instantly knows. Leaps up onto her feet and sprints over.

She takes hold of the cage. Looks down at it with tears in her eyes.

KAREN

Oh no. Harry. Not today. Why did you have to die today. You poor little thing.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Karen digs out a small hole over in an empty patch of the garden.

She holds onto a shoebox. Harry's inside.

KAREN

I'm going to miss you little guy.

She buries the shoebox and blows down a kiss.

A few tears escape.

As she turns her back in an instant beautiful, bright flowers have appeared as if by magic.

The very same spot where Harry was buried.

Karen glances over her shoulder and sees them all.

She almost falls over from the shock. She can't believe it.

KAREN (CONT'D)

How is that even possible?

Lilly again sticks her head over the fence and looks towards the patch of new beautiful flowers. Stunned.

She points at them, almost angry.

LILLY

Hey Karen. Where the hell have they come from?

Karen switches between Lilly and the newly formed flowers. Tries to work it out. Muttering to herself.

KAREN

I put Harry in the ground and flowers came up. Death turns to life.

LILLY

Are you cheating?

Karen snaps her head to stare hard at Lilly.

KAREN

This isn't cheating.

LILLY

Well they weren't there an hour ago so you must be cheating.

KAREN

They just appeared.

LILLY

Bullshit.

KAREN

I'm not lying.

Lilly is suddenly furious.

LILLY

I enter that neighbourhood gardening contest every God damn year. This is the first time you've bothered. Your garden was a joke, and now you're trying to cheat your way to a trophy.

Karen snaps back.

KAREN

Don't call me a cheater. I don't cheat. And I don't lie.

Lilly walks around the fence. Comes from her garden and forces her way into Karen's.

Lilly charges right at her. Jabs a finger repeatedly into her chest.

LILLY

You're a dirty filthy cheater and I'm going to let everyone know that's exactly what you are.

Karen stumbles back. She sees and picks up a small shovel down by her feet. Holds it out in front of her.

KAREN

Get out of my garden right now. I'm warning you.

Lilly doesn't stop. Continues to stay right on top of her. Jabs her fingers into her chest, harder.

With the other hand Lilly takes a swing and tries to slap Karen across the face.

Karen reacts to defend herself. Lashes out with the shovel and hits Lilly across the top of the head.

Lilly hits the ground in a heap. A pool of blood quickly forms underneath her.

CUT TO:

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Karen digs a large hole and quickly buries Lilly's dead body. It's hard, exhausting work.

The moment Karen is finished and turns her back on the freshly dug grave it changes in an instant.

The grave is gone. And in its place are more beautiful flowers.

In such a short time Karen's garden has completely transformed. Beautiful flowers everywhere you look.

CUT TO:

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Karen is cleaned up in fresh clothes. THERESA, 60, dressed smart with a sash on and clipboard in hand looks around Karen's newly transformed garden.

Make a few detailed notes.

Karen keeps close to her. Tries to peer down at her notes.

KAREN

So what do you think?

Theresa reaches into her pocket and takes out a second place medal.

Hands it over to Karen who's a little disappointed.

THERESA

It's a very nice garden. And you should be very proud.

Karen holds onto the second place medal, stares at it hard.

KAREN

So how come I didn't win first place?

With her pen Theresa points to a small brown patch on Karen's otherwise perfect garden.

THERESA

That right over there. That's what cost you first place.

A sudden thought occurs to Karen.

She reaches down by her feet and picks up that same small shovel.

She eyes up the back of Theresa's head.

KAREN

It just needs feeding is all. And
I think you'll do perfectly.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END