

TIME OF THE SEASON

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Nothing but BLUE. A cloudless cerulean sky that slowly befalls into a GREEN of high meadow.

EXT. PARK - DAY

It's a picturesque view of a small town PLAYGROUND.

LILAH FOX(22), fully clad in pink, sits unaccompanied near the woodland of the park. She gazes at a flourish of blossoms and thriving foliage. More YOUNG KIDS mass, swamping the playground behind her.

They play, untamed in their atmosphere. As COOPER(20), Lilah's younger brother, nears with two cocktails in hand.

He offers her one, and she immediately swigs it down.

COOPER

How could Uncle Ron have so many children?

LILAH

And with so many different women?...

COOPER

You'd think there'd be some limit. Like those laws on the amount of pets you can have.

LILAH

Imagine having to stop at multiple baby mama houses to pick up each individual child?

Lilah, finishing her drink, turns to Cooper's glass for further "nourishment".

LILAH

And, really, in what world was it a good idea to gather every known relative our family has in one setting?

COOPER

It's like people whose existence you tend to deny in a social gathering-

LILAH

-and now you're forced to party with them.

Lilah and Cooper murmur under their breaths,

IN UNISON

Family.

LATER

Lilah sprints the meadow through a cluster of people.

ROBYN(22), her sister, joins her midway, keeping up with stride.

ROBYN

You by any chance a glimpse of
Greg lately?

LILAH

Nope.

ROBYN

Can you slow down?

LILAH

Nope.

ROBYN

I can't find my own damn boyfriend!

LILAH

Really don't care.

And she's off, leaving Robyn in her trail.

ROBYN

Bitch.

AMONGST THE CROWD

Lilah exceeds the bunch, disrupting MICHELLE FOX, her homely mother of late-fifties, mid-discussion with UNCLE RON.

LILAH

We need a moment.

UNCLE RON

Oh, oh I smell tension!

Lilah's visibly annoyed, yet maintains a cordial smile. Almost professional.

LILAH

No, none of that here. Just a family moment.

UNCLE RON

We've got a lot of that going on!

She politely laughs, and immediately spins to meet her mothers gaze with a small fury.

LILAH

Mom, literally, this family is ridiculous. Were we like part of a breeding experiment?

MICHELLE

Please, Lilah enjoy yourself, have another drink.

LILAH

That's the last thing I want.

MICHELLE

I've seen you chug down at every possible moment. Why not persevere?

Conner intervenes, supporting Robyn as she struggles along the grass in her high heels.

CONNER

Because now she's realized she might black out and be taken advantaged of.

ROBYN

I told you to slow down Lilah.

MICHELLE

Someone's not a fan of Mother Nature.

ROBYN

Yeah, with all these animals randomly strolling about?

LILAH

We were just talking about th-

ROBYN

These ducks are swarming all over the food.

LILAH

Oh, ducks...

ROBYN

Obviously, ducks, what other animals do you see?

LILAH

I was talking about Aunt Becca.

MICHELLE

Robyn, Lilah, Cooper stop it right now! You shouldn't ambush me just smothering with all your negative remarks. Why couldn't I have some positive children?

COOPER

Because that would be boring.

LILAH

And we'd probably turn out like them.

MICHELLE

This family isn't so horrible. They're loving- okay, oh look! Uncle jack is waving my way, and your cousins are in a game of charades, go play with them.

LILAH

I'm a twenty five year old woman who pays her own mortgage, I don't play charades.

COOPER

Thank you.

ROBYN

Exactly.

They all stand, resolute. Not budging.

CUT TO:

Indeed all three in a game of charades! Cooper stands in dismay and horror as he stands in front the CROWD of YELLING COUSINS, trying to guess his charade character.

Lilah and Robyn knock back some more wine, as they catch glimpses of GREG talking to their mom. He's striking in a crowd, and charming in his banter.

ROBYN

And look, there's my not-so-much boyfriend.

COOPER

What's going on now?

ROBYN

I don't know! Just the car ride over here he seemed so tense. I've felt this before, he's going to break up with me, and in front of my family. Most of whom I don't even know.

Coopers gestures freely, waving his arms, wildly imitating some feral creature. And most outstandingly, acting like a complete fool.

COOPER

Ahhrrrgggghh!!!

Lilah and Robyn laugh hysterically. When suddenly Cooper's time is up. Nobody's guessed and he's left in silence.

YOUNG COUSIN

What was that Coop?

COOPER

A hippopotamus.

The young cousin flips out.

YOUNG COUSIN

That's not how you do a hippopotamus!

COOPER

Well I'm sorry! I don't know
what you want from me.

Cooper calms, and settles to the back as Lilah and Robyn
meet him there.

COOPER

That was the most embarrassing
thing.. I've ever had to do.

Lilah pulls out her cell phone.

ROBYN

And I have pictures!

LILAH

Back to your trauma Robyn. Greg
can't break it off when you don't
know what the issues are.

ROBYN

(forlorn)

Great, we're back on me.

COOPER

Wait, what I miss?

ROBYN

But I know what the issues are! Too
much management, too little touch.

COOPER

T.M.I for my ears.

ROBYN

And I really do wish I could be
like a guy and just DO IT on command
but I'm not wired that way.

COOPER

I can do that-

ROBYN

And I really admire that about you.

EXT. PARK - EVENING

The party slows as the sun fades. Robyn and Lilah swing impassively on the swing set, Robyn stalking Greg as he chats up a family member. She's disgusted as the two are having a good laugh.

ROBYN

God, look at that. It's complete worship. Everyone's coming up saying what a great catch he is, but he can't even bother to hold my hand.

LILAH

...Men.

CONNER

(overhearing)

It's not men, its women.

The two girls stare in confusion. Conner's devouring an ice cream cone.

CONNER

Just realize that we don't need you every second of every day. We love you, yes. Need you, maybe sure. Dependant on you, no.

They perceive his drooling mouth, and roll their eyes.

LILAH AND ROBYN

Whatever.

CONNER

Anyway we had a pow-wow and he cleared everything up-

LILAH

COOPER!

ROBYN

What? What pow-wow?

They both scramble for words. The best either can come up is a mere:

CONNER

I had a thing- a guy thing. That Greg helped me out with.

ROBYN

Cause he's a guy...?

CONNER

In a way... or basically yeah. Exactly.

Conner's failed delivery leaves Robyn on edge. She suddenly feels the outsider.

ROBYN

What's going on?

She spots their wavering glances.

ROBYN

Okay, now I have a feeling that you both had conversations with him and somehow caught the same case of amnesia. Someone please speak, like now!

COOPER

Nothing's going on. You're Always overreacting.

ROBYN

That's exactly what I don't want to hear!

COOPER

Robyn please don't turn this into a situation.

ROBYN

(breaking down)

Oh my god, this whole thing is a tall tale clue of my impending break up.

COOPER

Why do you always get so paranoid?
It's giving me anxiety, it's why I
started my Zoloft.

ROBYN

I'm not paranoid!

COOPER

Okay, whatever. I just don't
need some fight ending with you
pulling my hair.

Robyn reacts immediately by walking away, not entirely
before she says,

ROBYN

You're the hair puller you girl.

And she's off with momentum, racing across the park,
confronting GREG. She says in an outburst:

ROBYN

I really don't want to break
up with you but you're leaving
me no semblance of hope.

GREG

What?

ROBYN

I told you it wasn't even
mandatory if you came.

GREG

But I wanted to babe.

ROBYN

Why?

GREG

These guys are cool.

ROBYN

Yeah spare me. Let me tell why you
came, cause I know. You're enduring
all this now so tomorrow you can

have a reason to break up with me!

Greg is so surprised he can hardly speak.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

This whole thing is such a pageant.
Let's get together and see who's got
the most stable offspring. Well who
cares if I lose! If I come in last!

Cooper and Lilah near as people start to notice the
spectacle.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

This is a reminder as to why
I moved away in the first place.
And through all the bull shit I
found you. If things are hard
between us lets move to fix it. I
don't want to start over.

GREG

Stop. Right- right now. You think
I've been ignoring you all day?

Robyn begins to recognize the family's interest on her.

ROBYN

..Okay the blood is finally flowing
out of my head and I just realized
we're in front of everybody.

GREG

I'm getting to know you're family,
and I've been watching over you
all day.

ROBYN

Can we move?

GREG

You're paranoid, constantly in
control, and always in a high
of anxiety.

ROBYN

We're in front of my family Greg!

She pulls away, but he grabs her back.

GREG

And I can't be without it.

(off Robyn's shock)

All this...it matters so much. This is what it's about. Family. And as anxious as you are I know at the end of the night you'll lay in my arms and watch me with the sweetest smile. Because you're my family.

Robyn stands immobile, speechless.

GREG

You make the future look easy.

(bending on knee)

And will you marry me?

And she's in tears, looking over her shoulder at everybody's suspense. Her mother's smirk.

ROBYN

(through her sobs)

Don't tell me this entire tribe knew and somehow managed to lie to my face ... I- I- I really don't know how to respond.

He pulls out a small box, and opens it, revealing a stunning engagement ring.

GREG

Respond by marrying me.

ROBYN

I- I- I'm happy.

GREG

And I want you.

ROBYN

And I love you.

And they kiss. The crowd applauds as a song commences! The CHORUS hits, and Robyn pulls away, realizing

ROBYN

Oh my god, is this the Macarena!

Robyn leans back into Greg as they watch as everyone sway to the rhythm.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The unfilled park and flooding litter leaves Greg, Robyn, Lilah and Cooper as clean-up crew.

Robyn cleans with a flushed face, a tissue in hand, wiping her drying tears.

COOPER

Oh my god, this family is a total freak show!

GREG

You're family is unbelievably great. A family that sticks together can make things easy.

ROBYN

No... we usually make things worse and then blame each other.

LILAH

I still can't understand why have any get together where so many things could do wrong.

COOPER

Probably to make the day more exciting.

ROBYN

Well- apparently they came up with backup.

She flashes her engagement ring and lifts a glass of champagne. They all clink glasses.

ALL IN UNISON

Cheers.

The four gulp down their glasses. And we,

FADE OUT.