

SUPPORT

Written by

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INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - DAY

A classroom filled with a sea of faces. Faces that all tell a story. Faces different, yet interesting in their own way.

You can hear a clock's second hand tick, tick, ticking off the walls of the room.

ARNIE (O.C.)  
(almost shy)  
You've taken this class to understand--at least I'm guessing to try and understand: us...what us even really means.

The class stares at him silent.

**SERIES OF CU's:** Faces staring. Some interested. Some bored.

ARNIE (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
Anthropology is the science which tells us that people are the same all over the world...

**REVEAL:** ARNIE FITCHER(65), a timid, warm, and welcoming old man. He stands slumped in front of a whiteboard filled with writings on ancient human nature. A life sized skeleton hangs off to his side.

ARNIE (CONT'D)  
...except when they're different.

A few faint exhales of quiet laughter.

ARNIE (CONT'D)  
We can't pretend to know everything about everyone. All we can do is try and understand ourselves.

Arnie's eyes glance over at the skeleton. One last tick and then RINGGGGG.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - SHORTLY AFTER

Arnie puts papers into his bag from his desk as the students file out.

ARNIE  
You hungry yet?

Silence. He looks up.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

Well?

**WHIP PAN TO:** The skeleton hanging in the corner of the room.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

You look like you could eat.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Arnie stares across the room at HELEN(60), an older woman with a bit of a hippy vibe, eating her lunch alone. His eyes long to join her but his body doesn't move.

**PULL OUT:** Reveal the skeleton sitting next to Arnie. The two have sack lunches in front of them, but only Arnie eats.

ARNIE

...not eating?

(beat)

Look, I know I'm no Julia Child  
but...I try.

Arnie puts down his sandwich, dusts the crumbs off his hands, and reaches back into the paper sack.

He pulls out a piece of candy and looks at it. He studies the wrapper. A small grin fills his face.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

*Why are skeletons so calm?*

(beat)

*Because nothing gets under their  
skin.*

A pause. He starts to snicker quietly.

**TURN TO REVEAL:** A group of professors on the other side of the room shooting him confused/concerned stares.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEAN'S OFFICE - SHORTLY AFTER

Arnie and the skeleton sit outside the dean's office waiting. They look like two kids sent to the principal for bad behavior.

After a moment a SECRETARY(30), opens the door.

SECRETARY

He'll see you now.

Solemn music starts as Arnie picks up the skeleton and walks into the office, closing the door behind him.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE STAIRCASE - DUSK

Arnie walks up a flight of stairs holding the skeleton in one arm while fumbling for his car keys in the other. People stare as they pass by.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOFTOP - SUNSET

Arnie walks across the top of the parking garage towards the only car still present in the lot. The sunset's colors look like a giant bowl of sherbet ice cream.

ARNIE (V.O.)  
When I proposed to you, do you  
remember what you said?

INT. CAR - IMMEDIATLY AFTER

Arnie pulls the seatbelt over the skeleton and buckles it in. His wedding ring visible.

ARNIE (V.O.)  
...I do.

He sits looking forward for a moment before he turns on the car.

ARNIE (V.O.)  
I mean--I do remember what you  
said.  
(chuckling)  
Cuz you definitely didn't say "I  
do."  
(beat)  
You just looked at me with those  
jet black eyes and said:  
(takes a moment)  
"Not in a million years, but  
today...why not?"

CUT TO:

INT. ARNIE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Arnie and the skeleton sit at opposite ends of a candlelit table filled with a gorgeous spread of food.

He holds up a glass of wine, finishing his toast. The skeleton's hand rests on a glass of wine.

ARNIE

...you always loved to keep me on  
my toes.

He stops. The moment is over and you can see the reality of the present rush back into his mind.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

(sighs)  
Well...cheers.

He gets up and walks over to the skeleton's side of the table and clinks glasses, then walks all the way back to his side. He sits back down and picks up his fork and knife.

CUT TO:

INT. ARNIE'S DINING ROOM - LATER

Arnie sits alone at the table, head slumped down in his arms. The candles almost completely melted, and the wine, empty.

Arnie wakes with a shake. He notices the skeleton is no longer there. He stands.

Then, something blows in by his feet. A small red rose pedal. He leans down and grabs it before looking up.

He peeks his head out into the foyer. A trail of red rose pedals lead towards the stairs. He begins to follow them.

INT. ARNIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Arnie slowly pushes the bedroom door open to reveal the trail of pedals leading onto the bed where the skeleton lays wearing lingerie.

He stares for a moment.

CUT TO:

INT. ARNIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS AFTER

Arnie, now in his underwear, sits down on the bed next to the skeleton.

The two sit silent. Looking ahead.

ARNIE

I didn't know you held onto that one.

(pause)

You look...beautiful.

The skeleton's hand slides off the top of the pillow onto Arnie's thigh. He looks, smiling through the pain.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

...happy anniversary, Amy.

He leans in to kiss "her," but before he does, he catches himself in the mirror's reflection. He sits back beginning to quiver and twitch.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

(quiet)

Damnit--God--Damn.

(growing louder)

I can't keep--

He stands up and turns away from her.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

I look like a fuckin--freak.

He turns back.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

(yelling at Amy)

Look at yourself!

He gets serious. He catches his reflection in the mirror again. He stares right at it.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

(soft)

...look at yourself.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARNIE'S FRONT YARD - SHORTLY AFTER

Arnie carries Amy across his lawn. He is serious, on a mission.

He reaches the trash can and throws her in. He slams it shut before walking back towards the house off screen.

INT. FRONT DOOR - IMMEDIATLY AFTER

Arnie pushes the door shut with his back. He stands there seeming confident for a moment before beginning to shake and whimper profusely.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHTUB - SHORTLY AFTER

Arnie and Amy sit in a bubble-filled bathtub together. Arnie smiles and puts a glop of bubbles on top of Amy's skull.

**CU:** on Amy's "face."

**CU:** on Arnie's face. The two stare at one another.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Amy sits on the toilet with a towel warped around her waist and head. Arnie walks into the room with a towel around his waist.

He cleans himself up at the sink before noticing the note in Amy's hand. He freezes, like a deer in the headlights.

ARNIE

Where did you find that?

Beat. Arnie realizes this is the moment he knew would come someday.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

Amy...

(crouches to her)

Amy...Walters gonna' let me go if I don't...let you go.

He snatches the paper out of her hand.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

I wanted to not--to not have to deal with this on our anniversary.

(beat)

I'm just...out of options.

INT. COMMUNTIY COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - DAY

RINGGGG. Arnie shuffles his papers as students get up and exit.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNTIY COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - SHORTLY AFTER

An empty classroom except for Arnie and Amy on opposite ends of the room.

After a moment of awkward silence, Arnie picks up his sack lunch and walks towards the door. Before he exits, he looks at Amy and rubs her cheek bone. He tries to hide the pain in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Arnie shuts the door with a deep breath before turning and beginning to walk down the hall.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Arnie sits eating his sad lunch all alone. After a moment he reaches into his brown sack and pulls out another candy.

He looks at it with empty eyes. Suddenly a hand snatches it out of his.

HELEN

They still make these things?

Arnie looks up. He's taken back for a moment before he finally finds words.

ARNIE

Uh--

(clears throat)

Yeah. Don't think it's the same recipe though.

Helen flips it over and reads. She snickers.

HELEN

Hey...*Why is a bad joke like a bad pencil?*

(beat)

*Because it has no point!*

Arnie just stares, looking at her intently before beginning to chuckle. Helen joins in.

HELEN (CONT'D)

No point...

(beat)

I'm Helen by the way.

(hands the candy back)

Sorry, I had no point in taking that.

ARNIE

(smiling)

No, no. It's fine...Arnie.

She sticks out her hand.

HELEN

Thanks for the trip down memory lane.

She gives a confident shake before walking off to the fridge.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Arnie stands looking into his classroom, looking at Amy, about to lock his classroom door.

HELEN (O.C.)

You just have to turn, then it's locked.

Arnie flustered, turns around.

ARNIE

Oh--

(awkwardly smiles)

Yeah...headed home?

HELEN

Perhaps. Perhaps not.

(beat)

Some of the stiffs might hit happy hour. You wanna' take on the mathematics department with me?

ARNIE

Oh...like go--like me with you?

HELEN

Yeah...us.

Helen smiles. Arnie grins.

ARNIE

...ok.

HELEN

Great.

Arnie turns around and looks towards Amy one more time. He takes a breath before locking the door. The smallest of smiles creeps onto his face before he turns and walks off with Helen.

CUT TO BLACK.