

YOU, ME, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

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FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

BENNY (23), male with messy hair matching his room, brushes his teeth with his electric toothbrush in the bathroom while moving hair out of his face. The news is playing in the background.

NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)

We have news coming from the state capitol regarding mandated stay-at-home orders.

KNOCK.

Benny pauses. The vibrations of the brush come to a hush. He goes to turn off the TV and waits eerily in silence.

KNOCK.

His eyes slowly face the door.

KNOCK

Benny walks towards the door, OPENING it.

ELLIE (38), female, walks in holding the hand of JESSIE (4), who is holding tightly onto a stuffed bear's hand the way her mom is holding hers. Benny watches them enter, toothbrush still hanging from his mouth, looking outside then closing the door behind them.

BENNY

(mumbling)

Um hey...

Jessie watches Benny. He stares back at her, they watch each other as if they're part of a nationwide staring contest.

BENNY (CONT'D)

(motioning towards Jessie)

Whose this little one?

Ellie lifts Jessie up and puts her on Benny's couch, which is filled with random papers, his laptop, and expired takeout.

Jessie starts to play with her surroundings but her eyes remain locked on Benny.

Ellie comes up to Benny, removes the toothbrush from his mouth, and kisses him.

ELLIE

Hi.

BENNY

(with a mouth full of
foam)

It's mint flavored...

ELLIE

(holding Benny's face)
Dave should be up with the
suitcases in a few.

Benny swallows the minty foam and winces.

BENNY

Dave...?

Benny looks at Jessie then Ellie.

BENNY (CONT'D)

I think you had the wrong idea. I
was really just looking for
something casual. I'm not ready to
be a stepdad or anythi-

KNOCK ON THE DOOR. Ellie starts to walk towards it, Benny follows.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Wait!

(beat)

Why are you all here?

Ellie ignores him, she goes and opens the door.

Enter DAVE (40), beard with dad bod, carrying two SUITCASES. He walks up to Benny and extends his hand. Benny looks at Ellie who is motioning towards Dave's hand. He SHAKES IT. Dave squeezes his hand tightly, causing Benny to flinch.

DAVE

Thanks for having us here, kiddo.

Benny pulls back his hand and holds it in pain.

Dave moves past Benny and puts the suitcases in front of the TV. Jessie is playing with a remote control on Benny's table, flying it around like a toy plane.

BENNY

I think there's a BIG
misunderstanding here.

Dave turns to Benny and gets up in his personal space.

DAVE

Whatever you and my wife do in here
is not my business, but right now
our priority is making sure my Nana
is safe.

Dave moves past Benny.

BENNY

(whispering to himself)
Safe from what?

No one responds. With wide eyes, Benny looks around: Ellie is unpacking the suitcases and Dave is getting comfortable in the kitchen, opening the refrigerator.

DAVE (O.S.)

You got any beer?

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Benny, shoulders pressed inwards, is squeezed between Dave and Ellie on the COUCH, they take up nearly the whole couch. Jessie plays on the floor introducing the remote control to her princesses and teddy bear.

BENNY

So.. How long were we thinking this
little staycation would last?

DAVE

(to Ellie)
He always ask stupid questions?

Ellie doesn't respond, just shakes her head and puts her head on Benny's chest while giving Dave a side stare.

ELLIE

(to Benny)
CDC is recommending two weeks,
baby, and then we'll get out of
your hair.

Benny looks down at Ellie, who starts to play with his hair. Awkward silence.

BENNY

(to Dave)
How's the beer?

Dave stares at Benny so intensely that Benny leans backwards. Benny smiles and looks down, avoiding eye contact.

DAVE
(to Ellie)
Did CUBA mean nothing to you?

Ellie lifts herself up from Benny's chest.

ELLIE
I'm not doing this now.

DAVE
Does OUR family mean nothing to you?

Benny stands up.

BENNY
You know, there's a really good motel a few blocks down, I think I'll go there.

ELLIE
Stay!

Benny sits back down in between them.

DAVE
You really put our family... My nana... At risk in a global pandemic for some kid who still hasn't hit puberty?!

Benny looks down pretending to not hear the conversation.

ELLIE
Dave, just stop it...

Dave GETS UP, keeping his gaze on Ellie. He lifts up his shirt to reveal a large TATTOO on his chest of a stick figure female with a heart next to her and "ellie" written above. (the second "e" is reversed) Ellie refuses to acknowledge it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I didn't ask you to get that.

Dave takes off his shirt and slams it to the floor.

DAVE
I went to jail for you! I KILLED a man for you.

Benny looks up at Dave then at Ellie and scoots away from Dave a bit.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Do you know how hard it was to escape with JUST A SPOON?!

(beat)

But I did it... I did it for us...

(beat)

Meanwhile, you couldn't keep your hands off Mr. Sesame Street here.

Benny stands up again.

BENNY

I really think I should go..

ELLIE & DAVE

STAY!

Benny sits back down.

Ellie stands up and gets in Dave's face.

ELLIE

You don't think I loved you? Our family? I loved everything! BUT I HAD NEEDS. Needs that lasted longer than a commercial!

Dave gets closer to Ellie so they are both standing face-to-face, like two boxers before a match. Benny watches with wide eyes while leaned back.

Dave squints at Ellie, standing tall. He starts to CRY OBNOXIOUSLY. He cries for 30 seconds until letting out a SQUEAL and RUNNING INTO THE BATHROOM, closing the door behind him. Benny looks at Ellie who is staring at the bathroom holding back tears with clenched fists.

Ellie follows Dave into the bathroom. Benny looks at Jessie who is now getting up with her toys to sit on the couch.

We hear SHOUTING, then absolute silence..

Then... we hear the sound of objects being pushed aside and of two bodies clashing together.

JESSIE

Excuse me, Mr. Sesame Street.

Benny turns to face Jessie.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Are you the reason MOMMY and DADDY
are separating?

They stare at each other while distinct sounds can be heard
from the bathroom.

FADE OUT.