CHEETAHS & WILDEBEESTS

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EXT. THE SAVANNAH- DAY

ZEBRAS, WILDEBEESTS and GIRAFFES graze in the long grasses.

There is a watering hole with various animals drinking in the heat wave making the scene look like a dream.

An ELEPHANT FAMILY drinks from the watering hole.

BRITISH VOICE (O.S.)
The herds follow the seasonal rains
and head south to the lush plains
of Tanzania's Serengeti.

INT. BASEMENT- NIGHT

The African Savannah is framed by a television set in a unfinished basement that smells of marijuana and concrete.

NICK (18), your average lazy teenage boy and GRETA (18), a pale, freckle faced girl with dark brunette hair, sit intertwined on a worn lazy boy couch watching *Planet Earth.*

A bong sits in front of them and they stare at the TV with bloodshot eyes.

NICK
That is so weird.

GRETA
Huh?

NICK
That thing is prehistoric.

GRETA
It really does look like a
dinosaur.

NICK
It's really crazy to me that there
are things like that on this Earth.

GRETA
So crazy.

A stoned beat in the conversation.

GRETA (CONT'D)
You know what else is weird?

NICK
Yeah?

GRETA
How like all they think about is eating food and not getting eaten.

NICK
That would be intense.

GRETA
What a sad and simple life they lead.

Another dazed beat in the conversation.

NICK
You know whats another weird animal thing?

GRETA
Tell me.

NICK
Dolphins are the only animals that have sex for fun, besides us.

Nick gestures to the two of them meaning all of the human race, but making it sound like just them. Greta chuckles at him.

GRETA
Oh yeah, just us?

NICK
Just you, me, and the dolphins, babe.

EXT. THE SAVANNAH- DAY- ON THE TV

A newly made CHEETAH mother sits in the grass licking the tops of her CUBS heads. She guides the newborns to her breasts and pokes her head over the tall grasses to watch out for predators.

BRITISH VOICE (O.S.)
This young cheetah may be a new mother, but instinctively knows how to care for her baby cubs.

INT. BASEMENT- SAME

GRETA
Isn't *that* weird?

NICK
What?

GRETA
How like she just instinctively knows how to be a mom right away.

Greta is still fixated on the screen. Nick is only half listening to her.

NICK
Yeah, natures crazy...

GRETA
I wouldn't know what the fuck to do with a kid.

Nick turns to her with wide bloodshot eyes.

NICK
What are you trying to tell me?

GRETA
Oh my god! Nick, I'm not pregnant.

Greta looks back at the TV lost in thought.

NICK
Well, thank god. 'Cause hell I don't know what I'd do with a child either.

Greta turns to him who's attention is on the TV. Sadness crosses her face, she looks away and then back at the TV trying to brush it off.

GRETA
Yeah.... But, seriously when you bring a baby home from the hospital what do you do with it?

NICK
(laughing)
Greta, what do you mean? What do you do with it?

Greta's still fixated on this conversation.

GRETA
Like babies are hard to take care of... How do people know what to do?

NICK
I guess you learn how to take care of your kids from your own parents.

GRETA
Oh...

NICK
I mean when I have a kid in like *a looooong time*, I guess I'll just do it the way my parents did.

GRETA
How's that?

Nick shrugs.

NICK
Simply. Family dinners and that sort of stuff.
(in comedic tone)
...like I mean hate my parents for grounding me in eighth grade when I stole the car.

Greta bursts out laughing and Nick chuckles.

NICK (CONT'D)
But, I think I deserved that one.

Greta teases him.

GRETA
You were trouble.

NICK
I bet you were the troublesome one. What were you like as a kid?

GRETA
I'm not sure.

Greta tries to brush off the question.

NICK
What do you mean you're not sure?

GRETA
We don't talk about that stuff.

NICK
C’mon tell me just one ridiculous story from the childhood of Greta Reed. Knowing you there must be many.

GRETA
(snapping)
I have nothing to tell you.

Silence and tension settles in.

EXT. THE SAVANNAH- DAY- ON THE TV

WILDEBEESTS graze in herds of thousands. The YOUNG WILDEBEESTS gallop and play clumsily falling over their new legs. HYENAS lurk on the outside.

INT. BASEMENT- SAME

Greta sits up and reaches for the bong sitting on the coffee table. She takes a large nug from the container and begins grinding it.

NICK
Greta, you’ve already packed like four bowls.

Greta ignores him.

NICK (CONT’D)
Greta.

Greta breathes in and exhales a large cloud of smoke.

NICK (CONT’D)
Tell me why you refuse to talk about anything personal?

She ignores him again.

NICK (CONT’D)
Whatever.

Nick exits. Greta watches the TV her eyes wide and glassed over.

EXT. THE SAVANNAH- DAY- ON THE TV

A young wildebeest wanders off to the outskirts of the herd. A hyena runs up and grabs hold of the calfs skinny leg with its teeth. Other hyenas come in for the kill.

INT. BASEMENT- SAME

Nick comes back with a bag of Tostitos.

Greta looks up at him with a dazed smile and the bong in hand. High as a kite.

GRETA
I think you're like a cheetah.

NICK
Greta... what?

GRETA
You asked me about my childhood. You're a cheetah. I'm a wildebeest.

Nick glances at the TV. A baby wildebeest is being torn apart by hyenas. He looks back at Greta on the couch.

GRETA (CONT'D)
See... we can only smoke at your house when your parents aren't home. You have to hide all these things from them like drugs and drinking.

Nick moves towards her slowly. Greta's voice is barely a whisper.

GRETA (CONT'D)
I wish someone cared that much about me.

Nick is too confused to console her.

NICK
What does this have to do with me being a cheetah?

GRETA
You have a family. A mom who cares and protects you... I've never had that... You know what they say about my mom.

Nick looks down feeling uncomfortable.

GRETA (CONT'D)
Well, she certainly wasn't a cheetah. So, yeah... I would have no idea what to do with a baby.

NICK
Greta... I'm sorry.

GRETA
Don't be. Some people are cheetahs and others are wildebeests. Thats just the way it goes... I'm gonna get going.

NICK
Are you sure?

GRETA
Yeah, I'll see you later.

INT. CAR- CONTINUOUS

Greta sits in the front seat of her car still in the driveway. She takes a piece of paper with a phone number on it from the console.

She stares on the number. Takes a deep breath and dials it.

Her thumb pauses for a minute above the "CALL" button.

RINGING.

A woman picks up on the other line.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE
Hi, what can I help you with?

GRETA
Um.. I'd like to schedule an appointment.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE:
Okay, how many weeks along are you?

GRETA
About 7. I need an appointment as soon as possible.

WOMAN ON THE PHONE
Okay, let me check our availability. Please hold.

THE END