

I DON'T

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EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

THUNDER rolls over the lake and clouds hide the sun. A family of five drags their canoe out of the water. A fisherman and his son pack up their tackle box and walk past a station wagon near the lake's edge.

TOM, male, mid 20's, forgotten middle child, exits station wagon. He opens trunk and grabs a picnic basket and blanket. Tom drops the basket and sandwiches, Ziplocked snacks, his phone, and a black engagement ring box fall in dirt.

MADISON, female, mid 20's, sexy librarian type, sits alone in rowboat on shore.

MADISON

You need some help over there?

Tom scoops food into basket and searches for box.

TOM

No. I'm fine. I'll be there in just a minute, babe.

MADISON

(to herself) Babe?

THUNDER rolls over lake. Madison pulls sunglasses from face to head, reaches hand out and looks at sky.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Are you sure you want to do this today?

Tom spots the box open on the grass and closes it. He fumbles it into his jacket pocket.

TOM

I'm coming.

He grabs basket and blanket and runs to boat. His phone wakes up and vibrates underneath the car. Tom pushes the boat off shore and hops in.

MADISON

Tom, I think it's gonna rain.

Tom grabs the oars and strokes.

TOM

We're surrounded by water. You might just get drenched either way.

EXT. MIDDLE OF LAKE - NIGHT

The stars, moon, and fireflies illuminate the lake. Crickets and frogs CHIRP. A single boat floats still in the lake.

TOM
Tree frogs.

MADISON
Mockingjays.

TOM
Tree frogs.

MADISON
Those are definitely mockingjays.

TOM
Honey, mockingjays aren't real.
They're the bird from the Hunger
Games.

MADISON
So, you agree with me?

TOM
Okay, Suzanne Collins.

Madison wisps her fingers through her hair and pulls air from her back. She pretends to shoot an arrow with an imaginary bow and Tom whistles.

MADISON
Well I guess now we're even.

TOM
What do you mean?

MADISON
Earlier, I was wrong about the
rain, and now you're wrong.

TOM
Are you keeping score?

Madison laughs.

MADISON
Maybe.

TOM
Well if you want, I can still get
you wet.

MADISON

Excuse me?

Tom sticks his hand in the lake and throws water back up at Madison. Madison screams.

MADISON (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

TOM

I thought we were having fun.

MADISON

We were.

Tom turns around and reaches under seat for blanket. He extends blanket to Madison and she splashes him from both sides of the boat.

TOM

Alright, you got me.

Madison and Tom laugh. Madison wrings out her hair.

MADISON

Ready to head back?

Madison slaps a bug on her arm.

TOM

Actually, I was thinking we could stay a little longer.

MADISON

We could do that...

Madison grabs an oar.

MADISON (CONT'D)

...oar, or we can do this again another time, when there are less bugs.

Tom laughs and grabs the oar from Madison. He puts it down and reaches into his jacket pocket.

TOM

Madison, there's something I want to ask you.

Madison slaps Tom in the face.

MADISON

Sorry. Mosquito. Can you ask me in the car?

Tom rubs his cheek. Madison grabs the oars and extends her arms to row.

TOM

From the moment I met you, I knew you were the one.

Madison drops both of the oars into the lake.

MADISON

Excuse me?

Tom pulls the black box out of his pocket and gets on one knee. Madison slaps it out of his hand. The box falls into the lake.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Mosquito.

TOM

It doesn't matter. I don't need a ring.

MADISON

Please don't do this.

TOM

Madison Veneer, will you make me the happiest man in the--

MADISON

I don't love you.

TOM

What?

MADISON

We've become sort of platonic, don't you think?

TOM

What?

MADISON

I mean, you take me to the movies, you took me on a rowboat, and you always insist on paying. I couldn't ask for a better friend.

TOM

What?

Madison slowly extends her arm and presses her palm against Tom's face.

MADISON

I think we should go home. Rowing
might take your mind off things.

She smears her palm across his face and flicks her hand over the water.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Mosquitos.

Tom grabs at air where the oars should be. He repeats twice and shakes his head.

TOM

Where are the oars?

Tom looks around the boat and the dark lake.

TOM (CONT'D)

Where is my ring?

MADISON

Whoops.

Tom squints at the dark water.

TOM

I can't see.

MADISON

Here, let me help.

Madison pulls out her phone and turns on the flashlight. Tom pulls himself up and looks at Madison. He slaps her phone out of her hand and into the water.

TOM

Sorry. Mosquito.

Madison touches wipes her forehead and holds her palm out. It rains.