

EXT. ELLIE'S CAR - DAY

ELLIE - pretty dang pregnant - opens the passenger door of her car. She reaches over to unlock the drivers side.

It takes a sec. BRUCEY - pretty dang sweaty - appears at the end of the end of the block, decked out in running gear.

He trots up to Ellie and pecks her one on the cheek. Ellie arranges a BAKERY BOX on the floor of the passenger side.

BRUCEY

You're out and about early.

Both their hands reflexively land on her belly.

ELLIE

Got that seminar today, remember?

BRUCEY

That's today?

ELLIE

Yup yup. All day.

He glances over her shoulder at the box of treats.

BRUCEY

I hope you're not planning to feed all that processed sugar to my baby.

ELLIE

Says the guy who vowed to swear off red meat until our baby was born. You know Grubhub saves your order history, right?

He pops one earbud in his ear and jogs backwards a few steps, into the light. She shades her eyes.

BRUCEY

Call it even?

She blows him a kiss. He jogs backwards a few paces before turning into his run in earnest.

She looks down at the box before closing the door.

EXT. HP CAFE - BACK FENCE - DAY

CLANG. MAX - savvy as F - pushes her way through a metal door. She wears a distracted expression.

PENNY - stunning as H - leans against a brick wall. One hand is in her apron. Her eyes are glued to her phone.

Max looks at her. That's all - just angles her head so she looks right at Penny. Penny notices after a few seconds.

Her phone disappears into a pocket. She hops to.

PENNY

Hey hey, lady. Don't worry, I'm clocked out on break.

MAX

OK.

They move closer to each other. Max flips her car keys in her hands in a rhythmic way.

PENNY

Thanks for the job, by the way. Sasha flipped her lid when she found out I got it. She really appreciates you giving me a shot.

MAX

Yeah. She's cool.

Penny isn't phased by the fact that Max isn't paying much attention to her.

PENNY

You taking off for a bit?

MAX

I'll be gone all day. You good to close on your own?

PENNY

Ummmm --

MAX

OK, great. I'll be out of touch, so call Smith if anything comes up.

She starts to cross the street.

MAX

You're doing great, by the way.

PENNY

-- thanks?

Max heads for her car.

EXT. BENCH OUTSIDE A DOG PARK - DAY

Ellie sits on a bench that faces a dog park. She balances the bakery box on her belly.

Max sits next to her.

ELLIE
Well you're late.

MAX
Nope.

They share an amused look. Ellie deliberately opens the box and passes Max a chocolate croissant.

Max hands her a cup of gas station coffee. She has one of her own. They tap the lousy paper cups together.

MAX
Heard from dad?

ELLIE
Pfft.

MAX
Yeah. Me either. Alice texted, though.

ELLIE
Oh goody.

MAX
Elle.

They share a different look than before.

ELLIE
Fine. Lets just wait on the dogs.

She takes out a twenty dollar bill and places it on top of the bakery box.

ELLIE
I call Boston's.

MAX
Dude. You know the dogs here better than I do. You can't pick first.

ELLIE
And yet. I did. Come on. Make with the green already.

Max digs out a twenty and slaps it on top of Ellie's.

MAX
Fine. I got Danes. I guess.

ELLIE
When have you ever won with Danes?

MAX
Double or nothing, if you're so sure.

Ellie doesn't say anything. They watch the mostly empty dog park and eat. Both of their phones CHIRP with new texts.

They ignore them. Ellie takes two donuts out of the box and hands one to Max.

ELLIE
Come on Boston's...

They watch.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A wide backyard with a smattering of Bohemia littered around sits empty in the sun. FOOTSTEPS approach.

Max's voice enters the yard before she does.

MAX (O.C.)
...it's like twenty minutes of the lady unboxing it, then she dresses it up and takes it to Target. Silicone babies. I'm telling you. It's a thing.

CREAK. The gate opens and Max holds the door for Ellie.

ELLIE
But. Why?

MAX
Bonkers shit.

They squint around the yard.

MAX
Smith say where he left it?

ELLIE
Just in the yard.

BLOOP. Max gets a text. Her hand takes her phone out. Ellie throws her some side-eye.

MAX

Right. Sorry.

She pockets the phone. They take a few steps into the yard and look from one corner to the next.

MAX

Feels weird being at one of my employee's houses. Like being at a playground without a kid.

ELLIE

There it is.

She points to a far corner of the yard. Ellie walks off first. Max looks around before joining her.

They look down at an old wooden cradle. You might call it an antique if it wasn't in such lousy shape.

MAX

Fuck.

ELLIE

What? Little TLC and wham! Adorable.

MAX

Would you just let me buy you a crib?

Ellie kneels down - slowly - to brush some leaves and junk off the cradle.

ELLIE

You already got us a stroller. A really expensive stroller.

MAX

Yeah, but -

ELLIE

Can you make me feel shitty about being broke some other day? I mean. Jesus. Any other day.

She stands upright and puffs up. Max wants to jump into an argument, tooth and fucking nail. But she doesn't.

She scoops up the cradle and crosses the yard. Ellie's posture deflates. She shuffles after.

EXT. UNDER A BRIDGE ON THE RIVER - DAY

Ellie sits on the bottom of a steep incline. She has a bag from a hot dog place on her lap.

A HUGE POT OF LILLIES sits next to her. Max bounces a tennis ball at an angle on the wall. It always bounces back to her.

ELLIE

Kind of like being under the subway tracks. Right?

MAX

Maybe.

She stops with the ball and approaches Ellie. She puts her foot on the incline and leans into it.

Ellie hands her a hot dog. Max stares at it.

MAX

They don't even look right.

ELLIE

I had to improvise. Besides, a hot dogs a hot dog. Do you know how long it's been since I ate meat?

MAX

Like three days. You think I can't smell the fast food in the car?

Ellie looks at her hot dog before taking a huge bite.

ELLIE

(Sheepish)

I Glade.

MAX

All that does is put both odors in there. Side by side.

Ellie shrugs. They each take a few bites of hot dog. Ellie makes a face and tosses her half in the bag,

ELLIE

You're right. It's not the same.

Max finishes hers and sits next to Ellie. They take a collective breath.

MAX
What do you think happened with Dad
and Alice?

ELLIE
God. Who cares.

MAX
Seriously. You think there's someone
else? Like Alice with mom.

Ellie gives this some serious thought.

ELLIE
I dunno. Dads been especially dad
like since I got pregnant.

MAX
Incognito, you mean.

ELLIE
Busy.

Ellie rests both hands on her belly and looks down at them.
Max gives her a second before nudging her shoulder.

MAX
Did I tell you that Victoria broad
asked me out?

ELLIE
No. Ooooo. The one from catering?

Max nods.

ELLIE
Go for it. For real. That broads foxy
as shit.

Max gets to her feet, instantly awkwardly uncomfortable.

MAX
I can't get tangled up with an
employee.

ELLIE
Again.

MAX
Again.

They both smile. Then shudder. Max checks the time on her
phone. Ellie looks up at her.

MAX

We should make a move.

She holds her hand out for Ellie. Ellie takes it.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

The two sisters walk up a medium-steep trail in silence. Ellie has the potted lily cradled in the crook of one arm.

BLOOP. BLOOP. They get simul-texts. They look at each other before moving for their phones.

ELLIE/MAX

Dad.

They take their phones out at pretty much the same speed. As expected, it's from their dad.

There's no text - only a photo. It's of their dad with his arm around a MUCH YOUNGER woman. In a bikini.

ELLIE

The fuck?

The familiar three dots appear. Then a quick text. "Greetings from Cabo!" That's it. No more three dots.

ELLIE

Who in the god damn hell is -

MAX

Holy shit.

Ellie drags her eyes off the picture and points them at Max.

MAX

Holy. Shit.

Ellie gives her a "Spit it out" look.

MAX

This broad went to our high school.

Ellie double checks the picture. Recognition fills her face. Then her brow furrows. Then rage fills the furrows.

Then her eyes lock with Max's. And the two of them burst out laughing. In a zero-to-sixty fashion.

Somewhere in their struggle to catch their breath, Ellie says -

ELLIE
He's such a dick.

And the two explode with even more laughter.

EXT. HILLTOP - MAGIC FUCKING HOUR

An incredible sunset threatens to start on the horizon.
Ellie kneels in front of Max.

Max holds the now empty flower pot. Ellie gets to her feet
and wipes dirt off her hands.

They both look down at the REPLANTED LILLIES.

ELLIE
Happy birthday, mom. We miss you. A
whole lot. Sorry we couldn't make it
home. We'll come next year, with the
baby. Promise.

She takes a step back so she's next to Max. Max looks
completely lost. Her shoulders start to shake.

Ellie puts her arm around her shoulder. Max folds into her.
Ellie looks down at the flowers and rubs Max's back.

Max draws deep breaths. Ellie gives her a squeeze.

ELLIE
Come on. Suns going down.

Max lifts her head. They nod at each other.

EXT. ELLIE'S CAR - HILLTOP ROAD - SUNSET

Max POPS into some champagne. Ellie connects her phone to
the car stereo & turns on the ignition.

All the windows are down. She scrolls through a playlist.
Max pours two glasses of champagne into dixie cups.

She hands one to Ellie. Ellie presses play, closes the door,
and leans against the car. Max leans - near her.

They don't touch. Bill Withers "Harlem" fills the air. Ellie
and Max toast. Then drink.

They sway in time with the song.

CUT TO BLACK: