

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

2 Weeks

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INT. THOMASON HOUSE - DAY

PEARL THOMASON 22 FEMALE is sitting on the couch in the living room watching TV. RACHEL THOMASON 43 FEMALE is sitting on the recliner right beside the couch while typing on her laptop.

Advertisements come up as Pearl's show goes on break. Pearl stands up and makes her way to the kitchen.

PEARL

I'm gonna get a drink. Want anything?

Rachel keeps her gaze on her laptop while continuing to type.

RACHEL

I'm okay.

Pearl opens the refrigerator and grabs a carton of ORANGE JUICE. She then grabs a nearby clean cup and pours the juice in the cup.

TV AD GUY

DO YOU AND A CERTAIN SOMEONE NOT GET ALONG? DO YOU AND SAID PERSON NEED MORE QUALITY TIME TOGETHER? LOOK NO FURTHER!

The ad catches Rachel's attention. She side glances the TV.

TV AD GUY (cont'd)

HERE AT 'OPEN SKIES RETREAT', WE OFFER JUST THAT, FOR YOU! SPEND 2 AWESOME RELAXING WEEKS AND WE CAN GUARANTEE YOU AND A LOVED ONE THE RELATIONSHIP YOU DESIRE!

Pearl comes back to the couch with her drink while eyeing the TV. She sits down and sees Rachel looking at the TV.

TV AD GUY (cont'd)
VISIT US AT openskiesretreat.com AND
BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!
(inaudible) Offer valid for a limited time only. Open Skies Retreat is not responsible for unresolved disputes, lingering resentment, or emotional regression following your stay. Satisfaction not guaranteed beyond the duration of your visit. Guests are solely responsible for personal safety, property, and outcomes of all relationship activities conducted on site. The Renewal House reserves the right to alter, suspend, or terminate programming without notice. Additional terms and conditions may apply.

The TV continues the show.

Rachel then looks at Pearl. She meets her eyes.

PEARL
What?

RACHEL
Did you see the ad?

PEARL
Yeah? What about it?

Rachel closes her laptop.

RACHEL
What if we... tried it out?

PEARL
(scoffs)
You're not serious.

RACHEL

Yeah! I mean, we haven't really been.. Getting along that well and I think more time together really would bring us back.

PEARL

Mom, I am *not* taking a 2 week resort with you.

RACHEL

Why not?

PEARL

Because!

BEAT. Rachel stares at Pearl with a small smile. She then opens her laptop and begins to type again.

PEARL (cont'd)

What are you doing?

RACHEL

Nothing.

Pearl squints her eyes in suspicion.

PEARL

Liar.

Pearl gets up and walks up to Rachel. She looks over Rachel's shoulder to see what she's looking at.

Rachel is looking up the resort website.

PEARL (cont'd)

Mom! I just said!

Rachel keeps her eyes on the screen.

RACHEL

No. I think it'd be great! And besides, even if we don't get the "desired results", we get a nice vacation out of it.

Pearl stares at Rachel. She groans then walks back to the couch, plopping herself down.

PEARL

Well, what about school?

RACHEL

Your classes are online. You're fine.

PEARL

Okay... What about your work?

RACHEL

I'll request the days off. We'll survive missing two weeks.

Pearl seems to be running out of excuses and issues to have.

PEARL

What about dad and Edison?

Rachel sighs and finally meets Pearl's eyes.

RACHEL

Do you seriously not want to hang out with me? Am I that bad of company that you'd consider your father and brother's well-being?

BEAT. Pearl stares at her.

PEARL

I just don't think it's a good idea.

RACHEL

Because of the retreat or because of us?

PEARL

Both.

BEAT. Rachel is left hurt at her answer. She then opens her laptop again.

RACHEL

That's exactly why I'm signing us up.
Just trust me, okay?

BEAT. Pearl notices the hurt in her voice. She then turns her attention back to the TV.

PEARL

So. What kind of retreat is it? Beach theme? Cabin in the woods?

RACHEL

Neither. It looks very... Dull. Lots of windows though.

Rachel bites her nails as she reads the 'About' page.

Pearl notices the habit.

PEARL

So what do we even bring? What do we wear?

RACHEL

I suppose just what we normally wear. God, this place doesn't even look relaxing. It's basically an animal cage.

PEARL
And you're still considering it?

RACHEL
Yeah.

Rachel begins to type aggressively. Her gaze strong on the screen.

PEARL
(chuckles)
You're going to break your laptop,
chill.

Rachel smiles with satisfaction as she clicks on the mousepad.

RACHEL
Aaaand done!

Pearl raises an eyebrow.

PEARL
Done?

Pearl takes a sip of her juice.

RACHEL
Yup! Our stay is officially next week!

Pearl nearly chokes on her juice.

PEARL
WHAT?! MOM!

Rachel's eyes widen at Pearl's shock.

RACHEL
What??

PEARL
YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY?

RACHEL
Yup! I'm excited. This will be good
for us.

Pearl slaps her hands against her face as she groans.

PEARL
MOOOOOM!

RACHEL
Shh, I'm trying to watch the show.

Rachel lightly smirks. Pearl lets her hands fall from her face to give Rachel a glare.

PEARL
You don't even like-! You're insane.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
I love you too.

Pearl continues to glare at Rachel.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - EARLY MORNING - A WEEK LATER

Pearl glares out of the car as Rachel drives to the Open Skies Retreat. Music plays.

RACHEL

Pearl, can you hand me the peanut mix
please?

Pearl continues to glare out of the window.

RACHEL (cont'd)

Pearl. PEARL!

Pearl snaps out of her intense gaze.

PEARL

What?

RACHEL

The peanuts. I'm hungry.

Pearl reaches down to the plastic bag by her feet. She grabs the pack of peanuts.

PEARL

If you're hungry, why don't we stop
somewhere?

Pearl hands Rachel the pack of peanuts. Rachel grabs the peanuts and opens it while keeping her hands on the wheel.

RACHEL

Because I read on their website they
offer a meal for the first day. I'm
saving my appetite.

PEARL
Like sloppy joes?

Rachel glares at Pearl.

RACHEL
Ha-ha. Very funny.

Pearl looks out of the window with a small smirk.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN SKIES RETREAT

Rachel drives and parks inside the somewhat filled parking lot.

Pearl gets out of the car and looks at the building. Rachel follows suit.

PEARL
This looks like a building out of
'Black Mirror'.

Rachel shakes her head as she chuckles.

RACHEL
I knew I shouldn't have let you watch
TV so young.

Rachel walks to the trunk and grabs the bags.

Pearl continues to eye the building.

Suddenly, a MALE 30s in a Open Skies Retreat uniform appears from behind Pearl.

MAN
It feels better than how it looks.

Pearl lightly jumps. She then raises an eyebrow at his statement.

PEARL
Excuse me??

MAN
O-oh! I mean the building. The building feels like home. Looks can be deceiving.

PEARL
Oh... Right.

The man smiles warmly. He then quickly offers a hand.

CHARLIE
I'm Charlie by the way. And you are?

Pearl hesitantly shakes his hand, keeping her guard up.

PEARL
Pearl.

Charlie smiles wider as she shakes his hand.

CHARLIE
Nice to meet you, Pearl.

Rachel walks up to the two, struggling to carry their bags.

RACHEL

I thought you were going to help me!

Charlie quickly grabs two bags from her.

CHARLIE

Here, let me get these for you.

Rachel smiles. She lets out a deep exhale of relief as he takes the bags.

RACHEL

Thank you. You must be one of the coaches, I assume?

CHARLIE

Yes ma'am! You two can follow me to your pod.

Charlie walks away with the bags in hand.

Pearl glances at Rachel as she grabs her backpack.

PEARL

This doesn't feel right, mom.

RACHEL

It'll be fine. Come on.

Rachel follows Charlie.

Pearl sighs then follows shortly after.