

INTERSECTION

By

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FADE IN

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A married couple, TRENT & TIFFANY, plump and dressed from the Midwest -- Trent with an American flag ball cap, Tiffany in a pastel ensemble --- walk amongst an array of city people.

TRENT

Are we about done here, Tiff?

TIFFANY

I'm sorry honey. L.A. just looks so pretty on all the shows. I thought it would be fun to see it for ourselves.

TRENT

Pretty, yeah. Pretty freaky, I'd say.

TIFFANY

You can pick the next vacation.

The sidewalk crowd displays a typical medley of city styles, from wild to sophisticated.

TRENT

They just have such an attitude here. Like they think they're better. People back home don't give off that feeling.

TIFFANY

You know what else, I'm not a plus size Trent. I never shop the plus sizes at home. They must have different sizes in California.

TRENT

I'd sure like to wipe some smirks off of these uppity faces.

TIFFANY

I'm not even really sure whether that was a woman back there in that store.

TRENT

What?! Didn't she bring you stuff to try on while you were...

TIFFANY

Yes! She did! It did!

TRENT

Oh they make me so mad! They make God mad, Tiff! Honey you are a very good size. You're just perfect.

She leans in for a kiss on the cheek.

Walking toward Tiffany and Trent from a block away are ARIEL, extremely fit and attractive in snug yoga wear, and JONNY, also athletic, very sharply suited and groomed.

ARIEL

I deleted her from all my platforms. Can you even believe it?

JONNY

She was always a little uh, how can I say ...

ARIEL

Uptight? Like, low key uptight?

JONNY

Limited. As in, bandwidth.

ARIEL

I guess she's been in the closet but like that's weird too. I thought they were all so loud and proud.

JONNY

Well if your crazy relatives come back to visit, we know who to hook her up with.

ARIEL

Aunt and Uncle Oklahoma oh my god L.A. blew their heads. They plotzed.

An elderly lady struggles to lift her rolling cart over the curb. Jonny darts over to help her, Ariel keeping pace, and they proceed.

JONNY

How are people even wired that way? I actually wonder if parts of their brains are literally missing.

ARIEL

Yeah missing or like, wired wrong.  
Wired to freak out about people who  
aren't just like them.

TRENT

Yeah. Non-white, non-binary, non-  
bible thumping.

ARIEL

Right. Trifecta.

JONNY

You think Margaux will go all in?  
Rant and rave at the redshirt  
rallies?

ARIEL

Yeah right? Get a bad haircut? Why  
do the haters all have really bad  
haircuts anyway?

JONNY

Probably cut it themselves.

ARIEL

And it's not just the hair, but  
they have really bad taste in  
clothes, even if they aren't fat.

TRENT

And that ragey look kind of  
completes it. Like they might start  
foaming at the mouth.

A street person steps out into the sidewalk flow when he sees  
Jonny and Ariel. Ariel unzips a pocket from her leggings,  
pulls out a ten dollar bill, and drops it into this cup.

ARIEL

Seriously. And so does she have to  
learn the secret passwords now?

JONNY

Mm hm, maybe she'll tell them she  
was a spy. Getting intel on us.

ARIEL

Intel oh jesus if there's anything  
they DON'T have. Intel, my ass.

JONNY

I know. The socioeconomic data are  
crystal.

(MORE)

JONNY (CONT'D)

The further down the ladder, the redder it gets. Red states are fucking piss-poor. It's sad but...

ARIEL

Sad but sucky. I feel like any given day, we're having to wait like forever for them to understand the problems, understand how to fix them. And we can't move ahead until they do, so we're stuck back in like, caveman times.

The couples continue to walk towards each other from a little ways apart. Trent takes his hat off as a policeman passes, both he and Tiffany nod to the officer.

TRENT

You know what though, now that I think about it honey? This was not a waste of time. It was a good lesson. We've seen this place for ourselves, and we can go home and we can bear witness, and save everybody at home the trouble of tryin' to see it for themselves.

TIFFANY

Yes, yes we can do that. It's a service. You know what, Pastor Perry says there's a special section in hell for the ones that mess with their gender that God gave them.

TRENT

Boy oh boy, look at these smirks. Goshdarn elitist JERKS all over the place here! I bet they don't even appreciate our military. I betcha they don't.

TIFFANY

Oh I think you're right. And all day I've been hearing people take the name of the lord in vain, too. Like it's nothing! They just toss it off all casual.

TRENT

Disgusting. Where is their decency. Gosh they should be ashamed.

TIFFANY

Honey I wasn't sure if I should tell you but I don't pray for these kinds of people. Pastor Perry didn't say we had to, so.

TRENT

They are ruining this great country. It's America we need to pray for.

TIFFANY

I do. And I pray that we won't be, won't be affected by their terrible ways. Like, contaminated.

TRENT

Don't you worry honey. They are not going to win, not with us real Americans standing up and saying no. No you may not drive our country into perdition.

The couples now approach each other, from opposite sides of a crosswalk. A stunningly beautiful woman weaves her way through the crowds. Trent & Jonny both get quite distracted by her. Ariel & Tiffany each show their annoyance, Ariel rather theatrically, Tiffany with a pout.

JONNY

What?

ARIEL

Really.

JONNY

Oh stop. You know where my eyes want to be.

TRENT

Uh oh, you're giving me THAT look.

TIFFANY

Only when you deserve it!

TRENT

Honey, you have nothing to worry about, you should know that.

As the four get into even closer proximity, a young woman pushing a baby stroller passes by each couple. Ariel and Tiffany both crane their necks to look at the baby, then look at their partners who are bemused at their baby fixations.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Gettin' some ideas there honey?

TIFFANY  
(playfully)  
Only since I was about twelve!

JONNY  
And now who's ogling, Madame?

ARIEL  
(playfully)  
Oh nice try! Not even comparable!

EXT. FOUR-WAY INTERSECTION - DAY

Waiting now for the crossing light and facing each other at the intersection -- Ariel, Jonny, Tiffany and Trent all notice each other. Each couple stares at the other couple for a long minute, seeing the 'types' they were just discussing.

As the two couples cross the street, an elderly male driver nearing the intersection from the cross street suddenly grips his chest and goes unconscious behind the wheel. His car continues moving. All four characters perceive the imminent danger, joining arms to push each other out of harm's way, landing together in a clump on a grassy median amidst the sickening sound of impact. Passersby react variously: some scream, some rush in to try to help, some film it on their phones, some keep walking.

TRENT  
Jesus Christ!

TIFFANY  
Goddammit to hell!

JONNY  
Ariel?

ARIEL  
Jonny?

JONNY  
(to Ariel)  
Are you ok? (to Trent & Tiffany)  
Are you guys ok?

TRENT  
Yes, honey are you alright?

TIFFANY  
I think so. Are you?

Slowly sitting up and disentangling their bodies, the four all stare at each other again, just as they had before the crash. The wail of sirens begins.

TRENT

We all just... we...

TIFFANY

We have been blessed. The lord has chosen us.

JONNY

(reaching out his hand to Trent)

I'm Jonathan Levy. And this is Ariel Pereira, my partner.

TRENT

Trent. Trent Bashaw from Oklahoma. And my wife Tiffany.

ARIEL

Hi.

TIFFANY

Hi.

TRENT

It's funny, because we saw you two on the corner and...

TIFFANY

And we thought, well it seems terrible now, but we thought you were kind of like the snotty Los Angeles people we were well I'm sorry to say, we were talking about.

The wail of approaching sirens gets louder.

JONNY

We saw you too, I remember seeing you just before.

ARIEL

And I guess we thought you guys were, well, it's terrible but like we were talking about people too and you seemed kind of like the people that we were ...

TRENT

I'm very sorry about what we thought.

TIFFANY

And we thank you. For being here for us.

ARIEL

I'm really sorry too.

JONNY

And thank you guys. Thank you for helping us.

TIFFANY

We all helped each other. We did!

TRENT

Shame it takes such an experience to meet some nice people.

ARIEL

I feel so different. Like, reborn, as weird as it sounds. I feel ... full of wisdom.

JONNY

My gosh, so do I. We had some messed up ideas before, I can see that now so clearly.

TIFFANY

Me too! I can't believe I didn't see it before; there's been this crazy wall up between people and we were part of it and ...

ARIEL

And so were we! We were on a side, and we were being all about like, being on our side, it was so dumb, there are no sides.

TRENT

It's the truth. And we were blind too, and now we see. My wife was right, we have all been chosen. We are chosen to spread the word. It's a blessing.

JONNY

I feel so happy. So happy! I feel like we can help everyone see what we see, and now it's going to get so much better. Everything's going to be better.

The four characters beam at each other, radiant with love.

The sirens' wail concludes as ambulances arrive on the scene. Two paramedics get out of their truck and walk over to the four people on the ground. They find them all face down, arms intertwined. They check for pulses but one by one, determine that each of the four is dead.

PARAMEDIC #1

Nope. And nope.

PARAMEDIC #2

Same here. All four.

PARAMEDIC #1

What a shame.

PARAMEDIC #2

Yep. Too bad.

FADE OUT