

ACT 1

Scene 4

SETTING: We are in the middle of MacArthur Park where there is a huge rally with the Alliance for Survival. Mackenzie is dressed up in her anti-war gear. She is sporting a sign, as there is a speaker in front of the crowd.

AT RISE: Mackenzie is wearing a homemade shirt with the words "Draft the Politicians" written in permanent marker on the back. Luke is sitting beside her with a homemade shirt that simply states "Give peace a chance".

LUKE

Mackenzie. Aren't you afraid we'll be arrested? I mean the police are everywhere.

MACKENZIE

Uhm. I would get arrested any day if it meant that I was part of the resistance against nuclear power. Do you forget the environmental damage that occurred in Japan after the atomic bombs were dropped during WWII? Why would we want to cause that kind of devastation to anyone else?

(MACKENZIE sits down beside LUKE)

LUKE

I love you. You know that I have never met anyone else that has shown as much passion for these things as you.

MACKENZIE

Is that sarcasm?

LUKE

When am I ever sarcastic with you? Do you want to know something funny?

MACKENZIE

What would that be, mister?

LUKE

Well the irony of it all. This park is named for the highly conservative general, Douglas MacArthur; however, this exact spot seems to be a popular gathering spot for all of the left-leaning political groups that you belong to.

MACKENZIE

(Laughing)

I guess you're right. But it's only that way because it's pretty central. It's a nice two-mile march to the Mayor's Office.

LUKE

I guess that you're right. Are you sure you don't want to go see my grandparents with me at the end of the month?

MACKENZIE

I would but Alliance for Survival is having a march to try to stop this stupid arms race.

LUKE

What exactly is Alliance for Survival anyway?

MACKENZIE

Well Luke. Alliance for Survival is an environmental organization opposed to nuclear weapons and nuclear power. And they are pretty badass.

LUKE

Well. As our president has always said:

(LUKE lowers his voice and puffs up his chest.)

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

MACKENZIE

You are such an airhead. Did you actually vote for Ronald Regan?

LUKE

Of course. Didn't you?

MACKENZIE

Uhm. No. I would've voted for Jimmy Carter. But I won't let your grody taste in politics ruin our friendship.

(MACKENZIE stands up with her sign that reads PEACE ON EARTH.

LUKE continues to sit down, but pulls out a small tablet where he starts to write down the things that he is seeing.)

LUKE

(to the audience)

When did Mackenzie and I become friends? It could have been that time that she walked into the classroom with a sign that said Free Love, or that time she protested down in the square against the Vietnam War when she was 14. She is everything that I wish I could be. She wasn't afraid of what people would think of her, and she definitely didn't care either. But could I ever find a moment in my life where I didn't have to feel judged by my conservative parents or care what they think. I honestly wanted to vote for Jimmy Carter in the last election. I know that what happens in the booth stays in the booth. But somewhere deep down inside of me I knew that my parents would have known that I didn't vote for their homeboy Regan. Mackenzie makes me feel more like myself than any other person that I have ever met. My parents keep asking me if we are dating, but I keep telling them that we are just friends. They still don't believe me. They even called me a liar on the day that Mackenzie and I moved in together. She was the only friend that I could express myself to.

(MACKENZIE sits down next to LUKE, bringing him back to reality)

MACKENZIE

Have you ever seen such a huge crowd? There have to be at least a thousand people here.

LUKE

I'm glad that you like the turnout, but do you think that we can leave soon. I know that you love fighting the man, but it's starting to get cold out here.

MACKENZIE

I'm sure that these people can continue sticking it to the man.
Did you want to get some food on the way home?

LUKE

Don't you think that we should cook tonight? I mean we have
barely used the fancy new kitchen in our apartment.

MACKENZIE

It's more environmentally friendly if we eat out. Think about
it. We aren't wasting our own electricity or water and we take a
portion of our waste out of the equation. I think that it's very
much a win-win situation.

LUKE

Well since you put it that way, we have to eat out. We wouldn't
want to ruin the environment anymore.

(MACKENZIE helps LUKE up as they start to exit the park. When they reach the park entrance they hear the chants behind them get louder. MACKENZIE turns around to see her group of people chanting and cheering as the local Alliance for Survival representative walks on the stage. She fights the urge to turn around and go back to the rally. LUKE grabs her hand and they walk toward their apartment.)

END OF SCENE