

THE LAST PICNIC

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - DAY

A lone picnic table situated at the edge the woods.

No one around. Eerily quiet.

Gazing at the table from a distance are four twenty-something: MOLLY, BEN, ZOHEY and TODD. Their attire includes skinny jeans, a turtle neck, thick-rimmed glasses, boots, stocking cap, fedora, and other hipster accessories.

Molly holds a picnic basket. Ben grasps a jug of water. Todd carries a beach ball. They all seem slightly out of their element.

They gawk timidly at the table, which appears almost ominous. Molly forces a smile.

MOLLY

Well, here we are!

Todd eyes their surroundings, concerned. A hawk SCREECHES in the distance.

TODD

We're like... in nature's bosom!

Zoey surveys the area.

ZOHEY

There are no people around.

MOLLY

Yeah, the ranger said this was the most secluded table. He said no one ever uses it. That's the point. Peace! Solitude!

A worried Todd swallows hard.

ZOHEY

This is sooo weird.

BEN

Now what?

MOLLY

We picnic!

Molly works up some courage and steps toward the table. Todd and Zoey follow tentatively, glancing nervously into the woods. Todd suddenly ducks from an imaginary winged creature.

TODD

Whoa! Did you see that?!

Molly and Zoey ignore him, walking on. Todd eyes the sky, paranoid.

Ben stays back momentarily and combs his ridiculous hairdo. Then he grins and proudly marches forward, so concerned with his appearance that he stumbles over a root. He glances around to make sure no one saw him.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE - DAY

They all stand beside the wooden picnic table, staring down at it, fascinated. It's old and deteriorating.

Todd tentatively reaches out with his index finger and touches it.

TODD

It's... it's made of wood!

Zoey grimaces.

ZOEY

Gross.

Ben sets the water jug on the table. Molly sets the picnic basket down.

Molly anxiously eyes the others. Taking a deep breath, she sits at the table. She adjusts herself, grinding her backside slightly against the wood, seeming to enjoy it more than expected -- perhaps a bit too much.

The others finally sit. They stare down at the table. Look all around the woods. Glance at one another uncomfortably.

Todd seems afraid to put his hands and arms down on the table; he isn't quite sure how to position himself. So he holds his arms out beside him awkwardly.

Ben suddenly puts his hands to his mouth and makes a ridiculous bird CALL, satisfied with himself. He combs his hair again.

Molly massages the table in a slightly sensuous manner.

Zoey stares ahead with a blank look on her face.

ZOEY  
Wait, why are we here?

MOLLY  
For a picnic.

ZOEY  
(remembering)  
Oh, yeah.

TODD  
Are we really gonna eat out here?

Molly nods.

ZOEY  
That is sooo weird.

Molly examines the forest.

MOLLY  
Everything feels so different out  
here. Kinda tingly. Is anyone  
else... turned on?

She grins, but then notices the others' puzzled expressions.  
She lowers her head, embarrassed.

Zoey starts to sob quietly.

ZOEY  
Who planned this outing anyway?

MOLLY  
You did. Remember? We saw some  
people having a picnic in that  
movie we watched. You said it  
looked fun. You said we should try  
it.

TODD  
We're doomed, aren't we?

Ben notices his underarms, concerned.

BEN  
I'm perspiring. I can't perspire,  
I'm going to a show tonight!

Molly studies the woods excitedly.

MOLLY

I hope we see a meerkat. I heart meerkats!

ZOEY

Are there any alligators out here?

Todd seems concerned, glancing down at his feet.

BEN

Ha ha! Of course not. Alligators are only found in Australia. And Iowa.

MOLLY

Ben's a naturalist. He knows everything!

Ben shrugs proudly.

Zoey looks up and sees something. She SCREAMS, which causes Todd's hair to stand up on his head.

TODD

What?!

Zoey points up at a normal-looking tree.

MOLLY

Zoey, it's... just a tree.

Zoey looks closer, now realizing this.

ZOEY

Oh. Yeah. I thought it was... some kind of monster.

She calms herself. Todd glances up at the tree, troubled.

TODD

Nature is so confusing.

He pats his hair back down, glancing down at his feet again.

BEN

What do we do now?

MOLLY

According to picnic dot com, we're supposed to talk a bit first before we eat. Socialize. Enjoy our surroundings.

They glance at one another awkwardly, contemplating.

BEN  
I attended an avant garde film  
festival last week!

They all try to think of a response.

MOLLY  
Wow!

BEN  
Yeah! The films were...  
outstanding!

They all nod.

Todd tries to think of something to say. Finally a  
brainstorm.

TODD  
My cousin just became a  
taxidermist!

MOLLY  
Really? Cool. That's so  
important. I know so many people  
who have skin problems.

Todd nods, despite not having heard her answer, pleased with  
himself.

Zoey eyes a shrub nearby, seeming wary of it.

ZOEY  
Shrubs freak me out. They just sit  
there. Staring at you.

The others snicker, thinking her foolish.

POV from the shrub, staring at Zoey and the others.

Ben freezes, concerned. He doesn't move a muscle.

BEN  
Guys? Is... is there a raccoon on  
my head?!

Todd SCREAMS, panicked. They all look.

MOLLY  
No. No, Ben. It's just your hair.

Ben breathes a sigh of relief.

BEN  
Oh. Thanks. It just... felt weird.

Ben combs his hair again.

Molly attempts to lighten the mood. She notices Todd's shirt.

MOLLY  
Todd, your shirt... it looks so soft.

Todd nods, thankful for a distraction.

TODD  
Yeah. You wanna touch it?

MOLLY  
No. But thanks for asking!

Todd nods, a bit disappointed.

They all hear the SHUFFLING of leaves, startled. They look up and see a male HIKER with backpack walking on a nearby trail.

Zoey SCREAMS. Todd panics, jumps up and throws rocks at the startled hiker, who ducks out of the way.

HIKER  
Hey! What's your problem?

TODD  
Please don't take us!

ZOEY  
What do you want?

HIKER  
I don't want anything. I'm hiking.  
This is a park.

They all just look at one another, baffled.

ZOEY  
So tell us: What's it like out there?

HIKER  
Where?

ZOEY  
Civilization. How are... things?

HIKER  
Um... fine?

The baffled hiker continues on his way. The others watch him go.

TODD  
Hiking?

ZOEY  
That is sooo weird.

They all look down at their picnic basket, appearing almost puzzled by its appearance. They do their best to avoid it.

MOLLY  
Did anyone bring a cornhole set?

BEN  
No, but I brought a frisbee!

They all gaze upon Ben excitedly.

TODD  
Really?

Ben drops his head in shame.

BEN  
No. Not really.

MOLLY  
Oh. Well, that's okay!

TODD  
Yeah, nice thought though. Solid!

Molly subtly and secretly grinds against the table with her backside, deriving pleasure from it.

TODD  
Hey, have we eaten yet?

They mull it over, puzzled.

BEN  
I... I don't think so.

They all stare at the picnic basket. Molly licks her lips.

MOLLY  
I'm famished!

Zoey starts to cry again.



ZOEY

We have to find food, or else we're  
all gonna die out here!

TODD

I miss my apartment. And my TV.  
And my kitty. He was such a good  
kitty. I hope he finds a good  
home.

MOLLY

Guys, we have food right here -- in  
the basket! And we're like twenty  
minutes from home. Our car's right  
over there!

She points. They all look and see the car in the distance.  
A sudden sense of relief.

TODD

Whew... thank God!

Todd wipes sweat from his brow.

BEN

(cheerfully)

I like Britney Spears' first album.  
It has spunk!

MOLLY

Wow! Awesome take!

They all nod, trying to think of something to add. Nothing.

Todd methodically takes off his shirt and lays it on the  
table. They all stare at him oddly.

MOLLY

Todd, why did you take off your  
shirt?

ZOEY

That is sooo inappropriate!

Todd seems puzzled.

TODD

I... don't know. I've never done  
that before.

He quickly puts it back on, ashamed. He looks all around the  
woods, creeped out.

TODD

It's these woods. So much...  
nature.

ZOEY

Guys, we need shelter. And water.

BEN

We can build a hut. I know how!  
And I can collect drinking water  
using a coin and a bubble game  
wrapper!

ZOEY

Really?

He drops his head.

BEN

No. Not really.

Zoey frowns at him.

TODD

Maybe a cowboy on a horse will come  
along! Cowboys always carry  
canteens with water!

BEN

He's right!

MOLLY

Guys, we have water right here!

She motions toward the jug of water. They all stare at it,  
as if never having seen it before.

BEN

Oh, yeah!

Ben breathes a sigh of relief. He leans toward the water but  
can't seem to get any closer or pick it up.

A bird SINGS from a tree. Zoey glances up.

ZOEY

The birds... they're just waiting  
for us to die. I don't know how  
many more days I can take this.  
You think someone is searching for  
us?

MOLLY  
Zoey, we've only been here for like  
10 minutes!

ZOEY  
(recalling)  
Oh. Yeah.

Zoey nods, feeling a bit better.

Todd glances up at a seemingly invisible person.

TODD  
Um, yes, I'll have a lemon poppy  
seed muffin, please, and a chai tea  
latte with almond milk.

He grins, relieved. The others eye him, worried.

Then they all look over and notice a small fire that has been  
started with leaves. Ben kneels beside it, making weird hand  
motions through the smoke.

ZOEY  
A fire?! How did you--

Ben pulls out a box of matches.

BEN  
I made these little fire sticks...  
from tree bark and cotton balls!

MOLLY  
Awesome!

TODD  
But what's the fire for?

BEN  
I'm sending SOS signals to the  
squirrels.

He points to a squirrel in a tree.

BEN  
Squirrels are related to passenger  
pigeons. They understand. They'll  
go for help!

The squirrel seems to understand. It turns and scampers off.

BEN  
Thank you, brother squirrel!

They all watch the squirrel go, hopeful.

EXT. PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Ten minutes later"

All four sit quietly around the picnic table and stare at the picnic basket, which is still unopened.

ZOEY  
Who invented picnics, anyway? This  
is sooo wrong.

TODD  
You think we'll make it out of here  
by next Thursday?

MOLLY  
Why?

TODD  
That's my karaoke night.

Ben suddenly panics.

BEN  
My pants! Where are my pants?

Molly glances down.

MOLLY  
You're wearing them, Ben. I see  
them! On your lower torso!

Ben looks down, finally able to feel and recognize his pants.  
He feels better, breathing a sigh of relief.

Todd finds a rectangular rock on the ground. Hopeful, he  
starts pushing on it as if it has buttons.

ZOEY  
Todd, what are you doing?

TODD  
Texting my mom.

MOLLY  
But... that's a rock.

Todd realizes it's a rock. SCREAMING in agony, he hurls the  
rock into the woods.

ZOEY

Why did we leave our phones in our car?!

MOLLY

We wanted to take a break from gadgets during our picnic. Remember?

BEN

Our phones! They're... right over there? In the car?

He sees their car in the distance. He excitedly starts to get up, but for some reason can't complete the action. He can't move in that direction.

BEN

We can't make it! They'll pick us off, one by one.

ZOEY

Who?

BEN

The forest dwellers.

TODD

Who?!

BEN

I learned about them on a tv show.

MOLLY

Was it a documentary, or a work of fiction?

BEN

I... I can't remember!

Ben drops his head and sobs.

ZOEY

Why couldn't have we just eaten at home?!

EXT. PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Ten minutes later"

The water and picnic basket remain untouched. All four sit around the table.

Molly stares at the ground and grins oddly, a bit of drool falling from her mouth.

Zoey has developed a nervous tick with her neck and shoulder.

Ben mumbles to himself while combing his hair with the wrong side of his comb.

Todd lays with his head on the table, motionless. Ben notices him.

BEN  
Guys, I think Todd is dead!

Zoey SCREAMS.

Todd jumps up, swinging his arms and fists wildly into the air at no one in particular.

TODD  
I'll punch your face off! I'll...

He pauses, looks at the others. Calms himself. Sits.

TODD  
Sorry. I'm not dead. Maybe I was.  
For a minute. But not anymore.

Zoey scoots away from him.

ZOEY  
Gross.

Ben sighs, looks toward the forest.

BEN  
Maybe a wagon train will pass  
through. We can trade animal skins  
for food!

TODD  
Yeah!

ZOEY  
You have animal skins?

Ben drops his head.

TODD  
Are we still outside?

MOLLY  
Guys, we have plenty of food --  
right here in the basket!  
(MORE)

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
And tonight we'll all be back home  
with kitchens full of food!

The others don't seem convinced. They all gaze at the picnic basket and then at each other.

BEN  
How long have we been on this island?

Todd panics.

TODD  
Island?! Dear God, I can't swim!

ZOEY  
But it wasn't an island when we got here...

BEN  
Climate change.

Todd curls up into a ball.

TODD  
Nature is so confusing.

Molly gazes up into the forest. A peaceful smile spreads over her face.

MOLLY  
Isn't the ferris wheel beautiful tonight? The glow of the carnival lights in the water? The children are having such a wonderful time!

They all examine Molly, concerned.

A CLOWN hidden in the woods waves at Molly. No one else notices. Molly waves back.

Zoey rubs her stomach, groaning.

ZOEY  
I am sooo hungry.

Todd sees something on the ground. He picks it up excitedly.

TODD  
Look! A fresh potato! We can eat!

He happily places it onto the table. He tucks a napkin into his shirt.

BEN

Todd, um, isn't that a rock?

Todd examines it closer, perplexed. It is a rock.

Ben suddenly notices the picnic basket on the table.

BEN

Food! Guys, we have food! Right  
here!

They all notice it, stunned. Ben reaches for the basket. They others are wide eyed in anticipation as he tentatively lifts the lid. Looks inside. And smiles.

Ben removes sandwiches, chips, beans and chopped watermelon. They all eye the food excitedly, licking their lips.

Ben passes around paper plates. When Zoey isn't looking, Ben sets a sandwich in her plate. When she turns around, she looks down and sees it, SCREAMING.

BEN

It's okay, Zoey, it's just a sandwich! Molly made it.

ZOEY

(realizing)

Oh. Yeah. Sandwich. Molly.  
Picnic.

Zoey studies the sandwich, calming a bit.

MOLLY

Well, let's dig in!

And so they do. Ben is unable to pick up the watermelon pieces. They slip out of his hand.

Zoey misses her mouth with the sandwich, hitting her face instead. She can't locate her mouth.

Todd holds the spoon upside down, unable to pick up any beans.

Molly chews the chips but can't swallow. She spits them out.

MOLLY

Can't... swallow! Forgot... how!

Zoey's sandwich finally falls out of her hand completely, and she begins to gnaw on her fingers, slobbering.

Todd releases his spoon, dejected.



As they all despair, Ben takes a watermelon seed and kneels on the ground. He places the seed in a hole and carefully scoots dirt over it.

MOLLY  
What are you doing?

BEN  
Planting seeds. We'll need food in the future.

TODD  
I'll water it!

Todd stands, takes the jug and pours water onto the seed. Then they all stare at the ground in anticipation, waiting.

EXT. PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Ten minutes later"

A dull plastic knife pierces someone's arm, producing a streak of blood.

Todd SCREAMS in terror as he recoils from Molly, who grasps the bloody plastic knife.

TODD  
Noooo! Why?!

MOLLY  
They say you should eat the arm first.

TODD  
Who is they?!

MOLLY  
Shut up, stay calm, it will be over shortly, you lived a decent life.

She resumes trying to cut off his arm, and he cries out.

Meanwhile, Zoey now has mud smeared on her face and carries a crude spear.

ZOXY  
Here, bunny rabbit!

She looks all around for prey.

Nearby, a shirtless Ben grazes on all fours, chewing the grass. Zoey notices him.

ZOEY  
What are you doing?

BEN  
Grazing. It induces vomiting.

ZOEY  
Why would you want to vomit?

Ben considers this, uncertain.

Ben looks into the distance, noticing their car in the parking lot, a sense of longing on his face.

Molly examines the blood on her plastic knife. She licks it off, moaning.

MOLLY  
Picnics make me so horny.

Todd, holding his wound, glares at the others.

TODD  
Who are you people?!

MOLLY  
Don't be silly, I'm..

She considers. The others contemplate this as well.

MOLLY  
I... I don't remember!

Ben mulls it over.

BEN  
I am... Boswell? Tabuki? Pete?  
I... I don't know! I think I'm...

He suddenly MOOS like a cow.

BEN  
...a heifer!

Meanwhile, Zoey hurls her spear awkwardly at something in the woods. Celebrating, she runs and pounces on her prize.

Todd looks all around, exasperated.

TODD  
Monkeys. Monkeys everywhere! I  
must get off this island!

EXT. PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "Ten minutes later"

A hipster couple - a GIRL and a GUY - get out of their car and happily walk toward the others carrying picnic supplies and cookies.

As they approach the picnic table...

GIRL

Hey guys, sorry we're late! We--

They pause, stunned by what they see.

Picnic food and supplies scattered everywhere. Strewn clothes. Streaks of blood. A severed arm.

Todd lies on the ground, holding his bloody stump of an arm, staring at the sky, mumbling incoherently.

TODD

Nature. Oh nature...

At the edge of the woods, wild-eyed and half-naked Zoey SNARLS as she gnaws on a stick.

Nearby, Ben is on all fours as Molly attempts to milk his breast into the water jug. Ben MOOS.

MOLLY

(excitedly)

Yes... Yes!

CLOSE UP of a stream of milk spraying into the jug.

The hipster couple observes all of this with a strange fascination.

GIRL

You got milk! Good. We brought cookies.

GUY

Yeah. Gluten-free!

The others pause and gaze at them with blank expressions.

FADE OUT.

THE END