

PLAY

MACARTHUR PARK

BY

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CHARACTERS

JIMMY

SUZY

A PARK. PICNIC ON THE GRASS.

JIMMY                    How long do you have?

SUZY                     About an hour and then...

JIMMY                    That's okay.

SUZY                     My lunch hour.

JIMMY                    Couldn't have picked a better day.

SUZY                     It's like an impressionist painting.

JIMMY                    Yeah. I guess.

SUZY                     They always seemed to be picnicking... in parks under trees.

JIMMY                    I like your... your yellow cotton dress.

SUZY                     Oh, thanks. Trying to keep cool in this heat!

JIMMY                    Foaming like a wave on the ground around your knees!

SUZY                     I beg your pardon?

JIMMY                    Your dress, your dress!

SUZY                     Oh, yes, I see.

                              Would you like some bread?

*(Just then a bird appears on her hand as she passes the baguette)*

                              Oh, my goodness, look at that. Cheeky fellow. Hello?

JIMMY                    And birds like tender babies in your hands.

SUZY                     Can you believe how tame they are?

JIMMY                    They seem so comfortable around you...

SUZY                     Jimmy...

JIMMY                    Yeah?

SUZY                     Please don't make this any more difficult...

JIMMY                    What? I didn't do anything.

SUZY It's not what you're doing... its what your saying.

JIMMY Sorry. I was just observing... I didn't mean anything...

SUZY It's okay. It's... fine... look, the old men playing checkers by the trees...

JIMMY They look happy enough!

SUZY Is that what you'll be doing in forty years?

JIMMY On my own? Who knows? That's a long way off.

SUZY Look... Jimmy, I can't keep... pretending everything's fine... it's not fair... on either of us... I just ...don't see a future for us together...

JIMMY Spring was never waiting for us girl... it ran one step ahead as we followed in the dance.

SUZY Do you always have to be so damned poetical?

JIMMY It's how I see the world... you... me... it's like a dream that's fading as we speak...

SUZY But this will always be our park!

JIMMY MacArthur's Park is melting in the dark...

SUZY Oh, God, look over there. Someone left the cake out in the rain!

JIMMY It's ruined. All the sweet green icing flowing down!

SUZY I don't think that I can take it cause it took so long to bake it...

JIMMY And I'll never have that recipe again... oh no.

SUZY ... you'll find someone new in time...

JIMMY There will be another song for me, for I will sing it.

SUZY There will be another dream for me someone will bring it.

JIMMY I'll drink the wine while it is warm and never let you catch me looking in the sun. But after all the loves of my life, after all the loves of my life... you'll still be the one...

SUZY Jimmy. You're going to have to learn to let go or you'll never be free...

JIMMY I will take my life into my hands and I will use it.

SUZY You must. You've got your whole life ahead of you.

JIMMY I will win the worship in their eyes and I will lose it.

SUZY You don't know that!

JIMMY I will have the things that I desire and my passions flow like rivers through the sky.

But after all the loves of my life, oh after all the loves of my life... I'll be thinking of you and wondering why...

SUZY I don't want that. I want you to think of me and smile for the times we shared together. I want you to remember the sunlight flooding the lawn, our picnics and shared kisses and wine.

JIMMY No more lunchtime liaisons.

SUZY Not with me. But I'm sure this won't be your last!

JIMMY But it will be our last? Won't it, Suzy?

SUZY *(Nods her head)*

JIMMY MacArthur's Park is melting in the dark...

SUZY You've not eaten much?

JIMMY I've lost my appetite.

SUZY Come on, we can share the salad.

JIMMY All the sweet green icing flowing down...

SUZY Will you pass the crisps?

JIMMY More wine?

SUZY Please. I'll always remember how you smell your wine before you taste it.

JIMMY Checking out its bouquet!

SUZY Poncey git!

JIMMY It's just a way of savouring something... appreciating it before you taste. The anticipation of something you want to make last for as long as possible...

SUZY I will drink the wine while it is warm and never let you catch me looking at the sun...

JIMMY A toast then.

SUZY Oh, a toast to what?

JIMMY To winning the worship in their eyes?

SUZY To having the things that we desire?

JIMMY Our passions flowing like rivers through the sky!

SUZY I'll drink to that.

JIMMY Cheers!

SUZY Cheers!

JIMMY Those birds back again! Like tender babies in your hands.

SUZY They're only after the food!

JIMMY If I thought that then why do they perch in your hands?

SUZY I've no idea. Are you likening me to a tree?

JIMMY No. You're far too lively.

SUZY Can you believe someone left the cake out in the rain?

JIMMY Who leaves without eating cake?

SUZY I'm surprised the squirrels didn't get it.

JIMMY Or the foxes!

SUZY All the sweet green icing melting down!

JIMMY Abandoned in the rain.

SUZY I don't think that I can take it cause it took so long to bake it...

JIMMY And we'll never have that recipe again... oh no.

SUZY No. Never again. It's gone stale.

JIMMY But after all the loves of my life.

SUZY After all the loves of my life...

JIMMY/SUZY I'll be thinking of you and wondering why.

BLACKOUT