

Like There's No Tomorrow

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FADE IN

EXT. BLOWN UP SHELTER - EVENING

JAM, MISTY, and LEX are seen getting knocked back by a sudden EXPLOSION- the shelter behind them is blowing up. Jam and Misty run ahead, Lex a few steps behind them but they don't seem to notice. Debris rains around the characters, the air is dense and almost fiery.

JAM
I can't believe you got us into
this mess!

Jam is cradling some SURVIVAL SUPPLIES he managed to salvage, but they keep falling out of his arms and becoming part of the wreckage behind him.

MISTY
Well I'm sorrrryyyy that no one told
me that plastic wasn't supposed to
be microwaved!

Jam barely manages to dodge a piece of debris falling right in front of him.

JAM
That's just common sense! Only food
should be microwaved!

Misty leaps over a turtle with its shell on fire.

MISTY
Just food? So I suppose you can't
microwave metal either?

JAM
(annoyed)
You *can't* microwave metal [said]-
ugh!

Lex tries to catch up to Misty and Jam, but it takes him some extra effort.

LEX
Jam, Misty! Will you two *please* cut
it out? You can argue all you want
when we're not literally running
for our lives!

Misty looks back at Lex but gestures towards Jam.

MISTY

Thank you, Lex, that's what I've
been saying this whole time!

While still running, Misty reaches inside her backpack, but
doesn't like what she finds.

JAM

No you haven't?!

Misty throws something back at Jam. He looks down to see it
is a BOMB with 5 seconds on the clock. He quickly tosses it
behind him, where it EXPLODES.

MISTY

Yeah I guess you were too busy
screaming at that mutated succulent
to hear me.

JAM

I thought it was another survivor!
It had legs!

Misty and Jam run ahead while Lex sighs.

LEX

It's too early for the apocalypse
to happen.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. SHELTER - AFTERNOON

In the living area, Lex does LAUNDRY while Misty sits on the
couch, playing a game on her PHONE, and Jam makes himself a
snack in the connected kitchen area. The shelter is one
cramped room.

MISTY

Hey, Jam, while you're in there
could you fetch me a bag of
Wuffles?

Misty doesn't look up, eyes still glued to the screen.

JAM

You're not a child, get it
yourself.

Misty is somewhat surprised by someone treating her like an
adult, and Lex notices, pausing his folding for a second.
Misty looks down again and pretends like she heard nothing.

Jam walks back into the living area and goes to take a seat next to Misty, but she's taking up all the space.

JAM (CONT'D)
Misty, scoot over.

Lex glances over, as if to encourage Misty to do the right thing, but she gets too anxious to say anything.

MISTY
Maybe, if you ask nicely next time.

Jam sighs in annoyance.

JAM
(putting on a posh persona
and British accent)
My lady, my queen, the fairest of
them all in all the land, would you
please do this lowly peasant the
honor of...
(the accent fades away, he
is annoyed)
...sharing the bloody couch.

MISTY
I'd love to get up, to get the
Wuffles that you wouldn't for me,
but then you'd steal my spot for
sure.

JAM
Yeah, that was kind of the point.

Misty puts her phone down and gets up out of the chair, but acts like it deeply physically pains her, just to annoy Jam. It works.

Jam watches Misty go into the kitchen area and aggressively swipe the WUFFLES BAG out of the basket.

MISTY
Ugh, do I have to do everything
around here?

Lex rubs his temples and puts the LAUNDRY BASKET to the side. Misty and Jam take notice.

LEX
No, you don't, because I do, but
you're too busy dickering to
notice.

JAM

Ha! That's an SAT word if I ever heard one.

Misty puts the bag of Wuffles into the MICROWAVE, closes the door, and sets it for ____ seconds.

MISTY

Doesn't help if you don't know what it means though.

JAM

(to himself, confused)
Who microwaves chips??

Unbeknownst to the characters, the microwave begins to rattle uncontrollably and emit colorful and flashy SPARKS as it nears the end of its countdown.

MISTY

I heard that.

JAM

Then answer it.

LEX

(to himself but loud enough for the others to hear, sounds tired and like he's giving up)
I can't win, can I?

Frustrated, Lex walks to the door and puts his hand on the doorknob, ready to turn it, until, suddenly, a BOOM and CRASH.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Lex, Misty, and Jam sit in a cave, watching the light-show of FIRE outside begin to die down. Lex studies his sore leg and sighs in relief.

LEX

Glad we all made it out okay.

JAM

Yeah, that was... close.

LEX
Misty, do you still have your
phone? See if you can call someone
for help.

Misty pulls her phone out of her pocket.

MISTY
(matter-of-factly)
Can't. Battery's dead.

JAM
From playing all those games, I'm
sure...

Lex scoots between Jam and Misty.

LEX
Guys, this isn't helping. Let's
figure out what we can do.

MISTY
Well, what are we gonna do now? Our
home's gone.

JAM
Not to mention all the radioactive
humanoid plants outside.

Jam crosses his arms.

LEX
For starters, we're alive- and not
grotesquely mutated- might as well
make the most of it. Think of it as
a fresh start.

JAM
Fresh start to what? We were
getting by fine.

Jam crosses his legs.

MISTY
As fine as homeless kids can. We're
used to surviving, right?

LEX
Exactly. So we're gonna keep doing
that. But, if we wanna get back to
something resembling normal, we've
all gotta pitch in.

JAM

It's just frustrating. This didn't have to happen. Sure, our lives weren't great before, living in that cramped shelter, getting sick, getting sick of each other, but at least- we knew what to expect.

LEX

At least we had each other. And guess what, we still do!-

Lex hugs Jam and Misty, one to each side of him. They don't reciprocate. Misty pulls away and pushes Lex aside.

MISTY

Please, stop preaching. We all barely got here in one piece and I still haven't processed it yet. Give me a break.

Jam un-hugs Lex and turns to Misty.

JAM

All you do is take breaks. And when you're not lying on your butt, you're causing trouble. Don't forget you were the one who started this.

Misty turns away and pauses.

MISTY

Just back off already.

LEX

I swear, if it's not the apocalypse that kills me, I'm sure you two will compete over who gets to deal the final blow.

Misty begins to cry as she curls into a fetal position.

MISTY

I said back off! How terrible do you think we are?!

Lex lies down on the cold cave floor, using his hoodie as a blanket.

JAM

(softly, as if he's
agreeing with Misty)
(MORE)

JAM (CONT'D)
I don't think you want him to
answer that.

The camera lingers on Lex's wide open eyes and throbbing leg.
He can't sleep, so he looks back to his younger siblings,
then outside again.

LEX
If cutting me is what keeps them
from cutting each other, then so be
it.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Lex, Jam, and Misty look for resources. Misty picks up a
MUSHROOM from the ground.

MISTY
Is this edible?

LEX
Technically, yes, but it'll kill
you if you eat it.

Misty drops the mushroom and wipes her hands clean- with
Jam's sleeve. Jam pushes her aside and picks up a STICK.

JAM
Can I use this as weapon?

LEX
You can try, but statistically
speaking you're more likely to hurt
yourself with it than you are an
enemy.

MISTY
How do you know so much about
apocalypse survival?

Lex stops in his tracks. Jam and Misty do the same.

LEX
Remember all those movie nights I
had to myself because you didn't
want to join me?

JAM
Oh. Yeah, those...

Embarrassed, Jam holds his arm.

LEX

Well, those and lots of research,
just in case sentient robots or
zombies or whatever happen to take
over the planet.

Lex starts walking again. Misty follows with Jam a step
behind.

MISTY

We're lucky to have you on board.

LEX

Darn right.

MISTY

I was being [sarcastic]- nevermind.

JAM

I guess the first logical step is
to find shelter.

Lex pulls out a piece of PAPER and a PEN with a pom pom on
the end and starts taking notes.

LEX

It needs to be roomy enough for all
three of us, and it should be close
to sources of food and water,
assuming they haven't been
contaminated.

MISTY

Hm. I've always wanted a treehouse.

Lex studies his notes and puts his pen to his chin, briefly
spitting out fluff, looking contemplative.

LEX

I don't know, building one would
take a lot of work and time, and
I'm hoping we won't be out here
that long.

JAM

Bold of you to assume Misty has the
patience or work ethic to actually
pull that off. She'd make us build
the dang thing while she sits back
and drinks coconut juice..

Misty puts her arms behind her head, as if she's playing
along to the relaxation fantasy.

MISTY

That's the dream alright, but unfortunately it would require murder to get coconuts at this point.

JAM

(with a smirk)

Guess we can't just forage for berries, we have to kill them first.

Misty and Jam almost share a chuckle, until Lex tosses a SHARPENED STICK to each of them.

LEX

Yeah, what are you waiting for?

Jam and Misty look at each other.

LEX (CONT'D)

You want your next meal? You have to work for it.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Misty bites a _____ CREATURE's leg, while Jam tries to stab its shell. The creature is more annoyed than actually hurt. Lex facepalms.

LEX

Sometimes I forget you haven't done this before.

--Jam dips the tip of his toe into a running stream, and immediately gets swept away. Misty is then shown cackling mischievously, having pushed him in, until Lex points for her to go after Jam. Misty groans and rolls her eyes, then plugs her nose and falls back first into the water.

--Misty attempts to dig the ground, but her makeshift SHOVEL is dented in the process. She keeps trying to cut through with various comical methods, such as stomping really hard or using a dynamite seed, but nothing works. Soon, Jam passes by with a BAG overflowing fancy MINED MATERIALS. Misty is shocked, and follows him to pick up the gems that fall out.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Lex, Misty, and Jam are equipped with SUPPLIES and FOOD. Even their outfits are updated to reflect their harsh environment, but the epic mood doesn't last long.

MISTY

Where'd you get war paint from?

Jam points to his face.

JAM

Oh, this? It's actually just mud I smeared on my face.

Jam shrugs.

MISTY

Dang, I can't even make fun of you if you've already done it.

JAM

I'm ~adapting~.

A GIANT BUG lands on Jam's head. He <screams> in terror.

JAM (CONT'D)

Giant bug! GIANT BUG!!

Misty shoos the bug away.

MISTY

Coward.

LEX

Yeah, I might've forgotten to mention that stun beetles live in the soil that is currently smeared across your face.

Jam wipes the mud off of his face.

MISTY

Good one, Lex. Looks like you have a sense of humor after all.

LEX

What's the point of surviving without living?

Jam and Misty look at Lex in terror.

LEX (CONT'D)
What are you looking at? C'mon now,
me being fun for once isn't *that*
weird.

An even BIGGER BUG is revealed behind Lex.

JAM
GIANT GIANT BUG!

MISTY
Run!

Jam and Misty turn around to run.

JAM
What do you think I'm doing?

LEX
Guys, wait [for me]!

On his hurt leg, Lex takes some time to get his footing. He
stumbles, which allows the bug to pin him down.

MISTY
Lex!

Lex fights back the bug with his arms, but the antenna feel
up his face. He struggles.

LEX
I didn't want you to worry about
me, so I didn't tell you-

JAM
Lex, what's wrong?!

LEX
Get this thing off me and I'll tell
you everything!

Misty and Jam run to Lex's aid, and with their combined
strength, are able to pull the bug off of Lex. Then, they
take turns stabbing it.

Misty tears off one of the bug's legs and takes a bite of it,
she appears to find it tasty.

MISTY
(mouth full)
Mmm. This'll make a great dinner
once its cooked.

Jam looks at her, slightly disgusted.

MISTY (CONT'D)
(mouth still full)
Want some?

Lex sighs. Misty and Jam sit down next to him.

JAM
So, what happened back there?

Lex pulls up his pant leg to show the scar. Jam seethes in disgust.

JAM (CONT'D)
That is... certainly impressive.

Misty peers over Jam's shoulder to see the scar, almost excited by it.

MISTY
That's gnarly!

LEX
You say that, but... I'm supposed to be the strong one. That title already got a dent in it when some shrapnel pierced my leg during the explosion. I could barely run away the first time, but I couldn't tell you that.

JAM
Why not?

LEX
Because you two cross swords like there's no tomorrow- and there might not be!

Misty and Jam look away, somewhat ashamed. They turn back towards Lex when he speaks again.

LEX (CONT'D)
It was all up to me. How can I keep us together if I'm falling apart?

Jam sits down to get on Lex's level.

JAM
That shouldn't be your job. We're a family, remember? We always have been. We all have to put in the work.

LEX

Then why have I been the only one doing that since we were on our own?! Why have I taken every blow with a smile? Because you were causing enough problems for all of us.

Misty sits next to her brothers, her face finally entering the frame so the audience can see how she's taking all this.

MISTY

You're right. It's not fair. James and I should be doing more. We should be picking up the slack, because if we don't, one of us going to be left behind.

LEX

It was always going to be me. You couldn't convince me otherwise. I didn't want to see you get any more hurt, we've had enough collective trauma already.

JAM

(empathetic)

And that includes you! You were hurting too, even more than us. You shouldered that burden and every one that came after it.

Jam wipes away a TEAR.

MISTY

I think I speak for both of us when I say, I'm sorry. Can we be a family again?

Misty offers her arms to hug. Lex looks at her and considers before finally reciprocating.

LEX

Only if I get the next bag of Wuffles when we get our home back.

JAM

But it was destroyed, we have no home.

LEX

So we'll build one. We can make a treehouse. It'll have a waterfall, we'll each have our own couches-

Lex stands up and puts on a show, his arms diagraming his vision.

MISTY

Nah, I think we can share.

LEX

(grateful but tired)

Awesome. Amazing. I love to see it.
Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going
to pass out now.

JAM

Do you think that bug was
poisonous?

MISTY

I think he's just... really tired.

Misty and Jam help carry Lex's unconscious body back to the cave. While on the path, they have a heart to heart conversation.

MISTY (CONT'D)

There's something I should tell
you.

JAM

Yeah? What is it?

MISTY

The guilt's been eating away at me,
ever since we started this journey.
I was the one who almost got my
only friends- and family- killed.

JAM

It wasn't your fault. I'm sorry...
for blaming you. I was mad, and
confused, and definitely high on
smoke fumes. There wasn't much I
could do, I felt so out of control,
but you were there.

JAM (CONT'D)

You were always there. I knew that
you understood what I was going
through even if we never talked
about, at least civilly.

MISTY

After our parents died.. at the power plant accident, I had to rely on you. I thought it would bring us closer.

Misty re-adjusts her grasp on the arm of Lex's that she's holding.

JAM

Who knew a little brat, er, little sister, would be the thing to drive me up the walls in this crazy world.

MISTY

Don't sound so surprised. I was a brat.

As Jam and Misty are walking, there are shots on the surrounding environment, depicting it as charming and enchanting, compared to the usual abnormal and scary.

JAM

(jokingly)

Oh, now you admit it. Would've been nice years ago.

A FROG leaves glowing prints on the ground with every hop.

MISTY

I should apologize, I'm so used to being treated like a little kid, blamed, talked down to. I thought, if a brat was all you were gonna see me as, then what's the point of trying to be something else?

There is an AURORA in the sky.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Earlier, when you said that I wasn't a child, that I could get those stupid Wuffles myself, it actually meant a lot. Like, you saw me as capable.

A WALKING PLANT briefly stops in the path to enjoy the breeze.

JAM

Because you are capable of doing things, you just don't always choose to do them.

JAM (CONT'D)

I can admit... I saw you as an easy target. But I can also admit that sometimes-

MISTY

-often. Probably.

JAM

Okay. *Often*, I act like I'm perfect, because I don't want anyone to know that I'm not. I don't want myself to realize that I'm not. I start problems, then get defensive when karma finally catches up to me. I'm more immature than I think I am, and definitely more immature than I treat you as.

MISTY

Oh ho ho, do I smell a competition?

Misty and Jam near the cave.

JAM

No, no, that's the fumes you smell. Get the curtain!

Misty quickly yanks down the CURTAIN at the mouth of the cave, and the collapse of the cave soon follows, slowly but thoroughly, painfully so.

MISTY

This has not been my day and a half, has it?

EXT. BLOWN UP SHELTER - MORNING

Lex, being physically supported by Misty and Jam, come up to their destination- their old home.

LEX

(nostalgic yet reassured)

Okay, let's see what we can salvage.

Quietly, they sort through the debris. Jam struggles to tear off the VINES wrapping around a large block of wall. The vines soon start to fight back.

Misty finds a very tiny, very cute, color-changing BEAR living in a crevice. They match eyes and Misty cries from the cuteness. So does the bear.

Lex picks up a BOX containing bags of Wuffles. Underneath where the box was, a single PLANT SPROUT grows from the otherwise dead grass. The sprout starts to shake, and as Lex is walking away, he turns back to see it.

The sprout suddenly grows into an angry, giant, living and breathing TREE MONSTER, which introduces itself with a growl, first blowing away the box of Wuffles held by Lex, then the block of wall held by Jam, then the tiny bear held by Misty which flies away with a tiny fading high-pitched <scream>. Misty's eyes start to well up.

JAM
Aw man, I thought nature was done
trying to kill us.

MISTY
MY BABY!

LEX
Guys, no need to panic, let's just
slowly back away and-

The tree monster grabs Lex like King Kong. He is surprised at first, but then relaxes while being held in the monster's fist.

LEX (CONT'D)
This might as well happen.

JAM
(concerned)
Oh, what do we do, what do we do?

MISTY
(to Lex)
We'll get you down!

LEX
No, it's okay, take your time.

MISTY
(determined, aggressive,
deeper than usual)
This is for my son.

JAM
And Lex. Don't forget about Lex.

Misty rushes forward.

MISTY
And Lex. I was gonna say that.

Misty grabs a pair of STICKS from the ground and uses them to climb up the tree monster's one giant leg (it has a few other legs but they are much smaller). The tree monster yells in pain and knocks Misty off.

MISTY (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'm okay.

JAM
Oh yeah, that's totally, uh, what I was worried about.

Jam looks around for ROCKS to throw at the tree monster. A pebble bounces off of Lex's unbothered head. Jam finally throws the biggest piece he can manage to lift, but the monster literally chomps through it.

JAM (CONT'D)
Oh god, now what do we do?

MISTY
We have to do something, we can't just leave him there.

Cut to Lex doing the Macarena with a blank expression.

JAM
Quick, think! What could take down a sentient tree?

Misty looks at a rock next to Jam's foot, and then at the sticks in her hand. She wears a determined expression.

MISTY
I have an idea.

Misty grabs the rock from Jam's hand and sitting on the ground.

JAM
Hey!

MISTY
Just trust me.

Jam quietly agrees by sitting next to Misty. Using the rock and a stick, Misty creates a small fire.

JAM
Oh, I see. Very clever.

Misty chuckles and smiles.

MISTY

Don't flatter me. Though I could
get used to you complimenting me.

Misty then lights the ends of the sticks so her and Jam each
have a torch.

JAM

Say no more.

Jam and Misty charge at the monster, setting it ablaze from
the bottom. After a quick sniff of smoke, Lex sits up
straight to yell at his blissfully ignorant siblings.

LEX

(dumbfounded and
terrified)

Guys! I'm still here!

Jam and Misty share a glance of concern. Lucky for them, the
monster drops Lex so it can try patting out the fire. Lex
<screams> as he hurdles towards the ground.

MISTY

I gotcha! I gotcha!

Lex falls right between Jam and Misty.

LEX

Well, there goes my other leg.

CUT TO:

Jam re-joins the group with a slightly dented SHOPPING CART.

JAM

Here, let's get you back.

Jam and Misty lift Lex into the shopping cart.

MISTY

When you're healed we can start
making that treehouse!

Jam and Misty continue by loading their scavenged SUPPLIES
into the shopping cart. The box of Wuffles sits in Lex's lap.

LEX

It came at a cost, but I am proud
of you two, for finally working
together.

JAM

Huh. I didn't even notice.

MISTY

Let's hope we can keep this up.

LEX

I give it another day and a half.

The group laughs together, as they head back to the cave.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Soft music plays over the scene as the camera slowly pans across. No dialogue is audible. Jam is seen confusedly constructing parts of the treehouse, until Lex shows him how to use his tools, line things up, etc.

Misty comes from behind the boys to scare them, wearing a quick-and-dirty MASK that resembles the tree monster. She takes off the mask and sits next to them, curious to learn as well. The tiny bear from earlier sits on her shoulder.

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

Misty and Jam exit the cave to see Lex already outside, admiring a stunning sunrise.

LEX

Gorgeous, isn't it?

JAM

Yeah, I can't remember the last time I've seen the sky like this.

MISTY

Yeah.

(Beat)

Let's just hope it's not all the sulfur giving it that color.

Lex and Jam's eyes widen with surprise and concern. He turns to go back inside.

LEX

The sooner we're in that treehouse, the better, right?

Jam and Misty agree and follow Lex back inside.

FADE OUT.