

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - DAY

Blue skies above, not a cloud in sight.

It is a lovely Spring day. We look at the front of a suburban home. Clean, humble, with a neatly trimmed front yard. The driveway has a station wagon and a minivan parked.

On the mailbox: The name "JONES".

Running out of the front door excitedly are two high school kids - KAT (18) and JEFF (16). Lagging behind them is their father WILLIAM (40). He waves good-bye to his children as he enters his station wagon.

The kids run past the neighboring homes towards a bus stop. We pull back to see that the Jones' house is the only one with any fencing around them.

At the front window, the matriarch of the family, DEBRA (40) looks out, smiling, but somewhat reserved.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A crowd of high schoolers are entering the school building, minutes before class begins. Kat is amongst the students.

Jeff veers away from the crowd. He walks over to his best friend CONNOR (16), who is quite excited to see him. Together they walk against the crowd, with the full intention of skipping class.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

An English class is taking a test. The students are struggling to write their essays - but not Kat. She writes with confidence and vigor. She slams her pencil on the desk when she finishes.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Kat puts some objects into her locker. She closes her locker to reveal her boyfriend JACK (18), leaning on the locker next to hers and smirking.

Jack's arm slips on the locker and he nearly falls down.

Kat laughs and gives him a kiss.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

William parks his station wagon in front of a towering corporate office building. A giant cube covered in windows, this building appears dull yet imposing.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

William sits in his tiny cubicle. He types on an old computer. His workspace is neat, if but plain.

We see a grid of cubicles from above, and William's is completely indiscernible.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Debra walks through an aisle pushing a shopping cart. She stops and picks up a box of pasta. She closely observes the nutrition facts. She shakes her head and puts it back.

She picks up another box but of a different brand. Again, she looks at the nutrition facts. She shudders in horror and puts it back.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

School has ended, and Kat and Jack walk to a school bus. Kat gives Jack a good-bye kiss and gets on the bus.

INT. CONNOR'S BASEMENT - DAY

Jeff and Connor play a video game in Connor's murky and messy basement. Around the basement are tools, wires, monitors, sawdust, radios, and assorted pieces of metal.

Jeff checks his watch and sees that it is past 3:00 pm. He grabs his backpack and runs out.

Connor waves good-bye but Jeff is already out of there before he notices, much to Connor's chagrin.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Kat exits the school bus right outside her neighborhood.

Jeff catches up to his sister, who rolls her eyes at him. She is used to his playing hooky. She puts her arm around his little brother's shoulder and shakes him around playfully.

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - DAY

Debra parks the minivan on the driveway; at the same time, Kat and Jeff arrive.

INT. WILLIAM'S CAR - NIGHT

At the end of the day, William is stuck in traffic while driving back home from work.

He stares forward blankly, dissatisfied with where he is, physically and metaphorically.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - NIGHT

William enters through the front door, quite tired. He closes the door.

Debra is in the kitchen, putting up a cut up newspaper article on the fridge with the title, "GLUTEN: A SILENT KILLER?"

Jeff and Kat are setting the table for dinner.

DEBRA

Hi, honey!

JEFF

Hey Dad!

WILLIAM

Are we all here?

His family nods yes.

WILLIAM

Good.

William presses a red button next to the entrance. Instantly, all of the curtains in the room close. Sheets of metal materialize on top of the windows and front door. The house is on lockdown.

William grabs his circular belt buckle and turns it. The other family members do the same (Kat rolls her eyes while doing so). The Jones' real forms are revealed: green, rounder, and with a gooier skin texture. Their height and expressive eyes remain the same. They are aliens.

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WILLIAM
Much comfier.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Jones family eats pasta for dinner.

DEBRA
It took me forever to find a kind
of pasta that isn't downright
poisonous.

WILLIAM
And you did a fine job, Debra. It
isn't your fault that Klaxxian
cuisine is too far out for the
ethnic food section.

KAT
(sarcastic)
I feel like selling goo like that
would be against the market's
health codes...

Kat puts parmesan cheese on her pasta. William grunts in
annoyance.

DEBRA
Oh Kat, not too much of that, or
else you just might start melting.

KAT
Mom, I'm not a snail.

Kat puts it down with slight annoyance.

WILLIAM
Jeff, anything to report from
school?

Jeff is stuffing an excessive amount of spaghetti in his
mouth. He stops when he hears his name called by his father.
He gobbles up his food.

JEFF
Uh, yeah, yeah! I just had a
Spanish presentation.

DEBRA
Didn't you have one yesterday too?

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Huh? Oh, yeah, it was like a two part thing.

WILLIAM

They're really overworking you there it sounds like. Humans are so strange that way, with their six hour work days.

KAT

Yeah Jeff, you work so hard, don't you?

Kat sarcastically pats Jeff on the shoulder.

JEFF

Hey, Mom, Dad, I wanted to ask if I could go with Connor and his parents to the shore for Spring Break.

DEBRA

That Connor kid? The one with the wacko parents?

JEFF

Hey, they've gotten better ever since they've been on parole.

WILLIAM

Son, I don't think you should get too used to spending time with that boy, especially now.

KAT

Here we go again.

WILLIAM

Our fifteen-year mission of observing this planet is almost at an end, and come May, we're flying out of here.

KAT

So you say.

William's eyes snap to Kat.

WILLIAM

We have no good reason to stay.

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KAT

No, we have no good reason to leave!

WILLIAM

Think of our family we have back home.

KAT

What about the friends we have here at *this* home?

WILLIAM

Kat, I am not grounding this family here for some human boy!

Kat picks up her plate of spaghetti.

KAT

I'm finishing my dinner in my room.

She storms out of the dining room as her family sits in silence. William rubs his head while Debra looks at him with worry.

JEFF

So about the shore-

INT. KAT'S ROOM - CONT.

Kat enters her room and places the plate of food on her desk. She lies on her bed and embraces a pillow.

Around her room are pictures of herself at various ages, in her human form. A couple of pictures feature Jack.

Kat gets out of her bed and walks up to a tall mirror. She looks at herself. She turns her belt buckle, and turns to her human form.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The next day. The class bell rings. Kat is at her locker taking something out. She closes her locker, expecting to see Jack behind the locker door again. He isn't there.

Someone pokes Kat from behind, slightly startling her.

KAT

Jack?

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