

BOOK CLUB

CHAPTER ONE: PLANT FUNERAL

Written by

Danielle Kreger

March 18th, 2026

Peachandmagnoliaproductions@gmail.com

TEASER

OVER BLACK:

A WINE CORK POPS and LIQUID GLUGS into a glass.

JACK (O.S.)
Okay, so who liked the book?

MICHELLE (O.S.)
I did.

KARLY (O.S.)
Me too.

REVEAL:

INT. NEW YORK CITY, MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

FOUR LATE TWENTY-SOMETHINGS are gathered in a cozy living room. They surround a COFFEE TABLE topped with CHARCUTERIE, STEAK KABOBS, RED WINE-FILLED GLASSES, and copies of the book, *THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING*. From their relaxed body language, it's clear they are good friends.

JACK (20's, gay, and handsome) looks pointedly at SAM (20's, straight, boyishly-charming) lounging on the floor.

JACK
Sam?

SAM
Jack?

JACK
Care to share your thoughts with
the club?

SAM
Solid cover.

Jack flips through the book's pages for emphasis as he says:

JACK
And the pages inside?

Sam cheekily smiles at his good friend/roommate.

SAM
I'm sure they were good too.

KARLY (20's, and somehow lovely her in clean blue hospital scrubs) leans forward from her spot on the couch.

KARLY
You didn't read it!

She pelts her copy of the book at Sam. He ducks swiftly.

SAM
Hey! Do no harm, doctor!

KARLY
Michelle, you read it. Right?

MICHELLE (20's, straight, pretty) laughs as she grabs a piece of bread from the charcuterie board.

MICHELLE
Of course!

SAM
I got busy!

MICHELLE
If Karly and I could finish it, so could you.

SAM
Yeah, yeah. Residency's busy, I know. I'll read the next book.

Sam reaches over and takes a STEAK KABOB from a plate.

JACK
Anyway, I really liked how -

MICHELLE
Wait! We can't start without Pranav, annnd I have a surprise coming.

KARLY
Oh, please let it be a cookie cake.

MICHELLE
It's not a cookie cake.

SAM
I don't believe her.

KARLY
Neither do I.

MICHELLE
It's not cookie cake!

KARLY
Okay, fine it's not! Ooo, well, if
we're waiting, who wants to see the
knee replacement I did today?

Karly reaches for her PHONE.

SAM
Not even a lil' -

Karly shoves her phone (with a bright, bloody surgical photo
displayed) into Sam's face.

KARLY
Look at all that juicy tissue.

Sam GAGS on his bite of his steak kabob.

SAM
And I'm done with the steak.

He drops the kabob on the plate and takes a sip of his RED
WINE.

KARLY
Really? Why?

Karly nibbles on a kabob as she looks at the photo, the she
looks up at Sam with excitement.

KARLY (CONT'D)
Oooh, look Sam! Your wine's the
same color as the dude's blood.
Maybe he was merlot-negative.

Sam opens his jaw and the wine spills back into his glass.

SAM
Do you hate me?

KARLY
Sorry.

MICHELLE
I'll open a white.

Michelle peels herself off the floor and heads down the hall.

Just then, there's a KNOCK at the apartment front door.

KARLY
Michelle, cookie cake's here!

Jack goes to answer the door.

JACK
I'll get it!

Jack pulls open the front door to reveal: SUTTON BANKS (20's, straight, subtly beautiful) standing in the doorway.

SUTTON BANKS
Hi, I'm -

JACK
Not interested.

Jack swings the door shut and turns back to the group.

SAM
So not a cookie cake?

KARLY
Not yet!

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sutton staring at the shut door in front of her. She lifts a hand to knock, hesitates, then knocks.

INT. NEW YORK CITY, MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jack SIGHS and turns around pulling the door open.

JACK
This building has a no soliciting policy.

SUTTON BANKS
I'm not soliciting.

JACK
And we don't want to hear about how we're all going to burn in hell.

SUTTON BANKS
Not here for that either. Is this Elle's apartment?

JACK

Nope.

With that, he shuts the door just as Michelle comes back into the living room holding a BOTTLE OF WHITE WINE.

MICHELLE

Here Sam, drink this.

JACK

Michelle, your building needs better security.

MICHELLE

Why do you say that?

Just then, MICHELLE'S CELL PHONE RINGS and she answers it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hi!

Michelle pauses to listen, then gives Jack a dagger-filled look before pulling open the door revealing:

Sutton talking on a phone on the other side of the door.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Sutton!

SUTTON BANKS

Hi!

They hang up and Michelle pulls Sutton into a hug.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Come in, come in!

Michelle pulls Sutton into the apartment.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Everyone? Surprise! We have a new book club member.

Karly and Sam react with mild shock, but Jack's horrified.

JACK

What?

He's cut off by Sam LOUDLY CHOKING on a bite of steak. Karly SLAPS him hard on the back and little bits of chewed up steak fly onto the charcuterie board. Sam smile/winces.

SAM

(croaked out)

Welcome to Book Club.

ACT ONE

INT. NEW YORK CITY, MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - LATER

Everyone has reconvened on the couch.

MICHELLE

So I was in this workout class,
dying -

SUTTON BANKS

And I was on the machine next to
her fighting for my life.

MICHELLE

And we lock eyes and Sutton gives
me this look like, "Holy shit, this
is hell".

SUTTON BANKS

And we both start laughing which,
of course, only makes the
instructor furious.

MICHELLE

She made us do push-ups for the
rest of class.

SUTTON BANKS

But joke's on her because nothing
bonds people like torture.

MICHELLE

So after class, we talked and when
I heard she'd just moved to the
city, I figured I had to invite her
to book club.

JACK

Had to?

Michelle turns to him with a sugary-sweet smile.

MICHELLE

Exactly. So let's see...

Michelle points to each friend as she names them.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

That's Jack. We went to college
together. And Sam's his roommate.

SAM

Hi.

MICHELLE

Karly and I went to med-school together and now we're both residents at the same hospital. The club's basically just an excuse for our friend group to hang out.

SUTTON BANKS

Nice, so it's just the four of you?

MICHELLE

And you now!

SAM

Uh, Michelle? Forgetting someone?

Michelle looks at him blankly.

SAM (CONT'D)

Pranav?

MICHELLE

Oh my gosh, duh! Don't tell him I forgot him.

(to Sutton)

Pranav's my boyfriend. He's coming back from a month-long work trip tonight so you'll get to meet him too.

SUTTON BANKS

Wow, a month. That's intense.

Sam pour himself some of the white wine.

SAM

We have a bet for how long it'll take him to mention how busy he is. The over-under is three minutes.

KARLY

I took the over.

SAM

No chance. Sutton?

SUTTON BANKS

(with a laugh)

Well, since I don't know him at all-

As Sutton looks around the room, Jack's stone face glare halts her and her smile wavers.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
I'll take the over.

MICHELLE
Oh, don't let Jack scare you.

Michelle wraps an arm around Jack's shoulders.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
He's normally not so rude.

SAM
Debatable.

MICHELLE
He just doesn't like change.

SAM
Or new people.

KARLY
Or new things. He's like a chicken,
he's just got to defrost.

JACK
(to Karly)
Not a saying.
(to Sutton)
Why'd you say you were looking for
Elle?

MICHELLE
I go by Elle at the gym because
there's another Michelle in class.

SUTTON BANKS
Really, it's fine. I wouldn't have
let a stranger in either.

Just then, the door opens and PRANAV (20's, straight, Indian) comes in rolling his SUITCASE with one hand and carrying a COOKIE CAKE in the other.

PRANAV
Oh honeys, I'm home! And Karly, I
got your emergency cookie cake,
whatever that is.

He stops noticing Sutton.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
Wait, who are you?

Sutton gets up to greet him.

SUTTON BANKS
Sutton.

JACK
Friend of Michelle's. Apparently.

SAM
New Book Club member.

PRANAV
Gotcha, Pranav.

They shake hands.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
When I first came in, I was like
'Woah, work's crazy but I don't
think I'm so sleep deprived I'm not
even recognizing people anymore!'

Everyone (except Jack) erupts in laughter.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
What?!

Michelle gives Pranav a kiss on the cheek.

MICHELLE
I had hope for you.

SAM
Karly, pay up!

PRANAV
You know what!?

Pranav rips open the box and pulls out a COOKIE CAKE SQUARE.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
Screw you guys. I'm keeping this
cookie cake!

KARLY
No you're not!

She lunges for him.

PRANAV
None of you deserve cookie cake!

He set the box on top of a high shelf Karly can't reach.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
I'm going to change.

Pranav heads down the hall. And Sam turns to Sutton.

SAM
Now you've met everyone in book club.

SUTTON BANKS
He seems fun.

Suddenly, PRANAV CRIES OUT from down the hall!

PRANAV
(sad wail)
Nooooo!

MICHELLE
Pranav?!

The group all runs to Pranav's home office where they see: Pranav on his knees sobbing as he clutches the long brown tendrils of a very large, very dead POTHOS PLANT. They GASP.

PRANAV
(with despair)
She's dead! She's dead.

Michelle gingerly goes to Pranav and kneels beside him.

MICHELLE
Honey?

PRANAV
(with despair)
Petunia's dead!

MICHELLE
Pranav, I'm so -

PRANAV
It's all my fault!

Confusion washes over Michelle's face.

MICHELLE
What?

PRANAV
(with despair)
That fertilizer I used before I
left.

MICHELLE
Uh huh.

PRANAV
It must have been spoiled. Because,
because you were taking care of
her, right?

MICHELLE
Yes. Yes, I was.

KARLY
Fertilizer, wow. Ironic.

JACK
Karly.

PRANAV
Why didn't you tell me she passed?

Michelle hesitates.

MICHELLE
I didn't want to upset you on your
trip.

Pranav drops his head into his hands and weeps.

SAM
I'm sorry, buddy.

KARLY
She was a good plant.

Pranav looks up offended.

PRANAV
Good?

KARLY
Great! She was a great plant!

Karly makes apologetic eyes at Michelle.

MICHELLE
Maybe, we should reschedule book
club?

KARLY

But the book was all about dealing
with death. Pranav, did you read
it?

Pranav is too contrite to look up, he just sobs into the
plant's dried leaves.

JACK

Call us if you need anything.

MICHELLE

Will do.

The friends swiftly file out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY, SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Karly, Jack, Sam, and Sutton walk solemnly down the street.

KARLY

Poor Petunia, poor poor Petunia.

SAM

Poor Petunia yes, but also...it's
just a plant.

JACK

Sam.

KARLY

She was not.

KARLY (CONT'D)

He loved Petunia.

SAM

And that's normal?

KARLY

You've lost talking privileges.

They walk on a beat in silence.

SUTTON BANKS

How long did he have her for?

KARLY

The entire time I've known him.

Karly looks to Jack. When he doesn't go to answer Sutton,
Karly elbows him firmly.

JACK
Nav brought her to college. And she
was already big then.

SUTTON BANKS
No wonder he was so upset.

Suddenly their phones all DING. They check the texts.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
It's from Pranav.

SAM
He sent a paperless post...for a
plant funeral.

KARLY
And -
(reading message)
- we're supposed to give readings?

SAM
He's lost his mind.

KARLY
Hey! He loved that plant. But yes,
he has.

SUTTON BANKS
It's a nice invitation though.

Jack realizes something.

JACK
(begrudging disbelief)
Wait, Michelle added you to the
group chat?

SUTTON BANKS
Or right, yay!

But Sutton sees Jack is somehow even more angry with her.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
Or, uhm -
(said more sternly)
- Yay.

JACK
Unbelievable.

Jack fumes as he steps into the street and hails a cab. ONE
pulls up almost instantly.

KARLY
Jack, wait.

JACK
No. Sam?

Sam turns to Sutton a mischievous smile and a shrug.

SAM
Nice meeting you.

SUTTON BANKS
Thanks.

KARLY
See you at the funeral!

Sam get into the cab and they speed off.

Sutton turns to Karly.

SUTTON BANKS
I've never had someone dislike me
so much, so quickly.

KARLY
I know. He's really being a jackass
right now.

SUTTON BANKS
But?

KARLY
Oh, no that's all.

SUTTON BANKS
Great. Well, I don't want to be in
a book club where someone hates me.

KARLY
Really? 'Cause, that'd make me want
to be in it more. Just for spite.

Sutton gives Karly an assessing look.

SUTTON BANKS
We're going to be friends.

The girls smile.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
You going uptown?

KARLY

Yup.

They start off once more down the road.

SUTTON BANKS

So what does one wear to a plant
funeral?

KARLY

I don't know, leaves?

ACT TWO**EXT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT, NEW YORK - DAY**

Establishing shot of their apartment building.

INT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The apartment has been rearranged for the funeral: folding chairs were added and all of the seats are in a semi-circle facing the door (where the speakers will stand).

Pictures of Pranav with Petunia fill the room and FUNERAL GUESTS in black mill around the apartment.

In the kitchen, Michelle pours a GUEST a glass of wine.

MICHELLE

Thank you for being here.

As Jack and Sam come through the front door, Sam balks.

JACK

(frustrated)

In the door, inside.

SAM

(frustrated)

I'm going, I'm going.

Michelle spots them.

MICHELLE

(to guest)

Excuse me.

She goes to hug the guys.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Hey guys.

JACK

So this is a plant funeral.

MICHELLE

Apparently.

JACK

And Pranav is...?

MICHELLE

In our room. He won't come out.

JACK

I'll talk to him.

(to Sam)

Don't leave.

Sam rolls his eyes as Jack heads off down the hall.

MICHELLE

What was that about?

SAM

He thinks I'm going to leave.

MICHELLE

Well, yeah, but - oh! Wow.

At that moment, Michelle sees Karly come through the door in a FULL JUNGLE PRINT JUMPSUIT. Sam turns as Karly joins them.

SAM

Woah.

KARLY

I know. Can you believe I already had this?

MICHELLE

Pranav wants this to be dignified.

KARLY

What's more dignified than being on theme?

MICHELLE

I, I've got no response to that. You're both ready for your readings?

KARLY

Yes!

She digs in her purse and pulls out a crumpled paper.

KARLY (CONT'D)

Got mine right here.

MICHELLE

(not relieved)

Great. Sam?

SAM
I'm not doing a reading.

KARLY
Yes, you are mister. It's our best
friend's plant funeral. Get on
board.

SAM
We'll see.

Sam heads into the kitchen to grab a beer.

MICHELLE
Someone's moody today.

KARLY
Lemme see what's up.

Karly starts to go after Sam, but Michelle pulls her aside.

MICHELLE
Wait, Karly. We have a problem.

KARLY
Oh, don't say you hate the outfit.
I never get to wear this.

MICHELLE
No, the outfit's fine. It's just...

Michelle looks around nervously.

KARLY
What? What's wrong?

MICHELLE
Shhhh.

KARLY
Sorry.
(whispered)
What's wrong?

MICHELLE
I killed Petunia.

Karly GASPS and recoils from Michelle.

KARLY
You killed Petunia?!

Michelle slaps a hand over Karly.

KARLY (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Sorry.

Michelle takes away her hand.

KARLY (CONT'D)
(whispered)
What do you mean, you killed
Petunia?

MICHELLE
The door to Pranav's office was
closed while he was away and I just
kinda forgot to water her.

KARLY
For how long?!

MICHELLE
The whole month.

KARLY
Oh my god. You did. You killed
Petunia. Well how did you tell him?

Michelle looks sheepishly at Karly.

KARLY (CONT'D)
You haven't!?

MICHELLE
No! He assumed it was that stupid
fertilizer and well...

KARLY
Michelle! You have to tell him! Or
the guilt, well, it'll destroy him.

MICHELLE
I know!

Just then, Jack comes back and joins their huddle.

JACK
He won't leave the room. He says,
and I quote, he's failed the one
thing in life that truly counted on
him.

Karly gives Michelle a very pointed look.

MICHELLE
I'll talk to him. Just keep this -
(she gestures to the room)
- going. Please.

KARLY
Will do.

Michelle starts to head down the hall, then doubles back to grab a glass of wine.

Just then, Sutton comes through the doorway. Jack spots her.

JACK
She's here?

KARLY
Okay, what is your beef with Sutton?

JACK
She didn't even know Petunia.

KARLY
No, that's not it.

JACK
We can't just add in another person.

KARLY
Who says?

JACK
She's going to change the dynamic.

KARLY
Is that such a bad thing?

Sutton comes up and joins their group.

SUTTON BANKS
Hi guys. This is by far the nicest plant funeral I've been too.

JACK
I'm getting a drink.

He turns sharply and walks away.

SUTTON BANKS
If he keeps that up, it's really going to bum out this funeral.

INT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michelle KNOCKS then enters their bedroom. Pranav is lying on the bed in his black suit with a pillow over his face.

MICHELLE
Hun. People are arriving.

PRANAV
(muffled)
I don't deserve to be out there.

Michelle goes to sit on the bed beside him.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
She's dead because of me.

At just that moment, Sam walks past the doorway. He stops short, makes eye-contact with Michelle and rolls his eyes before continuing down the hall.

Michelle gets up and shuts the door. She takes a BREATH.

MICHELLE
Would you feel better if Petunia
wasn't dead...because of you?

Pranav lifts the pillow off his face.

PRANAV
What?

INT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

From the living room, hear PRANAV YELL.

PRANAV (O.S.)
You what?!

Everyone looks to the source of the sound awkwardly. Karly frantically steps in speaking to the group.

KARLY
Just some, vocal warm ups before we
get this thing started.
(with a musical trill)
You wha ha ha HA ha ha ha.

INT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pranav is furious.

MICHELLE
I'm so so soooo sorry.

She stands up from the bed and starts pacing the room.

PRANAV
You've let me feel horrible about
myself all week.

MICHELLE
I didn't want you to be mad at me.

PRANAV
So you let me hate myself?

MICHELLE
Kinda.

PRANAV
Michelle!

MICHELLE
I'm sorry!

PRANAV
I need air.

Pranav storms out of the room and Michelle chases after him.

INT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Pranav storms through the apartment, past his friends and out the door. Michelle chases after him leaving everyone else silently staring after them.

MICHELLE
Pranav!

Karly looks around in a panic then suddenly CLAPS her hands.

KARLY
They're just getting more ice! But,
uh, time for the first reading!
Sit! Sit! Sit!

Nobody moves.

KARLY (CONT'D)
Now!

Everyone awkwardly piles into the seats while Karly grabs Michelle's copy of *The Year of Magical Thinking* from a bookshelf and tosses it to Jack.

KARLY (CONT'D)
Pick a page and read.

Jack goes to stand at the center of the room and thumbs through the pages searching for an appropriate section.

JACK
I will be reading a passage from
Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical
Thinking* which encapsulates what it
feels like to grieve.

Sitting in the back row, Sutton feels a breeze on her shoulder. She turns and sees it's coming from an open window and Sam is sitting outside alone on the fire escape.

Quietly, Sutton gets up and goes out to him. Jack CLEARS HIS THROAT then starts reading.

JACK (CONT'D)
"Grief turns out to be a place none
of us know until we reach it."

EXT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT FIRE ESCAPE - CONTINUOUS

Sutton slips through the open window onto the fire escape.

SUTTON BANKS
Hey.

Sam offers her a tight, closed mouth smile.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
Kinda looks like you're hiding out
here.

SAM
(sarcastic)
From the plant funeral? Nooo.

SUTTON BANKS
Not a plant person?

SAM
Plants are fine.

SUTTON BANKS
So not a funeral person? Although I
guess, that's kinda dumb because
who is?

She sits down beside him dangling her legs off the ladder.

SAM
You don't have to babysit me.

SUTTON BANKS
I'm not. You just don't seem like yourself.

SAM
You don't know me.

SUTTON BANKS
True, but I've got a sense.

She watches Sam look out at the street below.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)
Wanna tell me what's going on?
Because I may be wrong, but it
didn't seem like you and Petunia
were that close.

Sam looks back to her, studying her with wistful eyes.

SAM
I spy something grey.

SUTTON BANKS
Something grey?

SAM
Mhmm.

Sutton understands what he's doing and allows it to happen.
She surveys the street below.

SUTTON BANKS
Is it that pigeon?

SAM
No.

SUTTON BANKS
Is it that pigeon?

SAM
No.

SUTTON BANKS
That one.

SAM
Yes.

SUTTON BANKS

Nice!

They share a sweet smile. A flutter of a spark sparks.

SUTTON BANKS (CONT'D)

My turn. I spot something grey.

Karly pokes her head through the window.

KARLY

Uh, hey guys, can you come back in?
We're making a human pyramid and we
need more people.

SAM

Classic funeral stuff.

KARLY

I needed to buy time.

Sutton helps Sam stand and they both go back inside to see:
the guests are indeed struggling to form a human pyramid.

SUTTON BANKS

Well, this is a terrible idea.

Sam laughs and Sutton smiles.

KARLY

Sutton, you're small. Over there.

Sutton gingerly climbs up the pyramid and settles near Jack.

JACK

You know it's rude to leave a
funeral.

SUTTON BANKS

I didn't leave. I was with Sam who
is clearly upset.

JACK

Sam's fine.

KARLY

You guys?!

JACK

And if anyone's going to comfort my
friends, it's me.

SUTTON BANKS

I'm not stopping you!

JACK
You're getting in the way!

Karly is also now climbing onto the human pyramid.

KARLY
Hey! Now is not the time.

But Sutton and Jack ignore her.

SUTTON BANKS
I don't get why you're being such
an asshole to me? I didn't do
anything to you.

JACK
You're messing with my friends!

SUTTON BANKS
No, I'm not!

With that, Sutton loses her balance and collapses onto Jack.
His arms give out and the entire pyramid crumbles.

EVERYONE GROANS.

KARLY
Okay, yeah, this was a bad idea.

Sutton pulls herself up.

SUTTON BANKS
I'm leaving.

She scrambles to grab her purse and leaves.

SAM
Sutton, wait!

As he starts to follow her, Jack calls out to him.

JACK
Sam let her go. She's fine.

Sam hesitates, then doubles back to Jack.

SAM
She's not. And she's the only one
of you who seemed to care I wasn't
either.

Sam storms out after Sutton leaving behind a shocked Jack.

ACT THREE**EXT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Sutton stalks off down the sidewalk, Sam runs out of the building to catch up to her.

SAM

Sutton!

SUTTON BANKS

I'm fine, Sam, really! I'll find another book club.

SAM

But we need you in this one.

SUTTON BANKS

You really don't.

He catches up to her.

SAM

We do! I don't know why yet, but we do.

SUTTON BANKS

Convincing.

Sam slows down, looking lost as to what to do next.

SAM

Was it a pigeon?

SUTTON BANKS

What?

SAM

Your I spy. Was it a pigeon?

She doesn't meet his eyes, but she shakes her head "no".

SAM (CONT'D)

Come on. We don't have to go back inside, but let's at least, finish the game.

Sutton sighs as she gives in.

SUTTON BANKS

Okay.

SAM
Best out of forty?

Sutton laughs and, with that, they head back to the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Michelle marches down the sidewalk following the PRANAV ICON on her phone's FIND MY FRIENDS TRACKER. She stops in front of an art supply store and looks into the window.

Inside, Pranav is wandering through the aisles. Michelle goes into the store.

INT. ART SUPPLY STORE - CONTINUOUS

Pranav is staring up at boxes of colored pencils when Michelle gently approaches him.

MICHELLE
Pranav, I'm so sorry.

Pranav looks at her with a soft sad smile.

PRANAV
Why didn't you tell me?

MICHELLE
I just didn't want to fight.

PRANAV
Michelle.

MICHELLE
I know that's not an excuse, but we've both been working so much and I feel like I never get to see you. I guess I thought it'd be easier to work through you being sad than you being mad at me. But I know that's messed up. I'm so so sorry.

As Michelle starts to tear up, Pranav pulls her into a hug and presses a kiss to her forehead.

PRANAV
It's okay.

MICHELLE
So, uh, an art store?

Pranav pulls back to look at her.

PRANAV

Yeah, I don't know. I was just walking around and I saw the store and it felt calming.

Pranav turns back to the supplies on the wall.

PRANAV (CONT'D)

When I was little, I'd go to my grandpa's house everyday after school and we'd sit in his greenhouse and draw until my mom came to get me.

MICHELLE

I've never heard that story. And wait, I've never seen you draw anything.

Pranav's face falls a little as he gets lost in the memory.

PRANAV

I stopped when he died. I didn't want anything that reminded me of him.

MICHELLE

Aw, Pranav.

Pranav looks at her with a sad smile.

PRANAV

But my mom saved one little plant from his greenhouse for me.

MICHELLE

Petunia.

PRANAV

It was like having a part of him again.

He takes a PACK OF GREEN PENCILS from the wall.

PRANAV (CONT'D)

I think it's time I start drawing again.

Pranav puts an arm around Michelle.

PRANAV (CONT'D)

C'mon.

Together, they head for the check out. Meanwhile -

CUT TO:

EXT. MICHELLE AND PRANAV'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam and Sutton sit on the front step of the building.

SAM
Is it the disco-ball in that
apartment's window?

SUTTON BANKS
No.

SAM
Is it -

Jack opens the apartment front door and sees the pair.

JACK
Sam, can I talk to Sutton?

Sutton nods at Sam and he stands up.

As Sam heads inside, Jack stops him.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, man. I didn't realize.

Sam nods and they give each other the quickest dude hug then Sam heads inside. Jack doesn't sit.

SUTTON BANKS
Are you just going to tower over me
or what?

JACK
Dogs piss on that curb.

SUTTON BANKS
Yum.

Jack SIGHS and sits beside her.

JACK
I'm sorry.

SUTTON BANKS
Oh, you're going to have to be
waaaay more specific than that.

JACK
I'm sorry I've been an asshole.

SUTTON BANKS
Better. Go on.

JACK
My friends are like my family and
I'm just not used to sharing them.

SUTTON BANKS
I've met toddlers who share better
than you.

JACK
(regretful sigh)
I know.

SUTTON BANKS
But your friends must be pretty
great for you to be so
psychotically protective over them.

JACK
They're alright.

Sutton LAUGHS, then grows serious again.

SUTTON BANKS
Jack, I'm not going to take your
friends away from you. If anything,
I'd be your friend too IF, you stop
being such an absolute jackass.

Jack laughs.

JACK
I'll work on it.

SUTTON BANKS
So, friends?

She leans in and knocks shoulders with him.

JACK
Friends.

SUTTON BANKS
So, as a friend, any idea what's
bothering Sam?

JACK
I've got a feeling.

SUTTON BANKS

Which is?

Jack gives her a steady, assessing look before continuing.

JACK

Sam's mom died when he was twelve.

Sutton looks heartbroken for Sam.

SUTTON BANKS

Oh, no.

JACK

I'm guessing that has something to do with his feelings about today.

But just then, Pranav and Michelle walk up. Pranav is holding a bag of art supplies.

MICHELLE

Well, well, well, what do we have here?

JACK

We're going to be friends now.

MICHELLE

How long were we gone?

SUTTON BANKS

I wore him down.

MICHELLE

Nice. Well, come on, we've got a plant funeral to get to.

JACK

Good, and just so you know, Karly's been making everyone do some weird stuff up there.

MICHELLE

Excellent.

PRANAV

Petunia would have loved that.

With that, everyone heads inside the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANT STORE, NEW YORK - DAY

Establishing shot of a plant store in NYC.

INT. PLANT STORE, NEW YORK - DAY

All of the friends are leaning/sitting in the aisle of a plant store as Pranav holds up baby PLANT after PLANT.

PRANAV
Hmmm, too green.

He holds up another plant and examines its leaves.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
Too slippery.

They all GROAN.

KARLY
Pranav, it's been hours!

SAM
(groan)
Just pick one!

MICHELLE
Don't rush him.

PRANAV
Thank you, baby.

MICHELLE
But if you did want to hurry up,
that'd be fine too.

PRANAV
None of these are right, I'm going
to look at the ones in the front
again.

The friends each grab a handful of dirt from the nearby potted plants and hurl it at Pranav.

PRANAV (CONT'D)
Alright, alright! This one! This
one's Petunia Junior!

MICHELLE
You sure?

PRANAV
Yes!

The friends all stand.

MICHELLE

Great, let's go.

KARLY

Just saying, there's cookie cake store on the corner.

SAM

I'm in!

SUTTON BANKS

Me too.

KARLY

I think we should vote to have cookie cake at every book club gathering.

JACK

First we need to pick a new book, and a time, and who's hosting.

SUTTON BANKS

Oooh, I've got so many good book recs.

SAM

Jack, don't freak out!

JACK

We're friends now remember.

KARLY

Great! Then Sutton can host next Book Club.

JACK

I don't know about that.

MICHELLE

We'll bring the cookie cake!

Michelle and Pranav bring up the rear of the group holding onto each other as they head to the register.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.