

SIBLINGS

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INT. KITCHEN, EARLY AFTERNOON.

The atmosphere is relaxed, the siblings are falling back into routine, the two sisters are used to cooking together.

We see the older sister, GRACE (30) an unyielding young woman, at the kitchen island, methodically chopping some food.

GRACE

Slice the onions instead of chopping them.

VERA

Okay.

We are introduced to her little sister VERA (26), the most amenable of the family. She's on the kitchen counter close by, chopping onions, she adds them to the bowl. VERA then goes to get more spices.

GRACE

What ? That's not at all the same taste profile.

VERA

I'm just curious to see what the combination will do.

GRACE

There's a reason it's not in the recipe.

VERA mockingly mimicks her sister. As GRACE turns around, VERA quickly adds the spices. GRACE looks at the dish, gives her sister the stank eye. We hear a lot of text notifications.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Oh, someone's popular.

VERA

Ugh...I wish, it's organisation stuff.

GRACE laughs at this. VERA turns around, affronted.

GRACE

(abashed)

I mean, it is kind of your role...

VERA

Do you think I made the right decision ?

GRACE
Changing careers ?

VERA
Yeah ...

GRACE
Well, are you more excited by this
job than the last one ?

VERA
Yeah...

GRACE
Doesn't that make you happier ?

VERA
(mumbles)
Yeah... but... it's harder than I
thought...

GRACE moves to come nuzzle her baby sister, and VERA leans
into the nuzzle.

GRACE
Hey... you knew it wouldn't be easy.

Grace goes to nuzzle her little sister. Vera leans into it.

VERA
I wish I had your ability to forge
ahead despite anything

She makes a mock superman move.

through sheer will power.

INT. NIGHT TIME. GRACE'S DESK. FLASHBACK

GRACE
Hello ?

JANE
Hello Grace, um this is a little
uncomfortable...

GRACE
What's this about ?

JANE

HR has called and they've mentioned that some people don't seem to appreciate you're attitude

GRACE

Oh ? What attitude specifically ?

JANE

I just want you to remember that you are a great worker, that isn't the issue.

GRACE

Ok ?

JANE

But we've decided to make some changes ...

GRACE

I don't understand, I get along with everyone on my team -

JANE

They've mentioned that you can be a little...acerbic...

GRACE

Acerbic ?

JANE

I'm sorry. We've decided with HR that it's better if you don't lead the team for a little while...

GRACE

Can I talk to the person on my team who -

JANE

No, sorry, I can't share that information.

GRACE

But, I want to understand ...

JANE

You know it's procedure.

GRACE

Alright...

JANE
Thank you for being so
understanding, see you on Monday.

INT. KITCHEN, EARLY AFTERNOON.

GRACE
Yeah... I can help you figure out
what needs to be done later if you
want.

VERA
Thanks.

GRACE surreptitiously peaks over at her sisters work, is about to make a comment but stops herself. Her sister notices and looks at her in a dare. VERA takes a piece of already cut food from her sister, which earns her a stern look from GRACE. Their little sister, ARIA, comes in, peaks at both her sister's work.

ARIA
(sceptically)
What are you adding ?

VERA
Is that judgement I hear ?

GRACE
From the peanut gallery ?
Impossible.

VERA
I agree, the audacity...

VERA and GRACE give ARIA plates to bring to the table. She makes a face and walks away with the minimal amount of dignity she has left.

EXT. DINNER TABLE, LATE AFTERNOON.

GRACE
Anyhow, what have you been up to ?

ARIA
Me ? Not much, same old same old.

GRACE
Any ... plans ?

ARIA
Many ! I plan to travel the world
and snatch myself multiple sugar
daddies.

She takes a sip of wine to celebrate this. Vera takes her
glass and clinks with ARIA.

VERA
Um, love that.

Takes a sip of wine.

Hope you'll share some of the
fortune with your dear sisters.

GRACE
You need to prepare yourself for
the future.

Aggressively eats a piece of bread.

ARIA
(sigh)
Yes, I know, you've said that
multiple times before.

She reluctantly puts the glass down.

GRACE
I can't always be the only
responsible one.

ARIA
Jesus chill.

VERA
Anyways... what about you ?

GRACE
Yeah everything's fine.

We hear a message notification.

ARIA
What new glass ceiling are you
planning on *destroying* next ?

GRACE
I won't stop until they are all
DEFEATED.

Looks ahead with a determined look. ARIA and VERA are both concerned and highly amused. We hear a message ping, which annoys GRACE who then sets her sights on VERA.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Speaking of, you could try
asserting yourself a little more.

VERA doesn't seem enthused by the idea.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Still can't stand by your own
decisions.

Grace puts her hair behind her ear.

VERA
That's not fair.

Grace makes a "just saying" gesture.

ARIA
You usually like taking charge of
our lives.

GRACE
Aria don't take her side.

VERA
That's enough.

In the silence that follows, you could hear a fly. Someone gulps. GRACE cries from the pent up frustration.

GRACE
Fine... something happened at
work...

CUT TO:

INT. DINNER TABLE, LATER THAT AFTERNOON.

VERA
Why didn't you tell us this had
happened ?

GRACE
Because I was scared you'd both
tell me they had a point.

ARIA is about to say something, VERA signals to her that now is not the time.

And I just couldn't deal with
hearing that right now.

VERA and Aria look at each other to see who's going to make
the first move.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Will one of you idiots do something
?

ARIA
Sorry, we just weren't sure if the
spikes had fully retracted.

Vera takes her Grace's hand.

VERA
No but seriously if they can't
appreciate how hard you work, fuck
them.

ARIA
Exactly, they're being stupid.

GRACE gives a shaky little exhale, grateful for the support.

GRACE
Apparently I need to be more of a
people person.

VERA
Ugh, gross, people ?

GRACE
I've missed you.

VERA
And I mean... I rather excel at
being a hot mess. Soooo, I could
teach you, you know.

GRACE pushed VERA's face.

VERA (CONT'D)
(highly amused)
Many years of practice.

ARIA
Guys, do you smell that ?

ARIA goes to check on the situation.

GRACE
Smells like something's burning..
Vera..

VERA
Shit.

ARIA
Hum... unless you wanna smell like
smoke we should probably move this
conversation to the couches.

VERA looks sheepishly at both her sisters.

INT. LIVING ROOM, COUCHES. GOLDEN HOUR.

Siblings are flopped onto the couches, the mood is a little raw but calm. VERA is gently stroking the hair of GRACE. They look at each other, VERA asking with her eyes if GRACE is feeling better, and GRACE responds with a reassuring nod then snuggles a little more with her sister. VERA gives her a kiss on the forehead.

GRACE
Well that was...

VERA and ARIA laugh.

ARIA
On brand ?

She gifts Vera with a little eyebrow raise.

VERA
Yup. Hey, I'm sorry I've been
unavailable recently.

She looks at Grace

GRACE
You're here now.

ARIA discretely moves towards her sisters, she was feeling left out.

ARIA
I'm sorry this happened to you, I
may not have useful input, but I'm
listening.

Grace opens one of her eyes like a cat assessing a threat, she eventually benevolently accepts her into their little bundle.

VERA

Do you remember Greece? There was a boat wreck on the beach...

GRACE

Of course I remember, we were little brats.

VERA

And you were trying to create some kind of masterpiece with us two as the main characters.

ARIA

And we agreed to follow because we trusted you.

GRACE

It was a disaster, from a directorial perspective of course.

ARIA

Of course.

GRACE

You two couldn't understand anything !

ARIA

But it was hilarious.

VERA

Point is you were always naturally in charge.

GRACE

That was an amazing holiday.

VERA

No worries.

ARIA

A part from the goats eating our stuff.

As the camera pans away, we see a lovely family portrait.