

SCENE 3

(Lights up on a cemetery in the middle of almost nowhere but this time it is months later. Ash and Ember sit in the middle of the cemetery on a blanket, they lay on their backs staring at the sky)

EMBER

Do you think the birds listen to us like we listen to them?

ASH

(still looking up)

What do you mean?

EMBER

Like right now, we're talking and just having a normal conversation right? Well do you think the birds are just *listening* to us trying to figure out what we are saying? Do they know we're here? Do they wish they could understand us as much as we wish we could understand them? Or are they just, ya know...

...

Birds?

ASH

(looking to EMBER, to the sky, and back to EMBER)

I think they are just birds that are just as confused about the world as we are.

EMBER

(sitting up by this point)

Yeah?

ASH

...

...

Yeah.

EMBER

So are you going to tell me why you're always here? Or do I have to keep pretending this is some magical fairytale that will never exist outside of these hills covered in fancy rocks?

ASH

What do you mean?

EMBER

(laughing to themselves. Mostly sarcastic)

Seriously? Um well to start off I've been coming here every other week for the past three months. The only other people I've ever seen are older than both you and I combined, and every time I try to learn more about you, you somehow find a way to tangle me up in an existential crisis about the concept of time and what it means to *live*.

ASH

(laughing)

Hold on hold on hold on, you have your weekly time crisis all on your own. That is not my doing.

EMBER

Okayyy. Okay you got me there. But seriously. Why here? Why now?

ASH

(coming to the same level with EMBER)

(grabbing their hands and looking into their eyes)

I don't know why I do a lot of the things I do. Maybe it's because I'd rather not think about it. Or maybe there isn't an answer. I'm

MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA

not sure right now, but when I figure it out you'll be the first to know.

EMBER

Promise?

ASH

Promise.

*(there is a moment of
silence before EMBER
offers their hand to
ASH. Without
hesitation the two
lock fingers and
begin to dance to the
tunes playing in
their head while the
birds sing in
harmony. This is a
safe place to be.)*

BLACKOUT

MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA

SCENE 4

(Lights up on a cemetery in the middle of almost nowhere. We are back towards the beginning of the relationship. EMBER stands waiting for ASH. After a few minutes they pull out their phone and dial ASH's number)

EMBER

(a few rings before ASH answers)

Hey! Are you still coming? If not that's totally okay we can reschedule if something came up.

...

Yeah, I...I meant Sunday as in like *this* Sunday, like today Sunday.

...

No! It's totally okay! I completely understand. Yeah yeah tomorrow works. Totally cool.

...

Okay talk later.

...

MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA

Bye.

(silence)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 5

(Lights up on a cemetery in the middle of almost nowhere. We don't know exactly how long they have known each other at this point but they are obviously not strangers. They sit together by their favorite headstone.)

EMBER

(laughing uncontrollably)
Calm down!

ASH

(laughing uncontrollably)
I can't! Your mom just walked in on you butt ass naked?!?!

EMBER

Okay okay okay you can't say it like *that*. I yelled and slammed the door so fast I don't think she even saw anything.

ASH

(with a sly little scowl)

Yeah?

EMBER

(trying to convince themselves as much as they are ASH)

Yes!

MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA

...

At least that's what I'm telling myself..

(they both look at one another trying to keep it together)

ASH

(with a sarcastic laugh)

You are ridiculous.

(they both laugh)

EMBER

(composing herself.)

Hey! I had to try and keep some dignity!

ASH

Whatevrrrr.

(ASH gives a little shove to EMBER. They both are obviously enjoying themselves. They tussle back and forth, maybe it turns into a little tickle match? Anything truly playful. Eventually they fall to lay down, holding each other in their arms.)

(after some time)

ASH

I love you.

(at the sound of these words EMBER perks up and stares into ASH's eyes. They don't know what to say. This is the first time these words have been uttered. We hear the birds chirping in the background)

MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA

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MaTia Martin
she/her
matiajmartin@gmail.com
Pittsburgh, PA