

Goodbye

written by

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EXT. PARK - DAY

STU CLARK (early 20s) sits next to ROBIN FINCH (early 20s) on a bench. She holds his hands. The shapes of animals and people pass unseen around them. Contemplation sprawls across Stu's face.

STU

Listen, Robin, I'm merely trying to relate my intimacies to you in a safe environment, in public.

ROBIN

Fair. It's not like we're intimate in private anymore.

STU

This is what I'm vocalizing. How do you envisage... y'know, let's break through all the ice. It's very clear you came out here to dump me.

ROBIN

What?

STU

This isn't the first time I've had this suspicion. Remember that night, the other night, I saw the look?

ROBIN

No. As you would so pretentiously put it, this is a singularly strange occurrence to me.

STU

But y'know "the expression", and I get it. I do. You're not interested anymore, and I accept that fact.

ROBIN

Are you making me breakup with you?

STU

Do you want to breakup with me?

ROBIN

You're an asshole.

STU

Hypothetically, you could reconsider, change your mind.

ROBIN

I'm not the one who needs to
change.

Robin storms off. Stu sighs and buries his head in his hands.

STU

Nope, nope. Stu, that was
horrendous. Don't do that. Okay?

ROBIN (O.S.)

There you are. I was looking
everywhere for you.

Stu stands and hugs Robin, who now wears a completely
different outfit.

STU

Care to sit for a minute?

ROBIN

What if I want to stand?

STU

Then you can stand, I suppose. I
imagined doing this with you
sitting, though.

ROBIN

Stu! In public?!

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1 (O.S.)

Oh, honey. He's too impotent to
joke about sex.

Stu turns and glares at the imaginary Robin he just broke up
with. She snarls at him. He shushes her.

STU

The thing is Robin... can you
please sit? I'd really rather
perform this with you sitting. No?
No, you're just--

ROBIN

Can you get to the point, Stu?

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

Don't be too aggressive. He'll just
swivel it back on you.

STU

I'm not swiveling anything. My point is maybe we're the wrong people at the right time and--

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

How are you screwing up even worse?

STU

She's right. It's not you, it's me, in all likelihood, and I've been circling in my head how to express to you how I feel.

ROBIN

Just say it.

STU

What?

ROBIN

Maybe for once you should keep everything short and sweet, and say what you want. I'm exhausted of playing high-vocab riddles.

Robin walks away.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

Was that "the expression"? It's quite good actually, shut you down immediately.

STU

Fine. You want me to be blunt? I can be feisty. I can be manly.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

Manliness isn't the problem, it's decency.

Stu grimaces as Imaginary Robin #2, who he just dumped, comes back and watches.

STU

Observe.

A new Robin sits on the bench. She's dressed in a more revealing outfit than the past two. She places her legs on Stu's lap.

ROBIN

Hey!

STU

Robin, I'm breaking up with you.

ROBIN

Oh, like, forever?

STU

Yes. Forever. In fact, I'm so very much breaking up with you that the idea of you saying, "I don't want to breakup with you; I want you to stay. Don't leave me.", has never crossed my mind once.

ROBIN

Wow. I don't think you've ever been so upfront before.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

Or outright arrogant.

ROBIN

You know, Stu, honesty and forwardness is like super hot. How about we go back and have some awesome breakup sex?

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

I would never--

STU

Shush. Let her speak.

ROBIN

It's a good thing I'm wearing my best lingerie.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

Seriously? This is pathetic even for you.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

I was going to say gross, but that works too.

ROBIN

It has been, like, a while honestly. I wouldn't mind getting some--

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

We know, honey, we know.

STU

I don't understand what you want from me.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

We don't understand what you want from us! You told me that I wanted to split up.

STU

I told you you don't have to.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

You said we aren't right for each other, which is a big slight against us, implying I don't know what I want.

STU

I can't help but feel you're extrapolating meaning a little.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

That's the issue. You talk and talk and talk about so many pedantic things. I know you can't always help it, you are how you are. But, Jesus, Stu. Most of the time it seems like you find yourself terribly clever.

STU

Quite the opposite. My problem lies in how I can say so much without a semblance of wit, meanwhile you can betray all your charm with only your eyes.

ROBIN

But, like, I still don't understand why you're breaking up with me in the first place.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

Or why you're so dressed up for it.

STU

I was trying to look handsome, flattering. Isn't it more respectful to appear professional and reasonable when breaking up?

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

No! I want you to look like a bum!
I want to know I'm going to be
better off without you.

ROBIN

Yeah, this is really sending
mixed... what are you doing? Are
you taking off your clothes?

STU

You told me to take them off. I
wouldn't remove my clothes unless
you told me too, which you haven't
in quite a while I might add.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

You're deflecting with sex again.
Why are you doing *this*?

STU

Maybe I don't want to. Maybe, I
don't know, maybe I want you to
want me. Perhaps I wish you would
tell me not to do this.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

So this is a test? That's the most
idiotic--

STU

I know it doesn't make any logical,
progressive sense. I'm aware. But
y'know how I talk myself into
believing alternate realities
devoid of any tangible evidence.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

Then stop talking! Listen.

STU

I'm insecure, okay? I don't deserve
us. My mind keeps finding new
angles to attack our love, to prod
the issues, and I don't want to
drag you--

IMAGINARY ROBIN #1

You don't think we're capable of
managing our own relationships?
We're adults too. We can decide for
ourselves when something is
dragging us down, to cut ties.

IMAGINARY ROBIN #2

That's not your decision, Stu.

ROBIN

Answer me. Do you love me?

STU

I... I've never feared a love like this before, and that tells me this must be it.

ROBIN

Tell her that. Then, take a deep breath and shut up. Like, *really* listen. Be vulnerable. Life occurs between the words we speak.

Stu nods. He closes his eyes. The three Robins disappear.

ROBIN (O.S.)

Sorry I'm late. I had to get my act together.

Robin, the real Robin, sits down next to Stu.

STU

How are you?

ROBIN

I've been better, to be honest.

STU

I'm sorry. I want you to know I'm really happy to see you.

They remain silent for a beat. Then:

STU & ROBIN

I need to tell you--

STU

Sorry. You go first.

ROBIN

We need to breakup.

Stu drops his smiles.

ROBIN

This isn't working for me. You're great, and the time we've shared will have life in my memories, but the love I once craved isn't there, not anymore.

(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I think I'm suffocating under the weight of our relationship. It's like I'm a thousand leagues under the sea, and the shadow of our love casts me into darkness. If that makes sense, I don't know?

Stu nods.

ROBIN

Thank you, for letting me speak.
This is hard.

STU

I'm sorry.

ROBIN

Thank you.

Robin kisses Stu. She stands up, gives him one last look, and walks away. Stu leans back in stunned silence. He looks around the park. It comes to life with the sounds of children and dogs and birds and joyful conversations.

Stu stands and walks toward the parking lot, past various eccentric people, while he takes in the lovely scenery.

THE END