

A YELLOWED LEAF

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Setting: Massachusetts, April-September, 1990s

Characters:

KENNEDY: 25 years old, handsome and blonde, American, waiter, talkative, stubborn, quite lazy, honest, helpful.

PAUL: 27 years old, long-curly-haired, wears glasses only at meetings and class, American, engineer at NASA and part-time instructor at MIT, nerd, dull, hard-working, academically genius, polite if there is any girl around him.

MARIE MARRIAGE: 24 years old, beautiful and smart, American, Ph.D. student at MIT, kind, punctual, honest, helpful, diligent, interested in history and especially the Ottoman Empire.

SCENE 1

(It is a good April day to have a picnic. Everybody is hanging out with their friends. 90s Massachusetts has never been as shiny as it is today. Everybody enjoys their days outside, such as in a park or university campus.)

KENNEDY: *(waking up)* What a lovely day! To be mad at the World.

(KENNEDY goes to the kitchen and checks the fridge. He remembers to buy eggs and milk.)

KENNEDY: *(watching the TV screen)* Everyone hears what happens in Africa and knows most Africans face starvation. Nobody eats eggs easily; on the other hand, I was known by nobody, and nobody knew my fridge, but the fridge is more likely to be filled than Africans. It is a shame.

(The phone rings.)

JACK: How is it going? Today is so nice. Do you want to go to the park? Isabella will come to the park, too. Do you remember? She was our classmate.

KENNEDY: *(thinking for a few seconds)* Yeah, I remember her. She has an innate talent for cooking. I think she has gone to Italy to open a restaurant and learn new skills.

JACK: *(sarcastically)* You are completely correct. She learned how to make Italian Pizza.

KENNEDY: It is not funny.

JACK: No, I am serious. She is planning to open an Italian restaurant, which is a master at Italian pizza.

KENNEDY: It is good news for me. Maybe she wants me as a waiter.

JACK: Why not?

SCENE 2

(After the phone call, they meet in the park. They talk for two hours. They want to tell each other what happens until they leave, but don't find enough time. Then one of ISABELLA's friends, MARIE, comes.)

MARIE: Hi, guys. I am Marie, and a friend of Isabella from university.

JACK: Nice to meet you, Marie.

KENNEDY: Nice to meet you.

MARIE: *(smiling)* Nice to meet both of you.

JACK: *(whispering to KENNEDY)* Her name sounds like marriage.

KENNEDY: *(whispering to JACK)* She looks like a marriage.

KENNEDY: *(curiously)* Have you ever married Marie? You wear a ring.

MARIE: *(confused)* No, I haven't. Why do you ask such an interesting question that nobody asks me, excluding my mom?

KENNEDY: *(directly)* I try to know you. It is a typical question.

MARIE: *(confidently)* There are many ways to know someone instead of just asking questions.

SCENE 3

(JACK and KENNEDY are walking to the shopping center to buy some drinks.)

JACK: Nobody tries to get married to someone they only know for a few minutes.

KENNEDY: So, I can be the first one to try. It isn't bad, is it?

JACK: I don't want to make you upset, but there are always reasons why people don't do this or...

KENNEDY: Or?

JACK: People first of all spend time, then they decide whether to get married or not.

KENNEDY: OK, I will talk with her.

JACK: There is a mistake in your purpose.

KENNEDY: What? How is there any mistake? I see her, like her, and want to be with her.

JACK: Do you want to be happy or only see a few minutes more?

KENNEDY: I want to be sad with her if sadness is inevitable. OK? And also, you exaggerate happiness. I met people who were happy enough, and they understood that when you want more than you need, it makes you unhappy.

JACK: Is spending time with Marie an obligation for you?

KENNEDY: No, it is a pleasure.

SCENE 4

(JACK and KENNEDY come back to the park forty minutes later. ISABELLA and MARIE wait for them boringly. MARIE is looking at her watch and considers the time quite late. ISABELLA smiles when she sees them.)

ISABELLA: Where have you been? The evening is coming.

KENNEDY: I talked about some crucial issues with Jack while shopping. We didn't understand how the time passed.

MARIE: OK, guys. We will talk next time. I have a crucial appointment with my instructor.

(MARIE goes to the university.)

JACK: What kind of person are you, Kennedy? You told me you wanted to talk with her a few minutes ago. Then you miss the Miss Marriage.

KENNEDY: I don't know, but you must know it is my words and fate. You should not interfere in this so much.

ISABELLA: Girls hate waiting for someone with no purpose. Keep it in your mind.

JACK: Indeed.

KENNEDY: *(turn to JACK)* You are not even a girl, come on.

SCENE 5

(MARIE has an appointment with PAUL at his office.)

MARIE: *(knocking on the instructor's door)* May I come in?

PAUL: Of course, I am waiting for you.

MARIE: I don't know how to thank you for your recommendation.

PAUL: Not at all. Will you request anything that I can help you with?

MARIE: No, thanks.

(MARIE and PAUL discuss NASA's new rocket project on the board. Then, they figure out why rockets explode when they are launched.)

PAUL: You might be the most talented girl I know.

MARIE: Thanks for your appreciation, but I have a little question. Why, especially a 'talented girl'? So, you mean limited talent? From your perspective, who is the most talented person? Who is someone?

PAUL: *(smiling)* I am.

MARIE: *(voice-over)* You exaggerate yourself and your so-called appreciation for you to others, as I think you only hide your arrogance.

SCENE 6

(MARIE is at her home, and she orders a meal from ISABELLA'S restaurant.)

KENNEDY: *(brings food)* Here you are. Sorry about yesterday. You may misunderstand us.

MARIE: *(surprised)* Oh, you are my neighbor, and I am learning now. Did you know? Why didn't you tell me that?

KENNEDY: *(surprised)* Sometimes I forget where I have been.

MARIE: I am so happy to see you here. I feel alone.

KENNEDY: Me, too.

MARIE: Which one, alone or happy?

KENNEDY: I am happy to see you alone. Got it?

MARIE: *(unintentionally)* See you tomorrow. I will be waiting for you.

KENNEDY: *(hesitates)* I will be there.

SCENE 7

(The next day, at ISABELLA's restaurant, they go on a first date, which is not a real date. KENNEDY thinks it is a date. However, MARIE doesn't feel like that. KENNEDY tries to talk more while trying to answer why he loves her and if it is sustainable.)

MARIE: Do you know you are different from others to me? I don't know why.

KENNEDY: I know why. Maybe because I have brought you food, scientific research suggests that the bowel affects the brain, and the brain affects the heart without a doubt. If you eat healthy, you have strong relationships. In other words, I sell fish if you want.

MARIE: *(trying to change the topic)* No, selfish is my instructor. He thinks he is the best one in the world.

KENNEDY: *(surprised)* What do you think about him?

MARIE: He is clever, OK. However, his mentality is horrible. Also, in your theory, being intelligent is easy if you eat healthy food. Am I right?

KENNEDY: I hope.

MARIE: My instructor always eats junk food before we meet. Next time, you can prepare a salad for me.

KENNEDY: *(laughing)* Green peace.

(MARIE doesn't expect that kind of answer. She thinks for a few seconds and notices that it is limited to how much she knows about KENNEDY.)

MARIE: *(smiling)* I still don't know you exactly, by the way. Where are you from? What is your job? Do you have any siblings? Maybe, what is your favorite color?

KENNEDY: I came from home. I have been waiting for years, so I am a waiter. All the people might be my brothers and sisters. My favorite color is grey.

MARIE: Grey? It is unique for the best color. Why do you choose?

KENNEDY: I don't believe there is pure white and pure black. All objects include both sides, even you.

MARIE: A pure, realistic approach.

KENNEDY: A way to see the facts. There must be color.

MARIE: My favorite is white, which includes all colors

KENNEDY: *(thoughtfully)* You don't know what you like. Black contains all colors.

MARIE: *(suddenly)* Maybe you are right. I have loved someone who has many aspects of many colors, but someone is white as much as you can imagine. Now, do you understand what I mean?

KENNEDY: *(looks stupidly)* I understand. People are more similar to light than colors.

MARIE: *(sadly because she keeps someone in her head)* You can understand when you are not so stupid.

KENNEDY: *(continues his words)* Who does an apple bring to mind?

MARIE: *(angrily)* Shut up! Isaac Newton.

(MARIE leaves KENNEDY alone abruptly since she is angry and goes home.)

SCENE 8

(At MARIE's house, ISABELLA visits MARIE to see how she is. ISABELLA makes Turkish coffee because she knows MARIE is eager to learn Turkish culture and history, especially the Ottoman Empire.)

ISABELLA: What is going on, Marie? You look upset. You are happier at the park than you are now. There is a considerable gap. What makes you so sad?

MARIE: *(interrupting her words)* What? You mean that the problem is me.

ISABELLA: I don't know. I am just trying to figure it out. Sorry, I mean that if you want to talk to someone, I will listen to you. Don't worry.

(MARIE hugs ISABELLA, then starts to cry.)

MARIE: I love Kennedy, and he loves me. However, we cannot be happy together. He is scared to make any mistakes. I am seeking someone with whom I can laugh at our faults.

ISABELLA: *(thinking)* You should talk with Kennedy. I reckon that he doesn't know what you think. Make it clear to him.

MARIE: No, he must find a solution. Suppose he is incapable of finding any solution to a fundamental problem. How do we continue the journey that directly affects our lives?

ISABELLA: Do you know exactly what you want?

MARIE: He said a sentence similar to yours.

ISABELLA: The problem is changed by perspective. If you love him, you shouldn't hide your feelings.

MARIE: He is my neighbor, but he never comes home to see me.

ISABELLA: Is he your neighbor?

MARIE: Yeah, he sometimes brings me food from your restaurant.

(ISABELLA hesitates, remembering that KENNEDY works as a waiter in her restaurant and knows that Kennedy doesn't live around here.)

ISABELLA: *(grumbling)* Maybe he will come here one day to live.

MARIE: *(suddenly)* What do you say?

ISABELLA: Nothing.

(MARIE finds ISABELLA's words weird, but she doesn't ask any questions.)

SCENE 9

(PAUL meets one of the girls from last night's party. He usually meets girls randomly. LUCY is one of them.)

PAUL: *(kissing LUCY)* How long has it been since I found you, LUCY? It is interesting.

LUCY: *(while kissing PAUL)* I love you, PAUL. I wish it would not end this story.

PAUL: *(with arrogance)* Primarily, stories don't end. Only a few characters are included in the story; a few older characters are excluded. Even in nature, the process is the same. Changing is inevitable.

LUCY: Don't change, PAUL.

PAUL: *(laughed)* I am the main character. Don't worry, I won't change.

LUCY: *(relieved)* I am happy to hear that.

PAUL: But you must know newcomers will replace the older ones in this story.

LUCY: *(confused)* What do you mean?

PAUL: I recommend that you start to read a novel or a story to understand. It will be helpful to you.

(Then PAUL and LUCY continue to kiss each other. While this event occurs, KENNEDY is writing a letter showing how much he loves MARIE and what he wants to tell MARIE.)

KENNEDY: *(thinking deeply)* MARIE, I know you cannot hear me now, but maybe you feel I love you. Now, everywhere is green and lovely, especially the leaves. However, one day will come, and the leaves will not be green that day. I keep these leaves for you, whether green or yellow, and I put them into a book to remember where I left myself. However, I cannot put up with you growing pale, so I don't know what to do. I am writing these sentences as there should be evidence that I love you.

SCENE 10

(At PAUL's office, MARIE meets with PAUL. They discuss the rocket's new updates, half of which is MARIE's job. Everyone congratulates her, and a group of engineers, including PAUL, prepare a cake.)

MARIE: You're so kind. Have you known this, Paul?

(PAUL nods.)

MARIE: Are you OK?

PAUL: I am.

MARIE: It is much more convenient than our last conversation.

PAUL: People can change themselves, especially when a beautiful lady requests it.

(MARIE hugs PAUL, and PAUL kisses her suddenly in front of the team. Everyone looks at what is going on.)

SCENE 11

(MARIE lies on her bed and looks at her phone. Then she notices that the outside has a fantastic view. She decides to go somewhere she can enjoy the yellowed leaves surrounding Massachusetts. She opens her door and coincides with KENNEDY there.)

KENNEDY: Hi, Marie. How can I say? *(waits a few seconds)* I love you.

MARIE: *(angrily)* See you, Kennedy. I'm in a hurry.

(She goes to a park where nobody finds her. Through introspection, she understands that KENNEDY is not the proper person for her.)

MARIE: *(talks with herself loudly)* Time has passed since I waited for him. It is not my job.

SCENE 12

(Morning of a sunny day. PAUL asks her to go on a first date. MARIE accepts his offer. They decide to meet at ISABELLA'S restaurant since MARIE knows and loves it there.)

PAUL: How happy I am, you cannot imagine.

MARIE: Me, too. There is my friend's restaurant. It's Margarita Special is just perfect.

PAUL: I prefer something interesting. What about Carpaccio?

MARIE: *(happily)* Your choice!

PAUL: Let's order.

(PAUL calls one of the waiters. The waiter approaches them. It is KENNEDY.)

MARIE: What do you do here, KENNEDY?

KENNEDY: *(calmly)* I am waiting.

MARIE: What are you waiting for?

KENNEDY: I am waiting for what you want to eat. It is my job, MARIE.