

POP ARTIST

by

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EXT. PARK - DAY

RODNEY approaches his cousin MAX who has secretly been taking higher doses of pills in order to function properly in his life.

RODNEY

Look man, I don't really know how to start this off but I'm not one to want to preach to you because it's always a bummer when someone does and I get it but if I don't tell you what I think, no one is going to care enough about you to tell you.

MAX

Just say it. What?

RODNEY

Remember a few months ago when you offered me a pill at the movie theatre? You said it was to relax.

MAX

Yeah.

RODNEY

Well, I knew you were popping pills and I didn't think it was that big a deal...it bothered me that you asked me but it's cool. The thing is I've noticed your behavior changes.

MAX

Come on, cuz.

RODNEY

Listen, I don't want to argue or anything---

MAX

So you're judging me.

RODNEY

I'm not judging you.

MAX

You are judging me.

RODNEY

I'm trying to tell you something cause I care about you. Popping a pill here and there, fine but you always seem glossy eyed and stoned and you have bad mood swings. So what's all that shit about then?

MAX

I don't have mood swings.

RODNEY

I know you my whole life, alright? I see how you roll lately and you go from quiet and depressed to angry and violent. You're not as up as you've used to be. It's the pills.

MAX

Nah man.

RODNEY

Why do you take them?

MAX

To relax me. Only thing that keeps me calm.

RODNEY

Yeah but, it's changes who you are and you don't even realize it. Listen, I'm not telling you to stop, I'm not you're father, okay, but I'm letting you know, if you have any respect for me, that I've noticed your personality change and it concerns me cause I want you to be healthy.

MAX

Don't worry, cuz, I'm careful. I know what I'm doing. I don't mix shit up and I keep things timed.

RODNEY

Timed? Oh yeah? Listen to what you just said. If you have to have the awareness to time yourself between taking pills, right there that should tell you something about how much you're taking.

MAX

I know you worry about me but  
really, I'm good.

RODNEY

That's all I'm going to say to  
you.

MAX

Thanks cuz but don't worry so  
much.

RODNEY

Listen, if something happens to  
you I'm gonna kick your ass and  
that's when I'll be angry at you.  
I'm trusting you to look out for  
yourself and not do anything  
stupid. You hear me?

MAX

It's all good man.

RODNEY

I won't bring it up again. I love  
you man, don't lose your mind on  
this stuff. You're stronger then  
you think and don't need to rely  
on it. You hear me?

MAX

Relax. I'm good, I'm good. I  
love you too man.

RODNEY

Alright.