

Perfect Little Bubble

by

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FADE IN.

EXT. TAMUDA BAY, MOROCCO - DAY

HARPER throws a handful of pebbles at the ocean. ROXY looks on from her seated beach towel position.

She claps her hands.

She claps her hands again. Harper turns to look at her. She waves for him to come to her.

CUT TO:

EXT. TAMUDA BAY, MOROCCO - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

HARPER

What's up?

Roxy talks softly with a strained sounding voice.

ROXY

I want you to sit with me.

HARPER

Want to throw some rocks with me?

ROXY

No. Just sit with me, please.

HARPER

How's your throat?

ROXY

Stings.

Harper inspects Roxy's neck.

HARPER

The make-up seems to be holding up.

ROXY

Yeah?

HARPER

Mmm-hmm.

ROXY

I have to put more on before
dinner.

HARPER

Which should be soon, right?

ROXY

Mmm-hmm.

Roxy drinks water.

HARPER

Keep nursing it. I'll make you
green tea when we get back.

ROXY

...Harper, I'm sorry for the way
I've been...I hope this doesn't
change things.

HARPER

It's awkward. I'm not gonna lie.

ROXY

I think it's the pressure of it
all. Everything's happening at once.
So fast.

HARPER

But we talked about this at
length, didn't we?

Roxy nods.

I wouldn't have set this whole
thing up if you were uncomfortable.
We could have waited.

ROXY

But, I don't want to wait.

(pause.)

Do you want to wait?

HARPER

I didn't...I'm taken back by last night. I woke up with the strangest feeling. I don't know how to put it into words. I never experienced anything like that before, Roxy.

ROXY

I know. I'm sorry.

HARPER

I'm here. I'm not going anywhere. (beat) The worst part about it was that when I found you, I thought someone had done the most terrible thing to you. The blood drained from me...does anyone know about this?

ROXY

Not about last night. My family thinks it hasn't happened for years, but whenever I'm too overwhelmed...it's my only way out.

HARPER

But, it's not. It's wrong. You could die.

ROXY

I know. Something takes over.

HARPER

This is so difficult.

ROXY

...Tell me.

HARPER

I need time with this. I mean, what's been done about it?

ROXY

I think talking about it helps me.

HARPER

Have you ever been prescribed medication?

ROXY

Yes, but only gave me dizzy spells.

HARPER

Why have you kept it from your family?

ROXY

Because I want to be normal. You don't know what it was like for me growing up, Harper. Always being looked at as the delicate child. I hate it. I don't want to be perceived in such a way.

HARPER

You can't hide it. There needs to be a solution. I can't live my life with you having this play in the back of my mind, never knowing if you are going to do this again. And what if it's worse next time? What if??

ROXY

Do you love me?

HARPER

Of course I love you, but don't use love as a way to cover things up. I believe in facing a problem and fixing it head on.

ROXY

I'm not strong like you, that's why I love you.

HARPER

No. You are strong. You need to face this.

ROXY

I've been trying to face it all
my life, Harper!

HARPER

You're going to lose your voice
entirely.

ROXY

I don't care!

(pause.)

HARPER

...We can.

ROXY

...We can...what?

HARPER

Together.

ROXY

I couldn't do this without you,
Harper...

HARPER

...I want us to go to a doctor. I
want to get answers and solutions.

ROXY

Yes.

HARPER

If we do that, we can learn more
about what we are dealing with, and
then we will understand how to
make this right.

ROXY

I don't want anyone to know.
Not one person.

HARPER

Okay.

ROXY

Just you and me. Promise?

HARPER

I promise.

Roxy hugs Harper.

ROXY

Thank God you are in my life.

HARPER

I love you, but please know that this has caught me by surprise.

ROXY

What does that mean?

HARPER

It means it's all very unsettling for me.

ROXY

You say it like you now have doubt about us.

HARPER

You really shouldn't judge my feelings over what you did, and I'm not saying I don't love you. I'm saying that this is a serious problem and one in which it will take time to adjust to because I wasn't ready for it.

ROXY

Well, I'm sorry I'm not perfect for you, and that I've popped your perfect little bubble.

HARPER

Roxy, don't start.

ROXY

Be clear about what you are saying
to me.

HARPER

I just explained myself to you.

ROXY

Maybe we are wrong.

(pause.)

HARPER

Why?

ROXY

Maybe this changes things between
us now.

HARPER

It changes things, but it can be
for the better, if we take our
time.

ROXY

I wish none of this ever happened.
I wish I was normal!

Roxy holds her throat in pain. She stands up and motions
to walk off. Harper stands.

HARPER

Roxy! Wait a second. You put
something in my life...out life,
without ever telling me about
these episodes you experience.

You think that was fair? We're
about to change both our lives
because we love one another, and
you drop this bomb on my chest.
Why didn't you ever tell me?
That's the thing I'm most upset
about.

ROXY

Because I didn't want to lose you,
but now forget it. I can already
see from your reaction how we will
end up years from now!

HARPER

That's not true! (*beat*) ...Damn
it...let's calm down, we're making
a damn scene. Let's walk casually.

They walk.

You need to give me some breathing
room to process *this*. I'm entitled,
don't you think?

ROXY

I do.

HARPER

I'm here for you, Roxy, but don't
lose sight of my feelings, either.
This is all new to me. Let's remain
on our course...and be there for
one another...

They hold hands.

FADE OUT.