

Part of Post

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A family navigates the pressures of having children and face the darkest effects as things begin to spiral.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Warm light fills a nicely decorated room, a table is set with dishes from a meal, a "congratulations" banner is hung above the table and a cake sits out slices clearly cut out of it.

A man in his late forties with grey hair, smartly dressed, and a clean shaven face, sits at the table. His name is PYRY JAMES WITLOCK. He is chatting with a woman in her late seventies she has white hair, glasses, a stern looking face, and grey shabby clothing. Her name is MARGRET MAY ALLESTER. Margret walks towards the door.

MARGRET

Thank you so much for having me for dinner Pyry.

PYRY

Anytime Auntie

MARGRET

It has been so wonderful to see you and celebrate all of Keres's achievements.

Pyry meets Margret at the door and gives her a hug.

PYRY

Thank you for coming. It is always so nice to see you. It was lovely for you to come to commemorate Keres' graduation.

MARGRET

So when are you going--

PYRY

Keres works very hard. I am so proud of her.

MARGRET

I know that, in my day women wanted to be mothers, now what is so wrong with that?

PYRY

(In a hushed tone)
Auntie... not now.

Pyry looks around as though he is expecting something.

MARGRET

I suppose education for women is important but she should really want to be a wife to you and a mother to your children.

PYRY

I'm not talking about this.

MARGRET

We all love you so much Pyry. Now that you are both so successful at your careers. Just know that the female clock is always ticking.

Pyry glares at Margret as she exits the door briskly blowing him a kiss.

Pyry then begins clearing the plates off of the table.

A woman in her late thirties with dark hair that shapes her face and glasses perched at the tip of her nose enters the dining room. She has a soft face with wrinkles on the edges of her dark eyes from smiling wearing a cozy sweater and pants. Her name is KERES ELIZABETH WITLOCK.

KERES

Oh Pyry, I can clear those dishes.

PYRY

It's fine, did you have a good time tonight?

KERES

Has Margret already left?

PYRY

Yep.

KERES

Without saying goodbye?

PYRY

Yep.

KERES

Why does she hate me?

PYRY

She doesn't hate you.

KERES

I think her and your mother are in some sort of cahoots against me.

PYRY

Why do you always say stuff like that?

KERES

I try to share parts of my life with them and they always turn it around to when I will have children.

PYRY

They mean well.

KERES

As though that is the main purpose of a woman.

Pyry moves to stand in front of Keres grabbing her arms and pulling her close to him.

PYRY

Don't you want children?

KERES

Possibly someday.

PYRY

When is someday?

KERES

What do you mean?

PYRY

Well now you're done school we both have good jobs.

KERES

Just because I'm done school doesn't mean I'm a baby machine.

Keres turns away from Pyry continuing to clean up the kitchen.

PYRY

I didn't mean it that way.

Keres turns towards Pyry and holds her hands in the air in exasperation.

KERES

How did you mean it?

PYRY

I just always thought I would have kids one day.

KERES

You know that I have always thought that too. Just the pressures to succeed--

PYRY

You have succeeded.

KERES

I just graduated. There's so much more--

PYRY

You want to do?

KERES

Ya! I would love to travel, to skydive, to live out of a van--

PYRY

We can do that with kids.

KERES

We could get a dog instead.

Pyry glances down at the floor, Keres continues to clear the plates from dinner.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Keres and Pyry are in a nursery. Keres has a large baby bump and is hanging baby clothing in a closet. PYRY is putting diapers in a drawer. A dog laying on the carpet watching them.

PYRY

Look at all this stuff. Who knew such a tiny thing needed so much stuff.

KERES

I did.

PYRY

Well no one told me.

KERES

I guess we can learn together then.

PYRY

You can teach me.

Keres holds her bump and walks towards Pyry. She grabs him into a hug and appears to be holding back tears.

MONTAGE OF THE NEW BABY

Keres and Pyry walk into the nursery with their new baby girl REHEMA. Both coddling over her.

Keres holding Rehema while sitting in a chair as she screams.

Keres trying to sooth Rehema pacing back and forth in the room while she cries.

Keres laying on the floor with Rehema laying on her chest a lamp illuminating the corner of the room, the room is otherwise dark.

END OF MONTAGE

Pyry enters the room looking at his wife and their daughter on the floor of the nursery and raises his voice to make it audible over Rehema's cries.

PYRY

Whats for dinner?

Pyry sniffs in the air

PYRY (COND'T)

Has she been changed recently?

Pyry picks up a blanket crumpled on the ground and then stacks a few books on a dresser before picking up Rehema who immediately soothes in her fathers arms.

PYRY (COND'T)

Looks like you did not get a lot done while I was at work.

Keres looks at Pyry holding the baby and her eyes get teary. She wipes her eye discretely and sniffles.

Pyry leaves the room carrying Rehema. Keres sits up off the floor and calls after them.

KERES

(Crying)

I wish I could do better. I wish
Rehema wouldn't cry so much. Everyone
wanted this for me, like I would be
good at it. Rehema is better off
without a mother like me.

Keres continues to cry alone as the lights dim.

INT.KITCHEN- DAY

Keres cooking in the kitchen with Rehema sitting in a high
chair. Christmas decorations and music fill the space. Rehema
has grown enough to sit properly in the highchair.

KERES

...and now we roll the dough and get
out our cookie cutters.

Rehema babbles.

Keres puts a cookie onto the tray of the highchair with some
icing and then dances around cutting cookies and watching her
baby.

KERES

fa la la la LA...

Pyry walks into the front door interrupting Keres. Pyry slams
the front door closed. The dog comes over to him wagging its
tail he ignores it.

PYRY

They fired me.

KERES

What?

PYRY

You fucking heard me.

KERES

Please don't swear in front of Rehema.

PYRY

Sorry I'm just pissed.

KERES

Well why did they fire you?

PYRY

The firm is going under and so they are doing layoffs even for the partners just to save face.

KERES

My maternity leave is not going to cover the bills.

PYRY

I guess some of the other partners were participating in some fraudulent dealings with clients and it's tainted the entire firm.

Pyry walks to the table and sits down burying his face in his hands.

KERES

I can see if I can go back early.

PYRY

You would do that?

KERES

Of course I'm bored here all day anyways.

Pyry looks up at Keres his face leaving his hands, he grabs her arm. Keres stands above Pyry who looks defeated.

PYRY

I can take Rehema during the day while I look for another job.

KERES

This could be good.

PYRY

I thought you would be mad.

KERES

I'm not sure why you would think--

PYRY

Rehema is easy to take care of.

KERES

I can make you a list of her routine.

MONTAGE OF KERES WORKING

Keres kisses Rehema goodbye in the early morning appearing excited to get out the door while Pyry holds the baby. She is wearing nice dress clothes her cell phone in hand.

Keres comes home to a mess of the kitchen, Pyry appearing stressed gives Rehema to Keres. Pyry immediately leaves the room. Keres looks tired but tries to smile at the baby.

Keres prepares dinner, cleans up the kitchen, and cares for Rehema without Pyry.

Keres leaving for work again Rehema crying. Keres soothes her while taking a call in her business attire. Keres passes Rehema to Pyry and waves as she heads out the door.

Pyry sitting at the kitchen table as he holds Rehema who is crying. Keres walks in appearing very happy and notices that Rehema is crying. Keres takes Rehema from Pyry and she continues to cry.

END OF MONTAGE

KERES

I had such a good da--

PYRY

I have a job interview tomorrow but it will be out of town.

KERES

I have work tomorrow, they just put me on a huge project for--

PYRY

You will need to bring Rehema.

KERES

I can't... just take her to work with me.

PYRY

What do you expect me to do?

KERES

I don't know. Why is it my job to arrange care for her when you said you would do it?

PYRY
I'm not sure who to ask.

KERES
Why?

PYRY
Well it's a bit short notice. I don't want to put anyone out.

KERES
So you are willing to make me miss work?

PYRY
You don't want me to get a job?

KERES
That's not what I'm saying.

PYRY
What are you saying?

Keres gets up and begins clearing dishes and picking up while carrying Rehema.

PYRY (COND'T)
So you can figure it out?

KERES
I guess I'll try or I'll have to call in sick.

PYRY
Awesome, I'm heading to bed. I love you.

Pyry gets up kisses Keres on the cheek, grabs Rehema from her highchair and exits scene leaving Keres with another mess in the kitchen.

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

Pyry is putting Rehema to bed. Keres walks into the nursery.

PYRY
Good night Rehema, my goodness how does she grow so much so fast?

KERES
I know I just wish she would grow up.

PYRY

What are you talking about?

KERES

She is just so much work, and now I have taken back my job and honestly you aren't pulling your weight at home.

PYRY

Pulling my weight?

KERES

You haven't been helping--

PYRY

You are pretty fucked to say something like that. I help. You get to go to work.

KERES

I get to go to work?

PRYRY

Exactly, I thought that's what you wanted.

KERES

Ya, sure I wanted the house, and the dog, and the baby, and the job, and to clean the kitchen and to do the laundry and to--

PYRY

I can't do everything around here.

KERES

And you think I can?

PYRY

You agreed to it.

KERES

Did I?

PYRY

Well once I get this job you can just go back to caring for Rehema.

KERES

I don't want to just care for Rehema.
I took on projects at work that need
my full attention.

PYRY

Well why don't you see if a doctor--

KERES

The doctor can help me with the
dishes? Can help me to make sure that
Rehema is taken care of?

PRYRY

I take care of her.

KERES

You have been taking care of her for
three days.

PRYRY

Are you saying I'm not a good father?

KERES

I'm not saying--

PRYRY

Because everyone says I'm just
wonderful with Rehema.

KERES

I'm sure they do.

PYRY

What does that mean?

KERES

I'm sure they do.

PRYRY

You're being a bitch, you know that. I
lost my job and now you are saying I'm
not a good dad.

Keres stands there staring at Pyry eyes brimming with tears.

PYRY (COND'T)

You're the one that isn't a good mom.

Keres hands ball into fists and she walks out of the room
holding back tears.

INT.DOCTORS OFFICE- DAY

Keres appears to have been crying. Sitting in a doctors office chair holding a prescription. The piece of paper says 1x50mg Zuranolone daily for symptoms of postpartum depression.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Pill bottles sit on the side table in the nursery.Keres pops one pill into her mouth and washes it down with water.

Keres works on her computer on the floor while holding Rehema. She is clearly not able to get work done while the baby fusses.

Keres rocks and snuggles Rehema.

Keres receives a call

KERES

Hey sorry for having to call in again,
it's my partner, he is struggling with
finding a permanent job right now and
I'm trying to do everything... Yes I
will be there tomorrow. I do
understand the importance of this
pitch a--

Rehema begins to cry and wine cutting off Keres and forcing her to attempt to end the call.

KERES

Yes.. sorry.. I'll...

Tears fill Keres' eyes.

KERES

I'm sorry again.

Keres stands up hanging up the phone call, holding Rehema who is still screaming. Keres lays Rehema into her crib the baby appears to be inconsolable.

Keres begins crying and looks over at Rehema.

KERES

I can't do this anymore. Why won't you
just shut up.

Keres grabs some scissors out of the baby care kit.

Keres goes into the closet just out of view and her shadow sits down, she sobs loudly before her shadow slumps over.

Blood runs a deep red into the carpet of the nursery. Rehema continues to cry.

The phone rings, a shrill sound that is met with silence.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Pyry is sitting on a park bench at a playground. A few children laugh and play in the background. A casually dressed petite woman in her thirties approaches Pyry. Her name is MAGNOLIA RHODES.

MAGGIE

Which one of those rascals is yours?

Pyry points to a three year old with dark hair and dark eyes and a huge smile playing on the swings.

PYRY

That's Rehema. She's nearly four.
Which is yours?

Maggie points out a little boy about the same age as Rehema on the swing beside her. His name is THOMAS RHODES.

MAGGIE

That's Tom he's quite fascinated with the swings lately. Makes it a bit hard to leave.

PYRY

I know what you are saying.

MAGGIE

Are you new in town, we haven't run into you here before.

PYRY

Yeah, we just moved in from the city to about five blocks down.

Pyry points in the direction of his house.

PYRY (COND'T)

Rehema is enrolled in pre-kindergarten next month at Sliver Birch Academy.

MAGGIE

Oh how lovely I tried to get Tom into that school... its a bit prestigious isn't it?

PYRY

(Smirks and hides a laugh)
I'm not sure actually when we moved my auntie did all of the work to get her into the school.

Maggie looks at Pyry smiling.

MAGGIE

She was able to pull some strings then?

PYRY

I guess so, she feels she owes me.

MAGGIE

What brings you out of the city?

PYRY

Closer to an outpatient treatment centre for my ex-wife.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry to hear that I hope she is getting the help she needs.

PYRY

She has her own struggles.

Maggie begins to look uncomfortable and starts watching her son.

MAGGIE

(Calls out to Tom)
Tom! We must be going.

PYRY

I just wish she wasn't involving my daughter.

MAGGIE

Have a nice day, see you around.

PYRY

Ya see ya.

Pyry stands up as he notices that Rehema is running across the park towards a gateway. A woman with dark hair dressed in fancy business clothes walks into the park.

REHEMA

Mommy you made it, you made it!

Rehema jumps into the arms of her mother and Keres gives her a kiss on the head.

REHEMA

I've missed you Mommy.

KERES

I've missed you too.