

Seasons Change, People Don't

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The blue whitewashed car twisted and turned on the curved roads of the Rocky Mountains. The pine tree scent filling the car as the windows opened. Leo's brown hair blowing effortlessly in his face. Inside sat another boy, who was in fact, the most beautiful boy that Leo had ever seen. This boy's name was Bailey. Bailey was gorgeous wearing anything. Just like right now, as he's only wearing a white t-shirt and ripped black skinny jeans that showed off his pale skin. Normally, Leo would hate people with unnatural hair wearing colorful attire but Bailey's pink hair complimented everything. Usually they would get along perfectly, never having a silent moment in conversation. Right now however, it was awkward, neither one of the gorgeous specimens had uttered a word after being in the car for a solid 40 minutes. Leo can't remember the last time Bailey told him that he loved him. It was a *platonic* friendship and Leo couldn't stand it. He wished for the three words, that neither of them dared to say with any merit, would mean something to the boy sitting next to him.

Bailey wished for more of the long nights star gazing and the cuddle-filled movie nights. He wanted Leo to know, without having to tell him, that he wanted to say those three little words. He wanted him to know how much he meant.

The brown-haired boy felt like he did something unforgivable. It seemed like Bailey was cold to him because he thought that he was unworthy. Leo wasn't worth the time and he was exhausted from trying.

He could barely hold back the words from flowing out like a waterfall. Leo was scared to tell him what he desperately wanted to. Scared of rejection. Scared of saying the wrong thing.

Bailey was scared too. Scared of commitment but wanting to be with Leo. Scared of feeling used. Scared of saying too much.

They were terrified.

“Hey. Lee.” Bailey mumbled.

“Hm?” Leo responded, not trusting himself to speak.

“I-I-” Bailey stutters reaching over to rest a hand on Leo’s thigh.

Leo knew at that moment that it didn’t matter, what happened next. He knew something was carried in that touch. He doesn’t know what it is and he doesn’t have a name for it but the feeling was surreal. It *meant* something.

As Leo was lost in his thoughts, the car slowed to a halt. He only noticed the still atmosphere when Bailey tapped his leg and utter as simply, “Come on, Lee,” and shut the car door. The sound echoed through Leo’s mind like an empty cave as he stood up and shut his door himself. They walked side by side as they passed the sign that read ‘ESTES PARK.’ They strode past the waterwheel, taking in the beautiful scenery of the mountains surrounding the long strip of shops. Bailey walked into the old brick building containing statues and painting and Leo, obviously followed.

“Hey, Bear.” Leo whispered.

“Yeah?”

“Do you know where the washroom is?”

He sounded like a little kid and Bailey loved it. He looked like one too. Bailey pointed in the direction of the washroom, Leo immediately following his finger. While Leo was in the bathroom, Bailey purchased an item and waited by the washroom doors. Leo opened the bathroom door to see Bailey staring at him.

“Come on.” Bailey demanded, pulling him out of the shop.

They walked down the road, stopping at a stop light, before crossing the road diagonally with the mob of people crossing. They reached a quaint bookstore called, ‘MacDonald Bookshop.’ He bought a book about speaking Korean, not knowing that both of them, would love it.

They walked a little bit more to find a taffy shoppee. Leo adored taffy and Bailey hated it. Leo stood in place and looked up at the sign before remembering one of the best moments of his life.

“Please, Please, Please Bear.”

“No.”

“Why?”

“Because I hate it.”

“Come on, taffy isn’t that bad.”

“It’s the spawn of the devil.”

“No, come on.”

“Fine.”

The two 12 year olds walked into the freezing cold shop on the overcrowded street in the tourist attraction of Estes Park. They came here every year and it was the same every time. Their moms would go into the rock store next to the taffy shop and leave them outside. The begging from Leo would ensue and Bailey would finally give in.

Once they were inside the shop Leo immediately went up to the counter and asked for a family-sized box for their taffy. Bailey groaned and Leo pouted. Leo’s smiled once again returned and he asked for a full box of banana-flavoured ones. He would do this every time.

They exited the store after paying for their taffys. Leo was going on and on about how much he loved the banana flavour and Bailey was over it.

So Bailey kissed him.

That was the happiest day of Leo's life.

Leo returned from his thoughts and turned towards Bailey with puppy-dog eyes.

“Fine, kid.” Bailey groaned.

“We’re both 16!” Leo whined.

Bailey walked into the familiar store with him and went to the counter to buy the banana-flavoured taffy for Leo. Leo smiled as it was being put into the box.

They went back outside into the smoldering sun.

“Hey Lee?”

“Y-”

Bailey kissed him as he slipped a promise ring onto Leo’s finger.

This was now the happiest day of Leo’s life, until a few years later.

Leo remembered these two fateful days as he stared at his wedding ring. The gold bands made both of the boys smile like idiots when they saw them.

“Lee, come on. We still have a few more chapters before tonight's study session is over. Pay attention.” Bailey scholded.

Leo sighed but he knew it would be worth it when they were on their honeymoon in Seoul. They both knew that the best day of their lives would be replaced in due time.