

ThunderAnt

written by

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INT. LANE'S DINING ROOM TABLE - DAY

Lane and Rex are sitting a dining room table staring at each other. Lane is rigid and fixated on Rex. Rex is calmer but trying to evade Lanes direct gaze.

REX

I'm just as surprised as you are-
maybe even more. And you know I
didn't mean for any of this to
happen. I...I said that

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Lane and Rex are meeting up to exchange the ant farm. There is a couple feet of space between Rex's truck and Lane's bike. The scene begins with an air of awkward tension, like a divorced parents kid swap.

REX

MeatGeek22 ?

LANE

Thats just my screen name, you can
call me Lane. But yeah I really
appreciate you responding to my
craigslist ad. There are a lot of
weirdos out there and id just be
sick to leave them with someone I
didn't trust.

REX

Yeah I've always wanted an ant farm
so I just, I had to apply.

There is a beat of silence

LANE

Yeah so taking care of them is
really easy. You can just leave
them on a shelf and drop some bugs
in from time to time.

REX

Oh no I've got big plans. This is
all I'm going to say. 2 tickets to
the water park, 1 tiny trench coat,
and extra attention paid to loose
bandaids on the ground.

LANE
Hah yeah they'd never get
unstuck...or clean...

Lane puts his forehead to the ant farm before handing it to
Rex

LANE (CONT'D)
I just mind blasted them my
love.I'll be back on Monday so you
can just come by my house then?

REX
Sounds Good

CUT TO:

LANE'S DINING ROOM TABLE - DAY

LANE
Oh my god, please tell me it was an
accident at least.

Rex looks reluctant to say no

CUT TO:

EXT. MILLS ST. IN ORLANDO - DAY

Rex walks through Orlando's koreatown with the ant farm
tucked in his arm.

CUT TO:

INT. ASIAN GROCERY STORE - DAY

Rex and the ant farm are walking through the isles of the
grocery store and looking at different products. Rex pretends
to drink soju with the ant farm

CUT TO:

INT. OVIEDO LIBRARY - DAY

Rex and the ant farm are looking through the shelves. Rex
picks up a philosophy book and flips through it then tucks it
under this other arm.

CUT TO:

INT. REX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rex has his forehead pressed against the ant farm like Lane did earlier.

REX

Goodnight

Rex lightly runs his finger from the top of the ant farm down to the bottom. Then climbs into bed. He picks the philosophy book up from his bedside table and starts reading. We see Rex asleep next. He is tossing and turning in his sleep.

REX'S DREAM

Rex is wearing all black. He is inside of a box fighting to get out. After fighting for a moment he calmly crawls out of the box through its side.

INT. REX'S ROOM - MORNING

Rex wakes up with a gasp. He immediately gets out of bed and goes to press his face against the ant farm,

Rex removes his face from the ant farm and looks as if he is making a hard decision.

Rex grabs the ant farm from the table and exits his room.

EXT. REX'S BACKYARD - DAY

Rex sets the ant farm down on the grass in his backyard

He sits on the ground with the ant farm for a moment looking at the world around him

He tentatively takes the top off of the ant farm then quickly turns the farm on it's side.

REX

Go on guys. You're free now. Go. Go on.

The ant farm lays still on the ground.

REX (CONT'D)

Please! Go!

Rex is getting emotional as tears fill his eyes. His voice begins to crack

REX (CONT'D)
Go! Get out of here! Don't you
understand?! I don't want you
anymore! Get!!

Rex crumples on the ground, fade to black

INT. LANE'S DINING ROOM TABLE - DAY

LANE
What the hell man. No seriously.
What is wrong with you. They were
fine. They were completely fine.

REX
It wasn't right

Rex looks away from Lane

LANE
THEY'RE GOING TO DIE SOONER NOW
THAN THEY WOULD'VE IN THE ANT FARM

REX
But they're free...

LANE
They're free? Did you ever take a
second to think about how they
don't know what dirt is, or what
other bugs are. Oh god where did
you let them go

Rex is still looking away

REX
My backyard

LANE
Dude. Ants are super aggressive if
there were any other ant hills
they're already dead.

Rex faces Lane now, but keeps his eyes down

REX
Muttering to himself
Huh.. well, yeah that actually
would've been...a good thing to
think about...actually...hmm

FADE TO BLACK

Credits roll over video of Rex crying in front of a sunset. A voice over recounts misguided words of wisdom about freedom.