

A bag of
popcorn is
acceptable

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CHARACTERS:

MARTHA- 16 years old, 10th grade.

CUTIE- Is a man in a green outfit. Looks older than Martha.

JAMIE- MARTHA's classmate

TIME AND PLACE: 1999, California

SETTING: Martha's bedroom

AT RISE: Martha is doing her homework on her bed. She takes out an energy bar and Cutie snatches it

MARTHA

Give me back that energy bar!

CUTIE

Too many calories.

MARTHA

Just leave me alone, I am trying to do my homework.

CUTIE

I'm bored. What am I supposed to do instead?

MARTHA

Go die.

CUTIE

That isn't very nice of you to say. Don't you love me anymore?

MARTHA

No.

CUTIE

(Deadpan)

You're gonna make me cry, Martha.

MARTHA

I don't care.

CUTIE

You used to love me.

MARTHA

You turned evil.

CUTIE

I never 'turned evil'. I'm telling you the truth about you gaining weight. Look at the amount of pasta you had for dinner last night!

MARTHA

The doctor told me I'm underweight and I shouldn't listen to people like you.

CUTIE

Doctors are paid to be nice.

MARTHA

No, they really aren't.

CUTIE

Would people pay to talk to them if they were mean? Friends on the other hand, can always be depended on to be honest with one another.

MARTHA

Point Number 1: You aren't my friend. Point Number 2: You aren't real.

CUTIE

Now you're just being stupid, just because no one else knows I'm here doesn't mean I'm not real. Can you see me? Can you hear me?

(waves his hand in front
of her face)

Hello?? Hello?

MARTHA

Yes! I can hear you! But I don't want to.

CUTIE

Why not? I've supported you your whole life. Remember that time when you were five and those bullies chased you around the playground calling you a pig? Who was it that you went crying to? Who comforted you? Who would hug you tight and tell you (in a kiddy voice) 'you're so beautiful and cute and nice, Martha'. Me. And that's only one example.

MARTHA

Now you're the one calling me a pig. I don't need you anymore.

CUTIE

I am not calling you a pig. I am trying to prevent others from doing so by giving you sound advice on your eating habits. You need to lose some weight. Just 5 more pounds, then you'll look beautiful.

MARTHA

You are trying to make me stop eating - again! I'm not listening to you.

CUTIE

I'm telling you the truth!

MARTHA

Go away!

CUTIE

Do you remember when I was your pet turtle?

MARTHA

Yes, Cutie, I do. But you aren't a turtle anymore.

CUTIE

Does that matter?

MARTHA

You're the one who brought it up.

CUTIE

Just reminiscing.

MARTHA

I wish you'd go away.

CUTIE

Remember we promised each other we'd be best friends (in a kiddy voice) 'for ever and ever'? What happened to that promise?

MARTHA

I was a stupid kid. Could have spent some time making real friends instead of talking to an imaginary turtle.

CUTIE

Who would you have made friends with? No one else liked you.

MARTHA

I have friends now.

CUTIE

You mean Jamie?

MARTHA

Yes I mean Jamie.

CUTIE

She'd stop talking to you if she knew you were crazy.

MARTHA

No she wouldn't.

CUTIE

You haven't told her yet cause you know she'd react badly.

MARTHA

She wouldn't. She'd understand.

CUTIE

Understand what? That you are need to be committed?

MARTHA

(silent for a few beats)

You're right. She would react badly. We're just going to have a boring conversation, you don't need to be there.

CUTIE

Oh no, I'll be there. You know how amused I get when you try to socialize. It's very cute.

Scene Change. MARTHA is talking to JAMIE, sitting on her bed. Looking at assorted magazines. CUTIE is standing, leaning on a wall, watching, amused.

JAMIE

I love Sarah Michelle Geller's red-carpet dress. She looks so hot.

MARTHA

I think her arms are looking a little fat, don't you?

JAMIE

They're not too bad, but she could stand to lose a few pounds.

(flips through a few more
pages)

MARTHA

Jamie, you trust me with your secrets don't you?

JAMIE

For sure- I tell you *everything*. You're a really good listener.

MARTHA

And I should be able to do the same with you?

JAMIE

Of course. What's up?

MARTHA

I've been having-some problems recently.

JAMIE

What kind of problems?

CUTIE

Careful...

MARTHA

It's kind of bad.

JAMIE

Come on, I told you when I was sleeping with George behind Bill's back- and you didn't judge. Whatever is going on with you can't be as bad as that.

MARTHA

I don't know.

JAMIE

You can tell me anything. That's what friends are for.

CUTIE

That's what I am for.

(Martha looks at him, but
words directed to Jamie)

MARTHA

Well...

JAMIE

What are you looking at?

MARTHA

Nothing! Uh. The problem, actually.

CUTIE

"The problem". Ha.

JAMIE

Your closet?

MARTHA

Ok, remember last year when I didn't show up to school for a week?

JAMIE

Yeah. You had mono?

MARTHA

Actually, I fainted in the living room because I hadn't eaten in three days, and I was diagnosed with an eating disorder.

CUTIE

You went too far that time.

JAMIE

Oh! I didn't know! I'm sorry! That's why you're so thin.

CUTIE

"Thin."

MARTHA

Yeah, I guess. Well, that's not the main problem, really. It's that I uh, see a person who isn't there.

CUTIE

Stop talking now.

JAMIE

Are you being serious?

MARTHA

Well, kinda a person, kinda a turtle.

CUTIE

/Should you really be telling her this?

JAMIE

A turtle?

MARTHA

Yeah, kinda.

JAMIE

You're messing with me right?

CUTIE

Laugh it off.

MARTHA

No. I thought maybe you can give me some advice. I haven't told anyone else.

CUTIE

No one will accept the real you but me.

JAMIE

I don't know... I, uh, think you should see a psychologist? It may help.

CUTIE

See, she thinks you're crazy. Totally bonkers.

MARTHA

I'm not crazy!

JAMIE

/I never said you were I just think maybe, you know...

CUTIE

/Crazy Martha and her little turtle friend. She thinks you need to be put in the loony bin for the rest of your life.

MARTHA

Shut up!!

JAMIE

Ok! Sorry!

MARTHA

Oh! I'm sorry Jamie! I wasn't talking to you... I can't see a shrink. I'd have to tell my parents first and they *really* don't want to hear about this. It's bad enough that I have an eating disorder

JAMIE

I don't know what else I can suggest. I... can't help you.

MARTHA

Don't worry. I'll... deal with it. Want to watch some Buffy? Just got season 2 on tape.

JAMIE

Actually I, uh, think I have to go.

MARTHA

Really? You told me you could stay till 8. Stay a bit longer.
I'll make some popcorn.

JAMIE

I forgot, but I told my mom I'd be back at 5 to help cook.../
lasagna...

CUTIE

/Sure...

JAMIE

(walks to the door)

Good luck with that... you know.

(half out the door)

See you around, yeah?

MARTHA

Ok, if you really have to go...

JAMIE

I do, sorry...

(exits)

CUTIE

That actually went better than I predicted. I think Buffy watching with her is out of the question from now on, but awkward small talk in the halls, sure.

MARTHA

(Puts her head in her hands)

I shouldn't have done that.

CUTIE

Now you know she wasn't that good a friend after all. Not as good as me, anyways. No one can be as good a friend as me.

MARTHA

I don't know what to do.

CUTIE

We can watch Buffy season 2 if you want. I love that show, especially that vampire chick, Drusilla, yeah. It'll be fun.

MARTHA

Will you be mad at me if I get popcorn?

CUTIE

I'd have to read the calorie count, to add it to your tally.

MARTHA

Ok.

CUTIE

To make sure you don't surpass 1000 calories today.

MARTHA

Ok.

CUTIE

1000 calories is just the right amount for losing 5 pounds in 2 weeks. Since you skipped lunch, a bag of popcorn is probably acceptable. I'll also make sure you have a small, but delicious dinner, later. We can bake fish with miso sauce, and maybe steam some bok choy, as long as you don't eat anything else other than that bag of popcorn today.

(A really big genuine smile)

MARTHA

Ok. I'll go put it in the microwave.

CUTIE

I'll come with you.

(CUTIE walks near MARTHA. He nudges her and smiles down at her.)

It's gonna be ok, trust me.

(She reluctantly smiles
up at him. They both walk
off stage)