

B O T A N I C A L

Written & Directed by Reed O'Neal

Int. The Loft - Morning

The Echo Dot tries for the third time to wake **REED** up, seems to finally work. He's become somewhat conscious, however still hasn't opened his eyes. **ELIZABETH** is standing beside the bed. He always does this shit.

CUT TO:

Int. The Loft, Bathroom - Morning

Reed's brushing his teeth while staring directly into his eyes in the mirror. He seems to be unable to shake this feeling he's been having lately, it's something similar to dissatisfaction but... not quite.

REED

(Spits into the sink then says to himself)

I should probably floss today, I don't think I have in a few days. Elizabeth appears behind Reed's reflection.

ELIZABETH

(Cutting off Reed)

Years. It's been years dude. Do you seriously have to lie to yourself?

REED

I wasn't lying... I just thought I had flossed recently.

ELIZABETH

Again? That's pretty weird, maybe you should get a daily planner. Ya'know, keep track of your days.

Reed exhales heavily through his nose - one of his signature moves. If life were a video game Reed's exhalation technique would be equivalent to Up Up Down Down Left Right Left Right A B. Reed turns off the lights.

CUT TO:

Int. The Loft, Kitchen - Morning

Elizabeth is cooking breakfast - waffles, bacon, & eggs. Reed finally makes it downstairs and decides to curl up on the couch, croissant style. The remote is almost out of reach while in this form however he manages to kick it up to himself and decides to turn on some episodes of Clarence. It's the storm episode lineup - his favorite. Clarence kind of inspires him. Not in a "look up to you" type of way... more of a "wish I could live like you" type of way.

ELIZABETH
Breakfast is ready.

REED
(Still on the couch)
What'd you make?

ELIZABETH
The usual, come over and get your plate love.

REED
Mhmm

Some time goes past and Reed hasn't gotten up yet. To him it's felt like seconds, in reality about 20 minutes have passed. Elizabeth reheats the plate of food and brings it over to Reed, setting it just outside his croissant's flakey reach - forcing him to at least sit up.

ELIZABETH
Whatcha got planned for today?

REED
Make a couple posts, hang with [deleted], and probably watch some more Clarence. What about you?

ELIZABETH
Work.

REED
It's Saturday?

ELIZABETH
We need money?

REED
Dude we have enough to get by why do you feel like you need to bring in an additional income when I bring in a new sponsorship every day?

ELIZABETH
Listen, I just- never mind. You wouldn't understand. Is this the storm episode lineup?

REED
Yeah! I've been thinking about seeing if Cartoon Network would partner with me, then I could try to get on a show to act or voice act. That'd be pretty cool, right?

ELIZABETH
Hun that sounds like a great idea!

The TVs volume fills the room and their conversation dies off while Reed finishes breakfast. Elizabeth heads out for work after the first episode, Reed finishes off all 6 episodes before deciding to head outside for a smoke. He shoots [deleted] a text:

REED:
yo

[deleted]:
Sup homie

REED:
Bout to grab a smoke, wanna join me?

[deleted]:
Sure, lemme just wrap up my work real quick. I'll meet you outside.

REED:
word.

CUT TO:

EXT. Apartment Parking Lot - Mid Morning

A lighter is sparked and catches fire, bringing the cigarette [DELETED] is holding to a bright amber glow - smoke rolls from the bottom following the drag. Reed's unable to remember when he started smoking, but he knows he doesn't smoke frequently. He uses it to numb his anxiety. The sun isn't above them yet, but no birds are singing. The birds never sing anymore. Reed doesn't like that.

[deleted]

(exhaling)

Whatcha been up to man?

REED

The usual. I've been trying to get over the hump of 550k to 600k. I heard after you hit that your follower count just skyrockets. I just don't know what I can do to get some more people to follow me.

[deleted]

Hmmm...

[deleted] looks off, clearly working on a strategy to give Reed to solution his problem completely. He looks back intently at Reed.

[deleted]

Yeah I don't fucking know dude, I've got like 150 followers and they're all from my high school. I'm pretty sure that's the only reason they even follow me - we don't ever really speak, I just kinda post random memes and shit.

REED

haha. That's pretty weird though, you guys don't interact at all? Doesn't that feel kinda... I don't know - shitty?

[deleted]

Eh, not really. I enjoy just being in my solitude. Don't have anyone to impress, no image to maintain, no morals to uphold. feelsgoodman.

REED

weird.

[deleted]

Hey homie, at least I don't say "HEY GUYS WELCOME BACK TO MY CHANNEL" more than I say I love my mom. No offense, but that
shits w e i r d.

REED

Pshhhht. It's not my fault this is my job dude. And it's not all
that bad, I feel like I really am having a positive impact on
peoples lives. Look. Look at this -

Reed turns his phone that he's been on the entire conversation
to [deleted], showing him a comment that says:

"your so inspiring!!! [fire emoji] [fire emoji]"

Modern poetry.

[deleted]

Hm. I'd say that's a pretty positive impact.

REED

Thank yo-

[deleted]

Unless it's a bot.

REED

. . .

[deleted]

Kidding... jeez. You read that book I told you about yet?

REED

Nah, been busy with work. Why would I need a book that teaches
me how to read anyways? That's the dumbest shit I've ever heard.
I literally wouldn't be able to read it in the first place if I
didn't know how to read.

[deleted]

Just read it dude, damn. Don't forget about the circle as well.
Any-who I gotta dip, got shit to do.

REED

Alright homie, I'll catch you later.

Reed
(cont'd, To himself)
Did he just say any-who?

CUT TO:

*****[PLAY SONG "trippin"]*****

Int. The Loft - Afternoon (bout 5)

Reed's tending to the plants upstairs - watering each if need be and ensuring they're doing well. He typically checks in on them every morning however lately he's been having trouble looking after himself so... yeah I mean why the fuck would he look after another living being. Luckily today, although he woke up with very little ambition, he decided to cancel out the voice in his head telling him to stay still and instead actually care for the ecosystem he has within his reach. How poetic.

Reed begins watering his palm tree, one frond already dead, when Elizabeth walks in:

REED
Hey dude

ELIZABETH
Hey love, how was your day?

REED
It was good! Got a lot of work done.

He didn't.

ELIZABETH
That's good! Did you email Cartoon Network?

REED
Uh no.. Not yet. I figured I'd figure out what show I'd be a good fit for and then e-mail them.

This means he forgot.

ELIZABETH
(Sighing)
Ok hun.

(cont'd)

You know, I'm sure the stores down the street would love to have you market their products. Why don't you go speak to them?

REED

I have 600 thousand followers, why would I partner with some local-ass shops?

ELIZABETH

Five hundred and fifty.

REED

What?

ELIZABETH

I said because it'll benefit you.

REED

I don't see how. The only thing that'll boost my following at this point is genuine connection. Someone who's running a local shop won't give a fuck about what I care about. They're only gonna care about what brings them more attention.

(cont'd)

Like, think about it like this: You blow up on instagram. You're crazy popular but some people still don't know you. You feel lonely - so you decide to go out and try to make some friends! How do you know what people are interested in being your friends because they have formed a genuine connection with you and what people simply want to get close to you for your status?

ELIZABETH

That's weirdly specific.

Theres a long pause.

ELIZABETH

(Cont'd)

But I guess I see where you're coming from. I wouldn't want someone using me regardless of the situation.

REED

Thank you.

ELIZABETH

Whatcha want for dinner hun? It's almost 7:30PM.

REED

Uh, I feel like I just ate a couple hours ago... I think I'm good.
I'll sit with you though.

It seems another couple of hours have passed by Reed as if they were minutes. Seeming as if someone were rushing. Rushing through what is a very decent question - but not decent enough, Reed sits down with Elizabeth and throws some Mob Psycho 100 season 2 on the TV downstairs.