

From The Staggering Heartbreak of Jasmine Meriweather by Don Zolidis

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JASMINE, 17

JASMINE'S MOM, 40ish

(JASMINE has been dumped by her boyfriend and is wallowing in pain. Her mother, who is divorced, tries to comfort her.)

(JASMINE lies flat on her back. Adele's "Someone like you" (or other weepy lost love song play). JASMINE sings along very loudly.)

JASMINE *(singing)*

Never mind, I'll fiiind, someone like youuuuu...
I wish nothing but the best for youuuuuuu too
Don't forget me, I think I remember you say...
Sometimes it lasts in love, and sometimes it hurts instead...
Sometimes it lasts in love, and sometimes it hurts instead...

(JASMINE'S MOM enters. JASMINE rewinds the music and starts it again.)

JASMINE'S MOM

Honey?

JASMINE *(singing)*

Never mind, I'll fiiiind, someone like youuuuu...

JASMINE'S MOM

Sweetheart?

(JASMINE'S MOM turns off the music.)

JASMINE

Do you mind? I'm wallowing.

JASMINE'S MOM

You've been playing that song for nine hours.

JASMINE

I'm not even close to done with it yet. There's some nuances that I'm still digesting.

JASMINE'S MOM

Okay.

JASMINE

If you could just leave a couple of tubs of ice cream outside my door that would be great. Just knock, leave the ice cream, and go.

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JASMINE'S MOM

All right.

(She gets up to leave.)

JASMINE

You're not gonna try to talk me out of the ice cream?

JASMINE'S MOM

Ice cream is good.

JASMINE

Ice cream's not gonna betray you, you know?

JASMINE'S MOM

Right.

JASMINE

Ice cream's not gonna be like, "you like me too much, I'd prefer it if you didn't eat me."

JASMINE'S MOM

Yeah.

JASMINE

Ice cream's just gonna be, "here I am in my creamy goodness – just eat me. Go ahead. And I will always be there for you."

JASMINE'S MOM

Unless it melts.

JASMINE

Well, yeah.

JASMINE'S MOM

Then I guess it's just dead.

JASMINE

That's no good. Now I'm sad again.

(she starts to whimper again)

I can't even eat ice cream anymore. It just melts. And then what are you left with? Milk. What can you even do with that? Nothing. It just makes you fat.

(She dissolves into tears.)

(JASMINE'S MOM comes over, puts her arm around her shoulder.)

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JASMINE'S MOM

All right honey. You wanna talk about it?

JASMINE

What's the point? We're all gonna die alone anyway.

JASMINE'S MOM

No you're not. You're not gonna die alone.

JASMINE

That's the most likely scenario.

JASMINE'S MOM

Well it is a possibility.

JASMINE

You're no help!

JASMINE'S MOM

I'm just telling you the truth.

JASMINE

Well stop it. I don't want to hear the truth.

JASMINE'S MOM

Okay. You want me to lie to you?

JASMINE

That would be nice.

JASMINE'S MOM

Fine. There's a perfect guy out there for you somewhere. It's just a matter of time before you meet him, and when you do, you'll live happily ever after.

JASMINE

That's your *LIE?!?*

JASMINE'S MOM

You asked me to lie!

JASMINE

Yes, but you don't lie by saying that! That means that the truth is the opposite of that!

JASMINE'S MOM

Don't ask me to lie then if you can figure out the truth.

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JASMINE

Well I thought you would lie with something like `unicorns exist' or something.

JASMINE'S MOM

How is that going to make you feel better?

JASMINE

How is telling me that there's no perfect guy and I'm never going to meet him and I'm never going to live happily ever after going to make me feel better?

JASMINE'S MOM

You didn't want me to lie.

JASMINE

Arrrrgh!

JASMINE'S MOM

Honey. Listen. There is no perfect guy.

JASMINE

This is terrible. You're a horrible mother.

JASMINE'S MOM

No no hey – I hate to break this to you, but there's no perfect prince that's just beyond the hill over there and about to gallop up and rescue you. There's not. So stop waiting for him. And just because you meet a guy and you think he's perfect at first doesn't mean he's going to stay perfect. So don't believe that's going to happen either.

JASMINE

Oh. Great. Awesome. I will now drown myself in the bathtub.

JASMINE'S MOM

Oh shut up. You know why there's no perfect guy? Because there's no perfect human, okay? You're not perfect either. Your stomach makes gross noises sometimes. You have that patch of weird hair on your shoulder –

JASMINE

I can get that lasered off!

JASMINE'S MOM

You're not perfect. Nobody is. And happily ever after doesn't exist either. But you know what there is? There's Good Enough. And that's what you should look for. Okay, sure at first love feels like a lightning bolt – I get it – you were in love – but that's not all there is to it. You have to work at it. You have to keep working at it, because any guy you fall in love with is probably

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going to be just as emotionally scarred and weird as you are. And that's okay. We're not jigsaw pieces. We're people.

JASMINE

Well that doesn't sound quite so bad.

JASMINE'S MOM

It's not bad. Think of it this way: If there was only one perfect guy out there, you'd only have a one in three and a half billion chance of ever running into him. If there are a million guys out there who are good enough, then you've got a decent shot.

JASMINE

Okay. So you're saying... I should hook up with a million guys.

JASMINE'S MOM

Not quite.

JASMINE

We're gonna need to buy some new outfits then. Real trashy ones. I'm also gonna need plastic surgery probably.

JASMINE'S MOM

Feel better?

JASMINE

A fractional amount. Mostly I'm still miserable.

JASMINE'S MOM

That's fine. Enjoy your misery for a little while.

JASMINE

Thanks.

JASMINE'S MOM

You still want that ice cream?

JASMINE

Yes.

(JASMINE'S MOM gets up to go.)

Hey Mom?

JASMINE'S MOM

What?

JASMINE

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You think you'll ever fall in love again?

JASMINE'S MOM

I sure hope so.

JASMINE

Me too.

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