CHAPTER 6: THE FAULT IN OUR SCARS ... 

An old timey CARNIVAL MAN enters.

CARNIVAL MAN
Right this way to the “Bloom of Youth” Spring Carnival. No Admission without a your ticket and Super Nifty Release of Liability Form. Remember the “Bloom of Youth” withers quickly. So enjoy it ... while you can.

ZACH enters.

ZACH
Hey, bae.

MADISON
Hey back, bae.

ZACH and MADISON beam at each other and take hands.

CARNIVAL MAN
Step right up! Step right up and ride this genuine 1940s Ferris Wheel.

ZACH
Hey Mads, want to ride the Ferris wheel?

MADISON
This dinky thing? It doesn’t look safe.

CARNIVAL MAN
Don’t worry little lady there hasn’t been an accident on this thing for over 40 years!

MADISON
When was the last time this operated?

CARNIVAL MAN
40 years ago!

ZACH
Come on, Bae. It’ll be a thrill. I wanna see the view with you. Pleseease ...

MADISON
Fine. But only cause you begged me.

CARNIVAL MAN
Right this way!

MADI and ZACH take their seats.

MADISON
Isn’t there a seat belt or safety bar or something?
CARNIVAL MAN

Nope. This beauty was constructed in a gentler age before
crippling government safety regulations. They don’t make
‘em like this anymore.

Sounds of the Ferris Wheel moving. MADI
leans against ZACH trying to relax
despite the sketchy Ferris Wheel.

MADISON

Look at that view. It’s so beautiful

ZACH
(staring at her)
The most beautiful thing I’ve ever seen.

MADISON

You’re not even looking at the view.

ZACH

I know.

MADISON

Oh ... Zach.

ZACH

You know, Madi, I’ve been thinking. We’ve been dating since
freshmen year. Four years now, which is like a fifth of my
life.

MADISON

2/9ths.

ZACH

What?

MADISON

4 over 18 reduces to 2/9ths or 22%.

ZACH

Golly, you’re beautiful and smart.

MADISON

Thanks.

ZACH

And it’s been by far the best 22% of my life. That’s why I
figured why not stick with what works. I know we’re prom
dates but I want you to “Prom”ise me so much more ...

Unflinchingly sincere.

OH MADISON, YOU ARE MY EVERYTHING
I CAN’T DESCRIBE THE JOY YOU BRING
YOU MAKE ME WANT TO SING!
LET’S BE TOGETHER FOR EVER AND EVER.
I’LL HOLD US TOGETHER.
MY BAY-BAY ...

MADISON
Oh Zach, what’re you saying?

ZACH
You’re right. I’m doing this all wrong. I’ve gotta be all romantical. Gosh, there’s nowhere to kneel in these things.

ZACH stands and grabs the hanging rod of the Ferris Wheel so he can hang opposite MADISON. (Like Ryan Gosling in The Notebook)

MADISON
Zach, get down! That’s not safe.

ZACH
I won’t fall. I’ve got the wings of love, Bae.

MADISON
Zach, please! We’re sixty feet up--

ZACH
Madison, love of my life, will you marry me?

MADISON
What? No!

ZACH
But ... Why not?

MADISON
We’re 18. It’s too soon--

ZACH
Our love is timeless. Don’t you always say we’ll be together forever?

MADISON
That’s not fair. You sprung this on me.

ZACH
If I can’t have you I can’t go on.

ZACH lets go of one hand on the bar.

MADISON
Oh my God!

ZACH
Baby, I’ve fallen for you. For me there’s no going back.

MADISON
This isn’t funny.
"THE TROUBLE WITH DEAD BOYFRIENDS"

ZACH
I’m not joking. Ohhh, my fingers are getting mighty sweaty.

MADISON
Please. Sit back down. Let’s talk about this.

ZACH
I’m mad for you Madi. You’ve gotta marry me.

MADISON
Okay, fine! I’ll marry you if you sit back down.

ZACH
Great, the ring’s in my pocket. Let me just grab it ...

MADISON
Wait! No ....

ZACH
You’ve made me so happy.

MY BAY ...

Slo-mo: Zach lets go of the bar to reach for his pocket.

ZACH (CONT’D)

BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!

Like a cartoon character it takes him a second to realize he’s falling.

He falls slo-mo and ridiculously. With fancy flashing lights and a protracted sung scream like Javert in Les Mis.

A descending musical scale followed by a loud and juicy SPLAT.

(Note: In the original production we used a spotlight and a ken doll attached to a fishing pole for this fall to great effect.)

MADISON can’t process. She peers over the edge of the seat. Blinking rapidly.

MADISON
Zach ... Zach? You’re okay, right? RIGHT!?

The CARNIVAL MAN enters.

CARNIVAL MAN
Step right up. Step right up and around this clearly dead pancake of a boy. Cleanup please.
A CARNIVAL WORKER enters and surveys ZACH’s body.

CARNIVAL WORKER

Another one?

The CARNIVAL WORKER drags ZACH’s body offstage.

The CARNIVAL MAN helps a shell shocked MADISON off the Ferris Wheel.

CARNIVAL MAN

Hope you enjoyed your ride. They don’t make ‘em like this anymore.

MADISON

No ... no ... no ...

MADISON trembles. Wraps her arms around herself.

MADISON (CONT’D)

He can’t be ... because we’re perfect. We’re the perfect couple. He’s not. He’s not ...

She pastes on a manic smile.

MADISON (CONT’D)

I won’t let him be dead.

A UPS WORKER enters carrying a package.

UPS WORKER

I’ve got a “Do It Yourself Necromancy Kit” for Madison Buckley.

MADISON

I’m Madison, that’s me. That’s mine.

The UPS person surveys Madison.

UPS WORKER

Are you feeling okay?

MADISON

I’m fine. No, I’m better than fine. I’m PERFECT.

UPS WORKER

Ooookay.

The UPS WORKER exits. MADISON opens her Necromancy kit.

MADISON

This doesn’t look too hard. Shake the bones.
MADISON pulls out some bone rattles that bear an uncanny resemblance to pom-poms. That she can do. Deep breath. She strikes a cheerleading pose.

MADISON (CONT’D)
Listen Spirits listen here.
Come on Spirits lend an ear.
You demand a bloody price.
So take this lovely sacrifice.

MADISON reaches into the box, pulls out a chicken, and twists its neck. A horrid squawk.

MADISON (CONT’D)
We’ve got Spirits. Yes we do.
Rise up Spirits. Come on through.
Before I count to the number 5.
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Come Alive!

Between each number MADISON does a Cheerleading move of some sort culminating in a crazy flip or splits.

A beat. Then ... Groaning. Zombie ZACH staggers in.

MADISON (CONT’D)
Oh Zachary! You—you—you’re a zombie. I can work with that.

The music shifts to Doo-Woppy 50s nostalgic. Color coordinated Doo-Wop girls enter to provide appropriate backup.

"ZOMBABY"

DOO-WOP GIRLS
BABY, BABY, ZOMBABY
YOU’RE MY BABY, BABY ZOMBABY ...

MADISON
OH ZACHARY, YOU COULD NEVER BE DEAD TO ME

DOO-WOP GIRLS
YOU’RE UNDEAD TO ME

MADISON
IT’S NOT NAIVETY
IT’S NOT JUST CLICHE
TOGETHER WE’RE THE PERFECT HIGH SCHOOL FANTASY
I WOULDN’T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WA-A-A-AY!
DOO-WOP GIRLS
WA-AY-AY-AY THOUGH YOU’RE ROTTING AW-AY-AY-AY

MADISON
OH ZACHARY, THEY SAY OUR LOVE CAN’T ENDURE

DOO-WOP GIRLS
BOUND FOR THE GRAVE.

MADISON
YES, THINGS WERE LOOKING UNSURE
YES, I FELT UTTER PAINS
WHEN YOU SPLATTERED LIKE A RORSCHACH ON THE FLOOR
THEN RETURNED WITH THIS HUNGER FOR BRAINS ...

DOO-WOP GIRLS
BRA-AY-AY-AINS. GIVE ME THOSE BRA-AY-AY-AINS.

MADISON AND DOO-WOP GIRLS
BUT YOU’RE MY BA-A-A-BY. ZOM-BABY!

MADISON
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY,
ABOUT YOU MY BABY-BAY

DOO-WOP GIRLS
MY ZOMBABY-BABY

MADISON
I’LL BE THERE FOR YOU NIGHT AND DAY.
AS YOUR LIMBS DECAY, I’LL HOLD US TOGETHER ...

DOO-WOP GIRLS
SHE’LL HOLD YOU TOGETHER.

MADISON
I’LL SEW YOU TOGETHER
CAUSE WITH YOUR ARMS AROUND ME I CAN KEEP IT TOGETHER
FOREVER TOGETHER WITH MY ZOMBABY.

DOO-WOP GIRLS
BABY, BABY, ZOMBABY...

During the course of this chorus Zombie
ZACH has an arm or some other limb fall
off and MADISON helps him reattach it.

MADISON
OH ZACHARY, THEY SAY YOU’RE A LUMBERING BRUTE

DOO-WOP GIRLS
NO BRAINS.

MADISON
WHO I SHOULD TAKE OUT AND SHOOT
CAUSE HE’S FROTHING LIKE OLD YELLER
"THE TROUBLE WITH DEAD BOYFRIENDS"

DOO-WOP GIRLS
(HOWLS AND YIPS)

The howling of the DOO-WOP GIRLS
distracts Zombie ZACH he starts
sniffing around for prey.

MADISON
BUT THAT SICK DISNEY LOGIC SIMPLY WON’T COMPUTE
EVEN GROWLING, YOU’LL ALWAYS BE MY FELLER

DOO-WOP GIRLS
MY RABID ZOMBABY BABY ...

During the below chorus a MAN enters
with a dog, either real or cheesy and
stuffed, and Zach starts pursuing it.

The MAN exits and ZACH follows
offstage.

MADISON
I’LL SEW YOU TOGETHER
CAUSE WHEN YOU’RE NOT AROUND ME
I CAN’T KEEP IT TOGETHER
FOREVER TOGETHER WITH MY ZOMBABY.

Horrific noises of Zombie ZACH killing
the dog ... and maybe the MAN.

HOLDING US TOGETHER
COME ON KEEP IT TOGETHER ...
FOREVER TOGETHER WITH MY ZOMBABY.

DOO-WOP GIRLS
BABY, BABY, ZOMBABY (REPEAT UNTIL ATTACK)

MADISON looks around for ZACH but can’t
see him.

MADISON
Zach? Baby?

ZACH comes back on covered in blood.

MADISON (CONT’D)
You can’t just run off like that. I worry. Without you I’m
... Please ... hold me ...

Zombie ZACH stumbles towards her ...
but then lunges past her and attacks
the DOO-WOP GIRLS. They exit screaming.

MADISON (CONT’D)
No! Stop, Baby, STOP!!!
MADISON grabs him and turns him to face her.

MADISON (CONT’D)
This isn’t you. This isn’t the boy I love.

Zombie ZACH appears to be buying it. He gets closer, seemingly tender.

ZACH chokes her. It’s genuinely terrible. MADISON tries to get some words through being choked.

Eventually she cradles his face. Makes eye contact. ZACH slows ... lets go, back away in confusion. MADISON crumples to the floor. ZACH moves to exit.

MADISON (CONT’D) (strained)
Baby, wait ...

BABY IT’S NOT YOUR FAULT
IT’S JUST A LITTLE ASSAULT.
NO MATTER WHO YOU HURT
I WON’T JUST DESERT.
WE NEED TO BE TOGETHER.

ZACH gets closer and closer ...

COME HOLD ME TOGETHER
WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND ME ...
SO I CAN KEEP IT TOGETHER.
FOREVER TOGETHER WITH MY ZOMBABY.

An epic final kiss. MADISON gets much of her face covered in blood.