

The Collection
by
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EXT. A SMALL LAKE SHORE, SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A barely prepubescent boy, YOUNG ROCKY, throws stones into the lake. He looks bored.

CUTE GIRL (O.C.)

Hey, Rocky!

Young Rocky turns to see the CUTE GIRL waving at him and smiles at her. He gets up, grabbing a handful of dandelions along the way.

As the young Don Juan walks away to woo his lady, there is still another Young Rocky who remains sitting by the lake shore. This Young Rocky watches as his savvier counterpart giggles and flirts with the cute girl. The young stud gives his girl the makeshift bouquet of weeds which prompts her to give him a kiss. The two walk hand in hand away together.

Left behind, Young Rocky approaches the scene of the hallmark moment, the happy pair now walking hand-in-hand yards away. He looks at the ground and sees one of the dandelions laying on the floor. He picks it up and stuffs it in his pocket.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

The stands are packed with onlookers as a 17-year-old Rocky steps up to the plate. The crowd is cheering his name. Young Rocky, still the same age as the previous scene, looks on but remains quiet.

The pitcher throws the next ball right into Rocky's wheelhouse and he knocks it out of the park. The crowd goes wild. The team lifts 17-year-old Rocky up onto their shoulders. As they carry him away, Young Rocky sees a small piece of athletic tape from Rocky's bat blowing around on the field. He picks it up and stuffs it in his pocket.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Young Rocky is walking down the street by himself when he hears a loud ruckus coming down the road. He looks up to see a group of rowdy guys packing out a small sedan. Early-twenties Rocky, clad in a Metallica concert t-shirt, sticks his head out of the moon roof and throws up the heavy metal devil horns as he screams.

ROCKY

Best concert ever! Metallica rules!

Young Rocky steps out of the way as the car drives too close for comfort.

A piece of paper flies out of the car and almost slaps Young Rocky in the face. He grabs it before it can go down a gutter and looks it over. The concert ticket joins the others in the depths of Young Rocky's pockets.

EXT. A SMALL WHITE CHURCH - DAY

The doors burst open and a crowd of people, including a mid-twenties Rocky and his new bride, Sarah, parade out. People throw rice at the happy newlyweds as they exit into their limo. Young Rocky leans down and scoops up a handful of rice and puts it in his khakis.

EXT. A NICE SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

A half dozen balloons reading "Congratulations" or "It's a girl!" sway from the mailbox as a wave of people parade up the driveway with gifts. A late-twenties Rocky comes out the door and greets his guests.

Young Rocky approaches the mailbox and watches the crowd go inside. Through the window Rocky's not-so-new bride holds his infant daughter up to the visitors and a chorus of gawking and cooing can be heard through the closed doors. Young Rocky reaches into his pocket and takes out a pin. He pops one of the balloons and puts the little rubber carcass into his pocket.

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Thirty-something Rocky and Sarah play with their now five-year-old daughter, Caitlin. Young Rocky watches from behind a nearby tree as older Rocky swings his daughter in circles, causing her to squeal with delight.

Rocky puts Caitlin down and dizzily staggers towards his wife, sitting on a nearby blanket set up with typical picnic fare, including a cooler of Dreher beer. Sarah hands him one as he sits down and watches his daughter who picks up a dandelion "wishie", closes her eyes and blows. The achenes scatter into the wind.

Young Rocky catches a few in the air. Foregoing the usual pocket stuffing, he places it in a large glass mug filled to the brim with the rest of his collection of memories. He swishes the contents around as if mixing baking ingredients.

He moves from behind the tree and walks towards Caitlin. Young Rocky holds out the cup to the little girl and she gladly accepts it as he lets it go. She looks down into the cup and giggles.

Older Rocky witnesses the exchange, smiles and takes another sip of his beer.

SUPERIMPOSE: Because life is what you pour in.

FADE TO BLACK.