

IN THE WEEDS

by

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SETTING — An urban garden.

CHARACTERS — RELUCTANT GARDENER and GREEN THUMB.

AT RISE — RELUCTANT GARDENER and GREEN THUMB are pulling weeds. It's hot and they're tired.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

I have a theory.

GREEN THUMB

Oh dear god no.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

All of these “weeds” we’re pulling... why?

GREEN THUMB

“Why are we pulling weeds”?

RELUCTANT GARDENER

Yeah.

GREEN THUMB

That’s a question, not a theory.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

I’m working up to the theory.

GREEN THUMB

Because if we don’t, they’ll choke everything we planted.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

Right. These delicate tomato plants that need so much water, but can only be fed at certain times, when there’s sun—lest they mold—but not too much—lest they burn.

GREEN THUMB

You also wanted to plant a garden this year.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

I guess I’ve grown to respect these weeds. These tomato plants need so much room, just the right soil, a ridiculous amount of tender love and care. But these weeds... they just grow. They don’t give one single fuck. We don’t water them, make room for them, or cater to them in any way... we are even waging war against them, ripping them and their family out of the ground every chance we get. And still they come.

GREEN THUMB

I'm waiting for the theory.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

Maybe they deserve to be here. This tomato plant doesn't belong—it grows, barely, because we cater to its every whim. This picky wuss. This demanding tourist. But if we left all this alone for a week, the weeds would be everywhere. Thriving. And the tomato plants—and probably everything else—would be dead.

GREEN THUMB

When's the last time you had a nightshade salad?

RELUCTANT GARDENER

I hear they're delicious.

GREEN THUMB

Nightshade is poisonous.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

We call them "weeds" because we can't use them, but they're the hardy, adaptable natives of this land. They've fought for life and earned the right to be here.

GREEN THUMB

And they'll keep fighting, believe me. But isn't there room too for something that's beautiful but delicate? And, also, delicious?

RELUCTANT GARDENER

I say thee nay. I have grown to respect the weed, and resent the tomato. I say, if we can't find a way to live on weeds, then we are also the tomato, and do not deserve to be here!

GREEN THUMB

...Tired of weeding, huh?

RELUCTANT GARDENER

Big time.

GREEN THUMB

Tough shit. For like the weed, we also don't quit.

They continue gardening.

RELUCTANT GARDENER

We could have more than one kid—like a lot more. Same princip—

No.

GREEN THUMB

END OF PLAY.