

Amanda Weir

Sand Castles

Scene 1

(The landscape is of breaking waves along the shoreline. It is night and the stars illuminate the sky, the moon is absent. Two lovers walk along the beach.)

GEORGE

Look at how the stars reflect upon the ocean.

LILY

It's beautiful. So peaceful, I'm so happy we were able to get away for awhile.

GEORGE

Me too Lily, It's so wonderful to be here with you. It's like we're on our honeymoon again.

(Enter two men carrying a fairly large pine tree. They set the tree down and begin digging a whole in the sand. Lily and George are startled by this)

LILY

George what are they doing? It looks like they're going to plant that tree. But why?

GEORGE

I don't know dear. Do you suppose they're with the parks service.

LILY

Why wouldn't they do it during the day then? And why at all? They're digging that hole in the middle of the beach. Go ask them.

GEORGE

Ask them what?

LILY

Why they're planting a tree in the middle of the beach. Now go ask them.

(Lily pushes George towards the two men and approaches slowly herself keeping some distance.)

GEORGE

Excuse me gentlemen, we were just wondering what you men are doing. With the tree that is.

1ST MAN

We're planting this tree.

GEORGE

Ahh, of course, well then good evening to you both.

LILY

(Whispering to George) Why? Ask them why?

GEORGE

But Lily, I don't want to bother them. They are very intent on their work.

LILY

George, people don't just plant trees on the beach in the middle of the night. Ask them why, they look pleasant enough. *(2nd Man looks up at Lily and gives her a toothless grin.)*

GEORGE

All right, all right. I don't see why we can't just ignore it and enjoy our walk. *(George walks over to the men)* Excuse me I have another question if you don't mind. *(Neither of the men replies.)* Well, ok then. We just wanted to know why? *(Both men look at each other quizzically.)* Why you're planting that tree that is. If you don't mind me asking. *(pause)* Do you mind? Of course you mind, I shouldn't have bothered you. *(George backs away slowly)*

2nd Man

Wait, it's alright. It's just that nobody has ever asked us that before. We've planted trees on beaches all over the world and you're the first person to ask us why. You see we are turning this beach into a forest.

GEORGE

Did you hear that Lily, he said that they're turning the beach into a forest.

LILY

That makes no sense. George did you listen to what he said? Why would anyone want to do that? Besides I like the beach the way it is. *(LILY strides over to the two men.)* You two, yeah you. What do you mean you're turning the beach into a forest?

2ND MAN

Well it's fairly simple. We plant trees and the beach is no longer a beach. It becomes a forest.

LILY

That is absurd. I happen to like this beach the way it is. Why would you want to change this gorgeous beach. Just look at the waves lapping on the shore.

1ST MAN

Look lady, we haven't got the time for this. We have to make this beach a forest over night. That's not an easy task. So if you would please be on your way and leave us to our work, we would much appreciate it.

LILY

Well I'm not used to being talked to in such a manner. George do something.

GEORGE

It's been nice talking to you gentlemen. We must be on our way, come on Lily. Let the men with the shovel and the tree get on with their work.

LILY

No, this is outrageous and I won't stand for it. We should call the police. George!

GEORGE

You seem like reasonable men. Perhaps you could skip this beach. There are plenty of other beaches to forest. It would mean a lot to my wife.

LILY

Don't you think there is something wrong with this? There are plenty of forests without planting new ones on the beach. The soil isn't even suitable for trees to grow here. I won't stand for it.

1ST MAN

What you gonna do lady, whine at us until we go away. Ha hah

2ND MAN

Yeah why don't you take your logical reasoning and go on home. We have to finish up our work before sunrise. Come back tomorrow and take a look at the forest. You'll like it, we do create "gorgeous" forests. You wouldn't want us

to get angry would you? *(The two men advance towards Lily.)*

LILY

I'm not afraid of you. Why should I be afraid of two crazy men planting trees. Did you just escape from the loony bin?

GEORGE

Lily maybe you better leave them alone. They seem pretty serious. What do you care anyway? You like forests just as much as anyone.

LILY

It's not that I don't like forests. It's just that I love the beach and I like it the way it is. Without trees.

GEORGE

It might not be that bad. Think of the shade that the trees offer. It was awful hot today; I would have really liked a nice tree to give me shade.

LILY

Are you on my side or not? It is starting to sound like you want them to plant a forest on this beach. Listen to what you're saying George.

GEORGE

I am Lily, and for once it makes sense. I've never liked the ocean or this beach. You drag me back here, year after year. I'm sick of all of it: the sunburns, the sand fleas, the little kids and their wretched sand castles. You know what I want to do when I see a sand castle? Hmm, do you? I want to jump right in the middle of the precious sand castle and laugh in the child's face that built it. I hate the beach and everything about it. But you know what I hate the most of all, Lily. You, I'm sick of you and you're incessant nagging. George do this, George do that. Well George isn't doing anything anymore, not for you. *(Lily takes a step back aghast at what George has said; the men use this moment to get back to work.)*

LILY

I don't know what to say. I can't believe you were putting up a front all this time. You hate me after everything I've done for you, after all these years. Sand castles, have you completely lost your mind?

GEORGE

I thought you didn't know what to say.

LILY

And I thought you were my loving husband, but I guess we're both wrong aren't we. (*Lily advances towards George and then springs upon him and attacks like a wild beast.*)

1ST MAN

You suppose we should do something about this. I mean it's somewhat our fault.

2ND MAN

Nahh, it was bound to happen some time. She was clearly strangling him.

1ST MAN

Actually I'd say he's strangling her right about now. Do you think we should give here a hand?

2ND MAN

What for?

1ST MAN

Well it wouldn't be very good luck to have a women murdered in one of our forests.

2ND MAN

It certainly would not.

1ST MAN

Well then toss her the shovel so she can defend herself.

2ND MAN

Alright. (*2nd Man tosses Lily the shovel which she grabs with her free hand. She promptly smashes her husband over the head with it. George falls unconscious to the sand. Lily Hits him repeatedly with the shovel until he is dead.*)

LILY

Thank you men for the shovel. But perhaps it wasn't the wisest thing you could have done. (*She advances towards the men and hits the 2nd Man in the face with the head of*

the shovel and gets the 1st Man with the handle in the groin. They both collapse on the sand) Thanks again men for your help. You see this beach means a lot to me and I can't have it being defiled by trees. A beach just can't be a forest. So I'm sorry gentlemen but I'm afraid you will suffer the same fate as my dear husband. (Lily raises the shovel over her head, ready to pummel the brains of the 1st Man.)

1ST MAN

Please Lady let us go. We promise we will leave quietly.

2ND MAN

Yes we'll leave you're beach the way it was. You're right it is quite lovely without trees.

LILY

I'm sorry gentlemen, but how am I to know that when you leave this beach you won't just go to another and plant a forest there. I just can't chance it. I'm doing this for beaches and beach lovers everywhere gentlemen. You must understand. Forests have no place at the waters edge. *(Lily swings the shovel back and lets it fly into the skull of the 1st Man. The 2nd Man tries to run away but Lily catches him by his ankle and drags him to the ground. She then bashes in his skull and steps back and takes a breath.)* My, what a mess. *(Her eyes fall upon the body of her husband and she kneels down beside him and begins to cry violently.)* Look what you made me do George. If you had just made them leave then I wouldn't have had to. You sure go us in to trouble this time. You and your temper. God Damn you George what am I supposed to do now? *(She stands up and surveys the area)* Clean up, I'm forever cleaning up after you George. *(She goes over to the bodies of the two men and looks at them, seemingly comparing their statures.)* You seem to be taller. *(She takes hold of the heels of the 1st Man and drags him over to the hole that the men had dug and pushes him in it. She goes and gets the 2nd Man and drags him over and pushes him on top of the 1st Man.)* He doesn't quite fit. Maybe I should have put the short man in first. *(She picks up the shovel and attempts to push the men down further in to the hole with the shovel.)* This isn't working. *(She spots the tree and walks over to it.)* You win. *(She bends down and picks up the tree and pushes it into the hole, forcing the corpses underground.)* Damn Tree, suppose it will give some shade though. Well that's taken care of. *(She turns and sees*

George's corpse.) I forgot about you. Well you wouldn't have fit in the hole anyway. (*She grabs hold of George's feet and drags him out in to the water.*) Since you hate the beach so much let the ocean be your burial ground and maybe some day when your well rotted through you'll wash up on the shore in front of some little child and his sand castle. That would suit you wouldn't it my dear husband. (*She spits on the corpse. Lights fade*)