

MODERN LOVE

Season One, Episode 6

Madeline & Peter

EXT. PARK - DAY

MADELINE and PETER enter the park.

MADELINE

What's up?

PETER

I have something important that I want to say to you.

MADELINE

Oh my God. I'm fired.

PETER

What?

MADELINE

I'm fired. You're getting me fired.

PETER

No, hold on. Hold on a second.

MADELINE

Am I right? Am I right?

PETER

No, look. Just--

MADELINE

Because usually that's... that's what happens.

PETER

Will you just--

MADELINE

I've disturbed you, so you're gonna find a way to remove me from your field of vision, and I'll get a bad performance review, and they'll find out that I've been photocopying a lot, and they'll fire me.

PETER

Look. Look. Look. None of that's gonna happen.

MADELINE

Really?

PETER

Really. We both did this. I would never blame it all on you. I would never try to get you to leave. Okay? Look. I wanted a moment with you because I wanted to... to tell you that I'm leaving.

MADELINE

What?

PETER

I'm leaving. I'm taking a little break away.

MADELINE

What? All of a sudden?

PETER

I was able to arrange a sabbatical.

MADELINE

Is it... is it because of me?

PETER

Yes.

MADELINE

I'm sorry. I-I-I never--

PETER

No, don't be. Don't. It--

MADELINE

I never... I never...

PETER

Yeah, I know. It was eye-opening.

Peter tries to explain. Gets emotional.

MADELINE

Are you crying? Aren't -- aren't you -- Aren't you a little old to be crying?

PETER

Why can't I cry? Why can't I have emotions about this? Just 'cause I'm older? It's bullshit that, you know, older people have it together. It's more of the same. You're just trying to figure it out.

MADELINE

I really am sorry.

PETER

I have something that I want to say to you, and I want you to really listen and take it in, Madeline.

MADELINE

Okay.

PETER

I want you to know that... that you're a wonderful girl. You're smart, resourceful, beautiful. And you will accomplish whatever you set your heart on. You have grown up to be an extraordinary young woman. You're the daughter of any father's dreams. I am very, very, very proud of you, Madeline.

After a moment, he leaves. She processes. THEN:

MADELINE

Wait!