

“THE MEDDLER”

EXT. TOPANGA HOME -- LATER

Marnie pulls the red Lexus up in front of Zipper’s house and climbs out, holding the Apple bag. She walks up the front step. There’s music playing inside. As she gets closer, she realizes it’s Zipper, singing and playing guitar.

She stops short, listening through the screen door. It takes a moment to recognize the song, Dolly Parton’s “To Daddy”.

ZIPPER (singing)

Being took for granted was a thing that she accepted/  
And she didn’t need those things to make her happy /  
She didn’t even seem to notice / That he didn’t kiss and hold her/  
If she did, she never did say so to daddy....

(Marnie mouths along with the lyrics, getting lost in the song. She leans against the screen door and it CREAKS. The guitar stops. She quickly hangs the bag on the door knob and starts away. The screen door swings open.)

ZIPPER (CONT’D)

This counts as trespassing.

(She turns back to him. He “hides” an acoustic guitar.)

ZIPPER (CONT’D)

You didn’t hear any sort of music-  
type sounds coming from inside....

MARNIE

Oh, was that you?

(He steps out.)

ZIPPER

Just a little Dolly cover band I’m putting together. Zipper and the Fuzz. We have a mostly avian fan- base. You want to come in, let me test this out on a human lady?

(He holds the screen door open, then notices the bag.)

ZIPPER (CONT’D)

What’s this?

MARNIE

Oh, it’s nothing. I just thought  
you could use it to play music for the chickens.

(He opens the bag, seeing a Beats home speaker system inside.)

MARNIE (CONT'D)

You can plug it in your iPhone. Oh, God, do you have an iPhone?

ZIPPER

I have been meaning to get one of those. Thank you.  
You wanna come in? Show me how to plug it in?

(She looks at him, her courage waning.)

MARNIE

I'm supposed to be at this wedding.

ZIPPER

Oh. That's fun.

(He walks down the steps towards her. She swallows.)

ZIPPER (CONT'D)

Well, I missed ya.  
(then)  
Isn't that funny?

(She doesn't know how to respond.)

ZIPPER (CONT'D)

I ended up calling her. My daughter.

(Marnie smiles, genuinely excited.)

MARNIE

Oh, Zipper, that's great.

ZIPPER

Yeah. She yelled at me. A lot. I'm thinking I should  
ride out there and let her scream in my face a little.  
You wanna come with?

(He reaches out and takes hold of her hand. She's stunned, silenced.)

ZIPPER (CONT'D)

Just a day trip. Nothing overnight  
or... I just thought you should check out the desert and...  
I could use the moral support--

MARNIE

I can't.

(She rips her hand away. He puts his hands in his pockets.)

MARNIE (CONT'D)

I... um... I can't do that right now....

(then)

Anyway, I just wanted to give you the speaker and tell you that I probably won't be around for a little while. I need to go back east and... I just won't be around.

(He looks at her, hurt, disappointed, but understanding.)

ZIPPER

Okay.

(He doesn't move. Marnie turns away. And starts toward her car. She doesn't turn back. He lets her go.)