

THE SEATS AT THE WEDDING

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

We begin on the inside of a Prius, with BRITTANY holding a phone to her ear. A rosary is hanging from the rear view mirror, and her fourth finger has an engagement ring with a remarkable diamond.

BRITTANY

Oh, so like, the wedding dress is done? That's great, anything else we have to check off the list of things? ... What about the venue? I know vaccination is mandatory, Jake and I got our second shot a while ago. Guests, too? Yes, Susan, I've told my parents over and over but you know how they are... No, I don't want my wedding cancelled. I'll talk to them again.

She hangs up the phone, places one hand in the wheel, and drives on.

BRITTANY (cont'd)

Jesus Christ, it's just a shot...

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

From afar, we see the Prius enter the parkway of a suburban house. The porch has an American flag hanging, and the grass in front of a two-floor suburban home has a "TRUMP 2020" sign stuck on the grass. Brittany approaches the door, wearing a K95 mask, and rings the doorbell.

JESSABELLE

I'm coming, I'm coming. Oh my God!
Baby girl, you look gorgeous. Come on in!

INT. JESSABELLE AND ARCHIBALD'S HOUSE - DAY

BRITTANY enters the home, and closes the door behind her.

JESSABELLE

Hey, sweetie, how'd you like your tea?

2.

BRITTANY

Oh, um, do y'all still have that chamomile blend?

JESSABELLE

We sure do and--Christ, where's your father? Archibald, get here now! It's your daughter!

ARCHIBALD walks down the stairs to meet his daughter with a wide grin on his face. JESSABELLE heads to the kitchen to boil some water and returns quickly. Archibald proceeds to hug Brittany.

ARCHIBALD

Hey, sweetie! It's been so long--

Brittany steps away, she knows her parents and prefers to keep a six-foot distance.

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)

Brittany? Is everything okay?

BRITTANY

Yeah, um, everything's fine. Wedding preparations are just a tad stressful.

JESSABELLE

Oh, I sure remember that. Your nan was of great help when your father and I were preparing, God bless her soul. I have no idea how you're doing it on your own.

BRITTANY

Well, there's the wedding organizer.

ARCHIBALD

People get paid for that?

JESSABELLE

They sure do, times are changing.
People get paid to do all sorts of
stuff now. Now come on you two, tea's
ready and the couch's waiting.

The family heads over to the couch, with Jessabelle carrying
a tray with three cups full of chamomile tea. She sets it
down on a coffee table that is in front of the couch. Each
of them takes a cup and sips.

3.

JESSABELLE (cont'd)

Well, I'm surprised to see you here
dear, you rarely come by anymore.

BRITTANY

Yeah, well... Mom, Dad... I wanted to
talk to you guys about the wedding.

ARCHIBALD

You're not canceling it, are you?

JESSABELLE

Did Jake do something?

BRITTANY

No, mom, Jake and I are fine. I got a
call from the wedding organizer this
morning.

JESSABELLE

Okay, what's wrong with that?

BRITTANY

Well, remember what I told you when I
found the venue?

ARCHIBALD

The one that forces people to wear
masks?

BRITTANY

Well, yeah dad, it's my dream venue
and... they have something that you
two might not like--

JESSABELLE

Oh, Brittany, quit being so
dramatic--

BRITTANY

Masks and vaccines. All guests have
to wear a mask and be vaccinated
because it's an indoor venue.

Archibald and Jessabelle hold their cups in mid-air, and
stare at one another. Jessabelle opens her mouth and then
closes it, trying to formulate sentences. Archibald places
the cup on the coffee table.

ARCHIBALD

Are they insane? Sorry, babygirl,
your mom has a condition--

BRITTANY

Dad, vaccines do nothing to people
with epilepsy, nor do masks.

JESSABELLE

That's not true, your second-cousin
told me that her husband with asthma
almost died getting the vaccine. Not
to mention your father and I have
breathing problems as it is, that
mask does nothing but harm, dear.

BRITTANY

Whatever, think what you will.
Believe that "research" you got from
Parler, I don't care. I'm just
begging you two, please, could you do
it for me?

ARCHIBALD

But Brittany, those things got
trackers on 'em. You want us to be
followed?

BRITTANY

You already are! CCTV footage, every
time you use a card, your phone,
you're already being tracked.

JESSABELLE

But the vaccine could kill us--

BRITTANY

No, it can't!

ARCHIBALD

I told you, that's what Big Pharma wants you to believe. We're not getting that.

Brittany gets up and walks to the coffee table. It has a framed picture and she shows it to Archibald and Jessabelle. It's an image of her as an infant at her baptism, with her parents smiling.

BRITTANY

Mama, dad... please... for your daughter. It's just one jab, and look, after the ceremony we can hang out outside. All I'm asking is for a moment's discomfort... in my wedding.

Archibald looks down.

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5.

ARCHIBALD

Why this venue, Brittany?

Brittany sighs.

BRITTANY

We've already paid in advance the reservation and it looks just how I want my wedding to look like.

JESSABELLE

But we could die--

BRITTANY

Mama, I have epilepsy too, and I haven't died, have I?

JESSABELLE

We don't know what's in that thing though!

BRITTANY

Did you ever wonder what was in a

cigarette when you met dad?

Jessabelle is visibly uncomfortable. She begins stuttering slightly when responding to her daughter. Archibald lets out a small grunt, and

JESSABELLE

No, but that's... that's *different*.

ARCHIBALD

Yeah, everyone was smoking back in the day. It's not the same as getting a chip inserted for others to track you.

BRITTANY

Well, everyone who was invited got the vaccine, it's just you two who have yet to even wear a mask. Like, have you not seen everyone dying? Like my grandma?

ARCHIBALD

Don't you dare bring my mother into this, those doctors lied to us the whole time--

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6.

BRITTANY

She died because you fed her lies! And now she's not coming to the wedding, are you guys going to come or not?

JESSABELLE

Sweetie, we will, just not--

BRITTANY

Mom, I can't change the venue, and everyone else is vaxxed already. Please, I'll give you a ride and make the appointment, but please...

Brittany takes a deep breathe. This is starting to take a massive toll on her, and it's starting to dawn on her that her parents may not make it.

BRITTANY (cont'd)

I don't care if they spy on us,
please, can you, I guess, be spied on
for like twenty minutes?

ARCHIBALD

Brittany Leigh Clarke, we are
patriots first and foremost in this
house.

BRITTANY

Can you be a parent first, please?

Pause. Archibald and Jessabelle look at one another.
Brittany's jaw drops. She scoffs when she realizes where her
parents' loyalty lies.

BRITTANY (cont'd)

Oh... my God.

JESSABELLE

Sweetie, we love you but--

BRITTANY

You actually had to pause and think
between--

Brittany breaks down. She starts tearing up, and wipes her
tears away.

JESSABELLE

Brittany Leigh--

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7.

BRITTANY

Stop. Just... stop. Don't worry about
it.

Brittany stands up and she starts heading to the exit.

BRITTANY (cont'd)

... Thanks for the tea.

JESSABELLE

Brittany, where is--

BRITTANY

Don't worry about it.

EXT. PARKWAY - DAY

Brittany is stomping towards the car. She gets into the Prius, and slams the door shut. She starts turning on the engine when we see through the window Jessabelle and Archibald rushing out. Their voices are muffled because of the closed windows.

JESSABELLE

Brittany, please! I just don't want
to die!

Brittany is crying, driving with one hand while wiping tears with the other.

BRITTANY (WHISPERS)

... For God's sake, it won't kill
you...

Once she's out of the parkway, we see both parents waving their hands, begging her to come back. Then, Jessabelle starts crying and breaks down.

INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "Here Comes the Bride" by Richard Wagner

Brittany is walking down the aisle, her arm wrapped around a male figure, with a veil covering her face.

INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

We now focus on an empty pair of chairs, one with a sign in the back that has "Mom" handwritten in cursive and the other one has "Dad", also done by hand in the same cursive font.
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8.

The exchange of vows is happening in an altar right in front of where the chairs are placed. The PRIEST is finishing the exchange of vows.

PRIEST

...and do you, Brittany Leigh

Clarke, take Hayden Thompson as your
lawful husband, to have and to hold,
from this day forward, for better or
for worse, for richer or for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love
and cherish until death do you part?

Though blurred, the audience can see Brittany stare to the
chairs. Stare at the audience for a long pause. The handful
of people in the ceremony start whispering.

BRITTANY

I-I'm so sorry. Um, I, Brittany Leigh
Clarke, take you, Hayden Thompson, to
be my husband. I promise to be true
to you in good times, in sickness and
in health. I will love and honor you
all the days of my life.

PRIEST

Then I now pronounce you, husband and
wife. You may now kiss the bride.

The couple share a kiss, and we hear a few claps from the
small reception.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.