

SECRETS

Written by

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EXT. PATIO - DAY

BERT, a sloppy homeowner, and MALIA MACGARVEY, the buttoned-up "VP" of Lake Conservation, stare at a crumbling patio.

Malia fixates on the rubble. She sighs.

MALIA MACGARVEY

Listen, Bert, I know you're in a tough spot, but I've made it pretty clear. You can't extend your patio that far into the lake.

BERT

But I want to.

Bert takes a swig of beer.

MALIA MACGARVEY

How many times do I have to tell you? It doesn't matter how badly you want a bigger patio.

BERT

Mmmmm yes it does.

MALIA MACGARVEY

If you continue with your plans for reconstruction, you're going to face some serious fines.

BERT

Fines, shmimes. What makes you president of the universe?

MALIA MACGARVEY

Excuse me. I'm the VP of Lake Conservation.

Bert takes out a q-tip from his pocket and begins picking his ear.

BERT

Mmmmmmm that's not real.

MALIA MACGARVEY

It's an incredibly coveted position. If it weren't for me, everyone could do whatever they please -

BERT
 (burping)
 Yeah but like, you're not the "VP".
 You're a co-chairman or some shit.

MALIA MACGARVEY
 Listen you little peon. Your
 "project" is damaging to the fish
 habitat, goes against every
 conservation law in Massachusetts,
 and is just flat out selfish!!

BERT
 Listen here Miss MacFarley -

MALIA MACGARVEY
 MacGarvey!

BERT
 You ain't got no right to tell me
 what I wanna do with my property!
 You're already charging me up the
 ass with fees and drowning me in
 paperwork, not to mention the fact
 that I gotta pay thousands of
 dollars to get this replaced!

MALIA MACGARVEY
 (absolutely fuming)
 It's what has to be done to protect
 the lake and all its -

BERT
 (equally as furious)
 Do you smoke weed!?

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Bert and Malia chill on the boat, high as a kite. Reggae music plays.

MALIA MACGARVEY
 I don't know man...do you ever
 wonder like what's out there? In
 the ocean?

BERT
 Probably some...fish.

They ponder at the thought.

Malia gets a twinkle in her eye.

She leans in to Bert.

MALIA MACGARVEY
Can you keep a secret?

BERT
Probably not.

Malia looks out at the water. She's gotta tell someone.

MALIA MACGARVEY
There's a mermaid in this lake.

Bert laughs.

MALIA MACGARVEY (CONT'D)
There is! It's not too far from
this dock...such a
beautiful...majestic creature.
(getting emotional)
That's why we need to all do our
part in protecting it.

BERT
So this really is your first time
smokin isn't it.

Malia scoffs, offended.

MALIA MACGARVEY
(getting up)
You know what? I'm trying to help
you and this lake.

Bert rolls his eyes.

MALIA MACGARVEY (CONT'D)
But it's really hard with someone
like you.

Bert mimicks her.

MALIA MACGARVEY (CONT'D)
(leaving)
And you shouldn't throw q-tips into
the lake.

BERT
Yeah, yeah. Argue with ya later.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Bert is sailing through the lake, full throttle.

Music blaring.

He's having the time of his life.

THEN: A LOUD THUD.

What was that!?

He slows down.

He peeks around the side. Horrified.

A "mermaid" lies in the lake, face down.

BERT

SHIT.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATIO - DAY

Bert and Malia look down at the mermaid.

It's face up...and not a mermaid...but a merman.

They're both shocked.

Bert puffs a joint.

BERT

Where are the boobs?

Malia is disgusted with him.

She walks away.

BERT (CONT'D)

(yelling after her)
So about the patio?

END.