

FUNeral - Rainah Gregory

Scene 1

A car drives up, it brakes.

MOM turns around in her seat.

MOM

Girls, no funny business today.

MEGHAN

Mom, it's a funeral

DAD

Baby, this isn't their first one
they're fine.

VANESSA

Yeah this is like our twelfth one

MEGHAN

Good location-

VANESSA

Solid turnout-

MOM

We haven't seen the Robertsons in a
while-I want to make a good
impression.

DAD

It'll be fine. I'm sure it'll be
fine. Everything will be fine.
They'll be glad to see us.

Beat.

Well not glad-

MOM

Are you-

DAD
I'm fine.

MOM
(Under breath) Every time.

The car doors shut. The Lee family begin to walk toward the church.

VANESSA
Uhhhhh who are these people?

MEGHAN
Mom?

MOM
Hold on let me...

Footsteps
Excuse me, is this the Robertson
Funeral?

A woman wails. Beat.

MOM
Thank you.

The woman walks off.

DAD
Maybe they're inside already.

Scene 2

The Lee Family enter the church. An organ plays a somber tune, members of the congregation greet each other, people take their seats.

DAD
I'm going to go find a loo. Save a
seat?

VANESSA
Yeah, yeah.

DAD leaves.

MOM

Where's your Dad?

VANESSA

Bathroom

MOM

Typical. Perfect let's sit here...

VANESSA

Is that them up there? Mom?

Sounds of mingling, footsteps and the organ swirl together and begin to build transforming into something else.

VANESSA

What the...

We snap back into reality. Vanessa walks over quickly.

They whisper aggressively:

VANESSA

We need to get out of here

MEGHAN

What?

VANESSA

We're at the wrong funeral

MOM

What?

VANESSA

This is the WRONG funeral

MEGHAN

No (we're not)-

VANESSA

There are TWO coffins.

MOM

Oh my-

MEGHAN

Jesus Ch-

MOM

Meghan! We're at church!

VANESSA

We've got to go.

MEGHAN

We can't just leave!

VANESSA

Uh, yes we can!

MEGHAN

It's rude to leave a funeral!

VANESSA

It's rude to CRASH a funeral!

MOM

Girls!

VANESSA

Let's go!

the pew squeaks.

MEGHAN

I think we should stay and pay our respects to...what does that say...

she flips the program.

The Joneses.

VANESSA

Meg? We don't KNOW the Joneses!

MOM

I could've sworn the text said-

VANESSA

Later. Let's get out of here!

Shuffles and pew squeaks as they stand.

The church begins to grow quiet. Footsteps approach.

DAD
Hey what's going (on)-

MOM
This is the WRONG funeral-

DAD
(Way too loud) WHAT?

MOM
Shhh!

The door bursts open and the organ plays a long introduction to Amazing Grace (continues during dialogue)

MEGHAN
They're coming!

MOM
Over here!

DAD
That's one big family

VANESSA
Probably Catholic-

MOM
This way-

MOM and the USHER bump into each other

MOM
Excuse us-

USHER
A bit lost are we?

MOM
Actually we-

USHER
Here

We hear a slight struggle. Clothes shuffling, etc.

MOM

Get off-

USHER

Follow me-

MOM

No we-

USHER

You can sit here.

DAD

Front row?

MOM

Look we don't-

USHER

(gently) It's alright.

MOM

No, it's really not, you see-

USHER

(gently) These things take time.

A moment. We hear them sit.

MOM

(defeated) Thank you.

The actual intro of "Amazing Grace" begins to play on the organ.

VANESSA

(whispers) Since when do they have ushers at funerals it's not a concert-

MOM

Shhhhh

The congregation begin to sing "Amazing Grace" very loud and incredibly out of tune.

CONGREGATION

Amazing Grace, how sweet the
sound...(continues)

VANESSA

Oh God

MOM

Take a hymnal

Meghan begins to sing. Vanessa moans. Mom sings politely.
Dad sings the loudest.

LEE FAMILY

I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

The singing continues in the background

VANESSA

Hey, there's the family. They look
kind of familiar...

MEGHAN

Really?

VANESSA

No!

MOM

(slightly louder than the last
"sh") Shhh

VANESSA

Dad stop waving at them.

We hear a small smack.

The family of the deceased reach the front of the church,
the footsteps growing fainter.

VANESSA

Check out the mustache on that guy

MEGHAN snorts a laugh.

The congregation sings "was blind....but now...."

The organ stops abruptly...

VANESSA
 (a bit loud) Looks like a rat died
 on his face

She laughs, stopping when she realizes the music has stopped.

The congregation gasps. They sing, "I see!"

The organ plays one more chord, a bit too theatrically.

MOM
 (Through gritted teeth) Vanessa!

The chord ends. The congregation sits.

After a moment where the congregation settles a Gregorian Chant begins, mourners begin to wail.

The family speak in hushed voices:

VANESSA
 Can we leave now?

MEGHAN
 There are two ushers blocking the
 door.

VANESSA
 High security. Like a cult.

MEGHAN
 A cult?

MOM
 (slightly louder) Shhh

DAD
 Maybe we could still get out of
 here.

MOM
 Oh so now you want to help-

DAD

What is that/supposed to mean-

MOM

You always disappear in moments
like/these

DAD

I needed the loo

MOM

Every single time. You're so
predictable.

DAD

I am not-

MOM

Well we're stuck now.

DAD

Baby-

MOM

Fine. Maybe after the priest
speaks-

A young, "too attractive to be a priest" priest, stands
from his seat by the altar and walks to the front of the
church.

MOM

Hello...

MEGHAN

Mom, that's a priest

VANESSA

Now there's some DNA

PRIEST

(oddly energetic) How lovely it is
to see you all!

Beat.

(solemnly) Now death is a difficult
time.

PRIEST looks out at the congregation. The pause is unbearably long. Someone coughs.

VANESSA
(whispering) Is that it?

MEGHAN
I guess.

PRIEST
(brightening up) The Jones's children have asked me to open up the floor today-

He continues on in the background during the following dialogue.

VANESSA
We could tell the "bodyguards" that we had a family emergency

MEGHAN
Bodyguards? They're not bodyguards they're pallbearers

PRIEST
Grief exposes us in our-

VANESSA
They're essentially bodyguards

MOM
Girls.

MEGHAN
Vanessa thinks we should still go

MOM
(slightly louder) Shhh

PRIEST
This is a hard time but together-

MEGHAN

Mom?

MOM

We'll get out of this just hold on-

PRIEST

To each other and remember why
their lives meant so much to us
all.

So, if anyone would like to get us
started...

A beat.

The congregation murmurs, a few pews squeak uncomfortably.
A lone cough.

MOM

This is insufferable...

VANESSA

We need a plan

Faint footsteps (dad walking up to the pulpit)

MOM

Maybe between speakers we can chat
to the pallbearers-

VANESSA

Say we need to go to the bathroom-

MEGHAN

Not all of us at once

VANESSA

We'll go in shifts-

MOM

Tell your Dad

Microphone feedback.

DAD
(Into mic) Hello?

MOM
Oh

VANESSA
My

MEGHAN
God

DAD
Um, hi. I'm uh here with my family.
And uh...well...I remember my first
conversation with Mr. Jones here...
(continues during dialogue)

VANESSA
(whispering) What is he doing?

MOM
I'm not quite sure

DAD
I learned everything I know from
him. He taught me so much about the
world. So wise. He will be missed.

MEGHAN
(Teary) that was nice.

VANESSA
Oh my god.

DAD begins to step away from the mic.

The daughter of the deceased, JUNE (60) stands

JUNE
Please, do go on. (Wipes away
tears)

DAD hesitantly steps toward the mic and the congregation
leans in. DAD gathers himself, fidgeting. A bit nervous
now.

MOM

(Under her breath) step away from
the mic Milton...

DAD

Um, he taught me about the thrill
of performing your own dentistry,
(beat) how to find the best Mangoes
in Puerto Rico, and how to treat a
woman.

The congregation whisper memories to each other.

VANESSA

Why is he looking at you like that?

MOM

Oh God he's trying to prove a
point-

JUNE

You know so much about my father!

DAD

I do?

JUNE

Please continue.

His confidence fading. He pushes on.

DAD

I have so many fond memories of
them. We um had some lovely times.

MOM

Stop. Talking.

DAD

My wife and I met the Joneses at -

MEGHAN

What's he looking at?

VANESSA

Hi eyes are moving so fast

MOM

He's panicking

DAD

Uh...

VANESSA

Oh my god

MEGHAN

Is that a stained glass window of
Adam and Eve?

VANESSA

Those are some massive-

DAD panics as his talking to speed up.

DAD

We met at a nudist colony. (Beat) A
nudist colony. In French. FRANCE.
At a beach. It was a lovely day.
Nice weather. Nice people. Good
looking. Good food. SUN. The sun
was out. And we met them. Them.

God, I miss them. WE. We, my
family. WE miss them. Yep. We sure
do. We talked for hours at that
beach. With all the naked people.
And, stuff. We shared stories.
Laughed. We laughed. It was-yeah.
Won't be the same. Without them.
Certainly. Well, thank you. All.
For your time.

The crowd wails.

Transition sound

EXT. CHURCH. DAY.

The Lee family are practically running out of the church.

MOM
What the hell was that?

MEGHAN
(mocking) Mom, not at church!

MOM
Stop it.

VANESSA
Can we just leave, please.

DAD
That was a long funeral...

JUNE tries to catch up with them

JUNE
Excuse me!

MOM
(Under breath) Shit.

VANESSA & MEGHAN
Mom!

MOM
Not now.

JUNE
Hi, I'm June. I'm the daughter of -

JUNE begins to cry.

VANESSA
Dad, don't touch her.

We hear a small smack

JUNE
Sorry. (Beat) We're having a small reception in the annex. Will you be joining us?

MOM

Us?

JUNE

Yes.

DAD

Um-

JUNE

Please, don't be shy.

Friends of my parents are friends
of mine!

Wow your hands are soft, do you
moisturize?

DAD

I do actually, I use this AMAZING
cream that I found at...

Their voices trail off as they walk away toward the annex.

MOM

I guess we're going.

They walk off.

INT. ANNEX. DAY.

Doors open.

Mourners mingle in the annex. Refreshments and drinks are
being shared and served.

BRYAN (65) walks over.

VANESSA

(Whispering) It's mustache guy-

BRYAN

(Too confidently) Hi, I'm Bryan.
June's brother.

DAD

Hi, I'm Milton, this is my wife
Darlene and our daughters, Vanessa
and Meghan.

MOM

Hi.

VANESSA & MEGHAN

Hi

BRYAN

Thank you for coming today. We were
glad some of our parent's friends
could make it. (beat) We thought
they were all dead.

BRYAN takes a gulp of Wine. JUNE walks over.

JUNE

You've met my brother.

MOM & DAD

Yes.

JUNE

We wanted to talk to you and find
out more about how you knew our
parents.

BRYAN

They never mentioned you.

DAD

Ah well, it was just one holiday.
But they sure left an impression on
us.

MOM

(To VANESSA and MEGHAN) Girls, grab
us a drink will you?

The girls walk to the drink table.

BRYAN
Which holiday was it?

MOM
Um-

DAD
It was-

DAD
Paris.

JUNE
'88 or '98?

MOM & DAD
Yes.

JUNE
Which one?

MOM and DAD say the year at the same time:

MOM
'98

DAD
'88

MOM
'98. We got married in '88 and went
to Paris in '98.

BRYAN
Wow

JUNE
So you knew Dad well?

DAD
Hm?

BRYAN
All those things he taught you.

DAD

Ah yes.

JUNE

He certainly knew about Mangoes

DAD

Did he?

JUNE

Oh yes

BRYAN

You're surprised?

DAD

I-I didn't realize you knew his
secret.

Wow, what a beautiful rock, where
did he find this?

BRYAN

Oh you found his kidney stone

The rock clatters against metal.

BRYAN

Careful! Those are his antique
dental instruments!

MOM

Did you just say dental
instruments?

Two sets of footsteps approaching

VANESSA

Drinks!

JUNE

He was very proud of passing that.

MOM
(Hiding disgust) what a man.

VANESSA
Here you go

MEGHAN
And for you

DAD
(whispering desperately) Bring me a
coffee...and some hand sanitizer?

VANESSA
okay okay c'mon Meg

Footsteps

BRYAN
Ahhhhh Father Derek

PRIEST
Hello Hello...ahhhh Milton, was it?

DAD
Yes.

PRIEST
That was a lovely speech.

MOM
It was?

PRIEST
Mr and Mrs Jones certainly knew how
to holiday!

JUNE
Say, Darlene were you in mother's
book club?

MOM
Um, which one?

JUNE

Why erotic literature of course

We hear MOM spitting out her drink.

BRYAN

June?

JUNE

Excuse us for a moment.

We begin to hear the subtle commotion of tables being moved.

PRIEST

What a lovely day! (Long pause) It was so nice meeting you. Hopefully we'll see more of each other soon. Excuse me...Barbara! How are the kids?

Footsteps fade

MOM

Can we please go home now

DAD

I'm still waiting for my hand sanitizer and then I am diving into that snack table-

MOM

Please? This is all getting a bit weird.

DAD

You don't want to see how much we can guess right about these people?

MOM

I think I've had enough of these weird hobbies for a century.

MOM and DAD laugh. Beat.

I can't believe you did that back there, in the church. Saving everyone from that awkward silence.

That was brave. Boy were you lucky?
How did you come up with all that
stuff?

DAD

Just said the first things that
came to my head.

MOM

(laughing in a loving way) You're
crazy

DAD

Am I?

MOM

I think you really helped them out
today. Gave them some closure.

Unpredictable in the best way
possible.

DAD

How about we be a bit unpredictable
when we get home tonight?

MOM

Oooo

MEGHAN

Gross

MOM

(disappointed that the moment has
been ruined) Oh hi Meg.

VANESSA

Where's your sister?

MEGHAN

Oh well she found the hand
sanitizer, here, but then got
ambushed by some old lady with a
photo album-

VANESSA screams

Her scream grows louder as her running becomes louder

MOM

Vanessa?!

VANESSA

Where are you?

DAD

Take your hands off your eyes

VANESSA

Is it safe?

MOM

What are you on about?

JUNE

Well? Aren't you joining us?

VANESSA

That...

MEGHAN gasps

BRYAN

To Paris '98!

We hear clothes drop to the floor-

MOM

They're Nudists!

DAD

Now, that was unpredictable.