

Rose, Oscar, and Ally proceed to trade FART noises between them. Gene starts GIGGLING at the fart symphony.

OSCAR
Four Weddings and a Fart!

ROSE
Jurassic Fart!

GENE
Robin Hood: Prince of Farts!

The giggles are now infectious. Even Claire is LAUGHING.

CLAIRE
Shhh! You guys...

ALLY
The Remains of the Fart!

Gene is now crying. It's like trying not to laugh in church.

ROSE
Wait, wait, wait: *The Silence of the Farts!*

Everyone bursts out LAUGHING.

CLAIRE
Shhh! Shhh!

They hold their bellies, trying to control their CACKLES. Suddenly ROSE'S MOM'S (40s) disembodied VOICE cuts the air.

ROSE'S MOM (O.S.)
(firmly)
Go to bed, my little urchins!

Completely surprised, everyone tries to pipe down, but the parental scolding has made it worse.

Oscar buries his face in his pillow to muffle his laughter.

They feel like little kids. It feels great.

Then all goes quiet.

Gene wipes his tears, then suppresses another peel of LAUGHTER into his pillow. Claire swats at him from above.

CLAIRE
Shhh!

← STAFF SWB

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GENE
(whispering)
I can't help it. After-laugh.

CLAIRE
What's after-laugh?

GENE
It's like when everyone's done laughing, but then you think about what was funny and start laughing all over again.

Claire can't help but start LAUGHING at Gene's description.

GENE (CONT'D)
See - now you just did pre-laugh.

CLAIRE
What's pre-laugh?

GENE
It's when you're already laughing and you anticipate the next thing someone says will also be funny.

Claire is already LAUGHING.

GENE (CONT'D)
So you're basically laughing before the punchline even happens!

CLAIRE
(shakes head, laughing)
Wow. I never knew there were so many laugh layers.

GENE
That's why you gotta stick with me.

Claire's smile fades. Gene feels her silence. He looks up at her, apologetic.

GENE (CONT'D)
Sorry for being a jerk tonight.
And for not calling you back.

CLAIRE
(twists hair)
Sounds like work's been a lot.
Your coworker's...problem.

Unprepared, Gene quietly picks at his sleeping bag's zipper.

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CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Does he ever pray about it?

GENE
I - don't know if he's into that.

CLAIRE
You can still pray for him. I
mean, I pray for you.

GENE
Everybody's concerned for my
immortal soul.

Claire's eyes well up, flooded with emotions.

CLAIRE
I love you, Gene.

GENE
(automatic)
I love you, too.

Claire looks mortified. She lies there in silence. Gene
senses what's going on, but plays dumb.

GENE (CONT'D)
You'll always be like...the sister
I never had.

Heartbroken, Claire closes her eyes and rolls onto her side.
Gene looks up at her, hesitant.

GENE (CONT'D)
Sweet dreams.

CLAIRE
'Night.

Claire remains frozen as Gene continues to stare at the
ceiling, his mind wide awake.

END
SC# 3

59 EXT. ROSE'S FRONT YARD - THE NEXT MORNING

59

A white-hot dawn begins to break over the mountains. Gene
drags one of Rose's suitcases outside as Ally and Claire pile
into Oscar's parents' Plymouth station wagon.

60 INT. OSCAR'S STATION WAGON - DAY

60

On the freeway, Ally, Gene and Claire sit in silence as Oscar
drives. Ally draws a Jack Skellington head on her window.

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