

Summer Clothes

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Summer Clothes

by Anonymous

Summary

This last week had been particularly rough for Vitalasy, spending most of the time in bed, only occasionally getting up, only eating when Subz would drag him to the table and not let him up until he had something. He needed a change of scenery, they both did.

Notes

go read completely normal things happening in nevada AU first, it's great and has The Horrors that this lacks

title from Summer Clothes by The Wonder Years, go listen to it its so cute

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

It'd been 3 weeks since they'd moved in. The apartment was a decent size for the building but it wasn't like they needed much room. Two bedrooms, a shower, and a kitchen they could both be in even if one of them would have to sidestep around if they needed to get by the other.

And only one set of possessions to move in. There wasn't anything left of Vitalasy's old life but a few charred support beams, a hoodie on Subz's bedroom floor, and a set of keys to nothing. Even

his mom had gotten the hell out of dodge, saying she would be back for him. They knew that was a lie. So Subz did the only thing he could think of at the time: he held his best friend's hand as the firefighters got the blazes under control and police cars drove up the street. Vitalasy was expected to make statements to the police but Subz had said there was time for that later and took him back to his house. Vi's mom would stay in a hotel and he would stay in Subz's guest room. Except for the nights that he crept into Subz's room crying and Subz would hold him till the tears stopped and his breathing leveled out. Which were most nights.

Summer started but it was empty, and all too soon Subz had to decide if he was going to move out and start college or stay in the town he hated. He was desperate to get out, had said for years not a single thing could keep him in this godforsaken town. And then, Vitalasy. It wasn't even much of a decision for him if he was honest. It was Vi that was more concerned about it really, telling him he should go, that he needed to get out. Selfless idiot.

“Oh my god for the last time it's a fucking gap year, emphasis on the year part. I'm still going to go to college and so are you, just, a little bit later.”

Vi looked at him with those sad puppy eyes and Subz stared back unphased. That shit don't work on him anymore. He simply went back to packing boxes, telling Vi to hand him more tape.

And so they moved in together, with only minimal worries from Vitalasy. Subz's grandparents had left the apartment to him when they moved out east and now he finally had a use for it. The first night there the two of them didn't have the energy to take all the boxes off the couch after lugging the thing up three flights of stairs so they agreed to share the bed for the night. They knew they'd fit easily because they'd already done it plenty, though Vi insisted that he'd take the couch once they cleared it off. Subz internally rolled his eyes but if this is what would make his best friend feel better then sure, whatever.

That lasted all of two nights. The couch was a bitch to sleep on, something Subz had tried to explain before this, and Vi wouldn't stop complaining about how uncomfortable it was, like he wasn't the one that had insisted on it. So they'd stay in the same room and fall asleep on opposite sides of the mattress and wake up holding each other. Those were the moments that Vitalasy was consistently the happiest. It fluctuated depending on the day, which made sense considering everything that had happened. One parent dead, the other abandoning him, a lifetime of possessions gone in a moment. This last week had been particularly rough for him, spending most of the time in bed, only occasionally getting up, only eating when Subz would drag him to the table and not let him up until he had something. He needed a change of scenery, they both did.

Subz packed a bag that night while Vi slept. Clothes, check. Towels, check. Car snacks, check. Portable speaker that only sometimes works, check. When everything was ready he set an alarm for way too early in the morning and got into bed. He looked at his best friend and sighed. He looked terrible. Subz ran a hand through Vi's hair to sort out a few knots before they could really take hold and tucked a strand behind his ear. Vi shuffled closer to the touch and Subz felt the small smile that started to form on his face. He couldn't help it ok, it was cute how Vi always seemed to try to be close to him, even while asleep. Pulling the blanket up over the both of them he drifted to sleep to the lull of coyotes in the desert.

The sun was barely up by the time the alarm went off and it took every ounce of strength Subz had not to smash his phone on the wall. But he got up and started coffee so he wouldn't fall asleep on the highway. God getting Vi out of bed was going to be like pulling teeth. Yeah he was going to wait for the coffee before he started trying to do that. A cup and a half of caffeine later the car was packed and Vitalasy was leaning his full body weight on Subz as they walked to the car.

“You can sleep in the car, come on, feet up.” Vi mumbled something incoherent into his shoulder but slipped off to get in the passenger seat. Subz used the last of his cash to fill up his car and prayed that he had enough in his bank account to get them food on the way back. Whatever, that was future them’s problem. He rolled his window down all the way and pulled out onto the road.

The morning part of the drive went quickly and eventually Vitalasy was conscious enough to ask where they were going.

“Wow, you really just got into a car with someone without knowing where you were going,” Subz scoffed. “You should really be more careful, I could totally be kidnapping you right now.”

“There are worse people to be kidnapped by,” Vi responded with a yawn. “Not many, but at least one or two.” Subz took one hand off the wheel to smack at Vi’s shoulder. He just laughed and it filled Subz’s heart to the brim. God he had missed hearing that. He put his hand back on the wheel before responding.

“We’re going to the lake.” Vi perked up at that and Subz smiled. He’d been hoping for that response. Vi had talked all school year about the two of them going out to swim and they’d even made plans once or twice but it never seemed to work out. Always school or sports or family in the way. Now it really was just the two of them so fuck it, they were finally going swimming. The drive went even faster with Vi there to keep him company but it was still past noon by the time they got to the beach. They’d passed one or two lakes on the drive up but he’d chosen this one because it was out of the way from the more major cities and should be way less crowded. Thankfully he was right, not a single other car parked in the lot.

Vitalasy was already out of the car by the time Subz had put it in park, leaving him to carry their bags. He had to grab Vi by the arm to keep him from going right into the water.

“Bro you literally don’t even have a swimsuit on yet, chill for a second,” he said rummaging through the bag. He tossed a pair of trunks to him and began setting down their stuff. Subz was nearly finished taking everything out when Vi came walking back towards their spot. The air in his lungs got stuck when he saw Vitalasy, the glow of him in his summer clothes taking Subz’s breath away. He just looked so happy. Fuck, Subz was in over his head with this wasn’t he. He’d known that for a while. Felt it even longer, back before he knew that the twisting in his stomach when Vi looked at him, smiled at him, touched him, was love. Of course it was, it was always going to be him.

Once Subz had spent enough time staring (it was never enough time) he went to change himself. Vi was still waiting by the shore, the water just barely lapping over his feet while he looked out over the lake. Subz let himself stare one more time before walking over to him.

“Sooo, you going in or what?” Subz said, glancing over at Vi’s face.

“Yeah! Had to wait for you though,” Vi said as he turned to face him with real happiness in his eyes. Welp, there goes Subz’s heart again, and right after he slowed the thing down. He rolled his eyes and nudged his best friend towards the water. Vi smiled and grabbed his hand before sprinting full speed into the water. Subz shouted as he was dragged forward, cold water splashing all over his legs. He was able to claw himself out of Vitalasy’s grasp before the water reached his waist. Fuck it was so cold.

“What the hell, warn a guy first will you!”

Vi continued further out, water up to his chest before he turned around and walked back to Subz. He had a look on his face that made Subz uneasy.

“Vitalasy. Vi, what are you doing?” His face broke out into a grin before grabbing Subz around the middle and pulling him down into the water on top of him. Freezing cold water covered every inch of him but all he really felt was the warmth of Vi’s arms around his waist. Soon enough though he needed air and he finally pulled the both of them back above the water, spluttering and coughing as he did so. Oh, Vi was lucky he loved him otherwise he’d be wringing his neck. He still might honestly.

Wiping the water out of his eyes Subz fixed him with the bitchiest glare he could muster while drenched looking like a wet cat. Vi was wiping the hair off his face and smiled like he wasn’t trying to test their friendship. He reached out his hand again which Subz completely ignored, wading out further on his own terms this time. He heard Vi laugh behind him and the splash of water he made when he went back under and started swimming out. He passed Subz quickly, occasionally popping up to check how deep it was. Soon enough the water was at Subz’s chin and he was forced to start swimming to reach Vi. The shore was steadily getting further and further away and they were still swimming out. Eventually he called out to get him to stop.

“Ok fine, I wanna check the depth though!” Vitalasy said before diving straight under. By the time Subz was just about to start worrying he popped up behind him.

“Jesus Christ, you scared the shit outta me,” Subz said, putting a hand over his heart, keeping the other moving to help him tread water.

“Sorry,” Vi said, absolutely lying. “Here, keep treading water, I’m gonna grab onto your ankles and see if I can touch the bottom!” Back under he went and Subz tried not to flinch when he felt a hand wrap around his ankle. After a few seconds Vitalasy started coming back up using Subz as a makeshift ladder. He popped above water with his hands on Subz’s shoulders, shaking his head to get the excess water off his hair. Subz was too busy taking in the sight of Vi in front of him to complain about the water that got on him. Once he was done shaking the droplets out of his hair he opened his eyes. His hands moved onto Subz’s shoulders to link behind his neck and he smiled.

“Thanks for taking me out here,” he said. Subz could only give a curt nod, desperately trying not to stare at Vi’s lips. They’d been this close plenty of times before, hell he woke up every morning practically enveloped by the guy, but that had the veil of comforting his friend going through a hard time to cover it. Here it was just the two of them, no comforting or crying, just the water around them and Vi’s hands around his neck like it was the most natural thing in the world. In a way it felt like it was. Like this was exactly how it was supposed to be.

Vi let go and said they should go back, he hadn’t been able to reach the bottom even holding onto his ankles so they might be a bit too far out for safety. Subz hoped the heartache he felt when he pulled away didn’t show on his face when they swam back.

The afternoon passed as one of the happiest in a while and as the sky started to turn pink Vi perked up off the sand to ask if they should get going.

“The drive’s pretty long, right? I’ll drive the second half if you want.” Subz just shook his head and grabbed an extra two blankets he’d pack.

“Nah, I thought we could just sleep out here tonight and head back in the morning. If that’s alright with you at least.”

“...I’d like that, yeah,” Vitalasy said with maybe not the brightest smile of the day but certainly the softest. Subz berated his stomach for twisting into knots at the sight. He nodded and laid the blankets out a bit further away from the shore line before going back to the car to grab food and the speaker. It barely got through a whole song but hey it was something. The two of them spent the evening watching the sky move from pink to orange to navy dotted with stars. At some point while

the two were laying down Subz saw a shooting star and pointed the space it had been to Vi who sat up immediately and started searching for more.

“What did you wish for?”

Subz was pulled out of his thoughts by Vi’s sudden question.

“Uh, I hadn’t thought of one yet.” Vi scoffed and pulled him up to sit next to him, shoulder to shoulder.

“Well that was a waste of a perfectly good wish! You’re not laying back down till you see another one and make a proper wish.”

He went back to searching the sky but Subz kept his eyes trained on Vitalasy. He moved his leg so their knees were touching and stretched out his arm behind Vi’s back who hummed and rested his head on Subz’s shoulder, still searching the sky for a wish. Subz leaned his cheek on the top of his head and closed his eyes. He didn't need a wish right now. Their lives might be fucked up, but in this moment they could let things be perfect. Just for the night.

End Notes

i didn't actually think of a wish for either of them so if you have suggestions pls tell me

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