

Organic Seed

by
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Characters: (2w, 2m)

Taylor: 50s, a long time farmer.

Kim: 20s, a young, organic farmer.

Molly: 40-60s, a customer at the market, lover of veggies.
A mother.

Richard: 20s. Good looking guy into farmer's organic produce.
He's in a band.

Time: Late summer.

Place: A farmer's market.

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ORGANIC SEED

Scene: A farmer's market.

At rise: Taylor, a farmer in his late 50s, stands behind a table proudly displaying fruit and veggies grown on his farm. He wears overalls and is very much dressed to fit the role of a "farmer."

Kim, a young woman, enters carrying a folding table, in a bit of a rush. She quickly pops it up and sets it down, not far from Taylor's stand. She wears muddy jeans, but a stylish blouse.

TAYLOR
You've got to be kidding me.

KIM
Good morning to you, too.

TAYLOR
Next to me?

KIM
It's the only spot left.

TAYLOR
I'll talk to Meredith.

KIM
She told me to put it here. Talk to her if you want.

Kim exits and returns with baskets of vegetables. Not quite as bountiful as Taylor's. She starts to set up her stand.

TAYLOR
I might.

KIM
What?

TAYLOR
Talk to Meredith.

KIM
I paid my fee, same as you. This spot was open. So here I am. Deal with it.

TAYLOR

You're late. Booths are supposed to be set up by 9:30.

KIM

The tomatoes were really going. Took a while to bring them all in.

TAYLOR

Gotta get up early.

KIM

I get up early enough.

TAYLOR

Right.

Silence. Kim arranges her produce. Sets out price tags. Taylor watches her, somewhat scornfully.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Fancy price tags.

KIM

Laser printer. You should consider joining the 21st century.

Taylor snorts.

TAYLOR

And what's with that blouse?

KIM

I can wear what I want.

TAYLOR

We're at a farmer's market, not a night club.

KIM

Customer appeal.

TAYLOR

Oh, I'll bet.

KIM

You might see the value in mud and the scent of unwashed farmer. I'm after something different.

TAYLOR

Yep.

KIM

And it was clean.

A bell rings, off stage.

TAYLOR

Here they come.

They both straighten themselves and their stands in preparation for the start of the market.

Richard enters. He's a good looking young man carrying a cloth grocery bag. Very crunchy looking. He starts browsing Taylor's stand.

Molly enters. She's a middle aged woman with a sharp eye for produce. She starts browsing Taylor's stand.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Nothing but the freshest produce. Look at those peppers. You won't find bigger peppers anywhere in this market. Feel the heft on those.

Molly picks up a pepper.

MOLLY

These are lovely. Is all your produce organic?

TAYLOR

We're a low paperwork farm. I'm more interested in farming than filling out forms for certification. You won't find many folks here who are "technically" organic.

Kim clears her throat loudly, and produces an official looking sheet of paper.

KIM

There might be some.

The customers look over at her with interest.

TAYLOR

Oh, when did that happen?

KIM

Everything on this table: certified organic.

TAYLOR

Look at these peppers. All organic methods for these peppers. Look at my peppers, and look at her peppers. Don't be fooled by the paperwork.

Molly appreciates Taylor's peppers. Richard moves over to Kim's table.

MOLLY

I'll take these three peppers. And your tomatoes are lovely.

KIM

Ask him about spraying?

TAYLOR

Don't start.

RICHARD

(to Kim)

So, you're organic?

KIM

One hundred percent.

MOLLY

(to Taylor)

Do you spray?

TAYLOR

Only a few things. The tomatoes got a fungicide this spring, because of all the rain. Totally safe.

KIM

Ha!

MOLLY

I've been reading about tomato growing. Some real horror stories.

RICHARD

(eyes fixed on Kim)

For me, it's all about the whole system. Farmers and consumers, they all need to be in it together, you know.

KIM

Exactly.

MOLLY

What did you spray?

TAYLOR

Just some copper sulfate. Which is organic.

KIM

And?

TAYLOR

A tiny bit of Serenade. Which is a bacteria, and organic.

KIM

Not approved.

RICHARD

You don't spray?

TAYLOR

She will next year, don't worry.

RICHARD

(still focused on Kim)

I haven't seen you at this market before.

KIM

I used to be across town, but this one has better traffic.

RICHARD

Just starting out?

KIM

Kind of. Did you see the zebra tomatoes? I grow a whole bunch of heirlooms.

Molly leaves Taylor's stand with her peppers, and checks out Kim's wares.

TAYLOR

I've got heirlooms, too. Look at these.

Molly checks out some of Kim's tomatoes, admires them. Richard checks out Kim.

MOLLY

A little pricey.

RICHARD

You have to pay for quality.

KIM

Exactly.

TAYLOR

Four dollars a pound or three dollars a pound. The difference adds up fast.

RICHARD

I'm really into organic.

KIM

That's very sensible. You have to pay attention to what you put into your body.

Molly walks back over to Taylor's stand.

TAYLOR

You won't be disappointed, ma'am. Here, try one.

He slices open a tomato and hands Molly a piece to taste.

MOLLY

Mmmm. Excellent.

TAYLOR

This young lady has taste. I could tell from the minute I saw her.

Molly blushes, and picks a few tomatoes.

MOLLY

I'll take these. It really sounds like you know what you're doing.

Richard picks out even more tomatoes (from Kim's stand) than Molly took from Taylor.

RICHARD

I'll take these.

Kim flashes a smug smile at Taylor.

TAYLOR

I've got some fresh basil over here. Goes perfect with the tomatoes.

RICHARD

(to Kim, ignoring Taylor)

I think farmers are so important. You're the ones keeping us connected with the earth. It gives you an understanding of the world that most of us will never know.

TAYLOR

(to Molly)

Laying it on a little thick, isn't he?

MOLLY

Excuse me?

KIM

(ignoring Taylor)

Yeah. That's why I stick with it. It's hard, but sometimes that's the only way to accomplish something meaningful.

TAYLOR

Ha!