

PULLING TEETH

Written by

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INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

MAEVE (19) is sitting on her couch. GALE (22) Walks in, buttoning up his coat.

GALE
Maeve, do you know where the keys
are?

Maeve stays sitting, now looking off to the side. She reveals the keys clutched in her hand.

GALE (CONT'D)
Maeve. Pass me the keys.

He holds his hand out. Maeve stares at it.

GALE (CONT'D)
Ma-

MAEVE
Do we have to go?

Gale sighs, frustrated. He looks at his phone to see what time it is.

GALE
For the last time, yes, okay? We're
gonna be late. Please give me the
keys.

Maeve grips them even tighter before reluctantly giving them to him.

GALE (CONT'D)
Thank you. See, that wasn't so
hard? Was it?

Maeve is visibly upset and making no move to stand up from the couch.

MAEVE
Can't we just make an excuse and
say I got sick or something?

GALE
Are you hearing yourself? Why is it
so hard for you to see our family
for one night? It won't kill you.

MAEVE
Feels like it will.

GALE

Oh my god, you do this every time!
Why are you so difficult? Mom's
already fed up with you! The least
you can do is see her family!

MAEVE

I don't want to!

GALE

Why?!

MAEVE

Because!

GALE

Great, you don't even have a
reason. Why do you have to be so
selfish? It's literally not that
hard.

MAEVE

Yes, it is!

GALE

Why?

MAEVE

Why do you care?!

Maeve stands up to face him, and Gale is taken aback by the
fire in Maeve's voice. She takes a breath, gathering the
courage to speak.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

It's so hard to be around them and
everything they talk about. it's
always politics or religion or a
"harmless joke," and I can't say
anything or call anyone out because
I'm just "being dramatic". do you
know why I get wasted every single
time i'm around them? Because then
maybe, I won't hate myself so much
or want to rip every single hair
out of my skull when they say
something bigoted. It fucking sucks
knowing that you're sitting in a
room with a family who hates you
and they don't even know it!

GALE

Maeve its not like that they love
you no matter what-

MAEVE

No, let me finish. Do you know why that doesn't matter? Because regardless of if they love me or not they're still hurting me. They're still gonna make their "that's gay" jokes even if it "doesn't mean anything," ok? It does mean something. So no, I don't want to go because I don't want to be surrounded by people that are supposed to love me talk about how they think people like me are a sin. Maybe I don't like feeling convinced that that awful feeling is all in my head when they say something Shitty. Just because it's my family and that "they love me no matter what" doesn't make it ok.

Gale listens to her. There's a pause as he tries to find what to say as Maeve catches her breath and sits down.

GALE

Well... Maeve, I've known for a long time-

Maeve looks insulted by this comment

MAEVE

I'm being fucking vulnerable with you, and all you have to say is you already knew I was gay-?!

GALE

Wait-okay, what I mean is- I didn't know how much it all affected you.

Gale sits down next too Maeve, trying to choose his words carefully.

GALE (CONT'D)

Im here for you you know... I know I wasn't before and I know we have trouble sometimes but I really do want to be here for you.

(beat)

I don't want to make you feel the same way as our family does and if I ever did for even one second Im sorry.

Gale looks determined and passionate before toning it down.

GALE (CONT'D)
Did you tell anyone else?

MAEVE
Only my friends know.

Gale hesitates before finally putting a hand on her shoulder.

GALE
You don't have to worry about me
telling anyone you know.

Maeve moves her arms up in defense, causing Gale's hand to retreat.

MAEVE
I know- I know
(beat)
You weren't the one I was scared to
tell.

Gale's eyes light up.

GALE
Is there anything I can do to make
it easier? Or help or... support
you?

As Maeve is about to answer Gale interrupts with an idea.

GALE (CONT'D)
Hey- how about we have our own
dinner?

Maeve looks at him confused and surprised.

MAEVE
Our own dinner?

GALE
Yea, fuck thanksgiving.

Maeve laughs nervously but seems intrigued.

MAEVE
You know mom's gonna be pissed
right?

GALE
Yea well who cares. Ill take the
blame, it was my idea anyways
right?

This seems to comfort Maeve much more and she nods before hugging him. Gale looks surprised and it takes a moment before he hugs her back.

MAEVE

Thank you...

GALE

Thanks for trusting me.

FADE TO BLACK.

END