

NOTE: TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE MC HAS MET THE CHARACTERS IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

INT.

MC is in front of her laptop, reading news.

"Global climate crisis is real, stakeholders in oil disagree."

"Scientists have drilled and checked ice layers in the Antarctic. Claim carbon tax is good"

"Crops failing due to erratic rains. As temperatures continue to break records"

MC

Arrgh! Someone tell me something I don't know!

\*grumbling\* A solution would be even better. Oh right, that's why I did this course!

\*Laptop notification ping\*

Assignment on "Changes required to the energy industry" due in 2 weeks.

MC

I think I'm going to be sick.

If clicks on window, MC moves to window and looks out onto the community garden.

MC

If MC planted plants: [I might just check on my plants.]

else: A short break never hurt anyone surely?

MC steps out into the garden

MC stays inside

MC

I can't afford a break, it might be good to try doing some work.

If clicks on laptop, MC opens email app

Whole list of emails from different senders, the top 3 are from MC's mom.

"Mom : Haven't heard about your recent grades sweetie!"

"Mom : Fwd. Nutritious vegetable pasta recipe foodbible..."

"Mom : Paper submitted? Sleep well tea blends for stress..."

MC

Oh gosh mom, the papers aren't stressing me out, you are!  
No - that's wrong. Everything is so stressful. The world feels like  
it's going to go down in flames.

\*Laptop pings\*

Notification: "War breaks out over climate crisis and global-"

MC looks at the laptop in agitation.

MC

I think I need a break. Maybe some fresh air \*snorts\* yeah, totally,  
some polluted air might do me good.

MC steps out into the garden

EXT.

MC STEPS OUT INTO THE GARDEN

MC

It's a pretty day at least, sky is blue and there's no smog.  
Everyone's out and about in the garden as well.

If MC has not planted any seeds

MC

I wonder if it's really that fun, watching all these plants grow.  
Do they really believe this little garden will change things?  
If MC talks to characters in the community garden (TOMMASO)

TOMMASO

Hi! Did you get a chance to find Hopper??

MC

Oh? Um - Was that your grasshopper? No, no I didn't see it.

TOMMASO

Really? I wonder where Hopper went.

MC

Well, the gras- Hopper is likely hiding amongst some plants  
somewhere.

TOMMASO

Alright, well if you see him will you tell me?

MC

Um- yeah, sure. Might be a tough spot, but okay,

TOMMASO

Yay! Oh yeah, do you want to plant some seeds?!  
Maybe Hopper will hide amongst your tomatoes and eat them if you  
don't find him in time!

If MC takes seeds

MC

Alright, let's give it a go . . .  
Where should I plant this?

TOMMASO

There's a bed there that my Appacha just forked. You could plant your seeds there!

If MC doesn't take seeds

MC

No it's fine, it was tomatoes and basil right? I'm trying to give my low carb diet a chance.

TOMMASO

Whaaaaat?! But pizza is awesome!

And pizza is not carbs. Or is it?

\*Huffs\* Alright, If you want to grow pizza later though, I'll give you seeds. Just ask!

If MC talks to characters in the community garden (MARIA)

MARIA

Ciao, Ciao. How are we today? I hope you're taking a break from your studies?

MC

Sort of, I thought I might step out and take in the fresh air.

MARIA

That's lovely to hear. How are you enjoying the garden? Have you had a look at the plants in the garden?

MC

Not really, I mean, yeah I saw them, but I didn't exactly stop to really take them in you know?

MARIA

What better time than now?

MC

I should go back to my studies soon though. I have another paper to write soon.

MARIA

I'm glad you decided to step out just now then lovely.

Would you like to plant some flowers before you go?

I have a feeling you would enjoy seeing them grow or enjoy the butterflies that come by.

If MC takes seeds

MC

Alright, I'll give it a go - who doesn't like butterflies?

MARIA

Good choice lovely - here are Achillea seeds.

They do not require much care.

Appacha was kind enough to fork the area there. Happy planting!

If MC doesn't take seeds

MC

No it's fine, I really don't think I could handle that at all.

MARIA

Alright lovely, just make sure to take some breaks every once in a while. Ciao bella.

If MC talks to characters in the community garden (APPACHA)

APPACHA

Ah, you're back child. Kaise ho?

Tommaso has been asking if you will play with him some time.

MC

Kaise...?

APPACHA

I think in Italian that is how are you?

MC

I'm alright, thank you for asking. How are your plants doing?

APPACHA

They are doing well, though clearly my bhindi here is not too pleased.

A little more water, isn't that right my friend?

MC

Do you not find it strange to talk to your plants?

APPACHA

Not at all child, plants like being spoken to. They are just as sentient as we are.

I often think of them as my wife. She had planted them years ago.

MC  
I'm so sorry!

APPACHA  
What for child?

MC  
About your wife...

APPACHA  
Do not worry my child, it is something I have slowly come to terms  
with.  
Perhaps you might find a friend in them. I have some seeds if you  
would like to plant them.

If MC takes seeds

MC  
Thank you, I will try to take care of them and think of them as my  
friends.

APPACHA  
I've just forked a bed there. I will show you how to fork your own  
bed if you'd like.  
You can plant your seeds there.

If MC doesn't take seeds

MC  
I like Indian food, but I'm not sure if I really have the time to  
take care of these plants.

APPACHA  
Well child, if you would like a friend who gives back based on how  
you care for them, come back and talk to me.

If MC doesn't plant any seeds at all and goes back to her room

MC  
I'm not sure why I bothered. I shouldn't have wasted my time  
outdoors.

When MC clicks on the door to her room to return.

MC  
It's nice that they grow these plants. I'm sure they help a little  
towards climate change.

Not that such a small number of plants makes a difference though.

If MC has planted seeds (TOMMASO's)

MC

Alright, let's see how my tomato and basil plants are doing!

TOMMASO

Hey! Big sis - how is your pizza doing??

MC

Oh! You surprised me Tommaso!

TOMMASO

Haha - It's how I first met Hopper. How are the plants sis??

If MC says plants are doing well

MC

They're doing well. I think they're growing a little quicker than expected too!

TOMMASO

Really?? That's amazing! I wonder if it's because the plants like the soil.

MC

What do you mean if the plants like the soil...?

TOMMASO

My Appacha tells me that when the plants like the soil, they grow quickly.

MC

Well, it looks like in another month we may get to try some pizza then.

TOMMASO

Pizza's amazing isn't it!

MC

You shouldn't eat it too often though!

TOMMASO

Why not? Pizza's so healthy! Especially when mamma makes it at home.

Mamma makes extra special pizza - she only makes it when the tomatoes  
in the garden have grown though.

MC

Ah - Is that why you wanted me to grow pizzas as well?  
So you could have more pizza?

TOMMASO

Yeah! Then big sis and Appacha and I can all share pizza!

MC

Haha alright, we'll share your mamma's extra special pizza.

TOMMASO

Ah - Appacha's calling me, I'm just going to go help him.  
You could help us later maybe?

MC

Alright, you better not keep Appacha waiting. On you go!  
Tommaso leaves and joins Appacha.

If MC continues talking to Tommaso, Tommaso will continue his  
dialogue asking for a joke to give MC more oregano.

If MC says plants are not doing well

MC

Oh no! It looks like slugs are starting to eat my plants!!

TOMMASO

Slugs are cool!  
But they're bad for plants...

MC

What do I do? I don't want to touch them...

TOMMASO

I don't know what to do...

Oh!

I know, Appacha will know what to do!  
We should talk to Appacha!

Tommaso and MC go to Appacha

TOMMASO

Appacha! Big sis' plants aren't doing too well.

APPACHA  
Kya hua beta?

TOMMASO  
There's slugs on her plants!

MC  
They're rather big, but they seem to be slow at least.

APPACHA  
Hmm, I know what might help for now.

TOMMASO  
Oh, are you going to use that old trick Appacha??

MC  
Old trick?

APPACHA  
\*chuckles\* Simple trick. Here is a melon for you

MC  
What am I supposed to do with this melon?

TOMMASO  
You eat it!! That's the best part!

MC  
Huh?

APPACHA  
He is correct. When you're done, put the rinds in the ground.

MC  
But that'll cause them to multiply won't it?!

APPACHA  
It would if you left them alone.  
But they make for great traps!

TOMMASO  
Yeah, the best part is picking it up and putting the rind elsewhere!

MC  
Oh - That's so cool!

So I just need to leave it out and take it away?

APPACHA

That's right, very simple, no?

TOMMASO

Yeah and it's so much fun!  
I'll help you with it big sis!!

MC

Thank you Tommaso, your help would be amazing!

TOMMASO

Let's go do it!

Tommaso, in his excitement, runs off with the melon.

APPACHA

Child, before you go, make sure that after you catch the slugs to  
sprinkle salt on them, wherever you take them.

MC

And not to let Tommaso see?

APPACHA

Precisely, now hurry along before Tommaso runs back with one too many  
questions.

MC and Tommaso eat the melon and plant the rinds into the soil.

If MC talks to Appacha now, Appacha continues from the start of the  
dialogue to offer seeds.

If MC talks to Maria

MARIA

Ah, lovely, good to see you outdoors.

MC

It feels good to be outside

MARIA

I'm glad to hear that, it seems like you're slowly able to enjoy your time in the garden? (find appreciation in the outdoors?)

MC

Yeah, I might not really stop to see the butterflies, but it feels nice to stretch my legs and think about something other than my paper.

MARIA

Well, perhaps you should consider picking up a second hobby then, perhaps read a book or cook!

MC

Cooking takes so long, I prefer simple meals that you can make very quickly.

Do you enjoy cooking when you get the time then?

MARIA

Very much so, in fact I have a recipe for which I'm looking for the perfect herb.

A lot of my recipes are quick and easy, they take no more than 15 minutes.

MC

They couldn't possibly be nutritious then right?

MARIA

Well, while boiling your pasta, you can boil your vegetables.

Make the sauce on the side and toss in your boiled goods.

And you have nutritious pasta you made in 15 minutes.

I do make my sauce in bulk when I have time I will admit however.

MC

That's pretty cool!

That reminds me, what kind of dish are you making..?

MARIA

Well, I'm making an old traditional dish, something my mother taught me when I was quite young.

I can't seem to remember one of the herbs she used however.

Do you happen to have any herbs you might suggest?

MC

(based on availability of herbs in inventory)

If no herbs: I'm afraid not... if I get some, I'll be sure to share some of my herbs with you!

Else choice between herbs: Would you like some [insert herb name]?

If MC gives Maria Oregano -

MARIA

Oregano? This smell... is very familiar.

I can almost imagine my mother putting this in the pot.

I certainly hope that I am not stealing the flavour of your pizza!

MC

No- not at all, I'm happy to share it with you.

Tommaso was kind enough to share this oregano with me.

MARIA

Gracie, I think you may have just put an end to my hunt for herbs  
lovely.

Here, give me a minute, I have something for you.

Maria gives MC the mozzarella.

MARIA

Before you ask, my grandma gave me this cheese.

She sends me a wheel or two every month.

A part of her 'Delights package' as she likes to call it.

If MC continues to talk to Maria, she will go through where her  
dialogue ended last to offer seeds (unless she has already planted  
it).

If MC has planted seeds (Maria's)

MC

I wonder how the herbal plant is doing. Hopefully it's not suffering too much.

MARIA

Ah, ciao lovely.

MC

Hello!

MARIA

How is the Achillea doing lovely?

If MC says plants are doing well

MC

It seems to be doing well. It has grown a few leaves as well.

MARIA

That's wonderful news!

You can make some tea from the Achillea then.

You will find it quite soothing.

I would wait for it to grow just a little bit more however.

MC

I'm not sure what to do in the meantime

MARIA

\*laughs\* Oh lovely, talk to the people around you, look at the flowers. Breathe in the air.

It seems you have much to learn in the art of relaxation!

MC

Perhaps I will take you up on your advice.

MARIA CONTINUES LINES FROM THE OREGANO QUEST - SHE REFERS TO FINDING ANOTHER HOBBY,

MARIA

Well, perhaps you should consider picking up a second hobby then, perhaps read a book or cook!

If MC says plants are not doing well

MC

The plant looks to be dry and withered, though I'm not sure why.

MARIA

Hm, I'm a little surprised. Maybe it needs some friendly competition.

MC

Friendly competition?

MARIA

Plants tend to do better when they're competing for resources.

Tommaso usually grows his tomatoes and basil together.

The Achillea may do better growing alongside the basil.

I would ask Tommaso for some seeds. Remember to tell him a joke while you're at it.

MC

Alright, I'll ask Tommaso for a little help.

MC approaches Tommaso

TOMMASO

Big sis! Hi! Did you find Hopper??

MC

Oh- no, I'm afraid not.

TOMMASO

Aw. Then what's up big sis?

MC

Well, my Achillea isn't doing too well and Maria said that you might be able to help!

TOMMASO

Oh yeah! This happened last time too!

MC

Last time?

TOMMASO

Yeah, it wasn't very happy, but when I put some basil next to it, it was happy again!

MC

That's what we need then!

TOMMASO

I'll help you plant some basil next to it.  
It will be happy!

MC

Thank you for your help Tommaso!

MC and Tommaso plant the Basil by the Achillea.

If MC talks to Tomasso now, Tomasso will ask for a joke (to get oregano) or continue his dialogues from where he last left off to offer seeds.

If MC talks to Appacha now, Appacha gives his dialogues from the last point they spoke, offering seeds.

If MC has planted seeds (Appacha's)

MC

I wonder if the Okra is growing at all. Herbs grow much faster!  
Maybe I can pick some today.

APPACHA

Beta, kaise ho?  
Ah- How are you?

MC

Namaste Appacha - I'm doing well, the weather is pleasant today.  
A little warmer than it should be though.

APPACHA

The weather is fickle, just as plants and life is.  
It is about being able to adapt.

MC

Thanks Appacha.

APPACHA

Tell me then, how are your plants doing? Are they well?

If MC says plants are doing well

MC

They're growing really well, I think they've been very happy with the  
weather.

APPACHA

That is good. Make sure to keep an eye on them.  
If they get too dry, they will shed their flowers.  
Then you will have no vegetables or leaves.

MC

I'll make sure to keep them well watered Appacha, thank you!

APPACHA

Tell me if you need help beta.  
I hope you do spend more time with Tommaso. He is very happy to have  
a big sister.

MC can talk to other characters in the community garden now.

If MC says plants are not doing well

MC

The plants don't look to good Appacha, I'm not sure why

APPACHA

Hm, perhaps they need some help.

It looks like they haven't been able to ward off pests.

MC

Those bugs are pests?

They're not grasshoppers though.

APPACHA

There's all kinds of bugs in this world, beta. They're not all bad. If there aren't too many, this will encourage other plants to boost their defenses and release smells so they aren't appetising to other bugs.

MC

But if they're too many, all the plants will suffer.

APPACHA

I would ask Maria for help.

She usually deals with pests like these with ease.

MC

Thanks Appacha, I'll go talk to her!

MC leaves Appacha to tend to his plants and approaches Maria

MARIA

Hello lovely, good to see you out and about.

It looked like you and the old man were in deep conversation.

MC

I was just about to ask you for help because of that! Appacha said you might have something that can help me ward off pests?

MARIA

Ah, it's an old trick I like to use.  
Old used up coffee beans.  
Come, I'll sprinkle it around the plants with you.

MC  
Thank you so much!

MC and Maria go to the plants to sprinkle coffee beans around in the soil.

If MC talks to Maria now, she will go through where her dialogue ended last to offer seeds (unless she has already planted it), as well as the oregano quest.

If MC talks to Tomasso now, Tomasso will ask for a joke (to get oregano) or continue his dialogues from where he last left off to offer seeds (unless already planted).

If MC clicks on her room door to go back after planting seeds.

MC  
It's been quite a day. Time to spend some time being productive!  
And spend a little time checking on my plants every other day..  
Can't wait to see how they grow!  
I think Maria was right about stopping to smell the roses.