

A Soundtrack for Far from The Tree

Fanta Dukuly

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The song "Prom dress" by mxmtoon reminds of Grace. If you don't know already, Grace gave birth to her daughter on prom night, while instead of her boyfriend Max being there to help support her, he got crowned prom king. Grace had felt betrayed and mad that he wasn't supporting her in any way through the pregnancy. The lyrics "I'm sitting here, crying in my prom dress. I'll be the prom queen if crying was a contest" describes Grace so well because even after giving birth she gave her baby up for adoption. She always got emotional over the thought of Peach (a nickname she gave her baby) and always thought she was the bad guy by giving her baby away.



The song "I Can't Handle Change" by ROAR perfectly fits Joaquin, especially in scenes in the book where he would push people away because he didn't want to hurt or disappoint them. In the beginning of the book he would push people away because of the fear of disappointing the

people close to him, due trauma that happened to him in the past. Joaquin has been in the Foster care system majority of his life so that could take a toll on someone. The lyrics "I can't help but repeat myself, I know it's not your fault. Still lately I begin to shake for no reason at all" perfectly describe the scene when Mark and Linda gave Joaquin a car. When going on a test drive he couldn't stop shaking and had to pull over. He felt like he already let them down and blames himself for everything he does.



The song "Sofia" by Clairo reminds me of all the scenes with Maya and Claire. All those times when Maya needed comfort and Claire was the first person she would contact to give her that. The lyrics "Baby, you don't gotta fight, I'll be here 'til the end of time. Wishin' that you were mine, pull you in, it's alright" are words I imagine Claire would tell Maya giving her reassurance that everything will get better in the future



The song "Count on me" by Bruno Mars fits with all the scenes Rafe has been a good friend to Grace. He actually sat down and listened to all her troubles and didn't hesitate to ask questions to better understand her problems. Grace loosened up to him and they had a great friendship going for them. These lyrics "You can count on me like one two three I'll be there I'll be there and I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two You'll be there Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah" describe their relationship so well. Rafe would always meet up with Grace if she was in the need to talk to



The song "LIKE I WANT YOU" by Giveon describes the feelings Joaquin has for Birdie. He broke up with Birdie with the fear of not being able to give her the future she wanted. Joaquin is known for pushing others away thinking it's going to help him but in reality it's hurting him. The lyrics "Sometimes I wish you knew But I disguise the truth. I say I'm happy but I'm still stuck on us" and "Does your mind play this game too? Think about me and you'll guess I'll just pretend, until it all makes sense" remind me of the times Joaquin would pass by Birdie in the school hallways and act like he isn't hurting inside. He loves her but is scared he can't give her the future she wants. He doesn't want to disappoint her so he broke up with her, to save himself of feeling like a disappointment



The song "Needs" by Verzache goes with the scene in the book when Maya broke up with Claire. Like Joaquin, Maya pushed the people away that wanted to help her because she was scared. When breaking up with Claire she made it seem like she didn't care but in reality she knew she made a big mistake, but did not want to admit to them. The lyrics "You never get me but understand I think it's fine I lost your number and I don't expect you hitting mine" explain the parts when Claire tried to tell Maya what she needed to hear but Maya completely ignored her because she believed she has it harder than Claire but in reality they are both struggling. Maya didn't text Claire or even made contact with as much as possible. But thankfully they got back together!



The song "I don't want to fall in love" by KYLE goes once again with his relationship with Birdie. He broke up with her due the fact he was scared he couldn't provide her the future she wanted. The lyrics "Honestly I'm better as your boy, I'll be kinda shitty as your man, Let's go back to only being friends, Sorry girl I hope you understand but I don't wanna fall in love" shows how Joaquin dumped Birdie. He did it as if he didn't care when he really did. He thought he was just saving himself but he was doing the opposite. Other lyrics that better explain this is "Be happy with lies or be sad with the truth, Don't be ashamed you see love is a game and I still want to play I'm just too scared to loose..". This shows how Joaquin is very self conscious and doesn't want to hurt the people around him so he takes little steps to make sure he doesn't make a mistake to hurt them. But the biggest mistake he's been doing is pushing those people away.



The new song "pov" by Araine Grande fits great with Grace. People have different perspectives on which are the opposite of how she sees herself. For example, her parents see her as a good kid and Rafe sees her as a cool friend. The lyrics "I wanna trust me (trust me) The way that you trust me(trust me) Ooh cause nobody ever love me like you do I'd love to see me from your point of view" reminds of all the times Rafe would talk to Grace about his own life and did not question their trust. Grace also wonders alot about how others see her. For example Adam sees her as a slut, her friends pity her, but Rafe has a different perspective on Grace, so she probably wonders how he sees her as a human being.



The song "Dead to me" by Kali Uchis describes the scenes when the characters in the book have cut off people that were not benefiting their lives. For example when Grace went back to school she didn't pay Max no mind and the people that were calling her names behind her back. Getting tired of the comment she was receiving from Adsam she punched him in the face (as she should). The lyrics "See you think you got problems with me? But baby I don't even think about you, You're mad at everything I do But what are you up to? I haven't a clue, Cause baby your dead to me, Why can't I be dead to you?" shows how ever since grace pregnancy people at her school came for her, calling her names and things. They are simply wasting their time and Grace doesn't have time for their opinions or comments



The song "Love Like You" by Rebecca Sugar represents all the siblings Grace, Maya, Joaquin and how they want their lives to go. With Grace struggling with feeling guilty about leaving Peach, Joaquin coping with his life problems and Maya with family issues, this song relates to them in every way. The lyrics "I always thought I might be bad

Now I'm sure that it's true 'cause I think you're so good And I'm nothing like you Look at you go! I just adore you I wish that I knew What makes you think I'm so special?" show how the siblings look at each other. For example Maya saw Grace as a girl with a life that seemed amazing but wasn't really as good as she thought. Same for Joaquin and Maya learning more about each other has depended on their relationship as siblings growing a stronger bond between the three.

