

COUSINS

By

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

JASMINE and CALEB talk in bed. Caleb sits at the end, staring at his laptop.

JASMINE
Are you absolutely sure?

CALEB
It's all right here.

Jasmine covers her face with her hands.

JASMINE
Oh my god.

CALEB
The same guy. Both family trees.

She puts her hands down.

JASMINE
What does this mean?

CALEB
We're 4th cousins.

She puts her hands back up.

JASMINE
Oh my god.

She breathes heavily. Caleb goes to comfort her. He sets the laptop aside and puts his arms around her.

CALEB
Jasmine, don't cry. Please, don't start crying.

JASMINE
Don't touch me!

CALEB
What?

JASMINE
Get away from me!

She pushes him.

CALEB
Jasmine!

She flaps her hands up and down rapidly making disgusted noises.

JASMINE

This is so disgusting!

She starts to almost throw up.

CALEB

Baby, listen to me!

JASMINE

What did you just say? You're kidding me right? You did not just call me baby!

CALEB

Look, this is a lot to take in; I am also shocked, or in your case traumatized. But, this isn't the end of the world.

JASMINE

Excuse me? What do you mean? We're related, Caleb! And we can't be related if we're engaged!

She flashes the ring on her finger.

CALEB

Well, there's no law against it.

JASMINE

Oh yeah? Well, there ain't no law against eating a dead animal on the side of the road either, but I ain't about to do that!

CALEB

I understand you're upset.

JASMINE

What gave it away! Was it the DNA?

CALEB

Can I have just a second, please?

She looks at him, disgusted.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I need you to understand that everyone is related to everybody else in some way. Look.

He grabs his laptop and starts searching.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Here. Most people have an average of 1,000 4th cousins.

JASMINE

That's not everybody.

CALEB

5,000 5th cousins. 25,000 6th cousins. 100,000-

JASMINE

Alright! Ok!

CALEB

By the 9th or 10th cousin you're in the millions, Jasmine.

JASMINE

But, doesn't this mean we can't have children?

CALEB

Children?

She looks at him, sternly. He turns to his laptop and searches.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Well, this says that the odds of birth defects for children of first cousins are 6 percent.

JASMINE

What else?

CALEB

2nd cousins are 1.5 percent. So, If you keep going, then 4th cousins would be...

They think to themselves, confused by the math.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I think it's safe.

JASMINE

Sure.

CALEB

So...we good?

JASMINE

We don't have to tell people,
right?

CALEB

Right.

JASMINE

And we don't have to move to the
south?

CALEB

Na-ah. I ain't about to put up
with giant spiders.

JASMINE

Ok. I feel you. And don't go
around calling me couz.

CALEB

Are you still going to call me
daddy?

JASMINE

I don't know yet.

CALEB

I love you.

JASMINE

I love you too.

He leans in for a kiss. She turns. He kisses her cheek. He
looks at her, confused.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Not ready. Tell me about this guy.

Caleb pulls up the info on his laptop. They cuddle
together.

CALEB

Charles Monroe, born 1865 in Wood Country, West Virginia. Had 9 brothers and sisters. His father, John, our 4th great-grandfather, fought in the Civil War.

JASMINE

Wow, that's cool!

CALEB

He was a confederate soldier-

JASMINE

Oh.

THE END