

THE HOSPITALITY OF NEIGHBORS

Written by

Darin Quan

1

INT. WILL AND NATALIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1

A flash of blue light.

Someone emerges, in her pajamas, on the couch. This is FLORA.

She looks around, confused.

FLORA

Oh boy.

Two people gingerly approach from around the corner, both in pajamas. This is WILL and NATALIE, both mid 40's.

NATALIE

What is it?

WILL

Stay back.

Flora sees them.

FLORA

(to herself)

This isn't Troy's apartment.

Flora looks around and puts it together.

Flora gets up. Will and Natalie get a little worried.

Flora explains.

FLORA (CONT'D)

Sorry no I'm not a burglar!

(delicately)

I have this teleporting thing, I just end up in this apartment--

Natalie takes off her robe and wraps it around Flora.

NATALIE

That sounds terrible. Here, you don't wanna catch a chill.

WILL

(regretfully)

My cousin had a teleporting problem. Tore the family apart.

NATALIE

Do you need water? You must be dehydrated.

FLORA

No thank you, I should go. I'm
sorry to bother you.

NATALIE

Keep the robe. I have six just like
it.

Flora meekly leaves the room, flashing a tiny smile as she
exits. Something is on her mind.

2 INT. FLORA'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - LATER 2

Flora enters and slips into bed. Her girlfriend LAURA is in
bed too. Laura is very sleepy.

LAURA

Hey. Did you teleport or did you
pee?

FLORA

Teleported. Troy moved out.

LAURA

He didn't...he didn't tell you?

FLORA

Yeah I thought he would've--

Laura starts snoring.

Flora just thinks.

3 INT. WILL AND NATALIE'S APARTMENT - DAY 3

Flora knocks on the door. She has the robe in her hand.

The door opens immediately. Will is there, smiling.

WILL

Oh hey there, Flora.

(at robe)

Oh look at that.

(to Flora)

You are so kind.

Natalie is passing by.

WILL (CONT'D)

Hey hon. Look who it is.

FLORA

I should go.

NATALIE

Oh hey Flora.

(sees robe)

You are so sweet. Why don't you
come on in and visit for a bit?

4 INT. WILL AND NATALIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

4

ANGLE ON

A platter filled with grapes cut in half.

NATALIE

It's an old family recipe.

Will holds an empty wine glass.

WILL

You know Natalie used to cut grapes
in half with a spoon back when we
first started dating? We only owned
a spoon back then.

(chuckles)

The 90's. Man.

Flora starts to get up and move to the door.

FLORA

Thank you so much for the grapes. I
really have to get back. I have a
uh test I'm taking.

NATALIE

Oh what for?

FLORA

Uh the origins of uh --

Natalie and Will stand up. Natalie is sincere with her.

NATALIE

Flora before you go. I know you
might be embarrassed by it, the
teleporting. But believe me it's
not anything we haven't seen
before.

WILL
 (regretfully)
 My cousin had a teleporting
 problem. Tore the family apart.

FLORA
 It's not that. Troy, the person who
 lived here before, my teleporting
 into his life kind of caused
 problems. I just don't want to do
 that again. Sorry to bother you.

She leaves.

Will and Natalie look at each other.

FADE TO:

5 INT. FLORA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

5

Laura is stapling papers on the couch.

Flora is lying on the floor.

Laura finishes stapling.

LAURA
 (to herself)
 Ok that's today's stapling.

Laura notices Flora staring off into the distance.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 What's on your mind?

FLORA
 Am I destined to interrupt people's
 lives forever? Is that going to be
 my contribution to society?

LAURA
 What's really going on? The new
 tenants sound nice. And yeah Troy
 moved out without telling you, but
 that's not your fault.

Beat.

FLORA
 There's actually more to it.

Cue FLASHBACK.

The LENS CAP gets put back on the camera.

6 INT. TROY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 6

The LENS CAP is removed from the camera.

There is a blue flash of light.

Flora is in her pajamas in the living room.

TROY rounds the corner and notices her for the first time.

7 INT. TROY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 7

Troy and Flora sit at a table, empty bowls of soup in front of them. They are chatting, seemingly having a nice time.

FLORA (V.O.)

When the teleporting started, I felt so bad. I figured the least I could do was get to know him a little.

TROY

Do you like electronic music?

FLORA

Uh like techno?

Troy pulls out a small keyboard and laptop.

He speaks a bit manically, obviously eager to share.

TROY

Yeah I make a lot of electronic music. No big deal. Like dub house jungle stuff. I try to make a new beat every day. And I only use this one keyboard controller. Can you believe it? Technology.

Troy presses a button and we hear some BAD TECHNO music.

FLORA

So cool. Very uh jungle.

Beat. Troy presses pause.

TROY

Say. Do you sing?

FLORA
I'm not really a singer--

TROY
(Excited)
Don't go anywhere. I'm gonna grab a
microphone.

He exits. Flora waits.

He comes back with a microphone and places it in front of
her. He messes with the cable and plugs it in.

TROY (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Plug this into that. Match the
input volume. Ok great. Good to go.

FLORA
Ok uh what should I sing?

TROY
Just let the speakers speak to you.
As Timbalind said. Let the speakers
speak. Speak. To you.

He presses record. He nods at her.

She starts to sing some nonsense.

Troy gives a big thumbs up, not wanting to make any noise
that would ruin the take.

FLORA (V.O.)
I could've just said it's not for
me. Or I have a sore throat. But he
was so happy. I didn't want to ruin
that.

CUT TO:

8 INT. TROY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

8

A flash of blue light. Flora is on the floor.

Troy rounds the corner.

TROY
Oh hey! Perfect timing. I'm just
finishing a new demo. Could use
your special touch!

Flora looks resigned to her fate.

CUT TO:

9 LATER

9

Troy is listening as Flora sings, poorly, into the mic. She struggles with a high note. Keeps trying. Then-- Flora takes her headphones off.

FLORA

I can't.

TROY

Oh. Is something wrong with your mix? I could lower the drums.

Flora unloads on him.

FLORA

It's not the mix, Troy. I'm not a singer. I can't write lyrics. I just teleport into your apartment. And I don't wanna do this anymore. And I don't even like techno music!

Beat. Troy looks at her, his soul destroyed.

TROY

It's more like jungle trance. Not techno.

Flora immediately realizes she overstepped her boundaries.

The LENS CAP goes back on the camera.

CUT TO:

10 INT. FLORA'S APARTMENT - PRESENT - NIGHT

10

The LENS CAP is taken off the camera.

Laura is on the floor now, cradling Flora's head in her lap.

Laura is aghast.

LAURA

I wondered why you never played me the songs.

Flora looks off in the distance.

FLORA
And that was it. We never saw each other again.

FLORA (CONT'D)
Oh god. What's wrong with me?

Laura thinks.

LAURA
You're not gonna like it, but I think you need to speak with someone.

Flora moans and rubs her face.

Flora thinks, suspecting what the answer is.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. STREET - DAY

11

Flora walks up to a table with a sign saying "VINYL RECORD EMPORIUM". The table is bare.

Troy is standing behind the counter, which is a small table.

TROY
Welcome to vinyl records emporium.
How can I help you find some vinyl to--

He sees Flora. His expression changes.

TROY (CONT'D)
Hi.

FLORA
Hi Troy.
(Beat)
I saw that you moved out.

TROY
Yeah.

Beat.

TROY (CONT'D)
Sorry I can't talk right now. I have a shipment coming in.

A box labeled "VINYL RECORDS" is handed from off screen to Troy. He accepts it.

TROY (CONT'D)

(To her)

Sorry I can't talk I need to log these vinyl records.

Troy tries to appear busy, opening the box and signing the delivery slip.

Flora starts to flicker again. This time worse than before.

Troy notices.

Flora fights the flicker off for now.

She confronts Troy.

FLORA

Troy I know you're upset. But I-- I wasn't honest with you. And I'm sorry.

Troy fights back anger, but then rises above it.

TROY

Flora. I'm an electronic musician. Working in the jungle trance genre. I know what rejection is. I can take it. But what I don't like is when my closest collaborator bails on me.

Flora nods, accepting that this won't be ending well.

TROY (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me. This vinyl isn't going to restock itself.

Flora walks away, and thinks to herself. She accepts what's happened.

12

INT. WILL AND NATALIE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

12

Flora knocks on the door.

Will answers.

WILL

Oh hey Flora.

Natalie rounds the corner. She's stirring a spoon in a clear bowl.

NATALIE

Flora. You alright? Did something happen?

FLORA

I just wanted to tell you guys, I'm ok. I spoke with Troy, and I'm ok.

WILL

How did it go?

FLORA

Not great. But I'm not going to let that hang over me anymore. I wanted to tell you because --

A flash of blue light. Natalie disappears. Teleports!

Flora is aghast. Will is nonplussed. He's seen this before.

He turns to Flora.

WILL

So now you know.

FLORA

It's not just your cousin.

WILL

Uh huh. I gotta go get her. Wanna come?

FLORA

Where does she go?

WILL

The equinox gym down the street. Men's locker room. They're used to it now.

They leave the apartment. The door closes.

END