

STRANGERS, NEIGHBORS, A LOVER

Written by

Lina Suh

Draft 1

October 28, 2015

suh.lina@gmail.com
347.409.4072

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - MORNING

CHARLIE (20s), disheveled in a button-down and loosened tie, gets out of his car and runs to the apartment.

In the BG, GEORGE (80s) locks HIS APARTMENT DOOR.

They pass each other but don't acknowledge each other (Charlie glances at George).

Charlie enters his apartment (next door to George's door).

In the BG, George gets into his car parked on the street.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Charlie enters, frantic. But he shuts the door silently. He bumps and knocks over items on a table, going to the bedroom.

He paces, unable to go in. He is sweating.

FLASHBACK - POKER TABLE - NIGHT

- Charlie pushes POKER CHIPS to the middle of the table filled with playing cards. Charlie is sweating.

- POKER OPPONENT'S hands pulls the poker chips away.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He throws open his laptop and checks his bank account. \$109. Checks his watch. He finally goes into the room.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - MORNING

Charlie leans over BETH (20s) sleeping in bed. He kisses her cheek. She groggily turns around and kisses him back. He is nervous, his eyes glancing at the clock in the room.

He whispers something in her ear. She is suddenly more awake. Sits up straight.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - MORNING

Beth walks away with a duffel bag. Charlie tries to stop her but she pushes him off. He wants to follow her but checks his watch and looks around the street.

Charlie paces and wonders what to do. He sees GEORGE'S DOOR. He walks toward it.

GEORGE'S APARTMENT DOOR

Charlie jimmyes open the door.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Charlie enters. He takes a moment to take in the sight --

The apartment looks like a delirious hoarder's mess. Empty takeout boxes, wrappers, beer bottles everywhere.

Charlie opens drawers. Cabinets. Rummaging.

His hand brushes on a counter top where a Chinese takeout box lies sideways. General Tso sauce gets all over his palm.

He throws on the kitchen faucet but the rusty knob squeaks and no water runs. He wipes the old sauce on his pants and keeps searching.

He discovers a giant hidden collection of records (on a shelf or in a cabinet).

He stops, hearing SIRENS. He stares at the records, breathing carefully. The sirens pass.

Past the records, he notices a little box. He opens it and FINDS CASH. He is massively happy and even surprised that he actually found this.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - MORNING

Charlie exits the apartment. And sees his poker opponent approaching in the distance.

Charlie locks George's door, balling the cash in his hand. He squares his shoulders and walks toward his opponent.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

Charlie sits on the edge of the bed, hand running over the dip in the pillow where Beth was sleeping. He walks out.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Charlie comes in again. He walks to the hidden record collection. He sees ONE RECORD on the record player. He lifts it.

He walks back to the door. On his way, he drops the Chinese takeout box in the trash bin.

Closes the door behind him.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Charlie, looking better, caresses Beth's face.

He gives her the record.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

George enters. He glances around for a moment, at the door. Doesn't think much of it and walks in. Throws on the TV.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie gets out of his car, coming home from work. Cleaned up, briefcase in hand. He sees George's car parked.

Walks toward the apartment building. Pauses at George's door.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - MORNING

Charlie and Beth leave together for work. Affectionate.

On the street, Charlie sees GEORGE'S CAR ALONE on the street. A TICKET tucked under the windshield wipers. He glances back at George's door. He joins Beth waiting at his car.

EXT. PARKING LOT (CHARLIE'S OFFICE) - NIGHT (OR DAY)

Charlie walks to his car. His Poker Opponent stands against a car nearby, and tosses a poker chip at Charlie. Charlie catches it, looks at the chip, tosses it back.

Charlie gets in his car and drives away (sound).

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Beth laugh and have sex.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Charlie comes out of the bedroom, sleepy and happy.

Beth brings over two steaming mugs of coffee. They sit on the couch and breathe in the scent. But their faces twist. They look at each other. Wrinkling their noses. Charlie sets down his coffee. Beth follows suit.

Charlie follows his nose around the apartment, to the door.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT - MORNING

Charlie walks from his door to George's door. He KNOCKS. Puts his ear against the door. There is a buzzing sound.

He sees in the distance -- George's car still parked, with tickets wedged in the windshield wipers.

Knocks harder. Tries opening it but it's locked. Beth comes out behind him.

He jimmy's George's door open again. He and Beth look inside.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Beth screams. Charlie's eyes widen.

Charlie dials 911 on his cell phone.

The TV buzzes static.

Charlie walks over to George, pale in the face, on the couch. He pulls the blanket fallen on the ground, up and over George. DISTANT SIRENS, approaching.

- RECORD PLAYER: the old record is placed on the spindle. The record plays. Charlie rests his forehead on Beth's as they dance.