

THE GOLDFISHES

Written by

Helio J Cordeiro

Helio J Cordeiro
WGGB #3020
Hjcordeiro@hotmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. QUIET STREET - MORNING

It is a very quiet street. The sidewalks are lined with trees.

A van arrives, moving slowly. Its driver seems to be searching for an address...

INT. VAN - CONT.

Behind the wheel is LOUIS ARMSWEAK, about 35, bald and shortsighted, with thick spectacle lenses.

The Van finally stops in front of an old, dilapidated house, painted gray.

LOUIS

This is the one!

Louis gets out of the Van.

EXT. NEIGHBOR HOME'S - CONT.

Someone is watching through the window.

MALE VOICE (OS)

Hey, BREANNE, get away from that window. Stop snooping on folk...

EXT. VAN - CONT.

Louis approaches the yard.

POV of Louis shows that the walls are in a bad state of repair.

The windows are cracked.

The plants are dry and withered, so are the flowers.

BACK TO LOUIS

Louis moves back to the Van, opens it and starts to unload the stuff.

Louis carries a box to the front door.

FRONT DOOR

He puts the box down and searches for the keys.

He finds them and tries to unlock the door...

One, two, three attempts, nothing...

LOUIS

What the hell!

Louis looks closely at the lock.

He tries it again and finally he succeeds.

Luis opens the door, picks up the box and goes inside.

INT. OLD HOUSE - CONT.

Louis goes to the center of the living room and puts the box down.

The entire house is covered in dust.

Louis goes back to the van to fetch more belongings.

MONTAGE

A) Louis carrying three heavy boxes of books.

B) Struggling with a sofa.

C) Carrying a television.

D) Cleaning home.

BACK TO LOUIS

Finally, Louis gets all the stuff inside the house.

He takes a deep breath, goes towards the door and closes it again.

Louis doesn't see a note stuck to the door. It says, in small letters:

WARNING! DON'T FIX ANYTHING ON THE WALLS!

INT. OLD HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

All the furniture is now in place. Louis is resting on the couch.

He drinks a beer. He gets up, and switches on the television.

He goes back to the couch, sits and takes a swig of the beer.

He watches the TV attentively.

ON THE TELEVISION

Scenes of latest the Tsunami are showing on the screen.

LOUIS

Oh, my God!

BACK TO LOUIS

Something catches Louis' attention...

He gets up and goes towards the wall near the television.
On the floor there is a frame measuring about 12 X 17 inches.

LOUIS

Oh, I forgot to hang this up...

Louis picks it up and turns it over...

It is a picture of fish bowl with some goldfishes swimming inside.

LOUIS

Hmmm, I need to get you hung
up...
(scratching his head)
But where?

POV of Louis shows that there are no any nails in any of the walls.

LOUIS

No nails anywhere. Hmmmm...Okay,
it can go there!

INT. OLD HOUSE - NEXT

Louis is banging a nail into the wall...

THUD! THUD! THUD...

A JET OF WATER gushes out onto Louis' head.

He is astonished. He tries in vain to stop the flow.

LOUIS

Fuck!

The jet increases!

LOUIS

I've hit a fucking pipe!

The hole widens, spilling water everywhere!

Louis is completely soaked. He is desperately trying to stop the water, but...

LOUIS

What a hell is this!

The jet of water is increasing...

EXT. STREET - LATER

Breanne, the neighbor, about 60, wearing a dowdy dress,
crosses the street towards Louis' new home.

She is carrying an apple-pie.

Breanne arrives at Louis' front door.

FRONT DOOR

She rings twice, and waits.

Silence.

She rings twice again, and waits again...

Silence.

She decides to knock on the door.

One, two, three times, still nothing.

She moves back. Looks up at the house and moves toward the doorstep again.

She looks around suspiciously and tries to opens the door herself...

It opens!

No WATER!

BREANNE

Hello, can I come in?...

INT. OLD HOUSE - CONT.

Breanne steps inside.

No sign of water!

BREANNE

Is anybody there?

No answer!

The place seems to be all right. Everything is in place as if nothing at all has happened.

BREANNE

Hello! Yoo hoo! Anybody there?

She takes a look around, curious.

The TV is on. A flood is showing on the screen.

She notices cans of beer on the floor and an envelope on the sofa.

BREANNE

(to herself)

I see a single man by far!

She picks the envelope up and reads it...

BREANNE

Hmmm...Mr. Armsweak. Louis
Armsweak...

She puts the envelope back on the sofa.

BREANNE

Mr. Armsweak! Are you there?
I've brought to you a delicious
apple-pie. I made it myself...

She waits for an answer, but there is no sound.

BREANNE

I'll be back then...Maybe next
then we'll talk.
(to herself)
Very strange...I didn't see him
come out of the house...

The frame which we saw Louis hanging on the wall attracts her attention. It is still on the floor, leaning against the wall.

Breanne notices there is a nail in the wall.

She picks up the frame with one hand, still holding the apple-pie with the other.

She hangs the frame on the nail and adjusts it correctly.

Then she leaves the house.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - CONT.

Breanne is closing the door behind her when stops.

She seems to recall something...

BREANNE

(to herself)
No, it can't be true...I think I
need to take my medicine...

She closes the door, takes a last look at the house and walks over to her own house, on the other side the street.

INT. OLD HOUSE - CONT.

The frame is now hanging on the wall...

In the picture the Goldfishes are swimming in the fish-bowl, but the fishes aren't alone...

Louis Armsweak is swimming with them!

Bloop bloop!

FADE OUT