

GRANDPA'S APARTMENT

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. INFINITY APARTMENTS - DAY

FREDDY (40, stubble) and his wife MARIE (30) step out of their Suburu. They are dressed in formal attire.

GAYLE (56) greets them at the door, a somber look on her face. She nods.

GAYLE
Good morning, Freddy. Marie.

Freddy scoffs.

FREDDY
Good "mourning?" Are you kidding me? The whole service was a farce! But I digress.

Marie nods in agreement.

MARIE
It was crappy.

GAYLE
I understand. And you have my condolences.

INT. INFINITY APARTMENTS - ENTRANCE - DAY

Gayle ushers the couple to their destination.

GAYLE
I remember my grandfather's funeral. Nobody had a bad word to say about him, but... It just didn't do him justice. You know what I mean?

FREDDY
But you loved him, though? And he loved you?

GAYLE
Look, Freddy, I know how hard this is for you. But he did his best.

Freddy turns towards a

CARD TABLE

FOUR OLDER MEN sit while smoking huge cigars. Their beer mugs are about half-full each.

CHARLIE (102, jovial) breaks the silence among the cohort.

CHARLIE
Say, when's Dick coming?

FRANK (95) chimes in:

FRANK
My wife asked me that every night
for the past 40 years.

The four men share a hearty guffaw, cough.

FREDDY

Freezes, spooked.

Marie gives him a quizzical look.

MARIE
Freddy, are you okay? You look like
you've seen a--

FREDDY
Didn't Charlie and Frank die two
months ago?

MARIE
(confused)
Yeah...?

FREDDY
Then why the hell are they over
there?

MARIE
Where?

Freddy points to the

CARD TABLE

Nobody there.

MARIE (O.S.)
Honey, what are you talking about?

FREDDY

Shoots her a quizzical look.

FREDDY
Are you blind?

MARIE
Perfect twenty-twenty. What are you seeing?

FREDDY
Probably just a post-funeral mindfuck.

GAYLE
I get those, too. I kept seeing my childhood neighbor for six years after he passed. Nothing therapy couldn't fix.

FREDDY
Do you have their number?

Freddy, Marie and Gayle continue walking.

INT. INFINITY APARTMENTS - CORRIDOR - DAY

The trio breeze past several doors, several apartments - many of them decorated with American flags and crosses - before they arrive at 105.

The WIND HOWLS. THUNDER CLAPS.

Freddy hesitates before breaking the silence.

FREDDY
Grandpa, we're here!

MARIE
He can't hear y--

A MAN GROWLS from behind the door. GHOSTLY MOANS emanate.

FREDDY
Here goes nothing.

Freddy slowly rattles the door before opening it.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

The trio enter a darkly-lit room. The screen door reveals dark, cloudy skies and heavy rain and THUNDER and lightning.

The GHOSTLY MOANS resume.

Freddy jumps. Marie doesn't react at all.

MARIE
What's going on with you? You've
been acting weird all day.

LOUD FOOTSTEPS - one by one - land on the carpet.

Freddy shivers.

MARIE
Want me to turn on the furnace?

A MALE LAUGH - a CHORTLE. A CACKLE. A GUFFAW. Something
else? Something DEMONIC?

The source of the noise reveals itself - DICK (80), a fairly
tall guy with a half-jovial, half-grumpy face. Does he
appreciate the company?

He growls.

DICK
(distorted voice)
Out...

Freddy is terrified. Marie is unfazed.

Gayle grins wickedly.

DICK
Get... Out... Now!

FREDDY
Grandpa, it's me, Freddy? Remember?

DICK
You... Are not... My grandson!

MARIE
Freddy, there's nobody there. Who
are you taking to?

GAYLE
There's a reason we call it
Infinity Apartments.

Gayle's inflection becomes darker. Her grin remains.

GAYLE
Care to join us?

Her voice chills Marie to the bone.

Charlie, Frank, BILL (96) and JACK (110) - Dick's poker
buddies from earlier - magically appear in the kitchen,
smoking the same cigars as before.

BILL
Hey, Dick, we've been waiting for
you.

JACK
We've been waiting two months for
this.

CHARLIE
We need a dealer, and no one deals
like you.

DICK stares at his family demonically.

DICK
(distorted voice)
I'd love to. But first... Family
business...

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE
Of course. Family comes first.

Gayle smiles darkly.

So does Dick.

DICK
(normal voice)
Your Grandmama gave you decades of
hell. This won't bit a bit...

Marie finally sees Dick. She trembles.

She and Freddy scream.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END