

IN A NIGHT

BY

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FADE IN:

INT. STANLEY'S HOUSE.

MRS. DORA LARRY enters the stage. She is a dark-skinned
woman in her mid 30's. The telephone rings. She walks to the
telephone.

DORA
Hello, Mrs. Larry on the line...He
is in. Okay.
 (Puts her hand over the mouth
 piece)
Stanley...Stanley.

MR. STANLEY enters. He is a slim, tall middle age man.

DORA
Someone wants to speak with
you...he said, his name is Dennis
Chan.

STANLEY
Okay.

STANLEY walks to the telephone, takes it from his wife,
DORA.

STANLEY
Hello, Mr. Dennis. How are you
doing? Good. Okay. I am surprised.
If that's what you want. Well, I
will see you tomorrow.

STANLEY hangs up.

DORA
What's the matter?

STANLEY
My client wants to settle out of
court with the defendant--

(CONTINUED)

DORA
I guess they have both reached a
compromise--

STANLEY
Probably. I will speak to him
tomorrow.

He walks to the couch and sits.

STANLEY
He could have possibly made a lot
more in court--

DORA
Is it the copyright infringement
case?

STANLEY
Yes, dear. We had all the facts--

DORA
That's what he wants. Sometimes, it
is not always about the money.
(Pauses)
I think you need to get some rest?

STANLEY
No, I am fine.

DORA
Well, you barely slept last night.

STANLEY
I am fine.

DORA
I've known you for ten good years,
and I know when something is
bothering you. Tell me, was it
about the case?

STANLEY
No, not at all.
(Pauses)
I was thinking about Doctor
Martin...

DORA
Doctor Martin? Who is he?

STANLEY

James introduced him to us last year--

DORA

Doctor Martin? Is he the veterinarian doctor? The one who lost one of his eyes to a goat?

STANLEY

No, that's not him. Don't you remember him? James introduced him to us? He walks with a limp...limps--

DORA

The fertility doctor?

STANLEY

Yeah.

DORA

What about him?

STANLEY

You know, five years is too long a time. We have been married for five years--

DORA

Of course, dear.

STANLEY

We have to see him. I heard that he has helped a lot of couples with his therapy to have babies, and I was thinking if we could schedule a visit with him...

DORA

...okay...

STANLEY

Probably, this weekend--

DORA

Well, you know him well enough?

STANLEY

No, but James said he is good.

(CONTINUED)

DORA
Okay, then.

STANLEY smiles. He picks a newspaper from the table.

DORA
Well, I'll heat some tea.

The camera follows her to the kitchen.

DORA
Your mom called this morning---

STANLEY
Is she alright?

DORA
Possibly. She asked after you, and she---

There is a knock. DORA stops talking. She walks back to the sitting room.

DORA
Are you expecting someone?

STANLEY
No.

She walks to door, opens it, and sees IAN. Stanley's younger brother. He is a man in his late twenties. His beards are unshaven. He carries a worn out bag over his shoulders.

DORA
Ian..

IAN
Good evening, Dora. How are you doing?

DORA
Great. Welcome.

IAN enters.

DORA
It is quite cold--

IAN
Yes, it is. Where is Stan?

DORA
He's in.

STANLEY
Who is it?

DORA
Ian.

DORA and IAN walk to the sitting room.

IAN
Good evening, Stan--

STANLEY
I am very surprised to see you.

IAN
I am alright. (Pauses) Can I use
your washroom?

DORA
Of course.

IAN walking to door leading to the washroom. He begins to sing.

IAN
(Singing)
I don't know what to say,
My whole soul sinks away;
I saw a ghost on the street..

DORA and STANLEY watch IAN as he exits.

DORA
He looks exhausted, doesn't he?

STANLEY
He's broke---he sings only when
he's broke--

DORA
Are you sure?

STANLEY
You want to bet?

DORA
May be there is something else--

IAN enters.

(CONTINUED)

IAN
I trekked a long mile--

STANLEY
Is everything okay?

IAN
--yes--But..How are you doing?

STANLEY
Good--

IAN
Okay. That's okay.

STANLEY
Are you sure everything--

IAN
Well, I am just a little short of
money at the moment.
(To DORA)
Good evening, Dora?

STANLEY
Good evening--

IAN
You look wonderful.

DORA
Thank you. Are you hungry?

IAN
Yes, Starving--

DORA
I will make a cup of tea and
sandwiches. I guess you are staying
for the night?

IAN
Sure.

DORA
Okay.

DORA smiles and exits.

IAN
She hasn't changed a bit. Still as
slender as a gazelle and as nice as
a nun. She is a remarkable woman,
isn't she?

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Of course. Where the hell have you been?

IAN

I have been around---

STANLEY

On the street?

IAN

I am alright. I must admit you look quite fit--

STANLEY

I have been taking dancing lessons--

IAN

I see. You are getting thinner and your eyes brighter.

STANLEY

Well, I am grounding out some negative energy.

After an awkward pause.

STANLEY

Have you heard from, mom?

IAN

I visited her last week.

STANLEY

How is she?

IAN

Good. She adopted a Chinese kid.

STANLEY

She adopted a kid?

IAN

Yeah. She said, 'he reminds her of dad--'

STANLEY

Dad wasn't Chinese?

IAN

But there were Chinese things about him...he always ate with chopsticks and was allergic to custards.

(CONTINUED)

(Pauses)

Dad was very oriental.

STANLEY

She never told me she was adopting
a kid--

IAN

But she asked of you.

IAN looks around the sitting room.

IAN

Can you lend me some money? Five
thousand...may be ten thousand--

STANLEY

What do you need it for?

IAN

I would like to travel to Israel--

STANLEY

What for?

IAN

I am writing a novel.

STANLEY looks at IAN contorting his face. DORA enters. She
hand STANLEY and IAN cups of tea and some cakes.

IAN

Seriously. I am writing a novel.

STANLEY

...and the setting is in Israel?

DORA

Why, Israel?

IAN

I have this feeling I will be
closer to God...

STANLEY

...that's it? America is the
greatest country in the world. You
can write it here in America.
Brooklyn--

IAN

I thought of that--

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Then use Brooklyn as your setting--

IAN

Israel is the land of promise.

BEAT.

STANLEY

Ask mom?

IAN

Mom..? She wouldn't lend me a penny--

STANLEY

Do you owe her?

IAN

Not much..

STANLEY

How much?

IAN

Twenty thousand, may be...

STANLEY

You owe mom twenty thousand?

IAN

She lent me some money to Iraq...but it didn't turn out the way I expected...

DORA

When?

IAN

Last two years--it wasn't what I expected. Believe me, the furniture was hostile, the chairs receive you badly and the walls tell you go away. They think every American there is either a journalist or works for the C.I.A--

DORA

Oh...

STANLEY

What is your novel about?

(CONTINUED)

IAN

A priest who falls in love with another priest...

DORA

You are writing a gay novel?

IAN

A gay novel. It is a gay novel depicting hypocrisy against gay people?

STANLEY

Okay, I will think about it..but I am not assuring you, though.

IAN

--thank you.

IAN brings out a stick of cigarette. He lights it, and lifts his gaze up. He looks at Stanley's face contorted grimly. He stubs out the cigarette.

IAN

(Slowly)

Sorry...

STANLEY

You know, you shouldn't smoke. it causes cancer. Cancer of the lung.

IAN

Well, the world underestimates the importance of cigarette. Have you ever been on the bridge of light and darkness, and was rescued by frail smokes of a cigarette, have you?

STANLEY

No, I have never been a fan of astronomy.

DORA

Is that your reason for smoking?

IAN smiles.

IAN

You are a christian, aren't you?

DORA

Yes.

(Glances at the stub cigarette
on the table)

I lost an uncle to cancer. He
smoked at least a pack a day--

IAN

We are all different. I can't
afford a pack a day. Don't worry
about me--

DORA

Don't be such a cynic.

(To STANLEY)

You remember, Joshua?

STANLEY

Josh..?

DORA

Yes, Josh. Tall, slender, and gay..

STANLEY

Yes, You uncle? He died last year--

IAN

--You had a gay uncle?

DORA

He was proudly gay. I remember he
condescendingly boasted he has only
kissed two things in his entire
life, Men and cigarettes--

STANLEY

(To IAN)

He was just like you--

DORA

Are you gay?

IAN

--Not a proud one. But I had a
boyfriend, though. Simon. He was my
sun. My whole being melts away in
his beauty. And when he smiles my
heart leaps into my throat...

DORA

...I guess that is love..

(CONTINUED)

IAN

..I guess..

DORA

He broke up with you?

IAN

No, he robbed me and joined the monastery.

DORA chuckles.

IAN

When you are in love with someone who loves you--it is a comedy, but if you are in love with someone who doesn't care--then, that's a tragedy. Tragedies are very depressing. Notwithstanding, I had wonderful ephemeral moments with him.

There is a knock on the door.

DORA

Excuse me.

IAN nods. DORA walks to the door. She opens it. She leaves the door open and walks back.

STANLEY

Who is it?

DORA

Please come..

STANLEY

Do we have a problem?

DORA

--yes--

STANLEY and DORA walk to the door.

STANLEY

What?! A baby?!!

IAN

Is there a baby at the door?

IAN walks to the door. STANLEY walks out door. He enters again.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Did you see anyone?

DORA

No, I saw absolutely nothing.

STANLEY

Oh, my God. Is this some kind of weird joke or what?

DORA picks the basket with the baby in it.

DORA

It is cold and dumpy outside. She is asleep.

IAN

(Looking at baby)

She is quite beautiful. What are you going to do about her?

DORA

We--

(Sees a note)

Look, there is a note in the basket--

STANLEY

A note? Who is so pathetic to leave her baby on someone's door?

DORA

"Please take care of Rosemary for me, from Jane..."

IAN

it is official..you run a daycare center..

STANLEY

Bloody awful. We have to call the police--

The baby wakes and begins to cry.

DORA

She is awake...

STANLEY walks to the telephone. The wailing from the baby is louder.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Who keeps a life baby at someone's door?

IAN

Would you have preferred a dead one. I know this is scary, but..

STANLEY

(To DORA)

What do you have in mind--

IAN

I can keep her--

STANLEY

--and what are you going to feed her with? Few lice, I suppose?

DORA

(Talking to herself, loudly)

Sometimes, we see the world through a window. Subtle. You turn your eyes to the heaven and stare at the stars---shinning. They are children. Illuminating very beautifully.

BEAT. STANLEY drops the telephone. He walks to DORA, cuddles her.

STANLEY

We will definitely have ours some day--

DORA

I know...Just looking at this child helpless bothers me.

(Wipes tears from her eyes)

She is adorable.

(To IAN)

What do you think Ian?

IAN

If I was a chef I would take her order anytime of the day.

STANLEY

But we can't keep her--

DORA

You are a lawyer. You know the procedures, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

BEAT.

STANLEY
How old do you think she is?

DORA
I don't know--eight..nine months,
may be.

There is another knock on the door.

STANLEY
I will get it.

STANLEY walks to the door.

IAN
Do..do you think it is the cops?

DORA
I hope not.

STANLEY opens the door. He sees a strange looking woman. She enters.

STANLEY
How may I help you?

JANE
My name is Jane...and I am so sorry
to inconvenience you--

STANLEY
Good evening, Miss Jane. How may
I...wait, Jane?..Were you the Jane
who wrote a note, and dropped--

JANE
A baby..yes, sir. Little Rosemary.
I am so sorry to inconvenience
you--

STANLEY
You don't have to be, because I am
calling the police right now--

DORA walks to the door.

DORA
Is she the mother?

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Yes.

DORA

(To JANE)

Is everything okay?

JANE

No, ma'am. Not quite, ma'am--

DORA

Okay, come in.

STANLEY shakes his head disgustingly.

JANE

Thank you, ma'am.

DORA

Have a seat.

JANE walks to basket. She picks the baby up. Her face lights up.

JANE

(To DORA)

I am so sorry.

DORA

Well, would you like a cup of coffee?

IAN walks to STANLEY.

IAN

Is she the mom?

STANLEY

Yes.

IAN

She looks half dead with weariness--

STANLEY

They are all like that--

IAN

--who?

STANLEY

Robbers.

DORA exits.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY
(To JANE)
Where are you from?

JANE
New York.

DORA enters with a cup of coffee.

DORA
You must have been through a lot
today, I guess?

JANE nods.

JANE
(Receiving the cup of coffee)
Thank you, ma'am.

DORA
You are welcome. You can share your
problem with us. We could possibly
help you--

JANE
You are not going to call the
police, are you?

DORA
We won't. What happened?

JANE
I couldn't raise her. I was scared
of her dying of starvation. So, I
dropped her at your stoop-

DORA
What about your husband? Or
boyfriend? She must definitely have
a dad.

BEAT.

JANE
He is dead. Died before my baby was
born. Died of tuberculosis--

DORA
Tuberculosis?

JANE
Yes, ma'am. it was terrible. After
three months, he was as dry as a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANE (cont'd)
twig. I did all I could to save
him, spent all my savings.
(Pauses)
When his coughing came, they were
so hard that they broke his ribs.
Wrinkles ran deep in his face from
lower lids of his eyes down to the
corners of his mouth.
(Tiny pause)
Since his death, it has been very
hard on me---I was unemployed.
(Weeps; wipes her eyes with
her hand)
Life doesn't make much sense to me
anymore--

STANLEY
What's the angle?

JANE
I couldn't get a job, and..

STANLEY
..I don't believe you. The scar on
your head shows you are running
from someone--

JANE
I tried to kill myself--

STANLEY
Why didn't you?

DORA
Stanley?!

STANLEY
I find her story rather perplexing.
Don't you find it intriguing, Ian?

IAN
Extremely so--She is wearing
gloves, and--

There is a rap on the door.

STANLEY
Who are you?

There are numerous knocks on the door in quick succession.

(CONTINUED)

A MANLY VOICE
Open the door!! Police!!

JANE
Please help me, ma'am--

STANLEY
Who are you?

JANE
Please..

The door is forced open. Two policemen enter. They see JANE.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY
Here, she is.

STANLEY
What is the meaning of this?

INSPECTOR ANTHONY
L.A.P.D...

INSPECTOR ANTHONY brings out his badge.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY
Rebecca Smith, I arrest you on the
charge of kidnapping--and I must
warn you that anything you say will
be used against you in the court of
law--

STANLEY
What is---

MISS REBECCA SMITH, Known to us as JANE makes to escape.
INSPECTOR ANTHONY restrains her.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY
Keep still, will you?

He gets out handcuffs and claps them on Jane's wrists.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY
That will do.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY hands JANE to the two other policeman.
They bundle JANE roughly toward the door. The Inspector
walks to the baby picks her up.

STANLEY
What the devil's the meaning of
this?

INSPECTOR ANTHONY

I am sorry. My name is Inspector Anthony.

They shake hands.

INSPECTOR ANTONY

Mrs. Rebecca is a renown robber and kidnapper. We have been tracking her for a long time.

IAN and DORA are flabbergasted.

DORA

But her face...her appearance really do look ghastly--

INSPECTOR ANTHONY

You read the papers, don't you? She's been in all the papers last year and early this year for kidnapping and robbery. She's quite very dangerous.

(Pauses)

You have to know the people you let into your house for own sake.

STANLEY

Thank you, sir.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY

I must leave now, sir.

INSPECTOR ANTHONY picks up and exits.

DORA

I can't believe this--

STANLEY

Don't be hard on yourself...you were trying to help her--

IAN

--and she is quite a terrific liar.

He walks and sits on the couch.

IAN

Well, what a night.

STANLEY

I think I'm gonna make some lenomade.

(CONTINUED)

(To DORA)
You want one?

DORA nods.

STANLEY
What about you?

IAN
Definitely.

STANLEY exits

DORA
What a night.

FADE OUT.