

Dynamics

By

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FADE IN:

INT. MARLA'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

A studio apartment is bereft of decor. Without wall coverings, the one-room apartment is seemingly more spacious than when it is occupied. Moving boxes abound.

MARLA (22) removes a MARTINI GLASS from the cupboard. Before placing it in its proper box, she fingers the stem and bites at her lips as she recalls a moment less comfortable.

Snapping out of it, she looks up over her shoulder at JANE (28), who strips the sheets off Marla's bed. Jane's profile is showcased by morning light.

Feeling Marla's stare, Jane turns to her and smiles upon eye contact. She takes notice of the martini glass.

JANE

You could have left those at my place after all.

Marla smiles and shrugs.

JANE (CONT'D)

I still have some of that key lime syrup.

MARLA

Pretty much the epitome of girl drinks. Poor Henry.

JANE

Somehow I think he had other things on his mind that night.

MARLA

Like you.

JANE

Or you.

Marla looks down at the linoleum floor. Jane appears to regret the reference.

MARLA

Please don't say that.

Jane approaches and kneels down next to Marla. She removes a second martini glass from the cabinet and puts it away.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

(lightening the mood)

If anything, he was resenting the both of us as he puked neon green into my kitchen sink.

MARLA

You should have told me he was lactose intolerant!

JANE

Oh, I'm sorry. But when a lovely lady makes a drink for my boyfriend, my first is not *I wonder how much heavy whipping cream is in that booze.*

Marla giggles as Jane attempts to take the glass from her. In the process, their hands touch. Both women react with immediate eye contact, which they maintain during a moment of silence.

MARLA

Jane, I'm nervous. About imposing.

JANE

You're not imposing! I asked you to move in with me.

MARLA

(admittedly)

That's not why I'm nervous.

JANE

I know.

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

HENRY (30) stands across from Jane in their trendy but comfortable kitchen area. Jane leans against some cabinetry.

JANE

I don't know what you're talking about.

HENRY

Yes you do. How long are you going to let me stay here?

JANE

You live here.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

For now I do.

JANE

You're so dramatic. I'm just being a good friend.

HENRY

Do you know how long it could be before your *good friend* finds a job?

JANE

(defensive)

She's brilliant, she interviews well. I just can't imagine-

HENRY

If you like her so much, why don't you marry her?

JANE

What are you, ten?

Jane beckons Henry who succumbs to the request. She rests her arms on his shoulders.

HENRY

(solemnly)

Seriously, though. If you like her so much...

Henry trails off and shrugs his shoulders.

JANE

(irritated)

She's not gay.

HENRY

But you are?

JANE

No.

Jane brushes past him and leaves him alone in the kitchen.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Focused, Jane works at her desk. The majority of the office lights are off and everyone else has gone home for the day except for...

(CONTINUED)

Marla. She gathers her belongings and heads for the elevator. On her way out, she sees Jane, and stops to chat.

MARLA

Busy day?

JANE

Always.

MARLA

Could I get you some coffee or anything before I go? Do you want a cigarette?

JANE

No, go ahead.

Marla turns and makes a few steps while Jane watches her walk away.

JANE (CONT'D)

Well, wait. What kind of cigarettes?

Marla returns to the desk and displays a pack.

JANE (CONT'D)

Can we share?

MARLA

Only if we avoid talking about the other night.

Jane laughs lightly and stands up. She touches Marla's waist and kisses her forehead gently.

JANE

No need.

INT. JANE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane's apartment sacrifices square footage for a city view. Earth tones dominate the interior; brightly colored accents draw attention.

Marla sits on the floor and looks up at Henry and Jane, who are tangled together on the couch. All three are liberated by various vices.

Jane and Marla have green martinis beside them. Henry holds a bottle of Malbec in his lap, no glass necessary.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY  
Everyone played when they were  
little!

MARLA  
I don't know what to tell you.

Henry chugs the remaining half-glass of wine and shakes the  
bottle in the direction of the women.

HENRY  
Well I think we should play right  
now.

Marla looks anxiously at Jane.

MARLA  
There are only three of us and you  
two are in love.

Henry and Jane look at each other, giving each other  
playfully puzzled looks.

HENRY  
We are?

JANE  
News to me.

Marla appears embarrassed.

MARLA  
I just thought that since you lived  
together-

JANE  
No, we're not in love.

HENRY  
I was in between places so it just  
made sense for a while.

Marla nods. Henry takes the bottle and kneels to the ground,  
coming off of the couch.

JANE  
This seems unnecessary, don't you  
think? If you want to kiss her,  
just kiss her.

MARLA  
Jane, I couldn't do that.

JANE

Don't be silly. Remember when you were going on and on about the hot guy who worked across the hall?

MARLA

Oh my God. When you claimed him, I almost died. I thought you were going to hate me.

HENRY

(amused)

*Claimed me*, like I was checked luggage?

Jane nods at Henry, who turns to Marla.

JANE

(to Marla)

Impossible. I adore you.

Henry grabs Marla and gives her an exaggerated but closed-mouth kiss, primarily to be funny. They all find humor in the moment.

MARLA

(to Jane)

It should probably follow that you and I kiss...to complete the triangle, right?

Jane beckons Marla to join her on the couch. They share an inordinately romantic kiss under the circumstances.

When they break away, their profiles frame Henry's facial expression. He is at once surprised and a bit uncomfortable as a result of the sincerity he just witnessed.

HENRY

I'm out of wine now. Why don't you make me one of your bitch drinks?

INT. MARLA'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Marla and Jane sit with their backs against the edge of the bed. Marla looks at Jane for a few moments before letting out a contemplative breath. She rests her forehead against Jane's shoulder momentarily.

JANE

What?

(CONTINUED)

MARLA

(looking up)

Not sure. I just know that I'm  
ridiculously drawn to you. And I  
really don't think that I'm-

JANE

Doesn't matter. I'm not either.

Marla breaks the glance, her eyes darting elsewhere. Jane  
continues to look at Marla.

JANE (CONT'D)

But I want to be. Because of you.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Marla sits on a bench near the lake, writing in a notebook.  
Jane is jogging along the path. She recognizes Marla and  
stops to chat, a little out of breath.

JANE

Hey. You're the new temp, right?

MARLA

Yea, I'm Marla.

Marla and Jane shake hands.

JANE

(smiling)

Jane.

FADE OUT.