The Exquisite Stranger

by

Jeremey Dyches
Arienne Annati

01/15/2023
05/29/2023

Revised: 07/13/23

Copyright 2023
Professor Punx Productions

E:jeremeydyches@gmail.com
C: 912-547-3260

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

TYLER (M, 30's) steps out of the passenger side of the car, and takes a long look at the Brownstone building. A door closes behind him and HOLLY (F, late 20's) stops beside Tyler and drapes her arm around him.

HOLLY
Can't believe she left all this to you. What are you going to do?

TYLER
I don't know yet.

HOLLY
Well, Nana always knew best. Not going to lie, you were her favorite.

TYLER
Hmmm, you know, you can stay here too.

Holly pushes Tyler away and starts to walk towards the front steps. She looks back at Tyler.

Professor Punx

HOLLY
Nah, this is too formal for me, plus I don't want to wake up everyday smelling like an antique.

Tyler makes his way to the front door, looking up at the building, and notices the curtains move quickly. He checks his pocket.

TYLER
Did you take the key...

Holly unlocks the front door and steps inside the foyer.

HOLLY
Wow, it's nicer than I remember.

Tyler glances at the call box with the other tenants names fixated next to each buzzer. There are 3 names #1 C. Cruz, #2 G. Warren, and #3 M. Galbo. He runs his finger across Warren, and steps inside.

INT. APARTMENT COMMON - DAY

TYLER
The common areas were remodeled a couple years ago, had to make room for

the elevator.

HOLLY
Shut up! You mean to tell me there's an elevator in here now?

TYLER
It's next to the stairs.

Holly opens the elevator, and steps inside. Tyler catches up to her.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

HOLLY
It's really small, not really ideal for moving, now is it? Why won't it move?

TYLER
You need the key.

Tyler grabs the keys from Holly, and scans the fob. The elevator starts to move.

Professor Punx

HOLLY
Well, isn't that just fancy.

The elevator door opens to a wide open space inside a furnished apartment. Both Holly and Tyler step out of the elevator.

INT. APARTMENT #2 - DAY

TYLER
This is why you need the key.

HOLLY
Did we just come through Nana's old closet?

TYLER
Yeah, the front door still gives us access to the stairs.

HOLLY
Who needs stairs when you have an elevator?!

Holly walks around the living room, picking up pieces and setting them down. She dusts her hands off on herself. Tyler

watches her and looks around the room. Holly picks up a picture from the mantle.

HOLLY
Ahhh, I remember this. Mom would drop us off and we would play dress up with Nana's stuff.

TYLER
Nana loved those memories.

Tyler walks towards the kitchen, and sees a newspaper dated 2 weeks prior, with a partially finished crossword and a broken pencil next to it. He clears his throat.

TYLER
ahem, you want something to drink?

Tyler grabs a pitcher out of fridge, and pours a glass of water for himself. He looks back to Holly.

HOLLY
No, I'm ok, I actually have to take off. I have some errands I need to run before work tomorrow.

Professor Punx

TYLER
aright. I'll probably stay here tonight, so feel free to come back if you want. You can take the picture with you.

HOLLY
Really?

TYLER
Yeah, I insist.

Holly makes her way to the front door. She opens it and looks back to Tyler.

HOLLY
Will you be alright here all alone tonight?

TYLER
I'll be fine. Go on, take care of your errands.

HOLLY
I'll come back another weekend to help

you sort all of this out. I promise.

TYLER
I know, and thank you.

HOLLY
Okay. I'll call you later, love you.

Holly closes the door. Tyler sighs and looks around and mumbles under his breath.

TYLER
Love you too.

Tyler walks back into the living room as he glances at photos and a massive framed vintage movie poster on the wall. He sits down on the couch, pulls a scrap book out from the coffee table, and starts to look through it.

FADE OUT

INT. APARTMENT #2 LR - MORNING

Professor Punx

Tyler is woken abruptly by loud music coming from the apartment above him. He finds himself on the couch in the living room with the scrapbook laying open on the floor.

TYLER
(groaning)
uhhh, what time is it?

Tyler sits up and stretches out, checks his phone and it's dead. He makes his way to the bathroom, stopping to plug in his phone in the kitchen.

INT. APARTMENT #2 BATH - MORNING

He takes a long look in the mirror, he is visibly exhausted. Tyler opens the mirror to reveal a large amount of medication that reads: Warren, Gertrude. He examines one of the prescriptions, the bottle is full, it was just refilled recently. He puts the bottle back and closes the mirror. Tylers face is swollen with emotion, a tear falls from his eye. The water turns on and Tyler leans down to rinse his face.

INT. APARTMENT #2 BED - MORNING

Tyler walks into a bedroom drying his face and hands, he drops the hand towel onto the bed. He looks around the room; the closet door is open, and a woman's outfit is set aside

for the day. Tyler sits on the edge of the bed in a trance but is jolted back to reality with the ringing of the door buzzer. The music upstairs stops. Tyler makes his way to the living room.

INT. APARTMENT #2 LR - MORNING

Tyler walks to the intercom near the front door. He answers the incoming call.

TYLER
Ummm... Hello?

ANN (F, 24), the delivery driver, speaks into the intercom from the the ground floor.

ANN
Huh, who's this?

TYLER
What do you mean, you buzzed me!

ANN
This is Ann, isn't this Ginny's apartment?

Professor Punx

TYLER
Uhhh... yeah.

ANN
Oh, ok, I was just checking. I've only ever met Ginny. I'm just dropping off her groceries.

TYLER
Thanks, you can leave it at the door.

ANN
(under her breath)
Ugh, I never had this problem with Ginny. (loudly) Can you just come down and sign for it?

TYLER
Rude... fine! I'll be down in a minute.

INT. APARTMENT COMMON - DAY

Tyler opens the front door to reveal Ann standing looking impatient. Ann immediately tries to hand a receipt to Tyler

to sign.

TYLER
Wait, what is this?

ANN
You have to sign for receiving the order.

TYLER
I didn't place an order.

ANN
This is Ginny's bi-weekly order, we drop it off every Tuesday.

Ann hands Tyler the receipt, and he looks at the list as the Ann starts to set bags just inside the door next to Tyler.

TYLER
(looking shocked)
All of this for just one person?

Professor Punx

Tyler looks into a bag, and notices a can of salted pistachios.

TYLER
Ummm, excuse me, but my nana would never buy pistachios... she's allergic. So you must've made a mistake.

ANN
First of all, I've been bringing her this *exact* order for the past year. It's literally the most predictable and stable relationship I have going for me. Second, if you really knew your NANA, you would know that she shares this order with her friend upstairs.

Tyler finishes signing the receipt, and looks at Ann with shock and concern. He hands the receipt back to Ann.

TYLER
If YOU really knew her, you'd know she just passed.

Tyler closes the door abruptly on Ann.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Outside, Ann looks shocked and upset at the closed door.

She crumples the receipt in her hand angrily and shouts at the door.

ANN
Asshole!

She slowly releases her balled fist with the receipt inside and her expression turns sad.

ANN
(under her breath)
Of course, the one person I get close to just up and dies on me. Classic.

Ann sighs, puts the receipt in her back pocket, grabs her cart of packages and slowly walks away.

INT. APARTMENT COMMON - DAY

Professor Punx

Tyler looks down at all the bags piled around his feet.

TYLER
What the hell am I supposed to do with all of this?

INT. APARTMENT #2 - DAY

Tyler places the last grocery bag on the counter with a sigh. He's out of breath and looks tired.

TYLER
(to himself)
Who the hell is this other person?

Tyler hears the elevator doors open. He looks around frantically, grabs the can of pistachios on the counter, and goes into an exaggerated/comical defense position.

TYLER
Who's there?

MEGHAN (F/60's) steps out of the elevator and abruptly stops.

MEGHAN
Who the hell are you?! Where's Ginny? And what are you doing with my pistachios?

TYLER
Umm, excuse me, why the hell do you have a key to my Nana's apartment?

MEGHAN
It's delivery day, I'm here to catch up with Ginny and grab my groceries. Where is she anyway?

Tyler sets down the can and looks away.

TYLER
Oh..you haven't heard.

MEGHAN
Heard what? Where's Ginny?

TYLER
Nana passed away last week. I'm Tyler, her grandson.

Meghan looks shocked and collapses on the couch with a dramatic response. Tyler looks frustrated and concerned.

Professor Punx

TYLER
(mumbling to himself)
Why is this happening to me?

Tyler's phone rings, and he picks it up.

TYLER
Now's really not a good time.

Meghan continues wailing.

HOLLY
What's going on over there? Why do I hear crying in the background? What did you do?

TYLER
Don't put me on trial! I didn't do anything-- this woman just shows up IN the apartment demanding groceries and now she's hysterical!

HOLLY
You obviously did SOMETHING Tyler!

TYLER
All I said was Nana died!

HOLLY
Wait, did you say she's there to pick up groceries? That must be Meghan! You should have been more sensitive Tyler, that was Nana's best friend.

TYLER
How was I supposed to know that? Wait, how do YOU know that?

HOLLY
I met her!

Meghan raises her hand from the couch.

MEGHAN
I need water.

TYLER
(to Holly)
I have to go.

HOLLY
Tell Meghan I said hi! Ok, bye.

Professor Punx

Tyler hangs up and fills a glass with water from the sink. He sets it down on the coffee table next to Meghan.

MEGHAN
(through tears)
is that... tap?

TYLER
Can you do this somewhere else?

Meghan sits up abruptly, looking Tyler in the eyes.

MEGHAN
(seriously)
Do you know who I am?

TYLER
I'm still trying to figure that out, but I'm sure I'll have plenty of time... later on.

Meghan slams her face into the couch cushions, crying.

TYLER
Maybe you'd feel more comfortable upstairs.. on your OWN couch.

Tyler pulls Meghan off the couch, with Meghan still clutching a pillow, and they walk towards the elevator.

TYLER
You should head back upstairs, I'll bring your groceries to you later.

Meghan gets in the elevator looking stunned, and the doors shut. Tyler leans against the closed doors and slides down to the floor.

TYLER
(sighing)
Nana better have some wine.

INT. APARTMENT #2 LR - DAY

Tyler is sitting at the kitchen counter trying to write. His phone is lighting up with multiple messages coming from his Editor. One message states: "The article needs to be submitted soon". Another message reads: "We need it by end of day tomorrow". Tyler remains stoic, looking at a blank computer screen with nothing started, and leaves the messages on his phone unread. A third message comes in, demanding Tyler respond with an ETA for delivery. Tyler looks away from the screen in frustration and sees the groceries. He gets up, grabs the bags and walks towards the door.

Professor Bunk

TYLER
(under his breath)
Fine... you win.

Tyler walks out the door with the bags, and the door closes behind him.

INT. APARTMENT #3 - DAY

Tyler goes to knock on the front door, and it opens from him barely touching it. The door swings open to reveal the living room and the walls covered in art and photographs. Tyler locks eyes on a framed photograph of a younger Nana with a famous actress at a movie premiere. He walks in and looks at it closer, still holding the bags. Tyler is startled by Meghan's voice coming from behind him.

MEGHAN
Let yourself in, why don't you.

TYLER
(dropping the bags)
Oh, Jesus Christ!

Tyler clutches his chest, then immediately starts to pick the bags up.

MEGHAN
Hey! Watch the floors, they're older than me.

Tyler sets the bags on the counter and makes his way back to the photograph.

TYLER
(under his breath)
I highly doubt that.

MEGHAN
What was that?

Tyler grabs the photograph from the table, and shows the image to Meghan.

TYLER
How did you get this picture of my Nana?

Professor Punx

MEGHAN
(scoffs at Tyler)
Heh, you seriously don't recognize me?

TYLER
Am I supposed to?

MEGHAN
That's me, with Ginny.

TYLER
Wait, that means--

Tyler looks back at the picture and realizes the name on the door. He looks back at Meghan, surprised.

MEGHAN
Ahhh, now he gets it. Welcome back, hon.

Meghan stands up, walks into the kitchen and pours herself another drink. Tyler stands and begins frantically pacing the room.

TYLER
(visibly confused)
So wait... you-- hold on. My Nana!