

"Look, A Lion"
EWG Fall Retreat
by

Don X Nguyen

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2906 21ST AVE APT 3D
Astoria, NY 11105
718-839-0424
thenugespeaks@gmail.com

At rise, we see Clea standing on a street corner listening to music with her headphones. She sways her head a few times, then steps out onto the street and screams. Our focus shifts to Jon and Rebecca in their apartment. They are standing and staring at something on the floor

REBECCA

What is that?

JON

What do you think it is?

REBECCA

I was asking you. What do you think it is?

JON

It's...something.

REBECCA

Something is right.

Rebecca stares at Jon.

JON

What?

REBECCA

Are you going to pick it up?

JON

Why should I pick it up?

REBECCA

Because-

JON

Because what? Because I'm the man?

REBECCA

Because you're closer to it.

JON

We're the same distance apart.

REBECCA

You're a few inches closer.

JON

We are equidistant to it.

REBECCA

Only if there was a sudden earthquake in Manhattan that caused you to stumble a few inches back, sure, than we would be equidistant to it.

JON

I can't believe we're arguing over this.

REBECCA

I can't believe YOU'RE arguing over this.

Jon takes a big step back.

JON

Fine, now we don't have to argue anymore.

REBECCA

What are you doing?

JON

Now you're closer to it.

REBECCA

You. Are. A. Child.

JON

I'm a child who is further away from that thing than you.

REBECCA

Cheater!

JON

How can that be cheating? We're not playing a game.

REBECCA

We are roommates. Thus, we are automatically bound to the moral and ethical code of conduct by which all apartment dwellers such as WE, have a right to bear for the entire time WE continue to share living quarters.

JON

Are you enrolled in some online law school that you're not telling me about?

REBECCA

In layman's terms, you're cheating.

JON

That's absurd.

REBECCA

Actually, I'm not surprised.

Jon waits for Rebecca to elaborate.

JON

I shouldn't even ask, but I'm that guy who touches things that have "wet paint" signs on it. So, why are you not surprised?

REBECCA

You always find some way of squirming out of your duties as a roommate.

JON

See, that's not fair. You're saying just enough without actually saying anything.

REBECCA

That's what happens when you play with the adults.

JON

So, please elaborate on what you mean by squirming out of my duties.

REBECCA

As a roommate.

JON

Yes, as a roommate. Thank you.

REBECCA

Last week when the dishes were piled up in the sink, it was your turn to wash them.

JON

And?

REBECCA

And you just left it for someone else to do.

JON

I did my dishes.

REBECCA

No, sometimes you do a dish. When there are no clean dishes to use, you rinse out a dirty one. But most of the time, Clea and I do your dishes along with ours.

JON

I never asked you to. You could've left my dishes in the sink.

REBECCA

Than they would never get washed because you never get around to them.

JON

Well if you would leave them in the sink for me to do, than I would see it and make a mental note to myself to wash them later.

REBECCA

Do you know what would happen if Clea and I actually let that happen? There would be a stack of bowls with dried up instant oatmeal on them.

JON

That's not all I eat.

REBECCA

Yes, as a matter of fact, that is all you eat. And you don't even soak your dishes. You let the oatmeal dry up on the bowl.

JON

So what, I scrub them.

REBECCA

You can't scrub out oatmeal. You may think you can, but a week later, remnants of past oatmeal inevitably show up like ex boyfriends at wedding receptions.

JON

Are we still talking about me?

REBECCA

Jon, listen to me carefully. Oatmeal is like cement. Unless you have a jackhammer, once it dries, it is all over.

Clea enters.

CLEA

Oh my God!

REBECCA

(to Clea)

What happened?

CLEA

I false started today at the corner of 42nd and Lex and almost killed twelve people. I was just standing there, reveling in the poetic irony of "Crystal Blue Persuasion" playing through my pearl white headphones. And then I just stepped onto the street without looking. And everyone stepped with me. Like I was the leader of the group or something. I mean, I don't know these people. They're all strangers to me. Who made me their leader? I had headphones on for God sakes. What part of that says to them "Oh yes, she looks like she's paying attention to oncoming traffic." Like swimmers on the starting blocks, we were almost disqualified. Not from a swim race. But from the Human Race.

(Beat)

By a large Fresh Direct truck.

(Beat)

(more)

CLEA (CONTINUED)

There's irony in there somewhere.

(Beat)

Hey, what are you guys doing?

JON

We were talking about Becca's ex boyfriends.

REBECCA

We were talking about Jon not washing his dishes and before that we were looking at this.

Rebecca points to the ground.

CLEA

Whoa. What is that?

REBECCA

It's...something.

Clea steps on it. Jon and Rebecca shriek.

CLEA

Now it's nothing.

JON

I can't believe you did that. Especially after your near death experience today.

CLEA

Well, as Tim Rice would say.

Rebecca and Jon wait for Clea to finish her thought, but she does not.

REBECCA

Oh what a circus?

CLEA

It's the circle of life.

JON

I was going to say that. I totally get it. One is born while the other dies.

CLEA

And today I shall live.

Rebecca and Jon stare at Clea for a moment.

JON

Anybody hungry?

I'm starving.

CLEA

Great Jones?

REBECCA

Yeah!

CLEA

They all start to exit. Jon stops
and turns back.

Sithi uhm ingonyama ingonyama

JON

[Phonetic: Sit-tee oom, Oon yah mah, oon yah mah]
[Translation: Oh yes, it's a lion, a lion]

Jon!

REBECCA

Sorry.

JON

Jon exits with them.

End Of Play.