

ONE APARTMENT DOWN

"Episode of the Zippered White Boots"

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ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - TAMMARA'S HOUSE - DAY

Clothing and shoes are thrown around. Papers and books cover the table.

Vito is parked next to an old torn sofa. Tammara lies with her head back, snoring.

Shae makes a card house using a deck on cards on the coffee table in front of them. Martha files her nails.

MAMA DEAN(80's) Tammara's loud and nosy roommate also sits on the sofa. She squawks out loud at an old television. Wheel of Fortune plays.

MAMA DEAN

T!

The screen shows " _ _ _ _ _ S & D _ _ _ _ _ S"

MARTHA

Does she really want us to sit here while she sleeps?

MAMA DEAN

Ha, ha! M is not there idiot!

VITO

Stop it. It's her choice Martha.

MARTHA

We're not doing anything and I'm hungry.

VITO

Entertain yourself.

Martha continues to file her nails.

VITO

(to camera)

I'm bored shitless. It's the god forsaken day that I established for every new assistant. Assistant Retreat Day. It gives us all time to bond.

(CONTINUED)

MAMA DEAN

L! No L? Did you see that?

VITO

(to camera)

Studies show that having team retreats is important for corporate culture. What corporation? The Vito Corp. I am the product and the CEO.

TV SHOW HOST (ON THE TV)

Can we guess the phrase?

MAMA DEAN

Faggots and Drags!

VITO

No! Dungeons and Dragons.

(to camera)

Does it ever go well? Does anything ever go well?

Shae's card castle falls.

SHAE

Oh.

VITO

(to camera)

In any event. I have created a list we try to follow.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Vito and Martha sit at a high bar. Many empty shot glasses are in front of Martha.

The BARTENDER(30's) slides Martha a shot. She takes it to the head. Vito sits sober.

VITO (V.O)

Improve company moral.

MARTHA

You like this guy?

Martha points at a MALE(30's) passing.

(CONTINUED)

VITO

No.

MARTHA

Wanna know how to get a guy to call
back? You gotta hold and suck.

VITO

What if one cannot use hands?

Vito looks at her hands.

MARTHA

Let me show you!

Martha signals the Bartender to come over. He stands in
front of her.

MARTHA

No hands.

Martha places her hands behind her back and looks at the
Bartender.

MARTHA

Consider this your tip.

INT. ZOO - DAY

Vito and Martha pass caged tigers.

VITO (V.O)

Bring about hidden talents.

MARTHA

I hate animals.

VITO

Come on. This is exciting. Besides
it's Shae's pick.

MARTHA

A man!

Martha stares at a MAN(30's) in the distance. A LITTLE
GIRL(6) walks beside him.

VITO

With a kid?

MARTHA

So?

A WOMAN(30's) walks beside him.

VITO

And a wife.

MARTHA

Coñio. Where the hell is Shae?

VITO

I thought she went to the bathroom.

Vito looks into the tiger cage. The Little Girl stands near.

VITO

Oh. My. God. Martha!

LITTLE GIRL

Daddy! There's a woman in the cage!

Martha turns to view Shae in the cage with the tigers.
PEOPLE crowd around and watch in fear.

Shae stands beside an Albino tiger.

SHAE

I understand you. On the inside
you're a sweet little kitty.

MARTHA

Shae get away from that beast!

SHAE

Snowflake doesn't like that.

MARTHA

Whose Snowflake?

The tiger roars.

VITO

That's snowflake.

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Vito's chair is parked beside Shae and PETRA(60's) who sits in a back pew. Petra is unseen. Only her feet is shown.

PRIEST EDWARD(60's) speaks from the pulpit.

VITO (V.O)

Give time for reflection.

PRIEST EDWARD

It's good to be in the house of Lord, saints. Here we get a chance to reflect on our week, on our lives.

Martha enters wearing all black and dark shades. She sits beside them.

Martha's entrance breaks the Priest's concentration. The congregation looks at her.

Martha sits beside Shae and Petra.

MARTHA

Mierda. Why did the service have to be so early?

VITO

Martha, it's six fucking o'clock in the afternoon.

PRIEST EDWARD

Now, we'll partake in communion.

Church organ music is played. People line up row by row to break bread and sip communion wine from the PRIESTS(50's-60's).

Martha slouches on Shae.

PETRA

Sientate derecha.

Petra smacks Martha with the program. Only her arm is seen. Martha sits up and gives her a long glare.

They rise and approach the Priests for bread and wine.

(CONTINUED)

Martha is last. Priest Edward holds a communion wine cup towards Martha.

MARTHA

No. I don't want to see alcohol again after last night.

The Priest holds the cup back. Martha grabs it from him.

MARTHA

On second thought.

She drinks.

MARTHA

Ow! This is the good stuff. Can I get a cup to go?

VITO

Martha!

MARTHA

Don't worry about it. We'll talk about it later.

Everyone resumes to their seats.

PRIEST EDWARD

It's that time of the service. Does anyone have a testimony?

The church is quiet. Martha begins to fall asleep again. Petra presses a button on Vito's chair remote.

A loud sound goes off. Everyone stares at Vito. Martha pops up. Petra screams.

PETRA

Sientante derecha, que estamos en la casa del señor! Cabrroncita.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TAMMARA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

VITO

(to camera)

And here I am fooling with these jokers on my day off. This better go well.

Tammara wakes. She looks beside her and eats from an opened bag of potato chips.

TAMMARA

Who changed the TV from America's
Next Top Model?

Mama Dean continues to watch and laugh hysterically at the television show.

MARTHA

The idiot pointing and laughing at
it.

Tammara leans back and closes her eyes again. Martha whispers to Vito.

MARTHA

I'm ready to leave and I don't see
anything in that kitchen that
resembles food.

VITO

So Tammara. Dinner. When?

TAMMARA

There's meat and potatoes in the
fridge. Go knock yourselves out.

SHAE

Food!

Martha and Shae enter the tiny kitchen. Dirty dishes and stained tupperware are stacked high in the sink.

The dishes shake. Martha is startled.

MARTHA

Something is living in there.

Shae grabs the dish from the refrigerator. She uncovers it. The meat and potatoes are uncooked.

SHAE

I'm sorry. I don't eat raw
potatoes.

TAMMARA

Empty pots are on the stove.

MARTHA

Oh, hell no. Honestly, we don't want to cause you too much trouble, Tammara. How about we go out for dinner?

TAMMARA

Oh, trust me you're not trouble at all.

MARTHA

No, no. We insist. There's a nice little Italian restaurant by the mall-

TAMMARA

I don't want to go anywhere.

MARTHA

It'll be a quick trip. You won't even feel it.

INT. VAN - HIGHWAY - DAY

Martha sits in the driver's seat. Tammara is in the passenger's seat as Shae sits behind Vito.

Vito's chair is strapped down in the center of the van.

MARTHA

Why is there so much traffic?

Martha rolls down the window.

MARTHA

Stop drinking Coronas and get your lazy asses back to work!

VITO

Oh, dear Lord.

Martha crazily merges in the exit lane. The wheelchair bounces. Shae slides.

(CONTINUED)

SHAE

Hey! I have my children to live for.

The truck behind them honks the horn.

MARTHA

Who the hell does he think he's honking at?

Martha honks back.

The truck recklessly overtakes them. The DRIVER(40's) inside flips them the bird and speeds off.

TAMMARA

Ugh, ugh! Follow that crazy fool!

Martha steps on the gas behind the Driver.

They arrive at a Fingalickin'. The driver parks and enters the restaurant.

INT. VAN - PARKING LOT - DAY

Martha parks. Tammara exits the vehicle.

VITO

What's happening?

Martha and Shae watch Tammara through the windows. Vito unable to see, is still strapped into her chair.

SHAE

Oh, my goodness.

VITO

What is she doing?

SHAE

She took out the man's thingy to stop the do-hicky from going BRR!

VITO

Martha!

MARTHA

It's better than any novela I've seen.

VITO

Dammit, woman! I need details!

MARTHA

She's a beast.

Tammara returns holding the left rearview mirror.

TAMMARA

Let's go!

The Driver runs out of the restaurant just as he notices his car. Martha presses gas. They speed out of the parking lot.

TAMMARA

He's screwed.

INT. MALL - CONTINUOUS

Vito and the assistants walk through the mall. Vito passes a display.

She stares at a pair of high-heeled zippered, white ankle boots through the store's window.

VITO

I need to have them. They have zippers. Zippers!

MARTHA

You have a strange shoe obsession when you don't even walk.

VITO

Shoes are trophies for my feet.

Martha looks at the tag.

MARTHA

Not bad. Only \$125.

(CONTINUED)

TAMMARA

I hate the mall.

Martha walks away.

TAMMARA

Well, since I'm here, I'm going to GNC.

VITO

Wait, what are you getting?

TAMMARA

Chocolate laxatives.

VITO

You can do that shit on your own.

TAMMARA

It's for a classmate.

VITO

Classmate?

TAMMARA

She's been cheating off my tests.

VITO

You do that. Shae help me buy my shoes.

SHAE

O.K!

VITO

Bless you!

INT. SHOE STORE - CONTINUOUS

CUSTOMER 1(40's) stands in front of Shae and Vito at the register. A shoe box sits on the desk of Vito's wheelchair.

Customer 1 yells at the CASHIER 1(20's).

CUSTOMER 1

What do you mean I can't return these? I've only worn them three times and the tag is still on it!

(CONTINUED)

CASHIER 1

Ma'am, I'm sorry it's been past
thirty days.

VITO

I just want to step in and run this
woman over.

SHAE

Let me handle it. It's time you
have a proper role model in your
life.

Shae taps the Customer's shoulder.

SHAE

Excuse me ma'am. It's not the
employee's fault. She doesn't have
the proper authorization. If you
want results you should seek
someone higher.

CUSTOMER 1

You're right. Get me the manager!

The Cashier glares at Shae.

VITO

You made it worst!

EL CHULO(20's), a burly guy, walks past the store. He wears
a tight shirt and skinny jeans.

He holds a plastic bag of colorful miniature toys.

Shae focuses on the bag.

SHAE

Oh, pretty colors.

Vito watches the STORE MANAGER(40'S) approach the register.
Shae leaves Vito alone in the line and follows El Chulo.

PREGNANT CASHIER 2(30's) opens another checkout line.

PREGNANT CASHIER 2

I can take the next customer here!

VITO

Shae get my wallet.

Vito turns and notices Shae walking towards the exit.

VITO

Where are you going?

Vito turns to the CUSTOMER 2 behind her.

VITO

Take the damn shoes.

Customer 2 lifts the shoes from Vito's desk with uncertainty. Vito looks at the shoes.

VITO

I promise my love, I'll be back for you.

INT. MALL - CONTINUOUS

Shae walks between a moving crowd, searching for El Chulo. Vito's motorchair speeds towards Shae.

VITO

Shae! What the hell?

SHAE

That guy has pretty guinea pig toys. I need to ask him where he got it.

VITO

You can look at a directory.

SHAE

There are no pet stores here.

Martha and Tammara approach them.

MARTHA

Where have you guys been? I've been looking for you.

(CONTINUED)

Tammara approaches with a tub of chocolate flavored laxative powder.

VITO

Shit. How much did you get?

TAMMARA

Enough to keep her in the bathroom for weeks. She need to lose pounds anyway.

MARTHA

Let me see that.

Martha grabs the tub and examines it.

MARTHA

I need to lose three pounds.

Everyone looks at stick figured Martha.

SHAE

Anyway. We're looking for someone.

VITO

No. Not we. You.

MARTHA

Wait.

Martha raises her head and sniffs the air.

VITO

She's doing that weird sniffing thing. An attractive man must be close by.

MARTHA

There's a military man near.

She looks around.

MARTHA

There!

Martha sprints into an outdoors store.

SHAE

Wow. She's fast.

VITO

Only when there's a man involved.

TAMMARA

Aren't we going for dinner?

INT. OUTDOORS STORE - CONTINUOUS

Martha stands in gun section and peeks at El Chulo from around corner.

El Chulo examines glittery hooks and sinkers that have feathers attached.

Martha studies his biceps, forearms, and thick hands as he holds the feathery blue sinker.

Vito, Shae and Tammara enter the store.

VITO

Found you!

MARTHA

Quiet. I'm investigating.

VITO

What? His ass?

MARTHA

And it's a fine one.

TAMMARA

I think we're losing track here. We should be getting dinner.

MARTHA

We're going. As soon as he gets my number.

Tammara studies El Chulo.

TAMMARA

I don't think you're his type.

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA

Excuse me. I'm everyone's type.

SHAE

It's the guinea pig stuff guy!

Shae approaches him. Martha pulls her back.

MARTHA

He's mine to eat, sweetie.

SHAE

I only want to ask him something.

VITO

Can we go now?

MARTHA

What would you like to ask my man?

SHAE

About the guinea pig items in his bag.

MARTHA

Ha! You think this guy is into the same freak stuff you're into?

SHAE

Take that back! My children are perfectly normal.

MARTHA

I wasn't talking about the guinea pigs.

Vito watches El Chulo leave.

SHAE

What I do with my private life is my business. You're just mad I can keep a guy and you can't.

MARTHA

Who the hell says I want to keep them!

TAMMARA

He left.

Martha immediately exits the store behind him. The others follow.

INT. MALL - CONTINUOUS

Martha searches for El Chulo and looks in all directions.

MARTHA

Mierda. He's gone.

END OF ACT ONE