

SCENE 1

At Violet and Ben's home. Ben is packing his suitcase. Violet is staring at the wall overlooking their neighbours' condo, preoccupied. Ben doesn't realize that she is not listening to him.

BEN

I feel bad about leaving you alone with the baby... on the other hand, I couldn't say no. Last time, I was gone for three days and I closed so many sales... Imagine what I can do in a week and a half. I can't miss a a major conference like this. Plus I'm tacking on a visit to two or three big clients up north... But I said to myself, "At least she's in daycare now."

VIOLET

(indifferent, too preoccupied with what's happening at the neighbours')

It's fine.

BEN

Plus the industry is changing so fast these days –

VIOLET

(changing the subject)

So you've never heard the noise?

BEN

Huh?

VIOLET

The crow.

BEN

No.

VIOLET

You must not have been paying attention.

BEN

No, I'm telling you, I've never heard it.

VIOLET
That's weird.

BEN
Not really.

VIOLET
You sure?
Cuz if I'm the only one who can hear it, you know what that means?

BEN
(not daring to say what he really
thinks)
Uh, no...

VIOLET
It means it's aimed at me.

BEN
What?

VIOLET
It means that noise is being made SPECIFICALLY so that I'M the one that hears it.

*Beat. Ben looks at Violet, baffled: it's worse
than he thought.*

BEN
You just spend more time at home than I do.

VIOLET
(imitating a crow)
AW, AW, AW. Like a crow.

BEN
I'll get an exterminator.

VIOLET
It's not a real crow! It's, like, sexual. It's her, it's our neighbour. *Coming.*

BEN
Okay, well, first of all, who cares.

VIOLET

We care! Maybe they're doing it on purpose. Maybe they get off on it. Cuz they're, like, exhibitionists.

BEN
(disheartened)

Sure, that makes sense.

VIOLET

They're using me as part of their sexual role-play, and I'm not comfortable with that.

BEN
(sighing)

Honestly, I –

VIOLET

I can just picture it: like, they're in their bedroom, making out, doing their thing... waiting for me to come into *my* bedroom. And then they're, like:

(She says it as if it's the most ordinary thing in the world: she has forgotten what sexual pleasure is)

“You love it when people hear you come, you little slut.” Then she comes.

(Beat. Ben is unconvinced. She imitates the crow to prove her point.)

AW, AW, AW.

BEN

I'll get an exterminator.

VIOLET

You know the drill: at some point, a couple starts having a hard time getting aroused, so they start doing weird stuff. Then after they come they probably feel dirty, but they keep on doing it anyway.

BEN

That's kind of sex-negative, what you're saying.

VIOLET

Sex-negative? You think I'm... Like, I hurt Sex's feelings, huh? Poor old “Sex”, it's gonna go curl up in a corner and cry?

BEN

Negative towards everyone who loves sex.

VIOLET

I'm being victimized by my neighbours' sexual fantasies!

BEN

One, you have no proof: and honestly, it's not the end of the world. That would've just made you laugh, before.

VIOLET

Okay so it's my fault.

BEN

No: like you told me, it's the breastfeeding. Kills the sex drive.

VIOLET

(in disbelief)

Because I'm breastfeeding? That's why my neighbours are dragging me into their disgusting sex life, waiting to orgasm until I set foot in my bedroom because they are determined to get me to hear them orgasm?

BEN

How are they supposed to know when you're in your bedroom?

VIOLET

Good point. You're right: how did they know that I'd just come into the bedroom? Are they spying on me? They're even more messed up than I thought.

She stares at the wall, paranoid. Ben, downhearted, kisses her.

BEN

I'll call you.

Ben leaves. Beat. We hear the cry of the crow. Violet sighs.