

SCENE 2

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*At Florence and David's. Florence is sitting in front of Violet who, over-compensating for feeling awkward, is a little too direct.*

VIOLET

I hope my baby isn't too loud?

FLORENCE

No, it's fine.

VIOLET

(surprised)

Oh... So you don't hear her?

FLORENCE

We hear her, but she's a baby, she makes noise, it happens. My son's 11. We've been there.

VIOLET

Okay. I'd think it was weird if you didn't hear it. Because of course we can hear things sometimes, between condos.

FLORENCE

It happens.

VIOLET

Our bedrooms are right next to each other, too.

FLORENCE

(confused)

Well, sure, they're side by side. There's an adjoining wall.

VIOLET

And sometimes I hear "things".

FLORENCE

Well like we were just saying, it happens.

VIOLET

Except sometimes, it's like that noise is being made SPECIFICALLY so that I'M the one that hears those "things". Just me.

*Violet stops. Florence looks at her, finding her weird.*

FLORENCE

So you're the only one who can hear them?

VIOLET

(testing Florence's reaction, like a bad detective)

Yeah. It's like someone wants me to be an earwitness to the things I'm hearing.

(beat: Florence doesn't respond)

You know what I mean by "earwitness"?

FLORENCE

I know what an earwitness is. But I don't really see how it applies to our conversation.

VIOLET

Because there are people who like for their lives to be witnessed. As in, different aspects of their lives. Like, their sexuality.

*Beat. Florence is drawing a blank.*

FLORENCE

Are you okay? Cuz, it's like you're speaking to me in code. And it's, like, very odd. Do you need help? Do you want me to call TeleHealth?

VIOLET

No, no. I'm talking about something very concrete. I'm talking about a noise.

(imitating the crow)

AW, AW, AW.

(Beat. Florence doesn't say anything. She doesn't know what Violet's talking about. Violet has no choice but to keep going.)

Like a crow.

(She imitates the crow again.)

AW, AW, AW.

FLORENCE

You're hearing a crow?

VIOLET

Exactly.

FLORENCE

Well, that must be coming from outside.

VIOLET

No, it's totally coming from the wall.

FLORENCE

But did you check outside? Cuz I don't have a crow in my bedroom.

VIOLET

I never said it was a crow. I SAID it was "like" a crow. Like a girl cawing like a crow. Like you making the sound of a crow in your bedroom which is right next to mine, specifically so that I'll hear you cawing like a crow. AW, AW, AW.

FLORENCE

But why would I do that?

VIOLET

Well... because you're coming.

FLORENCE

Me?

VIOLET

Because you're, maybe, an auditory exhibitionist.

FLORENCE

Oh! I get it. Interesting, but no.

VIOLET

I'm not judging you, I'm just uncomfortable.

FLORENCE

No, but you see I... I don't come. In fact, I don't even sleep with my husband. It's been... months... years, maybe, now that I think about it, since we... since... that nothing has happened.

VIOLET

(taking it in: feeling very foolish)

Oh. Okay.

FLORENCE

Mm.

So, uh... great.

VIOLET

It's okay.

FLORENCE

So I must be...

VIOLET

Or else it's a crow.

FLORENCE

VIOLET  
(embarrassed)  
Or some other bird, right? Cuz, now that I think about it, I don't actually know that much about birds. So, is it even a crow? Who knows.

FLORENCE  
I'll try to keep an eye out anyway – or, an ear – let you know if I hear anything.

VIOLET  
(doesn't know what to say,  
embarrassed)  
Yeah, it's like... AW, AW, AW.

(beat)  
Well, I won't bother you any longer.

FLORENCE  
You're not bothering me.

VIOLET  
No?

FLORENCE  
I'm on leave from work.

VIOLET  
Oh. Cool. I'm on mat leave.

FLORENCE  
Cool.

VIOLET  
Mm.

FLORENCE

How's it going?

VIOLET

Good. You?

FLORENCE

Good.

VIOLET

Me too, great, super.

FLORENCE

Yeah, super-great.

*Beat. They are so alone.*

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