

Red

The summer breeze ruffles the trees. Leaves dance in the wind. The moon shines as bright as a lantern, guiding the way for Louise and Ollie. Arm in arm, they walk the path of Central Park.

Louise gazes into his eyes, she leans into his neck and slowly whispers, “Ollie, do you want to go back to my place?”

How could he refuse such an offer? They had been dating for nearly a year and the most action they’d done was heavy make-out sessions. Eager as a dog, Ollie nods his head and quickens his pace.

Louise laughs and joins in step with him. She knew it was time; she also knew Ollie was not going to wait any longer. What was she afraid of? She loved him. But there was one thing she could not shake off her mind. Louise just shrugs and walks off.

The keys jingle as Louise opens her door. Ollie is nibbling at her neck. Louise giggles. She turns to him and smacks her lips against his. “Wait in the living room while I get us a glass of wine” she gaps out. Ollie winks and floats to the living room.

Louise grabs a couple of wine glasses and a bottle. She hums as she pours the red substance; then she stops. From the corner of her eye a red blur against the wall. Her back stiffens. Her heart pounds. Letting go of the glass she spins around.

“Hi-ya!” a voice says.

“Oh no” Louise blurts. “Not you, not tonight. Go! Go away”. A petite girl dressed head to toe in red smirks as she enjoys Louise’s reaction.

Laughing, she says, “You can’t get rid of me. Mother sent me to make sure there is no funny business between you and...” A loud thump rings from the living room. Louise runs out to find the cause. Scattered on the ground is a half naked Ollie. He rises while rubbing his lower back. “Ow” he musters out.

The girl peaks from behind Louise. “...him”. She squints at Louise, “Really Lou? This guy?”

Ollie hears their voices and quickly turns around. Suddenly realizing that there is someone else in the room, his cheeks flush red. “Oh, hi there” he glances in Louise’s direction with a questioning look.

“Hi, I’m Lola.” She says with a grin on her face. “I’m here to ruin your lives.”

Louise smacks her forehead with her palm. She shakes her head and rushes Lola out of the room.

Louise rams Lola into the wall. “Look here the pain in my existence, with you here Ollie and I can’t have that romantic evening I was planning. So I am going to need you to go.”

Lola continues to smile and replies, “Well, with nothing happening between you two then I am doing my job.” She unravels from Louise’s clutches and makes her way to the kitchen. “Do you have any chocolate? Or Hot Cheetos? How about some pickles?”

Lola rummages through the cabinets. Louise sees this as an opportunity to tell Ollie to head home since nothing was going to happen that night. She peers into the room and sees him waiting patiently like a little puppy.

She sighs, “Ollie?” He looks in her direction and smiles. He notices the look in her face and frowns. “What’s wrong?”

As if it was planned, Lola comes into the room baring bags of chips and cookies. “Hey guys! Why the long faces? It’s a beautiful night tonight, lets watch a movie.”

Louise tangles her fingers into her hair and grunts. Ollie senses the problem and tries to diffuse it.

“Lola, Louise and I were hoping to have the apartment to ourselves. Do you mind?” He gestures to the door as politely as he could. But Lola doesn’t get the hint.

“You guys want to see a scary movie? Great idea! I love watching girls in pain all covered in blood. It makes me feel empowered.”

“No! We want you out of here!” Louise shouts. “Can’t you come back another night?” she ask softly.

“No can do, sweetheart. I get these assignments and I have to finish them. But don’t worry. I’ll only be here for three...five days tops.” Lola grabs the remote and starts flipping through movies.

Ollie shrugs and sinks deeper into the couch. Louise throws up her hands in surrender, “Fine” she says.

Ollie reaches for a chip and pops it into his mouth.

Lola turns to face Ollie and begins to glare at him. “What?” he says.

“Oh nothing” Lola says. “Just the way you’re munching on the chips.”

“What about it?”

“It’s annoying.”

“Well I didn’t ask you.”

“Gosh Ollie, you’re suppose to pay attention to my needs!”

Louise watches in confusion at the mood swings Lola is sending to Ollie.

All of a sudden Lola laughs and in a chipper voice says, “Oh, Ollie, you make me laugh!” She slaps him on his arm and punches Louise in her gut.

“Ow!” she yells out. “Why did you punch me?” she questions in pain.

“How come you didn’t tell me how funny Ollie is? He is simply the greatest.”

Lola traces Ollie’s figure with her eyes, taking in all his curves. She stops at a bump in his pants. She blushes.

“Is that your phone or are you happy to see me?” Lola wiggles her eyebrows.

Ollie reaches into his pocket and pulls out his phone.

“Bummer. Can I see it?” Ollie hands her the phone. “Let’s all take a selfie!” Lola lifts the phone and snaps a shot. “Perfect.”

While Lola is editing the picture, Ollie leans over her and whispers to Louise, “Hey, if we leave now, she won’t notice we left.”

Louise nods and slowly lifts herself off the couch. A few seconds later Ollie follows.

“Hey,” Lola screeches which makes Ollie and Louise halt, “our initials are L.O.L., how cool is that!”

With Lola still distracted, the couple rushes towards the door. A gun firing from the movie startles Lola. She snaps her head up and notices Ollie and Louise gone.

“Guys? Where did you go? Without me it’ll just be L.O.” A girl screams from the TV. “Woah!”

From outside the door Louise yells in frustration, “Oh, no!”

“Gotta go!” Lola hears her cue and runs out of the room.

Louise marches into the apartment and into her bathroom.

“So no strip show...” A disappointed Ollie sighs.