

WITNESS PROTECTION

INT. HOUSE - DAY

A large, crumbling house. It was once considered majestic, but has clearly been vacant for quite some time. The furniture, though beautiful, is dusty and worn and spiders lurk in most corners.

WOMAN enters the house, carrying a large cardboard box. She is followed by MAN, carrying several duffle bags and a large suitcase.

The woman sets the box down and looks around the house.

WOMAN

Right

MAN

This could be nice. A little dusting and some new furniture and it might actually be something.

Woman walks around the room, touching the walls and furniture as she goes. Dust is everywhere and her fingers blacken for every touch.

WOMAN

Kenny, I want to go home.

MAN

You have to remember, it's Chris now.

WOMAN

Right. Shit. Chris Chris Chris. I won't forget, I promise.

MAN

I miss home too. But we can make this home, you know. Some paint, some cleaning.

WOMAN

A LOT of cleaning.

MAN

A LOT of cleaning, and this place could be really nice. I mean, it's a lot bigger than our last place.

WOMAN

Yeah, except this is in the middle of  
nowhere.

The doorbell rings. They both jump.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Who's that?

MAN

How should I know?

WOMAN

Do you think it's them? Do you think  
they found us?

MAN

Impossible, sweetie. We only just got  
here.

WOMAN

Are you sure?

MAN

No. And we won't be until we open that  
door.

MAN cautiously approaches the door. WOMAN panics and leaps  
behind the couch, hiding.

MAN hesitates. The doorbell rings again. He opens the door.

He is greeted by BETH (40s), an energetic and loud southern  
belle.

BETH

(overly enthusiastic)

Hi there!

MAN

Hi

BETH

New neighbor alert!

Beth laughs wholeheartedly. The man tries his best to stay  
calm and polite.

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm Bethany, but you may call me Beth.  
I saw your movin' truck and thought

I'd introduce myself and welcome ya'll  
to our little town. I brought cookies!

Beth reaches out the tray of cookies. MAN eyes the cookies  
but doesn't take them.

MAN  
It's nice to meet you. I'm... I'm  
Chris. And this is my wife-

He looks around unable to find WOMAN.

MAN (CONT'D)  
My wife - uh - my wife...

WOMAN pops up from behind the couch. She leaps over the couch  
to Chris's rescue. She lands at Beth's feet and quickly grabs  
her arm in a handshake.

WOMAN  
I'm Sarah. Nice to meet you.

BETH  
Likewise. So, where ya'll from?

SARAH  
Oh, well you know... around.

Sarah shoots Chris a helpless look. Chris looks frozen.

BETH  
(taking the hint)  
Well! I best be off. I can see ya'll  
have a lot of unpacking to do. Welcome  
to the neighborhood!

Beth smiles and walks away. Sarah and Chris close the door.  
They both lean against it and slide to the floor.

They look at each other.

SARAH  
Wow. That lady's like a walking  
cliche. I honestly don't know how  
we're gonna do this.

Chris grabs Sarah's hand, comfortingly.

CHRIS  
One day at a time, Elaine, one day at  
a time.