

INT. SUSAN'S FLAT - DAY

The door opens, and we see Susan enter the anteroom. She seems tired and soaked from the rain outside. Instead of peace and quiet, she's welcomed by LOUD MUSIC coming from the guest room. She quickly takes off her coat.

The music flows from the large speakers standing in the guest room. The place is a mess, with food boxes lying here and there. Susan also sees her boyfriend's guitar standing next to the TV stand - it's clear that it was used not long ago.

SUSAN

Casper?

Before she can even hear the answer, Susan instinctively starts to clean the messy room. Her dog, Gourmand, runs up to her. His happy barking is almost impossible to hear due to the surrounding noise. Eventually, Susan turns off the speakers and calls out her partner once more.

A short moment passes. Finally, Casper shows up, coming out of the flat's bedroom. He closes the door behind him.

CASPER

Sus! Hi, sweetheart!

SUSAN

Please, just don't "sweetheart" me.
What the hell is going on here? Do
you want neighbors to call the cops?

Gourmand sits on the floor, keeping a safe distance from his owners. Even he can feel the tension rising in the air.

Yet Casper simply approaches Susan as if nothing happened.

CASPER

Relax, lady boss. Everyone is busting
their asses at work while we're
speaking. It's me who should ask why
you're back so early?

Our heroine allows Casper to hug her and even plant a kiss on her forehead, although she seems to do that reluctantly.

SUSAN

Did you fall from the moon lately? We
have a pandemic running rampant in
this country. They told us to work
from home today. You still haven't
answered my question.

CASPER

OK, guilty as charged. But can you do something for me? Just take a few steps back towards the TV.

Susan does what she is asked and shrugs.

SUSAN

And?

CASPER

Just one step more. Yes, stop! In this exact spot you're standing on right now, a genius idea popped into my head today. Just out of nowhere I had a piece of music. In one moment nothing and then - puff!

SUSAN

And you were able to work in this racket? I thought Bruce Springsteen was having a private concert in our flat.

CASPER

I lacked something in that piece. Some kind of magic. I really needed to hear something loud.

Then, out of nowhere, Gourmand springs up and runs towards the bedroom door. He sits there and starts barking.

CASPER (cont'd)

Hey, wassup, little guy?

SUSAN

(sighs)

I can see that I'm not the only one who thinks something is amiss here. Did you at least take Gourmand for a walk?

CASPER

Gourmand is being a small flat-eared hypocrite right now, you know that? He was having loads of fun when I was playing.

SUSAN

OK, case closed already. Look, I don't have the slightest desire for fun now. Clean up this mess. I need to change and take a looong nap.

She takes a few steps towards the bedroom door, yet, surprisingly, Casper leaps to stop her, nearly panicked. In a few seconds, she's back in his arms.

CASPER

Sweetie. How about if we hang out first? We could drop by at your favorite Chinese restaurant.

Susan shakes off his hug impatiently and continues her way towards the bedroom.

SUSAN

I already ate at the office. Just let me rest, please.

Casper takes a deep breath at the same time as Susan pushes the handle and opens the door to the room. There, she sees something, or more precisely - someone, that completely surprises her.

A woman with blond, curled hair sits on the bed (Susan's bed!) in the middle of the room. She uses her legs as a base for a small laptop. When the blonde woman sees Susan entering the room, she simply smiles as if nothing happened.

DEBBIE

Oh, hi, Sus. I know, you probably want me to take a hike now, right?

Susan is so shocked that in the first moment she doesn't know what to say. She looks at Casper, who joined her at the entrance to the bedroom.

Then Susan stares back at Debbie and feels anger boiling inside her like lava at the volcano's base.