

An Uncomfortable Dinner

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INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - LOBBY - DAY

GABRIEL is sitting inside the lobby and the CLOCK on the wall behind Gabriel shows 5:45pm. Gabriel is in a trance-like state staring at the freshly polished entrance DOOR HANDLE.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - LOBBY - NIGHT

Gabriel is still gazing at the door handle. The clock now shows 7:15pm.

The door handle turns and the door opens. JESS walks in with a BAG of GROCERIES and makes eye contact with Gabriel.

JESS

Hey, Gabriel.

Gabriel snaps out of his trance and turns towards Jess.

GABRIEL

Oh! Hi, Jess.

JESS

What are you doing here? Are you on another mission?

GABRIEL

Uh... yeah! I'm on an important mission! I definitely didn't get distracted. Not me! Never!

JESS

Right... Well I would've invited you to my apartment to hang out, but since you're busy...

GABRIEL

Oh! No no no! I-um... The mission's important, but not urgent! Yeah! That's it.

Jess giggles and shakes her head. She gestures at Gabriel and he follows her towards the ELEVATOR.

INT. JESS AND DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gabriel is sitting at the kitchen TABLE while Jess unloads her groceries.

JESS

So, what's it like to go on missions for Cupid? Do you ever get nervous about not landing your shots?

GABRIEL

Well, of course I do! But eventually I hit my targets.

Jess continues putting away her groceries when the door opens. DYLAN walks in with a big BAG of TAKEOUT DINNER. He marches to the kitchen table and sets the bag down.

DYLAN

Guess who got Mexican tonight! Oh, hey there, Gabriel. What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be on another mission from Cupid?

Dylan starts taking food out of the bag. Gabriel is staring at the meal with complete awe. He doesn't notice that he started drooling. There's an awkward delay before he replies.

GABRIEL

I... uh... yeah. I mean no... Er, I will, soon.

Gabriel keeps staring at the food without even glancing at Dylan. He inhales through his nose, and closes his eyes and smiles.

DYLAN

You hungry, Gabriel?

Gabriel opens his eyes again, stares right at the food, and nods. Jess, now done with the groceries, walks over to Dylan and gives him a hug.

JESS

Well, Dylan got more food than the two of us can handle. So if you want to join-

GABRIEL

Yes! Please! Thank you!

FADE TO:

INT. JESS AND DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gabriel, Jess, and Dylan are sitting around the kitchen table eating dinner. Gabriel is head down shoveling food into his mouth and taking brief pauses to savor the flavor.

Jess sets down her food, lets out a yawn, and rubs her eyes.

DYLAN

Sleepy already? It's only eight.

JESS

Yeah... I only got like- two hours of sleep... maybe three.

Dylan rolls his eyes and SIGHS. Gabriel is still fixated on his food.

JESS (CONT'D)

What was that about?

DYLAN

You need more sleep. Your work will be there in the morning.

Jess turns her head to Dylan and cocks it to the side.

JESS

(annoyed)

Not this again.

DYLAN

I know I've said it plenty of times now, but you need to take care of yourself.

JESS

Oh, so I'm just supposed to let my  
work go unfinished?

Gabriel pokes his head up but remains hunched over his  
food.

DYLAN

I didn't say that.

JESS

Not everyone can just ignore work  
we don't wanna do.

DYLAN

Don't go there...

Gabriel swallows his food. His eyes are going back and  
forth between the two.

GABRIEL

Um, guys-

JESS

Yeah, sorry, but I can't just  
pretend I don't have to do  
something because it's not  
interesting. It's called having  
grit!

DYLAN

Oh my God. There's that damn word  
again!

JESS

Yeah! Grit! Grit! Try getting  
some.

DYLAN

Sure, why not. And why don't I  
just ruin my body while I'm young  
because I'm too stubborn to take a  
break every once in a while.

GABRIEL

(nervous)

Hey-

JESS

You're just jealous that I can  
accomplish so much more than you!  
And my body can handle it. I'll  
rest when I'm dead!

Dylan takes a deep breath and clenches his fists. He and  
Jess turn away from each other.

Gabriel looks back down at his food, but with a frown this  
time. He awkwardly picks up a BURRITO, takes a small  
nibble, pauses, and slowly chews his food.

He swallows and lets out a sad sigh. He turns his head to  
the clock on the wall.

GABRIEL

Oh my gosh! Look at the time. I  
need to get up early for my next  
mission.

Jess and Dylan don't acknowledge Gabriel. Gabriel stands  
up.

GABRIEL

Thanks for the meal... I'll- see you  
guys around, yeah?

Jess and Dylan return to their meals, angling their bodies  
so they don't look at each other. Gabriel walks to the door  
with his head down.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel is laying in his BED. His eyes are closed but he  
keeps shifting as if no position he gets into is  
comfortable enough to sleep in.

GABRIEL

Hmmm. Was Cupid wrong for pairing  
those two together? There wasn't  
much love at dinner...

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Gabriel opens his eyes. He lays still for a moment, then  
sits up. M flies over to Gabriel. His BELL is glowing.

Gabriel touches M's bell. The bell begins flashing, and Cupid's voice can be heard.

CUPID

Gabriel, for your next mission you  
need to go to the shopping center.

An IMAGE of ISABELL is projected from the bell, like a hologram.

CUPID (CONT'D)

This is Isabell. There is a shard  
stuck in her heart, and I need you  
to remove it.

The image of Isabell is replaced with a holographic image  
of SOFIA.

CUPID (CONT'D)

I also need you to purify Sofia's  
heart. That is all. Good luck.

The image of Sofia disappears and M's bell stops flashing.

END