

FINAL GIRLFRIEND

written by

Gabrielle Ann R. Villanueva

2023

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

'Pictures Of You' by Oingo Boingo (1:50, muffled slightly until 2:07)

Hot water fogs up the mirror as TIRESA (38) hums a tune while showering. She seems to be having the time of her life; but so is he. She does not realise it yet but ROBIN (40) is waiting outside the door listening to her singing, and he starts humming as well.

The lights abruptly shut down and so does her heater. In a shock, she quickly turns it off and hears someone hum..

A knife immediately stabs through the door and her screams are cut off by him opening the door and covering her mouth.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

-But that was all fiction, a fun little TV show an 18 year old brunette woman named CECIL adores and watches regularly in her apartment. Her hair is wet, probably from showering, and wet spots adorn the hem of her shirt, probably from her wet dripping hair. In her hands lie a small bowl of popcorn.

SHEILAH, also 18, is also brunette; but unlike her friend, her hair and attire are completely dry. She doesn't seem all too impressed with the horror, but she's definitely ogling at the actor. Her grubby hands are completely swallowed by the popcorn bowl.

CECIL
(Mouth full)
Not gonna lie...

Cecil swallows the food in her mouth.

Sheilah looks at her friend but her face quickly turns into disappointment.

CECIL (CONT'D)
(Mouth now empty, slow
like she's expecting a
negative response)
I- I kinda think I'd react very
differently if I were in her
position.

SHEILAH
Cecil.

Cecil looks at her with a blank stare.

SHEILAH (CONT'D)

Cecil!

CECIL

I mean... I wouldn't complain if I were her. She's lucky if you really think about it.

SHEILAH

(Cuts her off)

He broke into her house, what- what are you even talking about? He doesn't even know her!

CECIL

I know! I don't mean it like that-

SHEILAH

How do you mean it then? Wh- wha- Why do I even bother, you're always like this.

CECIL (CONT'D)

I just think- in some alternate reality where she *did* know who he was- Just listen, hear me out, hear me out!

They stay silent for a while until the both of them start to chuckle.

CECIL (CONT'D)

What I meant to say was if I weren't afraid to- you know- die, he's a cute guy to die to.

SHEILAH

I wonder what your parents did wrong for you to turn out this way.

CECIL

You know I'm not that serious.

SHEILAH

(Laughing)

He's fine babe,

(Takes the remote and turns off TV)

I'd probably date him too, he's cute and all. But that's not what you're drooling over, no... You just like dangerous men.

CECIL

And? That's my business, not yours.

(Stands up and takes her phone. Sighs.)

(MORE)

CECIL (CONT'D)
Anyways, I'm quite thirsty. It's
been a while. Do you want anything?

SHEILAH
Nah, just water. Promise me you
won't leave me to go window
shopping in a mental institute
though.

It took Cecil a while to understand what Sheilah said; and
when she did, she starts walking away very offended.

SHEILAH (CONT'D)
(Theatrical)
No, I'm sorry! No- not my innocent
little angel! Angel, don't leave me
here. You'll- you'll die!

Cecil laughs as she heads to the kitchen.

SHEILAH (CONT'D)
Angel! Nooooo!

Sheilah laughs a bit, makes sure that Cecil is completely out
of the room, and immediately starts to search up the Robin's
actor on her phone.

While scrolling his Wikipedia page, she stumbles upon his
relationship status stuck on 'Single'

Sheilah bites her lip, then Cecil creeps up behind her very
slowly.

CECIL
(From behind)
Are you biting your lip, dork?

Out of shock and embarrassment, Sheilah reaches for a pillow
and hits Cecil behind her.

Critical hit! Cecil joins the fight and equips some pillows
as well.

It first develops into a pillow fight, but then turns into a
pillow war. Pillows are getting thrown at each other left and
right like bullets and laughter haunts the apartment.

INT. JUDE'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

JUDE, 19, looks disheveled even while he's asleep. His hair
is a tussled blonde (probably bleached), the bags under his
eyes almost concerning, and his brow furrowed.

'Girls on Film' by Duran Duran (heard from the apartment above)

Jude, 19, is woken up by the sound of laughter and what sounds like someone's 80s Top Hits Spotify playlist put on maximum with a bass-boosted speaker.

JUDE
(Groggy and mad)
What... in the actual fu-

He's cut off by his cat shouting from the sudden sound of stomping and jumping from above.

Jude groans, who the hell are these people?

He checks his phone and drops it on the floor. Shoot, it's late already.

JUDE (CONT'D)
God. Fffffff-

He groans, louder now.

INT. JUDE'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

'Tainted Love' by Soft Cell (also heard from above)

Jude's cat is enjoying its brunch, but the same can't be said for our guy. He's silent, the look on his eye is bordering from being tired with life or planning a massacre. Not even his high quality medium rare wagyu steak can fix his sour mood.

He's checking his phone, many unanswered calls and texts. One text simply says, "Have you seen her?".

A bang can be heard from above, it sounded like a chair fell to the floor.

His cat jumps from the noise and runs under Jude's chair.

He has had enough of this; it's one thing to interrupt his beauty sleep, it's another to frighten his beloved cat Queen Victoria.

JUDE
(Very very mad)
That's it.

He stabs his steak knife into the wooden cutting board and leaves his apartment.

EXT. ELEVATOR DOOR - SECONDS LATER

He presses the 'up' button not once, not twice, but like 20 times. He isn't even pushing them anymore, he's punching them with his pointer finger.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Cecil and Sheila are now wearing fake wedding dresses playing some sort of faux double-wedding. They're jumping from couch to couch imitating the athletes from 'American Ninja Warrior'.

They hear three really loud consecutive knocks from the door, which prompts them to turn the volume down.

Three more knocks came and they're even louder.

SHEILAH

Should we open the door?

CECIL

I don't know, can't we just act as if we're out?

SHEILAH

Are you stupid? We just turned the volume down, he knows we're here.

CECIL

I don't know, the dude sounds scary. Maybe we can- wait. Hey. Hey!

SHEILAH (CONT'D)

I'm opening the door. I'm doing it. Remove your gown, idiot, you're gonna look like a total-

Sheilah's trying to stay serious, removing the gown, but Cecil stays still as Sheilah opens the door revealing Jude.

JUDE

(Sounds calm but is obviously very mad.)

Are you guys out of your minds?! Do you not care that there may be people sleeping or elderly around? If my grandma was around, you'd be charged with murder, assholes! Not only was your music heard from the entire building, but your screaming and jumping too!

(He slowly turns to Cecil's direction.)

Do you have any idea-

He stops when he catches sight of Cecil in front of him wearing a wedding dress. She's starstruck, and he's intrigued.

She smiles awkwardly towards him.

His face contorts to amused confusion.

He sighs and dons a tired smile.

JUDE (CONT'D)

(Calmer, attitude did 180)

I'm... sorry. You guys woke me up and I didn't get any sleep last night.

(Fake cough to make things less awkward, looks up slowly towards Cecil)

I- I'm sorry. I really am. Doesn't excuse the fact I just attacked you the moment you- uhm- opened the door.

SHEILAH

Huh.

Sheilah takes a step back.

CECIL

(Bashful)

No, no, it's fine!

Sheilah looks at her wide-eyed. (What do you mean 'it's fine'? The dude was just screaming at us!)

JUDE

(Looking at Sheilah now)

Ha Ha... I doubt that.

CECIL

(A beat)

You wanna come in?

SHEILAH

What?!

JUDE

(In a rush)

No! No, thank you. I just- I want you guys to know that this entire apartment building can hear you. You guys are new here, I get that, but there are ...worse neighbours than me 'round here.

CECIL
 (Awkward)
 Sure thing!
 (A beat)
 I'm really- really sorry for the
 noise.

JUDE
 And I'm really sorry for the
 outburst just now.

CECIL
 No problem! I...

SHEILAH
 (Speeding)
 Alright! We're a bit busy,
 uh, don't worry, we'll keep
 it hush hush okay? Alright
 now, bye bye!

EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The door slams shut on his face.

Jude just stands there in front of the door for a while
 before he rubs his eyes and sighs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cecil puts her hands on her face trying to recall what had
 just happened while Sheilah, looking at Cecil, is trying to
 understand what Cecil was doing with Jude.

SHEILAH
 (A beat)
 Oh? Oh, no. No! Nuh-uh.

CECIL
 What? What are you saying?

SHEILAH
 You like him?

CECIL
 (Defensive)
 I mean... what about it-

SHEILAH
 (Mocking)
 Oh here we go again. Him? No
 wonder you liked him
 immediately, he's an ass! Oh,
 I can't believe this anymore,
 this is just unbelievable.

CECIL (CONT'D)
 Oh, come on! He apologised!
 Yeah he was a jerk, but- hey-
 you've dated jerks before!
 He's probably sleep-deprived
 too, did you see his eye-
 bags?

INT. JUDE'S APARTMENT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Jude closes the door behind him and starts to breathe faster as if he lost his breath. His breathing gets louder, shallower, hoarser; is he madly in love or is he a creep? With the way he sounds, the line blurs. He takes his phone out and starts typing frantically. His cat is trying to get his attention but it's no use.

On his phone, a large folder named SILJA houses tons of photos of this beautiful lady together with him. He selects the entire folder and deletes it permanently. Maybe an ex he's now ready to forget.

INT. JUDE'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

He goes in front of this locked closet and picks it open with a pin.

Once it opens, he stares inside longingly; then, he looks behind him to his cat.

JUDE

You think we got garbage bags?

No reply from his cat, Queen Victoria.

EXT. OUTSIDE GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Cecil's taking pictures of the area outside the grocery store as some quirky young adult hobby. Her pictures consist of the night sky, the grocery itself, some families leaving, and...

She sees Jude walk out the door and accidentally takes a picture of him carrying plastic bags filled with trash bags. She quickly looks at the photo she took and zooms in, trying to figure out if it really is him. Then, she zooms in on what he bought.

JUDE

(Whisper)

It's not safe out here.

Cecil's shocked and almost drops her camera before he catches it for her.

He smiles when he sees her photo.

JUDE (CONT'D)

(Excited)

Well would you look at that, it's me!

They both chuckle a bit at the situation.

CECIL

Sorry, what did you say again?

JUDE

It's not safe out here. It's dark, you're alone, you're a dashing young woman. You better head back before anything happens.

CECIL

I can handle myself fine. And if it weren't for me being here, I wouldn't have met you again!

JUDE

We're neighbours, we're bound to meet each other again elsewhere.

CECIL

Well yeah, but the odds aren't too big you know?

JUDE

(Happy)

Maybe it's fate!

CECIL

(Starstruck)

... Maybe it's fate.

(A beat, wow is she in love)

Sorry, uhm, what are those for?

Jude looks confused, then looks down at his trash bags.

JUDE

Oh, these. Now, these are for throwing away old stuff. Memories basically, gotta move on you know?

Cecil looks a bit guilty and sorry, but Jude catches her thoughts.

JUDE (CONT'D)

I assure you it's nothing too sensitive. I'm ready... to throw away stuff.

After he stopped talking, he stared at her for a while. Noticing this, Cecil started panicking and kept her eyes elsewhere than him.

He brought up his hand and took a bunch of stray hairs in front of Cecil's face, then he tucked them behind her ear.

Jude smiles at her, and Cecil could only chuckle back.

They look at each other again.

CECIL

So... what now?

JUDE

I forgot to ask you earlier, what's your name?

CECIL

Right! Call me Cecil.

JUDE

Nice meeting you, Cecil, I'm Jude by the way.

He gives her his hand for her to shake with.

CECIL

Jude. Nice name!

JUDE

Could say the same about you. Cecil...

He takes his receipt and grabs a marker he left in his pocket and writes on it.

He then slips the receipt into her front pocket, the space between them getting thinner and thinner.

JUDE (CONT'D)

There! Well it's nice meeting you, Cecil.

CECIL

And it's nice meeting you, Jude.

Jude walks away while Cecil stands still. She takes the receipt to find his number written on the back with a heart drawn next to it.

She smiles, then flips it to see that all he bought were trash bags. Loads of them too. Her face turns to confused amusement.

After staring at the receipt, she remembers that they live in the same apartment. She then runs towards him.

CECIL (CONT'D)
Wait! We live together!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cecil comes back to her apartment with Sheilah snoring on the couch.

Cecil then starts squealing which prompts Sheilah to wake up from her slumber and walk towards her.

CECIL
(Fawning over what just happened)
I just met him! I saw him at the groceries and he just- look!

She hands Sheilah the receipt. She takes her time looking at the entire receipt.

CECIL (CONT'D)
We made small talk and he just- **tucked my hair!** He gave me- like- this smile, which I think was a flirty smile, and I-

SHEILAH
(Unamused)
Right, what's with the amount of garbage bags?

CECIL
That's what I've been thinking!

SHEILAH
Look, Cecil, I don't like the idea of you going out with this dude.

Cecil looks at her with confusion and a tinge of sadness.

SHEILAH (CONT'D)
I just think you're going a tad bit too fast. Think about it, you barely know the dude, he could be an even bigger jerk than how he was earlier.

CECIL
Thanks for caring Shell, but I'll be fine. If I feel unsafe in any way, I'd just up and leave. Simple!

SHEILAH

Not so simple when your idea of
'safe' is messed up. Seriously,
those horror films will do a toll
on you.

CECIL

(Trying to reassure)
I'll be fine! Look, if he turns out
to be a major creep, I'd break it
off. I'll even ask you for help!

Sheilah looks at her and gives in, she sighs and puts her
hand on Cecil's shoulder.

SHEILAH

Sorry. I just need you to be sure.
The dude just pissed me off
earlier. If he really were around
the building, why haven't we seen
him before? The dude's probably a
shut in.

They're interrupted when the TV cuts to a news report on a
missing university student. Her family members reported her
last seen in this town, together with her friends for a small
trip. She's then introduced as Silja A. Lund. Her photo shows
a beautiful girl, the same one we as an audience saw on
Jude's phone.

INT. JUDE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The TV continues in his apartment, showing her family members
cry for her. Her friends feeling immense guilt on her
disappearance. And lastly, a picture of Jude with the
reporters saying he has contacted them saying that he's under
immense grief and thus does not want to be shown.

The TV is merely a whisper in the background while Jude opens
his locked closet to a shrine made for Silja. Her belongings
are there; multiple photos of her, a toothbrush, a
handkerchief, a chipped tooth, a wilted flower, and a bunch
of offerings consisting of coins and dollars.

He throws all of them in little garbage bags, most of them
holding only one item. He takes out his phone and begins to
pin specific places outside the town.

His cat goes up to him and he leans down to pet it.

JUDE

I'll be back Victoria, why don't
you guard this place for me?

Queen Victoria doesn't reply, of course. Jude stands up and is about to leave the apartment with a blank mask on.

JUDE (CONT'D)

(Excited)

I'm going on an adventure, but I'll
be back! Just need to throw some
trash is all.

He then points to someone off screen.

JUDE (CONT'D)

(Giddy)

And don't worry, I'll come back for
you later sugar.

'Pictures Of You' by Oingo Boingo (Continuing until end of credits)

He steps out the door; and through the reflection of the knife stabbed on the cutting board earlier, we can see what seems to be Silja unconscious and tied up.

The End.