

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST

By

James Sullivan

2010, Deviant Art, Inc.

(973) 270-5174

EXT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - DAY

Flame colored leaves rattle on the ground in the WIND that shakes the frail branches of the TREES.

DONNA stands on the front porch of the off-campus apartment she shares with her friend, MAGGIE who abruptly steps out of the apartment, a large DUFFLEBAG slung over her shoulder, wearing a MIDRIFF even though it's October.

DONNA

You have everything packed?

MAGGIE

(pulling out her headphones)

Uh-huh. How many more times you gonna ask? Grab my suitcase.

Donna grabs hold of the giant hot pink SUITCASE standing in the door.

DONNA

(struggling with the suitcase)

You know, you're only gonna be gone like four days...

MAGGIE

Yeah! I gotta bring home my summer wardrobe.

(then, sighing)

I really wish you'd come.

DONNA

It's just...I need to be alone this weekend. I still got my studio project.

MAGGIE

(rolling eyes)

Ugh, Donna. Since when is college for studying?

They walk together, Donna, still struggling with the suitcase, stumbles over a ROCK on their path. She bumps into Maggie.

MAGGIE

Hey, careful, slut, my makeup's in there.

Donna hits her playfully. They both laugh.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

C'mon, Maggie. You're gonna miss your bus.

MAGGIE

(getting up)

Okay, okay. Oh! There's some um...in my dresser, y'know, in case you decide you um...decide you want to have company.

DONNA

(smiles)

Maggie...I'm not you.

MAGGIE

(pretending to be shocked)

What's that supposed to mean? Donna, come on! That guy at the tavern last weekend? What was his name?

DONNA

No, I think the only guy coming around this weekend is Frankie. I caught him watching me in the shower again.

MAGGIE

So gross. Oh, um, Mrs. Mandrakis said someone's coming this weekend to take care of the mice...Maybe you and what's his name - the blonde one...can hit it off...

DONNA

(dropping the suitcase)

Okay, Maggie...

MAGGIE

(putting an arm around Donna)

Alright, I'm going! Gimme a kiss!

They give each other light pecks on the cheek.

MAGGIE

Bye, slut.

DONNA

(shaking head)

Byee. Tell your mom I said hi.

Maggie waves as she walks away. Donna waves back and watches her roommate leave. She stands there after the car pulls out of the driveway and disappears, turning up a pile of leaves.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - LATER

Across the screen, the time reads 8:13 pm. Donna is tapping a pen back and forth against her easel, listening to music. The rotary phone rings.

DONNA

Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)

(in a raspy tone)

Is there room in your heart for a
hopeless romantic?

DONNA

Uh...excuse me?

The raspy voice laughs and the phone hangs up.

DONNA

Hello? Hello?

Her record player runs out and we hear low static. Donna looks at the door, sensing something isn't right. She picks up the phone and dials after a pause. It rings.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

DONNA

(on the phone)

Maggie, guess you made it home huh?
So, who's the new guy?

VOICE (O.S.)

Donna? Is that you?

DONNA

Um yeah...who is this?

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, Donna. It's Maggie's dad. I'm
just heading out the door now to
pick her up.

DONNA

Oh. Mr. Figston. Hi...

(CONTINUED)

ART (O.S.)

Donna, please. Call me Art. You want Maggie to call you when she gets in?

DONNA

No, someone just called here and...

ART (O.S.)

Hey, why didn't you come down with her? The lake should be a lot of fun. How you girls can stay up there when it gets cold...

DONNA

I know, Mr. Figston. Some weirdo just called me...and I thought...I dunno...

ART (O.S.)

No, I don't know. I hope it's not that jerk Pete...or whatever his name was...with the hat.

DONNA

Ugh. I know. Doesn't seem like him though.

ART (O.S.)

Yeah, what she saw in him, huh? Well, you be careful, young lady, that town up there is full of creeps.

The floorboards creak and something whips past her on the floor. She pulls her feet back immediately.

DONNA

(laughing)

Thanks, Mr. F. You have like, no idea...Probably just some kid playing a joke. Or Pete. Okay, sure, you guys have fun camping. Goodnight.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - LATER

The time flashes across the screen, 8:57 pm. Donna is drying dishes and utensils by the sink: several beer glasses, picnicware and one large STEAK KNIFE.

There is a strange rustling that echoes throughout the room, probably the mice again.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
(whispers)
Wonder when Blondie's gonna get his
ass over here...

The phone rings and she answers.

DONNA
Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)
(raspy)
Time to get this party started!

DONNA
Who is this?

VOICE (O.S.)
Did you leave the door unlocked?

DONNA
I said wh...

VOICE (O.S.)
I'll be over in fifteen...

The phone clicks. Donna hangs up and walks over to the living room window. There is a loud knock at the door which startles Donna. She tries to look out the window to see who it is. All she sees is the outside porch lit up.

Anything beyond the light is blackness. Donna opens the door slowly. Standing there is her gay neighbor, FRANKIE.

FRANKIE
Hiiii. How ya doin, honey?

DONNA
Frankie? Um, hi.

FRANKIE
(walking in)
You wouldn't happen to have any
lavendar oil, would you? I've got a
big date to-night...

He smiles at her and purrs like a cat.

DONNA
Um, no. But can I ask you
something?

He sashays over to her DRESSER and sprays himself with
PERFUME.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Mhmmm. Ask away.

DONNA

You didn't call here a few times
did you?

FRANKIE

Oh, no, no, no. My phone has been
out all day, dear...Sorry.

DONNA

(nervous)

No? Not one of your kinky sex
calls?

He covers his mouth, pretending to be shocked and shakes his
head, "no."

DONNA

Well, hey, look, Frankie. I know I
got this big project - but if you
want to hang out here...I mean, we
can get a movie or something...

FRANKIE

Aw, honey, that's so sweet of you,
but I gotta run. Lenny's coming
over...And don't worry, if I find
out about any strange phone calls,
I'll let you know.

He quickly kisses her on the cheek and leaps out the DOOR.
Donna examines the darkened landscape before closing the
door.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - LATER

The time flashes across the screen: 9:40 pm.

Donna is on her knees, clumsily setting a MOUSE TRAP. Her
NAILS are shaking as she handles each wire, slowly putting
it together.

It looks like it's going to hold as she lowers it to the
floor but - SNAP!

Just as it snaps, in her face, the phone rings.

DONNA

(picking up the phone)

Who is this?!

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (O.S.)

Uh...Donna?

DONNA

Yes?

VOICE (O.S.)

It's Rich...remember the Alexis
last weekend?

DONNA

Oh, hey...hi, how are you? I'm
fine...just wondering...you didn't
call here already, did you? No?
Because I've been getting weird
phone calls all night...

RICH (O.S.)

Really? Nah, I dunno about
that...You don't have like a creepy
landlord or anything, right?

A branch SNAPS outside. The outdoor LIGHT shines through the
WINDOW suddenly, as Donna's on the phone.

DONNA

(giggling)

Well, she doesn't let me have boys
over late at night, if that's what
you mean...

RICH (O.S.)

Really? Hey, I have a gig tonight,
playing with some guys down at the
tavern. We could grab some beers
after the show.

She looks outside. It's Frankie again, sticking his tongue
at her. She closes the side window curtain.

DONNA

(over the phone)

I dunno...Okay. No, no, I'll be up.
Call me later. Okay. Bye.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - LATER

The time flashes across the screen: 10:23 pm.

The television screen flickers on Donna as she sleeps on the
COUCH. The lights are left on and little PAW PRINTS are
visible on her EASEL. There is the crunching of leaves
outside growing louder.

EXT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Several branches quiver along the rock path as the crunching grows louder, just outside the window to Donna and Maggie's apartment. Someone - or something - is watching Donna sleep.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

She turns in her sleep, kicking away her blanket. Something grates loudly against the window SCREEN.

At a quick glance, you can see a hand plucking the screen and suddenly banging against the glass.

Donna awakens suddenly and rushes to the window. Nothing's there, but several heavy branches still quiver, from someone brushing past.

Again, there is a loud knocking at the DOOR.

DONNA
(shaken and yelling)
Who is it?

She hides beneath the window as the knocking grows louder. There is a metallic rattling and crash as the knocking persists. It's so violent that the door RATTLES against the BOLT.

Donna slowly makes her way to the door and picks up the STEAK KNIFE in her trembling HANDS. She hesitates a moment as she reaches for the door knob, the knife in her opposite hand.

The door flies open.

EXT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

She looks around on the porch. All quiet. The YELLOW porch LIGHT comes on, revealing a BLOOD STAIN on the outside of the DOOR.

She turns her head, and notices someone standing to the side of the doorway. Frankie.

DONNA
(furious)
Frankie, this really isn't funny
anymore...

She looks Frankie for a moment who doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
(expression of disbelief)
Frankie...

She touches his limp wrist and immediately takes a step back.

Frankie SPRAWLS to the GROUND. Blood oozes from his mouth, and she realizes he's been murdered. The knife drops from her hand.

She slams the door in horror. The phone rings again.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

DONNA
(picking up the phone)
Who is this, goddammit? Why are you
doing this to me?

VOICE (O.S.)
I killed your neighbor. He's
outside if you want to take
advantage of his rigor mortis.

DONNA
Go to Hell!

VOICE (O.S.)
Too late...

The phone clicks off. Donna throws the phone and runs to lock the doors and check the windows.

As she checks and double checks, you can hear the loud GRATING of the window SCREENS again.

She returns to the living room, unaware of the large SHADOW of a MAN projected on the wall. She turns to face the window, which is occupied by a STRANGER dressed in BLACK with a SKI MASK.

STRANGER
(laughing maniacally)
Heh, heh, heh. Love when I match a
pretty face to a pretty voice...

The grating is unbearable, like rat scratches, as he rakes his hand back and forth.

She chokes back a scream as she sinks to the floor to avoid his view. The stranger produces the steak KNIFE as he watches her, rubbing it on the screen.

(CONTINUED)

Donna realizes the phone from the other side of the couch and reaches for it frantically, in a last attempt to get help.

FADE TO BLACK

There is the sound of breaking glass and a busy signal.

EXT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - DAY

Maggie returns home and knocks on the door.

MAGGIE

Hey slut, I called before I got on
the bus. Can't you at least leave
the door open for me?

She fumbles through her keys.

INT. DONNA AND MAGGIE'S OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

She unlocks the door and steps inside.

MAGGIE

Donna? Are you home?

She switches the lights on and stands still for a moment, looking over the unbelievable carnage in front of her.

The phone rings as the door slams shut.

FINIS

FADE TO BLACK.