

GAP ZERO

by
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EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF THE PUDOWSKI HOME - NIGHT

A plain two-storey brick house is located between train tracks and the road. The wind blows trash/rubbish through the street, most of the parked cars are only left with the frame or are old and shabby looking.

INT. BATHROOM PUDOWSKI - NIGHT

FIONA PUDOWSKI (19), a pretty slim young woman with big eyes, puts her make-up on in front of a three-piece mirror, which reflects multiple images of her face. There is a loud rumbling noise in the room next door. Fiona throws down her eye-liner and runs outside.

INT. LIVING ROOM PUDOWSKI - NIGHT

Fiona enters the conservatively furnished living room with a patterned wallpaper. HORST PUDOWSKI (52), is lying on the floor next to the armchair, the TV is on. With a mixture of disgust and pity Fiona watches him. KLARA PUDOWSKI (42) appears behind her in the doorframe. The women walk towards the man and with a well known move they grab his arms.

MOTHER

One, two and...

They lift the man's body and lift him back into the armchair. Fiona steps back.

FIONA

Great, Dad. You are letting Mom have a great evening again...

Horst Pudowski blabbs inarticulately and makes a disparaging gesture. The mother gives Fiona an excusing look. Annoyed Fiona grabs the empty bottle of schnaps from the table.

She walks to a wall calendar, which is showing the date 'SEPTEMBER 1998', where she crosses out the 23rd. Only three of the prior 22 days are not crossed out.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Great! Sets up a new record.

Fiona looks at her mother, nods her head towards the calendar and walks out.

INT. PUDOWSKI'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Fiona continues to put on make-up and looks at her watch annoyed.

FIONA

(yelling next door)

And Sven, this idiot is not showing up either.

MOTHER

(off)

He'll come soon.

Fiona leaves the bath.

INT. FIONA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fiona enters her tastefully modern furnished room, which is in contrast with the rest of the flat. Fiona walks towards a big wired cage with a rabbit inside. She gives him a carrot and pets the animal.

FIONA

(quietly to the rabbit)

Hmm, Romeo? They're all idiots, aren't they?

(yelling next door)

The only question is when? It's always the same old story. Once you ask the gentleman for something...

The sound of a beep is heard from the street.

MOTHER

(off)

You see...

Fiona takes the rabbit out of the cage, gives it a kiss on the nose, puts the rabbit down again and runs out of the room.

INT. PUDOWSKI'S HALL - NIGHT

Fiona grabs her coat from the coat rack. The mother appears in the living room door. Fiona gives her a brief kiss as she walks by.

FIONA

(lovingly)

Please, don't get annoyed again, mom.

The mother shakes her head smiling, Fiona grabs her bag and runs out of the house.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF PUDOWSKI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Fiona runs to the waiting car, an old BMW with shaded windows. Fiona flings the front-passenger door open and jumps into the passenger seat without paying attention to the driver.

INT. SVEN'S CAR - NIGHT

SVEN (28) is sitting behind the steering wheel and calmly watches Fiona's entrance.

FIONA

(bitchy, without looking at
Sven)

Glad you've finally made it!

SVEN

Hey, Fiona, baby, calm down. What's the problem? I'm here, aren't I?

(MORE)

SVEN (CONT'D)

Ok, maybe two minutes late, but I've got other things to do besides driving the gracious princess around just because her car broke down. You ought to be thankful, you need help and I'm right on the spot. Hey, that's me, good old Sven, you don't come across such a jewel everyday...

FIONA

(still looking straight ahead)

Well, I would be thankful if this jewel will speed up, if the speech is over. We're late.

SVEN

(shaking his head)

Baby, Baby...

Sven's glance moves from Fiona to the ignition to start the car. Then, irritated he looks back to Fiona.

SVEN (CONT'D)

Hey, why are you so dressed up today?

FIONA

(looking at him irritably)

Let's just say, today you've noticed.

Angry Sven starts the car, steps on the gas and speeds up the car.

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A SERIES OF SHOTS

Fiona tears the calendar with the crosses, which is showing 'MAY 1999', off the wall.

Fiona covers the furniture with cloth and throws old magazines behind the sofa.

Fiona carries the kitchen table into the living room.

She is preparing food in the kitchen.

She decorates the lamps in the living room with cloth.

She sets a splendid table.

She cuts vegetable into a salad bowl.

She changes her clothes.

She puts on make-up.

Fiona throws another look into the living room, which looks really tasteful and comfortable now. The doorbell rings.

INT. PUDOWSKI'S HALL - NIGHT

Fiona opens the door beaming, outside Paul stands, holding a bunch of flowers.

FIONA

Welcome!

PAUL

Hello! Not to easy to find...

FIONA

(laughing)

Why, didn't I tell you it's the ugliest house in the street...

With a welcoming gesture she shows Paul the way into the house.

INT. PUDOWSKI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fiona guides Paul to a perfectly laid table.

FIONA

Paul, please, don't expect to much! I just hope you feel comfortable. It's just a simple reciprocation to return the favour of all your generous invitations. You know, I'm not a great cook and I definitely can't keep up with all the wonderful dinners...

PAUL

Fiona, it is a great pleasure and honour,
to follow your invitation and I
appreciate it. Your presence guarantees
an unforgettable evening.

Fiona smiles and walks into the kitchen.

INTERCUT LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN

Fiona calling next door.

FIONA

Oh, Doctor Ginsberg, would you mind, the
wine...

Paul reaches for the bottle on the table, examines the
label, grins and takes the corkscrew, which is lying
there as well.

PAUL

(over his shoulder)
Of course, Miss Pudowski!
(picking up the previous
conversation)
Anyway, I'm sure you terribly
underestimate your ability and
in reality you're a wonderful cook!

Paul starts to open the wine.

In the kitchen, Fiona opens the microwave and takes out
two ready-to-serve dinners.

FIONA

Dr. Ginsberg, you're flattering me!

Fiona opens the aluminium foils and burns her finger with
hot sauce, which she licks off.

FIONA

One doesn't expect you to be such a
charmer, when you're on duty in the
hospital.

Fiona shares out the food from the different compartments
onto the plates and carries them to the living room.

FIONA

You're really a man with two faces!

Fiona laughs and places the dishes with a graceful movement in front of Ginsberg and sits down on her chair. Paul raises his glass, Fiona replies with the same gesture.

PAUL

To the most beautiful woman of the St.-
Williams-Hospital!

Fiona is smiling.

PAUL

To the most beautiful woman in Berlin!

Fiona's smile gets wider.

PAUL

To the most beautiful woman in the
universe!

Fiona is radiant. They clink their glasses, drink and look deeply into each others eyes.

Soft soul-music is playing. The camera moves from the table to a crumpled napkin lying on the empty plates. The glasses are empty.

Fiona's pumps are lying on the floor, the camera reaches dancing feet, she is barefoot, he is wearing his shoes. Fiona's arms are put around Paul's neck.

FIONA

(tipsy)

So, what does your love say to all this?

Paul looks at Fiona confused.

FIONA

(giggling)

Well, the science. Your biiiiig love.
That's what she is, isn't she?

Paul smiles.

PAUL

That's right, I spend a lot of time with
her and I like her a lot.

(beat)

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

But she doesn't smell nearly as sweet as
you and she doesn't dance half as good.

Fiona gives him a loving smile.

FIONA

Do you think she would share you?
(beat, then continued
roguishly)
Just a little bit?

She comes closer to his face. His is moving closer as
well.

PAUL

Well, I could try to talk to her. If I'll
catch a good moment...

They come closer and kiss each other tenderly.