

STUCCO

by David Orr

SAMPLE PAGES

FADE IN:

A wall of craggy, faded stucco fills the frame. BEGIN CREDITS.

MOVING DOWN the wall... past wall hangings... Mexican pottery, a smiling sun, a hand-crafted angel... down the dirty surface to the troubled face of LILY GARISH, 30s, a withering baby doll running on empty.

1 EXT. BALCONY - DAY 1

Lily puffs on a cigarette, smoky eyes charged. Sitting on the ground amidst dead plants, she shifts impatiently against the prickly wall. She peeks out through the bars. END CREDITS.

2 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - FRONT - DAY 2

ANGLE DOWN: A car pulls up to the curb. A YOUNG COUPLE hops out and takes in the area as they approach the building.

LILY (O.S.)
You're late.

They look up to find Lily glaring down at them from her balcony.

LILY
Six minutes late. You're lucky I'm still here.

3 INT. VACANT APARTMENT - DAY 3

Lily leads them down the hallway into the living room.

LILY
New carpet, new paint, new blinds. You won't find anything this nice for the price in all of North Hollywood.

The young woman waves away cigarette smoke.

YOUNG WOMAN
Is this a non-smoking unit?

LILY
We're not a hotel, sweet pea.

Lily opens the patio sliding door, lights another cig. The cluttered rooftop of the neighboring building can be seen. Lily leans out over the rail, motions off to the far distance.

LILY
Got a great view out here. At night, the hills light up. Little sparkling diamonds everywhere. It's breathtaking.

A loud, wheezing COUGH penetrates the walls. The young woman glances in its direction as they wander into the kitchen.

LILY

Kitchen is small, but works.

Lily sidles up to them. She bends over to pick up trash off the floor, exposing a butterfly tattoo underneath a tattered thong which rides above her jeans. The young man gets an eye full. His wife catches him and turns back into the living room.

YOUNG WOMAN

I think we've seen enough, we'll call you if we're interested.

LILY

Why don't I show you the pool.

YOUNG MAN

There's a pool?

LILY

And a gym.

YOUNG MAN

Cool.

He nods that he'd like to see more as the COUGHING persists, growing louder and more grating.

YOUNG WOMAN

I guess we'll have a look.

Lily quickly moves for the door.

LILY

You're going to love the pool.

The young man follows. His wife takes a few steps, but the HACKING through the wall finally gets to her.

YOUNG WOMAN

What is going on over there?

LILY

Oh, that's just Lucille, she's fine. Well, not fine, she's dying actually. Cancer or something. Look, don't worry about her, chances are she'll be gone before you move in.

YOUNG WOMAN

We don't need to see the pool. We'll call. Let's go, bunny.

She strides past Lily and out the door. The young man gives Lily a sheepish look then bolts.

Lily takes a long, weary drag on her cigarette as Lucille keeps on coughing. Lily finally explodes:

LILY
Quiet, Lucille! Quiet!!

4 INT. LILY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

4

TONY, a dapper Asian man, 50s, grey suit/blue tie, and CINDI, an attractive American-Asian woman, 20s, sexy business attire, sit with perfect posture on a couch across from a seated, frazzled Lily. Glasses of wine rest on the coffee table along with a smoldering trucker-chic ashtray.

LILY
It's not my fault nobody wants to live
next to Lucille.

Cindi translates in Mandarin, Tony responds in Mandarin.

CINDI
Maybe we should give Lucille a thirty day
notice.

LILY
You can't evict a dying woman, what's the
matter with you, Tony? By the way, I say
she won't last thirty days.

Cindi translates, Tony responds.

CINDI
That's what you said four months ago.

Lily takes a nervous sip of wine.

LILY
I'm doing everything I can.

Tony leans forward and says something. Cindi repeats:

CINDI
You never had a vacancy problem when you
were young and pretty.

LILY
I do not have a vacancy problem.

Cindi translates, Tony responds.