

THE OTHER SIDE

Written by

Joe Thayer

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - GROUND FLOOR - EARLY MORNING

Dingy hallway in a three story tenement. On the first floor, a dusty sliver of light shines on a flight of stairs, where FIN (27), in jeans and a band t-shirt, lays drunk, a few feet from his apartment door. He wears a fedora on his head and a flannel shirt is balled up next to him. He MUMBLES to himself.

LUCY (26), Summer dress, heeled work shoes. Steps gingerly over Fin as she descends the stairs. Her face a mix of pity and disappointment. She picks up the flannel shirt and rolls it up under his head.

LUCY
(softly)
Fucking Fin. Some of us have to
work.

FIN
(mumbling)
I'm so close. Just figure how to
stay.

Fin snuggles into his flannel and smiles. Lucy exits the door to the street and it SLAMS behind her.

WHIP PAN - HALLWAY BRIGHTENS, COLORS SATURATE

Fin gets up and laughs. He stands as if someone else is coming down the stairs. He takes his hand and sweeps it in a grand gesture -- leading someone onto a dance floor.

Fin does a solo waltz.

Slowly his partner, LEA (26), appears -- flickers in and out like a black and white TV with bad reception. As they dance, Lea remove's his hat from his head and puts it on hers -- she slowly becomes full color.

The hat slips down onto Lea's face. They stop and Fin adjusts the hat on her head. They kiss.

LEA
This could never last.

FIN
What? It looks great.

Fin goes to re-adjust the hat on her head and she flickers again. She gives him a knowing look.

LEA
 Fin. This.

HALLWAY DIMS TO DINGY, COLORS FADE AGAIN

Lea disappears. Fin stands adjusting his hat on no one.

Fin walks to the door to the street and opens it as if to let Lea out. He sits back on the steps, pulls out a little flask and sips. He stares into oblivion.

Beat.

Fin pukes a little in his mouth. Then he lowers his head back to the flannel and closes his eyes.

FADE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Fin opens his eyes as the door to the street CLICKS open. Lucy enters, struggling with two coffees in hand. Fin hops up and holds the door.

They sit on the stairs. Lucy hands Fin a coffee and he rubs his head trying to wake up.

FIN
 (smiles)
 You always remember me.

LUCY
 Easy to do.

LUCY (CONT'D)
 Do you remember when we first met?

FIN
 No -- weren't we were born knowing each other.

LUCY
 Feels that way, but no.

FIN
 (sipping)
 I needed this.

LUCY
 Fin, what are you doing?

FIN
What? Nothing.

LUCY
I mean, out here.
(beat)
With your life. You need help.

FIN
Nah. No more than the next guy. I'm
just...
(beat)
Just working things out - pretty
close to it.

LUCY
(frustrated)
To what?

FIN
Well...

LUCY
The rest of the world can't wait
around to see how your little
experiment turns out, Fin.

Beat. Silence.

FIN
How was work?

LUCY
(shrugs)
Work.

FIN
That little shit boss still fucking
with you?

LUCY
That's basically his job
description.

FIN
I say you let me and Johnny visit
him -- lock him in a freezer for a
few hours. See how he likes it.

LUCY
(laughs)
Maybe you should get some rest
first.

Lucy leads Fin to his apartment door.

LUCY (CONT'D)
John will be by later. You guys can discuss it.

FIN
John's coming by?

LUCY
Yeah, he's taking me out.

FIN
Yeah?

LUCY
(awkward)
Yeah. Tired of waiting for you to do it.

FIN
That's good. John's a good guy.
(opening his door)
Thanks Luc'.

Fin enters his apartment door and shuts it behind him. Lucy waits a moment -- then whispers.

LUCY
You're a good guy too Fin.

INT. HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

Fin sits on the steps, he's dressed a little nicer than before, but still a mess. The front bell RINGS. Lucy enters from the second floor, dressed for a night out in a cute dress with contrasting CONVERSE sneakers.

JOHN (27), clean shaven and put together, enters the hallway from outside.

JOHN
Hello?

FIN
Ay, Johnny Boy.

JOHN
Fin, you coming out with us, bro?

FIN
Nah. Got plans.

JOHN

(laughs)

I know you don't have plans. Don't be a puss, bro. You got to get out of here -- get some action.

Lucy clears her throat and gestures for the boys to look at her. John and Fin turn their heads.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damn, Lucy. Beautiful as ever.

FIN

I dig your shoes.

LUCY

Come with us Fin.

Fin shakes his head no. Lucy frowns.

JOHN

You sure, bro? Eventually you're gonna have to snap out of whatever -
- this is here.

John exits to the street. Lucy follows and stops at the door. She flashes Fin a smile and shows him her converse again. Fin smiles back. Lucy exits.

TIME HOPS - HOLD ON STAIRS

Fin sits on the stairs and waits. He gets up and walks toward his apartment -- he fades.

He reappears walking back to the stairs with two highballs in tall glasses. He sets one on a step and sips the other one. He waits. He pops back up and goes back to his room -- he fades.

JAZZ MUSIC comes out of Fin's apartment and fills the hallway. Fin reappears emptying his glass. He eye's the door to the street and sits.

MINUTES LATER -- NEW SONG

He sits and starts drinking the second drink. Fin gets up impatiently and finishes off the second drink -- He fades.

MINUTES LATER -- NEW, WILDER JAZZ SONG

He reappears from the room with the whole bottle in hand.
He's drunk.

The FRONT BELL RINGS. Fin swings open the door -- no one in sight, but Fin leads someone in.

HALLWAY BRIGHTENS, COLORS SATURATE

Lea flickers in and out -- black and white, and then into full color. She kisses Fin.

LEA

Sorry, Fin. It's getting harder to get here.

FIN

Don't give up. I think I know how to stay.

LEA

Do you remember when we first met?

FIN

(surprised)
What?

LEA

Were we born knowing each other?

They kiss around the hall and roll into Fin's apartment.

SECONDS LATER -- NEW, SMOOTHER JAZZ SONG

They exit Fin's apartment -- shirts undone and disheveled.
They kiss. They slow dance in the hall.

The MUSIC WARPS and fades. Slowly, Fin flickers in and out -- color to black and white

HALLWAY DIMS TO DINGY - COLORS FADE

Fin disappears.

Lea dances alone. She stumbles slowly to the steps and lays down. She passes out.

The hallway lightens with the morning sun. A dusty sliver of light pierces the scene.

MICHAEL (26), suit and work shoes, steps gingerly over Lea as he descends the stairs. He eye's her with pity and disappointment.

MICHAEL
Fucking Lea.

CUT TO BLACK.