

Bad Start
By Chris Zell

Now, I told you this was going to be a bad day. Remember, whenever you begin a day by getting hit in the head by a flying sparrow, take it as a bad omen. Trust me. Okay, the sparrow was an omen of this story. But, before I begin I must say that in my defense, I do not have any space available. Not to straights. Not to gays. Not to people like Fred. And, the spaces of the people who were vacating when this occurred were already promised to others. So, truthfully, I have no space available.

Of course, that fact means nothing to the gaggle of lesbians I just tangled with.

I will now introduce the characters.

Lesbian #1 (herewith known as the Nose Ring Leader. Wearing an oh so out 'I Can't Even Think Straight' t-shirt)

Lesbian #2 (heretofore known as Jumpy because every time Nose Ring Leader barked she jumped)

Lesbian #3 (hereupon known as Glare because, well, that's all she did to me)

Lesbian #4 (hereunder known as Biz because she stood there with her arms folded in a menacing fashion to show me she meant business)

Lesbian #5 (herein known as Sorry because she sure didn't seem to look kindly on the actions of her sisters)

Storage representative (heretic known as Sparrowhead)

FADE IN:

GAGGLE enters. SPARROWHEAD walks toward the counter. NOSE RING LEADER does not speak in human tones. She barks and goes for intimidation at every opportunity. The other four, JUMPY, GLARE, BIZ and SORRY take up positions in front of the counter but realize that they all may not be able to fit in front of the ten foot long counter. We're talking a wall of jangling flesh here (sorry if you are reading this in the morning and that image just popped into your head. But, at least you just have a minor image. I, on the other hand, got The Full Bounty). GLARE steps back and does her best to strike the fear into the souls of men. Honestly she really didn't have to try hard. She reminded me of Kathy Bates if Bates lost an acid fight. BIZ flares her shoulders in her practiced in front of a mirror menacing manner. Honestly, I was shocked that she could even cross her arms across that vast expanse. And I'm just talking her tummy. SORRY slumped against the wall the end of the line with a look of exasperation on her face. JUMPY stood next her NOSE RING LEADER but I think she did only because she couldn't break free from her gravitational pull. JUMPY also never looked at anyone except NOSE RING LEADER.

NOSE RING LEADER
Is this a storage place?

SPARROWHEAD
This would be.

NOSE RING LEADER
I want one.

SPARROWHEAD
When do you need it?

NOSE RING LEADER
When the fuck do you think I need it? I need
it right now.

SPARROWHEAD
I'm sorry, I don't have anything right now.
Have you tried. . .

NOSE RING LEADER
. . .What the fuck do you mean you don't have
anything. I called you a week ago and you
said you'd have something. What is this
bullshit?

SPARROWHEAD
Well, if you did in fact call, I know that
I wouldn't have guaranteed anything.

NOSE RING LEADER
Fuck you. You know you did and now your
changing your mind because we're lesbians.

SPARROWHEAD
Sorry to interrupt your dementia and
persecution complex that means nothing to
these proceedings. The only thing that does
mean anything during this negotiation. . .

SND FX GLARE cracks her knuckles.

*** Honestly, she did that. I had to fight so hard not to laugh.
It was like I was in a 40's Cagney movie. ***

SPARROWHEAD (CONT'D)
. . .is that at this moment I do not have
any space for anyone.

BIZ
This is bullshit.

GROUP murmurs in agreement.

NOSE RING LEADER
Yeah. What about this guy?

Dialog with utter contempt and derision.

NOSE RING LEADER (CONT'D)
He's moving out.

SPARROWHEAD
Why yes he is. And his space is promised to someone else.

NOSE RING LEADER
No fucking way. That's mine and if you don't give it to me I'm going to file a discrimination complaint against you and get the press down here in a fucking heartbeat.

SPARROWHEAD
I can do better than that. I know a cameraman who works for channel four. He lives in Malden. He can be here in ten minutes for a story of this magnitude.

NOSE RING LEADER
Fuck you. You're not taking us seriously, are you?

GROUP (with the exception of SORRY who actually has a thought bubble over her head that says, 'Hmm, maybe sucking dicks not such a bad thing after all.') lathers into a femafrenzy (or maybe a femmezy).

SPARROWHEAD
Yes, I am taking you seriously.

Dialog in an unctuous, lying ass fashion but they don't know that.

SPARROWHEAD (CONT'D)
But, the facts is that I have nothing available and nothing is going to change that. If you want, I can put you on the waiting list.

NOSE RING LEADER
What good would that fucking do? I'm serious about this. I'm going to make some phone calls and drag your ass to court.

Sparrowhead reaches to the business card holder causing Biz to jump to a state of preparedness. Sparrowhead pulls two business cards out of the holder and holds them out to Nose Ring Leader. She recoils so Sparrowhead drops them on the counter as he begins his dialog.

SPARROWHEAD

Here's my name and the owners. Give it your best shot, Spunky.

Nose Ring Leader is about to explode.

NOSE RING LEADER

I can't believe your attitude. What are you? Afraid of lesbians? Feel threatened by us? I feel like kicking your ass all over this fucking building.

SPARROWHEAD

I will ignore your insipid questions because they have no basis in fact. But, you know, where I come from your threat of violence is considered battery. If you'd like to continue with this, and really, I don't want to waste any more of my time on it, but if you do, I will call the Malden police and you can file your action with them. And, you know what? It won't change a fucking thing because as of this moment in fucking time I do not have any space to rent to you. Is that a concept you grasp?

GROUP pauses and is taken aback. Nose Ring Leader is crimson. The death ray from the planet Lesbos that emits from Glares eyes is melting. Well, to her. To Sparrowhead it looks like she's about to sneeze. Biz, a short moment ago all anger and combative, is now trying to withdraw her ample width. Sorry is out of the line of fire and moving towards the door. Jumpy is, well, jumpy.

SORRY

Come on. Let's go. He doesn't have anything.

NOSE RING LEADER

(Addressing Sorry)

Fuck you. He has space he just won't give it to us because we're a group of strong lesbians and he's intimidated by us.

SORRY

He's just doing his job.

Nose Ring Leader He just hates lesbians.

SPARROWHEAD

Listen, I can't help you. I don't give a fuck who you fuck. But you are right about one thing. I don't particularly like you but that has nothing to do with your plumbing. You're just an ass. On the personal front, I've had lesbian roommates. I was in a long relationship with a bi-woman. I deal with everyone like they deal with me. And you dealt with me

like I was an ass so why don't you just fuck
off and do what you have to do.

Sparrowhead walks away from the counter as the group lingers to
see what Nose Ring Leader is going to do. After a moment she steps
back and begins to herd everyone toward the door.

NOSE RING LEADER
You haven't heard the last from me.

SPARROWHEAD
I trust not.

NOSE RING LEADER
You think you know us because you fuck some
bi bitch. She's not even really considered
a lesbian by the real community.

Group reaches the door.

SPARROWHEAD
And, you know, if you're the leader of that
community I bet she's real happy not to be
a member.

Nose Ring Leader's flesh is jiggling like she's having a uterus
earthquake.

NOSE RING LEADER
You can just go fuck yourself.

SPARROWHEAD
If you're the alternative? Gladly.

Nose Ring Leader holds the door open as everyone files out. Nose
Ring Leader stands and glares at Sparrowhead for a second after
everyone exits and then tries to slam the door behind her.
Unfortunately for her there is a hydraulic door closer on it so
the result of her dramatic flourish was a sort of short burst
of 'whwhoo' which lessened the impact of her angered exit.
Sparrowhead grins and goes back to reading the Sunday Boston
Globe.

FADE OUT.

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