

A STRANGER AFFECTION

Written by

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Based on the story by themetafictionist
"The Blue Vibrating Dildo"

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INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - DAY

LORI, early 20's, fresh-faced, optimistic, the girl next door who's grown up, straightens a picture on the wall, a hammer in her hand. She takes a step back to get a better look -

Pictures of family, friends, fun times. This is someone who enjoys her life with other people.

Satisfied, she returns the hammer to the tool box and looks around the apartment. It's bright - lots of windows. Neat and tidy, everything has it's place like it was just put there.

Beside the door rests a few broken down moving boxes.

EXT. LORI'S APARTMENT

A small strip of grass runs the perimeter of her corner apartment with a fence surrounding that. The moving boxes tucked awkwardly under her arm, Lori fumbles with the gate lock.

EXT. ALLEY

Outside the fence Lori dumps the pile of cardboard into a large recycling bin. It's loud but amidst the thumping of cardboard there's the faint sound of something else - footsteps.

Lori whirls around but there's no one there. She waits a moment but nothing. She frowns.

EXT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Marching back toward her door Lori swings the gate shut behind her but it hits the latch and doesn't completely close. She she turns back and shuts it tight.

EXT. LORI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

With a yawn Lori grabs the remote and shuts off the TV. The the lights follow. She checks the lock on the front door and outside can see the shut gate.

She turns off the last light and makes her way to her room.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Dressed professionally, she grabs her keys, purse, some books and swings open the front door but stops.

The gate is open.

The frowns, but then notices an unmarked envelope at her feet. Inside she finds a letter -

STALKER (V.O.)

My love, It was so great to see you yesterday. I feel our visits happen far too infrequently, but I guess that's normal when these types of feelings are so new.

Lori's frown turns to a smile, confused but intrigued.

STALKER (V.O.)

Your smile lights up my day. Your eyes show me a future of happiness. Your body makes me wish I was your clothes so I could be wrapped around you all day. Until next time, my thoughts will be only of you.

It's actually kind of sweet, Lori grins.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

She grabs a pen and writes on the envelope - "DROPPED AT WRONG APARTMENT".

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY

Lori sets the envelope by the mail area and rushes out the door.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Dressed professionally, Lori heads down the alley digging for her keys when she reaches the gate - it's open. She frowns. Did she shut it this morning after finding the letter or not?

EXT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Once inside the gate she again shuts it deliberately, quickly. Turns around and stops -

Sitting on the front step is a brown paper bag. Another misplaced gift perhaps?

Opening the bag she frowns. Reaches in and pulls out -

A large blue vibrator.

It takes a her a moment to realize what it is. Mortified she shoves it back in the back and looks around to make sure nobody is looking.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Lori throws the bag into the bowels of her closet. Still unsure of what it means she's rattled.

BAM! BAM! BAM! - a loud knock at the door and her eyes go wide.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

She cautiously approaches the door.

LORI
Who's there?

ANNE (THRU DOOR)
It's me you retard.

With a wave of relief Lori opens the door to ANNE, early 20's, vibrant, loud, bottles of wine in hand. They hug.

ANNE
It's so good to see you! You're going to love it here.

Lori looks past Anne to the open gate.

LORI
Would you mind shutting the gate.
If there's any wind it bangs
against the fence.

Anne heads back to shut it.

LORI
Hey, you didn't leave anything at
my door did you?

ANNE
No. Like what?

It's a totally sincere response.

LORI
Nothing, come on in.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Anne walks in looking around.

ANNE
This place is great! Look at all
these windows - it's so bright!

LORI
Yeah, you didn't have trouble
finding it?

ANNE
You gave me half of page of
instructions to your front door, it
was fine.
(re: the wine)
Which one should we crack first?

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - LATER

The sun has set, the night has rolled in. A few lights are on
as Lori and Anne share more wine, catching up on old times.

But as they talk Lori looks at all the windows - the darkness
beyond. She gets a shiver.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Front door open, Lori gives Anne a goodbye hug.

LORI
We'll do it again soon.

Anne trots down the path.

ANNE
Next time I'm bringing boys!

And with a laugh she heads -

Right out the open gate.

Lori stares at it for a moment. She pokes her head out the
door and looks around - nothing.

With a deep breath she races out, slams the gate and races back inside. Locks the door behind her.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Dressed for work she opens the front door and there at her feet - another envelope - this time with her name on it.

STALKER (V.O.)

Dear Lori. I'm so happy to have finally learned your name. Did you get my first gift for you? Have you used it? The woman at the store said it was the best. Do you think of me? I think of you.

Lori's hands begin to shake. Her breathing increases.

STALKER (V.O.)

Your friend is quite a whirlwind. Obnoxious actually. She lacks the sweet, virginal quality that I love so much in you. Until next time my thoughts will only be of you.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Lori slams the letter into a plastic bag. Throws the brown paper bag in there as well and returns it all to the back corner of her closet.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sitting alone eating dinner, darkness is settling in. Lori looks around at the windows.

Peeking out toward the front she sees - the gate is still closed. But somehow that's not reassuring.

Methodically going to each window, Lori closes all the blinds in the house. Shutting herself in.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Again dressed for work, opens the front door - a letter at Lori's feet.

STALKER (V.O.)

Shutting me out? Playing hard to get? How exciting.

(MORE)

STALKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Although it's difficult only
getting a glimpse of you each day
my mental pictures of you are vivid
enough to fulfill my needs.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

She stuffs the letter in the plastic bag - there are more now.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Returning from a run, sweaty, Lori pensively opens the gate.

EXT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Nothing on the front step. She breathes a sigh of relief, shuts the gate behind her and heads inside. From outside you can see all the windows and blinds are still closed.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Her running clothes hang out of the laundry hamper as the shower shuts off in the bathroom. Lori emerges drying her hair and opens the top drawer of her dresser to find -

Half the drawer is empty. Her bras take up one half but the other side, probably where she kept her panties - totally empty.

The blood drains from her face.

She whirls around wildly. Quickly throwing on some clothes she grabs a lava lamp from her dresser.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Stalking through her apartment Lori holds the lava lamp like a weapon, ready to strike. But there's nothing. Not even a sign of a break in.

But that's when she notices the coffee table -

All the pictures of her have been arranged in an arc facing the couch. In indent in the couch.

Her heart beat is deafening. He breathes heavy. She looks to the front door - it's not locked.

She rushes over and locks it, peers out the window - the gate is swinging open.

He was just here.

Lori leans her head back against the door fighting tears.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - LATER

A shopping bag full of underwear sits on the couch. The whirring sound of a drill.

At the front door Lori screws in a third dead bolt.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Dressed for a night out, Lori opens the door to Anne, looking similarly stunning.

ANNE

Hey gorgeous, ready for some action.

LORI

Just looking forward to a night out.

Anne brushes past her into the apartment.

ANNE

Oh my god, it's like a frickin' sauna in here. Why are all the windows closed.

She pulls at one of the blinds to open it.

LORI

NO! Please don't!

Startled, Anne lets the blinds fall back down.

ANNE

Okay, fine, Jesus.

LORI

I'm sorry, I just...like my privacy.

Looking past Lori, Anne spots the three new dead bolts.

ANNE

Is everything okay?

LORI
Yeah, fine.

ANNE
Are you sure?

Lori nods, it's not terribly convincing but Anne relents.

ANNE
Okay, fine. But you know I'm here
for you.

LORI
I'm fine.

So Anne pulls a bottle of vodka from her purse.

ANNE
How about a little warm up?

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sound asleep in bed, Lori stirs. The lights are still on her room but there's something else - banging.

She bolts up straight. Recognizes the sound.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Brandishing a new baseball bat, the price sticker still attached, she creeps into the living room. The lights are all on here too but that's not the problem.

She peers out the front door -

The gate is swinging in the wind, banging the fence.

Her eyes fill with horror - there's no way she's going out there.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Sitting on the bed, back against the wall, death grip on the baseball bat. Lori stares at her bedroom door. Waiting. Waiting.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

Asleep, but still in the same position, exhaustion got the better of Lori at some point in the night. She stirs.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Not even dressed for the day Lori opens the front door and as expected - a letter.

STALKER (V.O.)

Hello my love. How was your night out? I can't say I like the influence of your friend Anne. Taking you out, talking about boys. I would appreciate if you stop seeing her. For my sake. And I must say, what first started as a fun game of 'hard to get' has become quite frustrating for me. Don't worry though, I'm won't relent - that's how much you mean to me.

Lori sits back down on the couch, her hands trembling, her eyes welling up.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Dressed for work, Lori looks at herself in the mirror. Swollen red eyes and bags from sleepless nights. She holds her head high, deep breath, gathers her composure.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

Lori strolls into the living room but stops - the blinds in front of one of the windows are bent out of shape and twisted.

But then she looks to the side of the room and gasps -

The STALKER is standing in her apartment.

She freezes in fear. He seems stunned himself. He's not what you'd expect - he actually looks pretty normal, decent. But the unkempt stubble and greasy hair hints that something isn't right with him. He's also wearing black gloves.

STALKER

Hi Lori.

She turns to run toward the bedroom but he's faster and grabs her in the hall.

She fights and struggles but he holds on in a hug.

STALKER

Shh, shh, shh, it's okay.

Finally he pins her arms to her side.

STALKER

It's okay, I'm not going to hurt you. I couldn't. I love you.

She relents, the terror taking hold.

LORI

Please don't do this.

STALKER

It's okay Lori. I know this isn't how it should happen but it's better this way. Don't you see the beauty of this moment? Our first meeting. It'll be with both of us forever.

As she completely stops struggling, he relaxes his grip. So she stomps on his foot and throws him off. Darts into the bedroom.

BEDROOM

The Stalker rushes in only to be smacked in the arm by a baseball bat. He shrieks in pain as Lori holds it above her head.

LORI

Get out of my house!

He just looks at her in shock. He actually looks emotionally wounded. So she swings again.

This time the Stalker ducks out of the way and bolts from the room.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT

The Stalker races for the door with Lori right behind him. But with three locked dead bolts it takes him too long so Lori slams the bat into him again.

He screams in pain as she winds up for another so he leaps away. Flings the blinds out of the way and dives out the way he came in.

Lori stands there, the adrenaline pumping. She holds the bat ready for what feels like an eternity. But he's gone.

Finally she drops the bat and collapses against the wall.
Reality sets in.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Anne is over, she hangs up the phone. Lori is sitting on the couch practically buzzing. Nerves at their peak.

ANNE
Okay, they're sending someone over.
They said if you've kept anything
he's given you --

LORI
Oh, I've got everything!

She's manic, practically shaking as she storms back into the bedroom still clutching the bat.

ANNE
Hey, it's okay, I'm here now.

INT. BEDROOM

Lori storms over to the closet. Anne follows her in.

LORI
He's been around when you've been
here before!

She grabs the plastic bag and yanks it out of it's corner but the bags catches, the contents spilling onto the floor.

LORI
Damnit!

ANNE
Do you want some --

LORI
I've got it!

Lori gathers the letters and without really thinking, grabs the blue vibrator. She whirls around and Anne's eyes go wide.

ANNE
(re: the vibrator)
Uh, what the...

Lori waves the vibrator toward Anne.

LORI
EVIDENCE! It's evidence!

They stand ere for a moment, Lori's crazy wide eyes. Anne's shocked expression.

Finally Anne's hand shoots up to cover a smile. And she starts laughing.

Lori looks ready to explode in anger. But then the corners of her mouth curl. She looks at the vibrator in her hand and she too starts laughing.

The laughing becomes uncontrollable. It's what they needed. The tension subsides. Finally they regain their composure.

LORI
What am I supposed to do now?

ANNE
We give this to the police and they go catch him. He's not going to be hard to find if he's always around.

LORI
But he was in here.

ANNE
And you fought him off. You won.

LORI
I was lucky.

ANNE
No you weren't. You were ready, you were resourceful, you were strong.

LORI
But he's right. He said that he'll always be with me. Always be here because of this.

Anne stares at her with resolve.

ANNE
That's what he said. What do you say?

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT - DAY

The blinds open, light shining in. Wind blows through the open windows as Lori sits on the couch reading. Content.