

# Unfit Guardian [excerpt]

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WGAw Registered

INT. NICE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brian finds himself sitting at a table with Lucinda.

BRIAN

Hey, I know this place. You might want to hide your wings.

LUCINDA

Nobody can see us. We are here to observe.

Lucinda points to a table near them, where Gary and Tina sit.

INT. NICE RESTAURANT (GARY AND TINA'S TABLE) - CONTINUOUS

Gary and Tina just sit there in awkward silence.

TINA

I have to confess. The only reason I went out with you is that I thought you might do something to my computer if I didn't.

She pours herself another glass, finishing off the bottle.

GARY

Your computer? That's crazy. I would never do anything like that.

Tina looks him over, not sure if she believes him.

TINA

You're being honest?

GARY

Of course. I have ethics.

TINA

Oh. This is awkward.

Tina finishes the wine. A long, uncomfortable silence.

TINA

Would you excuse me while I use the ladies' room? It's all this wine.

Tina gets up just as the waiter arrives with their food.

INT. BRIAN AND LUCINDA'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Brian is astounded.

BRIAN  
You're kidding right?

Lucinda doesn't answer. She is looking behind Brian, who suddenly falls on his ass, as a waiter pulls his chair out from under him, dragging it to another table.

BRIAN  
Hey-- I'm using that, buddy.

Brian tries to grab the chair, but his hands go through it.

BRIAN  
What the hell?

LUCINDA  
Need I remind you that you cannot affect the motion of any physical object besides your client?

BRIAN  
You never told me that.

LUCINDA  
They went over it in orientation.

Brian gives her a blank look.

LUCINDA  
The part about not wanting people to think they're being haunted?

Brian is looking back at Gary, who sits at his table alone, staring at his food.

BRIAN  
I can touch him, though, right?

Lucinda nods. Brian gets up.

LUCINDA  
Where are you going?

BRIAN  
I should slap him upside the head and tell him she's not coming back.

LUCINDA  
It would be premature to reveal yourself to your client when you don't even know what his true problem is.

BRIAN  
Sure I do, he's a loser.

Brian keeps going.

LUCINDA  
Sit.

BRIAN  
I mean he has no dignity.

LUCINDA  
Sit.

BRIAN  
Sorry, I mean he lacks "self-  
esteem." This guardian angel thing  
is easier than I thought.

LUCINDA  
Sit!

Lucinda waves her hands and forces Brian back into a  
different seat at their table.

BRIAN  
Wow, you like it rough. It's always  
the librarian types--

Brian looks down and realizes that the chair he is sitting in  
is pushed all the way in. Meaning the top part of his body is  
sticking through the table.

BRIAN  
Okay, this is weird.

LUCINDA  
(fed up)  
You have one year to simply observe  
and assess your client's need  
before you need to reveal yourself.

BRIAN  
A year?

LUCINDA  
Believe me, you will need it all.  
Now shut up and observe.

Brian has no choice but to watch Gary start eating dinner.

BRIAN  
Ten bucks says he eats hers too.

Lucinda merely points her finger at him. He knows to shut up.

EXT. NICE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Brian and Lucinda stand outside, as Gary leaves the restaurant, his being the last car in the parking lot.

LUCINDA

I hope you have learned well from this experience. Use this year wisely to observe and reflect and truly understand this soul that has been placed in your charge. It's midnight. You are now on your own.

Lucinda starts to float up.

BRIAN

I can see up your toga.

No answer. She's gone.

BRIAN

A whole year?

INT. GARY'S CONDO (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Gary returns home to his condo, a nice space, though sparsely furnished, as if Gary only buys furniture for utilitarian purposes. Brian follows him in, invisible to Gary.

BRIAN

Welcome to Chez Gary.

He looks back at Gary, who takes the time to double check every single lock on the door.

INT. GARY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brian sits on the toilet, observing while Gary washes his hands very thoroughly, then vigorously brushes his teeth.

BRIAN

I think they're clean, bro.

Next, Gary flosses. One tooth at a time.

BRIAN

Who the hell flosses?

Brian is clearly getting bored.

BRIAN

Is there anything to read in here?

Brian reaches for one of Gary's magazines (Wired, Popular Mechanics, etc), but his hand goes right through them. Then he spots a business reply card that fell out of one of the magazines. He leans over and reads every single word on it.

Brian looks up just as Gary's butt is headed right at him. He dives out of the way just in time, as Gary sits on the can.

BRIAN

Happy place, think of a happy place.

Gary finishes quickly and flushes.

BRIAN

Did you just pee sitting down?

Gary, now dressed only in his tighty-whities washes his hands again, then exits the bathroom.

INT. GARY'S CONDO (BEDROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Gary lies down in bed and stares at the ceiling, thinking about the night. Brian has no choice but to watch him...and watch him...and watch him.

BRIAN

Ho-de-ho-de-ho-de-ho...

Finally, Gary sighs, then reaches into his night stand and pulls out his COIN COLLECTION, which he keeps in an album.

BRIAN

What are you, twelve years old?

Gary pulls out a double-headed 1863 penny and stares at it.

GARY

(mumbling to himself)  
I wonder if Abe Lincoln ever touched you.

He examines the penny some more. Then he bites down on it.

BRIAN

You did not just do that.

Gary returns the coin collection to his night stand. He turns off the light and closes his eyes. Brian just stands there watching him, not even able to sleep now that he's dead.

BRIAN

Now what?

12:31. Gary sleeps for what seems like an eternity. 12:32.

INT. GARY'S CONDO (BEDROOM) - LATER

3 AM. Brian now lies on the other side of the bed, experimenting with the different sounds he can make by flicking his finger between his lips.

BRIAN

B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B.

To say he's bored out of his skull is an understatement.

BRIAN

Could this death thing get any worse?

The night stand light turns on. Brian looks at Gary, who brandishes a crusty sock and a magazine. A special magazine. Brian is about to witness something he has no desire to see.

BRIAN

(Very much out loud)

AHHHHGH! FOR GOD'S SAKE, NOT IN FRONT OF ME!!!

Gary looks over in horror at the strange man lying in bed next to him, then all of a sudden freezes, as if in pause.

INT. GARY'S CONDO (BEDROOM) (PAUSED) - CONTINUOUS

Lucinda appears just as Brian leaps out of bed. Gary is still paused with a look of horror.

LUCINDA

What are you doing!? I said you had a year. You just revealed yourself in three hours and twelve minutes!

BRIAN

He revealed himself first!

LUCINDA

You don't even know why he needs you and now you only have a week to help him.

BRIAN

(still freaked out)  
A week? You said I had a year!

LUCINDA

A year to observe. Once you reveal yourself, you only have a week.

BRIAN

Are you making this up as you go along?

LUCINDA

They went over this in orientation. Were you even paying attention?

Brian's look says it all.

BRIAN

What if, say hypothetically, it doesn't work out?

LUCINDA

You hypothetically go to hell for eternity.

BRIAN

Is it worse than this?

Lucinda doesn't answer. Brian looks back at Gary.

BRIAN

I can do this, how hard can it be?

LUCINDA

He'll now be able to see you at all times.

BRIAN

Great, I'll just ask him what his problem is.

LUCINDA

He doesn't know.

BRIAN

Hmmm. What about you?

LUCINDA

Nice try. I have to leave. Now get back in bed where you were.

BRIAN

No way.

LUCINDA

We can do this the easy way or the hard way.

BRIAN

How about if we agree to disagree?

With a wave of her hand, Lucinda throws Brian back into bed. She disappears as Gary is taken out of pause.

INT. GARY'S CONDO (BEDROOM) (UNPAUSED) - CONTINUOUS

Both men scream and jump out of the bed.

**SUPER: DAY 1**

GARY

Please don't butt-rape me!

BRIAN

Auuugh! That's an image I'll never be able to erase!

Gary runs out of the bedroom.

GARY

Help! Help!

INT. GARY'S CONDO (LIVING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Gary struggles to get all the locks undone. Then he notices Brian is already standing in front of him.