

# The Dinner's Guest

This is a story of a house with no mirrors, where the age stopped at a certain year chosen by the owner Sarah, a ninety-year-old lady who lives alone in her small apartment of only one bedroom with only one small bed and where no closet in! She hangs her only black nightdress behind the door Sarah puts her only one pair of shoes on the floor under her dress Sarah has no bags Sarah no purses Sarah and no cell phones.

The rest of the apartment includes a very small kitchen, a very small toilet with a tiny sink and a shower fixed on the wall. There is a small table in the salon with four chairs around it and a small cupboard. There is also a big stylish sofa and four big armchairs and a brown wooden table with a rectangular piece of glass on it.

A black grand wing-shaped piano takes a large space of the salon...

There is only one balcony in the salon that overlooks a peaceful street with trees on each side of the road.

*It seems like a place of a one-life perspective lady!*

There are a lot of pictures on the walls!

Pictures of people with different ages ‘in different places ‘Pictures that take you far away towards a different world that exists apart from this apartment ‘ One picture could take you back in time to the previous century...

There she stopped staring at a picture of a young lady in her brown pants and beige shirt with small buttons ‘She was appearing riding a black horse in front of Giza pyramids. She had a proud smile and a confident look; raising her right hand as if waving.

Sarah kept looking at that picture when her beloved husband was taking that picture of her. She asks herself, "Where is he now? What's he doing at this moment? Why am I alone?" A flow of thoughts runs in her mind, interrupted by a strange look from a stranger who appeared all of a sudden at the dinning table. She got scared, and thought ‘When did that man enter my place? Do I know him? Did I invite him

over for dinner?!” She kept thinking though embarrassed of staring at the stranger without uttering a word! A feeling of déjà vu came on to her! I guess I know him! Then she had the courage and said with a clear voice, “The table will be set for dinner in a moment.”

She entered the kitchen and took a large tray on which she put some cheese, honey, and bread. She came out of the kitchen and put the tray on the table, and then she sat down.

The stranger looked at her and asked, ‘Don’t you recognize me Sarah?’

She sat down and in a trembling voice she said, ‘Why do you say so?’

‘Well don’t get embarrassed. I got used of it. Damn Alzheimer!’

Her heart fluttered when she visualized her doctor facing her with her disease. ‘Who are you?’

The stranger hesitated before speaking as if he sympathized with her. ‘Umm I’m your guest. I visit you every day at the same time to check on you. I am your friend Sarah.’

She was not relieved and thought, 'I'm a poor old lady suffering from a mind disease. God I cannot remember him.'

A tear dropped from her eyes while looking at him, and facing his stable eyes staring at her.

She thought, God! Either he's here as blessing, a gift you sent me, or as a punishment. I accept your will.

She forced her mouth to smile and said, 'Well! It seems you know me better than I know myself!'

'Don't think I'm a parasite Sarah.'

'You're here for a reason, then.'

'Sure.'

'I recognize your face, tough I don't remember you.'

'Yea, I know.'

'Why don't you eat?'

He laughed and said, 'I don't eat Sarah.'

She got scared and shivered, when he quickly tried to comfort her, 'Don't be afraid of me. Let me refresh your memory.'

Sarah felt hopeful and said, 'Can you do that?'

'Of course Sarah, I'm an angel.'

She took it metaphorically and said, 'I feel I'm locked away from the world.'

'You chose that Sarah, long time ago.'

Sarah took a deep long breath, and closed her eyes. The stranger held her hand. She suddenly opened her eyes feeling some cold air touching her body. She looked around herself, and then she started to remember.

'I was fifty nine years old when my husband died. We had two children a boy and a girl, Danny and Anna. Both of them are married and each one of them has two beloved kids. *She smiled then cried.*

The stranger said, 'Go on Sarah. Don't stop.'

'Six months after the funeral, my husband's friend came to my place and asked me for marriage! I refused. He kept persisting, and I kept refusing.'

The stranger interrupted her and said, 'Then his ego was so stronger than himself so he told you that...

'That I'm losing my beauty...' She smiled and said 'That's why I removed all the mirrors in my apartment. I don't care about the beauty of the face, body, and hair 'Beauty exists in the mind 'No matter how someone looks like 'I just care about how someone thinks, feels, and gives...'

The stranger held her other hand and said, 'You stopped the clock but...'

'But life went on...' She touched her face and felt the wrinkles under her eyes 'I grew older.'

'But your spirit is still as beautiful as it was since forever.' The stranger commented.

'My kids visit me everyday; however, I forget all about the past 'until you visit...'

The stranger looked at her sadly and said, 'Sarah, I'm afraid to tell you that this is my last visit.'

'But why? You're my friend.'

'I didn't say I'm not gonna see you again!'

‘Then what’s wrong?’

‘I came today to take you with me.’

She trembled in fear and said, ‘But where to go?’

The stranger patted gently on Sarah’s back and said, ‘I’m here to remove your wrinkles, comfort your heart and put your beautiful soul in a new body.’

Sarah started to understand, but her feeling was so weird. She does not know whether she is happy or not, scared or safe..., ‘I know what you mean. I know who you are. You are Azrael!’

Sarah stood and started wandering in the salon and watching the walls ‘the pictures on the walls. There she stood as a child in her mother’s arms feeling safe. A cozy picnic with her parents among grass and trees. The graduation party with her old friends wearing black robes and holding their certificates with golden ribbons. Her engagement party ‘she can see her engagement ring glowing around her finger. Her baby Danny taking his first steps. Her daughter Anna 😊 proud of being able to ride her bike for the first time. Oh! There she sees the wedding of her Danny ‘he was kissing his bride’s hand. Anna in her beautiful white dress and flowers in

her hand! Her beloved husband kissing her on her cheek and she was laughing in joy and raising her arms upward.

*The history of the family lies on the walls.*

Now she stares at the picture of her grandchildren, those lovely creatures ‘A miracle that takes place each single moment on the earth.’ She said it and looked at Azrael, ‘Who is going to tell my story?’

‘The pictures on the walls Sarah. They will come here and gather to listen to your story. You’re going to have eight grandchildren.’

Tears came into her eyes and ran on her cheeks, tears of sorrow and tears of joy. ‘I won’t be able to see them, my friend.’

‘Who said that?’, Azrael said in a soft voice. ‘You are going to visit this apartment too.’

‘Is that true?’, she said it with a surprise in her eyes.

‘Sure Sarah!’

‘But how?’

'It's my job.'

She smiled and took a deep breath. Azrael held her hand and said, 'Come with me Sarah! This way!'

He showed her a road that she didn't know from where it came suddenly in her salon. The road was full of big green trees, with pink and red flowers spreading on the green leaves. Hundreds of angels standing on both sides of the road, bowing and smiling in cheer. She looked on her dress it turned to be violet instead of the black old one. She touches her face and there the wrinkles are gone. She turned her face to Azrael and her long black silky hair fluffed on her shoulder. She said, 'Thank you, my friend.' He said, 'I can't believe you humans, I myself am scared from the idea of dying someday, I wish I could live forever. Even with the beauty you see.'

She smiled at his face and said, 'I will be there for you, Azrael, my friend.'

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