

Slice and Dice.

By

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CHARACTERS

Philo- A Female in her early twenties.

Joe Black- A male in his late fifties. Landlord.

Time

Present day-ish

Setting

An apartment, New York City, USA.

ACT IScene 1

A living room of a pretty tiny, closet like studio apartment.

PHILO talks into a mobile phone as she surveys the room. JOE BLACK watches her.

PHILO

(into the phone)
It's only 1600 a month.

JOE BLACK

(to Philo)
Rent controlled, utilities not included.

PHILO

(into the phone)
Yes, it's really happening. It's on the sixth floor and there is no elevator. I may need to stop wearing heels if I do not want bunions the size of a golf ball.

JOE BLACK

(to Philo)
Believe it or not, this apartment is a rare gem in New York.

PHILO

(into the phone)
It is small, very small, not cute or petite, just teeny tiny.

JOE BLACK

(to Philo)
But it's going to be all yours and you could create the illusion of space with the careful placement of mirrors. There is also a great skyline on your way up.

PHILO

(into the phone)
It's the Landlord who insists I call him Joe Black and pay my rent in cash. I suppose I could have gotten more space and cheaper rent if I had decided to live closer to home but this move was deliberate, remember? New age, new apartment, new life.

JOE BLACK

(excitedly to Philo)
It's your birthday? I could throw in a sofa that pulls out to a bed and a dresser that doubles as a closet for an extra hundred bucks. Consider it my birthday gift to you.

(CONTINUED)

Philo moves away from Joe Black and continues speaking into the phone.

PHILO

Mum, I want to do this but you are not making it easy for me. No, there is no kitchen, only a sink, a tiny sink, everything is tiny here.

JOE BLACK

(to Philo)

Believe it or not, I can turn this space into the New York equivalent of heaven. It will slice and it will dice.

PHILO

(into the phone)

No, mum. I am not changing my mind. Where better to achieve my dreams than New York? The specifics are hazy but I am confident that I will make it to Broadway.

JOE BLACK

Believe it or not this apartment has had a parade of eligible actors, musicians, poets and painters. That's why I call it the dream boat. Rosaline rose to fame and fortune as an onlyfans model. Blake started his own transportation company. He was the CEO and the driver. Anna and June now wait tables successfully, but each would much rather have been actors on Broadway.

Philo crumbles into a sofa looking defeated.

PHILO

(softly into the phone)

Maybe you are right, mum.

JOE BLACK

(hastily)

No, no, no. Believe it or not, their failure had nothing to do with the apartment. They just didn't have any talent in artistic pursuit. Hey, don't let your dreams go down without a fight. Fight! Fight!! Fight!!!

PHILO

(sadly, into the phone)

I am confused, mum.

JOE BLACK

(emphatically)

One of them made it though. He is an actor off, off, off Broadway but he acts. If I remember correctly, his given name was Richard but he told us to call him Bikky. I have no idea why and never got a chance to find out. He peed on that sofa once.

(CONTINUED)

Philo jumps out of the sofa with a frustrated cry.

PHILO

F ME!

JOE BLACK

Believe it or not, he wasn't always like that. He was extremely drunk and asleep at the time.

PHILO

(into the phone)

What? Nothing, mum. I am fine. I don't know. I said I am fine.

JOE BLACK

(seriously, to Philo)

Do you want it or not? The wait list is long.

PHILO

(into the phone)

I have exactly two thousand one hundred and ten dollars in my bank account right now. I will be fine. I've got to go. Love you more.

Philo ends the call and sits defeatedly on the floor.

JOE BLACK

(to Philo)

Are you taking it?

PHILO

(mutters)

Yes.

JOE BLACK

That would be 1600 in cash. Utilities not included.

Philo nods.

JOE BLACK

Do you want the multipurpose furniture for a hundred bucks as your birthday gift?

PHILO

(tearful)

It's not my birthday but thanks, I will take them.

JOE BLACK

It will slice and it will dice. Welcome to New York.

THE END.