"Starling Street"

by

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Idea Unit, Inc.

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INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Birthday party decorations are hung everywhere interspersed with FAMILY PICTURES.

KATIE BEHNAN (42, practical with an undercurrent of worry) circulates amongst the guests with food and greetings.

MEGAN BEHNAN (45 going on 15, the family's golden child) who, unbeknownst to anyone but Katie, has early onset Alzheimer's, is dancing to the MUSIC, twirling and passing around her rhythmic gymnastic ribbon to the others who are dancing with her, in typical Megan fashion.

In many of the Family Pictures, Katie is composed and more subdued, often closer to their MOM while Megan is doing RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS or CHEER with fun and animated expressions.

10-15 NEIGHBORS (All ages, bringing food and drinks) including: MRS. QUARTARO (60s, stout with small legs), MR. QUARTARO (60s, shorter than his wife, warm, wry sense of humor) with a large lasagna.

MICHAEL QUARTARO (50, great shape, sun-kissed) with a saran-wrapped salad, BRADLEY KLEIN (44, earnest, introverted childhood neighbor), with a casserole and beer.

JEANIE SNELL (30s, a hot mess who never left the neighborhood) with cupcakes, and AMY OCHOA (47, lively, dressed to go clubbing afterward) with champagne.

The Neighbors set their dishes down on the main table buffet-style as they arrive in festive spirits. Music PLAYS, conversation flows easily, and LAUGHTER peals though the house.

Katie watches Brad hand Megan a beer. They toast. Katie wordlessly swoops in to replace Megan's beer bottle with a water bottle as Katie takes a swig of the beer.

KATIE
Birthday girl's prerogative! I need her sober to light my candles.

Megan rolls her eyes, sharing a laugh with Brad. Katie turns to wander through the party She navigates through the guests, overhearing their conversations.

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CONTINUED:

AMY
Michael Quartaro 10 - gravity - 0! You look great. I didn't expect to see you here.

MICHAEL
Amy O.! Going to liven' up this party with some back-flips?

AMY
You never know, Megan's already broken out her ribbon. Once a gymnast...

MICHAEL
(shocked to see Megan dancing with Brad)
Damn! After decades of pining for the elusive wild child, will Bradley's dream finally come true?

Katie breezes through laying down a plate of pizza rolls, smiles at Michael and whispers to Amy.

KATIE
Will you make sure she sticks with water tonight?

AMY
Like that's ever worked.

Katie mouths "Please? Talk later?" as she is pulled away by another guest.

Jeanie struts through like a cannonball, puts down her cupcakes, spanks Michael playfully on the butt and roughly hugs Amy.

JEANIE
Now this is a proper Behnan party!
(making a bad joke)
Not like that last one.

Amy shoots her a reprimanding look as Jeanie nearly whirls into a large dead flower arrangement near a picture of DON and KAREN BEHNAN, Katie and Megan's recently deceased parents.

Michael intercepts the pending accident as Jeanie rights herself and the arrangement, reading the sympathy card: "May they rest in peace. Love, The Ochoa Family".

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CONTINUED: (2)

JEANIE
Oh shit. Ok. Too soon.
(to Amy)
You guys sent a nice arrangement. It's really held up.

Across the room, holding a tray of appetizers, Katie's face registers the near miss with the dead flowers as Mr. and Mrs. Quartaro s walk over to assist Michael.

Katie enters a POPFLASH (VIDEO ONLY) of her parents' wake over the present party (AUDIO ONLY).

BEGIN POPFLASH:

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie, in mourning dress, holds an appetizer tray. The SAME NEIGHBORS are in attendance, standing and talking almost exactly in the same places, but everyone is dressed for a WAKE. The large flower arrangement from the Ochoa's has fresh blooms.

MR. QUARTARO (V.O.)
Let's try to keep the damage to a minimum, girls!

AMY (V.O.)
It's under control. 25 years later and I'm still babysitting this girl!
(changing topics)
Do you know if Megan and Katie are home for good?

JEANIE (V.O.)
Katie has some fancy job, and Megan kind of disappeared.

MRS. QUARTARO (V.O.)
They seem pretty settled in now, so I think so.

MR. QUARTARO (V.O.)
I think Katie's been working from home, but this is the first time I've seen Megan in a while...

Megan, in black, sits on the couch.

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CONTINUED:

JEANIE (V.O.)
Which is why -
(downing champagne)

Amy plops down beside Megan and gives her a big hug. Megan's face turns into an expression of confusion. She doesn't recognize Amy.

JEANIE (V.O.)
We need to have some fun!

Katie's face registers faint but growing concern.

END POPFLASH.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie still holds the appetizer tray. Mrs. Quartaro approaches.

MRS. QUARTARO
Katie honey, are you alright?

Katie watches Jeanie join Megan on the dance floor with the bottle of champagne, sharing it with Megan.

Katie begins to intervene, but Amy is on it. Amy intercepts Jeanie by dancing with Megan. Megan and Amy instinctually put on a show with an old cheer routine!

Amy and Megan conclude to APPLAUSE and WHISTLES from the crowd with a hug. Megan's face is happy but reflects confusion. Again, she doesn't recognize Amy.

MEGAN
Hi! I'm Megan. It's nice to meet you.

AMY
(as if it's a joke)
I'm Amy, how do you do, madame?

Amy makes a flourishing curtsey. Megan, in an attempt to cover up what she is sensing is loss of recognition of someone she should know, giggles and returns the curtesy.

MRS. QUARTARO
Katie honey, would you like me to put that on the table for you?

Katie relaxes as Amy and Megan dance. She realizes Mrs. Quartaro is speaking to her.

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CONTINUED:

KATIE
No, no, that's okay. I've got it. Thank you so much though.

KATIE'S SONG comes on! Megan makes eye contact with Katie and they smile.

KATIE
(to Mrs. Quartero)
Actually, would you? I love this song!

Katie moves through the crowd towards Megan as the beat of the MUSIC MATCHES each of her confident steps.

Smiling broadly Katie and Megan dance together to the MUSIC as ...

Katie enters a POPFLASH (VIDEO ONLY) over the present party (AUDIO ONLY).

BEGIN POPFLASH:

EXT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - DAY

Katie's purposefully striding legs, still matched to the MUSIC of the party, are trailed by suitcase wheels roll quickly behind her.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - DAY

Katie heads straight past the reception counter into the residents' hallway. A FACILITY NURSE (20s, fastidious, professional) calls out as Katie keeps walking. Katie continues, undeterred.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - MEGAN'S ROOM - DAY

Katie enters Megan's room and throws the suitcase on the bed, completely surprising Megan. Megan beams, jumps up and helps Katie fill the suitcase with all of her clothes and belongings.

DR. KIM (mid-to-late 30s, kind, but frank) interrupts Katie and Megan in their frenzy. Katie and Megan continue to pack everything in sight.

Katie and Dr. Kim have a serious discussion. The Nurse and an ADMINISTRATOR (40-60, all business) join the room.

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CONTINUED:

Katie zips up the suitcase. The discussion becomes heated. Megan wants to leave, near tears.

As Katie and Megan attempt to leave, Dr. Kim, the Nurse and the Administrator all stands their ground, sympathetically. Katie furiously signs papers from the Nurse and Administrator.

Katie and Megan push past the trio into the hallway, and walk briskly, then run, hand in hand out the door.

EXT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY / KATIE'S CAR - DAY

Katie and Megan raise their ARMS UP, victorious as they zoom off into the distance.

END POPFLASH.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME, LIVING ROOM

ARMS RAISING THE ROOF on the dance floor. Katie looks over at Megan, who is now dancing with Brad, having the time of her life. Brad beams, ecstatic, as the others dance around them.

KATIE
Looking good Megs!

MEGAN
Thanks! This guy's lookin' good too right?!

KATIE
Yeah! You too Brad!

Mr. And Mrs. Quartero join the crowd with some actual partner dancing. Their energy is contagious. Amy begins partner dancing with another guest, and others follow.

Megan takes the stage with tigress-like dance moves and "the look" that is aimed towards Brad. Brad watches with delight and fun while Katie can't believe her eyes.

Michael interrupts Katie's fixation on Megan, by offering a dance.

MICHAEL
As the birthday girl, it's your job to have the most fun tonight!

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CONTINUED:

Katie smiles, briefly forgetting her oversight duties of Megan, and lets herself enjoy dancing with Michael. Amy notices with a smile that covers a tiny bit of jealously.

Megan and Brad get into it attempting some kind of Dirty Dancing style dance. Mrs. Quartaro begins to chat with Katie as they continue to dance with Mr. Quartaro and Michael.

MRS. QUARTARO
It's good to see Megan is ok. We haven't seen her for a while.

Katie looks across the room to see the Dirty Dancing, increasingly concerned.

MRS. QUARTARO
I know that your parents would have loved that you and Megan are keeping the house.

Katie enters a POPFLASH (VIDEO ONLY) over the present party (AUDIO / VO ONLY).

BEGIN POPFLASH:

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - MEGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie enters with a stack of laundry and catches Megan undressing in front of her uncovered window. Katie is horrified.

Megan struggles against Katie's attempts to re-dress her.

Megan pushes Katie towards the door, screaming. Katie digs her fingernails into the frame of the door, straining to keep herself from being pushed out.

MRS. QUARTARO (V.O.)
Are you thinking of remodeling?

Megan gives a final push and SLAMS her door.

END POPFLASH.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael twirls Katie before Katie can answer, and as she returns, the OVEN ALARM goes off.

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CONTINUED:

KATIE
Time to ice the cake. Please excuse me!
(to Michael)
Thank you for the dance.

As Katie departs to the kitchen, Mr. and Mrs. Quartero raise their eyebrows - “shipping” Michael and Katie. Michael smiles and waves them off.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Megan leads a tentative Brad to her bedroom in a sexually aggressive manner. Megan pushes Brad against her doorframe and devours him in a kiss.

BRAD
Megan. This is amazing, but slow down a sec, ok?

MEGAN
When have you ever liked it slow?

Brad is confused because he was friend-zoned by Megan decades ago with no hope.

BRAD
We never... I mean, I didn’t think you ever saw me that way.

MEGAN
I have no idea what you are talking about.

Megan kisses Brad, pulling him into her room.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Katie is jarred out of icing the cake by the slam of a door and giddy laughter. She looks up in a moment of confusion but is distracted by Jeanie.

JEANIE
Hey Katie, do you have any more White Claws? The cooler is out, just thought I’d check.

KATIE
Oh, yeah, the bottom drawer. In the fridge.

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CONTINUED:

Katie listens for anything unusual, but then goes back to icing the cake as Jeanie grabs the White Claws.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - MEGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Megan begins undressing while kissing him.

BRAD
Megan, wait. You're not drunk right?

MEGAN
I barely had a sip of the beer you gave me before somebody swiped it!

BRAD
Look, it's probably the worst kept secret in the neighborhood after all these years, but... you do know that... I've loved you. All these years.

Megan hears his words as if they were the first time she's ever heard "I love you."

MEGAN
I love you too.

They kiss tenderly as...

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie circulates, making sure everyone has food and beverages. Megan is nowhere to be found. Katie walks down the hall and hears LOUD LOVEMAKING coming from Megan's room.

KATIE
Are you fucking kidding me?!

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - MEGAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katie enters attempting to avoid looking directly at Megan and Brad, who are having sex with joyful abandon. They are shocked to see Katie.

KATIE
Get the hell off my sister and get out!

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CONTINUED:

MEGAN
Ahh! You get out! Get out!

BRAD
Woah, woah, woah! What are you doing in here, Katie?

MEGAN
It's my privacy - my life!

Megan becomes disoriented and nearly exits the room without getting dressed. Katie has a sheet at the ready, blocking the view and wrapping her in it.

KATIE
(to Megan)
I turn my back for one minute!
(to Brad)
Bradley, it's not her life anymore! She doesn't know what is happening from one moment to the next!

BRAD
She's not drunk. She kissed ME, I swear!

KATIE
So the split-second she starts flirting, you just slide on in and --

BRAD
Stop, Katie. That is not true.
(dropping his anger)
I love Megan. I always have, and, I think, after all these years... she may love me too.

Megan finishes dressing and leaves her room.

KATIE
And is "love" why she just walked out? She's not hanging around to defend you because she's already forgotten it even happened!

BRAD
Stop it Katie! Why would you even say that? What do you mean "forgotten it happened"?

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CONTINUED: (2)

KATIE
She's got Alzheimer's. Early-onset. No one knows yet.

Brad is shocked.

INT. BEHNAN FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Megan, still disoriented, enters the living room and begins to become overwhelmed by the music and the crowd. Michael notices her with concern.

Brad, bewildered, follows a few paces behind. He WATCHES Megan with a new perspective.

MICHAEL
You ok, Megan?

MEGAN
My phone.

MICHAEL
You lost your phone? We can find it.

MEGAN
My phone - my phone!

Megan's SHOUTING alarms the guests. Concerned, Brad comes over, attempting to calm Megan down.

BRAD
Megan, honey, it's ok. We'll find it.

Megan shoots a confused, sour look at Brad.

MEGAN
No, "honey" - someone took it! And I know who it was!

Jeanie and Amy begin to head for the door, offering an exit to Brad, who is utterly stung by Megan's dismissal of him.

JEANIE

It's getting weird. Time to go.

AMY
Something is up. Katie wanted to talk to me.

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