

From Too Fabulous to Fail

By Don Zolidis

ANNA, 20s,
CARLY, 20s

Manhattan. Carly has just arrived. In Anna's apartment.

ANNA

Here we are. Home sweet home.

CARLY

Wow. This is tiny.

ANNA

Actually, if you imagine it from the perspective of a cockroach it's really big. I do that most of the time. This actually costs me fifteen hundred a month. I paid extra to have that little window.

CARLY

Wow.

ANNA

The way I think of it, if I was in prison, I'd probably have slightly less room, so it's a pretty good deal.

CARLY

Huh.

ANNA

I'm sorry I was so severe on the street, you have to look really fierce or people will assume you're a tourist.

CARLY

Yeah. You sure know a lot about New York.

ANNA

Oh yeah, definitely.

CARLY

The city scares me a little bit, I have to say.

ANNA

No reason to be scared. Where are you from, anyway?

CARLY

Iowa. But we moved around a lot when I was a kid so I'm pretty cosmopolitan.

ANNA

Oh.

CARLY

Sure. We lived in Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota – all the really boring states. But now I've come to New York, to realize my dream of becoming a musical theater actress. At first I was alone, but now, thanks to you, I've got a friend.

ANNA

You mean it?

CARLY

Yes! In fact I think it's time for us to sing a duet.

ANNA

We don't do that in Canada it's too cold.

CARLY

I'll sing your part then.

(CARLY takes out her phone)

FRIENDS
NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER FRIEND
BACK HOME THEY TOLD ME
NO ONE WOULD EVER LIKE ME
THEY USED TO LAUGH AND POINT AND CALL ME NAMES
LIKE FREAK GIRL
BUT NOW –
FRIEND FROM CANADA
THE JOKE'S ON THEM

ANNA

Wow.

CARLY

Now it's your turn.

ANNA

Are you just making up lyrics on the spot or is there like music somewhere?

CARLY

You just let it out of yourself.

ANNA

Okay um...

FRIENDS
NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER FRIEND
BACK HOME I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LUCK

Good! CARLY

I WAS KIND OF AN ODD DUCK ANNA

I like it! CARLY

SO I PUNCHED A GUY IN THE HEAD
AND MOVED TO NEW YORK INSTEAD
FROM CANADA ANNA
(CARLY hugs her.)

That was great! CARLY

Are you recording yourself? ANNA

I always record myself. That way if I do anything amazing, it goes straight to Youtube and various other social media sites. You never know when you're going to be brilliant. CARLY

I feel a little strange about that. ANNA

That's just the shame washing out of you. You see – I like to think of my life as one big Broadway musical. Not the Jukebox kind. The one where they had an actual story with a plucky heroine who would overcome all odds and make it. CARLY

Most of the musicals now are filled with four-letter words. ANNA

Not one of those musicals. A classic, you know? So if you live your life that way, everything's going to turn out great. Just like today – those Elmos were taking advantage of me – who knows maybe one had a knife – CARLY

ANNA

Probably.

CARLY

And you saved me! And now you're my best friend. And now, since I don't have any place to live because I don't believe in planning for anything, I'm going to move in with you!

ANNA

Oh! Um...

CARLY

Thanks. You saved me.

ANNA

So... uh... I guess you could live in my closet.

CARLY

Yay! See – what did I say... everything's going to work out fine.

(They hug.)

(short pause)

CARLY

Hey do you have any money?

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