

THE ARTIST  
(A Silent Film)

Written by

Elyssa Catalfano

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

The coffee machine BEEPS. It automatically pours coffee into the large white mug.

ETHAN, (late 20's), tall, skinny, messy-haired brunet, simple attire with splotches of paint, picks up the mug. He takes a SIP.

He walks towards the dinner table. He sits in one of the wooden chairs to look over email on his laptop.

C.U: Hey, Ethan. It's Kevin. You know, your manager... So, I just wanted to let you know that your artwork is selling like hot cakes. I was wondering if you would do that exhibition I told you about weeks ago waiting for you at that restaurant, Le Tres Cafe...

Ethan EXHALES in annoyance at his manager's letter. He continues to read.

C.U: Okay, I know how you hate people and would never do this but people want to meet you. Email or fax me back at your earliest convenience.

Ethan closes his laptop in a HUFF. He walks over to the window.

The window is large and shows the big city. There are two equally but smaller apartments across the street that only reach to the floor under Ethan's apartment.

Ethan sits on the comfortable lounge bench underneath the window sill. He looks down at the PEOPLE below.

EXT. BIG CITY - STREET - DAY

A scrawny BUSINESSMAN runs down the street. The papers he holds in his arms fly out. He stops, abruptly. He tries to catch them.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

Ethan puts down his mug. He picks up his sketchbook. He draws the Businessman trying to capture his papers.

He looks at his sketchbook. He is happy with the result. He walks over to the easel that has a white canvas on it. He places the sketchbook on the table next to it. He paints.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan takes a step back. He looks at the painting of Businessman trying to catch his papers.

BAM!

He jumps in surprise. He slowly makes his way to the window. He looks downward to see two, heavily muscled MOVERS bring a large box into the apartment across the street.

Two Movers enter the doorway.

Ethan gazes upwards to see them come out into the apartment that is almost directly across from his. It is just a little smaller so the neighbors can not see completely into Ethan's apartment.

Movers bring in large box. They ask ALICE, (20s), skinny, elegant, beautiful, where she wants it.

Alice points to one corner of the apartment. She SIGHS before she walks to the window. She looks out and up. She sees Ethan. She shyly waves.

Ethan ducks. He slowly rises to peak down at Alice.

Alice looks up in confusion at Ethan. She turns her attention back to Movers.

Mover holds up box as if to asks: where she wants them to put it.

Ethan watches her move about her apartment. He stands up and turns away from the window. He looks back at Alice's apartment. He walks away from the window.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan makes pasta with creamy spinach and meatballs. He sits at the dinner table. He eats.

A light flickers from outside the window. There are NOISES from PEOPLE who are upset with the light.

Ethan gets up and walks to the window. He looks down to see the light coming from Alice's apartment.

Alice wears sunglasses as she tries to adjust the brightness on her TV.

Ethan questions what is happening.

Alice looks out her window. She sees Ethan. She gives a small wave to say sorry.

Ethan grudgingly heads back to his table. He begins to eat. He sees his sketchbook next to him. He takes it and draws.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

The coffee machine BEEPS. It pours coffee into a white mug.

Ethan sluggishly makes his way from the coffee machine to the dinner table. He opens his laptop to an APP: a grocery store. He clicks and fills out his shopping bag.

WORKOUT MUSIC PLAYS.

Ethan jumps and GROWLS. He CLICKS purchase before he heads to the window.

Alice works out to her TV.

Ethan stares at her in annoyance.

Alice turns and sees Ethan. She waves cheerfully.

Ethan walks away from the window.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan paints Alice with sunglasses trying to lower the brightness on her TV. A light shines in his face. He sees that it's coming from the window. He looks down to see Alice with a compact mirror and flashlight.

Alice holds up a whiteboard that says: Hi, I'm Alice. Know any good restaurants?

Ethan holds up his phone. He points to it. He jerks when he hears to DOORBELL RING. He answers it. He sees it's a DELIVERY GUY with bags of groceries. Ethan gives him a tip with the app. He brings groceries into the apartment.

Another light shines in Ethan's face. He goes to the window.

Alice holds up her whiteboard. It reads: Too lazy to look. Can't you just tell me?

Ethan angrily grabs his sketchbook. He writes: You serious?!

Alice reciprocates: Yes!

Ethan whacks himself with his sketchbook. He ponders. He writes: Le Tres Cafe is suppose to be good.

Alice jumps. She quickly writes: Thanks. (smiley face)

Ethan GRUMBLES as he goes back to his groceries.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan makes dinner, seared tuna in white sauce with green beans mixed with peppers and onions. He places it on the dinner table with a glass of pomegranate juice. He hears romantic MUSIC play.

He goes to the window and looks out. He sees that Alice has a tall, MALE GUEST over. He watches them GIGGLE as they sway to the MUSIC.

Alice and Male Guest look out the window just as Ethan ducks.

Ethan peers from the bottom of the window at the couple. He double glances before he goes back to dinner.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan takes his white mug to the window. He looks at the city. He looks over at Alice's apartment every once in a while.

Male Guest and Alice talk. They drink from their mugs. They see Ethan. They wave to him.

Ethan raises his mug. He looks back out at the big city.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan paints a picture of an old married couple sitting on a bench. He jumps when he hears POPPING. He glances out the window.

Alice POPS bubble wrap from her packages. She glances up at Ethan. She SILENTLY apologizes to him.

Ethan picks up his sketchbook. He writes: Not a smart thing to do in the city.

Alice smiles happily. She searches for her whiteboard. She quickly writes: You're right. Sorry about that. Did I scare you?

Ethan snorts. He writes: Me scared? Ha!

Alice writes: You totally jumped. Didn't you. (smiley face)

Ethan blushes. He moves away from the window. He pauses mid step. He looks back out. He sees Alice is gone.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan sits at the dinner table that is pushed next to the window. He eats his breakfast. He looks out the window to see Alice.

Alice holds up a sign that reads: What are you having?

Ethan holds up his sign, saying: Eggs, bacon, and toast.

Alice gapes. She profusely writes: How can you cook all that in the morning!

Ethan reciprocates: Easy. I'm not lazy.

Alice pouts.

Ethan LAUGHS. It looks like he hasn't laughed in a long time.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan sits on his bench by window. He sketches Alice reading a book.

The fax machine BEEPS. A piece of paper pops out. It falls to the floor.

Ethan picks up the paper.

C.U: Hey, this is Kevin again. So... I was wondering if you gave it some thought to the exhibition. Email or fax me back!

Ethan SIGHS before he looks out the window. He sees Alice has finished reading her book.

Alice gets up. She leaves her window.

Ethan picks up his phone.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Ethan, adorn in fancy suit, tries to tie is necktie but is too nervous and keeps messing it up. He makes his way to the window. He looks down.

Alice is in an evening dress. She looks in the mirror as she puts up her hair. She perks up when she heard DOORBELL RING. She goes to answer it.

Ethan can not see who it is but can hear HAPPY NOISES. He frowns before he gives up with his tie.

INT. EXHIBITION - NIGHT

Ethan stands in the corner. He does not bother to talk with the other WEALTHY GUESTS. He looks at the floor to see a pair of black loafers appear in front of him.

KEVIN, (40's), carrot top, in a bright purple suede suit, smiles happily at Ethan. He hands him a glass of champagne.

Ethan takes the glass carefully. He jumps a little when Keven forcefully brings him in front of a WEALTHY ELDERLY COUPLE. He looks up nervously at them.

The Wealthy Elderly Couple LAUGH as they point to Ethan's painting.

Everything is fine until more Wealthy Guests come to talk. They squeeze closer to talk to the couple and look at the painting.

Ethan PANTS heavily. His body shakes with anxiety. He feels the room getting smaller around him. He bolts out the door.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan pushes the front door open. He SLAMS the door shut when he's all the way in. He tries to calm down. He slides down as he begins to cry.

The clock on the microwave changes from 11:00 to 11:01 pm. The phone RINGS.

Ethan gets off the floor. He passes the phone without so much of a glance. He sits by the window. He looks down at Alice's apartment.

Alice CRIES on the floor with her dress and hair is a mess.

INT. ALICE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alice WEEPS over her bad night. She sees a light shine in her eyes. She looks up to see that the light is coming from her window. She gets up and looks out.

Ethan shines a flashlight into Alice's bedroom. He holds a sign: Bad night, too?

Alice smiles as she SNIFFLES. She grabs the whiteboard. She writes: Date night could have gone better.

Ethan writes: I ran out on my own exhibition.

Alice's sign says: Nice.

Ethan frowns. He writes: Shut up. (frowny face)

They laugh as they continue to write to each other.

**THE END**