

Negative Energy

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>GINA</u> :	23
<u>ROSE</u> :	23
<u>MEAGAN</u> :	26

Place
Queens apartment

Time
7:15 PM

Setting: A modern day two bedroom apartment in Queens.

At Rise: Gina is chilling out on the couch eating a bowl of ice-cream when Rose walks in home from work. Rose carries a single paper bag of groceries and sets it down on the diningroom table.

(enter ROSE.)

GINA: Hey.

ROSE: Hey.

GINA: How was work today?

ROSE: Sucked.

GINA: Why?

ROSE: They put me and Todd together on assignment for some new startup account.

GINA: Is Todd that guy you told me about?

ROSE: Can't stand him.

GINA: Ask to have a different partner.

ROSE: I would if I could. Once you're assigned, you're assigned.

GINA: Oh.

ROSE: What's up with you?

GINA: Nothing really, sort of annoyed.

ROSE: Why?

GINA: Got a call from my sister and she's breaking up with her boyfriend and is looking for a place to crash.

ROSE: What did you say?

GINA: Told her I'd talk to you.

ROSE: She wants to live here?

GINA: Temporarily.

ROSE: How long?

GINA: Maybe a month.

ROSE: A month?!

GINA: She needs help.

ROSE: Can't she go back to your parents place?

GINA: They are all the way out in Long Island, you know that.

ROSE: She has no friends?

GINA: Hey, this is my sister.

ROSE: But still.

GINA: What's your problem?

ROSE: She's a headache. Remember that time she stayed here for like two weeks cause she was looking for a job?

GINA: Yeah.

ROSE: It was a disaster. I could not wait for her to leave.

GINA: This is all news to me.

ROSE: No, I thought we spoke about it.

GINA: No, we didn't.

ROSE: Well, truth be told, you're sister is a slob, she's inconsiderate and she steals.

GINA: Steals?

ROSE: She stole my tampons. I had a brand new unopened box and when I came home one day half the box was empty. I was missing make-up, clothes and YES, money.

GINA: What money?

ROSE: Fifty bucks!

GINA: But you're always losing and finding money. It's like your thing.

ROSE: No, this time I knew I had a fifty-dollar bill chilling under my lamp and it was GONE.

GINA: How do you know it was my sister?

ROSE: Because I saw her eyeing it. She came into my room and we were talking and I watched her eyes dart to the fifty and that's when I realized a piece of it was sticking out from under the lamp.

GINA: Are you serious right now?

ROSE: Yes!

GINA: So, why didn't you put the fifty somewhere else?

ROSE: Cause I had no way of knowing your sister would rob me?

GINA: Woah. First of all, my sister isn't a thief and second of all she probably took it with the intention of giving it back to you and forgot.

ROSE: She outright stole that shit.

GINA: Why didn't you bring it up to her or me?

ROSE: It's embarrassing and I hate accusing people of things like that.

GINA: You're doing it now, so who cares?

ROSE: I'm doing it now because I don't want that bitch living here for a whole month.

GINA: Alright, look, I get that you are upset but don't call my sister a bitch cause that won't fly with me.

ROSE: I don't want her staying here, even for a night.

GINA: What if you confronted her about it?

ROSE: No way, it's old news and I'll look stupid.

GINA: If we clear this up then maybe she can stay here.

ROSE: Even if we cleared this up I really don't want her being here.

GINA: Listen, she's going through a bad breakup right now, I think her boyfriend got physical and it's really serious and she needs help, she called me and I have to be there for her. I'll give you the fifty bucks.

ROSE: I don't want the money.

(Gina digs fifty dollars out from her purse.)

GINA: Here, take it.

ROSE: I said I don't want it, Gina.

GINA: I don't want you and my sister having problems. I get where you are coming from cause she is a bit of a mess to handle but she's in trouble and I can't leave her hanging.

ROSE: You know, I was thinking about moving out.

GINA: Moving out?

ROSE: Lately, there's been a lot of negative energy coming from you and now this and it's too much to deal with.

GINA: What negative energy? Can you make some sense?

ROSE: THIS, it's always something. Whenever I come home from work you have some sort of issue going on and I can't deal with it. I need my space and I need my peace. You make everything such a big deal and it's becoming too much. It overwhelms me and I end up feeling depressed and angry and I don't want to feel that way. I'm not that way. I'm more chilled and optimistic and you drag me down to the pits of hell and whenever I try to bring you some light you wrestle with me for hours, until finally, finally you are in a better mood but by then I'm exhausted and have no strength to do anything for myself that pleases me. I have to work up the positive energy inside myself to get out of whatever crappy state of mind you put me in to begin with. I don't want to do this anymore.

GINA: Why didn't you talk to me sooner about this?

ROSE: I wasn't sure until now. I guess it's come to a head and I honestly think that maybe I should move out. Maybe the timing is good. Your sister can come live with you and I can go and do my own thing. I have enough money saved up to go find my own place and I am pretty sure I can afford things on my own.

GINA: I can't live with my sister, I'll kill the bitch.

(they both laugh)

Don't you know you're my best friend, I don't want to live with anybody else but you.

ROSE: But don't you think it's best, that maybe we've reached that point to go our own ways in life?

GINA: We've been living together for six months, Rose.

ROSE: Well, don't you think---

GINA: And we have to finish out our lease for the year, don't we?

ROSE: You and your sister can do it.

GINA: Do you really want to move out?

ROSE: Yes. I love you but you are a pain in the ass.

GINA: Had no idea.

ROSE: I brought home groceries. Figured I'd whip up a dish of your favorite pasta and we'd relax.

GINA: Sorry, I'm still kind of shocked.

ROSE: Let's sleep on it. Tomorrow's Saturday and we can talk more about everything.

GINA: My sister asked to come tonight.

ROSE: Tonight?

(doorbell rings)

Are you fucking kidding me?

GINA: I thought you'd be home sooner.

ROSE: You've become a con artist.

GINA: My sister needs us, she's hurting.

ROSE: I'm so pissed at you right now. Have her come in Rose, but we have to really figure out our game plan.

GINA: I know. I really appreciate you understanding.

ROSE: Do I have a choice?

GINA: I know, I know.

ROSE: Pasta for three then cause I'm sure she hasn't eaten.

(GINA buzzes back the door to open)

GINA: Just be---everything will work out, let's be civil.

ROSE: I'm making pasta, how much civility do you need?

GINA: Okay, okay.

(In comes MEAGAN)

Hey Meg, how are you honey?

MEAGAN: Been better. (to GINA) What's up slut?

GINA: Hi Meagan, how are you?

MEAGAN: Got into a fistfight with my man and beat his ass. He caught me though with a hook but I wrestled him down and finished him off.

GINA: Sounds rational.

ROSE: You hungry? Gina's making us pasta.

MEAGAN: Pasta?? No meat?

ROSE: Pasta is what we have Meg.

MEAGAN: Alright, alright, PASTA it is. Here, brought some beers and a bottle of vodka. Gonna get smashed tonight.

ROSE: I thought you were broke.

MEAGAN: I have my resources.

ROSE: Yeah but you said you barely had enough money for the subway---

MEAGAN: I said, I have my resources.

(MEAGAN cracks open a beer and tosses the bottle cap)

ROSE: Meagan, just be clean alright?

MEAGAN: What?

ROSE: Don't start flopping all around the place---

GINA: And puking, I can't start mopping up your vomit again.

MEAGAN: Woah, what's up with you two...there's some tension in the house, I'm feeling some penetrating vibes over here, like laser beam star wars type shit.

GINA (to ROSE): What is she saying?

ROSE: Yeah, well, we just need order.

MEAGAN: Order? Am I in a courtroom? Order?

ROSE: Just don't start getting rowdy.

MEAGAN: I just went five rounds with my boyfriend and won the belt, I have a shiner you can spot from across the street and a limp from getting kicked and I'm busting open at the seams and here you are telling me to act orderly when all I wanna do is scream.

ROSE: I know you are going through some dirt, which is why you are here cause I'm here for you but I'm asking you to respect my place.

MEAGAN: I just got here!

GINA: Exactly.

MEAGAN: What's your problem, Gina?

GINA: I am not your boyfriend, don't lean in on me.

MEAGAN: What are you gonna do?

GINA: I'm a bust your ass is what---

(ROSE gets in between them)

ROSE: Stop it! Both of you! We are family! I can't believe how the both of you are acting, like children. Can't we pretend to be adults for once?

MEAGAN: I'm good, maybe I should bounce.

(MEAGAN grabs her plastic bag with alcohol)

I don't need this shit.

ROSE: Meagan, wait.

MEAGAN: Nah, I'm out.

GINA: Meagan, wait!

(MEAGAN leaves)

ROSE: You just couldn't keep it together?

GINA: Me??

ROSE: I was handling her just fine.

GINA: Were you really?

ROSE: I was trying, you didn't need to work her up---

GINA: I'm sorry but I'm not perfect either.

ROSE: Damn it.

(ROSE motions to leave)

GINA: Where are you going?

ROSE: I don't want my sister sleeping under a bridge.

(ROSE leaves)

GINA (to herself): Unbelievable.

(GINA turns off the stove and runs out the door)

END OF PLAY