

The Wall

By

Trace McNabb

Production Draft - Version 1
Sides - Chad

CHAD (22) is sitting at his computer in a small, cluttered apartment. He is playing a game with a headset on. NOLAN (23) lets himself into the apartment and sits on the bed behind Chad.

NOLAN

Chad... Chad!

Chad takes off his headset and swivels his chair to face Nolan.

NOLAN

I'm hitting up the bar tonight. Pat Banard's playing so you know all of his fan girls will be there. You in?

CHAD

I'm pretty tired. I'll pass.

NOLAN

Dude, it's been a whole year now.

CHAD

And your point is?

NOLAN

You gotta get out there again, meet some new people.

CHAD

I meet plenty of people, online.

NOLAN

Ladies, Chad. Real life women.

CHAD

It's just not worth the trouble.

NOLAN

I know you really hit a wall with Kylie, but there's plenty others out there.

CHAD

She broke my heart, Nolan, and shat on my dreams.

Chad goes back to the game.

(CONTINUED)

NOLAN

One day I'm going to drag you out
of this room if that's what it
takes.

Nolan heads towards the door.

NOLAN

Oh and by the way, you have a new
neighbor.

Nolan leaves the apartment. Chad puts his headset back on but hears something in the background. He takes it off and hears the sound of a WOMAN'S VOICE behind the apartment wall.

He gets up and moves towards the wall. The voice gets louder when he presses his ear against it. The voice, LEAH (22), is singing in the adjacent apartment. Chad is overcome by the melody as the song ends.

CHAD

Holy shit!

LEAH

(through the wall)

Hello?

Startled, Chad jumps away from the wall.

LEAH

(through the wall)

Is someone there?

He tries to say something, but can't. Brief silence. The sound of shuffling. He puts his ear back on the wall. The sound of a shower turns on. He pulls away and sits back at his desk.

CHAD

I'm not going to listen to her
shower. That's weird.

Chad looks around then runs back to the wall. Leah's singing in the shower. He smiles.

FADE TO BLACK

2

INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT - DAY

2

Nolan opens the door and comes in. He sees Chad with his ear against the wall.

NOLAN

You missed a bitchin' show- uh what are you doing?

CHAD

Shh. She's just about to brush her teeth.

NOLAN

Are you spying on your neighbor?

CHAD

Shh! Not spying, observing.

NOLAN

Either way that's pretty creepy man.

Chad sits back away from the wall to face Nolan.

CHAD

I'm not harming anyone, just listening.

NOLAN

Okay. Next thing ya'know you're going to be digging through her garbage and collecting strands of hair.

CHAD

She has the voice of an angel.

NOLAN

(sarcastically)

Ok, I have a crazy idea. How 'bout you go knock on her door and say hi?

Chad sighs and goes back to the wall.

NOLAN

Come on, let's go.

Nolan grabs Chad and drags him out the door.

3 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONT.

3

Chad looks at Nolan, searching for some way out of this.

NOLAN

You gotta man up. Go get her.

Chad walks to the neighbor's door and puts a hand up to knock. He tries once, but stops short. He looks at Nolan and back at the door. He tries again faster this time, but stops short again.

Chad looks back at the door. He pulls out a small note card and a marker from his pocket. He writes on the note "I'M A BIG FAN" and slides it under the door. He knocks quickly and runs away, stopping at Nolan. Nolan shakes his head.

NOLAN

You can't say I didn't try. I'm
sorry bud. I'm gonna go.

Nolan turns down the hallway to leave. Leah's door starts to open. Chad quickly goes back into his apartment.

4 INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT - CONT.

4

Chad enters the room and sits at his desk. He see a picture frame laying face down and stands it up, revealing a guitar pic. The photo is of Chad and his ex, Kylie. He grabs the pic.

He walks over to the bed and reaches underneath it. He pulls out a guitar and dusts it off. He sits back against the wall. He hums Leah's song and then tries to play some chords. He gets frustrated and knocks his head against the wall.

A light knock from the other side mimics his. Chad looks around in a panic. Leah starts to sing. Determined, Chad starts strumming again, quickly picking up on the melody.

The music picks up clear and the song starts to play. Leah stops suddenly.

LEAH

(through the wall)

John, can you just stop... Fine,
I'll meet you at the club.

Chad listens as her voice fades and her door opens then shuts. He looks over at the picture frame still standing on his desk. He lays down on his bed to go to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK

5 INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

5

Chad wakes up to a door slam and Leah yelling on her phone. Chad lays there with his eyes open while he listens to a muffled yelling.

LEAH
(through the wall)
Don't even try to deny it. I saw
you all over that girl. This, is
over.

Chad hears something hit the wall. He sits up and puts his ear against it. He hears Leah crying. Chad puts his hand on the wall as if he's hugging it. A faint heartbeat is heard. It slowly gets louder until it's clear.

Chad picks up the guitar and starts playing her melody. He hears Leah start singing along.

They finish the melody.

Chad puts the guitar down and waits for the voice to say something. Silence. He begins to open his door, but decides against it. He looks back towards the computer when he hears-

LEAH
(outspoken)
You're a great guitar player,
whoever you are. I'm a big fan.

Chad lights up, opens the door, and steps out.

6 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONT.

6

Chad walks up to Leah's door. About to knock on it, the door opens. Caught off guard, Chad freezes up looking into Leah's eyes. A brief silence passes.

CHAD
Hi. I'm Chad.

Leah smiles. Chad smiles back.

END