

CUL-DE-SAC

by

Brandi Self

Los Angeles, CA 90036
Writerbself@yahoo.com
323-382-3114

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BONNIE FIDE, early 30s, a unique specimen who seems to have settled into adulthood just recently, waves at the movers as they leave from deep in the cul-de-sac.

She inhales the clean air. Smiles as her husband, CHANDLER, 30s, an ex-rocker, awkward in his clean cut, comes out of the house.

BONNIE
You hear that?

CHANDLER
What?

BONNIE
Nothing. No rushing cars. No screaming sirens. Just quiet.

CHANDLER
A little too quiet, don't you think? I mean, where are the kids? No jump roping or playing kickball?

BONNIE
You watch too many movies.

CHANDLER
I miss the city already.

BONNIE
You better get used to it, this is our new home.

CHANDLER
Conform or die, right?

BONNIE
Well, we are adults.

CHANDLER
(playfully)
Speak for yourself.

He grabs a box. Walks inside, leaving Bonnie alone.

Incessant chatter fills the air behind her. Voices talking over each other at a rapid pace.

SHERY (O.S.)
I feel amazing!

TATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
Never felt better!

KATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
I'm on top of the world!

Bonnie turns to see SHERY, TATE, and KATE, 30s, all dressed in gaudy spandex, stupid grins spread across their faces, speed walking at the same pace, jabbering away.

They stop. All wave at once.

Bonnie waves back, hesitantly. Picks up a lamp and starts inside, running right into them as they surround her.

SHERY
You must be the new neighbor!

BONNIE
Why, yes, we just--

SHERY
I just love new neighbors, don't you?

TATE
So exciting!

KATE
Super fun!

BONNIE
I'm Bonnie. Bonnie Fide.

SHERY
Bonnie Fide!

KATE
Love it!

TATE
Simply brilliant!

SHERY
I'm Shery. And this is Kate and her husband--

TATE
Tate!

BONNIE
How do you do?

NEIGHBORS (IN UNISON)
We do fine.

Bonnie glances down at the colorful, square patches on each of their arms with the letters "PC" across them.

BONNIE
Glad to know I'm not the only one
trying to quit.

SHERY
Pardon?

KATE
Quit?

BONNIE
The patches?

TATE
Oh, we're not smokers.

SHERY
No.

KATE
No. No. No. That's a filthy habit.

TATE
Disgusting.

BONNIE
I'm sorry, I didn't--

SHERY
You hungry?

BONNIE
What?

KATE
Have her try one of the bars!

TATE
Oh, yes, she has to!

Shery pulls out a protein bar with a label that says, "Petite Complete".

BONNIE
"Petite Complete"?

SHERY
It gives you energy.

KATE
Lots of energy!

TATE
Tons of energy! Take a bite.

BONNIE
No, thanks. I should probably get
going. Boxes to unpack.

She opens the door to go in as they try to peer inside.

SHERY
We understand!

KATE
Absolutely!

TATE
See you soon, Bonnie!

BONNIE
Yeah. Okay.

Bonnie shuts the door.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bonnie joins Chandler at the window, watching them speed walk
away.

CHANDLER
What was that about?

BONNIE
I think I just met the new
neighbors.

CHANDLER
The suburbs are weird, man.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Bonnie and Chandler jog through the neighborhood.

BONNIE
Look at us, we're jogging. No trash
on the streets or human excrement
to dodge.

CHANDLER
And where's the fun in that?

BONNIE
God, you're such a city boy.

CHANDLER
Hey, you fell in love with this
city boy.

They go in for a kiss. And the chattering voices are back.

SHERY (O.S.)
I have so much energy, I can barely
contain myself!

KATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
Still slept like a baby!

TATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
Right, a very tired baby!

Before they can turn, Shery, Kate, and Tate are right beside them.

SHERY
Well, if it isn't the Fides!

TATE
Here they are!

KATE
How are you enjoying the
neighborhood?

CHANDLER
Well--

SHERY
He loves it!

KATE
He definitely does!

TATE
You're finally home!

CHANDLER
So I'm told.

BONNIE
(nudges Chandler)
We're enjoying it just fine.

CHANDLER
So, what's up with the patches?

Bonnie elbows him.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
(to Bonnie)
What?

SHERY
It's kind of hard to explain--

KATE
Without experiencing it yourself.

CHANDLER
I smell a sales pitch coming on.

TATE
Oh, we aren't selling a product--

SHERI
More of a lifestyle, really.

KATE
And of course, if you like it--

CHANDLER
I'll end up selling it to all my
friends. Yeah, yeah, I know how it
works.

SHERY
We're having a party, you should
come!

TATE
You definitely should!

KATE
Please say you'll come!

CHANDLER
Yeah, I don't think--

BONNIE
Sure, we'd love to come.

He shoots her a look.

NEIGHBORS (IN UNISON)
Great!

Shery pushes a protein bar and patch into Chandler's hand.

SHERY
(whispers)
It's the best.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chandler comes out of the bathroom, drying his hair with a towel as Bonnie takes a bite out of the "Petite Complete" protein bar. She immediately spits it out.

BONNIE
Ugh... awful.

CHANDLER
What, the women or the bar?

BONNIE
They're not that bad. Maybe a
little Stepford Wife-ish--

CHANDLER
They're obnoxious, Spandexed
lunatics. They just want to get us
over there and rope us into some
kind of pyramid scheme.

BONNIE
How do you know?

CHANDLER
My mom used to pump that crap.
Vitaminaveggie, Juice Plus, ultra
stretch leggings, canned air, you
name it.

BONNIE
Canned--?

CHANDLER
Air. Yeah, I unfollowed her for
that one.

BONNIE
Look, you promised me we were going
to try to fit in here. This isn't
like New York--

CHANDLER
No, it's Mayberry on crack.

BONNIE
Come on, we'll just pop in. We
won't buy anything.

CHANDLER
That's how they get you.

She gives him a quick kiss. Heads to the bathroom, leaving the rest of the protein bar on the bed.

He picks it up. Scoffs. Takes a bite. Smiles.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
Hey, this isn't half bad!
(to himself)
Not bad at all.

He quickly devours the rest of it.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Bonnie wakes up to Chandler jumping on the bed in excitement.

CHANDLER
Today's the party. Wake up!

BONNIE
What? What party?

CHANDLER
The party. Man, I have so much energy, I can barely contain myself!

BONNIE
But, why?

CHANDLER
That bar and...

He holds his arm up to show the patch he now has on as he continues to jump.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
(presentation noise)
Dun ta da dun!

BONNIE
You put it on.

CHANDLER
Well, the bar worked great, so why not?

BONNIE
What's in those things, pure caffeine?

CHANDLER
Can't be, I slept like a baby.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)	
A very tired baby.	BONNIE A very tired baby.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
Exactly! Whatever it is, I need
more!

BONNIE
You're acting weird. I don't know
if I want to go to this party.

CHANDLER
Are you kidding me, it's going to
be amazing!

BONNIE
I'm suddenly not feeling too good.

CHANDLER
You probably just need a little
protein, that's all! Once we get
over there--

BONNIE
You said we weren't going to buy
anything.

CHANDLER
If it makes me feel this great,
hell, I'll buy the whole lot!

He runs off.

BONNIE
Chandler!

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Shery, Kate, and Tate open the door to Bonnie and Chandler standing outside.

NEIGHBORS (IN UNISON)
The Fides!

CHANDLER
That's us!

BONNIE
(strained)
Hi.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The neighbors take their coats as they push them through.

SHERY
Come in, come in!

KATE
Yay!

TATE
(to Chandler)
Well, don't you look well rested?

CHANDLER
I feel amazing! Hey, you got any
more of those bars?

SHERY
I think we might have a few laying
around.

The neighbors laugh. Shery moves away, revealing stacks of products that say, "Petite Complete". They seem to be everywhere.

Chandler takes one. Breaks it open.

BONNIE
Chandler?

CHANDLER
(chews on a bar)
Not now, Honey.

SHERY
They're so good for you. Have
another!

KATE
Have as many as you want.

TATE
Bonnie, care to indulge?

SHERY
It's not a party without "Petite
Complete"!

BONNIE
(unenthusiastically)
Sure.

SHERY

Eat up--

TATE

Before your husband eats them all!

KATE

He really likes them!

She slowly takes a bite. They cheer. She spits it out into a plant when they turn away.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bonnie watches as Shery, Kate, Tate, and Chandler play Twister. It's awkward and grotesquely intimate.

CHANDLER

I haven't played this game since I was in elementary school!

SHERY

Isn't this fun?

KATE

So much fun!

TATE

Really great!

SHERY

Bar break!

They all chow down on protein bars. Gorge on them.

CHANDLER

I just love these things!

SHERY

We told you...

KATE

They're the best!

TATE

Simply the best!

Bonnie slips out of the house away from the madness.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Bonnie lights a cigarette. Deeply inhales as she watches them through the window. They are back at Twister. She cringes.

A distinct humming distracts her. She follows it to another window. Looks in.

Her cigarette falls out of her mouth as she stares into the room at several babies who are attached to tubes that are pulling their liquid into a vat that reads "Petite Complete".

Bars and patches are stacked up around them.

She backs away in horror, running into Shery, Kate, and Tate who have a maniacal look in their eyes.

SHERY

We found your bar in the plant.

TATE

You shouldn't have done that.

KATE

Naughty. Naughty.

BONNIE

There... there are babies in there.

SHERY

What do you think our secret ingredient is?

KATE

They make you feel so young, don't they?

TATE

They never appreciate the energy they have anyway.

SHERY

Join us.

They surround her, a patch out, protein bar ready.

BONNIE

(backs away)

Who are you people?

SHERY

We're your neighbors.

They slap a patch on her. Force the bar down her throat as she struggles.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Shery, Kate, Tate, Chandler, and Bonnie speed walk, all dressed in gaudy spandex, patches on, stupid grins spread across their faces as they jabber to one another, circling the cul-de-sac.

SHERY
I feel amazing!

TATE
(overlapping)
Never felt better!

CHANDLER
(overlapping)
Never felt better!

KATE
(overlapping)
I'm on top of the world!

BONNIE
(overlapping)
I'm on top of the world!

They look over at a couple moving their things in.

SHERY (CONT'D)
Look, new neighbors!

They all wave. The couple wave hesitantly.

KATE
I just love new neighbors, don't you?

CHANDLER
So exciting!

BONNIE
Super fun!

They speed walk towards them.

THE END