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Shelter in the Rocky Mountains

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(excerpt in English)

Friendship: The first celebration and the last refuge
A Breviary of Dawn, by Rafael Argullol

In friendship, on the other hand, there is nothing feigned, nothing simulated, and what exists, whatever it may be, is authentic and voluntary. That is why I find preferable the idea that friendship arises from nature, rather than from a lack, from the involvement of the spirit with a feeling of love, rather than from a reflection on how much benefit it will provide.

On Friendship, Cicero
For Blanca, Nuria, and Gloria.

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Characters

Gina McCallahan - Thirty-nine years old. Dyed blonde. She was blonde as a child. Slender, well-proportioned. Bold, cheeky, sometimes vulgar. She works as a salesperson for renewable energy, specializing mainly in solar panels. She drinks a lot, she's hooked on the gym. Besides being hooked on the gym, beer, and wine, she's also hooked on having a boyfriend. She can't stand being alone. Of the three, she seems to be the one most grounded in reality. Gina has asked her boss for the cabin to celebrate Diane's birthday.

Amy Woodridge - Thirty-nine years old. Dark brown hair. Tall. About ten or fifteen kilos overweight, a fact which is disguised by her large build. Strong, solid, active, decisive, sometimes impulsive. A frustrated writer who ended up working in the tabloids. She's never found the perfect girlfriend. She always falls for unattainable or straight people. Many years ago, Diane was the love of her life. Amy has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. When she has a crisis, everyone rallies around her.

Diane Sanders – Brunette, very thin, average height, black eyes. She retains a certain innocence, has a strong romantic bent, and a sad and melancholic view of life. She works at a music production company and writes songs that she never shows to anyone. Very cultured. She always gets involved with guys who are experts in some cultural subject and unbearably egocentric. A few years ago, she was off work for over a year due to severe depression. She's turning 40. She's chosen a secluded cabin in the Rockies to celebrate her birthday because she wouldn't have been able to handle a big party.

John Travis II – Gina's latest boyfriend. He's not yet thirty. Attractive, with a well-maintained physique. He exudes an air of informality and naiveté, while also arousing a certain unease.

Preface

(Sound of very strong wind. We gradually see the interior of a dilapidated cabin, presided over by a deer with dried bloodstains on its fur. Gina sits beside a half-open door, holding a pair of men's underwear. On the threshold, she smells it, clutches it to her chest, and laughs knowingly.)

GINA

(To someone we can't see) See how big my mouth is? That's because God, our Lord, designed it especially to receive a cock. *(Giggles)* Look. Can you see it? Look closely. Do you see this deep, curved cavity in the soft palate?

(Amy and Diane's voices are heard arguing outside.)

GINA

This is the first stop. I receive it here, it settles here for a moment to warm up, it bounces here a little *(she makes an onomatopoeic sound as if a penis were actually bouncing off her palate)* hmm... Then I push it in a little further. Feeling it so deep inside is incredible. Then, everything explodes like Midsummer's Eve: magic!

(Giggles) And I swallow it all. All of it. *(Giggles)*

(Diane and Amy burst in. Gina sees them enter, doesn't know where to put her underwear, and gestures to the doorway as if signaling for silence. She ends up putting them under her skirt, over her own panties.)

1.

(Amy and Diane argue. They look at the deer and the rest of the cabin. They put their suitcases, guitar, and bags down on the floor.)

DIANE

You shouldn't have listened to me, you know I always get it wrong.

AMY

And what do you want me to do? Ignore you?

DIANE

We had to leave the car at a distance of more than 2km away because Miss Amy Wooddrige couldn't come up with a better idea than to follow my directions...

GINA

Did the wind of the Rockies affect you along those 2km?

AMY

When I listen to her, why I listen to her, when I don't listen to her, why I don't listen to her...

DIANE

Gina, who has the worst sense of orientation in the world?

AMY

But after that I didn't follow your instructions...

DIANE

Exactly! When you should have listened to me, you didn't...

AMY

Wait a moment, wait a moment...

DIANE

She's got it into her head that we could drive through a huge mountain of snow, like three times the height of the Yeti, and instead of listening to me, stopping the Mini and reversing...

AMY

And on top of everything, I'm taking her into account. Take this side road, the main one is flooded with snow! No, no, better yet, turn right and reverse... No, no, better yet...

DIANE

And of course, head-on collision, like always, Amy, head-on collision!

GINA

Hellooooo, how are you? How are you? Good, and you, Gina?

AMY

How do you expect us to be?

DIANE

Everything's going to be bad, we've already gotten off to a terrible start...

AMY

...My head feels like it's going to explode... It's been like this the whole trip..

DIANE

(Looking again at the cabin and the stuffed animals) This looks awful, Gina. And this horrible wind all the time... (She makes a gesture as if it were hitting her head and accompanies it with an onomatopoeia)

GINA

Ugh, do you know what they say about the wind in the Rockies?

AMY AND DIANE

The wind in the Rockies?

GINA

Chinook, the wind in the Rockies disturbs spirits and cuts your boobs!

AMY AND DIANE

Ooh... Ooh... (Laughter) ...Whoa!

DIANE

Ooh... Chinook...

GINA

Chinook, it's Native American, from the Chinook Indians of the Rockies...

DIANE

We shouldn't have come, first the snow, then the car, now the wind... And this... Shack... So dirty... I want to go back...

AMY

It's been like this the whole time.

GINA

But you're the one who insisted on coming here to celebrate your birthday.

AMY

Remember, I wanted to throw you a surprise party.

GINA

Yeah, but you told her.

AMY

What if she doesn't like it?

DIANE

It would have been a disaster. I barely have any friends.

GINA

True.

AMY

I should have rented a small place. It would have looked more crowded.

GINA

A phone booth would have been enough.

AMY

Henry, Julia, you, me, and her.

DIANE

Let's go back. I don't like any of this.

GINA

Do you want a beer?

AMY

I don't know what's wrong with her. She usually cries for ten minutes and then stops, but she's been whining ever since we got in the taxi to go to the airport.

DIANE

You never understand anything. Sadness is part of life; we have to accept it, process it, and digest it...

GINA

You shouldn't have given up chocolate.

DIANE

It gave me acne.

AMY

Acne?

GINA

Or sugar. It's not the right time.

DIANE
I'm leaving.

AMY
Have you ever wondered why everything goes wrong for you?

GINA
(Burps) Are you jinxed, Diane?

AMY
Because you always complicate your life before anything even happens.

DIANE
Where did you put your car keys?

AMY
Oh, I can't go to the movies because the cat fell from the seventh floor, and I had to take her to the emergency vet.

GINA
Diane, the cat isn't yours; it belongs to your neighbor.

AMY
Oh, I can't go on vacation because I swapped it with a colleague who needs it for an operation.

GINA
Diane, it wasn't a surgical operation, it was a banking transaction that can be done online.

DIANE
Give me the car keys.

AMY
Where's that beer, Gina?

DIANE
(Empty beer cans are scattered all over the floor) Are you blind? She drank them all...

GINA
Oh, no... Here, I bought a whole shipment of cases, so don't worry about it, Diane.

AMY
It's kind of slobby... this bunkhouse, Gina.

(Amy takes a pillbox out of her bag and takes a sip of beer while swallowing a couple of pills.)

DIANE

Do you think that's healthy?

AMY

How could I have ever been in love with you?

DIANE

At least I don't swallow everything.

GINA

It depends on what it is; it's good, it cleanses and leaves your skin like a five-month-old baby's.

DIANE

Her boss humiliates her in front of everyone, and she goes and... Do you remember that day he embarrassed her in front of the whole newsroom?

GINA

Yes, we cried together during an episode of Heidi.

AMY

The one with the bread rolls in the cupboard.

DIANE

Well, she gave him a bottle of liquor from her hometown.

GINA

From Oklahoma, girl? I always ask you for one and you never get me one, damn it, girl!

AMY

People should always be given a second chance. Violence is best met with generosity.

DIANE

A suck-up, Amy, you're a suck-up, period.

GINA

You do seem a bit of a suck-up, huh?

DIANE

If he makes your life miserable, he's a bastard, plain and simple.

AMY

It's not that easy.

DIANE

What you need to do is quit this shitty magazine and write your own novel.

GINA

Even if it's a romance, they have their audience. Single women with cats and fags with tiny dogs devour them.

DIANE

Because then you call us all worked up.

GINA

And I'm not going to watch all fourteen seasons of Little House on the Prairie again.

DIANE

And remembering that Michael Landon is dead makes me feel awful...

AMY

What about you? You're always whining. The car skids a little, a gust of wind picks up, and you're already complaining like a bitch. What did you expect? We're in the Rockies, Diane!!