

Start here.

~~9:55 pm sharp~~

10:00 pm sharp, they said. Didn't fuss around with military time, I noticed. Not ~~2:00~~ twenty-two hundred, 10:00pm. Unusual.

It's 9:55 pm ~~now~~ now. I do my job well, never miss a beat.

Clear night. No clouds, a bright starry sky. Perfect. No clouds means no rain, and I need ~~it~~ to hear clearly. Shame about the ~~traffic~~ traffic down below, but if I concentrate I can block it out. ~~I know~~ I know I can hear the TV blasting ~~it~~ from the apartment next to mine - well, it's not my apartment, ~~it~~ ~~is~~ now is it? It's just where I've been stationed. ~~There's no furniture~~ I believe it's an empty flat; ~~there's~~ there's no furniture inside, but a big wide window that looks out ~~it~~ across the neighboring flats. I haven't explored the room, I'm not allowed to turn the lights on. We can't let the neighbors wonder what someone ~~is~~ is doing in a vacant apartment this time of night, now can we?

I ~~can~~ would wonder how ~~my~~ my... employees got ahold of the spare key ~~but~~ but in this business, wondering gets you into trouble. Just shut up, don't ask questions and do what you're told. ~~Thinking about~~

Christ; I need a smoke.

~~I~~ I'm not stupid enough to light one, though. ~~It's~~  
~~how much a little light can~~ Even a little light could blow  
my cover.

Take for instance, this idiot I'm supposed to be keeping  
an eye on. His window is just across from mine, I have a  
near perfect view of him. His light is on. Possibly he  
thinks he's avoiding suspicion by keeping it on, or perhaps  
he's not as used to dwelling in the dark as I am. Every  
now and then he gets up and paces by the window,  
shooting what he thinks are ~~the~~ subtle ~~glances~~  
at the apartment next door to mine. He does this every two  
minutes before sitting down and pretending to read something.

I can't see into the apartment next door, but I can  
hear ~~the~~ ~~every~~ everything going on inside. There's a woman in  
~~the~~ ~~there~~ there, she stubbed her toe 3.05 minutes ago  
on something and cried out "Jesus fuck!", ~~it~~ alerting me  
of her gender. Judging from the heaviness of her footsteps she's  
probably of a heavy build. I can hear American Idol playing on  
the TV but I know she isn't watching it; I can hear her  
walking up and down the apartment, busying herself with something

Oh! There he goes again! ~~He's~~ The man in the  
window across, he's making another round pass the window, another  
~~the~~ "subtle" glance at my neighbor. I wave at him in the

Additional writing space on back page.

~~in~~ darkness, confident he cannot see ~~near~~ me. As I thought, I am ignored as he takes one last ~~at~~ look at my neighbour before sitting down again.

I must give credit to whoever positioned me here - I don't ask names. It really is ingenious. ~~Here I have a perfect view of the idiot I'm supposed to be spying on, whilst at the same time I have an a~~

I have two advantages ~~or~~ over the idiot in the other window: not only ~~and~~ can I see him near perfectly, I ~~can~~ also have the advantage of being the woman he's supposed to be watching.

I check my watch, 9:59 pm.

I'm told I won't need to see what she's doing, I just need to hear. I wonder if the idiot in the window can hear her. I don't see how.

I don't know what I'm supposed to be listening for. I wonder if he knows what he's supposed to be looking for.

Next door the telephone ~~is~~ rings. I check my watch; 10:00 pm. Looks like it's show time.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.

Start here.

Through the wall I hear a polite, "Hello."

Across the window I see him turn his head towards ~~the~~ her window sharply. All pretense of subtlety is gone.

Keeping my eyes fixed on him, and my ears fixed on her, I ~~pr~~ take my notepad and begin to record.

Date 28/10/56

Time: 10:00pm (22:00)

\*"Speaking"\*

- Yes, this is Leanne Draper.
- Yes, I'm Brad's mother.
- Look, ~~we~~ who am I speaking to? Slow down.
- Of the Police Department? ~~that~~
- What?
- Arrested?
- What for?
- Yes I
- But look can I
- Stop! Stop!
- Look, ~~we~~ please, just tell me what he's done

~~What do you~~

- Confidential information? What the hell is that supposed to mean?

- But I'm his mother!

- Why can't you tell me anything?

~~Can~~ - Can I come down and see him?

- 48 hours!

- What do you mean, I don't understand

- He's only fifteen, he's a ~~minor~~ minor, I need to be there!

- ok

- ok, so who do I call?

- ok, ok thanks. Bye.

As soon as she hangs up I see ~~the~~ the ~~man~~  
~~spy~~ ~~or~~ ~~perhaps~~ man across the window pick up his phone and  
dial someone. I cannot hear him but his mouth is moving  
rapidly. I wonder who he is, who he works for,  
Curiosity killed the cat, didn't it? It's safe to wonder when  
you sit there in the darkness, ~~when~~ when its confined to  
~~the~~ the walls of your own mind. ~~But~~ But its dangerous to  
take it any further, and so I won't.

All I know is that he is as accidentally here as I am.

I hear some scuffling next door, it alerts me to  
my task. I write "Phonecall No. ~~X~~1" on the top of my report.

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Across the ~~street~~ window the man has hung up the phone and is doing another pace past the ~~into~~ window. I smile. In the corner of my notebook I have started a tally of the number of times he's walked past, throwing shifty glances at the woman in the flat beside me and never once giving me any sign of recognition.

HHH III

Eight times I have remained invisible. I do my job well.

~~Though~~ Though I'm still desperate for that cigarette.

I brace my pen on ~~the~~ my notepad, waiting for the woman next door to make her phonecall. ~~It~~ &

10:11 pm according to my watch. She's hesitating.

I wonder what has happened to ~~the~~ her son, and what concern her stress is to my employers. I wonder why a man was stationed across to ~~watch~~ watch and be watched. But mostly I wonder why I am here, and whether I'm ever going to come out of this darkness I've hidden so long in.

But wandering is dangerous. So I keep my eyes and ears open and block out everything else.

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