SIDE BY SIDE

written by

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INT. HALLWAY – DAY

Two apartment doors, next to one another.

INT. MARY'S APARTMENT – DAY

MARY (60s) sits in a chair by the window, reading a book.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT – DAY

JIM (60s) flips through a newspaper at his dining table.

Mary and Jim live alone in adjacent apartments, with one wall separating them.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MARY AND JIM

Mary puts her book away and moves to her kitchen.

Jim hears her footsteps through their shared wall.

Mary turns on her stove.

Jim prepares a kettle of tea.

Mary makes herself a grilled cheese sandwich.

Jim hears the sizzling of Mary's frying pan.

Mary hears Jim's tea kettle whistling.

Jim pours his tea.

Mary sets a place at her dining table.

Jim takes a meal out of his fridge and sits at his table.

Jim and Mary eat at the same time, almost facing one another through their shared wall.

NIGHT

Jim lays in his bed, snoring. There is room in his bed for another person.

Mary lays in her bed, listening to Jim snoring. She occupies the corresponding space in her bed that is empty in Jim's.

ANOTHER DAY

Jim puts on a record. Music plays.

Mary, watering her plants, hears the music through the wall.

Jim and Mary dance alone, each wrapping their arms around an invisible partner.

INT. HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUS

The music echoes through the hall.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jim packs a suitcase.

INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - ANOTHER DAY

Mary is knitting in her chair. There are no sounds coming through the wall today.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Mary leaves her apartment and walks to the apartment next door. She knocks on the door. There is no response.

TIME LAPSE

Over the next several days, Mary knocks on her neighbor's door, receiving no response.

INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - ANOTHER DAY

Mary fills out a crossword in her chair. She hears footsteps from next door.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Mary exits her apartment, and catches Jim carrying his suitcase through his apartment door. They make eye contact.

THE END