

CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPE

by

Laura Black

© Lulu Pix, Inc.
9903 Santa Monica Blvd. #272
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
323-449-9609
Lulupixinfo@gmail.com

EXT. HARMONY INN - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Old world, quaint, country inn. Decked out for the holidays. Light spattering of snow.

An SUV pulls up and stops. The DRIVER, Gloria and Mark exit. The driver goes to the trunk to get their bags.

Bursting through the front door of the Inn are JOHN and EUNICE FREED (60s) - John, bubbly and gregarious, Eunice, practical and soft spoken - proprietors of the establishment. They hustle down the stairs.

EUNICE

You must be Gloria and Mark. I'm
Eunice Freed and this is my husband
John. We own and run this place.

Mark and Gloria shake hands with Eunice and John.

JOHN

Simon called to let us know your
arrival time. We're so excited to
have you here.

GLORIA

Has Simon arrived?

EUNICE

He's running a little behind. He
asked us to get you settled.

Eunice leads Gloria and Mark up the stairs to the porch. Mark carries one of the bags. The driver and John, the others.

INT. HARMONY INN - FOYER - DAY

Mark and Gloria follow Eunice as she shows them around. They continue into...

INT. HARMONY INN - DINING/SITTING ROOM - DAY

A grand stone fireplace adorns one wall. A Christmas tree, fully decorated sits next to the fireplace. Dining tables and chairs scattered about along with some overstuffed armchairs in the corners. The room is decorated to the nines for Christmas.

GLORIA

This is sweet, Eunice.

EUNICE
Thank you, Gloria.

John joins them.

JOHN
We love it here.

EUNICE
I'll show you to your room, Gloria.
John, will you take Mark?

INT. HARMONY INN - GLORIA'S ROOM - DAY

Eunice brings out the luggage rack. Places Gloria's suitcase on top.

EUNICE
The powder room is through there.
There's extra blankets in the
closet if you need. I do hope you
enjoy your stay.

GLORIA
I'm sure I will. Thank you, Eunice.

INT. HARMONY INN - MARK'S ROOM - DAY

John gives Mark the lowdown.

JOHN
Your bathroom is just there.
Blankets and such in there.

MARK
Thanks, John.

JOHN
My pleasure. Hope you save some
time for fun. There's something for
everybody here.

John smiles and exits.

INT. HARMONY INN - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eunice and John link arms and move to the stairs.

JOHN

Such attractive, nice, young people. I sense amour. What do you think?

EUNICE

I think they are coworkers who are here to do their work.

JOHN

Whatever you say.

Eunice gives him a poke.

INT. HARMONY INN - GLORIA'S ROOM - DAY

Gloria opens her bag. Removes her laptop, sits at the desk, pulls up her presentation and studies it.

INT. HARMONY INN - MARK'S ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Mark takes off his shoes, pulls down the comforter and lies on the bed. He closes his eyes and does some deep breathing.

INT. HARMONY INN - DINING/SITTING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Gloria walks around. Takes in the nooks and crannies. Comes upon an ornate archway above a door randomly tucked in a corner and seemingly going nowhere.

GLORIA

Weird.

JOHN (O.S.)

That's a special spot.

Gloria turns around.

GLORIA

Oh? It just seems so random.

JOHN

It is and it isn't. There's a story about that very spot that --

Mark, carrying his laptop hurries up to Gloria.

MARK

Simon's on the line.

JOHN
More on that later.

John leaves. Mark and Gloria head to one of the tables and sit.

SIMON
How are you settling in?

GLORIA
Great, Simon.

MARK
It's so charming, boss.

SIMON
I'm going to have to meet you at the conference in the morning. Something came up that I need to deal with and I can't get out of here tonight.

MARK
Is there anything we can do to help?

SIMON
No, no, no. It's a private matter. Sorry I won't be there to go over your presentations with you. But we'll regroup at the conference.

GLORIA
Okay, Simon. Take care.

Simon signs off. Mark closes his laptop, nods, and leaves.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Bye to you, too.

EXT. HARMONY INN - DAY

Snow flurries. Trees. Windy lanes. Gloria strolls along one of the lanes. SEES someone bent over collecting pine cones, cane at her feet. It's HILDY MARTIN (80s), Eunice's mom. Hildy straightens up, cane in hand.

HILDY
Well, hi there! You're Gloria!

GLORIA
(a little taken aback)
Well, yes I am. How did you -- ?

HILDY
I'm Hildy. Eunice's mom.

GLORIA
Oh. Pleased to meet you.

HILDY
How long have you and that lovely
Mark been a couple?

GLORIA
(practically falls over)
A couple? No, no, no. He's my
coworker. And my rival for the
biggest campaign at our Agency! No
way we are or ever will be a
couple!

HILDY
(raises an eyebrow)
Are you sure?

EXT. HARMONY INN - DAY

Another outside area. Equally bewitching. Mark wanders about.
Spots FRANK GRANGER (40s), the caretaker, removing some
branches from the walkway.

FRANK
Well, hello Mark!

MARK
Hi. Do I know you?

FRANK
Oh, you'll have to forgive us
around here. Word travels fast when
we get new guests. Frank's the
name. I'm the caretaker of the
Harmony. Been here since I was
sixteen.

MARK
Sixteen? Wow.

FRANK
Yep. Always been my home. Oh,
pretty near always.
(deep sigh)
Don't know what I'll do if they
have to close the place.