

Synopsis

When Marcus befriends a lonely young woman who spends her nights in the hallway of his apartment building, their conversations grow increasingly unsettling. As strange clues and disturbing memories surface, he uncovers a horrifying truth. A dark drama.

The Girl in Apartment 3b

Written by Tanya Reddin

© Copyright Mille & Mai 2026

Characters

EVA – A young woman, early twenties. Intelligent, withdrawn, carrying an invisible sadness.

MARCUS – A man in his late twenties. Lives alone in an apartment building.

LANDLADY – A woman in her sixties.

Eight scenes in a short play. Each scene is a different day or time of the characters meeting in the hallway. The hallway continues to get darker and darker until scene 6.

Scene One

A dim apartment hallway. Night.

MARCUS enters carrying groceries. He notices EVA sitting on the floor opposite.

MARCUS

You okay?

EVA

(Startled)

Sorry.

MARCUS

Didn't mean to scare you.

EVA

Most people don't see me sitting here.

(A strange answer. MARCUS laughs awkwardly.)

MARCUS

Well... I do.

(A pause.)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Locked out?

EVA

No.

MARCUS

Waiting for someone?

EVA

Maybe.

(Silence.)

MARCUS

Which apartment?

EVA

Three-B.

(MARCUS nods.)

MARCUS

I'm Marcus. Three-A.

EVA

I'm Eva.

(Blackout.)

Scene Two

Marcus walks down the hallway. Several nights later.

EVA sits in the same spot.

MARCUS

You know, normal neighbours eventually go inside.

EVA

Maybe I'm not normal.

MARCUS

That much I've figured out.

(She smiles faintly.)

EVA

What do you do when you can't sleep?

MARCUS

Watch terrible documentaries.

EVA

About what?

MARCUS

Serial killers. Cults. Ghosts.

EVA

Ghosts?

MARCUS

They're comforting.

EVA

Why?

MARCUS

Because if ghosts exist, death isn't really the end.

EVA

Maybe.

(A long silence.)

MARCUS

You ever think about....dying?

EVA

Every day.

MARCUS

That's... a concerning answer.

EVA

Everyone dies Marcus.

MARCUS

Not everyone thinks about it every day.

EVA

Some people get stuck there.

MARCUS

Where?

EVA

The moment before death.

(Blackout.)

Scene Three

A week later. A storm is outside.

MARCUS enters. EVA is standing this time.

MARCUS

You disappeared for two days.

EVA

Did you miss me?

MARCUS

Maybe.

(A small smile.)

EVA

That's dangerous.

MARCUS

Why?

EVA

Getting attached to things that don't stay.

(A loud bang somewhere in the building. MARCUS jumps.)

MARCUS

Jesus.

EVA

I heard that sound before.

MARCUS

What sound?

EVA

The one people make when they're afraid.

MARCUS

That's not a sound.

EVA

It is.

(She stares into the darkness beyond the hallway.)

EVA (CONT'D)

Sometimes it's the last sound they make.

(MARCUS shifts uneasily.)

MARCUS

You always talk like that?

EVA

Like what?

MARCUS

Like you're remembering something terrible.?

(Blackout.)

Scene Four

Later that night.

MARCUS enters and sits beside EVA.

MARCUS

Tell me something about yourself.

EVA

Why?

MARCUS

Because I know literally nothing about you.

(A pause.)

EVA

I liked thunderstorms.

MARCUS

Liked?

EVA

Still like.

MARCUS

What else?

EVA

I wanted to be a photographer.

MARCUS

Wanted?

EVA

You're very focused on my grammar.

MARCUS

You keep talking in the past tense.

(She looks away.)

EVA

Do you ever feel a room change when someone walks in?

MARCUS

Sure.

EVA

I feel that all the time.

MARCUS

You mean intuition?

EVA

No.

EVA

I mean dead people.

MARCUS

Funny.

EVA

I wasn't joking.

(Blackout.)

Scene Five

The hallway. Much darker than before.

MARCUS

I've been thinking.

EVA

That's never good.

MARCUS

I realised something.

EVA

What?

MARCUS

I've never actually seen you go into your apartment.

(Silence.)

MARCUS

Or leave.

EVA

Maybe your timing's bad.

MARCUS

Maybe.

(A long pause.)

MARCUS

The mailbox for Three-B is full.

(EVA says nothing.)

Who lives there?

EVA

Nobody.

MARCUS

Then why are you always here?

(EVA looks genuinely frightened for the first time.)

EVA

Please stop asking.

MARCUS

Eva...

EVA

Please.

(Blackout.)

Scene Six

The hallway is dark. MARCUS enters with a flashlight.

MARCUS

Eva?

(No answer.)

MARCUS

Eva?

(The beam finds her standing beside Apartment 3B. She appears somehow paler than before.)

MARCUS

You're scaring me.

EVA

Good.

MARCUS

What?

EVA

You should be scared.

MARCUS

Of what?

(She looks at the apartment door.)

EVA

Of remembering.

MARCUS

Remembering what?

(Silence.)

EVA

I keep trying not to.

MARCUS

Not to what?

EVA

Die.

MARCUS

Eva...

EVA

Every night it comes back.

MARCUS

What does?

EVA

The sound.

(She touches her throat.)

The pain.

The falling.

(MARCUS takes a step backward.)

Scene Seven

Morning. For the first time, daylight fills the hallway.

MARCUS stands with the LANDLADY.

LANDLADY

Three-B you say?

MARCUS

Yeah.

LANDLADY

Been empty for years.

MARCUS

No. There's a girl...

LANDLADY

No girl's lived there since Eva Walker.

(MARCUS freezes.)

MARCUS

Eva?

LANDLADY

Twenty-three years old.

(Silence.)

Poor thing.

MARCUS

What happened?

LANDLADY

Fell down the central stairwell.

(pause.)

Middle of the night.

(MARCUS stares at the door.)

LANDLADY

Nobody found her until morning.

MARCUS

No.

LANDLADY

You alright?

(MARCUS slowly backs away.)

MARCUS

That's impossible.

LANDLADY

Why?

MARCUS

Because I've been talking to her.

(The LANDLADY's expression changes.)

LANDLADY

Talking to who?

(MARCUS points to Apartment 3B.)

Scene Eight

Night.

The hallway again.

Silent.

MARCUS enters cautiously.

MARCUS

Eva?

(Nothing.)

MARCUS

Eva!

(A faint voice answers from the darkness.)

EVA

Marcus.

(He turns. She stands at the far end of the corridor.)

MARCUS

Are you Eva Walker?

(She smiles sadly.)

EVA

Yes I am.

MARCUS

No.

EVA

Every night I wake up here.

MARCUS

You're dead.

(She nods.)

EVA

Yes.

(Silence.)

MARCUS

Why do you stay?

EVA

I stay because nobody remembers me.

(For the first time the audience sees it. Blood staining the back of her dress.)

(MARCUS can barely breathe.)

EVA

I really liked talking to you.

(A pause.)

MARCUS

What happens now?

(EVA looks toward the stairwell.)

EVA

I don't know.

(She smiles one last time.)

Maybe now someone remembers.

(The lights abruptly go out.)

BLACKOUT.

END