

The Apartment Sitter

By Greg Urbaitis

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The Apartment Sitter

CAST

AUGGIE – Male, mid 20's to mid 30's

JEFF – Male, mid 20's to mid 30's

TIA - Female, mid 20's to mid 30's

MARIA – TIA'S friend, female, mid 20's to mid 30's

GARRIGATO – A housecat of unknown age (a stuffed cat will work)

MUSIC: Different Christmas songs play between each scene

ACT I SCENE 1

Set in AUGGIE'S non-descript one-bedroom apartment where JEFF has gone to get instructions on taking care of the cat while AUGGIE is away.

It's the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve and JEFF is the only one AUGGIE knows who will be around to do it.

JEFF knocks on the door and AUGGIE gets up to let him in.

AUGGIE: Hey! How you doing! Come on in!

JEFF enters the room.

AUGGIE: Thanks for doing this. I didn't know I had to go away till the last minute. And everyone else is away for the holidays. I figured you'd be around, what with all that's been going on.

JEFF: No problem. Hell, it gives me a reason to get out of the house.

AUGGIE is moving around the apartment, going through things, packing, straightening up.

AUGGIE: Yea. Sorry man. Shitty time for crap to happen.

JEFF: When did you get a cat anyway?

AUGGIE: Oh, I got him from a friend. No one you know.

JEFF: Who?

AUGGIE: Just someone I work with. They couldn't get anyone to watch him over the holidays, so I said I would. And hey – I really appreciate you doing this, especially since I know you don't like cats.

JEFF: Who said I didn't like cats?

AUGGIE continues packing.

AUGGIE: I thought you did? Didn't you tell me Tia has a cat but you've never seen him?

JEFF: Yea, but that's only because she likes hanging out at my place because of Maria, her roommate. Anyway I really don't want to talk about her right now.

AUGGIE stops. He turns to look at JEFF.

AUGGIE: Sorry.

AUGGIE finishes packing and zips up his suitcase. JEFF just stands there.

AUGGIE: Anyway, there are cans of cat food on the counter. His bowl is on the floor. I would've just gotten one of those automatic feeders, but they're only for dry food, and he's kinda spoiled. He expects wet every day.

AUGGIE grabs his coat and pops the handle of his roll-away suitcase. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a set of keys.

AUGGIE: Anyway here are the keys. Anytime that works for you is fine, though he's used to the morning. But whatever.

AUGGIE looks around for the cat.

AUGGIE: Garrigato! Garrigato!

The cat doesn't respond.

AUGGIE: Stupid cat.

AUGGIE zips up his coat.

AUGGIE: Anyway, he's around here somewhere. Thanks again. Wish I had time to chat. I thought you'd be at the Christmas party but ...

AUGGIE looks at his watch.

AUGGIE: Anyway, I gotta go.

AUGGIE hands JEFF the keys.

AUGGIE: There's probably still beer and food in the fridge if you want some. Shit. I gotta run. Hang out as long as you want. I'll text you when I'm on my way back.

AUGGIE grabs his suitcase and heads out the door, shutting it behind him.

Alone now, JEFF looks around for the cat but doesn't see him. His cell phone rings and he answers it.

JEFF: Don't trust me already?

JEFF listens and walks over to the kitchen.

JEFF: Yes. You left him food today.

JEFF listens.

JEFF: I said it was okay. Do what you gotta do and I'll talk to you later.

JEFF ends the call and is about to put his phone back in his pocket when it rings again.

JEFF: Hello? Oh yea, sorry, be right there.

JEFF puts his phone away, makes sure he has the keys, and leaves.

ACT I SCENE 2

JEFF enters the apartment to feed the cat.

JEFF: Garrigato! Garrigato!

JEFF looks around, but doesn't see the cat. He opens a can of food and puts it out.

JEFF: Garrigato?

JEFF waits.

JEFF: No? Fine. Screw you.

JEFF leaves.

ACT I SCENE 3

JEFF enters the apartment to feed the cat.

JEFF: Garrigato!

JEFF walks over to the cat's dish.

JEFF: (Shouting) There's still food here Garrigato!

JEFF shakes his head and looks around.

JEFF: Garrigato! Stupid kitty! If I gotta come over here the least you can do is eat the food.
Garrigato!

JEFF walks into the main room looking for the cat.

JEFF: Garrigato!

JEFF is now in front of the desk. He looks up and sees a picture frame on the desk. He picks it up and looks at it.

JEFF: What the hell?

JEFF's phone rings. He answers it.

JEFF: Yea. Sorry. Running late. Be right there.

JEFF hangs up his phone.

JEFF: Man, I need a job where I'm not on call all the time.

JEFF puts down the picture and exits the apartment.

ACT I SCENE 4

JEFF enters the apartment and goes straight to the desk, where he picks up the picture.

JEFF: What the hell is going on between them?

JEFF sits down. He opens a desk drawer. There are more pictures. He bolts out of the chair.

JEFF: Why are there all these pictures of them together?

As JEFF looks and comments on each photo, he tosses it randomly.

JEFF: At Oktoberfest! In some bar! By a fire. Another one by a fire. *Another* one by an obviously *different* fire. What's this? Maybe top of Love Circle in the morning? Damn it!

After the last picture, JEFF sits down at the computer, looking closely at the screen.

JEFF: Let's see...Gmail...okay...what's this?

JEFF straighten ups, startled. He reads the email aloud.

JEFF: "That's so great you found a place for us! They allow cats, right? Cause I can't leave my baby. Anyway take care of him and when I get back for New Year's we can talk about our new year together. Love you. Tia."

JEFF sits for a moment, in shock.

JEFF: There's gotta be more. Let's see...What the..? (READING:) "Oh, JEFF? No. We're just friends. I know it seems like more because we hang out a lot – or used to. But like I told you I get along better with guy friends than girls. And I know you guys are friends. Sorry, but just cause we're friends doesn't means he owns me – like he thinks he does! And anyway, don't you like being my special friend more? Just take care of Gary and I'll see you when I get back. LOVE Tia.

JEFF straightens up from the computer.

JEFF: Gary – it's her cat! Oh, I get what Auggie did. Gary the Gato – Garrigato.

GARY'S phone rings. He goes to take it out.

JEFF: I told them to get someone else!

JEFF pulls out his phone. He sees it's TIA.

JEFF: Tia?

JEFF goes to the fridge and gets a beer.

JEFF: Oh, you're just seeing how my Christmas was? Gee, that's so nice of you.

JEFF opens the beer and takes a long pull, still listening on the phone.

JEFF: Did I get anything good? Well, as it turns out, yea, I did, well, I'm about to. A cat. I love cats. His name is Garrigato. It means "Gary the Cat" in Spanish, but when you say it it sounds Japanese. Garrigato!

JEFF takes another swig of his beer then continues.

JEFF: A friend of mine gave him to me. Seems some girl he's been sleeping with left it with him and he can't stand it, so said I could take him.

JEFF takes another swig of his beer.

JEFF: Hey – isn't *your* cat named Gary too? What a weird coincidence. I say we arrange a play date but, sadly, I think *my* Gary isn't gonna be around much longer. The Vet says he has to be put down. Anyway, I can't talk now, gotta cover for work. But you call me again sometime.