

SUPER SPREADER
L Cataluna

Carl stands stage right, in the hallway outside an apartment door. Jadine, wearing cute lounge sweats and casual-glam makeup, stands stage left on the other side of the door, inside the apartment. Their conversation is through the closed door. We see both sides.

Carl knocks. No response. Knocks again. Nothing. Tries a third time.

CARL

Hey, open up.

JADINE

What do you want?

CARL

It's me!

JADINE

I'm social distancing.

CARL

Jadine, it's me, Carl.

JADINE

Carl, it's me. Jadine. And I am social distancing. From you.

CARL

I thought we could social distance together.

JADINE

That's not how it works.

CARL

Come on, babe. I brought you stuff.

JADINE

What stuff?

CARL

Stuff from work. Toilet paper. Lysol wipes. Hand sanitizer.

JADINE

Jersey Mikes?

I can get you a sandwich.

CARL

Nah, I'll call delivery.

JADINE

I'll get you anything you want. Open up, Jadine.

CARL

Leave it by the door. I gotta wipe down the packages.

JADINE

Still? I thought we stopped doing that.

CARL

Yeah, but you touched it, so...

JADINE

I came to see if you're OK.

CARL

I'm fine.

JADINE

Thought you might be lonely.

CARL

Why would I be lonely?

JADINE

Can't go out. All alone and isolated.

CARL

I'm not alone. The kids are with me. And we have Netflix.

JADINE

Open the door, Jadine,

CARL

I'm not opening the door.

JADINE

CARL

Aw, babe, I want to see you. I'm so close. Right on the other side of the door. I'm close enough to touch you.

JADINE

Six feet back, faka!

CARL

OK, all right, if you open the door, I will stand six feet back.

JADINE

Six feet back from the door right now. I don't want you breathing on my peep hole.

CARL

Heh heh.

JADINE

You're so sick. Or better yet, go downstairs and call me from your car. Or better yet-yet, go to your car and drive away.

CARL

Why you being like this?

JADINE

I don't want the rona.

CARL

I don't have the rona.

JADINE

You don't know that.

CARL

Well if I do have the rona, you probably have it too. We were together last week.

JADINE

Early last week. Since then, you've been out and about. You've been exposed.

CARL

I always wear protection!

JADINE

I got a 10 month old asleep on the couch right now that proves that statement untrue.

CARL

I'm sorry I haven't been around! I've been working, Jadine! I'm essential! I can't help that I'm essential. Jadine, you know I'm essential.

JADINE

Not to me.

CARL

To the fight! To the hospital!

JADINE

You work in the parking ramp.

CARL

If I'm not there, it's pandamonium on the top floors!

JADINE

Pandamonium?

CARL

Yes!

JADINE

Is that like when pandas go crazy?

CARL

You know what I mean! If I'm not there, the doctors park all over the place!

JADINE

So what happens all the times when you're sleeping at home? Like you did all last week? You were home with your wife. And doing who-knows-what with her. And we both know she is not social distancing.

CARL

Jadine, you have no call to be jealous.

JADINE

You think she's sitting at home waiting on your ass while you're here with me? There's a reason why she don't mind when you stay the night. She's out corona-virusing with every hot pocket in town. She's a super-spreader, and I don't want her nasty germs coming to me though you.

CARL

Jadine, look. We're going through a world-wide health crisis here. It's a pandemic. That means...

JADINE

It affects pandas?

CARL

No! I said it wrong. You know what I mean. But I think it does affect pandas, too. What I'm saying is this is huge and scary and it's a time for us to hold the people we love close and take care of them and to seek shelter together.

Jadine...?

Jadine?

You still there?

Jadine...

JADINE

What, the spreader kicked you out?

CARL

I'm choosing to spend this time with you, Jadine. I'm choosing you.

JADINE

Oh, ooh, I get to be your lucky quarantine hook-up?

CARL

You're the one I want to shelter with. Spend the isolated hours with. Build dreams for the future with.

JADINE

Oh. You got laid off from your job too.

CARL

No!

JADINE
Yeah.

CARL
Yeah.

JADINE
You realize that you're completely transparent, right?

CARL
It's just that you know me so well.

JADINE
No, it's just that you're fucking obvious.

CARL
This isn't about me. I'm worried about you. Let me in. I'll take care of you.

JADINE
Biggest lie ever.

CARL
OK. Well, look, I won't get in your way.

JADINE
If I don't open the door, I can be 100-percent certain you won't get in my way.

CARL
I could help you around the house. Help you with whatever you need. I'm really good at helping.

JADINE
Carl, honestly, you are good at one thing and one thing only.

CARL
Thanks.

JADINE
And even then, you're not even close to the best.

CARL
Jadine, you're going to be bored. There's gonna be a lot of time you need to fill. I could help you fill it.

JADINE

Ha!

CARL

You can't catch it that way. Only upper respiratory. So no kissing.

JADINE

As usual.

CARL

Aw, girl. You know it's always good. Open the door. Come on. Let me see you. Just a little bit. Please, before I go. Then I'll go... forever. Please?

JADINE

You have a mask?

CARL

Yeah. Yeah. Here. I'll put it on... OK, it's on. Now open the door.

JADINE

I'm leaving on the chain.

She opens the door a little.

CARL

Hey.

JADINE

Sanitize your hands.

She grabs a bottle and squirts his palm.

Sanitize your face.

He rubs the hand sanitizer on his face.

Don't touch your face, dumbass!

He sticks his face under the sanitizer bottle. She squirts him again and he tries to use gravity to spread it around.

CARL

It got in my eye.

JADINE

Sucks, right? I'm gonna take your temperature.

She brings up a thermal scan thermometer. He leans his head forward. She checks. She motions for him to take down his pants. He does. She checks his temperature there.

JADINE

100 degrees. You have a fever

She closes the door on him

CARL

Ow! Stop! It's just excited to see you!

JADINE

Can't take that chance. I got people relying on me.

CARL

There is no such thing as dick fever!

JADINE

Oh, no, there is. I used to have it. But then I recovered. Two kids will fix that right up.

CARL

Can I just stay here, Jadine? I'll take a test and bring back my results.

JADINE

Yup. Well, I've heard that from you before, too... I herp you remember.

CARL

What if this is the end of the world? Would you leave me out here to die? Alone?

JADINE

Nah. I would leave you out there and in five minutes you'd stop waiting and think of some other chick you had a thing with in the last couple of years and go knock on her door and try to talk your way into sheltering in HER home.

CARL

I would not.

JADINE

Bye, Carl.

