

Room 715

I live in a building that once was a hotel. In 1922, it was promoted as the city's "newest and finest hotel, for individuals or small families who want the same service rendered by the finest hotels but intermingled with a home atmosphere that adds to the comfort of a long or short stay."

The elevator that takes me to the basement to do my laundry was a novelty that took guests to their garage without leaving the building.

My studio apartment doesn't look like a hotel room, but its size resembles one. My bed is comfortable,

I need more pillows, I can't sleep.

I can't sleep, I tell you. You close my eyes with your hand and say: sleep. For nights I can't. There is an Intercontinental in Bethlehem, I'll go there and try. Bethlehem? You ask. I ask you to follow me when you finish your work, you say yes.

After 90 minutes I arrive, the receptionist asks me if I'm with the medical conference, I'm not, I don't tell him that I'm here to sleep. In the room I sleep, I wake up, and you arrive.

From my apartment I see a hotel.

At night I see what's inside the rooms. The same man built both my building and the hotel.

I hope they don't notice me leaving my building. I cross the street and enter the hotel's golden door.

In the room, they have left me ear plugs so I don't hear the "sounds of the city." They have left me two complimentary bottles of water, and two \$5 bottles of water.

In the bathroom, there is a picture of a fish and a flower living in the same cup.

From the room, I see my apartment.

Room 2086

I open the hotel room door, a man is standing there, looking at me, surprised. I freeze, I apologize, I close the door. He comes to the door, he says: “ I was moving to another room, they must have thought that I’ve already left.” I say:” OK, take your time, I’ll be waiting in the hallway” He says: “There’s the cleaning lady, I’ll ask her to clean the room for you” Yes, right, I remember that I can’t move into the room immediately, the room doesn’t automatically get ready when a guest leaves.

I go back to the front desk, she apologizes, she gives me another room. In the elevator, I think of why the man wanted to change his room.

I enter the new room, I check every corner, no one is there.

I sit on the beige chair with the orange cushion, I try to forget the man in the room. I turn the TV on, a woman is working out, she is working out in my room. She supports her body with the beige chair to do a plank, she uses the orange cushion to work her legs muscles. She uses the big towel to work her arms muscles. She uses dumbbells, I look around, there are no dumbbells, she looks at me and says:” dial zero to get dumbbells from our front desk.”

A heat wave hits our region, we decide to do our work in the cafe with the best air conditioning system near us, we call it the coldest place in the city. I tell you that I like this cafe because it looks like a cafe in an airport, you don’t see it, but you’re happy that I’m happy here.

I decide to grab a big towel and workout with her.

Four mirrors in the bathroom, they make the big bathroom looks bigger. One mirror covers a small wall, the second covers the door, one is above the sink, and the fourth is the circular magnifying mirror that shows my face pores.

Room 1830

On my way I realize that I should have packed a bar of my favorite dark chocolate. It would taste good with the coffee from the room coffee maker. Between the train station and my hotel, I find a Whole Foods, I buy my favorite dark chocolate, and a bath bomb.

Behind the front desk, a man and a woman talking and laughing. They see me, the laughs become smiles. I give her my passport, and my method of payment, and she gives me my key, and my complimentary internet code. It's complimentary because I joined their rewards club and became "part of their extended family".

I take my key and my complimentary internet code and walk to the elevators. I've never been here before but I know where the elevators are.

They are so happy I'm here, this is what they wrote.

On the bed, they've left me a sleep tight kit. In the kit I find "Aromatherapy Resting Cream, Quietude Calming Mist, and Soothing Balm for Aching Feet and Limbs". It comes with instructions. Step one: Rest. step two: Relax. and step three: Recharge.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight lights in this room. I turn all the lights on, then I turn them off. One of them is above my side of the bed, and the other is above what would be your side if you were here. This way one of us can sleep while the other is awake.

With this room, comes a balcony, a small one with no chairs.

In the glass revolving restaurant, we talk and watch the view changes while we eat our fish. From my side, I see the settlement, from your side you see the the construction work of "The First Modern Commercial Center." The restaurant revolves, we switch the view.

I leave the TV on, this way, when I'm in the bathroom, I pretend that you are in the room and I will open the door and see you. I open the door and I don't see you, but I start talking to you anyway.