

CAPTAIN KAREN

written by

Danielle Abril

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

A girl walks her dog down the street. She is wearing a tie-dye sweatshirt and black leggings. Her hair is in a messy bun. This is NICOLE. She is on the phone with a friend named JESS. A dog skips ahead of her, excited. His name is MURPHY.

NICOLE

(talking on the phone)

I know right? Winter break feels so long this year and I haven't even been able to sleep in. And all these big moving trucks keep driving by my house and making a ton of noise.

JESS

(through the phone)

A moving truck? Did a new family move in? I hope there's a cute boy!

NICOLE

Jess, c'mon. Stop being so boy crazy all the time. It's highly unlikely that a new family would be moving in. Usually it's just old people. Never any cute teenage boys...

Nicole stops herself from continuing her sentence. She has walked far enough to be able to peer into the yard and see a teenage boy playing basketball in the driveway. This is BRADY. There is dramatic music ("Let's Get It On" - Marvin Gaye) and he makes eye contact with her as his three-pointer swishes in slow motion.

JESS

(through the phone)

Nicole? Nicole? What's going on? Answer me!

Nicole snaps out of it. She gives a slight wave to the boy and he waves back.

NICOLE

Jess. Jess, oh my god. Don't freak out, but I officially have a cute new neighbor. Nevermind cute, I mean hot. Totally hot. Yeah, so listen, I gotta go, I'm gonna see if I can get his snap.

JESS

(through the phone)

Wait, Nicole...

Nicole hangs up her friend, tightens her grip on the dog leash, and begins to advance forward to the boy's house.

As she passes a small bush, a girl pops out from next to it. She is wearing a headpiece that matches the leaves on the bush, a camouflage mask, and camouflage shirt with a large K. This is CAPTAIN KAREN.

CAPTAIN KAREN

Psst. What do you think your doing?

NICOLE

Uhhh. I'm going over to greet my new neighbor. Is there an issue with that...?

CAPTAIN KAREN

Karen. Captain Karen. And yes, there is indeed an issue with that. Look at you! No mask, no PPE. Look at him!

NICOLE

(lovingly)

I am.

CAPTAIN KAREN

Not like that! He isn't wearing a mask either. It's likely that he's caught COVID through all of his travels.

NICOLE

Well, actually, the car outside at the end of his driveway has a Norwood sticker on it. I don't think he did too much traveling...

CAPTAIN KAREN

(disgustedly)

Norwood? The first town in  
Norfolk County to catch COVID? Go  
back to your house and get your  
mask before you even consider  
talking to that boy!

Nicole sighs and grabs her dog before turning around and  
marching away.

NICOLE

(mumbling)

Leave it to Karen to ruin  
everything.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicole is on a run with her dog. She is wearing a long sleeve  
shirt and gloves, and a headband over her ears. As she runs  
past Brady's house and sees him outside, she picks up her  
pace, and drops a glove on purpose. Once out of his sight,  
she stops running and pulls out her phone. She begins to look  
at herself, fixing her hair and straightening out her  
clothes.

Nicole looks around for any sight of Captain Karen. She does  
not see her, but puts her mask on.

NICOLE

(to the dog)

Ok, Murphy. Behave. Don't jump on  
him, he might not be a dog  
person.

But if you think he seems like a  
dog person, then be cute. No, be  
cute regardless.

Nicole starts walking back towards Brady's house. All of a  
sudden, Captain Karen shows up in frame. She is wearing the  
same camouflage outfit. Nicole is startled by her presence.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Jeez, Karen, what are you doing?

CAPTAIN KAREN

I couldn't help but overhear your  
conversation. It seems to me like  
you're using your dog to impress  
this boy.

NICOLE

Using my dog? We were on a run!

CAPTAIN KAREN

Oh so you believe in animal abuse?

NICOLE

Huh?

CAPTAIN KAREN

Animal abuse. You one, took your dog against his will on a run and two, dressed yourself in warm clothes just flaunt your warmth in your dog's face.

NICOLE

He's a dog? His coat gets thicker in the winter, it's really not a big deal...

CAPTAIN KAREN

To you it isn't. Anyways, I hope your new neighbor thinks good things about your love and admiration for animals.

Captain Karen walks away and into the bushes. Nicole sighs, then wipes some sweat off of her forehead.

NICOLE

(to the dog)

C'mon, Murphy. Apparently you're freezing. Let's go home.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicole is walking down the street carrying a basket, wearing an ugly Christmas sweater. Inside are cookies, nuts, popcorn kernels, restaurant recommendations, and a card that says "From your neighbors."

Nicole is mumbling to herself, practicing what she is going to say at the door.

NICOLE

'Hi! I'm Nicole, I live just up the street.' No, no, that's not right. 'Hey, my name's Nicole, I live over in the blue house.'

Captain Karen is off-screen, but is heard interrupting her.

CAPTAIN KAREN

'And I am trying to kill you.'

A small scream escapes from Nicole, but she keeps walking, rolling her eyes.

NICOLE

What could you possibly want now?  
This is a friendly neighbor  
gesture, my dog isn't being  
"abused" and I'm wearing a mask.

CAPTAIN KAREN

You call that friendly?

Captain Karen begins to follow Nicole, still wearing her camouflage, and nods to the basket in Nicole's hands.

CAPTAIN KAREN (CONT'D)

That, my friend, could very well  
kill a member of his household.  
Or even him. A death prop, if you  
will.

NICOLE

You mean a basket of treats and a  
card is going to kill him or his  
family? Unlikely.

CAPTAIN KAREN

Hey, though unlikely that the  
contents of the basket will be  
used as murder weapons, who's to  
say they don't have allergies?  
And all that sugar and sodium?  
Might as well just hand them the  
hospital bill instead...

NICOLE

You are impossible! Did you know?  
Insufferable. Miserable to deal  
with.

Nicole turns around and walks back towards her house as  
Captain Karen smirks and watches her walk away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dramatic music plays as Nicole is seen sneaking from behind cars and trees, all the way down the street. She is wearing an ugly Christmas sweater, but her hair is styled nicely and her mask matches her outfit. She is clutching the jingle bells attached to the sweater to prevent them from making any noise, and holding a small gift.

Looking around, she sees Captain Karen across the street. They make eye contact, and a race begins.

They see Brady's house, and he is playing basketball. He makes a shot, then turns around without catching his rebound and starts to walk back towards his house to go inside.

NICOLE  
(yelling)

Wait!

Brady turns around, confused. Nicole keeps running and knocks Brady over, trying to beat Captain Karen there. Captain Karen stops in the middle of the street.

CAPTAIN KAREN  
Do not open that gift!

NICOLE  
Don't listen to her!

Just then, a moving truck comes by a large thump is heard.

CAPTAIN KAREN  
(suffering)  
Never...Wear...Camo...Got it.