

“FRIGHTENED NEIGHBOUR” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2025)

Early in the morning, GUS arrives on his neighbour FRANK’s porch looking rattled.

FRANK: Gus? Is everything all right?

GUS: I’m sorry, I know it’s late...

FRANK: That’s okay. What’s going on?

GUS: Can I- Do you mind if I come in? I’ll keep quiet, I promise.

FRANK: Has something happened?

GUS: Hector was having a party, he’s got some friends over before he leaves for school. I- I need the number for your friend. The one I met at the barbecue from Baker Dench.

FRANK: Jeffries?

GUS: That’s the one. We did actually exchange info but I couldn’t find his card...

FRANK: Gus-

GUS: There was an accident. *(Pause.)* Hector, he- If I could just just get Jeffries’ number-

FRANK: Is Hector okay?

GUS: He’s fine. He’s a little shaken up. He had a friend stay back, and I don’t know what happened.

FRANK: What can I do? Do you need assistance over there? An ambulance?

GUS: I don’t think it’ll help. *(Pause.)* If I can just have Jeffries’ number? Please? He’s not a bad kid. He’s- he’s so scared, Frank. This isn’t him. Can you find that number for me and I’ll wait right here?

FRANK: Let me check upstairs.