

Out and About by Rosalyn Lynne

For a variety of reasons, my sister moved in with me in November 2008. It was rather difficult for her because of her legs. The 15 steps up from the ground floor was hurting her badly. Between that and the fact we only had a 3-room apartment, made it imperative that we find elsewhere to live.

November 30th I hit the internet and did a search for a suitable place to live. That Monday, Dec. 1st, we pulled up a list of possibilities. The listing we chose to look into offered a first month rent of only \$99.00 in an over 55 gated community.

It being my day off, I was dressed en femme as usual so when Karen called and asked if we could see the place that day, we went. I was off on a wonderful new adventure; shopping for housing.

As we entered the community, I was struck by the beauty of the landscaping and housing arrangements. It greatly reminded me of the quiet residential communities I grew up in as a child.

We loved the home itself even before we set foot inside. The place has lots of space and only a few short steps up from the sidewalk or driveway. A generous front porch; and the previous owners had added a room along the front side of the building which provides storage space just off the porch AND plenty of room for my computer system, bookshelves and a few other things.

The master bedroom is very spacious with not one, but two good sized closets, one of which is actually a walk-in. I was already in heaven. The smaller of the 3 bedrooms is presently a storage area but, once things settle, can be a lovely guest bedroom. The larger of the two is Karen's. We had to fill out the usual rental application and all and when I told the manager who showed us the house, about myself, she said that it was fine with her and no one's business but my own. Already I was feeling very good about my decision to shop en femme. Next I had to discuss the rental with the main manager. When I told her (with appropriate hand gestures) that under all this was a guy, she simply said, "I know. I'm from NY."

It did not matter one whit to her and that settled things in my mind. We had to go back to the apartment for information I needed on the application and when we got back, barely one hour later, we handed in the application AND put the required deposit down. In that intervening hour, at least 3 other prospects had looked at this, the only 3-bedroom unit available, but none had put a deposit down.

On Tuesday, I appraised the apartment manager of my intention to move before the end of December. I handed in the required written notice and then waited for the new landlord to advise if we actually could move in.

On Friday, Dec. 5th, we were given the green light to move in as of Monday, the 8th. Virtually all our moving was done en femme AND we have met most of our immediate neighbors who all welcomed us warmly to the community. No funny looks, taken at face value and treated with respect and courtesy.

It doesn't get any better than this.

I had my bed moved in by Wednesday and most of our things were moved in on Thursday and Friday. Since then I have made numerous trips to finish removing my things from the old apartment. Another couple days and all I will have left is the final cleaning and turning in the keys. Oh yes, and my new rent is ONLY \$99 more than I was paying for a mere 3 rooms.

As we near the end of the calendar year
2008

I give pause to think how far I have come down
the road that has me where I am today.

I have good health over all, a wonderful sister,
friends who accept me without reservation (except
possibly for my sense of humor) and a lovely new
home in which to ring in the New Year of
2009.

Two truths stand clear.
There is a God. Life is good.