CONGRATULATIONS!

YOUR DREAM HOME JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!

DREAM BIG!

REAL ESTATE!

THAT ONE'S MILES AWAY, T.

YEAH, PUT "COMMUTE" ON THE LIST, TOO.

DO YA NEED TO TURN THE T.V. OFF WHILE WE TALK ABOUT THIS, JEN?

MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR FUTURE TODAY!

NEW HOME WISHLIST

- UNDER $150,000
- 3 BEDROOMS
- GOOD SCHOOL FOR KATIE
- LOW CRIME
- NICE NEIGHBOR
- OLD WORLD CHARM BUT RENOVATED
- NEARBY PARK OR WALKING TRAIL
- EASY TO COMMUTE TO PHILADELPHIA

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED FINDING YOU YOUR FOREVER HOME!

WE MADE A LIST, LINDA. HERE'S ALL THE THINGS WE'RE THINKING WE'RE GONNA WANT IN OUR NEW HOME.

US TOO--RIGHT BABY, KATIE?

I'LL DO MY BEST...

JENNIFER AND TOM. SO GLAD TO MEET YOU IN PERSON.

NATURALLY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EVERYTHING YOU DESIRE...

BUT WE CAN PRIORITIZE FOR WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.

SEGREGATION BY DESIGN

WRITTEN BY
JESSICA KITZIEK & DARICE KITZIEK
ILLUSTRATED BY
DARECK KITZIEK
SOO... WHAT’D YA THINK?

JENNIFER!
IT’S IN WALKING
DISTANCE OF THE
TRANSIT LINE!

Yeah, but the elementary
school is rated only a
1 out of 10.

WELL?

MY GOD!
IS THAT
ORIGINAL
FLOORING?

HONEY
CAN’T YOU
HEAR 1-676?

--SHOOT--
I THOUGHT IT
WON’T BE
THAT BAD.

Touch a
hearing
loss, hrm?

I can see
why it
might not
work to
be close
to a
highway...

Yeah, parents say meningitis
when I was little, it makes
ambient noise tough.

LINDA, I THINK WE ARE
GOING TO HAVE TO GO UP
TO OUR PRICE CEILING TO
AVOID THIS RAT HOLE FEEL.

LINDA JUST
EMAILED --

NOPE. LOTTA GANG
ACTIVITY NEAR
THAT AREA.

AFFORDABLE,
RIGHT NEXT TO A
PARK... THOUGHTS?

DID YOU SEE
THAT PUBLIC HOUSING
APARTMENT COMPLEX
JUST AROUND THE CORNER?

...WELL THAT’S
GOOD TO HEAR.

...YEAH, I’M
CALLING AGAIN
ABOUT THE
PROPERTIES....

...WELL, WE KEEP
GETTING TOO
MANY BAD
SCHOOLS OR
NEIGHBORHOODS
THAT SEEM
UNSAFE...
WE'RE BEGINNING
TO GET
FRUSTRATED.

LOOK, IF YOU'RE
WILLING TO GO UP IN
PRICE IT'LL BE EASIER
TO GET THAT GREAT
NEIGHBORHOOD, GOOD
SCHOOL, PERFECT
YARD--THAT'S IF TOM
IS WILLING TO DRIVE A
BIT FURTHER.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT
OF HOMES OUTSIDE OF
CAMDEN?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT—I SAID I DIDN'T WANT YOU CARRYING MACE AFTER DARK.

WITH CHERRY HILL'S NICE HOMES AND SCHOOLS, YOU COULD JUST THINK OF THIS LIKE AN INVESTMENT FOR KATIE...?

WE'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE PHILADELPHIA AND YET THE DILAPIDATION'S HERE—WHY NOT CHERRY HILL?

YOU CAN'T MISS THAT CAMDEN'S MOSTLY BLACK AND CHERRY HILL'S MOSTLY WHITE...

I'D SAY IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT RACISM OR EVEN INDIVIDUAL'S CHOICES... IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO GET HERE, TOM.

IN THE EARLY 1900S THIS PLACE WAS A DIVERSE BLACK AND WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH DIFFERENT FAMILIES LIVING RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM EACH OTHER. SOME WERE RENTERS... SOME WERE OWNERS.

ALL THE OLD CITIES USED TO BE LIKE THAT. SO WHAT HAPPENED?

POLITICS LOOK, WE GOT TIME...
LATE FIFTIES...

Isn't it just that some people can afford nice homes and others can't?

NOT REALLY.

THE CITIES ACTUALLY CONTROL WHAT GETS BUILT WHERE--

THEY CONTROL WHAT KIND OF HOUSING GETS BUILT AND WHAT PUBLIC SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE,

THEY DIRECTLY AFFECT WHAT EACH NEIGHBORHOOD FEELS LIKE AND WHO CAN LIVE WHERE--

NEAR ABOUT THE HIGHWAY?

Yeah, City decided to go ahead with it, where?

...THE VOTE WAS 6-2. THE I-76 ROUTE IS GOING THROUGH STANLEY PARK.

GROAN! MOAN!! BUAHOOO!!!

IT'S GONNA GO SOMEWHERE FOLKS!

WELL THE MOOD IN HERE CHANGED QUICK.

EARLY SIXTIES...

AND WE'VE GOT TO GET ON WITH DISCUSSING FUNDS FOR REFURBISHING FARNHAM PARK ANYWAY...

--AFTER WWII, HUGE NUMBERS OF WHITE, MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE MOVED TO SUBURBAN PLACES LIKE CHERRY HILL...

WITH THE HELP OF FEDERALLY BACKED HOME LOANS AND NEW HIGHWAYS.

AND THEN, SUBURBAN GOVERNMENTS PROCEEDED TO USE RESTRICTIVE LAND-USE POLICIES TO KEEP THEIR COMMUNITIES HOMOGENEOUS, PROTECTING THE WHITE HOMEOWNERS.

*But these suburban homes were really only available to white buyers.

You can't say what's in the hearts and minds of the individuals enacting those policies... But what you can say is this:

IT WAS SEGREGATION BY DESIGN.

Camden 1966

Today's Priorities:
1. Multi-family homes
2. Apartments (Industrial)
3. Single family homes
4. Limit 2-households
AND THAT RACISM YOU MENTIONED EARLIER TOM.

IT WAS BUILT INTO THE DESIGN.

SO WHEN THE DESIGN IS THREATENED (LIKE WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TELLS THE DESIGNERS TO DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS OR NEIGHBORHOODS) THOSE IN POWER CHANGE THE DESIGN.

WHEN THE POWERFUL WORRY ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF THEIR STREET OR SCHOOL, THEY CHANGE THEIR STRATEGY OF SEGREGATION.

FIRST THEY WALL-OFF NEIGHBORHOODS.

THEN, WHOLE CITIES.

THEY EXPAND THE GEOGRAPHIC SCALE OF SEGREGATION.

...AND NO MATTER WHERE THE POWERFUL END UP THEY PUSH THEIR CITY GOVERNMENT TO USE LAND USE REGULATIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE CHARACTER OF THEIR PREFERRED COMMUNITY.

Only Single-Family Homes in Our Neighborhood

Protect Our Home Values

Vote No!
Now, places that aren't segregated may have some parks that are nice and others that are cruddy, but the better park isn't only enjoyed by one racial or economic group like it is in a segregated place. And places that are really segregated—like a lot of big cities... They have deep political divisions between race and class groups that make it hard to cooperate on funding city services.

Residents of communities victimized by segregation—like Camden—are more likely to be liberal Democrats. Beneficiaries of segregation—like residents of Cherry Hill—are more likely to be conservative, republican, support limited government, and restricted development.

% Republican Vote 2008 % Conservative Ideology % Support Limited Government % Single-Family Homes

So the stage is set to spiral downward into political and geographical polarization...

Communities and personal identities defined by characteristics we don’t want shared with our neighbors. So if you think about it, what you are both doing now—buying a home, picking your neighbors, picking a school for Katie... That really has the power to affect segregation!

Quick! I think we’re hearing the end! Actually Tom...

Jen! Where are you? Over here—Aah!

C’mon!

...You’re just at the beginning!
IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR MARK...

YEAH, BUT I'M DEPRESSED.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO BUY THE BEST HOUSE FOR OUR FAMILY, NOT SEGREGATE A COMMUNITY, LINDA.

OH I KNOW, TOM, BUT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RACISM IS INSTITUTIONALIZED. YOUR CHOICES BECOME PART OF A LARGER STORY THAT YOU DIDN'T INTEND TO WRITE.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE COULD PROVIDE HOUSING SUBSIDIES TO PEOPLE SO THAT EVERYONE COULD LIVE IN PLACES LIKE CHERRY HILL.

WE COULD FORCE COMMUNITIES TO BUILD MORE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING.

...AND WE COULD VALUE DIVERSITY MORE WHEN PURCHASING OUR HOMES.

BUT AMERICA'S TOLERANCE FOR INEQUALITY AND HISTORY OF RACISM MAKE THESE SOLUTIONS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT.

AAAAND DESPITE MY WISH TO GO ON AND ON--WE MUST GET TO THIS HOUSE AT SOME POINT...

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT--THANKS LINDA.

NO PROBLEM...I'M GLAD I COULD TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT HOW WE ENDED UP HERE.

YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY. THE PROPERTY VALUES ARE STABLE AND KATIE WILL HAVE ALL SORTS OF KIDS JUST LIKE HER AROUND TO PLAY WITH.

AND BESIDES--MY JOB IS TO FIND YOU WHAT YOU WANT.

I CAN ONLY SAY: CONGRATULATIONS.
IC KNOCK KN.

HELLO?  HI. HOW ARE YOU?  FINE... YOU?

GREAT! MY NAME'S JESSICA AND I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH JERSEY AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE. WE ARE HOPING TO BUILD 10 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALONG THE COOPER RIVER - JUST AROUND THE CORNER. WILL YOU SIGN THIS PETITION IN SUPPORT?

MA'AM?

UM...

WE'D LOVE TO!

OH... GREAT!

SORRY... GIMME' A SEC' TO TURN THIS THING OFF TO BE FULLY PRESENT--

--DID YOU MENTION ANY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES?...

---ONE ON DOWN! YOU DESERVE IT ALL!!!