

SONIA SUNNY, short and sweet-faced, vacuums a rug in the foyer of a home. Homeowner BARBARA tries to get her attention.

BARBARA

Hi, hello! Excuse me?

Sonia turns, still vacuuming.

BARBARA

Here's your fee for today, plus a little bus money. I wouldn't want you walking around your part of town at this time.

Sonia's puzzled, turns off the vacuum.

SONIA

'kay?

BARBARA

Oh gosh, I don't speak Spanish.

(louder, gesturing)

Fee. Money. Bus. Home. Thank you.

Her thank you is accompanied with a namaste hand gesture. She pushes the money onto Sonia.

SONIA

Oh, no, me either, I just meant okay. And I live-

BARBARA

Oh goodness, I'm so sorry! I just thought - I had no idea! Your English is so great. You sound like you're from here!

SONIA

That make sense I've lived here my whole li-

Barbara's phone goes off before the conversation can continue. Sonia pockets the money and leaves through the front door. Barbara waves.

BARBARA

(still on the phone)

Bye now, be safe!

Vacuum hose coiled around her, Sonia drags the vacuum behind her in the miserable cold. She walks down the sidewalk, all the way to the front door of the house next door where she fishes for her keys. She's home.

2

INT. CHARLIE'S HOME.

2

Inside, JAY, a Very Handsome Man, does pull-ups using the door frame. He's shirtless and wearing horn-rimmed glasses; he's trying very hard.

He dismounts.

JAY

Hey little mama.

A beat. There's no sexual tension here. They're both regretting his choice of words.

JAY

I got a cell phone bill for you.

SONIA

Blech.

We can't tell if the blech is for Jay or the bill.

SONIA

Here, help me with this.

She gestures to the vacuum, but Jay takes the hose, leaving her to maneuver the machine inside the house alone.

SONIA

(sarcastically)

Thank you.

The two make their way to the living room, passing FELIX, in a Bourdain tour merch shirt, putting out a stove fire in the kitchen, struggling to fry eggs. Everyone is used to this.

JAY

So, how was your first day?

SONIA

Barbara has no clue that we're neighbours. She gave me bus money. I think she thinks I'm Mexican? Maybe Hispanic.

(to Felix)

Hey, I have class at seven tomorrow morning. Want a ride in?

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Could we pick up some eggs on the way? I'm real close to cracking this whole fried egg thing.

Sonia nods. They pass by ELENA, sitting on a ladder trying to get wifi.

JAY

You didn't correct her? I would think as a proud woman of South Asian de-

SONIA

She thinks a bus ride is ten bucks.

ELENA

Well then, que pasa, mi amiga?

Elena and Sonia high-five. In the living room, MUHAMMED, sharpens his door-to-door sales knives at the coffee table - his second job. No one bats an eyelid. The vacuum is shoved into a closet full of boxes.

JAY

What if you run into her?

ELENA

That is the face that launched a thousand "whoops, didn't notice yous." She's safe.

SONIA

Thank you?

ELENA

Any time, boo.

JAY

I don't kn-

Jay is interrupted when CHARLIE O'CONNELL bursts through the door, breathless, trying to hide his own glee. We realize this is what Sonia's been anticipating.

CHARLIE

(masking glee)

I have dreadful news! Quickly
Sonia, turn on The Buy Channel!

Sonia turns it on, as everyone gathers. We go through a couple channels before she lands on the right one.

3 INSERT - CLOSE ANGLE - TV.

3

Local news anchor talks to the camera.

ANCHOR

- tonight, we go undercover as
reporters at the Correspondents'
Dinner to get the scoop -

Channel flip. Talk show host talks to the camera.

HOST

- around, Ivanka Trump's favourite
band, Agent Orange is up -

Channel flip. We see Charlie selling a karaoke
machine. Chyron on screen: KaraOkay 3200, only three easy
payments of \$39.99! For the next two hours only!

CHARLIE

(singing a la Sinatra)
'CAUSE IT'S ONE, TWO, THREE
STRIKES, YOU'RE OUT/AT THE OLD BALL
GAME!

Charlie notes a producer waving at him and gestures "dead?"
on camera before addressing camera.

CHARLIE

(masking glee)
Oh, folks, I am sorry to be the
bearer of bad news. Ladies and
gentlemen, we've just heard that
Bob Schiller, the Buy Guy himself,
is no longer with us. Tragic! I for
one am shocked, saddened,
grief-stricken and devastated - I
have no words. Let's take a moment
of silence to remember our friend
Bob.

Yankee Doodle plays in the background during the silence.

4 END INSERT

4

We're back in the living room.

CHARLIE

Just awful, isn't it? Ninety-two
years young - no living relatives.
And did you know he lived right
here in Rapid Plains his entire
life?

(CONTINUED)

SONIA

A real tragedy.

CHARLIE

He knew all the Canadian power players. The Property Brothers, Hayden Christensen, the voice of Caillou. He even knew that Trudeau brother, the drama teacher?

The room is impressed, save for Sonia.

MUHAMMED

Whatever happened to him?

CHARLIE

Well Mo, why don't we ask him on Saturday night during the wake we're hosting in Bob's honour?

ELENA/SONIA/JAY/MUHAMMED/FELIX

We're?/Nope/I'm busy/Oh yes!/But I DVR'd Parts Unknown!

Ad-lib more mumbling as Charlie smiles and says:

CHARLIE

Wonderful, we're hosting a wake!

5 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE. THE NEXT EVENING.

5

Muhammed pours over a magazine while Jay is engrossed on his phone. Elena walks in with a pizza. Sonia arrives from upstairs, Felix scuttles in with a tray of fried chicken-topped mashed potato cupcakes, one with a candle.

SONIA

Fried chicken cupcake! It's perfect! See Felix, microwaving isn't that bad.

FELIX

Yeah, I did them separately so the chicken wouldn't get soggy.

Felix is sheepishly proud.

ELENA

And, birthday cookie pizza as ordered. Two dollars change.

Elena hands her coins.

(CONTINUED)

SONIA

May God force racists to pay for
our oversized desserts, amen.

She blows out the candle. No one knows how to react to that.

JAY

Hey!

SONIA

No, no. No singing. He'll hear.

We notice Charlie leaning against a pillar on the front
porch, coffee mug in hand.

ELENA

Is that a coffee mug?

JAY

Oh God, it's steaming.

They all look to Sonia, who is elbow-deep in fried chicken
cupcake.

SONIA

(mouth full)

Mah bilfdah is foh me and mah fah
chicka! (My birthday is for me and
my fried chicken)

Waving her arms, she splatter gravy on Elena. Elena looks in
the mirror trying to get the gravy off.

ELENA

Sonia, could you not focus on
yourself for one minute? You know
him best. Remember the last time he
had coffee?

CUT TO:

Charlie in the kitchen, sips coffee, giving him the courage
to stand on top of the ladder and sing:

CHARLIE

(singing)

I THINK I'LL TRY DEFYING GRAVITY

He crashes, taking dishes from the counter down with him.

CUT BACK TO:

6 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS. 6

Sonia wipes her mouth on her shirt sleeve.

SONIA

Ugh, fine.

Sonia takes a drumstick with her. She pours a generous tumbler of whiskey and goes outside. She hardly places one foot on the porch when:

7 EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH. 7

CHARLIE

Best foot forward, Sonia.

She knows what he really means- shoulders back, don't shuffle. She does the opposite. She offers the glass to Charlie, eyeing his mug - it's coffee, indeed.

CHARLIE

(cont'd)

I certainly don't drink that much.

SONIA

Yeah, I couldn't find the bigger glass.

CHARLIE

Haha! Oh Sonia, looks like the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

SONIA

Godfathers are trees?

CHARLIE

Sonia, the times they are a changing. Just years ago, you would've been the odd one out. -

SONIA

(interjecting)

Out of what?

She notices a morsel on her shirt sleeve and licks it off - drumstick still in hand.

CHARLIE

-Now it seems

Charlie turns his head left.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
- I'm the Odd One In.

Sonia looks past Charlie and finds camera operators, a boom mic operator, and a producer, BOBBY, staring at them intently from the front yard.

BOBBY
And, cut!

SONIA
Why are there cameras?

CHARLIE
Bobby, I didn't like that. I'm going to do it my way.

Charlie resets and delivers his new line perfectly. Sonia stares, stunned, gnawing on the drumstick.

BOBBY
Rolling! Action!

CHARLIE
Now, it seems, we're A Modern Family.

SONIA
That's already a tv show.

CHARLIE
Yes, we are.

8 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE. EVENING.

8

Charlie drags Sonia inside the house.

CHARLIE
(to tv crew)
We'll just be two minutes, not to worry!
(to Sonia)
Now Sonia, I ask for so little.

SONIA
Yeah, just \$700 a month in rent and my undying support so you can get back on tv. At least Joel Osteen sends thank you letters. What is going on?

Charlie turns on the intercom (As Seen on TV), speaking in his broadcasting voice.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Good afternoon friends, a quick announcement, a television crew scheduled to film us as we prepare for the wake will be coming inside momentarily. Again, that's a television crew will arrive momentarily. Thank you!

SONIA

The wake is being filmed?

They enter the living area where everyone else is chowing down on the cupcakes. The intercom was pointless.

CHARLIE

This grumpy, overbearing persona, Sonia - it's occasionally charming, but must we be so difficult?

SONIA

Must we have cameras follow us around?

CHARLIE

It's for the pilot. Didn't I mention it?

JAY/ELENA/FELIX/MUHAMMED/SONIA

Huh?/You didn't mention it/What/Pilot!/No.

CHARLIE

Oh. Well with Bob gone, they want to introduce a new face on the Buy Channel. What better way to do that than to have cameras follow my life! I thought our little United Colours of Benneton setup would be fun to film.

Sonia shakes her head.

SONIA

(to cupcake)

Fried chicken cupcake, this world doesn't deserve you.

ELENA

Wait, so we'd get paid?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
Twelve-hundred an episode.
Minus hair and makeup of
course.

SONIA/ELENA
Hair and makeup? Ugh./Hair
and makeup!

CHARLIE

And I'll throw in a ten percent
discount on rent if we all agree.

ELENA

Soan, this might not be so bad. Mo
can stop wheeling around empty
carts in grocery stores to read
tabloids because he'll be able to
buy them.

MUHAMMED

Hello, People.

They look at him like "yeah, what?"

MUHAMMED

Hello and People - those are the
magazines I'll be able to afford.

ELENA

Charlie will get stuff on his real
so he can host one of those local
morning shows nobody watches.

CHARLIE

Now, that's not quite -

ELENA

(interrupting)

Jay'll get to say he's a reality
star instead of a failed
screenwriter.

JAY

I'm an English teacher.

ELENA

(off Jay)

Exactly. And I'll be able to afford
more data so I won't fall off the
ladder.

CUT TO:

Elena on the ladder.

(CONTINUED)

ELENA
(singing)
I THINK I'LL TRY BELL MOBILITY

She falls off the ladder.

CUT BACK TO:

9

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS.

9

FELIX
I could buy one of Muhammed's
knives.

MUHAMMED/ELENA
Oh no, I'm out of stock/Or you
could buy something else?

Muhammed pushes his knife case underneath the couch.

ELENA
(pointing to Felix)
You know what, pipe dreams are
still dreams, Sonia. Haters to the
left. Let us live our best lives.

SONIA
I'm not hating. We all know what's
going to happen. Charlie's going to
get his hopes up, it'll backfire,
he'll be crushed, and then he'll
spend the next month buying
Seacrest bobbleheads in bulk to
throw at the tv.
(to Charlie)
Charlie, honestly, is it really
worth all the pain?

CHARLIE
Oh Sonia, thank you. Such a
vulnerable moment. It's exactly
what we need. Our very own Daniel
Tanner.
(beat)
Now, everyone, let's remember our
real emotions for camera!

Charlie rushes and opens the door, the crew file in.
Immediately, they start setting up a confessional/talking
head backdrop in the living area. Sonia acquiesces,
returning to her food.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

So great to see everyone! Sonia, totally get that you needed a minute, this is a super big deal! I could never. But, I promise, we're just going to test this out, get a lay of the land. Definitely not a big deal. There's just something really special here. This whole diversity rainbow. So representative of our times. And like you're white, but you guys aren't. So he's the Odd One In! Love it.

Sonia polishes off her cupcake.

SONIA

I don't know. I have to clean houses to pay for my five courses and my five streaming subscriptions. And Ozark isn't gonna watch itself, you know?

Bobby is stunned his spiel did not work.

JAY/ELENA/FELIX/MUHAMMED/CHARLIE

Oh, come on!/You are literally ruining this for everyone!/Why Sonia?/This is an outrage!/Cleaning? This is not Daniel Tanner behaviour.

SONIA

(to Charlie)

Have you even watched Full House?

Bobby interjects, trying to keep cool.

BOBBY

So not a problem! We'll just...blob her out in the footage. Jacob can you blob her for these fine folks? Thank you, Jacob!

Jacob nods, we hear Sonia leave the room.

The shot transforms from real-time to a monitor replaying filmed events. Sonia is blurred on screen, her voice deepened like Darth Vader. She looks like a blob.

(CONTINUED)

SONIA
(Darth Vader-like)
I'm not a blob, I'm a human!

We reveal that everyone, minus Sonia, is now in the dining room. Previous footage plays on low volume on a camera monitor.

CHARLIE
Fascinating, even pixelated she maintains that same unremarkable quality.