

STIFF 'S 'R' US

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FADE IN:

EXT. STIFF'S 'R' US FUNERAL PARLOR - ENTRANCE - DAY

Las Vegas meets the Garden of Eden.

Lush fake foliage and neon lights adorn the entrance.

Granite statues of lions and tigers are straddled by Angels wearing flashing halos.

Daneen and Gayla DeFusco stand outside their funeral parlor, admiring the newly erected sign, "STIFF'S 'R' US" We put the FUN into FUN-ERALS. Traffic on the street comes to a halt as passers by take in the curious sight. Confused looks on their faces.

Then suddenly...WHAM! The sound of crunching metal fills the air as two cars crash.

GAYLA

It's so strange, there's always accidents out here.

DANEEN

I don't get it. But, I do love the new sign.

GAYLA

STIFF'S 'R' US ---We put the FUN into FUN-ERALS.

DANEEN

This is pretty clever. People will remember us for sure.

GAYLA

Some people want to know if we rent rooms here. It might be a new way to generate revenue.

DANEEN

Or we can put a discount coupon out there.

GAYLA

Love that idea. Our own blue light special!

DANEEN

Did you pick up coffee for the cappuccino stand?

GAYLA

Oh God. I forgot.

Daneen frowns.

DANEEN

Is Mrs. Giovanni ready?

GAYLA

No. I need to get more makeup and caulking for her. I'll get the coffee too.

DANEEN

More. Are you restoring the Statue of liberty or something?

GAYLA

Hey, I told her daughter Leona, her mother would look a beautiful movie star.

DANEEN

We're not miracle workers here.

GAYLA

Mrs. Giovanni looks like she's lived a fun life. It's taking more time than I thought.

DANEEN

How did she pass?

GAYLA

She was buying jewelry, her daughter said.

DANEEN

Well, I know she'll look awesome. I loved what you did with Mr. Jensen.

GAYLA

Giving him hair, teeth, and that big smile, really made him look younger.

DANEEN

Yeah, his wife said he never looked so good.

GAYLA
Glad we could help.

DANEEN
She was a wild one at the service.
Especially after that shot of
bourbon.

GAYLA
She really rocked that pink boa. I
think everyone had a good time.

DANEEN
Gayla, I do have one question for
you?

GAYLA
Yes?

DANEEN
He didn't have teeth when he came
in. Where'd you get them from?

GAYLA
I found them in the makeup drawer.
Someone must have left them there.

Daneen's looks confused.

DANEEN
I don't want to think about it.
That's why you're in charge of
makeup and hair.

Daneen and Gayla walk inside admiring the landscape. Daneen
goes to the office and Gayla leaves to run errands.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - OFFICE - DAY

Daneen fumbles over a stack of papers when a new client CARLO
PROVOLONE, (30's) enters. His 300 pound 6 foot 2 inch frame
in a black suit with a bright purple tie makes him stand out.

DANEEN
Hello, may I help you?

CARLO
Yeah, my name is Carlo Provolone,
and a member of our family has
passed on. God may he rest
somewhere.

DANEEN
I'm sorry for your loss.

CARLO
I need to make arrangements for his
derailment.

Carlo is larger than life with his expressions and gestures.
Daneen is somewhat taken in yet oddly frightened.

His cologne makes her melt.

DANEEN
At STIFF'S 'R' US, we provide a
unique and fun approach to death.

CARLO
It's really not a fun time for us.

DANEEN
Of course not. We try to make it an
easier process for the family and
friends. Where is he right now?

CARLO
We're hoping in heaven. However, a
few indeceptions might hold him up
for awhile.

Daneen isn't sure what indeceptions are, or if he is serious
or kidding. They don't seem to be communicating too well with
each other.

DANEEN
Indeceptions? What I meant is where
is his body right now?

CARLO
Hopefully where we left it. At the
morgue.

Daneen is starting to lose her patience.

DANEEN
Alrightee, (she counts 1,2,3,)
which morgue did he go
to?

Carlo looks at her in disbelief.

CARLO
Is something not right with you,
doll? He went to the morgue where
they take dead people.

DANEEN
 (sarcastically)
 Oh, that one. I don't suppose you
 would know which street that morgue
 is on would you?

Daneen seems to have to pull the information she needs out of
 him.

CARLO
 Yeah, it's on 8th street.

DANEEN
 Okay, I'm just going to assume it's
 8th street here in Brooklyn?

CARLO
 (sarcastically)
 No, it's 8th street in Paris,
 Italy. Are you in need of a doctor
 or something?

DANEEN
 Look Mr. Provolone, I know which
 morgue on 8th street he's in and I
 will call and have him delivered
 here. What is his name?

CARLO
 Does it really matter? He's not
 gonna go by it no more.

Daneen exasperated, lunges at Carlo and grabs him by the tie.

DANEEN
 They won't know who to bring, if I
 don't have his damn name.

Carlo allows Daneen to vent and totally out of character for
 him, tries to calm her down.

CARLO
 Calm down beautifuls. You don't
 need to say bad words. It makes
 your aging lines show more. His
 name is Reginald Gotto.

Carlo gently releases her hands from his tie. They share an
 intimate yet strange glance.

DANEEN
 Thank you. I'll get him transferred
 here.

CARLO

We want a most special service.
This is a difficult time for our
family and we appreciate your
promiscuity.

DANEEN

Well, we'll make it unforgettable.
How does Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
sound?

CARLO

That would be fine. It'll give us
time to eat before we come.

DANEEN

One more thing. I need your number.

CARLO

You need my number of what?

DANEEN

I need your phone number, so I can
call you if I need to.

Carlo rummages through the disorganization on her desk,
writes his number on a stained napkin and eats the remainder
of a bagel he finds.

DANEEN

Good. Thank you. Is there anything
he really loved? It helps to know
when personalizing the service.

CARLO

Yeah, he loved rock 'n' roll from
the fifties, Lesley Gore and
beautiful women.

DANEEN

I'll take care of everything and
we'll see you Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
Mr. Prosciutto.

Daneen laughs and extends her hand to shake.

Carlo takes it and kisses it.

CARLO

Prosciutto? (He waves a finger at
her) Maybe a little vino would help
you?

DANEEN
You might be right.

CARLO
Very well then. See you Saturday.

Carlo turns to leave and mumbles under his breath.

CARLO
(in Italian)
She's cute but a little nuts.

Daneen isn't sure what just took place. Carlo certainly has his own way with words.

Daneen dials the morgue on 8th Street in Brooklyn.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - OFFICE - DAY

Daneen shuffles through papers, trying to get a handle on all the activity that's going on at STIFF'S 'R' US.

The phone RINGS. It's her mother.

DANEEN
Stiff's 'R' Us, we put the fun-
She's cut off.

INT. MONA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MONA DEFUSCO (63), sit's on her leopard skin couch, painting her nails. Her head tilts holding the phone up to her ear.

PHONE CONVERSATION INTERCUT

MONA
(into the phone)
Save the spiel. I'm going down to Dardano's to sample some dirt. I've got some new recipes to try.

Mona puts the nail polish on a coffee table and picks up a large big gulp filled with red wine. She starts to guzzle.

DANEEN
(into the phone)
Ma, I'm thinking this dirt eating thing isn't such a good idea.

Mona stops drinking.

MONA
 (into the phone)
 What? Are you kidding me? All those
 good minerals. I've never been this
 regular in my life and I look good.

A PARROT named CARMINE is perched in a nearby cage.

PARROT
 Big girl! Big girl!

MONA
 Shut up bird brain or I'll stuff
 you for Sunday dinner.

Mona flips the bird off.

He returns the gesture.

MONA
 (into the phone)
 Have you been putting those
 chocolate dipped earth cookies out
 I gave you?

Daneen pounds her head on the desk.

DANEEN
 (into the phone)
 Dirt Ma. They're dirt cookies, not
 earth cookies.

Mona downs the rest of the wine.

PARROT
 She's a lush! She's a lush!

MONA
 Shut your trap Carmine!

Mona throws a tabloid from the coffee table at the bird cage.

MONA
 (into the phone)
 Earth, dirt, no difference. Hey I
 have some new creations to try out
 in the kitchen. Might use some
 Parrot in them. Gotta go. Bye.

Carmine squawks and Mona abruptly hangs up.

DANEEN
 Ma... Hello?

END OF CALL

The phone rings again. Daneen picks it up.

DANEEN
 (into the phone)
 Stiff's 'R' Us, may I help you? No,
 we don't have vibrating beds!

Gayla walks in looking relaxed, happy and content.

DANEEN
 Where have you been? It's been
 crazy around here!

GAYLA
 I was hoping you'd say it's been
 dead around here. Get it?

Gayla laughs hysterically.

DANEEN
 Get a grip. I'm not in the mood.
 Ma's sampling new dirt again and I
 just had a conversation with
 this...this man.

GAYLA
 Tell me more.

DANEEN
 Never mind. Did you get coffee and
 the supplies you needed?

GAYLA
 I sure did. I also got these cute
 little shoes.

DANEEN
 (upset)
 That explains why you were gone for
 so long. If you weren't part owner
 I'd fire you. There's so much to do
 around here and you just don't seem
 to get it.

GAYLA
 Get what?

DANEEN
 (Sarcastically)
 Exactly. You just proved my point.

GAYLA

You're kind of uptight.

DANEEN

Whatever... I need to check the bar to make sure it's stocked.

GAYLA

I thought Wong Lee was supposed to do that?

DANEEN

Wong Lee is supposed to do it, but I think he's nipping a little bit. He seems a little out of it.

GAYLA

It's so hard to find good help.

Daneen stares at her in amazement.

They both walk out of the office going in different directions.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - MAKEUP ROOM - DAY

Gayla talks to the ever so peaceful, slumbering and dead, Mrs. Giovanni (89), telling her about the makeover she's going to get.

GAYLA

Okay girl, first of all, we need to lighten that dark hair. I'll put some bright nail polish and lipstick on you. Just relax. You'll be beautiful.

Gayla pulls out her tools of the trade, all-weather caulking, and various spackling tools. She adds color to it to match Mrs. Giovanni's skin tone.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - BAR - DAY

Daneen checks the bar making sure it's stocked and ready to go.

WONG LEE (62) is an employee at Stiff's 'R' Us. He brings bottles of liquor from the supply room and sits them on the bar.

Daneen picks them up to place them.

DANEEN

Wong Lee, these are empty bottles
that you just set down.

WONG LEE

What? Some strange things are
happening around here.

Daneen loses her patience.

DANEEN

Look Wong Lee, get some full
bottles in here. We have a show at
7 tonight. I need this bar set up
completely.

Daneen always gets nervous before a show, but today she can't
stop thinking of Carlo Provolone.

WONG LEE

Okey, dokey boss. You can always
count on me.

Wong Lee heads for the supply room which is by the delivery
dock. He gets off track when a new stiff arrives.

EXT. STIFF'S 'R' US - DELIVERY DOCK - DAY

A hearse pulls up with the ever peaceful MR. GOTTO (68). Wong
Lee signs for the delivery and tells CHARLIE (30's) the
driver, a good looking young black man, where to put the
casket.

WONG LEE

Hey Charlie. Nice to see you again.
What's been going up lately?

CHARLIE

I'm telling you man, I need to get
another line of work. This job is
killing my love life. When chicks
see this hearse they run the other
way.

WONG LEE

Maybe you're looking for love in
all the wrong places.

CHARLIE

Maybe.

WONG LEE

I have a cousin Suzi who's single and pretty fun -- You can put the stiff over there, man. What do you say? Interested?

CARLO

Wong Lee, that isn't the one who eats dirt is it?

WONG LEE

Oh no, that's the boss's mother Mona. She's pretty rad. My cousin Suzi is a wrestler. She's in the heavy weight division, 400 pounds and up.

CARLO

400 pounds? Man, she sounds like she's too much woman for me.

WONG LEE

Okey, dokey man. If you change your mind let me know. She's a laugh a second if you know what I mean.

CHARLIE

Sounds like it. See ya Wong Lee. I gotta shove off. We're really busy today and I've still got one more delivery to make.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

Mona very quietly sneaks in a side door, with a very large purse. She looks for something to stand on, so she can reach the shelves with liquor stored on it.

She remembers that she saw a casket in the delivery area, which has a folding step on the side of it. She wheels it into the supply room.

She takes two empty bottles from her purse and puts them on the casket, while she grabs two full ones from the shelves. She also grabs some cookies and nuts.

MONA

Sweet. I got the booze and food for the poker party.

Mona hears footsteps. Quietly she lowers herself off the step. She looks around and slides out the side door.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - DELIVERY AREA - DAY

Wong Lee walks in to take Mr. Gotto's casket to makeup. The casket is missing.

WONG LEE

Big trouble. This isn't good.
Where'd he go?

Daneen yells over the intercom for Wong Lee to bring the liquor out.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - BAR - DAY

Wong Lee enters frazzled, empty handed and has lost Mr. Gotto.

DANEEN

Wong Lee, where's the liquor? What seems to be the problem today?

WONG LEE

No problem boss. I'll go to the supply room and get them.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

He runs into the supply room and finds the casket, with two empty bottles on the top.

Daneen yells again over the intercom.

DANEEN

Hurry Wong Lee, we don't have much time and we still have to check the sound system and music. I'll be in the office.

Wong Lee steps on the casket to grab the alcohol. He looks further and can see that two full bottles of liquor are missing off the shelves. Cans of nuts are missing as well.

Wong Lee swears up a storm in Chinese.

WONG LEE

Everybody just helps themselves.
How am I supposed to keep up with this?

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - MAKEUP ROOM - DAY

Gayla works on Mrs. Givoanni's transformation and is happy with the results.

The platinum air, red nail polish and ruby red lips complete the look.

The only thing left to do is to put her diamond rings on as her daughter requested.

Mrs. Giovanni's fingers are a little stiff and Gayla is having a hard time.

GAYLA

You have to work with me on this.
Just open your fingers up a bit, so
I can get this ring on.

Gayla tries to pry her fingers apart, but the only thing that happens is that her middle finger on her left hand pops up like she's flipping someone off. Gayla can't get it back down.

GAYLA

Daneen won't like this. Put it
down, girl.

There's no way to compete with the rigamortis. The finger is in it's final resting place.

Gayla shoves the ring on it and hopes that everyone will be so enthralled with Mrs. Giovanni's makeover they won't notice the erect finger.

DANEEN (V.O.)

(From the intercom)

Gayla, are you about done? We still need to check the sound system and the music out and there's only a couple of hours left. Oh, and we also have another client that came in. Wong Lee will wheel him down later.

GAYLA

I'll be up there in a minute.

Gayla slaps a little more powder and rouge on Mrs. Giovanni and heads for the lounge.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - BAR - DAY

Daneen and Wong Lee are talking and she isn't very happy.

DANEEN

The liquor is here, but the snacks aren't.

WONG LEE

He ate them. He also drank some booze. How am I supposed to keep up with things when this always happens?

Wong Lee starts talking rapidly in Chinese. Daneen can tell something has him upset.

DANEEN

Who? I'm in the dark here Wong Lee, help me out.

WONG LEE

Mr. Reginald Gotto did. I turned my back for one minute and he wheels into the supply room and helps himself.

Daneen questions Wong Lee's stability and decides to go easy on him.

DANEEN

Wong Lee, maybe we've been working you too hard. Forget about snacks. I'll take care of it.

WONG LEE

Thanks, boss.

DANEEN

Why don't we go to the lounge and check our music for the show. Gayla will be here in just a minute.

Gala walks up.

DANEEN

Here she is now.

GAYLA

Hi you two. Mrs. Giovanni is ready for her big night. I'm extra excited about the show.

DANEEN

Great. Let's get to it. We only have an hour and a half left.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - BAR - NIGHT

Everything's in place, except for the snacks. Daneen runs and grabs the supply of chocolate dipped earth cookies that Mona has been sending and arranges them on a platter.

PASTOR DANAHER (70's) arrives to open the show.

SUZI LEE (40's) Wong Lee's cousin also arrives and will be serving drinks.

SISTER ANNA MARIE (60's), who belongs to the 1st order of the "Big Sisters of The Neighborhood" arrives and will be running the cappuccino stand.

Gayla and Daneen get ready in the dressing room, while Wong Lee greets everyone and takes them to their tables.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Tables are set up like a Vegas venue.

Suzi Lee works the room taking liquor and cappuccino orders.

Most of the people that are there, are confused and speechless and not sure if they are at a memorial service or a strange bar.

TABLE #1

Neighbors of Mrs. Giovanni, LESTER AND LUCILLE who are in their eighties.

SUZI WONG

What's it gonna be for you folks?

LESTER

Could you tell us if we're at the right place? Our neighbor Mrs. Giovanni passed on and there's supposed to be a service for her.

SUZI WONG

This is the place. Now, what about your drink order? I don't have much time before the show starts.

LESTER

Well, we don't usually drink, but I guess I'll have a double shot of whiskey on the rocks and Mother here will have a cold brewski with a twist of lime and a tequila chaser.

SUZI WONG

You're not driving I hope.

LESTER

Are you kidding? I can't see to zip up my pants, let alone steer a car.

LUCILLE

He's got that right. There's a lot he can't seem to steer.

SUZI WONG

Okey dokey then. Your drinks will be right out.

TABLE #2

SUZI WONG

What can I get you folks?

A person at the table raises her hand.

PERSON

We'll have 4 cappuccinos and some of those cookies we saw on the bar. They looked great. What are they?

SUZI WONG

They're Mona's baked earth cookies. They're real good. Be right back.

Suzi and Wong Lee deliver the orders.

It's almost show time.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Mrs. Giovanni is wheeled in behind the stage and the curtains. The casket is slightly tilted up, so everyone in the house can see her.

As the house lights grow dim, Wong Lee plays a drum roll on the synthesizer and his voice can be heard over the intercom.

A large silver ball spins from the ceiling in true disco fashion.

WONG LEE

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.
Welcome to today's show. Stiff's
'R' Us is proud to present the
beautiful and lovely, Mrs. Stella
Giovanni.

The curtain opens and the new Mrs. Giovanni is displayed. Her platinum hair, ruby lips and red nail polish doesn't distract from the middle finger on her left hand flipping everyone off.

Father Danaher takes the microphone

FATHER DANAHER

I would like to welcome you all to
the final curtain call for Mrs.
Stella Giovanni. She was a godly
and charitable woman. A proud
native of New York, she was
passionate about living, loved
Frank Sinatra, spaghetti, a good
time and Irish beer. She is
survived by one daughter, Marie
Antoinette. Stella Giovanni passed
on while shopping at Melvyn's
Jewelers, a favorite hangout of
hers.

The double shot of whiskey has really bombed Lester at table #1. You can hear him speaking loudly because he lost his hearing aids at strip poker again.

TABLE #1

He doesn't recognize his old neighbor Stella Giovanni. Actually a lot of people don't, but they're too busy enjoying the drinks and cookies.

LESTER can't contain himself.

LESTER

Who the hell is the lady up there?
Stella usually looked like a bull
dog?

LUCILLE raises her glass splashing on Lester.

LUCILLE

Ahh, shut up you old fart. Who cares who it is. This is the most fun I've had in years.

FATHER DANAHER speaking.

FATHER DANAHER

I would like to sing a variation of "O Danny Boy", for Mrs. Giovanni. I call it, "O Stella Girl".

FATHER DANAHER adjusts his tie and prepares to sing.

FATHER DANAHER

(In a tenor voice)

O Stella Girl, your days on earth have ended. The time has come to say your last farewell. We'll miss your smile and drink to toast your memory, O Stella Girl, you know we'll miss you so. O Stella Girl, you know we'll miss you so.

He takes a bow and Lester starts clapping and lights start flashing. Smoke rolls from the stage and Wong Lee wails on the synthesizer.

GAYLA appears in a tight Marilyn Monroe type dress and YELLS to Wong Lee.

GAYLA

Hit it Wong Lee!

Gayla does a couple of twirls.

GAYLA

A kiss on the lips may be quite Continental, but diamonds are a girls best friend. Stella shopped till she dropped, what a way to make an exit, she had fun and spent till the end. See her now, catch her glow, say goodbye arrivederci, it's time for her to fly away. She'll be missed, no more sales, shorter lines for her to wait in, 'cause shopping was that girl's best friend.

Gayla does the shimmy while she sings the last line.

The crowd APPLAUDS wildly and she leaves the stage.

WONG LEE plays his entrance for Daneen, however he get's carried away improvising and Daneen isn't sure when to come in.

GAYLA shoves her out there and Daneen does her best to start her tribute to New York, Stella's most favorite place on earth.

DANEEN

Da, da da da da, Da, da da da da,
Start spreading the news, I'm
starting today. I'm gonna make the
most of it, in old New York, Those
little town blues have melted away,
I'm gonna make the best of this, in
old New York.

Gayla unexpectedly runs in from the side of the stage and does a front hand spring and splits.

On the way down she RIPS her dress and also PASSES GAS.

Wong Lee starts playing an improvisational creation on the synthesizer and Daneen is completely fouled up and horrified.

Daneen steps over Gayla and lets her voice blare in a bluesy, guttural fashion.

DANEEN

If she could make it here, Stella
will make it anywhere.

Daneen points upward.

DANEEN

She loved New York, New York, New
York.

Gayla joins in the big finish.

DANEEN AND GAYLA

DA, da da da da, Da, da da da da,
She loved New York, New York, New
York.

By this time most of the audience is blitzed or tanked on caffeine, alcohol and dirt cookies.

They are roaring with LAUGHTER, CLAPPING and CLANGING their glasses.

Daneen and Gayla leave the stage.

FATHER DANAHER

We would like to thank everyone for coming, we hope you enjoyed yourselves. Mrs. Stella Giovanni, will now be receiving people in the line that forms to the left of her casket.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - RECEIVING LINE - NIGHT

Lester and Lucille stand in front of the casket, to see their neighbor one more time.

LESTER

She never looked that good before. In fact she was a two bagger.

LUCILLE

That's not what you thought when you two were caught kissing at poker.

LESTER

Mother, are you gonna bring that up again? That was fifty years ago.

LUCILLE

How soon we forget Mr. Casanova.

LESTER

Oh LuLu, you know you're the only girl for me.

LUCILLE

Don't you LuLu me, wait till I get you home.

Ellie (73) a close friend of Stella's moves up to the casket.

BEATRICE

Stella, I'm telling you,, you out did yourself on this one. I ain't never seen a service with this much, uh...this much, flair. And your hair is to die for and your complexion never looked better. You're gonna be the life of the party up in heaven. P.S. tell that Angel Michael hello from me.

She makes the sign of the cross.

LEONA (50'S) Stella's daughter, brings up the end of the line.

LEONA

Oh, Momma, I'm going to miss you so much. Shopping will never be the same without you.

She focuses on the finger with the huge diamond ring flipping the bird.

LEONA

You know, your last purchase is really beautiful. Maybe I should keep it, cause every time I'd look at it, I would feel close to you.

Leona tries to pry the ring off her mother's finger, to no avail. In the process she loosens the other fingers a bit and before she walks off her mother's other finger on the right hand pops up and flips her off.

A final loving gesture.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Daneen isn't too happy with Gayla's spur of the moment gymnastics, or Wong Lee's musical improvisations.

DANEEN

What the hell was that Gayla?

GAYLA

What?

DANEEN

Did you think this was the Olympic tryouts? And what about that loose hole of yours? What do you have to say for yourself?

GAYLA

Oh, aren't you cruel. What's your problem anyway? You've been pretty uptight lately.

DANEEN

My problem is that in the middle of my number, you think you're a pro gymnast!

GAYLA

I'm sorry ok? I just sorta got caught up in the excitement. You were singing great and Wong Lee was jamming and I just couldn't help myself.

DANEEN

(in a calm voice, she counts to three)

It's okay. I understand. Something just happens when you're on stage and have a captive audience. It gets in your bowel ...I mean your blood.

Gayla rolls her eyes.

GAYLA

Nice.

DANEEN

I do need to speak with Wong Lee. He's gotta quit improvising. He's also been acting pretty strange lately.

GAYLA

Yeah, he said some weird things are going on around here. He told me Mr. Gotto helped himself to some booze and nuts. How rude of him.

DANEEN

Gayla, is anybody home in there? Mr. Gotto didn't take any booze, or nuts. He's dead.

GAYLA

My point exactly. You'd think he'd have more respect for the living.

Daneen can't take anymore.

DANEEN

Is it just me or is everybody crazy? You and Wong Lee have some issues. There's a disconnect somewhere.

GAYLA

You need to calm down. Ma is right. I'm worried about you.

Daneen counts to three and takes a deep breath.

DANEEN

1-2-3. You're right. I need to calm down. Why don't we say goodbye to everyone and lock up.

GAYLA

Sounds good.

DANEEN

By the way Gayla, you did a great job on Mrs. Giovanni. She did look like a movie star.

GAYLA

Thanks! I think her daughter was happy.

INT. STIFF'S 'R' US - LOBBY - NIGHT

Wong Lee takes orders for Baked Earth cookies.

WONG LEE

Okey dokey. Give me your names and numbers and we'll call you when they're in.

Gayla, Suzi and Sister Anna Marie clean up.

Daneen makes her way through the crowd that's gathered around Wong Lee.

DANEEN

Wong Lee, what's going on?

WONG LEE

Hey Boss. Your Mom's cookies went like hot cakes. People love em. I'm taking orders for her.

DANEEN

Great. How versatile. A funeral parlor, slash bakery.

Daneen escorts the last of the guests out. You can hear people still laughing in the parking lot.

A GUEST

That was a great show! I never laughed so hard in my life. It was like watching the three stooges.

A GUEST

You should go on the road with that act.

DANEEN

Thanks.

Daneen glares.

DANEEN

(under her breath)

Ass hole. It wasn't meant to be funny.

Suzi walks up to Daneen to say goodbye.

SUZI WONG

Hey Boss. This was a great evening! I can make more doing this than when I'm wrestling! Are we still on for Saturday at one?

DANEEN

We sure are. Thanks for your help, Suzi.

SUZI WONG

Next time I'm going to bring my roller skates. I can get the orders out faster then.

DANEEN

Great idea!

SISTER ANNA MARIE who is different than most Nuns, makes her exit.

Army boots adorn her feet and a leather biker jacket go nicely with the habit she wears.

SISTER ANNA MARIE

God bless you and Gayla. The 1st order of the Big Sisters of the Neighborhood thanks you too. I made a lot in tips tonight. It will really help us.

DANEEN

Our pleasure, but thank you. We couldn't have pulled this off without you. Does Saturday at 1 pm still work for you?

SISTER ANNA MARIE
Damn straight it does! I'll be
here.

As Sister Anna Marie hops on her motorcycle, Daneen locks the front door and looks for Wong Lee.

EXT. STIFF'S 'R' US - DELIVERY DOCK - NIGHT

Wong Lee wheels Mrs. Giovanni to the pick up area. Tomorrow she moves into her new home at the Woodside Cemetery on the edge of Queens, New York. Wong Lee always says one last good-bye to the stiffs.

WONG LEE
Hey Mrs. G., you sure look
beautiful. I just want to tell you
what a pleasure it's been knowing
you. You're a whole lot of fun.

Daneen walks up to discuss his musical improvisation.

DANEEN
Hey Wong Lee, who are you talking
to?

WONG LEE
Me? I wasn't talking to anyone. Are
you alright?

DANEEN
I thought I heard you talking to
someone.

WONG LEE
Nope.

DANEEN
Anyway, we sure pulled it off
tonight, but I want to talk to you
about the music.

WONG LEE
Yeah, what'd you think boss? We got
a lot of condiments!

Daneen winces.

DANEEN
Oh 1-2... How about if we talk
later. Thanks for all your help
today. Let's get outta here.

WONG LEE

Okey dokey boss. I'll finish up and go out the back door. Tell your wonderful mother Mona I'll call her with these cookie orders.

DANEEN

Oh, I sure will. Who ever would've thought those dirt cookies would be such a hit?

Wong Lee exits.

DANEEN

(talking to herself)

I guess I really don't know much about anything. Corpses are taking liquor, and nuts, Ma's dirt cookies are a hit and my Sister has become a jet propelled flying wonder.

She takes a deep breath and counts to three.

Gayla walks up and looks around.

GAYLA

Who are you talking to? Why are you always counting?

DANEEN

Me? I'm not talking or counting.

GAYLA

Okay. Are you ready to go?

DANEEN

Oh, you have no idea how ready I am.

Daneen turns the lights off and soft rock music feels the funeral parlour.

EXT. STIFF'S 'R' US FUNERAL PARLOR - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The fully lit and flashing lights, whimsically dance in the midnight air.

CRASH! There's another distracted fender bender.

INT. MONA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

Mona cooks breakfast while HUMMING a tune.

We hear squawking from the other room.

BIRD (O.S.)
Mona's nuts! Mona's nuts!

MONA
Watch it bird! I'm gonna cook you
for breakfast!

The kitchen is a mess. Mona has been creating all morning.

Gayla and Daneen both enter and stare at what Mona is putting on their plates.

It appears to be something that is bright lime green with red things in it.

DANEEN
Ma, what exactly is this creation?
I've never eaten anything that's
(pause) so green before.

GAYLA
(curious)
Is this spinach?

MONA
Relax. It's eggs with cheese and
bruschetta. I sprinkled some food
coloring in for decoration.

The bird squawks again from the other room.

BIRD (O.S.)
Bad idea! Bad idea!

MONA
I'm gonna kill that bird. I don't
know why your dad ever brought it
home. I asked for a fur. I'm sure
up in heaven, he's still screwing
things up. How'd it go last night?

Gayla scarfs down the eggs.

GAYLA
We had a full house and Mrs.
Giovanni looked beautiful. Oh and
Ma, you're never gonna believe
this. You know all of those baked
earth cookies they --

Daneen cuts in.

DANEEN

Dirt Gayla. They're dirt cookies.

GAYLA

Okay, whatever, you know those baked earth cookies you gave us? People loved them. We ran out and they were asking for more!

DANEEN

Before I forget, Wong Lee said to tell you he'd be calling you with orders he took for you last night.

MONA

Isn't he the sweetest little music man you've ever met? I just love that little guy.

Daneen and Gayla stare at each other with surprise.

DANEEN

You're right Ma. He has a way with a keyboard, for sure.

MONA

So, what's your day look like?

DANEEN

We have a very busy day today. Mr. Gotto was delivered yesterday and we have to plan the show for Saturday.

GAYLA

Well, the only thing I know about him is that he loved rock 'n' roll from the fifties, Lesley Gore and beautiful women.

Gayla has that "deep in thought" look, which concerns Daneen.

GAYLA

I've got some great ideas for this one.

DANEEN

You have to promise me no more gymnastics.

GAYLA

Fine. You're kind of a buzz kill. Have you met him?

Daneen is loving the eggs and ignores Gayla. She's talking between bites, while shoveling it in. Extra food coloring must have been in one of the bites and her lips are bright lime green.

DANEEN

God, these are so good! I haven't had the chance to see Mr. Gotto. He was too busy stealing booze, and nuts yesterday.

Daneen laughs and throws back more of the eggs.

Mona flinches a bit.

DANEEN

Ma, these eggs are great! What do you call them?

Mona looks at Daneen like she think's she's a little scrambled.

Nobody tells Daneen about the green lips.

MONA

I call them ...eggs. Gayla keep an eye on your sister today. I'm worried about her.

EXT. STIFF'S 'R' US FUNERAL PARLOR ENTRANCE - BROOKLYN, NY

Daneen happily and unaware, arrives at work. Her lips are bright lime green.

CRASH! There's another accident out front.

FADE OUT.