

Grandma Flemming Dialogue Script

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GRANDMA TALKS TO HERSELF 1

GRANDMA
Oh, what a pretty room.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
I wish Ben could see this, he would
love it.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
I wonder what the place will look
like all finished.

GRANDMA TALKS TO HERSELF 2

GRANDMA
What, dear? Oh...there's no one
there.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Oh, dear...

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
(laughing softly)
Well...that's just silly.

GRANDMA TALKS TO HERSELF 3

GRANDMA
Ooh, these old bones...

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Not so easy to get around any more.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
(sighing)
Maybe I should just sit down...

GRANDMA TALKS TO URN 1

GRANDMA
Halflway to the Grand Canyon, Ben!
I wish you could see this Caldwell
Hotel. It's...something else.

GRANDMA TALKS TO URN 2

GRANDMA
This place reminds me of when we
honeymooned in New York.
(MORE)

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

Of course, it wasn't quite like this! There isn't a dance floor here. And our hotel was a little more lively!

(bittersweet)

But I suppose that's how we were, too...

GRANDMA TALKS TO URN 3

GRANDMA

Ben...this place feels strange... Like someone is near me, but when I turn to look, there's no one there..

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Ben, can you hear me? Is it you?

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(laughing shakily)

Are you haunting me, Benny? You rascal...

(trails off worried)

GRANDMA TALKS TO URN 4

GRANDMA

Oh, Ben...I miss you...

(heartbroken)

I just wish-

(sighs)

CLARA & GRANDMA 1

CLARA

Are you enjoying your stay, ma'am?

GRANDMA

Oh yes, it's lovely here. Reminds me of traveling with my husband.

CLARA

That sounds nice.

GRANDMA

(wistfully)

It was. Ben and I used to travel several times a year. New York, London, Hawaii.

CLARA

(amused)

I can't say this town reminds me of any of those locations.

GRANDMA

Well no, but just meeting new people in new places. You and your husband really should try to take as many trips as you can.

CLARA

O-oh...Well, I'm not married.

GRANDMA

(surprised)

No? But how old-

(catches herself)

Nevermind, dear, it's different than it was back then. That's acceptable nowadays.

CLARA

(flatly)

What's acceptable?

GRANDMA

Well, a woman doesn't need a man today. Of course, I would think it's lonely, but to each their own. I'm sure you have your reasons.

CLARA

(coldly)

...Enjoy the rest of your stay, ma'am.

CLARA & GRANDMA 2

GRANDMA

Oh, chef? I wanted to thank you for dinner last night. That was the best chicken marsala I've had in my life!

CLARA

(pleased)

Of course. I'm glad you enjoyed it.

GRANDMA

Better than my mother's, even, and that was a lady who could cook. Oh, she had this recipe for macarons.

CLARA

Macarons can be rather tricky. I don't make them often, myself.

GRANDMA

Oh, well I really have to give you this recipe in case you ever want to try again sometime. I'll write it down for you later!

CLARA

(pleasantly, sincere)

Thank you, that's very sweet. Perhaps I'll try it out before you leave. Let me know if you have any preferences for tonight's meal.

GRANDMA

I'm sure whatever you make will be delicious!

CLARA & GRANDMA 3

GRANDMA

Lovely evening, isn't it?

CLARA

Yes, ma'am. Is there anything I can get for you?

GRANDMA

Oh, come now, you can call me Grandma Flemming. Everyone does.

CLARA

Er...

GRANDMA

(ignoring her hesitation)

But no, I'm quite alright. Just enjoying the atmosphere.

CLARA

Hopefully it isn't too lonely being the only guest this week.

GRANDMA

Not at all. It has been nice talking with you and Frankie. Plus, the last hotel I stayed at was so noisy. Some sort of highschool football team staying with them.

CLARA

You're going across the country,
right? Isn't it difficult traveling
alone?

GRANDMA

Hmm, should it be?

CLARA

What if something happens? It seems
dangerous.

GRANDMA

Life is dangerous. You can't hold
back yourself back just because
something might happen, right?
That's no way to live.

CLARA

(uncomfortable)

Maybe...

CLARA & GRANDMA 4

GRANDMA

You know, you remind me of my
granddaughter.

CLARA

You don't seem old enough to have a
granddaughter my age.

GRANDMA

(laughs)

Well, thank you. She may be a
little younger, but not by much.
She's studying to be a veterinarian
right now. Very dedicated to her
work. A labor of passion, much like
your craft.

CLARA

(surprised)

My craft?

GRANDMA

Oh, I can tell. You don't cook, you
make works of art. Experiences.

CLARA

(touched)

T-thank you. I didn't expect-

GRANDMA

(teasing)

What? An old lady like me to appreciate a fine meal?

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're here for my sake, but you should be cooking at a five star restaurant. Not a small hotel in a small town.

CLARA

Maybe someday...

(reluctantly sharing)

Honestly, it would be a dream come true.

GRANDMA

Then you should do it!

CLARA

If it were that easy-

GRANDMA

(bluntly)

Then it wouldn't be worth it. You should chase that dream with all your might. Don't let anything hold you back. Not another person, not even yourself.

CLARA

...Your granddaughter is lucky to have someone so supportive in her life.

CLARA & GRANDMA 5

GRANDMA

Dear, can you please stop going into my room without permission?

CLARA

Excuse me?

GRANDMA

If you need something, I don't mind if you ask. But please ask.

CLARA

What are you talking about? I haven't gone into your room.

GRANDMA

I already asked Frankie and he said
it wasn't him.

CLARA

Well it isn't me, either.

GRANDMA

(frustrated)

Well, someone keeps moving my
things around!

CLARA

And I'm telling you it isn't me.
Are you sure you didn't just move
them yourself?

GRANDMA

(confused)

I'm...nearly positive. No, I am
positive. I definitely didn't move
anything.

CLARA

...

GRANDMA

(angry)

You're just trying to trick an old
lady! What an awful prank!

CLARA

What?! No I'm not! Don't just
accuse people because you can't
remember!

GRANDMA

I'm just asking that you stay out
of my room! It's just common
courtesy.

CLARA

(firmly, mad)

Not a problem, since I haven't been
in your room!

GRANDMA

Well good then!

(hesitant)

G-good...

CLARA & GRANDMA 6

CLARA
(muttering to herself)
What a long night...

GRANDMA
Ladies don't mumble, dear.

CLARA
So?

GRANDMA
Well, you were mumbling.

CLARA
Then don't call me a lady.

GRANDMA
You know, with an attitude like
that, you have no one to blame for
your unhappiness but yourself.

CLARA
I'm really not in the mood right
now, Grandma...
(says 'grandma'
sarcastically)

GRANDMA
All I'm saying is, why don't you
try to be more positive about
things.

CLARA
I'm positive I'm not in the mood
right now.

GRANDMA
(sighs)
Alright, be that way.

CLARA
Thank you.

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 1

GRANDMA
Frankie, you're such a handsome
young man. Do you have a
girlfriend?

FRANKIE

(playful)

Mrs. Flemming, I'm flattered, but you deserve better than me.

GRANDMA

(laughs)

Oh, boy, what a card! I bet you have to fight the ladies off.

FRANKIE

Alas, the ladies I know don't appreciate the greatness that is all this.

GRANDMA

(laughing)

Well, when you meet someone who does, she'll be a very lucky lady.

FRANKIE

(laughs)

I don't know about lucky...

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 2

GRANDMA

So, are you in college, Frankie?

FRANKIE

(cheerful)

Yes, ma'am! I'm a sophomore this year.

GRANDMA

Oh, how wonderful! What are you studying?

FRANKIE

(shamelessly)

I'm still undeclared.

GRANDMA

Well, that's alright. You have plenty of time to sort things out. Is there anything you're thinking about yet?

FRANKIE

Nope!

GRANDMA
(weakly laughs)
W-well...you'll figure something
out...hopefully.

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 3

FRANKIE
So what kind of things do you do
for fun back home, Grandma
Flemming?

GRANDMA
Nowadays I mostly just have lunch
with friends and knit. But when I
was younger, Ben and I used to
swing dance, if you can believe it.

FRANKIE
(laughs)
I can definitely believe that. I
bet you would set the dance floor
on fire.

GRANDMA
Oh, we would! We even won a local
swing dance competition once!

FRANKIE
No way, first place?

GRANDMA
First place. No one could jitterbug
like we could!

FRANKIE
(highly amused)
Is that right? Sounds like a blast.

GRANDMA
(happily reminiscent)
Oh it was...

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 4

GRANDMA
Frankie, dear, it doesn't bother
you to be up here alone all night?

FRANKIE

Nah, it's not too bad. I can read my magazines and the music is pretty nice.

GRANDMA

I'm going to confess, I would get a little creeped out. There are so many strange noises and shadows in this building...

FRANKIE

...Well, it's just an old building. There's not a lot I can do about the pipe creaking, but let me know if there's anything you need to make your stay more comfortable. I don't want you to feel uneasy.

GRANDMA

Oh, no! It's perfectly alright. Just an old lady letting her imagination get the best of her!

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 5

GRANDMA

That young woman. Is she always like that?

FRANKIE

Clara? Like what?

GRANDMA

Well, like- You know...

FRANKIE

(amused)

In a bad mood?

GRANDMA

That's nicer than what I was going to say.

FRANKIE

Clara's not so bad. She's just a little rough around the edges. She acts standoffish sometimes, but she's a softie.

GRANDMA

If you say so...

FRANKIE

I do. She's a good person. She works hard.

(laughs)

Harder than me for sure. Plus, I can't complain about her too much when she sets a plate aside for me at dinner every night.

GRANDMA

Well, it'd be easier to get along with her if she wasn't so unpleasant.

FRANKIE

(laughs)

I won't argue with that.

FRANKIE & GRANDMA 6

FRANKIE

Doing alright, Grandma Flemming? Is there anything I can get for you?

GRANDMA

(kindly)

You're such a sweet young man. But no, I'm just fine, thank you.

GRANDMA WHEN FRANKIE DIES

GRANDMA

Oh no, Frankie! Oh dear! Oh, someone! Someone, help!

GRANDMA WHEN CLARA DIES

GRANDMA

Clara? Oh my lord! Oh, 911! We need to call 911!

GRANDMA STARTLED

GRANDMA

Oh my word! What was that?!

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Ah!

GRANDMA NERVOUS

GRANDMA
It's just my imagination...

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Okay, Lucy, snap out of it!

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Oh, if only Benny were here...

GRANDMA SCARED

GRANDMA
Oh, Benny, what do I do?!

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Holy Mary, Mother of God, please
protect me...

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
In the name of the father, son...

GRANDMA TERRIFIED

GRANDMA
Oh, Lord! Please save me! I don't
want to die yet!

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
I can't stay here anymore! I just
can't!
(flees the hotel)