

## Frankie Dialogue Script

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FRANKIE TALKS TO HIMSELF 1

FRANKIE

Jeez, can't someone else go down to the basement when the power goes out?

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

It's so creepy down there...

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

I wonder if the mayor will install more lights over the stairs.

FRANKIE TALKS TO HIMSELF 2

FRANKIE

I cannot wait until their concert this year!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

They are going to be so awesome live.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

I wonder if I can get an autograph...

FRANKIE TALKS TO HIMSELF 3

FRANKIE

I wish Clara would stop treating me like a bus boy.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

When we get more guests, I won't have time to run tables for her plus my desk job.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

She needs to just relax. I know she just wants to make a good impression, but seriously...

CLARA & FRANKIE 1

CLARA

How is your family, Frankie?

FRANKIE

(amused)

They're good, though my little sister, Nicole, has just started dating. She's only fifteen, and she is all boy crazy.

CLARA

Fifteen?! She's still so young...

FRANKIE

(laughs)

You sound like my dad. She is driving him crazy. But she's smart, she's just having fun.

CLARA

(chuckles)

That's good.

FRANKIE

Do you have any siblings, Clara?

CLARA

...No...I don't. I have to get back to the kitchen.

FRANKIE

Okay...

CLARA & FRANKIE 2

FRANKIE

I was just reading this article about garage bands making it big-

CLARA

Do you play an instrument?

FRANKIE

Well, no, but I really like reading about music. It's the language of the soul, you know.

CLARA

(skeptically)

Language of the soul? I don't know about that... Aren't you in college? If you're going to read at the desk, you should be reading a textbook.

FRANKIE  
Yeah, yeah...

CLARA & FRANKIE 3

CLARA  
Hey, Frankie...

FRANKIE  
(distracted)  
Yeah?

CLARA  
Have you noticed anything...weird  
around here?

FRANKIE  
(pays more attention)  
Weird... Like what?

CLARA  
Nevermind. I'm just being  
ridiculous.

FRANKIE  
Have you noticed anything weird?

CLARA  
(hesitates)  
I just seem to have bad luck in the  
kitchen. It's nothing.

FRANKIE  
Like things falling off the  
counter?

CLARA  
Sure. Falling. Something like that.

FRANKIE  
Or things turning off and on when  
no one is near them. And items keep  
moving to different rooms. And  
maybe not really falling...maybe  
more like floating...

CLARA  
You have noticed!

FRANKIE  
(deadpan)  
Nope, I haven't noticed any of  
those things.

CLARA  
W-what? But-

FRANKIE  
You know how demons get power?

CLARA  
(interrupting)  
Demons?!

FRANKIE  
(as if she didn't speak)  
You give them power, by feeding  
into the fear. Don't believe in  
demons, you won't have any demons.

CLARA  
I'm not sure it works like that...  
And anyway, I never said demons...

FRANKIE  
(pleasantly)  
Demons? Who said anything about  
demons?

CLARA  
(more unsettled than  
before)  
Sure...

CLARA & FRANKIE 4

FRANKIE  
So, when do you think renovations  
are going to be finished?

CLARA  
Finished? I'd like to know when  
they're going to restart! That man  
talks big, but who opens a hotel  
for business before all the rooms  
are ready?

FRANKIE  
Well, it's not like people are  
beating down our door for a place  
to stay...

CLARA  
Probably because the place looks  
like it's about to fall down...

FRANKIE

I dunno. I think Mayor Conway is doing a pretty decent job so far.

CLARA

I don't even know if this place really looks like the 1920s. It's like an amusement park set up...

FRANKIE

(laughs)

Oh come on, it's not that bad! Maybe it'll get better when the whole building is open.

CLARA

I just hope he doesn't give up before then. I want more people to come to my kitchen.

FRANKIE

It would be nice to have more people here...

CLARA & FRANKIE 5

CLARA

That old lady...

FRANKIE

(defensive)

What's wrong with Grandma Flemming?

CLARA

Grandma? You're calling her Grandma now?

FRANKIE

She asked me to.

CLARA

She's so damn cheerful. It's driving me crazy.

FRANKIE

You're annoyed because...she's in a pleasant mood? Jeez, Clara...

CLARA

It's not a pleasant mood, she literally never stops smiling! And she told me I need to smile more.

FRANKIE

Well it wouldn't hurt...

CLARA

Why should I have to smile?!

FRANKIE

No one is saying you have to! You don't even have to smile, but maybe if you try to be a little nicer...

CLARA

...

FRANKIE

I just mean, she doesn't know you that well.

CLARA

Exactly. So she should keep her opinions to herself. She's nosey.

FRANKIE

That's your opinion of the little old lady you barely know?

CLARA

...Oh shut up.

FRANKIE

(laughs)

CLARA & FRANKIE 6

FRANKIE

Hey, will you go into the basement the next time the power goes out?

CLARA

What? Why?

FRANKIE

It's just...I hate going down there...

CLARA

...You're afraid of the basement? Come on, are you a little kid?

FRANKIE

I didn't say I was afraid!

CLARA

Then why do you hate it?

FRANKIE

It just...It smells terrible,  
that's all. It's making me sick.

CLARA

I don't smell anything when I go  
down there...

FRANKIE

Come on, Clara, can't you just do  
this for me?

CLARA

Frankie, it's just a basement.

FRANKIE

So you don't mind?

CLARA

If the power goes out, I have to  
make sure nothing happens in the  
kitchen. You'll be fine. There's  
nothing down there.

(she walks away)

FRANKIE

Damn it...

FRANKIE & GRANDMA

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.  
(MORE)

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

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 &amp; 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.

## FRANKIE WHEN GRANDMA DIES

FRANKIE  
Grandma Flemming?! Oh no!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
It's okay, Grandma, I'm getting  
help! Just hang in there!

## FRANKIE WHEN CLARA DIES

FRANKIE  
Clara! Oh shit, did she pass out?

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
Clara? Clara, wake up! No, she  
can't be- Clara!

## FRANKIE IN A TIGHT SPACE

FRANKIE  
The walls are not moving in, the  
walls are not moving in.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
It's just my imagination.

## FRANKIE STARTLED

FRANKIE  
What the heck was that?!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
Did I just see-...

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
No, that's impossible...

## FRANKIE NERVOUS

FRANKIE

Okay, keep your cool, Frankie. It's  
all good...

(clearly not all good)

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Come on, there's nothing to be  
afraid of. It's just the dark.  
There's nothing in the dark...

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Nothing to worry about at all...

## FRANKIE SCARED

FRANKIE

(clearly scared)

Nope! Nothing to worry about!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

It's just my imagination! Nothing  
to be afraid of!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe a little to be afraid  
of! It takes courage to admit  
you're scared, right?

## FRANKIE TERRIFIED

FRANKIE

OKAY! A lot to be afraid of!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(shaky and fearful)

What the hell is wrong with this  
place?!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(on the verge of tears)

I want to go home! I hate this  
place! I just want to go home!

(runs out)

## FRANKIE DIES IN THE DARK

FRANKIE

(screams)

Let me out! Let me out, let me out!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
Mom! Dad! Please, help me!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
(sobs as he collapses)  
Why?! I didn't do anything wrong!  
Please...let me out...