

Clara Dialogue Script

CLARA TALKS TO HERSELF 1

CLARA
I swear, someday I'm going to get
out of this place.

CLARA (CONT'D)
Open a restaurant in a big city...

CLARA (CONT'D)
Somewhere where the electricity
doesn't keep going out!

CLARA TALKS TO HERSELF 2

CLARA
Port wine into the beef broth...

CLARA (CONT'D)
Where did I put the bleu cheese?

CLARA (CONT'D)
(muttering)
If you want a menu like this, of
course you're going to be
overbudget...idiot.

CLARA TALKS TO HERSELF 3

CLARA
That Frankie out there...he can at
least prepare the tables a little
quicker.

CLARA (CONT'D)
Always gets distracted talking. The
people want to eat, not hear you
ramble about your favorite bands!

CLARA (CONT'D)
...He's a good kid, though...

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...

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 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.

CLARA WHEN GRANDMA DIES

CLARA

(shouting)

Mrs. Flemming?! Oh my god, Mrs. Flemming are you okay?!

CLARA (CONT'D)

I can't find a pulse! We need an ambulance!

CLARA WHEN FRANKIE DIES

CLARA
Frankie?! Frankie! No, Frankie, get
up!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Not again...not again! Come on, get
up! I can't be too late, again!

CLARA NEAR FIRE

CLARA
(agitated)
Damn it, why are there so many open
flames in such an old, flammable
building? I bet this place doesn't
pass any safety regulations.

CLARA STARTLED

CLARA
What the hell?!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Shit!

CLARA (CONT'D)
What is going on??

CLARA NERVOUS

CLARA
(muttering)
I hate this... Why can't things
ever go smoothly here?

CLARA (CONT'D)
It's fine, it's fine...

CLARA (CONT'D)
Breathe in...
(inhales)
Breathe out...
(exhales)
In...

CLARA SCARED

CLARA
(scared)
Don't freak out. I can handle this.

CLARA (CONT'D)
God, I don't want to be here!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch!

CLARA (CONT'D)
(hyperventilating)
Breathe in, breath out. Breathe in,
breath out.
(makes a whiny noise)

CLARA TERRIFIED

CLARA
(shouting in fear)
No! Not again, not again!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Please, someone! Someone, help!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Someone! I can't do anything! Why
won't anyone ever help?! I couldn't
do anything!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Oh god, forgive me!
(runs out of the building)

CLARA BURNING TO DEATH

CLARA
(screaming, mental break
down)
Madeleine! I'm sorry! Oh, God! I'm
sorry! Madeleine!
(collapses, dying)