

The doorbell rings again.

FRANKIE

That must be the social group.

She opens the door, but instead of a bunch of nerds, Frankie is surprised to find the social group have grown into nice-looking, confident young men. Their dates look quite normal as well.

Start →

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Hey, Zack. Hey, Scott. Hi, Henry...  
Whoa, I see we've done some growing.  
Well, come on in, everybody.

They enter, see Brick and greet him warmly.

ZACK

Hey, Brick, how's it going?

HENRY

Yeah, it's been a while.

SCOTT comes over to Frankie. →

SCOTT

Hi, Mrs. Heck. I just wanted to thank you for having us over. It's a very kind gesture.

FRANKIE

Oh, this? Well, I just wanted you all to have a place where your posse could hang.

She picks up a bowl from the table.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Hey, are you hungry? I got some licorice, 'cause I know you only eat red food.

He laughs heartily.

SCOTT

Oh my God, that's right -- I totally used to do that! How funny that you remembered! No, I assure you, I eat everything now. Especially vegetables. Best way to stay healthy.

A little thrown, Frankie puts down the bowl.

FRANKIE

Alright, then. Um, I don't really have any vegetables, but chips count, right? That's potatoes.

ZACK  
1 scene

3 pgs.

Play this

as one  
interaction  
for the sake  
of auditions

"The Middle"

G. Charles Wright  
CASTING

1 of 3

She laughs as Scott smiles politely. Meanwhile, the front door opens and Axl leads in Sue, who is still wearing the blindfold. He looks desperate, not yet having found a gift.

SUE

Ooh, where are we now?

(sniffs)

It smells musty.

(excited)

Are we in a cave?

She walks along, arms outstretched, until she touches one of the breezeway screens.

SUE (CONT'D)

Ooh, now this feels expensive! Are we in a fancy hotel lobby?

The social group kids are talking amongst themselves across the room.

SUE (CONT'D)

I hear people. Is this a surprise party? Ooh, is it a disco theme?

AXL

Oh, it's a surprise, alright.

He leads her toward the hallway, but she accidentally bumps into Henry.

HENRY

Oh, I'm sorry. Please excuse me.

Unable to see, Sue proudly turns toward the voice.

SUE

No, excuse me. It was my birthday two months ago and my brother's doing this whole amazing experience for me.

HENRY

Well, happy birthday.

Axl leads Sue down the hall. Over at the coffee table, Frankie offers food to Zack.

Continue →

FRANKIE

Hi, Zack. I got a tiny bowl of goldfish and you can eat right out of the dish.

She pretends to eat out of the bowl like a cat. He laughs.

20F3

ZACK

Oh gosh, I don't do that crazy cat stuff anymore. That was so long ago. I guess we've outgrown all our little quirks.

END

Frankie turns to see Brick, sitting at the microfiche machine, ignoring his guests. He finally looks up at her.

BRICK

Did you know bell peppers were four cents a pound in 1932?

Frankie sighs and shakes her head.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

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