

Everybody Loves Raymond
"The Sample Lady"

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EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND

"THE SAMPLE LADY"

TEASER

INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY
(Debra, Robert, Ray)

RAY AND ROBERT ARE ON THE COUCH AND ARE COMPLETELY ENVELOPED IN WHAT THEY ARE WATCHING ON THE TELEVISION. DEBRA ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN AND HEADS TO THE STAIRS. SHE STOPS AS SHE PASSES THE COUCH AND DOES A TAKE TO THE TV.

DEBRA

Ray, what are you watching?

ROBERT

Low speed chase.

DEBRA

That car looks just like--

RAY

Yeah, I know.

DEBRA

Have you called to check?

ROBERT

Too afraid to.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA
Want me to?

RAY
Not sure.

ROBERT
The driver appears to be an older
female Caucasian with white hair. And
she seems to be gesturing wildly for
people to get out of her way.

DEBRA PICKS UP TELEPHONE AND DIALS. RAY AND ROBERT REACT TO A
NEAR MISS ON THE TELEVISION.

RAY
Pedestrian! Pedestrian!

ROBERT
Look out! Look out!

DEBRA
(INTO THE PHONE)
Frank! Hi! It's Debra. Listen, is
Marie home?

RAY AND ROBERT TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO DEBRA.

THERE IS A LONG BEAT...

THE WAIT IS EXCRUCIATING...

AND FINALLY...

DEBRA (CONT'D)
Marie! Hi, it's Debra.

DEBRA WAVES OFF THE BOYS AS SHE EXITS TO THE KITCHEN. RAY
TURNS OFF THE TELEVISION IN MILD DISGUST. RAY AND ROBERT
STAND AND HEAD TO THE FRONT DOOR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
You know, there's never anything good
on TV anymore.

RAY AND ROBERT REACH THE DOOR. ROBERT OPENS IT.

ROBERT
It gets worse every year.

THEY GO OUT AND CLOSE THE DOOR.

CUT TO:
OPENING CREDITS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE**SCENE A**INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

(Ray, Robert, Debra, Ally)

RAY AND ROBERT ARE ON THE COUCH WATCHING A BASKETBALL GAME. RAY HAS A CLIPBOARD AND IS CONSULTING IT AS ROBERT MUNCHES FROM A BOWL OF CHIPS. A WALKIE TALKIE SITS NEXT TO THE BOWL ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

RAY

This is incredible! This is one big
upset in the making.

ROBERT

I know - if Georgetown doesn't turn
things around in the next four minutes
there's going to be a new team on the
bubble.

RAY

I love the run up to March Madness!
College basketball rocks, baby!

ROBERT

I'm as excited about it as you are,
Raymond, but please - don't call me
baby. It's unprofessional.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
Quick - switch over to channel thirty
and check out the other game! I'm
getting another juice. Want anything?

RAY GETS UP AND EXITS TO THE KITCHEN WITH HIS CLIPBOARD.

ROBERT
I could use a bottle of water.

RAY
You got it, bay-bee!

DEBRA AND ALLY ENTER FROM UPSTAIRS. THEY ARE BOTH DRESSED IN
ELEGANT EVENING GOWNS AND ARE WEARING LONG WHITE GLOVES.

DEBRA
Hi, Robert. Game over yet?

ROBERT
Over for Georgetown, maybe - but not
exactly finished. Meanwhile, Alabama
and Auburn are just tipping off!

RAY ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN WITH HIS CLIPBOARD, A BOTTLE OF
WATER AND A BOTTLE OF ORANGE JUICE.

RAY
No look pass!

RAY TOSSES THE WATER TO ROBERT AS HE CROSSES BEHIND THE COUCH
TO DEBRA.

ROBERT
Nice assist by Barone!

RAY
Hey bay-bee! Wow! You two look great!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA
Why, thank you!

RAY
(BEAT)
I don't have to go, do I?

DEBRA
Ray! I told you about this. Ally,
Marie and I are going to the ballet
today.

RAY
(BEAT)
You told me about this?

DEBRA
Yes. Remember? Ally didn't get to go
see Swan Lake last month because she
had that cold?

RAY
(BEAT)
You told me about this?

DEBRA
So we're dressing up just like we were
going, but we're going to watch it
this afternoon on PBS?

RAY
(BEAT)
You told me about this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Yes, Ray! I told you! See, we're all ready to watch the ballet. Isn't your daughter beautiful?

RAY

Hey there, sweetheart!

ALLY

Like my gloves?

RAY

Yes I do! You're beautiful.

DEBRA

So is your game over? The ballet starts in five minutes.

RAY

Oh! Ohhhhh. Ohhhhhhh. Well, you see... it's uh - it's conference tournament weekend.

DEBRA

And? When's the game over, Ray?

RAY

It's not just one game, Debra. It's games. They're playing all day. On lots of different channels. We had to make a chart to keep up with everything. See?

RAY PROUDLY SHOWS DEBRA HIS CLIPBOARD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY (CONT'D)

Bay-bee?

DEBRA

You know what, Ray? I'm not upset.

Fine. You and Robert watch your games.

We'll just go to Plan B.

RAY

Sweet! Bay-bee!

RAY MOVES TO COUCH AND SITS.

DEBRA

Come on, Ally. The curtain's going up
soon.

DEBRA AND ALLY EXIT TO KITCHEN AND OUT THE BACK DOOR.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Have fun, fellas!

RAY

Have a good time, bay-bee!

(TO ROBERT)

How are we looking?

ROBERT

Georgetown is on a ten-oh run. Forty-
five seconds to play and both teams
are in the double bonus.

RAY

Hey, Robert?

ROBERT

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY

Do you remember Ally having a cold
last month?

ROBERT

Sure. Hundred and one fever. I brought
her a cherry slushie. But she was
asleep, so you ate it.

RAY

Oh yeah! The cherry slushie! Very
nice, bay-bee! Very nice! Ooh
commercials! Channel thirty, quick!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCENE BINT. FRANK AND MARIE'S KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 2)
(Debra, Ally, Marie)MARIE SEEMS QUITE UPSET. SHE IS WEARING A SEQUINED TOP AND
BLACK SLACKS AND IS PACING AS DEBRA AND ALLY ENTER.

DEBRA

Hi, Marie!

ALLY

Hi, Grandma!

MARIE

Oh my goodness! Aren't you beautiful
today, Ally!

ALLY

Thank you!

MARIE

And what a lovely dress, Debra!

DEBRA

You look exquisite, Marie!

MARIE

Thank you, dear!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Just as we expected, the boys are watching basketball, so it looks like we'll have to watch our ballet over here.

MARIE

Oh well, boys will be boys! As long as the girls get a chance to be girls every now and then, right? Come on in, I made a special tray of dainty cucumber sandwiches just for us.

MARIE, DEBRA AND ALLY EXIT THE KITCHEN TO THE LIVING ROOM.

INT. FRANK AND MARIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)
(Frank, Robert, Marie, Debra, Ally, Ray)

MARIE, DEBRA AND ALLY ENTER AND ARE SHOCKED AT WHAT THEY FIND IN THE LIVING ROOM. FRANK IS SEATED ON THE COUCH IN HIS UNDERWEAR AND A T-SHIRT, WATCHING TV. HE IS EATING A CUCUMBER SANDWICH AND HAS A WALKIE-TALKIE IN HIS HAND.

FRANK

Papa Bear to Goldilocks. Papa Bear to Goldilocks.

ROBERT

(OVER WALKIE-TALKIE)

This is Goldilocks. Go ahead, Dad - I mean, go ahead, Papa Bear.

FRANK

Big Twelve update from Auxiliary Command. Oklahoma by seven with ten minutes left in the half.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBERT
(OVER WALKIE-TALKIE)
Ten-four, Papa Bear. We have
Georgetown winning on a last second
three pointer. Next report in ten
minutes. Goldilocks out.

FRANK
Ten-four, Goldilocks. Over and out.

FRANK FINALLY NOTICES THE GIRLS.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Marie! Where the hell have you been?
Can we get some sandwiches in here
with some meat on them? Or at least
some mustard or something? This is
like eating a salad sandwich.

MARIE CROSSES TO FRANK.

MARIE
Frank! What do you think you're doing?

FRANK
What am I doing? I'm watching a game!
What does it look like I'm doing? Oh,
hi, Debra. Ally. What are you all
dressed up for? You going out? Could
you make me a real sandwich before you
go? These things don't even have any
crusts on them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

No, Frank we are not going out. We got dressed up to watch the ballet on TV.

FRANK

Oh, a girl thing. I get it. Cute. Have fun. But don't forget that sandwich. Maybe some corned beef?

MARIE

Frank, we're watching the ballet on this television.

FRANK

On this television? Sorry, no can do.

FRANK HOLDS UP A CLIPBOARD AND WALKIE-TALKIE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I'm monitoring the Big Twelve for Goldilocks and his little brother, Baby Bear.

DEBRA

Frank!

MARIE

This is ridiculous! It takes three people and two TV's to watch a basketball game?

DEBRA

Frank, this ballet is important to us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

And if this game wasn't important, it
wouldn't be on TV.

MARIE

Frank get out of that chair. Give me
that remote - and for God's sake put
on some pants!

FRANK

You would deny an old man his fine
comforts of home?

MARIE

Frank!

FRANK

And where's that sandwich? I'm not
getting any younger, you know.

MARIE

Trust me, you don't have to point that
out. Why should we have to miss our
program, Frank? Go over to Ray and
Debra's and watch your games with the
boys.

FRANK

No!

DEBRA

Come on, Frank! Do it for Ally.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLY
Please, Grandpa?

FRANK CAN'T HOLD OUT AGAINST ALLY AND CAVES IN. HE PICKS UP THE WALKIE-TALKIE AGAIN.

FRANK
Papa Bear to Baby Bear. Papa Bear to
Baby Bear.

RAY
(OVER WALKIE-TALKIE)
Bay-bee Bear here. Go ahead, Papa
Bear.

FRANK
Looks like a change of plans. Mama
Bear is shutting down Auxiliary
Command. Little Red Riding Hood and
Snow White want the TV. I'm coming
over. Papa Bear out.

RAY
(OVER WALKIE-TALKIE)
Ten-four, Papa Bear. Could you give me
to Little Red Riding Hood?

FRANK HANDS WALKIE-TALKIE TO DEBRA.

FRANK
Baby Bear wants to talk to you.

DEBRA
I'm here, Ray. What do you want?

RAY
Do me a big favor would you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA
What is it, Ray?

RAY
Tell Mama Bear to make sure Papa Bear
puts on some pants.

DEBRA
That's a big ten-four, Baby Bear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCENE C

INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 2)
(Marie, Debra, Ally)

DEBRA, MARIE AND ALLY ENTER FROM OUTSIDE AND STOP AT THE TABLE.

MARIE

That was a marvelous performance!

DEBRA

It's amazing the way they seemed to
hang in the air - so graceful!

(To ALLY)

You look tired sweetie, why don't you
go up to your room?

MARIE

A performance like that can be
exhausting, dear. Come on. I'll walk
you up.

ALLY

Okay.

DEBRA

I suppose we'd better check on the
other children anyway.

CONTINUED:

INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)
(Ray, Robert, Frank, Debra, Marie)

ANGLE ON DEBRA, MARIE AND ALLY AS THEY ENTER THE LIVING ROOM.

ANGLE ON THE ENTIRE ROOM. THE BASKETBALL GAME HAS JUST ENDED. RAY AND ROBERT ARE ON THE COUCH. FRANK IS IN THE CHAIR. RAY TURNS OFF THE TV. DEBRA STOPS NEAR THE COUCH. MARIE AND ALLY EXIT UP THE STAIRS.

RAY

That was one marvelous performance!

ROBERT

It's amazing the way Coleman seems to hang in the air like that! It's almost graceful.

(To FRANK)

You look wiped, Dad. Do you need a nap?

RAY

A close game like that can be exhausting there, dear.

ROBERT

Yes, sweetie. Want me to walk you to your room? Maybe read you a story for beddie-bye time?

FRANK

I got your beddy-bye time right here.

DEBRA

A-hem! Game over? All the sweaty jumping and shouting over for the day?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE ENTERS FROM THE STAIRS

RAY

Hey! Game's over. We've got thirty minutes before the next one. How was your thing? All the lords a leaping?

MARIE

It was very nice. And it turns out it's the first part in a series of concert performances. We'll have ballet programs for the next six weeks! Ally's very excited about it.

FRANK

Well you'd better find somewhere else to watch it.

MARIE

What do you mean? You can watch your basketball with the boys.

FRANK

Next week Frank's TV is watching basketball. No offense, Debra, but I'm much more comfortable when I don't have to dress up.

MARIE

Dress up? You're wearing ten year old ratty sweatpants!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK
Exactly! They bind.

MARIE
Frank. I am watching the ballet next
week on MY television.

FRANK
YOU don't have a television. That set
is MINE. The kitchen, I bought for
YOU.

DEBRA
Frank!

FRANK
If she wants a TV, she can get a job
and buy her own.

DEBRA
Frank, don't be ridiculous!

MARIE
Wait one minute. What's so ridiculous
about the idea of me getting a job?

FRANK LAUGHS. RAY AND ROBERT SLINK DOWN INTO THE COUCH IN AN
EFFORT TO DISAPPEAR.

ROBERT
Hide.

RAY
Hiding.

FRANK
You? A job? Ha!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

And why not?

FRANK

Because at a job, someone else tells
you what to do - that's why.

MARIE

Well, I'm more than qualified for
that, given the way you've ordered me
around for the past fifty years.

FRANK

Yeah, but at a job, if you don't do
what you're told, they fire you.

MARIE

Then maybe YOU should fire me -
because I'm through following orders
from you, Frank. I'm getting a job!

FRANK

You don't know the first thing about
getting a job.

MARIE

Debra will help me, won't you, Debra?

RAY AND ROBERT SLINK EVEN LOWER INTO THE COUCH.

RAY

(STAGE WHISPER)
Don't answer!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBERT
(STAGE WHISPER)
It's a trap, Debra. Run!

DEBRA
I'd be glad to help you find a job,
Marie. Don't listen to him. You have
plenty of marketable skills.

FRANK
Ha!

MARIE
Ha!

FRANK
Ha!

MARIE
Ha!

FRANK
Ha!

FRANK EXITS OUT THE FRONT DOOR, SLAMMING IT.

ROBERT
(TO RAY)
Another memorable Barone conversation,
punctuated by persuasive debate.

RAY
Is it safe to watch the game yet?

MARIE
Debra, do you still have today's
newspaper?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

I'll get the classifieds - you put on
some coffee.

DEBRA AND MARIE EXIT TO THE KITCHEN. RAY AND ROBERT SLOWLY
RETURN TO NORMAL SITTING POSITIONS. RAY TURNS ON THE TV WITH
THE REMOTE.

RAY

At least with basketball, the madness
ends after March.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCENE DINT. RAY AND DEBRA'S KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 3)
(Ray, Debra, Marie)

THE REMAINS OF THE CHILDREN'S BREAKFAST ARE ON THE KITCHEN TABLE - A COUPLE OF CEREAL BOXES AND THREE CEREAL BOWLS. DEBRA MOVES FROM THE TABLE TO THE SINK WITH TWO OF THE BOWLS. RAY ENTERS, SNEAKS UP ON HER AND HUGS HER FROM BEHIND.

RAY

Good morning, sexy bay-bee!

DEBRA

Hello Raymond. It's about time you were awake. Breakfast was an hour ago..

RAY

And now it's time for a little after breakfast special!

DEBRA

Cut it out, Ray. I've got a hundred things on my list of things to do today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
Come on, there's nothing like a
Saturday morning special to energize
your day!

DEBRA
Right. You mean "There's nothing like
a Saturday morning special to make
your husband sleep until noon." Now
leave me alone!

SHE PUSHES HIM AWAY. RAY GOES TO THE FRIDGE AND GETS A JUG OF
MILK AND PLACES IT ON THE TABLE AS HE SITS. DEBRA MOVES
BEHIND HIM AND TUSSLES HIS HAIR AS HE POURS HIS CEREAL

RAY
I just wish you'd reconsider. You
might even enjoy it, you know.

DEBRA
Ray, stop begging. It's unattractive.

SHE KISSES HIM ON TOP THE HEAD.

RAY
Stop begging? It's all I have. What's
on this list of things to do that's so
time consuming that you can't spare me
twenty minutes?

SHE SHOOTS A LOOK OF DISBELIEF AT HIM.

RAY (CONT'D)
OK, ten minutes.

SHE CONTINUES TO STARE HIM DOWN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY (CONT'D)

Okay, *five* minutes. So what are you
doing today that's so important?

DEBRA

Shoe shopping.

RAY

Shoe shopping?

RAY STANDS AND MOVES TO HER.

RAY (CONT'D)

Hey, that could work. I could go with
you - Ooh, maybe you could get
something with the thin strappies that
show off your ankles. Yeah?

RAY GETS ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES AND TUGS AT THE HEM OF
DEBRA'S PAJAMA LEGS TO BETTER SEE HER ANKLES. SHE TRIES TO
MOVE AWAY, BUT NOT TOO HARD.

DEBRA

Not for me, Ray - for the twins.

RAY

Oh. Well, forget the strappies - their
ankles aren't nearly as sexy as yours.

RAY PLAYFULLY TRIES TO GRAB HER ANKLES.

DEBRA

Ray! That tickles! Cut it out! What's
gotten into you?

MARIE ENTERS THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR, SHE IS WEARING A
PURPLE "BIG JIM'S" VEST OVER HER NORMAL ATTIRE. STUNNED BY
WHAT SHE SEES, SHE IS SPEECHLESS FOR A MOMENT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
Hey, I'm telling you it's part of a
balanced breakfast!

DEBRA
Stop it, Ray!

RAY
I wonder if your ankles stay sexy in
milk?

MARIE
AHEM! Good morning everybody!

RAY REMAINS ON ALL FOURS, FROZEN IN TERROR.

RAY
Ma!

DEBRA
Marie!

MARIE
Raymond! What in the world is going
on?

RAY PRETENDS TO FIND SOMETHING ON THE FLOOR.

RAY
Found it!

HE PICKS 'IT' UP, QUICKLY STANDS AND DROPS 'IT' INTO HIS
PANTS POCKET.

RAY (CONT'D)
Boy, the prizes in the cereal boxes
are getting smaller everyday!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Good morning, Marie! Can I get you
some coffee?

MARIE

No, no. I'm not staying.

RAY

Yeah?

MARIE

I'm on my way to my first day at my
new job - sample lady at Big Jim's
Warehouse.

DEBRA

That's right! It's your big day! I'm
so proud of you, Marie.

MARIE

Thank you, dear. I'm so nervous. Do
you like my vest? It's my uniform. And
I even got some new comfortable shoes
since I'm going to be standing all
weekend.

SHE SHOWS OFF HER NEW TENNIS SHOES.

RAY

There goes the shopping trip.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Ignore him, Marie. Listen, I meant to tell you - I don't think I'm going to be able to make it to Big Jim's today, will tomorrow afternoon be okay?

MARIE

Oh don't worry about it, dear. I'm sure tomorrow will be better for me too. I can't believe how nervous I am! I really want this to go well.

DEBRA

You'll be fine. Just remember to smile and your day will fly by!

MARIE

Thank you, dear. Well, I suppose I'd better get going. I just wanted to thank you for helping me find this job.

DEBRA

It was nothing, Marie.

MARIE

It was not nothing. I'm going to earn so much in commissions this weekend I'll buy myself one of those big plaster TV's!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
That's plasma, Ma.

MARIE
Whatever. It doesn't matter what you
call it, as long as it's mine - and
has a better picture than his! Thanks
again, Debra. I'll see you tomorrow.
Good-bye!

MARIE TURNS TO LEAVE.

DEBRA
I wouldn't miss it for the world. Have
a great day, Marie.

RAY
Yeah, good luck, Ma.

MARIE STOPS AT THE DOOR.

MARIE
And you do have very nice ankles,
dear.

MARIE EXITS OUT THE KITCHEN DOOR.

RAY
How have I gotten this far without
therapy?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO**SCENE E**

INT. BIG JIM'S - PRODUCE/FROZEN FOOD DEPT. - DAY (DAY 4)
(Carla, Debra, Marie, Customer #1, Customer #2)

DEBRA IS WINDING HER SHOPPING CART THE PRODUCE DEPARTMENT. SHE PICKS OUT A BUNCH OF BANANAS AND SOME POTATOES, THEN TURNS THE CORNER TO THE FROZEN FOOD SECTION WHERE AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN IN A MINISKIRT AND LOW CUT BLOUSE IS HANDING OUT CHEESECAKE SAMPLES.

CARLA
Cheesecake?

DEBRA
Boy, I'll say!

DEBRA TAKES THE SAMPLE AND CONTINUES ACROSS THE FROZEN FOOD SECTION WHERE SHE ENCOUNTERS A CROWD. A DOZEN OR SO SHOPPERS HAVE CONGREGATED AROUND MARIE'S SAMPLE TABLE WHERE SHE IS PASSING OUT LASAGNA SAMPLES.

MARIE
(TO CUSTOMER)
Here you are. Remember, it's on sale
today - buy two get the third one
free!

CUSTOMER #1
May I try one, please?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE HANDS CUSTOMER #1 A SAMPLE CUP AND A SMALL PLASTIC SPOON. CUSTOMER #1 TASTES THE LASAGNA.

MARIE
Well, what do you think?

CUSTOMER #1
Wow, that's very good! Are you sure
this is from a frozen dinner?

MARIE
Took it out of the freezer myself!

CUSTOMER #1 TURNS TO HIS WIFE, CUSTOMER #2

CUSTOMER #1
Honey, you've got to try this!

MARIE GIVES HER A SAMPLE.

MARIE
Here you are.

CUSTOMER #2
Mmm! That is good! How much are they
again?

MARIE
On special today - buy two get the
third one free.

CUSTOMER #2
Grab three would you, dear?

CUSTOMER #1 PICKS UP THREE BOXES FROM THE FREEZER DISPLAY NEXT TO MARIE'S TABLE. CUSTOMER #1 AND CUSTOMER #2 EXIT. DEBRA WORKS HER WAY THROUGH THE CROWD TO GET TO MARIE.

DEBRA
Marie! Marie!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE
Debra! Hello, dear!

DEBRA
My goodness, you're busy!

MARIE
I'm sorry, honey - you're going to
have to speak up! I can barely hear
you.

MARIE CONTINUES TO HAND OUT SAMPLES.

MARIE (CONT'D)
(TO CUSTOMER)
Buy two get the third one free! Here
you are!

DEBRA
Has it been this busy all weekend?

MARIE
What? Oh! Much busier today - I think
I'm getting the hang of it, don't you?

DEBRA
I think so!

MARIE
(TO CUSTOMER)
Buy two get the third one free!

DEBRA
And to think I was worried about you!

MARIE
(TO CUSTOMER)
Here you are, be careful, it's hot!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Are you working tomorrow too?

MARIE

What, dear? Oh! No, I'm off tomorrow.

DEBRA

Well, then! Ray and I are inviting you
and Frank over for dinner to
celebrate.

THE CROWD OF CUSTOMERS AROUND MARIE HAS SWELLED A BIT AND
GOTTEN A BIT LOUDER AS WELL.

MARIE

(TO CUSTOMER)

Here's one for you. Buy two get the
third one free!

DEBRA

I said we're having dinner tomorrow
night!

MARIE

Yes, dear - they're 'buy two get the
third one free!'

MARIE HANDS DEBRA A SAMPLE.

DEBRA

Okay - I'm going to get out of your
way, now. We'll see you tomorrow
night!

MARIE

What, dear?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA
See you tomorrow.

MARIE
Tomorrow! All right, then. Thanks for
coming!

MARIE CONTINUES TO HAND OUT SAMPLES AS QUICKLY AS SHE CAN.

MARIE (CONT'D)
(TO CUSTOMER)
Here's one for you. Buy two get the
third one free!

DEBRA TASTES THE LASAGNA, THEN QUICKLY GRABS THREE BOXES FROM
THE FREEZER NEXT TO MARIE'S TABLE. DEBRA EXITS. MARIE
CONTINUES HANDING OUT SAMPLES.

MARIE (CONT'D)
There's plenty for everyone! Here's
one for you. And one for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCENE FINT. RAY AND DEBRA'S KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY 5)

(Ray, Debra)

DEBRA IS BUSILY PREPARING DINNER. SHE IS CHECKING THE LASAGNA IN THE OVEN WHEN RAY ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. HE IS TALKING ON HIS CELL PHONE.

RAY

Okay. No rush. That sounds great. See you then. Bye now. (To DEBRA) Hey, bay-bee!

DEBRA

Good! You're back! Any trouble with the twins?

RAY

Are you kidding? An overnight playdate at Donny Kelly's? "He's got all the cool toys, Dad!" If it wasn't for the twenty dollar deposit I had to leave, I don't think we'd ever have to take them back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Robin's mother came by about ten minutes ago to pick up Ally.

RAY

So we're child free for the first time in months - and my parents are coming over... What's wrong with this picture?

DEBRA

Ray, you should be very proud of your mother. She was quite the sales lady yesterday. She deserves this night just as much as she deserves that TV.

RAY

I don't know. I mean, do you think it's such a good idea to go all out on dinner like this?

DEBRA

Ray, there's nothing to worry about. I guarantee you - we'll be fine. Now, go finish setting the table, please. The silverware's on the table.

RAY

Guarantee?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

I'm cooking one of the lasagna dinners your mother was selling yesterday. She was quite the sample lady, handing out lasagna right and left. It really was delicious, too!. You should have seen all of the customers asking for second helpings. I think this dinner will be a fitting tribute to her success.

RAY GETS THE SILVERWARE FROM THE KITCHEN TABLE.

RAY

Guarantee, huh? You've been part of this family for how long now?

DEBRA

Go, Ray. They'll be here any minute.

RAY

Are you sure you don't want to just order some pizza?

DEBRA

Go.

RAY

Okay, okay, I'm going.

RAY EXITS TO THE LIVING ROOM

DEBRA

Remember, knife and spoon on the left!

INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING (DAY 5)
(Ray, Debra, Frank, Marie, Amy, Robert, Pizza Boy)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY BEGINS TO PLACE THE SILVERWARE ON THE TABLE

RAY
(mocking Debra)
Knife and spoon on the left!

DEBRA
(from kitchen)
What?

RAY
Nothing!

RAY CONTINUES TO SET THE TABLE. RAY BEGINS TO CHANT HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND AS HIS CHANT GROWS LOUDER, HE BEGINS TO ADD A FEW DANCE MOVES TO HIS CHORE.

RAY (CONT'D)
Knife and spoon on the left! Knife and
spoon on the left! Uhh! Knife and
spoon on the left! BAM! Knife and
spoon on the left! Get down! Knife and
spoon and the---

DEBRA ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN. RAY FREEZES. DEBRA STARES DISAPPROVINGLY.

RAY (CONT'D)
Finished. (BEAT) Ta-daa!

DEBRA
I thought you said we were going to be
child free for the evening.

RAY SMILES AN APOLOGETIC SMILE. THE DOORBELL RINGS. RAY SWITCHES TO AN OVERLY FORMAL ATTITUDE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY

And that would be our guests for this evening's adult get together. Shall I get the door, mum?

DEBRA

Just let them in, Ray.

ANGLE ON FRONT DOOR AS RAY GOES TO OPEN IT. MARIE, FRANK, ROBERT AND AMY ENTER. THEY ARE ALL DRESSED FOR A DINNER PARTY. FRANK IS EVEN WEARING A TIE. ROBERT IS IN AN OLIVE GREEN DRESS SHIRT WITH A DARK GREEN TIE.

RAY

Presenting, the Sample Lady, Marie Barone and her escort.

ANGLE ON DEBRA AT DINING TABLE.

DEBRA

Marie! Frank! Come on in! Dinner's almost ready!

ANGLE ON FRANK AND MARIE AS THEY CROSS TO THE DINING TABLE.

FRANK

I still say if you wanted an adventure in dining, we could have stayed home and watched "Fear Factor."

MARIE

Frank! Stop it. Not another word.

ANGLE ON THE FRONT DOOR. RAY CONTINUES HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

RAY

Also presenting Amy Barone and her escort, the jolly green giant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY
(To ROBERT)
Told you. Pay up.

ROBERT DIGS SOME CASH OUT OF HIS POCKET AND GIVES IT TO AMY.

ROBERT
Very original, Ray. I expected more
from you.

RAY DROPS THE ACT.

RAY
Come on in.

ROBERT AND AMY START TO CROSS TO THE DINING TABLE BUT RAY
STOPS ROBERT.

RAY (CONT'D)
Go ahead, Amy. I need to talk to
Robert for a minute.

AMY
Sure. Hi Debra!

ANGLE ON DINING TABLE AS AMY ARRIVES. DEBRA IS POURING WINE
AT EACH SETTING.

DEBRA
Amy! Don't you look spiffy!

AMY
Thank you!

THE KITCHEN TIMER DINGS.

DEBRA
Dinner time! Come on boys! Time to
eat!

DEBRA EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGLE ON THE BOYS AT THE DOOR.

ROBERT
What's the matter, Ray?

RAY
You knew Debra was cooking tonight,
right?

ROBERT
Yeah, but Debra said she was cooking
Ma's lasagna tonight.

RAY
Not exactly.

ROBERT
Not exactly? It's not Ma's recipe?

RAY
Like Ma would share her lasagna recipe
with Debra!

ROBERT
You're right. It's okay. We're
prepared. We filled up on Fig Newtons
on the way over - just in case.

RAY
Yeah, well, that's the thing, see. I
really think everything's going to be
okay. Debra's cooking the same lasagna
Ma was selling at the store yesterday.
She said it was really good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBERT

Ohhhh! That kind of Ma's lasagna! I'm told it was delicious. Of course I wouldn't know, myself. By the time I got to the front of the line, all the samples were gone. Amy said it was very good. But the tiny bit I managed to lick out of her little sample cup had a distinct paper after taste.

ANGLE ON THE TABLE AS DEBRA ENTERS WITH THE LASAGNA.

DEBRA

Come on boys! Last call for Marie's lasagna!

ANGLE ON THE BOYS. RAY AND ROBERT TRADE "WHY NOT?" LOOKS AND CROSS TO THE TABLE.

ANGLE ON THE TABLE. DEBRA IS SERVING LASAGNA TO EVERYONE AS RAY AND ROBERT ARRIVE AND TAKE THEIR SEATS. MARIE, THE GUEST OF HONOR IS SEATED AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE. FRANK IS TO HER LEFT. ROBERT SITS NEXT TO FRANK. RAY SITS OPPOSITE OF MARIE. DEBRA TAKES A SEAT TO MARIE'S RIGHT, NEXT TO AMY. FRANK POURS A GLASS OF WINE FOR ROBERT.

MARIE

I'm curious, Debra.

DEBRA

Yes, Marie?

MARIE

How did you get my recipe for lasagna?

That's a very closely guarded secret.

Have you been snooping, dear?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Oh! No. You don't understand. This isn't your lasagna, this is the lasagna you were selling at the store.

MARIE

Oh! Well isn't that nice!

(To FRANK)

Frank, we have to leave. Now.

FRANK

What? I didn't get into this monkey suit for nothing. Chow's here and we're gonna eat it.

MARIE

Frank, I don't feel well. We should go home.

FRANK

What's the matter with you?

RAY STANDS AND CLINKS HIS FORK AGAINST HIS WINE GLASS UNTIL ALL CONVERSATION STOPS.

RAY

Okay everybody, settle down. I've got something I'm supposed to say before we eat. And just because Debra's making me do it doesn't mean I don't really mean it. We're here tonight as family showing our support and admiration for a great mother...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE BLUSHES WITH EMBARRASSMENT.

MARIE
Oh, Raymond, stop it.

RAY
... a fantastic grandmother...

MARIE
Stop.

RAY
....and a wonderful wife--

FRANK
Seriously. Stop.

RAY
...and a really great role model for
her grandchildren, Marie Barone! She's
surprised us all. She saw a challenge
and she took the bull by the horns, no
offense, Robert.

ROBERT
None taken.

RAY
...and not only did she set a single
day sales record at Big Jim's, in just
one weekend she earned enough in
commissions to buy her very own
television!

EVERYONE APPLAUDS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY (CONT'D)
We're proud of you, Ma.

RAY RAISES HIS GLASS IN A TOAST. EVERYONE CLINKS THEIR GLASSES TOGETHER.

ROBERT
Speech! Speech!

RAY SITS AS MARIE RELUCTANTLY STANDS.

MARIE
I'm not sure what to say. Other
than... thank you. Thank you all.
Let's go, Frank!

MARIE TRIES TO LEAVE. FRANK STANDS AND STOPS HER AND GUIDES HER BACK TO HER SEAT.

FRANK
What's the matter with you? Sit down.
Your family is here to tell you how
proud they are of you. And you're
gonna sit there and pretend to
appreciate it.

MARIE
But, Frank you don't understand!

SHE SITS WHILE FRANK REMAINS STANDING.

FRANK
I gotta say - I didn't think you had
it in you. But you surprised me. You'd
think after all these years there
wouldn't be any surprises left.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK RAISES HIS GLASS AND EVERYONE TOASTS MARIE AGAIN.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I salute you. To the surprises.

DEBRA

Frank, that was beautiful!

FRANK

If any of you repeat a word of it,
I'll deny it to my grave. Now, let's
eat.

EVERYONE TAKE A BIG BITE OF THEIR LASAGNA. AMY AND DEBRA QUICKLY DEVELOP SURPRISED AND UNCERTAIN LOOKS ON THEIR FACES. RAY AND ROBERT CONTINUE TO CHEW BUT AREN'T QUITE SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THE FLAVORS IN THEIR MOUTHS. MARIE SMILES NICELY AS SHE TRIES TO PRETEND NOTHING IS WRONG. FRANK IS REVOLTED AND SPITS HIS MOUTHFUL OUT INTO A NAPKIN.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Holy crap! You set a sales record
peddling this swill? You're better
than I thought!

EVERYONE FOLLOWS FRANK'S LEAD AND SPITS OUT THEIR LASAGNA - EVERYONE BUT MARIE, WHO CONTINUES TO FORCE A WEAK SMILE WHILE SHE FIGHTS TO SWALLOW. SHE EVENTUALLY DOES, THEN FIGHTS FOR A MOMENT TO KEEP IT DOWN. SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, THEN LIFTS HER FORK FOR A SECOND BITE. AS HER FORK GETS CLOSE TO HER MOUTH, FRANK GRABS HER WRIST AND STOPS HER.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Are you insane, woman?

(To DEBRA)

You! What did you do her lasagna?

DEBRA

I didn't do anything to her lasagna!

This isn't her lasagna!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

You can say that again.

DEBRA

It's the lasagna she was selling at
Big Jim's.

AMY

I don't mean to be picky, but this
doesn't taste anything at all like he
samples Marie was handing out.

DEBRA

No. It doesn't.

RAY

What did you do to it, Debra? It's
frozen food, how could you screw that
up?

DEBRA

I didn't screw it up, Ray. I followed
the directions exactly.

RAY

Time to order the pizza.

RAY EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

DEBRA

Marie, this isn't the lasagna you were
handing out yesterday.

MARIE GOES FOR THAT SECOND BITE AGAIN. SHE FORCES ANOTHER
SMILE AS SHE CHEWS AND MOTIONS THAT SHE CAN'T ANSWER DEBRA
WITH HER MOUTH FULL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Marie?

MARIE CONTINUES TO CHEW.

FRANK

Swallow, Marie!

SHE STRUGGLES TO GET IT DOWN, BUT DOES EVENTUALLY. RAY ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN.

RAY

Pizza's on its way.

DEBRA

Marie?

MARIE

Yes, dear?

DEBRA

This isn't the lasagna you were
handing out yesterday, is it?

A LONG BEAT AS MARIE DECIDES HOW TO RESPOND.

MARIE

Not exactly.

RAY

Ma! What are you talking about?

MARIE

I had to do something. My first day's
sales were terrible. And I couldn't
stand the taunting from the Carla the
cheesecake lady.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBERT

And...

MARIE

The only reason her sales were as high as they were is because she was showing as much cheesecake as she was selling. Between the miniskirt and the cleavage, I couldn't compete.

FRANK

And when is Carla the cheesecake lady's next shift?

MARIE

Shut up, Frank. It was like high school all over again. Picking on the new girl.

ROBERT

Ahh, the dark underbelly of the otherwise glamorous world of the sample lady...

MARIE

That frozen lasagna was horrible. I had to do something.

RAY

What did you do, Ma? What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

I stayed up late into the night making my own lasagna to use for the samples instead of this....this...

FRANK

Crap.

MARIE

What he said.

DEBRA

Marie! You passed off your own lasagna for the frozen dinner? You can't do that! That's false advertising!

RAY

Ma! I just called you a good role model!

FRANK

I said nice words to you - in public!

MARIE

Surprise?

DEBRA

Marie - Big Jim's is going to get a lot of complaints. Everyone's going to be bringing back this frozen.....

FRANK

Crap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA

Yes. And they're going to want their money back.

MARIE

I'm sure they'll get their money back.

RAY

But, Ma, that means you're going to have to give your money back too.

MARIE

Oh dear.

FRANK

Wait a minute. How much money are we talking about, anyway?

MARIE

Enough to buy the new color television that's being delivered tomorrow.

FRANK

Quit!

MARIE

No, I'm serious, Frank. I placed the order this morning.

FRANK

No, I mean quit the job. Get out now. You got your TV. We'll get caller I.D. We won't answer the phone for a month.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK (CONT'D)

They'll give up looking for you
eventually.

DEBRA

Gee, Frank. Maybe you should consider
moving. Live your life on the run -
all for a color television.

MARIE

I don't have the money, Frank. Payday
isn't until Friday. The money for the
TV will be taken out of my paycheck.

DEBRA

Only now, there's not going to be any
paycheck left to take the money from,
Marie.

MARIE

Frank, they're going to take away my
thirty inch stereo color TV!

FRANK

Thirty inch stereo color TV?

MARIE

Yes, and they're going to take it
away!

FRANK

Over my dead body!

MARIE

But we can't afford it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBRA
Ray, your mother obviously meant well.
And you do realize this whole thing
only started because you wouldn't let
us watch Ally's ballet program...

RAY
And?

DEBRA
And in the interest of keeping the
peace....

RAY HAS NO IDEA WHERE DEBRA IS GOING WITH THIS.

RAY
....and in the interest of keeping the
peace...

DEBRA
...and access to...

DEBRA GIVES HIM A LEADING NOD. HE THINKS HE UNDERSTANDS!

RAY
Ah! And access to... certain things.

DEBRA
Sports, Ray!

RAY
Oh - and access to sports... Debra and
I will pitch in to help pay for the
TV.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE
Oh, Raymond! Thank you!

ROBERT
Okay... I'm in too.

MARIE IGNORES ROBERT.

MARIE
Thank you, Debra!

ROBERT REACTS TO THE SLIGHT.

MARIE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry for misleading everyone.
I promise I'll make it up to you! I
know - I'll make lasagna for tomorrow
night!

DEBRA
Oh, I think I'm lasagna'd out for a
while, Marie.

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

RAY
Pizza!

ROBERT LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

ROBERT
Wow, they're on the ball tonight!

ROBERT GETS UP TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
I'll get it. I'm starving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAY
Wait, Robert. I'll get it.

RAYMOND HURRIES TO BEAT ROBERT TO THE DOOR.

ANGLE ON THE DOOR.

ROBERT
I'll get it. I'll get it.

RAYMOND ARRIVES FIRST AND OPENS THE DOOR. THE PIZZA BOY IS
STANDING IN THE DOOR WITH A STACK OF PIZZA BOXES.

RAY
I'll get it. How can you be starving,
Fig Newton breath?

(TO THE PIZZA BOY)
Here you go.

RAYMOND HANDS THE PIZZA BOY TWO BILLS. THE PIZZA BOY HANDS
ONE BILL BACK TO RAYMOND.

PIZZA BOY
It's on time or it's half price. See
ya.

ROBERT
Half price? How long ago did you order
this?

RAY
Just before I got home. But you don't
know anything about it - just like I
don't know anything about those Fig
Newtons, right?

ROBERT
I know nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAYMOND AND ROBERT CROSS TO DINING TABLE.

RAY
Who wants pizza?

THE FAMILY DINNER BEGINS ANEW WITH MUCH CELEBRATION.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSER

INT. RAY AND DEBRA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 6)

WE PAN SLOWLY ACROSS MARIE, DEBRA, AMY AND ALLY AS THEY ARE ALL DRESSED IN THEIR SPARKLING GOWNS AS THEY SIT IN THE BLUE GLOW OF THE TELEVISION WATCHING BALLET.

INT. FRANK AND MARIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 6)

WE PAN SLOWLY ACROSS RAYMOND, ROBERT, FRANK AND THE TWINS TO REVEAL THE BOYS SITTING IN THE BLUE GLOW OF A PAIR OF TELEVISIONS WATCHING A PAIR OF BASKETBALL GAMES.

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS