

INT. STUDIO STAGE / SITCOM ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

CAMERON (Cam) and ERICA enter the ice cream parlor. They notice CHERIE sitting to the side in a booth reading the newspaper.

CAMERON

Oh, hey, Cherie! Do you care where we sit?

CHERIE

Honey, you can sit on your thumbs and rotate for all I care.

Cam and Erica react as MAKEBA breezes by wearing the same server outfit Cherie wears. She's carrying a tray with items to a table. As she passes the two...

MAKEBA

Don't mind Cherie, kids. She's on her break.

CHERIE

(mumbling but still audible)
Oh, great! That's all I need!

MAKEBA

(to Cam/Erica)
Someone takes the horoscope section a bit too literal.

(to Cherie)
What's the matter, Cher? "Romantic opportunities passing you by today?" Or is your birth moon on the cusp of planet "grumpy old maid?"

CHERIE

Worse. "An old friend makes a new appearance."

ERICA

Well, what's wrong with that?

CHERIE

Listen, kid. If I had any old friends I wanted in my life -- they wouldn't be old friends. They'd just be friends.

CAMERON

But Cherie, you know, sometimes people just lose touch.

CHERIE

Let me ask you something. You ever watch the ferry boat pull out of the harbor?

CAMERON

Sure. When we were young we'd watch it every day.

CHERIE

You ever see what happens to the bilge holes near the bottom?

CAMERON

Oh, yeah! They spew out this nasty shii--

He's about to say "shit" but Erica catches his eye. So, like any good boyfriend, he changes it to...

CAMERON (CONT'D)

...shhh-ludge.

CHERIE

So you get my point.

ERICA

So, Cherie, you're saying that reconnecting with old friends can bring up all the past issues and pain that was like emotional sludge in your heart?

CHERIE

Huh? No! I'm saying who wants to have some old bag-of-bones hanging around?! That's why I work here. Makes me feel like I'm still a teenager. Hanging around with you kids.

MAKEBA

(passing by)

How many teenagers you know wearing support hose?

An older gentleman, FRANK (Francis), enters the shop. Makeba looks to him.

MAKEBA (CONT'D)

Anywhere you like, sir.

Frank nods, steps down from the entryway onto the main floor and cocks his head slightly spying Cherie who's still focused on her newspaper. Frank looks forward and moves to a table next to the one Cam and Erica have chosen. Erica turns to Frank with a sweet smile.

ERICA
(to Frank)
Hello! Is this your first time here?

FRANK
Oh, why, yes, it is.

CAMERON
The double chocolate deluxe shakes are really good.

FRANK
Thank you. I'll keep that in mind.

CAMERON
Okay, full disclosure -- they cost 75 cents more than the regular.

FRANK
(charmingly playing along)
Seventy five, huh?

CAMERON
Yeah. Thought it was only fair to warn you.

FRANK
Well, I appreciate it. But I might just have to dig into my retirement savings if you think it's worth it.

CAMERON
Hey, my attitude is -- life's too short. Go for the gold! Umm, or in this case, I guess, chocolate. (THEN) But it is 75 cents.

ERICA
(to herself)
Why does the idea of a real night out seem so far away?

ACROSS THE ROOM

MAKEBA
Cherie -- table 5.

CHERIE
(still reading the paper)
What, you blind? I'm on my break.

MAKEBA

My vision's good enough to see the 2 foot clock above your head that says your break ended 3 minutes ago.

Cherie looks up. Turns and shrugs half-heartedly.

CHERIE

So I gotta get new glasses.

Makeba shakes her head as she turns to do more prep work.

MAKEBA

(to herself)

That excuse might work if you actually wore glasses.

Cherie crosses toward Frank who holds the menu in front of his face as she's pulling out her ticket pad.

CHERIE

Soup of the day is Campbell's Bean & Bacon. I mean is homemade bean & bacon. Special sandwich is grilled cheese. Which we have every day. I don't know. Maybe they put more... something into it.

CAMERON

Cheese?

CHERIE

Yeah, that'll work. And if you want water you gotta ask for it.

Cherie prepares to write the order.

FRANK

Well, it all looks so good. Except maybe the Cobb salad with SPAM. But I'm afraid what I really want doesn't seem to be on the menu.

CHERIE

Hoh, boy. Another blogger gonna be taking pictures of their food. Everyone's a critic. Listen, bud, Maxim's this ain't. And the last time the cook did a special order --

FRANK

Actually I was looking for the option to take a beautiful lady out for a trip down memory lane.

Cherie reacts, confused and finally looks up at Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

That is, if she's willing to... (sings)
"trip the light fantastic. Follow me
today. Summer's bloom is here in June.
Together we'll be gay." (TO CAM) Gay used
to mean something different.

CHERIE

Jesus, Frank?!?

FRANK

Well, I always preferred Francis --

CHERIE

Frank DiCarlo. As I live and breathe.

FRANK

At our age that's all we can ask for.

Erica lights up first, followed by Cam.

ERICA

Wait, Cherie -- so is Frank "an old
friend?"

FRANK

Cherie and I used to date in high school.

CAMERON

Whoa. Then this is totally a "new
appearance." (THEN) Right babe?

ERICA

(nodding)

Yeah, this definitely qualifies.

A BEAT as the two kids look at each other. Then suddenly they SPEED out of their booth towards **the table with the newspaper** Cherie had been reading.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Find out what it says about Capricorn!

CAMERON

I'm gonna see if any of them talk about
being lucky! (OFF HER LOOK - EXPLAINING
LIKE IT'S SOOO OBVIOUS) So we can find
somebody who's that sign and have them
buy us a lottery ticket. Duhhh.

From the wings we hear... "And cuuut!"