

EXCERPT FROM “CRAIGSLIST! THE BORADWAY REVUE!”

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ACT I, Scene 5

(Setting: Back in the two living rooms. VENDOR is pacing her living room on her iPhone while CUSTOMER 1 is cooking dinner with a BABY sitting by her feet banging pots and pans together. CUSTOMER 1’s phone rings three times before she picks it up.)

CUSTOMER 1

(Holds phone to her ear)

Hello?

VENDOR

Hello, Alexa?

(Customer 1 drops the phone out of her hand. Baby has caught it and is now screaming into it)

CUSTOMER 1

(Crouching down so that she can speak in the phone)

Hello?

VENDOR

This is Clarice from Craigslist.

CUSTOMER 1

(Beat)

Hello?

VENDOR

(Enunciating)

I’m calling about the chairs you put on Craigslist.

CUSTOMER 1

Oh! Craigslist! Sorry! I didn’t know who you were at first!

VENDOR

Don’t worry about it. Anyway, I just wanted to know if you would still be coming today.

CUSTOMER 1

Oh! I’m so sorry! I won’t be able to do today.

VENDOR

Sorry to hear that. How about we try this over the weekend?

CUSTOMER 1

Next weekend?

VENDOR

I was thinking this weekend, actually.

CUSTOMER 1

Okay. Bye.

(She grabs the phone from the Baby, then drops it in her soup pot where it makes an audible splash and continues stirring. Vendor goes offstage to check on the chairs in her basement. She then runs back onstage all the way into Customer 1's living room. She dials Customer 1 on her phone. Customer 1 pulls out another phone and answers it. Baby now stands on tiptoe and starts to scream into the phone.)

VENDOR

There's something I actually forgot to mention...the table is no longer available.

CUSTOMER 1

(Exhales through her teeth.) Ohhh...

VENDOR

One of my relatives came over and took it to their house without notifying me...I had thought I still had it when I called you and I'm willing to sell you the rest of the ensemble for forty dollars, if that's alright with you.

CUSTOMER 1

Ummmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm...let me check with my husband. I call you back later, 'kay?

VENDOR

Sure. Talk to you later.

(Customer 1 hangs up the phone, then hands it off to Baby who continues screaming into it. Vendor returns to her living room and flops down onto the loveseat, staring at the ceiling and exhaling. End Scene.)

ACT I, Scene 6

(Setting: The two living rooms again, dimly lit. CUSTOMER 1 is no longer in hers and neither is BABY. CUSTOMER 2 is leaning by a door in VENDOR's living room. CUSTOMER 3 is doing her taxes in her living room. VENDOR is lying across a couch with her hands on her stomach.)

(The theme from Jeopardy plays in its entirety, with Vendor lying on her back and breathing. When the final drums from the theme song play,

Vendor sits up and gives a great exhale, her lips vibrating as she does so. Customer 3 enters Vendor's living room.)

CUSTOMER 3

(To Vendor)

Are these still available? When are you available to show them I can come out on Saturday.
What are the dimensions....I.e can we get these in an SUV? Thx

(Literally says "Thx.")

VENDOR

(To Customer 2, visibly ignoring Customer 3)

Hello Natalie, The chairs are still available for sale if you are interested. My previous client never showed up and our multiple efforts to reschedule have ended in failure. However, I should mention that the tables previously listed in the entry are no longer for sale. My aunt had come recently and taken them without notifying me. I am willing to sell you the rocking chairs, the plastic Adirondack chairs and the cushions for \$40. Are you still interested? When is the earliest you can come? Regards, Clarice.

CUSTOMER 2

(Happily shrugging her shoulders)

Hi, thanks so much for updating me- but I actually am all set now.

(Leaving the stage and waving to Vendor) Good

luck!

(Vendor slumps, but sees Customer 3, now back in her living room working on her taxes. She brightens up, straightens up, and starts walking authoritatively into Customer 3's living room, speaking to her in the same professional manner she uses with all her clients.)

VENDOR

(Looking her right in the eye)

Hello Sable, The chairs are still available. I do not have the dimensions offhand, but I will be able to get them to you tomorrow. I do not believe you will be able to carry them all in an SUV, however. What is the earliest you can come? Regards, Clarice.

CUSTOMER 3

(Jumps when Vendor has just finished her introduction. She only just noticed her. Speaks with some anxiety and irritation while making gigantic banging gesture on the keyboard.)

Good morning...I may be able to get a friend to help with use of her mini van. I'd like check dimensions BEFORE driving out. If the dimensions work, I may be able to get out there...say 6-7 pm? Sable

(Vendor walks back to her living room. Customer 3 leaves when Vendor is back in her home. She takes out a metallic tape measure. The lawn chairs for sale return to the stage,

shown off on their rotating platform inside Customer 3's living room.)

VENDOR

(Back to her game-show prize displaying enthusiasm. The song "Tonight's Prizes" by Dick Stephen Walter begins to play.)

Hello Sable, The dimensions of the chairs are as follows:

(Posing with her extended measuring tape as she speaks.)

| 2 Adirondack chairs stacked atop each other: 34(height)x32(length)x30(width).

Big rocker: 51(width)x32(height)x33(length)

Little rocker: 31(width)x31(height)x33(length)

| The little rocker an be placed atop the big rocker to save space. Also, the table is no longer available, as my aunt came over and took it home without notifying me. I can sell you the set for \$45 without the table, if that's alright with you. Also, 6PM is fine with me. My address is 825 Oak Avenue in Springfield (Hampden County). Thank you again for your interest. Regards, Clarice.

| *(She pauses standing perfectly still while waiting for an answer from Customer 3. None comes for an entire minute. After that minute, Customer 3 returns to her living room and checks her email. She is surprised to find a new message, and glances between the lawn furniture in her room and the Vendor still posing beside it. Vendor looks like she's been standing there for a while.)*

CUSTOMER 3

(Shocked and ashamed.)

Clarice, My apologies, I stepped out for the afternoon and just got your message. I am not sure that I can make it tonight after all. I may be able to come Thursday during the day...or early Saturday morning. Would either of those work? Sable.

VENDOR

(Relaxing her posture and even stretching a bit.)

| Hello again Sable, Thursday would work for me, provided you came after 6. That's when I get home from work. Saturday would actually be more convenient, perhaps at noon. Let me know if that works. Regards, Clarice.

(Customer 3 gives a huge sigh and pats Vendor on the shoulder. Vendor stares at Customer 3's hand.)

CUSTOMER 3

(With sincerity and gravity)

Clarice, I am sorry to string you along, but Saturday won't work either and I think I will just have to pass on the purchase. The family schedule is just too tight. Best of luck selling the chairs.

(Customer 3 walks out of her living room, across Vendor's living room and offstage. Vendor remains stunned even when she is well

offstage. She shakes her head disgustedly, grumbles to herself making pointing gesture to the spaces of the different Customers, including the living room and the parts of the stage where they enter and exit. She snaps out of it then calls across the stage in the hopes that Customer 3 will hear her.)

VENDOR

(Shouting)

Dear Sable, Sorry to hear the schedule didn't work out, but I hope you and your family will have a good weekend. Thank you again for the heads up.

(Adds this as an afterthought.)

Regards, Clarice.

(End Scene)

ACT I, Scene 7

(Setting: Back in the 70s game show-esque basement. VENDOR is wearing her Vanna White dress with her hair down and lounging in one of the Adirondacks, checking her messages on her iPhone.)

(CUSTOMER 4 walks in with a huge grin on her face. Her clothes are plain and somewhat frumpy.)

CUSTOMER 4

(With manic glee)

Do you still have these chairs?

(Vendor straightens up, gets out of the chair, walks around the rotating platform until she's facing Customer 4. She then hops off the platform and talks to her.)

VENDOR

Hi Jodie, Yes! The chairs are still available. Would you be able to pick them up on noon Saturday or Sunday? Regards, Clarice.

CUSTOMER 4

(Pauses, thinking the matter over. After much deliberation, she finally says)

What day could we meet?

VENDOR

(About to place a hand on CUSTOMER 4's shoulder, then thinks better of it and draws it back.)

Hey Jodie, I actually said we could meet Saturday or Sunday in the last email. Which day's better for you? Clarice.

(CUSTOMER 4 thinks about this some more. She opens her mouth a few times to give an answer. Nothing comes out. She gives up, then runs awkwardly offstage, body bent slightly forward like a perching vulture with her upper arms pinned to her sides and lower arms flapping freely. VENDOR stands there, watching her go. End scene.)