

CUL-DE-SAC

by

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EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BONNIE FIDE, early 30s, a unique specimen who seems to have settled into adulthood just recently, waves at the movers as they leave from deep in the cul-de-sac.

She inhales the clean air. Smiles as her husband, CHANDLER, 30s, an ex-rocker, awkward in his clean cut, comes out of the house.

BONNIE
You hear that?

CHANDLER
What?

BONNIE
Nothing. No rushing cars. No screaming sirens. Just quiet.

CHANDLER
A little too quiet, don't you think? I mean, where are the kids? No jump roping or playing kickball?

BONNIE
You watch too many movies.

CHANDLER
I miss the city already.

BONNIE
You better get used to it, this is our new home.

CHANDLER
Conform or die, right?

BONNIE
Well, we are adults.

CHANDLER
(playfully)
Speak for yourself.

He grabs a box. Walks inside, leaving Bonnie alone.

Incessant chatter fills the air behind her. Voices talking over each other at a rapid pace.

SHERY (O.S.)
I feel amazing!

TATE (O.S.)
 (overlapping)
 Never felt better!

KATE (O.S.)
 (overlapping)
 I'm on top of the world!

Bonnie turns to see SHERY, TATE, and KATE, 30s, all dressed in gaudy spandex, stupid grins spread across their faces, speed walking at the same pace, jabbering away.

They stop. All wave at once.

Bonnie waves back, hesitantly. Picks up a lamp and starts inside, running right into them as they surround her.

SHERY
 You must be the new neighbor.

BONNIE
 Yes, we just--

SHERY
 I just love new neighbors, don't you?

TATE
 So exciting!

KATE
 Super fun!

BONNIE
 I'm Bonnie. Bonnie Fide.

SHERY
 Bonnie Fide--

KATE
 Love it--

TATE
 Simply brilliant!

SHERY
 I'm Shery. And this is Kate and her husband--

TATE
 Tate.

BONNIE
 How do you do?

NEIGHBORS (IN UNISON)

We do fine.

Bonnie glances down at the colorful, square patches on each of their arms with the letters "PC" across them.

BONNIE

Glad to know I'm not the only one trying to quit.

SHERY

Pardon?

KATE

Quit?

BONNIE

The patches?

TATE

Oh, we're not smokers.

SHERY

No.

KATE

No. No. No. That's a filthy habit.

TATE

Disgusting.

BONNIE

I'm sorry, I didn't--

SHERY

You hungry?

BONNIE

What?

KATE

Have her try one of the bars.

TATE

Oh, yes, she has to!

Shery pulls out a protein bar with a label that says, "Petite Complete".

BONNIE

"Petite Complete"?

SHERY

It gives you energy.

KATE
Lots of energy.

TATE
Tons of energy! Take a bite.

BONNIE
No, thanks. I should probably get going. Boxes to unpack.

She opens the door to go in as they try to peer inside.

SHERY
We understand.

KATE
Absolutely!

TATE
See you soon, Bonnie!

BONNIE
Yeah. Okay.

Bonnie shuts the door.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bonnie joins Chandler at the window, watching them speed walk away.

CHANDLER
What was that about?

BONNIE
I think I just met the new neighbors.

CHANDLER
The suburbs are weird, man.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Bonnie and Chandler jog through the neighborhood.

BONNIE
Look at us, we're jogging. No trash on the streets or human excrement to dodge.

CHANDLER
And where's the fun in that?

BONNIE
God, you're such a city boy.

CHANDLER
Hey, you fell in love with this
city boy.

They go in for a kiss. And the chattering voices are back.

SHERY (O.S.)
I have so much energy, I can barely
contain myself.

KATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
Still slept like a baby.

TATE (O.S.)
(overlapping)
Right, a very tired baby!

Before they can turn, Shery, Kate, and Tate are right beside them.

SHERY
Well, if it isn't the Fides.

TATE
Here they are!

KATE
How are you enjoying the
neighborhood?

CHANDLER
Well--

SHERY
He loves it.

KATE
He definitely does.

TATE
You're finally home!

CHANDLER
So I'm told.

BONNIE
(nudges Chandler)
We're enjoying it just fine.

CHANDLER
So, what's up with the patches?

Bonnie elbows him.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
(to Bonnie)
What?

SHERY
It's kind of hard to explain--

KATE
Without experiencing it yourself.

CHANDLER
I smell a sales pitch coming on.

TATE
Oh, we aren't selling a product--

SHERI
More of a lifestyle, really.

KATE
And of course, if you like it--

CHANDLER
I'll end up selling it to all my
friends. Yeah, yeah, I know how it
works.

SHERY
We're having a party, you should
come.

TATE
You definitely should.

KATE
Please say you'll come.

CHANDLER
Yeah, I don't think--

BONNIE
Sure, we'd love to come.

He shoots her a look.

NEIGHBORS (IN UNISON)
Great!

Shery pushes a protein bar and patch into Chandler's hand.

SHERY
(whispers)
It's the best.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chandler comes out of the bathroom, drying his hair with a towel as Bonnie takes a bite out of the "Petite Complete" protein bar. She immediately spits it out.

BONNIE
Ugh... awful.

CHANDLER
What, the women or the bar?

BONNIE
They're not that bad. Maybe a little Stepford Wife-ish--

CHANDLER
They're obnoxious, Spandexed lunatics. They just want to get us over there and rope us into some kind of pyramid scheme.

BONNIE
How do you know?

CHANDLER
My mom used to pump that crap. Vitaminaveggie, Juice Plus, ultra stretch leggings, canned air, you name it.

BONNIE
Canned--?

CHANDLER
Air. Yeah, I unfollowed her for that one.

BONNIE
Look, you promised me we were going to try to fit in here. This isn't like New York--

CHANDLER
No, it's Mayberry on crack.

BONNIE
Come on, we'll just pop in. We won't buy anything.

CHANDLER
That's how they get you.

She gives him a quick kiss. Heads to the bathroom, leaving the rest of the protein bar on the bed.

He picks it up. Scoffs. Takes a bite. Smiles.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
Hey, this isn't half bad.
(to himself)
Not bad at all.

He quickly devours the rest of it.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Bonnie wakes up to Chandler jumping on the bed in excitement.

CHANDLER
Today's the party. Wake up!

BONNIE
What? What party?

CHANDLER
The party. Man, I have so much energy, I can barely contain myself.

BONNIE
But, why?

CHANDLER
That bar and...

He holds his arm up to show the patch he now has on as he continues to jump.

CHANDLER (CONT'D)
(presentation noise)
Dun ta da dun!

BONNIE
You put it on.

CHANDLER
Well, the bar worked great, so why not?

BONNIE
What's in those things, pure caffeine?

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The neighbors take their coats as they push them through.

SHERY
Come in, come in.

KATE
Yay!

TATE
(to Chandler)
Well, don't you look well rested?

CHANDLER
I feel amazing. Hey, you got any
more of those bars?

SHERY
I think we might have a few laying
around.

The neighbors laugh. Shery moves away, revealing stacks of products that say, "Petite Complete". They seem to be everywhere.

Chandler takes one. Breaks it open.

BONNIE
Chandler?

CHANDLER
(chews on a bar)
Not now, Honey.

SHERY
They're so good for you. Have
another.

KATE
Have as many as you want.

TATE
Bonnie, care to indulge?

SHERY
It's not a party without "Petite
Complete".

BONNIE
(unenthusiastically)
Sure.

SHERY

Eat up--

TATE

Before your husband eats them all!

KATE

He really likes them.

She slowly takes a bite. They cheer. She spits it out into a plant when they turn away.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bonnie watches as Shery, Kate, Tate, and Chandler play Twister. It's awkward and grotesquely intimate.

CHANDLER

I haven't played this game since I was in elementary school!

SHERY

Isn't this fun?

KATE

So much fun--

TATE

Really great.

SHERY

Bar break!

They all chow down on protein bars. Gorge on them.

CHANDLER

I just love these things!

SHERY

We told you...

KATE

They're the best.

TATE

Simply the best.

Bonnie slips out of the house away from the madness.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Bonnie lights a cigarette. Deeply inhales as she watches them through the window. They are back at Twister. She cringes.

A distinct humming distracts her. She follows it to another window. Looks in.

Her cigarette falls out of her mouth as she stares into the room at several babies who are attached to tubes that are pulling their liquid into a vat that reads: Petite Complete.

Bars and patches are stacked up around them.

She backs away in horror, running into Shery, Kate, and Tate who have a maniacal look in their eyes.

SHERY

We found your bar in the plant.

TATE

You shouldn't have done that.

KATE

Naughty. Naughty.

BONNIE

There... there are babies in there.

SHERY

What do you think our secret ingredient is?

KATE

They make you feel so young, don't they?

TATE

They never appreciate the energy they have anyway.

SHERY

Join us.

They surround her, a patch out, protein bar ready.

BONNIE

(backs away)

Who are you people?

SHERY

We're your neighbors.

They slap a patch on her. Force the bar down her throat as she struggles.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Shery, Kate, Tate, Chandler, and Bonnie speed walk, all dressed in gaudy spandex, patches on, stupid grins spread across their faces as they jabber to one another, circling the cul-de-sac.

SHERY
I feel amazing!

TATE
(overlapping)
Never felt better!

CHANDLER
(overlapping)
Never felt better!

KATE
(overlapping)
I'm on top of the world!

BONNIE
(overlapping)
I'm on top of the world!

They look over at a couple moving their things in.

SHERY
Look, new neighbors.

They all wave. The couple wave hesitantly.

KATE
I just love new neighbors, don't
you?

CHANDLER
So exciting.

BONNIE
Super fun!

They speed walk towards them.

THE END