

SHRIBBLE

by

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INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

VALERIE and FRANK sit at their kitchen table eating dinner.

VALERIE

Isn't this incredible that we are both vegan? I can't believe we have actually gone vegan.

FRANK

Babe, please. I'm starving.

VALERIE

Oh, come on. Just have some more salad.

FRANK

Salad?

VALERIE

Yeah, you need to eat more plant foods, vegetables and fruits.

FRANK

I'm starving babe, alright? I feel like I've been eating leaves all day.

VALERIE

Frances, stop it. It's only been three days.

FRANK

Three days? That's all?

VALERIE

Yep.

FRANK

Hasn't it been a week already? I feel like I'm breaking some sort of record.

VALERIE

Well, I'm proud of you. You are going to live a longer life.

FRANK (UNDER HIS BREATH)

In misery...

VALERIE

What?

FRANK

I gotta tell ya, I'm ready to grab my bow and arrow and shoot down birds in the backyard.

VALERIE

That's horrible. Tell me you're joking.

FRANK

I'm hungry! Been eating salad that don't even look like salad. It's leaves.

VALERIE

It's baby spinach!

FRANK

Great. Baby spinach looks like baby tree leaves. What's next? Going outside and eating dirt?

VALERIE

You have no discipline.

FRANK

Discipline? I've gone an entire week with—

VALERIE

Three days—

FRANK

That's a week if you're Italian and I feel like I'm shribbling up.

VALERIE

Shribbling? What's a shribble?

FRANK

Shribble. I feel like I'm shribbling...getting smaller.

VALERIE

You mean shriveling?

FRANK

Same thing.

VALERIE

Well, I'm so happy we're vegan. It's the most amazing thing.

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I feel light and healthy and I'm already getting a glowing complexion. You too! You're starting to get rosy cheeks.

FRANK

Rosy cheeks? What rosy cheeks? You sure that's not heart failure?

VALERIE

No, you look more vibrant. You don't feel it? Honestly, you don't feel like you have more energy?

FRANK

I need to eat protein to have strength. Let me get more chicken peas then.

VALERIE

It's called chick peas, not chicken peas. It compensates for protein. (beat) You know, I can't believe how you go on. That's because you've been given horrible food to eat you're whole life.

FRANK

No, it's because I've eaten meals where I've actually used a knife.

VALERIE

You don't have to go vegan with me. I can do it by myself.

FRANK

I just wish there was more options, Val. We go to the store and it's not even an aisle, it's a shelf. One whole shelf out of an entire supermarket for vegan and it's all stuff that looks like it belongs on a late night infomercial.

VALERIE

Oh, stop.

FRANK

Come on, the options are limited. Yesterday we ate what looked like hot dogs but tasted like inflated rubber bands. Then you take coffee away from me and have me on this green tea and a man needs his coffee.

VALERIE

It's polluting your brain.

FRANK

I love coffee and I won't stop drinking it. This green tea shit is going too far, I need steak and pasta and meatballs and cheese and—

VALERIE

Pasta, you can have gluten free pasta.

FRANK

What's that? I never heard of that brand? I only know Ronzoni.

VALERIE

It's not a brand, it's a kind of food.

FRANK

Okay, look...coffee and pasta is all I want...I'll stop eating meat, alright? I'll climb trees and eat leaves but I need my pasta and I need my coffee. Otherwise, I'll kill someone.

VALERIE

Alright. Deal.