

BACKSTAGE AT SESAME STREET: “Sunny Days” or some other Sesame Street song plays. There are a few chairs on stage. A sign reads “NO MUPPETS ALLOWED!” The humans enter from stage right, just finishing a taping. They wave, smile and adlib “goodbyes” to the kids at home. They are Gordon, Gabi, Maria and Bob.

(Author’s note: I’m using the names of real Sesame Street cast members but don’t feel the need to cast people who look like them if you don’t want. I’d just make Bob older than the rest).

The music stops.

GORDON

Thank god that’s over.

GABI

Why did I ever move to this god forsaken street?!

MARIA

Gabi, calm down. It’s OK.

GABI

How can you say it’s OK? How? Were you out there with us? Did you see what they put us through?

GORDON

I hate those muppets.

GABI

Cookie Monster ate my cell phone! I just got that thing. Did he offer to help buy me a new one? No. Nothing. I have a year left on my contract, they’re going to charge me the early upgrade price.

MARIA

I spent the last hour listening to Elmo count my breadsticks while I was trying to eat my lunch. There were five! I don’t need to count them out loud, I’m a grown-up. But it’s not a big deal.

GORDON

Abby Cadabby turned me into a cucumber! Do you know stupid I look as a cucumber?! I spent half the day with no genitalia! I hate that little flying fairy.

BOB

You guys are babies. All of you.

MARIA

Bob, you're not helping.

BOB

I've lived on this street for my whole life. I was born on this street and I'm going to die on this street. I don't let the muppets boss me around.

GABI

I'm not as strong as you Bob.

BOB

You're right, you're not. The word of the day is "balls," grow a pair.

GORDON

What can we do Bob? We're just humans. Those muppets run this street.

GABI

You want to start something? Don't you remember what happened to David?

BOB

Remember? I was the one who had to pull David's lifeless body out of the washing machine.

GABI

There was so much blood!

GORDON

They said it was an accident, they said Snuffleupagus didn't see him, that it was dark in the alley. But they were sending us a message. No one speaks up against the muppets.

MARIA

Exactly, we just have to know our place. Keep the stores running, keep the streets clean, learn the same 26 letters over and over again. It's not such a bad life. Plus, we get to meet all sorts of celebrities!

GABI

They're here to see the muppets, we don't even rate a glance.

GORDON

I passed Neil Patrick Harris when he went to the bathroom.

GABI

Elmo doesn't even know who George Clooney is! He's not old enough to watch his movies. He just thinks he's a pretty man named George!

BOB

Celebrities? The celebrities are only here to brainwash you people.

MARIA

Sesame street does not brainwash! It's wholesome family edu-tainment.

BOB

You've been wiped clean worse than these other two fools. At least they know they're being hoodwinked. Don't you ever wonder why these muppets don't have jobs?

GORDON

I was just thinking that! I work all day at the cafe and they just show up and order whatever they want.

GABI

How are they doing it?

BOB

Follow the numbers.

GORDON

The Count!

BOB

The Count is just a pawn. Follow them higher.

MARIA

How much higher?

BOB

About six feet high.

GODRON/GABI

BIG BIRD!

BOB

You didn't hear it from me, but he runs this street. He's the big cheese, the head bird, top of the pecking order. He runs a numbers racket. Sports betting. Millions of dollars flow through his nest every day.

MARIA

But he's so sweet and loving!

BOB

He's sweet until he stabs those razor sharp talons into your sides! It was 1971. I was hiding inside a trash can when the whole thing went down. I had switched places with Oscar for the day. Something of a Freaky Friday thing before Freaky Friday was cool. This was back before they had taken over completely. We had all-human segments on this show, muppets were expected to earn their keep. One guy, named Barry thought he could push the felt-freaks out, he was wrong. Big Bird ripped him to pieces while the rest of the muppets washed. That was when the tide started to turn.

GORDON

Oh my heavens.

MARIA

That's so awful. But, can't we get in trouble for just talking about this?

BOB

What's the matter Maria, are you chicken?

MARIA

No.

BOB

Are you scared of some furry monsters?

MARIA

Of course not.

BOB

Well, you should be. They're mean, sneaky little creatures. Hate them, resist them, but always be wary.

GORDON

Well, I'm sick of it! I'm sick of living in fear. I want my children to live in a muppet free street. To know the true taste of freedom.

GABI

I want to go a single day without having to get hugged!

MARIA

Yes! I want to curse out loud, I want to scratch my butt in public, I want to make out with boys!

GABI

There you go!

MARIA

Let's do something! Let's fight back!

GORDON

Now we're talking.

BOB

Look who's finally sacked up. I've been waiting years for this moment to come. For the humans to finally realize what we have to do to claim our rightful place.

GORDON

I'll do anything.

BOB

Will you now? Once we start down this road there is no turning back.

MARIA

We know.

BOB

Each of you, are you willing to do what it takes? Gordon, would you set fire to Bert and Ernie's house while they're sleeping? Would you bar the door shut while you listen to their screams?

GORDON

Yes.

BOB

Gabi, would you eat Elmo's goldfish Dorothy? Swallow her alive, let her wriggle down your throat?

GABI

I would, if it meant I never had to listen to his theme song again.

BOB

And Maria, my lovely Maria.

MARIA

Yes...

BOB

If it means an end to muppet rule, would you be willing to sleep with Grover?

MARIA

How would that help?

BOB

WOULD YOU BE WILLING?

MARIA

I would. I will do whatever it takes. I'd even let him wear the Super Grover outfit if he wanted.

BOB

Excellent.

GORDON

So, what's our plan? Do we go out there and have sex with all of them?

BOB

No, those were just examples. We can make this all happen right here, right now. One, brutal gesture.

GABI

How brutal?

BOB

Very. Here's the plan: Tonight while they're sleeping you three sneak into Big Bird's nest. I'm going to give you a syringe of bird tranquilizer. You inject him and take him out to the main street. In the middle of the street you gut him, you gut him good. Make sure his intestines go everywhere. Then you cut off his head and stick it on top of the Sesame Street light pole.

MARIA

I'm going to be sick.

BOB

This is what it's going to take. Meet force with force.

GORDON

But what about Snuffy? He'll squash us flat if we get that close. He's never going to leave Big Bird's side.

BOB

You leave Snuffleupagus to me.

GABI

Bob, no. You'll be killed.

BOB

You're right, I am. It's a small price to pay for freedom.

GORDON

You are so brave.

BOB

We're all going to have to be brave. With their leader gone there will be a power vacuum. One of you needs to step up and take the place. Maria, it's got to be you.

MARIA

Me? But I didn't want this. You convinced me.

BOB

Exactly. These other two are a little too eager. We'll need a leader who can listen, be fair and measured. There's going to be a lot of blood on both sides, we'll need every person we can get.

GORDON

Maria.

Gordon kisses Maria's finger.

GORDON

I will follow you anywhere.

BOB

Now, if you'll excuse me. I have a date with destiny.

GABI

To freedom!

GORDON

To Bob!

BOB

To all of us. God bless the humans. FREEDOM!

Bob starts the march off stage, the rest of the group follows. Cheerful music plays.