

GRANDMA KNOWS BEST
"Grandma Knows Gangsters"
written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. GOODWILL - DAY

Jeannie shops for curtains. Sophie walks up to her.

SOPHIE

Mom, can we leave now? We've been
in this Goodwill for three hours!

JEANNIE

Just another minute, Sophie. All
these curtains are only a dollar.
God, I love Goodwill.

SOPHIE

Your cart is already full.

JEANNIE

I'm remodeling the house. I can do
that here for less than \$46.

SOPHIE

I want to get started on a homework
assignment.

JEANNIE

You have all weekend. You know the
Charleston Goodwill is the best one
in West Virginia.

"Love Shack" by The B-52's plays on the speakers. Jeannie
sings.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

THE GOODWILL IS A LITTLE OLD PLACE
WHERE WE CAN SAVE SOME MONEY

Jeannie dances and sings to the chorus with her own words.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

THE GOODWILL, SOPHIE.

SOPHIE

I'll be in the book section.

Sophie walks away.

JEANNIE

("Love shack, baby, love
shack")
GOODWILL, SOPHIE, GOODWILL.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jeannie cooks. Grandma and Sophie sit at the kitchen table. Sophie is on her tablet.

GRANDMA

You're always on that flat rectangle thingy.

SOPHIE

I'm looking up events that take place this weekend. I have an assignment for my film production class due Monday.

GRANDMA

It's Saturday! You shouldn't be doing school work on a Saturday. That's why the past tense of sit comes before day.

SOPHIE

Ten of my classmates already posted their videos, but I was stuck at Goodwill.

JEANNIE

Worth it!

GRANDMA

What's this project about?

SOPHIE

Our teacher wants us to film an event that captures an essence of West Virginia.

GRANDMA

I'm an essence. You want to film me?

SOPHIE

No, it has to be an event and if we get more hits on YouTube than any other student, it's a guaranteed A.

JEANNIE

They have acoustic honky tonk at the blues bar if you want to go to that?

GRANDMA

I love honky tonk, but not acoustic honky tonk... What's the point? All honk, no tonk.

SOPHIE

I'm hoping to find something better than acoustic honky tonk.

Jeannie yells upstairs.

JEANNIE

Kids! Breakfast is ready!

GRANDMA

So what events are going on?

SOPHIE

A Christmas Tree Recycling, Snowstorm in a jar at the library, WWE live, not doing that, and a new biscuit being introduced at Tudor's Biscuit World.

GRANDMA

I love when Tudor's introduces a new biscuit.

Louie and Kayla come downstairs.

JEANNIE

Louie, why did you get home so late?

LOUIE

I was watching a movie with Nancy Jr.

JEANNIE

What movie?

LOUIE

Uhm... American Gangster.

JEANNIE

I told you to stop watching gangster movies.

GRANDMA

Hey, if Denzel Washington is in it, it can't be bad. I would like to do so many things to that man.

KAYLA

What kind of things, Grandma?

GRANDMA

I'd hop fences for that man... Then we'd have the most scrumptious sex.

JEANNIE

Mom, stop!

GRANDMA

Sorry, sweetheart, your mom won't let me tell you about sex.

KAYLA

What's sex, Grandma?

JEANNIE

Why do I even try?... Kayla, let's change the subject, what do you have planned today?

KAYLA

Mr. Bonkers and I are going to have a tea party with the snowman I built. Do you want to join us, Grandma?

GRANDMA

I would love too.

LOUIE

Kayla, aren't you getting too old for Mr. Bonkers?

KAYLA

No!

SOPHIE

Hey, she can have an imaginary friend for as long as she wants. You still have Rocky.

JEANNIE

Speaking of Goodwill.

LOUIE

No, it's not time for Rocky to go yet.

GRANDMA

Who's Rocky?

KAYLA

Louie's old rocking horse. Louie's
butt is now too big.

Kayla points to the corner of the living at a small wooden
rocking horse.

JEANNIE

Nancy and I are going again to
Goodwill anyway. I know the
Goodwill manager. I can make sure
Rocky finds a good home.

LOUIE

Never. I love Rocky more than I
love Sophie. Get rid of her first.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Sophie enters the library. She looks around a bit confused
before she walks up the LIBRARIAN, 38.

SOPHIE

Excuse me, I heard there's supposed
to be a snowstorm in a jar event.

LIBRARIAN

Oh, yes, you're just in time. Come
join me. I'm about to make another
snowstorm.

SOPHIE

Actually, I was hoping I could film
it, but I don't really see an
event. I just see you.

LIBRARIAN

It's pretty much just me every
year. I post about it on the world
wide web, but nobody ever shows up.

SOPHIE

I see that.

LIBRARIAN

These are all my snowstorms!

The librarian points to a bookshelf full of jars filled with
cloudy water.

SOPHIE

You do this by yourself every year?

LIBRARIAN

Someone has to spend the library budget.

SOPHIE

I guess.

LIBRARIAN

Come on, take a jar for a spin.

SOPHIE

No thanks. Think I'm going to try an event that has more people.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Louie argues with Nancy Jr.

LOUIE

I am not!

NANCY JR.

You are too.

LOUIE

Nancy Jr. I am nothing like Russel Crowe.

NANCY JR.

Not even Russell Crowe in American Gangster, you're more like Cinderella man.

LOUIE

I'm am not Cinderella man.

DAWN, 14, enters the treehouse. She wears ripped jeans and dark eyeliner. She's clearly cooler and older than Louie and Nancy Jr. They seem to idolize her.

DAWN

Hey, nerds.

LOUIE

Hey, Dawn.

NANCY JR.

What's up Dawn? What movie do you want to watch today?

LOUIE

What about Scarface?

DAWN

I was thinking why watch movies about gangsters... When we can be gangsters.

LOUIE

I don't want a scar on my face.

DAWN

Come on, Louie, I thought you had a backbone.

LOUIE

I have a backbone.

DAWN

So let's start a gang.

LOUIE

What would the gang do?

Dawn takes her backpack and empties it out. It's full of super soakers.

DAWN

It's freezing cold outside. Perfect time to shoot people with water guns. I was thinking we could do a drive by.

INT. GOODWILL - DAY

Jeannie and Nancy buy more things at Goodwill.

NANCY

I could spend all day here.

JEANNIE

Me too. Remember when we used to shop at Kohl's?

NANCY

Yeah, like a bunch of chumps.

JEANNIE

Kohl's is so last decade.

NANCY

Yeah, we don't need 30% off coupons for Goodwill.

JEANNIE

Look a George Foreman grill for three dollars. I always wanted a lean mean grilling machine.

The manger, GOODWILL JOE, 46, jolly, comes up to them.

GOODWILL JOE

Ladies, it's time! We just brought out the new merchandise.

NANCY

Goodwill Joe, you're the best.

EXT. CAPITAL MARKET - DAY

Sophie rides her bike and sees a sign for Christmas Tree Recycling. Then she sees another kid about her age, JULIE.

SOPHIE

Hey, Julie. You came to film this too?

JULIE

Yes, Owen, Matt, Melissa, and Carol were already here.

SOPHIE

Dang. I need to find something else. There's no way Mrs. C is going to give me an A if we're all filming the same event.

JULIE

I'm happy if Mrs. C gives me a D, but I know you actually care about grades.

SOPHIE

So what does the Department of Environmental Protection do?

JULIE

They just take your tree and say thank you.

SOPHIE

That's it? That's not an event.

JULIE

According to the Charleston, West Virginia website it is.

EXT. WYATT HOUSE - DAY

Grandma and Kayla have a tea party outside. There's a couple inches of snow.

GRANDMA

It's a little cold outside for a tea party, don't you think?

KAYLA

No. Mr. Bonkers has no jacket and he's fine.

Grandma looks at the empty chair next to her.

GRANDMA

I'm going to go inside and get more tea and be warm for as long I want to.

KAYLA

Okay, when you come back, can you get more sugar for Mr. Bonkers? He likes his tea sweet.

GRANDMA

Sure, sweetheart.

Grandma walks back to the house.

Suddenly, Louie, Nancy Jr. and Dawn ride their bikes as fast as they can from the garage to the street.

DAWN

Do it now!

As they turn the driveway, they each point a water gun.

KAYLA

What the?

They blast Kayla, Mr. Bonkers, and the snowman full of water.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Hey, stop it, cut it out!

Dawn rides her bike on the front yard and runs over the snowman. Dawn laughs.

DAWN

Frosty ain't so frosty anymore.

KAYLA

Why?

Louie and Dawn spray water at the seat that Mr. Bonkers sits in until it gets knocked down.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Nooooooooooooooooooooo. Mr. Bonkers.

Louie, Dawn, and Nancy Jr. ride away on the street.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Mr. Bonkers! Stay with me, Mr. Bonkers! Don't die on me! You're too young!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kayla cries as Grandma tries to comfort her on the couch.

KAYLA

They killed Mr. Bonkers.

Jeannie scolds Louie.

JEANNIE

I told you to stop hanging out with Dawn. She's a bad influence on you and Nancy Jr.

LOUIE

It was just water.

JEANNIE

First she makes you steal Nancy's car and now you're killing imaginary people.

LOUIE

He's imaginary!

KAYLA

He's dead! You idiot! Mr. Bonkers was allergic to water. You know that.

LOUIE

I didn't know that.

JEANNIE

Gang activity is no joke. It's nineteen degrees outside. There's no reason for this! What do you plan on doing tomorrow? You going to start a casino?

LOUIE

No... We planned on selling coke.

JEANNIE

You're kidding me, right?

LOUIE

No.

JEANNIE

Where did you get the coke from?

LOUIE

Walmart.

JEANNIE

They don't sell Coke at Walmart?!

LOUIE

Yes, they do. They sell Cherry
Coke, Vanilla Coke, Diet Coke, Lime
Coke...

JEANNIE

Oh, that coke.

LOUIE

What do you think I was talking
about?

JEANNIE

Nothing.

GRANDMA

Crack cocaine.

JEANNIE

Mom!

GRANDMA

What? You thought that too.

JEANNIE

Louie, get your butt upstairs. I'll
deal with you later. I still have
to go back to Goodwill to pick up
the rest of my kitchen appliances.

GRANDMA

Jeannie, I think you might have
addiction problem to Goodwill.

JEANNIE

Non-sense. I am not addicted to
Goodwill.

GRANDMA

That's what addicts say.

Jeannie kisses Kayla on the forehead.

JEANNIE

Everything will be alright, Kayla.
I'll be back soon.

Jeannie exits. Kayla is still clearly upset.

GRANDMA

Tell me everything you know about
this Dawn girl.

KAYLA

I just know her name is Dawn
D'Amico.

GRANDMA

Like D'Amico's Italian Cuisine?

KAYLA

Yeah, why?

GRANDMA

Revenge.

EXT. TUDOR'S BISCUIT WORLD - DAY

Sophie rides her bike to Tudor's Biscuit World. A big sign
reads "New Biscuit Today."

Sophie hops off her bike and walks inside to the counter.

SOPHIE

Hi, what time do they reveal the
new biscuit?

A cheerful employee holds up a wrapped biscuit.

TUDOR'S BISCUIT EMPLOYEE

That was early this morning. As we
like to say... Start your day the
homemade way.

SOPHIE

Dang, I can't catch a break today.

TUDOR'S BISCUIT EMPLOYEE

Here, try our new fried peach
biscuit.

She throws Sophie a freshly wrapped biscuit.

SOPHIE

Yeah, whatever you say. Thanks for
the biscuit.

TUDOR'S BISCUIT EMPLOYEE

A biscuit makes everything better.

Sophie exits Tudor's Biscuit World and takes a bite.

SOPHIE

Hey, that is pretty good. It does
make me feel slightly better.

EXT. D'AMICO'S ITALIAN CUISINE - DAY

Grandma parks her motorcycle in the parking lot. Kayla and
Grandma hop off.

KAYLA

Grandma, what are we doing here?

GRANDMA

You'll see. After this we'll stop
by the Dunbar retirement home.

KAYLA

That place smells like old people.

GRANDMA

Exactly.

EXT. CHARLESTON CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Sophie is at the box office. An employee helps her.

SOPHIE

I can't believe I'm saying this,
but can I please buy your cheapest
ticket to WWE Live?

BOX OFFICE EMPLOYEE

That will be \$80.

SOPHIE

\$80! I don't have that kind of
cash. I thought you had tickets for
like \$15.

BOX OFFICE EMPLOYEE

All the nosebleeds have been sold
out for weeks.

SOPHIE

Why is it so expensive?

BOX OFFICE EMPLOYEE

John Cena is here.

SOPHIE

John Cena, the actor?

BOX OFFICE EMPLOYEE
No, John Cena, the wrestler.

SOPHIE
Who?

BOX OFFICE EMPLOYEE
Do you have the \$80 or don't you?

SOPHIE
No, forget it.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Louie talks with Nancy Jr. and Dawn.

DAWN
Now, that drive-by was a small
price to pay for initiation.

LOUIE
I thought we were already
initiated?

DAWN
Hey, I'm the boss. I'll say when
you're initiated.

NANCY JR.
I don't want do more gang things. I
have a bright future with hockey.

Dawn grabs Nancy Jr. by her collar.

DAWN
We're doing a gang so deal with it!
We're the Dunbar Devils.

Suddenly, they hear a THUD from the ground. They look outside
the treehouse window. Their ladder is on the grass.

LOUIE
Hey, our latter?

SPLAT! Louie gets hit in the face with a water balloon.

NANCY JR.
Duck!

SPLAT. Dawn gets hit in the back of head with another water
balloon.

NANCY SR.

Bombs away!

Nancy scouts the ground.

NANCY JR.

Holy cow, it's my grandma and your
Grandma and some other old lady.

Dawn looks.

DAWN

Oh no... That's my grandma.

Grandma and Kayla stand with NANCY SR. 70, and Debby, Dawn's
Grandmother.

DEBBY

Dawn, What did I tell you about
starting a gang? I said wait to
your 16. Are you 16 yet?

DAWN

No.

DEBBY

And I said stay away from that 11-
year-old boy. You're 14 years old,
go control a high school boy.

Splat. Splat. Splat. More water balloons land inside as the
Grandmas and Kayla throw them.

KAYLA

You think you can just kill Mr.
Bonkers and get away with it?!

DAWN

Who's Mr. Bonkers?

LOUIE

He's my sister's imaginary friend.

Splat. Splat. Splat. Splat. More balloons burst inside the
treehouse

LOUIE (CONT'D)

I'm getting soaked.

NANCY JR.

Stop this, Dawn, you're the boss.

GRANDMA

This turf is only big enough for one gang.

Dawn address the old ladies and Kayla.

DAWN

Okay. Okay. I have a proposition for all the turf. Front yard and backyard.

GRANDMA

Keep turf talking.

DAWN

A gang war. Tomorrow at noon.

GRANDMA

Gang wars aren't really something you plan, but keep elaborating.

DAWN

Super soakers is the weapon of choice. The Dunbar Devils, versus your gang of Grandma's. Whoever is left standing wins all the turf.

GRANDMA

We'll take you up on that. Let's plan the gang war for then.

INT. BLUEGRASS KITCHEN BAR - DAY

Sophie enters and sees the bartender. She looks exhausted.

SOPHIE

Hi, what time does the acoustic honky tonk start?

BARTENDER

Sorry, they cancelled it.

SOPHIE

They cancelled it. Why?

BARTENDER

They found out John Cena was part of WWE Live.

SOPHIE

Damn you, John Cena!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. WYATT HOUSE - DAY

The front yard has a tent and a fire pit. Seven senior citizens surround the fire. Grandma and Debby's friend, Doris is there and she is asleep the entire episode.

DEBBY

Are you sure we can't shank them a little bit?

GRANDMA

No, they're our grandkids. No shanking. Stick with water.

DEBBY

I was kidding. Kind of.

GRANDMA

We have a plan. You, me, and Nancy Sr. will go up the driveway. Herbert, Jasper, and Gertrude will take the other side of the house.

JASPER, 92, a frail old man, doesn't look comfortable.

JASPER

I'm so cold. Why did you take me out of the retirement home?

GRANDMA

Quit your moaning, Jasper... These punk-ass teenagers are young but they're quitters.

DEBBY

What about Doris?

GRANDMA

Doris can't stay awake long enough to do anything.

Kayla walks up to Grandma.

KAYLA

I'm getting out of the gang, Grandma. I'm going home.

GRANDMA

What do you mean you're getting out of the gang?

KAYLA

It's winter time and I don't want to hurt other kids with water. I just want to hurt Louie.

GRANDMA

You can't get out of the gang until you die or go to prison. That's how gangs work. Don't you know that?

KAYLA

No, I don't.

GRANDMA

Haven't you seen any gangster movie ever?

KAYLA

No. I didn't do any research.

GRANDMA

Okay, fine, go home. Quit now, before we start.

KAYLA

Thanks for understanding.

Kayla walks back to the house.

GRANDMA

See, what I tell you about kids quitting. What's the time?

DEBBY

Time to kick some dupa.

NANCY SR,

11:58. T-minus two minutes.

JASPER

What am I doing here? It's freezing outside.

GRANDMA

You can come back to the fire if you need to, but don't give up.

Suddenly, a ssssssh-chk-chk-chk sound is heard and the old people get hit with water.

NANCY SR.

Is that them already?

GRANDMA
No, it's a sprinkler system.

The water from the sprinklers take out the fire.

JASPER
There goes the fire.

EXT. BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Louie, Nancy Jr., Dawn and two other kids climb down from the treehouse.

DAWN
It's game time! Let's show these
old people just how old they are.

Then another ssssssh-chk-chk-chk sound and the kids get hit with water from the sprinklers.

NANCY JR.
What the hell?

LOUIE
Planting Sprinklers. My Grandma is
an evil genius.

DAWN
Don't just stand there. Figure out
a way to shut them off.

Nancy Jr. and Louie follow the hose to shut them off.

NANCY JR.
It's not attached to the hose. It's
going inside the basement window.

DAWN
Whatever. We got company.

The grandma gang see the kids from one end of the driveway.
The Dunbar Devils eye the Grandma gang from the other end.

DAWN (CONT'D)
This is it. Let's take down these
old hags.

GRANDMA
Release the Kracken'!

Both gangs charge at each other and soak each other with water guns. Eventually the water in the guns runs out.

More sssssssh-chk-chk-chk sounds are heard as more sprinklers still soak them.

LOUIE

I'm out of ammo, but it doesn't matter because of these damn sprinklers.

NANCY JR.

This is miserable.

NANCY SR.

You think you're miserable, try being this wet, cold, and old.

LOUIE

I can't take it. I'm going inside.

NANCY JR.

I'm with you.

GRANDMA

I knew they would give up first.

Louie and Nancy Jr. jet to the backdoor. It's so slippery that Louie slips on the ice.

LOUIE

Owwwwww.

The old people and kids laugh at him.

DAWN

How did you plan the sprinklers?

GRANDMA

Didn't you plan them?

Louie tries opening the backdoor.

LOUIE

Hey, it won't open. Kayla must have locked it. Grandma, do you have a key?

GRANDMA

No. I thought you did.

Nancy Jr. searches her pockets.

NANCY JR.

Hey, my house keys are missing too.

JEANNIE (O.S.)

We know. And Kayla didn't lock it.
I did.

The kids look up and see Jeannie from a 2nd floor window as they keep getting hit with rotating water.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

How are those sprinklers treating you?

GRANDMA

Jeannie, you did this?

JEANNIE

With a little help from Nancy.

Nancy joins Jeannie.

LOUIE

Where did you get all the sprinklers?

JEANNIE

Goodwill.

GRANDMA

Of course, you addict.

JEANNIE

They were on sale because sprinklers are out of season.

NANCY

Gotta love good willing.

JEANNIE

Here's the deal. Nobody comes inside this house until you quit your gangs. For good.

NANCY

Quit or freeze your ass off. The choice is yours.

JEANNIE

I maintain this household. I take care of it. I clean it, I pay the property tax. Let's get one thing straight. This is nobody's turf. This is my house.

NANCY

Law down the law.

LOUIE
How could lock us out?

JEANNIE
We think this is funny. It's like
Joe Pesci funny.

NANCY
(Joe Pesci voice)
You think this is funny. I think
this is funny.

JEANNIE
(Joe Pesci voice)
Yeah, funny how? We showed you how.

NANCY SR.
Stop acting like Joe Pesci and let
us in!

LOUIE
This is not funny!

NANCY
Is it wet out there or is just you?

NANCY SR.
Nancy, how could you do this to
your own mother?

NANCY
Mom, I didn't know you'd be here.

She whispers to Jeannie.

NANCY (CONT'D)
This makes it even better.

NANCY SR.
I heard that!

LOUIE
Okay, we quit! We quit! Being in a
gang isn't worth it. Are you happy
now, Mom?

JEANNIE
Not good enough. We want you all to
quit. All or nothing.

GRANDMA
No. Gangs are for life. Til death
or prison do you part.

DEBBY

No offense, but we're pretty old.
Death isn't that far away.

GRANDMA

Good point. Okay, I quit.

Dawn's Mother, DENISE D'AMICO, 39, joins Nancy and Jeannie and stirs a pot full of sauce.

DENISE

Tell them about the pasta!

JEANNIE

Dawn, we also went to your parents' restaurant and talked to them.

DAWN

Oh, no.

DENISE

Little missy, your ass is grounded!

JEANNIE

But after all of you come in and dry off in the basement! We have homemade spaghetti and meatballs to warm you up.

NANCY SR.

I quit.

DAWN

I quit.

JASPER

I don't even know these people.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

All three gangs (including The Goodwill Gang) eat spaghetti and meatballs.

LOUIE

Grandma, you put up a good fight.

GRANDMA

You think this was something, you should hear about the gang I had in the joint. Now, that was violent.

KAYLA

Yeah, tell us more Grandma.

JEANNIE

Mom!

GRANDMA

I'll tell you when you're older.

JEANNIE

I appreciate that.

DEBBY

Did anybody wake up Doris?

GRANDMA

No.

Debby looks outside and sees Doris sleeping near the fire.

Sophie enters the living room.

SOPHIE

I did it.

JEANNIE

Did what?

SOPHIE

My film production assignment. And I already have more hits on YouTube than all classmates. 900 views in ten minutes.

GRANDMA

What did you film?

SOPHIE

The gang war.

LOUIE

You did?

SOPHIE

Yep after you told me about it last night. I told Mom. Then I filmed Mom and Nancy planting the sprinklers and I captured the war on my phone and tablet. I titled the video, "Parents Gone Gangster."

JEANNIE

So, that's why you told me.

NANCY

Hey, that's clever. God it feels good to be a gangster.

SOPHIE

I caught every moment even Louie falling on his ass. There's already five comments on that.

LOUIE

Oh, man. I'm gonna hear about that at school tomorrow.

JEANNIE

I'm just glad it's over. And we can all agree that there's no one more gangster than your mother.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. LOUIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Eerie music plays as Louie wakes up in his bed. He spots a blot of ketchup on his pillow. He uncovers his sheets, he's covered in ketchup. Then in his bed, he sees Rocky's head.

LOUIE
Aaaaaahhhhhh!

In front of his bed, Rocky's body rocks back and forth, headless.

LOUIE (CONT'D)
No, Rocky, no.

He flips the sawed head over and sees a note that reads...

LOUIE (CONT'D)
"Love, Mr. Bonkers."

Louie tries to put Rocky's head back on his body.

LOUIE (CONT'D)
Noooooo. Bonkers, you bastard!

In the hallway, Kayla smirks.

KAYLA
That'll teach him to mess with us.

Kayla fist bumps an empty chair.

KAYLA (CONT'D)
You're a genius, Mr. Bonkers.

END OF SHOW