

A Cornershop Owner Dies

By

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Two gentlemen from the future walk into a business and
proclaim to witness the owner's untimely end.

2015 Nelson de Gouveia

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INT. OFFICE, DAY

NELSON and JOE swing past in wheelie chairs to talk about the premise for the show.

JOE

Hi, I'm Joe Emilio.

NELSON

And I'm Nelson de Gouveia.

JOE

We wanted to write and film a series of sketches together with some people who love film.

NELSON

So this is the first that I've written, sent it to him, he didn't get it, returned one to me and we're making this one.

JOE

Picture this, two guys walk into a shop. They're two pranksters from the future, and they're about to watch the shopkeeper die.

NELSON

It's morbid, but I was at home alone, and isolation makes you REALLY crazy.

JOE

It won't take much of your time...

NELSON

...and who knows, it may be the funniest thing you see today.

JOE

Enjoy.

CUT TO:

INT. CORNERSHOP, DAY

ADRIAN is behind the counter in a cornershop. He's reading a newspaper as NELSON and JOE walk in.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN
Can I help you sirs?

NELSON
No, it's fine.

JOE
Yeah, we're good.

ADRIAN
(pause)
I'm sure it is fine and it's good, sirs, but you're just staring at me. Usually people stare at the boobs on the top-shelf magazines. Do you think I'm boobs?

JOE
It's ok, we're just here to observe.

ADRIAN
Observe what?

NELSON
Your death.

ADRIAN
Me? Are you threatening me?

JOE
Not at all. We're from the future, and we've come to see HOW you die.

ADRIAN
(pause)
Well, thanks for ruining my day. It's Saturday and the Stormers aren't playing today, but this is worse. How long do I have?

NELSON
Not long.

ADRIAN
Do I have time to cash up and close the shop?

JOE
Nope.

ADRIAN
Do you...uh...know how I'm going to
die?

NELSON
(Looks at JOE)
Yeah.

A lady walks in and puts a pint of milk on the counter..

ADRIAN
That will be R15, thank you.

JOE
Why did you make her pay?

ADRIAN
What?

JOE
Why did you make her pay? I mean,
considering, you know, what's about
to happen.

ADRIAN
Well...

CUT TO:

SWEEPING SHOTS OF OLD FOOTAGE OF VOORTREKKERS.

ADRIAN (V/O)
I come from a long line of
Voortrekkers who worked tirelessly
against insurmountable odds to
achieve what little they had. They
were in danger from everything
almost every day.

CUT TO:

INT. CORNERSHOP, DAY

ADRIAN
I've got a reputation to maintain,
I've worked bloody hard to have my
slice of the pie on this planet;
just because you both claim you're
from the future to watch me pop my
cork, doesn't mean I have to sit
around and watch my empire burn,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADRIAN (cont'd)
you know. I've got bills to pay,
you know how high the rates just
went up by? 25 base points, my bru,
it's not funny.

CUT TO:

SCENES OF SARB RATE HIKES

ADRIAN
Ever since 2014, we've seen a rise
of 75 base points to battle an
ever-growing inflation. Because of
that, I pay 1.5% more per month for
my business AND home loans. See?
Look.

CUT TO:

INT. CORNERSHOP, DAY

ADRIAN pulls out a MacBook with a graph. JOE checks his
watch and signals 10 seconds to NELSON.

ADRIAN
You see the graph here? This shows
that costs are rising. You know how
much is in raising a family? My
wife's own expenses is insane
because she doesn't work thanks to
having no legs and I have to work
with this lame arm I got from
wrestling, I cannot afford to give
charity to every person REGARDLESS
of my timely death you two seem to
know about! Why don't you get out
of my shop and-

ADRIAN pauses for a moment, clutches his chest and keels
over.

JOE
You could've just told him he was
gonna die from stress.

NELSON
You think he'd believe me?