

SAMPLE 3:

Last two scenes of Act 1 of a dark comedy pilot about SOFIA, a new obituary writer (her literal last choice for a job). The scenes feature her too-upbeat boss TOM and the first obit subject, GERALDINE, who isn't dead yet and instead wants to help write it before she dies so it's done "right."

EXT. NURSING HOME - LATER

Sofia tears at the stubborn wrapper of a lolli with her teeth. Phone to her ear, she spies the receptionist and Nurse Pam peering at her through the window.

TOM (V.O.)
Howdy doody, this is Tom--

SOFIA
--So, I saw Ms. Waldheim.

TOM (V.O.)
Look at you! Above and beyond! But you know you don't actually have to see the body...

SOFIA
Not the body, Tom. She's alive!

TOM (V.O.)
No, I'm pretty sure she died.

SOFIA
You wanna come tell her that?

TOM (V.O.)
Maybe she's not really dead yet, but you're already there. Just get it over with.

SOFIA
Sure, I'll just barge in and say "Hi, Ms. Waldheim, can we chat about your impending death?"

TOM (V.O.)
Hey that's good! Enjoy the live ones while you can. You can't interview worm food.

Sofia shatters the lollipop between her teeth.

INT. GERALDINE'S ROOM - LATER

Sofia marches up to Geraldine's bed.

GERALDINE

She returns. How lucky am I?

SOFIA

Hi. Yeah. This is awkward but I think something got mixed up. I was told... Someone said you were dead.

GERALDINE

You're the kid they sent to write my swan song? What's your name?

SOFIA

Sofia Greene.

GERALDINE

I read the paper everyday. Never heard of you.

SOFIA

I'm new.

Geraldine swoons, hand to forehead.

GERALDINE

A fresh fish? For *my* curtain call? This is why I called the paper myself. I bet Fosse didn't have a dilettante write his obituary. What makes you qualified?

SOFIA

Top of my class at Columbia.

GERALDINE

Big whoop. I had a lover from there once. Worst lay of my life.

SOFIA

Well good thing I'm not here to screw you then.

Geraldine chuckles despite herself.

GERALDINE

Are you just gonna stand there or should we get started?

Sofia slings her bag to the floor and sits. She takes out her laptop and straightens up, ready to begin.