

SANDWICHES

**By**

ROBERT SACCHI

Robert Sacchi  
42854 Lindsey Heights Place  
Ashburn, VA 20148  
571-529-0552  
Rsacchi001@aol.com

FADE IN:

INT. OPEN BAY - DAY

There are numerous work stations, about half of the stations are empty. Workers, wearing surgical masks, are assembling sandwiches at the stations.

PATTY COLLINS, 63, is about twice the age of her co-workers. She works at about twice the speed of the others.

INTERCOM (V.O.)

Patty Collins, please report to  
"H-R".

PATTY

This can't be good.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

RUTH, 90, is sleeping in a reclining chair in the living room. An old movie is playing on the television. BRANDON, 30, is in an adjacent room, watching something on his tablet and wearing ear buds.

Ruth enters and stomps across the floor.

JOHN, 65, comes in from another room.

JOHN

Something wrong?

PATTY

They laid me off.

JOHN

I'm sorry.

PATTY

I don't believe it! I work harder than anyone there, and I get laid off. Last hired first fired. What was I paying union dues for?

JOHN

Because they get you last hired first fired.

PATTY

What about the last time I got  
laid off?

JOHN

You priced yourself out of the  
market.

PATTY

Priced myself out by working hard  
and getting excellent performance  
reports?

JOHN

You got it.

Ruth wakes.

RUTH

Is anybody here!

PATTY

We're here Mom!

Patty and John hurry to Ruth.

RUTH

I woke up and everyone was gone.

PATTY

I just came home from work, but  
John was working in the den.

Ruth turns to John.

RUTH

Are you John?

JOHN

Yes, I'm John. Your son-in-law.

RUTH

Patty, you got married?

PATTY

We've been married.

RUTH

Why didn't you tell me?

PATTY

You were at the wedding.

RUTH

I'm tired.

INT. DEN - DAY

Patty is scrolling through a job site on her laptop. There's a Memorial Day advertisement on the page.

RUTH (V.O.)

(Screaming)

Where is everybody?

PATTY

We're here mom!

TRACKING

Patty hurries out of the den and past Brandon, who is watching a tablet in the kitchen, and to Ruth in the living room.

There's an old movie on the television.

Patty comforts Ruth.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

There's an old movie on the television. There's a laptop on the coffee table.

There's the sound of a toilet FLUSHING. There is cane TAPPING and slogging FOOTSTEPS sounds.

Patty holds Ruth, who walks with a cane, as they make their way to the reclining chair.

RUTH

When's lunch?

PATTY

We had lunch a little while ago.  
Would you like to have a drink and  
something to nibble on?

RUTH

Alright.

PATTY

Brandon, get grandma her drink and  
some crackers.

Patty waits a few moments. She stomps towards the kitchen.

TRACKING

She gets a drink out of the refrigerator and some crackers out  
of the pantry. Brandon takes no notice of his mother as he  
watches his tablet.

She returns to the living room.

RUTH

You were gone so long.

PATTY

I got you your favorite drink and  
the crackers you like, Mom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Patty is on the couch and typing on her laptop. Ruth is  
sleeping in the reclining chair. There's an old movie on the  
television. The front door OPENS AND CLOSES. John steps into  
the living room.

JOHN

Hi Pat. How's your mother doing?

PATTY

The same, she sleeps, she wakes  
up, lost track of how many times I  
had to tell her it was October.

JOHN

You've been job searching all day?

PATTY

You know the rules, if you don't have a job finding a job is your job.

JOHN

Pat, you're 63 years old, unemployment is generous, we don't need the money. When it runs out apply for social security.

PATTY

What are you saying?

JOHN

Don't look so hard. Just the two required applications per week.

PATTY

I don't want to just sit around watching movies with dead actors.

JOHN

I'm not going to fall for that trap Pat.

PATTY

What trap?

JOHN

I say there's housework and you give me a lecture.

Ruth wakes.

RUTH

Patty, who's he?

JOHN

I'm John mom, you're son-in-law.

RUTH

You two got married? Why didn't  
you tell me?

PATTY

You were at the wedding and paid  
for the reception. Thank you very  
much.

Patty's cellphone RINGS and Patty answers.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Hello.

Patty listens and mouths to John, "watch this." She switches  
the phone to speaker.

PATTY (CONT'D)

1975.

There is a CLICK.

PATTY (CONT'D)

They give their spiel then ask  
what year I graduated high school.  
When I tell them they click off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Patty is taking ornaments off a Christmas Tree. Ruth is  
sleeping in the reclining chair and there is an old movie on the  
television set.

Patty's cellphone RINGS and Patty answers.

PATTY

Hello.

KAREL SVOBODA (V.O.)

(Man, European Accent)

May I speak to Patty Collins?

PATTY

This is she.

KAREL SVOBODA (V.O.)

I'm Karel Svoboda. I've got a job opening.

PATTY

Is this a sales job?

KAREL SVOBODA (V.O.)

No, it's in a restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

There are no customers. A couple of employees, all wearing masks, clean and ready the tables.

Patty, wearing a business dress and a mask and KAREL SVOBODA, 40, well-groomed, wearing casual clothing and a mask, sit in a booth.

KAREL SVOBODA

We don't have any openings for sandwich makers right now. We have some server positions.

PATTY

Alright.

KAREL SVOBODA

Would you have any problem wearing our uniform?

PATTY

What do the uniforms look like?

Karel points to a picture on the wall. The picture has the serving staff underneath the restaurant's sign, "Torpedoes and Buns." The staff has on shorts. The men have T-shirts with a torpedo sandwich design. The women have low cut shirts with a pair of bun sandwiches on them.

PATTY (CONT'D)

No, no problem.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

John is on the couch next to Ruth.

Patty parades in.

PATTY

I got the job.

JOHN

Congratulations! What is the job?

PATTY

A waitress.

JOHN

You, a server?

PATTY

An eight-month search, I can't be choosy.

JOHN

(Yelling)

You hear that Brandon! Mom got a job!

Brandon is in the dining room wearing earbuds and watching his tablet.

BRANDON

Hi Mom.

PATTY

Have you finished the paperwork?

JOHN

We finished and filed the paperwork. It's on the table.

TRACKING

Patty saunters into the dining room, picks up a folder and scans through the paperwork.

PATTY

Attendant care. Sitting around  
the house doing next to nothing.  
You'll be making more than me.

John steps into the dining room.

JOHN

Welcome to America in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The restaurant is about half full, with tables blocked off to  
separate groups of customers.

In a corner booth Karel is with his PARTNER, 40, dressed in a  
business suit. They have a good view of the restaurant.

Patty quicksteps a sandwich tray to a table.

PARTNER

What were you thinking hiring her?

KAREL SVOBODA

I was thinking someone who wanted  
a job, not a paycheck.

PARTNER

She doesn't exactly fit our image.

KAREL SVOBODA

Fast, friendly, and flawless  
service. If that's not our image  
it should be.

A plaque on the wall reads "Employee of the Month" and has a  
picture of Patty in her server's uniform.

FADE OUT.

THE END