

OPEN HOUSE

LOGLINE:

Instilled with nerves, an amateur realtor hosts her first open house and the eccentric couple and their child doesn't ease her.

FADE IN:

EXT. 2398 MARKUM COURT - MORNING

A grand, white colonial house stands tall, the sunlight hitting it perfectly. Dew reflects off its manicured lawn and gleaming windows.

A FOR SALE sign stands in the yard. Red balloons bat against each other.

CLOSE on the OPEN HOUSE sign as its pegged with BIRD POOP. A formation of GEESE fly overhead, SQUAWKING.

MARY AMBER (30s, overdressed) stumbles up the driveway, info packets tucked in her arm and the largest plate of cookies in her hand. She stops at the sign and rummages in her purse.

MARY AMBER

Ah, no!

She pulls out a towel and wipes off the bird poop. The packets shift in her arms and she fumbles. They crash to the ground. She hastily picks them up and shuffles into the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Music plays as rapid clips show MARY AMBER'S HANDS prepping the house for the showing.

Wiping the tabletop.

Unveiling the platter of COOKIES.

Straightening the PENS by the sign in sheet.

Drawing the CURTAINS.

Aligning the INFO PACKETS.

She stands poised next to the table, ready for all her potential homebuyers. Time passes. The sun's rays move across her face. The light dims.

Her shoulders droop as she lets out a SIGH. She starts to collect her belongings.

EXT. 2398 MARKUM COURT - EVENING

A yellow and white VOLKSWAGEN BUS jerks up to the house, launching back and forth in spurts. The engine SPUTTERS, a black cloud of smoke escaping from the exhaust.

The door slides open and out steps MARGARET FARROW, a colorful hippie-like woman in her 40s wearing RHINESTONE CRESCENT MOON GLASSES.

MARGARET

Benjamin, I think this is it. Oh, isn't it beautiful.

The driver door SLAMS and BENJAMIN FARROW, a tall, skinny man of about the same age, smiles at the house. The two of them are an odd pair, adorned in ripped clothing and accessories probably found in the trash.

BENJAMIN

My, ain't she a beaut!

They finally notice Mary fighting to cram the balloons in her car's small trunk.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Ma'am! Excuse me! Is it too late to see this wonderful place? Please? We drove so far to be here.

She looks Benjamin up and down.

MARY AMBER

The showing ended an hour ago but I can let you see it. It must be quick, though.

MARGARET

Oh goody!

Margaret turns back to the Volkswagen and pulls out a ROLLING BABY BOUNCER.

MARY AMBER

(to Benjamin)

What is she doing? Does she need help?

BENJAMIN

No, she's fine. Just getting the kiddo.

Margaret pulls a BUNDLE out of the Volkswagen and places it into the bouncer. It bounces up and down. Up, down. Mary and Benjamin's heads nod to the rhythm, eyes locked on the bundle. Margaret wraps a leash around one of the bouncer's legs and pulls it along.

MARGARET

(to Mary)

Well come on now, we don't have all day!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Fluorescent lights shine off the GRANITE countertops. Modern appliances blend flawlessly with the vintage cabinetry.

Margaret rushes over to the sink and grabs the second spray head.

MARGARET

It's so tiny! It's perfect!

MARY AMBER

If you twist that ring there's different settings for water pressure. Do you all cook a lot?

BENJAMIN

No, no. This is just the biggest shower we've ever seen. Wow, I can't wait to use it.

Benjamin pulls off his shirt.

MARY AMBER

What are you doing? You can't take a shower here.

He readjusts his shirt and shows her the tag.

BENJAMIN

What? Who would take a shower here? My shirt was on backwards.

Margaret forcefully presses the spray head's handle.

MARGARET

Oh, it's broken.

MARY AMBER

You have to-

Margaret spots the backyard pool through the sink's window.

MARGARET

A pool!

She drops the spray head into the sink and runs out the door.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Margaret bounces to each stepping stone, stopping at the edge of the pristine pool. She cups her hand in the water and gulps it down. Disgusted, the rest falls out of her mouth and back into the pool.

MARY AMBER

A cleaning service comes every week to treat the pool.

MARGARET

No need. We like to keep it natural. You know, algae, pondweed, the green stuff. The kids love it!

MARY AMBER

Your child likes to swim?

BENJAMIN

Oh yes. He can swim this length back and forth probably 8 times!

MARY AMBER

How old is he?

BENJAMIN

About to be 6 months!

Mary is speechless. She flashes a look at her wrist.

MARY AMBER

(quickly)

Oh look at the time! I apologize that you didn't get to see everything, but I have to be somewhere.

MARGARET

Oh no worries! We'll take it!

MARY AMBER

What?

MARGARET

We'll buy the house! It's perfect!

Margaret and Benjamin nod their heads yes, wide grins on their faces.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Margaret signs a stack of papers on the table. Benjamin points to the platter of cookies.

BENJAMIN

May I?

MARY AMBER

Of course.

He grabs one but instead of eating it, he tucks it into the bouncing bundle. A loud HONK! erupts from under the fabric.

MARY AMBER (CONT'D)

Mr. Farrow, I think your bundle honked.

BENJAMIN

Oh, that's Chad. He's a talkative one.

He pulls back the blanket and in the bouncer sits a large white SWAN, happily eating the cookie. Mary's eyes widen.

EXT. 2398 MARKUM COURT - CONTINUOUS

Mary quickly yet composed gets in her car and buckles her seatbelt. Margaret and Benjamin wave from the front steps.

As she backs her car down the driveway, Benjamin walks toward the Volkswagen and opens the door.

INT. MARY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

In the rearview, she watches as a white spec hops out of the van. Another follows. And another.

EXT. 2398 MARKUM COURT - CONTINUOUS

A line of SWANS waddle up to the house and through the door, honking profusely.

FADE TO BLACK.