

## The Cow-spiracy

### General Store Freezer

Florence: Vegan conspiracy theorist who puts on a facade of charm and charisma.

Lyndie: General store worker and old friend of Florence.

Voice over loud speaker: General store worker.

Voices #1 and #2: Customers.

Matthew: Good school friend of Florence's.

Reuben: Good school friend of Florence's.

*(Florence rushes in, clearly panicking. He collapses in the corner and looks around for surveillance cameras, seeing none, he relaxes a bit. It is evidently cold.)*

**Lyndie's voice:** Florence, what's wrong?

**Florence:** *(in a calm and persuasive tone)* Yes? What is it Lyndie? I used to work here. Am I not allowed to find some... drinks in the freezer?

**Lyndie's voice:** Alright, I'll be waiting for you.

**Florence:** *(in a soft and afraid voice)* Waiting for me? First pigeons, then rodents, now cows. Why doesn't anyone believe me? Well, either they're being brain-washed to ignore the truths I speak, or they pretend they don't know what I'm talking about because they are being paid by the government. *(Florence paces)* Lyndie joining the government to help control the unconventional part of the population? I wouldn't of guessed it, but you can't trust anyone these days. *(Florence rubs his hands together.)* Brrr... it's cold in here. Maybe that's the government's plan, to freeze me to death. *(his voice gets incrementally louder)* But I won't. I'll stay in here as long as it takes!

**Lyndie's voice:** Did you say something?

**Florence:** Oh god, they're listening to everything I'm saying.

**Lyndie's voice:** Have you decided yet?

**Florence:** *(in a soft and afraid voice)* Decided? Whether to submit to their brain-washing or not? Whether to...

**Lyndie's voice:** Do you need a hand, Florence?

**Florence:** Need a hand? I knew it, the government is not above torturing people to get information out of them. They want to know how I figured out their master plan, and if I told people about it, how greatly it would interfere with their political agenda. *(Pause.)* Or maybe that cow was part of some scheme with the meat and dairy industry. What if it's about me being vegan?

*(Enter Lyndie. Florence quickly stands up and assumes a nonchalant position)*

**Lyndie:** Are you asking what drinks are vegan?

**Florence.** What?

**Lyndie.** Seriously, almost all of them in this section here. *(gesturing to a large variety of drinks)* That was a pretty crazy incident there with that ummm, imaginary cow. I wonder how it got on the roof?"

**Florence:** I won't let my guard down Lyndie, not even to you. How could you be part of them?

**Lyndie:** Who?

**Florence:** Of course you would say that.

**Lyndie:** *(with a confused expression)* Aaah, okay. What about this nice kombucha?

**Voice over speaker:** Lyndie, can you please come to the counter please.

**Lyndie:** Sorry, I have to go, but my shift finishes in twenty minutes, so definitely be out before then. The new staff don't know you and...the way you are. *(Lyndie leaves)*

*(Florence obviously relaxes)*

**Florence:** Why don't they want me in here? Oh, wait, that's because they're wanting me to be outside so they can take me to their headquarters. *(sighs and curls up in a corner again)*

**Voice #1:** *(conversational)* Did you see the news last night?

**Voice #2:** *(conversational)* No.

**Voice #1:** *(conversational)* There was this article on a boy who got stuck in a shop's store room. They rang the police, but they were too busy to come. He stayed in there for ages. He wasn't in a very good state, but luckily it wasn't in like a cool room or something, that would be worse.

*(Florence looks at his surroundings with a panicked expression)*

**Florence:** Okay, okay. So the government sent a cow spy after me, they predict I go into the general store freezer, then they try and scare me out with fake stories! And now they're waiting for me outside, ready to interrogate me as soon as I open that door.

**Lyndie's voice:** Florence, you still in there? Feeling a bit indecisive? Look, I'll buy you one of each and you can pay me back later. *(joking)* If not, I know where you live!

**Florence:** *(miserably and to himself)* Now that wasn't even subtle.

**Lyndie's voice:** Florence? Are you okay in there?

**Florence:** Oh yes, I'm fine. Tell them I won't give in that easily.

**Lyndie's voice:** How did you know they were here? Matthew and Reuben just popped into the shop. I told them about your rooftop cow. Did you want to come out and say hi?

**Florence:** Not likely! I won't fall for your tricks that quickly.

**Matthew's voice:** Looks like we'll 'ave to come in then.

*(Florence quickly stands up. Enter Matthew and Reuben)*

**Florence:** So you're part of it all then too.

**Reuben:** All what man?

**Florence:** You know what I'm talking about.

*(Matthew and Reuben exchange looks)*

**Matthew:** Did someone put some 'allucinogenic potion in your dink mate?

**Florence:** I know all about your cows. I know why they stare at you constantly, I know the real purpose of their horns, I know everything.

**Reuben:** Are you feeling okay bro?

**Florence:** I don't know why you even bothered asking.

**Reuben:** Because we're your friends bro.

**Matthew:** Yeah, you're our mate, you're the man.

**Florence:** No you're not, you're not my friends. You are spies for the government about to interrogate me. I don't trust you, so you can tell whoever is paying you that I can't be tricked into anything, even by you two.

**Reuben:** *(a little annoyed)* I see how it is then. You can't even trust your own friends. I hope the government finds you.

*(Matthew and Reuben leave)*

*(Florence puts his face in his hands and sinks to the ground)*

**Florence:** They've got everyone. No where is safe, no one can be trusted. And why must it be so absolutely cold in here? I'm lonely... I have nowhere to go, no one I can trust, let alone someone who will even believe me. I know what I saw. There was a very distinct cow, on the roof. It stared into my being with a piercing gaze, and chewed it's cud of information which it was digesting in it's four mechanical stomachs. I could almost see the EMF radiation coming from it's

horns. And I swear I saw the red light of a camera filming me in it's corrupt and soulless data collecting eyes.

**Lyndie's voice:** Yes, I know, I hope Florence comes out soon. The boss will be arriving soon / to check out some new stock.

**Florence:** (*blocking his ears*) / Not the boss, no, no, no, no, no...

**Lyndie's voice:** She'll find him sooner or later. Not sure what exactly she'll do with Florence, but / she's a really nice person, so I'm sure she'll be nice.

**Florence:** (*blocking his ears*) Oh no, oh no oh no, no, no, no, no, no, no... I hate this, I really hate this. What will she do to me? Who is the real boss of the government? What will happen to me? (*in a loud voice*) I give in! I don't care anymore! I'm here government, and I know about your spying cows! I will reveal your secrets to everyone!

(*Florence steps out of the freezer. Enter Lyndie, Matthew and Reuben*)

**Lyndie:** What's all the noise about? Have you chosen your drink?

**Reuben:** You're not still on about that dreaded cow are you mate?

(*Cow falls through the roof. Beat*)

**Florence:** (*shaking his head*) Listening to every word...

The End