

SYNCHRONISED

by

Joyce Adrian Sotski

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Blind Bay, BC

V0E 1H2

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CAST

SANDY: a senior, the husband

VIVIAN: a senior, the wife

PAULINE: their realtor, voice on the phone

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: voice on the phone

DJ: voice on the radio

RING-RING: the sound of a cell phone ringing

THEME SONG: hummed version the [Get Smart theme song](#)

THREE PEOPLE: non-speaking

PLACE

A Car in the Shuswap.

TIME

Present day

## SYNCHRONIZED

## ACT I, Scene 1

*At Rise: The elderly couple is in their new vehicle. Sandy is in the driver's seat, the radio is on and the DJ is speaking.*

DJ: (*loudly*) This is Seniors Rock Radio SRFM bringing you the golden hits of yesteryear! Programing for this show is sponsored by Edgely Motors, featuring the newest and latest in ve-hicle technology where you can talk on your cell phone in the car whilst keeping both hands on the steering-wheel; "hands-free" they call it; just let your radio pick up the call and you can speak normally into a built-in microphone; what will they think of next!

SANDY: (*Proudly*) We got that right here Vivian, in this new car! We can talk on the phone hands-free and... just listen to that engine purr!

DJ: (*loudly*) And for those of you who are old enough, see if you remember this, here's the theme song from one'a the most popular spy shows ever, coming at you from 50 years ago. Here's the instrumental version of that old 'Get Smart' theme song, take it away Maxwell Smart and Agent 99! (*THEME SONG begins to play.*)

VIVIAN: Will you turn that down? I can't even hear myself think.

SANDY: (*Turns down the radio*) The button's right here Vivian; you could just reach over and turn it down yourself.

VIVIAN: Not me, I wouldn't touch your buttons!

SANDY: (*Laughs. Pats the dash of his new car.*) You know Vivian, this new car really is a beauty, inside and out! Wait 'til we pull up in front of Tom and Penny's house; Tom's gonna be so jealous!

RING-RING: (*Cell phone rings, Sandy looks pointedly at Vivian... it rings again*)

SANDY: That's your cell phone ringing. You'd better get it.

VIVIAN: Oh! (*Digging in her purse*) I didn't hear it.

RING-RING: (*Cell phone rings again*)

SANDY: You need to get those hearing aids checked. Hurry. Get the phone before they hang up.

VIVIAN: I'm trying... *(She has the phone now, and speaking into it.)* Hello. Hello. *(Pauses to listen)* Hi Pauline, we've just left for Edmonton, we'll be gone for a week or —

*(The car radio picks up the cell phone call and amplifies Pauline's voice aloud.)*

PAULINE: *(amplified)* — something to get excited about! I think I have a buyer for your house but they want to look at it one more time. Can we come over now?

VIVIAN: Yes of course, we're not even home. We're on our way to Edmonton today —

PAULINE: Vivian? Vivian, are you there? There must be something wrong with your phone. I've been having trouble trying to get you but I couldn't get through. I couldn't even leave a message for some reason.

VIVIAN: *(louder now)* Oh sorry, we just got a new cell phone and I'm trying to learn —

PAULINE: Hello, hello-oo. *(Obviously she can't hear Vivian; so she speaks to someone else in the room with her.)*

I lost her; I don't know what happened. *(Click! She hangs up)*

VIVIAN: *(Finally realizing that the car radio had picked up the call, she leans over to Sandy's side and yells)* Hello! HELLO!

SANDY: *(Annoyed)* What - exactly - happened?

VIVIAN: The stupid car radio picked up the call and the phone stopped working! She couldn't even hear me!

SANDY: *(Rubbing his ear)* And you thought she'd hear better if you yelled in my ear?

VIVIAN: Sorry, I wasn't yelling in your ear; I just wanted her to hear me. Remember? The salesman said the microphone is directional. It's aimed to pick up the driver's voice; that's why she couldn't hear me.

SANDY: Well, you're the one who told the salesman to twin your phone to the car radio. I told you not to do it.

VIVIAN: Sync, Sandy, sync. He didn't twin it, he sync'd it.

SANDY: Sunked it, sank it? Who cares what he did.

VIVIAN: Not sank, Sandy. Sync. He synchronised it.

SANDY: I know what sync means. *(beat)* So Pauline thinks she's got the house sold, huh? I told you she'd be good.

VIVIAN: Yes, I think she is good.

SANDY: Aren't you going to return her call? You must have her number on your cell.

VIVIAN: No, I don't want to call her back. I'm afraid the radio will pick it up again and I'll be yelling in your ear again. I'll call her later, after we get out of the car.

*(Vivian sees a 'Voice' icon on the dashboard and points to it.)*

VIVIAN: Oh look! Maybe you're supposed to push that 'Voice' button before you talk to the microphone!

SANDY: *(Grumble noise)*

VIVIAN: *(Sudden sharp intake of breath)* Oh no! I forgot!

SANDY: What'd you forget?

VIVIAN: I forgot to call the doctor's office. We're going to Edmonton so I have to cancel my appointment!

SANDY: That's good; it'll give somebody who's really sick the opportunity to see him.

VIVIAN: Don't be grumpy. Look, there's an ice cream stand; let's get an ice cream cone.

SANDY: You and your ice cream.

VIVIAN: *(getting out of the car)* What kind of ice cream do you want?

SANDY: Double dutch chocolate with walnuts.

THREE PEOPLE: *(Get in line for ice cream)*

VIVIAN: Oh, look at that! We stop and five more people line up for ice cream.

SANDY: Doesn't matter, just go.

VIVIAN: *(Standing in line pulls out her cell phone and talking to herself)* Might as well make that call to the doctor's office while I'm waiting. *(She dials)*

*(Vivian wonders why she can't hear the cell phone ringing, puzzled, shakes it, looks again, listens again.)*

RING-RING: *(Cell phone ringing comes through the car radio)*

SANDY: *(Jumps to attention wondering what to do when he hears Vivian's cell phone ringing on the car radio. He looks around, punches the 'Voice' button on the dash.)* Hello. Hello.

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: Hello.

SANDY: Hello

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: Hello?

SANDY: *(A little agitated)* Who is this?

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: What do you mean, who is this? You called me. Whom would you like to speak to?

SANDY: Au contraire; it was MY phone that was ringing.

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: This is a ridiculous conversation. Must be the heat; there's a mixup in the circuits or something. Good-bye.

SANDY: Bye.

*(Throughout the conversation, Vivian has been listening to her phone, which did not connect. She shook it a few times and simultaneously with their good-byes, Vivian hangs up; she's confused, and — dials again.)*

RING-RING: *(Cell Phone rings on the car radio again)*

SANDY: *(Sandy knows what to do now, punches the 'Voice' icon on the dash)* Hello?

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: Hello.

SANDY: Oh-oh, I think the circuitry got mixed up again.

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: (*Irate now*) Is that you again?

SANDY: Ahhh... (*Imitating Agent 86 from Get Smart*) well I don't know, just a minute Agent 99; let me check my shoe!

DOCTOR'S RECEPTIONIST: This is ridiculous? (*anger*) Don't you have anything better to do than phone people and waste their time. Some of us have important things to do. Go out and get a job if you're bored!! (*Phone hangs up with a static click.*)

(*The ice cream lineup has left so Vivian gives up on her phone, puts it away, and gets ice cream.*)

VIVIAN: (*Hands a cone to Sandy*) Here's your double dutch chocolate with walnuts —

SANDY: Did you use the cell phone while you were out there?

VIVIAN: Yes, I tried to call the doctor's office, but it didn't work. It wouldn't ring. I waited and waited.

SANDY: How many times...

VIVIAN: How many times did I try to call the doctor? Twice; but it just wouldn't ring!

SANDY: Oh Boy! Are they pissed at you!!

VIVIAN: (*Cringing*)

THE END