

**CHOW**

by

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DARKNESS

A SERIES OF THIN GREY STREAKS

We SLOWLY ZOOM OUT to reveal

The bowl shaped hair of

MICHAEL CHOW (50s)

Chinese American. Fair skin, round gold rimmed glasses. Hair in desperate need of a trim. Outdated wardrobe from the late 1990s.

He is standing at a CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK inside...

**INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY**

...with his wife, HELEN CHOW (50s).

Chinese American. Fair skin, short black hair, with the stress wrinkles of being a mother. Dressed in a casual jeans and top, much more modern than her husband.

Helen examines a tablecloth while Michael waits in front of the unmanned desk.

HELEN

Michael.

MICHAEL

Huh?

HELEN

Are you sure this tablecloth is good?

MICHAEL

A hundred percent.

HELEN

Then why is this one cheaper than the other one?

MICHAEL

See... the one that's more expensive is only more expensive because of the brand name. But they are actually both the same quality.

A moment later, a Home Depot EMPLOYEE (early 20s) approaches them.

EMPLOYEE  
Hiiii, do you need help?

MICHAEL  
Yeah. I want to make some custom  
cut tablecloths.

EMPLOYEE  
Okay, I can help you with that.

She takes a seat behind the computer.

EMPLOYEE  
How many do you need to cut?

MICHAEL  
Ten.

EMPLOYEE  
Do you have your measurements?

MICHAEL  
I do. I have them written down  
here.

She points to the tablecloth Helen is holding.

EMPLOYEE  
Is that the tablecloth you're  
trying to buy?

MICHAEL  
Yeah.

Helen hands it over.

EMPLOYEE  
Oh no, you don't wanna buy this.

She has their attention.

EMPLOYEE  
When me and my boyfriend moved in  
together, he, like, bought the same  
one and after one month, it  
completely ripped.

HELEN  
Ripped?

EMPLOYEE  
Yeah, 'cause our apartment has,  
like, a dining table, right? So he  
bought one with custom sizing.  
(MORE)

EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

But because we were always using  
it... the fabric started to tear.  
And then it just completely ripped.

HELEN

Which one do you recommend we get?

EMPLOYEE

These.

She pulls out one of the "expensive tablecloths" Michael criticized.

HELEN

Aren't these the same?

EMPLOYEE

No, these are a better brand.  
They're more expensive, but the  
quality is, like, waaay better.

Helen sighs. She was right.

HELEN

I think we should get this one.

EMPLOYEE

Yeah, I think so too. It's like you  
know, your decision and all. It's  
more expensive, but I'm trying to  
be honest with you. I'm just  
saying, my boyfriend, you know, our  
tablecloth... got fuuucked up...  
and we couldn't return it because  
it was custom cut. So we had to buy  
new a new one.

Helen looks at Michael, thinking.

**INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM - DAY**

ECU ON A YELLOW EARPLUG

We SLOWLY ZOOM OUT to reveal

The undersized ear of...

...JIMMY CHOW (early 20s). Chinese American (ABC). Black  
hair, brown eyes. A mild mannered kid with an innocently  
handsome face.

He is lying on his back, asleep.