

SAY MY NAME

Written by

Tavashia Berry

Email: tavashiab@gmail.com

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECKOUT

ZENOBIA finishes putting stuffed grocery bags into a customer's cart. She pulls the receipt from the register and hands it to them.

ZENOBIA

Thank you for shopping at Full
Cart. Have a nice day!

The next person in line rolls up: a woman with curly blond hair and a cart full of vegetables, milk, bread, eggs, and other items.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)

How are you doing today, ma'am?

WOMAN

I'm doing good, will be doing great
when I get out of this line.

The woman struggles to lift up a pack of water. Zenobia leans over with the scanner and scans it.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you, um-

She squints at Zenobia's name tag.

ZENOBIA

Oh, it's pronounced-

WOMAN

(holding up her hand)
Wait, wait, let me get it. An
interesting one, isn't it?

Zenobia gives her a stiff smile and begins ringing up items. The woman stares at her chest, making exaggerated mouth movements.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Got it.

ZENOBIA

Hmm?

WOMAN

It's Zeenobyia, right?

ZENOBIA

No, that's not it, it's-

WOMAN

But that's how it's spelled. ZEE-NO-BYE-UH.

The lights in the store flicker a bit. Zenobia rolls her eyes and starts bagging items.

ZENOBIA

No, it's Zenobia.

WOMAN

What?

ZENOBIA

Zenobia. ZE-NO-BEE-UH.

WOMAN

Xenophobia?

ZENOBIA

No-

WOMAN

Xenophobia can sometimes be a good thing, you know. Means you're looking out for your own.

Zenobia's eyebrows shoot up. She grits her teeth and continues to bag. The lady roots around in her wallet for her card.

ZENOBIA

That'll be 36.48.

WOMAN

Are you sure it's not ZEE-NO-BYE-UH?

The lights flicker again and there is a far off rumble.

ZENOBIA

Of course I'm sure, it's my name!

The woman shrugs as she swipes her card and enters her pin.

WOMAN

I'm just saying, with the mixture of letters and linguistics, Zenobia and Zeenobyia can be the same thing.

The rumble grows louder and the ground starts to shake. Zenobia rips the receipt from the register and shoves it at the woman.

ZENOBIA

Okay! Thank you for shopping at Full Cart! Have a nice day!

WOMAN

Personally, I think Zeenobyia sounds prettier-

The shaking increases, knocking items from the shelves. The lights flicker wildly as the rumble fills the store.

The woman falls to her knees, gripping her full shopping cart.

Zenobia throws her hands up as a shimmering purple and black portal opens up next to her.

From it emerges an evil version of herself: smoky eyeshadow with red eyes and leather armor covering her cashier's smock.

ZENOBIA

Damn, I almost made it through an entire shift.

Her evil dimensional twin speaks in a booming, echoing voice.

ZEENOBYIA

I have been summoned! This means we are to do battle, correct?

ZENOBIA

No, we are not to do battle. I'm still on shift.

ZEENOBYIA

But you summoned me! In the middle of shift! Sister, I need my coin.

ZENOBIA

I know, I know! Not trying to stop your hustle! I didn't summon you. This lady here was saying my name wrong.

Zeenobyia whips her head to the lady, who is trying to crouch behind her shopping cart.

ZEENOBYIA

Sister, she is slandering your beautiful name?

ZENOBIA

She said it wrong a couple of times.

ZEENOBYIA

Then I shall punish her!

Zeenobyia holds up her hand and a battle axe zaps into it. It is dripping blood. The woman behind the cart squeals.

Zenobia puts a hand on Zeenobyia's shoulder.

ZENOBIA

Put that away! We don't need all that.

ZEENOBYIA

But she has belittled you!

ZENOBIA

She has, but it's not a big deal.

ZEENOBYIA

'Tis is! Have you corrected this fiend?

ZENOBIA

Yeah.

ZEENOBYIA

How many times?

ZENOBIA

Twice.

ZEENOBYIA

And still the wench deems to mispronounce your title!? Nay, I say punish!

Zeenobyia swipes the axe down, splitting the cart clean in two. The woman gets up to run and slips on some eggs.

Zeenobyia approaches her, axe raised. Zenobia steps in front of her.

ZENOBIA

Alright girl, listen. I appreciate you wanting to smite people for me, but the only smiting to be done is when we fight to the death.

She points to a clock on the wall.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)

My shift ends in 30 minutes. I can't sit here cleaning up blood when I wanna go home.

(MORE)

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)
 Would you like it if I killed
 someone at Empty Cart 30 minutes
 before your shift ended?

ZEENOBYIA
 Nay.

ZENOBIA
 Then let's not do this now.

Zeenobyia huffs, but lowers the axe.

ZEENOBYIA
 Fine. But I shall still punish the
 disrespecting slouch.

ZENOBIA
 Do what you want, I gotta close out
 my register.

Zeenobyia nods and starts picking up bags of groceries from
 the woman's destroyed cart.

Still on the floor, the woman's mouth drops open.

WOMAN
 What are you doing?!

ZEENOBYIA
 I am taking your provisions. One
 who slanders names does not deserve
 fine foods such as this.

She holds out a trampled loaf of bread and bites into it,
 plastic wrap and all.

WOMAN
 But I paid for that-

ZEENOBYIA
 I suggest you pay for aids to
 assist your hearing and gum to stop
 your mouth.

Zeenobyia grabs a packet of gum and pelts the woman with it.
 Scoffing indignantly, the woman scrambles out of the store.

ZENOBIA
 Hey, don't go giving the big gum
 packs away.

ZEENOBYIA

Apologies, I will send you payment.

(taking out a phone)

Release thine CashApp.

Zenobia laughs and pulls out her phone. The two scroll as the store returns to normal operations.