

NOSY NEIGHBOR

(Past Continuous)

Characters:

Chuck

Mia

(Chuck is at home. The doorbell rings. He opens the door.)

CHUCK: *(Happy.)* Mia! Hi! So good to see you again!

MIA: Hey, Chuck! Thanks for inviting me over.

(Mia enters. Chuck closes the door.)

CHUCK: Sure. It's been a long time. How are you?

MIA: I'm OK. You know, busy as usual, but OK. How about you?

CHUCK: Well, life is pretty busy. But I have time to enjoy myself.

MIA: I know.

CHUCK: You do?

MIA: Yes, I do. I know so much about you! *(Laughs.)*

CHUCK: *(Suspicious.)* Really? How?

MIA: Well, remember my friend Miriam?

CHUCK: Miriam? No, I don't.

MIA: She lives right across the street. *(Goes to the window and points.)* See that building over there? That window on the eighth floor with the lights on?

CHUCK: *(Suspicious)* Yes....

MIA: That's Miriam's apartment. From her window she can see your apartment.

CHUCK: Do I know this Miriam?

MIA: I don't think so. But when I was at her place, I showed her your window. And she told me she looks at you sometimes.

CHUCK: Really?

MIA: Yeah. I know you were painting your apartment at 10 o'clock at night the other day.

- CHUCK:** Oh, my goodness. So she was spying on me.
- MIA:** She wasn't spying. She was looking at you.
- CHUCK:** Well, it took me about 4 hours to paint the apartment. So I guess at 10 o'clock I was still painting it.
- MIA:** She told me other things, too.
- CHUCK:** (*Suspicious.*) She did? What?
- MIA:** One night when she looked at your window, you and a guy were dancing in the living room.
- CHUCK:** Your friend Miriam is really nosy, huh?
- MIA:** Look, she didn't do it on purpose. She was looking out the window and you two were dancing. It was just a coincidence.
- CHUCK:** Yeah. Brian was here and we danced a lot. So when she looked, we were really dancing. What else did she see?
- MIA:** Well, she sent me a WhatsApp message last week. You were reading a book in the living room.
- CHUCK:** (*Shocked.*) Yes, I was reading a book. What's wrong with that?
- MIA:** There's nothing wrong with that. She just saw you, and you were reading a book.
- CHUCK:** And was she observing me all the time?
- MIA:** No, she wasn't observing you. She was at the window for one moment and you were reading.
- CHUCK:** Doesn't Miriam have a job?
- MIA:** Of course she does.
- CHUCK:** How come she has time to observe me the whole day?
- MIA:** She doesn't observe you all day. That was a temporary action. She was at the window and she saw you. That's all.
- CHUCK:** What was she doing at the window?
- MIA:** I don't know. Probably she was relaxing and looking at the street.
- CHUCK:** Did she see anything else?

- MIA:** Well... yes.... Don't be upset, OK?
- CHUCK:** (*Very upset.*) I'm not upset. What did she see?
- MIA:** She said one morning you were singing karaoke.
- CHUCK:** Oh, my! And how does she know it was karaoke?
- MIA:** You were holding a microphone, you were looking at the TV screen and you were singing.
- CHUCK:** I was singing. That's right. And Miriam was reporting my actions to you.
- MIA:** She wasn't reporting. She just saw you for a while and she told me about it later. And she said something else.
- CHUCK:** What?
- MIA:** You were singing and dancing.
- CHUCK:** Of course. I always dance when I sing. It's fun.
- MIA:** I know. Don't be upset. You weren't doing anything bad. (*She puts her hand in her bag.*) Sorry, my cell phone is vibrating. I think I got a message. (*Gets the phone and looks at it.*) Oh, it's from Miriam.
- CHUCK:** (*Surprised.*) Really?
- MIA:** (*Laughs.*) Look what she says, "I just looked out the window and Chuck was talking to a strange woman." (*Shocked.*) Strange? (*Texting, angry.*) Miriam, I am the strange woman. You were spying on Chuck again! Go take care of your life.
- CHUCK:** (*Laughs.*) That was funny.
- MIA:** (*Angry.*) I don't think that's funny. (*Stands up.*) Let's go.
- CHUCK:** Where?
- MIA:** Let's go to a store. I'm going to buy a present.
- CHUCK:** A present? What?
- MIA:** I'm going to buy you some curtains. This has gone to far! Let's go.
(*She pulls him toward the door.*)
- CHUCK:** Take it easy, Mia!

MIA: Let's go, now!

(They exit.)