

Co-authors: Lauren Farley, Sandra Iacovozzi, Alex Becker, Ghazel Tehrani, Sara Pakzamid, Jing Wang, Amanda Kiley & Susie Bouchard

Suzie Spirals

Scene 1

Setting: Schoolyard

Narration: It's a beautiful Monday morning, Suzane is a teenager from Toronto, Ontario is talking to her friends in the schoolyard.

Suzane, Jing & Ghazel are standing in the corner talking. Ghazel speaks to Susan in Persian.

Suzane gets nervous as she sees Lauren and Amanda walking by...

Lauren and Amanda look over and say "Don't you know we speak English in Canada, we don't understand a word you're saying..."

Lauren sneers.

Suzane looks back to the girls and embarrassingly says to Ghazel "Only speak English, stop drawing attention to the fact that we are different!"

Jing replies "it's okay Suzane to speak whatever language we want, Canada is multi-cultural and be proud of your roots."

Suzane replies "OMG call me SUSIE" and storms off.

Scene 2

Setting: Home from school

Narration: Suzane gets off the school bus frustrated from her day at school and walks into the house and right past her mom without saying hi.

Mom stops Suzane and says, “How was your day (in Persian) Suzane replies, “I hate school!! Today sucked” Suzane grabs her laptop and marches toward her bedroom.

As she walks away, Suzane yells back “we’ve been here my whole life, how do you not know how to speak English yet?”

Scene 3

Setting: Kitchen

Narration: Mom walks back to the kitchen where dad is waiting with his mouth wide open.

Dad says, “ Is this attitude what she’s learning at school, this is the third time she’s acted rudely this month. I’m worried.”

Mom replies, “Azizam, don’t worry she’s just a teenage girl. High school is hard, she’ll be okay, I’ll go talk to her when she calms down.”

Dad says, “yeah... okay but she’s always on that computer, she doesn’t bring over those nice friends anymore... Who is she always talking to?”

Scene 4

Setting: Back at school, lunch time

Narration: The next day Suzane is waiting in line for lunch. Amanda and Lauren are behind her.

Lauren says, “ Suzane is it? I didn’t realize you spoke perfect English, I thought you were from another country.”

Susie replies, “Me? Suzie, Suzie, no I’m born here”

Amanda says, “Oh really, that makes total sense, you don’t even look like them.”

Susan looks over and sees Ghazel and Jing waving her over, she looks to Lauren and Amanda

They say “Come sit with us, don’t sit with them. It’s where you should be anyways.”

Suzie sits with Lauren and Amanda and ignores her friends.

Scene 5

Setting: Sitting at the lunch table

Lauren “So if you’re Canadian, why do you always wear long sleeves and shirts?”

Suzie replies, “Well my parents were born in another country, but I was born here and they make me dress more conservatively.”

Amanda says, "Ohh my parents always say immigrants come here and live off welfare and never go get jobs, do your parents have jobs?"

Suzie replies, "Yeah, my dad has a job, he's a business owner"
Lauren replies, "oh that's good, I see Facebook posts about how immigrants always take Canadian jobs."

Suzie replies, "OMG, like, I didn't know anything about this"

Lauren says, "You should really look into this and teach your parents about being Canadian"

Amanda continues, " We should be friends on Facebook and I'll introduce you to people who think like us."

Scene 6

Setting: Suzie in her bedroom on laptop

Narration: Later that night, Suzie is in her room doing research about what she learned from Lauren and Amanda.

Suzie says while searching online, "OMG, Lauren and Amanda were right! There are so many articles on Facebook that they take up all our resources and jobs. OMG look, what kind of refugee has a Gucci bag? Such bullshit. They are screwing the system and making me look bad. Ohhhh, look an anti-immigrant rally Facebook event, I'm going to tag Amanda and Lauren.

Dad walks into her room unannounced and Suzie shuts her laptop quickly yelling, "Don't you know knock, this is my room and in Canada we have privacy rights!"

Susie walks away angry.

Scene 7

Setting: Parents and friends meet walking down street

Narration: A few weeks later, Suzie's mom and dad go for a walk and run into her old friends...

Mom and Dad bump into Ghazel and Jing.

Dad says, "We haven't seen you at the house in a long time, how's everything?"

Jing replies, "we don't really hang out with Suzane anymore, she started ignoring us and is hanging out with new friends and they don't like us"

Ghazel says, " yeah Suzane thinks she's better than us now because she's hanging out with the real Canadian girls. She's being mean to us"

Mom looks worried and says to dad, " I think you were right, Suzane has changed. I'm worried.

Dad replies, "She's angrier and I really don't like what she's posting online. She's joining hate groups and being more radical. She's changed.

Dad looks back at the audience and says, "I don't know what we should do... what should we do?"

THE END!