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# My Name is Irina



Short story based on “Making New Friends”

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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## SEASON 1

### Short Stories

### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Anya*

No Smoking

*My Name Is Fatima*

Welcome Parents

*My Name Is Lupe*

Stay in School

*My Name Is Sue*

Love and Money

*My Name Is Eddie*

New Life Café

*My Name Is María*

Asthma: The Soap Opera

*My Name Is Lucía*

The Wedding

*My Name Is Yumi*

Respond to Domestic Violence

*My Name Is Daniel*

The Hospital

*My Name Is Aku*

The Storm

## SEASON 2

### Short Stories

### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Umme*

Shumi's Pantry

*My Name Is Gabriela*

The Seed for a Good Life

*My Name Is Silvia*

Rolando's Rights

*My Name Is Irina*

Making New Friends

*My Name Is Giddel*

Sonam's Mom

*My Name Is Martin*

Crossing the Street

*My Name Is Alicia*

Rafaela's Test

# **My Name is Irina**



**My name is Irina.  
I grew up in Russia.  
Now, I live in the Bronx.  
I love New York!**



**Before, I lived with my dog.  
My dog was my companion.  
My dog's name was Bobik.  
Bobik passed away last year.**



**Now, I live alone.  
I am an independent woman.  
I like my independence.**



**Recently, I had an operation.**

**I was in the hospital for a short time.**

**Now, I have help at home.**

**I have two home health aides, Umme and Silvia.**

**Umme helps me at night.**

**Silvia helps me in the daytime.**



**My health is getting better.  
But there is a problem.  
I got a letter from my landlord.  
My landlord is raising my rent.**



**I can't afford a big rent increase.**

**I am worried.**

**I don't want to be homeless.**

**Umme and Silvia want to help me.**





**“What about talking to someone  
at the senior center?” Umme suggests.**

**It’s a good idea.**

**There are helpful people at the senior center.**



**One day, Silvia visits a senior center.  
She meets with the coordinator of the center.  
Silvia asks about my housing problem.  
The coordinator says they can help me.**



**Today, I am happy because I am healthy again.**

**I am not homebound.**

**I can be independent again.**



**But, I am also a little sad.  
I have to say goodbye to Silvia.  
Silvia and Umme are my heroes.**



**Umme called 311 for me.**

**They told her about a *rent freeze*.**

**It's not a cold apartment.**

**It's a City program.**

**A rent freeze stops the rent from going up.**



**A rent freeze is for seniors in  
rent-regulated apartments.**

**It's also for people with disabilities in  
rent-regulated apartments.**

**I am going to find out the details.**



**At the senior center, I meet with Ana.**  
**She is a social worker.**  
**She tells me about tenant rights.**  
**Tenants are people who rent apartments.**  
**Tenants have rights.**



**For example, tenants have the right to heat.**

**The apartment must be *at least* 62 degrees farenheit.**

**That's about 16 degrees celcius.**

**That's warm in Russia!**



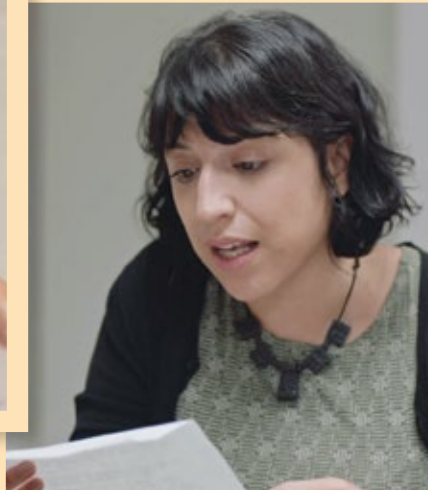


**Tenants have the right to hot water too.**

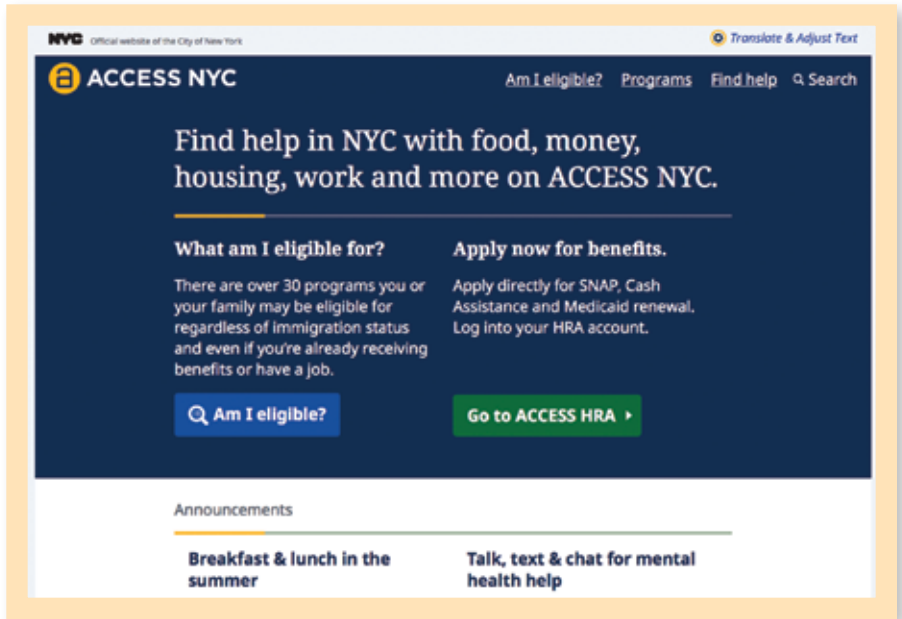
**Ana gives me a guidebook about tenant rights  
in my language.**

**It has good information.**

**It's important to know your rights.**



**I show Ana my letter from the landlord.  
She will make an appointment for me.  
I will speak with a housing lawyer, for *free*.**



**Ana tells me about Access NYC.**

**It's a website.**

**You can learn about many services.**

**You can use it in your language online.**



**I am going to tell everyone I know about  
Access NYC.**

**And about rent freezes.**

**I am elderly, but I am active!**



**This is my new friend, Luis.  
We met at the senior center.  
We both like dogs.**



**We both like food.  
And, we both like yoga.**



**Luis told me a secret.**

**He said, “I didn’t want to go to a senior center.”**

**He said, “I don’t feel old.”**

**But, now he says, “I like the senior center.”**

**I understand him.**



**I like Luis.**

**I invite him for dinner.**

**We eat *vareniki*.**

**It's a Russian dish.**



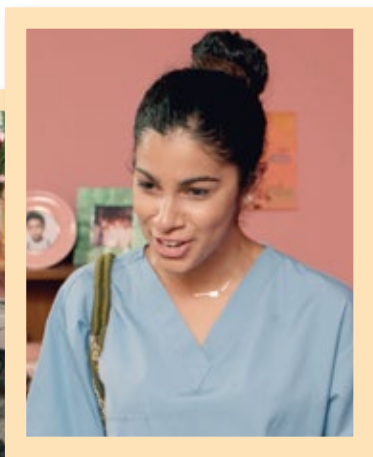


**Luis likes me too.**

**He lives with his daughter and her family.**

**Luis invites me to meet them.**

**He invites me to meet his dog, Bobby, too!**



**I go to Luis's home for dinner.**

**I can't believe my eyes...**

**Silvia is there!**

**Silvia is Luis's daughter.**

**Luis is her father!**



**I meet the whole family:  
Luis's son-in-law, Rolando,  
and his grandson, Lionel.  
And Boby, his dog.**



**We have a beautiful dinner together.**

**I tell them the good news...**

**I don't need to leave my apartment.**

**And, I am applying for a rent freeze.**



**I hold Bobby's hand.**

**Luis holds mine.**

# Words used in this story

---

- 311
- Access NYC
- active
- afford
- again
- alone
- apartment
- applying (apply)
- appointment, make an appointment
- asks (ask)
- at least
- beautiful
- because
- before
- believe
- both
- called (call)
- can, can't
- celcius
- City program
- cold
- companion
- coordinator
- daughter
- daytime
- degrees
- details
- dinner
- disabilities
- dish (a Russian dish)
- dog
- eat
- elderly
- everyone
- eyes
- family
- farenheit
- father
- feel
- find out
- food
- for example
- free
- friend
- going up (go up)
- grandson
- guidebook
- had (have)
- happy
- has (have)
- healthy
- heat
- help
- helpful
- heroes
- hold, hold hands
- home health aide
- homebound
- homeless
- hospital
- hot water
- housing, housing problem
- idea
- independence
- independent
- information
- invites (invite)
- know
- landlord
- language
- lawyer, housing lawyer

- 
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> learn                      | <input type="checkbox"/> raising (raise)          | <input type="checkbox"/> suggests (suggest)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leave                      | <input type="checkbox"/> recently                 | <input type="checkbox"/> tenant rights           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter                     | <input type="checkbox"/> rent freeze              | <input type="checkbox"/> tenants                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> like                       | <input type="checkbox"/> rent-regulated apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> together                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lived (live)               | <input type="checkbox"/> rights                   | <input type="checkbox"/> told (tell)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> love                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Russia                   | <input type="checkbox"/> understand              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> met (meet)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> said (say)               | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>vareniki</i>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> must                       | <input type="checkbox"/> secret                   | <input type="checkbox"/> visits (visit)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> night                      | <input type="checkbox"/> senior center            | <input type="checkbox"/> warm                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> old                        | <input type="checkbox"/> seniors                  | <input type="checkbox"/> website                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> online                     | <input type="checkbox"/> services                 | <input type="checkbox"/> What about...?          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> operation                  | <input type="checkbox"/> short, a short time      | <input type="checkbox"/> whole, the whole family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> passed (pass), passed away | <input type="checkbox"/> show                     | <input type="checkbox"/> will                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> people                     | <input type="checkbox"/> social worker            | <input type="checkbox"/> worried                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> problem                    | <input type="checkbox"/> son-in-law               | <input type="checkbox"/> yoga                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program                    | <input type="checkbox"/> stops (stop)             |  |

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