

A Dog Barks

Dwight E. Watson





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A DOG BARKS

by

Dwight E. Watson

CAST

RALPH: A senior citizen, married to DONNA for forty years.

DONNA: A senior citizen, married to RALPH for forty years.

PLACE

Ralph and Donna's living room.

TIME

The present.

A DOG BARKS

At rise: Ralph and Donna are in their living room. Donna is reading a newspaper, studying one article after another, while Ralph appears befuddled in his attempt to program a TV remote control. A dog barks.

DONNA: Let him in.

RALPH: No, I'm not.

DONNA: He's disturbing the neighbors.

RALPH: He's fine!

DONNA: No, he is disturbing the neighbors.

RALPH: How do you know that? Did someone call?

DONNA: No.

RALPH: Did someone complain?

DONNA: I'm complaining

RALPH: I mean a neighbor.

DONNA: They won't call here. They'll call the police.

RALPH: The police?

DONNA: You remember the last time, don't you? They pulled up out front. The whole neighborhood was looking.

RALPH: I don't remember.

DONNA: It was so embarrassing.

RALPH: What did they say?

DONNA: That's not the point.

RALPH: They were asking for donations, weren't they? They were collecting money for some charity.

DONNA: That was their story. That's what they told me.

RALPH: You gave them something.

DONNA: I was forced to pay them off. If I didn't, they would have arrested us for disturbing the peace.

RALPH: We do not disturb the peace.

DONNA: Let him in.

RALPH: We are law-abiding citizens.

DONNA: He's not well.

RALPH: We pay our taxes.

DONNA: This is not good.

RALPH: It's good for his lungs.

DONNA: He's cold.

RALPH: It's warm out.

DONNA: Then why are you dressed like that?

RALPH: What?

DONNA: It's warm out.

RALPH: Everyone wears layers this time of year.

DONNA: Are you going to let him in?

RALPH: Relax.

DONNA: There's a city ordinance, you know.

RALPH: What?

DONNA: Against excessive noise.

RALPH: Since when?

DONNA: Since today. Look. It's in the paper.

RALPH: It is?

DONNA: (*reading*) "No person shall make or cause to be made any excessive noise which unreasonably annoys, disturbs or affects the comfort, repose, health or peace of others."

RALPH: That's a pretty big swing of the bat.

DONNA: You had better let him in, Buster.

RALPH: Don't call me "Buster."

DONNA: You heard me.

RALPH: And who decides when noise becomes "excessive?"

DONNA: Others. Others decide.

RALPH: It's also redundant. All noise is excessive.

DONNA: Oh, no. Only if it is unreasonable.

RALPH: And who determines that?

DONNA: Others. Others do. Others determine that. Here's a list of unlawful acts of excessive noise:

RALPH: Oh, yeah?

DONNA: (*reading*) "Loud radios, amplifiers, shouting, whistles, hawkers, peddlers, pile drivers, animals."

RALPH: (*Reaching for the paper — she doesn't allow him to have it.*) Let me see.

DONNA: The list is pretty long.

RALPH: Don't talk so loud.

DONNA: You don't listen.

RALPH: I can hear you just fine.

DONNA: But you don't listen.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!