

# At the Border

Bob Wilkins





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# AT THE BORDER

by

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## CAST

DELLA: Darrel's secretary.

KATE: Bernard's secretary. She is the youngest of all the characters.

LOU: The janitor of the American side.

DARREL: The American Mayor.

MARLENE: A reporter with the Canadian newspaper.

BERNARD: The Canadian Mayor.

HIPPIE #1: A hippie (male or female) HIPPIE #2: A hippie (male or female)

PARKER: A government agent (male or female) All characters are 50 or older.

*Setting: The reception area of the Pettiburg town hall. Pettiburg is a border town where the border between Canada and the United States runs through the town and the town hall. The stage is divided by a border that separates the Canadian side of Pettiburg from the American side. On each side is a desk with a chair and a couple of chairs for general seating. There is also a doorway to each Mayor's office and an entrance to the rest of the building.*

## AT THE BORDER

*At Rise: Lights fade up. KATE and DELLA work at their desks.*

LOU: *(LOU enters from the US Entrance. He sweeps the floor.)* Morning, Della. DELLA: Good morning, Lou. How are you today?

LOU: Are you askin' because you're really interested or are you just flappin' your lips?

DELLA: Just flapping, Lou. Just flapping.

LOU: *(To KATE.)* And how about you? How's everythin' over there in Canada?

KATE: Everything's fine over here.

LOU: You interested in how I am? KATE: Sure I am, Lou.

DELLA: You really should know better, Kate.

LOU: If truth be known, I'm kind of tired this mornin'. I was up half the night tryin' to keep the weasels out of my pants.

KATE: I don't think I want to hear this. DELLA: You started it.

LOU: I always like to put my overalls on the chair in the porch. To let them air out. But I got this mama weasel lookin' to make a nest. She must like my scent or something. She was in there most the night scratchin' around in my overalls.

DARREL: *(Enters from the US Entrance. Crosses to Della's desk.)* Good morning, Della.

DELLA: Good morning, Darrel. Here's your mail.

DARREL: Thanks, Della. *(Sorts through the mail.)* Good morning, Lou. And how are you today?

LOU: First of all, let me ask you somethin'.

DARREL: That's great. Hold all my calls for about half an hour, Della. *(Exits by the US Mayor's Office.)*

LOU: That figures. If it ain't about gettin' a vote, then he ain't interested.  
(*Resumes sweeping.*)

MARLENE: (*Enters from Canada Entrance and crosses to Kate's desk.*) Good morning, Kate.  
Is the mayor in?

KATE: No, not yet. He'll be a little late today.

MARLENE: That's OK. (*Crosses to the Border.*) Good morning, Della. Is Darrell in?  
DELLA: Yes he is, but I'm afraid he isn't seeing anyone right now.

MARLENE: I'll come over just in case he comes out. I've got some really important questions to ask him. (*Crosses through the Border.*) I'm coming over. You want to see the paper work?

DELLA: No, I only want to see it when Darrell's out here. You know that.

MARLENE: (*Sits in a chair on the US side.*) I just want everything legal like so that no one gets their jumpers in a jumble.

LOU: (*Crosses to MARLENE.*) Did you hear about the widow Blackmore?

MARLENE: What about her?

LOU: She got a new cat. MARLENE: That's nice.

LOU: Well, ain't you goin' write it down? MARLENE: Why would I write it down?

LOU: It's news, ain't it?

MARLENE: Not the kind I'm looking for.

LOU: And you call yourself a reporter. (*Resumes sweeping.*) (*DARREL enters from the US Mayor's Office.*)

MARLENE: Can I have a few words with you, Darrel?

DARREL: I'm really busy right now, Marlene. Maybe this afternoon.

MARLENE: This won't take long. I just need to get a few of your thoughts about the election.

DARREL: Yes, the election. Well, I haven't given it a lot of thought.

MARLENE: So you're not too interested in it.

DARREL: No, no. I'm very interested in it.

MARLENE: You just don't want to talk about it.

DARREL: No. I do want to talk about it.

MARLENE: Well, so do I. Let's do it.

DARREL: Right now?

MARLENE: It's a good a time for me. Let's go into your office. *(Exits by the US Mayor's Office. DARREL takes a big breath and follows her.)*

KATE: She really intimidates him, doesn't she?

DELLA: Always has. Whenever Marlene is around, Darrel is as jumpy as a cricket in a tank of hungry toads.

KATE: He's so confident with everyone else.

LOU: He's got the sweet-on-sweats.

DELLA: He's got what?

LOU: The sweet-on-sweats. That's when you're around somebody you got a shine for. You're so nervous you start sweatin' like a sumo wrestler in cannibal country. The sweet-on-sweats can make you real stupid.

KATE: Have you ever had the sweats, Lou?

LOU: If I have, what makes you think I'm goin' to blab about it to you?

DELLA: I knew it! You have been in love!

LOU: Don't go gettin' all excited because I ain't givin' you no details. There's some things a man don't talk about. Ever.

DELLA: Half the fun of romance is sharing your stories. Do you remember pajama parties, Kate?

KATE: We've all grown up, Della.

DELLA: Sure we have, but now we don't need pajamas to share all the juicy details.

LOU: With or without pajamas, I ain't sharin' no details with you or anybody else.

DELLA: Do you wear pajamas, Lou?

LOU: You're just like a big coon dog, Della. Always sniffin' up somebody's tree.

DARREL: (*Enters from the US Mayor's Office followed by MARLENE.*) I'm sorry to have to cut this short, but I'm late for a meeting with the police chief. Maybe we could talk again sometime in the next couple of days.

MARLENE: That would be fine. But I want to be sure I got this straight. You are going to run for re-election, right?

DARREL: That's correct.

MARLENE: But you don't really have anything new in your platform.

DARREL: No. I mean yes. What I mean is I don't want to release any details at this time.

MARLENE: Like I said, you don't have anything new.

DARREL: Well, I've got a major announcement to make. And I'll be making that announcement very soon. And when I'm ready, I'll call you first.

**END OF FREEVIEW**

*You'll want to read and perform this show!*