

FreeView
THIS IS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

VOLUNTEERING HAS ITS MOMENTS

By
Ann Pugh

The Cast, in order of appearance:

MEGS ABBOTT: is a popular TV personality in her own right

SYLVIA ARMSTRONG: strives to retain her 'Glamour Queen' appearance in spite of her age.

ALICE MADISON: is a retired secretary, eternal perfectionist and office subordinate.

WANDA GARRISON: is a retired CEO of her own Fortune 500 Company, and proverbial head honcho.

TONY STEIN: is an athletic, casual, free spirit.

(Time: Afternoon, the present. Scene: Network TV Studio. MEGS Abbott with broad smile and a clipboard is center stage, addressing TV Audience, the actual audience.)

MEGS: Good afternoon! I'm Megs Abbott standing in for Opal! Welcome to our final segment saluting twenty-seven million seniors over the age of fifty-five, who, according to an AARP survey, volunteer over four hours a week! *(pointedly)* Wow! Twenty-seven million of you!

(MEGS scans audience with sign reading: 'APPLAUD'. Audience applauds.)

MEGS: Your monetary value is over seventy-one million dollars a year! *(pointedly)* Seventy-one million! That's mega bucks!

(MEGS scans audience with sign reading: 'APPLAUD'. Audience applauds.)

MEGS: Our series has honored American Red Cross disaster volunteers, Foster Grandparents, Abused Women Shelters, Aids workers, and dozens of dedicated groups, but today we present some of those rare amusing moments experienced by volunteers. You know about your *(taps on applause sign)* cue to participate. *(places sign on table)* When we go on the air our cameras *(points to right and left*

FreeView
THIS IS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

areas of rear of theatre) will often be on you, but please ignore them. Ladies, *(very discreetly)* if you need to use the restroom, go now. Our producer hates to see empty seats, and we don't have folks hired to slip into them like they have at the Oscars. Okay? (*'Plants' in Audience respond: "Okay".*)

MEGS: Before our producer signals *(does hand signal)* 'You're On', let's have a sneak preview of our guest panelists. *(consults clipboard)* First is Sylvia Armstrong, vocalist with the Palm Springs Senior Follies. Some of you may remember her as Miss Kansas of 1965! *(turns to stage right, and calls off stage)* Meet Sylvia Armstrong! *(Audience applauds as SYLVIA enters)*

SYLVIA: Hi! *(strikes a self-assured showgirl pose next to MEGS)*

MEGS: *(to Audience)* Next is Alice Madison, 'The 1968 Secretary of The Year!' *(turns to stage right, and calls off. Audience applauds. ALICE enters clutching briefcase, gives shy nod to Audience.)*

ALICE: *(insecurely, barely audible)* Uh...*(awaits further instructions)*

SYLVIA: *(warmly, in a stage whisper)* Come on, Honey!

MEGS: Yes, Ms. Madison. Next to Sylvia, if you please. *(Shyly, ALICE moves over next to SYLVIA.)*

MEGS: *(to Audience)* Now guest number three! Wanda Garrison, recently retired Fortune 500 Female C-E-O of her own company! *(turns to stage right, and calls)* Ms. Garrison! *(waits a beat, calls again)* Ms. Garrison! *(repeats 'APPLAUD' sign business)*

WANDA: *(enters business-like, but ignoring audience and focused on cell-phone conversation, orders firmly)* Right! E-mail my committee! Remind them we begin promptly at seven-thirty pm. *(beat)* Roger! Seven-thirty! *(commanding)* Bingo waits for no one! *(clicks off cell-phone, moves over next to ALICE, and views her wardrobe with an air of superiority)*

End of FreeView—Now buy the entire play!
THIS IS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL