

At the Border

Bob Wilkins





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ArtAge Publications
Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President
PO Box 19955
Portland OR 97280
503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998
bonniev@seniorthatre.com
www.seniorthatre.com

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AT THE BORDER

by

Bob Wilkins

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 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!