

NOW HEAR THIS!

by Ken Bradbury

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SYNOPSIS: What are these two students to do? No one left them a copy of the morning announcements and they have to improvise. Announcements will never be the same again.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(2 either)*

BRETT (m/f).....(55 lines)

DANA (m/f).....(53 lines)

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AT RISE:

BRETT: (*Entering with DANA.*) I've got to what?

DANA: The announcements. You've got to make the morning announcements.

BRETT: I can't do this! I'm a terrible speaker!

DANA: Sydney Meyer was supposed to read the announcements this morning but she had a dentist appointment. Come on, it's easy. I'll give you the stuff as it comes in.

BRETT: Get somebody else!

DANA: School's about to start and we always start with the announcements. You were the first person I ran into in the hallway.

BRETT: I'm flattered. Why can't you do it?

DANA: She didn't leave a copy of the announcements. I've got to sort them out and hand them to you. We can do this. It's easy! Really!

BRETT: I want to go home.

DANA: Fine. Read the announcements; then go home. (*Clicking the mic.*) Here. Your microphone's on.

BRETT: Right now?

DANA: (*Whispering.*) Everybody just heard that. Go ... go.

BRETT: (*Behind the mic.*) Uh ... Good morning. This is Brett Clark with your morning announcements. (*To DANA.*) Where's the announcement?

DANA: Just say something while I look around. (*Handing BRETT something.*) Here.

BRETT: (*Reading.*) "We're out of Twinkies. Pick up kids after soccer practice."

DANA: Stop! That's the school secretary's shopping list.

BRETT: Uh ... I mean we've got plenty of Twinkies. Come pick them up at soccer practice.

DANA: Here ... (*Hands another.*)

BRETT: "Mrs. Johnson left an old bag in the cafeteria yesterday and now it is missing, so if you see the old bag, please inform the office." That didn't sound right.

DANA: Darn. (*Hands another.*) Here ...

BRETT: And now for today's inspirational quote, "Call plumber about leak in bathtub."

DANA: No! That's her list again, (*Handing.*) ... here.

BRETT: "Nothing succeeds." That's it?

DANA: Turn it over.

BRETT: (*He does.*) "... like success." This is awful.

DANA: Announce the theme for this year's prom.

BRETT: I can't find it.

DANA: (*Handing.*) Here.

BRETT: The theme for this year's prom is "Do not park in the faculty parking lot." Are you sure?

DANA: This is a mess. Everything's all mixed up. Here ... (*Handing.*)

BRETT: "The Spanish Club will be voting on their favorite dead Spanish poet this week. If you want to vote, see Mrs. Clinton in room 57-B." (*DANA hands him another.*) "If anyone sees a cow in the cafeteria, please give it to the cooks."

DANA: Towel.

BRETT: Huh?

DANA: If anyone sees a towel ...

BRETT: Oh. "If anyone sees a towel in the cafeteria, give it to the cooks ... or see Mrs. Clinton in room 57-B." I think I got them mixed up.

DANA: Give them the weather.

BRETT: I don't have the weather.

DANA: Make something up.

BRETT: There will be weather all day today until midnight.

DANA: Brilliant. (*Handing.*) Here ... try this.

BRETT: "Just because the weather is getting warmer, this doesn't mean we can ignore our dress code. Remember, no short skirts." (*DANA hands another.*) "And this is spirit week at our school so raise your hands and show your spirit. All students found without their spirit will be sent to Mrs. Clinton in room 57-B."

DANA: That didn't come out right.

BRETT: I'm just reading. (*Hands another.*) "Mr. Anderson will be moving at the end of this year. If you have leftover cardboard from making your mobiles for art class, please stack it outside his door. He wants to use it to pack his furniture." (*Hands another.*) "The FFA has started a new pig club. If you want to be a pig, please sign up today."

DANA: You're doing great.

BRETT: I'm doing really awful and you know it. Are we about done?

DANA: (*Searching around the area.*) We've got to fill a couple more minutes. Let me find something else ... fill ... fill.

BRETT: Fill?

DANA: Say something!

BRETT: Fill. Uh ... I once had a friend named Phil. He was a nice guy. He joined the pig club and he liked dead Spanish poets. You'll find him in Mrs. Clinton's room. That's 57-B. I'm running out of things to say.

DANA: No kidding. At least they won't ever ask you to do this again.

BRETT: Me? You're handing me the stuff.

DANA: But it's your voice they hear. Do some sports. ... Here. This looks sporty.

BRETT: (*Reading.*) "Miss Roth, the dunce sponsor, is taking applications for dunce captain."

DANA: What?

BRETT: "Dunce captain."

DANA: (*Looking at BRETT'S paper.*) Dance. That says dance.

BRETT: Miss Roth has terrible handwriting. "So if you feel like dunce is in your future ..."

DANA: Dance.

BRETT: Dance. "See Mrs. Clinton in room 57-B."

DANA: Keep reading.

BRETT: "The sophomore class will be selling their noses at noon hour today."

DANA: Roses! They're selling roses!

BRETT: The light is terrible in here. Play the National Anthem or something. I'm in trouble.

DANA: I can't find the National Anthem.

BRETT: Play anything! Anything! Quick!

DANA: Here's a CD. ... It's not marked ... but it must be it. Push "Play" and ...

BRETT: I can hear music.

DANA: Great!

BRETT: (*Listening, then.*) Since when did "The Hokey Pokey" become our national anthem?

DANA: Oh no. It was the P.E. class's CD.

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