

Scene!
Herb, Wally, Edna
pg. 6-8

Herb

I'm thanking him for standing up to crime. I'm thanking him for defending his home against unknown intruders, but most of all I'm thanking him for being in the box. Ed didn't have a prayer of winning. Am I right? But thanks to his sacrifice, I now have a unique opportunity to replace a loser, (TO CASKET) no offence noble warrior, with a winner. And Wally, that's why it's very important that Ed stay in the box.

Wally

He's dead, Herb.

Herb

He's Ed, Wally.

Wally

True.

EDNA ENTERS STAGE LEFT AND MOVES TO CASKET

Wally

Did you find a bugler?

Edna

No, I'm afraid not.

Herb

You want a bugler?

Edna

No, I don't want a bugler. The jackass in the box wants a bugler and I've wasted the last two hours trying to find one.

Herb

Madam, do not call the man in that box a jackass. He is a brave hero who gave his life in defense of the free enterprise system, the American way of life, family values and all of our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow.

Edna

Sir, the jackass in that box is my double digit IQ ex-husband, who, four years ago this Sunday, shot me in the butt with a twenty two caliber pistol!

Herb

(Long silence, staring intently, then ecstatic)

EDNA!?! My God, Wally, it's Edna!

Wally

I've been trying to tell you.

Herb

Say something, Edna! Say anything!

Edna

It's true, Herb. I haven't stuttered since the divorce.

Wally

And she's lost a hundred pounds, Herb. Minimum.

Herb

Hell, yes! Edna, I've got to get your diet!

Edna

You want my diet, Herb? Get out of politics and get divorced. Guaranteed to lose you seventy five pounds.

Herb

(Ecstatic)

Am I lucky, Wally? I ask you? Am I lucky? Three days ago I was faced with the hopeless, impossible task (POINTING AT CASKET) of getting this guy re-elected to the Senate. All you had to do was look at the polls and you knew it was a total waste of time. I said to myself, 'Herb, it will take a miracle to win this race.'

Wally

Absolutely.

Herb

And then, all of a sudden I get not one miracle but two miracles! (GESTURING WILDLY) Miracle number one, Ed gets shot! Pow! Bang! What more can a man ask? And now this! Miracle number two! Edna shows up looking like a million dollars and able to say hello in under ten minutes! Am I lucky?! Just when things look hopeless, something like this happens. By God, Wally, it gives you faith in the system.

Edna

(Lost)

What are you talking about, Herb? (TO WALLY) What's he talking about?

Herb

I'm not a religious man but would you kneel, Wally?

Wally

Sure, Herb. (GOES DOWN ON ONE KNEE)

Herb

Lord, Wally is kneeling on my behalf because my back is out but lord I owe you big time. Wally, repeat after me, 'Thank you, Lord, for sending me Edna.'

Wally

'Thank you, Lord, for sending me Edna.'

Herb

Not you, Wally, me. Never mind. Amen.

Wally

Amen. (STANDS)

Edna

That was beautiful, Herb, but what exactly did it mean? (TO WALLY) What's he talking about?

Herb

I'm talking about your taking Ed's seat in the senate.

Edna

(Explodes)

What?! What did you just say?! Have you lost your frigging mind, Herb?! You can't be serious! It's me! Edna! Edna with the bullet in her butt! (TWIRLS NECKLACE WITH BULLET ATTACHED) Remember this bullet, Herb?!

Herb

Of course I remember that bullet! Everybody remembers that bullet!

Wally

Herb's right, Edna. Everybody does remember that bullet. Especially women.

Edna

Well, I sure as hell do! This is my reminder to stay the hell out of politics!

Herb

Don't you get it, Edna? That bullet is your ticket to winning the election. You're a victim. Everybody loves a victim. Even I love a victim. Victims are bigger than heroes in this country.

Edna

You know, Herb, I'd forgotten just how whacko you guys are, but it's all coming back to me now.] end 1