

*(Lights up on MAYOR and DR STOCKMAN in mid conversation now standing in the patio entrance. The brothers are complete opposites. They irritate each other but try to play nice)*

Start

MAYOR

You have no idea what she said? Did you give her your approval?

DR STOCKMAN

Approval? What? No ... no ... she doesn't need my approval. Oh, come and have a drink with us.

MAYOR

No, you know I don't like cocktail parties.

DR STOCKMAN

We're not having a cocktail party. We have friends over. Katrina made a pitcher of water with cucumber, lemon, mint, and a little piece of ginger. Have some ... it's a good drink and good for your digestion.

MAYOR

I'm fine.

DR STOCKMAN

It's so nice to see my family full of fresh air and eat like we did. Kids, they're the future, they have to be healthy and strong. We have to prepare them for a tough world. The Arctic is melting. You and me, we're just two old farts three quarters into our probable life cycle.

MAYOR

Why are you thinking about death? The world isn't so scary if you have faith in God and everlasting life.

DR STOCKMAN

We are old in a world of so much new ... new technology! A gotta have it NOW world. That's why children need to have a garden so they can learn to trust ... learn how to be patient ... feel the excitement in anticipating and watching something grow. Patience is no longer a virtue. That's why baseball is losing fans. No one wants to wait for the guy to hit the ball. Social media is feeding on us. It's collecting data to manipulate us. Human connections are now being programmed by artificial intelligence. Even the TV can listen to you now. But I'm really happy, I'm happy.

MAYOR

*(Annoyed)* Really?

DR STOCKMAN

Yes, I am. I'm happy! Everything is being nourished and growing. This is a happy home to be.

MAYOR

Is it?

DR STOCKMAN

You really can't understand ... you don't have kids.

MAYOR

*(He is offended and grunts)* Hmm.

DR STOCKMAN

I mean you have a different outlook on life. You've spent your whole life in this town. But for me ... moving back was godsent ... no more cold or grief ... oh, it's so good to be working ... and for our hometown and now Katrina can take a break from double duty. Man, being laid off right before Christmas was cruel. It should be outlawed.

MAYOR

*(Sarcastically)* Oh, that's a great idea.

DR STOCKMAN

Yeah, it should. It was a peace and good will dagger. *(A message sounds from his phone in his pocket and he checks it)* Oh.

MAYOR

What is it?

DR STOCKMAN

Oh, nothing. *(He puts the phone back in his pocket)* I was miserable.

MAYOR

An income can change your view.

DR STOCKMAN

And now all I see is life. The birds sing so much here. I feel like singing. C'mon sing a song with me.

MAYOR

I don't feel like it.

DR STOCKMAN

C'mon don't be a kill joy.

MAYOR

I don't want to sing a silly song of yours!

DR STOCKMAN

Well, then let's sing a song of praise or thanks.

MAYOR

No!

DR STOCKMAN

*(He pats MAYOR on the back and shows him inside)* Ok, let's go in.

MAYOR

*(He walks to the TV)* Is that the TV that listens to you? What did it cost you?

DR STOCKMAN

I got it on a sale. We just had to open another credit card.

MAYOR

You bought this on credit?

DR STOCKMAN

Katrina says we are forced to open credit cards for stores to give you their sale price. She says it's unfair because the poor can't get the sale price.

MAYOR

So, you have more debt?

DR STOCKMAN

Peter, I just want to enjoy life by being surrounded by friends and family. It's crazy, the cost, for Eilif to play ball. These kids all know who has the most expensive bat, and they don't know the science ... that ... that it's all in the swing and not the bat. There're so many fees and pictures. *(He picks up a framed picture of EILIF in a baseball uniform and hands it to MAYOR)* Look, they're the Savages.

MAYOR

*(He smiles and holds the picture)* Oh, not the Pinecones. *(He looks at the picture)* The Savages, very nice. So, Hovstad said

you have another article. *(He puts the frame back where it was displayed)*

DR STOCKMAN

He did?

MAYOR

Yes, ... one you wrote a while ago.

DR STOCKMAN

Oh, that one, yeah, no. I mean no, no, not that one yet.

MAYOR

Why not? This is a perfect time to advertise the school.

DR STOCKMAN

Um yeah, um ... but something has come up.

MAYOR

What?

DR STOCKMAN

There's a chance that we'll have a problem with the school. I really can't tell you now. It's something ... just something I'm investigating. I don't have all the facts yet. Really, it's probably nothing. Don't worry. It's probably nothing.

MAYOR

*(Ordering and pointing his finger)* If you find a problem you need to inform me immediately. Oh, I hope it's nothing! Hopefully your just wasting time on some nutty idea of yours. *(He goes toward the dining room)*

DR STOCKMAN

*(Follows behind)* What's the matter? Why are you leaving?

MAYOR

*(He goes and kisses MRS STOCKMAN goodbye)* Sorry, I have to run. Oh, don't get up. It was nice to see you all. God bless you ... and this home. Eilif keep up the good work buddy. *(He exits)*

Exit Stop ———

MRS STOCKMAN

What happened?

DR STOCKMAN

Never mind, it's no big deal. He's just mad at me again. Where's my charger? I'm waiting for an important email.