

Boiled Beef and Carrots

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EXT. MIDDLE AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Two middle class homes stand next to each other. The house on the left has a slightly over grown yard. The house on the right has perfectly manicured lawn. A PAPERBOY rides by and delivers to both homes. MAILBOX on the left, covered in ivy, reads THE PARKER'S. Mailbox on the right, with a painted American flag draped around a Bald Eagle, reads THE LIVINGSTON'S.

LENNY PARKER, the owner of the house on the left, steps into frame. In his fifties, Lenny is a bit unkept, has thick hair and wears glasses. Lenny is holding a stack of BLUE POLITICAL SIGNS that he is about to start jabbing into his yard. But first, he gives a menacing look to his nemesis next door, then pokes a VOTE NO sign into his yard.

ROY LIVINGSTON, the owner of the house on the right, steps into frame. He too is in his fifties as well, however is neat, polished and has a pot belly. He too carries a stack of political signs, however his are RED. He pokes one into his yard that reads VOTE YES. He then looks to Lenny. The showdown begins.

Both begin lining their yards with signs working their way closer to each other. Back and forth they go each trying to trump and cancel out the other's sign.

While this goes on, a MIDDLE EASTERN neighbor watches from across the street. His head moves left to right, as if he's observing a tennis match.

Finally as Lenny and Roy reach the edge of their property lines, they are now face to face, each holding one remaining sign. They give each other the stare down then defiantly jab in their final signs into the ground, turn and abruptly march back to their homes.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny looks out his blinds at Roy's yard. He complains to his wife, MITZI.

LENNY
Fascist Freak.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy looks past his curtain at Lenny's yard. He complains to his wife, DONETTE.

ROY
Looney Lefty.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

MITZI
(annoyed)
Lenny!

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

DONETTE
(annoyed)
Roy!

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

LENNY
I mean, What's he trying to turn this
country into...

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

ROY
What kind of American is he?

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

MITZI
Aren't you being a little extreme?

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

DONETTE
You know if you'd lighten up you'd
probably have a lot in common.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

LENNY
Ha!

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

ROY

Ha!

INT. BOTH HOMES

We cut back and forth from Lenny in his home to Roy in his. Their dialogue runs together making one continuous sentence.

LENNY

The day I hang out with a conniving corporate loving...

ROY

Woodstock wacko weirdo...

LENNY

Nuclear obsessed macho maniac...

ROY

Tree hugging fruitcake.

LENNY

Is the day you can strip me naked...

ROY

Dip me in a big vat of pinko paint...

LENNY

March me around...

ROY

With a giant French flag on my butt...

LENNY

Right in front of the National Rifle Association's...

ROY

"Give Peace a Chance" parade!

Both men are proud of their declarations.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny's wife is fed up with his emotional outburst and picks up her car keys to go shopping.

MITZI

Lenny, you sure know how to ruin a Saturday. I'm going shopping!

LENNY

(acting innocent)

What?

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy's wife is fed up as well and she too picks up her keys to leave.

DONETTE

Roy, I've had it up-to-here with all this! I'm going to lunch.

ROY

Have fun.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny lets out an aggravated sigh.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy lets out an aggravated sigh.

EXT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Mitzi goes to car in drive notices Donette going to her car too. They both exchange overly sweet greetings. Then under their breath murmur nasty comments.

MITZI

Hi Donette!

DONETTE

Hi Mitzi!

MITZI

How are you?

DONETTE

Good thanks? (to herself) Love the Mom
Jeans.

MITZI

Oh good! (to herself) See your butt's got
it's own zip code.

DONETTE

(sweet again)

Bye.

MITZI

Bye.

Mitzi shuts car door. Donette shuts car door. Both cars
back out turning into each other. Back fenders almost
touch until Mitzi goes forward and exits frame left and
Donette exits frame right.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

An anxious Lenny paces the room looking for something to
do. He glances at magazines and NEWSPAPER.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy, paces around house. He glances at magazines and
NEWSPAPER on table then readjusts GLASS VASE on mantle.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny opens BLUE PEPSI CAN.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy opens RED COKE CAN.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny casually sips soda and looks out window. Suddenly
shock come across his face at what he notices outside.

LENNY

(to himself)

What in the hell!

Without hesitating Lenny rushes outside.

EXT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Like a man on a mission, Lenny bursts out front door and jog/walks to front of the yard. His anger builds when he bends down to pick up the unthinkable...a RED SIGN poking out among a sea of his blue ones. Lenny who to blame.

LENNY
(under his breath)
Son of a bitch!

He pulls red sign out and storms over to the Livingston's.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Lenny pounds on doors. There is no answer. Infuriated, he jiggles the knob and realizes it's unlocked. Lenny enters house and looks for Roy.

LENNY
Livingston... Livingston!

Lenny enters kitchen area.

LENNY (CONT'D)
Livingston!

Lenny notices Roy, now without shirt, on back patio. Roy, shocked to see Lenny in his home, immediately enters.

ROY
What are you doing in here?

LENNY
Making a return!

Lenny holds up red sign. Roy looks confused.

LENNY (CONT'D)
Only you would stick this in my yard.

ROY
(laughs)

LENNY
That's trespassing!

ROY
Trespassing?

LENNY

Yes. Trespassing!

ROY

If you think I'd step foot in that weed infested yard of yours, you're nuttier than your candidates.

LENNY

Keep your crummy signs outa' my yard.

ROY

Parker, go back to what ever it is you've been smokin'. Oh wait, you guys don't inhale!

LENNY

Better than being in a party that never exhales!

ROY

Are you sayin' I'm stupid?!

LENNY

Well, a smart ass is always better than a dumb elephant.

ROY

Hmmmm. Mount Rushmore...Republicans three, Democrats zero!

LENNY

Very clever Mr. Bumper Sticker on the back of some gas guzzler.

ROY

At least my car's American made you know it all snob.

LENNY

Oh I'm sorry if I think the leader of our nation should be fluent in at least one language.

ROY

Look, leave the damn sign and get out already.

Suddenly Roy looks shocked.

LENNY

Fine by me, the last thing I wanna do is stay here all day staring at your face!

Lenny throws down sign then turns to leave but is suddenly stopped in his tracks when he comes face to face with HAND GUN pointed right at his nose. Both are stunned.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
Hi there fellas'.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGSTON LIVINGROOM - DAY

Lenny and Roy are now tied up together in the most unusual fashion. Both on their knees, but instead of being back to back, they have been tied chest to chest forcing their faces to practically be touching each other. They now stare directly at one another less than an inch apart. Roy is still without a shirt.

A tall, lanky, clumsy male wearing all back and carrying a large, white fabric sack, nervously closes the curtains inside Roy's house. He is known as the NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
Ok you two, ok. You all just stay there and keep quiet and no one'll get hurt. I don't want any funny stuff and no tryin' to loosen those ropes now cause I don't wanna...

Robber is sidetracked by a local newspaper he's spotted on Roy's coffee table.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
(CONT'D)
Well I'll be darn. Would you look at this. (Giggles) I made the front page! That's some likeness wouldn't say?

Robber proudly holds up newspaper covering his own face. The front page features a story and a SKETCH of the Robber wearing a SKI MASK. Only his big SMILE and eyes are seen Robber then removes paper revealing himself with same ski mask and smile.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
(CONT'D)
If Mother saw this she'd be as happy as a tick on a fat dog. (Robber gets a kick out his stardom.) I gotta send this home.

Robber puts paper into bag.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
(CONT'D)

Anyway...I don't wanna hear a peep.

Robber turns knocks over lamp then begins robbing house.
Both men stay quiet avoiding the others eye line.
Silence fills the room. Robber is heard in other room
crashing into things. Roy breaks the silence.

ROY
(quietly)
You know this is all your fault.

LENNY
(stunned)
My fault!

ROY
Yes. Your fault.

LENNY
How do you figure this is my fault?

ROY
Liberal judges.

LENNY
Liberal judges?

ROY
That's right, if it wasn't for all those
radical nit-wits you elect we'd have
Old Hew-Haw here locked up.

LENNY
(collective sigh)

ROY
Lock 'em up and throw away the key I say.
But noooo, you wanna rehabilitate them.
Give 'em a second chance. Or better yet,
let 'em all go free. Ye Ha!

LENNY
Well you know, if we had some sort of gun
control in this country, guys like him
couldn't waltz in here so easy and make
you cower like a pathetic school girl.

ROY

Oh, blame the guns, blame the guns. Never
the criminals.

LENNY

Well all I know is that without that
"gun", I would have taken him...

ROY

(laugh)

You would have taken him?

LENNY

Yes, I would have taken him.

ROY

Where? Down to the prison to free some
more bad guys.

LENNY

No I prefer to leave your big business
friends in jail!

ROY

Oh Ha!

LENNY

Ha!!

Robber notices this banter from the back ground.
Annoyed, much like a father would be at his disobedient
children, he approaches and gives them a lecture.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Hey. Hey!

Lenny and Roy stop the bickering and behave like
reprimanded kids.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

What is goin' on? Tell me you two aren't
fight'n?!

LENNY

(acting innocent)

No. We're not fighting.

ROY

No.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Don't piss on my leg and tell me it's raining.

Roy and Lenny sit quietly.

ROY

Now I said I didn't want a hear a peep and I mean it. Not a word. You hear? Don't make come back.

Robber goes back to his business. Time passes. Growing impatient Roy begins and even quieter whisper again.

ROY (CONT'D)

You are gonna get us killed.

LENNY

You're the one doing all the talking.

ROY

Well if you weren't so damn annoying to look at.

LENNY

Annoying! You wanna talk about annoying. Your gut pressed against me is annoying. It's like I'm tied to some inflated gorilla from the Macy's Parade. Ever try a salad?

ROY

Well at least I don't have the worst case of Halitosis on the planet.

Lenny is shocked at this accusation.

ROY (CONT'D)

I mean your breath is doing for damage to the ozone than any spray can! Maybe you should be a little more "liberal" with some mints.

Lenny has reached his limit.

LENNY

Oh yeah.

ROY

Yeah.

LENNY

Yeah well...

At that moment, Lenny opens his mouth as wide as possible and like a dragon gives a mighty exhale of breath right into Roy's nose. Roy is disgusted.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Oh and don't forget.

Lenny tops it off with three more giant exhales in a row. Roy thinks then fights back thumping his belly into Lenny. Like two prizefighter exchanging punches, Lenny and Roy go back and forth in their physical exchange. First a breath then a belly bump over an over again.

They then take the fight up notch by dueling each other with their noses much like sword fighters. Lenny strikes with his nose, Roy retaliates with his. The exchanges get faster while their grunts get louder.

CUT TO:

Robber hears ordeal from master bedroom. He then peeps around corner and can't believe these childish battle. He watches both tip over on their side and begin spinning around while kicking their legs. Robber approaches. His tone now sounds more like a father than a robber.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Boiled Beef and Carrots!

Lenny and Roy immediately stop fighting and are confused.

LENNY

What?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Boiled beef and carrots! That's what Mother used to say when me and my brother would tear each other limb from limb.

ROY

I don't get it?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

My granddaddy hated beef and he hated carrots.

ROY

Who hates beef?

LENNY

I hate beef.

ROY

Don't tell me your a freak-a-tarian too.

LENNY

It's Vegatarian ya cow killer!

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(interupts quarl)

Then...one day! My Mother took the
beef...

Robber references Roy.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

Took the carrots...

Robber references Lenny.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

And boiled 'em together, to make one real
nice Cockney dish that granddad actually
liked.

Both men sit silent and confused.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

It's one of the only things he never spit
back at us. Now...

Robber grabs both by earlobe and pulls them back up.
Lenny and Roy are in pain.

LENNY & ROY

Ouch! Owe!!

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

I want you two to sit hear and say
something "nice" to each other. Boiled
beef and carrots.

Both are silent.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

Who's goin' first.

LENNY

Aren't you supposed to be robbing this place?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

I choose you.

LENNY

Why me?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Well cause I'm askin' real polite.

Robber pinches Lenny's earlobe again.

LENNY

(in pain)

Alright, alright! (thinks for moment)
Livingston, I've always been jealous of
your grass.

Roy is amazed at what he is hearing.

ROY

(dumbfounded)

What?

LENNY

Your grass! It's soft and real green and
reminds me of when I was a kid.

ROY

You're joking.

LENNY

(embarrassed)

Sometimes I even sneak out at night and
walk around in my bare feet. Tickles my
toes.

ROY

Well why didn't you tell me?

LENNY

I don't know I guess I just never
thought...

ROY

(secretive)

It's my secret of mixture of seed that
does it. A third Bent, a third Rye, a
third Blue.

Lenny is interested in Roy's advice.

ROY (CONT'D)

And crabgrass. I blast it with a little pre-emergent herbicide. I call it "nuke'n the enemy!"

Roy chuckles at his joke, Lenny joins him. As laughter subsides it becomes Roy's turn.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Alright good, good. We're gettin' somewhere..

Robber looks at Roy while grabbing earlobe.

ROY

(in pain)

Ok, ok! (thinks) Parker, you got...great hair.

LENNY

Hair?

ROY

Yes hair! Great hair. I lost mine in high school and I always envied guys like you. So thick and shiny.

LENNY

It's my hair tonic.

Roy looks up in great interest. Robber continues to listen to their niceties.

LENNY (CONT'D)

All organic, all natural "vegan" hair tonic. The minerals and sea proteins absorb into the scalp make it fuller.

ROY

(slight joy)

Fuller?!

LENNY

Yeah! I'll order you some on-line. Imported from Morocco.

ROY

Morocco?!

Both men begin to chuckle as if they've been friends for years.

LENNY

I'll tell ya what, you show me how to fertilize my grass and I'll show you how to fertilize your hair.

Both laugh and forget Robber is there.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Ok. Ok! Alright already!

Both men finally stop.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

Now that your best friends, It's time to shush it up. Understand? Not a word.

Robber looks to Lenny who nods in agreement. He then looks to Roy who nods in agreement too.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

(CONT'D)

No more fighting. No more stupid stuff. I wanna hear the wind blow'n right through my ears. Got it?! Cause let me tell ya both, the last thing I'm gonna do is leave this place, with a splitting...

At that very moment an unexpected loud crash of breaking glass is heard. Both are surprised to see Robber now dazed and teetering on passing out. With one last gasp, Robber drops gun and collapses. Lenny and Roy are shocked as Robber is out cold on floor. Glass is everywhere. Both look up to see their Middle Eastern Neighbor holding remainder of the glass vase he'd just crushed over Robber's head.

LENNY

Oh my God.

ROY

Oh my God.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN

Oh my God...

Lenny and Roy, try to collect themselves. Roy then notices what neighbor used to knock-out Robber.

ROY

(stunned)

...My Ronald Reagan Inaugural vase!

Lenny and neighbor are confused. Roy is in disbelief.

ROY (CONT'D)

He conked him with my Ronald Reagan
Inaugural vase?!

LENNY

(annoyed)

So?

ROY

So how 'bout a baseball bat or something.
Not my Ronald Reagan Inaugural vase.

LENNY

Who cares?!

ROY

I care! That was a Q.V.C. Limited
Edition. From their Greatest President's
Collection I might add.

LENNY

(sarcastic)

Greatest president?!

ROY

The greatest! You've just never
experienced anything like him.

LENNY

Oh I experienced him alright, and that
astrology wacko wife of his.

ROY

Don't make fun of Mrs. Reagan she's a
great lady.

LENNY

You mean "Just Say No" Nancy...

ROY

At least she cared about the kids.

Lenny and Roy have forgotten their new friendship. Back
and forth they bicker, Middle Eastern watches again as if
he's viewing tennis. Then, out of the corner of his eye,
Middle Eastern notices the gun on the floor; He
curiously picks it up and thoroughly examines weapon.

Lenny and Roy continue to debate.

Holding gun, Middle Eastern slowly approaches men. He moves in on their debate, lifts gun in disgust and points. Men are shocked. Middle Eastern intensely aims gun at Roy and is about to fire. Lenny shuts eyes then turns away. Roy fears for his life. Suddenly gun is fired, however, no shot. Lenny peeks and realizes Roy's getting doused by water. It's a SQUIRT GUN. Middle Eastern man then points gun at Roy pelting him with water too. Men are wet and humiliated. Middle Eastern laughs in delight.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN
(very serious)
Squirt gun...cool beans!

Middle Eastern then laughs hysterically at Lenny and Roy

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTERANCE ROY'S HOUSE - DAY

Siren on police cruiser is on as officer leads Neighborhood Robber, now without ski cap, to vehicle.

Lenny and Roy with Middle Eastern exit front door to warm welcome of an neighborhood. Each of their wives leap into their arms and smother them with kisses. Another neighbor offer Middle Eastern some freshly baked American Flag cookies. Everyone cheers. The press take photo of the three men. Lenny on left shaking Roy's hand on right with Middle Easterner in middle extending arms. (NOTE: Shot is to replicate famous Bill Clinton Peace Handshake featuring Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat from 1993.)

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

EXT. LENNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT

In sneaky fashion, Lenny turns light on in garage then looks left and right making sure no one is watching.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Also sneaky, Roy turns on light then looks out bathroom door left and right making sure no one is coming.

EXT. LENNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Lenny quietly pulls big LAWN FERTILIZER BAG from secret hiding place.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Roy quietly pulls brown bag from secret hiding place. He looks around one last time then take VEGAN, ALL ORGANIC HAIR TONIC out.

EXT. LENNY'S YARD - NIGHT

Lenny pours fertilizer into a SPREADER.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Roy pours hair tonic into hand.

EXT. LENNY'S YARD - NIGHT

Lenny, as if he's pulling off a covert operation, joyfully begins to fertilize his yard.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Roy, in an almost flamboyant style, begins to fertilize his hair.

EXT. LENNY'S YARD - NIGHT

For the first time, Lenny is excited about his yard.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

For the first time in years, Roy is excited about his hair.

EXT. LENNY'S YARD - NIGHT

With great exuberance, Lenny spreads the fertilizer across yard. Then suddenly, the spreader is caught and stopped by something in front of him.

Confused at what it could be, Lenny curiously looks to discover spreader has been stopped by another RED SIGN someone's again mysteriously placed in his yard. Anger builds as he pulls sign from the ground and looks toward Roy's house.

INT. ROY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

With hair sticking in all directions, Roy hears the scream of Lenny outside.

LENNY
(heard from outside)
Livingston. Livingston!

Realizing Lenny is on his way, Roy gives one last "maybe he did it, maybe he didn't do it" expression and quickly turns lights off.

CUT TO:

BLACK AND CREDITS