

Corner Gas
"You Can Quote Me on That"

by

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CORNER GAS

"YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT"

INTRO

INT. CORNER GAS

(WANDA, BRETT HULL)

WANDA IS TAKING BRETT HULL'S GAS MONEY. BRETT HULL IS PASSING THROUGH DOG RIVER.

WANDA

That'll be \$20.00 please.

BRETT HULL

Here you go, ma'am.

WANDA

Thank you. And your receipt.

BRETT HULL SMILES AT WANDA AND POCKETS THE RECEIPT.

BRETT HULL

Thank you.

WANDA

Have a good day.

BRETT HULL

You too.

BRETT HULL TURNS TO LEAVE. HANK WALKS INTO THE STORE. RECOGNIZING BRETT HULL, HE STOPS, SPEECHLESS.

HANK

Uh... huh... humm.

BRETT HULL WALKS AROUND HANK.

BRETT HULL

(SMILING POLITELY, BUT NERVOUSLY) Nice
to meet you.

HANK

(BLURTS OUT) Autograph! Please!

BRETT HULL STOPS WALKING, HIS BACK TO HANK. HE SMILES AND TURNS AROUND, WAITING FOR HANK TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO AUTOGRAPH. HANK THRUSTS HIM HIS HAT. BRETT HULL TAKES IT AND AUTOGRAPHS THE LID, HANDS THE HAT BACK TO HANK AND WALKS OUT.

HANK

Thank you! Thank you... Mr. Brett! Mr.

Hull!

BRENT ENTERS THE STORE, LOOKS AT HANK WHO IS STILL FROZEN IN PLACE. BRENT LOOKS BEHIND HIM THROUGH THE DOOR. TALKS TO WANDA.

BRENT

Was that Brett Hull?

WANDA

Yeah. What a nice guy. He autographed Hank's hat for him.

BRENT

(LOOKING AT THE HAT. HANK STILL FROZEN IN PLACE.) Too bad I missed him. You know, I used to have his rookie card.

WANDA

You collect cards, I collect men.

CUT TO:

ACT 1

FADE IN

INT. DOG RIVER POLICE CAR

(KAREN, DAVIS)

KAREN AND DAVIS ARE IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE POLICE CAR. DAVIS IS LOOKING OUT THE DRIVER SIDE WINDOW. KAREN IS READING THE DOG RIVER HOWLER. SHE SHOVES THE PAPER IN DAVIS' FACE.

KAREN

Davis! Did you read this?

DAVIS LOOKS STARTLED, AS IF WAKING UP. DAVIS GRABS THE PAPER AND LOOKS AT THE HEADLINE: **WULLERTON POLICE RECOVER \$400 IN STOLEN PROPERTY.**

DAVIS

Huh? What? Oh, yeah... the big bust
in Wullerton.

THEY BOTH SPIT OUT OF THEIR WINDOWS AT THE MENTION OF WULLERTON.

KAREN

Well?

DAVIS

Well, what?

KAREN

Gee, I don't know... I just wish we
could show those jokers a thing or two
about catching the big one.

DAVIS

Catching the big what?

KAREN

You know, criminals. *Big* criminals.

DAVIS

Oh, yeah. Well, there aren't many of
the RCMP's most wanted walking around
Dog River, you know.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOT OF DESERTED DOG RIVER STREET
(PEDESTRIAN)

10 SECOND SHOT OF OLD PERSON SLOWLY CROSSING A DESERTED STREET.
DOG BARKING IN THE BACKGROUND.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. DOG RIVER POLICE CAR
(KAREN, DAVIS)

KAREN

Still, there must be someone out there...

CUT TO:

INT. CORNER GAS
(HANK, BRENT, WANDA)

BRENT IS BUSY RESTOCKING SHELVES BEHIND HANK. WANDA IS BEHIND
THE COUNTER. HANK IS IN FRONT OF THE COUNTER. HANK AND WANDA
ARE PLAYING A GAME.

HANK

Okay, Wanda, here's one for you...

HANK SCRATCHES HIS HEAD UNDER HIS BASEBALL CAP, APPARENTLY
THINKING. WANDA WORKS ON HER CROSSWORD PUZZLE WHILE WAITING FOR
HANK.

HANK

Let's see, uh... okay! (SNAPS HIS
FINGERS.) I've got it now! Let's see
you guess this one! Ready? "Where's
the beef?"

HANK RAISES HIS EYEBROW AND SMIRKS, THINKING HE HAS STUMPED WANDA.

WANDA ROLLS HER EYES AND SHAKES HER HEAD. BRENT IN THE BACKGROUND LOOKING UP, SHAKES HIS HEAD AND GOES BACK TO WORK.

WANDA

Oh, yeah... that is a tough one, Hank!

Gee, let's see, is it the little old lady from the Wendy's commercials?

HANK IS CRUSHED, DEFEATED.

HANK

Yeah, that's it. Okay... your turn, Wanda.

WANDA SMILES.

WANDA

Hmm... Hmm... Okay, let's see if I can give you one with some ironic bite to it. Now remember, Hank, this one is for the win.

HANK

Uh... okay.

HANK LOOKS WORRIED. BRENT STOPS HIS RE-STOCKING, LOOKS UP AND LISTENS TO WANDA'S QUOTE.

WANDA

Okay, give this one a try: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

WANDA SMILES AT BRENT OVER HANK'S SHOULDER. BRENT SHAKES HIS HEAD AGAIN AND CONTINUES WITH HIS TASK. HE KNOWS THE GAME IS OVER. ONCE AGAIN, HANK WILL NOT KNOW THIS ONE.

HANK

Oh, I know this one!

BRENT LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK, SURPRISED.

BRENT

Really?

HANK

Is it the Skipper talking to Gilligan?

WANDA SHAKES HER HEAD. BRENT GOES BACK TO WORK.

WANDA

Nope. Sorry, this concludes our
installment of "Stump the Chump." Now
pay up... Chump.

HANK IS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED. WANDA EXTENDS HER HAND, PALM UP,
WAITING FOR HANK TO PAY HER. HANK TURNS AROUND TO FACE BRENT.

HANK

Uh... Brent? Can you lend me a Loonie?
I lost again.

BRENT

Gee that's a surprise. I would've
thought that you knew your Santayana
better than that.

BRENT ROLLS HIS EYES. CONTINUES TO WORK, IGNORING HANK.

HANK

Yeah. Me too. But I'm not really a
fan of his guitar solos.

KAREN AND DAVIS WALK IN TO CORNER GAS.

HANK IS LEAVING.

WANDA CALLS OUT TO HANK.

WANDA

You still owe me, Chump!

DAVIS

Hi, Hank.

KAREN

Lost again, eh, Hank?

DAVIS

Bye Hank.

HANK WAVES DISTRACTEDLY TO KAREN AND DAVIS ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE STORE.

BRENT HAS MADE HIS WAY BEHIND THE COUNTER.

KAREN

Hi Brent. Hi Wanda.

BRENT

(IN A MOCK SERIOUS TONE) Hello,
officers. What can we do for you today?

DAVIS

(IN AN OFFICIAL POLICE BUSINESS TONE)
We were just wondering if there had
been any crimes committed that need our
immediate and professional attention.

BRENT LOOKS AT DAVIS, WONDERING WHAT HE'S UP TO.

BRENT

Well, I know this is a bit unusual, but
if there was any lawbreaking activity
going on, you two would *definitely* be
the first people I'd call.

DAVIS SMILES PROUDLY. KAREN LOOKS AT DAVIS, ANNOYED.

KAREN

What Davis means is: have you noticed any stolen property or merchandise that needs to be recovered? Merchandise worth, say, *more than* \$400?

BRENT AND WANDA LOOK AT KAREN, WONDERING WHAT IS GOING ON.

BRENT

Well, Wanda just stole Hank's pride. But I'm not sure what the value of that is. So, what's up with the blitz on stolen property?

KAREN

In Wullerton-

EVERYONE SPITS AT THE MENTION OF WULLERTON.

KAREN

the cops recovered, like, four hundred dollars worth of stolen merchandise and got this huge write-up in *The Howler*. Davis and I figured that there had to be someone around Dog River who has stolen at least that much property.

WANDA

(LOOKS AT BRENT) Oh, now we understand. You've decided to play cops and robbers!

BRENT

Wanda! It's their job. Playing cops, I mean. Right? I'm just checking...

DAVIS

So, then, you have nothing to report?

BRENT

I have nothing that was stolen...

KAREN AND DAVIS ARE VISIBLY DEJECTED.

BRENT

Why don't you ask at The Ruby?

KAREN AND DAVIS BRIGHTEN AT THE IDEA.

KAREN

Yeah, The Ruby. C'mon Davis, let's roll!

KAREN AND DAVIS EXIT CORNER GAS, BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER ON THE WAY OUT.

BRENT

Ah, it brings a tear to my eye whenever

I see our police force in action.

WANDA

Gives *me* an upset stomach.

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE

(OSCAR, EMMA)

OSCAR IS IN THE LIVING ROOM SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING TELEVISION. EMMA IS CAREFULLY ARRANGING FLOWERS IN A VASE. SHE SMILES AND PLACES THE VASE ON A SIDE TABLE. THE VASE STARTS SLIDING. EMMA WATCHES IT FOR A BIT AND CATCHES IT BEFORE IT SLIDES OFF THE TABLE.

EMMA

(SUGARY TONE) Oscar... Oscar!

OSCAR

(ANNOYED AT THE INTERRUPTION) What?

EMMA

(SUGARY VOICE) Want to see a neat trick?

OSCAR

(NOT LOOKING BACK AT EMMA. GROWING MORE AND MORE ANNOYED AT THE INTERRUPTION) You don't know any neat tricks!

EMMA

Look, I'll show you one.

OSCAR

(TURNS AROUND) This better be good. Red's just about to use the duct tape on his car.

OSCAR TURNS AROUND AND WATCHES AS EMMA PLACES THE VASE ON THE TABLE. THIS TIME SHE LETS IT SLIDE OFF THE TABLE. IT CRASHES TO THE FLOOR.

EMMA

(LAUGHING) See, Oscar, what did I tell you! Neat trick, huh? Now, when are you gonna fix that leg again? The table's all askew.

OSCAR - FROM THE COUCH, WATCHING TELEVISION, TALKING TO EMMA OVER HIS SHOULDER.

OSCAR

You're askew, if you don't mind my saying so!

EMMA

You know, Oscar, a great man, a *wise* man, once said: 'There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action.'

OSCAR

Oh, yeah? Well, obviously he never saw *me* work!

EMMA

Obviously. (EMMA SIGHS) I thought you said you fixed this table, Oscar?

OSCAR

I did! The leveler must be off. Just slip the leveler back under the leg.

EMMA

The what?

OSCAR

(IRRITATED AT THE CONSTANT INTERRUPTION OF HIS TV WATCHING) The leveler! The leveler! You know... the book!

EMMA LOOKS DOWN UNDER THE TABLE AT THE FLOOR, AT THE TABLE LEG.

CUT TO:

BARTLETT'S FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS BOOK IS LYING BESIDE THE TABLE LEG ON THE FLOOR.

CUT BACK TO:

EMMA

Oh, the leveler! You had me confused with all of your technical jargon.

CUT TO:

EMMA'S FOOT NUDGES THE *BARTLETT'S* BACK UNDER THE LEG.

CUT TO:

INT. THE RUBY

(HANK, LACEY, BRENT, REGULARS seated at tables)

HANK IS COMPLAINING TO LACEY ABOUT ALWAYS LOSING THE QUOTE GAME TO WANDA.

HANK

And my quote, which I thought was a sure-fire stumper, was 'where's the beef?' But Wanda seemed to know it right away.

LACEY, LOOKING A BIT BEWILDERED, POURS BRENT A CUP OF COFFEE. SHE SYMPATHIZES WITH HANK, WHO IS SITTING NEXT TO BRENT.

LACEY

Oh, Hank. How were you supposed to know that Wanda would remember one of the most popular commercials of all time? I'm sorry... You... you don't want to borrow any money from me, do you? Because... I don't really have any-

HANK

Oh, no, no. Don't worry, Lacey. I'm gonna bet her double or nothing next time we play.

LACEY

(BRIGHTENS AT A THOUGHT) I have an idea. Why don't you check out *Bartlett's Quotations* in the library?

HANK

What's *Bartlett's*?

BRENT

Good idea, Lacey! *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*. It's a pretty famous book that lists all sorts of quotes. I'm sure it could help you, Hank. And remember: 'You cannot sit on the road to success, for if you do, you will get run over.'

HANK

(GETTING UP TO LEAVE) Uh.. thanks Brent, but I think I can cross the street without any of your safety tips!

LACEY

No Hank. That's not what Brent meant. He just meant that-

BRENT

Oh, just let him cross the street any way he wants, Lacey.

EXIT HANK.

LACEY

You know, Brent, I was wondering if you could help me out.

BRENT

Sure, just use a bit of baking soda and-

LACEY

No, no... Actually, I don't where you're going with that. But my problem is with Emma.

BRENT

I'm the president of the 'I Have a Problem With Emma' Club. So, what's *your* problem with my mother?

LACEY

I'd like to get on her good side.

BRENT

Ah, I see. That *is* a problem. You see, my mother doesn't *have* a good side!

LACEY

I'm serious, Brent.

BRENT

So am I! Well, she's currently heading up the Dog River Civic Pride Committee. Maybe you could volunteer to help out with something.

LACEY

Yeah! Hey, that's a really great idea! Thanks, Brent!

BRENT

Oh... uh... there's no need to mention that I told you about the Civic Pride Day festivities.

LACEY

Why not?

BRENT

My mother doesn't really like you. And she doesn't need any more reasons to dislike me.

CUT TO:

ACT 2INT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY

(HANK, ALICE the librarian)

HANK AT THE LIBRARY DESK, TALKING TO ALICE THE LIBRARIAN.

ALICE

(WHISPERS) I'm sorry. That book has been overdue for 15 years. It has never been returned. The only book that I've never been able to get back.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. THE RUBY

(KAREN, DAVIS at a table, HANK comes into the diner, LACEY is behind the counter talking to BRENT)

HANK

(SARCASTICALLY) Yeah, great tip, Lacey!

LACEY

What's wrong, Hank?

HANK

That book has been overdue for 15 years! The library posted a reward for its return, it's been gone so long!

BRENT

Gee, someone's a slow reader!

LACEY

Oh, Hank, I'm sorry. It would have been the perfect book for you. You know what that proverb says: 'He that steals an egg will steal an ox'.

HANK

Huh? Gee Lacey, you just don't get it,
do you? Someone took a book. A *book!*

HANK LOOKS AT BRENT AND SHAKES HIS HEAD. BRENT SHRUGS, AS IF TO
SAY, I DON'T KNOW.

BRENT

You know what else they say, Hank,
'Neither a lender nor borrower be'.
That one's from Gilligan's Island.

BRENT WHISTLES THE THEME FROM CARMEN.

HANK

(CONFUSED) Yeah, I guess I missed that
one.

KAREN AND DAVIS HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO THE CONVERSATION, THEIR
INTEREST PEAKED AT THE MENTION OF THE STOLEN PROPERTY.

KAREN

What's going on, Hank?

HANK

I went to get this book out of the
library and it turns out that it's
about 15 years overdue. And the
librarian won't tell me who the jerk is
that took it out. Why are you
interested?

DAVIS

Well, it just so happens that my
partner and I are looking to recover
some stolen property.

LACEY

Why? I mean, besides the obvious.

KAREN

Well.. we were just reading that in
Wullerton (EVERYONE IN THE DINER
EXCEPT LACEY SPITS)

LACEY

(GRIMACING) I just washed that floor...

KAREN

their police recovered some stolen
property, and Davis and I want to show
them up.

DAVIS

(FROWNING AT KAREN) You don't have to
say it like that! It makes it sound
so... crass.

KAREN

(TAKING HER CUE FROM DAVIS, DOWNPLAYS
THE COMPETITION) Oh, it's just a
friendly competition between us and -

LACEY CUTS IN, NOT WANTING THEM TO SAY WULLERTON AND SPIT ON THE
FLOOR AGAIN.

LACEY

That's okay! More coffee, anyone?
It's on the house! (LACEY HOLDS UP THE
COFFEE POT)

CUT TO:

EXT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY STEPS
(KAREN, DAVIS)

KAREN AND DAVIS ARE WALKING AWAY FROM THE LIBRARY.

DAVIS

(SMILING, PUFFING OUT HIS CHEST) Well, partner? How does it feel to be a real deputized Library Police officer?

KAREN

Davis, I'm already a *real-life* police officer. This isn't exactly something to write home about, you know.

DAVIS

(SMILING.) Oh, I know. But I've always wanted to work as part of the library police force. This is a lifelong dream of mine come true.

KAREN

(SHAKING HER HEAD) Davis, there's no such thing as... never mind. So, what's the plan?

DAVIS

Well, the librarian told us that Oscar was the last person to sign out that book. So I think we should pay him a little visit... just to see what he knows...

KAREN

Do you think he'll just hand the book over to us? You think he'll still have it, after 15 years?

DAVIS

I don't know. But I do know that that book has \$547.50 in unpaid overdue fines... along with a replacement value of \$75.00! And I mean to get every one of those overdue dollars collected! I can see the headlines now:

CUT TO:

SHOT OF *DOG RIVER HOWLER* HEADLINE: **DOG RIVER LIBRARY COPS RECOVER \$600 IN STOLEN LIBRARY PROPERTY**

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY STEPS
(KAREN, DAVIS)

DAVIS

Come on, Karen, this should be as easy as taking candy from a baby.

CUT TO:

EXT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - FRONT STEP
(KAREN, DAVIS, OSCAR)

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS AND OSCAR USHERS/PUSHES DAVIS AND KAREN OUT THE DOOR.

OSCAR

And don't come back unless you have a search warrant!

OSCAR SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT.

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(OSCAR)

(OSCAR LEANING WITH HIS BACK TO THE DOOR)

OSCAR

Library cops, my ass! (SMIRKS)

CUT TO:

EXT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - FRONT STEP
(KAREN, DAVIS)

KAREN

Can we actually get a search warrant
for an overdue book?

DAVIS

Not unless it was used while committing
a felony.

KAREN

But we still don't know if he even *has*
the book!

DAVIS

Exactly. We will have to use our
brains on this one.

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN
(OSCAR, EMMA, LACEY)

EMMA

Who was that?

OSCAR

Who was what?

EMMA

At the door? I just heard you talking to someone and slamming the door shut! Who was it?

OSCAR

Oh! That! That was, uh, the Library Police. Careful, Emma, they're gonna get you! (LAUGHS)

LACEY

The Library Police?

EMMA

Never mind him. I'll deal with him later. Look, what I had planned on doing for the Civic Pride Day was to get everyone in town together for a big party.

LACEY

That's a really great idea, Emma. Now, what can I do to help?

EMMA

Well, I had wanted to mail everyone in Dog River a fancy invitation, but the mayor's office isn't exactly breaking the bank on this, so I don't know if I can afford to get invitations printed *and* envelopes mailed.

LACEY

Tell you what. I'll pay for the postage and photocopy the invitations myself. It'll be The Ruby's contribution to Civic Pride Day.

EMMA

Oh, you'd do that? That would be really nice of you, Lacey. I think you could handle doing that. (SUDDENLY SUSPICIOUS OF LACEY'S MOTIVES) Why the sudden interest?

LACEY

Oh, I just want to be more involved in the Dog River community, that's all. So, Emma, do you want to check with the other members of the committee to see if it's okay that I help out?

EMMA

Lacey, I *am* the committee. So, if you want to help out, go ahead. That way I can get on with everything else. Thank you.

LACEY

(SMILING) My pleasure, Emma.

CUT TO:

INT. DOG RIVER POLICE STATION
(HANK, DAVIS, KAREN)

HANK

Any news on the book?

DAVIS

There have been recent developments, yes.

HANK

Really? That's great! What are the developments?

DAVIS

We're now officially deputized Library Police officers! (PUFFS OUT HIS CHEST)

HANK

(IMPRESSED) No way! Real deputized Library Cops? Wow!

KAREN LOOKS AT DAVIS AND HANK.

KAREN

You know, Hank, we're already *real police* officers!

HANK

Yeah, I know. But now you're Library Cops! Geez!

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(OSCAR, EMMA)

EMMA IS HOLDING THE *BARTLETT'S*.

EMMA

You mean to tell me that this is a *library* book?

OSCAR

Yep! (LAUGHS MISCHIEVOUSLY)

EMMA

Well, you have to return it!

OSCAR

I'll return it when I'm done with it!

OSCAR GRABS THE BOOK FROM EMMA AND PUTS IT BACK UNDER THE TABLE LEG.

EMMA

You can't do that! It's not your book!

OSCAR

It's signed out to me and I can do with it what I want until I return it!

EMMA

So that's what the Library Police were over here for? To get the library's book back?

OSCAR

Yep! (LAUGHS)

EMMA

We've had this book forever. How much do you owe on it?

OSCAR STOPS SMILING.

OSCAR

(ANGRY) It doesn't matter what I owe! Don't you see? I don't have to pay the fine until I return the book!

(MORE)

OSCAR (CONT'D)

And it'll be a cold day in Dog River
before *that* happens!

EMMA

(CROSSING HER ARMS) How much do you
owe, Oscar?

OSCAR

Huh? Oh, I don't know... at last
count... about 550 dollars.

EMMA SCREAMS AND THROWS HER HANDS UP IN THE AIR.

EMMA

Oh, you're on you're own with this one!

EMMA

EMMA STARTS TO WALK AWAY FROM OSCAR. SHE TURNS BACK TO FACE HIM.

EMMA

(SUSPICIOUS TONE) What did you use it
for?

OSCAR

Huh?

EMMA

The book. The \$550.00 quote book.
What quote were you looking for when
you signed it out 15 years ago?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK: 15 YEARS EARLIER.

EXT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY - STEPS
(YOUNGER OSCAR, YOUNGER BRENT)

YOUNGER OSCAR AND YOUNGER BRENT COMING OUT OF THE LIBRARY.

YOUNGER OSCAR

I got it! Now we can check out the value of this Brett Hull rookie card!

YOUNGER BRENT

Are you sure you got the right book, Dad? This says *Bartlett's*.

YOUNGER OSCAR

Of course I got the right book, Jack Ass!

YOUNGER BRENT

Didn't we want a '*Beckett's*'?

YOUNGER OSCAR

Bartlett's. *Beckett's*... what's the difference?

CUT TO:

INT. YOUNGER OSCAR'S CAR
(YOUNGER OSCAR, YOUNGER BRENT)

YOUNGER OSCAR GLARES AT YOUNGER BRENT WHO IS TRYING NOT TO LAUGH. YOUNGER OSCAR GETS MAD AND THROWS THE BOOK IN THE BACK SEAT OF HIS CAR.

YOUNGER OSCAR

Baah! It's probably not worth anything!

YOUNGER BRENT

Aren't you going to return the book?
We're right here!

YOUNGER OSCAR

Oh... I'll return it tomorrow! I don't have time for that right now.

CUT BACK TO:

PRESENT DAY

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(OSCAR, EMMA)

OSCAR

I'm not expected to remember every insignificant detail of my life, Emma! The point is, I signed it out and I'll return it when I'm good and ready to return it!

EMMA

You know that the library has an amnesty week every year. You could return the book any time during that week and all it would cost you might be a couple of canned goods for the food bank!

OSCAR

(LOSING PATIENCE) I'll return it when I'm done with it! Not you, and not those damned library cops are gonna tell me when to return the book!

CUT TO:

INT. THE RUBY
(OSCAR, LACEY, BRENT)

LACEY IS TALKING TO OSCAR AT THE COUNTER.

LACEY

Oscar, you know that book is public property! It belongs to everyone in Dog River! There are 450 people living here who have a share in that book!

OSCAR

Baah! That's Communist talk! You're a Commie, you know that? Is everyone in Toronto Red like you?

LACEY

(FLUSTERED, SPEECHLESS, LOOKS AT BRENT FOR HELP)

BRENT

Dad, as someone once said: "A blessed companion is a book - a book *that* fitly chosen is a lifelong friend." By keeping the book, you're depriving someone like Hank of a lifelong friend. And he needs all the friends he can get.

OSCAR IGNORES BRENT. CONTINUING HIS TIRADE. HE TURNS AROUND TO ADDRESS THE OTHER TABLES.

OSCAR

HEY, EVERYONE! LACEY SAYS THE COFFEE IS PUBLIC PROPERTY AND IT'S FREE!

LACEY

(SIGHING, PANICKING) No, no everyone. The coffee's not free. Just the refills.

OSCAR

Whatever, Commie! (OSCAR LAUGHS.
SHAKES HIS EMPTY CUP AT LACEY FOR A
REFILL.)

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN
(OSCAR, EMMA)

EMMA SITTING AT THE TABLE WITH A PILE OF ENVELOPES, INVITATIONS
AND STAMPS. SHE IS GETTING READY TO START STUFFING THE ENVELOPES
WHEN OSCAR WALKS INTO THE ROOM.

OSCAR

Oh, why don't you let me help you with
that?

EMMA

(SUSPICIOUSLY) Why?

OSCAR

Why not? That's why I'm here. Ready
to help and all that guff!

EMMA

I *do* have to go out for a few minutes.
You really don't mind stuffing these?
There's a lot of 'em.

OSCAR

(SMILING) I would be happy to help!

EMMA

(SUSPICIOUSLY) Okay...

EMMA LEAVES AND OSCAR REACHES FOR THE *BARTLETT'S* BOOK. HE SITS
AT THE TABLE AND LAUGHS AN EVIL LAUGH.

CUT TO:

ACT 3INT. THE RUBY

(HANK, BRENT, LACEY)

HANK IS OPENING HIS MAIL.

HANK

Oh wow! A Civic Pride Day Invitation!

This is great!

LACEY SMILES HAPPILY.

HANK

Wait... what's this?

HANK PULLS OUT LOOSE PAGES. LACEY, CONCERNED, LOOKS AT THEM.

LACEY

It's some pages from... *Bartlett's!*

HANK

The quote book? Great! Now I can
finally beat Wanda at our game!

BRENT IS LOOKING AT THE PAGES IN LACEY'S HAND.

BRENT

Uh... Hank... you seem to have got
three pages of the index. That's not
going to help you very much.

LACEY PULLS OUT HER ENVELOPE FROM HER APRON. SHE OPENS IT AND
ALSO FINDS THE CIVIC PRIDE DAY INVITATION ALONG WITH THE
BARTLETT'S PAGES.

LACEY

(LOOKS AT BRENT) Brent, I don't know
what happened here.

BRENT

Obviously, *someone* took your words about the book belonging to the community literally. Now, I wonder who would do that? And I wonder what his wife will say when she finds out?

LACEY

You don't think Emma is going to blame me for this do you? I had nothing to do with this! I just bought the postage.

BRENT

Oh, no, not at all! You know my mother. She's very reasonable when it comes to things like this.

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR AND EMMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(EMMA, OSCAR)

EMMA

Oscar! Why did you cut that book up and mail those pages in my Civic Pride Day invitations?

OSCAR

Don't blame me! Lacey told me that the book belonged to everyone. I was just doing my civic duty and returning it to everyone!

EMMA

Lacey! I knew she would screw this up somehow!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. THE RUBY

(LACEY, BRENT, HANK)

LACEY

(RESIGNED) Here, Hank. If you want, you can have *my* pages. I seem to have gotten most of Samuel Clemens' *bon mots*.

HANK

Huh? Oh, thanks Lacey, but I'd rather get quotes from someone who's well known. Brent, what sections did you get?

BRENT

(WINKING AT LACEY BECAUSE HE IS PULLING HANK'S LEG) Oh, I got television quotes. Look... here's 'where's the beef?'

LACEY

What do you think we should do with all of these pages?

HANK

You know what I think? I think this is a job for the Library Police!

CUT TO:

EXT. DOG RIVER TOWN

15 SECONDS OF QUICK CUTS. KAREN AND DAVIS KNOCKING ON DOORS, CHASING PIECES OF PAPER AS THEY BLOW ACROSS THE STREET, FIGHTING WITH CHILDREN AND DOGS TRYING TO GET THE PAGES BACK, ETC.

CUT TO:

INT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY

(KAREN, DAVIS, ALICE)

DAVIS DEPOSITS A BIG BOX OF LOOSE LEAF SHEETS (THE NOW DESTROYED *BARTLETT'S* BOOK) ON THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK. DAVIS AND KAREN ARE SMILING. THE LIBRARIAN IS BEFUDDLED. SHE PULLS OUT A HANDFUL OF PAGES FROM THE BOX AND STARTS TO CRY.

DAVIS SHUSHES HER.

DAVIS

It's a library, ma'am.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOG RIVER LIBRARY

(KAREN, DAVIS)

KAREN

(HAPPY) Boy, that sure felt great!

All that police work, getting that book
back to the library!

DAVIS

(HAPPY) Yeah. That was great library
police work, partner!

CUT TO:

INT. CORNER GAS

(BRETT HULL, HANK, BRENT, WANDA)

WANDA IS TAKING BRETT HULL'S GAS MONEY. BRETT HULL IS PASSING THROUGH DOG RIVER AGAIN. HANK IS STANDING, FROZEN, STARING AT BRETT HULL.

WANDA

That'll be 20 dollars, please. (SHE
SMILES AT BRETT HULL)

BRETT HULL

(PAYS FOR GAS.) Here you go.

WANDA

Thanks.

BRETT

Hey! Brett Hull! Say, do you know
what your rookie card is worth?

BRETT HULL

Oh... I don't know. I guess you'd have
to check in the latest *Bartlett's* for
the current trading value.

WANDA

Did you say '*Bartlett's*'?

BRETT HULL

Uh... no. I said '*Beckett's*'. The
Beckett's card guide. (STARTS TO LEAVE
CORNER GAS)

BRETT

Are you sure you didn't say '*Bartlett's*'?

BRETT HULL

Yeah, I'm sure. And you can quote me
on that!

BRETT HULL EXITS CORNER GAS.

THE END