

The Meeting

by

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ISBN: 9781873130711
The Playwrights Publishing Co

THE MEETING

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THE MEETING

Scene. Village Hall. A few tables and some chairs scattered. Door stage right, windows on back wall.

Cast

Chair.	Either male or female.
Clerk.	Either male or female.
Sarah.	Little bit simple.
Ken.	Local farmer.
Gupta.	Village shop keeper.
Dot.	Chief Constable.
Gwyn.	Chiropodist and part time fortune teller.
Brian.	Local business man.
Fireman	(or woman).

Opens.

Clerk sorting papers at a table.

Chair arranging chairs and putting name cards out.

Chair. Do you think anyone will come?

Clerk They should. I told them all. I think.

Chair The village stinks tonight.

Clerk Ken's been muck spreading.

Chair Wish he'd do it when the wind is in the other direction.

(Enter Sarah.)

Sarah Hello, smells a bit out there.

Clerk Ken's been muck spreading.

(Enter Gwyn)

Gwyn Hello everyone.

Chair Hello Gwyn you look different.

Gwyn Oh, I've just finished giving someone a reading.

THE MEETING

Sarah What did you read to them?

Gwyn A palm reading.

Sarah Don't know that one. Who wrote it?

Chair Stop trying to wind Gwyn up, Sarah.

Sarah Must have been a short story.

(Enter Gupta and Ken)

Gupta Chairman. I wish to say that the street light outside my shop is not working.

Clerk But there isn't a street light outside your shop.

Gupta I know. That's why it's not working.

Ken Am I late? I had a problem with the spreader.

Chair No Ken, you're not late and I think everyone can smell your problem.

Ken That's the trouble, it sticks to everything.

Chair We have an application for the vacancy on the council from a Mr. Misure Cowsky

Ken Odd Christian name that!

Sarah What is?

Ken Misure, I know he must be foreign but it's still an odd name.

Chair No it's Anton Misurecowsky.

Ken Not the one from Mill Lane is it?

Sarah That's him. Nice family.

THE MEETING

- Gupta Yes very nice family, always in my shop.
- Ken Five kids?
- Gupta Very well behaved, all of them.
- Ken Little baskets they are.
- Gupta Oh no, very well behaved and polite.
- Ken Caught 'em in my orchard pinching apples. Told 'em I'd take my shotgun to 'em if I saw them in there again.
- Clerk I used to pinch apples from your orchard.
- Ken God, not you as well?
- Clerk We all did when we were kids
- Ken When you were kids, yeh, so did I 'til my dad told me not to
- Chair But it was your dad's orchard.
- Ken I know but I didn't want to get left out did I?
- Clerk I got the belt for that.
- Ken Not from my dad?
- Clerk No! From mine. He took a bite and there was a worm in it. Bit it in two.
- Chair No!
- Clerk He told me in future to pick the apples off the tree and not to pick them up off the ground.
- Sarah What happened then Ken?
- Ken Happened when?
- Sarah When you threatened them with your shot gun?

THE MEETING

- Ken Threatened who?
- Sarah Those kids who were pinching your apples. I do hope he'll let us use his first name.
- Ken I got two fingers and a load of abuse.
- Chair I'm sure he will.
- Gupta I hope he can speak English.
- Chair Who can speak English, Gupta?
- Gupta Anton. I hope he can speak English.
- Sarah Why? What difference does it make?
- Gupta We don't want any foreigners on the council. Not speaking the Queens English like what I do.
- Chair Well he is the only applicant.
- (Sound of thunder)
- Gwyn Oh! I've had a vision. The lights are going to go out.
- (She looks skyward)
- Ken They always go out when it rains.
- Chair This roof leaks like a sieve.
- Gupta Can we not do anything about it Chairman?
- Clerk Yes, put your umbrellas up.
- Chair We can't hold a meeting under umbrellas.
- Clerk We have done it before.
- Gwyn Oh! I feel it coming.
- Gupta What do you feel coming?

THE MEETING

- Ken The six fifty- three from Kings Cross
- Gwyn Doom!!!
- Ken God, the roof'll go this time.
- Clerk Solid that roof. Just leaks a bit.
- Chair How much for a new roof?
- Clerk I'd have to get three quotes.
- Chair Didn't you do that six months ago?
- Clerk I did but the price might have gone up since then and we have been waiting for a decision from the county council about it. You know how slow they can be at times.
- Ken Except at election time, then they do things straight away. Damn Jerry builders.
- Gupta Couldn't we find an English builder?
- Ken For what?
- Gupta To fix the roof. Well they'll have a long way to come won't they?
- Clerk Who will?
- Gupta The Jerry builders. From Germany.
- Ken Didn't we have it done three or four years ago?
- Clerk Just a minute. No it was seven.
- Chair Who did it? Do you know?
- Ken The same firm who did Guptas garage.
- Gupta But they came from Birmingham not from Germany.

THE MEETING

- Clerk Who did?
- Gupta The firm who did my garage roof.
- Ken What's it like?
- Gupta Sort of flat with stones and tar and things. Fine until it rains.
- Gwyn Doom!
- Sarah I've left my 'brolly at home.
- Ken We could always have the meeting in the pub.
- Clerk Not if they sell alcohol.
- Ken What else would a pub sell?
- Clerk You can't have a meeting in premises that sell alcohol.
- Sarah We sell it here in the hall
- Clerk Only on special occasions.
- Sarah But we sell it.
- Ken I didn't think we had a licence.
- Chair We haven't.
- Gupta Then how?
- Chair Don't ask.
- Clerk You can get away with a lot if the Chief Constable lives in the village.
- Ken Does he?
- Chair She.
- Ken I didn't know that. Where?

THE MEETING

- Clerk The Old Barn. She is on the council, which you would know if you attended more meetings Ken.
- Ken She's.....Oh God
- Chair You've gone white as a sheet. What's wrong Ken?
- Ken I think that I sprayed manure all over her back garden.
- Chair Oh no!
- Ken Oh yes! The damn valve jammed open and it just gushed out.
It must be half an inch deep all over.
- Sarah Make her tomatoes grow
- Clerk And her lawn.
- Chair Well she said that she'd be here tonight.
- Ken I'm off.
- Chair No your not. You can face her like a man.
- Ken With jelly for legs. You don't need me just for this do you?
I vote yes.
- Chair You're here for the meeting. I'm sure she'll forgive you.
- Ken Her washing was out.
- Clerk Oh no.
- Gwyn Doom.
- Ken Yes mine.
- Gupta Look on the bright side.
- Ken If there is a bright side no doubt you'll tell us what it is.