

“WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD”

A comic sketch

by

Annette Pakenham-Walsh

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WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD

The action takes place in the café of a public library

CAST: JUNE
BARBARA
ROSE
VERA
DORIS

PROPS: June - One Handbag
Barbara - One Handbag
Rose - A shell suit and one tool bag
Vera - One newspaper and one handbag
Doris - One newspaper and one handbag

(All middle-aged women)

STAGE SETTING: A table and two chairs down centre. Hang amateur paintings on the flats and use, if possible, meccano-type shelving on which to display just a few books. Provide a computer and keyboard on a small desk. Tuck into a corner a small tea trolley that could contain some sandwiches and brightly packaged factory made biscuits. Steps to be placed on auditorium floor centre stage.

CURTAIN UP TO: 'I Am Woman' sung by Helen Reddy. June and Barbara are seated at the table. In front of each woman is a cup and saucer and a plate, which contains one half of a scone.

JUNE: Books don't seem to be high on the agenda in provincial libraries these-days. First it was the local art society's over-priced offerings nailed to the walls, then the tiny tots Saturday morning read-ins, which they turned into a circus and now there's this café facility. Anything rather than cultivate silence. These libraries used to be like churches, havens of peace and harmony. On reflection though, perhaps one hundred percent quiet does tend to make the fragrance of flatulence more alarming. (Gestures towards the plates) It took long enough to get served with this. I could have peeled five pounds of potatoes in the time.

BARBARA: Someone should speak to the Manager.

ROSE: (Taking a bite of scone) This scone tastes of sardine!

BARBARA: Rose makes lovely scones. It's funny she hasn't turned up this morning. Probably doing her stint for Age Concern. They've got a scheme going called 'Potholing for the Elderly'. It must be quite absorbing.

JUNE: Ooh Rose! Rose does everything better than anyone else apparently.

BARBARA: She's very good at DIY. She's even bought herself a dishwasher so she'll have more time to put up shelving.

JUNE: I went round to her house last week to change Bill's dressings so Rose could put his wheelchair through the car wash and, do you know, when I took a look inside that famous dishwasher, there were only spanners and cross-head screwdrivers waiting to be washed.

BARBARA: Tools! What on earth were tools doing in a dishwasher?

JUNE: Well, you know how Rose likes everything to be sterilised before she uses it.

BARBARA: It's no wonder she never had any children!

JUNE: Children can be a mixed blessing.

BARBARA: Do you mean multi-racial?

JUNE: No! I don't mean black and white.

BARBARA: My Alec records all the black and white movies on Channel 2. I watched a lovely film yesterday afternoon. It followed Gloria Hunniford. I didn't see all of it because the sink was blocked and next door had a crisis of confidence over the Betterware catalogue. There was this gorgeous leading man - Mark.... somebody.... I just can't quite think.... Anyhow, I'd like to find him in my Christmas stocking.

JUNE: Don't bring up Christmas. All that brouhaha about a two-day holiday. I like to do all my Christmas shopping in January, when the sales are on. Get it out of the way and then by November I'm gift-wrapped, tray-baked and ready for the off.