

Ass and the Elephant

by
Ron Foth Jr.

April 21, 2007

ronfothjr@ronfoth.com

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, owner of the house on the left, forward. In his fifties, Lenny is a bit unkept, has thick hair and wears glasses. Lenny holds stack of BLUE POLITICAL SIGNS that he's about to jab into his yard. But first, he gives a menacing look to his nemesis next door, then pokes a VOTE NO sign into grass.

ROY LIVINGSTON, owner of the house on the right, steps forward. He in his fifties too is neat, polished and has a pot belly. He also carries a stack of political signs, however his are RED. He pokes one into his yard reading VOTE YES. He glares Lenny. The showdown begins.

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

While happens, a MIDDLE EASTERN neighbor watches from across street. His head moves left to right, as if observing a tennis match.

Finally Lenny and Roy reach the edge of their property lines and are 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 and complains to his wife, MITZI.

LENNY
Fascist Freak.

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

Roy looks past his curtain at Lenny's yard and 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. 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 proud of their declarations.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Lenny's wife is fed up with his outburst, picks up 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, fed up as well, leaves.

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 and notices Donette going to her car
 too. 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 left as Donette exits right.

INT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Anxious and bored, Lenny paces room. 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 front window. Suddenly Lenny is shocked at what he notices outside.

LENNY
(to himself)
What in the hell!

Lenny rushes outside.

EXT. PARKER HOME - DAY

Like a man on a mission, Lenny bursts out door to the front of his yard. Anger builds as he bends down to pick up the unthinkable...a RED SIGN poking out among a sea of his blue ones. Lenny knows who to blame.

LENNY
 (under his breath)
 Son of a bitch!

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

INT. LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

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

LENNY
 Livingston... Livingston!

Lenny enters kitchen.

LENNY (CONT'D)
 Livingston!

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

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) I wish I had.

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 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 a most unusual fashion. Both on their knees, but instead of being back to back, they've been tied chest to chest forcing their faces to practically touch each other. They stare at one another less than an inch apart. Roy's still shirtless.

A lanky, clumsy male wearing all black carries a large, white fabric sack. Known as the NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER, he nervously closes front curtains.

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's sidetracked by local newspaper on Roy's table.

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

Robber proudly shows off newspaper covering his face. Paper features a SKETCH of a SMILING Robber wearing a SKI MASK. He then lowers 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. (Gets kick out of 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 and begins robbing house. Aggravated, both men are silent. In another room, Robber's heard crashing into things. Roy breaks 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
Ol' Hew-Haw locked up.

LENNY
(collective sigh)

ROY
Lock 'em up and throw away the key I say.
But noooo, you wanna rehabilitate 'em.
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, 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

Bad guys...Oh you mean like those white color, retirement swindling crooks you worship. No, I prefer to leave them locked up in their country club cells.

ROY

Oh Ha!

LENNY

Ha!!

Robber notices banter and approaches.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Hey. Hey!

Lenny and Roy stop bickering.

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 and Lenny can't help but to start banter 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 over inflated balloon from the Macy's Parade. Here's a hint, 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 more damage to the ozone than any spray can! Maybe you outta be more "liberal" with some mints.

Lenny has reached his limit.

LENNY

Oh yeah.

ROY

Yeah.

LENNY

Yeah well...

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 and bumping his belly into Lenny. Like two prizefighter exchanging punches, they go back and forth with their physical exchange. First a breath then a belly bump over an over again.

Then much like sword fighters, the two take the fight up notch by dueling each other with their noses. The exchanges get faster while the grunts get louder.

Robber hears ordeal from master bedroom then peeps around corner to see. He's in disbelief as he witnesses Lenny and Roy tip over on their side and begin spinning around while kicking. Fed up, much like a father would be at his disobedient children, the robber reprimands.

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 daddy 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

(interrupts quarrel)

Then...one day! 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 a
wonderful Cockney dish where the flavors
got a long real nice.

Both men sit silent and confused.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
(CONT'D)

So just like me and my brother had to...

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

LENNY & ROY

Ouch! Owe!!

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

...you both are gonna sit here and say
something "nice" to each other. That's
boiled beef and carrots.

Both are silent.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER
(CONT'D)

Who's goin' first?

LENNY

Aren't you supposed to be robbin' the
place?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

We got a volunteer!

LENNY

How come he doesn't have to go first?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROBBER

Cause I'm askin' real polite.

To make his point, 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's 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 all in the chemicals. My secret blend of fertilizer, fungicide and pesticide does the trick.

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 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 seaweed proteins absorb into the scalp and grows it fuller.

ROY

(slight joy)

Grows it?!

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 buds, 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 doin' is
leavn' this place, with a splitting...

At that very moment a loud crash of breaking glass is heard. Both are surprised to see Robber now dazed and teetering on passing out. With a last gasp, Robber drops gun, collapses and is out cold. Glass is everywhere. Both look to see their Middle Eastern Neighbor holding remainder of 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 was 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 Ronald Reagan.

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

ROY
 Don't you dare make fun of this countries
 finest First Lady!

LENNY
 You mean "Just Say No" Nancy...

ROY
 At least she cared about the kids.

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

Lenny and Roy continue to debate.

Holding gun, Middle Eastern slowly approaches the two still tied. He moves in on Lenny and Roy and intensely aims gun at Lenny. Men don't notice he is there and continue to argue. Suddenly, while adamantly making a his point, Lenny gets dowsed with stream of water. Middle Eastern man then points gun at Roy soaking him with water too. It's a SQUIRT GUN. The two are humiliated as Middle Eastern laughs in sheer delight.

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

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTERANCE ROY'S HOUSE - DAY

Siren on police cruiser is on as officer leads
 Neighborhood Robber, still with ski cap, to vehicle.

Lenny and Roy with Middle Eastern exit front door to warm
 welcome of the 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 takes 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 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's excited about hair.

EXT. LENNY'S YARD - NIGHT

With great exuberance, Lenny spreads the fertilizer across yard. Suddenly, the spreader is caught and stopped by something in front of him. Confused, he curiously looks to discover spreader has been stopped by another RED SIGN someone's again mysteriously placed in his yard. Anger builds as he yanks sign from the ground and looks toward Roy's home.

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 outside and angry, Roy gives one last "maybe he did it, maybe he didn't do it" expression then quickly turns lights off.

CUT TO:

BLACK AND CREDITS