SPIES

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by

David J. LeMaster

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Two people, 1 and 2, approach each other. They both look nervous. They both wear disguises. 1 looks at 2, looks around to be sure no one is listening, and then speaks softly.

1: Hello.
2: Hello.
1: Nice day, don’t you think?
2: Yes. Isn’t it.
1: Hmm. I was just wondering if. . . (very deliberate) The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.
2: What was that?
1: I said, the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.
2: That’s from My Fair Lady, right?
1: (alarmed) Forget it.
2: No, really. I know it wasn’t Sound of Music, but it’s Julie Andrews.
1: I said forget it.
2: Where are you going?
1: Never you mind.
2: How did that tune go? (tries to sing) Was that it?
1: Please. Go away.
2: Why?
1: Beat it.
2: Or was it - (sings dramatically) Oklahoma! Where the wind goes sweeping down the plain?
1: (shocked) Did you just say, “Oklahoma?”
2: You heard me.
1: Alas, poor Yorik.
2: First thing, let’s kill all the lawyers.
1: This shall determine that.
2: You have made worms’ meat out of me.
1: So it is you, Agent 00210753.6!
2: Not so loud, you idiot! Do you want someone to hear us?
1: (lowers voice) Why didn’t you answer when I gave you the secret code?
2: Shhh! (points) See the guy across the street?
1: Yeah?
2: He’s watching.
1: I’ll take him out.
2: Wait! He may only be an innocent bystander.
1: Then why is he watching us?
2: Because we’ve been singing show tunes for the last five minutes.
1: Oh. Yeah.
2: We’ve got to test him. Pretend I just said something funny.
1: Huh?
2: Laugh.
1: Ha ha.
2: For real. Laugh and then look away.
1: (follows directions, pause) Is he still watching?
2: Yes.
1: What’ll we do?
2: Sit tight a sec. Did you bring the package?
1: Yes.
2: Where is it?
1: Under my coat.
2: Give it to me.
1: Is he still watching?
2: No. Give it to me. (They make an inconspicuous exchange. Pause.) Mazel Tav.
1: (taken aback) What was that?
2: Help me, Obi One Kenobi. You’re my only hope.
1: (horrified) I see the bad moon a’risin’!
2: The day the music died.
Hold your horses.

Don’t count your chickens.

Mares eat oats, and does eat oats, and little lambs eat ivy.

A kid’ll eat ivy, too. Wouldn’t you?

1: HOW MANY ROADS MUST A MAN WALK DOWN?
2: (grins) IS THERE BALM IN GILEAD?
1: You’re not Agent 00210753.6!
2: Of course not! I’m Double Agent AABBCC! And I’ve been watching you, Agent 62455.
1: I should have known!
2: Too bad your friend across the street walked away.
1: Give me back that package!
2: Never!
1: Then I’ll take it from you. (strikes fight pose)
2: You’ll have to kill me first!

(They fight. Lots of kicks, chops, etc. Neither can overcome the other.)

You fight well, 62455. But not well enough.
1: Give it back.
2: Never! Do you see the man reading the paper on the street corner? He’s one of our agents. And at this very moment, he’s holding a gun on you.
1: You fiend!
2: Surrender!
1: Never. Do you see the fire hydrant?
2: Yes?
1: I’ve got an agent in there. And he’s got you covered as well.
2: The woman pushing the baby carriage. Inside it is an antiballistic missile.
1: The men moving the pianos. It’s not really a piano. It’s a piano-shaped bazooka.
2: The Ford across the street is filled with our agents.
1: The chopper in the sky is filled with ours.
2: The little old woman over there!
1: The guy tossing pizza!
2: Yeah, but the pizza belongs to us. It’s really a laser homing device disguised as a pizza, and it allows our satellites in orbit to target the top of your head.
1 and 2: We’ve got you completely surrounded!
1: There’s only one way to determine this.
2: What’s that?
1: The stare.
2: No!
1: Yes.
2: It’s been outlawed by the international conference of spies. Too dangerous.
1: Then surrender the package.
2: I’ll die first.
1: Then prepare for—the stare.
2: One word from me, and my spies will shoot your spies.
1: They won’t. The international spy code says once the stare challenge has been issued, nobody can interfere. It’s like a duel in the old west. A joust in the Renaissance. A standardized test in high school. You have no choice. Fight or die.
2: Very well.

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