

# I DID IT ALL FOR THE SCISSORS

By Bradley Walton

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# I DID IT ALL FOR THE SCISSORS

*A Ten Minute Comedic Duet*

**By Bradley Walton**

**SYNOPSIS:** Brenda is being interviewed on a TV talk show about her amazingly long career as a high school librarian. But no matter what she's asked, Brenda's answers keep coming back to the same subject...the scissors she had in the library.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2 either; gender flexible)*

MIKE / MINDY HECKMAN (m/f) ..... A television host. *(43 lines)*

BRENDA / BRAD WALKER (m/f) ..... 82; A recently retired high school librarian. *(42 lines)*

## COSTUMES

MIKE – Nicely dressed.

BRENDA – Nicely dressed, has a purse.

## PROPS

- Scissors

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Brenda should initially come across as decrepit and feeble, but as the script progresses and she gets worked up, she should become more physically active—standing, moving around, and gesturing vigorously as she speaks. Mike stays seated, but may move, squirm, and periodically need to dodge Brenda while remaining in his chair. Brenda has a purse on the floor beside her chair. Inside the purse is the pair of scissors. If male, Brad should have the scissors in his pocket. If performed for competition, the actors may stand and props may be mimed.

**AUTHOR NOTES**

This script was inspired by a pair of scissors I use at the library where I work. Well, the inspiration wasn't really the scissors themselves, but rather, my attitude towards them. They have been there longer than I have, and they are pretty much identical to the scissors described in this script; they are amazing. I am very, very protective of them. So don't touch. I mean it.

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**AT RISE:** MIKE and BRENDA, both seated.

**MIKE:** Good evening and welcome to *Our Local Show*. Local news and local people in your local area. I'm Mike Heckman. Tonight's special guest is Brenda Walker, who has just retired at the age of 82 after serving our area youth for an amazing fifty years as the librarian at Park Meadow High School. Brenda, welcome to our show.

**BRENDA:** Thank you, Mike.

**MIKE:** Fifty years. Wow. That's incredible. Did you imagine when you started at Park Meadow that you'd be there fifty years later?

**BRENDA:** No, I really didn't.

**MIKE:** What was so special about this job that you stayed for long?

**BRENDA:** The scissors.

**MIKE:** I beg your pardon?

**BRENDA:** The scissors.

**MIKE:** The...scissors?

**BRENDA:** The library had the most amazing pair of scissors. They'd cut through anything and, they never got dull. They were solid, well-balanced, and easy to hold. I'd used a lot of other scissors before then, and all of them were cheap, flimsy pieces of junk that would give you blisters and barely cut through a piece of paper. But not these. These were special.

**MIKE:** Well, that's very interesting. Moving on...is there any one moment in your fifty years that particularly stands out in your mind?

**BRENDA:** The first time I used the scissors.

**MIKE:** (*Not the answer he was hoping for.*) Really?

**BRENDA:** I'd just laminated fifty copies of the periodic table of elements for the chemistry teacher, and they needed to be trimmed. We had a student library helper who was supposed to do jobs like that, but he wasn't there for some reason. Probably making out with his girlfriend in the stairwell or something. And the teacher needed these periodic tables that afternoon. So I had to trim them myself.

**MIKE:** Did you have a lot of student library helpers over the years?

**BRENDA:** Yes. (*Resuming her previous train of thought.*) So I picked up this pair of scissors and my first thought was that they felt really comfortable in my hand. Especially for something made out of metal. The curves of the handles were incredibly smooth.

**MIKE:** Do you feel that helping in the library is a valuable work experience for students?

**BRENDA:** Yes. (*Resuming her previous train of thought.*) Someone obviously put a lot of thought into the structure of the human hand when they designed those scissors. And they were exactly the right weight—substantial without being too heavy.

**MIKE:** I'm sure you had many other substantial experiences during your fifty years in public education.

**BRENDA:** Oh yes, definitely.

**MIKE:** Please, share one with us.

**BRENDA:** One time I left the scissors sitting out on the circulation desk, and a student came along and picked them up.

**MIKE:** And did this student forget to return them?

**BRENDA:** Oh, he never got the chance. I grabbed an encyclopedia off the book return cart and threw it at his head. Knocked him right out. That taught him not walk off with my scissors.

**MIKE:** (*Laughing uncomfortably.*) Ha...ha? That's um...quite a sense of humor you have there.

**BRENDA:** What sense of humor?

**MIKE:** (*Changing the subject.*) While we're on the subject of young people, I'm sure you nurtured some amazing ones over the years.

**BRENDA:** I did, yes.

**MIKE:** Tell me about some of them.

**BRENDA:** Well, there was Miranda Knighten. She was valedictorian of her class. Brilliant girl. And humble, too. Sweetest disposition you could ask for in a teenager. She asked if she could use the scissors once. I told her if she so much as breathed on them, I'd whack her with a 2x4.

**MIKE:** How about Robert Osborn? He graduated from Park Meadow and went on to become our state governor. Did you know him when he was in high school?

**BRENDA:** Oh, yes. Robert. I remember him very well. Very well indeed.

**MIKE:** Does this have something to do with the scissors?

**BRENDA:** How did you know?

**MIKE:** Lucky guess. And what he do?

**BRENDA:** He looked at them.

**MIKE:** He looked at them?

**BRENDA:** That's right.

**MIKE:** And then what happened?

**BRENDA:** Nothing.

**MIKE:** He just looked at them, and then...nothing?

**BRENDA:** Correct.

**MIKE:** Why does that stand out in your mind?

**BRENDA:** Because he was looking at my scissors.

**MIKE:** *(Becoming more and more convinced that BRENDA is nuts.)*

Ooo...kay.

**BRENDA:** I never trusted him after that. Didn't vote for him, either.

**MIKE:** Let me ask a different question. Do you have any regrets?

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