

ACT 1

SCENE 1

EMPTY STAGE. BETTY (LATE 50'S, WIDOW) IS SAT ON A CHAIR, BASEBALL BAT IN ONE HAND AND FLASHLIGHT IN THE OTHER.

BETTY: Come on if you're coming. Always sneaking around at night. But you won't get your way tonight. I'm ready for you.

BETTY TUCKS THE FLASHLIGHT UNDER HER LEG, GRABS THE BAT IN BOTH HANDS AND TAKES A FEW PRACTICE SWINGS.

Yeah, that'll do. You won't know what hit you, you little bastards. I'll knock you into the middle of next week.

BETTY RETURNS THE BAT TO REST IN HER LAP AND RETRIEVES THE FLASHLIGHT. SHE SWITCHES IT ON AND SCANS AROUND THE GARDEN WITH IT. SHE RESTS THE LIGHT BEAM ON A POT.

What the... Those fucking squirrels have been in again. Look at the state of that. I just potted those bulbs up this morning.... Aaaaaargh.

BETTY LOOKS UP INTO THE NIGHT SKY.

Have you seen what they've done George? Those squirrels are just taking the biscuit. As if I didn't have enough with those sods coming into the garden nicking the apples and kicking over your gnomes. Every morning I have to come out here and clean the mess up. Well tonight they're going to get what for. Even if I have to stay out here all night.

BETTY TURNS OFF THE FLASHLIGHT AND RETURNS HER ATTENTION TO THE FENCES.

ACT 1

SCENE 2

WE HEAR A SCRAPING NOISE AT THE REAR FENCE. BETTY READIES THE FLASHLIGHT AND LIFTS THE BAT TO HER SIDE.

BETTY: Come on out, you bastards. I hear you.

THE SCRAPING SOUND STOPS. BETTY WAITS FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE APPROACHING THE FENCE. SHE SCANS UP AND DOWN WITH THE FLASHLIGHT BUT SEES NOTHING BUT BUSHES, FLOWERS AND A FEW GNOMES STARING BACK. BETTY MOVES BACK TOWARD THE HOUSE BEFORE NOTICING A PILE OF APPLES ON THE GRASS. SHE LOCATES A DISCARDED PLANT POT, PLACES THE APPLES INSIDE AND RETURNS TO HER SEAT.

(MUTTERING): Thieving bastards.

BETTY SETTLES BACK DOWN ... WAITING.

ACT 1

SCENE 3

BETTY IS SAT DOZING IN HER CHAIR. THE FLASHLIGHT IS LAY ON HER LAP AND THE BASEBALL BAT PROPPED AGAINST THE CHAIR. WE HEAR A SCRAPING NOISE FROM THE SIDE FENCE WHICH AWAKENS BETTY.

BETTY: (UNDER HER BREATH): Come on then. I'm ready for you.

BETTY REACHES DOWN LIFTING THE BAT AND POINTING THE FLASHLIGHT AT THE BUSHES NEAR THE FENCE. A FEW MOMENTS LATER WE SEE 2 SMALL BLACK AND WHITE FACES APPEAR. AS THEY MOVE INTO THE LIGHT, WE SEE 2 MORE SMALL BLACK AND WHITE FACES APPEAR FOLLOWED BY A LARGER VERSION OF THE SAME.

Aaaaah, babies. You have babies. Aren't they cute?

THE BADGERS TRUNDLE OVER THE BORDERS KNOCKING A MOONING GNOME ONTO IT'S FACE AND THE FISHING GNOME INTO THE POND.

Aaaaah, bless. Look at you. A bit clumsy, but so sweet.

AS THE MOTHER BADGER KEEP A WARY EYE ON THE PROCEEDINGS, THE 4 BADGER CUB PACK SURGE FORWARD TOWARDS BETTY AND HER CHAIR. AS THEY ARRIVE, THEY KNOCK OVER THE PLANT POT AND BEGIN EATING THE APPLES. BETTY CHUCKLES TO HERSELF, PLACES THE BAT DOWN BY HER SIDE AND LOOKS UP TO THE SKY.

Well, what do you know, George? Badger cubs. Aren't they wonderful?

BETTY SETTLES BACK IN HER CHAIR WATCHING THE CUBS.

CURTAIN