

REALER THAN REAL

by Ken Bradbury



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The characters: Moe, Toby, Val, and Logan. The actors can be either gender. The script refers to “her” and “he,” but the parts are interchangeable ... in fact, funnier if played against type.

Moe sits working at his desk.

TOBY: (*entering*) This Real Life Productions?

MOE: You got an appointment?

TOBY: Appointment? I won't need an appointment once you hear my idea.

MOE: Get an appointment.

TOBY: You're Moe, right?

MOE: I'm Moe ... and you still need an appointment.

TOBY: You're the one who produces all the great reality shows ... Swamp Idiots, Bird Killers, Bachelors and Babes?

MOE: That's me. Call me next week.

TOBY: Whoa! Whoa! Do you really want me to take the best new ideas in reality TV down the street to someone else?

MOE: Yeah. Maybe he doesn't need an appointment. Look, just leave your number with my secretary, and ...

TOBY: Gimme a chance, Moe! Just take a look! I've already made the demo tapes! It'll only take a minute, I promise you, then you'll be ready to sign a million-dollar deal.

MOE: Right now I'm working on a fifty-cent cup of coffee. Make it fast ... and if you waste my time you'll never get in this place again. So whatta you got?

TOBY: This is great. This is really great! Wait 'til you see it.

MOE: Come on! Come on! I'm busy!

TOBY: Okay, so you make TV shows about real-life people doing real-life things.

- MOE:** That's the idea.
- TOBY:** Like people who live in swamps and make duck calls and enter beauty contests?
- MOE:** Those are all mine. Get to the point ... uh ...
- TOBY:** Toby. I'm Toby.
- MOE:** I'm bored already.
- TOBY:** No! No! Look, you take common every day people doing ordinary things but they're fun to watch, right?
- MOE:** My coffee's getting cold.
- TOBY:** Okay ... the first one ... oh, you're gonna love the title!
- MOE:** I can't wait.
- TOBY:** Okay. It opens with this great music, then the screen goes blank and the title appears on the TV: "Somebody Call the Plumber!" Roll the tape!
- (Val and Logan portray all the reality show roles.)*
- VAL:** *(over-dramatically)* Oh no! Oh no! Whatever shall I do?! My kitchen faucet! It's dripping! It's leaking! My life is over!
- LOGAN:** *(entering with a flourish)* Fear not, madam! I am here!
- VAL:** And who are you?
- LOGAN:** I am ... *(strikes a noble pose)* ... Paul the Plumber!
- VAL:** Paul the Plumber!
- LOGAN:** Indeed! And I shall fix your leak! I shall stop your drip! I shall ...
- MOE:** I shall get sick if I have to watch any more of this. *(Val and Logan exit quickly.)*
- TOBY:** You didn't like it?
- MOE:** More like "hate." Go bother somebody else.
- TOBY:** Hey, that was just a teaser ... the really good stuff's coming up.
- MOE:** My breakfast is about to come up. Make it quick.
- TOBY:** Great! Okay ... Picture this ... Music comes in under the picture of a huge plane taking off, and here comes ... "Security Check!"
- VAL:** *(offstage voice)* Attention, please! Flight 1107 for Miami now boarding at Gate 49.

- LOGAN:** (*rushing in, frantic*) I've got to catch that flight.
- VAL:** Not so fast, lady. Got to check your bags.
- LOGAN:** But my flight is leaving in ten minutes.
- VAL:** Too bad. (*taking her imaginary luggage*) Heavy.
- LOGAN:** There's nothing important in there, I promise.
- VAL:** I guess we'll just see. (*opens the suitcase*) Socks, underwear, shoes ... uh. There's a man in here.
- LOGAN:** He's my husband. (*Val just stares at her a moment.*) Husband. He's mine. I married him 20 years ago.
- VAL:** What's your husband doing in your luggage?
- LOGAN:** They only had one ticket left on the plane and my niece is getting married tomorrow in Miami. It was the only way to get him on.
- VAL:** He looks really cramped.
- LOGAN:** Oh, he always looks like that. Just ignore him. Can I go now?
- VAL:** Are you kidding? You stuffed your husband into your suitcase?
- LOGAN:** Good heavens, no! What do you think I am? He crawled in there himself.
- VAL:** I don't believe this.
- LOGAN:** (*holding an imaginary paper*) I read your instructions very carefully ... all the things I couldn't put in my luggage. It doesn't mention husbands anywhere. Besides, it's only a two-hour flight. I brought his Doritos.
- VAL:** He's got to come out.
- LOGAN:** He can't. We're not there yet.
- VAL:** I need to call airport security.
- LOGAN:** No need. He's harmless. That's what he does most of the day ... just sits and eats Doritos. I appreciate your offer, but you don't have to treat him different than any other piece of luggage.
- VAL:** He's a human being, lady! He's not a pair of pants! (*looking in*) Where are his pants, anyway?
- LOGAN:** It was too hot in there to wear pants. I've got his pants in my carry-on.



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