



Illustration by Jennifer Stolzer

Segment 14: The G.G.G. Pay a Visit

(Early afternoon; Guru and Twimfina sit outside in the shade of the school building, talking)

GURU

Walter and Scout seem to be getting along pretty well lately. They used to always fight.

TWIMFINA

Well, the three of us had a long talk last week after school.

GURU

Oh? What magic words did you say to them?

TWIMFINA

No magic words. I just listened and helped them come up with some ideas for how they might interact differently.

GURU

Wow. Next time I'd like to hear how you do it.

TWIMFINA

Hopefully there won't be a "next time".

GURU

Oh, there'll be a "next time" alright. I've already written it into the story.

TWIMFINA

(chuckling)

Oh yeah, I forgot. I'm a character in that story you're creating.

GURU

Just as I'm a character in yours.

TWIMFINA

(pointing)

Toolie's coming! He's early today!

(Toolie pulls his wagon onstage, then eases it down; Twimfina pushes Guru in his wheelchair to meet him)

GURU and TWIMFINA

(shouting)

Uncle Toolie!

TOOLIE

Hey you two! Workin' hard or hardly workin'?

GURU

Hardly workin'. The kids all went to Jeeno today to take their big Middle School entrance exams.

TOOLIE

Oh, that explains it. Well, it's best they're not here. I saw a group of Nationalists heading this way.

GURU

The G.G.G.?

TOOLIE

Yeah, those guys. Here, Twimfina, you can hide in here. We don't want to invite any trouble.

(Toolie lifts up the tarp that covers his tool wagon)

TWIMFINA

Oh, I don't think that's necessary. We have all kinds of nutty groups in the United States too. I know how to deal with them. I've actually been trained as a conflict worker.

GURU

(with some desperation in his voice)

These men have guns, Twimfina. Please, you've only been here for two weeks. Please trust us on this.

(Twimfina complies, squeezing in under the raised tarp, which Toolie then lowers. Three marching soldiers from the G.G.G. can be heard approaching with a "hup-2-hup-2" cadence; they are wearing camouflage uniforms and carrying guns. Their names are Tweedle, Deedle and Dum. Dum sings the calls. Tweedle and Deedle sing the responses.)

DUM: *(shout-singing)*

(HUP-2 HUP-2) (HUP-2 HUP-2) (HUP-2 HUP-2) (HUP-2 HALT!)

TELL THE PEOPLE WHO WE ARE!



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TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: *(shout-singing)*

RIGHTEOUS MEN FIGHTIN' RIGHTEOUS WAR!

DUM: *(shout-singing)*

WHY ARE WE THE RIGHTEOUS ONES?

TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: (*shout-singing*)
 'CUZ WE GOT THESE RIGHTEOUS GUNS!

DUM: (*shout-singing*)
 WHY WE GOT THESE RIGHTEOUS GUNS?

TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: (*shout-singing*)
 'CUZ WE ARE THE RIGHTEOUS ONES, THE RIGHTEOUS ONES,
 WE GOOD GUYS ARE THE RIGHTEOUS ONES!

TWEEDLE, DEEDLE & DUM: (*singing*)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS

TWEEDLE: I AM TWEEDLE!
DEEDLE: I'M DEEDLE!
DUM: I'M DUM!

TWEEDLE, DEEDLE & DUM: (*singing*)
 WE GOT POWER, AND OOO IT IS FUN, FUN, FUN!
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS!

DUM: (*shout-singing*)
 TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT WE DO

TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: (*shout-singing*)
 FIGHT FOR WHAT IS GOOD AND TRUE!
DUM: (*shout-singing*)
 HOW WE KNOW WHAT'S GOOD AND TRUE?

TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: (*shout-singing*)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS – WE JUST DO!

DUM: (*shout-singing*)
 WHO'S THE TARGET OF OUR GUNS?

TWEEDLE & DEEDLE: (*shout-singing*)
 PEOPLE WE ARE DIFF'RENT FROM, ARE DIFF'RENT FROM,
 THE PEOPLE WE ARE DIFF'RENT FROM!

TWEEDLE, DEEDLE & DUM: (*singing*)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS
 AND YOU KNOW WE GOT THE QUA-LI-FI-CA-TIONS
 NOT MUCH SCHOOLING BETWEEN US
 BUT WE ALL HAVE GOT A PENIS
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)
 WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS!

GURU

Good afternoon, gentlemen! How can we help you?

DUM

We're lookin' for Baba.

GURU

Baba's not here today. He's in Jeeno on a welding job.

DUM

We wanna know why he ain't been comin' to our meetin's.

GURU

Because he's always working. Even I hardly ever get to see him - and I'm his son!

DUM

You that boy he been talkin' about? The one who gots all crippled-up from the American bombing?

TOOLIE

That's me – at least what's left of me.

(Tweedle and Deedle both laugh at the joke; Dum glares at them disapprovingly, then turns back to Guru)

DUM

(menacingly, with a pointed finger)

You tell your father that he WILL be comin' to our meetin's – ALL our meetin's – NO excuses!
If we gotta come back here again, "THERE – WILL – BE – TROUBLE." Understood?

GURU

Understood.

(The three nationalists march off, singing)

DUM: *(shout-singing)*

(HUP-2 HUP-2) (HUP-2 HUP)

TWEEDLE, DEEDLE & DUM: *(singing)*

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS

TWEEDLE: I AM TWEEDLE!

DEEDLE: I'M DEEDLE!

DUM: I'M DUM!

TWEEDLE, DEEDLE & DUM

WE GOT POWER, AND OOO IT IS FUN, FUN, FUN!

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS (WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS)

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, THE GOOD GUYS WITH GUNS!

GURU

You can come out now, Twimfina. Sorry you had to hear all that ignorance.

TWIMFINA

(lifting up the end of the tarp)

Guru! Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me that we did this to you!?

GURU

Don't say "we", Twimfina. This has nothing to do with you. None of us are responsible for the sins of our ancestors.

TWIMFINA

I'm so ashamed.

GURU

Don't be. All cultures have their "Good Guys with Guns". Ours happen to march in boots – yours happen to fly in airplanes. Same mindset. Same problem.

TOOLIE

Same solution, too! Communication.

GURU

Absolutely. In fact I was just telling Twimfina that she's starring in a Fountain-Flush story I'm writing.

TOOLIE

(gathering envelopes)

Oh, I love your Fountain-Flush stories, Guru! Communication really is the answer to it all.

TWIMFINA

(sliding down from cart)

Fountain-Flush?

GURU

Fountain-Flush. It's a tool we pacifists use in our writing and art. The "Fountains" are the attractive people. They've learned how to live peaceful lives – lives of diversity and inclusion.

(half-singing)

PEOPLE ALWAYS DO WHAT ATTRACTIVE PEOPLE DO
ALWAYS WEAR THE THINGS THEY WEAR
ALWAYS CHEW THE THINGS THEY CHEW
ALWAYS SAY THE THINGS THEY SAY
ALWAYS DO THE THINGS THEY DO

NO MATTER IF IT'S RIGHT OR WRONG OR EVEN IF IT'S TRUE
PEOPLE ALWAYS DO WHAT ATTRACTIVE PEOPLE DO

TOOLIE

(sorting through envelopes)

Not physically attractive, necessarily. "Likeable" might be a better word.

GURU

Yes, likeable. The Fountains have to be likeable – so likeable that people repeat whatever they do – repeat and repeat until it spreads everywhere – like water from a fountain on a windy day.



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TWIMFINA

And the “Flush” part?

TOOLIE

That’s where I come in. We Flushes are the uncool, ugly ones who spout-off hate and intolerance.

GURU

Never you, Uncle Toolie! But yeah, the Flushes are *meant* to be repulsive. Whatever the Flushes do, everybody else STOPS doing. Their behavior gets flushed away into a sewer. And when a story has Fountains and Flushes working together to shape behavior, we call it a “Fountain-Flush”.

TOOLIE

Well, this Flush has got to be moving on. Here’s your mail, Guru. Enjoy your day off. I’ll see you two again next time.

(Toolie lifts his cart and walks away)

GURU and TWIMFINA

(both thank Toolie as he exits)

GURU

(looking through the mail)

Oh, a letter for you! From Canada! Don’t you love those maple-leaf stamps? It’s from Candle High School in St. Louis Missouri.

TWIMFINA

What?! That’s impossible!

(Twimfina grabs the envelope, tears it open, then sighs with a worried voice)

It’s from my parents! How did they find out!?

(Twimfina silently reads letter, then has regret in her voice)

Oh no, it seems I’ve really hurt them. They’re begging me to come back home. They even arranged for me to return on a military transport plane.

GURU

When?

TWIMFINA

(examining the paperwork)

Next week.

GURU

(after a silent pause)

I know it’s selfish of me, but I feel very sad – even kind of sick. But I don’t want to stand between you and your family.