

On Golden Pond - Charlie and Ethel

ETHEL

You hoo! Charlie! Hey!
(the motor stops)

ETHEL

Good morning. Got some coffee on, if you'd like. Come on up, you can take five minutes off. I'll write you a note and you can send it to the Postmaster General.

(CHARLIE MARTIN appears. A big, weatherbeaten man with a strong Maine accent and an infectious laugh. He carries a small package, a newspaper, and several letters)

CHARLIE

Morning, Ethel.

ETHEL

Come in, Charlie, and have a seat. Like a biscuit?

CHARLIE

Sure.

(he pulls the screen door. It falls back over on him. He wrestles with it)

CHARLIE

Uh oh. I think I broke your door.

ETHEL

Oh, no. It's been that way for a month now. I should have warned you. Norman is supposed to fix it. It's not high on his list of priorities. I'm afraid.

CHARLIE

(he sets down the mail and leans the door on the wall)

CHARLIE

I could give it a try. It's just missing its little thingamobobbers, that's all.

ETHEL

No, better let Norman get to it. Come in and let's close the big door before every mosquito in the county finds its way in

here.

(he steps in, laughing, leaving
the mail outside as she closes the big door)

CHARLIE

Pretty bad this year, huh?

ETHEL

Worse than ever. Sit down.

(she bustles to the kitchen)

How's your brother? We haven't seen him at all this season.

CHARLIE

You mean Tom?

ETHEL

(offstage)

That's the only brother you have, isn't it?

CHARLIE

Yes. He's fine. He's just come back up from Portland. Got
stopped twice for speeding. Once down and once up.

(he laughs) By the same policeman.

(he laughs. Ethel carries in a tray of coffee and biscuits)

CHARLIE

You should have seen his face.

ETHEL

I love your laugh, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

(he laughs)

Tom wasn't too happy to hear it yesterday. I don't know, it
just struck me as awfully funny that he could be stupid
enough to be stopped twice by the same cop. When he told me,
I couldn't stop laughing.

(he laughs. He stops) Tom's not speaking to me anymore now.

(he helps himself to his coffee
and grabs a biscuit) Where's Norman?

ETHEL

Norman is off picking strawberries. I threw him out.

(Charlie laughs)

ETHEL

Don't laugh.

(he abruptly stops)

ETHEL

Norman is restless this year. I don't know what's got into him. How's your mother?

CHARLIE

My mother?

ETHEL

Yes.

CHARLIE

She's holding her own.

(he laughs and laughs)

She fell down, you know, a couple months ago.

ETHEL

I didn't know that.

CHARLIE

Yuh, a couple months ago, right on her rump, when she was out helping clean up the town common with the Ladies' Auxiliary. She was having a tug-a-war with a dead juniper bush, and she won, or lost, depending on how you look at it.

(he laughs)

She walks all right, and sleeps and everything. She just can't sit.

(he snickers)

It's taken a little adjustment. If you'll pardon the expression, she's one old lady who really believes in busting her ass for the community.

(he howls. Ethel joins in, neither noticing Norman step in, scowling at them darkly)