

WHERE ARE WE NOW
by McFeely Sam Goodman

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Where Are We Now?-Goodman

Characters:

DAVID BOWIE

BJÖRK

EXPOSITION ROBOT

TWO BASSET HOUNDS

TWO BICYCLES

TWO GOLDFISH

SAILOR

TORSO

Time: past, present, and future

Place: The Past.

prologue:

DAVID BOWIE and BJÖRK share a single teddy-bear body with four legs and two arms, sitting on an I-beam which is itself sitting on two cement blocks.

DAVID BOWIE
How are you?

BJÖRK
I'm ok.

DAVID BOWIE
You sure?

BJÖRK
Yeah, seriously, I'm good.

DAVID BOWIE
You don't look good.

BJÖRK
Ok, I feel like shit.

DAVID BOWIE
Yeah, you seem

BJÖRK
Distracted.

DAVID BOWIE
Yeah, distracted.

BJÖRK
I keep forgetting how things work.
Or what I'm using them for.
Like, for example, I killed fly
that had been driving me crazy
I chased it around the apartment
swatting at it
like if I can murder this poor innocent lost
motherfucking fly!
I'll get this catharsis
and maybe I won't feel like shit anymore
and I got it

I
finally I got it
hit the fly and it flopped on the ground
and I picked it up, very daintily with two fingers
and deposited it in the wastebasket
with all the tissues.
Because I had been crying.

And like 30 minutes
later
I notice
the fly,
climbing out of the tissues
out of the wastebasket
like it wasn't dead
so I grabbed the folder
that I hit it with before
and I give it a good
wallop. BAM.
and this time
I take a tissue out of the trash
to really smoosh it
and the tissue is still
like soaked with snot
like wet, mostly water snot
not so much green, gooey snot
cause like I said I had been crying

And I took this tissue
into the bathroom because
I was going to flush it down the toilet, you know
to really be rid of it.

And the toilet seat is down,
the cover, not just the seat
sometimes when I'm in a bad mood I get really into
closing things,
so I guess after I peed earlier
I had shut the cover on the toilet
but now instead of opening it
I pushed the flusher down
like I thought that would make it
open.

And, it wasn't until I heard the water rushing around
that I realized what I had done.

and I open the toilet and I dropped the tissue with
the fly in it in the toilet and it swirled down and
out of sight while the water was still going so at
least I didn't waste water by having to flush again.

Anyway, that's what I mean
when I say sometimes now I get distracted
and I forget
how things work.

one:

EXPOSITION ROBOT

A bicycle walking a basset hound
encounters another bicycle
walking another basset hound.
The basset hounds enthusiastically try
to sniff each other's butts or
lick each other's balls or
whatever it is two enthusiastic male basset
hounds do
to each other.

Their leashes become
inextricably tangled
causing the bicycles
to topple over.

Angrily, the bicycles begin
to shout at one another
in what they imagine to be
Hungarian or Italian
but they're German bicycles
so let's be honest
neither one has the slightest clue what it is
they're actually saying.

Nevertheless,
the argument gets quite heated and finally
two gorillas come in
and beat the bejeezus
out of the two bicycles
until they are bent
practically beyond recognition
(except that,
of course,
due to some impossible law of

perception,
somehow, a bicycle is always recognizable
as a bicycle
no matter how bent
or mangled
it has become)

Anyhow, somehow
in the scuffle
the bicycles lose their grips
on the leashes of the two basset hounds,
who escape to be heard from again at a later juncture.

two:

EXPOSITION ROBOT

Look,
I can explain,
there's actually
a perfectly good explanation
for what I'll admit
is a pretty farfetched
scene.

What happened was the goldfish
having escaped from the goldfish bowl
found themselves not in a pond
nor even in the open air
but in a rusted 1979 model
Oldsmobile Delta 88,
parked upside down
on Sherman Avenue
about five or six blocks from Yankee Stadium.

at which point they decided to drive to Key West and
take their chances swimming to Cuba.

GOLDFISH ONE

Ok, so what we want to do is to head south on Sherman
towards East 162nd Street and then make a right onto
East 161st.

Then we're going to make a right off 161st onto Jerome
which is going to dump us onto the Northbound Major
Deegan.

GOLDFISH TWO

Are you sure those aren't the bicycle directions?
Those sound like the bicycle directions.

GOLDFISH ONE

I know it sounds weird, but we want to get on the
Deegan going North towards Albany, cause that's going
to take us up to the Cross Bronx Expressway.

Ok. So, we're only staying on this about half a mile.
Keep your eyes on the road we're looking for a sign
that say US 1 North or Interstate 95 North or

GOLDFISH TWO

Donde Esta La Biblioteca?

GOLDFISH ONE

The Cross Bronx Expressway or Interstate 95 South.
Anyway it should be exit 7 North or 7 South headed
towards New Haven, the George Washington Bridge, and
Trenton.

GOLDFISH TWO

Mis pantalones son iluminados por los luces de la
mar.

GOLDFISH ONE

What are you doing?

GOLDFISH TWO

I'm practicing my Spanish.

GOLDFISH ONE

Well keep your eyes on the road.

GOLDFISH TWO

That's what they speak in Cuba, right?
Spanish?

I'm like 95 percent sure that's what they speak.
Like 85 percent,
95 percent sure.

GOLDFISH ONE

All right, there's the exit.

Here! Here! Turn!

No you've gotta get over, it's right there.

Ok, now we want US 1, great, right here on the right and this is going to take us across Manhattan and over the George Washington Bridge and into Jersey.

Then once we get to Jersey, we want to get on the Turnpike which'll get us going south and that'll take us down through Delaware and Maryland.

It looks like that's a toll road though.
Do you think any of these compartments has change in it?

After we enter Maryland we want to keep right so that we stay on I-895, following the signs that say Baltimore Harbor Tunnel Throughway and Annapolis.

Then after about sixty miles on that, we're going to take Exit Four to merge onto Maryland 295 South which we'll take into D.C. (though once we're in D.C. it's called District of Columbia 295).

Coming out of D.C. we want to get on I-695 for a couple miles which'll take us to I-395 in Virginia (also known as the Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway

GOLDFISH TWO

No me llames Shirley!

GOLDFISH ONE

or the Interstate 95 Connector)
That'll take us to I-95 which'll take us right on through North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia and into Florida.

Then it's just I-95 to Florida-70 which drops us on the Florida Turnpike. Florida Turnpike takes us to Florida 821, which is another toll road, which takes us to US 1. A hundred and twenty four miles later we make a left on South Roosevelt Boulevard, take that to the beach and swim.

But anyway, I think we've got a little ways until then.

Where are we now?

EXPOSITION ROBOT

They were in fact, still on Sherman Avenue in the Bronx, the wheels of the 1979 Oldsmobile Delta 88 being on the absolute wrong side of the car to effect any sort of intentional movement, which is to say, on top.

But how were they to know that?

They were goldfish
and they had never driven stick before.

three:

EXPOSITION ROBOT

An old wooden sailor is trapped in an immense diamond.

It's not quite like the way an insect is trapped in amber.

but, it's also not quite like the way
the cartoon Pink Panther, is trapped in the diamond of
the same name.

It's somewhere in between.

Not far from the diamond is the carelessly discarded,
or else carefully, but jauntily placed,
headless torso of a dress mannequin.

The sailor salutes the flag flying over the capital
building before addressing the torso.

SAILOR

How goes it?

I say, how goes it?

Either she does not respond because she hath no head
and having no head she hath no ears or else
it is that, I
encased as I am in this diamond,
am unable to make my voice reach her.

(and Yet, I have heard that crystals will make very fine radios. I wonder if it is the same for diamonds.)

In any case,
I shall speak my piece and
If I am heard am heard.

sings

Had to get the train
From Potsdamer platz
You never knew that
That I could do that
Just walking the dead

Sitting in the Dschungel
On Nurnberger strasse
A man lost in time near KaDeWe
Just walking the dead

TORSO

Many long years have I sat here waiting for that man
to speak to me.
But if he will not speak I will tell my own story.

sings

Twenty thousand people
Cross Bose Brucke
Fingers are crossed
Just in case
Walking the dead

SAILOR and TORSO

singing in unison.

Where are we now?
Where are we now?
The moment you know
You know, you know
As long as there's sun
As long as there's sun
As long as there's rain
As long as there's rain
As long as there's fire
As long as there's fire
As long as there's me
As long as there's you

EXPOSITION ROBOT

The Sailor and the Torso sing together,
each thinking they sing alone.

Even so,
they sing in perfect harmony.

epilogue:

BJÖRK

you know,
now that I think of it
it might have been a different fly
there is
probably
more than one
in my apartment.

Somewhere, two basset hounds howl.