Sometimes You Feel Like A Nut …

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Abstract
In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"The scene opens to what looks like a low-budget talk show. Seated is the host, Dick; a middle-aged man, slender, handsome and graying with Chicklet sized teeth. Next to him is his guest, a man dressed as a squirrel. The squirrel, named Nigel, sits on edge, agitated and uncomfortable, constantly twitching his nose and tail. Back from commercial, the show commences with a sound-track of applause."

Cover Page Footnote

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EMILY RYAN

SOMETIMES YOU FEEL LIKE A NUT . . .

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Host: Welcome back everyone! (cheesy applause track) As you know, our show today is dedicated to embarrassing stories and their effects on those involved. We are now talking with Nigel Squirrel, welcome to the show Nigel.

Squirrel: Thank you very much, Dick, it’s good to be here. (more of the applause track)

Host: So let’s start from the beginning, I understand that this is the first time you have stepped out of hiding since your premature hibernation earlier in the fall. What exactly happened to make you turn in so early?

Squirrel: Well Dick, it’s true, this is the first time I have left my hole in Willow Tree #4 in four weeks. (gasps leading to applause by fake audience track) It all started on a fairly nice day . . . (host interrupts with a cheesy grin)

Host: Seems like most stories start out that way. (a laugh track is played, but is a bit too delayed for Dick’s liking – he is momentarily agitated)

Squirrel: (with a shudder) Yeah . . . well like I was saying, I was just minding my own business, collecting nuts to prepare for the long winter. There wasn’t a cloud in the sky, and the breeze was still warm, but like mom always used to say, “A happy squirrel is a prepared squirrel.”

Host: Mmm-hmm, she sounds like an intelligent . . . squirrel, so what happened next?

Squirrel: Well, I had found this really great pile of acorns, just sitting there, waiting to be harvested. I try not to do this too much, but I just had to stop and try out the goods - you know how that is . . .

Host: Yes, I really do, I don’t think I would have been divorced four times if I had taken a little nibble first. (laugh track plays, and Dick chuckles) So, you were just standing there, eating a couple acorns, and what happened?

Squirrel: Well, Dick, it’s really hard for me to talk about, but all of the sudden, one of the nuts just jumped up and started chasing me.

(laugh track plays, Dick looks surprised; yet pleased at this; Squirrel is a bit dismayed)

Host: Wait, so one of the nuts jumped up, and was chasing you, a squirrel? (more of the laugh track)

Squirrel: Yes. I was so frightened that when I got to my hole, I jumped in and decided not to come out. Until your show contacted me, I was facing a long hibernation without nearly enough food.

Host: That could have been bad. That’s why we would like to help you with your food situation, we really feel for you.

(applause track played)

Host: Come on out! (Dick gestures to curtain with his arms extended; elated smile exposing all of his huge white teeth)

A man in an acorn suit jumps out from behind the curtain. He is waving his arms and running towards squirrel who upon seeing the nut, jumps out of his chair and begins running frightened throughout the studio. The chase continues as the applause track is played, and lights turn out.

Curtain

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