

GOING WILD

By Peter Snoad

Peter Snoad
50 Dunster Road
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
U.S.A.
(617) 650-2325
psnoad@yahoo.com
www.petersnoad.com

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GOING WILD

CHARACTERS

(Requires a minimum of 2 female actors and 2 male actors)

MEREDITH STAFFORD, librarian, late 40's to 50's

BEAU STAFFORD, her husband, fast food franchise owner and Civil War re-enactor; late 40's to 50's (2)

KIZZY GILKES, a neighbor of the Staffords (3)

DARLENE CARPENTER, a paralegal and Meredith's close friend and neighbor (3)

ANDY MCBRIDE, a neighbor (2)

ALEX WALKER, director of environmental group (3)

FBI AGENTS EVANS (4) and CASTILLO (2)

JOHNNY STAFFORD, 20, Iraq War veteran and son of Meredith and Beau (4)

(2) Can be played by the same actor

(3) Can be played by the same actor

(4) Can be played by the same actor

SETTING

The living room of the Staffords' home in a small town in a mostly red state

TIME

Sometime in the near future

SCENE ONE

The comfortable and tidy living room of the Staffords' home. The front door to the house is upstage; two other doors or exits go to the kitchen and a bedroom. Morning. MEREDITH wears a kitchen apron over her dress. BEAU is dressed in a Confederate Army uniform and is in the process of buttoning up his jacket. At rise, they face the audience. They are looking out of a window onto their front yard.

BEAU

Gosh darn it to heck! I finally had 'em beat. I did. The crabgrass, the chickweed, the...whatever-it-is.

MEREDITH

Mallow.

BEAU

And now this!? Holy smokes.

MEREDITH

Can you trap moles?

BEAU

You don't trap moles, you kill 'em.

MEREDITH

How?

BEAU

Gas bombs. Chewing gum.

MEREDITH

Chewing gum?

BEAU

Toss it down the holes, they choke on it. Anyways that's it, I'm done.

MEREDITH

What do you mean, you're done?

BEAU

I'm not doing this anymore.

MEREDITH

Beau—

BEAU

I've had it, enough is enough.

MEREDITH

Since when are you a quitter, Beau Stafford?

BEAU

I'm not quitting, I'm moving on. I've got better things to do with my time.

MEREDITH

And what about this? You just going to leave it like that?

BEAU

Honey, you are the best problem-solver ever, you'll figure it out.

MEREDITH

You got any suggestions?

BEAU

Nope, I don't, I really don't. I can't think about it anymore, okay. You do what you want, honey. Be creative.

(Beat.)

MEREDITH

You got everything?

BEAU

Yep.

MEREDITH holds out her hand.

MEREDITH

You always say you want to be authentic.

BEAU removes his wristwatch and places it in her palm. Her hand stays where it is.

BEAU

No, I told you, I'm taking it.

MEREDITH

Correct me if I'm wrong, Captain Stafford, but I don't believe you carried a cell phone with you in eighteen sixty-four.

BEAU
It's for emergencies.

MEREDITH
In case you run out of beer.

BEAU
No!

MEREDITH
Suit yourself. What is it this time?

BEAU
Battle of Pilot Knob.

MEREDITH
That's a big one, right?

BEAU
Humdinger.

MEREDITH
Just you re-enact the living and not the dead.

The SOUND of a car horn.

BEAU
(As he hastily puts on his soldier's cap and grabs his pack and
bedroll)
Honey, I told you, we haven't had a casualty in ten years.

MEREDITH picks up his musket which is standing
against the wall and hands it to him.

MEREDITH
I know, I know, but—

BEAU
(Kissing her on the cheek)
I'll be careful. I promise.

BEAU exits. MEREDITH again contemplates the
ruined lawn. The lights fade.

SCENE TWO

The same. Three weeks later. MEREDITH and BEAU are surveying the garden. BEAU is wearing golfing clothes and tossing a golf ball from hand to hand. His golf clubs are beside him.

BEAU
You call this natural?

MEREDITH
It's a natural garden.

BEAU
It's a natural disaster is what it is.

MEREDITH
I told you, you got to give it time. It's just taking shape.

BEAU
Shape? What shape? I don't see any shape. I see abandonment. I see neglect.

MEREDITH
Like I said—

BEAU
I never agreed to this.

MEREDITH
You gave me carte blanche.

BEAU
I what?

MEREDITH
You said "do what you want, be creative."

BEAU
I didn't mean this, I meant fix the lawn! We can't have a front yard without a lawn.

MEREDITH
Why not?

BEAU

Everybody has a lawn.

MEREDITH

And it's a chore, they spend half their life taking care of it. Imagine. No more mowing—

BEAU

I like to mow!

MEREDITH

No more watering, no more fertilizing. No more giant sucking sound from your wallet.

BEAU

Okay, okay, but look at it! I mean, seriously? It's like a lawn gone to seed.

MEREDITH

Because that's what it is. Mostly. I've added some new native plants here and there.

BEAU

And this is three weeks. What's it going to be like in three months?

MEREDITH

I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

BEAU

The neighbors won't stand for it.

MEREDITH

Oh, I don't think so—

BEAU

You kiddin' me, they'll be up in arms!

MEREDITH

When they see how lush and beautiful this yard looks, some of them are going to follow our example. You might say we're on the cutting edge here.

(Beat.)

That was a joke.

BEAU

“Natural Garden”! Another cockamamie idea from the Internet.

MEREDITH

You'd be surprised how many people are doing it.

BEAU

Liberals.

MEREDITH

Beau, it makes so much sense when you think about it. Why drive yourself nuts trying to create the perfect lawn when you can let Mother Nature do the work and save yourself some money and help the environment?

BEAU

You even sound like them.

MEREDITH

Who?

BEAU

Liberals! What's gotten into you?

MEREDITH

What do you mean?

BEAU

You loved the lawn, and now you want to replace it with some kind of urban wilderness?

The doorbell rings. MEREDITH goes to answer it.
BEAU grabs his golf bag and follows her to the front door.

We are not done talking about this.

MEREDITH opens the door. Standing there is
KIZZY GILKES.

MEREDITH

Well, good morning, Kizzy.

KIZZY

Good morning. Could I have a word?

MEREDITH

Sure, come on in. Can I get you some coffee?

KIZZY

No. Thank you.

BEAU

I'll be getting along, nice to see you, Kizzy.

KIZZY

Beau, this concerns you, too.

BEAU

Well, I—

KIZZY

It's about your front yard.

BEAU

(To MEREDITH)

I told you.

MEREDITH

Yes, well it does look kind of messy right now, but that's because we're in transition.

KIZZY

Transition?

MEREDITH

We decided to give up on the lawn – what with the moles and all – and go natural.

KIZZY

(Surveying the garden through the window)

This is natural?

MEREDITH

Nothing but. Aside from a few plants and shrubs I've put in, but they're all native, no exotics. You see those little white flowers by the pathway there? Anemone virginiana, tall anemone, otherwise known as thimbleweed. To the right of that is my prairie rose – very showy when it blooms, and the butterflies love it. Beau and I were just saying, it's all going to come together naturally in its own good time.

BEAU

I didn't say nothing of the kind.

KIZZY

Yes, well, I'm here wearing my president-of-the-neighborhood-association hat. I've had some calls.

BEAU

Who?

KIZZY

Neighbors.

BEAU

Who?

KIZZY

Beau, let's not personalize this.

BEAU

Jim Kawoski, right? Bet you a dollar to a doughnut. And Leonora. You can always count on Leonora. She came out the womb complaining.

KIZZY

Some people are upset about the state of your yard and they want it tidied up. That's all.

BEAU

They never had moles. I guarantee you, if they'd—

MEREDITH

Kizzy, I'm sorry you've been put in this awkward position.

KIZZY

It's not awkward. I'm just letting you know.

MEREDITH

And I appreciate that, I do. The fact is we like the look of our new yard.

BEAU

There you go again!

MEREDITH

And we intend to keep it as natural as the good Lord intended.

KIZZY

Really?

MEREDITH

You might want to try it, too. Liberate yourself from lawn care, and protect the environment.

BEAU

My wife the tree-hugger. Lord save us.

KIZZY

Well, I've done my duty. Can't say I didn't warn you.

BEAU

What do you mean?

KIZZY

Look, personally, I think what you do with your front yard is your business. But some people are talking about going to City Hall about this.

BEAU

Who?

KIZZY

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

She exits. The lights fade.

SCENE THREE

The same. Early evening, two weeks later.
MEREDITH and DARLENE are drinking tea and
DARLENE is reading a letter from the city's
Environmental Health Division.

MEREDITH

So?

DARLENE

You're in violation of city ordinance 04 dash 948 because your grass is more than eight inches high.

MEREDITH

And I've be fined fifty dollars. My question is: is it constitutional?

DARLENE

The ordinance?

MEREDITH

I have the constitutional right to do what I please with my front yard, don't I?

DARLENE

I assume so, yes, but—

MEREDITH

You assume?

DARLENE

Sweetpea, I'm just a humble paralegal.

MEREDITH

Can you find out?

DARLENE

Seriously?

MEREDITH

Yes.

DARLENE

I guess so. I could do a little research, talk to one of the partners informally, but I mean, you're not...?

MORE TEA? MEREDITH

SURE. DARLENE

BEAT. MEREDITH REFILLS THEIR CUPS.

ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT IS IT?

MEREDITH
I WAS AT THE LIBRARY YESTERDAY. IT WAS QUIET, AND I WAS READING THE NEWS ONLINE – THE HERALD-TRIBUNE ACTUALLY. THERE WAS THIS STORY ABOUT ONE OF OUR BOYS IN IRAQ. JERRY FAULK. NINETEEN YEARS OLD. HE WAS WITH HIS BUDDIES IN THE MESS TENT, CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY. THEY HAD A BIG CAKE AND ICE CREAM. HE WAS CUTTING THE CAKE WHEN A SHELL HIT. BLEW HIM TO PIECES. ON HIS BIRTHDAY. NINETEEN YEARS OLD. SAME AGE AS JOHNNY WAS. THEY’RE BOTH IN THE LORD’S SWEET CARE NOW, I KNOW THAT, BUT I CAN’T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT. I MEAN, THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FREEDOM, AND I’M NOT FREE TO HAVE A LAWN THAT’S MORE THAN EIGHT INCHES HIGH? IT’S NOT RIGHT.

WELL, IT’S CERTAINLY— DARLENE

IT’S UN-AMERICAN IS WHAT IT IS. MEREDITH

MERRY— DARLENE

MEREDITH
THAT ORDINANCE SHOULD NOT BE THERE. I MEAN, WHAT ELSE ARE THEY GOING TO TELL US WE CAN’T DO? CAN’T PAINT OUR HOUSE THE COLOR WE WANT, CAN’T HAVE KIDS PLAYING BASKETBALL IN THE DRIVEWAY, WHERE DOES IT END?

I THINK THAT’S A LITTLE DIFFERENT. DARLENE

JOHNNY WOULDN’T STAND FOR IT, I CAN TELL YOU THAT. MEREDITH

YES, WELL— DARLENE

MEREDITH

And I won't either. I am going to challenge it. The ordinance. On constitutional grounds. And don't you tell me it's trivial, it's not trivial.

DARLENE

No, no, it's not, it's definitely not, but is it really something you want to go to court over?

MEREDITH

The law is there to protect our freedoms. If it doesn't do that, what good is it?

BEAU enters, tired and rumped. It's been a long day.

DARLENE

Hey Beau, how's it going?

BEAU

Hey, Darlene.

MEREDITH goes to the refrigerator to get a beer for BEAU. She opens it and hands him the bottle as he sits down.

DARLENE

How are things at Mighty Taco? I love that name, it always makes me smile.

BEAU

So you keep telling me.

MEREDITH

What's wrong?

BEAU

Joanie quit on me today. She's going back to school.

MEREDITH

Oh that it is too bad, dear.

(To DARLENE)

Joanie Carter, Orville and Thelma's little girl. Well not so little anymore.

DARLENE

The one with the sparkly pants?

MEREDITH

She's a gem. She's been Beau's manager at the franchise for going on two years now.

DARLENE

That is a loss. What you gonna do?

BEAU

Find someone new with half a brain who speaks English. Easier said than done in this town, let me tell you.

(He picks up and scans the \$50 fine letter.)

What the heck is this?

MEREDITH

It's something we need to talk about.

BEAU

Fifty bucks! I knew it. I knew this was trouble.

MEREDITH

Beau—

BEAU

This is on you. You made your bed, you lie on it.

MEREDITH

I'm not paying the fine.

BEAU

Well, who is, Santa Claus?

MEREDITH

It's unconstitutional.

BEAU

What is?

DARLENE

Merry wants to challenge the lawn ordinance in court.

MEREDITH

Darlene's going to check with an attorney at her firm, see if we have a case.

BEAU

Hold on now. Did I just walk onto a movie set or something?

MEREDITH

No one has the right to tell us what our front yard should look like.

BEAU

Unless it's a jungle of weeds and it looks like a vacant lot.

MEREDITH

Even then.

BEAU

Oh for heaven's sakes, Meredith. Just pay the fine and we'll clean the darn thing up.

MEREDITH

I'm not doing that.

BEAU

What has gotten into you?

MEREDITH

I want my front yard the way I want it. What is criminal about that?

BEAU

These regulations are there for a reason, okay? Keep things neat and tidy, protect our property values. It's what people want.

MEREDITH

It's not what I want, and it's my front yard.

BEAU

Wait a minute, this is signed by Joe Donnelly. Joe owes me a favor, I'll call him, he'll take care of it.

MEREDITH

I already spoke to him.

BEAU

And?

MEREDITH

I told him I'm not paying the fine.

BEAU

Meredith. We pay the fifty bucks, we call in the pest-control people, we clear out this mess, we lay new turf, done.

MEREDITH

No. This is wrong, and I'm going to do something about it.

The lights fade.

SCENE FOUR

The same. Three weeks later. BEAU, beer in hand, is looking out at the garden. MEREDITH rushes in.

MEREDITH

Turn on the TV, quick!

BEAU

What is it?

MEREDITH

What do you think?

BEAU turns on the TV. They watch.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

But for Meredith Stafford, this is just the beginning. She says she intends to appeal – all the way to the state’s highest court if necessary. Meanwhile, this mild-mannered children’s librarian has a playful message for all you gardeners out there obsessed with maintaining the perfect lawn.

MEREDITH (V.O.)

This is about freedom. And you should be free to go wild with your garden if you want to.

She switches off the TV.

MEREDITH

Well?

BEAU

Well, what?

MEREDITH

Did I nail it?

BEAU

I have no idea.

MEREDITH

Soundbite, soundbite, stay on message, that’s what Peter kept saying.

BEAU

Peter who?

MEREDITH

Peter Chang. My attorney? You should have heard him in court. He laid it all out in a real calm and respectful way. He did great.

BEAU

And you lost.

MEREDITH

Oh, we expected to, this was just the first round. Peter thinks we have a real shot with the Appeals Court because the guy who's the swing vote is a die-hard constitutionalist. I wish you'd been there.

BEAU

I got a business to run.

MEREDITH

Beau, it's not costing us a dime, okay? He's doing all this pro bono, like I told you. I think we can win. I do.

BEAU

How you feeling? Really?

MEREDITH

Great, I feel great. Look—

BEAU

I don't think this is healthy for you.

MEREDITH

Beau, Beau—

BEAU

No, I mean it—

MEREDITH

Anything I do in Johnny's name is healthy for me.

BEAU

That's not what Doctor Mendes said.

MEREDITH

Well, he's not me and neither are you.

BEAU

Okay. But this crusade of yours—

MEREDITH

It is not a crusade.

BEAU

People don't think it's natural.

MEREDITH

(Roaring with laughter)

That's a good one! I like that! What I'm doing is the most natural thing in the world, and you're worried about what people think!

BEAU

Meredith, it's weird.

MEREDITH

As weird as your Civil War re-enactments?

BEAU

That is not weird, don't you tell me that's weird.

MEREDITH

Of course it's not, I'm sorry, I was just....I'm sorry.

BEAU

Hon, this has to stop.

MEREDITH

Excuse me?

BEAU

It's a lawn, okay? It's just a lawn.

MEREDITH

No, it's not just a lawn.

BEAU

Well, whatever it is, it sure as heck ain't worth riling up the neighbors, damaging my business, and making us a laughing stock all over town.

MEREDITH

Would Johnny think that? Would Johnny laugh at what I'm doing?

The doorbell rings. At the same time, MEREDITH's cell phone rings. She goes to the door while checking the caller ID, which she

doesn't recognize; she lets the call go to voicemail.
She opens the door. DARLENE enters.

DARLENE

You've gone viral!

MEREDITH

What?

DARLENE

Your "go wild" comment on TV. Look.

(As she shows the clip on her cell phone)

And someone's started a go-wild hashtag. It has five thousand tweets already.

MEREDITH

Mercy.

The landline rings.

BEAU

Leave it, it's probably a reporter.

MEREDITH goes to answer it.

Meredith! Oh, for heaven's sakes.

MEREDITH

Hello....Speaking....Well, thank you, I certainly do appreciate that...I see...Can I get back to you? I'm kinda busy right now. What's your number?

(She takes it down.)

Okay...I will, just as soon as I can. Thank you for calling. You have a blessed day.

DARLENE

Who was that?

MEREDITH

Alex Walker with the Green Future organization.

BEAU

Here we go.

DARLENE

What's Green Future?

MEREDITH

They're an environmental organization.

BEAU

Eco-terrorists more like it.

The phone rings again. He picks it up.

Go jump in a lake!

He slams down the phone.

MEREDITH

Beau!

BEAU

See what you gone and done? Every eco-freak and scribbler from here to Timbuktu is going to be beating down our door. And all because of that stupid weed-patch out there.

The phone rings again. He disconnects it with an angry flourish.

MEREDITH

Beau, will you please calm down.

BEAU

What did he want?

MEREDITH

Who?

BEAU

The Green Future guy.

MEREDITH

Gal. Alex Walker is a she. And she wants to meet with me.

BEAU

Don't you go near her.

MEREDITH

What's the harm in meeting with her?

BEAU

I don't believe it. Now you want to get in bed with the greenies?

MEREDITH

I didn't say that.

BEAU

After what they've done to this town? They're job-killers. Thirty-five hundred good mining and factory jobs in the last five years. Gone. Why? "Environmental regulations". You can't piss in the wind without getting fined.

DARLENE

What does she want to talk to you about?

MEREDITH

They have a new campaign to do with lawns—

BEAU

Of course they have. They want to use you, sweetheart, don't you see? That's what these people do. They could care less about you and your "natural garden", about this community, about anybody who doesn't recycle, eat tofu, and do yoga.

DARLENE

I do yoga.

BEAU

All they care about is their radical socialistic "global warming" agenda.

MEREDITH

How do you know?

BEAU

It's always about that.

MEREDITH

So I'm just a pawn in their game, is that it?

BEAU

Of course.

MEREDITH

Well, I'm glad to know that you take me for a fool.

BEAU

I didn't mean that—

MEREDITH

I thank the Lord that I work with children. They come to my library every day with open minds and open hearts.

BEAU

Look, hon, I'm not saying—

MEREDITH

I am going to meet with this Alex Walker and I'm going to listen to what she has to say. You never know, I might get converted. Darlene, you want to stay for supper? I've got a nice turkey meatloaf in the oven.

She heads with to the kitchen, followed by
DARLENE. The lights fade.

SCENE FIVE

The Common Ground café. MEREDITH sits across from ALEX WALKER. MEREDITH is drinking tea, ALEX a latte. Two chocolate chip cookies are on a plate in front of them.

ALEX

It sounds wonderful.

MEREDITH

Yes, I'm excited. Beau – my husband – he still needs some convincing.

ALEX

Why's that?

MEREDITH

The whole idea of a natural garden. He's suspicious of anything with the word natural in it.

ALEX

Well, when he sees it in all its wild glory, I'm sure he'll come round.

MEREDITH

I pray that he will.
(Beat.)

ALEX

Cookie? They're real good here.

MEREDITH

I'm all set, thank you.
(Beat.)
What about you? Do you have a natural garden?

ALEX

I wish. I'm in a second-floor condo. But I have friends who do.

MEREDITH

So you've had the opportunity to...

ALEX

Oh yes. I think they're great. I think they're the future.

MEREDITH

Green Future.

ALEX

Exactly. Tell me, Mrs. Stafford, when you had a lawn, did you use fertilizer?

MEREDITH

Of course.

ALEX

Do you know what was in the fertilizer?

MEREDITH

Well, chemicals obviously. I don't know the names. Beau might, he dealt with all of that. Why?

ALEX

Most commercial fertilizers contain herbicides and pesticides that are inherently toxic. They're designed to kill weeds and bugs and such, which makes them dangerous to humans, too.

MEREDITH

If you don't follow the directions.

ALEX

Actually, even if you do. Take herbicides for example. Of the eighteen most commonly in use, seven cause cancer, six cause birth defects, six cause reproductive defects, eight are neurotoxic – brain damage – and nine can damage your kidney or your liver. And that's from government studies – National Institute of Health and the EPA.

MEREDITH

Well, you can't always trust what the government tells you.

ALEX

The scientific evidence is pretty conclusive. And children are at greatest risk from exposure. You treat the lawn, the kids play on the lawn – it's not good. Do you have kids?

MEREDITH

One. Johnny.

ALEX

How old is Johnny?

MEREDITH

He was twenty. He was in the Marines. He died in Iraq.

ALEX

I am so sorry for your loss.

MEREDITH

What about you?

ALEX

Two girls, seven and five. They're my joy – and my motivation.

MEREDITH

Of course.

ALEX

Mrs. Stafford, most of our work at Green Future is public education. Spreading the word about the dangers of chemicals in our environment and what we can all do to stop them hurting us.

MEREDITH

Yes, I was looking at your website.

ALEX

Okay, good. So, as I mentioned, we have this new campaign we're about to launch that I think might interest you.

MEREDITH

Miss Walker, I'm not exactly—

ALEX

Does the name Gazpromizon mean anything to you?

MEREDITH

No.

ALEX

It's a new lawn treatment that will soon be available in stores nationwide under the name "New Dawn". We believe New Dawn is one of the most lethal products ever sold over the counter in this country. We had a study done. It estimates that thousands of people could die from prolonged exposure to New Dawn and tens of thousands more will get chronically sick.

MEREDITH

But surely if it's so dangerous, the government will put a stop to it.

ALEX

Not unless we force them to.

MEREDITH

Why?

ALEX

Money. The multinational company behind New Dawn stands to make millions. They have an army of lobbyists, and the EPA and the other regulating agencies have had their budgets slashed. It's David and Goliath. The turf and lawn maintenance industry is worth twenty seven billion dollars a year.

MEREDITH

Twenty seven billion?

ALEX

That's ten times more than we spend on school textbooks.

MEREDITH

Mercy.

ALEX

That does kind of put it in perspective, doesn't it?

MEREDITH

Yes. Yes, it does. But what does this have to do with my garden?

ALEX

Green Future is about to release an expose of New Dawn. We're calling for its immediate ban and a Congressional inquiry. We're also urging people to switch to safer alternatives – like your natural garden.

MEREDITH

I see.

ALEX

When I saw you on TV, I said to myself, "Meredith Stafford would be the perfect spokesperson for our "go natural" campaign".

MEREDITH

Oh, I don't think so—

ALEX

Which, thanks to you, we're now re-branding as "Go Wild!"

MEREDITH

You want to use me.

(Beat.)

ALEX

Mrs. Stafford, I suspect we disagree on a lot of things. But I think on this issue, there probably isn't much between us. This is about our health, the health of our families, about people's lives. I don't expect you to jump right into this. We've just met, and you've no particular reason to trust me. I would simply ask that you think about it. Our campaign will save lives, and I believe we'll save many more lives if you're part of it.

(Beat.)

I'm not the enemy, Mrs. Stafford. The enemy is the corporation that's peddling New Dawn and its political allies.

MEREDITH

Can I see your report?

ALEX

Of course.

She pulls a document from her bag and hands it to MEREDITH, who scans the first couple of pages.

MEREDITH

Can I take this home and read it?

ALEX

I'm afraid not. Not that I don't trust you, but we can't risk it falling into the wrong hands before we formally release it. How about I e-mail you the executive summary? That's the essence of the whole thing.

MEREDITH

Fine.

(Beat.)

What would you want me to do?

ALEX

Speak at the launch. Do some follow-up media interviews about your garden – why you started it, what it means to you, the environmental benefits. The thing is, we do need to move quickly on this—

MEREDITH's cell phone rings. She answers it.

MEREDITH

Excuse me, I need to take this.

ALEX

No problem.

MEREDITH

Hi Kizzy....Really? Oh boy, that is....And she's quite sure that....?....I quite understand, I appreciate you calling.

She ends the call.

One of my neighbors says she saw two rats in our front yard.

ALEX

In your natural garden?

MEREDITH

So she says. People are very upset.

ALEX

Understandably, but I wouldn't assume—

MEREDITH

I'm sorry, I have to get back.

ALEX

Mrs. Stafford—

MEREDITH

Thank you for the tea.

MEREDITH exits hurriedly. The lights fade.

