

Town *Crisis*

By Peter Keel

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Character List

Town crier

Tim

Jerry

Deborah

Edna

Donald

Knight

King Charles

(A town crier enters an 18th century village ringing his bell.)

Town crier: Hear ye, hear ye. Please, kind and simple towns folk, stop what you are doing and gather around for the latest, most reliable and most important news about your great country.

(A small crowd of Tim, Jerry and his wife Deborah gather around the crier to hear news on recent events, while the crier rolls out his scroll and prepares to read.)

Town crier: Our beloved king, his Royal Majesty Charles the First of our great kingdom of Meddonia, has declared next Saturday will be a public holiday, to commemorate our most successful harvest ever and to remind all Medonians that we live in the greatest country in the world! Long live the king!

(The crowd of Tim, Jerry and Deborah cheer)

Town crier: Now to other important royal proclamations, our great king has made some important decisions regarding taxation. But first, the excavation of our new town well has begun. We hope it will, wait what?

(The town crier is interrupted by another town crier Edna, who walks onto the stage ringing her bell.)

Edna: Hear ye, hear ye! Gather round me for the *best*, the *hottest*, and the *sexiest* news in the entire kingdom.

(The crowd of Tim, Jerry and his wife Deborah turn to face Edna.)

Town crier: What is all this? Who are you? I'm the town crier, not you.

Tim: It's the news. The *interesting* news.

Town crier: My news is interesting.

Deborah: Your news is like "hmm hmm interesting", her news is like "ooo ooo interesting". Big difference.

Edna: So who wants to know five simple life hacks that will unlock the secrets of losing weight without the burden of regular exercise or eating right?

(Jerry, Deborah and Tim gasp)

Jerry: Yes, I hate exercising and eating right. Tell us!

Deborah: Yes, you must tell us!

Edna: When you hear them you will never want to eat again. They are jaw dropping! And that's just the beginning.

Town crier: What is going on? Please be quiet, I am delivering important town and kingdom proclamations.

Deborah: Shush.

Town crier: I will not shush. I have to tell people about a very important new tax.

Tim: Well tax is important; perhaps we should listen for a moment.

Edna: Tax ay, hear ye, hear ye, listen to the kingdoms top accountants share their tax secrets reserved for only the rich and famous. It could save you millions!

Town crier: No, that's not the tax news. It's actually...

(Edna interrupts)

Edna: We could talk about tax, but don't you want to know who has the biggest butt in the whole kingdom?

Tim: Yes, yes I do.

Town crier: This is ridiculous.

Jerry: Quiet! She's about to talk about my wife.

Deborah: Hey!

Town crier: This is not news. It's nonsense. She hasn't said anything of substance.

Tim: Yeah but it's fun. It takes our minds off our problems.

Deborah: Aren't you a little bit curious about what she has to say?

Town crier: Not in the slightest.

Enda: Which surly town crier is so concerned with shouting out news at passersby, but isn't so concerned with brushing his teeth? Find out the news, and also what he's had for lunch.