

DREAMING AGAIN

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SAMPLE SCENE #1 – The Bicycle Incident

DAN I bought this bicycle just to, you know, ride it around the neighborhood. I don't own any car, at the time. Then I couldn't find my bike. Well, two weeks down the road, I found this guy at Babson Supermarket riding my own bicycle. And I walk up to him and I say: *(to CJ)* Hey! You know this is my bike?

CJ Yeah, so what?

DAN Can I have it back?

CJ No.

DAN What do I do, in my custom? Somebody steal my property. By all means necessary, I'll take my bike back. I say: Give me my bike.

CJ No. Why should I give you this bike?

DAN You're on my bike. I put that little sticker on the back, see?

CJ Yeah, so. My friend gave this bike to me.

DAN I don't care who gave it to you. This is my bike. Give my bike back.

CJ No. What are you gonna do about it?

DAN So I punched him. *(BEAT)* Now I know the police cruiser was parked right across the street. But no one taught me I should call 911. The police came flying to Babson Supermarket and they were yelling at me:

HEATHER *(as police officer)* You just punched him!

DAN Yeah, I just punched him. He's a thief. *(to audience)* I'm expecting the police to help me. Traditionally, where I come from, you don't steal. If you steal and someone is beating you, the police will beat them. You know? There is no question about that. But here the police were questioning me.

HEATHER You punched him.

DAN Yeah, I did. I did. He steal my bike. What's your problem?

HEATHER The problem is you punched him.

DAN Well, long story short, fortunately there was a chief who knew about different cultural backgrounds, who used to travel the world. That incident was taken care of. The chief and I became good friends. I started speaking at the police academy, high schools and community functions about the different experiences that one could have when you merge to a new country with new regulations and whatnot.

LYDIA A new country.

CJ & HEATHER With new regulations and whatnot.

SAMPLE SCENE #2 – Coming to the United States

HEATHER I had just graduated from high school in Germany. I had an open plane ticket for a year, and a backpack. They thought because of my age I was looking for an American husband. At the airport in Boston, they pulled me out of line. I sat down and didn't know what was going on. I'm sitting there and this woman comes out of another room in tears, totally upset. She says:

LYDIA *(calling over to HEATHER)* Whatever you do, don't lie to them, they'll find you out. They're sending me back on the next plane.

HEATHER My English wasn't fluent. They questioned me for an hour and a half. It was all men. They went through all my luggage and my pocketbook.

(CJ & DAN cross to either side of HEATHER to play MAN 1 & MAN 2)

MAN 1 What is this?

HEATHER Travel guides. San Francisco.

MAN 1 Why?

HEATHER I am traveling.

MAN 2 What is this?

HEATHER Travel guides. San Francisco.

MAN 2 Why?

HEATHER I am traveling.

MAN 1 What is this?

HEATHER My calendar.

MAN 2 What does this say?

HEATHER San Francisco.

MAN 1 Why?

HEATHER I am traveling?

MAN 2 Why does this calendar have a fist and a *female* sign on it?

MAN 1 It's because she's a communist. Are you a communist?

MAN 2 She's gotta be a communist. Are you a communist?

HEATHER They finally let me go but I was so upset at the end of that first interview I didn't even want to stay in this country! But then, of course, I found an American husband and now I live in New Hampshire.

OTHERS (*knowingly to each other*) Sometimes the road takes you that way.

SAMPLE SCENE #3 – The Store

WOMAN 3 One time I was standing in line at a store with another woman, another foreigner. There was a sign that said: *If you go outside, you lose your place in line.* She had to get something from her car and when she came back, she couldn't understand why her place in line had been lost. Everybody was complaining.

WOMAN 1 Did she not see the sign?

WOMAN 2 What is the matter with her? Can't she read?

WOMAN 3 No, she can't read the sign.

WOMAN 2 Why is she here if she can't read? She shouldn't be in America if she can't read.

WOMAN 3 What? Some people come here even if they cannot speak English.

WOMAN 1 My mom was an immigrant and she couldn't speak English when she first came here.

WOMAN 2 Well, I think it's terrible. All these immigrants coming here and they can't even read or speak English. Why do they come here?

WOMAN 1 They come for the children.

WOMAN 3 How about if you come to my country and you cannot speak my language?

WOMAN 2 I'm not going to come to your country.

WOMAN 3 I didn't know I was coming to America and now I am here. Even you don't know. Maybe one day you are going to be there. Everything is changing, anything can happen.

WOM 2 I am not going to your country.

WOM 1 How do you know?

ALL How do you know?