



# South of Baudette in the Little Woods

a dramedy by the Gobles

ACT 1: SHOCKS TO THE SYSTEM

SCENE 1: JANUARY 31, 2011

[As the curtain opens we see Vicki at her desk in a small office at LakeWood Health Center. The phone rings.]

VICKI: [Answers phone] LakeWood Nursing Service; this is Vicki.

VOICE ON PHONE: Hello Vicki. This is nurse what's-her-name from Sanford. I have the results of your biopsy. You have ductus carcinoma in situ.

VICKI: Wh-What???

VOICE ON PHONE: Are you surprised?

VICKI: Duh! Eighty percent of biopsies come back benign. I didn't expect to beat the odds.

VOICE ON PHONE: Well, it's your lucky day! You should buy a lottery ticket! Meanwhile, we'd like you to come to Sanford in Fargo for a consult to decide what to do.

ACT 1 SCENE 2: FEBRUARY 24, 2011

[We see Vicki and Roger sitting in a doctor's office. The doctor is reading the lab results from the lumpectomy.]

DOCTOR: To sum it up, we didn't take enough. You have the same three choices as the first time. One—you can have a lumpectomy followed by radiation. Two—you can have a mastectomy with no radiation. Three—you can do nothing.

VICKI: [Consults with Roger before speaking.] Another lumpectomy, please. This time, though, not so much sedation. It makes me woozy. I don't know why you need it anyway, since you use a local anesthetic.

DOCTOR: [Raises an eyebrow.] Most women don't like hearing us discuss the surgery while we're working. They don't seem to like the clanking sounds of the instruments, either. Or the smell from the cauterization.

VICKI: Bah! That stuff doesn't bother me. And then I can get out of recovery sooner, too.

ACT 1 SCENE 3: MARCH 8, 2011

[Vicki is sitting in another doctor's office. The doctor is reading lab results from the second lumpectomy.]

DOCTOR: You'll be pleased to know the lab found good margins this time.

VICKI: Yay!

DOCTOR: Now, as you requested, we'll use the Canadian protocol for radiation. It'll only take sixteen days. Studies with other types of breast cancer show the outcome is just as positive as with the more lengthy protocols more frequently used, so I see no reason why it shouldn't be just as efficacious in your case. Let's see. You have an appointment for radiation prep on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Radiation can start the 18<sup>th</sup> and will end 16 weekdays later.



ACT 2: NEW ARRIVALS AND ADDITIONS

SCENE 1: APRIL 24, 2011: EASTER

[We see Roger and Vicki sitting at the dinner table. The phone rings.]

ROGER: [Answers phone.] Hello?

SIMON: Hi Dad! Happy Easter! Tyeloreen decided to come out to meet us. Your granddaughter was born today.

ROGER: Wow! Congratulations! That'll cheer up your mother.

SIMON: Yeah, I thought it might. It's never fun to get laid off.

ROGER: For sure. She worked there just one month short of fifteen years. I think she's taking the layoff harder than she did her cancer diagnosis.

SIMON: Well, it'll have a bigger impact on her life. More long-term. She's already almost done with the inconvenience of the cancer, but being laid off lasts and lasts...kind of like the Energizer bunny. Anyway, Linda and Tyeloreen are in the Bemidji hospital, but they'll be out in a day or so. We'll come up in a few days so you can meet your new granddaughter. Or you can come down. Whatever works.



Simon and Tyeloreen

ACT 2 SCENE 2: MAY 2011

[Vicki and Roger are watching television. The phone rings.]

VICKI: [Answers phone.] Hello?

VICKI'S BROTHER ROGER: Hi Sis! Guess what? Tess finally made it. She's here with me and the girls in Washington State. I can't believe it. After all the delays and waiting, my wife is finally here.

VICKI: Oh, how exciting! Did she have a good flight from the Philippines?

VICKI'S BROTHER ROGER: It was okay. Long. We had a nice welcome party for her when she got here. It'll be nice when this job I'm on is done so we can get home to Bemidji and get her all settled in the house.

ACT 3: OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE

SCENE 1: DECEMBER 10, 2011

[We see Vicki and Roger sitting at the dining table. Vicki is working on the computer and Roger is reading a book.]

VICKI: Okay, I'm done with May. What else happened this year?

ROGER: Aren't you done with the Christmas letter yet?

VICKI: I will be when you answer my questions. What else happened this year?

ROGER: [Walks around the table and looks over Vicki's shoulder.] Amanda and Justin came to visit right after Simon and his family went back to Seattle.

VICKI: Oh, right. Do people already know she moved to Colorado and is working there?

ROGER: I can't remember. Do they know Simon is in Washington State? And Linda is managing a Walmart Vision Center there? And Simon is being a house spouse for the time being? And doing a great job of it!

VICKI: I think so. But they don't know this—since Amanda got here too late to meet her new niece, she went to Seattle later to visit them. [*She types.*]

ROGER: How about that Geocaching we've been doing? And why is the computer capitalizing it?

VICKI: I guess it must be a proper noun. Microsoft thinks it is, anyway. But back, to the subject. I'll bet a lot of them don't know what Geocaching even is.

ROGER: Well, don't spend two pages explaining it. If they're interested they'll go to <http://www.geocaching.com> and read up on it. If they don't already know, that is. It is fun, though. Kind of like hunting for buried treasure.

VICKI: I like the kind of caches I put out the best—the ones with little histories about the area where they're placed.

ROGER: That does make it more interesting. Anyway, what else?

VICKI: Hm. We had a garden and froze some corn, peas, beans, and raspberries. I have to say that the gardening about did me in this year, though. I'm thinking no garden next year.

ROGER: Sounds good to me. Except we have to have corn and potatoes.

VICKI: And peas. Have to have peas.

ROGER: And carrots and squash and lettuce. And beans. And zucchini. We have to have zucchini bread! And cauliflower.

VICKI: Oh! And onions. And tomatoes....

ROGER: And, of course, the raspberries. And rhubarb. And asparagus.

VICKI: Right! It will be nice, taking a break from gardening for a year.

ROGER: Well, is that it?

VICKI: I think so.

ACT 3: SCENE 2: JANUARY 14, 2012

[*Vicki is sitting in the new home office, typing on the computer. Roger walks into the room.*]

ROGER: Are you still working on the Christmas letter?

VICKI: I forgot some stuff.

ROGER: Like what?

VICKI: What about hunting season?

ROGER: Oh, right. Our hunting crew did well, especially considering all the people around us complaining there were no deer this year. Our guys got three 8-point bucks, a fork horn, and I got a nice non-typical 10-pointer.

VICKI: Yeah, that was good! And later in November my brother Vane flew in from the east coast for Thanksgiving. Amanda flew in from Colorado and they drove up from Minneapolis in a rented car. It was nice having them here for a few days.

ROGER: And don't forget we cleaned out our junk room and made it into a nice office. [*They both look around the room.*]

VICKI: [*Smiles*] Yeah! I love the office.

ROGER: And! [*He pauses dramatically.*] How about the little John Deere tractor with the loader and lawn tires you bought me?

VICKI: [*Elbows him*] That you bought me, you mean! That's going to be great for yard work, landscaping and gardening.

ROGER: Yes, it is. [*He rubs his hands together.*] I can't wait to get out there and use it. Do you think we have enough snow for plowing?

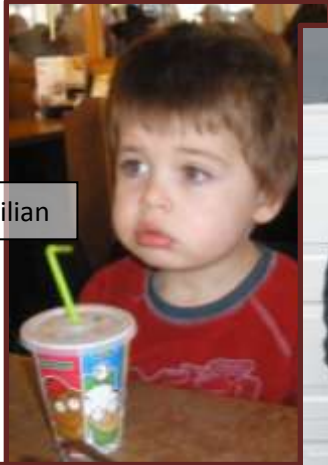
VICKI: It doesn't look like we'll have enough snow for winter at all this year, let alone for plowing. And the temperatures! So warm for winter. It's crazy. [*She pushes the print*

button and stands up.] I think that's it for this year. I called it a "Happy New Year" letter instead of a Christmas letter, since we're not sending it out until now... January.

ROGER: Good idea. Did you include some pictures?

VICKI: Of course. They're right under this.

ROGER: Then I guess the only thing left to say is...HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!



Rilian



Amanda and Justin: Engaged!



Tyeloreen



Rilian



Vicki



Rilian



Linda

Tyeloreen



Rilian

Tyeloreen



Roger

Tyeloreen



Roger

Rilian