

LANDYACHT RADIO WITH LEFTY AND RED-EPISODE TEN

SFX: The sound of the sea. A ship's foghorn. The grunting of pigs.

ETHYL

(singing.)

*Kìa con buram vàng
Kìa con buram vàng
Zòe dôi cán
Zòe dôi cán
Tung cán by nam ba vòng
Tung cán by nam ba vòng.
Em gọi zem
Em gọi zem.*

CAPTAIN WILLY

Good evening Ethyl.

ETHYL

Oh, good evening, Captain Willy.

CAPTAIN WILLY

I must say, my dear, for the last two days these little pot belly pigs are as peaceful and content as I've ever seen them. All thanks to your singing.

ETHYL

Well, I guess my high school Vietnamese 101 class came in more handy than I thought.

CAPTAIN WILLY

We'll be pulling into Tokyo harbor by tomorrow. Do you have your ID papers in order?

ETHYL

ID papers? Uh...sure. I just, uh--

SFX: Meow!

CAPTAIN WILLY

Wait! What in the name of Ewan MacGregor was that?

ETHYL

Oh..uh...I guess this chilly sea air gave me a slight cold.

She coughs. SFX: Meow!

CAPTAIN WILLY
Slight cold, nothin', that's a
bleedin' cat! I said no pets!

He blows a whistle.

ETHYL
No, please, Mr. Snotzie is more
than just a pet! He's my dear
compatriot and companion!

CAPTAIN WILLY
All hands on deck! All hands on
deck!

SFX: The murmuring of crewmen rushing on to deck.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
Men! What is the number one rule
you need to follow on this ship?!

CREWMAN #1
No stowaways!

CAPTAIN WILLY
Aye, no. That's a good one, but
it's not the number one rule.

CREWMAN #2
Brush and floss twice a day!

CAPTAIN WILLY
Ach, no, that is the number one
hygiene rule, but I'm talking about
the overall number one rule on this
ship!

SFX: The men murmuring, thinking.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
No pets!

The men cheer in agreement.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
Well it seems our little pig
serenader, here, has broken that
rule and smuggled on a cat!

Men boo and hiss.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
 And what do we do with cat
 smugglers?

CREWMAN#3
 Hoist her from the yard arm!

CREWMAN #4
 Keel haul her!

CAPTAIN WILLY
 Men, look, it's well past midnight.
 Talk Like A Pirate Day is
 officially over. So, back to
 normal, lads.

The men groan in disappointment.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
 However, the punishment for
 breaking the No Pet Rule on The
 Tainted Lady is to be set adrift at
 sea in a dinghy!

The men cheer.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
 All those in favor?!

ALL THE MEN
 AYE!

SFX: Dog bark.

CAPTAIN WILLY
 What was that?

The men start coughing in dog-like ways.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)
 All right. Then it's settled. I
 hate to do this to you, lassie. But
 rules are rules. Set her adrift!

The men cheer.

SFX: A loud splash and the sound of a ships foghorn
 disappearing in the distance.

ETHYL
 Gosh, Mr. Snotzie. This isn't how I
 wanted things to go; stranded in
 the middle of the sea, miles away
 from our destination.
 (MORE)

ETHYL (CONT'D)

No food, no water. All I wanted to do is follow my dream. Is that so wrong? I mean, in the end, all we have is our dreams.

(singing.)

"If I had a dream--"

SFX: Crazy, sci-fi zapping and transport noises. A flash SFX.

RUMBA PUMBA

Hello Ethyl Flapsaddle.

ETHYL

Oh my gosh! Who are you?

RUMBA PUMBA

Don't you recognize me?

ETHYL

I don't--wait a minute. Shiny orange fur? Bright blue track shoes? Sumo underwear and huge googly eyes? Rumba Pumba the Hot Tub Monkey?

RUMBA PUMBA

(laughing)

Oh yes!

MUSIC: Land yacht Radio With Lefty & Red opening.

LEFTY

Greetings all you Driftless listeners, I'm Lefty.

RED

And I'm Red.

LEFTY

And you've tuned into Land Yacht Radio.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red

RED

We've got a jam-packed show for you today. We're going to visit a hound dog swim race and skeet shoot competition in Highland.

LEFTY

We've got guests coming in from The Pickled Boar Medieval Faire in Potosi.

RED

Weather and traffic with Herm Demel
over in Clyde.

LEFTY

And, of course, Ask Your Neighbor.
But first, lets have a word from
one of our sponsors.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

JACK KIMMERMAN

You like beer, I like beer,
everybody likes beer. Hi folks, I'm
Jack Kimmerman, owner of the Alpine
Beer Hut and Micro-Brewery in New
Glarus. Don't know what kind of
beer you like? No worries. We have
all kinds of beers from all around
the world. Beers like Lame Duck
Ale, Swollen Toe Doppelbock, Vine-
Herner Geshtet-Lemecher Lite and
Dark, Spiny Scalp IPA, Boris
Yeltsin Amber, Tummy-Rub Light
Brown, Squirrel's Nuts Heinie
Weiss, Grandma Hazel's Passive
Aggressive Stout, Skid Mark Premium
Pilsner, Morris Shuttlecocks Old
Time Spiked Saspirilla, Limping
Badger Wild and Sour, Larry
Mondello Porter, Amorous Armadillo
Blonde Ale, Get Off My Lawn Bold
Pilsner, Don't Drink Yellow Snow
Lite, Leave the Canolli Sweet IPA,
Nose Picker Premium Draft, Could
Someone Help Me Change My Headlight
Amber, Greasy Finger Dark Honey
Roast, Bitter Substitute Teacher
Heffe Weiss, Knuckle Sandwich
Turtle Brown Ale, Uncle Norm's
Toupee-Fruity Belgian Ale, Bug
Zapper Tart Pilsner, Uncircumcised
Thick Honey Stout, Just Let Me
Touch It Once Hard Cider, Pick It
And Poke It Lite Amber, Jiminy
Crickets Bitter Divorce IPA,
Ghandi's Little Secret Medium Dark,
Leaf Blower Premium Ale, A Pervert
A Raincoat A Playground Lite Nut
Brown Lager and Miller Lite. And
sign up for a tour of our micro
brewery, where we brew the area's
finest;

(MORE)

JACK KIMMERMAN (CONT'D)
 Kimmerman's Burnt Acorn Stout and
 Kimmerman's refreshing Open Sore
 Wild Berry Cider. So if you like
 beer, you can find it all here, at
 The Alpine Beer Hut and Micro-
 Brewery in New Glarus.
 Pretzels and peanuts always free.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

SFX: Sounds of the sea.

ETHYL
 I...I don't understand, Rumba
 Pumba. You're just an anime
 character from my childhood pencil
 eraser. How can you be here? And
 why? And what are you, exactly?

RUMBA PUMBA
 Oh my! So many questions. Better to
 ask, how are we going to get you
 out of this little dinghy and over
 to the International Stationary
 Expo in Osaka, eh?

ETHYL
 Wha...?

RUMBA PUMBA
 Mahona MotaBoto, haji-me-maso!

SFX: Sci-fi whoosh. Huge motorboat sound. Boat rushing
 through the water.

ETHYL
 Oh my! How are you doing this?! Am
 I dreaming?!

RUMBA PUMBA
 No, Ethyl Flapsaddle. It is much
 more than a dream. It is the magic
 of Akiyama-yan! On to Tokyo!

ETHYL
 Wheeee!

SFX: Meow!

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

LEFTY

We're outside the trailer and we've got some special guests who dropped by today. And it looks like they stepped right out of King Arthur's court.

RED

Or at least a bad episode of Game of Thrones.

LEFTY

From the The Pickled Boar Medieval Faire in Potosi, The Fearless Knight Sir Greg Chimeleski, and his faithful Manservant Brian Neddleman. Welcome fellas.

SIR GREG

Tis our most high honor to be hither visiting thy local audio media outlet, herewith.

BRIAN

Yeah, nice to be here.

RED

Now Sir Greg, I have to say, that is really an impressive suit of armor you've got on there. Is it original?

SIR GREG

Much thanks, M'lady. Yay, the Vambraces, Gauntlets and Fan-Plates I wear are all handcrafted by me from original designs of The Knights Templar in the Year of Our Lord 1432.

BRIAN

We got the designs off a website.

SIR GREG

Hand tooled, hammered and crafted from some of the finest and strongest metals of the realm.

BRIAN

It's mostly fenders from my uncle's old tractor and some pie plates we got over at The Goodwill.

LEFTY

It's really quite a custom job, isn't it? I mean, you seem to be a tad larger than some of the knights we read about or see in the movies.

SIR GREG

Good sir, I'll have you know my taut and fierce fighting weight has always been a consistent twenty-three and a half stone.

BRIAN

About three hundred and thirty pounds.

RED

So tell us, Sir Greg, what sort of things can folks expect to see when they visit The Pickled Boar Medieval Faire this Summer?

SIR GREG

Oh, a plethora of the finest entertainment and demonstrations of fighting skills in all the kingdom, my lady. Artisans selling the finest goods; capelets, bodices and half-bodices, leather wrapped mugs, quack medicine kits and magical Apothecary's brews. And the finest of food and drink.

BRIAN

Roast turkey legs, lolligobs, beef and kidney pies and deep fried Twinkies.

SIR GREG

My personal favorite.

LEFTY

You mentioned fighting skills, and I understand you're going to give us a little demonstration of Medieval hand-to-hand combat, is that correct?

SIR GREG

Positively, good sir. Manservant Brian, fetch me my trusty sword.

BRIAN

Yes, Sir Greg.

SFX: Clanging metal.

LEFTY

Oh my.

RED

That's a beautiful looking sword.

SIR GREG

It was fashioned from the finest ores buried deep in the mountains of Gogoroth and hammered to perfection by the elf artisans of Lothloria.

BRIAN

We got it off a Lord of the Rings auction site.

RED

Why does that not surprise me?

SIR GREG

Stand back good simple peasants, and observe the fighting skills of a sacred knight of the realm.

LEFTY

Okay, but just make sure you don't step too close to the edge of the hill, there. It's pretty steep.

SIR GREG

Not to worry good sir. I have the heart of a lion and the balance of a mountain goat.

SFX: Sword unsheathing.

SIR GREG (CONT'D)

I fight for Queen and Kingdom! May the mercy and strength of my--
(he starts falling backwards.)
Whoa--Ah, Ahhhh!

RED

Oop, there he goes.

SFX: Sir Greg tumbling down the hill.

LEFTY

Five bucks he ends up in the pond.

RED
I'll take that bet.

SFX: More Sir Greg tumbling. Loud crash.

LEFTY
Ooh, he hit the pine tree.

SIR GREG
(from far away.)
Do not...concern yourself, good
peasants! For I, Sir Greg, have the
fortitude and strength to--
(he falls again.)
Ahhhh!

SFX: More Sir Greg falling.

RED
And the hits just keep on coming.

SFX: More Sir Greg falling.

LEFTY
Dang, missed the pond.

SFX: Loud crash, Buzzing. Screaming.

RED
And right into the bee hives.

SFX: Much screaming and buzzing.

BRIAN
Think I should go help him?

LEFTY
I'd give that a big yes.

BRIAN
Hold fast good Sir Greg! I'm coming
to your aid!

LEFTY
We'll be right back after this.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

SFX: Motorboat sound.

RUMBA PUMBA
There it is! Tokyo harbor straight
ahead!

ETHYL
Oh, it's beautiful!

SFX: Boat slowing down.

RUMBA PUMBA
You must be famished after your
long journey, Ethyl. Shall we get
you something to eat?

ETHYL
I am famished. But, I don't have
any Japanese money, Rumba Pumba.

RUMBA PUMBA
Ha-ha! Money is of no matter. We
have the magic of Akiyala-san. *Maho
no Jikan!*

SFX: Sci-fi whoosh. The sound of a crowded Robot Diner.

ETHYL
Oh my! Look at all the flashing
lights! This is crazy! Where are
we, Rumba Pumba?

RUMBA PUMBA
An authentic Japanese Robot
Restaurant. You get all the fine
food and top cultural
entertainment, all in one place.

SFX: Noise, lasers, robots.

ETHYL
Wow!

SFX: Meow!

ETHYL (CONT'D)
Giant robots fighting android
dinosaurs!

SFX: Explosions and zaps.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
Neon spaceships shooting lasers at
a Panda Bear Samurai!

SFX: Sci-fi whooshes and beeps.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

And so many scantily clad girls in space age underwear!

RUMBA PUMBA

As I said, all the finest cultural entertainment. Oh my!

ETHYL

This food is delicious! Sweet and salty. Pickled and crunchy. What is it?

RUMBA PUMBA

A combination of fish, bean paste, seaweed and a few ingredients it's best not to know.

ETHYL

It's all so wonderful, but...when are we leaving for Osaka? The International Stationary Show is going on right now and I have to get there. I have to meet Mr. Akiyama-san!

RUMBA PUMBA

Your wish is as good as granted, my dear Ethyl. *Maho no Jikan!*

SFX: Sci-fi whoosh. High speed train noises. Wind.

ETHYL

Good grief! Where are we now!

RUMBA PUMBA

The Shinkansen. The Japanese bullet train. It goes three hundred and twenty kilometers an hour. We should be in Osaka in no time.

ETHYL

But why are we riding on the roof?

SFX: Meow!

RUMBA PUMBA

You get a much better view!

ETHYL

Rumba Pumba, no offense, but why don't you just use your Akiyama-san magic to transport us to Osaka?

RUMBA PUMBA

Ah...I hadn't thought of that. Ha-ha, I am a stupid Hot Tub Monkey, after all. *Maho no Jikan!*

SFX: Sci-fi whoosh.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

LEFTY

Now it's time for a live, on the scene report. Let's go to Cookie Hightower, somewhere in the Highland Township.

COOKIE

Lefty I'm out in an undisclosed location in Highland called Gerke's Pond, where they're holding an underground event called Huckle's Hound Dog Swim Races and Skeet Shoot. With me is property owner and event organizer Pat Huckle. Mr. Huckle, what can you tell me about this shady, questionable, under-the-radar event?

PAT HUCKLE

Well, for the past five years or so, me and some friends, and friends of theirs and so forth, we get together out here with our hunting dogs, have some food and drink, enjoy the great outdoors and do a combined Hound swim race and skeet shooting event.

COOKIE

Are Hound dogs natural swimmers?

PAT HUCKLE

They are not, so to coax them into swimming we put a live raccoon in a cage and hang in on a zip line that runs over the pond. We start with the cage on the pier by the dogs, and they're losing their minds at this point. And when the gun goes off we zip the raccoon across the pond and the hounds jump in and follow suit, swimming after that little masked bugger till they get to the opposite shore.

COOKIE

And then what happens?

PAT HUCKLE

Well from there the dogs head over to the skeet shooting platform where we've tied mini cocktail franks to the triggers of nine or ten shotguns laying out there. When the dogs reach the guns we start launching clay pigeons into the air, hoping one of them will pull his weiner and knock one of those skeets right out of the sky.

COOKIE

And I have to ask, Mr. Huckle, is there gambling involved?

PAT HUCKLE

Of course. Why else would we do this? You think we want to watch swimming, skeet shooting hound dogs for fun?

COOKIE

I imagine not.

PAT HUCKLE

It's all about what makes America great, Cookie. And I thank god we live in a country where a man can construct inane, elaborate events on which to gamble his hard earned wages, possibly also betting the pink slip to his car or his second mortgage or his child's college fund on the chance that fate might smile in his direction and give him a large, unearned fortune... although probably not.

COOKIE

Aren't gambling events like these against the law?

PAT HUCKLE

Only in a legal sense, Cookie. But it's all good. The local police turn a blind eye to goings-on such as this, as long as we follow some simple rules; participants much be at least half-sober, and no firearms...except for the dogs.

(MORE)

PAT HUCKLE (CONT'D)

In fact, Chief McCloskey's been with us since the beginning. He's right over there. Hey Edgar!

EDGAR

Pat!

COOKIE

We thank you for your time, Mr. Huckle. One more thing before we leave. What is in that run-down mobile home with the smoke coming out of it? It smells like a chemistry set.

EDGAR

Thanks for stopping by, Cookie.

COOKIE

But Mr. Huckle--

EDGAR

--We gotta get these dogs in the water. Those skeet ain't gonna shoot themselves.

COOKIE

All right. This is Cookie Hightower live at Gerke's Pond, somewhere in the Highland Township. Back to you, Lefty.

LEFTY

Thanks, Cookie. And now this.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

MUSIC: Calming Japanese music. The sound of steam.

ETHYL

(sleepily.)

Oh...where are we? Is this Osaka?

RUMBA PUMBA

(chuckling.)

Oh no. You are in an Onsen. A famous Japanese hot spa near the peak of Mt. Fuji. In Tokyo you seemed so tense and high strung. I thought you might like to relax in these soothing hot waters.

SFX: Steam.

ETHYL
Ahhh, it is quite soothing.

RUMBA PUMBA
Even Mr. Snotzie likes it.

SFX: Mellow Meow and purr.

ETHYL
But...but the Expo. Okaka--

RUMBA PUMBA
Shhhh. Close your eyes and relax.

SFX: Whoosh.

ETHYL
Now what?

RUMBA PUMBA
We are in the peaceful, snowy mountains of Hokkaido in the North. You are getting a Shiatsu massage. Performed by the geishas famous for their firm fingers and calming touch.

ETHYL
But I don't want a Shiatsu--

SFX: Skin rub and bone crack.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
Oh--Ahhh...okay, maybe just for five minutes.

SFX: Whoosh.

RUMBA PUMBA
This is Hiroshima in the South. A traditional Japanese tea ceremony is taking place. The whole process is not about drinking tea, but about aesthetics, preparing a bowl of tea from one's heart. The host of the ceremony always considers the guests with every movement and gesture. It is about the act of trying for perfection, knowing that you will never achieve it.

ETHYL
It's beautiful.

SFX: Whoosh.

RUMBA PUMBA

This is the Yukata Kimono market in Tokyo. What you are wearing is a traditional Hikizuri Kimono. Made of the finest silk, it is dyed with natural colors in a pattern called Kaga Yuzen-it portrays the deep, sensual beauty found in Nature.

ETHYL

It's lovely.

RUMBA PUMBA

And you look quite lovely in it, Ethyl. It is my gift to you.

ETHYL

Oh Rumba Pumba, thank you so much. Everything you've done-the food, the hot springs, the massage, the tea ceremony and now this. I just-- I hate to be a bother, but--

RUMBA PUMBA

But you must get to Osaka. To the International Stationary Expo. You must follow your dream.

ETHYL

Yes. I do.

RUMBA PUMBA

Then say no more. I will take you there. Close your eyes.

ETHYL

All right.

RUMBA PUMBA

Deep breath.

Ethyl breathes.

RUMBA PUMBA (CONT'D)

Osaka e no maho no tabi!

SFX: Sci-Fi whoosh.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red.

LEFTY

Now it's time for Lefty and Red's
Ask Your Neighbor.

RED

The call-in show where you give
advice, post a problem, make an
announcement or just swap and
barter goods and services with
folks in the area.

LEFTY

No money changes hands, no hard
feelings.

RED

It's our little, local radio
version of Amazon.

LEFTY

Without all the tax dodging,
crushing of small town businesses
or employee abuse.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

And there's our first caller. Hi,
you're on Ask Your Neighbor.

PATTY

Hello, this is Patty Elmhurst
calling from Union Center?

RED

What's the problem today, Patty?

PATTY

Well, I wanted to talk about those
cute little wooden mailboxes; you
know, the ones that look like
little troll houses that everyone
decorates in those fun colors and
what not?

RED

Uh-huh? What about them?

PATTY

Well it seems everyone in my
neighborhood has one...but me. Now
I'm not one to throw around
conspiracy theories, or anything.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

But doesn't that seem a little suspicious to you?

RED

How so?

PATTY

I mean, three weeks ago we have the annual pot luck block party where I just happen to criticize Mary Beth Klingler's potato salad for having a tad too much vinegar, and suddenly today everyone on the block has a darling little wooden troll house mailbox. Everyone but me. And Mary Beth's husband Kurt is a carpenter, by the way.

RED

It could be just a coincidence.

PATTY

Well one person's coincidence is another person's 9/11, if you ask me.

SFX: Phone ring.

LEFTY

Hi, welcome to Ask Your Neighbor.

LOUELLA

Hi, this is Louella Bowie calling from Boaz.

LEFTY

What's on your mind, Louella?

LOUELLA

Say, I got a tip for that caller who has too much vinegar in their potato salad.

LEFTY

Okay, a little off-topic, but go ahead.

LOUELLA

There's an old recipe my Great Aunt Ceilia passed on to me to cut the vinegar flavor. Just mix a slurry of equal parts cream of tartar, whole milk and baking soda. Then add a dash of dry mustard.

(MORE)

LOUELLA (CONT'D)

Stir that together in a pan over low heat till it's all nice and blended.

LEFTY

Okay, then what?

LOUELLA

Then you mix that into your potato salad, but do it slow so's you don't curdle the mayonnaise. About one teaspoon at a time. And it's a good idea to leave it in the fridge overnight to get the best flavor.

LEFTY

No offense to your Great Aunt Ceilia, Louella, but couldn't you just add more mayonnaise?

LOUELLA

Well sure...if you want to take a cheap shortcut. All right. Bye-bye and stay safe everyone.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

You're on Lefty and Red's Ask Your Neighbor.

BERT

Yeah, this is Bert Coomes calling from over in Lime Ridge.

RED

What's your issue, Bert?

BERT

Say, I heard that caller talking about all the mailboxes in her neighborhood, and I gotta say, that sounds a little scary to me.

RED

Of course?

BERT

Remember when I called back a while ago 'cause I saw that the flag on my mailbox was up for no apparent reason?

RED
How could I forget?

BERT
Do you think this might be connected? Like maybe a government alien mailbox conspiracy sort of thing?

RED
Who knows? These days one man's conspiracy is another man's facts.

BERT
Oh god, I thought you might say something like that. I gotta go!

SFX: Click.

SFX: Phone ring.

LEFTY
You're on Ask Your Neighbor

BERNICE
This is Bernice Ramsey from over in Muscoda.

LEFTY
Hi-ya, Bernice. What's up?

BERNICE
Say I was wondering if you could connect me up with the carpenter fella that gal was talking about? I got some loose floorboards in my attic from them darn flying squirrels nesting up there. They could use some nailing down.

LEFTY
And probably patch up the hole to keep those squirrels out, right Bernice?

BERNICE
Oh no, I killed them all. About thirty of them or so. My late husband Edgar left his over and under shotgun, so I just made some peach ice teach, sat on my porch and made an afternoon of it.

LEFTY

Okay...well, we'll see what we can do.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

Hello, you're on Ask Your Neighbor.

HERM

Hi, this is Herm Demmel from over in Clyde.

RED

What can we do for you, Herm?

HERM

Say, I'd be happy to make a little troll house mailbox for that gal. I got a bunch of tools and some extra lumber left over from building my back deck. And I saw a ton of plans on the Google; I could make a troll house or a Victorian doll house or even a Fred Flintstone house if I could get enough clay.

RED

Okay, well Patty Elmhurst, if you're listening, give us a call and we'll put you in touch with Herm.

HERM

Oh, and I could swing by and nail down Bernice's floorboards if she wanted me to.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

You're on Ask Your Neighbor.

PATTY

Hello, Patty Elmhurst calling back.

RED

Hi Patty. Would you like Herm Demmel to come over and build you a new mailbox?

PATTY

Oh, I would love that.

HERM

Yeah, say, like I says I found a load of mailbox plans on the Google, so whatever you want, I'd be happy to build you one.

PATTY

Terrific. I really don't care about the design, I just want you to make sure it's bigger, brighter and more colorful than anyone else's on the block. Especially Mary Beth Klinger's.

HERM

Uh...okay?

PATTY

I mean, I'd ask my husband, but he's completely useless. Doesn't even know the working end of a hammer.

TOM

(background.)
Patty...

PATTY

I mean, the man would put a dog turd on broom handle and call it a kitchen cabinet.

TOM

(background.)
Patty, knock it off!

RED

Well, that's all the time we have for Lefty & Red's Ask Your Neighbor. Now this.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

SFX: Sci-fi Whoosh.

ETHYL

Oh my gosh. The Osaka Exposition center. We made it, Mr. Snotzie! We made it! Our dream came true!

SFX: Meow!

RUMBA PUMBA

I told you I would bring you here,
Ethyl Flapsaddle. And now you are.

ETHYL

But where...where do we get in?
(calling.)
Excuse me!

SFX: Sweeping.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Hai?

ETHYL

Where do we go in? To the
International Stationary Show? The
entrance?

MAINTENANCE MAN

(broken English.)
No. No. Stationary show all over.
No show. Over.

ETHYL

But--

MAINTENANCE MAN

--Show over. Two hours ago. All
closed up. All over. Itaru Tokoro.
All over.

ETHYL

Oh no. We're too late.

SFX: Meow.

RUMBA PUMBA

Oh Ethyl...I am so sorry.

ETHYL

Two hours. We missed it by two
hours.

RUMBA PUMBA

It is my fault. Had I not delayed
you by given you the tour of Japan,
we could have been here much
sooner. I am so very sorry.

ETHYL

That's all right, Rumba Pumba. You
meant well. Besides, you showed me
such glorious things.

(MORE)

ETHYL (CONT'D)

The sights, the sounds, the wonderful food and people. It was a once in a lifetime trip. I loved it all. Well, maybe not sitting on the roof of the bullet train.

RUMBA PUMBA

Ha-ha, no.

ETHYL

And even if we got here a little too late, I did chase my dream. And I did see it through to the end. That was the most important thing. That and keeping Mr. Snotzie safe.

SFX: Meow.

SFX: Eerie sci-fi noises.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Oh my, what's going on?!

SFX: Big sci-fi whoosh.

AKIYAMA

Oh Ethyl, I am so glad you said what you did.

ETHYL

Rumba Pumba? What happened? You changed. You're--oh my gosh! You're Mr. Akiyama-san?!

AKIYAMA

Yes, it is me. In the flesh.

ETHYL

But..but I don't understand.

AKIYAMA

Ethyl, I have been watching you very closely, ever since you were a little girl. When you were so excited about your Rumba Pumba Hot Tub Monkey pencil set, on sale now at Akiyama.com for fourteen ninety-five, I knew you were special.

ETHYL

Special? Me?

AKIYAMA

Because Akiyama is more than just papers, pencils, pens and assorted stationary accessories. It's about love.

ETHYL

Love?

AKIYAMA

A love of writing, printing, drawing and folding. A love of characters, color and stories. When I was a little boy, I had a dream, too. A dream to create a world that little boys and girls like you would enjoy and love as much as me. A love that would keep Akiyama alive well after I am gone. And as a boy, I also had a cat I loved very much. His name was *Nen'eki-shi*

ETHYL

How could you watch me so closely from so far away? Magic?

AKIYAMA

(uncomfortably.)

Uhh, let's just say that the measles vaccine you got as a child also had a small micro-chip tracking device in it and leave it at that.

ETHYL

But...why did you make me late for the show?

AKIYAMA

Because I wanted to show you the Japan that I love. The Japan that inspired me to create all of the characters and places in the Akiyama Universe. The real Japan. Besides, these stationary shows are very commercialized. Lots of flash, noise, cheap products and the food is terrible. Not fresh.

ETHYL

Oh. So I guess, in the end, I did reach my dream.

(MORE)

ETHYL (CONT'D)

I experienced Japan, came to Osaka
and met my hero. Thank you so much,
Mr. Akiyama-san.

AKIYAMA

It is my pleasure, Ethyl
Flapsaddle. And now, it is time to
send you home. Close your eyes.

ETHYL

Should I click my heels together
three times and say "There's no
place like home"?

AKIYAMA

No, too cliché'. How about saying
Ie ni kaerimashou?

ETHYL

That's too hard.

AKIYAMA

Then just say, *Sayonara*.

ETHYL

Sayonara.

SFX: Meow. Sci-fi whoosh.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red

LEFTY

Well, that's all the time we have
this week for Land Yacht Radio With
Lefty and Red.

ETHYL

Konichi-wa Lefty. Konichi-wa Red.

LEFTY

Hi-ya Ethyl. Wow, nice kimono. Did
you get coffee creamer?

RED

We hope you enjoyed listening in.
And tune in next time when we--

SFX: Siren blast.

RED (CONT'D)

(shocked.)

What the--

AGENT DICKARD
(calling out.)
Get into the trailer and confiscate
everything. Microphones,
transmitters, wiring, toilet paper,
I don't care, I want it all!

LEFTY
What's going on?!

AGENT POMMEROY
I'm federal Agent Pommeroy, this is
Federal Agent Dickard. Are you two
Lefty and Red of Land Yacht Radio?

LEFTY
Yes, but--

AGENT POMMEROY
Then it is my duty to inform you
that you are under arrest for
violating statutes of the Federal
Communications Commission.

SFX: Handcuffs clicking.

RED
What?!

AGENT DICKARD
And you are also under suspicion of
espionage and inciting
international terrorism. Take 'em
away.
(calling.)
Tear it all down, people!

RED
(struggling.)
Wait! You can't do this!

LEFTY
What the heck is going on?! This is
ridiculous!

SFX: Car doors closing. Car pulling out. Sirens.

MUSIC: End music

The music gets cut off with a static filled beep tone.

THE END.

