

George Bailey Redivivus

by

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George Bailey Redivivus

DESCRIPTION

Life goes on for George Bailey after the last reel of "It's A Wonderful Life" - and what happens? George finds out, "Not much," and Clarence once again has to appear to give him a hand, though with a very different offer this time around.

CHARACTERS

- GEORGE BAILEY
- CLARENCE

SETTING

- A bridge in Bedford Falls

TIME

- Some number of years later

George Bailey Redivivus

Christmas Day some indefinite number of years later. GEORGE BAILEY is again at the railing of the bridge. Snow swirls around him.

GEORGE

Damn, damn, damn! Nothing's changed! I'm still George Bailey living in this one-horse town, still working this run-down building and loan, making no money, and fit to bust! Yeah, sure, it's a wonderful life!

(looking up)

Clarence, I got to admit that I'm glad you did you what you did, but there ain't been any buffalo gals out at all for a long time, and I'm just gonna bust! Any chance for a return engagement and a slightly better deal this time around?

The snow stops swirling and a set of headlights swings onto the bridge. The car stops and CLARENCE gets out.

GEORGE

Clarence! You're looking mighty good. Heaven has been treating you well.

CLARENCE

Heaven! Oh, my, my, no! Not any more.

GEORGE

But the wings, the promotion -- ?

CLARENCE

In the end, they counted for nothing. You know, George, all this talk about "globalization"? People are so limited. It's not just the globe, it goes all the way...

CLARENCE points upward.

GEORGE

Really?

CLARENCE

Yes. I had a nice position as an assistant to a deputy archangel, and then, bam! cosmoglobalization hit. Suddenly I was "angelically redundant" (a nice kind of phrase, if you think about it). We could either take a demotion down to, well, down there, or our other choice was to take a temporary furlough as a human being. And so here I am.

GEORGE

Did it really get bad up there?

CLARENCE

No, not bad. There was quite a lively trade in halos and wings for a while, but it couldn't really last. You know, heaven is really just a service economy, what with all that singing and charity we dole out (guardian angels are very expensive to maintain! and such divas, to boot!), so there wasn't much cushion. It shook the place up, but nowhere near like down here.

GEORGE

And so here you are. But the car, the nice clothes --

(pats CLARENCE's belly)

The food seems to be agreeing with you.

CLARENCE

True. I can't say I have the mark of Cain about me -- more like I'm living in the belly of the feast!

GEORGE

But how?

CLARENCE

That's what I've come to talk to you about, George. Since I'd taken on flesh, I had to get a job, so I took one -- with Mr. Potter.

GEORGE

Potter?! That old, wizened, bitter --

CLARENCE

I've heard adjectives before. But he still wants you to work for him. George, Bedford Falls is Pottersville -- you saw that in your dream. He owns just about everything worth owning, and what he doesn't own isn't worth the trouble (like your building and loan). It's time for you to start looking out for number one. I find that greed is good, George, kind of refreshing after a pretty long time of selfless hovering. I know you may not like it, but Potter's the American way, George, and a little greed might just make your and Mary's life a little easier. What d'ya say?

GEORGE

Well, I don't know. Wait a second! You aren't trying to tempt me or something? One of those Jesus in the desert things?

(Clarence shake his head no.)

A soul not worth what it used to be?

(Clarence nods yes.)

Well, why not?

CLARENCE

(as they walk toward the car)

Morality, I've found, isn't a market force. He -

-

(pointing upward)

-- and Mr. Potter aren't all that different on that score.

GEORGE

Martini's to celebrate?

CLARENCE

(patting his stomach)

Oh, yes. It's a such pleasure rediscovering the flesh.

GEORGE

(as they start to get into the car)

You know, Clarence, you've done it again.

CLARENCE

I have, haven't I?

Laughing, they both get in the car and drive away. "Buffalo Gals" comes up briefly as they move, then out.