

## **The Raffle Ticket**

by Anthony L. Mariani

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### **Cast of Characters**

**LEM HAWKINS:** Barber Shop Owner and avid Bass fisherman. Barber Shop Owner and avid Bass fisherman. His shop is the center of the towns gossip which gives him his public status

**HANK CAMPBELL:** Manager of the grocery store. Known in town for being a sidekick and suck up to Reed Forester. He is Reed's yes man and does not make a move without his approval.

**REED FORESTER:** Hardware Store owner. The most powerful man in town. He has slowly become wealthy buying up foreclosed farm land of his customers. He is known to be a ruthless businessman who gets what he wants.

**CRAIG GARETT:** Tow truck driver and body mechanic. A high school drop-out, he crude man who is good with his hands. He is defensive about his lack of education however his common sense is what he takes pride in.

**SCOTTIE BRYANT:** The town postman. News travels fast with Scottie, he is the town gossip. Why write a letter when Scottie can spread the news for you?

**LUIS ORTIZ:** Hispanic Handyman, and Lem's fishing buddy. A good hardworking man who takes care of other. He crosses the border each day and searches in town for odd jobs that no Americans want to do.

### **Production Notes:**

*The barber's chair can be a wooden chair with arms, attached to the top of a raised platform. The radio announcer and the other locals on the radio show can be doubled up by all the cast members except for the actor playing Lem.*

**TIME:** Noon – Present day.

**PLACE:** A Barber Shop in the United States.

ACT I

Scene 1

*In the dark you hear a local radio show, The People's Exchange, where local items are sold over the radio.*

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

Good morning, you're on The People's Exchange.

FARMER ONE (Off)

Morning, Larry. I got me three Pigs, two full grown and one Suckling. I will trade for a fuel pump for a Nineteen Eighty Seven, Ford Ranger, or \$300 or your best offer. 546-3367

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

That's Three pigs for A for a fuel pump for a Nineteen Eighty Seven, Ford Ranger, or \$300 or your best offer. 546-3367. (Beat) Good Moring, You're on The People's Exchange.

FARMER TWO (Off)

Hi, Larry. I have some nicely aged firewood. \$100 a rick. Will deliver. 546-3393.

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

That's aged firewood. \$100 a rick, delivered. (Beat) Good morning, you're on The People's Exchange.

*The lights fade up on a small town barber Shop with only one Barber's Chair. LEM HAWKINS, the town's barber is sitting in his own chair listen to the radio program.*

FARMER THREE (Off)

I've got fairly used tires, fits most John Deere 7J Series tractors. I'll take \$500 or Best offer. 546-3323

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

That's used John Deere 7J Series tractor tires, \$500 or best offer. 546-3323. (Beat) Well that ends the Peoples Exchange for this morning. You can tune it again, this afternoon at Five, for more of The People's Exchange, brought to you by: Forester's Hardware your one stop for all your hardware needs. This week they are running a special on Five Gallon Milk house buckets only \$19.99. Offer good today through Saturday, At Forester's: Hardware for Hard Men. (BEAT) It's High Noon hear on KRUN: K-Run for all your local News and Entertainment. (BEAT).

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

Now ladies and gentlemen I know you are all on the edge of your seats, so I won't keep you waiting. Grab your tickets and get Ready, It's time to announce the winning raffle number for The Bassman 3000. I'll give you a moment to dig out your tickets.

*The small cowbell on the Barber Shop door rings out as Scottie Bryant, the town's mailman, comes rushing and tosses his mail bag near the front door.*

SCOTTIE BRYANT

Have they announced it yet?

LEM

Quiet!

The two men pull strings of connected raffle tickets out of their pockets.

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

Someone is going to win that amazing bass boat and trailer rig, that has been parked outside the Co-op this past week. Yes, One lucky winner will be going home with that boat today, complements of our own chamber of commerce. This fishbowl is full of tickets and on behalf of the Chamber we would like to thank everyone who participated in buying tickets this year.

*Both men stand by the radio with their strings of tickets dangling to the fool anxiously waits for the numbers to be read.*

RADIO ANOUNCER (Off)

Let me reach deep into this bowl and these tickets a stir. I've got one. Here it is, the winning number is! (Pause) 86392! That's 86392! Ticket holder 86392 Congratulations you have won a brand New Bassman 3000 flat bottom boat with trolling motor and trailer! That's Ticket 86392!

*Lem clicks off the radio and the two men start frantically working their way through each string of tickets, methodically checking for the winning number. The cowbell rings out once more as CRAIG GARETT, the town mechanic rushes in with his string of tickets in his hand.*

CRAIG GARETT

Did they announce it yet?

*Both men don't take the time to look up or say hello, but continue checking their numbers.*

CRAIG GARETT

Well?

*Scottie, still not looking up answers him.*

SCOTTIE BRYANT

86392!

CRAIG GARETT

Slow down.

*Lem getting frustrated as is on his last string of tickets.*

LEM

86392! 86392!

*Craig starts to quickly check his tickets tossing his losing strings up in the air as he finishes checking them. Scottie and Lem run out of tickets and they watch Craig to see if he is the winner. Craig gets to the last row of tickets and works his way down. Then frustrated tossed the string in the air.*

CRAIG GARETT

Son of a Bitch!

SCOTTIE BRYANT

Man, I've been dreaming about that bass boat.

*Lem picks up his small trash can and dumps his tickets into it. Then he walks over to Scottie and hold it out towards him, Scottie shoves his losing tickets into the wastebasket.*

LEM

Who hasn't. *(He Shoves the Wastebasket into Craig's hands.)* Clean up your mess!

*Craig takes the trash can and starts to pick up his scattered strings of tickets. Lem pops himself back down in his Barber's Chair.*

CRAIG GARETT

I wonder who won her?

LEM

I bet it was, Reed Forester, he wins everything around here.

SCOTTIE BRYANT

Or Hank Campbell, I've seen how he fixes those sales prices down at the grocery store. Bait and switch, I say. I wouldn't put it past him fixing this raffle.

CRAIG GARETT

You know the fix is in, if anyone from the Chamber of Commerce wins.

LEM

Well, I know one thing, will know who won it soon. It won't take long for news to travel in this town.

SCOTTIE BRYANT

I need to be getting back on my route. If I hear anything I'll stop back in.

*The cowbell rings out once more as Scottie exits with his mailbag.*

LEM

Craig, you interested in a quick trim?

CRAIG GARETT

No, Lem. I think I should get back to shop. I'm working on Old Ben's Ford Ranger.

LEM

Yeah, I heard him looking for a fuel pump.

CRAIG GARETT

Cheap bastard. He won't let me order one off the internet.

LEM

I'll give you a trim. On the house.

*Craig changes directions and quickly walks up warps to the chair grabs the apron and puts it on himself and sits down to get his hair cut.*

CRAIG GARETT

Awe, Lem. You don't have to do that, but since your offering I would love a little trim. I have a big date this weekend and I've been meaning to stop in, and besides it will keep my mind off that boat.

*Lem walks over and grabs a comb and a pair of scissors stands behind Craig.*

LEM

Nothing like a little trim of the hair, to make a man forget his blues.

CRAIG GARETT

Now that's a great line for a country song. I need to write that one down.

*From under the Barber's apron Craig pulls out a small note pad and pen.*

LEM

How's that make a good country song?

CRAIG GARETT

You got not taste Lem.

*Lem snips away with the scissors around the back of Craig's head.*

LEM

Boy, I keep thinking about that boat.

CRAIG GARETT

She is nice.

LEM

She sure is.

CRAIG GARETT

She's too much boat for you Lem, you would have just wrecked her.

LEM

What do you mean too much boat for me?

CRAIG GARETT

You got to know what you're doing, if you're going fishing around Black Oak Bend.

LEM

I fish that river every Sunday, and I know every bend in her.

CRAIG GARETT

Form the banks. You fish from the banks. That river is a whole different animal once you're on that water, you never know what's around the next bend. You would have wrecked her.

*The Cowbell rings out as HANK CAMPBELL, the grocery store manager, rushes into the shop and looks at Lem and Craig and lets out a snarky laugh.*

HANK CAMPBELL

Well, at least neither of you two won her!

LEM

We figured you had rigged the drawing, so you could win.

HANK CAMPBELL

I wish! That sure is one bad ass bass boat.

LEM

It's going to end up being some old women who after church, bought a ticket.

CRAIG GARETT

God, please don't let that be true.

HANK CAMPBELL

That's the way these things shake out.

CRAIG GARETT

I sold two to Old Ben with the hopes he'd win, and trade it out for fixing up his Ranger.

HANK CAMPBELL

That's kind of hedging your bet isn't it?

CRAIG GARETT

And how many family members did you sell tickets to, with the hopes they would win and be beholding to you to the point of letting you borrow that boat? I bet there is not a Campbell between here and the county line that ain't ticket.

*The Cowbell rings once more and REED FORESTER enters.*

LEM

Why Reed, come in.

REED FORESTER

Afternoon, boys.

CRAIG GARETT

I guess you came to see if any of us had won that Bass boat.

REED FORESTER

No, Craig. I came to get my hair cut.

LEM

You heard the man Craig, a paying customer. Get out of the chair.

*Lem rips the apron off of Craig and pushing him out the chair to make room. He then picks up his little hand brush and brushed off the Barber's chair and makes sure it's nice and clean for Reed to sit down.*

LEM

Here you go Reed, all nice and clean for you.

REED FORESTER

Why thank you, Lem. (Beat) So, none of you boys won the Bass boat. Well, ain't that just a crying shame.

*Reed sit in the chair and Lem Drapes an Apron over Reed.*

HANK CAMPBELL

We were all figuring you would have won Reed.

LEM

Seem like you were a shoe in to win, Reed. Seems like everyone that's come in for a haircut this last week, we're all telling me the same story. How Reed Forester told him that if he won he would take me fishing in that boat, as long as they promised to do the same.

*Reed smiles and lets out little chuckle.*

REED FORESTER

That's just what they call good salesmanship, Lem. Truthfully, I only bought one ticket, because I only had one left. I had sold the rest.

CRAIG GARETT

One ticket?

HANK CAMPBELL

That's why you're the legend.

REED FORESTER

It's also why I'm the head of the Chamber. I set an example by setting the benchmark. That's always been my moto.

CRAIG GARETT

Yeah, but one ticket? Didn't you want that bass boat?

HANK CAMPBELL

Craig, do you really think the Chamber of Commerce put up the money for that bass boat? It was Reed who donated it. If he wanted one he would just go out and buy one.

LEM

Leadership by example and setting the benchmark. I like that, Reed.

REED FORESTER

Well, thank you, Lem. Now, how about you give me a little trim, so I can take a nice photo with the winner.

LEM

Just leave it to me Reed. I'll have you looking sharp.

REED FORESTER

That's why I came here Lem. I knew you would make me look sharp. Let's start with a shave.

*Lem picks up a shaving cup, and fills it with shaving cream. He lathers as small brush applies the shaving cream on Reeds face as he talks.*

LEM

I wonder who did win that boat.

REED FORESTER

You mean you wonder if they will take you fishing in it.

The other men all laugh at Reeds Joke.

CRAIG GARETT

Bass Boats, like who has time to go fishing these days.

REED FORESTER

Now, Craig Garrett, everyone has time to do a little fishing now and then. I'm right Lem?

LEM

Oh yes, Reed, your right. I try to do a little fishing every Sunday. It's kind of takes your mind off things.

*Lem Finishes up applying the layer of Shaving Cream on Reeds face.*

CRAIG GARETT

I don't have time to take my mind off things. I've got a mortgage to pay and Sundays are usually my best tow truck days.

HANK CAMPBELL

Sundays?

CRAIG GARETT

You would be amazed how many people break down on a Sunday.

HANK CAMPBELL

Really?

CRAIG GARETT

I look at it like the Good Lord is looking down on me and taking care of me and my mortgage on Sundays.

REED FORESTER

Getting back to my point. You don't have to fish on Sunday's you can fish any day of the week.

HANK CAMPBELL

That's right Reed, Any day of the week.

LEM

All you need is the right bait.

*Lem takes sharpens his straight razor on a razor strap.*

CRAIG GARETT

I don't have the time. I'm too busy fishing for a wife.

REED FORESTER

Well Craig, All you need is the right bait.

*Everyone except for Craig, laughs at Reeds Joke.*

CRAIG GARETT

Oh, I have the right bait, but I keep catching Shad, one of these days I'm going to land me a Crappie or a big old bass.

REED FORESTER

Old she will have a big Bass.

*The men once again explode with laughter at Reed's Joke, before Craig can react, the cowbell rings and excited Scottie comes running into the Barber Shop.*

SCOTTIE BRYANT

I knew I would Find you here Reed. I guess you guys already heard.

HANK CAMPBELL

Heard what?

SCOTTIE BRYANT

Who won the Bass Boat!

LEM

You know who won?

SCOTTIE BRYANT

Oh my God, you guys don't know yet?

REED FORESTER

Who won, Scottie?

SCOTTIE BRYANT

It was LUIS ORTIZ!

*There is a uncomfortable silence in the room. Then Craig starts to laugh mocking Reed.*

CRAIG GARETT

Hurry up Lem, Reed here has to look good for his picture with the beaner!

*Craig laughs some more, Reed grabs a towel and starts to wipe the shaving cream off his face.*

HANK CAMPBELL

That's not funny Craig. This is serious.

LEM

Serious?

HANK CAMPBELL

You don't think someone selling a raffle ticket to a Mexican is not serious?

REED FORESTER

Hank is right this is serious. (Beat) This is more than just a Bass Boat at stake here. It's the integrity of the town, the chamber of commerce. Someone sold us out. Someone made us give a prize to a Mexican, not even a citizen of this town. Someone has betrayed us.