

WELCOME TO FLORIDA

by

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Characters

CONSTANCE LEE RANDOLPH: A born and bred Virginian, 40ish

GRANT: Good ole' Florida redneck (think south Georgia) with the drawl to match, any age.

VOICE: Off-stage voice, any age.

Setting

Florida DMV.

Time

Right about now.

SETTING: There is a single card table meant to represent all of DMV. Taped to the front is a sign that reads DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS, NO RENEWALS. There are a couple of stacks of forms and two small boxes - one orange, one green - on the table. On another part of the stage is a single metal chair.

AT RISE: CONSTANCE is sitting, rather squirming, in her hard chair. She glances at her watch. Taps her foot impatiently and glances at her watch again. She looks like she stepped out of the Talbot's catalog.

Meanwhile, GRANT sits in a chair behind the table. He is wearing a polo shirt with the DMV logo. He is rocked back in his chair looking at the ceiling with a pencil balanced between his nose and upper lip. He sits forward, looks at his watch and rocks back again. A moment passes. He looks at his watch again then sits forward. He picks up a small ticket, studies it and then yells
 . . .

GRANT (yelling)

Number 71.

(beat)

Number 71.

(beat)

Last call, number 71.

(GRANT puts the ticket into the green box. CONSTANCE stands up and picks up her purse.)

Number 73.

(CONSTANCE rushes over, waving a piece of paper.)

CONSTANCE

Excuse me. I have number 72.

GRANT

What number did I just call?

CONSTANCE

Number 73.

GRANT

Well, guess you missed your turn.

(yelling)

Number 73.

CONSTANCE

You never called number 72. You went right from 71 to 73.

GRANT

That's impossible. We have a system here at DMV. We use these little pieces of paper see . . .

(He holds one up.)

and when we call the number written on it and someone shows up, we put it in this here container.

(He holds up the orange box.)

And when they don't show up we put it in this here container.

(He holds up the green box.)

So the next number on the top of my pile is the one I call.

CONSTANCE

But I've been sitting here for . . .

(She glances at her watch.)

47 minutes waiting for you to call number 72. And you didn't.

GRANT

I must have, and you just didn't hear it.

CONSTANCE

I was right here. There is no way I could have missed it.

GRANT

Maybe you were in the ladies john.

CONSTANCE

No. I have been crossing and uncrossing my legs for 20 minutes because I was afraid to go.

GRANT

You don't have to be afraid no more. There aren't snakes in there now – not since they fixed that broken window.

CONSTANCE

I meant I was afraid to lose my place in line. Please. No one has shown up yet for number 73. Please.

GRANT

But what do I do about the little piece of paper?

CONSTANCE

You can have mine. Just put it in the green box and no one will know the difference.

GRANT

The green box is for people who don't show up.

CONSTANCE

Fine, fine. The orange box then.

GRANT

Well . . . seeing as no one has showed up for number 73, I guess it will be okay.

(He takes her paper and
puts it in the green box.)

CONSTANCE

But you put it in . . . never mind.

GRANT

Now what brings you to DMV today?

CONSTANCE

I've just moved here, and I need a driver's license.

GRANT

Well good, then you're in the right place. Do you need a new one?

CONSTANCE

I thought I just said that.

GRANT

No, you said you needed a driver's license. Do you need a new one?

CONSTANCE (overly sweet)
If I didn't need a new one, why would I be in this line?

GRANT
You'd be surprised how many people wait for the wrong tables around here. Have you read the State of Florida Drivers Manual?

CONSTANCE
Well, no. I was under the impression --

GRANT
Well, I highly recommend it.
(He laughs.)
That sounds like it's a best seller or something.
(HE holds a pretend book up
as if for the cameras.)
I highly recommend you read this book.
Like on Oprah. Not that I watch that mind you.

(CONSTANCE forces a smile.)

CONSTANCE
Yes, very amusing. But I was told I wouldn't need --

GRANT
It's kind of important because we have some strange rules in this state. Like the one about gators having the right of way.

CONSTANCE
What?

GRANT
On account of them being endangered and all. If they're smaller than 7 feet, Wildlife Control can't do a thing.

CONSTANCE
7 feet?!

GRANT
You just have to wait for them to mosey along on their own. Let's see. Where was I? Oh yeah, and you need to take the State of Florida Drivers Road Test.

CONSTANCE
You won't accept my driver's license from --

GRANT

You have a valid driver's license? From one of the 50 yoo-nited states?

CONSTANCE

Yes.

GRANT

Well, why didn't you say so?

CONSTANCE

I tried but --

GRANT

You shoulda told me in the beginning instead of saying you wanted a new license. Okay. Name.

(GRANT fills in a form as
CONSTANCE responds to the
questions.)

CONSTANCE

Constance Lee Randolph.

GRANT

Ya want the Lee on here Connie, or just an 'L'?

CONSTANCE

Lee please. And it's Constance. Although frankly I would prefer Mrs. Randolph.

GRANT

Is that Leigh as in the fancy spelling some girls have or Lee as in the General?

CONSTANCE

The General. L-e-e.

GRANT

Ya know, we're almost related. What's your address Connie?

CONSTANCE

17 Palm View. How, pray tell, are we related?

GRANT

Didn't say we are related. City?

CONSTANCE

Palm Valley.