

ACROSS THE ROAD

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT. HAMISH'S CORNER STORE - MORNING

Flowers glisten, fresh fruit displayed, a broom sweeps, a happy tune whistled.

HAMISH, 80's, wiry, slightly bent, prepares his corner store for business.

BERNICE, 60's, round, leathery - very leathery, peaks from behind her curtain across the road.

Hamish smiles, waves at her.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bernice closes the curtain - caught!

She recovers. Covertly, she peaks again.

He's gone!

She keeps watch, a diligent soldier on morning patrol.

Hamish returns holding toilet paper with a sign.

TOILET PAPER 4-PACK \$45

Horror on Bernice's face. Absolute horror.

She walks to ALF, her husband. Alf reads the newspaper at their dining table.

Bernice crosses her arms. She stands over him.

He looks up.

She taps the headline with her finger.

PANDEMIC OVER BUT PRICE GOUGING CONTINUES!

Alf shrugs. Not interested.

Bernice returns to her post, peaks through the curtain - a customer leaves smiling with a 4-pack. She punches her fists by her side.

Hamish looks up from across the road. He smiles, waves.

She waves a disapproving finger.

He turns to walk slowly inside. He takes the toilet paper and sign on his way. His head down.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Bernice peaks from behind her curtain.

The toilet paper is back!

A police car drives by.

It stops outside Hamish's store.

Triumph!

The policeman speaks to Hamish.

Justice!

The policeman hands money to Hamish.

What??

The policeman walks to his car...with a 4-pack.

No!

The policeman waves to Bernice.

She closes the curtain.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Bernice peaks from behind her curtain. She watches Hamish drive off. The store is closed.

She nods to herself. Good, he's gone.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Bernice peaks from behind her curtain. The sign reads:

TOILET PAPER 4-PACK \$60

Bernice is speechless.

A dog cocks his leg on the paper.

Hamish shoos the dog.

Bernice sniggers.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

A thunderstorm sweeps through.

Hamish races to get the paper inside.

She gloats.

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Hamish stacks the toilet paper high. He stumbles, knocks one, they all fall.

She sniggers.

Alf comes to the window.

ALF

Bernice!

BERNICE

Pfft.

MONTAGE OF DAYS FROM BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM

The store is closed. Bernice is glad.

The store is still closed. Bernice is confused.

The store is still closed. Bernice is concerned.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BERNICE'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Bernice peaks from behind her curtain. Hamish parks his car in front of his shop.

He helps his WIFE enter the shop.

A hint of compassion smooths away some of Bernice's leathery lines. She's confused about this feeling.

She walks to her front door.

ALF

Bernice!

The door closes behind her.