

ANNE. I know, Anne.

BETH. No, that's your name.

ANNE. Don't you think I know that?

BETH. Okay, then, *Beth*, let me ask you a question. When you arrived on the scene was there any sign of Frank?

ANNE. Frank, the man that Miss—

BETH. We in the studio have come to believe that Frank, my former co-anchor—

ANNE. I know Frank.

BETH. Right, that Frank, after quitting, decided to take matters in to his own hands... Word has it that he's trying to start a rebellion against Mother Goose and her beautiful rhymes. It's sick if you ask me. And Frank is a deranged and dangerous, man. When he's caught he should be put down like a rabies-infested dog. Or quartered.

ANNE. Quartered?

BETH. You know, with horses.

ANNE. That seems a little cruel don't you think?

BETH. Not in the least.

(PHIL signals to go to commercial.)

BETH. We'll be right back after this short commercial break. Stay tuned for the latest developments. (*Dramatic voice:*) When Nursery Rhymes Revolt!

*start*  
(PHIL storms on stage.)

PHIL. What do you think you're doing, Beth? Have you lost it? I know they don't do it anymore, but you suggested Frank be quartered.

BETH. I'm not trained for this type of news. These are events, happening in real time, and I'm supposed to report on them as they happen!

PHIL. You *are* a news reporter, Beth.

BETH. I never signed up to think on my feet. This is a violation of my contract.

PHIL. Now listen, Frank's little mutiny is his feeble attempt to take the spotlight away from you. Well, I'm not going to let that happen. I'm not going to let Frank do this to you...or the news station...or Mother Goose!

BETH. (*Into the camera:*) If you're listening, Frank, you need to come back.

PHIL. We're on commercial break, Beth.

BETH. I know we are.

PHIL. Now, pull yourself together. You can get through this. You just have to focus. You're the only news anchor I have left. Which makes you lead anchor. Right now, you are the face of this news station. You are Beth Nuckerpants. Now say it.

BETH. (*Weakly:*) I am Beth Nuckerpants.

PHIL. Now say it again. I am Beth Nuckerpants.

BETH. (*A little stronger:*) I am Beth Nuckerpants.

PHIL. Better. Again.

BETH. (*Stronger:*) I am Beth Nuckerpants. And this is your 7 o'clock news.

PHIL. Now try singing it. (*Singing:*) I am Beth Nuckerpants...and this is your 7 o'clock news...

BETH. Phil, I—

PHIL. Sing with me!

PHIL and BETH. (*Singing:*) I am Beth Nuckerpants...and this is your 7 o'clock neeeewwsss!

PHIL. Nice finish. Now we're going back on the air and you will report the news...as it happens. And back in five, four, three, and... (*He motions the last counts.*)

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