

HERE COMES THE JUDGE
Snake's Alive

by

Joyce Adrian Sotski

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Blind Bay, BC

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CAST

JUDGE JONES: male or female
COURT CLERK: male or female
SHARON: female
ALICE: female

PLACE

Blind Bay Community Court

TIME

Present day

HERE COMES THE JUDGE
Snakes Alive

ACT I

At Rise: The Interior of the Court House.

COURT CLERK: Hear ye, hear ye. All those who have business before the Blind Bay Community Court, come forward and ye shall be heard. Now presiding, Judge Jones, on behalf of Judge Bernard Richardson who has gone home for his afternoon nap.

JUDGE JONES: *(To the Clerk)* My-my, aren't we just a Gossip Ginny today. Do you really think the courtroom needed that much information. *(To all in the courtroom)* Clerk, please call the first case.

COURT CLERK: The first case is Sharon versus Alice. The plaintiff is Sharon and the defendant is Alice.

JUDGE JONES: What is the nature of your claim?

SHARON: Alice here, destroyed a tire on my truck and refuses to pay for a new one.

ALICE: I didn't destroy the whole tire; I just punched one little hole in it.

SHARON: You can't drive a truck on a tire with a hole in it.

JUDGE JONES: Sharon, will you please tell us your story and then we'll allow Alice to give us her version.

SHARON: Yes of course, your Acting Honour.

JUDGE JONES: Now just a minute before we get started; let's set the record straight. Aren't the two of you well known in the community for being best of friends?

ALICE: Yes that's true and that's how this whole thing got started.

JUDGE JONES: I don't understand but I'm sure I'm going to find out. Let's let Sharon speak first.

SHARON: You see we're always doing things together and one day Alice heard about this cabin you can rent right on Osoyoos Lake so we decided to rent it for a weekend.

ALICE: And that's rattlesnake country, Osoyoos is! It's beautiful country but there's rattlesnakes there.

JUDGE JONES: Let's let Sharon tell her story and then you can have your say.

SHARON: It's full of rattlesnakes in Osoyoos and when we pulled up to the front of the cabin in my truck we saw one.

ALICE: It was coiled up right there in the middle of the driveway, all curled up into a tight circle. And Sharon said—

SHARON: "That's a rattler. You'd better run over it and make sure you don't miss."

ALICE: Yeah, that's what she said.

JUDGE JONES: Just one moment; who was driving?

SHARON: Alice was driving.

JUDGE JONES: And whose truck was it?

ALICE: Oh it's Sharon's truck but we take turns driving; to make sure nobody falls asleep at the wheel.

JUDGE JONES: Okay, Sharon will you continue?

SHARON: Yes, your Acting Honour. I said, "that's a rattler; you better hit it and make sure you don't miss."

ALICE: That's because my daughter and her two kids were going to meet us at the cabin and we didn't want the rattler to get mad.

SHARON: So I aimed the truck straight at that rattler and we even felt the truck bump over it when we hit it.

ALICE: So we got out of the truck and Sharon took one look at it and said—

SHARON: I took one look at it and I said, "it's still alive."

ALICE: And it was.

SHARON: Yeah it was swaying it's head back and forth and sticking out it's tongue at us when we got out of the truck and Alice said—

ALICE: "Stand back. We must'a driven over its tail because its head looks pretty much alive."

SHARON: And I was afraid we'd crushed its rattlers; I wouldn't have minded keeping the rattlers if they weren't crushed so I was trying to get a closer look at it, but Alice said—

ALICE: "Just stay back. I'm going to get my twenty-two."

SHARON: Yeah, she had it in the truck.

JUDGE JONES: You had a twenty-two in the truck? Is it hunting season?

ALICE: No it's not hunting season but, I never get around to cleaning the darn thing and I thought that since we were going on a holiday I'd take it along with me and clean it in my spare time.

SHARON: Oh, you knew you weren't going to have any more free time on this holiday than you did on the last one. I told you that before we left.

JUDGE JONES: Let's just get on with the story. Sharon will you continue?

SHARON: So she went to get the 22 from the truck and I just backed off a little more and waited.

ALICE: I got the rifle and put on my rubber boots too, of course. As you probably know, a rattler can't bite through a rubber boot.

SHARON: So Alice came back with her gun and her rubber boots and she said—

ALICE: "I've only got one bullet." I took aim and that's when Sharon said—

SHARON: "You better be a good shot," because I didn't want the snake to get even madder at us than it already was.

ALICE: I'm a good shot and I'd have been fine; but it's because she talked that I missed the snake's head and the bullet went right through the tire on Sharon's truck

SHARON: Well, that's when Alice's kids drove up on the driveway and they all clambered out of the car.

ALICE: I was scared my grandkids'd get bit by the rattler because they were running around all excited because they thought the snake was cute.

SHARON: And her son was saying he was going to get the shovel out of his trunk

ALICE: And Sharon was yelling that, "you've got to kill the rattler before you can bury it."

SHARON: Yes I said that because, "you can't bury a live snake and you've got to wait until sundown before you kill it. Because even if you kill it sooner; a rattler never dies before the sun goes down."

ALICE: That's true; their heart just keeps beating until the sun goes down.

SHARON: But her son said, "that's no rattler, it's just a little garter snake, and I'm going to use the shovel to carry it into the ditch."

JUDGE JONES: And the little children were all privy to all of these arguments? How old are the children?

SHARON: Yes they were there, and they said that they, "weren't scared of a little old garter snake."

ALICE: And then they went and picked it up with their hands, all four of them at the same time, and carried it to safety beside the road.

SHARON: But in the meantime, I'm out one tire. She shot my tire and she won't pay for it.

JUDGE JONES: Okay, I think I'm almost ready to make my ruling. Hopefully, it's something you both can get on board with, but first I have a question: _____

SHARON: _____

ALICE: _____

JUDGE JONES: The court hereby rules: _____

COURT CLERK: And so rules the Judge!

JUDGE JONES: Please call the next case

THE END

