

THE BORKMANS GO TO DISNEYLAND

Written by

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Sketch based on Henrik Ibsen's John Gabriel Borkman

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A scenic set of benches in the Happiest Place on Earth. We're in Toon Town with bright, exaggerated shapes and colors. Light Disney orchestral music, the sound of children, the woosh of rides, a sunny day.

ERHART, GUNHILD, JOHN, AND ELLA enter.

Ella ushers John to sit down. He's exasperated, overwhelmed. Gunhild and Erhart are through with his charades.

ELLA

Please, John, sit down. You're hysterical.

BORKMAN

Hysterical! Ha! Ella, did you not see the roar of an icy kingdom? The blast and soar of a sleigh through the windy night, touched the winding, luring arms of the air. Oh and the monstrous roar of the-

ERHART

Father, please. It was the Matterhorn Bobsleds.

ELLA

Let your father have his fantasies. He hasn't seen a thrill in years.

GUNHILD

We consider cursing profanities at the ride operator a thrill, do we?

BORKMAN

I will not be ordered about by a young man in lederhosen!

GUNHILD

You skipped the queue.

BORKMAN

I shall skip a thousand queues. Eight years ago, that young bloke would know my name. Shiver at the thought of John Gabriel Borkman!

GUNHILD

If only I had unbuckled your seat belt on the Tower of Terror.

ERHART

Father, mother. Stop your squabble at once. Dear, dear, Aunt Ella has simply one dying wish. For us to be a family for one day.

GUNHILD

Family! Ha! She's held us hostage here. She thinks just because she paid for this trip that we'll all go about on her little plan to-

ELLA

Please, Gunhild. My health-

ERHART

We are at the Happiest Place on Earth. Should we not want to celebrate? To make merry? Oh...but...I suppose I understand. It is rather hard not to celebrate when not *all* your loved ones are near...

GUNHILD

Mrs. Wilton! She's no good for you, Erhart.
With her motion sickness? She wouldn't be able to go on half the rides in this park.
Erhart, do you not love your mother? We sat next to each other on Space Mountain!

ERHART

And you screamed the Devil's name in my ear.

ELLA

Then sit with me, Erhart, on the next ride.

BORKMAN

If only I had a little more time. One day I will buy all the rides of this Land of Disney!

GUNHILD

Disneyland.

ERHART

You know, Mrs. Wilton is in Orange County...

GUNHILD

What?

ELLA

We'll settle this matter later. Let us pick the next ride.

Ella pulls out a Disneyland map. The family gather around.

A Disney CAST MEMBER enters.

CAST MEMBER

Do you folks need some help finding your way?

GUNHILD

I want to go to Tomorrowland.

Borkman notices the Disney lapel pins on the Cast Member's lanyard.

BORKMAN

What shiny broaches are upon your neck?

CAST MEMBER

Enamel pins! If you collect them, we could trade.

BORKMAN

A businessman! I was once one myself.

ELLA

John, I will not have this vacation be used as a business trip.

Borkman rummages through a satchel. He pulls out a package of Digestive cookies.

BORKMAN

Let's make a trade.

CAST MEMBER

Sorry, sir. Um. You need another pin to trade. We can't accept outside food items.

BORKMAN

Excuse me? These are from across the Atlantic! They are worth a fortune!

CAST MEMBER

(to Erhart)

Is this your grandfather's first time here?

BORKMAN

Grandfather!?

ERHART

Indeed. He's been a hermit for quite some time now. He knows not of the Mouse's House.

BORKMAN

I assure you, I am a man of the world.

ELLA

Please, can we move on?

CAST MEMBER

Since it's your first time here, I'll let you take a pin for free.

BORKMAN

Why thank you. I'm so glad you came to your senses.

(pointing to a pin)

This one.

The Cast Member removes the pin and gives it to Borkman.

CAST MEMBER

Here you, go. Do you need any more assistance?

ELLA

We're fine, thank you.

(Cast Member exits)

Okay, I think I've got the hang of this map. I'd like to go to the Tikki Room. I've always wanted to go somewhere tropical.

ERHART

Mrs. Wilton says the animatronic birds are first of their kind in technology.

GUNHILD

Enough of Mrs. Wilton. Erhart, what if we went on It's a Small World.

ERHART

But Aunt Ella and Father hate boat rides.

ELLA

What are you trying to do?

Borkman is still enamored with his pin.

BORKMAN

Did you see what I did? What cunning persuasion I used? Now I have a metal brooch of a fantastical beast without pants.

ERHART

Winnie the Pooh, father.

GUNHILD

You know, perhaps that young man could connect Erhart with this park's company. I'm sure they have plenty of positions for a bright young man like yourself. I've heard Disney has cruises to tropical islands even. Perhaps you could go on a cruise one day. Oh please ask someone, Erhart. Do it for your mother.

ERHART

I shall ask one time, if it means putting this to rest.

CAST MEMBER 2 enters.

ERHART

Hello, sir. I want to inquire if there's any positions in this park.

GUNHILD

Something, special. He's a special man.

CAST MEMBER 2

Oh, I see.

CAST Member 2 reaches in his bag and brings out a large ostentatious bow.

CAST MEMBER 2

How about the Mayor of Toon Town!

GUNHILD

Oh my goodness! We're going to be alright after all, Erhart.

ELLA

Can we be sure this is even real?

GUNHILD

You're simply jealous. You always have been.

BORKMAN

This means we can buy the Disney Castle!

A CHILD and his MOTHER walk buy. The child also has the same Toon Town bow.

CHILD

Mom, this bow is sooo cool. I can't believe I'm the mayor!

The family look at Erhart's meaningless bow.

Gunhild rips it off, defeated.

Ella gives a know-it-all look.

ELLA

This truly is the Happiest Place on Earth.

END