

(The American Embassy in the western part of Berlin, in June 1999, in the early afternoon. It is the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A GERMAN WOMAN sits reading a Berlin newspaper. Another woman, an AMERICAN, walks in)

They told me to wait here.

AMERICAN:

Ja.

GERMAN:

Have you been here long?

AMERICAN:

Long enough.

GERMAN:

(Goes back to her paper)

You've got a newspaper. I can never find a Herald Tribune. They're always sold out.

(Looks at the newspaper)

It's in German. Guess I won't ask for the weekend section.

(Points to an article in the newspaper)

What's that about?

GERMAN:

Italian company will erect a twelve-meter wall from chocolate. Anniversary of the Wall coming down.

AMERICAN:

Ronald Reagan's greatest victory.

GERMAN:

Is there anything for which Americans are not ready to take credit?

AMERICAN:

We've carried you people for years.

GERMAN:

What?

AMERICAN:

All you Europeans. Never a word of thanks. If it wasn't for us you'd have no ...
McDonald's. Or Barbies.

GERMAN:

You are mistaken. The Barbie doll is a German invention.

AMERICAN:

Oh, you're not going to pull that old trick like the Russians used to, are you? Pretending
to have invented everything first?

GERMAN:

It's true. Barbie was a German doll called Lili. Mattel bought her in the '50s.

AMERICAN:

You're making it up.

GERMAN:

Originally, Barbie was for men.

AMERICAN:

German men play with dolls?! That explains everything!

GERMAN:

To put in a car window. As with the fuzzy dice.

AMERICAN:

You people.

GERMAN:

We people would never think to give a doll like that to little girls.

AMERICAN:

My feet hurt.

(Looks offstage left)

What if they all went out to lunch?

GERMAN:

We pray they eat quickly. They are Americans, after all.

AMERICAN:
Americans have things to do. They don't lollygag.

GERMAN:
True, they have a world to run.

AMERICAN:
Somebody's got to.
(Rubs HER forehead)
Did you see anybody to talk to? A secretary?

GERMAN:
The guard only.

AMERICAN:
(Calls off left)
I want to see someone right now! This is unacceptable customer service.

GERMAN:
All we can do is wait.

AMERICAN:
There's one thing I can't figure out about this country.

GERMAN:
The shopping hours?

AMERICAN:
What's up with the dwarves?

GERMAN:
Dwarves?

AMERICAN:
Those yard dwarves. We drove past those big gardening stores and they're lined up outside, legions of them.

GERMAN:
Some people like them for the garden.

AMERICAN:
They look like they're ready to march on Poland.

GERMAN:

In Belgium, there is the Garden Gnome Liberation Army.

AMERICAN:

Oh, my God! They club Americans to death with the dwarves, don't they?

GERMAN:

They "liberate" them from gardens.

AMERICAN:

To hold for ransom?

GERMAN:

Because they think gnomes are, how you say, "tacky."

AMERICAN:

I'd never have a dwarf in my back yard. They make me nervous. We have a nice plastic sunflower.

(Looks offstage left)

A Republican administration wouldn't make you wait.

(Looks at GERMAN)

Why are you here?

GERMAN:

We all wish an answer to that question.

AMERICAN:

What's that supposed to mean?

GERMAN:

I live in the States.

AMERICAN:

Where?

GERMAN:

New York.

AMERICAN:

Then you don't really live in the States.

GERMAN:

I liked the U.S. until this embassy.

AMERICAN:

Those license plates they used to have were right on the money: Pennsylvania, America starts here. New York is crawling with immigrants. Nobody speaks English. It's a sewer.

GERMAN:

Korean deli owners speak Spanish to Salvadoran employees. I love New York.
(GERMAN goes back to her newspaper)

AMERICAN:

Why do you live there?

GERMAN:

I work for UNICEF.

AMERICAN:

Did you ever meet Audrey Hepburn when she was ambassador?

GERMAN:

No.

AMERICAN:

Danny Kaye?

(Looks offstage left. Raises HER voice)

I'll write my Congressman about you people.

(No response. SHE looks back at the GERMAN)

Why are you here?

GERMAN:

To get a work visa.

AMERICAN:

But you're German.

GERMAN:

I am supposed to be on holiday in Poland.

(AMERICAN snickers)

But I need a visa to go back to work in the States. Which you don't want to give me.
How could I possibly damage American interests?

AMERICAN:

You may be a drug dealer.