

Virginia
Frank

Start — Scene Five: Wednesday Night

(FRANK and VIRGINIA enter their yard. It's late. They have a flashlight. There are now several short wooden stakes instead of flags.)

VIRGINIA. Frank, you need to calm down.

FRANK. I am calm. I'm just upset.

VIRGINIA. This is silly. They might see us.

FRANK. They are asleep. And I want to see the damage. I want you to see it. They seemed so kind and so civilized.

(Gasps when he shines light on Tania's wilted hydrangeas and see they are gone.)

But who rips out hydrangeas? They could have been saved. Those poor plants are being murdered!

VIRGINIA. It's not good for you to get so worked up about it.

FRANK. These are living things that were planted with purpose and care. Now look at this. It used to be flags... now it's -

VIRGINIA. Stakes! Why are they out so far?

FRANK. Ginny! That's where the new fence is going to go. They say their property is two feet farther than the old fence.

VIRGINIA. What? This far? That's crazy. When did they tell you?

FRANK. While I was clipping the ivy. As a favor to them. I'm taking a picture.

VIRGINIA. They want to take our land?

FRANK. The dandy Esquire nonchalantly told me that they own this much of our property.

VIRGINIA. Where did they get that idea?

FRANK. From the documents attached to their mortgage. And then the survey they did...showed the same thing. They have documents. Do we?

VIRGINIA. It's been decades. God know where ours are.

FRANK. Did you ever think we were taking land that wasn't ours?

VIRGINIA. Us? Of course not! What did you say?

FRANK. I told him to "Hold his Tongue and Shut his BIG Mouth" and I shook my fist and told him I'd see him in Court.

VIRGINIA. Really? You did? To a lawyer?

FRANK. Basically! And then I walked away.

VIRGINIA. You walked away? Please don't tell me you rolled over like a circus dog.

FRANK. No - I was vicious. And intimidating.

VIRGINIA. You cannot cede an inch with this. You hear? An inch becomes a foot becomes a yard.

FRANK. I assure you. Walking away wasn't a retreat.

VIRGINIA. Chamberlain looked the other way when it came to Poland. Nothing appeases greed.

FRANK. I've been documenting the destruction all evening.

VIRGINIA. But we need more than photos. We need to find those documents. This is our property!

FRANK. We were so nice to them. And they seemed to like us. What have we done to deserve this?

VIRGINIA. Nothing but bring them wine and dark chocolate.

FRANK. Exactly. You know how I worked on the flowerbeds. Just to have a fence slam into them. Sever them. Days before the garden judgment. I'll never win Best Garden. Thanks to them, I may not even be in the running ever. Phillip Saxon will gloat all year.

VIRGINIA. Frank, don't get all lathered up about this. Tomorrow we'll give those ambitious kids a gentle lesson in maturity. I'll do the talking. Okay? You get too upset.

FRANK. Fine.

VIRGINIA. Believe me, I will put a stop to this whole travesty.

end
