

THE NEW PRINCIPAL

A Humorous Duet

by
Peg Ratliff



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Mr. Fishbine is a new principal and Mrs. Strongarm is more than willing to give him an orientation as to how their school is actually run.

MR. FISHBINE: (Nervously) I'm so glad that you agreed to sit down with me and help me get to know the workings of the school.

MRS. STRONGARM: (She is forceful and confident) That's no problem, Mr. Fishbine. I'm glad to have the chance to train, uh, help you get to know how we've always done things.

MR. F. (Looking at paper) Now I see that you elementary teachers have a lot of duties. Lunchroom duty, playground duty, door duty?

MRS. S.: We stand at the door and make sure none of the little urchins get in before eight o'clock.

MR. F.: What do you do in the winter?

MRS. S.: Hopefully they are dressed warmly.

MR. F.: (A little alarmed) I see. (Reads paper again) Now, I see the teachers do recess detention duty, bus duty and (confused again) shuttle bus duty?

MRS. S.: Those are the kids who ride a bus to get to their bus.

MR. F.: I see. How do the teachers decide who will do what duty?

MRS. S.: Well, in order to make the first year rookies feel welcome, we dump, uh, offer a lot of the duties to them. I do most of the duty assignments.

MR. F.: What if a teacher doesn't like the assignment.

MRS. S.: (In an aside) They find a box of broken chalk on their desks. (To Mr. Fishbine) We make them an offer they can't refuse.

MR. F. (She scares him a little) Uh, that sounds only fair. (Looks at the paper) Now, these early dismissals.

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