

GO UNDER A WINDMILL SOMEDAY

by

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Cast of Characters

DON: A knight errant on a quest to Make America Great Again.

SANCHO: His squire. His friend.

ASTRID: A crew member on a Greenpeace ship in the North Sea.

DON and SANCHO are in a large rowboat off of the coast of Aberdeen Scotland heading toward an array of massive windmills several miles offshore. SANCHO is wearing a life jacket and rowing. Both men are dressed in knight and squire costumes made from common everyday household items.

DON

Faster, Sancho. Faster! We must sally forth with all deliberate haste. The monsters, nay, the very fate of the World awaits our success on the field of honor.

SANCHO

No doubt, Master. However, the sea is very rough. Perhaps we should have brought a bigger boat.

DON

Nothing your strong back can't handle, brother Sancho. Row! Row! Row us to glory, Sancho!

SANCHO puts his back into it, but the waves are still rough because they are in the North Sea.

SANCHO

Don, when we get there, how do you plan on dealing with these giants?

DON

Giants?

SANCHO

Yes, I thought we were searching for giants. Evil giants hell bent on destroying humanity.

DON

Hello, Sancho? Can you hear me? Did you get that earwax taken care of yet? Giants aren't real. We're after those evil accursed windmills.

SANCHO

(rubs ears to get earwax out)

Ah, windmills. Are these windmills possessed by demons?

DON

I know windmills very much. I've studied it better than anybody I know. All windmills are evil, brother Sancho.

SANCHO

What about fans? You know for the heat in La Mancha. Sometimes you need a cool breeze.

DON

A cool breeze? Wind? I never understood wind. You know I know windmills very much. It's very expensive.

They're made in China and Germany mostly - very few made here, almost none.

SANCHO

When we get home, I'll check my fan. Make sure it wasn't made in China or Germany.

DON

You better, Sancho. But these windmills, they're manufactured - if you're into this...

SANCHO is rowing hard and interrupts.

SANCHO

Oh I am, Master. I am into this.

DON

Tremendous fumes. Gases are spewing into the atmosphere.

SANCHO

Spewing!

DON

You know we have a world, right?

SANCHO

I do, Master. I watch the world turn every day during my soaps.

DON

So the world is tiny compared to the universe. So tremendous, tremendous amount of fumes and everything. You talk about a carbon footprint - fumes are spewing into the air, right?

SANCHO

Spewing!

DON

Whether it's in China, Germany, it's going into the air. It's our air, their air, everything - right?

SANCHO

So we are trying to save the very air itself. Magnificent, Master!

DON

We must Make America Great Again, Sancho!

SANCHO

I thought we were from La Mancha.

DON

This is bigger than La Mancha or Queens, NY or Washington DC. The Trump International Golf Course of Scotland is fighting to keep Scotland beautiful. These windmills are ugly.

SANCHO

They seemed pretty far away from the hotel back in Aberdeen.

DON

If you own a house within vision of some of these monsters, your house is worth fifty percent of the price. They're noisy. I've seen the most beautiful fields, farms, fields - most gorgeous things you've ever seen, and then you have these ugly things going up.

SANCHO

Monstrous, Master. Simply monstrous.

DON

Exactly, Sancho. As a knight errant, I must defend beauty.

SANCHO is rowing and the waves are getting rough and DON and SANCHO are pitched about the boat. It is taking on water and they are pretty far out at sea.

SANCHO

Don, we are taking on water. How much farther to the dreaded windmills?

DON

Not much farther. We must complete our quest. Rid the world of these fuming beasts.

SANCHO

I don't think we can make it that far, Master.

DON

You must have faith, Sancho. Faith in this impossible dream. This is my quest. No matter how hopeless or far. Row, Sancho! Row!

SANCHO rows harder than ever, but they are still taking on water.

SANCHO

It's no use, Master. We must look for help.

SANCHO looks through some binoculars.

DON

You know, Sancho, that if we accomplish this humble task of Making America Great Again, you will be granted that ambassadorship you've wanted all these years.

SANCHO

You mean Ukraine, Master? The Pearl of Eastern Europe.

DON

No, Ukraine is too hot, Sancho. Maybe Bangladesh.

SANCHO

OK, I guess. Pretty close on the map.

DON

A mere stone's throw away.

SANCHO sees a ship approaching.

SANCHO

We are saved! It's a ship.

DON grabs the binoculars and reads that it's a Greenpeace ship. He's not happy.

DON

My nemesis! The Sage Enchantress, Greta Thunberg approaches. Guard your ears, Sancho.

SANCHO begins bailing water out of the boat with a bucket.

SANCHO

Good thing I've got this earwax.

ASTRID approaches in a small boat that launched from the Greenpeace ship.

ASTRID

Ahoy there! Do you gentlemen need any help? Our spotters thought you might be in distress.

DON

Away with you, foul enchantress! Your beguiling words will not work on us, Greta Thunberg. We are here to make America Great Again.

ASTRID

My name is Astrid. I work on that Greenpeace ship over there.

DON

Guarding the windmills no doubt.

ASTRID

Actually we're headed out to some oil platforms in the North Sea.

SANCHO

Back in La Mancha, my fan is very squeaky. Could I get some oil from these platforms?

ASTRID

It's fossil fuel. Oil from deep under the sea. It won't help your fan in La Mancha, but it will boil the air and foul the seas.

SANCHO

Well, maybe we could just take a ride on your ship. Ours will be underwater soon.

ASTRID

Happy to help a ship in distress.

DON

Greta is singing a siren's song, Sancho. She's going to dash us against the rocks in our sleep.

ASTRID

I'm not Greta Thunberg, sir.

DON

Astrid is an illusion. You are in your heart Greta Thunberg and you wish to destroy our hopes of Making America Great Again.

ASTRID

I won't deny that I am a fan of hers. I believe that our house, in this case, the world, is on fire. We must do something to preserve all life on the planet. Renewable energy, like wind power, is a good start.

DON

And yet you defend the indefensible windmills. They kill birds. You want to see a bird graveyard? You just go. Take a look. A bird graveyard. Go under a windmill someday. You'll see more birds than you've ever seen in your life.

SANCHO

Any chickens? All this rowing and bailing. I'm quite hungry.

ASTRID

I'm pretty sure many more birds are killed flying into cell phone towers and radio towers, or even by cats than wind turbines.

DON

A wind apologist. Typical for an evil enchantress such as the wily Greta Thunberg.

ASTRID

I'm not Greta Thunberg.

SANCHO

She keeps saying that, Master. You know, maybe she's not Greta after all.

DON

So easily led astray, Sancho. These windmills. You know in California, they were killing the bald eagle. If you shoot a bald eagle, they put you in jail for ten years. A windmill will kill many bald eagles. It's true.

ASTRID

Not here in the North Sea.

DON

(to SANCHO)

If you killed one, they put you in jail. That's OK.

SANCHO

But I've never even seen a bald eagle. I'm not going to jail.

DON

Why is it OK for these windmills to destroy the bird population? And that's what they're doing.

ASTRID

We're supposed to listen to you complain about windmills and birds when you don't give a damn about the entire rest of the planet? The Earth heats up much more, and your boat won't be the only thing underwater. Try Mar-a-Lago through a glass bottomed boat in a few years.

SANCHO

Probably my best chance to see it.

DON

Don't be ridiculous, Sancho. You could work the grounds.

SANCHO

Terrific, when can I start?

ASTRID

We must immediately halt all investments in fossil fuels. Immediately and completely divest from all fossil fuels. We need real zero on emissions to survive. Our house really is on fire.

DON

You are a child, Greta. Children shouldn't worry of such things. You need to chill and watch a movie with a friend.

Relax and let us grownups and knight errants and Sancho fix these worldly problems.

SANCHO

I have no solutions, Greta.

ASTRID

You say children shouldn't worry. You say just leave it to us and we'll fix this. We promise we won't let you down. Don't be so pessimistic. And then nothing. Silence. Or something worse than silence. Empty words and promises which give the impression that sufficient action is being taken.

DON

Obviously sufficient action is being taken. That's why we are here. To tilt at these foul windmills and Make America Great Again.

ASTRID

The facts are clear.

DON

Facts are the enemy of truth.

ASTRID

They're still too uncomfortable for you to address. You just leave it because you think it's too depressing and people will give up. But people will not give up. You are the ones who are giving up.

SANCHO

Master, I'm giving up. I'm going with Greta.

ASTRID

Astrid.

SANCHO

I'm going with her.

SANCHO climbs over to ASTRID's boat.

ASTRID

Come with us.

DON

I'll be fine. I'm on my own. I will defeat these windmills myself and Make America Great Again.

SANCHO

So long, Master. I'll keep an eye out for you when I get that glass bottom boat.

ASTRID and SANCHO exit

Water continues to pour into DON's boat. He starts to bail the water out.

DON

Everything's fine.

He continues to bail out water.

Everything's fine.

END OF PLAY