

Town Hall Debate
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Wright Now Play Later: October

Prompt: Two aliens get out of a UFO and walk into the town hall presidential debate.

Two extraterrestrials stand up. They have just landed on earth.

1
That was an unusually bumpy landing.

2
Yes. The turbulence was quite surprising.

1
Strange. From a distance this world is blue and green. And the snow-capped mountains, white.

2
It's quite ugly up close though, isn't it?

...
I am sorry.

1
It's okay.

2
I have said a mean thing. Oh, I should not have said the mean thing.

1
I barely heard you anyway.
I don't think I've ever known you to say a mean thing.

2
I never have.

1
You must feel heartbroken.

2
I do.

1
May I give you a hug?

2

Yes, please. *They hug*

2

Have *you* ever said a mean thing?

1

Yes. When I was a child.

2

You must have felt awful.

1

I did.

2

That's how I feel now. Awful.

1

I know.

2

The air of this planet seems to bring a lot of bad feelings.

1

It is not easy air to breathe. We must be vigilant.

2

...

1

Have you recovered from your sadness?

2

Yes, I think so.

1

Let's get to it, then.

2

You have the brochure?

1

Yes. *There is a brochure in 1's hand.*

2

What does it say?

1

"You are to attend an event."

2

What is the event called?

1

"The second Presidential Debate".

2

Debate?

1

Yes.

2

That sounds contentious.

1

I'm sure it will be.

2

Second.

1

Yes.

2

Contentious *and* repetitive.

1

I am afraid so. But this second one is a "town hall" so it's interactive. We get to watch people interact with the debaters and that makes it unique, in a way.

Two chairs are brought onstage.

2

We are to sit?

1

Yes, we sit down and we watch and listen to the two prospective presidents. It is a contest, of sorts.

2

A contest. And one of these two people will be the president of the earth?

1

No. Of the United States of America. It is a country.

2

I have questions.

1

What are they?

2

If the states of the country called America are United, why must there be a contest?

1

They are not in fact, united. They are . . . bound together. And so they are considered part of the same country. But they are not united as you and I would understand the word.

2

I see. And my follow up question is: what is a country?

1

A country is a section of the Earth. Some people belong to one country, and some to another, and some to another and so on. There are nearly 200 of them altogether.

2

How does one know which country one belongs to? Is it pre-determined?

1

Yes. There are lines drawn.

2

Lines. Drawn on this Earth, which is already so perfect. Why would one do such a thing?

1

I do not know. Maybe we will learn why. Maybe the town hall presidential debate will teach us why.

1 and 2 hold hands

2

The man with the tiny hands is very aggressive.

1

Yes.

2

The woman with the odd smile is very sad.

1
Yes.

2
If this is how countries are governed, then countries are most certainly a bad idea.

1
Yes, we will report that. "Countries are a bad idea."

2
Must we continue to watch?

1 and 2 are given tubs of popcorn. They begin to eat.

1
This food makes it easier to watch. Doesn't it?

2
Yes.

1
It's almost pleasurable. Albeit in a perverse way. I feel as if I am devolving. If that were possible.

2
Oh, it is possible.

1
Is it?

2
On this planet, we could surely devolve.

1
I'll write that in the report.

1 and 2 eat their popcorn and watch the Town Hall Presidential Debate.

END OF PLAY