

CLAUDE
OZ
DOUGBEULAH
BONNIE
ANNETTE
JANICE

11 (CLAUDE)

On the northeast tip of North America, on an island called Newfoundland, there's an airport—it used to be one of the biggest airports in the world. And next to it, is a town called Gander.

7 (OZ)

There's a two-person police department.

4 (BEULAH)

An elementary school.

5 (BONNIE)

An SPCA.

3 (JANICE)

A local TV station.

12 (DOUG)

And a hockey rink.

CLAUDE

It's a small place—on a giant rock in the ocean. Everybody knows everybody else. And everybody in this room has a story about how they started that day.

BEULAH

That morning, I'm in the classroom. It's our first day back and the school buses are on strike, so I'm covering for Annette, who's running late!

6 (ANNETTE)

Sorry, Beulah! How's the kids?

BEULAH

Not exactly thrilled to be inside on such a gorgeous day, so I told them we'd only have a half-day this morning—and they were quite pleased—until I told them we'd have the other half in the afternoon.

OZ

That morning I'm in my car. The kids cross Airport Boulevard to get to school—and that time a day people are in a little bit of a rush to get to work and stuff, so normally I sit there and run my radar.

OZ cues the cast to make a "WOOP-WOOP" noise together.

And if they're speeding, I'll stop 'em and write out a warning ticket. I'll write "STFD" — Slow The ^{"F."}F. Down.

BONNIE

That morning, I drop my kids off at school and head to the SPCA, where I'm greeted by my other kids—all barking and meowing for breakfast and a belly rub. Not that I'm complaining. I loves 'em. But by the time feeding's done, I've got to get back to pick up my human kids. So, I take just one second for myself. And I'm sitting in my car.

BEULAH

I'm in the staffroom.

ANNETTE

I'm in the library.

BONNIE, BEULAH, & ANNETTE

And I turn on the radio.

OZ

I'm running my radar when Bonnie comes by. She pulls up, and she's wavin' at me like mad, so I roll down my window and she says...

BONNIE

Oz, turn on the radio!

OZ

Slow it down, Bonnie.

BONNIE

Jesus H.! Oz! Turn on your radio!

ALL (EXCEPT JANICE)

WHERE OUR STORIES START

JANICE

It's my first day at the station.

(CLAUDE enters Tim Hortons.)

CLAUDE

I starts my day at Tim 'Ortons. Don't drink coffee. Don't drink tea. An' I've no use for donuts. But I'll grab a Pepsi and get a lay o' the land. As the Mayor, it's 'ow I keep in touch with the people an' such. Everything starts and ends at Tim 'Ortons.

JANICE

Excuse me, I'm looking for the Mayor.

EVERYONE points at CLAUDE.

Mister Mayor—I'm Janice Mosher with Rogers TV. I'm new. To town—and new to reporting. It's my first day.

CLAUDE

Well welcome to Gander, Janice.

ANNETTE

Janice.

BEULAH

Janice.

CLAUDE

Where you longs to, Janice?

JANICE

Port Aux Basque. So if you see me running red lights or anything, just forgive me because we don't have stop lights over there.

CLAUDE

If you're looking for news, you should talk to that man running in here. That's our constable, Oz Fudge. He's full of stories.

OZ runs in.

OZ

Mister Mayor, I saw your car in the lot. Crystal, turn up the radio so's we all can hear. Doug, you probably want to get down to Air Traffic Control right away.

DOUG

There's only supposed to be two air traffic controllers on, but instead there's fourteen... Everyone's heard and they all shows up without even being asked. We're told there'll be over 200 planes getting diverted across the country.

SCENE 3

#2 - Diverted

Everyone becomes AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS as the bodhrán starts beating slowly.

CONTROL 12 (DOUG)

Lufthansa four one four, this is Gander center—squawk code seven two tree five. Due to a recent development, you are ordered to land at Gander YQX immediately. Copy that. This is an order.

1st BEULAH
CONTROL 10/12

Roger Lufthansa
four one four.
Turn right
heading one
niner zero
degrees. You
are cleared to
flight level two
four zero.
Speedbird one
one seven—
squawk code
two tree five.
This is Gander
Center. You're
radar identified
—now cleared
to Gander YQX
via present
position direct.

2nd ANNETTE
CONTROL 7/8

Air India one
one tree, reduce
speed to one
zero five, you
are ordered to
land your
aircraft at
Gander YQX
immediately.
American
airspace has
been closed.
you are cleared
to six thousand
feet Gander
altimeter tree
zero zero one.
Roger one one
tree. Cleared
flight level two
four zero.

3rd 02
CONTROL 2/9

Sabena five tree
niner, Gander—
winds two one
zero degrees
five naughts.
You are cleared
to land runway
two two. Thank
you five tree
niner, vector for
runway two
two. Turn left
heading two
five zero to
Intercept the
localizer.
Cleared straight
in back-course
runway two
two.

4th BONNIE
CONTROL 3/4/11

Delta one five
—Gander
Center—I show
you on the
localizer eight
miles final.
Contact tower
now on
frequency one
one eight
decimal one.
Thank you one
five. Air New
Zealand eight
five two,
squawk code
seven two tree
five. This is
Gander Center.

5th JANICE
CONTROL 5/6

Air Lingus two
two seven, the
U.S. airspace
has been closed.
You are ordered
to land at Deer
Lake YDX or
Gander YQX
Roger two two
seven. Turn left
heading one
five zero
degrees and
proceed. After.

CLAUDE 9 (CONTROL)

No, sir. You do not have a choice.

CLAUDE 10 (CONTROL)

No, sir. This is not a drill.

DOUG

Yes, sir. I understand you have VIPs onboard. I'll see your VIPs and raise you an international emergency. Land your plane now.