

SYNOPSIS

Two old dears in a retirement home cannot decide which day of the week it is. Why don't they ask somebody? Well they wouldn't want to appear stupid would they.

Can be played by either male or female actors

I KEEP ON THINKING IT'S THURSDAY

By Paul Groves

Agatha: I don't know why, but I keep thinking it's Thursday

Betty: Thursday?

Agatha: Yes, Thursday

Betty: Oh, Thursday

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: (AFTER A PAUSE) Well, it is Thursday, isn't it?

Agatha: You've been thinking it too, thinking it's Thursday. How odd.

Betty: No, I'm not thinking it's Thursday; it is Thursday. That's different from thinking it's Thursday.

Agatha: I suppose it is. What day is it then?

Betty: Don't you know?

Agatha: No, not really.

Betty: You can't be 'not really'. You either know or you don't.

Agatha: Really?

Betty: Yes, Really.

Agatha: Now I've been thinking it's Thursday, I'm not one hundred percent Certain what day it is.

Betty: Not one hundred percent certain?

Agatha: No, Not one hundred percent certain.

Betty: Yes.

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: Well is it no or yes?

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: It's yes then.

Agatha: No; I'm not certain am I.

Betty: Oh, you don't know if it's no or yes?

Agatha: Now you're getting me muddled.

Betty: But you are muddled, it's not me who's muddled.

Agatha: Yes, I suppose I am.

Betty: Yes, I think you are.

Agatha: What day is it then?

Betty: You're still sure you don't know?

Agatha: If I was sure, I wouldn't be asking you.

Betty: I suppose you wouldn't.

Agatha: You're not going to tell me then, that it is Thursday after all?

Betty: I wouldn't tell you it was Thursday if it wasn't Thursday would I?

Agatha: Or if you wasn't sure it was Thursday.

Betty: What sort of a friend is that?

Agatha: Exactly. You've been a good friend to me Betty. You wouldn't Tell me it was a Thursday, if it wasn't Thursday.

Betty: No I wouldn't Agatha, because you've been a good friend to me too.

Agatha: Good friends don't go round telling each other the wrong day of the week.

Betty: Exactly.

Agatha: Well, what day is it then?

Betty: Well, to tell you the truth, and I wouldn't be other than honest with you would I?

Agatha: Not between friends.

Betty: No, not between friends.

Agatha: No, you've always been honest with me.

Betty: I have.

Agatha: I admire that in a friend.

Betty: I'm so glad. If there's anything I try to be in life, it's honest.

Agatha: Yes you do. So what day is it then?

Betty: Well, to be perfectly honest with you, you've got me muddled now. I don't know.

Agatha: Well, that is honest. Ask her. (NODS TOWARDS EDDIE)

Betty: Will she know?

Agatha: She's bound to know if it was Thursday.

Betty: Would she?

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: I wouldn't want her to think I don't know what day it is.

Agatha: She wouldn't think that.

Betty: Of course she would. If I said to her: 'Is it Thursday today?' She'd Think: 'Silly old fool don't know what day it is.'

Agatha: Would she?

Betty: She would.

Agatha: Well, say to her: 'I don't know why, but I keep thinking it's Thursday.' Then she won't know that you don't know what day it is.

Betty: What would she say?

Agatha: She'd come right out and say, 'It's Wednesday.'

Betty: So you know it's Wednesday then after all?

Agatha: I've no idea.

Betty: No idea? But you just said it was Wednesday.

Agatha: No, I've no idea.

Betty: Why did you say it then?

Agatha: It was just an example.

Betty: Oh, an example. So it's not really Wednesday?

Agatha: No. But it could be couldn't it?

Betty: Could be Wednesday and not Thursday?

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: Yes.

Agatha: But I don't keep thinking it's Wednesday today, do I?

Betty: I'm glad of that. You could get me really muddled.

Agatha: No, I keep thinking it's Thursday. That's the big problem.

Betty: Then why did you mention Wednesday at all?

Agatha: I told you, it was an example.

Betty: Another example?

Agatha: No, the same example.

Betty: Oh.

Agatha: I suppose it's the sort of thing anyone can do, don't you think so, On a Wednesday, to think it was a Thursday.

Betty: Well, to be perfectly honest.

Agatha: Honest.

Betty: I can't recall doing that.

Agatha: You can't?

Betty: No, to be perfectly honest with you, I can't recall the last time on a Wednesday, that I kept thinking it was a Thursday. And I tell you that as a good friend.

Agatha: You do surprise me. You really do surprise me. I can't remember being more surprised.

Betty: You see, I always know when it's a Wednesday.

Agatha: You know? How do you know?

Betty: We have bread and butter pudding with custard on a Wednesday.

Agatha: Bread and butter pudding?

Betty: Yes.

Agatha: But that's on a Thursday.

Betty: We can't have it two days running. Wednesday and Thursday.

Agatha: No, just on Thursday.

Betty: Well, we haven't had it today.

Agatha: Haven't we? What time is it?

Betty: I don't know.

Agatha: Don't you?

Betty: Ask her.

Agatha: What, about the time?

Betty: No, about the bread and butter pudding with custard.

Agatha: Will she know?

Betty: I should think so.

Agatha: I don't want her to know I don't know the day we have bread and butter pudding with custard.

Betty: So you're not saying it's Thursday no more?

Agatha: You've put a big doubt in my mind with the Wednesday.

Betty: But you said Wednesday.

Agatha: No, you said it was Wednesday.

Betty: Well, say to her: 'Do you like bread and butter pudding with custard, Eddie?' And she'll say: 'Yes, we always have it on Thursday.'

Agatha: So we do have it on Thursday then? You agree with me?

Betty: No, I was just giving it as one of your examples. Like your example when you said it was Wednesday.

Agatha: So you don't really know the day when we have bread and butter pudding with custard?

Betty: To be perfectly honest with you, you've got me muddled.

Agatha: You get me muddled Betty, because there's more days in the middle of the week than at the ends.

Betty: More days?

Agatha: Yes, more days.

Betty: Yes, I suppose there are.

Agatha: You see?

Betty: No, I don't see really. What do you mean, more days?

Agatha: Well, there are a lot of days either side of Wednesday. But at the week end, you just have the two.

Betty: The two?

Agatha: Saturday and Sunday.

Betty: But when you get to the middle of the week.

Agatha: Which day?

Betty: Well, the Wednesday. You always know it's going to be Thursday the next day.

Agatha: I wish I did. You see it could be on a Wednesday that I keep on thinking It's Thursday. Or the other way round?

Betty: You don't know for sure?

Agatha: In turn, to be perfectly honest, I don't.

Betty: Well, I envy you because, I can tell you, it's boring to me on a Wednesday always knowing it's going to be Thursday the next day.

Agatha: If we had no Wednesday, it couldn't be Thursday the next day.

Betty: You couldn't have no Wednesday! Even Mrs. Pepper couldn't do away with Wednesday.

Agatha: Why not?

Betty: What would the cook do with the bread and butter pudding with custard?

Agatha: We could have it on Thursday.

Betty: Oh you couldn't do that.

Agatha: Why not?

Betty: There would be such a mix up. People wouldn't know if they were coming or going.

Agatha: Well, we're in a mix up now and Wednesday is still here.

Betty: You can't make a Wednesday out of a Thursday or a Thursday out of a Wednesday.

Agatha: I see, if you say so.

Betty: You don't really, do you?

Agatha: I was trying to solve our problem. Here, I've just had a thought.

Betty: What?

Agatha: Today couldn't be Tuesday could it?

Betty: You're not going to bring Tuesday into it.

Agatha: It was just a thought.

Betty: Yes, but not the kind of a thought we need at the moment.

Agatha: Tuesday has got to be one day of the week, hasn't it?

Betty: Yes, but.....

Agatha: But what?

Betty: Not when it's a Wednesday or a Thursday.

Agatha: Well, as we don't know whether it's a Wednesday or a Thursday, it might just as well be a Tuesday.

Betty: I just don't think this is the day to be bringing in Tuesday. Anyway you keep thinking it's Thursday not Tuesday.

Agatha: One day I did think it was Tuesday. And it wasn't only the one day, I thought it all week.

Betty: All week? That's a bit much.

Agatha: I did. I tell you as a friend, I did.

Betty: Well, really, fancy that.

Agatha: I thought all week of my mothers saying.

Betty: Your mothers saying?

Agatha: She was a great one for sayings.

Betty: What was it?

Agatha: It'll come in a minute.

Betty: Was it to do with Tuesday?

Agatha: How did you guess? Yes, Nothing ever happens on a Tuesday. Nothing ever happens on a Tuesday.

Betty: You sure you got that right?

Agatha: Yes, Nothing ever happens on a Tuesday.

Betty: That can't be right.

Agatha: My mother was always right.

Betty: Well, something must happen on Tuesday.

Agatha: Tell me one.

Betty: I'll have to go through the week. On Sunday you have Sunday school.

Agatha: Yes, so something happens on Sunday.

Betty: What comes next?

Agatha: Ah, it could be Tuesday.

Betty: No, you left out Monday.

Agatha: Oh, Monday.

Betty: You have Bank Holiday Monday.

Agatha: Yes, Bank Holiday Monday. I remember going to the sea.

Betty: Then, I'll have to do the ones I can think of.

Agatha: Yes, you've had to miss Tuesday.

Betty: Not yet. On Friday you have Good Friday. I'm good at this aren't I?

Agatha: You certainly are. But you've not done Tuesday yet.

Betty: It was going to the Sunday School. You never forget going to Sunday School.

Agatha: Which one did you go to?

Betty: Er...I can't remember. Oh, there was Ash Wednesday.

Agatha: Yes, Ash Wednesday. My mother had to clean the grate out on Ash Wednesday.

Betty: Amazing how things come back. Oh, I've got another.....

Agatha: What?

Betty: Maundy Thursday.

Agatha: What's that?

Betty: It's when the Queen, God bless her.

Agatha: God bless her.

Betty: Gives bags of money to the pensioners.

Agatha: Don't the Post Office do that?

Betty: No, this is extra.

Agatha: Oh, extra. How much?

Betty: Well, there's one silver coin for every year of her life. Or is it one pensioner for every year of her life? It's something like that.

Agatha: I could do with a bag of money from the Queen.

Betty: You'd have to be special.

Agatha: But I'm a pensioner.

Betty: You have to be a special pensioner.

Agatha: How do I get to be special?

Betty: You have to be chosen.

Agatha: Who chooses?

Betty: Special people.

Agatha: Like Mrs. Pepper?

Betty: No, she's not special enough.

Agatha: I thought nobody was as special as Mrs. Pepper.

Betty: This one on TV comes from Crewe.

Agatha: What's special about Crewe?

Betty: Must be something. Does it have a castle?

Agatha: They keep the money in a castle.

Betty: No, the money comes out of the Queens own pocket.

Agatha: That's good of her. She must have big pockets to keep all them bags of money in.

Betty: Yes, she has them under her skirt.

Agatha: Under her skirt? I hope she doesn't show her knickers when she lifts it up.

Betty: No, she never shows her knickers.

Agatha: How do you know that?

Betty: She's trained not to.

Agatha: Trained?

Betty: Yes.

Agatha: There are one or two in here who need to be trained.

Betty: Well, some need to be trained to have knickers at all.

Agatha: Do some people have no knickers in here?

Betty: I'll whisper to you so she doesn't hear. (WHISPERS)

Agatha: Who?

Betty: (WHISPERS AGAIN)

Agatha: Who?

Betty: I can't whisper too loud. Turn your hearing aid up. (WHISPERS AGAIN)

Agatha: You don't say! Not her!

Betty: Yes, her.

Agatha: Well I never. What did Mrs. Pepper say?

Betty: I couldn't repeat it.

Agatha: Oh. Here, I've just had a thought.

Betty: Another thought?

Agatha: Yes.

Betty: What is it?

Agatha: Oh, I'm thinking.

Betty: About the thought?

Agatha: I think so. Oh yes, I know. Perhaps today is Monday Thursday.

Betty: Monday Thursday? You can't have Monday Thursday!

Agatha: You said so.

Betty: I didn't.

Agatha: You did.

Betty: I did? Oh, Maundy Thursday, not Monday Thursday, Maundy

Thursday.