

Grannies' Lockdown Zoom

Audrey and Beryl are two grannies on a Zoom call during lockdown.

They sit at opposite sides of the stage facing out to the audience.

They could each have a laptop in front of them.

Their repeated tropes can either be all deadpan, or imbued with significant understanding.

Audrey Beryl, is that you?

Beryl *[mouths silently]*

Audrey *[looks offstage]* What's that you say? *[looks forward]* He says you're muted.

Beryl *[looks offstage, mouths 'What?', then looks forward, presses a key]* She says I was muted, Audrey. Who would think it?!

Audrey *[to herself]* First time in fifty years she's been muted. *[out loud]* Who's that with you, Beryl?

Beryl That's my granddaughter, Charlotte. She's helped me set this up. She's very useful, Charlie. I do like ... *[freezes]*

Audrey What's that you say, dear?

Beryl I said I do like Charlie.

Audrey You don't say, dear.

Beryl She and her boyfriend have been sending out food parcels during lockdown. Do you know, they actually grow vegetables in the loft.

Audrey You don't say.

Beryl I say vegetables, but it's more like salad, from what I can see. It's like a farm up there.

Audrey A farm? In the loft? Isn't it dark?

Beryl They have special lights and everything. It's very professional.

Audrey You don't say.

Beryl Charlie says all the clients – as she calls them – are very happy when they get her ... 'gear', I think is the modern term for salad.

Audrey You don't say.

Beryl And they put little packets of icing sugar in their food parcels. I keep telling her: you couldn't ice a cupcake with that. But she says all the clients are very excited when they get it.

Audrey You don't say. *[looks offstage]* Peter can you stop banging in the kitchen? I'm talking to Beryl.

Beryl Is that your grandson? How did he get on with his University exams? Did he work hard?

Audrey Didn't do any work for a whole year. They were told it was teacher assessment. Teacher assessed him and told him to print his degree at home. So he printed himself a 1st class honours in Maths.

Beryl That's nice. So he's bright then.

Audrey No. Dim as a Poundland torch. He's doing some work in my kitchen with his boyfriend Richard at the moment.

Beryl Boyfriend? That's nice.

Audrey He tried to explain to me. He told me they're 'Elegy-BT', or something.

Beryl BT? That's nice. Could they stop the nuisance calls on my phone for me?

Audrey Oh they don't work. He told me even a 1st class degree doesn't mean you can get a job. But they sometimes do odd jobs together – Peter's never happier than when he's got a tool in his hand.

Beryl That's nice, dear. Are they making a suck... *[freezes]*

Audrey What's that, dear?

Beryl ...cess of it?

Audrey I'm not sure. They're what my mother would call 'one of them'. Well, 'two of them', actually. She'd always say – they've made their bed so they must ... *[she freezes, then mouths a lot of unheard words]* ... in it.

Beryl Sorry, Audrey, I didn't catch that.

Audrey They didn't catch it either, fortunately, but the zoo had to be closed for a whole month while it was deep-cleaned.

Beryl Oh that's nice dear.

Audrey He is nice, Richard. You know soppo we grannies can get: you like your Charlie, I like my Dick!

Beryl That's nice dear. Just a moment, Audrey! There's a Police car outside the house. Charlie does seem to have friends in the Police.

Audrey You don't say.

Beryl Oh no, there's four Police cars. I'll just tell her. *[stands up]* Charlie, dear! You've got some visitors. Oh! it looks as though she's climbed through the kitchen window. *[leaves]*

Audrey Beryl might have said goodbye. I suppose that's modern technology for you. I'll get Peter to switch me off. *[stands to go and looks offstage]* Goodness, what are you two boys up to? I had no idea something that big would fit through the back door! *[leaves]*