

WHO's On First?

Jessica: Well Robert, I'm going to New York with you. You know, Bucky Harris, the Yank's manager gave me a job as coach for as long as you're on the team.

Robert: Look Jessica, if you're the coach, you must know all the players.

Jessica: Yes, I do... I certainly do.

Robert: Well, I never met the guys, so you'll have to tell me their names, and then I'll know who's playing on the team.

Jessica: Oh, I'll tell you their names, but you know strange as it may seem, they give these ball players now a days, very peculiar names.

Robert: You mean funny names?

Jessica: Strange names, pet names. Like, DIZZY DEAN, and...

Robert: His brother DAFFY?

Jessica: DAFFY DEAN.

Robert: And their French cousin.

Jessica: French?

Robert: GOOF'E'.

Jessica: Goofy Dean, oh I see! Well let's see, we have on the bags, we have WHO's on first, WHAT's on second, and I DON'T KNOW is on third.

Robert: That's what I want to find out.

Jessica: I say, WHO's on first, WHAT's on second, and I DON'T KNOW's on third.

Robert: Are you the manager?

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: You going to be the coach too?

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: And you don't know the fellow's names?

Jessica: Well I should.

Robert: Well then who is on first?

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: I mean the fellow's name.

Jessica: WHO.

Robert: The guy on first.

Jessica: WHO.

Robert: The first baseman.

Jessica: WHO!

Robert: The guy playing first base.

Jessica: WHO is on first.

Robert: I'm asking you who's on first!

Jessica: And I'm telling you... that's the man's name.

Robert: That's whose name?

Jessica: Yeah.

Robert: Well go ahead and tell me.

Jessica: That's it.

Robert: That's who?

Jessica: Yeah.

(Pause)

Robert: Look, you got a first baseman?

Jessica: Certainly.

Robert: So who's playing first?

Jessica: Absolutely.

Robert: When you pay off the first baseman every month, who gets the money?

Jessica: Absolutely. Every dollar of it.

Robert: All I'm trying to find out is the fellow's name on first base.

Jessica: WHO.

Robert: The guy that gets the money.

Jessica: That's it.

Robert: Who gets the money on first base?

Jessica: He does, every dollar! Sometimes his wife comes down and collects it.

Robert: Whose wife?

Jessica: And why not the man's entitled to it. .

Robert: Who is?

Jessica: Absolutely. And what's wrong with that?

Robert: Look, all I want to know is when you sign up the first baseman, how does he sign his name to the contract?

Jessica: WHO.

Robert: The guy.

Jessica: WHO.

Robert: How does he sign it?

Jessica: That's how he signs it!

Robert: Who ?

Jessica: Yes.

(Pause)

Robert: All I'm trying to find out is what's the guy's name on first base.

Jessica: No, WHAT's on second base.

Robert: I'm not asking who's on second.

Jessica: WHO is on first!

Robert: One base at a time!

Jessica: Well don't change the players around!

Robert: I'm not changing nobody!

Jessica: Take it easy, buddy.

Robert: All I'm asking you, who's the guy on first base?!

Jessica: That's right.

Robert: Okay.

Jessica: Alright.

Robert: (Pause) What's the guy's name on first base?!

Jessica: No, WHAT is on second!

Robert: I'm not asking you who's on second!

Jessica: WHO's on first.

Robert: I DON'T KNOW.

Jessica: Oh, he's on third. We're not talking about him. Now let's get back to first.

Robert: Now how did I get on third base?

Jessica: Well you mentioned his name.

Robert: If I mentioned the third baseman's name, WHO did I say's playing third?

Jessica: No, WHO's playing first.

Robert: What's on first?

Jessica: WHAT's on second.

Robert: I DON'T KNOW.

Jessica: He's on third.

Robert: There I go, back on third again! Will you stay on third base and don't go off it?

Jessica: Alright, what do you want to know?

Robert: Now who's playing third base?!

Jessica: Why do you insist on putting WHO on third base?

Robert: What am I putting on third?!

Jessica: No, WHAT is on second.

Robert: You don't want who on second?!

Jessica: No, WHO is on first.

Robert: I DON'T KNOW!

Both together: Third base!

(Pause)

Robert: Look, you got outfield?

Jessica: Sure. We have a great outfield.

Robert: The left fielder's name?

Jessica: WHY.

Robert: I just thought I'd ask you.

Jessica: Well I just thought I'd tell you.

Robert: Then tell me who is playing left field.

Jessica: WHO is playing first.

Robert: I'm not... Stay out of the infield! I want to know, what's the guy's name in left field?

Jessica: No, WHAT is on second.

Robert: I'm not asking who's on second.

Jessica: No, WHO is on first.

Robert: I DON'T KNOW.

Both Together: Third base!

(Pause)

Robert: And left fielder's name?

Jessica: WHY!

Robert: Because.

Jessica: No, he's center field.

Robert: (Fumbles words loudly)

Jessica: Well that's the fellow's name.

Robert: Look, look, look, you got a pitcher?

Jessica: Sure. We wouldn't have a team without a pitcher.

Robert: The pitcher's name?

Jessica: TOMORROW.

Robert: You don't want to tell me today?

Jessica: I'm telling you then.

Robert: Well go ahead.

Jessica: TOMORROW.

Robert: What time?

Jessica: What time what?

Robert: At what time tomorrow are you going to tell me who's pitching?

Jessica: Now listen, WHO is not pitching. WHO is on...

Robert: I'm gonna have a fit if you say who's on first! I want to know, what's the pitcher's name?

Jessica: WHAT's on second!

Robert: I DON'T KNOW!

Both Together - QUICKLY: Third base!

(Pause)

Robert: Got a catcher?

Jessica: Certainly.

Robert: The catcher's name.

Jessica: TODAY.

Robert: Today? And Tomorrow's pitching?

Jessica: Now you've got it.

Robert: All we got is a couple of days on the team. You know, I'm a catcher too.

Jessica: So they tell me.

Robert: I get behind the plate, do some fancy catching. Tomorrow's pitching on my team and a heavy hitter gets up.

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: Now, the heavy hitter bunts the ball. When he bunts the ball, me being a good catcher, I want to throw the guy out at first base. So I pick up the ball, and throw it to who?

Jessica: Now that's the first thing that you've said right.

Robert: I don't even know what I'm talking about!

Jessica: Well that's all you have to do!

Robert: Is throw the ball to first base?

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: Now who's got it?

Jessica: Naturally.

(Pause)

Robert: Look, if I throw the ball to first base, somebody's got to get it. Now who has it?

Jessica: Naturally.

Robert: WHO?

Jessica: Naturally.

Robert: NATURALLY?

Jessica: Naturally.

Robert: So I pick up the ball and throw it to NATURALLY?

Jessica: No you don't! You throw the ball to first base.

Robert: So who gets it?

Jessica: Naturally.

Robert: NATURALLY.

Jessica: That's different.

Robert: That's what I said.

Jessica: You're not saying that.

Robert: I throw the ball to NATURALLY?

Jessica: You throw it to WHO.

Robert: NATURALLY.

Jessica: That's it.

Robert: That's what I said!

Jessica: Listen, you ask me.

Robert: I throw the ball to WHO?

Jessica: Naturally.

Robert: Now you ask me.

Jessica: You throw the ball to WHO?

Robert: NATURALLY.

Jessica: That's it.

Robert: Same as you!

Jessica: You just changed them around.

Robert: Same as you! I throw the ball to WHO. Whoever it is drops the ball, the guy runs to second, WHO picks up the ball, throw's it to WHAT, WHAT throw's it to I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW throw's it back to TOMORROW, triple play!

Jessica: Yes.

Robert: Another guy gets up, and it's a long fly ball to BECAUSE. Why? I DON'T KNOW, he's on third, and I DON'T GIVE A DARN!

Jessica: Oh...what?

Robert: I said, I DON'T GIVE A DARN!

Jessica: Oh, that's our short stop.

Robert: (Fumbles words loudly)

Jessica: Thanks for watching Readers Theater. Join us next month when we will bring you another production..

Robert: If you are interested in reading, just give me a call at 1 5053. No experience necessary, and the more you can ham it up, the better.