

TUVALU

by John Judy

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CAST: Michael or a Random Cast Member, Enele Sopoaga, and his Aide.

MICHAEL: As part of Big News's commitment to maintaining good international relations we periodically welcome guests to our show from other lands; exotic places like Ireland, Canada, and Chicago. Tonight we welcome ambassador Enele Sopoaga from the South Pacific island nation of Tuvalu. Mr. Ambassador, welcome to Big News.

ENELE: Thank-you, Michael.

MICHAEL: Sir, I'm told the ten islands which make up your nation are only 12 feet above sea level.

ENELE: Um, yes it used to be more but because of your country's greenhouse emissions it is now only 12 feet....

(An AIDE wearing a headset enters and whispers something to ENELE.)

ENELE: Um, make that ten feet above sea level.

MICHAEL: So, not too many problems with nosebleeds among your people.

ENELE: No, we are more worried about drowning in our sleep as the polar icecaps melt. This is a popular joke among our nation's people who have not drowned.

MICHAEL: Well, it's important to have a sense of humor. As we say here, "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone."

ENELE: Ah, we have a similar saying: "Laugh before you drown." It is on our currency.

(The AIDE re-enters and whispers to ENELE.)

ENELE: Well, tell her to get a new one. I'm sorry, my aide informs me my family dog has been swallowed by a giant squid.

MICHAEL: I'm so sorry.

ENELE: Ah, these monsters grow bold now that my country is only ten....

(AIDE whispers again.)

ENELE: ... seven feet above sea level. (To AIDE) Are you shitting me?

MICHAEL: What are the good points to living in the Tuvalu Islands, sir?

ENELE: Well, you get all the seafood you want for nothing. And if you like sand, especially wet sand? Well, there's really no contest. It has to be Tuvalu. And every morning, as the tide goes out, you are woken by the jellyfish tickling your feet. It's nice. We have one that's been floating into my house for years now. I call him Matthew.

MICHAEL: It sounds wonderful.

ENELE: It's not. I'm in a lot of denial, my friend. It's about the only thing we have left.

MICHAEL: Have you thought about moving inland?

ENELE: Ah, thank-you, my friend! I had not thought of that because I live on a small chain of islands that are only seven....

(AIDE whispers.)

ENELE: ...Fuck! Three....! Three goddamn feet above The Devouring Surf! Newsflash: We're water-logged, not retarded! We can't move "inland" because there is no "inland" left! You know what we call inland on Tuvalu? The lifeguard tower! The nearest inland is Australia! Do you know how fucked we are? Micronesia is screening our calls! My wife moved back to Samoa and my kid's dog just got eaten by a squid!

MICHAEL: Is there anything we can....

ENELE: YES! Sign the Kyoto Treaty and airlift us some fucking sandbags!!! We're three feet above...

(AIDE taps ENELE on the shoulder and whispers.)

ENELE: Don't touch me! I'm not hearing you! La-la-la!
I'm a UN Ambassador, I've still got a country, and this is all a horrible dream!

(ENELE exits screaming. AIDE remains.)

AIDE: Could I be showing you my screenplay?

(BLACKOUT)