

THE BROWN TURKEYS

Written by

Kelly Ann Guglietti

Street Address & Phone:
10633 Machrihanish Circle
San Antonio, FL 33576
[H] 352-668-4612
[C] 727-421-1707

Email: kaguglietti@gmail.com

INT. MSTBC BOARDROOM - DAY

Virtual Zoom meeting for the evening's broadcast. NUTMEG RAFFERTY (Executive Producer, Meghan Rafferty as a mostly nutmeg-colored turkey) and CHESTNUT HOLT (Lester Holt as a mostly chestnut-colored turkey) brainstorm ideas with their field correspondents. Nutmeg and Chestnut are sitting in chairs in the middle of the back long side of a conference table, facing 4 big screens in the shape of an upside down T, on the glass wall in front of them.

Nutmeg and Chestnut do some small talk as they are signing into the Zoom meeting.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

How is your family faring the season?

CHESTNUT HOLT

My family built an under-coop cellar to hide in. When the farmers come looking and we are not seen, the farmers think we are just out playing, then go away. We should be safe. It has worked years for us. How does your family fare?

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

Our family makes a deal with the local chickens to switch feed out pre-season. This way, we keep our weight down. People don't like skinny turkeys. And the chickens still thrive on our feed. So it's a win-win.

Nutmeg's and Chestnut's computer screens simultaneously come up into the Zoom meeting. The big screens on the wall soon come up one at a time, with MIGUEL MAHOGANY (Miguel Almaguer as a turkey in mostly mahogany coloring); BROWN TORRES. MD (John Torres, MD, chief medical correspondent to MSNBC, a turkey in brown coloring); UMBER FEATHERS (a stylish young female, African American turkey intern reporter of umber coloring); and SEPIA MITCHELL (Andrea Mitchell as a turkey of sepia coloring).

Door bell sound heard. Miguel Mahogany comes up on screen.

CHESTNUT HOLT

Hey, Miguel. You are first in.

Door bell sound heard. Brown Torres comes up on another screen.

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)
 John, nice to see you. We'll get
 started soon. We're still waiting
 for Um.....

Door bell sound heard. Umber Feathers comes up on screen.

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)
 Umber, nice to see you.

Door bell sound heard. SEPIA MITCHELL comes up on the last
 screen.

SEPIA MITCHELL
 Hi, Chestnut. Nutmeg.

CHESTNUT HOLT AND NUTMEG RAFFERTY
 (Simultaneously)
 Hey, Sepia.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY
 OK, looks like we're all here.
 Let's get started. Who has what
 for us today? Umber, how about you
 going first? What do you have?

Nutmeg and Chestnut write notes as Umber Feathers speaks.

UMBER FEATHERS
 Nutmeg, I am in Rural Town, USA.
 The air is crisp, the leaves on the
 trees have turned colors, children
 are visiting the turkey farms by
 the busload and the odor of pumpkin
 and apple pies wafts everywhere. I
 thought I could address these as
 the warning signs of Thanksgiving.

Nutmeg and Chestnut look up from their note taking to speak
 to Umber Feathers.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY
 Great idea, Umber! That sounds
 like a good angle. Who wants to go
 next?

Nutmeg and Chestnut write notes as Miguel Mahogany speaks.

MIGUEL MAHOGANY
 I'll go next. I'm at Tom's Turkey
 Farm in Virginia. I have two
 witnesses who are willing to give
 their account of the destruction of
 peace this holiday brings upon us.

Nutmeg and Chestnut look back up at the screens when through writing a brief note about Miguel Mahogany's contribution.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

OK, sounds good, Miguel. Next, Sepia?

Nutmeg and Chestnut write notes as Sepia Mitchell speaks.

SEPIA MITCHELL

I am in Turkeytown, Indiana. My material could be used as an extension of Umber's material.

Chestnut is still writing notes, while Nutmeg looks up to speak to Sepia Mitchell.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

Thanks, Sepia. An extension could cement the urgency of our predicament. Dr. Torres, that leaves you.

Nutmeg and Chestnut look up to listen to Dr. Brown Torres.

BROWN TORRES, MD

I am going to present the safety options to take during this season. It seems like it needs to be said again and again, as we keep losing millions of our species each year.

Nutmeg and Chestnut look down, quickly scribble a short note on Dr. Brown Torres's contribution. Both Nutmeg and Chestnut look back up for the remainder of the meeting.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

How true! That would make a great wrap-up to our broadcast tonight. So what do you think, Chestnut? Shall we start with Umber, then use Sepia's back-up, then move onto Miguel. Of course, then we will close with Dr. Torres's precautions.

CHESTNUT HOLT

Yes, that sounds like a good logical order. Hopefully, leaving with Dr. Torres's piece will help turkeys save not only themselves but others as well.

NUTMEG RAFFERTY

OK, everyone! We'll see you tonight! Stay safe out there. You know what to do after the broadcast.

UMBER FEATHERS, SEPIA MITCHELL, MIGUEL MAHOGANY AND BROWN TORRES, MD

(Simultaneously)

Thanks, Nutmeg. You, too. You and Chestnut as well.

INT. NEWSROOM - EVENING

Chestnut is at center screen. To his right is a lighted, blue wall with the MSNBC logo and NIGHTLY NEWS WITH CHESTNUT HOLT centered on the top half and the date of the November 1st and the current year, centered and in all caps on the bottom half. To Chestnut's left is a partial view of his news desk. Behind him are two glass or mirrored walls with the continents on them and the MSNBC logo and NIGHTLY NEWS about 2/3 the way down. One wall is blue and the other is black. The introductory music to MSNBC news is heard. Chestnut introduces the newscast.

CHESTNUT HOLT

Tonight, we talk about the annual abduction of turkeys.

The screen changes to the scene of a delicious turkey on a platter in the middle of a table covered with a seasonally-colored tablecloth. Towards the bottom of the screen is a red banner with white letters in all caps saying, "BREAKING NEWS." Below the red banner is the following clear banner in larger white caps, "TURKEYS DISAPPEAR IN THE MILLIONS."

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

No one knows why, but this time of year, turkeys disappear in the millions.

Picture in the back changes to a close-up of UMBER FEATHERS outdoors, holding a microphone. The same banners from above are still present.

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

We will review the warning signs of this season so many of us seem to forget.

Picture in the back changes to SEPIA MITCHELL outdoors, holding a microphone. The same banners from above are still present.

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

And discuss the urgency with which we need to plan for safety.

Picture in the back changes to Miguel Mahogany standing outdoors, carrying a silent conversation between GERTY DRUMSTICKS (a very stern-looking perturbed elderly female turkey with dark-framed glasses) and FLORENCE FLURRYSTONE (another elderly female with light wire-framed glasses, frazzled). The clear banner below changes to read, "NIGHTLY NEWS EXCLUSIVE."

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

Our nightly news exclusive is an interview with two turkey citizens of Tom's Turkey Farm in Virginia.

Picture in the back changes to Brown Torres, MD. The clear banner below changes to read, "HOW TO STAY SAFE."

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

And our own Dr. Brown Torres discusses things we can do to stay safe.

Fly in an enlarged MSNBC logo and the words, NIGHTLY NEWS WITH CHESTNUT HOLT. Then go back to newsroom scene. This time, the blue glass sign on Chestnut's right is a full blown picture of Umber Feathers, microphone in hand, on a country road in front of a barn with a farmer's market facing the road. A gravel parking lot is in front of the market. A pumpkin patch is in front of the barn, a short distance away. Umber is wearing stylish earmuffs and a faux fur collar. The clear and red banners at the bottom are in reverse order now. The clear banner will read, "WARNING SIGNS OF THANKSGIVING." The red sign will still read, "BREAKING NEWS."

CHESTNUT HOLT (CONT'D)

Good evening, everyone. A tradition that happens annually is still taking our lives.

Umber Feathers, on Cape Cod, begins our reporting. Umber?

EXT. IN FRONT OF A TURKEY FARM

Umber Feathers gives the warning signs of an impending Thanksgiving season.

UMBER FEATHERS

Thank you, Chestnut. There are four warning signs to this massive abduction of turkeys. One, the air turns cool, causing the leaves to fall from the trees. Two, school children visit our farms. Three, harvest fruits and vegetables are picked in frenzy. Four, the smells of people baking apple and pumpkin pies wafts through the air. This is our time to beware! Chestnut?

INT. BACK TO THE NEWSROOM

CHESTNUT HOLT

Thank you for those warning signs, UMBER. We now move to Sepia Mitchell in Turkeytown, Indiana to observe the situation there. Sepia?

EXT. A COUNTRY ROAD IN FICTITIOUS TURKEYTOWN, INDIANA

Sepia Mitchell, gives her witness of what is happening. She is standing on a country road in front of a playground covered in fall foliage. Children are chasing each other and throwing bunches of leaves at each other.

SEPIA MITCHELL

Yes, Chestnut. The situation is getting urgent. It is cold here. As you can see, the leaves are a scary combination of red, yellow and orange. Children are behind me playing in them!

Sepia Mitchell motions down the road to two human families across the road from each other, raking and bagging leaves in their front lawns.

SEPIA MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Down the street, others are raking them off their lawns.

Sepia Mitchell trots in the opposite direction, towards a farm. Some people are carrying bushels of vegetables or single pumpkins to a wooden kiosk in front of a barn. Others are picking pumpkins in a pumpkin patch. Others are returning to their cars with their goods.

SEPIA MITCHELL (CONT'D)
 Farmers are reaping their harvests.
 And people are buying them by the
 bushel. I have not yet begun to
 smell those familiar aromas of pies
 baking, but it is only a matter of
 time. Chestnut?

INT. BACK TO THE NEWSROOM

CHESTNUT HOLT
 Thank you, Sepia for your
 commentary. Miguel Mahogany is at
 Tom's Turkey Farm in Virginia with
 an exclusive interview. Miguel,
 what do you have for us there?

EXT. AT FICTITIOUS TOM'S TURKEY FARM IN VIRGINIA

Miguel Mahogany reports what is happening at Tom's Turkey
 Farm. Primary grade elementary school children are chasing
 turkeys in a large pen, laughing with glee. Teachers and
 parent chaperones observe the activity from outside the pen.

MIGUEL MAHOGANY
 Well, Chestnut, an elementary
 school has brought all of its
 kindergarten, first and second
 grade students to meet the turkeys
 in Tom's Turkey Farm today. They
 promise to bring their third,
 fourth and fifth graders tomorrow.
 I talked to two of the turkeys
 here, a Mrs. Gerty Drumsticks and a
 Mrs. Florence Flurrystone.

Miguel Mahogany moves his microphone towards Gerty
 Drumsticks.

MIGUEL MAHOGANY (CONT'D)
 I'm going to start with this lady
 first, Mrs. Gerty Drumsticks.
 Ma'am, what is your opinion of this
 season.

GERTY DRUMSTICKS
 The noise is unbearable! I don't
 know why people insist on this
 tradition. Every year we have to
 go through this!

Miguel Mahogany moves his microphone towards Florence Flurystone. She has quite a few feathers missing.

MIGUEL MAHOGANY

This is Mrs. Florence Flurystone.
Ma'am, what is your take?

FLORENCE FLURRYSTONE

The children chase us around and scare the feathers off us! It is quite unsettling!

MIGUEL MAHOGANY

(Taking the microphone
back)

So you see, Chestnut, the calm and quiet of the year is disrupted by this annual practice.

INT. BACK TO THE NEWSROOM

Chestnut, close-up, thanks Miguel Mahogany. Then, pan out as he turns to Dr. Brown Torres, who is sitting across a round, glass table.

CHESTNUT HOLT

Thank you, Miguel, for your commentary as well. We now have our Medical Correspondent, Dr. Brown Torres, in our studio to tell us how to avoid our disappearance.

BROWN TORRES, MD

Well Chestnut, the massive disappearance of turkeys is an annual thing that is not going to go away soon. It has happened for centuries. We turkeys must be aware and be proactive -- have a safety plan ready.

CHESTNUT HOLT

What things can we do to keep ourselves safe? And what should that plan entail?

BROWN TORRES, MD

Chestnut, first we must be attuned to the cold air. The cold air is what brings this ordeal on. Once that cold air comes, we should take that as our notice to hide or escape in numbers with provisions.

(MORE)

BROWN TORRES, MD (CONT'D)

Just run and hide. Second, we must be still. Being still bores the kids who visit us. Thirdly, people don't seem to like skinny turkeys, so going on a diet can help. Last but not least, if you are chosen to end up on the table, stand as still as the legendary Pinecone Turkey. Humans use stiff turkeys only as decorations.

CHESTNUT HOLT

Thank you as always, Dr. Brown Torres. That is nightly news for this Wednesday. Thank you for watching everyone. I'm Chestnut Holt. Please take care of yourselves and each other. Good night.

The closing tune of the MSNBC broadcast plays.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. - SCRAPBOOK - EVENING

MSNBC music starts up again, fading into a song with a catchy beat. Throw in photographs with captions and form a collage on a two-page spread within a scrapbook. As each picture reaches its destination on the page, simultaneously snap in four corner pieces to keep the picture in place. The pictures are listed as follows:

Chestnut Holt, his wife and family of two son's at ages 34 and 32, a pregnant daughter-in-law and two grandsons around 7 and 9 years old are at a dining table in their basement. The dining table is full of bowls of cracked corn, sunflower seeds, oats and a plate of wheat. Some of the bowls are being passed and the family has different amounts of different food on their plates. No silverware is needed, but napkins are placed at the right side of the plates. The Holt family looks out at an imaginary photographer and smiles. The caption should read, "Happy Thanksgiving!"

Nutmeg Rafferty is in a comical disguise of sunglasses, a winter cap and possibly a traditional or cowl scarf. She is standing in a crowd of onlookers at the Stacy's Day Parade. The caption should read, "At the Stacy's Day Parade. Wish you were here!"

Sepia Mitchell and husband ADAM GREENSPAN as a turkey, are sitting on a couch in their coop, watching the Stacy's Day Parade on TV. They recognize and point to Nutmeg Rafferty in the audience. The caption should read, "OMG, that's Nutmeg!"

Brown Torres, MD and his wife serve a Thanksgiving meal of cracked or whole kernel corn, sunflower seeds, oats and wheat at a homeless shelter for those turkeys trying to hide until after the holiday. The caption should read, "Turkey Ministries. Helping others help themselves."

Miguel Mahogany and his auntie are playing chess in her coop. Auntie wins with a look of satisfaction. Miguel just smirks. The caption should read, "Auntie Wins Again!"

Umber Feathers is in a coop with four other young female turkeys, wearing sleeveless nightshirts, throwing up straw in the air and bouncing up and down with glee. The caption should read, "Yahoo! We made it another year!"