

The Great American Resolution Race to the Finish

A Comedy by Barbara Pease Weber
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Characters: Minimum 3 (with doubling) or 5 (without doubling, excluding the *Optional*” non-speaking “run across the stage” character below who may be a crew member).

- 1) **Gordon (or Greta) Goodsport** – Sportscaster at The Finish Line of The Great American Resolution Race (M*, F or NB)
- 2) **Quitting Smoking** – a Resolutionist whose efforts were sabotaged. (F*, M or NB)
- 3) **Get Out Of Debt** – a Resolutionist whose efforts failed. (M*, F or NB)
- 4) **Exercise More** (M*, F or NB) (May be played by the actor portraying Quitting Smoking or Get Out of Debt with a different colored T-Shirt, Glasses, Wig, sweat band or other quick costuming change). A Resolutionist about to cross The Finish Line. Accused of cheating!
- 5) **Go On A Diet And Lose Weight** (F*, M or NB) (May be played by actor portraying Quitting Smoking or Get Out of Debt with a different colored T-Shirt, Glasses, Wig, sweat band or other quick costuming change). A Resolutionist who is also about to cross The Finish Line! But, did she bend the rules?
- 6) *Optional*: **Blow the Head Off The No-Good, Fast Talking, City Slicking Sportscaster Who’s Canoodling With My Wife!** (M) Non-speaking role. May be a crew member dashing across the stage at the end in flickering lights.

*= Author’s gender preference for that character, if possible.

Offstage voices:

Voiced by above actors portraying the above characters who are not yet on stage.

- 1) Off Stage Unidentified Resolutionist (M* or F)
- 2) Producer (F* or M)

*=Author’s preference for that offstage voice, if possible.

Synopsis: It’s ten minutes till midnight on New Years’ Eve. We’re at The Finish Line of **The Great American Resolution Race**. Gordon Goodsport, a sportscaster, waits for contestants to cross The Finish Line.

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Setting: Finish Line at The Great American Resolution Race. It is the last 10 minutes of the last day of the Current Year (e.g., 11:50 p.m. on 12/31/2024). The Finish Line (taped toilet paper or glow-in-the-dark tape) is right or left of center. It extends all or partially from front to rear of stage. This is the line that the remaining Resolution Race Contestants will endeavor to cross by the time the clock strikes midnight and the new year begins.

At Rise:

Lights come up 2/3 during a commercial break at The Great American Resolution Race. Gordon (or Greta) Goodsport wears a wrist watch and glances at it while pacing back and forth. Depending on location of the theater and at the Director's discretion, Gordon may or may not be bundled up to suggest that he/she is ringing in the New Year in a cold climate. He may jog in place or do some warm-up exercises to release nervous energy. He may also punch an imaginary punching bag, swing an imaginary baseball bat, or an imaginary golf club as he waits to resume his live broadcast. He may also mouth the words of his opening lines when he goes "Live" after the break. We hear disconcerting wailing offstage or at the rear of the audience from one of the contestants who faltered close to the finish of this year's Great American Resolution Race. Gordon touches his ear microphone and reacts gleefully when he (she) hears through his ear piece that yet another contestant has failed and quit year's race so close to the finish.

Off Stage Unidentified Resolutionist

(Crying loudly in anguish and despair) WAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH! Don't disqualify me now! Please! I just had *one* slip-up! Okay, two. Three at the most! But, I am soooooo close! I almost made it this year! WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH! Why am so weak! I am a weakling! I **HATE** myself! I **HATE** myself! I **HATE** myself! WAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!

Producer (Off Stage)

There, there. *(Cheerfully)* Next year is just round the corner. You can try again as soon as the clock strikes 12. The Registration window is over there. Or register on line if that's easier for you. *(Barking orders)* Somebody, get him* out of here please! *(Now in full Producer mode, loudly barking to the crew.)* Listen up! The diet drug ad is nearly finished! Cue the music! We're live in FIVE, FOUR, THREE, TWO...
*(*or her)*

(Lights up)

(The following dialogue of the Unidentified Resolutionist overlaps with the Producer's above dialogue beginning with "Listen Up! This is why Gordon did not hear the Producer's que.)

Offstage Unidentified Resolutionist

I blew it! Why does this always happen to me! Every stinkin' year! I was SOOOOO close! I HATE myself!

Gordon Goodsport

(Pacing back and forth, talking to himself, and not realizing his microphone has been turned on and he is Live once again) Ha ha! Another one bite's the dust! *As if that* pathetic Failure will ever make it across The Finish Line. Not in your dreams, pal. You'll never be able to quit. No matter how hard you try.

Producer *(off stage)*

Gordon! Your mic is LIVE!

Gordon Goodsport

(Holding his earpiece, talking to Producer.) What's that? We go in FIVE?

Producer *(off stage)*

I already called FIVE!! You're LIVE! Go! Go! Go!

Gordon Goodsport

Aw Fudge! Not again!

Gordon Goodsport

(Gordon, trying to recover from his faux pas with a hot mic is overly and disingenuously enthusiastic about the New Year count down.) Welcome back to **The Great Resolution Race!** I'm your host, Gordon Goodsport! We are now just ten minutes until midnight so put on your party hats, find your party horns, pucker up those lips and look around for somebody kiss as we get set to welcome in the new year! I'm here at The Finish Line of the **Great American Resolution Race of (Current Year)**. And, what a Resolution Race it has been! Let's recap the year with some of our (Current Year) **Resolution Failures** who gave it their all but sadly will not be crossing the Finish Line this year. First up, let's give a big round of applause to one of our top favorite **Resolution Failures** of all time: **Quitting Smoking!** Come over and join us, **Quitting Smoking!** *(To audience)* I have some questions about the cigarette smoking debacle that took place during

this year's **Great Resolution Race!** My producers tell me that **Quitting Smoking** was front and center in some sort of a cigarette scandal!

(Quitting Smoking, jogs breathlessly onto the stage and is nearly all out of breath by the time he/she reaches Gordon Sportscaster.)

Quitting Smoking

(Once next to Gordon, Quitting Smoking bends over, wheezing and gasping for breath) I just need a minute. (More gasping and wheezing). One second. (More gasping and wheezing.) I just need to catch my breath. (After a few more deep breaths (or puffs from an inhaler) Quitting Smoking musters enough breath and composure to the point he/she can now speak. Barely.) (Breath) I have a large bone to pick with your slimy Producers, Gordon! Those monsters created the cigarette scandal and threw me smack in the middle! I resent being exploited! It's unethical! It's immoral! It's....(he coughs and cannot finish sentence.)

Gordon Goodsport

It's **NOT illegal**. That much I can assure you. We run *everything* by the lawyers. And, you did sign the Resolutionist Agreement when you registered for this year's Great American Resolution Race.

Quitting Smoking

(To audience, pointing his finger) Fair warning to all you prospective Resolutionists out there! When you sign the Registration paperwork, read the Fine Print!!!!

Gordon Goodsport

You are just full of sour grapes today, **Quitting Smoking**. You must *really* need a cigarette!

Quitting Smoking

Ha ha. Not funny. *(Coughs)*

Gordon Goodsport

Okay then, let's hear *your* side of the story. You were disqualified a few months ago from continuing on with this year's race. Tell us what happened.

Quitting Smoking

(Coughing and panting) Your Producers set me up! Tempted me! Entrapped me! I demand to be reinstated in this year's Race! I should be permitted to cross the Finish Line! I had successfully quit smoking!

Gordon Goodsport

That's great! Congratulations, **Quitting Smoking!** How long has it been since your last cigarette?

Quitting Smoking

(Evading the question) Your Producers should be ashamed of themselves! *(Coughs)* I was doing just fine! I chewed gobs of nicotine gum. I wore nicotine patches on both arms and legs *and* on my belly and my forehead. I drank gallons of water. I banged my head against walls. I screamed into my pillows. I meditated. I did yoga. I crashed my car into a ditch driving at high speed! I was coping! Then, out of the blue, I get an anonymous package on my doorstep. No return address. No postmark. What was in the box you ask? A carton of cigarettes! *(Coughs and gasps for breath.)*

Gordon Goodsport

Someone left a carton of cigarettes on your doorstep? After you quit? Who would do that?

Quitting Smoking

The Producers of *The Great American Resolution Race!* They saw me succeeding and they wanted me to fail. Just like I always did. And, when it looked like I was actually going to quit this year, your Producers decided to take matters into their own hands! They sent me a carton of cigarettes!

Gordon Goodsport

I sincerely doubt the Producers of *The Great American Resolution Race* would do such a thing! Could it have been a devious member of our audience who betted against you? Or, perhaps a cigarette company? After all, Big Tobacco was losing one of their best customers!

Quitting Smoking

It was your Producers, I say! They wanted me to fail!

Gordon Goodsport

Why do you say that?

Quitting Smoking

To create a scandal! To boost ratings!

Gordon Goodsport

I sincerely doubt it, **Quitting Smoking**. Regardless of who delivered the cigarettes or why, I hope you stomped on them! Threw them in the garbage!

Quitting Smoking

I threw the entire carton in the trash. But I was struggling that day. I was tired. Irritable. I ripped off my nicotine patches, took out a pack of cigarettes from the carton in the trashcan and intended to smoke *one*. Just one single cigarette!

Gordon Goodsport

Uh oh. Did you?

Quitting Smoking

Not right away. I opened the carton. Took out a pack. Removed one cigarette. At first I just stared at it. Then, I sniffed it. (*He recreates an imaginary prolonged sniff as if the imaginary cigarette was expensive perfume or a freshly baked brownie, and he coughs.*) Then I suddenly had an inexplicable urge for a cup of coffee. So, I put the pack cigarettes in my pocket, got in my car and headed straight for a Dunkin Drive Through.

Gordon Goodsport

But you did not smoke the cigarette? Is that right?

Quitting Smoking

I got my coffee and drove around. I pulled into a nice quiet spot. By the park. Under a tree. Nobody around. Drank my coffee. Sniffed the cigarette again. Found an old pack of matches under my seat. And ...I lit up.

Gordon Goodsport

So, you *did* smoke a cigarette?

Quitting Smoking

No! Right after I lit up I put out the cigarette in my coffee. Then I drove home. I went to the trash can and took all of the cigarette boxes out of the carton dumped all of the cigarettes out of

the boxes. I scooped up the loose cigarettes and put them into a plastic bag and stomped on them. Then I threw everything away, the bag of pulverized cigarettes, the empty cigarette boxes and the empty carton, and took the trash outside.

Gordon Goodsport

So, what was all the hoopla about?

Quitting Smoking

Your Producers were relentless! They hired a Private Investigator to go through my trash! The P.I. took photos of the empty cigarette boxes and carton in the trash can in front of my house! I was framed! It was a set up!

Gordon Goodsport

I caution you about blaming our Producers. You have no proof.

Quitting Smoking

The next morning, I get in my car to go to work and a reporter knocks on my car window. Shows me the photos of my trash. Asks me if I started up again. A photographer starts snapping photos. It was all over social media in an instant! **“Quitting Smoking Fails Again! Smokes Entire Carton in One Night!”** Lies! All lies!

Gordon Goodsport

(Dismissively) Everybody knows you can't believe everything you read on the internet!

Quitting Smoking

I knew they were watching me from then on. Hiding in trees and behind bushes. That made me so angry, I bought a wig, and cap and a fake beard and mustache. I disguised myself so no one would recognize me.

Gordon Goodsport

I read that on line. But you say you hadn't started smoking again?

Quitting Smoking

No! I chewed extra nicotine gum, two pieces at once! And, I doubled up on the patches. Until...

Gordon Goodsport

Until?

Quitting Smoking

A few days later, I'm wearing my disguise, sitting in my car, under a tree, drinking my coffee and there is *another* knock on my car window! I should have driven away!

Gordon Goodsport

Another reporter?

Quitting Smoking

No! A Nicotine Dealer! (*Coughs*) She had me under surveillance! Watching my every move!

Gordon Goodsport

She wanted to sell you cigarettes?

Quitting Smoking

No! She wanted to give me a pack!

Gordon Goodsport

Ahhhh! A free sample. So, you'll buy more! Interesting concept.

Quitting Smoking

And completely illegal! Guess you didn't run *that* by your lawyers.

Gordon Goodsport

Wasn't us! You can't prove that it was!

Quitting Smoking

That Nicotine Dealer was hired by your Producers! To entrap me! The dealer caught me at a weak moment. I accepted her pack. I took out a cigarette. I stared at it. I sniffed it. I lit it. And then, I smoked it. And, I should have known better, your Producers recorded my weak moment and splashed it all over the internet. They invaded my privacy! I should sue!

Gordon Goodsport

Hold on now! Your car was parked on a public street, under a public tree, outside a public park. Once you scored that pack of smokes from the Nicotine Dealer, you sat in your car and smoked it, out in the public. Of your own free will! Not to mention, you were parked in a No Smoking zone!

Quitting Smoking

How did that Nico Dealer know it was me? I was wearing my disguise. I nearly lit my darn beard on fire with the cigarette. I call foul on *The Great American Resolution Race!* You want your Resolutionists to fail! Boosts ratings! And you'll go to great lengths to see that we do!

Gordon Goodsport

Well, those are some pretty serious accusations, **Quitting Smoking**. I have a strong feeling that you may be hearing from our lawyers.

Quitting Smoking

(Coughing) Fine! Tell them to sue me. I kind of doubt I'll be hanging around much longer anyway. Can't get blood from a pile of ashes. Which way's the parking lot?

Gordon Goodsport

(Points) Over there. Are you leaving already Quitting Smoking? You're not sticking around to see who wins this year?

Quitting Smoking

Bah. Like I care. Should have been me. *(He exits coughing.)*

Happy New Year, Quitting Smoking. Better luck next time!

Quitting Smoking

Ha! Next time. *(He proceeds off stage.)*

Gordon Goodsport

(Exuberant) Gee, it was great catching up with **Quitting Smoking**. Though, it's heartbreaking to see a Failed Resolutionist doing so...unwell! Let's see now, we also have a surprise visit another Failed (Current Year) Resolutionist. Come join us **Get Out Debt** and tell us how your efforts to get your finances on track were derailed this year. Everybody, put your hands together for our second Featured Failure of the evening, **Get Out Of Debt!**

(Get Out Of Debt jogs over to Gordon waiving and fake smiling)

Get Out of Debt

(Paranoid) Now, before you go and judge me, Gordon. *(To audience)* Before any of you judge me. I just want you all to know I tried! I did! I swear! I really tried.

Gordon Goodsport

We're not here to Judge you, **Get Out Of Debt!** We just have some questions. No judgments! I promise.

Get Out of Debt

Okay then. But, if I feel in any way demeaned or defamed, I'll...

Gordon Goodsport

(Cutting him/her off) Nonsense! We just want to know how you're doing! We are concerned for your financial wellbeing. My Producers tell me that you actually stuck to your budget all the way through the first quarter and decreased your overall debt by almost five percent in the first three months! Then, April rolled around and, well, can you explain to us what the heck happened? You went on some sort of a spending spree?

Get Out of Debt

I don't know. I guess I... I had a bit of a setback.

Gordon Sports.

(Scoffs) That's putting it mildly, wouldn't you say? You booked a cruise! For two! A non-refundable 14-day cruise through the Panama Canal, from Tampa to San Francisco, with excursions in Cartagena, Puntarenas and Cabo St. Lucas!

Get Out of Debt

You're getting judgey, Gordon.

Gordon Goodsport

I am just trying to clarify. **Get Out Of Debt**, am I correct that you booked the Panama Canal Cruise in April, and you set sail in May?

Get Out Of Debt

Yes! I got a bargain! I always wanted to go through the Panama Canal on a luxury ocean liner. Earlier this year, on April 1st I think, I got a big white envelope on my doorstep. No return address. No postmark. It contained a big, glossy, colorful cruise brochure! I was feeling pretty proud of myself for paying down some debt in January, February and March. I flipped through the brochure and thought, "*I deserve treat after three whole months of cutting back.*" And, the Cruise Line was running a Captain's Special! I snagged a steal on a sea side deluxe cabin! With a balcony!

Gordon Goodsport

So, you booked the deluxe cabin on your credit card. And, I understand that you also charged a considerable sum of money on cruise wear. Is that right?

Get Out Of Debt

Well, **Get Out Of Debt Too** and I couldn't very well dine at The Captain's Table wearing last year's rags! Of course, we needed evening wear. And new swim suits, hats, sunglasses and cover-ups. You wouldn't have expected us to pack tattered clothing on a luxury cruise? Who do we look like? The Cruising Hillbillies?*

(Optional: Change name to a local town (e.g., The Cherry Hillbillies, The Drexel Hillbillies, The Lafayette Hillbillies.)

Gordon Goodsport

Well, I hope you took photos of yourselves sporting your new wardrobes. Did you see any whales? Dolphins? Sharks? Swordfish?

Get Out Of Debt

Of course! And, we took tons of photos. We have a commemorative digital photo album. And a custom printed album with a digital video component for our big screen TV. I even had commemorative T-Shirts, towels and hats, made for **Get Out Of Debt Too** and me. It was a trip of a lifetime!

Gordon Goodsport

Wow! You went all out, **Get Out Of Debt!** I hope it was worth it!

Get Out Of Debt

That's not all! Did your producer tell you my big news? I proposed to **Get Out of Debt Too** on board the ship! I sprung for a special, late-night Table For Two Candlelight Supper on the *Lovers Deck*. That's where I popped the question. On the third night, when **Get Out Of Debt Too** was

playing poker in the ship's casino, I snuck away to the ship's Jewelry Store. I found a gorgeous two-carat diamond engagement ring that I couldn't resist.

Gordon Goodsport

Don't keep us in suspense **Get Out Of Debt!** Did **Get Out of Debt Too** accept your marriage proposal?

Get Out Of Debt

Yes! **Get Out Of Debt Too** and I looking forward to a (Current Year plus two) wedding. That is, if we can to get out of debt. You see, we maxed out all of our credit cards and we're almost four months behind on our...

Gordon Goodsport

(Clapping and cutting him/her off) Congratulations on your engagement, **Get Out Of Debt!** So, would you say that the Panama Canal Cruise was your downfall? You weren't able to course-correct and reset your sails to becoming debt-free once you returned to port?

Get Out Of Debt

Well, we enjoyed ourselves so much on the Panama Canal Cruise, we booked a ten-day *Scuba Aruba* Adventure. In fact, we just returned home yesterday. We even got our scuba diving certifications when we were there. We are certified divers now!

Gordon Goodsport

Well, that's just great! Best of luck with the wedding. And the diving! I hate to cut you short, but I just received word *(he/she taps earpiece)* that our first Finalist in the Resolution Race is nearing the Finish Line! This is so exciting!

Get Out Of Debt

Hey, Gordon, may I ask you one quick question before I go?

Gordon Goodsport

Sure, what's that?

Get Out Of Debt

Would you be able to lend me a couple thousand dollars?

Gordon Goodsport

(Appalled!) How much??

Get Out Of Debt

Say, eight, maybe nine thousand? You know, a short-term personal loan? Five-year repayment?

Gordon Goodsport

You're asking me to lend you eight thousand dollars?

Get Out Of Debt

Let's make it an even ten. I've got the paperwork right here. I'll pay you back in monthly instalments, first instalment starting in (Current Year plus three). You know I'm good for it. I swear!

Gordon Goodsport

How 'bout we continue this conversation off camera, ***Get Out Of Debt***. Run along now. I strongly suggest that you register to participate in the upcoming Resolution Race. If you're actually serious about getting out of debt for your upcoming nuptials, that is. You're in luck. There is no Registration Fee this year if you qualify as a Failed Resolution in the last five prior years. (*Points*) Registration window is over there on the left.

Get Out Of Debt

Will do! Thanks! And, I'll set up a time with your Producer to talk turkey about a loan. Gobble Gobble!

(Get Out Of Debt exits.)

Gordon Goodsport

(Under his breath, shaking his/her head in disbelief) Loan him (her) money? Is he (she) nuts?

Producer (Offstage)

Gordon! Live mic! Live mic! Get ready! ***Exercise More*** is approaching the Finish!

Gordon Goodsport

This is sooo exciting! My producers tell me that **Exercise More** is approaching the final stretch! I can see him (her)! There he (she) is! Wait! Who is trailing him! I don't believe it! **Go On A Diet And Lose Weight** is on his (her) heels! Run **Go On A Diet And Lose Weight!** Run!

(Exercise More sprints on to the stage and is tailed closely by Go on a Diet and Lose Weight who pulls him back and stops him from crossing the Finish Line.)

Go On a Diet and Lose Weight

(Running after Exercise More) Stop him! Don't let him finish! He's a cheat! Exercise More is a cheater! (She/he tugs on Exercise More's T-shirt. They get into a tussle and fall to the ground.)

Exercise More

Get off me! Help! Security! Security! **Go On A Diet And Lose Weight** just assaulted me! Disqualify him (her)! He's (She's) the Cheater! Not me!

Go On A Diet and Lose Weight

Admit it! You cheated! You didn't **Exercise More** this year! You are crossing **The Resolution Race** Finish Line Under False Pretenses!

Exercise More

I am not!

Go On A Diet and Lose Weight

Yes you are! You can't pretend to **Exercise More** if you already **Exercised A Whole Lot!**

Exercise More

Who says? Just because I **Exercised A Whole Lot** last year does not mean that I could not resolve to **Exercise More** this year! And I did! I win!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

That's cheating! You have an unfair advantage! You are a Personal Trainer! You teach Yoga! You have a Black Belt in karate! You surf! You swim! You Jog! You bike! You ski! You kickbox! You play tennis! You lift weights! You play racket ball! And Pickleball! How is it possible to **Exercise More** this year than last? Your resolution this year *should* have been **Ease Up On Exercising!** Maybe watch a little Netflix or HBO or Apple TV or Disney Plus! Couple hours a week. While eating a bowl of Ben & Jerry's!

Exercise More

Ugh! (*In disgust at the thought*) Why? So, I can end up a paunchy couch potato like *you*? Not a chance!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

Okay so a *different* Resolution then! Like, **Call Your Mother More!**

Exercise More

I live with my mother. We talk all the time.

Go On A Diet and Lose Weight

Then, **Volunteer More. Read More. Go Back to School and Finish Your Degree.** It doesn't matter *what* Resolutionist you are, so long as you are challenged for the better. In your case, **Exercise More** doesn't count. Because you already exercised more than enough!

Exercise More

You don't get to dictate the rules. ! I *did* want to Exercise More this year! You are just a **Sore Loser!** Pun *intended!*

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

I am not! I did go on a diet! And I *lost* twenty pounds!

Exercise More

That is precisely my point! Last year you went on a diet in the beginning of the year, and dropped twenty pounds by July. Then you wound up *gaining* thirty pounds by last New Year's Eve!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

My cat died! I was depressed!

Exercise More

Doesn't matter! To cross the Finish Line this year, you would need to lose over thirty pounds!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

No way!

Exercise More

Way! You are 10 pounds *over* the weight you were at the start of *last* year!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

That's NOT how ***The Great American Resolution Race*** works! I am twenty pounds lighter than I was at the start of *this* year!! That means, I am eligible to cross The Finish Line, before midnight, a Winner!

Exercise More

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight, there is something seriously flawed with your logic! You must have too much fat in your brain to think straight!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

How dare you!

Exercise More

You need to quit this race right now! Or be disqualified!

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

In your dreams! I *am* going to crossing the Finish Line this year and win this race! Right Now!

Exercise More

(Holding her back) You lose and regain the same 20 to 30 pounds every single year. *That* in itself should disqualify you! *(She breaks free and he grabs her ankle.)* Oh no you don't! I'm crossing The Finish Line first!

Go On A Diet and Lose Weight

Get your overly muscular hands off me, you cheat!

Exercise More

You're the Cheat! *(To Gordon)* Disqualify this porker! She (he) is a Yo-Yo dieter!

Gordon Goodsport

My Producers tell me that both of you have valid points of view. We will have to review the rules and amend them for (Current Year plus 2). You are cutting it close so I'll give you three options. You better decide quick. Option 1: Before the clock strikes midnight, you cross The Finish Line together as Co-Winners and share the First Place Prize; Option 2: One of you Finishes First and the other Second, as decided by a Coin Toss. The First Place Winner wins the First Place Prize. The Second Place Winner receives a big round of applause and a Second Place Button; Option 3: Neither of you qualifies to Finish First *or* Second given your objections against each other. You have five seconds to decide. One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Time's Up.

Exercise More / Go On A Diet And Lose Weight (Simultaneously)

(EM) Option 2! Coin toss! I call Heads! / (GOADALW) Option 1! Co-Winners!

Gordon Goodsport

Option 3 it is. Neither of you crosses The Finish Line! You are both disqualified.

Exercise More / Go On A Diet And Lose Weight (simultaneously)

(EM) Awww, come on! I won! I got to the Finish Line first! / (GOADALW) You cheated! I won fair and square!

Gordon Goodsport

(Admonishing) You did not render a *mutually-agreed* decision. There is no time left for you to reach a definitive agreement at this point. The New Year starts in TEN, NINE, EIGHT, SEVEN, SIX, FIVE, FOUR, THREE

(As Gordon counts down, Exercise More and Go On A Diet And Lose Weigh look at each other in horror at the thought of losing, join hands and shriek their final response together)

Exercise More and Go On A Diet and Lose Weight (*hands joined, shrieking together*)

WE AGREE! OPTION 1!!!!

(They dash/sprint/big jump across the finish line holding hands as Gordon finishes counting down.)

Gordon Goodsport

(Finishing Countdown) TWO! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!

(Music cue: Auld Lang Syne)

Gordon Goodsport

Well done, **Exercise More** and **Go On A Diet and Lose Weight**. You joined forces and will share equally in the First Place Prize. In fact, I predict the two of you may even collaborate on an Infomercial and a Social Media campaign to capitalize on your being this year's successful Resolutions. Think of the possibilities! If you two start dating and get engaged, your Social Media presence would go through the roof! Think of the advertising sponsorships! You two could be Darling Duo Influencers on social media! ***"The Perpetual Dieter and the Exercise Fiend Who Loves Her (or Him)"***. I can visualize your TiKToks now.

Exercise More

We'll think about it. What *is* the First Place Prize?

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

Yeah, what do we win for crossing The Finish Line?

Gordon Goodsport

One moment, my producer is...(holding his ear piece, to Producer) really? That's this year's First Place Prize? Ha! (To Exercise More and Go On A Diet And Lose Weight) My idea for your business collaboration just got a whole lot more fun!

Exercise More / Go On A Diet And Lose Weight (simultaneously)

(EM) What? / (GOADALW) Really? (Both) What did we win????

Gordon Goodsport

Exercise More and **Go On A Diet And Lose Weight**, you have just won a one-year membership to *Planet Fitness* and a year's worth of *Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream*!

Exercise More and Go On A Diet And Lose Weight (simultaneously squeal with delight)

(EM) Yaaaaaaaaayyyyy! GOADALW (Yipppeeeeeeee! (Both) Waaaahooooo!

(They do a happy dance in a circle, arm in arm. Optional: They may kiss for the camera to kick off their budding relationship.)

Gordon Goodsport

(Pointing off stage.) Look! Here comes another contestant struggling to reach The Finish Line. Poor fellow. I dread to tell him that it's too late to claim the Second-Place Prize since we are now in the New Year.

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

Who is it?

Gordon Goodsport

No! No! It can't be!

Exercise More

Let me guess! It's ***Quit Watching Porn!***

Gordon Goodsport

No. ***Quit Watching Porn*** is now a camera man for an internet porn subscription service.

Exercise More

Well, you know what they say about porn addiction, if you can't *beat it*, just *be*

Go On A Diet and Lose Weight

(Quickly cutting him off) Stop. Enough. We know. We get it.

Exercise More

(To Gordon) Who is it then? I don't recognize him.

Gordon Goodsport

(Pointing off stage) He's...He's *(frantic)* a new Resolutionist! Name's ***Blow the Head Off The No-Good, Fast Talking City Slicker Sportscaster Who's Canoodling With My Wife****.
*(*or husband)*

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

That's quite a mouthful. I didn't see him on this year's Contestant List!

Gordon Goodsport

He* didn't register! Not officially. He's my girlfriend's* big, mean, whiskey drinking, gun slinging, muskrat hunting, plaid flannel shirt wearing, burly bearded husband!
(*pronouns/nouns may be changed if needed – girlfriend to boyfriend)

Go On A Diet And Lose Weight

Another cheater! **Blow the Head Off The No-Good, Fast Talking City Slicker Sportscaster Who's Canoodling With My Wife** has to Register like everybody else in order to cross the Finish Line!

Gordon Goodsport

Somehow, I don't think this particular Resolutionist cares about Rules. Quick! Hide me!
(*Gordon hides behind Exercise More and Go On A Diet and Lose Weight. He crouches down on his knees and peeks his head from behind EM and GOADALW to address the audience using his microphone.*) Happy New Year from all of us at **The Great American Resolution Race!** Good luck sticking to your next-to-impossible New Year Resolutions! Your epic failures, obsessions, guilt, depression and anxiety make for a great night of television! Oh no! Here comes **Blow!** Help!

Lights fade to almost black but not quite. Then Lights Flicker On and Off.

(*Gordon screams in fear over the offstage burly beast coming toward him AAAAAHHHHHHH! Gordon runs off stage in the opposite direction. We then hear a lot of back stage commotion including stomping, banging, screaming and guttural growling. OPTIONAL: A large non-speaking crew member dressed in dark slacks/jeans and a dark hoodie may run/stomp across the stage chasing Gordon in flickering lights mode letting out a loud roar / guttural growl. In lieu of an actual gun, he/she may use his hand to simulate a pointed gun as he runs across the stage. EM and GOADALW remain in place on stage. As the lights flicker they may extend their arms and point in the direction that Gordon ran to assist Blow.*)

Gordon Goodsport

(*Off stage, pleading*) Stop! I don't even know your wife*! You must have me confused with that other Sportscaster! From Monday Night Football! Owwwwwww! Stop! Please! Somebody! Call the Police! Call Security! Call an ambulance! Help! Owwwwwww. Hellllp!
(*or husband)

Blackout / End of Play