

The Best of Times ...



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...” That well-known beginning to Charles Dickens’s “A Tale of Two Cities” perfectly describes Bernice Dinklaker’s blind date with Armando Pringler. Because it really did start out as the best of times for Bernice as Armando escorted her to the stately Howard Johnson’s on Evesham Road for the all-you-can-eat buffet. He was the perfect gentleman, and Bernice quickly took a fancy to him. But later, when they were at his house and she discovered how easily he flew into a rage, the times began to change. The *worst* of times part of the date came when Armando proposed a game that involved chains, a pendulum, and Thor, his bullmastiff. Unfortunately for Bernice, it was only the beginning.