



## Gregory Dennis: Baby, it's politically incorrect outside

By **Commentary**

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*Editor's note: This commentary is by Gregory Dennis of Cornwall. It first appeared in the Addison Independent.*



I had to laugh when I read that the Politically Correct Police are upset about the words to “Baby, It’s Cold Outside.” Can’t we just have a little innocent holiday fun without putting every male-female interaction under a microscope? Then I took a closer look at the song’s lyrics. And decided that in this case, the word cops do have a point.

The song never mentions Christmas, but it’s become a holiday classic. Frank Loesser wrote it in the 1940s. He and his wife initially performed it as a gag at Hollywood parties, and it won an Academy Award in 1950.

The lyrics to “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” of course, consist of clever repartee between an unmarried man and woman on a blizzard evening when she’s visiting him at his home. You can see it happening in 1950s Vermont.

He’s trying to talk her into staying for the evening and perhaps the night.

She is — depending on your perspective — either cleverly resisting his advances or offering, first, objections and then tacit agreement to his suggestion that she should stay because otherwise, “you’d freeze out there, it’s up to your knees out there.”

But then she says “maybe just a half a drink more,” that she’s under his spell even though she “ought to say no.”

...

She asks “What’s in this drink?” and he reassures her that it’s only pomegranate-infused LaCroix water. He encourages her to call her mother to say she’ll be home soon, and requests that she “please text me at your earliest convenience.”

All of which got me wondering, in a lighter vein, if perhaps we’ll see other young songwriters reworking Christmas songs in light of 21-century standards.

Read more here: <https://vtdigger.org/2018/12/23/gregory-dennis-baby-politically-incorrect-outside/>