

Loretta Hagers



Loretta Hagers KNEW that she would be a Country and Western Superstar (despite debatable singing talent and poor choices for songwriting material).

She had faith. She had faith in herself and “the good Lord.” She had faith in her husband Charlie, played by Graham Jarvis. She had faith in her best friend, Mary Hartman.

Charlie and Loretta longed for a child, and they had many, many opportunities to conceive—a long running joke—but never did. They once tried to “adopt” a wild child found in the woods, but that proved futile.

When Loretta was “temporarily” paralyzed, she and Charlie put their misguided trust in charlatan faith healer Dorelda Doremus, played by “Everybody Loves Raymond” star Doris Roberts. Although Loretta regained her mobility by chance, Charlie and Loretta had a kind of religiosity that attracted them to a new fundamentalist sect. Jimmy Joe Jeeter, at the ripe old age of 8, was the figurehead of the movement. Little Jimmy Joe was almost too fervent, but at least he meant it. His father Merle (devilishly played by Dabney Coleman) however, had another facet of organized religion in mind. Let’s just say that he had “more practical aspects of the operation” to which he attended. Loretta offered to donate all of her singing proceeds to the huge housing development Condos for Christ. In all of this mess, Merle falls hard for Loretta. Eventually, Charlie gets wise and has a shoot out with him in a motel room, which cliff-hung the audience at the end of the first season. This is when Charlie shot off his testicle.

Loretta was tactless but never had any ill-will intended. She almost achieved stardom with her hit single “Baby Boy” and an appearance

on the Dinah Shore talk show. She infamously cut her career short by telling Dinah (on the air) that she couldn't believe how nice Jewish people had been to her in Hollywood. She referred to these folks as "them that what killed our Lord." End of career.

In the second season, Loretta missed her bus to Dayton and lost her memory. She found herself as "Lulu," a diner waitress with a penchant for singing (familiar?). She eventually regained her memory (after several frustrating close calls with Charlie or other cast members). She and Charlie were reunited, which is where they remain today.

Loretta was played by Mary Kay Place.

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