

Zoom!

Junior Script

by

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SOLO: HERE COMES HARVEY, HARVEY HARE.
NICE PYJAMAS, GROOVY HAIR.
PROUD AND BOASTFUL, DOESN'T CARE.
HE LOVES MONEY, POWER TOO.
COLD AND SELFISH, THROUGH AND THROUGH
SORRY STORY, BUT IT'S TRUE!

The dance resumes as the lights come back up and the song reaches its climax.

ALL: LIGHT SHINES ACROSS THE VALLEY
SPREADING EVERY WAY
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

LIGHT SHINES ACROSS THE VALLEY
SPREADING EVERY WAY
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

At the end of the song, everyone freezes. The stage slowly begins to clear as the Tortoise children enter. Plod enters, shouting directions to Dawdle who is pushing on a rather rickety go-kart. Sat inside are identical twins Dilly & Dally who pretend to be driving and commentating respectively. Toby is asleep under a cover in the back.

PLOD: Excuse, me, mind your backs! Coming through! Come on, you lot, put your shells into it! Don't dawdle, Dawdle!

DAWDLE: I'm going as fast as I can, Plod! This thing's heavy!

DILLY: Vroom, vroom, vroom, etc... *(He continues to make appropriate engine noises)*

DALLY: And as the Tortoise-mobile turns the final corner and enters the last straight it zooms right past every other car in the race!

SHELLY: *(Crossing behind them)* Toby? Toby! Where are you? Toby! *(She exits)*

DALLY: Leaving the competition in a cloud of dust, there's simply no stopping the Tortoise-mobile as it speeds along the track!

SHELLY: *(Crossing back the other way)* Toby? Toby Tortoise? For goodness sake, where is he? Toby? *(She exits)*

DALLY: And with only seconds to go, there can surely be no doubt as to the champions of this Evergreen Grand Prix as the Tortoise-mobile darts towards the finish line!

SHELLY: *(Crossing to stand in front of the go-kart)* Has anyone seen your father?

- DILLY:** Screech!!
- DALLY:** Watch out - there's a mad woman in the middle of the track!
- SHELLY:** Don't be cheeky, Dilly!
- DALLY:** I'm, not Dilly, I'm Dally!
- DILLY:** Yes, *I'm* Dilly, silly!
- SHELLY:** Sorry, dears. Now, has anyone seen your father? I've not seen him this morning, he hasn't had his breakfast and if he's not careful he'll be late for work!
- DAWDLE:** The only thing I've seen all morning is the back end of this go-kart!
- PLOD:** We haven't seen Dad since last night when he was helping us fix our steering wheel on.
- DILLY:** ***(Suddenly realising that the steering wheel he should be holding is actually missing)*** Aghh! The steering wheel. It's gone! I knew something felt wrong!

Crawl, the smallest and youngest of the Tortoise children, runs on holding a steering wheel.

- PLOD:** There it is! Crawl, where have you been? I do wish you'd keep up!
- CRAWL:** ***(Giving the steering wheel to Plod)*** It's not my fault! I've got little legs.
- DALLY:** We're tortoises, Crawl. We've all got little legs!
- CRAWL:** ***(Crossly, with hands on hips)*** Well *mine* are littler than *yours*!
- SHELLY:** Yes, yes, dears, alright! Now please, help me find your father.

They all face away from the go-kart, placed centre, and shout together.

CHILDREN: Dad!

Toby jumps up quickly in surprise from under a cover in the back of the go-kart, looking startled.

- TOBY:** Aghh! Oh, it's you lot! I nearly jumped right out of my shell!
- CHILDREN:** Dad! / Oh there he is! / Hi, Dad etc.

The children run to Toby and hug him. However, Shelly is not impressed and glares at him with her arms folded.

- SHELLY:** Toby Tortoise! And just where do you think you've been?
- TOBY:** Oh, Shelly, dear! I'm sorry. Plod asked me to test out the suspension on their go-kart last night, so I was jumping and balancing on the bonnet. But I suppose I must have dropped off!

SHELLY: That's all very well, Toby, but you're late for work. You know Harvey Hare - if you're so much as a second late he'll dock you half a day's wages.

PLOD: Huh! Dad's the best worker in the whole company!

DILLY: That's right, Hare and Co would grind to a halt if Dad wasn't there.

SHELLY: It doesn't matter how fantastic your father is, you know what it's like... if your father doesn't work his fingers to the bone, Harvey will sack him, repossess the house, and then where will we be?... *(The children join in from hearing it so often)*

&

CHILDREN: ...out on the street with that hedgehog family looking down their noses at us!

Shelly begins to sniff and gets out a hanky to wipe her nose and eyes. Toby puts his arm around her.

TOBY: Oh, come on love.

SHELLY: Oh, I know! Just ignore me!

CRAWL: You're the best Dad in the world!

DAWDLE: But you'd better get a move on, Dad.

DALLY: Yeah, we wouldn't want those hedgehogs looking down their noses at us would we?

They all laugh. Plod looks off stage and loses his smile.

PLOD: Speaking of hedgehogs...

The Hedgehog family enter. When they see the Tortoise family, Holly fusses over her children before walking over to talk. The Hedgehog children pull faces at the Tortoise children behind the adults' backs.

HENRY: Morning Toby, morning Shelly. Wonderful day, isn't it?

TOBY: Hello Henry, Holly!

HENRY: Running a bit late, aren't you, Toby? Don't forget it's the press conference today.

HOLLY: That's right, it's your big day, isn't it dear. And tomorrow, you'll be elected Mayor - the first hedgehog ever to hold office! Spike and Spiny are bristling with pride!

Spike & Spiny stop their face pulling and put on angelic smiles and poses for their mother.

SHELLY: Don't count your chickens, Holly. Harvey Hare's quite an opponent, you know.

HOLLY: My dear Shelly, everyone knows my Henry will win the election. Why, this

time tomorrow night we'll be holding our victory party. Henry's bought me a new dress for the occasion. You're welcome to come along - I'm sure you'll be able to find... *(She looks Shelly up and down with obvious contempt for her shabby attire)* something suitable to wear. Perhaps a new apron!

Holly laughs at Shelly, who glares furiously back. Henry and Toby, embarrassed, quickly step in.

TOBY: Well, thank you, Holly, for your kind invitation. You can count on us to be there!

HENRY: Yes, well, we'd better get a move on - you, too, Toby!

HOLLY: Spike, Spiny - home!

Henry exits, followed by Holly, Spike and Spiny who all give one last disapproving look and nod before walking off proudly.

SHELLY: That Holly Hedgehog! She's so... so... prickly!

CRAWL: Do you really think Henry will beat Harvey Hare?

PLOD: A hedgehog! Beat Harvey Hare? What do you think, der brain?

TOBY: Enough of that you two.

DAWDLE: I hate those Hedgehogs - they're always picking on me!

DILLY: And us! Always telling us how slow we are.

DALLY: And how their go-kart is faster than ours!

PLOD: Well, that's not hard! We have the only go-kart in the world that's all "kart" and no "go". No prizes for guessing who's going to lose next week's Go-Kart Race!

TOBY: That's enough! Now you listen to me, Kids! Don't take any notice of those silly Hedgehog children. It doesn't matter how slow you are, it's what's under your shell that counts! Don't you remember what I've always taught you?

TRACK 3:

DADDY TORTOISE

CHILDREN: LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA

TOBY: THOUGH YOU MAY BE SHORT

CHILDREN: THOUGH YOU MAY BE SHORT

TOBY: HERE'S A LITTLE THOUGHT

CHILDREN: HERE'S A LITTLE THOUGHT

TOBY: LIFE IS DANGEROUS WHEN YOU ARE TALL
'COS YOU'VE GOT MUCH FURTHER TO FALL
NOT A PROBLEM WHEN YOU'RE SMALL!

CHILDREN: THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!

TOBY: LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA
THOUGH YOU MAY BE SLOW

CHILDREN: THOUGH YOU MAY BE SLOW
TOBY: THIS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
CHILDREN: THIS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
TOBY: WHEN THE OTHERS SPEED UP THE CHASE
 YOU JUST KEEP A STEADIER PACE
 IN THE END YOU'LL WIN THE RACE!
CHILDREN: THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!

TOBY: THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO BE, THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO DO
 THEY ARE ALL WITHIN YOUR SHELL
 NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU
 LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL!

WHEN YOU HAVE A SHELL
CHILDREN: WHEN YOU HAVE A SHELL
TOBY: IT CAN SERVE YOU WELL
CHILDREN: IT CAN SERVE YOU WELL
TOBY: SOME CAMP LIKE SARDINES IN A CAN
 YOU'VE A BETTER HOLIDAY PLAN
 USE YOUR PRIVATE CARAVAN!
CHILDREN: THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!

LA LA LA LA LA

The children, Toby & Shelly now split into two groups for the final verse.

ALL: WHEN WE'RE FEELING SAD (WHEN WE'RE FEELING SAD)
 THIS WILL MAKE US GLAD (THIS WILL MAKE US GLAD)
 THERE'S NO NEED TO WISH ON A STAR
 THERE'S A WAY MUCH SIMPLER BY FAR
 JUST BE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE!
 THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!
 THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!

Blackout.

TRACK 4:**INSTRUMENTAL****SCENE 2**

The dining room of the Hare Household. A table is sumptuously laid for breakfast, with expensive-looking cutlery, glassware and flowers. Harvey, dressed smartly in a suit, is sat at the breakfast table reading a newspaper. Jenkins the butler is standing by to serve. Hyacinth, Harvey's mother, enters in a manner as flamboyant as her dress.

HYACINTH: Harvey, darling!

HARVEY: Morning, Mother. *(They "air-kiss")*

HYACINTH: I haven't seen you for days my love.

JENKINS: *(Offering a carafe of juice)* Carrot juice, Ma'am?

HYACINTH: Yes, Jenkins. What have you been doing?

HARVEY: I've been busy with the elections, Mother.

HYACINTH: I hope you've made time for that lovely young lady of yours - Camilla.

HARVEY: Camilla?... Oh, her! That was nothing serious, you know.

HYACINTH: Oh, Harvey! Not another disaster! When are you going to settle down and make me a grandmother?

JENKINS: *(Serving Hyacinth a bowl of nuts)* Your nuts, Ma'am.

HYACINTH: Thank you, Jenkins.

HARVEY: Oh, don't start with that, Mother. You know I have no time for that. Why don't you concentrate on finding a husband for Harriet and leave me to run the family business and become mayor?

HYACINTH: Oh, Harriet can sort herself out, she's got plenty of suitors, but you - you're so kind and sensitive and caring...

JENKINS: *(Handing Hyacinth the nut crackers)* Your crackers, Ma'am.

HAROLD: *(From off stage)* Fore!

A smash of glass is heard. Harvey, Hyacinth and Jenkins look in despair as Harold enters dressed in traditional tasteless golfing garb, with his club over his shoulder.

HAROLD: What a fine bright morning it is. I've been up since five thirty and already played four rounds of golf.

HYACINTH: Tea, dear?

HAROLD: No thanks, darling, I've got a pocket full! *(To Harvey)* All right, son? Everything in order at the office? Haven't made "Hare & Co." bankrupt since I retired, eh?

HARVEY: No, Pop, everything's fine.

HYACINTH: Oh, Harold, I've just been saying that it's high time Harvey settled down and had a family of his own.

HAROLD: Nonsense, Hyacinth! You listen to me son, you don't need commitment at your age, you need a bit of freedom. Look at me and my golf! I may have a lovely wife at home, but I always find time to play a round! My advice is play the field, and when you've finished that field hop over the hedge and play the next one!

Harriet enters.

HAROLD: Hello, my princess.

HYACINTH: Aren't you having any breakfast, darling?

HARRIET: Mummy, you know I'm watching my weight! I'll just have a small cream cake.

HYACINTH: Any plans for today, dear?

HARRIET: I'm meeting an agent about a modelling job.

HARVEY: Bet she's been up all night plucking her whiskers!

HARRIET: Don't be silly, Harvey, whiskers are "in" this season!

JENKINS: Your sweet, Miss.

HARRIET: Yes, I am aren't I!... Oh, thank you, Jenkins.

Hip & Hop, Harvey's youngest brother and sister, enter dressed in school uniform. Hip is carrying a book.

HARRIET: Hop, have you been in my bedroom again playing with my stuff?

HOP: What do you mean, again? I've never been in that hole. I've got far more important things to do besides going in my troll sister's bedroom.

HYACINTH: Hop, don't speak to your sister like that!

HOP: Well she is a troll!

HYACINTH: Hip! How many times do I have to tell you not to read at the table?

HIP: Well, I'm sorry, but it's better than listening to the drivel that we have to put up with.

HARRIET: What's that supposed to mean?

HIP: Well it's either you stressing about a pimple on your nose and how you're so much prettier than all your so-called friends, or Harvey planning some million pound deal and kicking some poor person out of their home or Happy well...

Happy, dressed in psychedelic hippy clothes, enters dreamily. He sits and begins meditating at the table.

HIP: ...Happy just sort of floating around being smelly and not making any sense at all.

HARVEY: I'm surprised you've nothing to say about Hop.

HIP: Well, at least Hop's got some morals and enjoys making people happy, which is more than can be said for you.

- HARVEY:** You'll be laughing on the other side of your face when I'm elected mayor!
- HOP:** Don't count your chickens before they're hatched!
- HYACINTH:** And what exactly do you mean by that, young man?
- HOP:** Oh nothing, Mum.
- HARVEY:** I suppose you've been hanging around with those dozy tortoise children again, haven't you?
- HIP & HOP:** So what if we have?
- HARVEY:** Self righteous Toby Tortoise and his family of snails.
- HAROLD:** Hold hard, Harvey! Don't you insult those snails like that. They've got their uses you know! **(He and Harvey laugh together)**
- HARVEY:** Sorry, Pop! But he'll never amount to anything will he, that Toby Tortoise? Hasn't got any get up and go about him. No idea of how to make a success of his life.
- HARRIET:** And have you seen his wife? Talk about dowdy - always wearing that apron. Hasn't she heard of designer dresses and facials? Mind you, it's probably too much for her to shell out!
- HIP:** Just because they're slow and poor doesn't mean anything. They're a lot nicer than Spike and Spiny Hedgehog. I don't know which would be worse; having you or stuffy old Mr. Hedgehog as mayor.
- HARVEY:** Well, there won't be a problem after today. I think everyone will decide that I am the better candidate.
- HAROLD:** That's my boy! Always something up his sleeve! Fore!

Harold takes a final swing at his golf ball and another smash is heard offstage as he strides off and exits.

HYACINTH: Oh, Harvey, you're not doing anything illegal are you, darling?

They suddenly all start arguing and shouting over each other.

- HARVEY:** I never do anything illegal, mother! Really, how could you think such a thing!
- HIP:** Of course he is, he's always doing dodgy deals. Everyone knows that!
- HOP:** Yes, Harvey, we know what you're like. I bet you're going to cheat, aren't you!
- HARRIET:** That's typical, that is! What about me and my modelling career - you'll ruin it!

Happy is disturbed from his meditation and tries to calm the situation.

- HAPPY:** Hey you guys! Like, chill out, man!
- HARRIET:** Oh, shut up you overgrown student! When are you going to get a job?
- HAPPY:** Hey, man, I'm in harmony with mother nature, I'm at one with the earth...
- HOP:** And you smell like a dung heap!

HAPPY: *(Grinning inanely)* Dung heaps are cool!

HYACINTH: Happy, you are going to have a bath this morning. Jenkins, fetch him some of that nice smelly stuff for the bath.

JENKINS: Certainly. Excuse me, ma'am. It is a quarter past eight. *(He exits)*

HYACINTH: Goodness me! Right, everyone, breakfast is over! *(Pointing to each child in turn)* Time for school, work, photo shoot and... *(She reaches Happy) ...*
Happy...

Jenkins enters with a large bottle of pink smelly bubble bath.

JENKINS: Your smelly, Sir!

Blackout.

TRACK 5:**INSTRUMENTAL****SCENE 3**

The forest clearing is once again deserted. Phil Fox enters, then calls to his brother offstage.

PHIL: Oi, Fred, are you coming or what?

Fred Fox enters carrying a very large and heavy looking sunflower in a pot.

FRED: Hang on, bruv. This thing ain't easy to lug about. Don't see why you couldn't have a turn.

PHIL: Fred, Fred, Fred, how many times do I have to explain? It takes brains and brawn in this business. I've got the brains and you've got...

FRED: ... a blinkin' sunflower. I mean, I thought we were professionals, Phil. Top class fiendish foxes. Robbing banks, kidnapping, scaring a few chickens at weekends. Look at us now - we've turned into Ground Force!

PHIL: For the last time, Fred, listen. It's very simple. Mr. Hare asks us to steal Lady Lucinda's prize sunflower. Henry Hedgehog gets the blame. Mr. Hare becomes mayor and we get a pocket full of dosh!

FRED: Us foxes working for a hare? If mother was alive today she'd turn in her grave!

Harvey enters, unseen by Phil. Fred attempts to alert Phil to Harvey's arrival but to no avail.

PHIL: You've got to move with the times, bruv. The Hares are the bigwigs in Evergreen Valley now, even though they are a bunch of stuck up, floppy-eared, buck toothed, gormless idiots with ***(He eventually sees Harvey)***... impeccable timing!

FRED: Good morning, Mr. Hare! My brother and I were just saying how delighted we were to be working with such a fine, upstanding gentleman such as yourself, and...

HARVEY: Yes, yes. Alright. I see you have the "you know what"!

PHIL: Oh, no, that cleared up last week. The doctor gave me some cream for it.

FRED: He means the sunflower, wally!

HARVEY: That's no ordinary sunflower, you philistine, it's a Solenicus Polenicus Magnificus!

PHIL & FRED: Oh, silly us!

HARVEY: Now, you know what to do don't you?

PHIL & FRED: Yes boss.

HARVEY: A lot is resting on this, boys.
PHIL & FRED: Yes boss.
HARVEY: So you won't mess it up, will you?
PHIL & FRED: Yes boss... er, no boss!
HARVEY: I hope not! My whole career is depending on this, so get it right!
PHIL: You can rely on us, boss. When it comes to evil deeds, we've got certificates in cunning, degrees in deviousness...
FRED: And I've got a GCSE in needlework!

TRACK 6: **A COUPLE OF EVIL DOERS**

PHIL: AT SCHOOL WE STARTED OUR CAREER
FRED: THE PLAYGROUND HEAVIES OF OUR TIME
PHIL: THE OTHER CHILDREN SHOOK WITH FEAR
FRED: AS WE BEGAN OUR LIFE OF CRIME
PHIL: WE'D STEAL THEIR TOYS AND EAT THEIR SWEETS
FRED: PULL THEIR HAIR AND TICKLE THEIR FEET
PHIL & FRED: BUT KEPT OUR CONSCIENCE CLEAR
 AND THAT'S THE REASON WE'RE... A...
 COUPLE OF EVIL DOERS WHO LIKE DOING EVIL THINGS
 AND WE ENJOY THE RICH REWARDS THAT EVIL DOING BRINGS
 SO IF YOU HAVE A JOB FOR US NO MATTER WHERE OR WHEN
 THEN JUST GIVE US A CALL, WE'RE ON THE BALL AND
 WE'RE YOUR MEN!
PHIL: OUR DEEDS ARE DONE SO EXPERTLY
FRED: WE BEAT THE REST AND SEE THEM OFF
PHIL: IF CRIME'S AN ART THEN YOU'LL AGREE
FRED: THAT I'M PICASSO, HE'S VAN GOGH
PHIL: WE MUG OLD GRANNIES, ROB FROM BANKS
FRED: RAM RAID STORES WITH ARMoured TANKS
PHIL & FRED: AND SO WE ARE SINCERE
 WHEN WE INFORM YOU WE'RE... A...
 COUPLE OF EVIL DOERS WHO LIKE DOING EVIL THINGS
 AND WE ENJOY THE RICH REWARDS THAT EVIL DOING BRINGS
 SO IF YOU HAVE A JOB FOR US NO MATTER WHERE OR WHEN
 THEN JUST GIVE US A CALL, WE'RE ON THE BALL AND
 WE'RE YOUR MEN!
HARVEY: I HAVE A LITTLE JOB FOR YOU
 AN EVIL DEED TO MAKE YOU SMILE
 IT'S FULL OF DANGER THROUGH AND THROUGH
 BUT I WILL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE
 THEN HENRY HEDGEHOG WON'T BE MAYOR
 ALL WILL VOTE FOR HARVEY HARE
 AND EVERYONE WILL CHEER!

PHIL & FRED: IT'S DOWN TO US 'COS WE'RE... A...
COUPLE OF EVIL DOERS WHO LIKE DOING EVIL THINGS
AND WE ENJOY THE RICH REWARDS THAT EVIL DOING BRINGS
SO IF YOU HAVE A JOB FOR US NO MATTER WHERE OR WHEN
THEN JUST GIVE US A CALL, WE'RE ON THE BALL AND
WE'RE YOUR MEN!
JUST GIVE US A CALL, WE'RE ON THE BALL
AND WE'RE... YOUR... MEN!

(Spoken) And we're bad!

Blackout.

SQUIRRELS: OUR HOUSE IS BEAUTIFUL, CLASS OF ITS OWN
 WATER FEATURE AND A GARDEN GNOME
 NO PLACE IS BETTER WHEREVER WE ROAM
 THAN OUR HOME SWEET HOME
 TIME FLEW RIGHT BY, PERCENT GREW SKY HIGH
 SAVINGS WENT, OUR MONEY'S SPENT
 AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY

LIFE IS IMPOSSIBLE, LIFE IS UNFAIR
 BLAME OUR LANDLORD, MR. HARVEY HARE
 NO FOOD, NO MONEY AND NO UNDERWEAR
 NOW WE'RE IN DESPAIR
 HARVEY TRICKED US, DON'T EVICT US!

CHORUS: GIVE US A GO, GIVE US A TRY, GIVE US YOUR CASH!

The company freezes as the lights change and Harvey enters. Betty and Bunty take his coat and briefcase, then perform a stylish and seductive dance around him as the soloist sings.

SOLO: HERE COMES HARVEY, HE'S THE BOSS
 LIKES TO PROFIT FROM YOUR LOSS
 HE CAN HELP YOU AT A COST

HE'S CALLED HARVEY, HE'S SO COOL
 SMELL OF MONEY MAKES HIM DROOL
 IF YOU TRUST HIM YOU'RE A FOOL!

The lights return to normal as the company resumes its dance.

CHORUS: YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 LOAN SHARK WIZARDS ARE WE
 YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 YOU'RE THE FISH IN THE SEA
 SO TRY OUR IMPROVEMENT LOANS
 FOR BADGERS THROUGH TO MOLES
 MONEY TO SPEND SO YOU CAN EXTEND
 YOUR BURROW, SET OR HOLE

YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 KISS YOUR MONEY GOODBYE
 YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 WE LOVE BLEEDING YOU DRY
 SO IF IT'S JUST PENNIES, POUNDS
 OR MIGHTY HIDDEN STASH
 GIVE US A GO, GIVE US A TRY, GIVE US YOUR CASH!

The office workers now assemble in a tight group, standing to attention and saluting or holding their hearts as they sing the Hare and Co. anthem.

AT HARE AND CO WE ALWAYS KNOW
 TO COOK THE BOOKS WE NEED YOUR DOUGH
 YOUR CASH WILL FLOW UNTIL YOU'RE STONY BROKE
 (YOU'RE STONY BROKE)
 IN STOCKS AND SHARES THE BULLS OR BEARS
 CANNOT COMPETE WITH MIGHTY HARES
 FOR HARVEY DARES BUT NEVER CARES A JOT
 (NO HE DOES NOT)

A tap routine now begins which involves various office workers, at the end of which the squirrels reappear and perform appropriate hair-washing actions as they sing.

SQUIRRELS: WE'RE GONNA WASH THAT HARE RIGHT OUT OF OUR LIVES
 AND SEND HIM ON HIS WAY!

As the music swells and enters the final rousing verse, the squirrels continue to sing their counterpoint verse underneath the chorus.

SQUIRRELS: LIFE IS IMPOSSIBLE, LIFE IS UNFAIR
 BLAME OUR LANDLORD, MR. HARVEY HARE
 NO FOOD, NO MONEY AND NO UNDERWEAR
 NOW WE'RE IN DESPAIR
 HARVEY TRICKED US, DON'T EVICT US!

CHORUS: YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 KISS YOUR MONEY GOODBYE
 YOU'RE WELCOME TO HARE AND CO
 WE LOVE BLEEDING YOU DRY
 SO IF IT'S JUST PENNIES, POUNDS
 OR MIGHTY HIDDEN STASH

GIVE US A GO, GIVE US A TRY, GIVE US YOUR CASH!

The song ends triumphantly and the office workers return to their desks. Badger, Beaver, Weasel and Ferret hold folders and clipboards and stand looking at the sorry group of squirrels.

BADGER: So let me see if I've got this right. You squirrels couldn't pay Mr. Hare the rent for your house.

SQUIRMY: No, Mr. Badger.

BEAVER: So you borrowed money from Mr. Hare to pay your rent?

SQUEAKY: Yes, Mr. Beaver.

WEASEL: And now you can't pay back your loan?

SQUINTY: No, Mr. Weasel.

FERRET: Don't you keep any money saved up for a rainy day?

SQUIDGY: Yes, Mr. Ferret.

BADGER: So where is it?

SQUIRMY: Well, it rained last Tuesday so we spent it.
BEAVER: What on?
SQUEAKY: Umbrellas and wellies!
WEASEL: Well, you know what this means, don't you!
SQUINTY: Yes, we can do our own production of "Singing In The Rain!"
FERRET: No, it means you will be evicted immediately. Keys, please!
SQUIDGY: But we haven't got anywhere to go!

BADGER/BEAVER:
WEASEL/FERRET: Keys!

Squirmy hands a bunch of house keys to Badger, and the squirrels exit sadly.

TOBY: This is terrible! Those poor squirrels have had nothing but trouble ever since they moved to the valley. What do you think they'll do now?
HENRY: Well, I suppose they'll just have to go and live in the wood.

Toby and Henry continue to talk quietly. Meanwhile, Harvey is sat at his desk on the other side of the office talking to Betty and Bunty.

HARVEY: Well then, girls, who's going to do a spot of shorthand for me?
BETTY & BUNTY: Oh, Harvey let me!
HARVEY: Oh, girls let's not fight over it! I tell you what. Betty, you come and sit here and take the notes and Bunty you can sit here and give me a manicure!

Betty and Bunty perch upon the desk on either side of Harvey. Betty prepares her notebook and Bunty begins to give Harvey a manicure.

BETTY: Oh, Harvey, you're wonderful!
BUNTY: You're so kind, and sensitive...

Harvey is lapping up the praise, but then notices Toby and Henry talking and jumps up in anger.

HARVEY: You two! Oh I might have known you'd be involved, Tortoise! I'm not running a social club here! You know the rules - NO TALKING! I've a good mind to dock your wages! **(He sits back down)** I don't know why I bother to employ such losers!
BETTY: Oh Harvey you're all hot and flustered now. You just rest.
BUNTY: We want you to look your best for the press conference don't we?

- HENRY:** I tell you what, Toby, when I'm Mayor, there are going to be quite a few changes in this valley, one of them including that Hare and his family. Dock our wages indeed!
- TOBY:** Well, you've got my vote, Henry! Oh... sshhh... he's looking again.
- HARVEY:** That's it Tortoise, I've warned you once. Half a day's wages...
- TOBY:** But Harvey...
- HARVEY:** *(Astonished and angry)* I beg your pardon? What did you say? How dare you! It's Mr. Hare to you!

Before Harvey can say anything else, Badger runs over to him excitedly.

- BADGER:** Excuse me... Mr. Hare... Lady Lucinda's arrived and the press are here!
- HARVEY:** I'll deal with you later, Tortoise! Right everyone... places!

The office workers frantically rush to their formal positions in readiness to greet Lady Lucinda. When in position, they all freeze with worried looks on their faces.

- HARVEY:** ...and remember... smile!

TRACK 9: INSTRUMENTAL

The office workers all put on very false grins. An aristocratically dressed Lady Lucinda enters regally, followed by the members of the press who arrange themselves to film, photograph and take notes.

- LUCINDA:** Harvey, darling! How lovely to see you.
- HARVEY:** *(Kissing Lucinda's hand)* Oh, Lady Lucinda! You're looking radiant as always.
- LUCINDA:** Thank you, darling. Now, you haven't forgotten our little arrangement, have you? About my new credit card? I'm still having a few... *(whispering)* cash-flow problems.
- HARVEY:** Say no more, Lady Lucinda, I quite understand. The best things in life may be free, but for everything else there's "Harveycard". *(He produces a credit card and holds it up for the cameras)* Not just a competitive interest rate of 99%, but you can also collect "Hare Miles"!
- LUCINDA:** You're too, too kind! *(She pockets the card and then addresses the whole crowd)* Now, as the official returning officer for the Evergreen Valley mayoral elections tomorrow, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to this Election Press Conference. Here we have the chaps from "The Valley Echo" and we're also very lucky to have Jack Daw and his crew from Channel Ten's evening news programme.
- HARVEY:** Well, don't forget that this isn't just about me. There is another very important chap involved you know... let me introduce you to my friend and opponent Mr.

Henry Hedgehog! Come on Henry old chap - stop hibernating at the back and come forward.

Henry moves forward and stands uncomfortably by Harvey's side.

- JACK:** O.K., everyone, this is headline stuff. Let's get things moving - you make the news, we break the news! Mr. Hare, a little to your left please. Are we ready Bill?
- BILL:** Ready when you are, Jack.
- JACK:** What about the sound, Jenny?
- JENNY:** Just a quick test for levels.
- JACK:** Testing... one, two, one, two...
- JENNY:** Yep! That's great, Jack.
- BILL:** Right then, are we ready to do a take? Ok... rolling...
- JACK:** Good evening and welcome. When anyone says Harvey Hare we immediately think of the hard-nosed, millionaire, business tycoon. Tight, mean, miserly, conceited, stingy and uncaring. ***(Harvey is looking rather distressed at this description)*** However tonight we hope to dispel this myth and show a different side to this famous local hare. We are here in Evergreen Valley at the offices of "Hare and Co." to talk to Mr. Hare about his decision to stand as mayor and how he feels about his opponent being none other than his very own lowly office-worker Henry Hedgehog. Good evening Mr. Hare.
- HARVEY:** Good evening Jack... and please, call me Harvey.
- JACK:** Oh, thank you, Harvey. Now, your decision to stand as mayor may come as a shock to some people.
- HARVEY:** Indeed it may, Jack. But I have always been extremely concerned about the well being of the inhabitants of the valley, and feel that it is my duty to help in any way I can.

Harvey looks over to Beaver and signals to him, but Beaver misses the signal. Harvey coughs rather unsubtly and Beaver remembers his task, moving to the centre and reciting his lines unconvincingly.

- BEAVER:** My Aunty Ethel broke her false teeth on a rather chewy log, and Mr. Hare paid for a new set. Now she can play the saxophone again - it's a miracle. The man's a saint, gawd bless 'im!

Beaver returns to his place as Harvey smiles in mock embarrassment.

- JACK:** That's wonderful! Now, how did you feel when you found out that your own employee, Henry Hedgehog, was going to stand as mayor against you? Did you feel that he was trying to step out of his social class and...
- HARVEY:** Jack, let me stop you right there. Henry is a fine man with just as many morals

as me! Money and class has nothing to do with it. I may be his boss but we run a wonderful business here and I like to think of my employees as members of my family. Henry is one of my closest friends and I think it's fantastic that he is standing against me. If he wins he will have my full support!

JACK: Henry, it must be unbelievable to have a boss like Harvey?

HENRY: Well, yes. Unbelievable is a very good word!

JACK: And what about your election programme, Henry? We haven't heard too much about that.

HENRY: Well, I can let you have a copy of it, if I can just get my brief case.

JACK: Cut! Right let's hold it there for a moment. Perhaps, whilst Henry is getting himself sorted out, you wouldn't mind answering some questions from the chaps from our own local paper, Harvey?

Henry exits to collect his briefcase as Jerry moves in with his reporter's notebook.

JERRY: Jerry Journal here, Mr. Hare. Perhaps I could ask you for a comment on the recent burglary from Lady Lucinda's house when her prize sunflower was stolen.

HARVEY: I think it's disgusting that something like that could happen in our own valley. You think that we would be able to sleep safe in our beds at night, but no! There is some person sneaking around and stealing prized possessions. I hope that the villain is caught quickly and dealt with most severely.

Henry enters carrying a briefcase, which he places on a table and opens. The briefcase has a hole in one side, positioned over a hole in the desk, allowing a sunflower to be pulled up through it.

HENRY: Now I know it's in here somewhere. Oh, my goodness! What have we got here?

He starts to pull the sunflower out from within his briefcase. Everyone gasps, horrified.

JACK: Quick! Get that camera rolling again!

HARVEY: Henry! What have you done?

HENRY: What? Oh, you don't think... you don't think I stole this do you... Harvey? Oh my goodness! You do! But... it wasn't me!

HARVEY: Well, I would never have thought you could do such a thing! Henry, I'm shocked and disappointed in you.

TOBY: Henry would never do such a thing! It's a plant!

HARVEY: We can see that, Toby, and Henry has stolen it!

PARSNIP: Mr. Hedgehog, I think you should accompany me down to the station. There are one or two questions I would like answering.

HENRY: What? You're not arresting me? But I don't know anything about it!

PC Parsnip leads Henry off and they both exit, watched by the others.

LUCINDA: How dreadful! What a terrible shock!

HARVEY: I'm sorry you had to witness that, Lady Lucinda. I think that brings our press conference to an end!

JACK: But Harvey, this is an important development.

HARVEY: Will someone please remove these reporters!

The office workers exit, ushering the press out as they go. The reporters desperately scramble to ask their final questions.

SAM: Mr. Hare, would you care to comment on this amazing revelation?

DAN: How does it feel to know that you are bound to be made mayor now?

They exit, leaving Harvey, Phil, Fred & Toby on stage. Harvey, not seeing Toby, turns to face Phil and Fred and he gives them their payment - a wad of bank notes.

HARVEY: Well done lads!

PHIL: Pleasure doing business with you, Mr. Hare, sir.

Phil and Fred exit hastily as Beaver enters.

BEAVER: They've left, Mr. Hare. The building is clear!

HARVEY: ***(Handing Beaver a piece of paper from his desk)*** Right then. Now, I want you to go round to the Hedgehog's house with this eviction notice and inform them that they have twelve hours to move out. Oh... and also tell them that if Henry is lucky enough to get out of jail, he had better start looking for a new job. He's fired!

Beaver exits with the eviction notice. Harvey sits back down at his desk and smiles to himself. Toby approaches Harvey slowly.

TOBY: It was you wasn't it?

HARVEY: Who's that? Oh it's you, Tortoise.

TOBY: I can't believe that even you would stoop this low.

HARVEY: What are you going on about?

TOBY: Mind you, I should have known that you wouldn't let any thing stand in your way. You were exactly the same at school.

HARVEY: You're sticking your neck out a bit, aren't you, tortoise? Just shut up and go