

LILAH:

I want to get out in the yard before Russell spreads out the food for me and the other girls. I don't want to miss my share.

LILAH exits.

ARTHUR:

(Suddenly perking up)

Oh!... Yeah!... What am I thinking?

I better get out to my trough. I'm not gonna get anything to eat hangin' around in here!

ARTHUR exits.

WINNIE goes over to where her oats bucket is hanging up, looks inside and seeing it's empty, she looks out to the audience and gives a big sigh.

WINNIE:

(To herself)

Come on Russell. My stomach's growlin'.

BLACKOUT.

END SCENE

ACT I - SCENE 4: FOX IN THE HEN HOUSE!

Scene: The inside of the barn.

ARTHUR is having a nice nap.

FX: FF to (Track 03) - FADE IN - The sound of a hysterical flock of chickens in the distance.

Enter LILAH. She is hysterical.

LILAH:

(Screaming)

CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! OH! OH! OH! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK!

ARTHUR is startled out of a deep sleep!

ARTHUR:

WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

LILAH:

OH! OH! OH! We just had the worst experience out at the hen house!

ARTHUR:

(Panicky)

What happened? What happened?

LILAH:

That fox came out of the woods and got through the fence and started chasing us all over the pen.

Enter WINNIE

WINNIE:

What's goin' on? I was grazing out in the paddock and heard all sorts of racket up here. What's wrong?

LILAH:

The fox! The fox! He got into our pen and... Well?... It was just horrible!

WINNIE:

(Stunned)

Oh my goodness!

ARTHUR:

(Worried)

Did he... "Get" anybody?

FX: Fade out and Pause (Track 03)

LILAH:

(Panting)

NO!... Thank goodness! We all remembered our emergency plan and rushed into the hen house, pulled the cord and the door slammed shut. Fortunately Russell's father was close by and he came running and that fox took off like nobody's business.

I have never been so scared in my life!

WINNIE:

(Relieved)

Alright! Alright! Just take a minute and catch your breath. It's gonna be alright now.

LILAH begins to calm down.

ARTHUR:

I'm sorry, Lilah! I never heard a thing. If I had, you know I would have come runnin' and tried to help, don't you?

LILAH:

Of course I do, Arthur! You're a good friend. It's so wonderful to have such good friends. It's just that... It all happened so fast! We hardly had time to think! It was "touch and go" for a few of us there for a minute.

But, you should have seen Edith! She's such a gutsy chic! In an effort to buy us all some time to get into the hen house, she jumped up onto that fox's back and grabbed hold of him with her claws and held on for dear life.

LILAH chuckles.

She looked like a cowboy ridin' a Brahma bull. You know?... Now that I think about it... That was pretty funny. She was furious and locked onto him like she was never gonna let go. She kept screamin', "You think your so clever foxy man? You'll see! Your bushy tailed butt ain't gonna be worth nothin' when I'm done with ya!"

Yup! That is one gutsy chic!

WINNIE:

Oh Lilah! Suppose he comes back?

LILAH:

Don't worry, Winnie. Russell's father is out there now, securing and barricading everything he can think of. I think we'll be OK for now.

WINNIE:

Well, I'm gonna stay close to the barn for the rest of the day, just in case. If he's brazen enough to come back, you tell all the girls to just make a lotta racket and I'll come runnin'. I'm much to big for him to mess with. I'll send him packin'!

LILAH begins to exit.

LILAH:

(Choking back a tear)

Thank's guys. I knew I could count on you. It really is great to know you have such good friends.

LILAH exits.

WINNIE:

(To ARTHUR)

Looks like Conrad's not the only bully around here.

ARTHUR:

Yeah! But, at least this one we can do something about.

I'll tell you what! If I get a hold of that fox, I'll just sit on him. Now that's an experience he'll never forget, you can bet!

They laugh out loud.

Enter RUSSELL in a panick.

RUSSELL:

I just got home from school! My Dad told me what happened! Is Lilah OK? Are all the other chickens OK?

WINNIE:

Yes! Yes! Everything's fine. Calm down.

RUSSELL:

Dad's out there setting up some traps. He says if we're able to catch him, we'll take a trip up to the mountains and let him go there. That oughta solve the problem.

WINNIE:

Excellent!

ARTHUR:

(To RUSSELL)

So, how was school today. Conrad behavin' himself?

RUSSELL:

Conrad wasn't in school today. His mom had to take him to the dentist, or something.

ARTHUR:

I'll bet he bit him.

RUSSELL:

Huh?

ARTHUR:

The Dentist! I'll bet Conrad was ornery enough to bite the Dentist when he put his fingers in his mouth.

RUSSELL:

Oh, I don't know about that. Remember! Dentists have drills and all sorts of other weapons. Even Conrad isn't stupid enough to mess around with that!

They all laugh.

Enter LILAH. She sees RUSSELL and runs for his arms.

LILAH:

(Holding on to RUSSELL for dear life. Very melodramatic.)

Oh Russell! Russell! You should have been here! It was just awful!

RUSSELL:

(Consoling)

There, there, Lilah! It's alright now. You're all gonna be just fine.

I'm so sorry I wasn't here to help.

LILAH looks up into RUSSELL'S eyes.

LILAH:

(Gasps)

Oh! Another dear friend!

LILAH begins to sob.

LILAH: (CONT'D)

I'm so lucky! I have so many dear friends!

LILAH goes back to clinging to RUSSELL.

RUSSELL:

(To WINNIE and ARTHUR)

What am I supposed to do with this?

WINNIE:

Just give her a minute. She needs to get it out of her system.

Still clinging to RUSSELL, LILAH looks up and looks at WINNIE surprised.

LILAH:

(Gasps, sobbing.)

And so understanding! You're all such understanding friends!

LILAH buries her head into RUSSELL'S chest and goes on sobbing.

RUSSELL:

(To WINNIE and ARTHUR)

Somebody do something... Please!

ARTHUR:

(Blandly)

Lilah?

LILAH:

(With her face still buried
into RUSSELL)

What?

ARTHUR:

It looks like Russell's father is putting your food out early
to calm all the girls down. Looks like he's putting out some
extra treats.

LILAH looks up with her eyes opened wide
and stops crying abruptly.

LILAH:

(Happily anticipating)

Oh!

LILAH quickly lets go of RUSSELL and
pleasantly begins to exit.

Excuse me.

LILAH exits.

RUSSELL:

(To ARTHUR)

Good thinkin'!

ARTHUR:

I find chickens are easily distracted. And, make it about
food? And it's pretty much a sure thing.

RUSSELL:

OH!... Food!... I suppose you two are hungry too. I better
go get your dinner now.

ARTHUR:

(Breaking into a big smile)

Works for me!

WINNIE:

I didn't want to interrupt the moment, but... frankly! I was about to start dropping hints. I was interrupted from doing my usual grazing in the paddock because of all this and, I must say... I'm starved!

RUSSELL:

(While exiting)

OK, OK! I'll be right back with plenty for everybody.

RUSSELL exits.

WINNIE:

(To ARTHUR)

He's such a good boy!

ARTHUR:

I'll say!

BLACKOUT.

END SCENE

ACT I - SCENE 5: RUSSELL AND CONRAD - HEAD TO HEAD!

Scene: The empty stage, once again inferring that we are in the school yard.

RUSSELL is on stage, playing with a ball and minding his own business.

Enter CONRAD.

RUSSELL sees CONRAD, looks annoyed and goes on playing.

CONRAD:

(Sarcastic)

Did ya miss me yesterday?

RUSSELL:

Yeah!... Like a bad tooth!

Speaking of which, I heard you went to the Dentist.

CONRAD:

So?

RUSSELL:

Did he have to use the drill a lot? Oh, please tell me he had to use the drill a lot!

CONRAD just sneers at RUSSELL.

CONRAD:

So, I hear you got a fox makin' trouble on your farm.

RUSSELL:

Where'd you hear about that?

CONRAD:

Ohhhh?... Word gets around.

RUSSELL:

If I didn't know better, I'd swear you sent that fox our way. It'd be just like you.

CONRAD:

I didn't send him, but I'd sure like to meet him. He sounds like my kinda guy!

RUSSELL:

(Adament)

Conrad Walsh! You stay away from that fox and, for that matter, stay away from our farm. We don't need your kinda trouble.

CONRAD:

You don't tell me what to do! Nobody tells me what to do!
I'll do whatever I want to do.

RUSSELL:

One of these days you're gonna get what's comin' to you,
Conrad. And I'm bettin' it's gonna be a big surprise. And
I'm hopin' it puts you straight!

CONRAD laughs sarcastically as he exits.

RUSSELL shakes his head and exits in the
opposite direction while bouncing his
ball.

FADE OUT.

END SCENE

ACT I - SCENE 6: CONRAD FALLS INTO THE PIT!

*Scene: The field way out on the farm.
There are some very big and tall
rocks.*

Enter CONRAD, stealthily looking all
around. He's carrying a long pole with a
Neuse trap at the end. He's hunting for
the fox.

CONRAD:

(To himself)

I know I saw you come this way, you little devil. Now, where
did you go?

We see a fox tail wiggling at the top of
the rock. CONRAD sees the foxes tail and
gets excited.