

**ACT 1, SCENE 1 - ALPACAS?**

*Scene: Inside the barn at  
Russell's family farm.*

Enter WINNIE followed by ARTHUR.

WINNIE:

(Making her way to her stall  
area)

I know what you mean.

ARTHUR:

Do you think everybody else is feeling the same way?

WINNIE:

I don't know. You'd have to ask them. But, I know that when spring gets here, I feel so alive and bright and ready to go and as soon as summer begins to set in and the weather begins to heat up?... BANG!... I get an instant attack of "the lazies".

ARTHUR:

So... It's not just me then?

WINNIE:

Nope! I'm with ya on this one.

Enter LILAH. She's her usual  
nervous, excited and neurotic self.

LILAH:

(Hysterical. Almost  
hyperventilating)

Did ya hear? About the farm next door! They've decided to raise Alpacas! ALPACAS! Can you imagine? What are they thinking?

WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY BE THINKING?

ARTHUR:

(To WINNIE, blandly)

What is it about chickens? They never relax. I'd hate to be a chicken.

LILAH:

(Shocked, defensive and still speaking fast)

What?... What's wrong with being a chicken? I've got no problem with being a chicken. I've been a chicken all my life! I'm perfectly satisfied with being a chicken.

WINNIE:

Lilah?

LILAH:

What!

WINNIE:

Do you even know what an Alpaca is?

LILAH freezes and looks back and forth at WINNIE and ARTHUR with a "Deer in the headlights" look.

LILAH:

Well?... No... Not really. But, they come from far away! They're foreigners! That can't be good! And that name! Alpacas! Sounds weird to me. I just figure it's all wrong.

WINNIE:

Arthur?

ARTHUR:

Yeah?

WINNIE:

You wanna tell her... or should I?

ARTHUR:

No, no... You go right ahead. Be my guest.

LILAH:

Tell me what?

WINNIE:

(To LILAH)

Alpacas?

LILAH:

Yeah?

WINNIE:

Ummmm... Think of them as funny looking sheep.

LILAH:

Huh?

WINNIE:

Well?... They're not really sheep, but they do the same job.

People raise them for their wool. Just like sheep. And in return, they keep the fields mowed down by eating all the high grass. Just like sheep.

LILAH:

I don't get it. Why can't they just raise sheep then?

ARTHUR:

(To WINNIE)

I got this one!

(To LILAH)

Their wool is softer and so, it's worth a lot more.

LILAH stands there, uncomfortably thinking it over.

LILAH:

(Pouting. While exiting)

I don't care what you say. It just doesn't seem right to me. I'll be in the yard.

LILAH exits.

ARTHUR:  
Winnie?

WINNIE:  
Yeah?

ARTHUR:  
I don't know what it is, but every time that chicken comes in here I wind out needing a nap. She wears me out.

WINNIE:  
(Chuckling)  
I know what you mean. But, you gotta admit... she keeps things lively.

They both chuckle.

BLACKOUT.

END SCENE

**ACT I, SCENE 2 - DAD SAYS "NO!"**

*Scene: Inside the barn at Russell's family farm.*

*ON STAGE are WINNIE, ARTHUR and LILAH.*

Enter RUSSELL. He flops onto the hay pile, looking very unhappy.

ARTHUR:  
Well?... What'd he say?

RUSSELL sneers at ARTHUR.

I take it he said "No"!

RUSSELL sneers at ARTHUR again.

RUSSELL:

(Pouting)

I really wanted that bike. The minute I saw it in the window of Mr. Abernathie's bike shop, I knew I just had to have it. I've been savin' for a long time and I've got enough to pay for half of it. Why couldn't he just help me out with the other half?

WINNIE:

Russell?... I'm really surprised at you. You know full well that your Mom and Dad have been having some trouble making ends meet on the farm this year.

LILAH:

Winnie's right! He couldn't help that his tractor finally died. That new one was really expensive.

RUSSELL:

(Sighs)

I know. But... It woulda been so much fun! Ridin' around the farm all summer. It's made for ridin' up and down hills and stuff. You shoulda seen it!

I had the whole thing worked out in my head. I was really lookin' forward to this summer. And now?... Well?...

RUSSELL sulks.

ARTHUR:

What did he say, exactly?

RUSSELL:

He said he needed me to help out on the farm more this summer and there just wasn't any extra money for things like new bikes this year.

He also said that if I had any extra time on my hands I should make something useful or do things to help others or something.

ARTHUR:

Your Dad's a smart man, Russell. You might wanna think about what he said.

RUSSELL:

I just don't think it's fair. I go to school all year long and I really look forward to summer vacation and I really wanted that bike for ridin' around this summer.

Enter BEATRICE.

LILAH sees BEATRICE first.

LILAH:

Look out, everybody! The bee's here!

WINNIE:

Oh!... Hi Beatrice!

BEATRICE:

Hi everybody.

LILAH:

That's it? Am I the only one who realizes what she's capable of?

WINNIE:

Oh for heaven's sake, Lilah. Don't be such a wuss.

(To BEATRICE)

Don't listen to her, Beatrice. She's just being... Lilah!

BEATRICE looks at RUSSELL on the hay pile, pouting.

BEATRICE:

(Ignoring LILAH)

What's the matter with Russell?

ARTHUR:

He doesn't have enough money to buy that bike he's been dreamin' about and his Dad can't help him out.

LILAH:

Hey Russell! Maybe you can get a job?

RUSSELL:

Doin' what?

LILAH:

Isn't there an opening for a bag boy at the grocery store?

RUSSELL:

Not any more. My friend Evan got it.

WINNIE:

How about Mr. Murphy's hardware store? Maybe he needs some help?

RUSSELL:

My buddy Nicky got there before me.

ARTHUR:

What about?... Nah!... That won't work.

BEATRICE sits up looking like she's got an idea.

BEATRICE:

(Hopeful)

Russell?... Maybe we could help each other out...

RUSSELL:

Whadaya mean?

BEATRICE:

Truth is, I came over here to pick all of your brains to help me figure out how to solve a big problem of my own, but if you're willing to team up with me, maybe we can solve both our problems.

RUSSELL:

Huh?

BEATRICE:

Look! Your Dad put in a few more fields and added some new crops so he could make more money this year... To help pay for that new tractor of his. When he did that, he made our work load a lot bigger.

ARTHUR:

I don't get it.

BEATRICE:

We're bees, Arthur! Our job is to pollinate! Russell's Dad needs us to pollinate all the stuff he plants or it won't produce. That's what we do! That's what we live for!

WINNIE:

Wow! I saw the size of those new fields and you're right! You really do have a lot more work to do this year.

LILAH:

But, what's that got to do with Russell?

BEATRICE:

(To RUSSELL)

Russell?... You would like to be able to buy that nice new bike... Right?

RUSSELL:

Yeah?

BEATRICE:

Well, suppose I could show you a way to earn the rest of the money you need to buy it.

RUSSELL:

(Sitting up and getting a bit excited)

I'm listening!

BEATRICE:

Your Dad sprung all this on us and caught us off our guard. We didn't have time plan how we were gonna handle all the extra work. We need a lot more guys to help and our hive isn't built for all that.

We need some new hives and we don't have time to build them and get all our pollinating work done at the same time.

RUSSELL:

Go on!



BEATRICE:

Russell! If you take up beekeeping and build us some hives, we'll be glad to pay you.

LILAH:

Be careful, Russell. Those little devils have some mighty mean tempers. If they don't like what you say to them they can, sometimes, give you a rather "stinging" reply.

They ALL chuckle.

BEATRICE sneers at LILAH

LILAH looks wide-eyed at BEATRICE and suddenly gets nervous and shirks back.

RUSSELL:

I don't mean to sound ungrateful, Beatrice, but how can you pay me? Bee's don't use money.

BEATRICE:

You're right. But, we do make honey and lots of it. We always make way more than we need. We just can't seem to help ourselves. If you'll agree to help us, we'll give you lots of honey and you can sell it and make lots of money!

LILAH:

Ooo! Ooo! Russell!... "Honey money!" I'll bet your Mom would let you sell it from her produce stand out by the main road. She sells a lotta fruits and veggies out there all summer long. Honey would be a nice "add on".

RUSSELL:

(Now smiling wide)

I like it! I'm gonna talk to my Dad and see if he'll let me do it.

(While exiting)

Wish me luck!

RUSSELL exits.

BEATRICE:

(Looking OFF STAGE to where  
RUSSELL just exited)

Wow! Looks like Russell's got a real "Bee" in his bonnet!

They chuckle.

(Threateningly to LILAH)

Now!... Lilah! Let's talk about that comment of yours about  
us bees bein' mean tempered.

LILAH gets a look of sheer terror  
on her face and looks like she's  
breaking out in a sweat.

LILAH:

(Flapping her wings, and  
running in circles)

Cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck, CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK!!!

BEATRICE chases LILAH until LILAH  
runs off stage.

LILAH exits.

ARTHUR:

Beatrice! Whadaya so mad at Lilah for? She didn't really  
say anything that was all that bad.

BEATRICE:

(Chuckling)

Im not mad at Lilah. I like Lilah! It's just that... She's  
so funny when she runs around like that. I get a kick outta  
seein' her do it. It's fun!

They all laugh.

By the way... Did ya hear they're raising Alpacas next door?

WINNIE and ARTHUR break out  
laughing.