Beyond Brilliant

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EXT. HILLSIDE - MORNING

1

Zipping through fluffy white clouds, we follow PIGEON as she swoops through a picturesque sky.

NARRATOR(V.O) Far far away from anywhere you know. Even further than anywhere you can think...

Pigeon darts through a clearing and over a beautiful hillside.

NARRATOR(V.O) (CONT'D) It is really quite far away...

Pigeon dives, following the path of a railway track which snakes through the countryside.

NARRATOR(V.O) (CONT'D) Unwind your mind past the perimeters of your imagination. Deep within the valley lies the beautiful town of Puddleton City.

The pigeon soars over a hillside crest and we get our first glimpse of Puddleton City, a brightly coloured and charmingly-mismatched hub of activity.

NARRATOR(V.O) (CONT'D) How can a town also be a city I hear you cry?

Pigeon's flight takes her into the town as she majestically navigates the cobbled streets. Townsfolk, made up of elegantly dressed, humanlike animals, greet Pigeon and one another like they're characters in a Dickensian stage-show.

> NARRATOR(V.O) (CONT'D) Well, in fact it can't. It was a mixup at the council office. They are all animals afterall.

Pigeon comes into land and continues running through the street. Panting heavily, clearly in a rush.

Darting around the corner, she reaches the post office where POSTDOG, a humanlike dog in a postman outfit stands, with his arms crossed.

POSTDOG Late again?

PIGEON Sorry sir. It won't happen again.

Postdog laughs. Patting Pigeon on the back, they stroll inside.

POSTDOG (CONT'D) Don't worry my friend. We live in a beautiful city...

PIGEON

Isn't it a town?

POSTDOG

I forget, but the point is that with our wonderful home, I'm sure this will be the worst thing that happens today.

NARRATOR(V.O) Unfortunately, there's no way they could possibly know that this certainly wasn't going to be the worst thing to happen today.

We begin to drift into the air, leaving the town far below.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) But there's no need to fret because something else most certainly occurred. Something not only brilliant but something...

We continue to float high above the town. The title appears.

Title: Beyond Brilliant

As the title fades we fall back down to the hillside stopping by the railway. A large sign reads 'Welcome to Puddleton City (Not Actually A City) Please drive safe.'

A train bursts through the frame hurtling along the tracks and towards the town.

2 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

The train has all the aesthetic charm of a steam engine but operates like a modern day bullet train. In the cab, BERYL, a huggable and loveable bear, tends to the controls. She peers down to a 'situation meter' which reads 'everything is great'.

She fumbles placing on a headset.

BERYL BEAR Good morning folks this is your driver speaking. Don't worry, I'm using hands-free, I'm not an imbecile. We will shortly be arriving in Puddleton City. (MORE)

BERYL BEAR (CONT'D) The most beautiful and friendly town in the land. It's actually also nicer than most cities. I hope you've all had a pleasant journey, I know I have.

Beryl hangs up and is ready to go about her business but is interrupted by a voice.

VOICE (O.S.) Iceberg dead ahead!

Beryl looks around to find the source of the voice.

BERYL BEAR Iceberg? I highly doubt there would be an iceberg...

Standing in the cab is the moustache twirling villain, HUGH MANN, a stick-thin classic vaudeville type and most importantly, a man, in this world of animals. He sips a cold drink.

HUGH MANN

For someone whose job is basically just looking forward, you really should be able to see what's right in front of you.

BERYL BEAR I do more than...

An ice cube bounces off Beryl's head.

BERYL BEAR

Ouch!

HUGH MANN

See...

A terrified Beryl begins backing away but... crash!

Beryl tumbles over Hugh's trusty sidekick MANATEE, an overall wearing manatee, with a charming flat-cap, who is lying on the ground. Beryl recognises the villain.

> BERYL BEAR Hugh Mann?! What are you doing here?

HUGH MANN You want to know our plan? Allow my trusty assistant Manatee to fill you in on the details.

They both look to Manatee, who sits there, not saying a word. They look back to each other. Hugh bursts into dastardly laughter. HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Haha! Now you know our devious plan we can never let you escape!

BERYL BEAR I'm sorry but that manatee didn't say anything.

They both look back to Manatee who remains motionless, with the same expressionless grin.

With Beryl distracted, Hugh slams a control lever forward. The train picks up speed. The 'situation meter' changes to 'everything might not be okay'. Hugh begins a villainous laugh turning to Beryl.

BERYL BEAR You can't do this!

HUGH MANN That's where you're wrong! Hugh and Manatee, can do anything they want!

Hugh begins a menacing approach towards Beryl. With a sinister grin, he drops his glass to the ground. We hear a scream as the glass hits...

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Smash! A glass vase smashes on the ground. PEANUT PUFFIN, with a bucket on his head clumsily bumps into office furniture. We're in a very, Sherlock Holmes-esc study.

NARRATOR(V.O.) With the dastardly Hugh Mann's plan afoot, is there anyone out there who could stop them?

Peanut continues to crash around the office. We notice he's dangerously close to a 'big red emergency button'.

Peanut inevitably hits the button which triggers a deafening and cartoonishly, over-heightened emergency alarm.

4 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

GWEN GIRAFFE is fast asleep in a long, giraffe sized bed. Well she was asleep until...

... the deafening alarms strike and Gwen is jolted up in shock! Robot arms whip into action. They grab and jolt her around, dressing, brushing her teeth, combing hair.

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The machine launches her to the other side of the room and we get our first look at our hero, sporting a classic victorian look, complete with bow tie. She is just about to catch her breath when a robot boot kicks her up the backside and directly into a bookshelf.

The bookshelf spins...

5 INT. OFFICE - DAY

...and throws Gwen into the office space and crashing into Peanut. They both tumble to the ground...

NARRATOR(V.O.) I give you, our heroes!

Gwen composes herself.

GWEN Good morning, Peanut. There seems to be some kind of emergency.

PEANUT Oh goodness. Well, I wonder what that could be?

Gwen looks around the room, then back to Peanut who is still very much stuck in the bucket.

GWEN

Now I am yet to ascertain the severity of the proposed emergency or better yet carry out a full analysis of any impending catastrophic situation, but if I were to hazard a hypothesise... I would say that you have a bucket on your head.

Gwen clambers to a panel and taps the large red emergency button which switches off the alarm.

PEANUT

Never a truer word said. I was watching a herring at the bottom of my bucket have a bit of a swim. I was understanding it's rhythm but not yet it's ways so I popped my head in for a closer look and now I'm stuck.

GWEN

Is that to say there is herring in there with you right now?

The suitably gruff voice of HARRY HERRING pipes up from the bucket.

HARRY Come on mate. Will you just get this bl'm'n thing off?

GWEN The bucket?

HARRY What do you think?

Gwen grabs the bucket and heaves. It pops off, revealing Peanut to be a a beautiful Puffin.

PEANUT Thanks my great mate.

GWEN

Anytime.

The bucket bumps onto the ground. Both Gwen and Peanut peer in, to check on their herring friend.

> GWEN (CONT'D) Mr Herring?

> > HARRY

Harry.

GWEN Mr Harry. Are you quite alright?

HARRY I will be when I get some peace and quiet...

The bucket slowly drags itself along the ground to the corner of the room - Peanut is again fascinated.

A coconut with string attached to it, resembling a phone, starts ringing. Gwen marches over and answers.

GWEN

Ahoy there...

Split screen: revealing Auntie Bola: the scarf-wearing, well to-do badger mayor of Puddleton City. She holds a coconut to her ear.

> AUNTIE BOLA Gwen! Glad I caught you. Puddleton City seems to be in a spot of bother.

In the background we can see Peanut absolutely fascinated with the bucket. Gwen continues the call.

GWEN Auntie Bola. Good to speak. When is Puddleton City not in a spot of bother?

AUNTIE BOLA That's not important right now?

GWEN What's not important right now?

AUNTIE BOLA It's not important when Puddleton is not in a spot of bother because most importantly, Puddleton City *is* in a spot of bother right now!

GWEN

I see.

AUNTIE BOLA Now I don't have time for your nonsensical ramblings Gwen. We have a train on a collision course towards the town!

GWEN And which town would that be then?

AUNTIE BOLA Our town! Puddleton City!

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

A number of cute looking animal workers are placing a large 'Please Drive Safely in Our Town' sign on a crossing.

Wham! The train smashes through. The workers are completely shocked as the remaining sign pieces fall to the ground spelling out 'Please Save Our Town'.

7 INT. OFFICE - DAY

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In the background Peanut has once again got his head stuck in the bucket. Gwen is still on the call.

AUNTIE BOLA It's sort of spare underpants time for everyone involved. 7

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GWEN

Well it's a damn fine thing I don't wear underpants. What's the driver of this so called vehicle have to say about this?

AUNTIE BOLA Not a whole lot.

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INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Beryl is tied up with Manatee slumped next to her. Hugh Mann peers through the window at the approaching city. A phone rings.

HUGH MANN Manatee get that will you?

The ringing stops and we see the phone off the hook next to Manatee but he says nothing. Auntie Bola can be heard on the other side of the phone.

AUNTIE BOLA

Hello? Hello?! What's going on there? You seem to be travelling dangerously fast and heading to the town. Now I appreciate a prompt schedule as much as the next mayor but I also need to make sure everything is safe and sound. If you could just give us an update. Hello? Hello?!

Manatee breaths heavily - but does nothing else.

9 INT. OFFICE - DAY

Peanut continues crashing into furniture in background, once again with the bucket on his head. Gwen continues the call.

> GWEN Heavy breathing ay?

AUNTIE BOLA I didn't say anything about heavy breathing?

GWEN I deduced it from your hesitation.

AUNTIE BOLA

Oh...

GWEN And we tap your calls.

AUNTIE BOLA

What?

Gwen cuts in before Auntie can question.

GWEN So tell us more about this train disaster. How are you aware of such an event?

10 INT. MAYORS OFFICE - DAY

Auntie Bola whips open her curtains to reveal she's also on the train! She pops her head out the window.

11 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN - DAY

As Auntie Bola gets a better look of the situation, we pull out to reveal the out of control train hurtling along the tracks and a terrifying speed.

12 EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

More busy workers place another sign on a crossing, this time reading 'Slow Down'. The train hurtles along smashing the sign to pieces.

13 INT. OFFICE - DAY

Split screen again with Auntie Bola, still peering out the window and Gwen in her study. Auntie Bola brings herself back inside and snatches the coconut phone.

GWEN Well gosh, that is a predicament. What are you going to do?

AUNTIE BOLA I thought you might have a plan...

The split screen disappears to reveal they are actually in the same office. They both drop the coconuts.

Peanut clambers around with the bucket on his head - Harry obviously not happy.

HARRY Get your big, dumb, beautiful head out of my bucket, Puffin! 11

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Now knowing that all characters are on the same train, we realise how unstable the room is. They all clamber and fall around.

NARRATOR(V.O.)

What indeed are our heroes going to do? With only 10 minutes to go before the train crashes into the beautiful town...

The camera zooms out to reveal an otter with a microphone standing in the corner.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) ...I would also very much like to know! Who is going to save us?!

Peanut struggles with the bucket - eventually heaving it off. It lands just in front on the Narrator Otter.

Harry peers out of the bucket taking in his surroundings.

HARRY Is everyone on this bl'm'n train?!

Peanut stumbles and falls into the giant panic button again which kicks off a new succession of panic alarms.

14 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Hugh is at the control panel, frantically pushing every lever.

HUGH MANN Manatee give me a hand here.

Manatee is plopped against the door obstructing any entrance.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) No you're right. Keep an eye on the bear.

Beryl, still tied up, looks up to Hugh who clearly has no idea what he's doing. The cabin commences a variety of functions - windscreen wipers, shutters opening and closing.

> BERYL BEAR You have no idea what you're doing do you?

HUGH MANN I'm so sick of experts. People always having to "know what they're doing"...

Hugh throws a lever and the cabin kicks into 'disco mode' with flashing lights and music. Irritated, he switches it off.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Everyone always has a plan. Apparently the whole world is set. What about the little guy? Maybe it's time people take in what's really going on? I'm sick of everyone pretending to be happy...

BERYL BEAR Maybe they are happy?

HUGH MANN Paff nonsense.

BERYL BEAR Why not? You could be happy too...

There's a heavy banging at the door...

HUGH MANN Can't a dastardly super villain get any peace around here?

BERYL BEAR Super villain?

HUGH MANN Yes! Super villain!

BERYL BEAR I mean, villain sure. I'm not so sure about 'super'....

More banging. Hugh Mann turns his attention to the door.

HUGH MANN Yes? What seems to be the bother?!

VOICE (THROUGH THE DOOR) Tickets please.

Hugh Mann starts panicking, patting himself down trying to locate a ticket.

HUGH MANN Tickets? Oh shoot. Manatee, did you get the tickets? Hugh looks to Manatee - still slumped at the door, expressionless. Hugh panics for a second longer before realising...

> HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Hold on a candy coloured bumbling minute, I'm the most cunningly, crafty, calculated bad guy around...

Hugh catches Manatee's eye. Manatee remains expressionless against the door.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Of course besides you Manatee. You barbarous, barbaric, brute.

Hugh Mann's face is almost touching Manatee's as he starts speaking to him like a little cute puppy dog. Again Manatee remains expressionless.

> HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Yes you are. Yes you are, who's a barbaric, brute? Who's a barbaric brute?

Hugh Mann is interrupted.

VOICE (THROUGH DOOR) Tickets please!

HUGH MANN

What?

BERYL BEAR They want to see your ticket.

Hugh Mann leaps up, straightens himself out and addresses the door

HUGH MANN You won't be getting any tickets from me. Seems that my first dastardly act will be taking down this train financially! MWAHAHAHAHA!!!

15 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

Gwen and Peanut are on the other side of the door.

Seated in the aisle around them are a vast array of animal passengers all dressed in victorian attire, some reading broadsheets, others eating jam sandwiches. A rabbit and tortoise playing chess.

GWEN Well that didn't work. We need to get in there and quick! Remember what Auntie Bola said?!

16 INT. OFFICE - DAY

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A quick flashback to Auntie Bola staring directly at us. She stares and stares, but says nothing...

17 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

Peanut looks to Gwen, confused.

PEANUT No Gwen I'm afraid I don't. Was it about croquet?

GWEN

No Peanut, it wasn't. We need to stop this train and quick! If we don't, we'll end up smashing into Puddleton city with an almighty kablooey...

PEANUT Then we'll never get to play croquet!

GWEN That is unfortunately correct.

The chess playing rabbit, RASHID, overhears their conversation and hops towards the pair with an expression of concern.

RASHID I'm sorry to interrupt but have you noticed that there seems to be something wrong with the train?

Gwen leans over to Peanut.

GWEN(WHISPERING TO PEANUT) Whatever we do, we must not concern the townsfolk.

Gwen assumes a confident pose.

GWEN (CONT'D) Why sir whatever do you mean? Nope of course not. Nothing is wrong here...

RASHID It just seems... Peanut assumes a similar confident posture.

PEANUT Nope. Nothing is wrong here! Who fancies a game of croquet.

A tannoy system kicks in - echoing Hugh Mann's voice throughout the train.

HUGH MANN (O.S.) Ladies and jellyfish. Men and regular fish...

A jellyfish and regular fish look up from their train seats.

HUGH MANN (O.S) This is your new and much more handsome driver speaking.

18 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Full of self-importance, Hugh addresses the microphone.

HUGH MANN You may have noticed...

Beryl spots her opportunity and begins carefully unpicking the ropes tying her down. She looks over to Manatee who stares into space expressionless. Hugh continues on the mic.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) ...that we have indeed picked up the pace somewhat.

19 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

Gwen, Peanut and the passengers listen intently.

HUGH MANN (O.S.) Of course this does mean we are going to be reaching Puddleton Town...

BERYL BEAR

City...

HUGH MANN

What?

BERYL BEAR City. Puddleton City. It's a town but it's called Puddleton City.

HUGH MANN What? Right, okay? 19

The passengers listen on.

HUGH MANN So we will be reaching Puddleton City Town slightly earlier than scheduled...

The passengers breath a sigh of relief and are pleased with the news.

PEANUT Well, that's good news.

GWEN I don't think that's good news.

Hugh continues over the tannoy.

HUGH MANN This however, is not good news.

PEANUT It's not good news?

GWEN It's not good news.

HUGH MANN This schedule amendment is in fact very bad news and you should all be concerned.

RASHID

Concerned?

GWEN Nope. No need to be concerneded.

HUGH MANN(O.S.) Yes concerned!

Rashid's eyes widen.

21 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Hugh is very much now on his high horse, enjoying every minute of his announcement. Beryl continues to unpick her ropes.

HUGH MANN (O.S.) I'm sick of all your happy fluffy ways. You're always bouncing about pretending to be so happy and I for one am sick of it! I'm going to deal with it, once and for all. 20

Fear spreads through the carriage.

RASHID Deal with it?

GWEN See. Deal with it. That means we'll all be fine.

Gwen attempts her best 'everything is absolutely fine' grin.

23 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

The train is picking up speed. Beryl has almost finished unpicking her ropes.

HUGH MANN(0.S) By my counts, you all have about 5 minutes before we collide with your ridiculous city - ending your happy fun loving nonsense once and for all!

Beryl does it! The ropes fall free and she makes a beeline for Hugh. She runs but before she can make it she finds herself crashing violently to the ground.

Manatee lies in her wake. The same expressionless grimace across his face. Hugh let's out a ghastly cackle.

24 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

The train passengers begin to panic.

RASHID The fancy giraffe is right! We're all going to go Kablooey!

Peanut tries to calm the situation.

PEANUT No no no! We'll all be fine...

Hugh Mann's tannoy interrupts.

25 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

The victorious Hugh is back at the mic

HUGH MANN(O.S.) Now to celebrate your new found destruction, here's my good friend Manatee with his number 1 hit - kablooey. 16.

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A karaoke style track begins.

26 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

Panic spreads through the carriage as the passengers begin screaming. The karaoke music provides a juxtaposed soundtrack to the chaos. Gwen and Peanut take it all in.

PEANUT

I love this song.

Gwen holds a pose as she takes in the potentially disastrous scenario. Peanut taps his foot along to the track.

NARRATOR (O.S.) Will Gwen and peanut save the day or will the evil Hugh Mann have his way?

The Narrator Otter is sat in one of the train seats.

NARRATOR I for one, would sure like to know!

He buckles his seat belt. The chaos continues throughout the train.

Gwen and Peanut hold their pose when Auntie Bola emerges from the crowd.

AUNTIE BOLA What is happening?! This is a disaster!

GWEN No it's not that bad...

In the background there's an explosion. We notice part of the train is on fire!

AUNTIE BOLA Get in there and stop this train now!

27 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Hugh Mann is at the control panel. With a devious smile he peers through the windscreen as they hurtle along the tracks. Beryl is tied up again. The karaoke music comes to an end. Manatee is slumped again at the door but this time with a microphone lying in front of him.

> HUGH MANN You never cease to amaze me Manatee. Such a beautiful voice. Don't you agree?

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BERYL BEAR You'll never get away with this!

HUGH MANN Who's going to stop me?!

28 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN ROOFTOP - DAY

Gwen and Peanut cling on for dear life as they crawl along the train carriage roof. The train hurtles ever nearer to Puddleton City with terrifying speed.

> GWEN It's frightfully windy around here.

PEANUT Sorry about that. It might be the chilli con carne I had for breakfast.

They reach the front of the train.

Gwen lowers her head in front of the train windscreen. Peanut clambers down.

29 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Gwen and Peanut peer through the windscreen. Hugh Mann is distracted by Beryl and completely unaware of the Giraffe & Puffin peering into the cabin.

HUGH MANN

Well?

BERYL BEAR Well what?

HUGH MANN Who's going to stop me?

BERYL BEAR Oh sorry. I thought that was a rhetorical question.

HUGH MANN What's the point of a rhetorical question? Surely I could just use a statement?

PEANUT

We are!

Hugh and Beryl turn to find Gwen and Peanut staring through the windscreen. Manatee does nothing as usual. Hugh opens a window and leans out in order to talk to the pair.

28

HUGH MANN You are what?!

PEANUT We are going to stop you!

HUGH MANN

Oh I see...

GWEN

Peanut. I hate to be a nitpick nelly but in order for that heroic moment to properly sell, it may be best to work on your timing.

BERYL BEAR Yeah I agree. You should have butted in earlier. That would have given a better effect.

HUGH MANN Who are you?!

GWEN

We're who's going to stop you!

Gwen turns to Peanut.

GWEN (CONT'D) See something more like that.

BERYL BEAR Yeah that worked better.

PEANUT Ah yes. I get it.

HUGH MANN No you won't!

GWEN

What?

HUGH MANN I said you're not going to stop me!

PEANUT Sorry I'm lost. This timing is all off now.

Hugh stares at the pair in disbelief.

GWEN Maybe we should start again? Hi I'm Gwen. This is Peanut. BERYL BEAR I'm Beryl.

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PEANUT And we're going to stop you!

Peanut looks to Gwen for approval.

GWEN Yeah that was much better.

BERYL BEAR Yeah great work.

HUGH MANN Agh! I can't take any more of this!

GWEN Then why don't you hand yourself in before this gets out of control.

HUGH MANN Ha! You want out of control? I'll show you out of control!

Hugh Mann punches a large red button with a sign next to it that says - DO NOT PRESS, UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO FASTER THAN FAST, I MEAN SUPER FAST, THE TYPE OF FAST THAT WILL WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE CITY OR TOWN OR BOTH.

> GWEN He is good at this.

Peanut nods in agreement.

The train speeds up. Gwen and Peanut cling on for dear life!

BERYL BEAR Why did we ever install that button?!

The train hurtles faster! Manatee sits expressionless against the door.

HUGH MANN Nothing will stop us! Now time for you to leave!

He punches the button again, and again, and again!

BERYL BEAR You know, it doesn't do anything else if you press it more. Enraged Hugh looks to Beryl then back to the controls and begins whacking them all.

'Disco mode' starts up again, which only enrages Hugh further. He continues smashing all of the buttons which initialises all manner of useless systems.

30 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN - DAY

The windscreen wipers begin bashing Gwen and Peanut in the face. They struggle to hold on as the wipers bump into them again and again.

GWEN

Hold on Peanut! We can do this!

PEANUT

Gwen I can't hold much longer!

The train picks up more speed.

31 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Hugh slaps the final button on the control panel.

32 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN - DAY

Water begins squirting from the windscreen right into Peanut's face. He can't hold on much longer...

Peanut loses his grip and is flung back, free falling through the air. He reaches out and just manages to grab one of Gwen's hind legs. Gwen desperately clings on but it's too much. She loses her grip and the pair are launched from the train!

33 INT. TRAIN CABIN DAY

There is still chaos in the carriage. The terrified Narrator Otter, still buckled up in his seat, frantically thumbs through his script.

> NARRATOR This can't be right? Our heroes gone? Hugh Mann and his trusty side kick Manatee, coming out on top? Surely not, this is beyond all...

He thumbs through the pages until realising his mistake...

NARRATOR No wait. I've got a few pages stuck together. (MORE) 30

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The Otter reorganises the pages and continues.

NARRATOR Okay, lovely stuff. Let's see how the rest of this adventure pans out.

34 EXT. TRAIN ROOF - DAY

34

Gwen and Peanut hurtle along the train roof desperately trying to grab onto something.

They tumble towards the final carriage - this is it - they're about to be thrown off the train. The pair close their eyes and wait for the end, when suddenly...

Bump! Gwen opens her eyes.

Both Gwen and Peanut have been saved! They have been caught mid air by Harry Herring's bucket. Auntie Bola's long scarf is tied onto the handle and both Harry and Auntie Bola cling on to the other end. Both Gwen and Peanut are suspended kitelike trailing behind the train.

> GWEN Harry! Auntie Bola! You saved us!

Harry and Auntie Bola begin reeling them in.

HARRY Of course we did! You think I want this racket to continue! Now you get up there and stop this nonsense!

AUNTIE BOLA And save the townsfolk!

Gwen and Peanut are reeled in and back on the train.

PEANUT But how do we stop them?

GWEN

Peanut...

Gwen looks to the bucket.

GWEN ...sometimes you just need to use your head.

35 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Gwen races down the carriage aisles past all the worried, screaming passengers. In her hands is Peanut - bucket on head, ready to be used as a battering ram.

Passengers dive out of the way as they crash into and through the door. Peanut tumbles to the ground and slides on his belly, directly into the path of Hugh Mann. Hugh looks down to the bucket-clad Puffin then to the door to work out the source or this commotion. In a full heroic and silhouetted pose, Gwen stands in the doorway.

> GWEN Give it up. It's over.

Hugh Mann regains his composure.

HUGH MANN No giraffe. It's only just begun.

GWEN Begun? You've been doing this all day.

HUGH MANN I guess you're right and that's exactly why you're also too late!

GWEN

So has it begun, or is it almost over? I'd just like to know the best way to respond to the developing situation.

Beryl interrupts Gwen's hypothesising.

BERYL BEAR

Look out!

Crash! A rope ladder smashes through the window. They look up to find Manatee piloting a large hot air balloon.

GWEN Good grief. Is there anything that Manatee can't do?

HUGH MANN So long and good luck with the ultimate destruction of Puddleton Town!

BERYL BEAR

City!

HUGH MANN Town, city, whatever! It's all going to end in Kablooey!

Hugh dives through the window grabbing the ladder which begins to ascend.

GWEN So we are at the end. Good to know.

Peanut clambers to his feet and pulls the bucket off his head. Gwen frees Beryl, who runs to the control panel.

GWEN Okay quick. Work your magic!

BERYL BEAR

My what?

GWEN Your magic!

BERYL BEAR Afraid no can do. I left the magicians circle to carve out a career in train driving.

GWEN

What?

BERYL BEAR

What?

PEANUT Stop the train!

36 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN DAY

The train is picking up even more speed.

37 INT. TRAIN CABIN DAY

BERYL BEAR They've busted the controls! There's no way to stop it!

Auntie Bola runs in, holding Harry Herring.

AUNTIE BOLA How long do we have?!

BERYL BEAR We'll collide with Puddleton City in about 15 seconds!

PEANUT We'll never stop the train in time!

Gwen rummages through the cabin. There must be something that can help!

37

She looks to the bucket, then up to Hugh and Manatee who are escaping in the balloon.

GWEN Peanut, I'm afraid that in our current predicament, you are indeed correct.

PEANUT Well that sure is an onion in the ointment and not the outcome I would have hoped for.

GWEN Please don't frown my picturesque puffin pal. You know what they say?

PEANUT I'm afraid I don't my erm, tall giraffe friend.

GWEN If you can't beat them, join them!

Everyone responds with a collective 'what?!'

38 EXT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

The balloon slowly ascends. Hugh Mann watches the train from above. Manatee, wearing a pilot cap, captains the balloon.

HUGH MANN We've done it Manatee. That'll show them! We've finally done it!

There's a large jolt. Hugh Mann and Manatee tumble over.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) What was that?!

Hugh looks down to see a bucket attached to the balloon's basket. A long scarf is tied to the handle and runs down to our heroes.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) What are they doing?!

Peanut can be seen waving.

39 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Gwen, Peanut, Harry, Bola and Beryl watch through the train windscreen. We can see the scarf is tied to the control panel.

Hugh stares menacingly at the team from the balloon. The team peer back. Peanut continues to wave.

PEANUT This sure is exciting.

GWEN It absolutely is.

HARRY What the heck are we doing?

GWEN

Watch!

The train hurtles towards the city. It is so close now that we see local townsfolk running in panic.

Beryl, Auntie Bola and Harry all hold their heads in their hands unable to stop them letting out a collective 'watch out!'

40 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY - DAY

From the perspective of the townsfolk the train hurtles towards them. They cower in fear and panic when suddenly...

The tension of the scarf on the balloon catches and the train is lifted form the tracks. Postdog and Pigeon throw their hands over their eyes, anticipating the worst. A gasp and...

Nothing...

They open their eyes just in time to witness the town being plunged into shadow. With a creak the huge train is suspended in the air. The balloon/scarf combo has saved the day. The train hangs in the air safely out of harm whilst stopping Hugh and Manatee's escape.

41 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

All of the train passengers tumble backwards through the vertically suspended carriages. Everyone, including our heroes fall into a huge pile of animal creatures at the furthest end of the train. The Narrator Otter is clearly visible in the pile of characters.

> NARRATOR And just like that - our heroes had done it! (MORE)

39

40

Rashid the rabbit, also in the pile of creatures raises an eyebrow to the Narrator Otter.

RASHID Wait a minute. You didn't do anything.

NARRATOR Well my friend. At the end of the day, aren't we all heroes?

Rashid looks around at the pile of creatures before returning to the narrator.

RASHID Erm... No...

42 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY - DAY

The huge weight of the train slowly pulls the balloon back down to earth.

43 EXT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

NARRATOR (O.S.) And not only had they saved the town, but they had stopped the dastardly Hugh Mann and Manatee in the process.

Hugh Mann is desperately tearing at the scarf.

HUGH MANN Manatee. Help me wont you?!

He continues to fight with the scarf as Manatee falls knocking the bucket and scarf free whilst squashing Hugh.

HUGH MANN (CONT'D) Manateeeee...!!!!!

44 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY, TRAIN STATION - DAY

The balloon zips off into the sky as the train lands perfectly in Puddleton City station.

The doors open and the passengers tumble out onto the train platform.

43

42

BERYL BEAR (O.S.) Good morning folks, this is your driver speaking...

45 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

Beryl has clambered back to the controls. Dishevelled but not dismayed, Beryl is back in control.

BERYL BEAR Welcome to Puddleton City, the most beautiful and friendly town in the land. I hope you've all had a pleasant journey - I know I have.

The door falls off the side of the cabin revealing the pile of passengers crashed out on the platform.

46 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY, TRAIN STATION - DAY

Our heroes Gwen and Peanut clamber up to find Auntie Bola standing proudly and holding Harry Herring in his bucket.

> AUNTIE BOLA I've got to hand it to you two.

GWEN It was nothing really.

AUNTIE BOLA No I have to hand you this bucket with a fish in it.

Harry pipes up from his bucket.

HARRY No thanks m'am. I'm my own fish. I have my own adventures, my own quiet life to pursue.

Still in his bucket, Harry leaps to the ground and slowly drags himself away. A 'bucket on concrete' scraping sound underplays the following scene. Auntie Bola looks to Gwen and Peanut.

> AUNTIE BOLA Well that's that. I really have to hand it to you.

PEANUT Just doing our job.

Auntie Bola hands Peanut her scarf.

45

AUNTIE BOLA Have this dry cleaned and back on my desk by 8am.

Auntie Bola marches away. Gwen looks to Peanut who returns with a huge grin. The townsfolk gather around the pair.

GWEN

Well Peanut my buddy, my pal. Thanks to these fine folk we have once again thwarted the forces of no good evil. Once again, we get to savour in the delights and delectations of the happiest city that's also a town. And in my book that's not only brilliant. That's...

The crowd cheer.

CROWD Beyond brilliant!

PEANUT Now who's for croquet?!

The crowd cheer again as fireworks and celebrations commence.

47 INT. EVIL LAIR - NIGHT

Scenes of celebration play out on an old dodgy TV. Karaoke music echoes the halls of the unkept lair. Manatee, with microphone in front, is slumped next to a large armchair. Hugh watches the celebration whilst bitterly sipping a cold drink.

> NARRATOR Scenes of jubilant celebration in Puddleton City - the happiest town on earth.

Unable to control his rage, Hugh squeezes the glass too tight which explodes into a thousand pieces.

HUGH MANN Manatee. Be a darling a fetch a dustpan will you...