

Beyond Brilliant
(12 Page Edition)

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EXT. HILLSIDE - MORNING

1

Ziping through fluffy white clouds, we follow a pigeon as she swoops through a picturesque sky. She darts through a clearing and over a beautiful hillside, revealing a railway track and in the distance, the brightly coloured, Puddleton City.

The pigeon swoops down and perches on a large sign which reads 'Welcome to Puddleton City. Please drive safe.' She quietly pecks away until a train hurtles by. Giving her a fright, she stumbles and crashes into the grass nearby.

2

INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

2

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.

Beryl waves her hands about without a care in the world.

BERYL BEAR

We will shortly be arriving in Puddleton City. The most beautiful and friendly city in the land. I hope you've all had a pleasant journey, I know I have.

Beryl hangs up and with a smile, continues her duties, that is until she hears a cough.

BERYL BEAR

Erm... hello?

No response. She continues driving the train.

Scurrying can be heard. Confused, Beryl stands and turns but before she can properly investigate, she stumbles and crashes to the ground.

Beryl spots MANATEE, an overall and flat-cap wearing manatee, with a wide grimace, lying on the ground. Beryl is shocked but seems to recognise this villain.

She nervously climbs to her feet and turns back to her seat to find the stick-thin, moustache twirling villain, HUGH MANN, sat there, sipping a cold drink.

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, 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

But that manatee didn't say anything.

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

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, dropping his glass. We hear a scream as the glass hits...

3 INT. OFFICE - DAY

3

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.

Peanut is dangerously close to a 'big red emergency button'. He inevitably hits the button which triggers a deafening and cartoonishly, over-heightened emergency alarm.

4 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

4

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, grabbing and jolting her around, dressing, brushing her teeth, combing her hair.

We get our first look at our hero, sporting a victorian look. She is just about to catch her breath when a robot boot kicks her up the backside and into a bookshelf which spins...

5

INT. OFFICE - DAY

5

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

GWEN

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

PEANUT

Well, I wonder what that could be?

Gwen looks around the room, then back to Peanut who remains 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 hypothesis. 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

I was watching a herring at the bottom of my bucket have a bit of a swim. I wanted 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.

HARRY

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

Gwen grabs the bucket and heaves. It pops off, revealing Peanut to be a beautiful Puffin. The bucket bumps onto the ground. Both Gwen and Peanut peer in.

GWEN

Mr Herring. Are you quite alright?

HARRY

I will be when I get some
peace...

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

A door bursts open and in marches Auntie Bola: the scarf-wearing mayor of Puddleton City. In the background we can see Peanut absolutely fascinated with the bucket.

AUNTIE BOLA

Gwen! Puddleton City is in
trouble!

GWEN

What trouble would that be?

6 EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

6

A number of cute animal workers are placing a large 'Please Drive Safely' sign on a crossing when... Wham! The train smashes through. The workers are shocked as the remaining sign pieces fall to the ground spelling out 'Please Save Our Town'.

7 INT. OFFICE - DAY

7

Peanut has once again got his head stuck in the bucket.

GWEN

What did the driver have to say?

AUNTIE BOLA

Not a whole lot.

8 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

8

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

HUGH MANN

Manatee get that will you?

The ringing stops. We see the phone off the hook next to Manatee but he says nothing. Auntie Bola can be heard.

AUNTIE BOLA (O.S.)

Hello? Hello?! Hello?!

Manatee breaths heavily, but does nothing else.

9 INT. OFFICE - DAY

9

Gwen and Auntie Bola continue as Peanut crashes into furniture.

GWEN

So how are you aware of such an event?

Auntie Bola whips open the curtains to reveal that they're all on the train! Now knowing that all characters are on the same train, we realise how unstable the room is.

Peanut struggles with the bucket, eventually heaving it off. 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.

10 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

10

Hugh is at the control panel, frantically pushing every lever. Manatee is plopped against the door obstructing any entrance. 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 don't know what you're doing do you?

HUGH MANN

What? Of course I do!

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

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

HUGH MANN

Yes? What seems to be the bother?!

GWEN (O.S.)

Tickets please.

Hugh Mann starts panicking, patting himself down.

HUGH MANN

Tickets? Manatee, did you get tickets?

Hugh looks to Manatee, still slumped at the door, expressionless. Hugh panics for a second before realising...

HUGH MANN (CONT'D)
 Hold on a candy coloured minute,
 I'm the most cunningly, crafty,
 calculated bad guy around. I
 don't need a ticket.

11 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY 11

Gwen, Peanut and Harry, in his bucket, are on the other side of the door. Seated in the aisle around them are a vast array of animal passengers.

GWEN
 We need to get in there
 immediately! Remember what Auntie
 Bola said?!

12 INT. OFFICE - DAY 12

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

13 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY 13

Peanut looks to Gwen, confused.

PEANUT
 No Gwen I'm afraid I don't.

A kind-faced rabbit, RASHID, overhears their conversation and hops towards the pair with an expression of concern.

RASHID
 I'm sorry to interrupt but there
 seems to be something wrong with
 the train.

Gwen leans over to Peanut.

GWEN(WHISPERING TO PEANUT)
 We must not concern the
 townsfolk.

Gwen assumes a confident pose.

GWEN (CONT'D)
 Why sir whatever do you mean?
 Nothing is wrong here...

A tannoy kicks in, echoing Hugh's voice through the train.

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

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

- 14 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY 14
Full of self-importance, Hugh addresses the microphone.
- HUGH MANN
You may have noticed that we have
picked up the pace.
- 15 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY 15
Gwen, Peanut, Harry and the passengers listen intently.
- HUGH MANN (O.S.)
This means that we are going
reach Puddleton earlier than
scheduled.
- The passengers breath a sigh of relief.
- GWEN
See. No need to be concerned.
- Gwen stands confidently.
- HUGH MANN (O.S.)
This schedule amendment is in
fact bad news and you should all
be concerned.
- RASHID
Concerned?
- The passengers look worried. Gwen holds a nervous grin.
- 16 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY 16
Hugh is enjoying every minute of his announcement.
- HUGH MANN (O.S.)
You're always bouncing about
pretending to be happy and I for
one am sick of it!
- 17 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY 17
Fear spreads through the carriage.
- 18 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY 18
The train is picking up speed.

HUGH MANN(O.S)
 We have about 5 minutes until we
 collide with your ridiculous
 city, ending your fun-loving
 nonsense once and for all!

Hugh let's out a ghastly cackle.

19 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

19

The train passengers begin to panic.

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

GWEN
 It's not as bad as it sounds.

The victorious Hugh is back at the mic.

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

A karaoke style track begins. Panic spreads through the carriage as the passengers begin screaming. The karaoke music provides a juxtaposed soundtrack to the chaos.

With the chaos all around them, Harry pipes up from his bucket.

HARRY
 How do we stop them?

Peanut shrugs. Gwen looks to her puffin and fish friend.

GWEN
 Sometimes, you just need to use
 your head.

20 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY

20

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

They crash through the door just as the karaoke track comes to an end. Peanut tumbles to the ground and slides on his belly, directly into the path of Hugh Mann. A microphone lays on the ground but there is no sign of Manatee.

Hugh looks down to the bucket-clad Puffin then to the door. In full heroic and silhouetted pose, Gwen stands proudly.

GWEN

Give it up. It's over.

Hugh Mann regains his composure.

HUGH MANN

No giraffe, it's only just begun.

Hugh slams a button on the control panel and the situation meter pops up the new warning of "Things are now really bad!" The train picks up speed. Gwen stumbles as Beryl shouts.

BERYL BEAR

Look out!

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

BERYL BEAR

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

Hugh dives through the window, grabbing the ladder which begins to ascend. Peanut clambers to his feet and pulls off the bucket. Gwen frees Beryl, who runs to the control panel.

21 EXT. RUNAWAY TRAIN DAY 21

The train is picking up even more speed.

22 INT. TRAIN CABIN DAY 22

BERYL BEAR

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

The scarf wearing Auntie Bola rushes in.

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

26 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY 26

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.

27 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY - DAY 27

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

28 EXT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY 28

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...!!!!

29 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY, TRAIN STATION - DAY 29

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.

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

30 INT. TRAIN CABIN - DAY 30

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 piled on the platform.

31 EXT. PUDDLETON CITY, TRAIN STATION - DAY

31

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

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

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.

Still in his bucket, Harry leaps to the ground and slowly drags himself away. The townsfolk gather around the team.

GWEN
Thanks to these fine folk, we have once again thwarted the forces of no good evil. And in my book that's not only brilliant. That's...

The crowd cheer.

CROWD
Beyond brilliant!

The crowd cheer again as fireworks and celebrations commence.

32 INT. EVIL LAIR - NIGHT

32

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 and fetch a dustpan will you...