

DETAILS AT 11...

A Spoof by Christina Hamlett

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CAST OF CHARACTERS (15 flexible)

REPORTERS

DICK SMITH: Newsroom commentator.

JANE JONES: Another.

SALLY GREEN: Another.

RALPH BROWN: Another.

ED WRIGLEY: Mobile crew.

MELISSA WRIGHT: Another.

MEREDITH LANGLEY: Another.

KEVIN MARTIN: Correspondent.

TIFFANY SHRIMPTON: Another.

INTERVIEWEES

CHIEF CROWLER: Police chief, in uniform.

COUNCILMOUSE WILMA: Interviewee with a plan.

COUNCILMOUSE MAUD: Interviewee left holding the bell.

OLLIE RIBBONS: Cockney laborer.

KING MIDAS: Has a golden touch.

DR. POINDEXTER: Foot expert.

ANNOUNCER: Voice only.

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SETTING

A contemporary newsroom of a television station. Two desks with chairs for two people, each face the audience, one SL and one SR. A curtain behind them will be opened for the "mobile" portions of the broadcast. An "On-the-Air" sign and a clock showing "6:00" are on the walls of the studio.

PROPS

News copy; microphones including one gold; bell; and glass slipper.

COSTUMES

Newspeople wear contemporary clothes. Chief Crowler wears police uniform or trench coat and hat. Councilmice have ears, whiskers, and tails. King Midas wears crown and gold robe. Doctor wears white jacket with big pockets.

SOUND EFFECTS

News program music at to open and close show.

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(AT RISE: On a semidark set we see the silhouettes of the four seated newscasters including from L to R DICK, JANE, SALLY, and RALPH. News copy is in front of each. SFX. News program MUSIC as opener.)

ANNOUNCER: Good evening ... and welcome to the "Six O'Clock News," the show that takes you across the ocean and around the block with more news than you wanted to know. While you were at school and at work, this is what made headlines ...

JANE: Hi, I'm Jane Jones, opening our broadcast tonight with a tragic story from Parma, Ohio. Leading citizen, Mr. Humpty Dumpty, was found today by rescue workers after falling off a 20-foot high garden wall in his backyard. Ed Wrigley has the story.

(The CURTAIN opens to reveal ED, mike in hand, interviewing CHIEF GROWLER.)

ED: Thanks, Jane. We're talking to Chief Crowler of the Ohio Police. Chief, what does it look like to you?

CHIEF: Well, I'll tell you, this is going to be one tough one to crack. You've got your basic good egg who climbs up on this wall --

ED: Why do you suppose he did that, Chief?

CHIEF: Probably to get cool. It's been hot enough lately to fry eggs on - oh, never mind. Anyway, we're just trying to pick up the pieces and see what happened.

ED: I see you've got reinforcements.

CHIEF: Yep, we've got all the king's horses and all the king's men, but personally, I think it's too late.

ED: How's the family taking the news?

CHIEF: Well, we haven't been able to get a statement. They're all in shell-shock.

ED: Back to you, Jane.

(CURTAIN closes.)

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JANE: *(Referring to HER notes.)* And in Munchkinland, manslaughter charges have been filed on Dorothy Gale of Topeka, Kansas, and her terrier, Toto. Sources say that Ms. Gale directed a house to fall on an unsuspecting victim. Her whereabouts are unknown at this time, but she and the dog were last seen heading for the Emerald City. Dick?

DICK: Dick Smith here with late-breaking news from the Cheddarville City Council. Our newscaster on the go, Melissa Wright, has details of a move in council chambers that could have an impact on mice around the world. Melissa?

(CURTAIN opens as MELISSA is interviewing COUNCILMICE WILMA and MAUD. Maud is holding something behind her back.)

MELISSA: I'm here at the Cheddarville City Council with Councilmouse Wilma and --

MAUD: Councilmouse Maud.

MELISSA: I understand you took a vote that's made history tonight.

WILMA: Well, we certainly hope so. It's time for mice to take charge of their destinies and quit being pushed around by cats.

MELISSA: And how do you propose to do that?

WILMA: Well, we've got this bell. Show her, Maud. *(MAUD takes it out and rings it.)* We're going to tie it around the cat's neck.

MAUD: So we can hear him coming when he tries to sneak up.

MELISSA: That's brilliant. But who's going to put the bell on him?

WILMA: Uh - Maud!

MAUD: *(Shocked.)* Me? I thought you said you were going to do it!

WILMA: I never said that. After all, I thought of the idea!

MAUD: Then you should carry it out! *(THEY continue ad libbing.)*

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MELISSA: (*Confused.*) Melissa Wright, signing off.

(*CURTAIN closes.*)

JANE: Meanwhile, in England, relatives of Alice Little report that the young woman has still not returned, having last been seen scampering down a large hole after a white rabbit in a waistcoat. Our London correspondent, Tiffany Shrimpton, has this live interview with one of the witnesses.

(*CURTAIN opens to reveal TIFFANY interviewing OLLIE RIBBONS, a Cockney laborer who is quite agog at being on television.*)

TIFFANY: Tiffany Shrimpton here with Mr. Ollie Ribbons, a man who claims to have seen it all. (*HE nods enthusiastically.*) Tell us, Mr. Ribbons, who exactly did you see?

OLLIE: (*With accent.*) Big bloke, 'e was. Big as a 'ouse with blazin' green eyes and fangs as long as your arm!

TIFFANY: And he was wearing a waistcoat?

GLUE: Dapper chap 'e was ... and carryin' a pocket watch, too! Mutterin' to 'imself all the while 'ow's 'e was gonna be late.

TIFFANY: Late for what?

OLLIE: An important date, 'e says. Now it's not for the like o' me to be questionin' the likes o' 'im, but all the same, miss, I thought it a mite peculiar.

TIFFANY: So he forced her to go with him then?

OLLIE: (*Peering toward audience.*) Are we on the telly yet? (*Waves.*) 'ello, Mum!

TIFFANY: (*Trying to bring HIM back to the interview.*) Mr. Ribbons?

OLLIE: Sorry. I got a bit carried away.

TIFFANY: Do you think she was kidnapped, Mr. Ribbons?

OLLIE: More like rabbit-napped, miss. (*Scratches head.*) Funny thing, though.

TIFFANY: What?

End of Freeview

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