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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS\$

A Humorous Take on the Holiday Spirits

by

J.C. Svec

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

by J.C. Svec

## CHARACTERS:

*Five women. They're young, attractive, marketing geniuses and they comprise the Council for the Achievement of Successful Holidays (C.A.S.H.). They meet once a year to exchange strategies, share ideas, celebrate good fortunes and support each other in executing the age old holiday traditions of materialism, commercialism, capitalism and greed. For decades, these five women have co-existed in Madison Avenue bliss, working in harmony to manipulate and deceive the public... until now.*

**HOLLY/CHRISTMAS.** *An attractive personification of the holiday. Serious, professional and "in charge". Despite her extreme wealth and popularity, she is still "one of the girls".*

**BUNNY/EASTER.** *Although a powerful commercial force, the attractive "Bunny" comes across as a bit flighty and less serious.*

**SAM/THE FOURTH OF JULY.** *A strong entity who realizes she's no where near the powerhouse stature of the other holidays because of a limited, national position.*

**JACQUELINE/HALLOWEEN.** *After a complete and stunning physical and emotional makeover, this once back-seat relegated holiday has transformed into a slick force to be reckoned with.*

**TOMMI/THANKSGIVING.** *The quintessential American holiday that presents herself as shabby and overshadowed; no longer of any relevance.*

## SETTING:

*A Saturday night in the middle of November; the annual meeting of the Council for the Achievement of Successful Holidays (C.A.S.H.). This year, unlike some of the more extravagant and upscale venues of the past years, the meeting is being held at The General Pulaski Room in the Benjamin Franklin Inn just off a busy New Jersey highway.*

## PRODUCTION NOTES:

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS can be performed as easily in a black box setting with minimal set pieces as with a fully designed stage setting. The women need not be young but should be approximately the same age with the exception of Tommi, who may be older than the others or merely portrayed as tired and worn-out; a holiday that has seen better days.*

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS\$

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*SCENE: A Saturday night in the middle of November; The General Pulaski Room in the Benjamin Franklin Inn just off a busy New Jersey highway. A paper tablecloth and cheap Thanksgiving decorations cover a rectangular folding table that contains an embarrassingly cheap, unappetizing and unappealing buffet of finger sandwiches, potato chips, cookies, cans of soda and punch. Taped to the front of the table is a sign that reads "Welcome Holidays". Several folding chairs sit randomly around the room in front of the table.*

*AT RISE: HOLLY, slim, attractive, young and exquisitely dressed in a red outfit pre-occupies herself with a cell phone conversation. Her make-up, accessories and clothes denote status and wealth. HOLLY pays no attention to the environment as she saunters into the room.*

HOLLY

(Adamant) No, absolutely not. (Pause) Because, I say so. (Pause) Oh, do not give me that crap.

*(BUNNY, dressed in a matching, form-fitting pastel skirt and jacket, is an equally attractive woman of approximately the same age and economic standing who follows HOLLY into the room. Also, on a phone, she, too, is oblivious to her surroundings.)*

BUNNY

No, no, no, no, no. (Pause) Hel-lo-oh. NO!

HOLLY

Yes, I realize the names don't reflect today's cultural spectrum.

BUNNY

You're right. I don't like the idea.

HOLLY

Because I don't like the idea.

*(HOLLY and BUNNY finally acknowledge each other as they listen halfheartedly to the individuals on the line.)*

BUNNY AND HOLLY

You've got to be kidding.

BUNNY AND HOLLY, *Continues*

I'll call you back.

*(HOLLY and BUNNY each take a cleansing breath, turn to each other with open arms and hug.)*

HOLLY  
Has it been a year already?

BUNNY  
Almost to the day.

HOLLY  
Let me look at you.

*(BUNNY steps back and shows off her figure and outfit.)*

HOLLY, *Continues*  
Very nice. Very, very nice.

BUNNY  
Now, you.

*(HOLLY, with the flair and panache of a runway model, shows off her attributes.)*

HOLLY  
Do you even remember buying off the rack?

BUNNY  
God forbid... that would mean...

BUNNY AND HOLLY  
Re-tail!

*(HOLLY and BUNNY have a good laugh at the thought. BUNNY holds up her cell phone.)*

BUNNY  
Care to share your pain?

HOLLY  
My so-called support staff.

BUNNY  
*(Resolute)* Interns?

HOLLY  
The lesser of the evils. It's always hit or miss with them.

BUNNY  
They're hungry, ambitious and aim to please.

HOLLY  
And, they come cheap.

BUNNY

Experience is everything. On the job training is invaluable. You know it and I know it, so why don't they know it?

HOLLY

You have to be so careful. You pay them nothing and sometimes... you get nothing.

BUNNY

And sometimes you pay your people and get—

HOLLY

Nothing. You're absolutely right.

BUNNY

It gets worse every year.

HOLLY

Thank goodness, I can do this job in my sleep. Do you believe they suggested changing Rudolph's name?

BUNNY

You're kidding?

HOLLY

No. They're dead serious.

BUNNY

To what?

HOLLY

Run Rudy R.N.R.

BUNNY

R.N.R?

HOLLY

Red. Nosed. Reindeer.

BUNNY

Ahh. (*Sings*) Run Rudy R.N.R. ... the most famous reindeer of all.

HOLLY

Might as well change it to Jerry.

BUNNY

Might as well.

HOLLY

That song has been a cash cow for me over the years and they want me to consider changing the character's name.

BUNNY

I totally understand. Can you imagine "Here comes Taji Cotton tail?"

HOLLY

It's a strange world in which we live.

*(HOLLY points to BUNNY'S phone.)*

HOLLY, *Continues*

What's your problem?

BUNNY

Cream filled chocolate crucifixes.

HOLLY

Ouch.

BUNNY

I've had to walk a fine line all these years between...

HOLLY

The holy—

BUNNY

And not holy.

HOLLY

Remember that whole 'put the C-H-R-I-S-T back in Christmas movement?'

BUNNY

You're counter moves were pure genius.

HOLLY

Most of the credit has to go to the good people at Hallmark and Coca-Cola.

BUNNY

Don't be modest, behind every great idea...

*(HOLLY brushes off the compliment and ponders the new idea.)*

HOLLY

Cream filled crucifixes. It hasn't been done.

BUNNY

Holly, I can't have toddlers biting Jesus' head off the cross on Easter morning.

HOLLY

Good point.

*(HOLLY fights back a question.)*

BUNNY

What?

HOLLY

Nothing.

BUNNY

No, go ahead.

HOLLY

I was just wondering...

BUNNY

Yes...

HOLLY

Never mind... nothing.

BUNNY

Don't do that. I trust your judgment, Holly. If I'm making a mistake here...

HOLLY

I was just wondering... what flavor cream?

BUNNY

If I was to tell you butterscotch...

HOLLY

Butterscotch cream.

BUNNY

They tell me it's making a comeback.

HOLLY

I gave up on butterscotch years ago.

BUNNY

I know you did.

HOLLY  
Your idea?

BUNNY  
The reintroducing butterscotch part, yes.

HOLLY  
A daring attempt, I'll say that.

BUNNY  
Thank you.

*(HOLLY awkwardly makes a cross with her fingers.)*

HOLLY  
The...um... white, milk, or dark chocolate?

*(Thrown by the question, BUNNY quickly presses the buttons on her cell phone.)*

BUNNY  
*(Anxious)* Answer.

*(Immediately composes herself before speaking into the phone.)*

BUNNY, *Continues*  
What kind of chocolate? *(To HOLLY)* Milk.

HOLLY  
Butterscotch?

BUNNY  
Butterscotch.

HOLLY  
Cream?

BUNNY  
Butterscotch cream.

*(HOLLY paces in thought.)*

HOLLY  
Butterscotch cream and milk chocolate. Nope, I don't see it.

BUNNY  
Phew!

*(HOLLY points to BUNNY'S phone and turns her attention to her surroundings.)*

BUNNY, *Continues*

*(Recovers; into phone)* Milk chocolate, what are you thinking? *(Ends conversation)* That settles that.

HOLLY

*(Looks around)* Oh my God.

*(BUNNY hangs up and comprehends HOLLY'S reaction.)*

BUNNY

*(Peruses the room)* Oh. Is this a joke?

HOLLY

I don't think so.

BUNNY

Serves me right for not paying more attention to where I'm going.

*(HOLLY and BUNNY walk the perimeter of the room eventually meeting behind the buffet table. BUNNY pokes at the sandwiches with the antenna of her cell phone. HOLLY picks up a chip.)*

HOLLY

I wouldn't endorse this stuff, let alone—

BUNNY

Don't even suggest it.

FEMALE VOICE *(O.S.)*

Holly? Bunny?

HOLLY

In here.

*(SAMANTHA, SAM, another smartly attired woman with flowing, long hair, cautiously enters the room. Her dark blue outfit is accessorized with a red scarf and white pocketbook. She moves directly to HOLLY and BUNNY. They all exchange hugs and kisses.)*

SAM

The Benjamin Franklin Inn?

BUNNY

Welcome to the Garden State.

SAM

We're meeting at the Benjamin Franklin Inn?

*(Not waiting for an answer, SAM exits and immediately returns.)*

SAM, *Continues*

The General Pulaski Room?

HOLLY

She probably made the arrangements by phone and doesn't realize—

SAM

Don't defend her, Holly.

HOLLY

I'm not defending her. I'm just saying that she may not know—

SAM

The Benjamin Franklin Inn, Holly? We're a stone's throw from The Plaza. The Pierre. The Four Seasons would have been cliché but at least it would have had some class. Did you meet the old guy at the front desk? I think it was ol' Ben Franklin himself.

*(SAM examines her right hand.)*

SAM, *Continues*

Does anyone have any hand sanitizer?

*(BUNNY pulls a bottle from her purse.)*

BUNNY

Here.

*(SAM stretches to look at the food.)*

SAM

Food, I'm starving.

BUNNY

*(To HOLLY)* This should be interesting.

*(SAM'S enthusiasm quickly disappears.)*

SAM

What is this?

BUNNY

That's the buffet.

SAM

Where's the shrimp? Where's the white fish? Where's the food?

BUNNY

You're looking at it.

HOLLY

You both know how hard it's been for Tommi.

*(SAM uses a plastic fork to examine the sandwiches. She pokes and shuffles through the pile of white bread quarters.)*

SAM

This is pathetic.

*(SAM holds up a sandwich.)*

SAM, *Continues*

There's only meat in the top layer.

*(SAM carefully sniffs the sandwich.)*

SAM, *Continues*

I think it's Spam.

*(SAM drops the food back onto the platter and looks around the room.)*

SAM, *Continues*

Is Tommi even here?

HOLLY

No.

BUNNY

Didn't you offer to host again this year?

HOLLY

I offered.

BUNNY

She's got her pride I guess.

SAM

That's fine but... this is embarrassing.

HOLLY

She's taken quite a few hits in recent years.

SAM

We've all had our ups and downs.

*(The women each refer to the others with their examples.)*

BUNNY

*(To SAM) Wars.*

SAM

*(To BUNNY) The Egg Beater lawsuits of '77, 81 and '99.*

BUNNY

*(To SAM) The National Miss Firecracker Competitions.*

*(BUNNY and SAM gang up on HOLLY.)*

SAM

*(To HOLLY) The Grinch.*

BUNNY

*(To HOLLY) Aluminum trees.*

SAM

*(To HOLLY) Atheism, warm winters, depressions, inflation, that whole pagan scandal, the Yule counter-culture thing... and don't forget the Mall Santa Wars of the early eighties. Through everything, we've prevailed.*

HOLLY

Take it easy girls. Just remember, we have more experience. We're bigger. She's only national.

BUNNY

Sam's only national, too. Look at what she accomplishes every year.

HOLLY

The whole point of the Council for the Achievement of Successful Holidays is to help support the smaller holidays.

SAM

Holly, Tommi's on that Council that helps support the smaller holidays.

BUNNY

Sam's right. Sure, if it wasn't for Sam's initiative and drive she might just be another small market holiday, like Grandparent's Day and Flag Day.

SAM

Or worse.

HOLLY

Like what?

SAM

Remember what happened to the twins that were in charge of Washington's and Lincoln's Birthdays?

BUNNY

They got lazy. Thought they didn't need to work anymore.

SAM

Thought the holiday was a given and what happened....

BUNNY

Poof... outside corporate takeover in the morning and President's Day in the afternoon. We'll never get that income back.

SAM

And how about Labor Day?

BUNNY

Great idea, but tell that to 'retail America'. It's a faux holiday. Just another day off to shop. Not that there's anything wrong with shopping.

SAM

Super Bowl Sunday is more of a holiday.

BUNNY

Now there's a day I'd like to see us bring into the fold.

SAM

I'm the first one to count my blessings and thank the fates for Independence Day being in the middle of summer.

HOLLY

That was your good luck. Tommi's stuck between two huge holiday seasons.

SAM

Yes, that is my good luck. That doesn't mean I'm not constantly looking over my shoulder at Father's Day or worrying about August 1st.

HOLLY

What's August 1st?

SAM

Nothing... yet. But, what if?

HOLLY

What if what... someone initiates a Celebrate Summer Day?

*(The three women all imagine the possibilities before SAM comes to her senses.)*

SAM

See!

HOLLY

But don't you think we're a little to blame for what's happened to Tommi? We expand our seasons every year.

SAM

Because we can. There's always going to be the major holidays and then everyone else. Representatives of every American celebrated holiday, big or small, no matter what their history or affiliation agreed to a council and voted on who would sit on that council.

HOLLY

They did so out of self-preservation.

BUNNY

They did so because they knew it was a win-win situation.

SAM

And still is for almost everyone.

BUNNY

And has been for a long time.

HOLLY

Because we introduced revenue sharing. They all get a percentage of what the Council makes. *(Pause)* What do you mean almost everyone?

SAM

Holly, that percentage is a set, yearly percentage. Which means if one of us—

BUNNY

Or more than one—

SAM

Doesn't pull her share, it comes out of the others' pockets.

BUNNY

Maybe it is unfair with the Halloween and Christmas seasons escalating.

SAM

Maybe Tommi's window of opportunity has shrunk and the situation is irreversible.

BUNNY

And maybe it was a mistake to assume she could handle the council position to begin with.

HOLLY

What are you two getting at?

BUNNY

Sam and I have talked it over, Holly.

SAM

We're tired of pulling her weight.

BUNNY

We need to make a change and you know it.

*(HOLLY acknowledges the point.)*

BUNNY, *Continues*

Holly, she blew it. She was dealt a pat hand and she folded. She's never fulfilled her promise and as a result, well, you've seen the results.

HOLLY

But she's a selected, permanent member of the Council.

BUNNY

Which meant more information, more opportunities and more advantages.

SAM

We've already talked to the other holidays. A unanimous vote from the rest of the Council and she's out.

HOLLY

And?

SAM

They'll support the recommendation and our vote.

HOLLY

Of course, they will. Do you have someone lined up to replace her?

BUNNY

Yes.

HOLLY

Do they understand the financial responsibilities? Are they willing to put themselves on the line?

BUNNY

Yes.

HOLLY  
Valentine's Day?

SAM  
Um-hmm.

BUNNY  
Only logical.

HOLLY  
It's just...

BUNNY  
Just what?

HOLLY  
I feel bad, okay.

SAM  
Because our holidays are thriving?

BUNNY  
That's not our fault, Holly.

HOLLY  
Maybe not yours, or even yours Sam, but—

SAM  
Certainly not yours. This is business. Each of us has worked very hard to get to where we are. I'm not about to feel guilty for my success with Independence Day. Nor should you with Christmas or Bunny with Easter. I've sold a lot of red, white and blue to insure my position on this council.

HOLLY  
To be perfectly honest, I haven't seen Jackie work very hard of late.

SAM  
Holly, Jackie wrote the book on the successful holiday season. She's a legend.

BUNNY  
If she chooses, she can afford to rest on her laurels and accomplishments.

SAM  
Jackie's reputation alone is an inspiration to us all.

BUNNY  
She's been in business longer than any of us and, just by what she's done in the past, Halloween gets bigger every year.

SAM

It's true, when people were spiking candy and planting razor blades in apples, she stuck to traditions and fought back with everything she could.

BUNNY

Who else could succeed at having the entire world celebrating all that's dark in the universe? She's been around for... for forever, and she's still a model of success.

SAM

The latex mask alone puts her at the top of my worship list.

HOLLY

It was revolutionary. *(Pause)* How about the mall specialty stores?

SAM

Meeting the needs of the consumer head-on.

BUNNY

And then continuing with everything from movies to cereals.

HOLLY

Re-introducing arts and crafts merchandising for the tried and true do-it-yourselfers was a stroke of genius.

BUNNY

Imagine, having the chutzpah to go back to a holiday's roots to bring it up-to-date.

HOLLY

There's no question we all owe her. I also know she won't easily turn her back on any one of us... no matter what the circumstances.

BUNNY

Then we'll have to convince her.

HOLLY

She's loyal. I've known her a lot longer than you two have. Almost from the very beginning, actually.

SAM

But, I also believe she's a smart business person.

BUNNY

*(To HOLLY)* Don't get soft on us, kid.

HOLLY

*(Agreeing)* Tommi stays a minor holiday.

BUNNY

Of course.

HOLLY

*(Clarifies)* Jackie has to vote on it. Unanimous or nothing.

BUNNY

We understand.

SAM

Hey, where is Jackie by the way?

HOLLY

Oops, I didn't get a chance to tell you before. *(Pause)* She may not be coming.

SAM

Why not?

HOLLY

There was a conflict. She mentioned someone representing her this year.

*(SAM playfully starts for the exit.)*

SAM

Anyone interested in sharing a car into the city?

BUNNY

I am.

HOLLY

Very funny.

SAM

These meetings are bogus anyway. They have been for years.

BUNNY

We only come because the charter demands it. And, now, without Jackie, we can't—

JACQUELINE'S VOICE *(O.S.)*

Can't what.

*(JACQUELINE, JACKIE, a very sexy, younger appearing woman than the others, sweeps into the room. Her hair is exotic and her clothes and make-up are indicative of a Gothic, Halloween character. Her attitude is vibrant and upbeat as the girls ad lib reactions to a surprisingly "changed" woman.)*

BUNNY

Unbelievable.

SAM

You look incredible.

JACQUELINE

I feel incredible. Good for another generation or two, wouldn't you say?

SAM

At least two.

*(SAM refers to JACQUELINE'S outfit)*

BUNNY

So... that's the new representation?

JACQUELINE

In the flesh.

HOLLY

Jackie, what have you done with yourself?

JACQUELINE

Ah, ah, ah... it's Jacqueline not Jackie.

HOLLY

A new name for, what is obviously, a new person.

*(JACQUELINE struts her new look around the stage eventually finishing at the buffet table.)*

JACQUELINE

You like?

*(The women exchange looks and respond in unison.)*

ALL

We like. We like.

JACQUELINE

I needed a change. Desperately needed a change. Nothing too drastic. A nip here, a tuck there.

*(JACQUELINE looks at the food selection.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

What is this?

*(JACQUELINE quickly disregards the buffet and moves to the center of the room.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

And the clothes? Quick... three comments each, I won't accept anything less.

SAM

Astounding. Marvelous. Phenomenal.

JACQUELINE

Gooooo. Bunny?

BUNNY

Incredible. Bewildering. Fabulous.

JACQUELINE

Nicely done. Holly... don't let me down.

HOLLY

Awe-inspiring. Prodigious.

*(The women anxiously await a third response.)*

HOLLY, *Continues*

Deceptive.

BUNNY

Holly?

SAM

*(To JACQUELINE)* She's kidding. *(to HOLLY)* You are kidding, aren't you?

HOLLY

*(Directly to JACQUELINE)* No, I'm not.

*(Silence.)*

JACQUELINE

That's my girl. *(To BUNNY and SAM)* That's my girl. *(To HOLLY)* Not buying it, huh?

HOLLY

You taught me better.

*(JACQUELINE holds her three cohorts in suspense.)*

SAM

So, what's going on?

JACQUELINE

We should wait until we're all here.

SAM

She's on to something big.

BUNNY

Again.

*(JACQUELINE finishes looking around.)*

JACQUELINE

Where's Tommi? Does she know what a dump this place is?

SAM

I guess she decided not to show.

HOLLY

Yet.

*(JACQUELINE further examines the room.)*

JACQUELINE

*(Serious)* She's slipping. *(To HOLLY)* We should have let you host, taken some of the pressure off. It's going to be another tough year.

SAM

Actually, we were just discussing—

BUNNY

*(Whispers to SAM)* Not now.

JACQUELINE

I guess this is the best she can do right now. *(To HOLLY)* Is this the best she can do?

HOLLY

Apparently so.

*(BUNNY and SAM press for disclosure.)*

BUNNY

Look, this is Tommi's busy season. We can fill her in when she gets here.

SAM

That's right.

JACQUELINE

Holly, what's your opinion?

HOLLY

It's your announcement.

JACQUELINE

*(To SAM and BUNNY)* Positive you two don't want to wait for Tommi?

BUNNY AND HOLLY

Positive.

*(JACQUELINE acknowledges their disregard for TOMMI.)*

JACQUELINE

Did I interrupt something when I came in?

*(Silence.)*

HOLLY

*(Covers)* You tell us your news first, then we'll tell you ours.

JACQUELINE

*(Excited)* Fair enough. Get comfortable ladies.

*(JACQUELINE and the others get comfortable in their environment.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

*(Sings)* Candy coated popcorn, peanuts and a prize...

*(JACQUELINE looks for one of the girls to finish the jingle.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

That's what you get—

BUNNY

Cracker Jacks.

JACQUELINE

Cracker Jack, not Jacks. No "s".

BUNNY

Sorry.

JACQUELINE

Everybody makes that mistake. *(Emphatic)* I want to put the peanuts back in Cracker Jack.

*(HOLLY, BUNNY and SAM'S reactions range from stunned to appeasing.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

And the prize too.

SAM

Okay then.

BUNNY

Don't Cracker Jacks... Jack still have peanuts.

HOLLY

I don't think Jacqueline is actually talking about Cracker Jack. *(To JACQUELINE)* Are you?

JACQUELINE

Can't put one past you.

SAM

I'm lost.

BUNNY

*(To JACQUELINE)* Maybe you should start at the beginning for those of us less enlightened.

JACQUELINE

Cracker Jack used to be so much fun. Licking the sticky caramel off your fingers and wondering how many peanuts there'd be. Anticipating when you'd get to the prize, knowing it was always at the bottom of the box.

HOLLY

I'd say your fondness for the treat has been shared by everyone.

JACQUELINE

Have you had them recently?

HOLLY

No.

JACQUELINE

Sam?

*(SAM shakes her head in response.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

Bunny?

BUNNY

Shared by almost everyone.

JACQUELINE

They're not the same. All the prizes are these silly paper tricks and brain teasers. The boxes are only half full and there's only an average of five peanuts in each box.

SAM

That's it?

JACQUELINE

Five.

HOLLY

I assume your reaction to these injustices was not to send a letter to the CEO.

*(JACQUELINE cracks a sly smile.)*

BUNNY

That look hasn't changed.

SAM

You bought the company?

*(Silence.)*

SAM, *Continues*

Well, did you?

*(JACQUELINE'S coy avoidance of the question only raises the interest of the other women.)*

BUNNY

*(Refers to JACQUELINE)* Buying the company is too easy. *(To JACQUELINE)* You've developed a competitive business strategy?

*(JACQUELINE'S smile and posture are her answer.)*

SAM

*(Excited)* That settles it, I'm buying an SUV. Maybe two. Expensive ones.

*(BUNNY clasps her hands and addresses the heavens.)*

BUNNY

Thank you, thank you and thank you.

JACQUELINE

Don't count your shares yet.

HOLLY

It's true?

JACQUELINE

Holly, this idea will open up endless possibilities for all of us.

*(JACQUELINE calls the girls around her.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

Ready... Trick and Treats.

BUNNY

Yeah, trick or treat.

JACQUELINE

You weren't listening. Trick and Treats. A six ounce bag. Inside is an assortment of the most popular candies. And a toy. Mini-monsters, rub on tattoos... maybe magic tricks. No bag the same. A different trick and treat with every purchase.

*(JACQUELINE strikes a selling pose.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

And who would make a better spokesperson for Jacqueline's Halloween Trick and Treats than...

BUNNY AND SAM

Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE

M&M Mars has already signed on the dotted line and I have a verbal agreement with Hershey. The toy companies are submitting proposals as we speak. This will be huge for us, ladies.

HOLLY

Do you realize what you're doing?

SAM

Sure she does. Once again she's laying the groundwork for all of us to make a lot of money.

BUNNY

And this is a problem, why?

HOLLY

It's not just that, Sam. It's a lot more than that. There are huge ramifications to what Jacqueline's proposing. *(To JACQUELINE)* Tell them.

*(JACQUELINE walks away from the group.)*

BUNNY

What's going on here?

SAM

Oh shit!

BUNNY

*(Still lost)* What?

SAM

This is it. This-is-it! You're doing it. Right here and now, holiday history is about to be made.

BUNNY

What?

HOLLY

She's taking Halloween to a year-round status.

*(BUNNY lets out a huge gasp.)*

JACQUELINE

It's not as if you all haven't already done the same... to some degree.

HOLLY

Isolated instances.

JACQUELINE

Yes, isolated instances. Christmas shops in July... open for business, church every day... for something. Flags flying outside every house. Now is the time ladies. The market is right and the consumers are ripe. Food products are the way to go. We can all do it.

BUNNY

In the public eye, three hundred and sixty five days a year. Wow.

JACQUELINE

Tricks and Treats will be only the first step. I blaze the trail and work out the kinks. Now, there'll be a lot of mistakes, initially. Costly mistakes.

SAM

Understandable.

JACQUELINE

It'll take time.

BUNNY

Obviously.

SAM

It's a huge undertaking.

JACQUELINE

I'm going to need your help. Can I count on your support?

SAM

Sure.

BUNNY

I'm in.

JACQUELINE

Holly?

HOLLY

Of course.

JACQUELINE

That leaves Tommi.

*(TOMMI explodes into the room and attempts to catch her breath. She is dressed in orange and brown with a stuffed, fleece turkey tied to the top of her head. Her outfit is soiled, stained and torn in several locations. HOLLY, SAM and BUNNY stare in amazement while JACQUELINE turns away, obviously shocked by TOMMI'S arrival. Ignoring the women, she drags herself through the room to the buffet table, and proceeds to devour a number of finger sandwiches. She pours herself a cup of very flat soda and sits in the chair closest to the table. TOMMI downs the soda and flings the cup onto the table. She stares past the girls as she addresses them.)*

TOMMI

*(Emotionless)* Sorry, I'm late. Welcome to the annual gathering of the Council for the Achievement of Successful Holidays. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And then he said, 'Doc Holiday?' and shot him. Ha, ha, ha. Role call, reading of the minutes, old business, any new business... blah, blah, blah. If there are no questions, meeting adjourned, see you all next year...

*(TOMMI looks at the buffet and fights back her tears.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

Please enjoy dinner.

*TOMMI returns to the table, grabs a handful of sandwiches and bolts out of the room. BUNNY, SAM and HOLLY quickly realize that she might not return and rush to retrieve her as JACQUELINE slides a chair to the furthest area of the room and sits. Lead by SAM and BUNNY, HOLLY escorts TOMMI back into the room and to another chair.*

HOLLY

*(To TOMMI)* What happened to you?

BUNNY

And where have you been?

*(Silence.)*

BUNNY, *continues*

Tommi, you owe us an explanation.

SAM

Especially for the buffet.

*(Silence. TOMMI remains in her comatose state.)*

TOMMI

*(Sings)* A turkey sat on a backyard fence and he sang this sad, sad song. Thanksgiving Day is coming, gobble, gobble, gobble and... and... and... Thanksgiving Day is coming, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble and... *(Pause)* Thanksgiving Day is coming, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble and... and...

*(TOMMI finally comes to her senses.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

I can't remember the words.

HOLLY

That's all right sweetheart.

TOMMI

I need a drink.

SAM

Don't we all.

HOLLY

*(Instructs)* Sam.

*(HOLLY motions to the soda on the table.)*

HOLLY, *Continues*

Get her something.

TOMMI

From her.

*(TOMMI points to BUNNY instigating chuckles from all.)*

BUNNY

Sam's right at the table.

TOMMI

You know what I want.

BUNNY

Oh fine.

*(BUNNY pulls a flask from her pocketbook and hands it to TOMMI who takes several swigs, the last one good to the last drop.)*

TOMMI

I can't do this any more. Not like this.

SAM

Are you saying you want out?

TOMMI

No!

*(TOMMI looks at her unsympathetic associates.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

Do you want me out?

*(BUNNY, SAM and HOLLY ad-lib false, reassuring responses.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

Oh shut up. Do you know why I'm late tonight? Of course you don't. Do you care? Of course you don't. Well you're going to hear it anyway. I was making a personal appearance at the American Legion Hall in Big Lake, Minnesota. They're world renown for the size of their turkeys up there. The friends of Big Russell Utegarth were throwing him a retirement party Wednesday night. Seems that Big Russell had the largest turkey farm in the state and is a leading connoisseur on the preparation of America's bird. Know what his company motto is? 'We breed 'em, we kill 'em, we cook 'em. To order.' Big Russell came up with it himself. Pretty clever, huh? Ask anybody within a hundred miles of Big Lake about Big Russell and that's how they'll describe him. He breeds 'em, he kills 'em and he cooks 'em. After the third keg got tapped, I guess I started looking like one last challenge to Big Russell. Anyway, the party got a little out of hand from that point on.

HOLLY

Did they hurt you?

TOMMI

No, but if I hadn't worked my way out of the tablecloth sack they bagged me with, it probably would have gotten a lot uglier.

BUNNY

Tablecloth sack?

TOMMI

While Big Russell was chasing me, his buddies managed to skewer together a sack made of tablecloths. Quite creative, wouldn't you say?

HOLLY  
You said Wednesday night?

TOMMI  
Um-hmm.

BUNNY  
Tommi, it's Saturday. Where have you been for three days?

TOMMI  
On a Greyhound, when you leave the driving to them, they pretty much control your destiny along with the road and arbitrary departure and arrival times. God only knows what gate you board at and he's not about to share it with you.

SAM  
You took a bus from Minnesota?

TOMMI  
They're called coaches. Anyway, I'm told turkeys can't fly.

*(TOMMI halfheartedly laughs at her own joke.)*

HOLLY  
Are these the clothes you traveled in?

TOMMI  
No. Only the trip home.

BUNNY  
*(To SAM)* Do we dare ask?

TOMMI  
*(To BUNNY)* Oh, go ahead, ask.

BUNNY  
What happened to your clothes?

TOMMI  
*(Relaxed)* Well, in my haste to avoid a stuffing and roasting—

HOLLY  
What?

TOMMI  
Stuffing and roasting. That's what people do to turkeys, you know.

*(TOMMI finally locks her eyes on JACQUELINE.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

Who's that?

HOLLY

Jacqueline. Jackie.

TOMMI

No, it's not.

JACQUELINE

*(Stands)* Yes, it is.

*(TOMMI walks over for a careful examination. She scrutinizes every inch of JACQUELINE ending her inspection with a long, deep gaze into JACQUELINE'S eyes. TOMMI finally accepts the fact and backs off with a frightened look and distressed attitude. She addresses the girls as if they are alone.)*

TOMMI

That's not what Jackie looks like.

BUNNY

It is now.

TOMMI

*(Confused, to JACQUELINE)* What are you up to?

BUNNY

*(Defensive)* What makes you think she's up to anything?

SAM

Yeah?

TOMMI

Because Minnesota was her suggestion.

*(JACQUELINE laughs off the suggestion.)*

JACQUELINE

And I dreamt up North and South Dakota.

SAM

Ohio was my idea.

JACQUELINE

*(Maneuvers)* You're delirious dear. You need to get some rest.

HOLLY

*(To TOMMI)* What do you say we get you cleaned up?

BUNNY

That's a great idea. I'll run out and get you some clothes.

HOLLY

And then we'll all go out and get a nice meal. My treat.

TOMMI

There's plenty here.

BUNNY

Holly means edible food, darlin'.

TOMMI

I ate it.

*(TOMMI examines the contents of the buffet.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

It's not that bad.

*(TOMMI holds up one of the finger sandwiches.)*

SAM

It depends, is that one with or without the meat.

TOMMI

Don't they all have meat?

SAM

See for yourself.

*(TOMMI checks the sandwich, then several more on the tray.)*

TOMMI

Ah, geez. Our meeting? What about our meeting?

SAM

Is there really a need for one?

TOMMI

Well...?

*(TOMMI'S search for support is futile.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

Hey, do you hear that?

BUNNY

Hear what?

TOMMI

*(Cries)* The final nail being driven into my coffin.

*(HOLLY and BUNNY join forces to console TOMMI.)*

SAM

*(To JACQUELINE)* We're in for a long night aren't we?

*(JACQUELINE simply nods in agreement. TOMMI'S crying climaxes with a deep sigh.)*

TOMMI

I feel like the ninety year-old aunt somebody has to pick up from the nursing home for family get-togethers.

HOLLY

That's not true.

BUNNY

Of course not.

*(SAM remains silent until looks from HOLLY and BUNNY force a comment.)*

SAM

Pish-posh.

TOMMI

Be honest, I'm a huge inconvenience.

*(Silence.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

I knew it.

HOLLY

Tommi, you're extremely important.

TOMMI

As if it wouldn't be better for Halloween and Christmas to just run back to back? I dare you and Jackie, sorry, Jacqueline to stand there and tell me right to my face that it wouldn't be easier and more profitable.

SAM

Yeah, tell her.

*(HOLLY looks to JACQUELINE for guidance that never comes, and Bunny who turns away.)*

HOLLY

Well, it wouldn't. You're important to the American people. They need you. You're a transition from one holiday season to the next. You provide a respite.

TOMMI

You mean I'm 'down time?'

HOLLY

That's not the way I meant it.

TOMMI

Well, how did you mean it?

HOLLY

You're a welcome break to all the commercialism and materialism in the country, especially because of what you represent.

SAM

*(To BUNNY) Is materialism a word?*

*(BUNNY shrugs her shoulders.)*

TOMMI

No one really gives Thanksgiving any consideration these days. It's an afterthought. Not a season or even a holiday to most people. It's a sponsored parade, a few football games and a fifteen minute dinner that takes, on average, six hours and twenty-seven minutes to prepare. High schools have canceled their traditional morning football games by the scores and malls and department stores are open. Making gravy from drippings has become a lost art. Name one television station still airing "March of the Wooden Soldiers." I love Laurel and Hardy. The traditional, holiday food puts everyone to sleep, naturally, so after dinner conversation translates to discussing what movie to go to in order to get out of the house and stay awake. God forbid families sit around the dinner table and talk over dessert. Shelf space in the stores is relegated to an area behind the Halloween close-outs and sale items. My biggest seller is a pin-the-hat-on-the-turkey game, two dollars and ninety-five cents plus handling through the Oriental Trading Company, who, by the way has reduced my catalogue space to three pages in their Halloween Issue. I used to sell a lot of those little boy and girl pilgrim candles but when they burned down to the neck they'd give little kids nightmares.

*(TOMMI starts to unsuccessfully fight back her tears.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

The only real thanks given on Thanksgiving are by the retailers because their biggest day of the year is the day after Thanksgiving. You have no idea what it's like living with the 'day after' being bigger than the 'day of.'

*(HOLLY tries to calm TOMMI. After several moments SAM chooses to ignore the situation.)*

SAM

I know a great Brazilian Steakhouse... Gaucho's Todo Carné. It has a dozen different types of meat.

BUNNY

What's todo carné mean?

SAM

I don't know, a whole lot of beef, or something. It's all you can eat.

BUNNY

Really, all you can eat? That must get expensive?

SAM

It's a buffet, one set price. Where have you been? Buffets will be to the twenty-first century what fast food restaurants were to the twentieth.

BUNNY

I have to get out amongst the people more.

SAM

*(To JACQUELINE)* Sounds as if it's one of your ideas.

HOLLY

Will you two please stop it.

*(Silence.)*

JACQUELINE

*(Quick)* How do you know it isn't?

SAM

You're kidding?

*(JACQUELINE initially relates her story directly to TOMMI )*

JACQUELINE

I'm here in Jersey one night having dinner at my favorite Chinese restaurant. Over in Belleville. Great spare ribs at this place. Anyway, Mr. Wong, the owner, starts complaining about how he not only can't find good waiters, but the people he has working for him have no work ethic. He's got complaining customers waiting for tables in a half full restaurant. He

JACQUELINE, *Continued*

comes over to my booth, leans in to me and whispers a comment that he should make them get their own food. I said, 'Wong, that's exactly what you should do.' By the time I'm served my fortune cookie, I've got the All You Can Eat Buffet idea completely laid out and Wong is on the phone telling his relatives who have restaurants all over the tri-state area about the idea. The rest, as we say, is history.

SAM

And you just gave the idea away?

JACQUELINE

What can I say, the place had great ribs.

BUNNY

Copyrights and registration. That's where the money is. Perpetual 'cha-ching, cha-ching.'

SAM

But, my God, the cost for a legal staff.

BUNNY

*(Flippant)* It's worth it. The money I make on the Easter Bunny tie-in, alone, pays for it.

JACQUELINE

Tell them what your real money-maker is.

BUNNY

No, let it go.

JACQUELINE

Don't be embarrassed.

SAM

Yeah, don't be embarrassed.

BUNNY

Crosses.

SAM

As in the religious icon?

BUNNY

One in the same.

SAM

You should fill them with cream.

BUNNY

Don't you think that's a little sacrilegious?

SAM

Hey, most of what you all do is.

*(There is a moment of realization and agreement.)*

HOLLY

I thought I'd make a mint after I registered the reindeer names.

SAM

*(Surprised)* And you haven't?

HOLLY

Except for a female heavy metal band, nothing to speak of.

BUNNY

What about Cupid?

HOLLY

Joint ownership, shared profits.

BUNNY

Smart.

HOLLY

We thought so. Who needed a long, drawn out court battle?

SAM

I clean up on the stars and stripes motif.

BUNNY

You should. It's plastered all over everything right now.

TOMMI

I'm being sued.

*(The women turn their attentions to TOMMI.)*

SAM

Did you say something?

TOMMI

*(Loud)* I said, I'm being sued.

HOLLY

By whom.

TOMMI

You name it. The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Plymouth Rock Society, The Friends of John Smith, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts... and that's just for starters. *(Pause)* The Indian nation.

BUNNY

Which one?

TOMMI

All of them. It's a class action suit.

*(TOMMI responds with a deep sigh, aware that the women have nothing to say.)*

SAM

Tommi, business is business.

TOMMI

I know, I know.

*(Silence.)*

HOLLY

Hey, I thought we were going to get you cleaned up?

*(HOLLY directs TOMMI out of the room.)*

TOMMI

*(Submissive)* Okay.

HOLLY

*(To ALL)* I'll be right back.

*(SAM, BUNNY and JACQUELINE mill around the room. SAM plays with the chips.)*

BUNNY

Bet you didn't know you could bend a potato chip.

SAM

Let me see.

*(BUNNY demonstrates her new found skill.)*

SAM, *Continues*

Cool.

*(SAM and BUNNY find a quiet moment together.)*

SAM, *Continues*

Without Jackie we can't do what we want to do.

*(SAM and BUNNY glare at JACQUELINE.)*

BUNNY

We can't just say we want Tommi out.

SAM

I'll just, carefully, approach the subject.

BUNNY

Ball's in your court then.

JACQUELINE

Without Jackie you can't... what?

*(SAM and BUNNY snap to attention.)*

BUNNY

That's not what—

JACQUELINE

It's a small room.

SAM

All right, we can't—

BUNNY

Maybe we should wait for Holly to get back.

*(HOLLY enters.)*

HOLLY

Holly's back. Are you discussing Tommi?

BUNNY

We were about to.

JACQUELINE

Was she the topic of discussion before I arrived?

HOLLY

We were discussing—

SAM

Yes, she was.

JACQUELINE

And was her eviction part of that discussion?

HOLLY

We hadn't really gotten to...

SAM

Holly! Yes, it was.

JACQUELINE

You discussed her inadequacy, her lack of effort...

HOLLY

We can't do this to her now.

BUNNY

We agreed she's no longer a viable member of the Council.

SAM

*(To JACQUELINE)* Obviously, we don't need to plead our case to you. Your vote will make it unanimous.

HOLLY

Let's steam roll her why don't we?

BUNNY

Holly, we agreed earlier.

HOLLY

We agreed on how bad the situation had become. We agreed on Tommi's performance.

BUNNY

You mean lack of.

SAM

We told you everyone else was in agreement. You even requested that Tommi remain as a minor holiday.

JACQUELINE

*(To HOLLY)* Is what she's saying true?

HOLLY

I said you had to vote and that it was unanimous or nothing.

JACQUELINE

Well of course it has to be unanimous.

HOLLY

But then no bargaining, no lobbying for another vote. We drop it. For good.

SAM

You never said that.

HOLLY

Well, I'm saying it now. I also said you wouldn't turn your back on a member of the Council. That we'd have to convince you.

JACQUELINE

There's something to be said for loyalty.

SAM

You said yourself she was slipping. You heard what Tommi said tonight. She may not want out but she's also resigned to being 'out.' It's a cut and dry situation if you ask me.

HOLLY

Well no one asked you. Tell me you also didn't hear how hard it's been for her. Jesus, she's in litigation with the entire country.

SAM

Holly, wake up and smell the stuffing, it's over. We need to cut our loses, and cut them now.

HOLLY

Bunny?

BUNNY

I'm sorry Holly, but enough is enough.

SAM

I make a motion for a vote.

BUNNY

I second the motion.

SAM

*(To HOLLY) You know we don't have a choice. (Pause) Discussion?*

*(HOLLY turns to JACQUELINE who in turn shakes her head in disbelief at BUNNY and SAM.)*

JACQUELINE

Holly, give me a minute with these two and then send Tommi in.

HOLLY

Thank you. *(To SAM and BUNNY) To do this to her now is wrong.*

*(HOLLY exits.)*

JACQUELINE

*(TO SAM and BUNNY)* Sit down.

*(SAM and BUNNY stand motionless.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

*(Pleads)* Sit down, please.

*(SAM and BUNNY each reluctantly claim a chair.)*

SAM

Jacqueline, we mean no disrespect.

JACQUELINE

You've talked to the other holidays?

SAM

Yes.

JACQUELINE

And they're in favor of this vote?

SAM

They're in favor of a change.

BUNNY

They're trusting us to do whatever is in their best interest.

JACQUELINE

And someone is lined up to replace Tommi on the Council?

BUNNY

Valentine's Day has expressed interest.

JACQUELINE

That would work. Valerie has that whole Cupid, love thing working for her, but she'd have to expand... it might work, though.

SAM

She has some really good ideas.

BUNNY

She'll put in a major effort, we're sure of it.

*(JACQUELINE paces the room.)*

JACQUELINE

Trick and Treats was my first new idea in quite some time, wouldn't you agree?

*(Silence.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

Wouldn't you?

BUNNY

Yes, but—

JACQUELINE

But what?

BUNNY

All of your ideas are still producing revenue. All of them. Their inherent design enables, encourages growth and expansion.

SAM

One of your basic ideas begets dozens more over the course of years.

BUNNY

Decades.

SAM

Centuries.

JACQUELINE

So, I guess I have nothing to worry about?

SAM

Of course not.

JACQUELINE

*(Sarcastic)* Thank you very much.

SAM

Voting you out was never an idea, obviously, therefore, never an option.

JACQUELINE

Not because of me, but because my books are never in the red.

SAM

We are a business partnership, not a family.

JACQUELINE

Address my question, is it solely because of my gross income and profit margins?

SAM

*(Without hesitation)* Yes.

JACQUELINE

And you'd act the same way if it was Holly?

BUNNY

Like that would ever happen.

*(TOMMI, her face clean and hair brushed appears at the door. She sports a simple layer of make-up and an oversized tee-shirt from the hotel gift shop.)*

JACQUELINE

Ah, you're timing is perfect.

TOMMI

*(Humble)* Hi, guys.

*(Embarrassed by the situation, SAM and BUNNY barely acknowledge TOMMI.)*

TOMMI, *Continues*

I guess this is when I get told to clean out my locker.

JACQUELINE

This is when you get to tell your side of the story.

*(SAM and BUNNY throw each other a side glance.)*

TOMMI

*(Confirms)* My side of the story?

JACQUELINE

*(Nods)* Your side of the story. The entire story.

*(With a new control, TOMMI throws the turkey hat into BUNNY'S chest.)*

TOMMI

Jackie, time to relax.

*(JACQUELINE occupies the last chair.)*

SAM

What's happening here?

TOMMI

In due time, Sam. First things first. Baby steps, okay?

SAM

Sure.

TOMMI

*(To BUNNY)* You okay with that?

BUNNY

Whatever you say.

TOMMI

Good. By the way, the buffet... my idea. 'Take all you want but eat all you take.'

BUNNY

*(Refers to JACQUELINE)* Why let her take credit if it was—

TOMMI

If... if?

SAM

Since it's your idea, why let her take the credit?

TOMMI

I like the way she tells the story. That whole Cracker Jack tie-in is such a hoot. And now, Jacqueline's Tricks and Treats, also mine. The upcoming food line is ours though. Monster Mashed Potatoes, pumpkin flavored popcorn, Halloweiners and Beans. Together, we're loaded with ideas. Have been for generations. Glow in the dark costumes and accessories, Halloween flashlight necklaces, foam monster masks, wax bottles, strobe lights, smoking cauldrons, fog machines, sounds of terror CD's... a new image...

JACQUELINE

Together we've been keeping the holiday up-to-date, and popular for a long, long time.

BUNNY

Wax bottles? *(To SAM)* I love those things.

*(SAM brushes off BUNNY and her comment.)*

SAM

*(To TOMMI)* And in the process, destroy Thanksgiving?

TOMMI

We haven't destroyed Thanksgiving... just let it take a back seat for a while.

SAM

I'm assuming you have a perfectly logical explanation.

TOMMI

What was it you said before... business is business?

JACQUELINE

I realized years ago that Thanksgiving was never going to be the lucrative enterprise we all had hoped it would be. But we were stuck with it.

TOMMI

No matter how many ideas I developed, no matter how much effort I put in, no way, no how was the Thanksgiving season going to pay off. Not just for me but for all of us.

JACQUELINE

Why go through a depository of bandages when you can just stop the bleeding?

TOMMI

So, we agreed on a merger.

BUNNY

You can't do that. *(To SAM)* Can they do that?

*(SAM remains silent.)*

JACQUELINE

We did. With an infusion of Tommi's new Halloween ideas...

TOMMI

And Jacqueline's reputation... well, our success has been obvious. You see what we've accomplished.

SAM

But with every merger comes concessions.

TOMMI

Of course. We wheeled and dealed, but we were able to hammer out a mutually beneficial arrangement.

SAM

Which was?

TOMMI

A four point plan. One, undermine Thanksgiving to virtually the point of no return.

BUNNY

Well, there you succeeded.

JACQUELINE

Two, we market Halloween on a year round basis.

SAM

Three?

TOMMI

Allow Holly to build and expand Christmas to the point of self-sufficiency.

JACQUELINE

To the point where it can run on it's own with only limited management demands.

TOMMI

A part-time job, say, a less involved holiday representative could perform.

SAM

And Christmas is the trade-off for you assuming that post.

TOMMI

Not so much Christmas itself, but...

SAM

Holly.

TOMMI

Yes.

JACQUELINE

Four. Inject Thanksgiving with new strategies allowing Tommi and I to run it, Halloween *and* Christmas.

SAM

What happens to Holly?

*(JACQUELINE and TOMMI exchange looks.)*

JACQUELINE

One always should assume they can be replaced.

TOMMI

Or eliminated.

BUNNY

What happens to us?

TOMMI

You both retain your positions.

BUNNY

How do we know we're not next.

JACQUELINE

Revenue from the rest of the calendar year. We need your holidays and we need your expertise in handling them. Bunny, we're not looking for world domination... we're just greedy. And besides, would Jackie and I have agreed on a ten per cent slice for you both if we didn't value your leadership and position on the council.

SAM

What happens next?

TOMMI

A vote.

*(HOLLY enters and acknowledges SAM, BUNNY and JACQUELINE. She walks directly to TOMMI who has reverted back to the meek character she had been portraying.)*

HOLLY

Are you okay?

*(TOMMI "manages" a nod.)*

JACQUELINE

We feel that a mutually fair and equitable arrangement has been agreed on.

HOLLY

*(Unknowing)* I guess I should have come back sooner.

JACQUELINE

I think things just happened to work themselves out without needing much discussion or deliberation.

HOLLY

*(To SAM and BUNNY)* And everyone's in agreement?

*(SAM and BUNNY stand, each taking a moment before answering.)*

SAM

Yes, Holly, in agreement.

BUNNY

It's in everyone's best interest.

HOLLY

*(To TOMMI)* They've assured you'll be taken care of properly?

TOMMI

Better than you could have ever imagined.

HOLLY

I'm sorry about this.

TOMMI

Oh, me too.

BUNNY

Let's get this over.

SAM

Just cut to the chase.

JACQUELINE

Very well. I move this Council vote on the expulsion of.... Tommi.

*(HOLLY looks to TOMMI as JACQUELINE turns to SAM and BUNNY. JACQUELINE winks.)*

SAM

I second the motion.

JACQUELINE

All those in favor?

*(HOLLY affectionately hugs TOMMI before raising her hand. It takes a moment before HOLLY realizes she stands alone on the vote.)*

JACQUELINE, *Continues*

All those opposed?

*(SAM, BUNNY and, finally, with dramatic flair, JACQUELINE each raise a hand.)*

HOLLY

What's going on?

This is Not the End of the Play

Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes

**SET/PROPS LIST NEXT PAGE**

## Set/Props List

Table  
Chairs  
Tablecloth  
Thanksgiving Decorations  
Platter of Finger Sandwiches  
Plate of Cookies  
Bowl of Potato Chips  
Plastic Utencils  
Plastic Cups  
Cans of Soda  
“Welcome Holidays” Banner  
Cell Phone (Holly)  
Cell Phone (Bunny)  
Hand Sanitizer (Bunny)  
Flask (Bunny)  
Handbags (All but Tommi)