

“What A Load Of Rubbish 3”
by Sophie Gilbert and Suzanne Duce

Cast: On stage are 4 different recycling bins: Flower is a compost bin, Martini is a bottle bank, Picture is a paper-recycling bin and Jean a clothes recycling bin. Off stage are the Mayor and TV Producer Interviewer and Cameraperson and Dump a plastic wheelbarrow.

Cameraman: Welcome to our play “What a Load of Rubbish Three”. Our recycling bins have moved again. They are now in a model new town called Pleasant Town. Let us see how they are doing.

Flower: I’m not sure about this move. I do miss the school. I enjoyed being with the children and all the stuff they put in us.

Picture: This town is a very select neighbourhood. It’s neat and tidy. Pleasant Town by name and pleasant town by nature.

Martini: I think it is a bit too pleasant. We never see any rubbish around here. The place is immaculate. Not even the kids get mucky. And I am bored with only having mineral water bottles put inside me.

Jean: Yeah the teachers at our old school had a totally fantastic selection of drinks bottles. I utterly agree, Dude. Pleasant Town is most uncool.

Flower: At least they put things in you Martini. It is ages since I was full. I get a few unwanted fruit and veg from the greengrocer. In fact he is the only person who puts anything in me.

Martini: Have you noticed that you never see rubbish around here, not even black bin bags. What do they do with it? They don’t recycle it.

Picture: They seem to be doing something right. I was reading in the local paper, “The Daily Sunshine”, that the town has just won a big Eco prize. A TV crew are coming this afternoon to interview the Mayor.

Jean: Most weird. Something is seriously wrong Man.

Martini: You’re right. So where is all the garbage? We need to get to the bottom of it!

Flower: In this sweet scented town I smell a rat. We should do some undercover investigations of our own.

Picture: Problem! None of us can move. (sarcastically)

Flower: I have thought of that. Dump is around here somewhere. I will call him.

(Pulls out a mobile phone and talks to Dump, Flower calls off)

Martini: Where did you get that? Isn't that a MP player, video camera with zoom, blue-tooth enabled, internet access, seventh generation mobile phone?

Flower: Hah. Someone threw it into me. I reuse as well as reduce and recycle!

Enters Dump (Dump is pushing a plastic wheelbarrow and can move freely around.)

Dump: Hello guys. What's cooking?

Flower: Hi Dump. We have a mystery that we want to solve and we need your help.

Dump: A mystery in this clean living town. I find that hard to believe.

Picture: It's like this: we don't know what happens to the rubbish.

Martini: It certainly isn't in us. Could you use your wheels and do some spying?

Dump: I have always wanted to be a spy. Count me in Martini. Let's synchronise our watches and I will report back at E.D.A 12 noon or A.S.A.P. *(Pulls out a magnifying glass and a deerstalker hat and puts it on his head and trundles off).*

Martini: Please refer to me as M, double "oh" zero.

Picture: Using a coded language, great idea. *Lifts up card* <L O> Hello <R U> are you <M or M T?> M or empty?

Martini: *Replies with cards* <O K OK M8> okay okay mate. <I PT U> I pity you <Y O Y ME?> why oh why me? <I C U B4 U C ME> I see you before you see me. *(Dump moves off)*

Picture: I don't hold out much hope of Dump uncovering anything.

Jean: Wheelie-man is most excellent. Respect.

Martini: Look over there; the TV crew has just driven in. They are off to the Mayor's Mansion.

Flower: That guy is so puffed up; he has more gas in him than the local sewage works.

Jean: Totally agree, that suit and his sidekicks give me a bad vibe.

TV producer (with cap, clip board or megaphone) interviewer (with large microphone rather vain worrying about his appearance for ever grooming himself and practising his fake smile) and cameraman (with camera on shoulder) knock on large door and out

comes the Mayor who is wearing a very smart suit and large gold necklace of office. Behind him are two formally dresses officials. Cameraman is filming the whole time.

Mayor: Welcome to Pleasant Town.

Official 1: Welcome.

Official 2: Welcome.

Mayor: We hope your stay with us will be pleasant. (Looking at camera not interviewer with big fake smile.)

Producer: Hello Mr Mayor. We have come to interview you about the Eco prize the town has just won.

Mayor: We are proud to be seen as both green and clean. (Now focus on interviewer)

Official 1: Green.

Official 2: Clean.

Producer: Mr Mayor is it okay if we start filming straightaway?

Mayor: Of course

Producer: From the top boys: Take One, Scene One, Roll the Camera.

Interviewer: This is Oscar Orchard reporting for W.A.T.O. News from the town hall in Pleasant Town. (looking at camera) So Mr Mayor looking after the environment is important to the people of Pleasant Town?

Mayor: We see ourselves as a model town.

Official 1: We want to set an example

Official 2: to those dirty grubby towns around us.

Interviewer: You must have worked hard to meet all the requirements of the Eco competition.

Mayor: We strive to reach high standards. We always meet our goals and objectives.

Official 1: We even meet the objectives of our goals. We don't want to take our eye off the ball.

Official 2: So we *even do* internal audits of our goals. That way we hit the ground running,

Interviewer: Really!

Mayor: But what is *really important* is the *people* and the *environment* we live in.

Official 1: That is why we take the reports of all *our focus groups* very seriously indeed.

Official 2: You wont *catch us* playing baseball with live grenades.

Interviewer: I see! (*In confused voice*)

Mayor: But talk is cheap. Come with me.

Official 1: We will show you *our many* achievements.

Cameraman: Are these guys for real? Do you think all the locals are like them?

Producer: Could you film the whole tour? This place is as fake as Oscar's tan.

TV producer, interviewer, cameraman and Mayor move to the side of the stage away from the hillside. Dump returns on stage.

Dump: Guys you wont believe what I have just found!

Flower: What a sweet wrapper left on the pavement? Shock, horror!

Dump: Very funny. I know where they are putting all their rubbish. Over there just beyond the town border. (*He points to a large picture of hill with flowers on it*).

Jean: Babe No way. That is a most lovely, charming and excellent hillside.

Dump: It is not real. It is only a picture of a hill. You know the sort of thing used in movies. Behind it is a terrible stinking rubbish tip. The worst I have ever seen.

Martini: How? Why can't we smell it?

Dump: They have large fans blowing the smells away from here. And canals drain the sewage away. It all flows down to Grotty Town.

Picture: I have been reading reports about the decline in the health of people in Grotty Town. There has been a worrying increase in many unusual illnesses. But with no good reasons for them. I think this rubbish tip may be the cause of these diseases.

Jean: Man this is wholly bad.

Martini: What shall we do? Lets fight dirty. I love to smash a few bottles.

Flower: Let's expose this scam to the TV crew. But I think we will all have to work together.

Martini: We haven't got time, here they come.

Mayor and crew walk past the bins on the way to the hillside.

Picture: I have an idea I will make a sign for the TV crew to read.

Mayor: These are our recycling bins they are invaluable to us.

(Picture lifts up a sign made of paper pointing to the rubbish tip. Mayor sees it first and puts his fist through it ripping the sign. The TV crew are looking the other way.)

Mayor: A piece of paper!

Official 1: Where did that come from?

Official 2: I will quickly recycle it. *(Screws up the torn sign and throws it but hits the cameraman.)*

Martini: I will use my bottle. I am trained in the art of ninja bottle fighting. *(Few fancy moves with 2 bottles, tries to hit the Mayor but hits the cameraman instead.)* I have lost my touch.

Flower: Let me have a go. Exterminate, Exterminate Earthling. *(Imitates dalek with prop. Cameraman extremely dizzy and does a zigzag walk.)*

Mayor: Let me show you our idyllic hillside.

Official 1: It is full of many rare wild flowers.

Official 2: Their beautiful smell fills our town. *(Mayor quickly leads TV people away from the bins, and chats in distance near the hill.)*

Jean: Crazy. But this ain't working sisters. Flower is right we need to work together to make a difference. We need an awesome plan Flower.

Flower: I have an idea. *(Whisper together in huddle)* Remember all for one and one for all!

Everyone: Yeah.

Jean: That's cool, that's neat.

Picture: Quick! Everyone to your posts.

(Jean gives Dump 2 piles of clothes for Flower and Picture. They pretend to be knotting them together, like scarves and jumpers, but in fact they are already tied together to make 2 long ropes. Dump comes along and ties Flowers and Pictures ends together to make one long rope. Flower and Picture hold one end whilst Dump takes the other end over to the hillside and attaches it onto the scene. Meanwhile Jean and Martini are untangling a length of rope. Jean pretends it is a lasso and mucks around whilst Dump is helping Flower and Picture. Dump returns and takes one end while Martini and Jean hold onto the other end. Dump takes his end over to the hillside and again ties it to the scene. They are now ready.)

Mayor: As you can see we have worked hard at making our environment like the Garden of Eden.

Official 1: Our people deserve the best.

Official 2: The best.

Producer: This is very impressive Mayor. I have not seen any rubbish since we arrived.

Mayor: As I said we *pride ourselves* in Pleasant Town being Green and Clean.

Official 1: We want to do *our* bit for *our* world.

Official 2: And the planet.

Producer: I think it's a wrap. I will text HQ with the news. We ought to be going now.

Interviewer: I'm off to the van to sign some photographs.

Flower: Wait a minute you might like to see this.

Everyone pulls on their homemade ropes and pulls down the scene revealing piles of rubbish.

All bins and Dump: All for one and one for all. *(Cheers)*

Producer: Keep the camera rolling; I think we have an exclusive.

Mayor: Oh no. I am found out.

Official 1: We are ruined.

Official 2: Our reputations stink. (*Mayor falls to the floor.*)

Cameraman: That isn't the only thing that stinks around here.

Producer: Wow what a scoop. I might get a promotion out of this. Maybe I will be transferred to Newsweek.

Interviewer: My visit to Pleasant Town has left me gob smacked. We came to this prize-winning town because it was so clean, but instead we found an ugly side. We close this report by revealing Pleasant Town's dirty secret? This is Oscar Orchard for W.A.T.O News. Good Afternoon. *Interviewer speaks to camera.*

Everyone together: What a Load of Rubbish!

THE END

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