

# **TICK TOCK**

## ***And the Human Boy***

by

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Translated by Nina Sokol

**“A Fantastical Family Play”**



**CLOCKS:** *Creatures that in 2 specific ways are differentiated from humans:*  
1) *Clocks only have four fingers*  
2) *Adult clocks always wear hats which are either round or flat.*

**TICK TOCK:** *Does not wear a hat.*

**LOTUS:** *Wears a round hat. Lotus and Mom played by the same person.*

**HAMILTON:** *Wears a flat hat. Hamilton and Dad played by same person.*

**ZEPPELIN:** *Wears a flat hat. Zeppelin and the Clockmaker played by the same person.*

**SWATCH:** *Wears a flat hat. Swatch and The Hatter played by the same person.*

**THE HATTER:** *Wears a round hat. The Hatter and Swatch played by the same person.*

**HUMANS:** *Creatures that are differentiated from Clocks in the following two ways:*

- 1) *They have a little finger*
- 2) *They wear hats when they fell like it.*

**BENJAMIN:** *A young boy*

**MOM:** *MOM and LOTUS played by the same person.*

**DAD:** *FAD and HAMILTON played by the same person.*

**THE CLOCKMAKER::** *The Clockmaker and ZEPPELIN played by the same person.*

## **First Part**

**SCENE 1: In the dead of night**

Darkness.

Someone or something is tiptoeing about in the house.

SWATCH (singing)

Snake skin  
Dead maggots

ZEPPELIN

Quiet!

SWATCH

I'm nervous.

ZEPPELIN

You'll wake them up.

SWATCH

I don't like the dark.

ZEPPELIN

Don't be such a twerp.

SWATCH

What was that?

ZEPPELIN

What?

SWATCH

Didn't you hear it?

ZEPPELIN

No.

ZEPPELIN screams.

SWATCH

What happened?!

ZEPPELIN

My leg!

SWATCH

Zeppelin?!

TICK TOCK

What are you two doing here?!

ZEPPELIN

Who's that?!

SWATCH

What do we do now?!

TICK TOCK

What are you doing in my house?!

ZEPPELIN

Run, Swatch, run!

ZEPPELIN and SWATCH run out.

The light is turned on.

TICK TOCK stands with its wooden sword Silverblade, and looks out into the darkness,. fit for fight.

## SCENE 2: The Big Day

TICK TOCK'S home.

Dining table, chairs, closet, fireplace,. There are pieces of material and sewing equipment.

LOTUS comes dashing in, stops and looks around.

LOTUS

Where is Tick Tock?

Now that's strangeysranging.

Clocks can't just disappear into thin air.

LOTUS approaches the closet.

LOTUS

Perhaps Tick Tock is hiding ...?

LOTUS wants to open the closet door but can't.

(TICK TOCK from inside the closet)

Go away.

LOTUS

Do you really just want to sit in there and be a sourpuss mole on your big day?

TICK TOCK

You're a sourpuss mole.

LOTUS

Hey, wanna finish sewing your costume?

TICK TOCK

I'm not coming out until you believe me.

LOTUS

I believe you.

TICK TOCK

Say: I'm sorry that I didn't believe you.

LOTUS

I'm sorry that I didn't believe you.

TICK TOCK

Say: I'm a gummeydumb clock.

I'm a gummeydumb clock.

LOTUS

And Tick Tock can have my pearl necklace.

TICK TOCK

Forget it.

LOTUS

But you do believe me?

TICK TOCK

I promise.

LOTUS

*TICK TOCK comes out of the closet with its sword Silverblade.*

That it all happened, that I could clearly hear them and it was Zeppelin and it was Swatch and I hit Zeppelin's leg with Silverblade and then they ran away!

TICK TOCK

I believe you.  
I do.  
But do you know what I also believe?

LOTUS

No.

TICK TOCK

I believe you've received a visit from a murmur worm.

LOTUS

A murmur worm?

TICK TOCK

Haven't I ever told you about those before?

LOTUS

No.

TICK TOCK

Even though they look just like an earthworm, they're very different.  
Earhworms always come out when it's raining.  
They only come out when it's raining.  
After the sun sets and you're sleeping in your bed, that's when the murmur worm comes up from the ground.  
And it worms its way across the lawn..

LOTUS



Up the house.  
Through the window.  
Across the floor.  
Through the tiny crack under your door.  
Up to the foot of your bed.  
Across your blanket.  
Along your neck.  
Across your face.  
And finally.  
Into your ear.

TICK TOCK

My ear?

LOTUS

Deep into your ear where it's humid and gloomy dark and then it rolls itself into a ball and whispers horribilific, spooky and grimy gross stories to you while you're sleeping.

TICK TOCK

I'm not afraid of worm stories.

*LOTUS whispers into Tick Tock's ear. .*

LOTUS

You're standing in the dark.  
All alone.  
It's nighttime.  
It's chillcold, and you're freezing and shaking and holding onto your sword.  
Suddenly you hear a sound.  
And you try to see in the dark but it's too black and you can't see anything and so you start to sweat and there's something out there that's trying to grab a hold of you and so you swing your sword and you know that you're surrounded by monsters just waiting (to) sink their teeth into you only you can't see them and they get more and more terrifiable and you swing you(r) sword again, swing and swing hitting only the darkness..

TICK TOCK

I don't want to hear any more.

LOTUS

That's the kind of things that they whisper.

TICK TOCK

But why?

LOTUS

Murmur worms have huge imaginations that are much too huge for their tiny bodies. That's why they have to come out with it all.

Imagination? TICK TOCK

Yes. LOTUS

But it was for real. TICK TOCK

That's exactly what the worm wants you to think. LOTUS

That's not very nice of it. TICK TOCK

Tick Tock.  
Stand still. LOTUS

What? TICK TOCK

I can see it. LOTUS

A worm? TICK TOCK

Don't move. LOTUS

*LOTUS pulls out an invisible worm from Tick Tock's ear.*

Did you get it? TICK TOCK

It was one of the smaller ones. LOTUS

I can't see it. TICK TOCK

It's very weeny teeny. LOTUS

LOTUS puts the invisible worm on the ground and steps on it.

TICK TOCK

Is it dead?

LOTUS

Dead as a door nail.

TICK TOCK

From now on I'm going to sleep with cotton in my ears so the worms can keep their dummiedumb stories to themselves.

.

LOTUS

Tick Tock?

TICK TOCK

Yes?

LOTUS

If we're to be finished with your costume in time...?

TICK TOCK

We must!

LOTUS

You take the lower part, I'll take the top part.

TICK TOCK

I'm going to be beautiful for my hat ceremony!

LOTUS

You'll be the most silkstunning clock in all of Bell Valley.

TICK TOCK puts Silverblade aside and they begin sewing. There is a loud bang from outside.

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TICK TOCK

What was that?

LOTUS

Hamilton's making breakfast.

TICK TOCK

Hamilton?  
Making food?

LOTUS

It'll be fine .

HAMILTON enters with an apron on.

HAMILTON

Uhm ... Lotus?

LOTUS

Yes?

HAMILTON

That toaster...

LOTUS

What about it?

HAMILTON

Is there supposed to come smoke out of it?

LOTUS

No, Hamilton.

HAMILTON

That's what I thought.

LOTUS

Take the toaster outside and heat the bread in the oven.

HAMILTON

OK.

TICK TOCK

You look simmysilly.

HAMILTON gives TICK TOCK a kiss on his forehead.

HAMILTON

It simply can't be true that it's already time for my teenyweeny Tick Tock to choose a hat.

TICK TOCK

Well, it is.

HAMILTON

When did you get to be so big?

TICK TOCK

Oh, stop.

LOTUS

Anything the matter, Hamilton?

HAMILTON

Something's in my eye.

TICK TOCK

You're crying.

HAMILTON

I most certainly am not.

LOTUS

Well, that's what it looked like..

HAMILTON

True Flathats never cry.

HAMILTON exits.

TIK T

Lotus?

LOTUS

Yes?

TICK TOCK

Why did you choose the ringround hat?

LOTUS

A black crow flew down from the sky and landed on top of my head and said,  
"Lotus, you have to choose the ringround hat.

TICK TOCK

Really?

LOTUS

No.

TICK TOCK

Oh.

LOTUS

I could just feel that it was the right thing to do and so I did it.

TICK TOCK

Okay.

LOTUS

I take it that wasn't what you wanted to hear. .

TICK TOCK

I don't know which to choose and it's already tonight.

LOTUS.

It'll come to you.

TICK TOCK

But what if I choose the ringround and find out later that I – et for meget what I really wanted was the foldyflat? Can I change my mind then?

LOTUS

The hat you choose is for the rest of your life.

TICK TOCK

That's not fair.

LOTUS

Don't worry.

TICK TOCK

If you're a warrior, would you have a foldyflat or a ringround hat?

LOTUS

Don't know. Why?

TICK TOCK

I'm a warrior.

LOTUS

You are?

TICK TOCK

And with Silverblade I can beat all kinds of monster.

LOTUS

All kinds?

TICK TOCK

Actually, I'm not spook-scared of anything.

LOTUS

Even if it's body is covered with scales and it has a black reverberating snout and hungry spike pointy teeth?

TICK TOCK

And fiery red eyes and four legs?

LOTUS

And stab-sharp claws and a tick-tackytail.

TICK TOCK

And smells rat-rotten..

LOTUS

And is hungry for meat.

*TICK TOCK grabs Silverblade and jumps onto the floor.*

TICK TOCK

Not even *that* would scare the warrior Tick Tock who grabs **his** Silverblade sword and glares fearlessly into the fiery red eyes of the monster.

LOTUS

And the monster screams so loud and piercingly that it hurts your ears. And the monster charges towards the warrior and opens it huge jaws.

TICK TOCK

But Tick Tock jumps sideways at the last minute. Rolls across the ground and get back on **his** feet.

LOTUS

And the monster gets confused.

TICK TOCK

And Tick Tock jumps on its back and sinks Silverblade into the back of its neck and the monster falls to the ground!

LOTUS

And everyone in the town slowly start to come out from their hiding places to see what the brave warrior has done and they smile and shout with joy and clap their hands and praise the young hero who saved their town.

TICK TOCK

And the hero bows humbly.

LOTUS

And everyone knows that from now on the story of what happened on this day will be told forever.

About Tick Tock and the Silverblade.

TICK TOCK

It will never be forgotten.

LOTUS

But suddenly the hero misses **his** Lotus.

TICK TOCK

No, it does not.

LOTUS

All the hero can think about is getting a hug.

TICK TOCK

All the hero can think about is going out into the world so that it can beat more horrible monsters.

*LOTUS walks towards TICK TOCK with arms outstretched.*

LOTUS

And Lotus comes to hug the hero which makes **him** so very hippity-happy..

TICK TOCK

The hero scrams!

LOTUS

But doesn't escape!

*LOTUS freezes while moving.*

TICK TOCK

What are you doing?

*LOTUS doesn't move.*

TICK TOCK

Lotus?

*LOTUS still doesn't move.*

TICK TOCK

Lotus?

*HAMILTON enters smiling with a tray of coffee and breakfast.  
Hamilton sees Lotus standing still and his smile disappears.*



### SCENE 3: Breakfast

BENJAMIN'S home.

Dining table. Chairs. A grandfather clock hangs from the wall.

BENJAMIN, Mom and Dad sit at the table decked for breakfast.

BENJAMIN looks at his bee, Tumle, that's inside a jam jar.

MOM

Benjamin?

Would you please put away your bee and eat your breakfast?

DAD

Pass me the milk, please?

BENJAMIN puts the jam jar on the floor..

BENJAMIN

Me and Tumle have been thinking about something. .

DAD

Would you *please* pass me the milk?

MOM

I've found a place.

Dad gets up and takes the milk himself. .

DAD

I don't want to talk about it now.

MOM

I think it's about time that we told him.

BENJAMIN

What are you talking about?

Pause.

DAD

Your mother's talking about your grand-dad..

BENJAMIN

What about him?

MOM

Yes, what now?

Pause.

DAD

Grand dad needs to be moved to an old age home and we have to find out where..

MOM

He can choose that for himself.

DAD

That wouldn't be fair to him.

MOM

What do you plan to do?  
Force him to live somewhere he doesn't want to?

DAD

It's our responsibility to figure out what's best for him.

BENJAMIN

Dad?

MOM

Do you think I'm stupid?

DAD

Not exactly *stupid*.

MOM

I know exactly what you're up to.

BENJAMIN

Mom?

MOM

You know what he'd choose if we gave him the chance.

DAD

That's not what this is about.

MOM

You're not a good liar, you know.

BENJAMIN  
Hello?!

MOM / DAD  
What?!

Pause.

BENJAMIN  
Me and Tumble.  
We've been thinking about the wall and we have an idea.

DAD  
What wall?

BENJAMIN goes over to the wall where the grandfather clock is hanging.

BENJAMIN  
That wall.

MOM  
What about it, honey?

BENJAMIN  
Can we tear it down?

MOM  
You want to tear down the wall?

BENJAMIN  
So that we can see what's in the secret room.

DAD  
What secret room?

BENJAMIN  
The secret room behind the wall.

DAD  
There's no room.

MOM  
There is actually a room.

BENJAMIN  
You said so yourselves.  
You said it had been walled up over a hundred years ago.

That you can hear there's a room because it gives off sound, a hollow sound, when you knock on the wall.

*BENJAMIN knocks on the wall.*

DAD

Oh...*that* room. .

MOM

That's just an empty old dusty room with a chimney and probably a few cobwebs..

BENJAMIN

How do you know?

DAD

You don't just tear walls down.

BENJAMIN

Why not?

*Next move: BENJAMIN knocks on and listens to the wall.*

MOM

Children are hyper-sensitive.  
I've been reading about it.  
Our problems will rub off on him.

DAD

There's nothing wrong with him.

MOM

He talks to a bee in a jam jar.

DAD

I had an imaginary friend when I was little.

MOM

And now he wants to tear down the wall to find a secret room. We *have* to tell him.

.

DAD

It's not my fault if it all goes wrong.

MOM

Benjamin?

Yes? BENJAMIN

MOM  
Your father and I have something we want to tell you.

DAD  
You better sit down.

Why? BENJAMIN

DAD  
Just sit down, honey.

BENJAMIN sits down. Mom and Dad stand on each side of him.

MOM  
Benjamin.  
This really isn't about granddad.  
It's --

Me. BENJAMIN

MOM  
What'd I say?  
Hyper-sensitive.

DAD  
Have you known all along?

BENJAMIN  
I've been the lawnmower, the car and the TV., so why not grandpa?

MOM  
So you know what this is all about, then?

DAD  
That your mother and I are getting divorced?

MOM  
Do you know what that means?

BENJAMIN  
That you're not together any more.

Next move: BENJAMIN watches his mother and father interchangeably like a spectator at a tennis match.

DAD

And we're going to live apart.

MOM

And so we have to figure out where you're going to live.

DAD

Either with me or with your mother.

MOM

You're old enough now to decide for yourself.

DAD

And you have our full support no matter what you choose.

MOM

I've found an apartment nearby so that you won't have to change schools.

DAD

Or you can live here, in your old room.

MOM

Your new room is of course nice and big.

DAD

You can always visit mom if you choose to stay with me.

MOM

Or dad, if you choose to stay with me.

DAD

You can visit her every other weekend.

MOM

Or your dad every other weekend.

DAD

The most important thing is that you're happy.

MOM

That you're happy.

DAD

That you feel safe.

And loved MOM

Oh, stop! DAD

What? MOM

Hey, what's that? DAD

What are you doing? MOM

DAD takes a coin out from Benjamin's ear and gives it to him.

A whole dollar, and it's for you!. DAD

That's enough. MOM

How about that, Benjamin? DAD

BENJAMIN gets up from his chair.

Coming over to mom? MOM

Coming over to dad? DAD

No, he's not. MOM

Benjamin? DAD

Come over to mom. MOM

Come, Benjamin. DAD

MOM

Let him speak for himself!

Pause.

BENJAMIN

So if you crawl down through the chimney you'll get to the secret room.

MOM

Didn't you hear what we said?

DAD

You're going to have to take this seriously.

MOM

It's very serious.

BENJAMIN

So the chimney is the entrance.

DAD

I said this wouldn't be the right way to do this.

MOM

He's in shock.

DAD

He's all shook up.

BENJAMIN picks the jam jar up from the floor.

BENJAMIN

We have to go.

MOM and DAD close in on BENJAMIN.

DAD

Where are you going?

MOM

You have to stay here.

BENJAMIN runs past them and out.

DAD

Benjamin?

MOM

Benjamin!



DAD / MOM

BENJAMIN!

#### SCENE 4: A Guest from the Chimney

TICK TOCK'S house.

LOTUS stands frozen in the same position as before.

There's coffee and breakfast on the dining room table.

HAMILTON is sitting at the table eating.

HAMILTON

Tick Tock, breakfast is ready!

Lotus, drink your coffee before it gets cold.

HAMILTON drinks his coffee.

HAMILTON

It's strange that our Tick Tock is already getting its hat.

It feels like yesterday that the elephant came.

Remember how we kept running in circles around ourselves and the ground beneath our feet shook and we were certain there had to have been a mistake because we weren't in any way ready to get a clock.

And even though we tried to hide it could still hear us with those big ears.

We trembled as we opened the door.

Remember

And in came that elongated-long trunk and lay the teeny-weeny clock in your arms and then the elephant left again. We listened to its chest and could hear it going tik tock tick **tick** and you smiled at me and said: "We'll call it Tik Tock." But it was no mistake that the elephant came on exactly that day. We were ready, we just hadn't realized yet that we were ready.

And we've always stuck together, even when times were hard, isn't that right, Lotus?

LOTUS doesn't move.

HAMILTON walks over to LOTUS.

HAMILTON

Okay, that's enough of that.

You couldn't have stopped. Only ancient-old and weary-worn clocks stop, and you're neither ancient-old nor weary-old.

All I have to do is listen to you to hear you ticking.

HAMILTON puts his ear to LOTUS'S chest.

HAMILTON hugs LOTUS.

HAMILTON

But you're my Lotus.  
You're the one who sniggle-giggles when you let out a fart.  
Who tells simmy-silly stories about animals.  
Who smiles when I burn the toast.  
Who holds me when I'm feeling spook-scared and sad.

LOTUS doesn't move.

HAMILTON lets go of LOTUS, gets down on his knees, folds his hands and turns his gaze to the ceiling.

HAMILTON

Almighty Clockmaker!  
You who are the creator of everything that says tick tock.  
You who so graciously allow your clocks to be sent with the Elephant Maximus and who justly retrieves them again with Bombus the Bee.  
You, who are eternally good and caring-affectionate.  
Can we make a deal?  
If you get Lotus to walk again, then I promise to get better and be a truly punctual-proper clock and I'll never again lie or tease the blacksmith with his piteous-fat stomach or steal any more apples from the neighbor's yard!  
If that's a deal then give me a sign.

Nothing happens and Hamilton lies down on his back.

TICK TOCK enters with Silverbade.

TICK TOCK

What ya doing?

HAMILTON

Looking at the ceiling.

TICK TOCK

I brought my sword.

HAMILTON

It needs to be washed.

TICK TOCK

My sword?

HAMILTON

The ceiling.

Pause.

TICK TOCK

I know what we'll do.

HAMILTON

There;s nothing we can do.

TICK TOCK

It was no worm in my ear, you know..

HAMILTON gets up.

HAMILTON

What worm?

TICK TOCK

Zeppelin and Swatch were in here last night and they were tip toeing around in the dark.

HAMILTON

Why would the clockmeister be running around in our house in the middle of the night?

TICK TOCK

I don't know, but it was, and it's done something to Lotus!

HAMILTON

I understand why you're spook-scared and ferociously furious but that gives you no right to put the blame on every clock that you see.

TICK TOCK

I'm not putting the blame on anyone. All I know is that I hit Zeppelin's leg with the edge of Silverblade.

You can see for yourself if we go there because it left a mark.

HAMILTON

But that's the *clockmeister*.

TICK TOCK

Why don't you believe me?

HAMILTON

Zeppelin and Swatch haven't been here and they haven't done anything to Lotus.

That's that.

End of story.

HAMILTON lifts LOTUS up.

TICK TOCK

What are you doing ?

Putting Lotus to bed. HAMILTON

But what are we going to do? TICK TOCK

Wait and see what happens. HAMILTON

What about my hat ceremony? TICK TOCK

Tick Tock, there isn't going to be a hat ceremony. HAMILTON

HAMILTON exits.

TICK TOCK  
Silverblade, why are all clocks so dumpeydumb?  
Anyway, what do you know?  
You're just an ugly stick.

TICK TOCK throws Silverblade away.  
Suddenly, there's a whole lot of rattling and clattering followed by a  
cloud of ash coming from the chimney.

TICK TOCK hides

BENJAMIN comes out of the chimney.

Shouts can be heard in the distance.

MOM / DAD  
Benjamin!  
Benjamin!  
Benjamin!

BENJAMIN hides in the closet.

TICK TOCK picks up Silverblade, goes over to the closet and fixes  
Silverblade firmly so that it blocks the closet door.

TICK TOCK  
Hello?

BENJAMIN (from the closet)  
Hello?

TICK TOCK  
What are you doing in our closet?

Have they been following me? BENJAMIN

No. TICK TOCK

Are you sure? BENJAMIN

Completely sure. TICK TOCK

But they were shouting. BENJAMIN

They're not shouting any more. TICK TOCK

*BENJAMIN tries to open the door but Silverblade is blocking it..*

Can I get out? BENJAMIN

Not before you tell me who you are and why you've come out of our chimney. TICK TOCK

*Pause.*

I've come from the other side of the wall. BENJAMIN

What wall? TICK TOCK

The one that sounds hollow. BENJAMIN

Oh ... that wall. TICK TOCK

My name's Benjamin. BENJAMIN

So why have you come, Benjamin? TICK TOCK

I'm running away. BENJAMIN

From who? TICK TOCK

My mom and dad. BENJAMIN

What's that? TICK TOCK

Who are you, anyway? BENJAMIN

Hey, I'm the one who asks questions, ok? TICK TOCK

Would you please let me out of here? BENJAMIN

What if you're really a monster that's lying to me and the minute I let you out you try to eat me? TICK TOCK

Hey, I'm not a monster! BENJAMIN

Pause.

OK, but if you try to eat me I'll have to use my deadly sword. Got it? TICK TOCK

Got it. BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK removes Silverblade, takes a few steps back and lifts the sword above its head.

You can come out now! TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN comes out.

What are you? BENJAMIN

What are *you*? TICK TOCK

I asked first. BENJAMIN

I'm a clock. TICK TOCK

You're weird-looking. BENJAMIN

So are you. TICK TOCK

But you're not a clock. BENJAMIN

Am so! TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN  
The clocks I know don't have legs or arms or a head.  
They just show the time and tick.  
They're pretty boring.

I'm not a bummer clock! TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN  
A bummer clock?

A bummer clock. TICK TOCK

Boring? BENJAMIN

Yes, a bummer clock! TICK TOCK

Okay, so you're not a bummer clock, but you're certainly not ticking.. BENJAMIN

Actually, I am. TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN

I can't hear it.

TICK TOCK goes over to BENJAMIN and points towards its chest.

TICK TOCK

Listen.

BENJAMIN listens to TICK TOCK'S chest.

BENJAMIN

You are a real clock.

TICK TOCK listens to BENJAMIN'S chest.

TICK TOCK

You're not ticking at all.  
It sounds more like a dim tapping.

BENJAMIN

I'm a human.  
We don't tick.

TICK TOCK

That's oddly-odd.

BENJAMIN

What's your name?

TICK TOCK

Tik Tock.

BENJAMIN

As in?

TICK TOCK

Yes.

BENJAMIN takes TICK TOCK'S hand and shakes it.

BENJAMIN

Nice to meet you, Tick Tock.

TICK TOCK

Welcome to Bell Valley, human Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

You've got only four fingers.



How many do you have? TICK TOCK

Five. BENJAMIN

I don't have one like that. TICK TOCK

That's called a little finger. BENJAMIN

What's it do? TICK TOCK

Actually, i don;t know.  
I guess it's just there. BENJAMIN

It's silly-looking. TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK inspects BENJAMIN'S little finger.

Tumle! BENJAMIN

Tumle? TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN runs to the chimney, searching..

I totally forgot. BENJAMIN

What's a Tumle? TICK TOCK

That's my bee. BENJAMIN

You're strangeystrange. TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN finds pieces of glass from the broken jar jam.

It's house is all broken. BENJAMIN

Was it living in a glass? TICK TOCK

Yes. BENJAMIN

Was that ok for it? TICK TOCK

I don't think it had anything against it. BENJAMIN

Are you sure? TICK TOCK

It was a bee.  
I couldn't exactly ask it. BENJAMIN

Well, maybe it's not so bad.  
It's out now and use its wings and see some of the world.  
TICK TOCK

Just hope nothing happens to it. BENJAMIN

Now I know why you're here. TICK TOCK

I was running away and ended up here, remember? BENJAMIN

That's not why. TICK TOCK

Why then? BENJAMIN

You're going to help me. TICK TOCK

Me?  
With what? BENJAMIN

**SCENE 5: ZEPPELIN'S Curse.**

ZEPPELIN'S cellar.

Sparse light. Operating table. A single chair.

ZEPPELIN lies, unconscious, strapped to the operating table,

SWATCH pases back and forth in front of the table.

SWATCH (Singing)

Snake skin

Dead maggots

The blood of bears and bones of cats.

ZEPPELIN wakes up.

ZEPPELIN

Swatch?

SWATCH (Singing)

The sweat of pigs

Tiger teeth

Puma fur and the feathers of birds.

ZEPPELIN

Swatch?!

SWATCH

Sorry!

ZEPPELIN

Untie me!

SWATCH unties ZEPPELIN.

SWATCH

Forgive me for being so absent-minded.

ZEPPELIN

What **have (I)** always said to you?

That I have a flee-brain..

SWATCH

But still try to understand that I don't want you to sing that lawful-awful song.

ZEPPELIN

It won't happen again.

SWATCH

I hope you have some good news for me.

ZEPPELIN

Well, you see ...

SWATCH

Yes?

ZEPPELIN

Pause.

You know, you look like someone who could use some ice cream.

SWATCH

I'm only asking this once: did the operation go as planned?

ZEPPELIN

The clock case was too teeny-weeny.

SWATCH

Too teeny-weeny?

ZEPPELIN

It wouldn't have fit.

SWATCH

Are you sure about that?

ZEPPELIN

Unfortunately, yes.

SWATCH

Pause.

There's no hope, then.

ZEPPELIN

SWATCH

Don't say that.

ZEPPELIN

Life won't end with a bang but with a drone.

SWATCH

It's just a minor problem.

ZEPPELIN

It's just a matter of time  
Before that evil, horrific,horrentious Bombus bee comes and sticks  
Its teeny-weeny snout into my ear and sucks up my soul and that's  
When I'll be gone.  
Silence.  
Darkness.  
All finished.

SWATCH

You need something, sir, that will make you hip-hip happy once more.

ZEPPELIN

Nothing can take away the darkness that's gotten a hold of my rat-rotten  
clockwork.

SWATCH takes out a spoon and a box of ice cream.

SWATCH

Banana ice cream?

ZEPPELIN

Banana ice cream?

SWATCH

You favorite, sir..

ZEPPELIN takes the box and the spoon from Swatch and sits  
down on the chair.

ZEPPELIN

Stool!

SWATCH jumps down on all fours in front of Zeppelin who puts his  
legs upon Swatch's back..

SWATCH

Are you sitting comfortably, sir?

ZEPPELIN

You know, Swatch, there are times when I just don't feel like a clock.

SWATCH

I know what you mean.

ZEPPELIN

You don't know anything.

SWATCH

I didn't even know that I don't know anything.

ZEPPELIN

It's as though I don't belong in this world..

SWATCH

But, sir, you're the clockmeister, there's no other clock like you.

ZEPPELIN

I was made to do things much greater than anyone else.

SWATCH

Which is why they raised a silk-stunning statue of you in Bell Valley..

ZEPPELIN

I was born to do great things.

Now that's a fabulous-fantastic thought, but also spooky-scary.

Because what if I fail?

SWATCH

You won't, you've already proven that.

ZEPPELIN

How?

SWATCH

We normal clocks don't need to know how things work as long as they work, we're satisfied.

ZEPPELIN

Go on.

SWATCH

You, on the other hand, have through your research and studies, gained more knowledge than any other clock. You've seen what we look like inside and know exactly what makes us keep ticking.

ZEPPELIN

But sometimes I wish that I was just as dumpeydumb as you, Swatch.  
Having so much knowledge can actually be a burden. It's a curse.

SWATCH

But also your salvation!

ZEPPELIN

But isn't it meaningless to know the unavoidable?

SWATCH

But you've learned that it isn't unavoidable!

ZEPPELIN

Because if I find a clock case that fits me....

SWATCH

Then you won't stop ticking!

ZEPPELIN

And that clock case is out there somewhere.....

SWATCH

Inside the chest of some clock.

ZEPPELIN

All I need to do is find it ...

SWATCH

You've got to crack a few eggs in order to make an omelette!

ZEPPELIN

And the right clock case might be right under my nose without my knowing it.

SWATCH

That 's right!

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

There's hope yet.

SWATCH

That great willpower of yours sends shivers down my spine.

ZEPPELIN

You don't have a spine.

SWATCH  
But if **i** did.

ZEPPELIN  
Swatch, lie down on the operating table.

SWATCH lies down on the operating table.

SWATCH  
What do you want me to do?

ZEPPELIN  
Lie still.

ZEPPELIN ties SWATCH to the operating table.

SWATCH  
Why are you tying me down?

ZEPPELIN  
Don't you worry about that.

SWATCH  
Hey, this is making me a little nervous...

ZEPPELIN takes out a scalpel.

ZEPPELIN  
Well, you know, you've got to crack a few eggs to make an omelette.

SWATCH  
Uhm...I'd just like to emphasize that I'm not an egg.

ZEPPELIN  
Just lie still and everything will go smoothly.

SWATCH  
Who's gonna operate you, then?!

ZEPPELIN  
Huh?

SWATCH  
If you remove my clock case who's gonna then operate on you?

Pause.

ZEPPELIN



That's a good point.

SWATCH

You need me, sir.

ZEPPELIN

It is practical for me to have you around.

SWATCH

I'm very practical.

ZEPPELIN

I guess I was being too hasty.

SWATCH

If I were you, which I, of course, am not and never ever could be, but--

ZEPPELIN

What's your point?.

SWATCH

I'd go back and get the clock case from the other clock.

ZEPPELIN

Hamilton?

SWATCH

You and Hamilton have the same size so maybe your clock cases would fit.

ZEPPELIN

Why didn't I think of that?

SWATCH

You're under a lot of pressure, that's why.

ZEPPELIN

We'll go tonight and if that irritating clock, Tick Tock, gets in the way, then...

Pause.

SWATCH

Then what?

ZEPPELIN

Then horrific-horrible things are going to happen!

SWATCH

Oh ...

ZEPPELIN  
Flea-brain.

Sorry.

SWATCH

ZEPPELIN

I need to take a nap on the sofa.

SWATCH

Well, then, I'm afraid that I have another piece of bad news.

ZEPPELIN

What is it now?!

SWATCH

You have to give a speech at the blacksmith's apprenticeship celebration in half an hour.

ZEPPELIN

Not the blacksmiths!

SWATCH

I wrote the speech, it's in your office, sir.

ZEPPELIN

Never a moment's peace...

SWATCH

Could you by any chance untie me?

ZEPPELIN

I need to prepare the speech.

ZEPPELIN goes out. .

SWATCH

Boss?  
Zeppelin?

SWATCH tries to untie himself but can't.

SWATCH (singing)

Snake skin  
Dead maggots  
The blood of bears and bones of cats,

## SCENE 6: Goofies

TICK TOCK'S house.

TICK TOCK demonstrating a blow with Silverblade to Benjamin.

TICK TOCK

And I hit Zeppelin in the knee  
A clinging-clear blow of a warrior.

BENJAMIN

And Lotus has stopped ticking?

TICK TOCK

Never makes a budge.

BENJAMIN

But how can I help in all of this?

TICK TOCK

Two warriors are better than one.

BENJAMIN

I'm no warrior.

TICK TOCK

Everyone's got a little bit of a warrior inside of them.

BENJAMIN

Not me.

TICK TOCK

Even you.

BENJAMIN

I've gotten beat up , locked in the bathroom and gotten my lunch stolen  
hundreds of times. Now does that sound to you like I'm a warrior?

TICK TOCK

Didn't you ever fight back?

BENJAMIN

It's always better to be on guard and run whenever you see trouble coming and  
I can run real fast.

HAMILTON comes in and walk through the room seeing neither Tick tock nor Benjamin..

HAMILTON  
There's dust on Lotus.

TICK TOCK  
A human came out of our chimney!  
HAMILTON  
Please, I don't have time.

HAMILTON exits.

TICK TOCK  
And so that was Hamilton.

BENJAMIN  
Just like my parents, they don't notice anything either.

TICK TOCK  
Being invisible isn't nearly as fun as I thought it would be.

BENJAMIN  
I can see you just fine.

HAMILTON enters with a bucket of water and a cloth and goes back to the room, seeing neither Tick Tock nor Benjamin.

TICK TOCK  
What are you doing?

HAMILTON  
Lotus needs to be washed.

TICK TOCK  
I'm going to live out in the woods and (I) am never coming back.

HAMILTON stops up with his back to Tick Tock and Benjamin.

HAMILTON  
Tick Tock, you must help me.

TICK TOCK  
Help you?

HAMILTON  
After I'm done washing Lotus I'm going to take a nap.

.

But -- TICK TOCK

HAMILTON  
I don't want to be disturbed.

HAMILTON exits.  
TICK TOCK beats Silverblade into the ground over and over.  
TICK TOCK gets tired and sits down on the floor.

BENJAMIN  
So you plan to find Zeppelin and make it fix Lotus?

TICK TOCK  
It's not a plan.

BENJAMIN  
And you figure if there's two of us it'll be easier to beat Zeppelin?

TICK TOCK  
Maybe.

BENJAMIN  
But I'm no clock.  
What'll happen if they see me?

TICK TOCK  
They'd probably think you're a monster and hunt you down and burn you at the stake.  
The last time a monster came to Bell Valley it ate our only shoemaker and ever since everyone's had to walk around in their gumpy-old shoes and they all hate monsters.

BENJAMIN  
What if I were to look like you?

TICK TOCK  
Huh?

BENJAMIN  
What if I looked like a clock?

Pause.

TICK TOCK  
Does that mean that you want to help me?

Can I stay here? BENJAMIN

Are you trying to bargain with me, human Benjamin? TICK TOCK

Sorry, but I just don't want to go back. BENJAMIN  
And I don't feel like going out there where they'll burn me at the stake.

No, it's not nice to get burned. TICK TOCK

And anyway I think you're. BENJAMIN  
You're...sweet..

Sweet? TICK TOCK

Sweet BENJAMIN

Sweet? TICK TOCK

Sweet. BENJAMIN

Thank you, human Benjamin. TICK TOCK

Just call me Benjamin. BENJAMIN

We'd better get started, then, Benjamin. TICK TOCK

With what? BENJAMIN

Turning you into a clock. TICK TOCK  
If we're lucky, Hamilton's fast asleep.

TICK TOCK exits.

BENJAMIN

What are you doing?

Well, you can't fight and you've never hit anyone, you can't even kick a soccer ball without falling over your own feet.

You're Goofy in the **true** sense.

TICK TOCK enters with a pile of clothes and Hamilton's flat hat.

TICK TOCK

What's a goofy?

BENJAMIN

Uhm..a strong and fearless warrior.

TICK TOCK

It was sleeping like a rock.

BENJAMIN

Is that Hamilton's clothes?

TICK TOCK

Real clock clothes, but the most important thing is the hat.

TICK TOCK gives BENJAMIN the flat hat.

BENJAMIN

Why's that so important?

TICK TOCK

All clocks wear hats.

BENJAMIN

Why?

TICK TOCK

It's a timeless tradition.

All clocks have their own hat ceremonies.

The hat maker makes two hats, a foldy-flat and a ring-round and then you put on a nice suit and the hat maker holds a speech and then you choose a hat that you'll have for the rest of your life.

BENJAMIN

Why don't you have one?

TICK TOCK

My hat ceremony should have been tonight.

BENJAMIN

Oh ...

TICK TOCK

But now it's been postponed indefinitely.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

But what's the difference between a foldy-flat and a ring-round hat?

TICK TOCK

It shows what kind of clock you are.

Some ring-rounds are better at cooking than foldy-flats,

And some foldy-flats are better at ...

I can't think of anything now, but foldy-flats and ring-rounds *are* very different.

BENJAMIN

I'm not good at cooking but I'm good at eating.

TICK TOCK

Sounds just like a foldy-flat.

BENJAMIN puts on the hat.

BENJAMIN

And it fits too.

TICK TOCK

Put on the clothes.

BENJAMIN changes.

BENJAMIN

What about my face?

TICK TOCK

You can wear a veil.

TICK TOCK fastens a veil in the hat's room so that it covers Benjamin's face.

BENJAMIN

But doesn't it look strange though?

TICK TOCK

You're Hamilton and you're mourning over Lotus.

BENJAMIN

Oh, right.



TICK TOCK

And be sure to hide all ten fingers in your pocket.

BENJAMIN

I will.

TICK TOCK

Now all we need is for you to walk like Hamilton.

*BENJAMIN has changed.*

BENJAMIN

I'm ready.

TICK TOCK

Start by turning out your feet as much as you can.

BENJAMIN

Like a penguin?

TICK TOCK

Like a penguin.

*BENJAMIN walks like a penguin across the stage.*

BENJAMIN

Hey, I'm a pretty good penguin.

TICK TOCK

Your head needs to hang as though it  
were heavy, as though you can barely carry it.

*BENJAMIN walks across the stage like a penguin and with his head hanging.*

BENJAMIN

Any thing else?

TICK TOCK

All we need are the arms.  
They're heavy too and swing back and forth.

*BENJAMIN walks across the stage like a penguin with his head hanging and his arms swinging back and forth.*

BENJAMIN

Like that?

TICK TOCK

Exactly.

BENJAMIN

That's not so hard.

TICK TOCK

You also need to be able to speak like Hamilton. Say something.

BENJAMIN

Something.

TICK TOCK

Say it slower.

BENJAMIN

*Something.*

TICK TOCK

Deeper.

BENJAMIN

***Something.***

TICK TOCK

Good.

Then let's try walking around and talking together.

You'll be Hamilton and I'll be me.

*BENJAMIN and TICK TOCK walk together.*

BENJAMIN

***Hi Tick Tock.***

TICK TOCK

Hi Hamilton.

BENJAMIN

***What do you think of my hat?***

TICK TOCK

It's foldy-flat.

BENJAMIN

***I sat on it by mistake.***

They laugh.

TICK TOCK

How are you feeling today, Hamilton?

BENJAMIN

***I'm doing well.  
How about you?***

TICK TOCK

Not so good.

BENJAMIN

***What's wrong?***

TICK TOCK

Lotus has stopped working.

And I can't get my hat like the other clocks.

And maybe I'll never get Lotus back and I miss Lotus, I can't imagine life without it and I want it back but you won't believe me and you won't help me and I'm invisible and you only think of yourself.

BENJAMIN takes off the hat and veil.

BENJAMIN

Are you okay?

TICK TOCK

Sorry.

Guess I got carried away.

BENJAMIN

That's ok.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

Was I any good?

TICK TOCK

You were perfectly perfect.

BENJAMIN

When are we leaving?

TICK TOCK

Before Hamilton wakes up.

I'm a little ... BENJAMIN

Nervous? TICK TOCK

You could say that. BENJAMIN

Don't worry.  
Zeppelin will come to regret what it's done once it meets two goofies. TICK TOCK

Goofies? BENJAMIN

Strong and fearless warriors! TICK TOCK

### **SCENE 7: The Clockmeister**

ZEPPELIN'S office

Table, chairs.

ZEPPELIN and SWATCH enter.

ZEPPELIN

I'm sorry that I forgot you down in the basement, Swatch. .

SWATCH

Don't worry about it.  
I'm starting to be able to feel my limbs again.

ZEPPELIN

You deserve some praise.

SWATCH

I do?

ZEPPELIN

The blacksmiths loved the speech.  
You have the ability to tell clocks what they need to hear.

SWATCH

I do the best I can.

ZEPPELIN

Do you like your work, Swatch?

SWATCH

Absolutely.

ZEPPELIN

Now that my time is running out I've started... thinking.

SWATCH

Understandably.

ZEPPELIN

Please be honest with me, Swatch.  
What do you think of me?

SWATCH

What I think of you, sir?

ZEPPELIN

You must be 100 % honest with me or I'll banish you, understood

SWATCH

Yes.

ZEPPELIN

OK, you may begin.

Pause.

SWATCH

I think you're good and talented and bright as a bell and --

ZEPPELIN

Be honest with me, Swatch!

SWATCH

Well, sometimes you can be a little bit....egoistic?

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

Go on.

SWATCH

Sometimes it's like the only place you live is in front of that mirror where you only can see yourself.

Zeppelin, Zeppelin, Zeppelin.

It's always all about Zeppelin!

And you stop other clocks in order to save your own life and you cry over how hard everything is for you and you treat me badly and call me terrible names while I do all your work and have always been there for you!

You're a bitter, lazy,

egogantic, self-centered cry baby!

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

Is that your honest opinion, Swatch?

Pause.

SWATCH

No.

Sorry.

I just thought that that was what you wanted to hear.

ZEPPELIN

Well, I'm giving you a warning, but only this time!

SWATCH

Thanks, boss.

ZEPPELIN

For a second there I thought you actually meant what you were saying.

SWATCH

Yeah, well, that's what I do, you know.

Someone knocks on the door.

ZEPPELIN

Did I have any more appointments today?

SWATCH

No.

SWATCH opens the door.

TICK TOCK (with Silverblade) and BENJAMIN (dressed as HAMILTON with his hands in his pockets ) enter.

ZEPPELIN

Tick Tock and Hamilton.

What a nice surprise.

I bid you welcome, both of you.

ZEPPELIN puts forth his hand to BENJAMIN, but BENJAMIN keeps his hands in his pockets.

BENJAMIN

***I never shake hands with your kind.***

ZEPPELIN

My kind?

TICK TOCK

Criminals.

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

I know it must have seemed.

Mysteriolictic.

That we suddenly showed up at your house in the middle of the night.

But I can ensure you that the whole thing was a misunderstanding.

SWATCH

We got lost.

ZEPPELIN

But, tell me, why didn't you take Lotus with you?

Is it sitting at home and stopped ticking?

TICK TOCK  
You're horrivicious!

SWATCH  
Talk nicely to the clockmeister

TICK TOCK  
Lotus has stopped ticking and you know it.

ZEPPELIN  
Has Lotus stopped ticking?  
How terrificly terrible.  
And so soon.  
I'm so sorry.

TICK TOCK  
We know what you've done.

Pause.

ZEPPELIN  
There's a reason why I'm the one who's the clockmeister.  
I'm generous.  
And thoughtful.  
I accept the fact that my clocks will take all of their vicious-malicious frustrations out on me when things go wrong for them.  
Because that's my job.  
Your problems are my problems.  
That's what it means to be a clockmeister in Bell Valley.  
It takes patience.  
That's why I'm willing to forget and forgive this little scenario.  
You're both spook-scared. and frustrated.  
You see a crime when all there is is a natural tragedy, but we're all going to stop ticking at some point, you know.  
Go home and mourn Lotus.

ZEPPELIN opens the door.

ZEPPELIN  
Go home and it'll all be forgotten.

Pause.

TICK TOCK  
We're not going anywhere.

ZEPPELIN closes the door.



ZEPPELIN

You leave me no choice, then.

BENJAMIN

***You can't scare us.***

ZEPPELIN

I can understand why a young, thoughtless clock like Tick Tock might try to oppose me, but I hadn't expected it from you, Hamilton... I would never have expected it from you.

TICK TOCK

We can easily deal with you. The both of you.

BENJAMIN

***We're warriors.***

ZEPPELIN

Are you a warrior, Hamilton?

TICK TOCK

And a strong and fearless one at that.

ZEPPELIN

Maybe it's just me, but I don't see any warriors around. Swatch, do you want to know what I see?

SWATCH

Yes, very much.

ZEPPELIN

I see a pair of fear-frightened and confused clocks hiding behind veils and who are so afraid and insecure that they don't even dare to take their hands out of their pockets..

TICK TOCK

That's not true.

ZEPPELIN

Prove it, Hamilton.

SWATCH

Now's your chance.

ZEPPELIN

Show that you're a warrior.

I ... I ...

BENJAMIN

They're spook-scared!

SWATCH

What'd I say?

ZEPPELIN

You're always right.

SWATCH

Benjamin?

TICK TOCK

Sorry.

BENJAMIN

Listen to it mumble-gumble.

ZEPPELIN

Look at it shiver-quiver.

SWATCH

Sorry.

BENJAMIN

*BENJAMIN runs out.*

Benjamin!

TICK TOCK

*ZEPPELIN and SWATCH corner TICK TOCK and TICK TOCK swings Silverblade before it to keep them further back.*

You're all alone now.

ZEPPELIN

The only thing you've got left is a teeny-weeny stick.

SWATCH

It's not a stick!

TICK TOCK

Swatch, ask me how we should deal with Tick Tock.

ZEPPELIN

SWATCH  
Zeppelin, how should we deal with Tick Tock?

TICK TOCK  
Stay away from me!

ZEPPELIN  
We'll lay Tick Tock on the operating table.

SWATCH  
Are we going to cut?

TICK TOCK  
I'll spike the both of you with my sword if you try anything!

*ZEPPELIN takes a hold of Silverblade and wrenches it out of Tick Tock's hand.*

ZEPPELIN  
We're going to examine Tick Tock's clock chest a little bit.

SWATCH  
Sounds very interesting.

**End of part 1**

## **Part 2**

**SCENE 8: The Hatter**

In the town of Bell Valley  
There's a statue of ZEPPELIN.  
BENJAMIN enters (still dressed as Hamilton).

BENJAMIN

Stupid legs!

BENJAMIN kicks the statue of Zeppelin, moans, takes off the hat  
and sits down in front of the statue.

BENJAMIN

Dumb, useless, rotten, useless coward...

The hatter enters swinging with a bucket of paint. Benjamin quickly  
puts on the hat and gets up.

THE HATTER (*singing*)

Dum-dy-dum-dy -dum -dum.

The Hatter takes a hold of BENJAMIN.

THE HATTER (*singing*)  
Dum-dy-dum dum-dy-dum

THE HATTER looks expectantly at Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

**Knock-knock?**

*The Hatter laughs and gives him a hug.*

THE HATTER

Hamilton!

Boy, am I happy to see you.

I've just been to the workshop where the hats have been sewn, decorated and painted and I think Tick Tock's gonna be crazy wazy about them, all I need now is to write the speech, but what are you doing here? Shouldn't you be busy preparing for the ceremony to tonight?

BENJAMIN

***I ...***

***I was just looking at the statue.***

THE HATTER

That ugly-duckling thing?

If you ask me this town could use a little more imagination.

If it were up to me I wouldn't build a statue of Zeppelin, no sirry, I'd build something more unique. A cow with wings for example.

BENJAMIN

***Anything'd be nicer than Zeppelin.***

Pause.

THE HATTER

Hey, why are you hanging with your head?

BENJAMIN

***I'm tired of myself.***

THE HATTER laughs.

THE HATTER

That's funny.

BENJAMIN

***I don't think it is.***

THE HATTER

Did I ever tell you how I make hats?

BENJAMIN

***No, I'm sure it's interesting but I really gotta get going... back home.***

BENJAMIN tries to leave but the Hatter holds him back.

THE HATTER

I eat oranges and save some of the peel..

I sit on a chair.

I lean my head back and put the orange peel on my nose.

I close my eyes and take a big sniff of air.

And that's when they come out from the darkness.

The hats.

They are ring-round and foldy-flat and they have all different colors, they're black and red with stripes and green with yellow dots and they're decorated with pearls and peacock feathers, crocodile teeth and the possibilities are endless!

I choose just one of them, run to my desk and put my hands in the air and call their gigantic, astronomical and inter-galactic powers and my tiny fingers get to work, moving like beautiful dancers, like an eight-armed octopus, like the whirling-pirling tones of a symphony.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

**Okay ...**

THE HATTER

I was once tired of myself too 'cause I was always in a bad mood. I was actually so tired of myself that I stopped eating because I thought I was so irritating that I didn't deserve food and then I'd get mad at myself and then me and I wouldn't talk together, but you know what I came to realize?

BENJAMIN

**No.**

THE HATTER

That I'm a cow. I stand on the fields chewing grass and staring at a tree, and let out a fart as big as an elephant's, and just stand there all day long and it's fabulous-fantastic.

BENJAMIN

**I don't get it.**

THE HATTER

I realized that I can be anything I want, the possibilities are endless. I don't just have to be a sourpuss all the time.

BENJAMIN

**Neat.**

THE HATTER

What are you?

BENJAMIN

**I don't know.**

THE HATTER

You're a great fat seagull!

BENJAMIN

**I better get going.**

*BENJAMIN tries to leave, but the hatter holds him back.*

THE HATTER

Squack like a seagull

BENJAMIN

I'm not a seagull!

THE HATTER

Great!  
So what are (you) doing Mr. seagull?

BENJAMIN

What am I doing??

THE HATTER

What are you in the middle of doing?!

Pause.

BENJAMIN

Flying?

THE HATTER

Across what?!

BENJAMIN

Fields ... lakes, mountains, cities...

THE HATTER

And?!

BENJAMIN

I caught a fish!

THE HATTER

And ate it!

BENJAMIN

I've eaten many fish!

THE HATTER

Way too many!

BENJAMIN

And my stomach's rumbling !

THE HATTER

Cause you need (to go to?) the bathroom !

BENJAMIN

Yes, that's what I need!

THE HATTER

And then some pooh falls from the sky!

BENJAMIN



And lands right on the statue's head.

THE HATTER  
Yes!

BENJAMIN  
And I'm a human!

THE HATTER  
Yes!  
What is a human?

BENJAMIN  
And I have ten fingers!

*BENJAMIN puts his hands up in the air and spreads his fingers.  
The Hatter jumps away from Benjamin, shocked.*

THE HATTER  
Almighty Clockmaker!

*BENJAMIN hides his hands behind his back.*

BENJAMIN  
***I'm not a human.  
I'm Hamilton.***

THE HATTER  
Why have you kept it a secret, Hamilton?

*The Hatter goes over to Benjamin and pulls his hands out.*

BENJAMIN  
***That's nothing.***

THE HATTER  
Why do you have so many fingers, Hamilton?

BENJAMIN  
***Because ...***

THE HATTER  
Yes?

BENJAMIN  
***I'm a warrior.***

THE HATTER

So does that mean that you have astronomical, intergalactic powers?

BENJAMIN

**Yes.**

THE HATTER

I've been able to see them all day. **(I could look at them all day)**

BENJAMIN

***Actually, I don't have time.***

THE HATTER

That's right, you have to get home, let's not forget the ceremony.

BENJAMIN

***I'm not going home.***

***I'm a warrior and I'm going to save Tick Tock before it's too late.***

THE HATTER

Fine, but I just need to take another look at them.

*BENJAMIN pulls his hands back and hides them behind his back.*

BENJAMIN

***If I can have your paint?***

THE HATTER

What?

BENJAMIN

***You can take another look at them if I can get your paint.***

THE HATTER

What'll you use it for?

BENJAMIN

***That's a secret.***

THE HATTER

You have many secrets, Hamilton.

BENJAMIN

***Did you want to see my fingers again, or...?***

THE HATTER

Yes!

BENJAMIN takes out his hands. THE HATTER examines his little fingers.

BENJAMIN

***But not for too long.***

THE HATTER

Oddly-odd, elephangantic, completely and absolutely wonderingly wonderful. They seem to be attached to you, naturally.

THE HATTER puts one of Benjamin's little fingers in his mouth..

BENJAMIN

***What are you doing?***

BENJAMIN pulls his hands back again.

THE HATTER

They taste different too.  
Like salt.

BENJAMIN

***I really gotta get going now, before it's too late.***

THE HATTER

I also still need to write the speech.

THE HATTER remains standing, looking at Benjamin's hands.

BENJAMIN

***See you tonight.***

THE HATTER

Yes, good, tremendous, wonderful.

THE HATTER exits.

THE HATTER (*singing*)

Dum-dt-dum-dy-dum-dy.

BENJAMIN opens the bucket of paint and walks over with it to the statue of Zeppelin, looks at the statue and smiles.

BENJAMIN

And the pooh landed right on the head of the horrible statue.

## SCENE 9: The Little Finger

ZEPPELIN'S basement.

TICK TOCK lies unconscious and tied down to an operating table.

TICK TOCK wakes up.

TICK TOCK

Hello?

Is anyone here?

TICK TOCK tries to free himself (itself)

ZEPPELIN appears out from the darkness

ZEPPELIN

Take it easy, there.

TICK TOCK

Help! Help! Hel--

ZEPPELIN puts a piece of cloth in TICK TOCK's mouth.

ZEPPELIN

There's no need for you to be spooky-scared.

I won't hurt you.

ZEPPELIN takes out a gray metal case.

ZEPPELIN

This was inside of you.

Isn't that fascinating?

The clock case.

The most important part of the clock.

We'd stop ticking if we didn't have it.

Stop ticking. .

My clock case is old and worn out and if I don't soon find a new one. ..

I want to go on ticking, naturally.

You understand that, don't you?

TICK TOCK tries to untie himself.

ZEPPELIN

You ought to be hippity-happy..

If I can fit your clock case that'd mean that you'd saved my life which would actually make you my hero.

You must understand that Bell Valley needs me.

A young and useless clock replaced by an experienced and useful clock.

Now that's what I call a fair deal.

SWATCH enters.

Zeppelin? SWATCH

I'm busy. ZEPPELIN

You better come with me. SWATCH

What is it now? ZEPPELIN

It's horrendific. SWATCH

Out with it, then! ZEPPELIN

Someone's damaged your statue. SWATCH

My statue?! ZEPPELIN

It's horrific. SWATCH

ZEPPELIN and SWATCH leave.

BENJAMIN enters a short while after. (still dressed as HAMILTON).

BENJAMIN takes the cloth out of TICK TOCK'S mouth and throws it on the ground and frees Tick Tock.

Leave me alone. TICK TOCK

I didn't mean to run away. BENJAMIN

But that's what you did. TICK TOCK

I know, but it's just that I got-- BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK

Spook-scared.

BENJAMIN

Sorry.

TICK TOCK

It's too late now.

BENJAMIN

But I am really sorry.

TICK TOCK

I'm going to stop ticking soon.

BENJAMIN

What?

TICK TOCK

I've gotten the same treatment as Lotus.

BENJAMIN

Oh no.

TICK TOCK

They took my clock case, you know, the thing that makes me go tick tock.

BENJAMIN

There's got to be something we can do.

TICK TOCK

There's not much time left.

BENJAMIN

We'll think of something.

TICK TOCK

There's nothing we can do.

BENJAMIN

We've got to get out of here before they return. I don't know for how long that statue can keep them occupied.

TICK TOCK

It's no use.

BENJAMIN

We'll find someone who can help us.

TICK TOCK

The clockmaker is the only one who can help us, but he isn't to be found.

BENJAMIN

The clockmaker?

TICK TOCK

The Almighty, the creator of everything that goes tick tock.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

I know where to find the clockmaker.

TICK TOCK

No, you don't.

BENJAMIN

He lives where I come from.

TICK TOCK

You live in the same town as the clockmaker?

BENJAMIN

Yes.

TICK TOCK

I find that hard to believe.

BENJAMIN

If anybody'd ever told you that a human would one day come down your chimney, would you have believed them then?

Pause.

TICK TOCK

So you want us to ...?

BENJAMIN

Go to the clockmaker.

TICK TOCK

Go to your world?

BENJAMIN

We'll crawl up through the chimney.

TICK TOCK

What if I stop ticking before we get there?

BENJAMIN

Then I'll carry you.

TICK TOCK

Could you really do that?

BENJAMIN

I'm a warrior.

TICK TOCK

A real goofy?

BENJAMIN

A real goofy.

TICK TOCK

Then we'd better hurry.

BENJAMIN

Where's your sword?

TICK TOCK

Zeppelin took it.

*TICK TOCK and BENJAMIN run out but then return walking backwards as Zeppelin and Swatch force them back into the room.*

SWATCH

"The warrior" has returned.

ZEPPELIN

And it was going to save its teeny-weeny clock.

SWATCH

How sweet.

ZEPPELIN

And very dumb-dumb.

BENJAMIN

What do you think of your statue?

SWATCH

What's wrong with your voice, Hamilton?

Are ya spook-scared?



ZEPPELIN

You've destroyed a great work of art.

SWATCH

And you won't get away with it. .

BENJAMIN

Tick Tock, are you ready to run?

TICK TOCK

Yes.

ZEPPELIN

You're not running anywhere.

*BENJAMIN takes his hat and veil off.*

SWATCH

A monster!

*BENJAMIN puts forth his one hand while spreading his fingers.*

BENJAMIN

I've got something that you don't have.

ZEPPELIN

An ugly face.

BENJAMIN

A little finger!

SWATCH

Little finger?

BENJAMIN

And **in** there are huge, magical powers in that finger.

TICK TOCK

Humongous powers!

ZEPPELIN

You're lying.

*BENJAMIN points his finger up in the air.*

BENJAMIN

Little finger!

I call upon your gigantic, astronomical, intergalactic powers!

SWATCH  
That doesn't sound pleasant. .

ZEPPELIN  
Keep quiet!

SWATCH  
But it's calling upon gigantic, astronomical and intergalactic powers!

BENJAMIN points at ZEPPELIN and SWATCH with his little finger.

BENJAMIN  
All I need to do is wiggle with my little finger and you'll both be turned to dust!

ZEPPELIN  
Do something, Swatch!

SWATCH  
I don't want to turn to dust!

BENJAMIN  
It's all your own doing.

BENJAMIN wiggles his little finger and ZEPPELIN and SWATCH close their eyes and cover themselves with their hands.

ZEPPELIN / SWATCH  
No!

BENJAMIN  
Run!

TICK TOCK and BENJAMIN run out.  
ZEPPELIN and SWATCH remain standing in the same position.

ZEPPELIN  
Are you there, Swatch?

SWATCH  
I don't feel like dust.

ZEPPELIN  
I knew it was bluffing.

SWATCH  
If you knew that why'd you --

Shut up! ZEPPELIN

Should we run after them? SWATCH

Nah, we have what we need. ZEPPELIN

Tick Tock's clock case. SWATCH

Let's see if it fits. ZEPPELIN

What if it doesn't? SWATCH

Then we'll take Hamilton's. ZEPPELIN

But what if it doesn't fit? SWATCH

You know, Swatch, sometimes I get this incredible urge to sew your mouth shut. ZEPPELIN

Sorry, I keep forgetting how gumpydumb I am and then I start asking questions and talk and talk without thinking about how mu--- - SWATCH

ZEPPELIN picks up a piece of cloth lying on the ground and stuffs it in Swatch's mouth. .

And next time it'll be with a needle and thread. ZEPPELIN

SWATCH

...

## SCENE 10: Lunch

BENJAMIN'S house.

Mom and Dad are sitting at the dining table which has been set for lunch..

May I have the rye bread? DAD

Mom doesn't react.

May I please have some rye bread? DAD

I can't eat anything. MOM

Dad helps himself to some rye bread.

Well, I can. DAD

I feel queasy. MOM

You could use a little lunch. DAD

I'm afraid I'll just throw it all up again. MOM

He'll come back. DAD

What if something's happened to him? MOM

I'm sure he's fine. DAD

MOM  
What if he's lying somewhere with a broken leg crying for help but no one can hear him, and he's lying there all alone and hungry, and dies of hunger and dust collects on his beautiful little corpse and all there's left are bones and it's all our fault.  
We have to go out and find him.

He hasn't been gone for all that long. DAD

Four hours and 37 minutes.

MOM

That's not long.

DAD

Do you know how long it takes to get run over by a car?

MOM

Stop it.

DAD

One second. Just *one* second.

MOM

The kid just needs to cool down a little, that's all. Throw a couple of stones, Swing a couple of baseball bats. Just give him the time he needs.

DAD

Did you see the look in his eyes just before he left?

MOM

No.

DAD

It reminded me of that Midsummer party with the kitten, remember?

MOM

The little pussycat.

DAD

He was on his way out into the yard with it and when I asked him what he was doing he looked at me and said--

MOM

The pussy cat's cold.

DAD

It's a good thing I thought of the bonfire.

MOM

Well, it certainly got warm again.

DAD

*The father laughs.*

MOM

It's not funny.

DAD

He was little back then.

MOM

I can still see the cat, under the shower, all its fur gone.

DAD

He just wanted to help it.

MOM

The way he looked at me. Before he ran. That look in his eyes was the same as when he went out to the bonfire with the cat.

.

DAD

Are you worried that he's out burning animals?

MOM

I'm worried that he'll do something stupid.

*Dad embraces Mom.*

DAD

You worry too much.

MOM

Do I?

DAD

We've brought him up well.

MOM

We have?

DAD

Of course we have.

MOM

I guess so, but...

DAD

But what?

*Dad pulls away from Mom.*

MOM

You could have been a little more...  
strict.

DAD

Strict?

MOM

Not that I'm perfect, far from it.  
But boys need a firm hand.  
I've read about it.

Boys in particular need an authoritative and uncompromising father figure early  
on in their lives.

DAD

And wasn't I those things?

MOM

I'm just saying that maybe you've been a little too soft on him.

DAD

Oh, right, whereas you, of course, never spoil him.  
You drive him to school every morning.  
He's got a bicycle for Christ's sake.

MOM

There are no bicycle paths around here!

*BENJAMIN (without HAMILTON'S clothes or hat) and TICK TOCK  
enter and remain standing, looking at Mom and Dad who haven't  
noticed them.*

DAD

As though you never do anything wrong.

MOM

"A child is like a vase."

DAD

No it's not.

MOM

"You can drop the vase on the floor so that it breaks and you can pick the  
pieces back up again and even though the cracks aren't visible, it'll never be the  
same again."

DAD

I refuse to listen to this.

MOM

"If you drop the same vase too many times at some point all the glue in the world won't be able to prevent it from falling apart. "

DAD

Honey?

MOM

What if our vase can't be put back together again?

DAD

Would you please keep quiet for just five minutes?

MOM

You've never *really* scolded him.

DAD

What?

MOM

He doesn't respect you.

DAD

That's enough.

MOM

You're not a man.  
You're a wuss.

DAD

Egoist!

MOM

Egoist?

DAD

You bet.

MOM

I'll show you what an egoist I am.

*MOM takes a knife while chasing Dad around the room. They run out.*

TICK TOCK

Were they the ones you ran away from?

BENJAMIN

Yes.



I can understand why. TICK TOCK

I was hoping they'd stopped. BENJAMIN

Were you the vase she was talking about? TICK TOCK

They like to call me different things. Once I was the lawnmower. BENJAMIN

That's strangeystrange. TICK TOCK

And dumpeydumb.. BENJAMIN

I guess you won't be staying here after we go to the clockmaker? TICK TOCK

That's right. BENJAMIN

Don't you think that'll make them sad, though? TICK TOCK

You ask too many questions. BENJAMIN

Lotus and Hamilton can also sometimes be dumpeydumb.. TICK TOCK  
But I still couldn't imagine not having those two bell-heads in my life.

That's not how i feel. BENJAMIN

Who's going to take care of you, then? TICK TOCK

Me. BENJAMIN

But – TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN

You know, there's always a chance that a storm will come and destroy everything anyway, and when the storm's over you'd have no one but yourself. Just look at you, for example.

Your Lotus has stopped ticking and what is Hamilton doing to help you?  
Nothing.  
The only one you can rely on is yourself. Tick Tock.

TICK TOCK

That's –

BENJAMIN

You'll just have to learn to live with it!

TICK TOCK

But I don't want to!

Pause.

BENJAMIN

Sorry

TICK TOCK

I refuse to believe that that's the way it has to be.  
Me and myself just aren't enough for me.  
I don't want to just rely on myself and neither do you.

BENJAMIN

But –

TICK TOCK

There are no buts about it!

Pause.

BENJAMIN

You're right, there are no buts.

TICK TOCK puts forth its hand towards BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK

Promise me that you'll never abandon me again?

BENJAMIN takes TICK TOCK'S hand.

BENJAMIN

I promise.

TICK TOCK

Swear on your little finger that you'll chop it off if you ever break your promise?

BENJAMIN

I swear on my little finger and will chop it off if I break my promise.

TICK TOCK shakes BENJAMIN'S little finger.

Mom and DAD enter, running around the room and still don't discover Benjamin or tik Tak.

DAD

If a man is what you want, a man is what you got!

MOM

You can't even change the oil in the car.

DAD

You can't even drive it.

MOM

I'm an elite driver.

DAD

Come here!

MOM

Stay away from me!

DAD

You're mine!

MOM

Never!

MOM and DAD run out.

TICK TOCK

They have a lot of energy.

BENJAMIN

You don't say.

TICK TOCK

I can't feel anything.

BENJAMIN

Are you numb?

TICK TOCK

No, everything is as it's always been which is strange. if you think about the fact that I'm going to soon stop ticking.

BENJAMIN

Not if we get to the clockmaker fast enough.

TICK TOCK

Should we run then?  
I can run fast.

.

BENJAMIN

It's too far away.  
I have a better idea.  
Or.  
They gave me an idea.

BENJAMIN looks in Mom's purse.

TICK TOCK

What are you looking for?

BENJAMIN takes out a set of keys from the purse.

BENJAMIN

Ever driven a car before?

TICK TOCK

A car?

### **SCENE 11: The Car**

TICK TOCK and BENJAMIN sit in the car.

BENJAMIN is driving, and TICK TOCK is sitting in the passenger seat.

TICK TOCK

Look out!

BENJAMIN

This is harder than I thought.

TICK TOCK

Haven't you ever tried it before?

BENJAMIN

If we just stay on this side of the road we'll be ok.

TICK TOCK

You've never tried it before.

BENJAMIN

We'll be there soon.

TICK TOCK

Is it supposed to sound like that?  
The car?

BENJAMIN

I'm trying to concentrate.

TICK TOCK

It sure doesn't sound hippity-happy to me.

BENJAMIN

It's a machine.  
They're never hippity-happy.

TICK TOCK

Good thing I'm not a machine then, 'cause I—watch out!

BENJAMIN

What?!

TICK TOCK

There's a tree!

BENJAMIN

Where?!

TICK TOCK

Watch out!

BENJAMIN

What?!

TICK TOCK

There's another car!

BENJAMIN

Stop shouting!

But it's all going so fast! TICK TOCK

It's only in first gear! BENJAMIN

Everything 's flying past us and I'm getting dizzy-wizzy, and that's not a nice feeling. TICK TOCK

Close your eyes then! BENJAMIN

Okay! TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK closes his eyes.

Did that help? BENJAMIN

Yeah, a lot. TICK TOCK

Turn green. BENJAMIN

Huh? TICK TOCK

Turn green! BENJAMIN

What?! TICK TOCK

BENJAMIN hits the breaks hard and Tick Tock opens his eyes and screams.

Take it easy. BENJAMIN

Has the machine stopped working? TICK TOCK

We'll go on once the red light turns green. BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK  
So it hasn't stopped working?

BENJAMIN  
See this pedal?  
When I lift my foot it makes the car move forwards.

TICK TOCK  
I've seen more than enough.

TICK TOCK closes his eyes.  
BENJAMIN laughs.

BENJAMIN  
Don't you like my world at all?

TICK TOCK  
Yes, but you people look simy-silly and all your houses are square and there are no animals and everything's messy and doesn't make any sense and goes viciously fast.

BENJAMIN  
It's not always like this.

TICK TOCK  
But your shoes are shingly-impressive.

BENJAMIN  
It just turned green.

BENJAMIN continues driving.

TICK TOCK  
Are we moving again?

BENJAMIN  
Yes.

TICK TOCK  
Maybe going so fast is a good thing.

BENJAMIN  
Why?

TICK TOCK  
Now that Bombus is after us.

BENJAMIN

Bombus?

TICK TOCK

When we clocks stop ticking, the bee Bombus comes and gets us. It sucks up our souls with its teeny-weeny snout.

BENJAMIN

A bee like Tumle?

TICK TOCK

Yes, like Tumle.

BENJAMIN

What happens then?

TICK TOCK

Bombus flies to the clockmaker's garden and pollinates the flowers with our souls and you get to live there forever exactly the way you want to.

BENJAMIN

In a flower?

TICK TOCK

And the flower can be anything. It depends on who you are and what you wish for.

BENJAMIN

Doesn't sound bad.

TICK TOCK

But there was once a clock that walked around Bell Valley in the middle of the day with a lit torch, shouting that it was all a lie and that there are no flowers and that it's all just dimly dark and quietly stilled when you stop ticking. But no one believed it because we all knew that it was a crazy-mad clock.

BENJAMIN

How could you know that?

TICK TOCK

You'd have to be crazy-mad to walk around with a lit torch in the middle of the day.

BENJAMIN

Well, no matter what, I like the one about the bee and the flower a lot better.

TICK TOCK

No matter what, I don't really feel like finding out--



TICK TOCK stops ticking.

BENJAMIN

Find out what?

TICK TOCK doesn't move.

BENJAMIN

Tick Tock?

TICK TOCK doesn't move

BENJAMIN

Tick Tock?

TICK TOCK doesn't move.

## **SCENE 12: The Clockmaker**

The clockmaker's shop.

*Ticking clocks hang on the wall. A working table. Dust.*

*The watch maker sits at the working desk and is reassembling a clock.*

*BENJAMIN enters carrying Tik Tock.*

*In the next scene, the clockmaker doesn't look up from his desk and it gets harder and harder for Benjamin to carry Tick Tock.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

Sorry, we're closed.



I've repaired all kinds of clocks.

Mechanical clocks.

Quartz watches. Quartz clocks.

Grandfather clocks.

Breguet, Bulgari, Erterna, Eberhart, Hanhart, Omega, Osco, Sector, Stowa, Seiko.

I've seen every type and brand imaginable and finally got tired of it.

So I decided to build some new ones.

BENJAMIN

You've never seen one like this before.

BENJAMIN puts TICK TOCK on the clockmaker's table.

THE CLOCKMAKER

What are you ...?!

BENJAMIN

This is Tick Tock.

Pause.

THE CLOCKMAKER

What is it?

BENJAMIN

A clock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

It looks like it's alive..

BENJAMIN

It usually is .

The clockmaker pokes TICK TOCK.

THE CLOCKMAKER

It feels like it's human.

BENJAMIN

But it's not,

BENJAMIN shows the clockmaker TICK TOCK'S hand with the four fingers.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Four fingers.

Interesting.

BENJAMIN

And normally when you listen to it you can hear it--

THE CLOCKMAKER

Ticking?

BENJAMIN

And not dumping-bumping.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Fascinating.

BENJAMIN

But as you can see it's stopped ticking.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Amazing.

BENJAMIN

Can you fix it?

THE CLOCKMAKER

A live clock.

BENJAMIN

Can you?

Pause.

THE CLOCKMAKER

You know what?

No one's interested in clocks anymore.

They're so busy looking at their wristwatches and alarm clocks and don't care about what's behind a clock face.

As long as they work and go on ticking and ringing.

And then you show up.

A smart kid who's genuinely interested in the craft of clockmaking and who needs my help.

You've done me a big favor by taking such a valuable and rare specimen to my humble store.

You've given an old clockmaker that which he's always dreamed of:

The chance to meet a unique piece of clock work.

BENJAMIN

So will you help me?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Do you want to learn how to repair clocks?

BENJAMIN

Yes, absolutely.

Pause.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Then we'll repair your clock.  
Together.

BENJAMIN

Together?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Learning by doing, my boy, is the best way to learn a trade.  
I'll be your eyes.  
I'll tell you what to do.

The clockmaker takes out his tools.

BENJAMIN

What are we going to do?

THE CLOCKMAKER

I can see that someone's already cut into it once.  
What was its name?

BENJAMIN

Tick Tock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

We'll open Tick Tock again.

BENJAMIN

And you're my eyes.

THE CLOCKMAKER

And you're my hands.

*The clockmaker gives Benjamin a scalpel.*

BENJAMIN

What do I do?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Cut the stitches out.

BENJAMIN

You want me to cut into it?

THE CLOCKMAKER

How else are you going to open it?

*BENJAMIN cut out the stitches.*

BENJAMIN

It feels weird.

*The clockmaker examines Tick Tock's insides.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

Interesting.

BENJAMIN

Can we fix it?

THE CLOCKMAKER

If I'm not mistaken ...

BENJAMIN

Is it possible?

*THE CLOCKMAKER takes out a carbon box and rummages through it.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

It looks like Tick Tock is one part mechanical clock and one part quartz. It runs on a movement-sensitive sensory module that registers even the tiniest movements and transforms them to energy and that energy is then stored and used to activate the motor that pulls the weight up once it's hit the bottom and that very same weight, when it descends, makes the gear wheel turn but if the sensory module is missing then there's no longer anything to activate the motor and pull the weight back up again.

*Pause.*

BENJAMIN

Uhm ... what?

*The clockmaker takes a gray metal box out of the carbon box.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

Tick Tock's sensory module is missing.

BENJAMIN

And that's a sensory module?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Looks like it has the right size.

BENJAMIN

So we have to insert the module by operating **on him?**

THE CLOCKMAKER

It has to be placed in the square cavity between the two gear wheels.

BENJAMIN

What about the cord?

THE CLOCKMAKER

The cord connects the lead weight to the motor that gets activated by the sensory module. In other words, it needs to connect the sensory module with the motor behind the cord.

BENJAMIN

Which means I'll have to move the cord.

*The clockmaker gives Benjamin a pair of pincers and the sensory module.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

Hold it aside with one hand and fasten the sensory module to the motor with the other..

BENJAMIN

The cord looks thin, what'll happen if it breaks?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Then Tick Tock will never run again.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

Maybe you'd better do this.

THE CLOCKMAKER

But it's your job, my boy.  
You're the hands.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

And you're the eyes.

BENJAMIN carefully moves the cord to the side with the pincers.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Good, now fasten the module to the motor.

BENJAMIN

Which way?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Clockwise.

BENJAMIN fastens the module to the motor while holding the cord to the side with the pincers.

BENJAMIN

It fits.

THE CLOCKMAKER

You're almost there.

BENJAMIN fastens the module.

BENJAMIN

Now what?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Now you carefully pull the cord over back in its place.

BENJAMIN pulls the cord back in its place.

BENJAMIN

Did I do it right?

THE CLOCKMAKER

The module will now slowly start to transform the energy to the motor and in a little while it should pull the weight which means that Tick Tock will be able to run again.

BENJAMIN

How long will it last?

THE CLOCKMAKER

For many years, but a day will come when the cord will be so worn that it'll break of itself.

You better sew it back together so that dust doesn't get into the mechanism.



*The clockmaker gives Benjamin needle and thread. Benjamin sews tik Tak back together.*

BENJAMIN

I'm so glad that you could help us.

THE CLOCKMAKER

And you know what?  
So am I.

BENJAMIN

Do you have any more sensory modules  
that I can take with me?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Yes, I think so.

*The clockmaker looks in the carbon box.*

BENJAMIN

But I don't have any money.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Don't worry about it.

BENJAMIN

But I feel like I owe you something.

*The clockmaker finds a sensory module and puts it in a bag.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

And an extra module for you, sir.

BENJAMIN

And we're done.

THE CLOCKMAKER

And you did a fine job, my good sir.

BENJAMIN

I didn't know I could sew.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Your hands can do a lot more than you think.

The clockmaker gives Benjamin the bag and pushes him towards the exit.

BENJAMIN

Hey, what are you doing?

THE CLOCKMAKER

It's time we said good-bye.

BENJAMIN

But –

THE CLOCKMAKER

No buts.

BENJAMIN

But Tick Tock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

You got the sensory module and I taught you what to do and now it's time for you to pay. It's the grown-up thing to do.

BENJAMIN

Huh?

THE CLOCKMAKER

With Tick Tock's help I can do what all clockmakers can only dream of.

I can build an ultimately unique clock work.

A clock that the world has never seen before.

It'll be my greatest achievement since my old pendulum soon won't be of use anymore and they'll write about me in the clockmaker's journal and take pictures of me and talk about me after my death.

"The clockmaker that reinvented the clock," is what they'll say.

BENJAMIN

Was that the only reason why you helped me?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Hey, kid, you gotta look out for yourself.

The clockmaker has pushed Benjamin all the way out and he goes back and starts examining Tick Tock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Fascinating.

Fantastic.

Absolutely amazing.

BENJAMIN returns.

BENJAMIN

Excuse me?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Didn't I tell you to leave?

BENJAMIN

I think I understand you.

You've gotta think of yourself first and foremost.

THE CLOCKMAKER

If you're constantly minding the other cars on the race track you'll never make it to the finish line.

BENJAMIN

The only person you can depend on is yourself.

THE CLOCKMAKER

If you need other people you're not free.

That's what I've always said.

BENJAMIN

And it's true.

THE CLOCKMAKER

What is it you want?

BENJAMIN

I have an offer for you.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Well,, let me hear it then.

BENJAMIN

What would you say if I were to tell you that there's a whole town with clocks like the one there lying on your table.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Go on.

BENJAMIN

A town called Bell Valley where you can examine them in real life.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Continue.

BENJAMIN

And who says you can't take them here and expand your shop?  
I have a feeling that people would be willing to pay a lot of money to have their  
very own real-life clock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

What is it that you want?

BENJAMIN

Tick Tock

THE CLOCKMAKER

Why?

BENJAMIN

Cause it's my clock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

And how do I know that you're not cheating me?

BENJAMIN

You can get this as a deposit.

*BENJAMIN throws the car keys towards the clockmaker.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

A car?

BENJAMIN

You know what?  
It'll be a part of the bargain.  
You can keep it.  
It's parked right out in front.

THE CLOCKMAKER

How did you get a car?

BENJAMIN

That a deal?

*Pause.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

So where is this town?

BENJAMIN

Do you know where the old water mill is in the forest?

THE CLOCKMAKER

Yes.

BENJAMIN

A hundred meters north of there, at the bottom of the forest, you'll find a hatch covered with the leaves which will lead you to Bell Valley and the clocks.

*The clockmaker grabs Benjamin by the collar.*

THE CLOCKMAKER

I hope for your sake that you're not lying.

BENJAMIN

The only thing I care about is Tick Tock.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Or else I'll come after you and find you.

BENJAMIN

I have no interest in cheating you.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Is that a fact, now?

BENJAMIN

I'm just looking out for myself is all.

THE CLOCKMAKER

Now when I get back here both you and your clock had better be gone.

*The clockmaker lets go of Benjamin and exits.*

*Benjamin shakes Tick Tock who slowly gains consciousness.*

TICK TOCK

Benjamin?

BENJAMIN

Don't get scared but--

TICK TOCK

Did I stop ticking?

BENJAMIN

We've gotta get out of here.

TICK TOCK  
I want to see the clockmaker.

BENJAMIN  
That probably wouldn't be such a good idea.

TICK TOCK  
Why not?

BENJAMIN  
I'll explain it to you on the way.

TICK TOCK  
Are we gonna go driving again?

BENJAMIN  
We'll walk this time.

TICK TOCK  
But where are we going?

BENJAMIN  
Home.

BENJAMIN and TICK TOCK exit  
The Clockmaker enters with a back pack which he fills up with tools.

THE CLOCKMAKER  
"Come get your own live clock."  
"Buy it today."  
"The Clockmaker that reinvented clocks."

The Clockmaker takes a look at his shop and all the ticking clocks.

THE CLOCKMAKER  
Good-bye my dear old friends.  
Your time has unfortunately run out.

The Clockmaker exits the shop

### SCENE 13: The Coin

TICK TOCK'S home.  
BENJAMIN and TICK TOCK enter through the chimney.

BENJAMIN  
He's probably running around in the forest now, exploding with rage.

TICK TOCK

I hope so.

BENJAMIN

I'd like to see the look on his face once he realizes that there's no hatch.

TICK TOCK

He couldn't have been the real clockmaker.  
He must have been a fraud.

Pause.

BENJAMIN

But we got through it, Tick Tock.

TICK TOCK

Yeah, and I sure am glad that you didn't leave me this time.

BENJAMIN

I wanted to keep my little finger.

TICK TOCK

My goofy.

TICK TOCK gives BENJAMIN a hug.

BENJAMIN

So, how did it feel?

TICK TOCK

The hug?  
Good.

BENJAMIN

No, to stop ticking?

Pause.

TICK TOCK

It was ...

BENJAMIN

Were there any flowers?

TICK TOCK

I don't know.

You don't? BENJAMIN

I can't remember anything. TICK TOCK

Nothing? BENJAMIN

Oh, wait  
I think I remember a sound. TICK TOCK

Yeah? BENJAMIN

No, I lost it again. TICK TOCK

Pause.

We better repair Lotus. BENJAMIN

I'll wake Hamilton. TICK TOCK

It's been sleeping for a long time. BENJAMIN

Doesn't surprise me. TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK exits.

After a little while TICK TOCK comes in again

What's wrong? BENJAMIN

Hamilton ...  
It's... TICK TOCK

What? BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK points towards the bedroom.  
BENJAMIN goes out.



After a little while BENJAMIN comes back in again.

TICK TOCK  
Now we need two.

BENJAMIN  
And we've only got one.

TICK TOCK  
You know what that means, don't you?

BENJAMIN  
Yes.

TICK TOCK  
But I can't choose.

BENJAMIN  
It' no use going back to the clockmaker's shop.

TICK TOCK  
Why not?

BENJAMIN  
There weren't any more clock chests.

TICK TOCK  
But I can't choose!

BENJAMIN  
You're going to have to.

TICK TOCK  
How?!

BENJAMIN looks in his pockets.

BENJAMIN  
I've got a ...

TICK TOCK  
A what?

BENJAMIN takes a coin from his pocket

BENJAMIN  
A coin.  
It's got two sides.

Heads and tails.

You throw it in the air and when it lands you see whether it decided to land on heads or tails.

TICK TOCK

So the coin chooses for you.

BENJAMIN

Yes.

Pause.

TICK TOCK

You do it.

BENJAMIN

What's what?

TICK TOCK

Hamilton is heads.  
Lotus is tails.

BENJAMIN throws the coin in the air and lets it land on the ground.

BENJAMIN

Heads...

TICK TOCK

I don't like that coin of yours.

BENJAMIN

You'll get Lotus back..  
That's better than nothing.

TICK TOCK

Hamilton was dumpeydumb.

But he was also funny and when he couldn't sleep he'd read stories aloud to me about warriors and dragons and he'd try to roar like a dragon but end up sounding more like a cat with a stuffed-up nose. Because Hamilton was really bad at making his voice sound different

BENJAMIN

Do you want to fix Hamilton, then?

TICK TOCK

No.

TICK TOCK sits down.

Tick Tock? BENJAMIN

Leave me alone. TICK TOCK

Can you hear it? BENJAMIN

Hear what? TICK TOCK

Listen. BENJAMIN

There is the sound of a buzzing bee and Tick Tock immediately tries to hide.

That was the sound!  
That was the sound!  
It's Bombus! TICK TOCK

No, it's Tumle! BENJAMIN

BENJAMIN sees the bee and follows it all around the room and tries to catch it.

How do you know that it's Tumle? TICK TOCK

I just do. BENJAMIN

What if you're wrong? TICK TOCK

I'm not a clock.  
Bombus can't harm me. BENJAMIN

I guess not. TICK TOCK

Gotcha! BENJAMIN

*BENJAMIN catches the bee and Tick Tock comes out from his hiding place.*

TICK TOCK  
What are you going to do with it?

BENJAMIN  
Do you have a jam jar?

TICK TOCK  
Maybe in the kitchen.

BENJAMIN  
Good bee.

*BENJAMIN goes out*  
*TICK TOCK takes the coin and examines it.*  
*BENJAMIN comes in with the bee in a jam jar.*

TICK TOCK  
Its not right.

BENJAMIN  
Don't worry, I'll set it free again.

TICK TOCK  
No.

BENJAMIN  
Oh yes I will.

TICK TOCK  
No, it's wrong that that dumpeydumb coin is the one to make the decision.

*TICK TOCK casts the coin away.*

BENJAMIN  
That was actually my coin.

TICK TOCK  
We're the ones who'll decide!

BENJAMIN  
We are?

TICK TOCK  
We'll decide!

We'll decide. BENJAMIN

Yes! TICK TOCK

Pause.

What are we going to decide? BENJAMIN

That Zeppelin isn't going to win. TICK TOCK

You're not going to ...? BENJAMIN

TICK TOCK  
Give horrentious Zeppelin a kick in his behind.  
You bet I will

BENJAMIN  
I actually wouldn't mind doing that either.

TICK TOCK  
Zeppelin has the clock cases.  
Our clock cases.  
And we're going to get them back.

.

Pause.

BENJAMIN  
But remember how it turned out last time?

TICK TOCK takes the jam jar from BENJAMIN.

TICK TOCK  
This time it'll be different.  
'Cause I've got a plan.

BENJAMIN  
I like plans.

TICK TOCK  
Your bee is going to help us.

Tumle? BENJAMIN

It's not called Tumle any more. TICK TOCK

It's not? BENJAMIN

**SCENE 14: The Bee**

ZEPPELIN'S basement.  
SWATCH swings Silver Blade triumphantly

SWATCH

What'd I say!

ZEPPELIN

I knew it would fit!

SWATCH

Fabulastic!

ZEPPELIN

Thanks for all your help, Hamilton!

SWATCH

We could never have done it without you!

They laugh.

ZEPPELIN

Sing with me, Swatch.

SWATCH

You mean it?

ZEPPELIN

We managed to avoid the unavoidable.

We need to do some celebrating.

ZEPPELIN / SWATCH (Sing)

Snake skin

Dead maggots

The blood of bears and bones of cats

The sweat of pigs.

Tiger teeth.

Puma fur and feathers of birds.

Pause.

SWATCH

Zeppelin.

It was truly an honor to help you.

ZEPPELIN

Our collaboration was a good one, but it can't go on like this, my dear Swatch.

SWATCH

What do you mean, Sir?

ZEPPELIN

If anyone were to find out what I've done, I'd lose my job as a clockmeister.

SWATCH  
But we're the only two who know the truth.

ZEPPELIN  
And that's one too many..

SWATCH  
I won't tell any one.

ZEPPELIN  
I can't t take any chances.

SWATCH  
But –

ZEPPELIN  
I'll be decent to you.  
All I'll do is banish you from the country.

SWATCH  
Banish me from the country?

ZEPPELIN  
And should you ever return to Bell Valley  
the clocks would probably burn you at the stake.  
Because they would know that you were the one who made them stoop ticking.  
After all, someone's got to be blamed for all those horrendous crimes.  
Consider it you're last assignment here as my assistant.

SWATCH  
You can't really mean that.

ZEPPELIN  
Now, don't make me ragingly raged Swatch.  
I could just go ahead and use Plan B.

SWATCH  
What's Plan B?

ZEPPELIN  
You don't want to know.

SWATCH  
But I've lived in Bell Valley my whole life. This is my home. It's where I learned  
to walk when I was just a little clock, where I had my hat ceremony, where I  
kissed my first round hat. I've never been outside of Bell Valley and there are  
monsters out there that'll eat me!



ZEPPELIN

Cheer up, Swatch.  
You helped me create something big and silkily-stunning  
You're a hero.

SWATCH

A hero ...

ZEPPELIN gives SWATCH a piece of paper and a pencil.

ZEPPELIN

The clocks deserve an explanation.  
Are you ready to write?

SWATCH

Yes.

ZEPPELIN starts to dictate but doesn't see that Swatch isn't writing anything down but merely staring out into space.

ZEPPELIN

"Dear clocks of Bell Valley.  
Today is a big day because on this day  
the Almighty Clockmeister Zeppelin managed to find the horrendious criminal  
who got innocent clocks to stop ticking, that is, Swatch.  
However, Swatch did manage to escape Bell Valley but if this criminal were to  
ever return it would be burned at the stake.  
In light of Zeppelin's tremendous courage this day will from now on be known  
as Zeppelin's´day and it will be a day of celebration with music and dancing  
throughout the streets of Bell Valley."  
Did you get that down?

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

Swatch?

BENJAMIN (without costume) enters.

BENJAMIN

Hi.

ZEPPELIN

I thought I had gotten rid of you, you horrendious monster!

BENJAMIN

I've got a surprise for you.

ZEPPELIN goes over to Benjamin.

ZEPPELIN

What are you going to do?  
Threaten me with those useless fingers of yours?

BENJAMIN

No, I've got something much better.

BENJAMIN whistles.

ZEPPELIN

Uhm ... the monster can whistle.

TICK TOCK enters, hides the bee in the jam jar behind his back and ZEPPELIN stops up.

ZEPPELIN

Impossible.  
You were supposed to have stopped ticking.

TICK TOCK

The Clockmaker made me.

ZEPPELIN

No one can find the Clockmaker.

BENJAMIN

We could.

ZEPPELIN

You're lying!  
We'll show them right Swatch?

SWATCH remains in his seat

ZEPPELIN

Come on now, Swatch.

SWATCH gets up but hesitates

SWATCH

You want to banish me!.

ZEPPELIN

Keep quiet and fight!

No. SWATCH

Obey me! ZEPPELIN

No. SWATCH

If you don't obey me this instant I won't banish you but will use Plan B instead. ZEPPELIN

What's plan B? SWATCH

I'll write a new speech where I'll say "Luckily Swatch didn't manage to escape from the courageous Zeppelin so all of you town citizens can now make a great big bonfire so that justice can be served. ZEPPELIN

I've written your speeches, made decisions for you, cooked your food, massaged your feet and cleaned your hat! SWATCH

I'll sew your mouth shut, hang you by your legs, whip you and smear you in oil and bird seeds and let the birds come and peck you to tiny pieces.! ZEPPELIN

You're nothing but a sour, lazy egogagantic, self-centered, cry-baby and I won't stand for it any longer! SWATCH

SWATCH throws Silver Blade away.

When I think about it I realize that I may have been a little too hard on you, my dear Swatch. ZEPPELIN  
We'll write a speech together.  
"The Almighty Zeppelin and the courageous Swatch managed to catch the clock Tick and Tock and the horrendous monster who were both guilty of stopping clocks from ticking. And from now on this day will be known as Zeppelin-Swatch day."  
That sound better?

SWATCH writes on the piece of paper and hands it to Zeppelin.

Here you are.	SWATCH
Is that the speech?	ZEPPELIN
It's my resignation, I quit..	SWATCH
I won't accept it.	ZEPPELIN
You're going to have to.	SWATCH
<u>SWATCH exits</u>	
You're fired!	ZEPPELIN
How does it feel to be alone?	BENJAMIN
Doesn't bother me.	ZEPPELIN
We have a surprise for you.	TICK TOCK
Do you two really think that you can scare me?	ZEPPELIN
Maybe..	BENJAMIN
Take a look at his.	TICK TOCK
<u>TICK TOCK takes out the jam jar..</u>	
A jam jar?	ZEPPELIN
It's not so much the glass.	BENJAMIN
It's the bee inside of it.	TICK TOCK

The bee? ZEPPELIN

Bombus bee. TICK TOCK

That's not Bombus. ZEPPELIN

It's a gift from the clockmaker himself. BENJAMIN

All we have to do is set it free. TICK TOCK

And then... BENJAMIN

Well, you know the rest. TICK TOCK

Pause.

What do you want? ZEPPELIN

The clock cases. TICK TOCK

All of them. BENJAMIN

That's impossible. ZEPPELIN

Do you want me to let Bombus out? TICK TOCK

Pause.

ZEPPELIN  
I am Zeppelin, I am the clockmaker (I) am the smartest and almightiest of clocks  
in all of Bell Valley and that's not Bombus bee.

Are you sure? BENJAMIN

ZEPPELIN

I'm not made to stop working, I'm made to tick and I'll go on ticking!

BENJAMIN

But you will stop working.

OK, so you might have a clock chest that'll make you keep working, but at some point the cords in you that get your whole mechanism to work will get so worn down that they'll break.

TICK TOCK

And then it'll all be over.

And there's nothing you can do about it no matter how many clocks you get to stop working and no matter how many clock chests you put inside yourself.

We're *made* to stop working.

Pause.

ZEPPELIN

Not me.

TICK TOCK

Prove it, then.

TICK TOCK holds forth the jam jar..

BENJAMIN

What are **(you)** doing?

TICK TOCK

Well, if Zeppelin is so confident then it won't get scared if we open up the jar.

ZEPPELIN takes the jar from TICK TOCK.

ZEPPELIN

It's only a bee.

ZEPPELIN screws off the cap of the jar.

There's a buzzing sound when the bee flies out and around the room and they follow it with their eyes and it continues to fly around the room but then turns around and flies directly towards Zeppelin.

ZEPPELIN

No.

No.

No.

ZEPPELIN backs away from the bee but it lands right on ZEPPELIN'S stomach.

Nothing happens.

ZEPPELIN

What did I say?  
It's just an ordinary bee. .

ZEPPELIN tries to hit the bee on his stomach but suddenly freezes  
in the middle of his movement.

TICK TOCK

Zeppelin?

BENJAMIN

Has it stopped working?

TICK TOCK

I think so.

BENJAMIN

But does that mean it's...?

The bee takes off from Zeppelin's stomach and buzzing sounds can  
be heard and they follow the bee with their eyes and it flies out the  
room.

TICK TOCK

Bombus.

BENJAMIN

Maybe Zeppelin got so scared that his cord broke.

TICK TOCK

No, it was Bombus.

BENJAMIN

Well, anyway, it doesn't matter now because we got through it.

TICK TOCK

Yes, we did.

BENJAMIN

We're goofies.

*They hug each other and dance around in circles.*

TICK TOCK / BENJAMIN

Goofies! Goofies! Goofies!

We won! TICK TOCK

We're super heroes! BENJAMIN

What are super heroes?! TICK TOCK

It doesn't matter! BENJAMIN

It doesn't matter! TICK TOCK  
Because I'm getting my Lotus back and my Hamilton and we'll be one big happy family and I'll get my hat ceremony and my very own hat!

*BENJAMIN stops dancing*

You deserve it too.. BENJAMIN

What's wrong? TICK TOCK

I want to have a great big happy family too. BENJAMIN

Who said you can't have that? TICK TOCK

*Pause.*

Yeah, who said that, anyway? BENJAMIN

You shouldn't stand for that. TICK TOCK

It's not my fault that those two bell-heads can't get along! BENJAMIN

That's right! TICK TOCK

They owe me a decent family! BENJAMIN



TICK TOCK

Exactly!

BENJAMIN

And it can work properly even if it's divided in two.

TICK TOCK

Yes!

BENJAMIN

And if they don't listen to what I say I'll kick them so hard in their behinds that they won't be able to sit down for the rest of their gumpeydumb days and from now on I'm going to bike to school myself and if any of those horrentious kids try to steal my lunch bag or beat me up or lock me in the bathroom, they'll come to regret it!

TICK TOCK picks up Silver Blade and gives it to BENJAMIN.

TICK TOCK

I think you'll be needing Silver Blade more than me.

BENJAMIN

Are you sure?

TICK TOCK

Completely.

BENJAMIN

Thanks

Pause.

TICK TOCK

Should we start repairing them now?

BENJAMIN

Yes.

TICK TOCK

Do you think I can...learn?

BENJAMIN

Of course you can.

TICK TOCK

What do we do?

We'll repair them together. BENJAMIN

Together? TICK TOCK

You learn best by using your hands. BENJAMIN

With your fingers. TICK TOCK

I'll tell you what to do. BENJAMIN

So you'll be my eyes.. TICK TOCK

And you'll be my hands. BENJAMIN

### SCENE 15: Dinner

BENJAMIN'S house.  
Mom and Dad are sitting at the dining table set for dinner.

DAD  
Would you pass me the potatoes?

*Mom doesn't react*

DAD

*Would you please pass me the potatoes?*

*Mom passes the potatoes to Dad*

MOM

11 hours and 45 minutes

*Dad doesn't take any potatoes but puts them back down on the table and gets up.*

DAD

I'm actually not hungry.

*Mom gets up.*

MOM

Something terrible's happened. .

DAD

Something horrible.

*Mom and Dad hug each other.*

MOM

He's freezing and lost and he goes up to a random house and knocks on the door and a man and a woman open the door and they don't have any children and they get so happy when they see Benjamin and they let him into the house and give him a cup of hot chocolate and cookies and they never let him leave again because they always wanted a boy.

DAD

No, the ice cream man took him.

MOM

The ice cream man?

DAD

He drives around in his ice cream truck, ringing his bells and Benjamin goes over to him to buy ice cream and the ice cream man lures him behind the truck, catches him, ties him up and locks him inside a big freezer and Benjamin freezes to ice and the ice man sends him to the farthest reaches of Africa where he gets burned at the stake.

MOM

Benjamin loves ice cream.

*BENJAMIN enters with Silver Blade, Mom and Dad don't see them.*

DAD

Let's call the police.

Dad takes out his cell phone.

BENJAMIN

You can report that the car's been stolen while you're at it.

MOM

Benjamin?

Mom and Dad walk towards Benjamin but Benjamin raises Silver Blade threateningly.

BENJAMIN

Stay there!

They stop.

DAD

Where have you been?

MOM

Did anything happen?

BENJAMIN

Are you getting divorced?

Mom and Dad look at each other.

MOM

Yes. .

DAD

Yes, we are. .

MOM

We're sorry..

DAD

But things just can't be different.

BENJAMIN

I think it's a good idea.

MOM

You do?

BENJAMIN

You're terrible when you're together.

DAD

We're not *that* bad.

BENJAMIN

You're horridicious and very spooky-scary.

MOM

We most certainly are not!  
What does that mean anyway?

BENJAMIN

And I've decided.

DAD

You have?

BENJAMIN

Yes.

MOM

What's your decision, then??

Pause.

BENJAMIN

The chair..

*BENJAMIN sits down on a chair at the dining room table.*

DAD

The chair?

BENJAMIN

I'm not a vase, a lawn mower, a car or a TV. I'm not grand-pa, I'm Benjamin and I want you to treat me like Benjamin!  
And I'll just stay seated here until you learn.  
Because you are the ones getting a divorce, not me.  
Is that understood?

MOM / DAD

Yes ...

BENJAMIN

And I want some dinner now because I'm hungry.

BENJAMIN puts food on his plate and eats.

I hope the food hasn't gotten cold. MOM

We're very happy to see you again. DAD

So happy. . MOM

Pause.

I just got a crazy idea. DAD  
What if I were to tear down that wall?

That's a good idea. MOM

Would that make you happy? DAD

Then you could see what's in the secret room. MOM

Wouldn't that be fun? DAD

Maybe there's a treasure chest filled with gold and precious stones. MOM

Maybe there's an old man who's been locked in there since he was a boy. DAD

An old man? MOM  
Couldn't you think of anything better?

Don't tear down the wall. BENJAMIN

Don't you want to see what's on the other side? MOM

No. BENJAMIN

Why not? DAD

I already know what's there. BENJAMIN

So what's there? MOM

Pause.

An empty, dusty room with a chimney.  
And probably a lot of cobwebs. BENJAMIN

BENJAMIN eats some more.

### SCENE 16: The Hat Ceremony

TICK TOCK'S house.

LOTUS and HAMILTON stand side by side each holding a hat.

Lotus a round one and Hamilton a flat one. The hatter goes over to Hamilton.

Hamilton? THE HATTER

Yes? HAMILTON

Could I see them just one more time? THE HATTER

You know, the fingers?

HAMILTON

What?

THE HATTER

No, no, this is a bad time.  
We'll talk about it later.

*The Hatter goes out to the side and takes out a piece of paper.*

LOTUS

What was that all about?

HAMILTON

I don't know.

THE HATTER

Let the ceremony begin!

*TICK TOCK enters , dressed in his ceremony outfit. Tick Tock positions **himself** before the Hatter.*

TICK TOCK

I'm ready.

THE HATTER

We are gathered here today  
for today is a special day.

The day has come where Tick Tock must choose a hat.

"In a brief moment you won't see me anymore and in a brief moment you will see me again."

With these words I begin my speech.

For in a short while, Tick Tock, you will disappear.

And then you'll appear before us again.

And for the very first time a shatter-smashing hat will be placed on your head and you will no longer be hatless.

You have probably been in doubt as to which hat to choose, the ring-round or the foldy-flat.

But what is important is not the answer but the question.

Because it is a question that makes you examine and search not only inside of yourself but also your environment.

And it is this examination and search that will further develop **(you)**.

Tick Tock.

There is no *right* hat.

There is only your hat.

I now ask you to kneel down.



TICK TOCK kneels before the Hatter who places his hand on Tick Tock's head.

THE HATTER

"For a brief moment you won't see me and for a brief moment you will see me again."

I ask you, Tick Tock, are you ready to choose a hat?

TICK TOCK

Yes.

THE HATTER kisses TICK TOCKs on his head

THE HATTER

Rise.

TICK TOCK gets up.

THE HATTER

Tick Tock.

Choose your hat.

TICK TOCK positions himself before Lotus and Hamilton.

Tick Tock looks at the flat hat and the round hat.

Tick Tock stretches out his hand. (suggestion: Tick Tock chooses)

**The End**