

## Hoo's Writing Corner



### The Big Surprise

The circus was due to come to town in two days time and the organisers were getting frantic. They'd sold all the tickets to the show, but had one problem, the big surprise for the finale.

Hoo and Zebby had been called into action and were heading to headquarters for their morning briefing.

'Hello.' Zebby called opening the huge meeting room door. Inside stood Mr Z, his boss at Brains Broadcast.

'Take a seat.' The tall spindly man called over.

Hoo and Zebby settled down in the huge green armchairs.

'This is an unusual mission, but one of great importance. Mr Toms is an old friend, his circus is coming to town, as you know, but he needs his finale to be a surprise to the audience. Trouble is the finale is a talking elephant. How can he ship the elephant in with no one finding out? That's the mission.' Mr Z finished, looking at Hoo for answers.

'Simple.' Hoo said, standing to his feet. 'We cause a distraction, and then when everyone's looking the other way, we bring the elephant in.'

A slow smile spread over the old man's face.

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*'Well, well, that's a marvellous idea.'*

*'Leave it to me.'* Hoo said heading for the door.

An hour later Hoo and Zebby were in their office coming up with distraction ideas. So far, they'd had several thoughts, a fate, a celebrity coming to town, a tea party, a town meeting and a raffle.

*'Which one will interest most of the town?'* Hoo asked.

*'Well everyone does love a party.'* Zebby laughed, knowing that most of the town folk always came out to celebrate at every opportunity they could.

*'Yes that's true, everyone except maybe two people joined us at the dinner dance didn't they?'* Hoo said thoughtfully.

*'Well that's it then, let's host a picnic in the town square.'* Hoo said delighted that they'd come up with a marvellous idea in just one hour.

Two hours later, Hoo and Zebby had run the idea through, not only their boss, Mr Z, at Brains Broadcast, but also Mr Toms. Both men were thrilled and helped to get the word out. The picnic would be held the very next day,

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and just as the Mayor was giving a welcome speech, Millie the talking Elephant would be transferred into the large farmhouse on the edge of the Pinkleton town where the circus would be held the following day.

With leaflets tucked in their satchels, the two friends set off into Pinkleton to deliver the message in person to every resident.

Just as they'd gotten half way on their rounds, they heard a very familiar voice. Hoo's heart sank as he turned around to see none other than Axel, his rival. It would be just his luck for Axel to show up and spoil the surprise.

'Hello.' Hoo said cautiously.

'Bit of a change of career for you isn't it?' Axel said pointing at the leaflets.

'You know me Axel, always happy to help.' Hoo said carrying on stuffing the leaflets through letterboxes.

'I know you're up to something.' His rival declared. 'And I'll find out.' He warned before walking off in the opposite direction.

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Hoo didn't have time to worry about Axel, there was too much to do, and time was running out.

The day of the picnic arrived and everything seemingly was going perfect. All the residents had descended on the town square and Millie was in transit. Hoo and Zebby watched as everyone laid their picnic blankets down and began laying out their food in anticipation of the Mayor's arrival. It was then that the pair snuck off to the farmhouse for Millie's arrival. She was due any moment.

Just as the huge lorry came trundling down the road, Axel appeared, camera at the ready.

'Shouldn't you be at the picnic? What's this?' Axel said.

Before Hoo had a chance to reply, the lorry began swaying to and fro. The elephant was in distress. Banging and shrieking was coming from inside the lorry, and suddenly the lorry doors burst open and Millie rolled out onto the grass with a bang.

'What the...!' Axel began, before taking multiple photos.

Millie, who could spot trouble a mile off, came charging towards Axel, with no sign of stopping.

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The pair came colliding into each other and rolled and rolled until they came to an abrupt stop. Axel lay frightened in the ditch, while Millie walked off in the other direction happy with herself. It was safe to say that Axel's camera was broken, they'd be no photos in the press to give Millie's big entrance away, and Axel was too terrified of her to say another word.

Millie proved the biggest surprise Pinkleton town had ever seen and Mr Toms was thoroughly happy with the work Hoo and Zebby had done.