

"NED'S NEWT"#15-A: "Weekend At Bernice"

FADE IN:

**INT. FLEMKIN KITCHEN - DAY****1.**

PAN a cheery brochure. FAMILIES dance ring-around-the-rosy around a SLOT MACHINE. FAMILIES ride spherical silver carousel cars with a grand ROULETTE WHEEL motif.

NED'S MOM (O.S.)

Ya don't think it'll be boring for you two while I'm in intense meetings all weekend discussing the future of smell?

WIDE: Sharon studies the brochure. Eric cheerily tosses a shirt over his shoulder into one of several suitcases on the bed.

NED'S DAD

Ned and I'll be fine! Don't forget, they call Gamble City "The Familyest Place On Earth!"

INTO Ned's Dad's FANTASY:

**INT. SHOWROOM - NIGHT (FANTASY)****2.**

SHOWGIRLS high-kick Rockette-style around Ned's Dad (and one feeds him grapes) as he plays cards with a CROUPIER.

NED'S DAD (V/O)

And I have been known to play a little - heh heh - Crazy 8's in my time.

BACK OUT: Contra Eric, Ned's Mom sits on the bed, seriously contemplating a pressing problem. (Framed photo of a CAT TAIL under a truck tire on the nightstand.)

NED'S MOM

Perfume sales are flatter than Aunt Dora's cat, God rest its annoying soul. We've got to find a bold new aroma at this Convention, to save the aroma industry. Eric?

She looks up, catching Eric high-kicking like a Rockette.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY****3.**

Newton packs Ned's suitcase with travel necessities: clothes, a slingshot, toothbrush, pillows, balloons, Helium tank, Ned's desk... as Ned animatedly describes:

NED

Circus acts swinging overhead as you win plush toys! Ponies you can actually ride, while pretty girls feed you ice cream with 40 scrum-a-licious toppings! And it's all free!

Newton sits on the suitcase to close it. As a NERDY ACCOUNTANT:

NEWTON

"How do they pay for all that, fiscal-economically speaking?"

NED

I guess in Gamble City they must really love families.

Ned PUMPS UP his drab running shoes.

NED

Doogie *loved* Gamble City. His family went last summer, the year they had to rent out their house and live in their car.

The shoes POP into impressive HI-TECH brightly colored RUNNING SHOES with swoosh stripes.

NED'S DAD (OFF)

Ned! We're leaving!

NED

You have to get in the bowl!  
Shrink!

Newton tries to shrink, puckering his mouth and eyes. No go. He becomes a WITCH and throws a cup of water on himself.

NEWTON

"I'm shrinking! I'm shrinking!"  
 (HIMSELF, dripping)  
 No... I'm just soggy.

He morphs into a DIET GURU:

NEWTON  
 "You too can shrink ten pounds a  
 month by following my Succulent  
 Rabbit diet."  
 (as a RABBIT)  
 "In which you only eat what a  
 succulent rabbit eats..."

Newton/Rabbit holds up Carrot Ends and Dandelions.

NEWTON  
 "Carrot ends and dandelions!"

He chews, smiles, then SPITS in disgust. Pats his big belly:

NEWTON  
 Do I look more trim and shapely?

NED  
 You'll have to get in the bowl the  
 way you are!

Ned grabs Newton and starts ramming him into the bowl.

**INT. FLEMKIN FRONT HALL - DAY**

**4.**

Suitcases are at the door. Ned runs up with Big-Newton-squooshed-in-a-bowl. He grabs a jacket off the rack and throws it over Newton's bowl to disguise him, as his Dad steps up, wearing a gaudy jacket and hat with a cards-and-dice motif.

NED'S DAD  
 All right! Let's go enjoy that  
 wholesome family fun!

Ned's Mom walks up, a little worried.

NED'S MOM  
 That was my sister on the phone.  
 Bernice said there's gambling in  
 Gamble City.

NED & NED'S DAD  
(pretending shock)

No!

NED'S MOM  
Yes. She said it's too well-lit  
and exciting for children. So  
while we're at the Convention, Ned  
can stay with Bernice and Norge.

(Pronounced NOR-gee.) Ned's smile drops off his face and lands  
in his non-bowl-holding hand.

**INT. FLEMKIN CAR - DAY**

**5.**

The family drives. Ned is in the back seat, still smile-less.

NED'S MOM  
Remember, Ned, in the Sveltechops'  
house you respect their rules.

(SVELT-ee-chop.) On Ned's dazed face, SHIMMER to:

**INT. SVELTECHOPS' HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

**6.**

Candle-lit, and as bleak as Gamble City is colorful. Cobwebs,  
hard furniture, gray patternless carpets. Ned listens as UNCLE  
NORGE (Swedish accent, dressed like a Quaker, *somber*) explains  
the house rules, first IN THE HALLWAY:

NORGE  
No running or dancing, no yumping  
on de furniture. No plumpening de  
pillows, no having de bath vith de  
warm water, and no bubble-yumming  
in de mouth.

He plucks gum from Ned's mouth.

IN THE BASEMENT there's a bare mattress on the floor.

NORGE  
A hard bed make for a long life.

He drops Ned's suitcase on the mattress and it CLANGS.

AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, Aunt BERNICE (similarly austere) puts  
unrecognizable Scandinavian food on Ned's plate; Fish skeletons  
and a hunk of dry bread.

NED

Do you have any salt?

Norge's eyebrows go up disapprovingly.

BERNICE (whispers)

Norge prefer you not use any  
decadent or provocative soosenings.

SHIMMER BACK:

**INT. FLEMKIN CAR - DAY**

**7.**

Ned sighs.

**EXT. SVELTECHOP HOUSE - DAY**

**8.**

Bernice and Norge, with Ned between them, say goodbye to Sharon and Eric Flemkin in their car.

BERNICE

Don't worry, Sharon, Ned von't be  
any trouble unless he try to enjoy  
himself.

NORGE

Remember, in Gamble City, shield  
your eye from any untoward whoop-  
de-doing.

**INT. SVELTECHOP HOUSE - DAY**

**9.**

Ned follows Bernice and Norge, who carries his suitcase.

NORGE

Tank goodness you veren't sent to  
dat horrible place of non-stop fun  
and kiddie entertoonment.

TOP OF BASEMENT STAIRS: There's a room with its door NAILED AND  
BOARDED SHUT. Norge goes down the basement stairs but Ned stops.

NED

What's in there?

BERNICE (whispers)

You can't go in there. Dat's de  
Felldeforney Room.

NED

De Felldeforney Room? What's in de  
Felldeforney Room?

BERNICE (troubled)

Ooh, dat's not for de young. Norge  
can't even tell me vat's in dere,  
it bein' so awful and forbiddening.

Ned stares at the barred door.

**INT. NED'S BASEMENT BEDROOM - DAY**

**10.**

Moments later. Ned pulls the jacket off Newton's bowl and Newton erupts like a VEGAS HIGH-ROLLER; Bermuda shorts, loud shirt.

NEWTON

"Gamble City! Boxcars the hard  
way! And... eating the hard way!"

He spoons food into the side of his head and chews with his EAR.  
He pulls a PHONE from his tummy:

NEWTON / HIGH-ROLLER

"Can I get a haircut, a manicure  
and a pony in Room...

(to Ned)

What room are we in?"

Ned opens his mouth to answer but Newton steams ahead:

NEWTON

"Never mind.

(click-clicka-click)

Room Service? We'd like to order a  
room. We got *nothin'* up here!"

NED

We're not in Gamble City. We're at  
Uncle and Aunt Sveltechops' house.

**INT. SVELTECHOP ROOMS, VARIOUS - NIGHT**

**11.**

PAN a LIVING ROOM with a big gray fireplace (no fire). The  
mantle clock say it's 6:15. All over NED'S V/O:

NED (V/O)

There's no TV, no music, no heat,  
no playing cards! For fun, they  
sit around the living room at night

and name lengths of string.

Bernice and Norge face each other in austere chairs.

NORGE

Seven inch.

BERNICE

Eighteen inch!

NORGE (displeased)

Now, don't go hog-wild there in the  
string-naming Bernice, we got de  
twelve more minute before bedtime.

OFFICE: PUSH IN ON Uncle NORGE at an old school desk, writing in  
fingerless gloves with a QUILL by candlelight.

NED (V/O)

Ungle Norge makes a living writing  
sad poetry for European literary  
journals.

NORGE (writing)

"Oh, de birdie, she have cold feet.  
If only her vings were shoes.  
Den she'd have de warm feet,  
But a missing, cat-eaten head.  
Poor birdie."

**INT. BASEMENT - DAY**

**12.**

BACK TO NEWTON. He morphs to a disaster film MISSION CONTROL  
GUY; headphones, sleeves rolled up, grimly pacing.

NEWTON

"It looks bad, people. They've  
lost their instruments, all their  
oxygen and both wings, and their  
in-flight movie is Meet The  
Deedles. Their only hope is if  
they can fashion 7,000 tin-foil  
frozen dinner covers into a tail  
rudder..."

He makes a TIN FOIL PLANE RUDDER and moves the flap.

NEWTON

"... and steer the plane over a

city known for its poor gravity."  
 (as HIMSELF)  
 Chin up, Ned...

He becomes a DOCTOR holding up an X-RAY of Ned's head, with no apparent chin.

NEWTON  
 "You do *have* a chin, don'tcha?"  
 (as HIMSELF)  
 With the right attitude and a lot  
 of vigorous shaking so you get  
 really disoriented...

He becomes a DRUM MAJORETTE and twirls Ned like a baton. (Ned's lips do flobba dobba dobba in the spin-breeze)

NEWTON (falsetto)  
 "... I bet you can have as much fun  
 this weekend as your Dad's having  
 right now!"

**INT. CASINO - DAY? NIGHT? HEY, IT'S A CASINO...**

**13.**

SFX: Bells and lights. Eric Flemkin reaches to put a coin in a flashing arcade game. A hand grabs his arm...

NED'S MOM (O.S.)  
 No time for that, dear.

PULLING THEM: Sharon drags Eric through the casino, past arcade machines, people with plastic coin buckets. Sharon wears a "Smiling Nose" I.D. badge, as do her co-conventioners throughout the CROWD. There's a banner: "WELCOME, WILKOMMEN, BIENVENUE," with the Smiling Nose/Perfume Spritzer logo.

NED'S MOM  
 There's rumours of a new smell at  
 booth 47. My nose is drooling with  
 anticipation.

They pass impressive SHOWROOM DOORS with MUSIC audible behind.

NED'S DAD  
 I thought we might hit the  
 showroom...

NED'S MOM  
 Too smoky.

She keeps tugging. They pass a smorgasbord of free food.

NED'S DAD

Or the all-you-can-eat buffet...

NED'S MOM

Too mucousy.

(presses one nostril)

Ffffma! These have got to be more open than they've ever been!

Eric turns to look at 2 busty SHOWGIRLS with peacock headdresses. Sharon stops him mid-casino, because this is serious.

NED'S MOM

Eric! Women in this country have *stopped dabbing perfume on their pulse-points*. Do you know what that means?

ANGLE: A convention "Smell Table." The HEAD SMELLER (big nose) sniffs a series of bottles, rejecting each one. With each rejection the watching CONVENTIONEERS groan with disappointment.

NED'S MOM (O.S.)

We desperately need a new essence. Roses, ylang-ylang and sandalwood just aren't cutting it any more!

Back to 2-shot, PUSHING IN on SHARON.

NED'S MOM

My finely-tuned sense of smell, *mine*, Eric, could mean the difference between a billion dollar industry and... *Aroma-geddon!*

She spritzes ominously.

\*\* ACT BREAK \*\*

**INT. SVELTECHOP LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

**14.**

That night. Norge, Bernice and Ned sit in uncomfortable chairs playing some sort of game as the pendulum clock TICKS.

NED

Uh... three?

NORGE

Eleven.

BERNICE

Even one.

Norge looks at his pocket watch.

NORGE

Well, we've finished playing "How  
Many Ants You Wouldn't Want To Find  
In De House." Bedding time!  
Tomorrow bane Saturday, so ve sleep  
in till five-tirdy in the moorning.

Norge, Bernice and Ned get up and go to bed. PAN to Newton, who  
is morphed as a painting of AMERICAN GOTHIC: The Man's face is  
Norge Sveltechop; the woman's is Newton.

NEWTON

"O, fill my silo with sob water,  
this is no place for a growing  
lad!"

He jumps down from the wall.

NEWTON

Ned should be in the Familyest  
Place On Earth!

He picks up an old rotary daffodil PHONE and dials.

NEWTON

Package Express?  
(as A 1950s DAD)  
"This is a Human Being, not a newt  
at all. I'd like to send a big  
package to the Epicenter Of Fun,  
Gamble City. The package?"

**EXT. SVELTECHOP HOUSE - NIGHT**

**15.**

Newton smashes his head through the window and looks at the  
address ("32") out front. Still on the phone:

NEWTON / HUMAN

"32 Joyless Avenue."

WIDE. Newton runs outside, puts the HOUSE in a mailing BOX. A TRUCK pulls up, two guys PICK UP THE HOUSE, and ZOOM OFF with it.

**INT. CASINO - NIGHT**

Exhausted Conventioneers gather around the Head Smeller at a sample table. Overturned bottles and an air of failure. Eric dozes on his wife's shoulder; she rouses him.

NED'S MOM

Eric, pay attention! The Head Smeller has sampled every fragrance and nothing has rung her olfactory bells.

The Head Smeller picks up a PENGUIN. The crowd is hopeful.

HEAD SMELLER

The underside of a penguin's beak!

PENGUIN

Wack.

HEAD SMELLER

(sniff)

No.

Groan of disappointment from the expectant crowd.

HEAD SMELLER

The buttons on a pay telephone!

(sniffs a PAY PHONE)

The nine has an interesting overtone but one quickly wearies of its relentless insouciance.

Sharon weeps on Eric's shoulder.

NED'S MOM

All is lost, Eric!!

NED'S DAD

Maybe we could go to the buffet now, eh?

ANGLE: The Delivery Guys drop the HOUSE on the convention floor and zoom off. It's surrounded by acrobats, ponies, lights, jugglers, tigers on leashes, all the fun stuff. This is the kind

of place where a house in the middle of the floor fazes no one.

NEWTON is one of the STAMPS on the box. He jumps down, removes the packaging from the house, and morphs into a CARNIVAL BARKER.

NEWTON

"Yowza yowza! Everyone bring all the fun you can carry into the Amazing House Of Surprise!"

He throws open the door. Families throng inside.

**INT. SVELTECHOP ENTRYWAY - NIGHT**

**16.**

Newton follows the crowd into the gray dismal entryway.

KID WITH BALLOON

There's nothing here.

NEWTON / BARKER

"Surprise! This is the only place in Gamble City where you're more interesting than your surroundings!

(picks up lamp)

You Ma'am are better-looking than this non-functioning table lamp!"

MATRONLY WOMAN

Why... I am!

MURMUR of crowd approval. Newton picks up a bottle-candle.

NEWTON

"And you sir are in better shape than this candle wax melted over an old bleach jug!"

POT-BELLIED MAN

Well, I *have* been working out.

NEWTON

"Everybody run around and compare yourselves favorably to abject shabbiness!"

The crowd spreads with PLEASED MURMURS through the house.

**INT. SVELTECHOP BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**17.**

Norge and Bernice nap in flannel nightgowns and caps on separate

wooden pallets, with brick pillows. The crowd bursts happily in:

POT-BELLIED MAN

Wow! Even since the bankruptcy my bedroom's more lavish than this!

KID WITH BALLOON

And even my boring parents are more interesting than those two pickled old sausages!

The Sveltechops awake under their sleep masks.

BERNICE

Norge! It's our worsten nightmare!  
Jovial burglars!

**INT. SVELTECHOP LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

**18.**

Ned runs into the living room. His POV: the drab room has been transformed into a funhouse -- PONIES, JUGGLERS, TIGERS on STOOLS, FLAME-EATERS, CLOWNS, CANDY FLOSS VENDORS.

NEWTON

Ned, look, I brought ya some fun!  
Ponies, jugglers, tigers!

He morphs into LEONARDO DeCAPRIO, leaning against the wind.

NEWTON

"You're the King of the world!"  
(back as HIMSELF)  
Don't worry, I'll explain  
everything to your par -

Newton spasms and shrinks tiny. A leashed TIGER becomes very interested in him. Ned scoops him up.

ANGLE: Ned's parents enter, his Dad eating a foot-long hoagie, his mother glum.

NED'S MOM

I suppose with a little re-training  
I could mist crops with pesticides.  
Oh my gosh, Ned, what are you doing  
here?

NED

Habbada habbada...

NED'S DAD  
Bernice? Norge!

ANGLE: Bernice and Norge are carried into their own living room by revelers, magicians, accordionists, etc.

BERNICE  
Jugglin! Music! Candy-floss, und sleighthen of de hand! Frivolity is everywhere!

To his horror, a small SMILE spreads across Norge's face.

NORGE  
Oh no. I'm having de fun, Bernice. I can't tink of de single sad poem! I'm ruin!

Eric and Sharon look to one side as we hear WOOD RIPPING.

NORGE  
De Felldeforney Room!

At the FELLDEFORNEY ROOM: the door has been torn off by fun-seekers, who surge inside. Norge runs inside.

**INT. FELLDEFORNEY ROOM - NIGHT**

**19.**

LOW ANGLE: a crowd surrounds a small table, looking down at CAMERA. Norge pushes through. Bernice pushes through. Eric and Sharon and Ned push through.

THEIR POV: a CYMBAL-CLAPPING MONKEY TOY on a wooden table. But it's OLD: moldy guck leaks from the battery compartment.

NED  
All this time it was just a cymbal-playing monkey?

BERNICE  
And I always t'ought it was a fooseball table.

NORGE (sobs)  
I bought it 15 year ago.

**EXT. TOY SHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

20.

Shop with misc toys in the window, including TOY MONKEY. A YOUNGER NORGE walks by, his neck cricked, unable to avoid looking in the window. The money is turned-on, CLANGING like they do and shuffling. He stares, entranced.

NORGE (V/O)

Valking past d'amusement store, I had a sore neck from sleepin on de brick pillow, and couldn't avert my eye. It vas so cute, with de clang-clanging and de little monkey shuffle.

5 MINUTES LATER: Norge sneaks a package from the shop.

NORGE (V/O)

I brung it home, but be so ashamed I put it in de room and lock er up.

**INT. FELLDEFORNEY ROOM - NIGHT**

21.

PRESENT. Norge is shame-stricken. Ned holds his nose.

NORGE

Ohhh, de *felldeforney!*

NED (phee-yew!)

I think the batteries have leaked onto the synthetic monkey fur.

The Head Smeller is excitedly sniffing the monkey.

HEAD SMELLER

Acidic but furry! Rotten, yet playful! The scent of *childhood!* This is the smell we've been looking for! Have you any other 15-year old battery-leaking cymbal-playing monkeys?

NORGE (thinks)

No, just de one.

NED

And you own it, Uncle Norge! Until they can chemically reproduce it,

this reeking musical simian is  
worth a fortune!

**INT. CASINO LINEUP - NIGHT**

**22.**

At the SHOWROOM door. The Flemkins and Sveltechops, dressed to the nines, line up for a show.

BERNICE

We always tink Norge have to stay  
sad, to write de poetry.

NED'S DAD

But thanks to Ned accidentally  
mailing your house here, you two  
are literally stinking rich!

NED'S MOM

So what top-flight entertainer are  
we seeing? Is it Wayne Newton?

NED

*Close.*

**INT. SHOWROOM - NIGHT**

**23.**

The Flemkins and Sveltechops sit at a food-laden front-row table. Newton is WAYNE NEWTON, with CHORUS GIRLS, singing a BIG ENDING:

NEWTON

"If you give me the grub from your  
pear,  
I'll love ya till the trees grow  
hairrrrrrr! Yeah!"

Frantic applause. Newton bows. TO BLACK, and:

NED'S MOM (V/O)

Bernice? Where'd ya pick up that  
accent from, anyhow?

FADE OUT.

#21-B: "If The Shoe Gives You Fits"

FADE IN:

**EXT. FLEMKIN BACK YARD - DAY****1.**

NED'S DAD is barbecuing in the back yard (apron, hat), with an old school friend, DR. BECK.

NED'S DAD

Henry, I can't tell ya how good it is to get together with you and Ellen and chew the fat.

DR. BECK

If ya don't mind Eric, I'll have the meat, not the fat!

He elbows Eric as if this was high wit and Eric laughs appreciatively.

NED'S DAD

Henry, you always were the funniest guy in school with your riotous and well-worded humour that you said so cleverishly.

**INT. FLEMKIN LIVING ROOM - DAY****2.**

PAN some ugly living room DECORATIONS; a horrible urn, a chrome anglepoise lamp, a big brass dog.

MRS. BECK (O.S.)

You sent this away to be reupholstered all by yourself?

COME TO NED'S MOM and MRS. BECK sitting on an ugly 1950s sofa with a garish check pattern.

NED'S MOM

I was never one of those women afraid of hard work.

The men enter and Dr. Beck indicates Sharon.

DR. BECK

You may be able to cook, but this little wife of yours was always the one with the unerring taste.

Along with him, WE LOOK at a BAD CLOWN PAINTING.

DR. BECK (O.S.)

Sharon, where did you find all these tasteful fittings and decorative appointments?

PAN to an URN. NEWTON extrudes from it, remaining inconspicuous by taking on an urn shape, with ear "handles."

NED'S MOM

Don't forget Henry, I work in a mall, source of most of the world's beauty.

SMOKE starts to billow in from outside.

DR. BECK

Meat's ready! Let's not keep it waiting!

NED'S DAD

Stop it or I'm gonna be laughing too hard to eat!

They exit, laughing at this wit, as Newton puzzles.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY**

**3.**

Moments later. Ned empties his closet. Newton joins him.

NEWTON

So! Who are those people downstairs?

NED

Friends of my parents.

NEWTON

Parents can have friends? They don't spend all their spare time worshipping you?

As an ARTISAN, Newton chisels a PEDESTAL and puts Ned on it.

NEWTON

"Gush gush, worship worship."

NED

C'mon Newton, I've gotta clean out this closet.

He goes back to doing so. Newton morphs into COLUMBO.

NEWTON

"If you'll pardon a foolish question, sir... if you clean out the closet won't it just make the room dirty?"

NED

We're selling all our old stuff at the Yard Sale.

NEWTON

Yard Sale? You're *selling* these priceless mementos?

He picks up a broken ROCKING HORSE on springs.

NEWTON

Your very first Ride 'Em Gee-Gee?

Newton THOUGHT BUBBLES BACK to:

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

**4.**

BABY NED rocks vigorously on the tiny horsie, which pitches him headfirst through the skin of a TOY DRUM.

NEWTON (V/O)

And the very first toy drum it tossed you through?

The thought-bubble "smoke" is sucked into a VACUUM CLEANER extruding from Newton's head, and we are:

**BACK TO SCENE**

**5.**

With Newton now holding the broken TOY DRUM. Ned grabs it and puts it in a box. Newton sneaks it back out of the box.

NED

I've outgrown this stuff. Do you keep all the skins you've shed?

NEWTON

Of course. Right here in your sock drawer.

He lifts out an old SKIN from a drawer.

NEWTON

Ah, '97, a good skin...

As a FEMALE NEWT, pointing to a "run" in the leg:

NEWTON

"I was heartbroken when it got this run in the leg."

**INT. FOYER - NIGHT**

**6.**

Evening. The Flemkins say goodbye to the Becks at the door.

NED'S MOM

Well, g'night!

They close the door.

NED'S DAD

Boy, those Becks have sure got the life.

**EXT. FLEMKIN DOORSTEP - NIGHT**

**7.**

The Becks on the porch.

DR. BECK

Boy, those Flemkins have sure got the furniture.

**INT. FLEMKIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

**8.**

Sharon picks a shapeless khaki BAG from a cardboard box near the door with "ERIC" written on it.

NED'S MOM

Eric! You weren't gonna *save this*?

NED'S DAD (pleadingly)

That's the bag our camping tent came in.

NED'S MOM

We could never get it back in!

NED'S DAD (sheepish)

I thought one day we might buy a smaller tent, and -

Sharon puts the tent bag by the front door next to some tennis racquets, bowling trophies, a blender, etc.

NED'S MOM

Eric, we gotta be brutal, or this  
Garage Sale's gonna be like last  
year's. Nobody wants our soap  
shards and burned-out light bulbs.  
What else you got in here?

She starts rummaging through the cardboard box.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**9.**

Newton holds up a TRUMPET BELL.

NEWTON

Tell me you're not selling this!

NED

It's half a trumpet.

NEWTON

But it's the half the music comes  
out of!

He becomes DIZZY GILLESPIE (with the REST OF THE TRUMPET coming  
out of his mouth), screws the bell onto his trumpet-lips and,  
fingers snapping:

NEWTON

"Salted peanuts!"

He blows a BAD NOTE. His cheeks expand and pop like bubble gum.

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT**

**10.**

Ned's Dad walks to Ned's bedroom door and overhears:

NED (O.S.)

I can't keep everything, it's a  
yard sale. I saw you put that in  
your mouth! Give it back!

Ned's Dad looks worried. He walks off...

**INT. NEDS PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**11.**

Eric walks in, disturbed, as Ned's Mom applies guck to her face.

NED'S DAD

Sharon. Ned's talking to himself.

I think Shoe's back.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**12.**

Ned's parents walk in as he's about to click his lamp off.

NED'S MOM

Ned, honey? Were you talking to someone just now?

NED'S DAD

It wasn't... Shoe was it?

NED

No. I'm way too old for that. It was Newton.

They look at tiny Newton in the bowl.

NED'S DAD

So you talk to Newton, huh?

NED

Well, mostly when he's big.

They say to each other, within Newton's hearing but not Ned's:

NED'S MOM AND DAD

Shoe.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY**

**13.**

Next morning. Ned sleeps. A blue FLAGPOLE raises out of Newton's bowl and Newton rises up the pole as a FLAG, with his face on it doing a faux TRUMPET.

TIGHT: Ned opens his eyes. POV: A BLUE MASS with eyes.

Newton is on his bed, staring at him like a vulture.

NEWTON

So! Who's this "Shoe"?

NED

Why do you wanna know that?

Newton morphs into INSPECTOR MAIGRET, with 3<sup>rd</sup>-degree lamp.

NEWTON

"I ask ze questions in a silly

accent here, Monsieur."

NED

Shoe was my invisible friend when I was four. He was, well, he was a big blue shoe.

NEWTON

A big blue shoe! Ridiculous!

(quick turn)

So what was he like? What'd you do together?

NED

*Oh, everything.*

As Ned talks, Newton becomes the MASKS of COMEDY and TRAGEDY, the COMEDY face slowly moping into a 2<sup>nd</sup> tragedy face.

NED (O.S.)

Shoe rode on my bike to school, he pushed me on the swings. We played in the mud, I told him all my deepest secrets.

2-SHOT.

NED

But I haven't talked to him in years.

Ned dismisses the subject and walks out of frame.

NEWTON

What a relief!

(PITCH-MAN with tube)

"And if you want instant relief, take Placeb-O, now in a grease-free ointment!"

He squirts it on his torso, rubs it in, all over.

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALL - DAY**

**14.**

Newton heads towards the bathroom, shower cap on his head, bath towel over his arm, scrub-brush in hand, whistling.

NEWTON

I'm sure glad that invisible guy's gone!

A horrible thought stops him in his tracks.

NEWTON

Wait a minute. If he's invisible,  
maybe he's *still here*. Maybe he's  
just not saying anything!

FROM BEHIND: Newton's eyeballs-on-stalks slowly, paranoically,  
peer over his own shoulders. His eyes see EACH OTHER behind his  
head, scream and retreat.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY**

**15.**

Newton runs back into the room and slams the door.

NEWTON

If Shoe comes back, what happens to  
me?

(eyeing his bowl)

It's "Pet For Sale, \$2.99 --  
Decorative Rock Not Included!"

He SWIVELS, hearing a VOICE. It's Ned's TV, playing an OLD MOVIE  
wherein a sobbing ACTRESS grabs a guy's lapels:

ACTRESS

I was only temporary, wasn't I  
Johnny? When she gets outa jail,  
you'll go with her!

This cements Newton's paranoia. He solemnly lifts the Ride 'Em  
Gee Gee out of Ned's Sale box and morphs into CLINT EASTWOOD.

NEWTON (squint)

"Looks like time for you 'n me to  
ride into the sunset."

He mournfully saddles-up onto the spring horsie. It tosses him  
off and through the window.

\*\* ACT BREAK \*\*

**INT. FLEMKIN LIVING ROOM - DAY**

**16.**

Ned's Dad on the phone, his Mom listening in.

NED'S DAD

I'm sure it's no big deal, Henry.  
I'll bring him in tomorrow.

**INT. DR. BECK'S OFFICE - DAY****17.**

Dr. Beck is revealed as a psychiatrist, and wife Ellen as his Nurse. He has a therapist's couch, a degree on the wall.

DR. BECK

That was the Flemkins. They're worried about Ned.

(sigh)

Boy, they sure have nice stuff.

MRS. BECK

Get over it, dear. Next patient's here.

Dr. Beck puts on a fake Freudian SPADE BEARD.

**INT. FLEMKIN KITCHEN - DAY****18.**

Ned walks dozily to the table with a box of Slurpy Flakes, and looks up to see Newton morphed as a big SHOE, sitting at the table.

NEWTON

"Hey there Ned, long time no see! Remember me, Shoe?"

NED

Newton...

NEWTON

"Wanted to tell you I found a big foot, we're very happy, and I won't be visiting you again. You have that fantastic pet the Newt now. Great guy. And I've given up bike riding, swinging, playing in the mud and sharing secrets - I'm sure your Newt does it better anyway. Well, G'bye forever!"

NED

Newton, I know it's you.

NEWTON

"It isn't me, it's him. I mean, me."

NED

Shoe was floppier and his tongue  
went up over his face.

Newton flops, and puts his SHOE TONGUE up over his EYES. Now he  
can't see.

NEWTON

"Well goodbye forever from your old  
invisible pal Shoe, and not at all  
from your friend the Newt, who  
deservedly replaced me!"

And he heads towards the LIVING ROOM.

NED (loud whisper)

Newton! Not that way!

**INT. FLEMKIN LIVING ROOM - DAY**

**19.**

Ned's parents put on their coats to go out.

NED'S MOM

At least Ned has a good healthy  
imagination. Don't forget, be  
completely honest with him.  
There's no stigma any more to being  
completely bonkers.

Newton/SHOE walks through, his eyes still covered.

NEWTON

"Well, this is goodbye from your  
old pal Shoe, I'm heading back to  
my big foot now!"

Eyes covered, he bumps into the wall and stumbles out the front  
door. The Flemkins' jaws drop. They're speechless. They look  
at each other in wide-eyed terror.

NED'S MOM AND DAD

Did you see that?

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY (\*WAS PSYCH. OFFICE\*)**

**20.**

Newton walks in the BACK DOOR as Himself.

NEWTON (casually)

So! You hear about Shoe? I heard  
he's gone abroad. Never coming  
back. Gosh I'll miss him.

Ned rolls his eyes, not fooled for a second.

-- SCENE 21 DELETED --

**INT. DR. BECK'S OFFICE - DAY**

**22.**

Dr. Beck puts his beard back on.

DR. BECK

It's not unusual for a boy Ned's age to have an invisible friend. But if his grown parents have seen it in their own living room --

ANGLE: Ned's parents both lie on the therapist's couch, severely rattled by their experience.

NED'S MOM

Henry, are we bonkers?

DR. BECK

No. Your yard sale has clearly stirred up old, upsetting memories. There's only one way to break this cycle of fear about losing the past.

Mrs. Beck appears in the doorway and she and her husband exchange a look. He clears his throat.

DR. BECK

At this Yard Sale... you must sell everything in your house, at ridiculously low prices.

NED'S MOM

Pardon me?

DR. BECK

For instance, that couch in your living room. I'll give you eight dollars for it, if you throw in the big brass dog. And your watches.

The Flemkins look at each other. They peel off their watches.

**EXT. FLEMKIN FRONT LAWN - DAY**

**23.**

Eric and Sharon drag their beloved ugly couch out among the

miscellaneous Sale junk on their front lawn.

NED'S DAD  
Are you sure about this?

NED'S MOM  
You want to be cured from being  
bonkers, don't you?

They look back to the house as Newton exits the front door as SHOE, his eyes covered by the shoe tongue.

NEWTON (calling back)  
"Just came back to make absolutely  
sure you understood I'm never  
coming back! Bye forever again!"

Eric and Sharon look at each other and HURRY with the couch to where Dr. Beck stands beside a TRAILER with money in his hand.

DISSOLVE:

**INT. FLEMKIN KITCHEN - DAY**

**24.**

Ned's Mom and Dad on the PHONE, both wrecks. Newton/SHOE bumps into the wall in the b.g.

NETON  
"Goodbye forever again again!"

NED'S DAD (PHONE)  
Henry we've had another sighting!

**INT. DR. BECK'S OFFICE - DAY**

**25.**

DR. BECK  
There's only one cure for this  
delusion. That divine yellow and  
purple rug in your family room?  
Five dollars.

He holds up a \$5 BILL. Mrs. Beck takes it and runs out.

**EXT. FLEMKIN FRONT YARD - DAY**

**26.**

LOTS OF STUFF on the front lawn now, and INTERESTED BUYERS pawing through it. More people PULL UP in cars.

PAN to Eric and Sharon, standing with the Becks on the periphery.

NED'S DAD

We saw him again! He said "goodbye forever again again again."

DR. BECK (distracted)

I'll give you three dollars for that lamp, a buck for the fridge, and a dime for the clown-face wall hanging.

The Becks have a LARGE TRAILER backed up to the curb.

AT AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW, Ned looks down on all this...

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - DAY**

**27.**

Ned turns away from the window to where Newton is morphed as KEVIN COSTNER/ THE POSTMAN.

NEWTON

"It's me, The Postman! Look, a letter from Shoe! Says here he's never, ever..."

NED

Newton, my parents saw you pulling that Shoe stunt and they think they're crazy.

NEWTON (innocently)

*Shoe stunt?* Moi?

NED

Why are you doing this? Are you afraid if Shoe comes back I won't have time for you any more?

Newton throws himself at Ned's feet as BOGART.

NEWTON

"This could be the end of a beautiful friendship."

NED

Newton, you're my best pal in the whole world. I wouldn't trade you for anything... *especially* an imaginary friend who smells like feet.

NEWTON  
Ya wouldn't?

NED  
Of course not. Now can you please  
do something to help my parents?

Newton nods, as THE LITTLE TRAIN THAT COULD.

NEWTON  
"I think I can!"

**INT. DR. BECK'S OFFICE - DAY**

**28.**

Now decorated with a lot of the Flemkins' gaudy old furniture. Mrs. and Mrs. Beck sit happily admiring their new stuff when the door opens and in walks Newton as SHOE.

NEWTON  
"Hi. I'm a big imaginary Shoe. I  
come with all this furniture so I  
guess I'm yours now."

He sits on the sofa. The Becks are spifflicated with fear.

NEWTON  
"Unless of course you want to give  
all this back to the Flemkins and  
never see me again. But then you'd  
never get to meet my friend the  
Car-Driving, Man-Eating Tree!"

He becomes an IXTAPAN TREE and looms horribly in their faces. The Becks bug out and SCREAM.

DISSOLVE:

**INT. FLEMKIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

**29.**

Slow PAN all the STUFF restored to the walls and floors.

**INT. NED'S PARENTS' BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**30.**

Eric and Sharon sleep peacefully, with their big Brass dog and ugly anglepoise lamp beside the bed.

**INT. NED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**31.**

Ned sleeps, hugging his Rock' Em Gee Gee horse by the neck. Newton stares adoringly at Ned.

SHOE (O.S.)

They grow up so fast, don't they?

Newton turns to see the REAL SHOE. He's older, a different shade of BLUE, kindly-looking.

SHOE

Just thought I'd check on how he's doing. Well, I'd better get back to my new 4-year-old.

Shoe goes to the door.

SHOE

Ned's a sweet kid. We had fun together. Take care of him for me, willya?

Newton nods. Shoe exits. Newton turns back to Ned, who stirs in his sleep. Newton tucks the covers around his friend...

FADE OUT.