

Characters

Frank (M/F)

Henry (M/F)

Scene 1

(Frank and Henry are centre stage.)

Frank: Brace yourself.

Henry: Me!? Wearing braces!? In all the time you've known me, have you ever seen me wearing braces!

Frank: Belt up then! This is serious!

Henry: Why? What's happened?

Frank: **(Looks furtively around.)** We have to talk about Gary.

Henry: He wears braces!?

Frank: Never mind about that!

Henry: What then?

Frank: **(Looks furtively around.)** Someone saw him in the park taking a puppet for a walk.

Henry: A puppy?

Frank: No. A puppet.

Henry: A puppet of a puppy?

Frank: Don't try to be evasive.

Henry: It's you he owes a fiver.

Frank: This is serious!

Henry: He doesn't owe me anything. I told him, a shadow puppet of a rabbit was worth every penny.

Frank: We need to talk seriously about Gary.

Henry: I'd rather talk frivolously about the puppet.

Frank: What are we going to do about it?

Henry: Well. I suppose it depends on what sort of puppet it was.

Frank: You know full well it was a string puppet.

Henry: Really? Might've been a glove puppet.

Frank: And how does one take a glove puppet for a walk?

Henry: It is obvious to one.

Frank: Is it really.

Henry: You don't think it's possible, do you.

Frank: Of course not.

Henry: And you'd be wrong.

Frank: Alright. So, how do you take a glove puppet for a walk?

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Henry: Well...

Frank: I'm waiting.

Henry: Put a small rubber ball inside the glove puppet and bounce him up and down.

Frank: Small rubber ball...?

Henry: And take him for a bounce around the park.

Frank: Ask a stupid question...

Henry: Don't ask me stupid questions. I've never understood Gary's obsession with puppetry.

Frank: You're being evasive again.

Henry: Well, maybe it would help if I knew what the puppet was.

Frank: It was a puppet of a camel.

Henry: Nope. That didn't help.

Frank: What are we going to do?

Henry: Scissors?

Frank: That won't stop him taking the strings for a walk.

Henry: An imaginary camel!

Frank: What!?

Henry: Just like a mirage. Yes, an imaginary camel serenely floating past on a shimmering mirage. Makes sense to me.

Frank: Sense!?! We'll worry about your problems later, if there's time.

Henry: Okay. So, you're worried about a highly strung camel in a summer heat haze.

Frank: Well done. I'm relieved to see we're almost on the same page.

Henry: The page where Gary takes the hump.

Frank: The page where Gary has the hump taken away from him.

Henry: That won't stop him taking the hump. Unless, of course, it's a two-hump camel.

Frank: What?

Henry: Then they can share. One each.

Frank: That is ridiculous.

Henry: Don't worry. It could be worse.

Frank: How?

Henry: Instead of a camel, he could be taking a shoe for a walk in the park.

Frank: A shoe?

Henry: The invisible man.

Frank: One shoe?

Henry: Who's hopping mad because he lost his other shoe.

Frank: Worse than ridiculous.

Henry: What?

Frank: What are we going to do about Gary!

Henry: We? Has he asked us for our help?

Frank: He doesn't know he needs help.

Henry: Aha!

Frank: Aha what?

Henry: Someone needs to tell him!

Frank: Brilliant! At last, we're on the same page!

Henry: Yes!

Frank: We came! We saw! We concurred!

Henry: Yes!

Frank: The two of us together working together as a team!

Henry: Yes!

Frank: How are you going to tell him?

Henry: Yes!?

Frank: Yes!

Henry: Don't be daft! It's Gary!

Frank: We have to do something.

Henry: Well...

Frank: We came. Were seen off. Conked out.

Henry: We could try something along the lines of a more distant nature.

Frank: Distant?

Henry: We get a ventriloquist to tell the camel to tell Gary he needs help.

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Frank: A ventriloquist tells a puppet to talk to Gary...?

Henry: Preferably a ventriloquist who can throw his voice at least as far as the length of a barge-pole.

Frank: I'm not sure. He might not be able to reason with him. Gary can be very unreasonable.

Henry: In that case we get a real barge-pole and play a tune on the puppet's strings.

Frank: What tune?

Henry: **(Sings.)** Be it ever so humble there's no place like home.

Frank: Yes. That might get him out of the park and onto the road home.

Henry: And what he does when he's at home is nobody's business but his.

(Frank and Henry nod in agreement at each other and leave the stage.)

Frank: We cannot ask him to move out. He owes me money.

Henry: Don't worry. I'll owe you the money instead.

Frank: Okay.

(Curtain.)