

Dialogue Sample from

VELVETEEN RABBIT

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(In an elegant English country home, a family and their friends celebrate the Christmas season. The Boy of the family, receives a Velveteen Rabbit in his stocking but in the excitement of more presents the Velveteen Rabbit is forgotten and tossed in the nursery cupboard by Nana who exits. The toys in the nursery nervously approach the cupboard.)

SKIN HORSE

Perhaps we should all meet the unfortunate arrival Nana so rudely tossed inside the cupboard. Being Christmas, I suspect it's something new.

ALL TOYS

New?

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

New? New?! A suspicious character no doubt, new disturbance in our midst. Formation!

SKIN HORSE

Now, now --

(Undeterred, TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN continues mounting assault on cupboard.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

Formation!! March, march, march!

(TIN SOLDIERS advance on cupboard. THEY stop at attention. TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN, with great resolve, announces loudly.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

I order you, there within, to present yourself immediately without!

(Movement in the cupboard door panics the TIN

SOLDIERS.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

You're surrounded, I tell you. Reveal yourself!

(Noise from the cupboard causes TIN SOLDIERS to panic again.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

Retreat! Retreat!

(TIN SOLDIERS scramble away, stationing themselves in defensive positions around the nursery.)

SKIN HORSE

If you will allow me, Captain?

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

We have you covered, Skin Horse.

SKIN HORSE

(Approaching the cupboard)

Hello in there. Welcome to the nursery. Don't be shy. Come out.

(VELVETEEN RABBIT, now puppeteered by VELVETEEN RABBIT PUPPETEER, peeks out from the cupboard.)

BALLERINA

Why, it's only a bunny!

MONKEY

A rabbit?! That's a laugh.

WIND-UP ELEPHANT

He's not even mechanical.

TIN SOLDIER #1

Not even made of tin.

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

I've still got my eye on you. What are you made of then?

VELVETEEN RABBIT

I'm ... I'm only made of velveteen.

MONKEY

Ordinary velveteen?

(TOYS snicker.)

WIND-UP ELEPHANT

Just as I suspected.

BEAR

From the first moment I knew you weren't expensive like me.

WIND-UP ELEPHANT

He doesn't even wind up.

LION

So old fashioned.

MODEL BOAT

Not at all ship-shape. No stern, no starboard, no mainsail. Aren't you a real model of anything?

VELVETEEN RABBIT

A real model? I don't think so.

SKIN HORSE

Now, there's no need to put on airs.

MODEL BOAT

Airs? I beg your pardon, Skin Horse. Perhaps you've been here longer than the rest of us. But may I remind you that I, too, am an old hand of two birthday parties past.

WIND-UP ELEPHANT

If you don't wind up, what's inside?

VELVETEEN RABBIT

Inside?

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

Let's just see what you're really made of. Come forward and that's an order!

(VELVETEEN RABBIT timidly crosses downstage.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

Brigade formation!

(TIN SOLDIERS line up.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

Present swords!

SKIN HORSE

Swords?!

BALLERINA

Swords?!

LION

That'll give us the answer.

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

March! March!

(As TIN SOLDIERS advance on VELVETEEN RABBIT, forcing him to the center of the nursery, BALLERINA leaps between them.)

BALLERINA

That's quite enough!

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN

You're going to stop us? You don't even have a sword!

(TIN SOLDIERS laugh at the BALLERINA. Angered, BALLERINA begins to spin, confusing TIN SOLDIERS and making them dizzy.)

TIN SOLDIER CAPTAIN (Continued)

No, no, Ballerina! Not that! Stop! Stop, I tell you! Stop!

(TIN SOLDIERS bump into one another and land in a pile.)

BALLERINA

You and your bullying soldiers! Anyone can see that he's stuffed with sawdust. Huh!

(BALLERINA returns to her stand.)

BEAR

I agree. Let the rabbit be. After all, he's nothing but a sack of sawdust!

(BEAR laughs at his own joke and is joined by TOYS except SKIN HORSE and BALLERINA. Laughter is interrupted by offstage muttering of FLORA. TOYS freeze. VELVETEEN RABBIT PUPPETEER places VELVETEEN RABBIT in the middle of the nursery floor and crosses upstage. FLORA enters with a lamp.)

FLORA

That Nana! Always ordering everyone about. Look at these soldiers left all about.

(Untangling pile of TIN SOLDIERS #1, #2 and #3 and taking them to cupboard)

Why she says I must tidy the nursery - now - this time of night when I've still got pots to scrub and dishes to --

(Seeing VELVETEEN RABBIT)

Will you look at that? Young master's new velveteen bunny. Should take better care of his new toy, I'd say.

(Magical underscoring as FLORA holds up VELVETEEN RABBIT and looks into his eyes.)

FLORA (Continued)

Why ... you look almost real. A real, little rabbit.

(NANA enters, startling FLORA.)

NANA

Flora! Everything all right in here?

FLORA

Oh! Yes, Nana. Very tidy except for the new bunny, left on the floor there without a thought.

NANA

On the floor? But I put that rabbit in the cupboard myself.

(SHE quickly crosses to cupboard and, with lamp, inspects inside.)

FLORA

(Uninterested and continuing to play with VELVETEEN RABBIT.)

Hum, now isn't that curious ...

NANA

Come along, Flora. And put that rabbit up on the shelf!

FLORA

(Continuing to enjoy VELVETEEN RABBIT)

Yes, Nana.

NANA

Now!

(NANA exits.)

FLORA

Do this, do that. Ugh!

(Putting VELVETEEN RABBIT on shelf in cupboard)

There you are now. Welcome to the nursery.

(Blowing a kiss)

Sweet dreams, bunny.