

LEO & THE FIZZWIG

5/15/08

ACT ONE

EXT. THE THORTON HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

A SMALL TWO STORY HOME IN THE SUBURBS.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

TRUDY THORTON, IN HER MID-THIRTIES AND DRESSED FOR HER JOB AS A DEPARTMENT STORE BUYER IS STANDING UP HAVING HER BREAKFAST OF TOAST AND COFFEE AS SHE ALWAYS DOES, WHILE PUTTING HER SON LEO'S BREAKFAST ON THE TABLE. HER HUSBAND JACK ENTERS AND POURS HIMSELF A CUP OF COFFEE, ALSO NOT SITTING DOWN AS HE DRINKS IT.

TRUDY

Toast, dear?

JACK

No. It's donut day at the office and I'll get a couple of those.

TRUDY

(Calling)

Leo! You'd better hurry down. Your dad and I have to leave.

(To her husband)

Oh, Jack, before I forget, I have to attend a management meeting at the store later this week that's taking place the same time as Leo's soccer game and I was wondering if you might be able to...

JACK

Oh, honey, I wish I could but we need to hire three more employees for the shipping department and I've got interviews set up for the next ten days.

TRUDY

We haven't been to one of Leo's games in three weeks. I'm starting to feel a little guilty.

JACK

I'm sure Leo understands these things. He's an exceptionally mature kid and if he had any issues with it his therapist would let us know.

TRUDY

You really think Leo's exceptional, Jack? My biggest fear is that he might grow up...you know, ordinary.

JACK

Ordinary? Not our Leo. We've read too many books on perfect parenting for that to happen to us. Trust me, Trudy, we've raised a very special boy.

LEO THORTON, AGE NINE ENTERS.

LEO

Morning, dad. Morning, mom.

HE KISSES THEM AND SITS DOWN TO HAVE HIS BREAKFAST.

TRUDY

Morning, Leo. Just put the breakfast dishes in the sink when you're done and don't forget your lunch. I made you salmon salad sandwiches.

LEO

(disappointed)

Again?

TRUDY

I know you don't like them but it's very good for your heart. When you get to be in your fifties, you'll thank me. We have to run now.

LEO

Uh, mom, dad. Before you go, can I talk to you about something important?

JACK

Of course, Leo. You know we're always here for you, whenever we're here.

LEO

Can I have a pet?

TRUDY

A pet? You mean like a goldfish or a bird?

LEO

No. More like a vicious dog that would growl whenever I'd want him to.

TRUDY

Oh, my, that is a very aggressive request, Leo.

LEO

Well, you see, I'm having trouble in school.

JACK

Oh, no. I hope it's not academic. We have our hearts set on your being gifted.

LEO

That might be a little problem too but the big problem is this kid, Merwin Pinehurtz. He failed 4th grade last year and so he's bigger than everyone in the class. He keeps threatening to beat me up all the time.

TRUDY

Be honest with us, Leo. Have you asked yourself what your part is in this?

LEO

My part? My part is that I'm the victim. It's a nightmare just walking home from school every day. I sometimes have to go eight blocks out of my way.

TRUDY

Have you told your teacher, Mrs Oaker?

LEO

No because if Merwin thinks I snitched, it'll just make things worse. Now if I had a nice, friendly, vicious dog who I could teach to walk up and back to school with me, maybe my problem with Merwin will be solved? So what do you say?

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

LEO IS ON A BENCH EATING LUNCH WITH HIS BEST FRIEND SARA JANE FLETCHER.

SARA JANE

They said "no"?

LEO

"No" to the dog. But they were open to an ant farm. See, they're at work all day and I'm at school most of the day and they didn't think leaving a dog in the house all alone was fair to the dog.

SARA JANE

Don't you just hate it when parents have a reasonable answer for everything?

LEO

Actually, Sara Jane, I'd really like to have a pet. Not just for protection, but being an only child gets to be kind of a drag. You are so lucky to have two brothers and two sisters.

SARA JANE

Oh, please. Do you have any idea what a mess it is when we all need to go to the bathroom at the same time? And the awful fights we have over what to watch on TV. It's no wonder my parents stay locked in their room. Oh, oh. Don't look up. Here comes Merwin.

MERWIN

Well, if it isn't my old pal Leo. Listen, sawdust brain, what do you have for dessert?

LEO

(Taking out a small baggie
with cookies)

Just a few chocolate chip cookies.

MERWIN

Great, because all I got is this stinking apple so I think we should trade because an apple is much better for your health even if it is a little bit wormy.

(Takes Leo's cookies and
tosses him the apple)

Maybe we'll run into each other on the way home from school...if you're unlucky.

HE LAUGHS AND GOES OFF.

LEO

(Looking sheepishly at Sara
Jane)

I actually wanted a wormy apple.

SARA JANE

You know what I think? I think he's jealous of you.

LEO

For what reason? I'm short, I'm troubled and I'm not even sure I like my first name. What could he possibly be jealous of?

SARA JANE

I don't know. It just seemed like the right thing to say?

LEO

You're a wise person, Sara Jane. It's good to have you as a friend.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

THE BELL RINGS AND CHILDREN START TO SWARM OUT

DISSOLVE THRU TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD GATE - AFTERNOON

THE SCHOOL YARD SEEMS EMPTY. LEO'S HEAD POPS OUT FROM BEHIND A TREE. HE LOOKS AROUND. THE COAST SEEMS CLEAR. HE STARTS OUT. HE'S WEARING A BACK PACK. HE TAKES A FEW STEPS AND BUMPS INTO MERWIN. HE LET'S OUT A STARTLED CRY.

MERWIN

Going my way?

LEO

Uh, no..no. I'm going some other way.

(Frazzled, he begins pointing
in various directions)

That way. No that way. Maybe that way. But not your way.

LEO MAKES A U-TURN AND STARTS RUNNING THE OTHER WAY. MERWIN LOOKS AFTER HIM LAUGHING.

MERWIN

(Proudly to himself)

I love being a bully. It's the only thing I'm really good at.

EXT. A STREET - DAY

LEO IS WALKING. HE'S NEAR AN EMPTY LOT. HE'S TIRED AND POSSIBLY LOST. HE SITS DOWN ON A NEARBY ROCK.

LEO

Let's see. I went six blocks south, then four blocks west and then one block north and three blocks east. At this rate I should be home in four days. I just hate that Merwin.

SOUND: A WHISTLING SOUND THAT BUILDS.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE.

LEO'S EYES WIDEN AS THE SOUND GETS CLOSER. HE LOOKS UP.

LEO'S POV.

FALLING FROM THE SKY AND COMING STRAIGHT AT HIM IS A TWO STORY BUILDING.

LEO (CONT'D)

I really didn't need this today.

THE BUILDING IS NOW GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER AND THE NOISE IS GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER. LEO'S MOUTH WIDENS IN HORROR.

LEO (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhhh!

THE BUILDING PLOPS DOWN RIGHT IN FRONT OF LEO. IT IS A VERY STRANGE STRUCTURE, MUCH MORE CARTOON THAN REAL. THE WALLS ARE NOT EXACTLY STRAIGHT, THE ROOF NOT EXACTLY EVEN, THE WINDOWS NOT EXACTLY MATCHING AND THE COLORS NOT EXACTLY THE COLORS ANY RESPECTABLE BUILDING WOULD WANT TO BE PAINTED. IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T FIT WITH ANYTHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE IS A LARGE SIGN ABOVE THE DOOR THAT READS "TOON POUND"

LEO (CONT'D)

Toon Pound?

THE DOOR OPENS AND OUT COMES HAPPY HANK, A JOLLY LOOKING MAN WEARING AN EXTRAVAGANT UNIFORM SIMILAR TO WHAT A DOORMAN AT A FANCY HOTEL MIGHT WEAR. HE IS JUST A FEW INCHES TALLER THAN LEO. HE IMMEDIATELY PUTS HIS ARM AROUND LEO AND STARTS TO LEAD HIM INTO THE BUILDING.

HANK

Good after noon, my dear boy. I'm Happy Hank the Toon Pound Keeper and your life is about to change forever.

LEO DROPS HIS BACK PACK AS HE ENTERS.

INT. TOON POUND - DAY

IT IS LIKE AN ANIMAL SHELTER EXCEPT THE CAGES ARE FILLED WITH DOZENS AND DOZENS OF THE WILDEST TOONS IMAGINABLE.

LEO

Wow!

HANK

I knew you'd say that. Within these walls my young friend are abandoned Toons. Toons no one wants anymore. Toons that didn't make it on TV or in the movies or comic books and since this is Adopt-A-Toon Week we are making a special effort to find good homes for them.

LEO

You mean I can take one of these Toons home with me?

HANK

Absolutely.

THEY BEGIN STROLLING PAST THE CAGES.

HANK (CONT'D)

Now what kind of a Toon did you have in mind?

LEO

Well, actually, I didn't have any in mind.

HANK

Good. That makes things a lot easier.

HE POINTS TO A VERY HANDSOME SUPER HERO TOON WEARING TIGHTS AND CAPE, AND LOOKING ADMIRINGLY AT HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR.

HANK (CONT'D)

Now, how about Captain Ego? A great crime fighter with just one flaw. If anyone flashes a mirror in front of him he can't stop looking at himself. Sort of like the trouble Superman has with Krypton.

THEY PASS A LARGE CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM BAR WITH ARMS, LEGS AND A FACE THAT LOOKS LIKE A DOPEY VERSION OF MR. POTATO HEAD.

HANK (CONT'D)

Here's an even better one. Freddy Fudgical! Freddy was going to be the first Toon to host his own game show. Unfortunately under those hot TV lights he started to melt.

LEO

Uh, you know, I'm not sure my parents would want me to have...

HANK

Your parents will love any of these guys. They're all toilet trained and come with papers. Say, maybe you're the kind that likes to have the pants scared off him every minute. You might like Spi-gator Man.

HE TURNS LEO TOWARDS ANOTHER CAGE WHERE A HALF SPIDER, HALF ALLIGATOR TOON LUNGES TOWARDS THEM. LEO SCREAMS.

HANK (CONT'D)

Isn't he something?. He's half spider, half alligator. Turn him loose in the house and you'll never be bothered by flies or neighbors who want to borrow stuff.

SUDDENLY A FURRY HAND CLUTCHES LEO'S SHOULDER AND PULLS HIM TOWARDS THE CAGE HE'S IN. WE GET OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF FIZZWIG, A RASCALLY LOOKING DOG OR IS HE A BEAR OR IS HE BEAVER.

FIZZWIG

Psst kid! Forget these losers. I'm the Toon for you.

LEO

Oh, wow. What are you?

FIZZWIG

"What?" Is not as important as "Who?". While they're both pronouns there's really so much more depth to a "who" than a "what"?

HANK

(He suddenly becomes glum)

This, unfortunately is Fizzwig.

FIZZWIG

That's right, kid. Fizzwig the great, Fizzwig the wonderful,...

HANK

Fizzwig the pain in the...

FIZZWIG PUTS HIS HAND OVER HANK'S MOUTH

FIZZWIG

Don't interrupt. I want out of here as bad as you want me out.

FIZZWIG REACHES AROUND THE CAGE AND LETS HIMSELF OUT. HE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND LEO'S SHOULDERS AND BEGINS TO CON HIM.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

It's easy to see you're a sensitive and thoughtful boy who doesn't like to see anyone unhappy.

LEO

Well, no. I don't.

FIZZWIG PULLS OUT A VIOLIN AND BEGINS PLAYING SAD MUSIC.

FIZZWIG

I'm very unhappy here, uh, what did you say your name was?

LEO

Leo Thorton.

FIZZWIG

Leo! That's my favorite name in the whole world, next to mine of course. Do you like golf? I do.

THE VIOLIN TURNS INTO A GOLF CLUB AND FIZZWIG BEGINS HITTING BALLS ALL OVER THE POUND. ONE HITS HANK ON THE HEAD AND KNOCKS HIM OUT.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

I'll bet you're very good to your parents.

HE BEGINS LEADING LEO TOWARDS THE DOOR.

LEO

I try to be.

FIZZWIG

That's what I like to hear. I always say, show me a boy who's good to his parents and I'll show you a boy who's good to his mother and father.

(MORE)

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Well, so far you seem to have answered
all the questions right.

LEO

I have?

FIZZWIG

Well, do you think I was going to let
myself be adopted by just anybody?

HANK REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS. THE SMILE RETURNS TO
HIS FACE.

HANK

Did I hear right? You're taking
Fizzwig?

LEO

Well, I...

FIZZWIG

Have a jawbreaker. They last for hours.

FIZZWIG SHOVES A JAWBREAKER IN LEO'S MOUTH,
PREVENTING HIM FROM SPEAKING. HANK SHOVES A CONTRACT
IN LEO'S FACE.

HANK

Before you change your mind, sign this
contract.

WITH A JAWBREAKER IN HIS MOUTH, ALL LEO CAN DO IS
MUMBLE. HE LOOKS DESPERATE AND CONCERNED.

HANK (CONT'D)

What's he saying?

FIZZWIG

He's saying...
(MORE)

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

(Mumbles like Leo. He then
shoves a pen in Leo's hand)

Let me help you with your signature,
Leo.

FIZZWIG PUTS HIS HAND OVER LEO'S AND MOVES HIS HAND
FOR HIM.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Nice handwriting. Very similar to
mine.

HANK JOYFULLY GRABS THE CONTRACT.

HANK

I can't believe it! I'm rid of Fizzwig!
I'm rid of Fizzwig!

FIZZWIG

Hear that. I'm officially yours now,
pal.

HE SLAPS LEO ON THE BACK. THE JAWBREAKER SHOOTS
OUT OF LEO'S MOUTH AND HITS HANK IN THE HEAD WHO
GOES UNCONSCIOUS AGAIN, BOUNCES THROUGH THE CENTER
OF FREDDY FUDGICAL LEAVING A HUGE HOLE, PINS SPI-
GATOR TO THE WALL AND THEN CRASHES INTO CAPTAIN
EGO'S MIRROR, SHATTERING IT.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Oh oh. You broke a mirror. Seven
years bad luck. Don't worry. I got
connections. I'll get you off with
six months. Okay, Leo, let's get
moving.

(To one and all)

Adios amigos!

THE TOON POUND RESPONDS WITH A BUNCH OF CATCALLS
AND BRONX CHEERS.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

They're just jealous because I'm
bilingual.

FIZZWIG OPENS THE DOOR AND THEY LEAVE.

EXT. STREET - DAY

FIZZWIG AND LEO COME OUT OF THE TOON POUND.

FIZZWIG

Free at last! Free at last! Free at
last!

SOUND: A LOUD WHISTLE SOUND

THE TOON POUND LIFTS AND DISAPPEARS IN THE SKY
LEAVING THE EMPTY LOT.

LEO

I'm not sure my parents are going to
go for this. I'm also not sure I made
the right choice. I think I might
have liked a super hero.

FIZZWIG HANDS LEO HIS BACK PACK AND THE TWO GO
WALKING OFF.

FIZZWIG

Trust me, Leo. Those guys all have
issues, otherwise they wouldn't dress
in those silly costumes. I am ten
times the Toon any of them are.

LEO

Oh, yeah. If you're so terrific how
come you ended up in the Toon Pound?

FIZZWIG

A total miscarriage of justice. I was
about to get my own TV show. Fizzwig's
Fun House. They were gonna come out
with Fizzwig lunch boxes, Fizzwig tee
shirts, Fizzwig vitamins...Stardom was
in my grasp.

LEO

So what happened?

FIZZWIG (V.O.)

They came out with Fizzwig's Breakfast cereal first. It was a disaster. When you added milk it fizzed up your nose making you sneeze so hard you're blown into another time zone.

INSERT SHOT

FIZZWIG, SITTING IN FRONT OF A BOWL, POURS IN SOME FIZZWIG CEREAL. WHEN HE ADDS MILK IT FIZZES UP HIS NOSE MAKING HIM SNEEZE SO HARD THAT HE PROPELS BACKWARDS THROUGH A DOOR.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Yaaaa!

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

There went that dream. Next they teamed me up with a jerk named Homer Simpson. We were supposed to be two wacky roommates. I was dazzling, brilliant, awesome.

INSERT SHOT

FIZZWIG ZIG ZAGS AROUND HOMER WHO IS WATCHING TV.

FIZZWIG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I zipped, I zagged, I did triple loops. I was everything a Toon should be. But Homer, what a dud. All he did was sit in front of a TV and say...

HOMER

Doh!

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG

It was obvious this guy was going nowhere, so I bailed. Next they tried me in a comic book. Fizzwig Fixit. I was a bumbling plumber. It had heart, it had soul. It had big time written all over it.

INSERT:

THE COVER OF "FIZZWIG FIXIT" COMIC BOOK WITH A HUGE PICTURE OF FIZZWIG IN OVERALLS. SUDDENLY THE COVER CATCHES ON FIRE. WE PULL BACK AND SEE SEVERAL MEN THROWING STACKS OF THEM INTO A FIRE PIT.

FIZZWIG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Unfortunately it was printed in China with toxic ink. All fifty thousand copies had to be destroyed.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

LEO

Very sad.

FIZZWIG

From then on it was all downhill. I took jobs wherever I could get them, which was mostly small parts on other cartoon shows. I played a bus driver on Animaniacs...

INSERT SHOT:

FIZZWIG DRIVING A BUS DOWN A MOUNTAIN. THE STEERING WHEEL COMES OFF IN HIS HANDS AND HE SCREAMS IN FEAR AS THE BUS GOES FLYING OFF A MOUNTAIN.

BACK TO ORIGINAL

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

An octopus on Sponge Bob Square Pants.

INSERT SHOT:

FIZZWIG IN AN OCTOPUS COSTUME.

HE HITS HIMSELF IN THE FACE ONE TENTACLE AT A TIME. IT OBVIOUSLY HURTS AND IS NOT A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

And finally on a Bugs Bunny Special...

INSERT:

ELMER FUDD SHOOTING FIZZWIG IN THE BUTT.

FIZZWIG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...Elmer Fudd shot me in the butt twenty six times. It was degrading.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

(Dramatic)

I could have been a contender, Leo. I could have been a star. Now look at me, I'm washed up, I'm nothing, nothing I tell you.

(Quickly himself)

But I'm still a great actor. You're gonna love having me around kid.

THEY TURN A CORNER AND COME FACE TO FACE WITH MERWIN.

LEO

Yikes. Merwin!

MERWIN

Hi Sissy Boy. I was looking for you. I have a desperate need to torment someone. And what the heck is that goofy thing walking next to you?

FIZZWIG

Goofy? Did you call me goofy?

MERWIN

Yeah. You got a problem with that?

LEO

Careful, Fizzwig. He's not a nice guy.

FIZZWIG

(Sizing up Merwin)

Goofy, huh? Call me unique, call me bizarre, call me uncommon, but never, never call me goofy.

FIZZWIG PULLS MERWIN'S NOSE OUT SEVERAL INCHES. MERWIN SCREAMS. FIZZWIG PRODUCES A Mallet AND SLAMS IT DOWN ON MERWIN'S TOES. MERWIN SCREAMS LOUDER. HE THEN PULLS MERWIN'S CHEEKS APART AS WIDE AS HE CAN AND LETS THEM SNAP BACK MAKING HIM SPIN AROUND LIKE A TORNADO. MERWIN CONTINUES TO SCREAM.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

And now the piece de resistance.

FIZZWIG BRINGS MERWIN TO A STOP AND THEN PULLS HIS PANTS DOWN. WE HEAR A ROAR OF CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER. TO MERWIN'S UTTER HORROR HE DISCOVERS THAT HE IS NOW SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL OTHER CHILDREN. NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, MERWIN BEGINS CRYING WILDLY, PULLS UP HIS PANTS AND RUNS OFF. ALL THE KID'S CHEER.

LEO

(Impressed)

Wow! Maybe I did pick the right Toon.

FIZZWIG

There was never a doubt in my mind.

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY

THERE ARE BUNK BEDS. FIZZWIG SEEMS PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SEES.

FIZZWIG

Nice, nice. I think we'll have to do something about the wall paper, but all in all, I should be very happy here.

(Indicating bunk beds)

What am I, top or bottom?

LEO

I'm not sure you'll be allowed on the bed or any of the furniture. After all, you are a...a pet.

FIZZWIG

Hold it there, Leo. You gotta stop thinking of me as a pet. Pets bark, pets meow, pets go tweet tweet. I can talk, I can walk, I can think, I can work an Ipod. Just remember, this country was built by people who came here to be treated equally and justly or did you forget about the Pilgrims? And what about the Revolutionary War? 1775 to 1783? No taxation without representation. I'm sure you know a little bit about that?

LEO

I'm not sure. I had the flu a lot this year.

FIZZWIG

Or maybe you just weren't paying attention.

LEO

Yeah, sometimes that happens too. Anyway, how do you know all that stuff?

DURING THE FOLLOWING FIZZWIG TAKES OUT A SMALL FOLDED HANDKERCHIEF FROM HIS POCKET AND PLACES IT ON A DRESSER. HE UNFOLDS IT SEVERAL TIMES MAKING IT BIGGER AND BIGGER AND FINALLY ON THE LAST UNFOLD HE PRODUCES SEVERAL FRAMED PHOTOS OF HIMSELF AND BEGINS PLACING THEM AROUND THE ROOM.

FIZZWIG

Well, one of the gigs I had was as a spokesman for this educational computer game called FACTS, FIGURES AND FIZZWIG. Unfortunately the word "educational" scared everyone away. Another job down the toilet. Anyway, they never deprogrammed me.

(MORE)

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

I've got so much information stored in my head there's hardly room for important things like the phone number for a pizza delivery. Listen to some of the stuff I've got floating around in the old noggin. "The highest mountain in North America is Mount McKinley. The highest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. The third President of the United States was Thomas Jefferson who wrote the Declaration of Independence. I could go on forever except the one thing I don't know is how long forever is.

LEO

I'm truly impressed.

FIZZWIG

And rightfully so. Boy, if I could get on Jeopardy I'd be set for life.

(Fizzwig relaxes on the top
bunk)

Now, since we'll be rooming together you ought to know some of my habits. Weekends I like to sleep late so keep the noise down. Tuesday nights I take accordion lessons and Thursday nights I like to dress up as a cowboy and do a little Bronco riding.

WE PULL BACK FROM A CU OF FIZZWIG. HE IS NOW IN A COWBOY OUTFIT AND RIDING A BRONCO, STILL IN LEO'S ROOM.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Yahoo!

LEO

Yikes!

WE RETURN TO A CU OF FIZZWIG SMILING.

FIZZWIG

Just kidding about the Bronco.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Now I think I should get ready to meet your parents. What should I wear? I could be very formal.

WITH A WOOSH FIZZWIG IS WEARING A WHITE SUIT WITH A POWER TIE.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

How do you do, my dear Mr and Mrs Thorton. It's a pleasure to meet me.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Or I could be very casual.

WITH ANOTHER WOOSH FIZZWIG IS SITTING ON A BEACH CHAIR WEARING A LOUD HAWAIIAN SHIRT AND SIPPING A DRINK. HE EXTENDS THE DRINK OUT.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Another cherry cola, Mrs Thorton and this time not so stingy with the cherry.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Or maybe they might like a bit of native American culture.

ANOTHER WOOSH AND FIZZWIG IS IN FULL INDIAN COSTUME BEATING ON A TOM TOM, DANCING AROUND A FIRE AND CHANTING. A POT IS OVER THE KETTLE.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Haya, haya, haya, haya...

HE STOPS AND TASTES A SPOONFUL OF THE POT'S BREW THEN SMILES.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

No one makes chicken soup like me.

BACK TO ORIGINAL SHOT.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

What do you think?

LEO

I think telling them about you needs
to be done very carefully.

EXT. THORTON DINNING ROOM - EVENING

IT IS A VERY FORMAL DINING ROOM. LEO, TRUDY AND
JACK ARE HAVING DINNER. THERE ARE CARTONS OF OPENED
TAKE OUT FOOD. LEO IS A BIT PREOCCUPIED.

TRUDY

How's your dinner, Leo?

LEO

Good. Good.

JACK

The meats a little chewy but it probably
strengthens the jaw. And the mashed
potatoes aren't as lumpy as usual.

TRUDY

I know you must be tired of eating
takeout food, Leo, but when both parents
are working sometimes it's necessary.

LEO

I know and it's okay. Look, there's
something I need to talk to you about...

JACK

As a matter of fact, Leo, there's
something we need to talk to you about.

TRUDY

Leo, are we doing anything wrong?

LEO

Wrong? No? Why do you ask?

TRUDY

Your teacher, Mrs. Oaker called. She said you seem to have a problem concentrating. She feels that's why your grades are not as good as they should be.

JACK

We were really surprised and I must say a little disappointed to hear this. There is nothing more your mother and I want then to tell our friends that our son Leo, is gifted.

LEO

I really try my best, Dad, I do, but the truth is I'm just an average kid. I'm really not special.

TRUDY

Nonsense, Leo. You're very special and that's the way you need to be thinking.

LEO

You know, I'm actually glad you brought that up, the thinking part.

TRUDY & JACK

Yes?

LEO

Because, I was thinking...maybe if I had a special pet it might help me become that special kid.

TRUDY

I thought we settled the pet issue this morning.

LEO

Well, yes, sort of, but this afternoon I just happened to find one that I think you're going to be very happy with. I don't have to walk it or bathe it or feed it or take it to the vet.

JACK

Oh, Leo. You got yourself a pet rock. Lucky you. I always wanted a pet rock when I was a kid but we lived in an apartment where no pets of any kind were permitted.

LEO

Well, he's not exactly a pet rock...

TRUDY

He? It's a he? Not an "it"?

LEO

Not an "it" at all and I know you're gonna just love him.

(Deep breath)

Okay, Fizzwig. You can come in now.

SUDDENLY THE DOOR BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND THE DINING ROOM FLINGS OPEN. THERE IN A SPARKLING GOLD TUXEDO WITH A TOP HAT AND CANE IS FIZZWIG.

FIZZWIG

Ta-dah!

TRUDY

Oh sweet goodness! What is that?

LEO

It's Fizzwig, my Toon. Isn't he great?

FIZZWIG THEN BREAKS INTO A SONG AND DANCE DURING WHICH HE PERFORMS ALL THE TASKS HE SINGS ABOUT.

FIZZWIG

(SINGING)

I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON,
 I'M A FABULOUS TOON
 I CAN TALK, I CAN WALK,
 I CAN ZOOM TO THE MOON
 I CAN MAKE MYSELF SMALLER
 I CAN MAKE MYSELF TALLER
 SLIPPING UNDER A DOOR
 DO YOU WANNA SEE MORE?

I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON

JACK

Whoa!

TRUDY

And then some.

LEO

I think you got them, Fizzwig.

UNFORTUNATELY FIZZWIG CANNOT LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

FIZZWIG

I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON,
 I'M A FABULOUS TOON
 I CAN ZIP...

(Zips around room rattling
 dishes, chairs and pictures
 on the wall)

I CAN ZAP

(Bounces from one wall to
 another like a pinball out
 of control)

I CAN EVEN KABOOM

(Does a triple somersault
landing on the table sending
most of the mashed potatoes
into Jack's face)

I CAN DANCE ON THE TABLE

(He begins dancing and gets
his foot caught in a food
carton)

THOUGH IT'S NOT VERY STABLE

(Dishes get kicked around
as he tries to get it off
his foot. When he finally
succeeds it hits the wall
splattering the contents
that run down the wall and
spell out the word
"FABULOUS", which goes on
and off like a neon sign)

I CAN RICOCHET

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

(He ricochets about the
room bouncing into a tall
curio cabinet sending the
contents crashing into the
floor. Pictures fall off
the wall, the ceiling light
fixture comes crashing
down onto the table. The
dinning room is a disaster)

WHICH I DO EVERY DAY
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

(With a big finish, Fizzwig skids across the table, knocking the plates with food all over the place and presenting himself on one knee with outstretched hands to a horrified Trudy and Jack. The room twinkles with exploding star dust that forms the word FIZZWIG, which begins flashing brightly in every imaginable color. FIZZWIG is now nose to nose to nose with the couple)

CAUSE I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON, I'M A TOON
So what do you say folks, can Leo have me?

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

FIZZWIG IS READING A BUGS BUNNY COMIC BOOK AS A VERY SAD AND DISAPPOINTED LEO ENTERS THE ROOM.

FIZZWIG

I don't get this Bugs Bunny. He's a one note Toon.

(Mimics)

"What's up, doc?". Come on, what's funny about that? You know why he's a success? Luck. He just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

(MORE)

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

(Puts down the comic book)

So? What did the folks say?

LEO

I have to take you back.

FIZZWIG

What? I don't get it. It was my finest performance. I dazzled, I sparkled. I was on top of my game.

LEO

You also destroyed our dinning room. They want you out by tomorrow.

FIZZWIG

Once again genius is overlooked.

FLIP TO:

EXT. STREET - MORNING

LEO, CARRYING HIS BACKPACK, AND FIZZWIG ARE WALKING TOWARDS THE EMPTY LOT WHERE THE TOON POUND APPEARED. AS THEY WALK FIZZWIG TRIES TO CHEER UP A SAD AND HEART BROKEN LEO BY DOING VARIOUS ACROBATICS, CART WHEELS, SOMERSAULTS, WALKING ON HIS HANDS AND LEAPING OVER FENCES.

FIZZWIG

Have you decided what kind of a pet you're going to replace me with?

LEO

I'm not going to get a pet. I told my parents I wanted you or nothing. They liked the "nothing" idea very much.

FIZZWIG

Maybe they were right about me. Maybe I'm not as great as I think I am. Maybe I'm just a loser.

HE SMACKS INTO A TREE.

LEO

Oh, no, Fizzwig. That's not true.
You're one of the coolest Toons around.

FIZZWIG

I know. I was just testing you.

LEO

Even when you're sleeping you're
amazing. I spent half the night staying
awake just listening to you talk in
your sleep.

FIZZWIG

About what?

LEO

About everything. The pyramids in
Egypt, the gold rush in Alaska, the
discovery of electricity...

FIZZWIG

It's that educational game they
programmed me with. I know just about
everything except how to make a good
impression on parents.

THEY COME TO THE EMPTY LOT

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Well, here we are.

LEO

I'm worried Fizzwig. What if the Toon
Pound doesn't come back for you?

FIZZWIG

They have to. The contract you signed
had a twenty four hour return clause.
Besides they're probably dying to get
me back. Let's face it. Life with
out me has got to be dullsville.

LEO

(Sadly)

I guess I'll soon be finding that out myself.

LEO, VERY CLOSE TO TEARS, THROWS HIS ARMS AROUND FIZZWIG AND HUGS HIM.

LEO (CONT'D)

I'm gonna miss you, Fizz.

FIZZWIG

Now, now, Leo. Let's look at the positive side of things. Here we were, two strangers from different worlds who became friends. That's what the book Robinson Crusoe is about. Besides being a great adventure story it paints a terrific picture of the human experience.

LEO

If I read it, will it make me sad?

FIZZWIG

No, because unlike what's happening to us, it has a happy ending.

THE TWO THINK ABOUT IT AND THEN BOTH START TO CRY HYSTERICALLY.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

SARA JANE IS SITTING NEXT TO LEO WHO IS LOOKING VERY SAD.

SARA JANE

What's wrong, Leo. You look like you lost your best friend which is very strange since I'm your best friend.

LEO

I was just thinking about Robinson Crusoe.

SARA JANE

What about him?

LEO

You wouldn't understand.

SARA JANE

So what? At least you'll get it off your chest.

LEO SIGHS AND THEN TURNS AND SEES MERWIN STARING AT HIM, MAKING A MENACING FACE AND A SHAKING A THREATENING FIST.

LEO

I wonder Sara Jane. If life is tough when we're only nine what's it going to be like when we're twelve?

MRS OAKER ENTERS THE CLASSROOM.

MRS OAKER

Okay, everyone. Take out a pencil and some paper. This morning I'm going to give you a little quiz but it isn't necessarily going to be about things we're learning in school. The school board is curious about the quantity and quality of knowledge you've acquired outside the class room. Now question number one. Name a book in which two strangers from different parts of the world became fast friends.

THE CAMERA PANS THE BLANK STARES OF ALL THE STUDENTS. WHEN IT COMES TO LEO HE HAS AN AMAZED LOOK AND THEN A SMILE AND THEN BEGINS WRITING FURIOUSLY WHILE NOBODY ELSE IS.

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

LEO IS SULKING, STARING BLANKLY INTO SPACE. SUDDENLY HIS DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND HIS MOTHER AND FATHER ENTER QUITE EXCITED.

JACK

Leo...Leo...

TRUDY

Oh, Leo we are so proud of you.

LEO

You are?

JACK

We just got a call from your teacher, Mrs. Oaker about that quiz you had in school.

LEO

Uh huh.

TRUDY

You scored the highest in the class. Mrs. Oaker has completely changed her mind about you. She said you may be gifted after all. Very gifted in fact.

JACK

Despite the fact that my company just announced they lost five million dollars, this is the happiest day of my life.

LEO

I need to be honest with you guys. I didn't really do it alone. Almost everything they asked me on the test was something Fizzwig told me about either while he was awake or asleep. If anyone deserves credit for my doing well, it's him.

JACK & TRUDY

Oh, no.

LEO

Oh, yes. Fizzwig taught me to expand my horizons in order to get a better picture of the human experience.

TRUDY

Did you hear that Jack? He just used two big words in one sentence.

JACK

And you learned this from Fizzwig?

LEO

I did.

JACK

Houston, we have a problem. Do we stand by our decision to forbid Fizzwig from ever showing his face around here and lose the opportunity to have a gifted child...

TRUDY

Or do we let Leo have a maniac for a pet?

WE GO OUT ON THEIR PERPLEXED LOOK.

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

MINUTES LATER. OUT OF BREATH AND EXCITED, LEO IS RUNNING TOWARDS THE EMPTY LOT.

LEO

Fizzwig! Fizzwig! It's okay. You can stay! I can keep you.

(There is no one around.

Leo yells skyward)

Good news, Fizzwig. I can keep you.

(There is nothing)

Fizzwig! Come back, Fizzwig!

MERWIN APPEARS.

LEO (CONT'D)

Oh oh.

MERWIN

Hi, Leo, old pal. I could be wrong,
but it looks to me like your hairy
little body guard is no longer around
to guard your body.

LEO

Uh, gotta run.

LEO TAKES OFF. MERWIN WATCHES AND LAUGHS EVILLY.

MERWIN

Yeah, I'm back in business.

EXT. SARA JANE'S FRONT PORCH - EARLY EVENING

IT IS STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE. LEO AND SARA JANE ARE
TALKING.

SARA JANE

I don't know. I've heard all kinds of
stories but this one about you having
a Toon for a pet, well, frankly Leo,
you sound seriously disturbed.

LEO

I've never lied to you before, Sara
Jane. Why would I lie to you now?
Losing him was my fault. When my
parents said I couldn't keep him I
should have yelled or thrown a tantrum
like any normal kid.

SARA JANE

It's that old could have, should have,
would have. I say, forget it, Leo.
Even if he did exist, you have to accept
the fact that he's gone. Fizzwig is
history.

LEO

Fizzwig was brilliant in history. Did
you know the United States Constitution
is the oldest written constitution
still used today.

SARA JANE

Not really but I'll keep it in mind.

LEO

I'm going to that empty lot every day. Maybe, just maybe, the Toon Pound will come back and I'll get another chance.

SARA JANE

Good for you, Leo. After all, hope is what dreams are built on.

LEO

Wow, that's deep. How did you come up with that?

SARA JANE

We went out for Chinese food yesterday. It was in the cookie.

SOUND: VARIOUS CARTOON HORN TOOTING.

COMING DOWN THE STREET WITH A HALF DOZEN SIDE HORNS ALL TOOTING DIFFERENT SOUNDS, IS FIZZWIG, DRIVING THE HOTTEST TOON CONVERTIBLE EVER. HE PULLS UP TO SARA JANE'S PORCH.

FIZZWIG

Anyone care to go for a spin?

LEO

Fizzwig!

SARA JANE

Oh, my, Leo. You aren't delusional.

LEO AND SARA RUN DOWN TO HIM.

LEO

You didn't go back to the pound.

FIZZWIG

It didn't make sense.

(MORE)

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

I knew it would be just a matter of time before your parents came to their senses and realized what a mistake they made. It's what happened to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. When it was first built everyone thought it was the worst thing they ever saw. Now everyone loves it. I seem to have that same effect.

(He whips out a bouquet of flowers and hands them to Sara Jane)

These are for you. Okay, Leo. Get in. It's almost six o'clock and we don't want to be late for dinner. By the way, I'm cooking.

LEO

See you later, Sara Jane.

(Gets into car)

Oh, Fizzwig. I've never been so happy to see anybody.

FIZZWIG

Right back at you, pal. Now if you don't mind, let's pass Merwin's house just to let him know the sheriff's back in town.

LEO

Right!

THE CAR TOOTS AND GOES OFF

FADE OUT:

THE END

TAG

INT. THORTON LIVING ROOM - EVENING

THE THORTONS ARE EXPLAINING THE RULES TO FIZZWIG AS LEO LOOKS ON.

JACK

Okay, Fizzwig. Here are the house rules. No eating in the bedroom.

FIZZWIG

Gotcha!

TRUDY

No TV after ten and all dirty clothes in the hamper.

FIZZWIG

Check.

JACK

And no more dance numbers on the dining room table.

FIZZWIG

No prob-lem-mo.

JACK

Now, any questions?

FIZZWIG

Yes, is it okay if I call you mom and dad?.

JACK

No!

FIZZWIG

How about Jack and Trudy?

TRUDY

I can live with that.

JACK HANDS FIZZWIG A CONTRACT WITH A PEN

JACK

Okay, sign right here.

FIZZWIG

(signing)

There you are. I am now officially part of the family.

JACK

Try not to remind me of that too often.

LEO

Thanks, Mom. Thanks Dad. This is the happiest day of my life.

TRUDY

I'm so glad, dear.

JACK

I still think you'd be better off with a goldfish.

FIZZWIG

Jack, Trudy, I need to tell you, I'm moved, truly moved by this generosity, this warm and sincere welcome to your household. And so from the bottom of my heart I promise to serve as a stellar example for Leo, striving to be a model of truth, courage and integrity, doing everything in my power to live by the highest of principles, serving as a - beacon of morality and wisdom and in doing so prove to Leo that we must all aspire to be all that we can be. And then after we've had a nap....

JACK

Yes?

FIZZWIG

I'm going to show him one darn good
time.

HE KISSES JACK & TRUDY ON THE CHEEK, HIGH 5'S LEO
AND LEAPS AROUND WITH JOY.

FIZZWIG (CONT'D)

Yahoo!

LEO

Wow! It's good to be me!

FADE OUT:

THE END