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TALK, THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Lori M. Myers
Music by Nicholas Wilders



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TALK, THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Lori M. Myers
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Cast List: The roles of NATALIE: /Ned/Ruff are seen throughout the play. All others can be doubled.

Natalie - narrator
Ned - farmer
Ruff - dog
Sly - stone
Twiggy - branch
Shady - tree
Spud - yam

Caddis - fisherman/woman
Snap - fish trap

Ida - woman

King Doubt-It - king of Masamba
Sit - royal throne
The Scream - Edvard Munch painting (can be portrayed by actor or an actor behind the painting)

Set:
The set depicts a simple forest or village setting. Downstage should have enough empty space for the actors to move and dance.

Scene 1

[At rise, SLY, TWIGGY, SHADY and SPUD are in character on various parts of the stage. For now, they are silent and still. NATALIE will remain DSL or DSR during most of the play unless she becomes part of the action]

NATALIE: *(to audience)* Hello, everyone! Hello, villagers! Greetings! Greetings! We're here in the beautiful village of Masamba and something very odd is about to happen, and all of you villagers out there are going to be a part of it. Yes, today is NOT a typical day and you're about to find out why. Let me tell you all about it. Hmm, better yet, let me sing it for you.

[song: "Talk"]

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NATALIE: [sings]
ON THIS MAGICAL, MAGICAL DAY OF DAYS
YOU JUST CAN'T HELP HAVIN' SOMETHING TO SAY;
JUST LIKE TWO STICKS MAKING SOME SMOKE
YOU GOTTA HAVE WORDS TO TALK TO FOLK

[chorus] HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
AH YA, AH YA, YA
RIGHT NOW IT IS THE STYLE
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
SO YOU CAN JUST STAY AWHILE
AH YA, AH YA, YA

THEY SAY THAT TALK IS ALL THE RAGE
I'LL TELL YOU MORE, JUST TURN THE PAGE;
TALK IS HOW WE COMMUNICATE
SPEAK OUR MINDS AND SET OUR FATE

[chorus] HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
AH YA, AH YA, YA
RIGHT NOW IT IS THE STYLE
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
SO HOW 'BOUT YOU STAY AWHILE
AH YA, AH YA, YA

[Music continues as NATALIE speaks. In the following speech, NATALIE will x to each character when indicated]

Well, it's no fun just talking to myself. After all, talk is all about having conversations with your family and friends. But who is here in this forest for me to talk to? I mean, all I see is this stone, this tree with a branch hanging off of it, and this yam that's partially buried in the ground. They're not really ALIVE, are they?

SLY: Oh, yes we are!

TWIGGY: And so are we; the tree and me!

SHADY: We're moving around for all to see!

SPUD: And here I am; the yam, I am!

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NATALIE: (*to audience) (excited)* Aha! I told you it was a magical day!

[song: Talk]

SLY, TWIGGY, SHADY, SPUD [singing]
ON THIS MAGICAL, MAGICAL DAY OF DAYS
WE ALL CAN'T HELP BUT COME OUT AND PLAY;
WE GOT HEART AND SOUL AND VOICE
ALL OF THIS GIVES US JUST ONE CHOICE

[chorus]] HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
AH YA, AH YA, YA
RIGHT NOW IT IS THE STYLE
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
SO YOU CAN JUST STAY AWHILE
AH YA, AH YA, YA

NATALIE, SLY, TWIGGY, SHADE, SPUD
HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
HEY, YOU, C'MON LET'S TALK
AH YA, AH YA, YA
RIGHT NOW IT IS THE STYLE
YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
SO YOU CAN JUST STAY AWHILE
AH YA, AH YA, YA

YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY, YAY
AH YA, AH YA, YA!

NATALIE: Whew! That was so much fun! Yes, it is a magical day in our wonderful village. Once every one hundred years, these beautiful parts of nature come to life. Not only do they live and breathe, but they have names, too. For instance...

SLY: I'm Sly Stone. I never take anything for granite. I also like rock music.

SHADY: And I'm Shady and when I'm not feeling good, I'm sycamore.

TWIGGY: My name is Twiggy, and Shady and I have been together for hundreds of years. Sometimes we don't get along and I leave *(beat)*, but I always return because Shady' s part of my family tree.

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NATALIE: And finally there's...

SPUD: Spud... I'm a yam... Like a potato... Only better... Not really...Most of the time...

NATALIE: Wait for it...

SPUD: ...I'm in really hot water.

NATALIE: *(to audience)* So there you have it. Now you've heard a stone, a tree, a branch, and a yam speak. They even have names and a sense of humor. But not everyone *gets it*. Some people don't believe that parts of nature can talk and have feelings. Well, well, well, here comes someone like that now.

[NED and RUFF enter]

NED: There's nothing a farmer like myself wants more than for his crops to grow big and healthy. If only it would rain. That would make everything so much easier for those in my profession. Things are really…

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: in my line of work.

NATALIE: Hmm, looks like we have a farmer who's having some challenges. Hey, you, farmer!

NED: Huh? Who said that? Who's there?

NATALIE: Over here! It's me! The narrator!

NED: I think I hear somebody, but I'm not sure.

NATALIE: Over here! I'm NOT invisible!

NED: *(to audience)* Are one of you villagers out there calling me? Stand up and show yourself!

NATALIE: [NATALIE: jumps up and down and waves arms up in the air) What part of "over here" don't you understand?

NED: *(to audience)* Can anyone tell me who's talking to me?

[audience should indicate that NATALIE is the one trying to get his attention)

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NED: *(to NATALIE:)* Ah, there you are. I don't believe I've seen you around this village before. Who are you and what's your name?

NATALIE: Well, I only visit Masamba once every one hundred years on this magical, magical day of days. I'm NATALIE and I'm the narrator.

NED: A narrator? Can one make a living doing that?

NATALIE: Not really. But I love to talk and tell stories, so it's right up my alley.

NED: It's wonderful to get to do what we're meant to do. I'm Ned, a farmer, and I love to grow food for people.

NATALIE: That's a very noble thing to do. *(beat)* What a nice dog you've got. What's his name?

NED: *(to Ruff)* Go ahead. Tell this pretty lady your name.

NATALIE: He talks?

NED: *(to NATALIE:)* Of course. *(to Ruff)* Well, tell her your name.

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: *(short silence)* I'm waiting.

NED: *to NATALIE:)* He just told you his name.

NATALIE: All I heard was the dog bark.

NED: Okay, we'll give this another try. *(to Ruff)* Tell her your name.

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: *(to NATALIE:)* There you have it. His name's…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: Oh, I get it now. The dog's name is…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: So how's life with you little doggie?

RUFF: Ruff!

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NATALIE: Is your doggie bed nice and soft or is it…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: Now say your name three times fast.

RUFF: Ruff, Ruff, Ruff!

NATALIE: Well, that was fun!

NED: Okay, enough frivolity. Time for serious business. I'll say my goodbyes to you, dear
NATALIE: the Narrator. Continue on with your storytelling. I'm sure the people out there can't wait to hear what's going to happen next. Actually, neither can I.

NATALIE: *(to audience)* What's going to happen next can only happen on this magical, magical day of days. Now listen very carefully. The farmer and his dog…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: …are on their way to King Doubt-It's castle to ask him not to raise taxes on his farm. But here's the mystery. He's actually going to ask the king something else but doesn't know what that is yet. He'll find that out soon, though, so villagers don't say a word. Let's continue on with our story. So the farmer and his dog…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: …feel a bit tired after walking for many miles.

NED:I'm feeling a bit tired after walking for many miles. Ah! Here's a big smooth stone. I think I'll just sit down right here and rest for a little while.

[NED x's to SLY and sits down on SLY]

SLY: Hey!!! What are you doing?

NED: [NED: jumps up and looks around]
What? Who was that? Was it that narrator-person again?

SLY: Do I look like a narrator?

NED: Whoever you are, I demand you come out of hiding right now!

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SLY: Hiding? I've never hidden anywhere in my life. I'm always in view of everyone and everything. I'm at the bottom of mountains and shallow river beds, on shorelines and winding paths.

NED: Well, I certainly can't see you! Oh, my dear faithful dog…

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: …I knew I had worries, but I didn't think it was so bad that I would begin hearing voices of people who aren't there.

NATALIE: The farmer had no idea that the voice he heard could possibly come from a stone. He didn't want to take any chances, so he skipped the stone and noticed a tree right next to it. Unfortunately, so did...

RUFF: Ruff!

[RUFF x's to SHADY and lifts leg to pee as a dog would]

SHADY: Hey, hey, hey! You are barking up the wrong tree!

[SHADY takes out a paper towel and dries the spot, gets rid of paper towel, then is still again]

RUFF: (*at tree)* Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!

NED: I really need to rest. Ah, over here's a nice shade tree to lean against.

[NED leans against SHADY who pushes against the FARMER]

NED: [cont] What's going on here? Did I just lean against a trampoline? *(looks at tree and pokes it in various places)* Hmm, it looks solid enough. I'll give it another try and rest against it again.

[NED leans against SHADY again who pushes NED]

NED: [cont] This is ridiculous. Any tree I've ever seen is good and strong and doesn't move. Okay, tree, you've met your match!

[NED leans against SHADY and fights to lean against the tree while SHADY pushes back with all its strength. The two moan and groan as they push against each other]

NED: [cont] Wait a minute! I hear someone else moaning and groaning. Who else is moaning and groaning? My dear doggie…

RUFF: Ruff!

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NED: Is that you? Are you sick? Did you eat something…

RUFF: Ruff?

NED: No? Then if it wasn't my dog…

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: …then who was it? Some robber? Some mischief maker? Well, I'll show him. I'll break off this leafy branch for protection!

NATALIE: I don't think that's going to happen.

[NED tugs at TWIGGY and tries to separate TWIGGY from SHADY]

NED: *(breathing hard)* I can't understand this. This tree moved when I leaned against it, and this branch won't budge.

TWIGGY: Stop that! You are hurting me real bad!

NED: [NED jumps back] Whaaatttt?!?!?

TWIGGY: You heard me. How dare you try to separate me and my friend, Shady.

NED: It can't be. A branch that talks? I need more vacation time. Things are getting really…

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: …around here. I'll just steer clear of this tree.

NATALIE: Now the farmer, being the kind and thoughtful person he was, wanted to make sure that his dog…

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: …felt comfortable during their journey to see King Doubt-It.

NED: Hey, my dear doggie…

RUFF: Ruff!

NED:…you must be really hungry. I see a yam peeking out of the ground over there. How about you try digging it out? It shouldn't be real…

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RUFF: Ruff!

NED: …to get a hold of it.

[RUFF x's to SPUD and begins digging. SPUD can roll around, go up and down as RUFF digs around SPUD]

SPUD: Ow! Hey! Wait! Ow! Hurts! Yikes!

[as SPUD reacts, RUFF sniffs and dances around with a mix of fear and curiosity]

NED: What is going on here? What did you dig up, my dear doggie…

RUFF: Ruff!

SPUD: I'll tell you what your canine friend dug up. He dug up a yam who was very happy and content growing big and strong in the cool dirt. So there!

NED: You're talking to me!

SPUD: Of course. I'm talking to you, and I can see and hear. And, by the way, your dog was really…

RUFF: Ruff!

SPUD: …when he tried to dig me up!

NED: Sorry about that, but I'm still in shock that you're talking!

SPUD: We can all talk. Me, Sly Stone over there, and Shady and Twiggy who you just tried to break off and use as a weapon all because a few noises scared you.

NED: Scared? I'm not afraid of anything or anybody.

SPUD: Really?

[**song: Nothing Scares Me, Nothing Much]**

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NED:(sings)
NOTHING SCARES ME, NOTHING MUCH
EXCEPT THAT TREE I DON'T DARE TOUCH
AND THAT STONE AS HARD AS ROCK
AND THAT YAM I DON'T DARE MOCK

ALL [chorus]
NOTHING SCARES US, NOTHING MUCH
EXCEPT WHEN YOUR WORDS HURT AND SUCH
GO AHEAD, GIVE US A SCARE
WE'LL RUN AWAY WITHOUT A CARE

NED:
I SURVIVED A BRANCH ATTACK
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'LL BE BACK
BUGS, WORMS, BATS OF THE NIGHT
I DON'T DARE PUT UP A FIGHT

ALL: [chorus]
NOTHING SCARES US, NOTHING MUCH
EXCEPT WHEN YOUR WORDS HURT AND SUCH
GO AHEAD, GIVE US A SCARE
WE'LL RUN AWAY WITHOUT A CARE

NED:
NOTHING SCARES ME

OTHERS:
NOTHING SCARES HIM
NED:
NOTHING SCARES ME

OTHERS:
NOTHING SCARES HIM
ALL:
NOTHING SCARES US, NOTHING MUCH!

SHADY: Where are you off to, Farmer?

NED: Wow. You can ask questions, too!

TWIGGY: Of course we ask questions. We can talk so we can have real conversations with questions and everything.

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SPUD: We even Tweet!

NED: Tweet? I thought only birds did that.

SPUD: And I bet you still use a landline.

SHADY: Geez, Farmer, you are having a...

RUFF: Ruff!

SHADY: ...day, aren't you? So answer my question. Where are you off to?

NED: Why, I'm off to meet with King Doubt-It and ask him not to raise my taxes. If my taxes go up, I'll lose my precious farm, my animals, and all that beautiful land.

[SPUD, TWIGGY, SHADY, and SLY look at each other in excitement]

NATALIE: The stone, the tree and branch, and the yam couldn't believe their luck. They had something they had to talk about with King Doubt-It, too. Now right here in front of them was this farmer on his way to visit the king. They hoped beyond hope that the farmer could help them.

SLY: You must do something for us. It's very important. Will you?

NED: Well, I don't know. Tell me what it is and I'll decide.

TWIGGY: We hear King Doubt-It has plans to destroy our beautiful forest with waterfalls and rolling hills.

SPUD: He plans on leveling everything and putting in hundreds of condos.

SHADY: I have cousins who grow in the forest. My mother is a mighty oak tree and my aunt is a dogwood tree. They'll be homeless...er....treeless if the king succeeds with his plan.

SLY: We need for you to talk to the king and convince him that he should leave the land the way it is so people can enjoy it and appreciate nature.

NED: Why are you asking me to do your work? Why don't the four of you go to the palace and speak to him yourselves. You can all talk.

TWIGGY: He wouldn't listen to us.

SLY: That's right. He wouldn't. If I came through the door, he'd kick me to the side and out the back.

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TWIGGY: He'd put me against his knee and break me in two.

SHADY: He'd climb up my trunk and saw off my limbs.

SPUD: He'd put me in a casserole.

NED: Now, now. I think you four are being a bit...

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: ...in your evaluation of the king. He's not such a bad guy. He's a little absent-minded. That's about the worst thing I could say about him.

SLY: Yes, but he's determined to follow through with the project. He's already hired the construction company. They've already picked out the faucets and cabinet tops for the powder rooms.

TWIGGY: You're going to be seeing him anyway. Please talk to him about this, too.

SHADY: You're a farmer who loves the land. You understand. That's why we're entrusting you with this task.

SPUD: *(to audience)* You villagers out there, answer this question. Should this good farmer bring our request to the king? Yes or no?

[audience responds]

SPUD: [cont.] See? They agree with us!

NATALIE: The farmer didn't know what to do. He was tired and hungry. He felt bad for these elements of nature who waited one hundred years to have a voice, but he feared he might anger the king with this additional request. The farmer noticed the forlorn looks on the faces of Sly, Twiggy, Shady, and Spud. But it was his faithful dog who helped him make a decision.

[RUFF begins to whine and pulls at the farmer's pant leg]

NED:It appears that my dog...

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: ...is on your side. Plus the villagers out here seem to be, too. *(beat)* Okay, I'll take my chances. I'll try and convince the king to stop building the condos.

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[SLY, TWIGGY, SHADY, and SPUD cheer and jump for joy]

SLY, TWIGGY, SHADY, SPUD: Thank you, Farmer. Thank you, Ruff. (exit)

RUFF: Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!

Scene 2

[NED and RUFF continue their journey]

NARRATOR: So the farmer and his faithful furry companion...

RUFF: Ruff!

NARRATOR: ...continued on their journey. All the while, the farmer kept rehearsing his speech to the king

NED: "Oh, my king, my sire, isn't it wonderful to lie in a grassy field, climb trees and touch the sky without any buildings in the way?" No, that sounds stupid. How about this? "You are the best king, the most reasonable king, the handsomest king." No, no, no. That's even worse. Wait a minute. "Ya know, king, the housing market is really lousy right now." (*to Ruff)* How was that?

RUFF: Ruff.

NED: You're right. It was. Oh, what am I going to do? If I keep my promise to Sly, Twiggy, Shady, and Spud, the king may decide to double the taxes on my farm and I'll lose my home and my livelihood forever. On the other hand, I did make a promise to them and I need to keep that promise. I guess I'll take my chances.

NATALIE: But even after debating with himself, the farmer still wasn't sure. He figured they still had a long way to travel until he had to make a final decision.

[CADDIS and SNAP are sitting by the "river"]

NATALIE: [cont] So on their way to talk to the king, the farmer and his dog...

RUFF: Ruff!

NATALIE: ...come upon a fisherman named Caddis who was fishing by the mighty river. Or was he...?

NED: Hello, fisherman. How are the fish swimming?

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CADDIS: Forward.

NED: No, I mean, how many did you catch today?

CADDIS: I've been very lucky, actually. I've caught nothing!

NED: That doesn't sound very lucky to me.

SNAP: Me either, and it's very frustrating!

NED: What was that? It sounded like your fish trap was talking. Are you a ventriloquist?

CADDIS: No. On this magical, magical day in Masamba, even my fish trap is talking.

NED: A talking fish trap! Amazing!

[RUFF x's to SNAP, sniffs, and SNAP snaps at him]

CADDIS: I'd get your dog away from my fish trap, Snap. He hasn't had any fish today and is mighty hungry.

NED: But I've heard that the river is filled with all sorts of fish.

CADDIS: That's true. But I won't allow Snap to trap any.

SNAP: You are one crazy fisherman! *(to Farmer)* Can you imagine? A fisherman who sits by the river all day and doesn't want to catch fish? And here I am doing nothing but gathering rust. I feel soooooooo trapped.

NED: But I'm sure that even if you take home a few fish each week that there is more than enough for everyone else in Masamba.

CADDIS: You don't get it, do you?

SNAP: Oh, no. Watch out. I think he's going to sing.

[song: "Here for the Halibut"]

CADDIS: [sings]
CATFISH, BLOWFISH, ANCHOVY AND CARP
SPRAT AND STICKLEBACK, NEEDLEFISH ARE SHARP
CATFISH ALL PURR AND COD WINK AT ME
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS WHO LIVE UNDER THE SEA

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BLUEFILL PAINT COLORS MUCH LIKE THE SKY
EELS ARE ELECTRIC, ANGELFISH DO FLY
BULLHEADS ARE STUBBORN, GUPPIES ARE WEE
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS WHO LIVE UNDER THE SEA

[chorus] HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
WHERE I FEEL AT HOME
I'LL NEVER FLOUNDER
I'LL NEVER ROAM

HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
AND HAKE AND THE TROUT
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS
WHO I CAN'T DO WITHOUT

UNDER THE WATER A TIGERFISH DOTH ROAR
CHARLIE THE TUNA WANTS TO HEAR SOME MORE
SUNFISH SHINE BRIGHTLY, MACKEREL HOLY
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS WHO LIVE UNDER THE SEA

[chorus] HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
WHERE I FEEL AT HOME
I'LL NEVER FLOUNDER
I'LL NEVER ROAM

HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
AND HAKE AND THE TROUT
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS
WHO I CAN'T DO WITHOUT

YES, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS
WHO I CAN'T DO WITHOUT

NED: That's beautiful, Caddis.

SNAP: I hate that song. He sings it all the time. It drives me crazy. I feel like I'm about to snap.

[SNAP makes frenetic snapping motions and sounds]

CADDIS: Are you over your temper tantrum, Snap? Or do you want a time out?

SNAP: I'm over it. And I mean, over it!

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CADDIS: Where are you off to, farmer?

NED: I'm on my way to see the king.

CADDIS: The king?!? Really? Could you please, please, please make a request for me?

NED: Oh, I don't know. I already have two things I have to ask for. One is not to raise the taxes on my farm. The second one is a request from a stone, a branch, a tree, and a yam who want the king to halt the construction of condos.

CADDIS: Could you just add a third simple one? Please have him put up a "no fishing allowed" sign here by the river. This way my friends below will not be in danger. It would make them so happy.

SNAP: But me so hungry! *(beat)* Where's a Red Lobster when you need one? Oh, man. I do love those cheese rolls.

CADDIS: Farmer, if you make this the third request on your list, I promise I'll sing for you.

SNAP: Oh, noooooo! Farmer, listen to me. Don't do it. Picture this: A lot of happy fish, but me on the unemployment line.

CADDIS: *(to audience)* Villagers, please say "yes" so this good farmer gives our request to King Doubt-It. Please!

SNAP: Villagers, don't listen to him. Say "no, no, no, no, nooooooooo!" Fish traps are an endangered specie!

CADDIS: Snap, stop it! *(to audience)* Villagers, say "yes." It's the right thing to do.

[audience responds]

SNAP: *(to audience)* Well thanks a lot, you, you, so-called human beings out there. Hey, ever meet a fish trap up close and personal? I dare you to shake my netting after the show. I. Dare. Youuuuuuu!

NATALIE: Despite advice from Snap, the fish trap, the farmer saw the pleading and sincerity in Caddis' eyes. And being the softie that he was, the farmer agreed to ask the king to put up a sign by the river which would allow the fish to live and swim happily without fear.

NED: Of course, Caddis. I'll do it.

SNAP: AARRGG!!! Why is my life sooooo...soooooo...

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RUFF: Ruff!

SNAP: Yeah. What he said.

CADDIS: Farmer, my salmon thanks you, my marlin thanks you, and I thank you.

SNAP: And I do NOT thank you!

[reprise chorus: "Here for the Halibut"]

CADDIS: [chorus]
HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
WHERE I FEEL AT HOME
I'LL NEVER FLOUNDER
I'LL NEVER ROAM

HERE FOR THE HALIBUT
AND HAKE AND THE TROUT
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS
WHO I CAN'T DO WITHOUT

YES, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS
WHO I CAN'T DO WITHOUT

SNAP: *(to Caddis as they exit)* Can we stop at the fish and chips place on the way home?

[CADDIS and SNAP exit]

Scene 3

NATALIE: So now the farmer had three requests to present to the king. He was so afraid that King Doubt-It would be angry and felt for sure that his own farm and way of life was in deep trouble.

NED: What am I to do? I had been scared to approach the king with just *my* request; now I have two more. Will the king put me in jail after asking for so many favors? I'm a simple farmer who just wants to work the land and make a simple living. It can't get much...

RUFF: Ruff!

NED: ...er than this!

[IDA rushes in crying and screaming. She runs around in frenetic circles like a maniac]

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IDA: Vegetables!! Vegetables!! Where are my vegetables!!

FARMER: Whaaattt???

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!!!!

IDA: Vegetables!! He's ruined them!! Oh, what am I to do?

NED: Who's ruined them? What are you talking about?

IDA: [IDA stops when saying the next line] And by the way, that darn fish trap I just passed. All I said was "Hello, isn't it a beautiful morning?" and he almost snapped my head off! *(resumes running around)*

NED: [NED runs after her] Could you focus on one subject at a time? What happened to your vegetables?

IDA: My vegetables! They're ruined! Chewed up by a big hungry rabbit!

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!

NED: A rabbit?

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!

IDA: Yes, a rabbit!

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!

IDA: Why is your dog barking so much!

NED: Because you said that word.

IDA: What word?

NED: Rabbit!

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!

IDA: Oh, dear, oh, dear, oh dear! Squash, and carrots, and turnips, and peas, and beans, and spinach, and broccoli. All gone! Gone, gone, gone! Oh, I am a stupid Ida, a stupid Ida!

NED: Uh, Ida, I'm sure you're not stupid at all.

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IDA: But you have no idea how much I love my vegetables!

[song: "Colors of the Rainbow"]

IDA:
THE VEGETABLES THEY MAKE ME SING
THE COLORS ALL SO BRIGHT
SEE WHAT COMES FROM THE GROUND
GROW ALL THE DAY AND ALL THE NIGHT

[chorus] RED, GREEN, A-RED, A-GREEN,
PURPLE AND YELLOOOOOW
ALL THE COLORS I DO SEE
THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

AH, VEGETABLES
THE COLORS ALL SO BRIGHT
AH, VEGETABLES
SO PRETTY AND SO RIPE
I SMELL THE SMELLS, TASTE THE TASTES
THE COLORS ALL SO BRIGHT
I PUT IN THE POT, COOK AND STEAM
TO MAKE THEM TASTE JUST RIGHT

[chorus] RED, GREEN, A-RED, A-GREEN,
PURPLE AND YELLOOOOOW
ALL THE COLORS I DO SEE
THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

AH, VEGETABLES
THE COLORS ALL SO BRIGHT
AH, VEGETABLES
SO PRETTY AND SO RIPE

IDA and NED:
[chorus] RED, GREEN, A-RED, A-GREEN
PURPLE AND YELLOOOOOW
ALL THE COLORS I DO SEE
THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

AH, VEGETABLES
THE COLORS ALL SO BRIGHT

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AH, VEGETABLES
SO PRETTY AND SO RIPE

RED, GREEN, A-RED, A-GREEN
PURPLE AND YELLOOOOOW
ALL THE COLORS I DO SEE
THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

IDA: So you see? Vegetables mean a lot to me.

NED:The village square farmer's market has plenty. I passed it on my way here.

IDA: But those are somebody else's vegetables. I want my own. *(beat)* And where are you off to?

NED: Well, I'm on my way to...

RUFF: [RUFF wraps himself around NED's leg] Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!!!

NED: Uh, why, nowhere at all. Just taking a stroll with my dog...

RUFF: Ruff!

IDA: That's nice. It's a magical, magical day in Masamba, you know. But I'm sad because I have this wonderful vegetable garden, but no vegetables. Stupid Ida, stupid Ida!

NED: Sorry to hear that.

IDA: Every morning, I get up and the first thing I do is check to see how my vegetables are growing. But all I see are big chunks eaten out of my carrots, broccoli, and cabbage. The ground is all dug up because of a rabbit.

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!!

NED: Easy, Ruff. Whenever he hears the word "rabbit"...

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!!!

NED: ...he goes crazy!

IDA: Don't get me wrong. I don't want to hurt the rabbit...

RUFF: Ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff!!

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