

Monica Pink Pet Shrink

by

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MONICA PINK PET SHRINK

EXT. WILLOBRAE. DAY.

Dawn breaks over a picturesque Scottish village, the sky is very blue, the grass is very green.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Extreme close up of Speedy the tortoise as he lurches across a pink bedspread.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Speedy nuzzles a still sleeping MONICA PINK (8). Monica eventually opens her lovely eyes. Monica's point of view is fuzzy, Speedy is all out of focus.

MONICA

Morning Speedy. Did you have sweet dreams?

Monica feels around the pink side table for her spectacles. She puts them on and everything comes into focus. This is a very feminine girl's bedroom with posters of animals and pets everywhere.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

A large messy looking removal van with *Joe Strange Animal Sanctuary* written on the side, winds its way through the lovely countryside.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Monica's house is a lovely cottage with a perfectly kept garden, surrounded by a high fence and electric gates with a metal lion design. Next door to Monica's house is a rambling mansion with dozens of outbuildings. A *For Sale* board blows in the wind and blows over.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

A novelty lion alarm clock with a roar, goes off in the perfectly ordered living room.

It is 8am exactly. Two other novelty lion alarm clocks roar out in the house.

INT. MUM AND DAD'S BEDROOM. DAY

KEN (35) Monica's thoroughly good-looking dad, jumps out of bed. Ken puts on his specs, he looks like Monica. Ken stands at the end of the bed holds the covers and pulls them off a pink pyjama wearing, sleepy and dishevelled looking BARB (34) - Monica's mum.

KEN

Come on Barb, you know I hate
Saturday morning lie ins.

Barb falls out of bed with a groan.

INT. KITCHEN. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

A scrubbed up and dressed Ken and Barb arrive in the clean, modern kitchen at 8.20am. Barb is wearing a feminine flowery dress and her hair is slightly out of place, Ken tucks Barb's unruly curl in.

KEN

Tidy hair, tidy mind.

Monica comes in carrying Speedy. Ken points over to Speedy's box. Monica doesn't put Speedy in the box, she puts him down next to his toys. Ken hasn't noticed.

They all get to work. Ken grabs an orange from the bowl, halves it, and using the chrome squeezer, squeezes out a precise amount of orange juice.

Barb browns the toast to an exact degree and then weighs the butter. When Barb is sure Ken isn't looking she adds some extra butter, Monica notices this act of rebellion and frowns, Barb makes a face at her.

Monica counts just the exact number of leaves for Speedy. Barb chucks in an extra leaf and Monica picks it back out again.

Barb watches Ken with a *bored out of her mind* expression as he cracks the eggs, mixes them expertly and dramatically pours the omelette mix into the pan.

Ken distractedly pushes Barb out of the way. Barb deliberately knocks a bottle of brown sauce over, it rolls across the work surface, it falls, Monica just manages to catch it before it smashes all over the floor.

At 8.30am exactly, all three of them pull out their chairs and sit at the breakfast table. The only noise that can be heard is the scraping of the plates.

KEN

Plastic plates and plastic knives
and forks. That's what we need.

BARB
How classy.

Ken looks a little hurt. They eat in a tense silence, Monica tries to lighten the conversation.

MONICA
Daddy, may I take Speedy for a walk later?

KEN
Of course you can Monica, just make sure you keep him on a lead.

BARB
Worried he might run away to the circus, Ken?

MONICA
Why would he run away?

BARB
Malnutrition?

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

EXT. CIRCUS TENT. DAY

In the slighted faded colours of an old Polaroid photo. Monica imagines Ken running out of an old fashioned circus tent with Speedy under his arm.

INT. MONICA'S KITCHEN. DAY

Monica comes out of her reverie.

Ken opens his paper. Monica gets on with her duty of clearing the table.

MONICA
May I go and buy a lead?

KEN
Yes you may.

MONICA
Would you like anything else?

BARB
Chocolate.

Ken speaks from behind his paper.

KEN

Now Barb we don't want the former beauty queen turning into the village chubber, do we?

Barb sticks out her tongue, Ken can feel the animosity. He snaps his paper shut and scrapes his chair out along the stone floor standing up.

KEN

Well I've got things to be getting on with.

Ken raises an eyebrow at Barb, as if to say *and so do you*. As Ken is leaving the kitchen he slips on Speedy's poop. Monica exchanges glances with Barb - they are in trouble now.

Ken is quietly furious he gently pushes Monica aside and picks up Speedy. Ken throws the back door open and then slams it shut behind him.

EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Ken storms over to the outhouse, he throws the doors open to reveal the red tractor lawn mower.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Monica stares out of the large living room window at the blue sky. Ken is on top of a bright red tractor lawn-mower, he speeds along, almost out of control. He flashes by intermittently, Monica opens the window, the noise of the lawn-mower gets louder. Monica shouts through the space of the open window.

MONICA

Where are you Speedy? Is it too loud for you?

Suddenly there is the very loud bang of the tractor lawn-mower hitting a tree.

Monica sees a catapulted Speedy flying through the air, she hears a dull crack, like an egg breaking, and a single tear rolls down her cheek.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

A hearse with flowers spelling DAD on the coffin, drives towards the electric gate. Monica and Barb are in the funeral car behind.

INT. FUNERAL CAR. DAY

In the back seat, a sad looking Monica clutching a toy tortoise sits next to an annoyed Barb. They wear matching black outfits. Barb leans out of the window and points the remote control at the electric gates, she presses every button. The gates are half opening and closing again.

EXT. GATES. DAY

The gates get stuck three quarters of the way open, the hearse and the funeral car squeeze out, Barb chucks the remote out of the window.

EXT. ROAD. DAY

Just as the hearse makes it to the end of the road a clumsily driven removal van swings around the corner at too wide an angle and scrapes the whole length of the hearse and the funeral car.

INT. FUNERAL CAR. DAY

Barb is in shock, her jaw dropped, speechless. Monica is intrigued, she looks up and sees a messy haired eccentric looking boy WILLIAM (8) at the back window of the removal van. William holds up an Armadillo and waves its little foot at her.

EXT. WILLOWBRAE GRAVEYARD. DAY

A perfectly kept graveyard and a handful of mourners. Monica and Barb in matching black funeral outfits watch solemnly as the coffin is lowered into the grave. Barb weeps silently. Monica clutches her fluffy toy tortoise to her heart.

DR DICKSON (40) slick looking, slightly chubby, school psychologist and the lovely teacher MISS APPLEBY (25) are amongst the main moaners. Monica watches Dr Dickson with suspicion as he sidles up to Barb to offer her some words of condolence, he holds her arm for longer than necessary.

INT. HOME OFFICE. NIGHT

Monica watches as a slightly dishevelled looking Barb looks through Ken's papers, everything is headed **The Lion's Share**. Monica picks up a large torch from the bottom drawer.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. NIGHT

Monica, using the big torch as a light source, places a headstone marked SPEEDY on a freshly dug pet grave at the bottom of the garden.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. DAY

The novelty lion alarm clocks go off and Monica drags herself out of bed in her black PJs.

INT. MUM AND DAD'S BEDROOM. DAY

Monica peeks into the bedroom, she watches Barb pull the covers over her head. Monica switches the novelty lion alarm clock off.

INT. MONICA'S KITCHEN. DAY

Monica, still in her black PJs, sits at the kitchen table on her own.

INT. BARB'S BEDROOM. DAY

Monica pokes her head into the bedroom. Barb is still in bed, under the covers, a TV is on. Monica sits at the bottom of the bed and stares at the TV Programme about a famous lion tamer called, Fearless Fred. Fearless Fred looks remarkably like Ken. Fearless Fred looks right out of the screen at Monica.

MONICA

Dad?

FEARLESS FRED (RUSSIAN ACCENT)

The only way to soften a lion's heart is to look straight into its eyes and send a message of love.

Monica feels a message of love go between them.

MONICA

Your secret's safe with me, dad.

Monica wipes a tear away.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

Monica tidies up, she tries to make the place look as ordered as it used to be. She hovers, dusts, straightens things.

INT. KITCHEN. MONICA'S HOUSE.

Monica tries to make breakfast. The oranges catapult off the chrome squeezer and splatter across the room. She messily cracks the eggs into the bowl, she whisks them as best she can. The toast burns and a really loud fire alarm goes off.

BARB (O.S.)

Monica!

Monica holds her ears and stares forlornly at Speedy's box and toys in the corner of the kitchen.

EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Monica clumsily carries Speedy's box and toys. She heads straight for the bin and throws it open. She peers inside and drops everything in. Dr Dickson appears from nowhere. He looks in the bin.

DR DICKSON

Surprisingly smelly little critters.

Dr Dickson sneezes uncontrollably and Monica slams the bin lid shut.

DR DICKSON

I was wondering how your mum was doing Monica?

MONICA

She's sleeping Dr Dickson.

Monica walks away and leaves him outside.

INT. THE LOFT. DAY

Monica watches Barb from the loft hatch as she places a box of Ken's things in the corner. Barb takes out a pullover and buries her face in it. Monica and Barb both hear the noise of a truck from outside.

INT/EXT. LOFT WINDOW. DAY / EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica and Barb both stare out of the loft window and watch two truck loads of animals being delivered to the rambling mansion next door. The eccentric messy haired new neighbours JOE STRANGE (38) and his son William are so overexcited, they dance for joy.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

Monica looks through photographs with Barb. Barb's eyes fill with tears when she looks at the happy family pictures with Ken in them. Monica ignores these pictures, she eventually finds a picture of Speedy and clutches it to her heart.

The doorbell rings, Monica goes to answer it.

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR, MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

Dr Dickson is standing on the doorstep, Monica opens the door and he hides a bunch of flowers behind his back.

DR DICKSON

I wondered if I could have a word
with your mum?

Monica slams the door in his face.

INT/EXT. LOFT WINDOW. DAY / EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica stares out of the window with binoculars. She watches William chase some geese around the garden. William looks up and sees her, she drops the binoculars.

In her rush to get out of the loft, Monica stumbles over a large chest with a padlock. She pulls at the padlock intrigued.

LATER...

Monica pushes a paperclip through the padlock and twists, the padlock springs open. Monica peers inside the chest and pulls out a lion-tamers whip and a poster for Fearless Fred. She kisses the face on the poster.

MONICA

Please come home dad. I miss you.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Monica sits at the table by candlelight, she wears a black veil and holds a mini-seance. A bewildered looking Barb watches from the door. Dr Dickson peeks through the window.

MONICA

Are you there Speedy? Can you hear
me?

Monica closes her eyes in concentration.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica tucked up in bed in her black pyjamas without her glasses on, she looks vulnerable. Barb reads *The Jungle Book* to her. It is clearly not the story she would choose.

BARB

Food was so scarce that animals were no more than skin and bone. Bagheera could kill three times in a night and not get a full meal.

MONICA

Do you think an animal would kill another animal if they were friends?

Barb is uncomfortable, she snaps the book shut.

BARB

I'm sure if they were friends one of them would feel pretty bad about it.

The phone rings. Barb gets up and switches Monica's light off.

MONICA (TO HERSELF)

Bad enough to run away to the circus.

Monica jumps out of bed, puts on her specs and switches the light on. She stands at the door and tries to listen in.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Barb is on the phone.

BARB

Well if you think that would be necessary Dr Dickson.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica is furious, she slams her door shut.

MONICA

Well if you think that would be necessary, Dr Sneaky Snake Dickson.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. DAY.

Monica, still dressed in black, stands alone in the playground. The other children, led by MARK, the older looking school bully, dance around her, singing a song.

MARK

Your dad's dead, your dad's dead.
You don't have a dad. Your dad's
dead, your dad's dead.

Monica doesn't react, she stares at them blankly.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

INT. CIRCUS. DAY

Monica sees Fearless Fred with a net, a whip and a chair. He throws the net over a squealing Mark and drags him off.

MONICA

Thanks dad.

Fearless Fred smiles back and waves.

EXT. PLAYGROUND. DAY

Monica roars like a lion. The other kids look at her as if she is weird. Dr Dickson storms across the playground and clips Mark across the ear.

MARK

Sorry Uncle Brian.

Monica watches as crazy haired Joe drops his crazy haired son William off at the school gates. They hug and waves.

INT. MONICA'S CLASSROOM. DAY

The kids push their way into class and take their seats. Miss Appleby puts her arm around Monica and whispers to her.

MISS APPLEBY

Your daddy was lucky to have a
little girl as wonderful as you.

MONICA

Speedy was lucky to have me, Miss
Appleby.

Miss Appleby looks a little confused, Monica smiles sweetly.

MISS APPLEBY

You could light up the whole world
with your beautiful smile Monica.

Monica sits apart from the other kids. She stares at Henry the class hamster as he spins around on his wheel. William is introduced to the class by Miss Appleby.

MISS APPLEBY
 Everyone, this is William Strange
 and I hope you're all going to make
 him very welcome.

Monica doesn't even look up. William makes a beeline for her.
 They both stare at Henry.

WILLIAM
 I like the gravestone you made for
 your tortoise.

MONICA
 Speedy.

WILLIAM
 Speedy, cool name.

MONICA
 Thanks.

WILLIAM
 Tortoises don't have any teeth.

MONICA
 I know.

They both stare at Henry.

MONICA
 Do you think he's lonely?

WILLIAM
 He wouldn't be lonely in my house.
 I've got five hamsters.

MONICA
 Show off.

Miss Appleby calls on her.

MISS APPLEBY
 Monica.

Monica has to go to the front of the class.

MISS APPLEBY
 Monica your mum has a meeting with
 Dr Dickson and she'd like you to be
 there.

Monica makes a face.

MISS APPLEBY
 Now where's that beautiful smile?

Monica smiles insincerely.

Mark watches Monica as she walks across the classroom. Mark puts his hand up.

MARK

Can I go to the toilet Miss?

Miss Appleby nods, Mark jumps out of his seat and follows Monica. Monica slams the classroom door shut in his face.

EXT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. DAY

Monica shuffles along the corridor. She watches as a messy haired frumpy Barb chats to Dr Dickson.

DR DICKSON

So glad you decided to come along
Mrs Pink.

Monica interrupts their little chat by coughing. Dr Dickson jumps, he wasn't expecting her to sneak up on him.

INT. DR DICKSON'S OFFICE. DAY

Dr Dickson sits behind his imposing desk. Monica is dwarfed in a big leather chair. Dr Dickson hands Barb a very slim book called 'Explaining Pet Deaths to Children' by Dr Brian Dickson.

DR DICKSON.

This little publication might help.

BARB

Is this all your own work Dr
Dickson?

DR DICKSON

Well I can't take all the credit.

Dr Dickson munches on some peanuts as Barb shows the book to Monica. Monica's notices the class hamster in her pocket, it nibbles her fingers.

DR DICKSON

You see the thing is Monica
children have to go through the
same stages as adults. Denial,
Anger, Sadness and Acceptance..

MONICA

What does denial mean?

DR DICKSON

Acting as if something isn't true,
pretending you don't care.

Monica pretends she isn't interested in anything he has to say. She picks up a Psychology Test from his desk.

DR DICKSON

On second thoughts maybe you've moved in to a passive-aggressive stage.

Barb tries to smooth things over.

BARB

Monica would like another pet, but I just don't think...

DR DICKSON

I think a new pet is a wonderful idea Mrs Pink.

Monica's face lights up. Dr Dickson smiles at Monica, he thinks he can win her over.

DR DICKSON

A pet, especially in these circumstances, can be an enormous comfort to a child. I'm allergic to most pets myself.

Monica chucks the class hamster at Dr Dickson, he screams.

EXT. DR DICKSON'S OFFICE. DAY

Dr Dickson shakes Barb's hand and smiles insincerely at Monica. He holds onto Barb's hand for longer than necessary.

DR DICKSON

What's holding you back Barb?

BARB

I just don't think we are ready. Speedy was so loved you see.

DR DICKSON

I'm sure you're more than capable of looking after a pet Barb. You seem like a wonderful mother to me.

Barb's eyes well up with tears.

BARB

A wonderful single mother.

Dr Dickson looks at her sympathetically.

DR DICKSON

It's not easy being single Barb. God knows I know how lonely it can be, I'm a single man myself.

Barb weeps. Monica walks away. Dr Dickson takes out some pink heart-shaped pills from his pocket.

DR DICKSON
These little pills might help to perk you up a bit Barb.

Barb takes the pills.

DR DICKSON
Perhaps I could come over one evening to assess Monica's home environment?

BARB
Well, if you think that it's necessary?

DR DICKSON
Let's say Saturday evening around six and I'll bring dinner.

Dr Dickson looks rather pleased with himself. Monica slouches and drags her feet, she looks utterly deflated.

MONICA
I have to get rid of him or dad will never come back.

Mark sneaks up on her.

MARK
Talking to yourself is a classic sign of madness.

MONICA
Get lost Mark.

MARK
I know you've been to see Uncle Shrink little Miss Pink?

Mark whispers in her ear.

MARK
Now I'll know all your secrets.

Monica is a little unnerved. Mark looks rather pleased with himself. Monica kicks the classroom door open and lets it slam closed on Mark.

MONICA
I need to get rid of both Dicksons

EXT. STREET. DAY

Monica and William walk home together in silence. They are a little awkward with one another. They literally bang into Mark who is out walking his mangy old dog, WILLO. The dog has an immediate connection with William and Mark is jealous.

MARK

Keep away from him Wilo, you'll get fleas.

William is little bit upset.

MONICA

Why are you so mean Mark Dickson?

Mark looks straight at Monica, for a second he looks like he might be nice.

MARK

I don't know, maybe I should ask a shrink? What do you think Psycho Pink? Know anyone I could ask?

Monica and William run away. Mark is about to chase after them but Wilo grabs his sleeve and pulls him away.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY

Barb washes down a couple of Pink Perky Pills with a glass of water. Her eyes almost pop out of her head and she smiles - the pill have an immediate affect.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Monica and William reach Monica's house but Monica doesn't want to go home. They stand outside her house awkwardly silent. The class hamster peeks out of Monica's bag. William takes this as a sign.

WILLIAM

Want to come and see the other hamsters?

Monica smiles. William leads the way and Monica follows.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica is overawed by the vastness of the rambling mansion with its extensive grounds and outbuildings. She wanders after William as he shows her all of the various animals in the outbuildings. He points out the hen-house, the pig-pen and the dovecot. William then leads her to the biggest outbuilding.

INT. PESHOP OUTBUILDING. DAY

Joe is feeding the various pets. Joe is delighted to see that William has brought a friend over. He jumps up and introduces himself.

JOE

Joe Strange, William's dad.

MONICA

Monica Pink, William's friend.

Joe smiles, he likes her. She is dressed as if for a funeral.

JOE

I like your outfit.

MONICA

My tortoise died.

Joe looks at her quizzically.

JOE

And your dad, I'm so very sorry.

Monica ignores him, concentrates on the Armadillo.

JOE

When William's mother left, I mean passed away, William wore the same clothes for a year. He just wanted everything to be the way it used to be.

William is ignoring them, he is busy showing the class hamster his new hamster friends. Monica walks around looking at the pets, she stares through a goldfish bowl.

MONICA

My mum doesn't want me to have any more pets.

JOE

Maybe you could look after Bob for a while and if your mum thinks he is a pet, tell her he's for making fish fingers.

Monica laughs. Joe leaves the kids alone and goes back to the house. Monica watches the hamsters with William.

WILLIAM

Hamsters only became pets in 1930, before that they roamed free in the desert.

Monica looks interested, William is encouraged and so continues.

WILLIAM

A hamster can live until it is four years old.

Monica gets her notebook out.

WILLIAM

The word hamster is German and it means storing food.

MONICA

Yes but what are hamsters like?

WILLIAM

What do you mean?

MONICA

Are they easily frightened? Do they like humans? Are they happy in the cages? What do you think?

William looks flummoxed.

WILLIAM

I don't know. They kill one another, they even eat their own babies.

Monica studies the budgies.

MONICA

How long does a budgie live for?

WILLIAM

For 10 to 12 years.

MONICA

How old is this budgie?

WILLIAM

Kevin is three and a half.

Monica tries to calculate what age she will be when Kevin dies.

WILLIAM

You will probably be 17 when Kevin dies.

Monica stares in at Kevin.

MONICA

Hello Kevin, I'm Monica Pink.

KEVIN

Hello, hello, hello.

Monica's face lights up.

INT. KITCHEN. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Joe is busy in the kitchen, he washes a live duck in the sink. Monica sits up on one of the high stools at the kitchen table. She opens her notebook and takes out the Personality Test. A pig, a pony, a couple of swans wander in and out of the kitchen, the house seems to be overrun with animals.

MONICA

Mr Strange.

JOE

Yes Miss Pink.

MONICA

When are you most alert; morning or night?

JOE

Morning.

MONICA

What is your favourite thing to eat; vegetables or meat?

JOE

I like them both.

MONICA

Do you prefer inside or outside?

JOE

It depends on the time of year.

MONICA

Do you like to be on your own or with lots of people?

JOE

I like to be around lots of animals, does that count?

Monica makes a note.

MONICA

When you are nervous, do you hide?

JOE

No, I change the subject.

Monica studies the answers, she pretends to know what she is doing and pretends not to notice the animals.

JOE

So what have you found?

MONICA

You're on the normal scale.

JOE

How come you know so much?

MONICA

I have a shrink.

JOE

Lucky you. I wish I had a shrink.
Actually I wish I had a shrink for
all of our animals.

Joe is now standing surrounded by animals.

MONICA

Why?

JOE

Animals are just like us Monica and
sometimes they need a little help
to get them through the sad times.

MONICA

Maybe I could be their shrink?

JOE

Monica Pink, Willowbrae's one and
only Pet Shrink.

Monica likes the name.

MONICA

Monica Pink Pet Shrink.

Monica gets off her stool.

MONICA

I'm going to tell my mum.

JOE

Why don't you and your mum come
over for dinner. We're going to be
eating Charlie.

MONICA

Charlie?

Joe points to the happy, slashing duck in the sink. Monica
looks intrigued, she doesn't know whether to believe him or
not.

MONICA

Mr Strange, you shouldn't really
have farm animals in the house. You
will confuse them and they will
think they are pets.

Joe salutes Monica.

JOE
Yes Miss Shrink.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Monica skips home carrying Bob the goldfish in his big goldfish bowl. The water splashes all over the place. Barb watches Monica from the living room.

MONICA (TO HERSELF)
Monica Pink Pet Shrink, Monica
Shrink Pet Pink. Monica Pet Shrink
Pink.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Barb's looks all done up. Tight dress, make-up, high heels. Her eyes are glazed. There is a big blown-up photograph of Ken on the wall, Monica does a double-take, she doesn't approve.

BARB
You cannot accept pets from
complete strangers.

MONICA
He's not a stranger, he's just
called Mr Strange and it's not a
pet, it's a fish and he said we
could eat him if we wanted.

Barb takes the goldfish bowl from her and slams it on the sideboard. Barb takes Monica's hand and marches her outside.

BARB
I'm going to give Mr Strange a
piece of my mind.

Monica looks worried.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Barb rings the very loud doorbell. Joe and William answer almost immediately. Barb is quite taken aback by Joe and William's eccentric, messy haired, appearance.

BARB
Mr Strange.

Joe takes her hand in both of his and shakes it excitedly. Barb is in shock, she wipes her hand on her skirt.

JOE
Please please you are most welcome,
come in, come in.
(MORE)

JOE (cont'd)

You are to be our first dinner guests. So glad you could make it at such short notice.

BARB

Mr Strange, I'd just like to say...

JOE

Please call me Joe and this is my son William. We are both so sorry about what happened to your husband, so very sorry. William's mother ran away, I mean passed away a few years ago, so we know what you must be going through.

Barb is now so taken aback by Joe, William and the crazy house that she has forgotten that she is here to shout at him. There are animals wandering all over the place, she trips up over the Armadillo and squeals.

INT. KITCHEN. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

William shows Monica and Barb to the high stools in the kitchen, Barb wipes her seat with a hanky. Joe haphazardly throws together a strange looking meal. Monica and William dig in, Barb hesitates.

JOE

A girl's got to eat...

Barb takes a mouthful, Joe waits in anticipation for Barb's opinion.

WILLIAM

His name was Charlie.

Monica and William laugh, Barb chokes and runs out of the room to throw up. Joe scowls at William and shouts to Barb in the other room.

JOE

William was just pulling your leg.

WILLIAM

He was so called Charlie.

Joe shakes his head at him. Monica changes the subject.

MONICA

My mum's looking for a job.

JOE

What line of work is your mum in?

MONICA

Beautician.

JOE

Well the Sanctuary could certainly do with a qualified Beautician.

Barb falls back into the room, she grabs Monica's hand.

JOE

Mrs Pink could I interest you in a Pet Grooming position?

BARB

Not on your life.

MONICA

I'm starting tomorrow as a pet shrink.

Barb's jaw drops.

BARB

I don't think that's going to happen Monica Pink.

MONICA

But mum...!

LATER...

Barb is dragging Monica out of the door, they are being followed by Joe and William and an entourage of animals.

BARB

A pet shrink? Monica, what do you know about being a pet shrink?

MONICA

I just need my own pet to work with.

JOE

What kind of pet did you have in mind Monica?

MONICA

I'd like a talking budgie.

WILLIAM

Kevin?

JOE

Kevin's a bit sad just now, so you'd have to promise to do your best to cheer him up.

MONICA

Why is he sad?

Barb lets go of Monica's arm.

JOE

He misses his mum, maybe you two have something in common that you could talk about?

BARB

It's her dad that's dead, so I'm afraid your talking budgie won't be of any use.

JOE

A parent is a parent, Mrs Pink.

Barb looks as if she is sorry for being so mean.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica wears her black PJ's, she talks to Kevin the budgie.

MONICA

Talk to me Kevin. Don't be sad Kevin. If you're not sad I promise not to be sad.

KEVIN

Hello.

Monica can hear Barb come into the room.

MONICA (TO KEVIN)

I am really looking forward to my new job of helping pets. Pets just like you Kevin who just need to be loved and understood.

Barb leaves quietly and Monica starts a letter to Fearless Fred. She reads it out loud to Kevin.

MONICA

It's a letter to my dad, what do you think?

Dear Fearless Fred/Dad, I forgive you for killing Speedy and I would like you to come home. Thanks and Bye. PS: I've taken a job as a Pet Shrink and I've got a new pet called Kevin.

That's you that is.

KEVIN

Hello, hello, hello.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE. HALLWAY. DAY.

Monica stares at herself in the full length mirror. She is making sure she looks just perfect. She is all in black apart from pink socks and a pink ribbon in her hair.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE. BARB'S BEDROOM. DAY

Monica looks in on Barb. Barb is crashed out and completely hidden by the covers.

MONICA

I'm going to work mum.

Barb mumbles something incomprehensible. Monica picks up the Pills from the side-table and reads out the contra-indications, she trips up over some of the words.

MONICA

Risk of palpitations, skin rash or hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Call your doctor at once if you have any new or worsening symptoms such as: mood or behavior changes, anxiety, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), more depressed, or have thoughts about hurting yourself...

Barb angrily pushes the covers off and grabs the pills from Monica.

BARB

Thank you Monica, that's quite enough, now scoot.

Barb takes out a pill and washes it down with the glass of water. Monica stares at her.

BARB

On you go then before I change my mind.

Monica leaves Barb reluctantly.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

Monica awkwardly takes down the big photo of her dad. The doorbell rings and Monica doesn't answer.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Dr Dickson just walks straight in, carrying fresh fish from the fish market. The fish eyes stare at Monica out of the end of the packet.

DR DICKSON
Freshly caught this morning.

INT. MONICA'S KITCHEN. DAY

Dr Dickson puts the fish in the fridge and slams the door shut with a sense of satisfaction.

DR DICKSON (TO MONICA)
Later, Gator.

Dr Dickson pats Monica on the head with his sticky fish smelling hand. Dr Dickson swishes off and smoothly as he arrived. Monica is a bit shell-shocked.

Monica opens the fridge and stares into the eyes of the dead fish.

MONICA
He's got to go or dad will never come back. And you guys stink.

Monica slams the fridge door shut.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica arrives with a notebook and pen. She finds Joe putting up a beautifully painted sign, it reads: Pet Grooming and Animal Sanctuary.

JOE
Monica, if you find William, he will show you to your new office.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. OUTBUILDINGS. DAY

Monica wanders around to the outbuildings. On one of the doors William is sticking up a messy painted piece of paper, it reads: Pet Shrink. Monica pretends not to be disappointed.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica and William sit behind a desk. William also has a notebook and pen. They sit in silence and wait for a customer. They are soon bored. William pulls Monica's hair and she chases after him.

INT. PET GROOMERS. DAY

Monica chases William into the salon. There is a knock at the door. William and Monica stand behind the counter nervously.

WILLIAM

Come in.

Jessica, a rather snooty girl from school and her pink Poodle come through the door. Jessica hands William the Poodle and Monica takes down Jessica's details.

MONICA

What's your full name?

JESSICA

Jessica Alice Wainwright.

MONICA

And can you tell me your pet's full name?

JESSICA

Olivia Wainwright the 3rd.

MONICA

Any nicknames?

JESSICA

She answers to Pinky.

William hands the pink Poodle to Monica, he doesn't quite know what to do. William sidles up to Jessica.

WILLIAM

Poodles are very popular in France, in 1500 they made them their national dog.

Jessica ignores him.

WILLIAM

Poodles are also very good at hunting, especially in water.

Jessica looks at William disdainfully.

WILLIAM

Poodle is a German word for puddle.

Monica doesn't like Jessica and wants to get away from her.

Monica takes the Poodle to the back of the salon and puts her in the sink. She turns on the taps. She absentmindedly squeezes some green gooey hand cleaner onto the Poodle instead of the pink shampoo. The Poodle turns an ugly green colour. Monica picks up the green hand cleaner and reads the additives.

MONICA

Oops

Jessica screams when she sees the Poodle.

JESSICA

What have you done?
I can't be seen with her.

Jessica storms off, Monica takes the Poodle in her arms. She stares out of the window at Joe in the garden.

MONICA

You know Olivia some people are
just too quick to judge you by the
way you look.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica sits Olivia, the green Poodle, on the sofa in front of her.

MONICA

Now Olivia, we both know what it's
like to be abandoned by the person
who is meant to be looking after
us.

Monica wipes a tear away and then dabs Olivia's eyes.

MONICA

Are you good at keeping secrets
Olivia? Have you ever seen Fearless
Fred?

The Poodle wags its tail, Monica smiles.

INT/EXT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica peeks out of the window and notices with some satisfaction a small queue of children and the pets.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica, William and Joe chase the chickens, they all hear the very loud beeping of a car's horn. Monica and William peer through the hedge.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Dr Dickson beeps the horn of a very sweet and tiny little sports car, a Daihatsu Copen. The car is obviously his pride and joy, with the red leather interior shined to perfection.

Dr Dickson has a bunch of red roses and a heart-shaped box of chocolates. Barb teeters out looking all done up, her eyes are glazed over.

DR DICKSON
My Barb, you're most certainly
looking in the pink. The Pink Perky
Pills must be working.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

William looks at Monica very seriously.

WILLIAM
Chocolate makes people fall in
love.

MONICA
My dad never let my mum eat
chocolate.

WILLIAM
Maybe he didn't want her to love
him. Or maybe he didn't want to
love her.

MONICA
Shut up William Strange.

William looks at Joe for an explanation. Monica rushes through the gate.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Monica rushes up to Dr Dickson and almost grabs the chocolates from him.

MONICA
Thank you Dr Dickson.

Dr Dickson looks annoyed.

INT. MONICA'S KITCHEN. DAY

Barb is in a daydream. Dr Dickson is preparing the fish dish. Monica puts Tabasco drops all over the fish when no one is looking. Dr Dickson is cool, suave and sophisticated in the kitchen. He puts on the large sized oven gloves to get the roast potatoes from the range cooker. Barb's eyes well up and Monica looks annoyed.

BARB
Ken used to love those gloves.

Dr Dickson puts his arms around her, still wearing the gloves. Monica looks at him with contempt.

DR DICKSON

There, there Barb, I'm sure he is wearing the same pair in heaven.

BARB

You think he's in heaven?

DR DICKSON

Of course he is, where else would he be?

MONICA

Where's Speedy then?

Dr Dickson takes his arms from around Barb. He doesn't have a ready answer.

DR DICKSON

Pet heaven.

MONICA

Pet heaven?

Monica is intrigued. Dr Dickson gets on with serving dinner.

DR DICKSON (TO BARB)

A former patient of mine gave me the recipe.

BARB

What kind of patient?

DR DICKSON

He was a manic depressive.

BARB

Oh I'm sorry, I actually meant, was he a chef or something?

DR DICKSON

Yes he was a chef, most chefs are manic to some degree.

MONICA

What does manic mean?

DR DICKSON

Full of energy.

MONICA

Mr Strange likes to cook and he is full of energy. Does that mean he is a manic?

DR DICKSON
I'm sorry but I don't know Mr
Strange.

MONICA
He's my mum's new friend.

Barb is embarrassed.

BARB
Monica you do talk such silly
nonsense sometimes.

Dr Dickson plonks fish fingers in front of Monica. She looks at her fish fingers and at Barb and Dr Dickson's fish.

MONICA
Mummy, how did your fish die?

Barb looks to Dr Dickson for an explanation.

DR DICKSON
Maybe he caught cold?

Monica looks over at Bob the goldfish and wonders. Barb takes a bite of fish and coughs uncontrollably. Dr Dickson has to comfort her, she is coughing and crying all at the same time.

MONICA
Does chocolate make people fall in
love?

Barb looks embarrassed.

DR DICKSON
Chocolate sends happiness
endorphins to the brain.

Monica looks slightly confused.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica is in her black PJs, she writes in her notebook. The noise of Barb and Dr Dickson giggling and flirting can be heard. Monica has a picture of Dr Dickson, she draws a cross through him. She has a picture of Kevin and a picture of Bob. She writes notes about Bob's temperature and Kevin's happiness level.

INT. MONICA'S KITCHEN. NIGHT

Monica washes Ken's oven gloves in the sink and then puts them back exactly where they were. She tests the temperature of Bob's water by sticking a thermometer into the goldfish bowl. She studies the reading and decides that Bob is cold.

She picks up his bowl and places him on top of the range cooker. She then grabs some chocolates.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Monica pushes the chocolate through the bars of Kevin's cage. Kevin tweets loudly.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica goes back to her notes. She writes: *Dad's gloves back. Bob warmer. Kevin happier.*

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Monica awakens to the sound of Barb's screams. Monica jumps out of bed and puts her specs on.

INT. LIVING ROOM. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica runs into the living room and finds Barb standing in front of the birdcage, she is in shock. Kevin is hanging upside down on his perch, his face is covered in chocolate cake. Dr Dickson comes running in and Monica's face drops.

Dr Dickson picks the budgie out of the cage. Barb covers it and takes it away.

DR DICKSON

It looks like it choked to death on chocolate cake. Monica I think you may have been a little bit silly.

MONICA

You said chocolate would make him happy.

DR DICKSON

No I didn't.

MONICA

Yes you did.

DR DICKSON

I didn't say stuff your budgie's face with it.

Barb's screams can be heard from the kitchen. Monica and Dr Dickson dash through to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica and Dr Dickson find Barb staring in disbelief at a dead fish in a dried out fish bowl.

BARB

There will be no more pets in this house! Do you hear me? No more pets!

Monica's eyes well up.

MONICA

It's not my fault mummy.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

The garden has been set up for a funeral party. There is a trestle table covered with drinks and snacks. Dr Dickson, Miss Appleby and various kids from school along with their pets are in attendance. They chat around the trestle table. Jessica has her green Poodle and Mark is here with Fido. Dr Dickson keeps sneezing violently when he is near Fido. Miss Appleby hands him her packet of hankies.

Monica takes some flowers from the table and rushes down to the funeral at the bottom of the garden. Mark watches her.

DR DICKSON

Mark.

MARK

Yes Uncle Brian?

DR DICKSON

Take Fido for a walk. He smells so bad he will put people off their food.

Mark skulks off with Fido to watch the funeral.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. PET GRAVEYARD. DAY

Joe, William, Barb and Monica are all dressed in black. They are standing by two freshly dug graves. Bob and Kevin have been buried next to Speedy. Mark stares at Monica. Monica sticks her tongue out at him when she notices him. Mark is embarrassed and walks away. Monica places a flower on each of the graves. Joe gives her a hug.

JOE

You're a very brave girl Monica. And in the short time you had with the pets, I know that they loved you very much.

MONICA
Was it my fault they died?

JOE
No Monica, it's just that their
number was up.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

INT. HEAVEN. DAY

A God like figure, a bit like Fearless Fred, holding up large
colourful numbers.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica and the funeral party come up to join the others at
the trestle table. Monica looks at Dr Dickson.

MONICA
This is all your fault.

Dr Dickson pretends not to hear, he stuffs his face with a
big hot-dog. Barb serves the drinks and Miss Appleby rushes
over to introduce herself to Joe.

MISS APPLEBY
Oh hello, you must be William's
dad.

JOE
Yes that's me, Joe Strange.

MISS APPLEBY
I'm Miss Appleby, William's
teacher.

Joe shakes her hand.

MISS APPLEBY
William is a pleasure to teach, he
just knows so many interesting
facts.

JOE
He's a very bright boy.

MISS APPLEBY
Does he take after his father?

JOE
I have to be honest and say that it
was his mother who was the brain-
box.

Dr Dickson sidles up to Barb.

DR DICKSON
You look divine Barb.

BARB
Why thank you, Dr Dickson.

DR DICKSON
I'd probably up the dose of the
Pink Perkys - just to keep you on
tip-top form. Not that you could
look any more attractive.

Barb giggles.

DR DICKSON
You know perhaps it wasn't such a
good idea for Monica to get a new
pet. She clearly is incapable of
looking after them.

Monica is listening in and is furious.

MONICA
It was you who said fish get cold.

DR DICKSON (ANGRILY)
I didn't say boil the thing alive.

Now everyone is listening. Barb has to take a stand.

BARB
Dr Dickson, I think you've said
quite enough.

Monica has won this round and Dr Dickson is flustered, he trips up over Fido, almost breaking the dog's neck. The kids all look really shocked as if he did it on purpose. Miss Appleby rushes over to Dr Dickson's aid - there is a moment between them.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Under the heading in her notebook: GET RID OF DR DICKSON,
Monica writes.

PLAN 1: ENLIST SUPPORT

Monica looks up and takes in all of the kids and their pets crammed into the Monica's Pet Shrink office. Monica stands on her chair, in order to be seen and heard.

MONICA

Dr Dickson hates pets and he will not stop until he has made every pet in the village die in unusual circumstances.

JESSICA

What can we do?

MONICA

We have to get rid of him!

At this moment Mark bursts through the door.

MARK

Monica Pink killed her own pets because she is a psycho.

A pithy silence, the kids suddenly look unsure.

MARK

She was alone with her pets and in the morning they were dead. You should follow me if you want to keep your pets alive.

The kids now feel uncomfortable and one by one they follow Mark out of the office.

MARK

Monica Pink Psycho Shrink.

MONICA

It's not me. It's Dr Dickson.

None of the kids will look at Monica, they cover their pets protectively.

MARK

You're in denial Monica Pink.

Monica is so angry she throws her pet tortoise at him. The kids gasp in horror, as they imagine it's a real tortoise.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica and William watch as Mark leads the kids away like the Pied Piper. Mark looks back at Monica and smirks.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Monica has a list of telephone numbers written under the heading.

PLAN 2 : GET GROWN UP HELP

Monica dials the numbers on a cordless phone, an answer machine clicks in.

MONICA

Dad, I mean Fearless Fred please come home and help me get rid of Dr Dickson, he kills pets and is trying to steal mum.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Barb's eyes are glazed over, there is evidence of overindulgence of Pink Perky Pills and chocolates, she is surrounded by wrappers and looks really spaced out. Monica comes in wearing her black PJs.

MONICA

Mum dad isn't really dead, he's gone to the circus.

BARB

Your father never let me eat chocolates and now he's gone to his circus in the sky, I can do what I want. I could have chocolates for breakfast if I wanted - so there.

Monica grabs the box of chocolates and throws them at the bin. The packet is empty, so her gesture was pointless and in any case Barb hasn't noticed.

BARB (TO HERSELF)

Village chubber indeed, I'll show you, Ken Pink.

Monica just stares at her.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica finds Joe is in his wellies cleaning out the pig sty. Monica shouts over to him.

MONICA

Dr Dickson is a pet killer.

JOE

Monica sometimes things just happen and it's really nobody's fault.

Monica walks away, disappointed in him.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

William is kicking a ball against a wall, Monica sidles up to him wearing infra-red glasses. He looks at her eventually.

WILLIAM
Cool glasses.

MONICA
Thanks.

Monica takes them off and swings them towards William.

MONICA
Will you help me?

William grabs the glasses and tries them on for size.

EXT. WILLOWBRAE. GARDENS. NIGHT

Monica and William in the infra red glasses, stare over the fences and hedges of gardens. Monica takes Polaroid photos of pet graves, the flash from the camera lights them up, and William notes down their location.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica writes in her notebook: PLAN 3: GATHER EVIDENCE.

Monica looks up as William tries to make sense of all of the pet deaths. He has a huge map of the village hanging from the wall. He has stuck up pictures of various pets at different locations and a picture of a car similar to Dr Dickson's.

MONICA
He's a serial killer.

William has a sudden flash of inspiration.

WILLIAM
Maybe he cut the brakes on the lawn mower to kill your dad and Speedy?

MONICA
He killed my dad?

WILLIAM
So that he could marry your mum!

Monica blanches.

MONICA
My dad has actually run away to the circus, he is Fearless Fred the Lion Tamer.

William thinks about this for a moment.

WILLIAM
That doesn't mean that Dr Death didn't try to kill him.

She grabs William's hand and they rush out of the office.

WILLIAM
Are we going to the circus?

INT. POLICE STATION. DAY

Monica and William sit on chairs in front of Charlie's desk.

CHARLIE
So how can I help?

MONICA
Dr Dickson cut the brakes of my
dad's lawn mower so that he could
kill him and Speedy and marry my
mum.

Charlie laughs uproariously. Monica and William wait
patiently for him to finish. Charlie gets serious.

CHARLIE
And why would he want to marry your
mum so much? And why would he want
to kill an innocent tortoise?

Monica doesn't have an answer, she looks to William, he
shrugs his shoulders.

CHARLIE
Well young lady, you can't go
around making accusations like
that. And apart from anything else
you need a motive and you need hard
evidence to back it up.

Monica and William stand up, indignantly.

CHARLIE
I know it's really hard for you to
understand Monica but your dad died
and it was nobody's fault.

Monica shrugs her shoulders and walks away.

MONICA
Is he in heaven? Are my pets in
heaven.

Charlie scratches his head.

CHARLIE
I'm not sure if there is a pet
heaven.

Monica and William walk away, when they are clear, they run.

WILLIAM
Are we going to the circus now?

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica and William tear across the lawn at high speed. Monica swings open the door of the outbuilding. The red tractor lawn mower is revealed. She slams the door closed behind them.

INT. OUTBUILDING. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica and William examine the lawn mower. Monica has a magnifying glass. She looks at the wheels and William tries to find the brakes.

WILLIAM
What are you looking for?

MONICA
Dr Dickson's fingerprints.

William finds a bag of white cement powder and pours it over the lawn mower. It ends up all over the place and all over Monica. Monica wipes her glasses.

MONICA
Maybe killing him would be easier?

WILLIAM
OK.

Monica is leaning on the table at the back of the outhouse. William has a notebook open and her pen ready. Monica paces the floor. William writes. WAYS TO KILL DR DEATH.

WILLIAM
We could kill him like in a movie?

Monica likes this idea.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

Monica visualises film clips of lots of funny movie deaths.

MOVIE CLIPS OF:

Black and white documentary footage of someone going over the Niagara Falls in a barrel.

A train in an old fashioned Western going over a bridge.

A sci-fi movie with a space ship blowing up.

Thelma and Louise driving off a cliff.

LATER...

William has set up an elaborate cliff-top with a large toy car and the two toy rabbits in the front seat. He is measuring the distance they will fall. Monica takes a Polaroid picture.

MONICA

I just don't think this is going to work William.

William shrugs his shoulders, he hears his name being called.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica and William can see Joe and a Labrador puppy appearing and disappearing over the hedge. They are on a trampoline. They rush around to join in the fun.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Joe looks as if he is having the time of his life on the trampoline. Monica and William come rushing up the drive. Joe stops jumping, his hair look crazier than ever.

JOE

What do you want to call her?

WILLIAM

Monica.

Monica is pleased at the choice of name. Monica hears Barb calling on her. Barb teeters up the drive in high heels.

BARB

Monica.

JOE

Nice to see you Mrs. Pink.

Barb looks glamorous, she manages a half smile, she is looking at his hair. Joe is suddenly embarrassed and tries to flatten his hair.

JOE

Got a bit carried away on the trampoline.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE GATE. DAY

William and the puppy walk Monica and Barb to the gate. Monica hangs back.

WILLIAM

If your dad doesn't come back from the circus maybe my dad could marry your mum.

MONICA

Why?

WILLIAM

Because it's rubbish not having a mum.

MONICA

But you've got lots of pets.

WILLIAM

It's not the same.

Monica wanders through the gate, the puppy called Monica at her heels.

BARB

Remember what I said - no pets.

MONICA

Ever?

BARB

Ever.

Monica is disappointed.

MONICA

How can I practice being a pet shrink?

BARB

Go to the pet shop.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica watches a vet programme. The toy Rabbit sits on her knee. Barb comes in to say good-night.

MONICA

Are you going to marry Joe Strange?

BARB

Don't be ridiculous darling, the man's not even house-trained.

Monica looks confused.

MONICA

What does that mean?

BARB

I don't know, he's just really messy that's all.

MONICA

You always said dad was too tidy.

Barb thinks about this and then distractedly switches Monica's light off, forgetting that Monica is watching TV and not in bed.

INT. MONICA'S CLASSROOM. DAY

The children are painting images of their lost, disappeared, replaced and dead pets as part of a Good Grief project. Some of the images are quite startling.

Monica paints Speedy's gravestone with a big RIP in gold. Mark paints a gravestone with Monica the Labrador Puppy RIP written on it. Mark waves his picture in front of William. William jumps on him and punches him.

WILLIAM

You want to kill my puppy? You are a pet killer! You are just like Dr Death, your evil uncle!

William is dragged off by Miss Appleby.

MISS APPLEBY

Dr Death? What are you talking about William?

William looks at Monica.

MISS APPLEBY

Monica?

Monica looks to the ground.

INT. DR DICKSON'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica, William and Mark wait for Dr Dickson nervously. William places his bag in a strategic position on the floor. Dr Dickson storms into the office and trips up on the bag flies through the air, very nearly cracking his skull on a little table, but manages to land on the big leather couch and save himself. Monica and William exchange disappointed glances. Dr Dickson only just manages to pull himself together.

DR DICKSON

Dr Death? That's not very nice children now is it?

MONICA

I'm sorry.

Monica nudges William.

WILLIAM

I'm sorry.

DR DICKSON

Now go back to your class and we'll
not talk about this again.

William, Monica and Mark are about to leave.

DR DICKSON

A minute Mark.

Mark reluctantly stays behind.

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY

Monica stands on William's hunched back and stares through the glass window of Dr Dickson's office. She sees Dr Dickson shout at Mark but can't hear him. Dr Dickson comes over to Mark and bats him across the head, Mark starts crying. William collapses and Monica falls to the floor. William pulls Monica to her feet. They run back to class.

EXT. CLASSROOM DAY

William catches up with Monica and stops her.

WILLIAM

When are we going to the circus?

MONICA

We're not.

WILLIAM

Why not?

MONICA

Cause we're just a couple of kids.

WILLIAM

You're just a scaredy cat.

MONICA

No I'm not.

WILLIAM

And a liar pants.

Monica opens the door, goes through and slams it closed on William.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica is in session with Monica the Labrador puppy, Monica puts a really sad face mask on the puppy. Monica stares at the puppy for a while and the sad faced puppy stares back.

MONICA

I think you might be maniacal -
depressive.

A very sad Monica lies on the couch, stares at the ceiling.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. DAY

Monica skulks past Mark. He whispers something as she passes.

MARK

Pet killer.

Monica turns and looks straight at him.

MONICA

Nobody likes you Mark.

MARK

Nobody likes you either, or hadn't
you noticed?

Monica narrows her eyes, looks through her fingers and pretends to squish him.

MARK

Why does nobody bring their pets to
your pet shrink office?

MONICA

Dr Dickson hits you.

MARK

Don't tell anyone - or else.

MONICA

Or else what?

MARK

Your rabbit will get it.

MONICA

I don't have a rabbit. Break the
cycle Mark Dickson - don't be like
your uncle.

Mark is unnerved and Monica walks away.

INT. SCHOOL STAGE. DAY

Lots of kids are milling about, there are kids in costume and Miss Appleby is doing her best to orchestrate the goings on. Monica sees Dr Dickson, William is hiding in the rafters of the stage, she gives him the thumbs up.

MONICA

Dr Dickson, can I ask you a question?

Dr Dickson come over to her.

MONICA

D'you think I have enough people in my study?

DR DICKSON

Your Good Grief study?

MONICA

Yes.

DR DICKSON

How many do you have again?

MONICA

Seven.

DR DICKSON

I had 107 people in my study but then again it was a Phd.

Dr Dickson walks on.

DR DICKSON

You know it takes many, many years to become a shrink, you can't just set up shop.

Dr Dickson keeps walking.

MONICA (TO HERSELF)

Whatever.

William drops green goo from the rafters, he misses Dr Dickson completely but the slime goes all over Monica. Dr Dickson smirks and is rather pleased he managed to avoid the slime, he knows it meant for him. Monica is furious.

Monica storms off in a big huff.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica is in session with Monica the puppy. Monica looks straight at the puppy.

MONICA

You're in denial. William Strange
is rubbish and you're pretending
that he's great.

Monica burps like a frog and covers her mouth. She looks at
the puppy.

MONICA

Just a nervous reaction. Poison
frog goo only works on grown-ups.

The puppy looks unconvinced.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Monica comes through the gate and then notices Dr Dickson's
car in the drive. Her heart sinks.

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Dr Dickson's bags are in the hallway, he's moving in.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Dr Dickson notices Monica's arrival and so pulls an unaware
Barb in for a kiss, his hands are all over her. Barb
eventually pulls away and notices Monica.

BARB

Monica sweetheart come and say
hello.

MONICA

No.

DR DICKSON

Monica Pink, please don't be rude
to your mother.

MONICA

You're not my dad, you can't tell
me what to do.

DR DICKSON

If I were your dad, believe me, you
wouldn't get away with this
behaviour.

MONICA

Are you going to hit me the way you
hit Mark?

Monica stomps off. Barb is going to go after her. Monica
listens at the door.

DR DICKSON

Anger is a perfectly normal stage
for her to be going through.

BARB

You're so knowledgeable.

DR DICKSON

I know, sometimes I think I'd make
a great step-dad.

Barb smiles. Dr Dickson gets down on one knee.

DR DICKSON

Marry me Barb, I'm crazy about you.

Barb giggles. Monica slams the back door.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica comes rushing through to find William. William is
playing with the Labrador puppy. He tries to ignore Monica.

WILLIAM

Go away, we don't like you any
more.

MONICA

You can't stop liking me. That's
silly.

William puts the lead on the puppy.

WILLIAM

Stop calling me silly.

William is about to run off.

WILLIAM

I'm not the one who thinks their
dead dad is a lion tamer.

Monica looks really angry with him.

MONICA

Nobody wants to marry your dad
cause he isn't even house trained.

Joe has been standing there all the time. He walks away, he
looks really hurt.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica smashes up her office. A little piglet has been
staring at her the whole time. Monica stares the piglet out.

MONICA

Anger is perfectly normal - so
don't judge me.

Monica planks herself on the floor exhausted, the little piglet waddles towards her.

INT. LOFT. DAY

Monica opens the chest. She takes the poster of Fearless Fred and the lion-tamer's whip. She finds an old fashioned a cross bow and arrow, her eyes light up.

INT. HOME OFFICE. DAY.

Dr Dickson is rifling through drawers, Monica is behind the half closed door, she has her crossbow and arrow aimed at his head. Dr Dickson finds the document he was looking for, reads it quickly and smiles.

DR DICKSON

She's worth a fortune.

Dr Dickson stuffs the document back into the drawer. He almost skips out of the room, clapping his hands.

DR DICKSON

Soon I'll be rich, rich, rich.

Monica sneaks in, she reads the document out loud.

MONICA

The last will and testament of
Kenneth Pink.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica rushes over to William's house.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica nearly trips over the Armadillo in her hurry. William is on the trampoline with the labrador puppy.

MONICA

William, William please you've got
to listen to me.

William lifts his hair to reveal earplugs sticking out of his ears.

MONICA

William you've got to listen.

William just keeps on jumping.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Joe is busy cleaning, the house looks really clean. There's isn't a wandering animal to be seen. Joe has had a haircut, he looks really smart. He is hovering and the music is blaring. Monica gives up on him too, he just can't hear her over the noise of the hoover.

INT. OUTHOUSE. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Dr Dickson comes into the outhouse and looks around until he sees a pitchfork. Monica is hiding in the rafters, she has a bow and arrow pointed at his head.

Dr Dickson puts the pitchfork down and picks up Monica's notebook from the floor.

He looks through the pages and stops at: KILL DR DEATH page.

He picks up the pitchfork and storms out, Monica falls out of the rafters.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Dr Dickson comes storming out brandishing Monica's notebook and the pitchfork.

DR DICK
Monica! Barb!

He throws the pitchfork at the pile of mown grass in anger, the pitchfork misses the grass and goes through the toy fluffy Rabbit.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. DAY

Monica watches Barb and Joe from a distance, they are standing on either side of the gate. Barb is showing the notebook to Joe. Joe looks serious for the first time ever.

INT. LIVING ROOM. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica is holding onto the toy Rabbit protectively, the stuffing is coming out of its sides. Dr Dickson's voice can be heard. Monica looks scared for the first time. She pushes herself up against the wall so that he can't see her. Dr Dickson is chatting to Barb in a low voice in the kitchen. Barb comes in to talk to Monica, Dr Dickson hangs back just at the door.

BARB

Monica we don't, I mean, I don't think you should play with William for a while.

MONICA

I can't go to William's house? What about my Pet Shrink office?

DR DICKSON

You don't actually have any clients cause none of the other kids like you, so I don't see what the big deal is.

Monica throws the Rabbit down. Tiny tears form in her eyes, she runs out.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica is in bed, her glasses are on the bedside table. She is holding onto her fluffy toys. She can't sleep. She can hear Dr Dickson's voice.

Monica gets out of bed and puts on her glasses. She very quietly sneaks out of her bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Monica watches Dr Dickson as he snuggles up to Barb on the couch.

DR DICKSON

You know Barb you really should consider it. It's a good school and she would grow to love boarding. And I think you really do need a break. She would have her own dedicated psychologist. She could come home and visit in the holidays. I would see to it that she got a scholarship...

Barb and Dr Dickson kiss. Monica's hair stands on end.

MONICA (TO HERSELF)

Send me away, so that I can die mysteriously.

Dr Dickson pulls away from the kiss and notices Monica.

DR DICKSON

And of course they would see to it that she was on the right medication.

Barb pulls Dr Dickson back in for a kiss.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Monica is distracted. She puts on her clothes and her Wellington boots, she packs a few items into her Rabbit Rucksack. The lion-tamer's whip, the poster of Fearless Fred.

INT. KITCHEN. NIGHT

Monica opens the fridge, she can't decide what to take. She eventually puts in a jar of Nutella and a bottle of juice.

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

Monica replaces the Pink Perky Pills with pink sweeties.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Monica looks over at her toy Rabbit, she can't bring herself to say goodbye.

EXT. MONICA'S GARDEN. NIGHT

Monica quietly sneaks through into William's garden.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. NIGHT

Monica wanders around saying goodbye to the animals. An owl hoots in the darkness. William light goes on. Monica makes a run for it.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. NIGHT

Monica runs across the fields. She loses her Wellington boot but just keeps on running. She looks scared. She runs through a wooded area and eventually gets to the river.

EXT. RIVER. NIGHT

She sits down on the bridge exhausted. Monica watches a baby otter playing with a daddy otter.

MONICA

I want my daddy. I just want my
daddy. Why did you leave me behind
daddy?

Monica puts her head in her hands and weeps.

EXT/INT STABLES. NIGHT

An exhausted Monica sneaks into the stables and lies down next to the horses. Monica snuggles up next to a foal, it snorts with pleasure and sniffs her hair.

MONICA

Have your mum and dad abandoned you too? At least nobody's trying to kill you.

Monica falls asleep and dreams of Fearless Fred in the circus.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

INT. CIRCUS. DAY

Fearless Fred keeps Dr Dickson pinned to a chair and the lions are walking around the chair menacingly. The lions lick Dr Dickson's face and he sneezes uncontrollably.

INT. STABLES. DAY

The puppy dog snuggles Monica's neck. Monica opens her eyes and William is waiting, wearing his infra-red goggles.

WILLIAM

You didn't get very far.

MONICA

You weren't helping me.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAWN / INT. DR DICKSON'S CAR. DAWN

The top of Dr Dickson's car is down. Monica is propped up on cushions on the drivers seat. William is sitting at her feet with his feet on the pedals. The engine is running.

MONICA

Go!

William presses the Accelerator pedal and nothing happens.

WILLIAM

Put it into drive!

Monica pushes the gear-stick into drive and they move forwards.

MONICA

Go!

William presses the Accelerator and they carelessly zoom out of the drive. Once they are past the gates, Monica smiles.

MONICA

Faster!

William puts his foot right to the floor and the car shoots down the street. Monica screams with delight.

EXT. ROUNDABOUT. DAWN

The car speeds around the roundabout several times, it finally screeches its way onto the City Bypass.

INT. DR DICKSON'S CAR. DAWN

William is really squashed and can't see a thing. Her foot is getting tired.

WILLIAM

I want to steer!

MONICA

You're too young William.

William looks miffed but Monica is exhilarated.

EXT. CITY-BYPASS. DAWN

The city bypass is almost free of cars. A couple of articulated trucks pass, Monica screams in fear. The drivers of the lorries look as if they are in shock when they see Monica driving. They toot their horns at her.

INT. DR DICKSON'S CAR. DAWN

Monica swerves the car as the trucks pass, she looks scared.

MONICA

Faster William, we've got to get there before they try to stop us.

William puts his foot right to the ground.

EXT. CITYBYPASS. DAWN

The car heads off the bypass at the sign for the City Centre.

EXT. CITY STREETS. DAY

The car speeds and swerves along the quiet city streets, it very nearly hits some park cars.

INT. DR DICKSON'S CAR. DAY

Monica suddenly sees a sign for the HILLTOP CIRCUS.

MONICA

Stop!

William pushes his foot right down on the brake as Monica steers towards the pavement.

EXT. DR DICKSON'S CAR. DAY

The car crashes into the pavement. Monica flies out of the front seat onto the bonnet, she still has her rucksack on. William bangs his head. The car wheels spin. Monica is not hurt, she brushes herself down and opens the door for William to climb out.

EXT. BOTANIC GARDENS. EDINBURGH. DAY

Monica grabs William's hand and they race up towards the circus on the hilltop. William doesn't like having his hand held and he shakes her hand away and planks himself on the ground.

They are both exhausted and have to sit down and rest for a while, Monica gives William and drink of energy juice from her rucksack.

EXT. HILLTOP CIRCUS. BOTANIC GARDENS. EDINBURGH. DAY

The tiny Hilltop Circus is just coming alive. The circus overlooks the most beautiful city scape. It consists mainly of outdoor trapeze bars and there is a very small tent, this is a circus for little kids. Monica looks decidedly disappointed.

MONICA

Where are the lions?

William shrugs his shoulders.

INT. SMALL TENT. DAY

Monica and William rush into the tent. DORIS (14) a disgruntled Goth circus performer, all dressed in black practices a juggling act on a unicycle. Doris is really good and Monica and William are really mesmerized. Doris eventually notices Monica and William.

DORIS

Beat it kids - we're not open.

Doris cycles round them, she looks at William.

DORIS
What happened to your head?

MONICA
Nothing.

DORIS
Have it your way.

Monica takes William's hand to drag him away.

WILLIAM
Can we have a shot on the cycles?

Doris shrugs her shoulders. Monica and William rush to the children sized unicycles in the corner. Monica looks at the caged doves.

MONICA
Can we let them out?

WILLIAM
We can see if we can cycle faster than they can fly.

DORIS
Life's not a competition kid, it's a game and we all die in the end.

Monica lets the doves out, Doris doesn't care.

WILLIAM
Teenagers have a chemical imbalance in their brains which makes them a bit mad.

Doris, Monica and William all cycle around on the bikes. Monica is really unsteady as she still has her rucksack on. Monica and William laugh with joy. The doves fly around them and one lands on Monica's head.

WILLIAM
This is better than lions.

Monica remembers why she is here.

MONICA
Where are the lions?

DORIS
You've got the wrong circus.

MONICA
We're looking for Fearless Fred.

DORIS
The Lion Tamer?

MONICA
He's my dad.

Doris laughs until she falls off her cycle.

WILLIAM
Actually we are runaways.

MONICA
Shut up William.

Doris looks serious, she gets her phone out.

DORIS
You kids give me no choice.

Monica and William exchange glances, Monica points towards the exit.

MONICA
Run!

Monica and William pedal furiously.

EXT. HILLTOP CIRCUS. DAY

In the distance can be seen the candy stripes of a large circus on the Meadows. Monica and William cycle at top speed out of the Hilltop Circus and over the other side of the hill with Doris chasing them on foot, they get away.

EXT. OLD TOWN. DAY

Monica and William ditch their unicycles and walk through the Old Town. The Festival is in town and the place is alive with all different exciting acts. Monica and William hold hands so as not to lose one another in the crowd.

There are jugglers, fire-breathers, people on stilts, performing poodles all along the main street.

Monica spots a young HOMELESS MAN sitting on the ground with his sad looking old dog.

MONICA
Will you take us to the circus?

HOMELESS MAN
Why?

MONICA
Cause I think your lovely dog would like a walk?

HOMELESS MAN
How do you know what Willow wants?

MONICA
I'm a pet shrink.

HOMELESS MAN
Well in that case...

The Homeless man smiles, gets up and the dog wags its tail.

EXT. CITY STREET. DAY

Monica and William follow as he leads them through the crowds.

EXT. TV SHOP. DAY

They pass a shop with a lot of TV Screens. William stops and grabs Monica, the Homeless Man keeps walking and talking to his dog. Monica and William stare at the screens.

ON THE TV SCREEN.

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

A much more natural but distressed tear-strained Barb and a supportive looking Joe hold a press conference. Dr Dickson is in the background.

EXT. CITY STREET. DAY

Monica suddenly starts to notice Policemen all around, she grabs William's hand and they run.

MONICA
Let's go!

Monica and William catch up with the Homeless Man, he is still talking, he hadn't notice they weren't behind them. He's been talking to himself the whole time.

EXT. MEADOWS. DAY

The candy striped tents take over the whole of the Meadows. Monica and William hug each other in delight.

WILLIAM
I wish it was as easy to find my
mum.

MONICA
But your mum isn't hiding, she's
dead.

WILLIAM

Yeah, but if she wasn't dead and she was hiding, then I wish it was easy. I wish she was on the TV and worked in a circus.

MONICA

I suppose I am lucky.

Monica runs towards the tents and William follows. The Homeless man lets his dog off its lead, the dog jumps for joy.

INT. CIRCUS AREA. DAY

Monica slows down as they wander amongst the pitched tents and animals cages. Monica is suddenly nervous.

WILLIAM

What are you going to say?

Monica shrugs her shoulders. They wander amongst the cages, the elephants look bored.

MONICA

What d'you think they are thinking?

WILLIAM

I hope my teeth don't fall out.

Monica stops to talk to the horse, William wanders off.

EXT. HORSE CAGE. DAY

The white circus horse looks at Monica with amusement.

MONICA

Hello horsey, I'm Monica Pink Pet Shrink. Is there anything you would like to tell me?

The horse tries to get closer to her, Monica puts her hand through the bars and pats the horse's nose.

MONICA

I bet you dream of long grass and butterflies, that's what me and Speedy used to dream of.

Monica gets some Nutella out of her rucksack and scoops out some with her hand, she lays her hand flat and lets the horse lick her fingers.

MONICA

Chocolate sends happy dolphins to your brain.

Monica hears a lion roar. Monica gets the lion-tamers whip out of her rucksack and walks towards the noise of the lion.

EXT. LION CAGE. DAY

Monica stares at the lion, she feels a message of love go between them.

Monica opens the padlock to the cage with her hair clasp - she slips into the cage. She has the lion-taming whip behind her back.

Monica and the lion stare one another out. The lion gets ready to pounce.

Suddenly FEARLESS FRED an older man in a lion taming outfit grabs Monica out. Monica screams.

FEARLESS FRED (IN RUSSIAN)
What the hell do you think you are doing?

MONICA
Why are you wearing my dad's clothes?

FEARLESS FRED (RUSSIAN ACCENT)
Where did you get my lion-taming whip?

William stands next to Monica.

WILLIAM
Who are you?

FEARLESS FRED
I'm Fearless Fred.

MONICA
No you're not, Fearless Fred is my dad and you're not my dad.

Monica starts crying, William stares at Fearless Fred suspiciously. Fearless Fred scratches his head. He doesn't quite know what to do.

INT. CAFE. DAY

An old fashioned cafe with leather booths, an old TV is set high up above the bar. Monica and William face the TV, Fearless Fred faces the other way. Monica gets out her poster of Fearless Fred.

MONICA
That's my dad, Ken Pink.

FEARLESS FRED

That's me sweetheart, in my younger days.

MONICA

My dad is on the TV.

FEARLESS FRED

It's re-runs of my old show. Just old re-runs.

MONICA

Where's my dad?

FEARLESS FRED

I don't know where your dad is sweetheart, but I think I know where your grandpa is...

MONICA

My grandpa? Where is he?

FEARLESS FRED

You're looking at him.

MONICA

Why are you my grandpa?

FEARLESS FRED

My wife left me, took my boy and changed her name to Pink.

MONICA

I don't understand.

FEARLESS FRED

Your dad is my son.

MONICA

But you're called Fearless Fred and my dad is Ken Pink.

FEARLESS FRED

I know, my name is Fyodor Pinkovsky and x-wife change her name and my son's name to Pink.

WILLIAM

So your real name is Monica Pinkovsky?

MONICA

I think I prefer Pink.

WILLIAM

Me too.

FEARLESS FRED
And what's your name, son?

WILLIAM
William Strange.

FEARLESS FRED
Well kids, I think it's time we
called home.

WILLIAM
I don't have a mum.

FEARLESS FRED
D'you have a dad?

WILLIAM
Yes.

FEARLESS FRED
Then we'll call him.

Monica's eyes well up.

MONICA
Is my dad really gone?

Fearless Fred's eyes also well up and he puts his arms out.
She goes to him for a hug, he holds her close and pats her
head.

FEARLESS FRED
There, there, sweetheart, you can
tell me all about it.

MONICA
Dr Dickson cut the brakes of the
lawn-mower and dad hit Speedy and
then Dr Dickson killed my budgie,
and my goldfish.

Fearless Fred has tears running down his face.

FEARLESS FRED
Sounds like a bad'in to me.

WILLIAM
And he wants to marry Mrs Pink for
the money...

MONICA
And send me to boarding school for
problem children and make me take
Pink Pills.

William looks interested.

WILLIAM
Could I go too...?

Fearless Fred manages a smile.

FEARLESS FRED
Would you kids like to stay for the
matinee show?

Both Fearless Fred and Monica wipes their tears away and both she and William nod.

FEARLESS FRED
After the show I can think clearer
and then we'll come up with a plan.
Agreed?

MONICA
Agreed.

WILLIAM
Agreed.

STEPHANIE the waitress comes over to take an order.

FEARLESS FRED
Stephanie here, will look after you
until the show, OK? Stephanie,
maybe you could get the kids some
breakfast?

MONICA
I've got a jar of Nutella in my
bag.

William's eyes open wide in amazement.

STEPHANIE
Then maybe we can find you some
toast.

Fearless Fred slips out of the booth.

INT/EXT. CAFE. DAY

Monica looks out of the window, Fearless Fred's eyes well up again, he wipes the tears away as best he can.

INT. CAFE. DAY

Monica and William look up at the TV.

ON THE TV SCREEN

EXT. MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

The press conference outside Monica's house is on again. Pictures of Monica and William are flashed up on the screen. Dr Dickson appears at the press conference, he takes over, he pushes Joe out of the way and holds up his book, GOOD GRIEF. Barb's face hardens.

INT. CAFE. DAY

Monica and William look around the cafe nobody else has noticed the news bulletin.

INT. BIG CIRCUS TENT. DAY

Monica and William watch the circus acts intently. The trapeze act is mesmerizing. The clowns are very cute and the kids in the audience all laugh. Then a dozen sweet-looking dogs jump through hoops of fire.

MONICA

Do you think dogs that can jump through hoops of fire can save people from burning buildings?

WILLIAM

No, I think they can just jump through hoops.

The lights go down, there is a drum roll...

CIRCUS COMPARE

And next up ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, is our very own famous lion tamer, Fearless Fred...

Monica gasps with excitement.

Fearless Fred comes into centre-stage. He does a really dramatic show with his lions. Fearless Fred shouts commands in Russian. Chairs and hoops come out and the lions perform perfectly. Fearless Fred almost hypnotizes them with his eyes. For the finale he puts his head in the lion's mouth.

Monica and William exchange glances, Monica looks frightened for Fearless Fred.

WILLIAM (TO MONICA)

Circus lions don't have any teeth.

The lions are lead back to their cages. Fearless Fred finishes and takes a bow.

Fearless Fred gives Monica and William a special wave and blows them a kiss.

The spotlight shines on Monica and William. They jump off their seats and are allowed in the circle, they run over to him.

MONICA
I love you Grandpa.

They all hug.

WILLIAM
You smell of lions.

EXT. FEARLESS FRED'S CARAVAN. DAY

Monica and William wait patiently for Fred. He throws the door of his caravan open, dressed in his Sunday best.

FEARLESS FRED
I've got a plan.

Monica and William look at him expectantly.

FEARLESS FRED
I'll drive you home.

Monica and William look disappointed.

FEARLESS FRED
And then we will come up with a plan.

MONICA
A plan to get rid of Dr Dickson?

FEARLESS FRED
Most certainly.

WILLIAM
Did you phone my dad?

FEARLESS FRED
No son, I'm sorry, I forgot, but don't worry, I'll have you back home in no time.

EXT. CITYBYPASS. DAY

A circus truck is driving along at a snail's pace in the slow lane.

INT. CIRCUS TRUCK. DAY

The window is open and Fearless Fred's hair blows all over the place, he smokes a cigar and coughs.

Monica and William are a little squashed in the front seat. Fearless Fred sings a sad Russian song between coughs.

EXT. STREETS OF WILLOWBRAE. DAY

The Circus truck makes its way along the narrow streets of the village. CHARLIE, the policeman on his motorbike notices William and Monica in the front seat, he puts the blue light on and drives in front of the truck. The truck stops and Charlie calls for back-up.

INT. TRUCK. DAY

Fearless Fred looks at Monica and William with concern.

FEARLESS FRED
You kids wanted by the police?

WILLIAM
We're runaways.

FEARLESS FRED
Well if I'd known that..

MONICA
But you're a grown-up.

FEARLESS FRED
Not a very good one evidently.

The POLICEMEN approach the truck and make a sign for Fearless Fred to open his door and step outside.

WILLIAM
Will you go to prison?

FEARLESS FRED
I certainly hope not, I've got a show tonight.

Monica looks out of her window and sees a natural looking Barb and a handsome looking Joe running down the hill towards the truck.

EXT. TRUCK. DAY

There is a tearful reunion with Barb, Joe, William and Monica. The police are about to lead Fearless Fred away when Monica runs over to them.

MONICA
This is my grandad, please let him stay with us.

The police look over at Barb for confirmation.

BARB

Ken always said he was from a Russian circus family but I never believed him.

FEARLESS FRED (IN RUSSIAN)

I loved my son, his mother ran away from the circus and I never saw him again.

Monica brings out the lion-tamers whip and the Fearless Fred poster from her bag.

MONICA

And these are from dad's box in the attic.

FEARLESS FRED

I send those to him but mostly my letters were sent back.

BARB

The Lion's Share, that was the name of his company.

Fearless Fred's eyes well up. Monica hugs Fearless Fred.

INT. MONICA'S HOUSE/EXT. STREET OUTSIDE MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY.

Dr Dickson looks through binoculars. He sees Monica, William Joe, Barb and Fearless Fred walking towards the house arm in arm, they look like a happy family, the puppy runs towards them.

Then Dr Dickson notices his smashed up car being towed by a pick-up truck. He throws the binoculars to the ground.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE MONICA'S HOUSE. DAY

Dr Dickson disturbs the happy family scene by storming straight into it.

DR DICKSON

What have you idiot children done to my car.

WILLIAM

Am I an idiot-savant dad?

FEARLESS FRED

Is this the fella Monica?

MONICA

Yes he's the one.

Fearless Fred puts up his fists.

FEARLESS FRED
Stick em up..!

DR DICKSON
Who the hell are you?

FEARLESS FRED
Only the father of the man you
killed.

DR DICKSON
What man? This is ridiculous.

MONICA
You cut the brakes of my dad's lawn-
mower.

WILLIAM
You killed Speedy.

DR DICKSON
This is completely ridiculous, Barb
talk some sense into them.

Barb crosses her arms.

MONICA
You are in denial Dr Dickson.

JOE
Are you even a proper shrink?

DR DICKSON
I'm out of here. Get out of way you
silly old man.

Fearless Fred knocks Dr Dickson over with a comedy punch. Joe
distracts the children, he throws a ball and the puppy runs
after it.

JOE
Quick kids go get the dog.

Monica and William have no choice but to run after the dog.

EXT. WILLOWBRAE BRIDGE. DAY

William looks for the ball at the far end of the bridge.
Monica and the puppy walk towards the bridge.

Suddenly from nowhere, Dr Dickson comes speeding around the
corner in his beat up sports car. Monica is just up ahead and
the puppy is in the middle of the road.

Monica turns when she hears Dr Dickson frantically beeping
the horn.

Monica watches as Dr Dickson swerves to miss the dog, he swerves again to miss her and goes flying off the road and straight into the river.

The car lands with a crash and Dr Dickson bangs his head. Dr Dickson sits motionless in the car. Monica and the puppy stare over at him in shock. Tiny tears form in Monica's eyes.

MONICA

We killed him and now we'll both
have to go to jail.

Eventually Charlie, the policeman arrives. Monica puts her hands up to have them cuffed.

MONICA

I killed him. I'm really sorry.

Dr Dickson comes around.

DR DICKSON

It's the dog that should be
arrested. But if Monica Pink wants
to take the blame for not having
the stupid mutt on a lead, then
that's fine by me. Her mother's
loaded, she can buy me a new car.

Monica looks utterly relieved. She kisses the puppy. Charlie goes to help Dr Dickson.

William sidles up to Monica.

WILLIAM

He didn't kill the puppy or you.

MONICA

Maybe we were wrong about him?

William shrugs his shoulders.

WILLIAM

Maybe a little bit wrong, but he's
still the meanest mean person ever.

EXT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica stands under her bright pink sign, it reads Monica Pink Pet Shrink.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. DAY

Monica and William find a queue of children waiting outside the office with their pets. Mark is at the front of the queue with Fido. Joe is there, he has been giving the pets water and the children orange juice and biscuits.

JOE

So glad you could make it back to work Miss Pink.

MONICA

Sometimes I wish you were my dad and my name was Monica Strange.

Joe is a little taken aback but he smiles.

MONICA

Why are there so many kids?

JOE

Mark told them you were great and I think I might have mentioned that Fearless Fred was your grandpa.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Mark sits on the couch, Fido sits on the floor. Monica and William sit behind the desk.

MARK

He just always looks sad.

MONICA

I think he may have self-steam issues.

MARK

What does that mean?

MONICA

It means he doesn't love himself.

MARK

Why not?

MONICA

Well you either have steam or you don't.

MARK

What can I do?

MONICA

Love him more, love him more than a normal pet.

LATER...

Monica shows Mark to the door.

MARK

Uncle Brian's gone.

Monica looks at him blankly.

MARK
Dr Dickson.

MONICA
Where's he gone.

MARK
He's gone away with Miss Appleby.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

Monica visualises a manic looking Dr Dickson driving off into the sunset with his arm around Miss Appleby.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

MONICA
So he doesn't hit you any more?

MARK
He can't. Well he could if he had really really long arms.

Monica smiles. Mark puts out his hand to shake hers.

MARK
Friends?

Monica shakes his hand.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

A girl called ELLE with a Great Dane

MONICA
You shouldn't make fun of him.
Great Danes are very sensitive.

Elle looks embarrassed.

INT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

A boy called Jack (11) with an old parrot in a cage.

JACK
He pulls his feather out all the time.

MONICA
He's jealous. Any new pets at home?

JACK
My mum got a cat.

MONICA
Then he's jealous and scared of the
cat.

JACK
You're good.

MONICA
Thanks.

EXT. MONICA'S OFFICE. DAY

Monica sticks her head out, the next child is a really small girl carrying her pet tortoise. Monica looks from the girl to the tortoise several times.

MONICA
I'm sorry, I don't treat tortoises.

Monica slams the door. The girl wanders away, looking a little confused.

EXT. GRAVEYARD. DAY

Monica, Barb and Fearless Fred walk through the graveyard. Monica carries flowers and a photograph. Fearless Fred is a little tearful. They reach Ken's grave. Monica gently places the flowers below his headstone.

MONICA
I miss you daddy. I miss you very
very much.

Monica then sticks a photograph of Speedy to the headstone.

MONICA
Look after Speedy for me daddy.

BARB
We can come and visit your dad any
time you want. OK?

Monica is reassured. Fearless Fred has a quiet word to the grave.

FEARLESS FRED
You have a lovely family son, I'm
so proud of you.

Monica takes Fearless Fred's hand.

MONICA
We're proud of you too Grandpa.

EXT. WILLOWBRAE VILLAGE. DAY

Children and their pets from all over the village make their way to the animal sanctuary.

EXT. WILLIAM'S GARDEN. NIGHT

Joe puts the finishing touches to a gate between the two gardens.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE. NIGHT

As night falls, Fearless Fred puts on a show with the animals from the Sanctuary.

The children from Willowbrae are mesmerised.

Monica and William beam with pride.

Barb and Joe look very happy in one another's company. Barb looks all natural and lovely.

MONICA'S IMAGINATION

Monica visualises her dad dressed as Fearless Fred on a fluffy cloud surrounded by her pets, Speedy, Kevin and Bob.

CREDITS ROLL