

FOOLPROOF



The Mystery of the Missing Penguins (extract)

Scene 1: The Zoo

The **TIGER, ELEPHANT, MONKEY** and **LION** are playing as the music (At The Zoo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xKLBne1CoI>) begins.

After a minute **BELINDA, TOM, SANDY, HAZEL** and **MEG** appear and begin looking and pointing at the animals.

Everyone poses for a series of photos thus creating tableaux of animals and tourists.

While the actors are frozen in a pose, the **TV REPORTER** appears onstage with a microphone and crew. The music fades down.

REPORTER: Everyone ready?

CREW 1: Camera's rolling.

CREW 2: Sound is good.

CREW 3: Have you got your notes, Jules?

REPORTER: Got them here.

CREW 4: Positions, everyone. And action!

REPORTER: I'm here at Pentland Zoo where, on the surface, all appears calm. These tourists are enjoying their day out, unaware of the fact that all across the country, police are searching for the mysterious animal-napper known as the "Penguin Pincher". Zoo staff are on high alert as reports of kidnapped animals flood in every day. Thankfully no animal napping has taken place here at Pentland, but we'll keep you up to date with developments as they happen. This is Jules Journo, News at 3.30 at Pentland Zoo.

CREW 1: And we're out. Good work, Jules.

CREW 2: Anyone fancy a bacon roll?

They pack up and exit.

*The music fades back up and the **CHILDREN** exit. **JULES** packs up her kit and follows them.*

DR PUCE, BRUCE, ANNIE and **EDNA** appear. **DR PUCE** is showing the others around. **BRUCE, ANNIE** and **EDNA** are listening to her and taking notes.

Eventually, **SPUD** enters and sweeps everyone off stage except for **FLORA**.

*He continues to sweep and dance along as the **music fades**.*

Scene 2: Flora's enclosure

SPUD is sweeping up and listening to music through headphones when **DR PUCE** arrives with **BRUCE**, **ANNIE** and **EDNA** in tow. In the background **FLORA**, the lion, is dancing along with him. A shopping trolley sits at the back of the stage with a sign reading 'FLORA'S LUNCH'.

DR PUCE: Spud!

SPUD pays no attention to **DR PUCE** but continues to dance around the enclosure singing to himself

DR PUCE: SPUD!

SPUD jumps with fright. **FLORA** whimpers and lies down to watch what's happening. She reacts to the conversation as though she understands what is being discussed.

SPUD : Dr Puce! Sorry, didn't hear you creeping...I mean...er...strolling up.

DR PUCE: How many times have I told you not listen to music when you're working in the lion enclosure?

SPUD counts on his fingers.

SPUD : 8 times. Or maybe 9. I can't exactly remember.

BRUCE: I think it's 9 times, Dr Puce.

DR PUCE: Thank you, Bruce. What if a lion crept up on you while you were working? You wouldn't hear him until he took a bite.

SPUD : To be fair, boss, lions are quite stealthy. I don't think I'd hear him creeping up anyway. A bit like you...I mean, a bit like...you were saying...when you said that you...er...

DR PUCE: That's enough out of you, Spud. Don't let me catch you listening to music again. Or singing. Or dancing. Especially not dancing!

BRUCE: Quite right, Dr Puce.

DR PUCE: Thank you, Bruce. Note that as a final warning.

BRUCE: Yes, Dr Puce.

SPUD : But, Flora loves my dancing.

ANNIE: Who's Flora?

SPUD : The lion. Flora isn't a very scary lion. She's just a big pussycat really.

DR PUCE: Hm. Well, anyway, I'd like you to meet our newest zookeepers. This is...er...

BRUCE: Annie and Edna, Dr Puce.

DR PUCE: OK, Spud. You're in charge. Come on, Bruce.

BRUCE: Right you are, Dr Puce.