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provide will be placed.**

Jessica Marie Merritt

and the Looney Tunes are off to see the Wizard ©Warner Bros

Merry Christmas

Mom and Dad

December 25, 2002

Jessica Marie Merritt, age 8, of Moberly, Missouri, had spent the afternoon searching for her favorite photo, the one with Mary Jo, Shelley and Kim. But she couldn't find it anywhere. Jessie slumped into a chair to watch TV. On the screen, Daffy Duck was being blasted with tennis balls. "This should be funny," she said

Suddenly, the lampshade next to Jessie began to shake. Papers and magazines swirled around the room.

"It's a twister!" Jessie yelled. "Right here in Moberly, Missouri!"

Jessie watched with amazement as everything spun around the room. Then, as quickly as it started, it stopped. Standing right in front of her were Daff Duck, Taz, Sylvester and Tweety, and Porky Pig!

"How did you guys get here?" Jessie asked. "And where's Bugs Bunny?"

"Bugs Bunny?" Daffy sniffed. "Who needs that rabbit to be funny? What I need is a colossal, big-budget movie to make all my fans happy."

"Eeeebagarametzvommsemkalabaz!" shrieked Taz. Then he took a bite of Daffy's tennis racket.

"I n-n-need a p-pair of p-p-pa-p-pa, eh, trousers," said Porky.

"Hmm....I never even noticed," said Sylvester. "A pig without pants. I could use some decent cat toys. I'm sick of getting beaten up every time I chase this canary."

"And I want some peace and twiet," said Tweety. "No more bad ol' puddy tats."

"But who can grant those kinds of wishes?" Jessie asked.

"The Wizard!" they all shouted. "The Wizard of Oddballs!"

"Then let's go find him," Jessie said.

"Which way do we go?" Jessie asked. They all looked around for a minute.

"I thought you might know," Daffy said.

"I don't see any yellow brick road," said Sylvester.

"Not in this town," Jessie answered. "Why not just follow the white-striped road?"

"Smart kid," Daffy slurped. "I was just about to suggest that."

Jessie and her friends walked down the sidewalk for a very long time. After a while, the neighborhood began to look more and more like a desert, with a long highway down the middle of it. Then something zipped by! "Meep-Meep!" it said, screeching to a halt.

"Road Runner!" cried Jessie. They heard a whistling noise growing louder and louder in the air, like a bomb falling. "Duck!" Jessie hollered. Everyone but Duffy ducked.

"Yes?" Daffy answered, just as he was clobbered - by a falling coyote. Wile E. Coyote, to be exact.

"Boy, I bet that hurt," Jessie said, just as a huge boulder came down WHAM! on top of Wile E. and Daffy.

"Just a scratch," Daffy said woozily, as he crawled out from under the big rock. "Which way's to the Wizard?"

Just then, Wile E.'s hand popped out from under the boulder. A sign read, "Follow him."

"Beep-Beep!" Road Runner said, then disappeared in a puff of smoke down the highway.

"That way," said **Jessie**, as she led her friends down the road.

Suddenly the road ended, and **Jessie** and her friends found that they were standing in a field of poppies. "Well, no big movie scripts here," complained **Daffy**.

"No cat toys, either."

"These fl-fl-fl-, er, poppies d-d-don't look l-like they'd m-make very g-good pants," **Porky** said.

Taz sniffed the air.

"This is very curious," **Jessie** said, looking around. "I think we're lost."

"That's right, my pretties," cackled **Witch Hazel** in her castle far away. **Witch Hazel** was watching **Jessie** and the others in a crystal ball. "The poppies will make you very sleepy! Sleep...Sleep!"

"I f-f-feel sleepy," said **Porky**.

"I could use a little cat nap myself," **Sylvester** added.

"Don't sleep!" **Jessie** cried. "I've seen this before. It's a trick!"

Just as everyone was starting to fall asleep, **Taz** began spinning around in the flowers, throwing the petals everywhere. "Eeeeglamasprapftzapapfiliptz!F"

"AAAAAA-CHOOOO!" sneezed **Daffy**. Then **Porky** sneezed.

"SNAAAGAAZPFTZ!" went **Taz**.

"Ah-too!" went **Tweety**.

"Curses!" yelled **Witch Hazel**. "Flowers don't make them sleepy. They've all got hay fever! What a world...what a world..."

Jessie grabbed **Taz's** hand, and the others held on as they sneezed and sniffled and then swirled like a giant charm bracelet through the field.

At the top of a hill, **Jessie** shouted, "Look!" She pointed to a beautiful castle with tall towers lined with gold.

"Well, at least the Wizard of Oddballs is well-connected," Daffy said.

"That's not the Wizard's house," Jessie corrected him. "That is, she said, pointing to a tiny barn next to the castle.

"Sufferin' succotash," Sylvester wailed. "The Wizard lives in a garage!"

Jessie and the gang slowly and very nervously entered the barn. Inside, they saw a huge contraption that rattled and gleepped and spat electric bolts.

"YES???" a loud, annoyed voice echoed. Everyone hit the deck.

"Uh, your wizardship, sir," said Daffy. "I am looking for a perfect script that will make me the world's biggest star. That's all."

SILENCE!" the voice howled. "AND YOU, PIG?"

"Some p-p-p-p-pants, Mr. W-W-Wizard," said Porky.

"I'd like a small barn full of toys," squeaked Sylvester.

"Some peace and twiet for me," added Tweety.

"GO BACK HOME, AND YOU WILL HAVE YOUR WISHES. EXCEPT FOR THE DUCK!"

"Sir?" asked Daffy in a teeny-tiny voice.

"BIG WISHES REQUIRE BIG DEEDS. SWEEP THE ROAD ALL THE WAY HOME. IT'S A MESS! AND MAKE SURE TO RAKE UP ALL THE LEAVES FROM THE FUNNY FOREST!"

"Anything you say," Daffy said. "I don't remember gardening as the price for stardom," he complained.

"AND YOU, **YOUNG LADY**?" the Wizard shouted at Jessie.

"I'm here to help my friends, who've always made me laugh," Jessie said. "I just want to go home."

CLAP YOUR HANDS THREE TIMES AND SAY, 'THAT'S ALL FOLKS' AND YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH!"

Jessie did just what the Wizard said, and again, everything began to swirl. Only this time, Tax was standing still. "Taz nervous," he gulped.

Straw and leaves and papers and chairs and horseshoes flew around and around like a tornado. Jessie and her friends began to rise off the ground and spin in the middle of the commotion. She closed her eyes.

"Aergazalabliyaaaasptz!" growled Tax, but his voice was lost in the wind.

When Jessie opened her eyes, she was in her living room, sitting in the big chair. "Was I sleeping?" she wondered.

Flickering on the TV screen was the inside of the barn. She watched as Tweety pulled open a curtain, which revealed a figure sitting at a huge control panel. It was none other than Bugs Bunny!

"Eh, what's up, Jessie?" Bugs said from the TV. "Thanks for the help."

"You were the wizard?" asked Jessie.

"Yeah - ain't I a stinker?" Bugs said with a chuckle. "Daffy was overdue for a lesson. Hope I didn't put ya out too much. Let's do it again sometime. Oh, and I sent ya a souvenir."

On the floor, beside the TV set, was the lost picture she had been looking for - a picture of Jessie, Mary Jo, Shelley and Kim, and in the background were Daffy, Sylvester, Tweety, Porky, Taz, and Bugs himself!

Jessie smiled and fell back to sleep.

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