

Screenplay

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

HOMER is driving up to the entrance of the parking lot.  
There is a hammock hanging in the back of the car.

HOMER  
Time for another productive day at  
work.

He drives under the raised arm barrier only for it to come  
down and smash onto his front windscreen as he passes  
through, causing him to break suddenly.

HOMER (CONT.)  
D'oh! Oww, of all the times to  
never have insurance!

Homer drives into a parking space with the arm barrier still  
embedded in his windscreen having torn it loose. The ends  
scrape against the sides of the two cars either side of him  
as he parks. Homer grumbles angrily to himself as he exits  
the car and heads into work.

HOMER (CONT.)  
Lousy stinking life. Nothing ever  
goes my way.

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION

Homer is sitting at his station with his arms folded with a  
gruff expression as an alarm goes off and the room flashes  
red. His grumbling continues from the previous scene.

HOMER  
Stuck in this boring, dead end job.  
No prospects.

LENNY and CARL enter from behind both holding coffee mugs  
and the alarm goes off.

HOMER (CONT.)  
Nothing to do except wait for the  
sweet embrace of cardiovascular  
atherosclerosis.

CARL  
Geez Homer, you look stressed.

HOMER  
Tired you say? Yeah, I'm tired  
alright! Tired of the same old  
routine, working nine to five,  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOMER (cont'd)  
three or four days a week. What's  
the point of a safety inspector  
anyway?

The alarm comes back on.

HOMER  
I mean, how do you "inspect  
safety"?

Lenny and Carl are unable to hear him over the sound of the  
alarm.

LENNY  
What?!

HOMER  
I said: DO WE EVEN NEED A SAFETY  
INSPECTOR?

LENNY  
WHAT?!

HOMER  
Hang on!

Homer pulls out a handgun from under the desk and begins  
firing at the alarm above him head. He shoots several  
bullets, one missing and goes through the ceiling, causing a  
scream to be heard from the floor above. He eventually hits  
the alarm, causing the noise to stop. Homer drops the gun  
and lets out a big long sigh.

CARL  
Hey Homer, if you need cheering up  
you should come with us to Moe's  
tonight.

LENNY  
Yeah, he finally got padding on the  
stools, so we don't have to sit on  
those metal spikes anymore.

CARL  
You know you never had to sit on  
the spike, you could've just  
remained standing.

LENNY  
It's called etiquette, Carl. You  
should try it sometime.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER

I can't guys. It's Wednesday, so  
you know what that means. Family  
monopoly night.

Homer looks around for the handgun, picks it up and pretends  
to fire it at the side of his temple, mockingly.

INT. SIMPSON'S FRONT ROOM

The family are gathered around the table. Homer and MARGE  
are on the sofa, Homer looks bored. BART, LISA, and MAGGIE  
are on the floor. They're playing a 'Westworld' version of  
monopoly called 'Westwonopoly'. Next to the table in a pile  
are other versions of monopoly from the episode 'Brawl in  
the Family'. Marge rolls and moves her piece, a wagon, four  
spaces.

BART

Mom, you landed on my robot  
brothel. You have to pay me \$200 to  
use one of my robot skanks.

MARGE

Hmm, I think this edition may be a  
little too "PG-13" for you kids.

BART

That means it's up to the parent to  
decide.

Marge looks guilty and nervous. Maggie grabs a handful of  
the paper currency and rips it up, throwing it into the air  
like confetti which rains down on her.

HOMER

Uh-oh! Maggie destroyed the space  
money! Game's over! I'm going to  
Moe's!

Homer jumps up off the sofa and runs to the front door.

MARGE

What?

Marge gets up and follows Homer to the door as he puts his  
jacket on.

MARGE (CONT.)

Homer, you're spending an awful lot  
of evenings at Moe's. Even more  
than usual. And it was already

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARGE (CONT.) (cont'd)  
excessive. Is there something  
you're not telling me?

Homer looks nervous. He stammers before his brain begins speaking to him.

HOMER'S BRAIN  
Don't tell her how you're feeling!  
If there's one thing I've learned  
about women it's that they hate  
talking about feelings!

HOMER  
Are you sure?

HOMER'S BRAIN  
Absolutely! Lying is always the  
best and most full-proof  
alternative to telling the truth.  
Now if you'll excuse me, I have a  
hot date.

HOMER  
What? Who do you have a date with?

HOMER'S BRAIN  
What is this? 20 questions? I do  
have a life of my own, you know?

HOMER  
Okay. Geez. Sorry.

Homer looks over at Marge staring at him, who has been stood there during his entire conversation with his brain. Homer screams in panic.

HOMER'S BRAIN  
She heard everything! Run!

Homer runs out the door leaving Marge there.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

MOE is putting a beer down in front of Homer as he sits at the bar looking depressed. Lenny and Carl are watching a football game on the TV.

MOE  
What's the matter, Homer? You're  
casting a gloomy shadow over this  
dank cesspool of misery here.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER

I dunno, Moe. I've just been in a rut lately.

MOE

Well have you considered euthanasia? It worked wonders for me.

Moe notices a rat with a piece of its left ear missing stealing a pickled egg from the jar and nibbling on it.

MOE (CONT.)

Hey! Get away from there!

The rat drops the egg and runs away as Moe runs over.

MOE (CONT.)

Ugh! Disgusting creatures.

He puts the egg with teeth marks on it back into the jar.

CARL

Geez Moe, your rat problem's worse than I've ever seen it.

BARNEY is trying to pot a ball at the pool table, but before it goes in a rat pops out of the hole and pushes it away.

BARNEY

Hey!

Walks around the table with the cue and tries to pot another ball into a different hole, but the same thing happens again. Barney shakes his fist at the table.

BARNEY (CONT.)

Damn you magic pool trolls!

MOE

Yeah, I kinda got an influx when the strip club across the street got turned into a synagogue. All the rats came here. I can't imagine why.

HOMER

I think it's the smell.

CARL

Or all the damp and rotten food left lying around.

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Maybe the rats think Moe's their leader. Like some kind of giant super rat.

MOE

(sarcastically)

Thanks guys. Seriously.

CARL

Hey Homer, I got an idea. If you're looking for a new lease on life how about a career change?

HOMER

Career change?

CARL

Yeah, become a pest exterminator. Then both your problems will be solved.

HOMER

Exterminator, eh...?

Homer pulls out a thick book with the title 'JOBS I'VE ALREADY HAD' and begins flicking through it until he gets to 'E'.

HOMER (CONT.)

Let's see. Duffman, Executive of Globex Corp., Executive Vice President of the Power Plant, Farmer- Nope! That I have never been! I'll do it!

Puts the book away.

HOMER (CONT.)

Here's to making rash life-changing decisions without consulting my wife!

LENNY/CARL

Cheers!

Homer, Lenny and Carl clink beer glasses.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY, LISA'S CLASSROOM

MISS HOOVER is standing at the front of the class, talking to her students.

MISS HOOVER  
Children, we have a new class pet  
today, after Lisa's neglect caused  
the death of the class hamster,  
Nibbles.

The other kids are all staring angrily at Lisa, who awkwardly slumps down in her chair.

MISS HOOVER  
So please welcome to our class:  
Nibbles II.

WILLIE enters the room, pushing a trolley with a glass cage on it, containing a hamster with black and white patches. The kids all gaze and 'awe' in wonderment as Willie pushes it past their desks.

WILLIE  
Ack! "Ooh look at me! I'm eight!  
I'm so easily impressed!" It's only  
a ruddy hamster for God's sake!  
AAHH!

Willie puts the hamster cage at the back of the classroom next to another cage containing a snake before storming out the room in a rage.

MISS HOOVER  
Thank you Willie. Now kids, we'll  
pick up in our textbooks from page  
4-

Lisa raises her hand.

LISA  
Miss Hoover.

MISS HOOVER  
(unenthusiastically)  
Yes Lisa?

LISA  
Are you sure it's safe to keep the  
hamster's cage next to the class  
python?

Pans out to show SHERRI and TERRI sitting in the two desks to Lisa's left.

(CONTINUED)

SHERRI

Uhm, it's a little late to start worrying about the class hamster now, isn't it Lisa?

TERRI

Yeah, if only you'd been so caring about Nibbles I.

LISA

What are you guys doing here? You're not even in my class.

SHERRI

We're just here to remind you of what a bad person you've been.

Sherri and Terri high five. Lisa looks around worriedly at the two cages. The python looks angry and hisses at Nibbles II.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN, BACK ROOM

Homer is wearing full extermination clothes and standing with Moe holding a can of lethal gas.

HOMER

Alright Moe, I've been watching Youtube videos all morning. So I'm an expert on rodent extermination.

Homer unscrews the nozzle on the can and places it in a mouse hole. Gas starts to come out, but leaks out from the hole and into the room.

MOE

And this is sure to get rid of the rats?

HOMER

I dunno.

MOE

You said you'd been watching Youtube videos all morning.

HOMER

Yeah. Compilations of fat women falling down.

Homer pulls out his phone and brings up a video.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER (CONT.)

Check it out!

The video is of an obese woman in a bikini riding a bike down a sidewalk near a beach.

MOE

What?! She's way too fat to be riding that bike!

The woman loses her balance and screams as she falls off the bike and into some trashcans. Homer and Moe begin laughing hysterically as the room becomes filled with gas. They eventually become groggy and pass out.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN, BACK ROOM

Later in the day. Homer has set up a mousetrap with a small piece of cheese on it in front of the hole.

HOMER

Now Moe, if I've learned anything from Tom & Jerry it's that cats are flammable and that the only way to catch a mouse is with a good old-fashioned mousetrap.

MOE

What am I even paying you for then? I could've just done this myself!

HOMER

Quiet! Now we wait...

The two of them sit down on some crates. Time passes. The scene cross fades to later. The two have fallen asleep. They're suddenly awoken by the snapping of the trap. They run over to see that the cheese is gone but there's no rats.

MOE

What the hell, Homer? Where's the rat corpse?

HOMER

I dunno. Maybe it's broken.

Homer sets up the trap again and places a new piece of cheese on it. He tries to take it and the trap snaps back onto his fingers. He screams in pain before turning to Moe.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER

No. Seems fine to me. Wait, let me try it again.

Homer begins setting up the trap again as Moe goes over to a poster and begins to remove it. Homer screams again.

HOMER

No! All good here!

Moe reveals a hidden camera behind the poster. Homer walks over with swollen fingers.

MOE

Hang on. I have cameras all over the bar so that I can blackmail you guys if you ever reveal anything incriminating whilst drunk.

HOMER

Ooh! Smart!

Moe takes out the camera and they watch the recorded footage back. It shows the rats lowering each other down from the rafters, hanging onto each other's tails, towards the cheese. The bottom one grabs it and they pull him up before it snaps.

MOE

Whoa! Homer, did you see that?

Moe looks around. Homer has crept behind the bar and is pouring himself a free beer.

MOE

Hey! Get outta there!

ACT II - INT. SIMPSONS KITCHEN

Homer, Moe, Marge, Bart and Lisa are gathering around the table watching the clip of the rats on a tablet.

BART

Aww man, that is so cool!

MARGE

Wow. I had no idea those little furry pigeons were capable of feats like that.

(CONTINUED)

LISA

Rats are actually a lot more intelligent than people give them credit for. Studies have shown that domesticated rats can even recognize their names and respond when called, just like dogs.

MOE

And these rats came from my bar!  
I'm so proud of the little guys.

BART

Hey Dad, you should upload this video to the internet. Losers go crazy over animals doing hilarious stuff like this.

As they talk, Santa's Little Helper walks into the kitchen with a jar stuck on his head. He bumps into the fridge and cupboards but none of them notice.

HOMER

There are animal videos on the internet? Rats, prepare to be seen by millions of schmoes trying to avoid work at the office!

Homer uploads the video for all the internet to see.

A map of the world shows the video spreading across the countries. It stops on New York, where laughing is heard in stereotypical New York accents. Then the camera crosses the ocean to France, where the stereotypical French laugh is heard. It moves over to Italy, and the laughter consists mostly of "Heys" and "Whoas". Finally it stops on Russia, where there is no laughter. It then goes all the way around the world before stopping back at the Simpson house again, but clouds obscure exactly what state it zooms in on.

INT. SIMPSON'S FRONT ROOM

Homer and Moe are sitting on the couch watching their video on the laptop as it gains views.

MOE

Wow. I've had a lot of things go viral before, but this is the first time on the internet.

The doorbell rings. Homer answers it. It's COMIC BOOK GUY.

(CONTINUED)

COMIC BOOK GUY

Hello. I couldn't help seeing your video while searching for any information on the 'Inhumans' movie. Kumiko and I are holding an event this weekend to mark the last 'Sparruto' movie.

Comic Book Guy holds up a comic with an anthropomorphic sparrow dressed as a ninja on the cover.

COMIC BOOK GUY

Would it be possible to book your rat circus to perform at my store this Saturday?

HOMER

Rat circus?

Moe walks over and joins them.

MOE

Sure. How does \$100 an hour sound? I mean star talent doesn't come cheap, am I right?

COMIC BOOK GUY

Very well. But those rats better bring their A-game. Thank you.

Comic Book Guy walks away. Homer closes the door. He picks up a bag containing all his extermination supplies.

HOMER

Well, let's get back to the bar and kill those rats!

MOE

What?! Homer, are you crazy? There's a lot of money to be made here. People are willing to pay to see my rats perform. We could really go places with this.

HOMER

You mean start a rat circus? I don't know...

A thought bubble appears above Homer's head. In it he's inside a circus tent dressed like a lion tamer with a big twirly mustache. He's striking a group of 40-odd rats grouped together in a cage with a whip.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER  
Dance! I said dance you stupid  
rats! Dance!

The rats suddenly dive on Homer and begin biting him. He screams in pain as rats cover his body. After a few seconds the rats disperse leaving nothing but Homer's skeleton remaining. The thought bubble disappears.

HOMER  
(enthusiastically)  
Let's do it!

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

Bart, Lisa, MILHOUSE and RALPH are hanging out on the climbing frame. Lisa looks anxious.

LISA  
I'm really worried about Nibbles  
II. Being positioned so close to a  
predatory creature can result in  
severe stress for a small animal.

RALPH  
I put the tiny bunny rabbit in with  
the scaly monster.

LISA  
Wait- You what?!

RALPH  
Now they can be friends!

Lisa jumps down from the frame and runs towards the school, screaming. Bart jumps down excitedly.

BART  
Come on Milhouse! We gotta see  
this!

MILHOUSE  
Bart, you know I can't risk seeing  
any act of violence after that  
extremely traumatic incident I  
witnessed last week. Which I could  
really do with talking to someone  
about.

Milhouse looks up to see Bart already a good distance away, running towards the school.

(CONTINUED)

BART  
Can't hear you! Going to see nature  
at its cruelest!

Milhouse sighs, jumps down from the frame, and follows Bart.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY, LISA'S CLASSROOM

Lisa, Bart and Milhouse run into the room. Inside the snake's cage, Nibbles II is beating up the python, punching it in the neck. Lisa walks over and puts Nibbles II back in his own cage. The python cowers and curls up in the corner.

LISA  
Wow. Nibbles II is really strong. I  
guess we don't have to worry about  
the little guy.

Lisa leaves the room, looking happy.

BART  
Milhouse, are you thinking what I'm  
thinking?

MILHOUSE  
That blind men shouldn't be allowed  
to cross busy streets in view of  
easily disturbed young boys?

BART  
(annoyed)  
You can just say no.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Homer and Moe are standing in front of the bar. Five rats are lined up in a row on the bar. The first one is wearing a bow tie. The first one Moe introduces is the one with a piece of his left ear missing.

MOE  
Homer, meet Ratrick Swaycheeze,  
John Stamouse, Ratty la Belle,  
Ratrine Zita Jones and Borat.

HOMER  
Those are funny.

MOE  
Yeah, I was kinda running out of  
steam towards the end there. Now  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MOE (cont'd)

come on. We've only got ten minutes to practice the routine because I spent the last six hours coming up with the names.

INT. MONTAGE OF CLIPS

The rats are performing a cheer leading routine on a table in the Android's Dungeon in front of a crowd of nerds. Homer and Moe are standing on each side of the table wearing sparkling tuxedos. The act goes well and the crowd cheers.

Cut to the Springfield Retirement Castle. The rats are performing a Charlie Chaplin like number for GRANDPA and the other residents.

Cut to a woman's bachelorette party. The rats are performing a sexy stripper number as the women scream. One of the girls faints. Homer and Moe high five.

INT. SIMPSON'S HALLWAY, EVENING

Homer is entering through the front door, whistling to himself and counting a large wad of money. He screams when he sees an annoyed Marge standing at the foot of the stairs in her night gown with her arms folded.

MARGE

Homer, have you been at a boozie floozie party?

HOMER

Relax Marge. There's a logical explanation. I was there with Moe and our quintet of highly intelligent circus rats.

MARGE

Homer, I'm becoming concerned you're spending more time with those rats than your family. Do you know what last night was?

HOMER

(worried)

Oww, was it your annibirthary again?

(CONTINUED)

MARGE

Family monopoly night. You missed it.

HOMER

Look Marge, you might not have faith in me, but I think this gig could really take me places. We've even been booked to perform on Krusty. Do you know how hard it is to get on Krusty? Last week their special guest star was Bumblebee Man. Therefore I've quit my job so I can dedicate myself full time to the circus.

MARGE

What?! You quit your job? But Mr. Burns said he'll only rehire you ten more times at the most. Please Homie, think about your family.

HOMER

I am thinking of my family, Marge. Twenty years from now I want Maggie to look up at me on that stage, covered in bite marks and rat droppings, and I want her to be able to say "That's my dad".

Homer walks upstairs. Marge sighs, disappointed.

INT. THE KRUSTY THE CLOWN SET

The taping of an episode is just beginning. All the kids are watching the stage as KRUSTY bursts out from behind the curtains.

KRUSTY

Hey, hey kids! I hope you've all had your tetanus shots, because we've got five disease infested rodents on the show today! Give it up for Homer and Moe's Ratastic Circus!

Krusty steps to one side to reveal the rats already on stage performing circus tricks such as riding a tiny unicycle, jumping through rings of fire and juggling. Bart and Milhouse are sitting at the top of the stands talking to JIMBO, DOLPH and KERNY.

(CONTINUED)

BART

So what do you say guys? Battle of the 2nd grade pets? Wanna bet on the python or the hamster?

KERNY

A small member of the Cricetinae family versus a black-headed Asian Pythonidae? I've seen enough Animal Planet to know that 'aint gonna end well.

Jimbo, Dolph and Kerny all hand Bart several notes of money. The rats finish their performance. Homer and Moe take a bow before wheeling their table off stage. A TV screen lowers down in their place and an episode of 'The Itchy & Scratchy Show' begins playing called 'Mame of Bones'.

EXT. MEDIEVAL CITY

A square, Scratchy is walking down a street in the lower city. Another cat that looks like him, only a lighter grey, walks up from the opposite direction.

GREY CAT

Scratchy?

SCRATCHY

My long lost brother? What are you doing here?

The two cats hug, both emotional.

SCRATCHY

I can't believe I've found you after all these years.

An elderly cat couple walk up behind them.

SCRATCHY

Mom? Dad? You're here too?

Several more cats begin to arrive, one by one, much to Scratchy's amazement and confusion.

SCRATCHY

Grandpa? Uncle? My cousin? My best friend? My third grade teacher? My pediatrician?

By now Scratchy is surrounded by about fifty people that he knows.

(CONTINUED)

SCRATCHY  
What's going on?

Suddenly a giant nuclear bomb falls down on the crowd and blows them all up.

Cut to a palace on the far side of town. Itchy, dressed like a princess with long blonde hair, is watching the effects of the explosion from a balcony. Blood and body parts begin to rain down around him.

INT. THE KRUSTY THE CLOWN SET

Homer and Moe are backstage. Moe has all five rats in his arms. He kisses them each on the head one by one.

MOE  
You guys are my bread and butter! I owe everything to you. Especially you Ratrick Swaycheeze. You're the star of the show.

HOMER  
Aww, is there anything more sacred than the bond between a man and his circus performing rats?

A middle-aged unshaven man, LARRY, wearing a tattered suit and carrying a briefcase approaches them from the shadows behind them. He's smiling forcefully.

LARRY  
Excuse me, my name's Larry Sparks. I'm a booking agent for Springfield Stadium. I saw your performance and thought it was just filled with pep and pizazz.

MOE  
Really? I mean, I always thought we had pizazz, but I never knew we had pep.

LARRY  
Listen, we're looking for up and coming acts to perform next week and I was wondering if you and your circus would be interested. We'll pay you handsomely.

Larry pats his suitcase, which falls open to reveal that it's empty except for a single apple core. Larry quickly closes the suitcase back up.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY (CONT.)

So what do you say? If this goes well, we could even offer you a nation wide tour.

MOE

Nation wide tour?! Homer, I think this is the big break we've been waiting for. We'll do it!

Larry pulls out a piece of paper.

LARRY

Just sign here.

Larry turns around while handing Moe the paper.

LARRY (CONT.)

Can you use my back? I had to sell my clipboard.

Moe takes out a pen and signs. He then hands it to Homer.

MOE

Here Homer. Just sign this and our boring mundane lives will change forever.

Homer takes the pen, but he looks unsure. A thought bubble appears to his right with Marge inside.

THOUGHT-BUBBLE MARGE

Please Homer, put your family first. Don't sign.

Moe walks into the thought bubble next to Marge and looks around.

THOUGHT-BUBBLE MOE

What is this? A thought bubble? You're having an internal conflict when you're supposed to be signing? Homer! Sign the damn contract!

The Moe in the thought bubble turns to the real Moe standing next to Homer.

THOUGHT-BUBBLE MOE (CONT.)

Hey.

MOE

Hey.

The thought bubble disappears. Homer reluctantly signs the contract. Cut to the rats, who have tied up MR. TEENY, gagged him, and are slapping him in the face.

INT. SIMPSON'S KITCHEN

Marge is preparing dinner while Bart, Lisa and Maggie are sat at the table. Bart is counting all the money he's made from taking bets. He quickly hides it when Homer walks in.

HOMER

Family, I have an announcement. I'm going on tour with Moe and the rat circus to spread wonder and joy across America.

MARGE

What?! I can't believe you're being so selfish.

HOMER

Marge, this has been my dream for almost five whole days now and I've dedicated over four and half hours to it. Don't you dare ruin this for me.

Moe walks in with all five rats in his arms.

MOE

Hey Homer, your driveway was full so I parked in your neighbor's backyard. I hope that's okay.

FLANDERS

(off screen)

My rosebush!

Moe places the rats down on the dinner table which spread out around the kitchen. Marge pulls herself up onto the worktop and shrieks while Lisa backs away into the corner.

MARGE

Get those filthy vermin off the dinner table!

MOE

Hey, they have feelings too you know Midge.

One of the rats is sitting next to Maggie in her highchair. She gives it her pacifier and it starts sucking.

(CONTINUED)

HOMER

Marge, I know you don't support me,  
but think how great this will be  
for the kids. They'll be able to  
boast about having a famous  
celebrity dad.

BART

Hey, all you have to do is gain ten  
more pounds and then the Learning  
Channel will give you your own TV  
show.

The rat next to Bart starts laughing at Homer.

HOMER

Why you Stuart Little-

Homer goes to strangle the rat while Bart runs away. Moe  
quickly puts his hand on Homer's shoulder and stops him.

MOE

Homer, no strangling the rats.

HOMER

Sorry.

MARGE

Homer, we can discuss this later,  
but for now can you please take the  
rats out of the kitchen?

HOMER

Pfft! You're overreacting. Rats  
have no more diseases than roaches  
or those little parasites that swim  
up your urethra.

LISA

Dad, I love all animals, even the  
disgusting ones, but only if they  
keep at least 500 feet away from  
me.

MOE

Fine. Come on guys. Let's talk in  
the living room.

Homer and Moe begin collecting up the rats, but then realize  
there are only four.

(CONTINUED)

MOE (CONT.)

Wait, where's Ratrick Swaycheeze?

Homer and Moe run into the living room just in time to see Santa's Little Helper standing there with Ratrick Swaycheeze's tail hanging out of his mouth. They recoil in horror as SLH sucks it up like spaghetti and swallows. Homer and Moe stand there with their jaws hanging open in shock.

HOMER

Uhm... Maybe it was a different rat?

SLH coughs up Ratrick Swaycheeze's bowtie.

MOE

Nope.

ACT III - INT. SIMPSON'S LIVING ROOM

Homer and Moe are staring in horror at SLH as he happily pants and scratches himself while sitting on the rug. Moe runs over and grabs SLH's mouth, pulling it open.

MOE

Oh my God! Ratrick Swaycheeze! You ate our lead performer!

SLH licks Moe's face and pants excitedly.

HOMER

Maybe we should wait eighteen hours for him to come out the other end?

MOE

He's not gonna look the same coming out as he did going in.

HOMER

Come on Moe. Maybe this is a good thing.

Moe angrily turns to Homer and stands up.

MOE

What?! How is this, in any way, a good thing?

HOMER

Well traveling around the country with a circus of rats sounds cool and all, but Marge doesn't want me

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOMER (cont'd)  
to go. Plus there's my kids, the  
TV, the golf clubs in the attic,  
and... err... Lenny! What about  
Lenny?!

MOE  
Believe me, I've thought of nothing  
but Lenny since this whole thing  
started. But there's no turning  
back. We're rat tamers now.

Moe takes the four remaining rats from Homer.

MOE (CONT.)  
Meet me at the bar in an hour.  
We're gonna work out a game plan.

Moe walks away. He exits the house and closes the front door  
behind him. His anger transitions to sorrow as he slumps  
against the door and crouches down. He begins to weep while  
clutching the other rats.

MOE  
Oh God! Ratrick Swaycheeze!

Lisa appears in the dining room window and watches him,  
empathy clearly on her face. We follow Lisa as she walks  
into the TV room to see Homer sitting on the couch staring  
at the floor looking depressed. Lisa looks sad, but she  
suddenly looks resolved and runs off.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

The kids are gathered around in a circle on the far side of  
the field. Jimbo, Kerny, Dolph, SHAUNA, NELSON and MARTIN  
are there.

JIMBO  
Alright! Time to watch a small fury  
animal get ripped into a bloody  
pulp!

Leans to his right and puts his arm around a disgruntled  
Shauna.

JIMBO (CONT.)  
And you say I never take you  
anywhere, babe.

Shauna rolls her eyes. Nelson is talking to Martin.

(CONTINUED)

NELSON

I know exactly what I'm gonna say  
to the hamster when it dies. "Ha,  
ha"!

MARTIN

(unimpressed)

Meh.

Nelson looks disappointed. We see Bart standing just outside  
the crowd holding the cage with the python inside.

BART

Heh, heh. Time to scam some chumps.

The snake looks up at Bart with worry and fear in his eyes.  
Bart walks out into the middle of the crowd.

BART (CONT.)

Alright everyone! Are you ready to  
see some action here today? Python  
vs. hamster!

Bart places the python's cage down on the ground.

BART (CONT.)

Milhouse, bring in Nibbles II!

Milhouse emerges through the crowd holding Nibbles II's  
cage, but he looks anxious.

BART (CONT.)

Place the combatant on the ground  
if you would, good sir. Let's get  
this show on the road!

MILHOUSE

Erm Bart, Nibbles II isn't here.

Bart looks over to see Milhouse holding an empty cage. He  
runs over and looks inside, nervous.

BART

No! No! No! He has to be!

DOLPH

Hey, what's the holdup?

Bart turns to the crowd as they begin to turn angry.

BART

Erm, I guess the snake already ate  
Nibbles II! Hahaha! Not my fault!  
No one to blame!

(CONTINUED)

KERNY

This stinks! You lied to us,  
Simpson!

MARTIN

We paid for blood!

JIMBO

And if it's not the hamster's, it's  
gonna be yours!

NELSON

Get him!

The crowd starts chasing Bart and Milhouse.

BART

Milhouse, create a diversion and  
sacrifice yourself for me!

JIMBO

You're dead, Simpson!

MILHOUSE

Wait, they're only after you.

Milhouse runs off in a different direction.

BART

D'oh!

The crowd continues to chase Bart as he runs off the  
playground.

Cut to the python, left behind on the field. He's picked up  
by Willie, who is wearing a kilt which he is holding up with  
one hand.

WILLIE

A perfect snake-skin belt for me  
kilt!

Willie walks away holding the nervous looking python. As  
Willie turns to walk away we see that his kilt is hanging  
low enough to expose half of his ass.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD STADIUM, BACKSTAGE

Homer and Moe are wearing tuxedos and preparing to go on  
stage with their four remaining rats. Moe is talking to the  
rats.

(CONTINUED)

MOE

Guys, this is our big night. Now I know it's gonna be hard out there without Ratrick Swaycheeze leading you, but I have total faith in you all.

HOMER

Moe, are you sure you wanna go out there? I mean who ever heard of a four-rat circus?

MOE

You're not backing out after we've come this far, are you Homer? After all the literal blood, sweat, tears and urine we've poured into this project?

HOMER

Yeah, but without our best rat what chance do we have?

MOE

Ratrick Swaycheeze's death is down to your dog. So the least you can do is get out on that stage with us. You might not believe in these little guys, but I do.

Moe turns to the steps leading up to the stage while holding the rats. Homer looks down. Lisa suddenly comes running up behind them holding something clasped in her hands.

LISA

Dad! Moe! Wait!

HOMER

Lisa? What are you doing here?

Moe stops and looks around.

LISA

I've been agonizing over what to do. I don't want you to leave Dad, but I know you're not feeling fulfilled. And Moe, I also understand the pain of losing a pet that was supposed to be in my care. So if this rat circus makes you both happy, then here.

Lisa hands Homer what she's holding. It's Nibbles II disguised as a rat.

(CONTINUED)

LISA (CONT.)

Hopefully this will be a good enough replacement for RatrickSwaycheeze. I know he's not technically a rat, but he's definitely more talented than your everyday hamster. Trust me.

Homer looks moved.

HOMER

Aww Lisa. I can't believe you did this.

Moe places the rats down and rushes over, snatching Nibbles II from Homer's hands, excitedly.

MOE

Oh, way to go, Lisa! Now we're sure to go down a storm! Hollywood here we come!

Moe begins heading towards the stage, but stops and turns back when he realizes Homer isn't following him.

MOE

Homer, what're you waiting for?

HOMER

Moe, I can't go out on that stage. I need to stay here in Springfield.

LISA

Dad, are you sure?

Homer kneels down and puts his hand on Lisa's shoulder.

HOMER

Of course. From now on you, Bart and Maggie are the only small creatures I care about.

Homer and Lisa hug.

MOE

Really? You're really gonna abandon me right at the last second?

HOMER

I'm sorry, Moe. I just don't think I can leave my family. Not even for rats.

(CONTINUED)

MOE

Why- I- You know what? Screw you!  
Some friend you turned out to be! I  
don't know why I even needed you in  
the first place! They're my rats  
and this is my show! I'm going out  
there and becoming a world-wide rat  
taming sensation on my own! Have a  
nice life!

Moe scoops up the rats and Nibbles II and marches out on stage while muttering angrily to himself. The stage lights hit him. The stadium is filled with people.

ANNOUNCER

And now, presenting, 'Homer and  
Moe's Ratastic Circus!'

Music plays. Moe places them all down. The rats start performing, but Nibbles II grabs one of the rats and starts beating it up. Moe panics as Nibbles II turns on each of the rats. The audience gasps, HELEN LOVEJOY faints.

RICH WOMAN

My word! This is the level of  
violence one expects to see in the  
cat circus.

MOE

Hey! Knock it off! Leave them  
alone!

Moe reaches down and tries to pull Nibbles II off the rats but accidentally rips the rat disguise of him. The crowd gasps. A woman covers her daughter's eyes.

MEL

That rat is a fraud!

The crowd starts booing and throwing things. Moe scoops up the rats and runs off-stage. Cuts to CHIEF WIGGUM standing next to LOU.

WIGGUM

Looks like the only rat on that  
stage was "Bernard Manchego" up  
there.

LOU

Uhh, 'Bernard Manchego'?

(CONTINUED)

WIGGUM

It's a play on the con-artist  
Bernard Madoff, the mastermind  
behind the Ponzi scheme that cost  
investors billions of dollars,  
combined with manchego, a cheese  
made from sheep's milk. Rats eat  
cheese. God Lou, don't ask me to  
explain my clever puns to you.

LOU

I don't ask you to explain the  
clever ones.

Wiggum gives Lou an angry glare.

INT. SIMPSON'S MASTER BEDROOM, NIGHT

Marge is lying on the bed in her night dress weeping. Homer  
slowly opens the door and peers inside. Marge sees him.

MARGE

What are you doing here? Come to  
get your stuff before jetting off  
around the world with your rat  
entourage?

HOMER

Erm, well actually, there's no jet,  
no entourage, no world, not even a  
the.

Homer walks in and sits down on the bed next to Marge.

HOMER

I've been a fool, Marge. You and  
kids mean everything to me.  
Therefore, I've decided to stay.

Homer runs his fingers along Marge's shoulder.

HOMER (CONT.)

We can start the make-up sex now if  
you like. I've only had ten beers.

Marge pulls away and folds her arms in anger.

MARGE

You really think it's that simple,  
huh?

(CONTINUED)

HOMER

Erm... How about this?

Homer runs out the room. He comes back a few seconds later carrying a bag.

HOMER (CONT.)

I had this custom made. I thought  
we could play it on our next family  
monopoly night.

Marge reaches into the bag and pulls out a board game called 'Margopoly', there's a picture of Marge on the box and 'Margopoly' is written on her hair. Marge is overjoyed.

MARGE

'Margopoly'? A monopoly game based  
entirely around me? It's just what  
every woman in the world wants!

Marge turns and kisses Homer.

HOMER

Heh, heh. Hasbro, once again you've  
saved my marriage.

Homer and Marge make out. They fall back on the bed and begin foreplay. It pans out from the Simpson house to the street, where Bart is still being chased by the angry mob.