

Action man and the Lost Kids

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Action man and the lost kids

Cast

Mum
Dad
Jim... Young Boy
Julie...His sister

Toys

Action Commander
Barbie Girl
Soldier 1
Soldier 2
Soldier 3
Teddy Bear
Broken Doll
Cowboy Doll
Gnome
Humpty Dumpty
Radio voice.
Sharon Everett

The time is the present. Children are lost in a world of computer and video games. All the traditional toys are neglected and lie unused and broken in the toy cupboard as the children find more sophisticated pastimes.

Julie and Jim are sitting on the sofa playing video games.

Jim
Ha got you! My game I think.

Julie
Eh? How do you work that out? I still have my Destructortron and he can blow you out of the sky.

Jim
No, I hit that with the invisible timed magnetic mine.

Julie

When?

Jim

When you were wasting all your energy on attacking the derelict starship.

Julie

Well, there is always my Infradestroyer!

Jim

DerNo that's gone. That was lost when I levelled my multiple sling shot depleted uranium tipped rockets right at the start.....you are at my mercy.

Julie

Oh I hate that; you always win.

Jim

(In a sci fiction type voice)

For we are the mighty destroyers. All girls will bow before the power of the superior male!

Julie

Get over yourself, for goodness sake. Sado!

Jim

(Still in sci fi voice)

You may complain all you like for we are immune to your noises. We will not sleep until the galaxy is returned to its rightful owners.

Julie

I am not playing any more.

Jim

Oh come on, it's only a bit of fun.

Julie

For you maybe.

Jim

One more go?Go on.

Julie

No, I have had enough. I am going upstairs on the PC.

Jim
Oh, Sims again.

Julie
Yeahso?

Jim
Oh whatever.....

(Exit Julie enter Mum)

Mum
What are you two squabbling about?

Jim
Oh just something and nothing.

Mum
Was it about that video game again?

Jim
No it wasn't

Mum
That's all it ever is with you two. I have a good mind to take that console to the car boot and you two can find other things to amuse yourselves.

Jim
Why? What harm do we do?

Mum
It just seems to me that you waste so much time.

Jim
Its not a waste of time we learn so much playing these games.

Mum
Hmmmmmm, I shall reserve judgement on that one. Anyway I want you to stop playing now. You need a bath tonight.

Jim
What...why?

Mum,
Did you have sport today?

Jim
Yes, what of it?

Mum
Well, think about it. You spend an hour running around a muddy field and then into a freezing cold shower at school and then come home. Hardly the strictest cleaning regime. Come on - switch that off; it's bath time for you.

Jim
Oh, give us five mins more.

Mum
Off ! Bath now, come on.

Jim
Oh, alright then.

(Mum sits down with her paper, Jim switches off his play station and gets up to leave the room)

Mum
And when you get upstairs tell your sister to have a bath after you please.

Jim
Yes, Mum.

(Jim Exits, mum sits there quietly reading the paper enter Dad)

Dad
Hi Trish sorry I'm late love.

Mum
Trouble again? Here sit down I'll make you a cuppa .

Dad
No don't go to any bother, a cup of tea won't help me right now.

Mum

Oh poor you. What's the matter love do you want to talk about it?

Dad

I might as well. I haven't got anything else on my mind, that's for sure.

Mum

What's the matter?

Dad

They are getting edgy, the men I mean, I think they'll come out.

Mum

What do they want?

Dad

They want at least six and a half percent pay increase, a week longer annual holidays, an hour and a half for lunch and more access to unions. Ha! And I am Laurence of Arabia.

Mum

No he was more handsome.

Dad

I'm sorry love, I don't feel like laughing. I can still see Stockton standing there mouth like a bucket demanding...ha....demanding this and that and threatening me. And what's worse - he knew I was scared and even worse than that... utterly powerless.

Mum

So, what have you said to them?

Dad

I told them we can't do that. If we were to give that kind of pay rise the price of the electric would rocket. I reckon that more than fifty percent of the community would not be able to pay their fuel bills and heaven knows they are struggling enough as it is.

Mum

So what's going to happen?

Dad

I don't know; I really don't. I just think that there are choppy waters ahead. I know for a fact that if the workers walk out there will be power cuts.

Mum

It will be like the Nineteen Seventies all over again, power cuts , three day weeks, factory closures; it was terrible.

Dad

Don't I know it? Bill Giles walked. He said something about no money in the world would ease his conscience, Ted Davies in accounts, he's going, it's hell down there at the moment and I think we'll loose. The lads have had no pay increase for the last two years it's a melting pot waiting to blow.

Mum

Well, let's see what the future holds.

Dad

A lot of dark houses I imagine! Where's the kids?

Mum

Julie is upstairs on the computer and Jim is in the bath, so I was just having a quiet five minutes with the paper.

Dad

You are so organised I'd be lost without you.

Mum,

Well I try.

Dad

(Yawns) I am done in. This is madness. I just got home from work and I am almost asleep in the chair. There must be more to life than this. I wish I could just give them the money and we could all carry on like before only without the stress.

Mum

It would be nice. Never mind - only three months until we go away .

Dad

There must be more, there has to be more than this. I go out of the house at six in the morning I come home at eight six days a week. On my day off I am so knackered that I sleep all day and Monday morning six O'clock off I go again. And for what eh? Why do I do this?

Mum

Oh come on you just feel it because you are tired at the moment. It pays our bills, it feeds our children, it clothes us and keeps us warm. There is no choice, love.

Dad

I know, but what sort of a world have we created eh?

Mum

A real one.

Dad

Yeah, I guess.

(Lights Down)

(Whilst the stage is dark a clock strikes Midnight..enter Teddy Bear. He is clearly amused to be in the living room and is looking around to find some mischief probably...after a while he is joined by the cowboy and the gnome and they start playing catch with a ball that is under the chair.....enter all the other toys in dribs and drabs and start to join in the game. Cowboy throws but Barbie fails to catch the ball)

Action Man

Miss Barbie, it seems like you need extra catching detail.

Barbie

There's nothing wrong with my catching. It was the way that the cowboy threw the ball.

Cowboy

Whoa there, little lady! It was nothing to do with my throw. I can lasso a steer from horseback at twenty five miles an hour, I can throw straighter than an arrow actually thank you!

Barbie.

Rubbish! I would have to be about thirteen foot to have caught that.

Teddy

Anyway, you lot stop this arguing and settle down! This meeting is important.

(Toys all sit down on the floor muttering things like...ok or Sorry etc etc.)

Cowboy

OK Teddy you got us all. What's on your mind?

Gnome

Yes come on what's going on here ? What do you want?

Humpty Dumpty

Yes, I have walls to fall off you know.

Soldier 1

We have detail too, we need to be practising our marching...what do you want?

Teddy

OK, OK settle down, settle down we are here for a reason , Barbie will you keep the minutes please?

Barbie

Will do.

Teddy

Right we are here because I don't know if you have noticed but Alice is in a terrible state. Alice will you give your story please?

Broken Doll

Yes, I was just lying on Julie's floor and she stood on me. I expected she might pick me up and cuddle me and say sorry but she just kicked me hard and I shot across the room and banged my head. My arm is broken now and my legs are hanging on by a thread.

Teddy

Exactly! Thank you Alice.

Soldier

So what are you saying, Ted?

Teddy

I think it's obvious these new toys, this play station thing, this computer thing... they don't want us any more, they are tired of us. We my friends are on the scrap heap. Look at my ear, look around you: Are we played with? Well toys, are we played with?

(All the toys say no slightly at different times as they think about what is being said.)

Teddy

Exactly...Gnomey you have a story for us yes? Go on tell the toys.....

Gnome *(Welsh or Irish accent)*

Well I used to sit pride of place on the Master's Pillow and now I have been demoted to a dusty space under the bed with all the fluff and dust and my allergies are playing havoc...*(sneezes)*

Teddy

Anyone else noticed anything?

Soldier 2

We were on exercise in his room the other day and he just stamped on us. There was multi collateral damage and did he pick us up?

Soldier 3

No he did not we just lay there our army destroyed and he sat down at that computer of his and ignored us.

Teddy

That, toys, is why we are here. We have slipped from favour. We are redundant, we are unemployed! And now the question is, what are we going to do about it?

Barbie

(Raises her hand)

Teddy

Yes Barbie?

Barbie

What does take the minutes mean?

Teddy

I don't really know it's what people say at the start of meetings. I think it's something to do with writing stuff down.

Barbie

What stuff?

Teddy

I don't know, never mind all that right now. Let's plan what we can do about it.

Action Man

Well, we can't speak to the Master and Mistress, they are too busy.

Teddy

It's not just that though is it? Have you forgotten the toy code?

Gnome

The toy code is that we must never ever speak to the Human Animals; if we do we will break every single toy rule, ever.

Teddy

Absolutely, you are spot on, the Toy code. So toys think over the next day or so wherever you are, under the bed, in the cupboard..

Soldier 3

In the toy box.

Teddy

Yes thank you Marine...in the toy box, wherever you are think long and hard about what we might do and we will meet tomorrow. Now back to your stations, together we will draw up our plan.

(The lights fade)

(It is the next day and Jim and Julie are again on their play station)

Jim

Ha got you again....

Julie

You cheat I am sure of it.

Jim
No just better...

Julie
Says who?

Jim
You can't argue with results I just keep winning and there's nothing you can do to stop me.

Julie
So Starship leader what now?

Jim
Play again?

Julie
No, hey let's get the dance mat out and have a go on that. You know I will win.

Jim
I beg your pardon. Did Winston Churchill say, "Hang on Hitler I will beat you in a moment but right now I am on the dance mat?" Did George Bush say to Saddam Hussein, "I know you have weapons of mass destruction but I am just learning the samba on the dance mat"? No, he didn't.

Julie
And your point is?

Jim
I am a world leader I have destroyed your space Bug and Atmosphere breaker, I don't have time for dance mats!

Julie
Chicken.

Jim
I am not a chicken..

Julie
Well I'll set up the dance mat then shall I? You know you'll loose.

Jim

Go on then, one go.

(Lights fade....later it is evening Mum and Dad are sitting talking)

Dad

So that's it. They're out on strike.

Mum

Well what will happen next, I mean just how safe is your job?

Dad

I've no idea. The lads walked out at eleven this morning and we just don't know what to do. I think it will take the government to sort it out.

Mum

Here let's put the radio on.

(Mum gets up and crosses to the radio and switches it on the following radio pieces will be on tape.)

Radio voice

And now we cross over to Dentonley B. Power Plant where our reporter Sharon Everett is waiting. Sharon?

Sharon

Thanks for that, well things are looking fairly grim down here at the moment. The entire workforce has walked out, the plant is in shutdown and the Union leaders are talking with other power stations and they too are now discussing closures and strike action. Negotiations between management and Union leaders have broken down entirely and there seems to be deadlock ahead. Whether this action will finish the power station off is not yet known but that is a long way down the road at the moment. Cyril Anderson the plant manager claims that within twelve hours of the walkout the plant will stop producing electricity. It's obvious to everyone that if this action spreads this country will lose its power supply and the implications of that are desperately unthinkable. We will keep you updated as soon as we get any news at all.

Mum

Oh dear...no electric. That will please the green voters.

Dad

All well and good but it won't please the rest of the country that's for sure. Have you ever thought just how much we need the power. These workers have got us by the shorts.

Mum

Well why can't you just pay them?

Dad

If we did right, a fifty pound bill would have to rise to a hundred and seventy five pounds to cover the wage demand. Can you see the country going for that? We are between the rock and a hard place. There is very little we can do...

Mum

What about appealing to their better nature?

Dad

Ha...that's like falling into a Lion's den and asking the meanest, ugliest, hungriest Lion not to eat you. Ain't going to happen; no, we are in this for the long haul.

Mum

Life without electricity, what on earth will it be like?

Dad

Well I don't know, bleak is all I can imagine.

Mum

Supposing they can't reach a settlement at all ever?

Dad

Well they'd bring the army in to run the power station. We can't be without power, our country will grind to a very damaging halt.

Mum

It doesn't do to think about it really doesn't,

Dad

I know I agree.

(Lights fade..when they come back up the toy soldiers are doing their marching drill led by Action man)

Action

(Facing his 3 soldiers who are all standing to attention.)

Right men on my word you will all turn left march to the left and wait until I tell you otherwise is that clear?

All soldiers

Yes sir clear sir.

Action

By the left quick march...left right left right.....eyes front men keep marching.

(Almost singing)

I don't know but I was told.

All soldiers

I don't know but I was told,

Action

Jimmy's heart is dead and cold.

All soldiers

Jimmy's heart is dead and cold.

Action

He don't want us anymore.

All soldiers

He don't want us any more.

Action

Leaves us lying on the floor

All soldiers

Leaves us lying on the floor.

Action

Hup, two three four.

All soldiers

Hup twothree four!

(By which time they will have marched there and back and will be in original positions)

Action

Halt....Ten Shun. *(Pause to look at his men)* At ease men.

(Enter Teddy Bear)

Teddy,

Ah, Action Man how are you and your men today?

Action man

We are well sir and ready to do whatever your meeting decides it is that we should do.

Teddy Bear

Good Man the others will be here in a minute lets just hang fire until they get here and we will discuss our situation.

Action

(ALMOST SHOUTING) Sir yes Sir. Men..... F.....A.....L.....L.....
O....U....T....

(The soldiers sit themselves down and the rest of the toys come in.)

Teddy

Order, order. All settled? Good thank you. Now gang, I have called this meeting to tell you that there has been certain changes. Gnomey, who is an excellent spy, has something to report.

Gnome

Yes Teddy I have. It's like this. I was sat on the armchair the other day having been dragged there by Rex the dog, I noticed that Jim and Julie were actually sitting chatting. The Play-station wasn't on and they were just having a conversation.

Broken Doll

What did they say?

Gnome

Well nothing special, really but it was just odd. The television was off and they were sitting there just talking.

Barbie

Is the play station broken?

Action man

No because I heard it this morning before they left the house for school.

Barbie

So what's going on then, eh?