MUZZLES THE MANATEE

"Haunted Toothpaste"

by

Craig Weeden

Based on characters from Mia's Gift: A Muzzles the Manatee Story

by

Victoria & Craig Weeden

Runner-Up - Children's Books - 2009 Hollywood Book Festival

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MUZZLES THE MANATEE

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD ON FLORIDA KEY - DAY - ANIMATION - THEME OVER

MIA and CLARK race along on their BIKES. Zig! Zag! Around palm trees... mailboxes... a goofy-looking EGRET...

CLARK

Do you think Muzzles will remember to meet us?

MTA

I sure hope so. I can't wait to go back to Manatee Manor. It's so much fun!

EXT. SMALL BRIDGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS - ANIMATION

The Kids zip over the bridge, which spans the inlet where Muzzles was trapped.

EXT. OLD WOODEN DOCK - DAY - CONTINUOUS - ANIMATION

Mia and Clark hit the brakes. SKIRSH! Slide in the sand. Chain their bikes to a post at the end of the dock.

They run down the dock. Jump in Clark's SKIFF. Put on their LIFE JACKETS. Until the boat. BRIIPPP! Clark starts the small motor. Heads toward deep water.

EXT. BAY - CLARK'S SKIFF - CONTINUOUS - ANIMATION

Motor off. Drifting. Mia and Clark look anxious. Where is Muzzles?

MIA

Muz-zles! Where are you?

CLARK

(overlapping)

Muz-zles! Muz-zles!

Suddenly... SPLASH!

MUZZLES' HEAD

pops out of the water not far from the skiff. Muzzles WAVES!

MUZZLES

(shouting)

Hey Kids! Here I am! It's time for fun! Time to go to Manatee Manor! Are you ready?

MIA AND CLARK

(overlapping)

Oh, yes! Yes! Let's go! We're ready! Manatee Manor here we come!

MUZZLES

Hang on tight! I'm spinning up the magic bubble!

Muzzles waves her flipper in a circle. Again and again. And a MAGIC BUBBLE forms... envelops the skiff... lifts the boat and the Kids... floats high in the air... over the beach... through clouds...

The Egret flies by, waves hello. Then a PELICAN. Then the Kids spot Muzzles... who's parasailing!

MUZZLES

I'll be waiting for you!

Muzzles zooms off. The BUBBLE sinks slowly down ...

INT. BAY - MAGIC BUBBLE - CONTINUOUS - ANIMATION

...under the water, where the Magic Bubble takes the Kids past a vast array of exotic tropical fish, crabs, eels, discarded trash, etc. All of these characters are singing and dancing to the "Magic Bubble Ride."

Suddenly SOMETHING LOOMS in the distance. Closer, we see it's a cross between a castle and a Victorian house with huge porches. And it's made out of seashells!

Elegant JELLYFISH undulate in front of the building. Their tentacles form letters that read: MANATEE MANOR. The letters sparkle and flash: MANATEE MANOR. MANATEE MANOR.

INT. MANATEE MANOR - DAY - ACTORS AND PUPPETS ON SET

BALLOONS and STREAMERS everywhere! OSWALD, on his stepladder, finishes hanging a SIGN: HAPPY BIRTHDAY WENDY!

Oswald climbs down his ladder. His VELCRO TOOL SUIT is dotted with rolls of tape, a stapler, odd gadgets, the last of the decorations. MUZZLES rushes over.

MUZZLES

Thank you, Oswald. It looks great! Perfect!

(looks around, worried)
I hope everything's ready before
Wendy gets here.

NEXT TO PEARL

MIA and CLARK frantically blow up balloons, tie them to FOUR SMALL CHAIRS, which are in a semi-circle facing Pearl.

MIA

Don't worry, Muzzles. We're almost done!

Struggling to blow up a last balloon, CLARK'S FACE seems ready to explode. Cheeks puff. Eyes bulge. But the balloon won't inflate! Suddenly Clark sprawls into a chair. Whipped.

MIA

I'd say Clark's totally done. Done in!

Muzzles

How you doing, Chef Louis?

IN THE KITCHEN

CHEF LOUIS, his chef's hat draped with streamers, jams unpeeled ORANGES, APPLES, BANANAS into an OVERLOADED BLENDER.

CHEF LOUIS

(French accent a la Inspector Clouseau)

Always zee best! What a chef am I. Another superb creation. A festival of taste for your tongue! A symphony of color for your eyes! A celebration of--

MUZZLES

Chef Louis!

CHEF LOUIS

What ees eet?

Muzzles GLARES at Chef Louis.

CHEF LOUIS

Oh. Well. You want zee truth? I am not quite ready. This wonderful punch, it needs one last thing... a final delicate touch.

Chef Louis grabs a GIANT WOODEN SPOON... eyes the BLENDER...

CHEF LOUIS

HAAARRGGHHHH!

... ATTACKS the FRUIT like a crazed lumberjack!

MUZZLES

I'm sure it'll be... delicious?
 (to his friends)
Thank you, everybody. Thank you all
for helping. This will be the best
surprise party ever.

MINE-Y swims into FRAME.

MINE-Y

I wish it was my birthday. (looks around)

But I don't think you have enough presents. Not for me. Nope. No way.

PEARL

You be nice, Mine-y. Don't be so selfish. Think of someone else for a change.

Mine-y scowls, swims off.

MINE-Y

Think of someone else! What fun is that?

Mia and Clark LAUGH like crazy as they carry a MIRROR DISCO BALL over to where Oswald climbs up his stepladder. The Kids lift the mirror ball while Oswald ATTACHES it to the ceiling.

CLARK

Do I really have to dance? Me? In front of people? With music? It could be dangerous!

MTA

Try not to flap your elbows!

Suddenly from the kitchen: WHOMPA! WHOMPA! WHOMPA! It sounds like a pile of puppies rolling around in a cardboard box.

CHEF LOUIS (O.S.)

(screams)

Hep! Hep! I need zee hep!

CLARK

Hep? What's a hep?

Everyone circles around Clark for a serious discussion. No one looks at Chef Louis.

EVERYONE

(overlapping)

A hep? I'm not sure. Anyone got a hep? Is it like a step? Should we ask Shelly? Something to cook with?

WHOMPA! WHOMPA!

CHEF LOUIS (O.S.)

(losing it)

HEP ME! Right now! S'il vous plait!

NOW everyone looks over...

ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER TOP

The BLENDER'S GONE WILD! It's devouring the streamers from Chef Louis' hat! Throwing him back and forth!

MUZZLES

Hep! Now I get it. Chef Louis
doesn't mean hep. He means... HELP!

Everyone rushes over! Mia gets there first, pulls out the electric cord. The blender stops. A disheveled Chef Louis tries to regain some dignity as he straightens his hat... which is totally shredded! The strands flop like wet noodles.

OSWALD

Chef Louis! What were you doing?

CHEF LOUIS

Working on a new recipe for zee party. Hmmm. Zere is something very strange about a fruit punch that packs so much punch...

MIA

Maybe it's a secret ingredient!

EVERYONE

(shouting)

A SECRET INGREDIENT!

CHEF LOUIS

Mais oui. Right. That's eet. Zee secret ingredient. I can never tell you what eet is. Because if I did, it would no longer be a secret.

EVERYONE

(overlapping)

Aw, please. Please tell us. Please.

Chef Louis shakes his head, and his hat's noodle-strands flap like windshield wipers (in time with his words) as he says:

CHEF LOUIS

No. No. I can never tell you my secret. Never!

OSWAT₁D

I have a secret, Chef Louis.

CHEF LOUIS

What? Pour moi? For me? Tell me, Oswald, what ees your secret?

Oswald picks up the blender, pulls out some STREAMERS and BITS OF HAT. Oswald moves up close to Chef Louis.

OSWALD

(stage whisper)

You should always be careful when using any kitchen appliance. Especially ones like this blender. Don't let your fingers... or anything you're wearing... get too close.

CHEF LOUIS

(flapping his strands)
Oh. No. I would never get too
close. Something terrible could
happen. Just think how it would
look if I ruined my hat.

CLOSE ON - Chef Louis' HAT - Which is totally shredded! Chef Louis flaps his noodle-strands.

OSWALD

(holding the blender)
So you're always careful?

CHEF LOUIS

All zee time!

OSWALD

(dangles a SHREDDED STREAMER)

Then what's this?

CHEF LOUIS

My secret ingredient?

Muzzles circles the room, primping the decorations.

MUZZLES

Is there anything else we need to do? Are we all ready? Wendy could be here any minute. Do you see her, Mr. Blink?

MR. BLINK'S EYE opens.

ON HIS EYE - FILM of a coral reef. Exotic fish. No Wendy.

MR. BLINK

I think we've got plenty of time. I don't see Wendy anywhere.

SHELLY

Maybe I can find her.

SHELLY the computer reaches up and - CLICKITY CLICK - types on her keyboard.

SHELLY

(computer voice)

Running locator utility. Find Wendy the Story Lady.

ON SHELLY'S SCREEN - SWIRLS OF COLOR - In soft oozy shapes, like a lava lamp. The swirls converge and become the FACE OF WENDY THE STORY LADY.

SHELLY

(computer voice)

Wendy the Story Lady has been delayed due to writer's block. This is a temporary condition. She should be here soon.

MIA

Maybe we've got time to practice Wendy's birthday song! What do you say, Rock Stars?

ON THE LEDGE

The ROCK STARS jerk to life, as though they've been abruptly awakened from a dream. GINGER picks up his sticks, SMASHES the drums. CRASHES the cymbals.

ERIC plugs in his GUITAR, turns a button on his amp. A SCREECHING, EAR-PIERCING WAIL!

ERIC

Oops. Sorry. Feedback.

MICK dances over to the MIKE. He squints. The stage lights are right in his eyes... Way too bright! He tries to focus.

MICK

Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Atlantis!

EVERYONE

(shouting)

ATLANTIS? This isn't Atlantis!

MICK

(confused)

Thank you... Cleveland? Or ...

(beat)

One. Two. Three. Four!

The Rock Stars break into "Wendy's Birthday Song."

INTERCUT - ROCK STARS SINGING / EVERYONE DANCING These are some incredibly LOOSEY-GOOSEY SILLY DANCES. Chef Louis knocks stuff over in the kitchen. Shelly arm-dances.

ROCK STARS

(singing)

It's your birthday, Wendy. Hurray for you!
It's your birthday, Wendy. How old are you?
We're glad you came.
We hope you have fun.
In the world of friends
You're number one!
So let's dance.
Da boom boom da da.
Da boom boom dum.
Dance on.

(MORE)

ROCK STARS (cont'd)

Da boom boom da da.

Da boom boom dum.

Throw up your hands.

Do the birthday dance.

Dance on.

Do Wendy's birthday dance.

Dance on.

Do Wendy's birthday dance.

Dance on.

CLOSE ON - WENDY THE STORY LADY (who we recognize from Shelly's screen) as she slips into the room. She's carrying a HUGE BOOK. It's about half as big as Wendy.

Wendy leans the BOOK against Pearl then WENDY JOINS THE DANCING. Her moves are enthusiastic but strange. Think Carol Kane in SCROOGED.

ROCK STARS

(singing)

Da boom boom da da.

Da boom boom dum.

Dance on.

Da boom boom da da.

Da boom boom dum.

It's your birthday, Wendy.

Happy birthday to you...

APPLAUSE! CHEERS! Lots of hugs. Mia and Clark hold back.

WENDY

Thank you all so very much. Thank you! Thank you! This is such a surprise!

MUZZLES

Happy birthday, Wendy! It's great to see you. And I want you to meet our new friends, Mia and Clark.

(to Mia and Clark)

This is Wendy the Story Lady. She reads us the very best stories.

MIA AND CLARK

(shaking hands)

Hello. Nice to meet you. I can't wait to hear one of your stories.

WENDY

(looks around)

Everything looks so beautiful! It makes me happy. Did you decorate it yourself... or was it magic?!

MUZZLES

Oh, Wendy! I'm glad you like it. But it wasn't magic. We <u>all</u> helped!

OVER BY PEARL

Mine-y shakes his head. Looks disgusted as Wendy checks out the decorations.

MINE-Y

Not me! I didn't help. It was too much like work. Hold this streamer. Blow up that balloon. Why would I ever want to help?

PEARL

(overhearing)

Because helping your friends makes you feel good.

MINE-Y

Eehhhhh. Feel good! Who needs it?

LAUGHTER rings out from the other side of Manatee Manor.

MINE-Y

All this laughing... It gives me a headache.

PEARL

Mine-y, you are the crankiest puffer fish in the whole ocean.

MINE-Y

At least I'm best at something.

Mine-y sulks away. Inflating and deflating. A mini-tantrum.

BACK ON MUZZLES AND THE GANG

MUZZLES

(to Mia and Clark)

When Wendy reads to us, it's so much fun!

OSWALD

Sometimes her stories are scary.

GASPS! Everyone looks frightened!

CHEF LOUIS

Sometimes zee chef ees zee hero!

Chef Louis does his hero strut, while everyone seems significantly impressed. SIGHS!

MR. BLINK

Sometimes I don't dare look!

Mr. Blink closes his eye. Shudders.

MIA

I can't wait to get started! Please read to us, Wendy.

CLARK

We already set up the chairs!

They all run over to Pearl. Wendy sits on Pearl. The others plop down on the small chairs.

Wendy picks up her BOOK. Opens the cover... looks in... turns some pages... then frantic, turns more pages... more pages... then suddenly FROWNS!

WENDY

Oh! NO!

Wendy SLAMS the cover shut! Looks SHOCKED. Everyone GASPS!

MUZZLES

Wendy, what's wrong?

WENDY

I was having such a good time I totally forgot!

MUZZLES

Forgot what?

MIA

Please, tell us! What did you forget?

Wendy jumps up, does a pull-my-hair, this-is-terrible, how-could-this-happen, WEIRD GROAN stomp! Suddenly she stops.

WENDY

I forgot something very important. And it's the worst thing that could ever happen to a story lady!

EVERYONE

(overlapping)

The worst thing! Very important! Please tell us, Wendy! What is it?

It's awful. I'm so unhappy!

Wendy twirls and twists. She's falling apart!

PEARL

Wendy! Wendy! You listen to me, girl. Nothing is ever as bad as it seems. Sit down here. Sit down and calm down.

Wendy sits, SIGHS. Pearl puts her arms around Wendy.

PEARL

Now you tell us what's wrong, Wendy. What did you forget? Don't be afraid.

Wendy picks up her BOOK. Opens the cover. Peeks in. SLAMS it!

WENDY

At first I thought it was a small, minor, insignificant, barely noticeable, itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny, hardly worth mentioning, miniscule, tiny, gotta-squit-to-even-see-it, little bitty problem.

Everyone GASPS!

EVERYONE

A TINY PROBLEM!

MUZZLES

Tell us, Wendy! What problem?! How tiny is it?

WENDY

Well... actually... not so tiny.

EVERYONE

Not so tiny?

WENDY

You see, I thought about it. Thought and thought. And then I realized my problem wasn't tiny at all. Oh, no. Not tiny. Not my problem. What I had... what I had was a huge problem.

EVERYONE

A HUGE PROBLEM!

Way huge. Giant. Super colossal. Bigger than big. So big it's the worst thing that could happen to a story lady. The worst thing ever.

EVERYONE

The worst thing that could ever happen to a story lady?

MUZZLES

Tell us, Wendy! What did you forget? What's your problem?

Everyone inches closer. Wendy collects herself.

WENDY

I've lost my words!

EVERYONE

YOU'VE LOST YOUR WORDS!

WENDY

Actually, I've only lost some of my words, but they're very important words. And without them, we'll never know how my story ends.

MOANS and GRUMBLES.

WENDY

(sighs)

I may never be able to read to you again.

GASPS! MOANS! This is awful!

CLARK

There must be some way we can help!

MUZZLES

Yes! That's it! We'll find a way to help. Now think hard, everybody. Think real hard. How can we find the lost words?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MANATEE MANOR - NEXT TO PEARL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Everyone's quiet, squirming, thinking hard... disappointment on their faces. Obviously, no one's figured out how to find the missing words. Muzzles jumps up!

MUZZLES

Thinking hard is giving me a headache. Is my head swollen?

RIP! Oswald pulls a TAPE MEASURE off his Velcro tool suit. Runs up to Muzzles. Slides the tape in and out.

OSWALD

Do I measure ear to ear? Or forehead to chin?

MUZZLES

What are you doing?

OSWALD

Measuring your swollen head. Boy, is it big!

Muzzles looks confused, puts her flippers on her head, testing it for size. Suddenly she looks hurt.

OSWALD

Just teasing!

Muzzles beams, relieved. Oswald SMACKS his tape against his tool suit. It sticks.

MUZZLES

Have you heard anything, Mr. Blink? Did anyone outside find any missing words?

ON MR. BLINK'S EYE - FILM and/or ANIMATION - VARIOUS SEA CREATURES swim up. Among others, a sea turtle, a hammerhead shark, a sea horse shake their heads, give the bad news:

VARIOUS SEA CREATURES
No words anywhere. / Nothing. / I
went as far as the sunken pirate
ship. / I checked the entire reef.
/ Words? I didn't even find a
letter. Not a single one.

MUZZLES

Did you find any married ones?

Everyone rolls their eyes. MOANS.

WENDY

Please. No jokes. This is serious.

MUZZLES

I'm sorry. I guess I'm just nervous. I know we have to find the missing words...

WENDY

If we don't, storytime is over. Forever.

EVERYONE

No more storytime? Oh, no!

MR. BLINK

Maybe Shelly can help us?

ON SHELLY

SHELLY

(computer voice)

Affirmative. I can help. I have located millions of words. I will start in English. These are some of my favorites: xylophone. Roquefort. Bacteria. Pickle.

CHEERS! Everyone jumps up! Dances of joy!

EVERYONE

(overlapping)

Yea! We've found words. Tons of words. Way to go, Shelly!

Problem solved. Except WENDY LOOKS SADDER THAN EVER. She shakes her head. Mia rushes over.

MIA

Wendy, what's wrong?

WENDY

Shelly found some great words, but they're not quite right. You see, the words have to make sense in the story. Or else everyone will be confused. And what kind of story lady gets everyone confused? SIGHS. Everyone's bummed. No one knows what to do. SILENCE. Suddenly...

PEARL (O.S.)

(booms)

Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Don't you give up. You're not quitters. Come on over here. All of you!

NEXT TO PEARL

Everyone runs over. Chef Louis sidles up. The Rock Stars put down their instruments. Even Mine-y pays attention.

PEARL

One thing old Pearl knows for sure is that you folks here at Manatee Manor are all intelligent. And I bet that if Wendy reads her story, and she stops whenever a word is missing... I bet that--

MTA

We could add our own word!

CLARK

One that makes sense!

CHEF LOUIS

Like adding a secret ingredient!

ROCK STARS

Like writing a song!

OSWALD

Like fixing a broken lamp!

MUZZLES

Like playing a game! A story game! This is gonna be fun!

PEARL

You've got it! A story game!

LIGHTS FLASH. MIRROR BALL SPINS. Game show MUSIC OVER.

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Creatures and people! Mammals and fish! Ladies and gentlemen... Welcome to Let's Find the Word! The show where we make up the words that make the story make sense. Are you ready to play?

Well, I'm not sure...

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Of course you are!

CHEERS!

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Now, everyone, get comfortable. Sit in your thinking chairs... Put on your thinking caps...

Everyone sits, puts on SILLY CAPS. Even Mine-y. Wendy picks up her BOOK and sits on Pearl.

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Remember, don't be shy! Let your imaginations soar! And... LET'S FIND THE WORD!

WENDY

opens her book, fidgets, seems unsure. But then... why not give it a shot? KA-HMM! She clears her throat. Shudders. A strange look comes to her eyes... She might be channeling.

WENDY

Today's story is called <u>The Tale of the Haunted Toothpaste</u>.

GASPS!

EVERYONE

(whispers)

Haunted toothpaste!

WENDY

(reads)

Long, long ago... in a bathroom far, far away... there lived a family of toothbrushes. Mama and Papa Toothbrush. And their three children: Handle, Bristle and Baby Frank.

Now the Toothbrushes lived very happy lives. They spent most of each day hanging out on their shelf, which sometimes had a water view.

Wendy looks at her audience. They're enthralled.

What can this mean? Sometimes had a water view?

MIA

Well, if they're toothbrushes... and they live in a bathroom... then whenever anyone uses the sink--

EVERYONE

They'd have a water view!

WENDY

That's great! That's how you use your imagination!

MINE-Y

Or when anyone used the toilet! Then you'd have a nasty water view! Hee! Hee! Nasty view!

WENDY

Oh, Mine-y! That's not nice at all. You be good, or you'll have to wait outside. OK? Good. Now let's get back to the story.

(reads)

Of course, three times a day, almost every day, a giant would come into the bathroom and pick up one of the Toothbrushes. Then the giant would pick up a huge tube of...

Wendy GASPS! She looks at the Muzzles gang. Holds up her book. Points... and we see that \underline{A} WORD \underline{IS} MISSING!

LIGHTS FLASH. MIRROR BALL SPINS. Game show MUSIC OVER.

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's time to play... the word game! So buckle up your thinking caps! Set your brains on fast forward and... LET'S FIND THE WORD!

OSWALD

(at the top of his lungs)

GLUE!

(rips a tube of glue off
his tool suit)

The giant would pick up a huge tube of glue!

MUZZLES

That can't be right! No one brushes their teeth with glue.

CLARK

Your lips would stick!

Clark makes a LIPS-STUCK FACE.

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.) That's right! Glue is wrong! Remember the rules, everyone. You've got to make up the words that make the story make sense.

WENDY

Come on, everyone. Try again. A giant tube of...

EVERYONE

(shouting, overlapping)
Cheese-Whiz! Shampoo! Shoe polish!
Hair cream! Axel grease! Toe jam!

CHEF LOUIS

A tube of frosting! For decorating zee bathroom curtains!

MIA AND CLARK

No. No. No. The word that makes sense is toothpaste!

EVERYONE

Yes. Toothpaste. That's it!

WENDY

Wonderful. You found the word. Toothpaste is perfect. Now let's get back to the story.

(reads)

Then the giant would pick up a huge tube of toothpaste, and squeeze it all over one of the Toothbrushes. But then one day something strange happened. Something very strange. When the giant squeezed the toothpaste, the Toothbrushes all heard a tiny, wobbly, scary voice and it said, "Oooo! Oooo!"

Everyone leans closer.

(reads)

This frightened the Toothbrushes because they all knew what a scary "Oooo! Oooo!" meant. A scary "Oooo! Oooo!" meant the toothpaste was haunted. It meant the inside of the tube was filled with...

Wendy points at her book. A WORD IS MISSING.

LIGHTS FLASH. MIRROR BALL SPINS. Game show MUSIC OVER.

GAME SHOW ANNOUNCER (V.O.) It's time to play... the word game! So buckle up your thinking caps! Set your brains on fast forward and... LET'S FIND THE WORD!

EVERYONE

(shouting, overlapping)
Ants! Fleas! Scary little spiders!
Aliens! Tiny robots! Teeny weeny
elves!

WENDY

No. No. It's gotta make sense!

MUZZLES

Ghosts! Ghosts go "Oooo! Oooo!" And they can hide inside a tube of toothpaste. Ghosts can hide wherever they want.

WENDY

Perfect. Ghosts makes sense. Let's read some more!

(reads)

Late that night, when the bathroom was very, very dark, the Toothbrushes heard a mysterious POP! And even though they were as scared as could be, they looked over the edge of their shelf, looked down on the counter top, looked and saw the top of the toothpaste tube was open! OHH! Now the Toothbrushes were so scared the ghosts would escape they ran to the far edge of their shelf!

Everyone scooches their chairs in one direction, as though to the far end of the shelf.

(reads)

Everyone ran away except Baby Frank, who crawled to the edge and saw toothpaste oozing out of the tube. But the toothpaste didn't turn into white ghost-shaped blobs. It turned into a tiny little man in a funny blue uniform. "Who are you?" Baby Frank asked. "You don't look like a ghost." "I'm the Cavity Cop," the man said.

EVERYONE

What's a Cavity Cop?

WENDY

(reading)

"A Cavity Cop makes sure everybody takes care of their teeth." Baby Frank scratched his head. "What happens to the teeth no one takes care of?" Cavity Cop shook his head. "I bring these teeth back into the toothpaste tube with me. It's awfully sad. Sometimes you can hear them crying. They go Oooo!"

Everyone exchanges sad, understanding glances.

WENDY

(reads)

So the toothpaste wasn't really haunted at all. There were no ghosts... just the Cavity Cop and the sad, crying teeth that nobody took care of.

EVERYONE

We'll always take care of our teeth. We promise. Everyday.

Suddenly... a deep-throated AHHH! OOOOOHH! Everyone jumps!

CLARK

YEOW! What's that? A foghorn?

MUZZLES

It's the doorbell! Let's see who's here.

Muzzles runs out of frame, returns with RANGER PARKER, who's carrying a SMALL BOX.

MUZZLES

Look everyone! It's Ranger Parker.

RANGER PARKER

Hello! Sorry I'm late. Got stuck in a sand bar... which is a lot more fun than an oyster bed. HEE! HEE!

SHELLY

(computer voice)

WARNING! WARNING! My Emotion Analyzer has detected bad humor. Source of failed humor is Ranger Parker. Take appropriate measures to ignore. Stick fingers in ears.

RANGER PARKER

Actually, I was at the sand bar looking for a gift for Wendy.

(to Wendy)

Do you like seashells?

WENDY

Of course!

RANGER PARKER

Mr. Blink, could you show us some seashells?

ON MR. BLINK'S EYE - PHOTO of a variety of SEASHELLS.

RANGER PARKER

One thing that all seashells have in common is that a soft creature lives on the inside, and it wears its shell on the outside. Like a house.

(pulls a SEASHELL out of his pocket, TAPS it)

See how hard the shell is? It keeps the little creature safe. But now and then, the creatures move on and they leave their old homes behind.

Ranger Parker hands the SMALL BOX to Wendy. She opens it, pulls out some THIN CIRCULAR SHELLS.

WENDY

Oh, my! They're so beautiful! Thank you. Thank you. Look, everyone!

RANGER PARKER

These are very special seashells for a very special person.
(MORE)

RANGER PARKER (cont'd)

They're called sand dollars.

(to Mr. Blink)

Sand dollars, Mr. Blink.

ON MR. BLINK'S EYE - PHOTO of a variety of SAND DOLLARS.

RANGER PARKER (O.S.)

Sand dollars live under the sand, which is why I had to go to the sand bar to find them!

Wendy passes out the sand dollars to the Muzzles gang, who get really excited. They try them as earrings, a pirate's eye patch, a mini-Frisbee, a hat. LAUGHTER! Ranger Parker joins in.

RANGER PARKER

(smiling)

Of course, you can use sand dollars in many ways...

SHELLY

WARNING! WARNING! Bad humor. Bad--

RANGER PARKER

Wendy could deposit her sand dollars in the sandbank. Or buy a sand castle. Or a pair of sandals. Maybe she'd want to take Sandra Bullock to lunch and have a sandwich! HEE! HEE!

MOANS! Everyone pummels Ranger Parker. Suddenly...

WENDY

You've all made my birthday the best one ever!

Wendy rubs noses with Muzzles. Then with Ranger Parker. EVERYONE STARTS NUZZLING.

The Rock Stars let loose with the MUSIC INTRO of "Everybody Needs a Nuzzle Everyday:"

MICK

(singing)

Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday. Everybody needs a nuzzle. It's the picture in the puzzle. It's the hug we love to guzzle. Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday.

INTERCUT - ROCK STARS SINGING / EVERYONE NUZZLING

MICK

(singing)

Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday. Everybody needs a nuzzle.

INTERCUT - CAST NUZZLING / MAMMALS NUZZLING (those seen in
Mr. Blink's Eye in pilot: "We've Got Guests.")

MICK (O.S.)

(singing)

It's the picture in the puzzle. It's the hug we love to guzzle. Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday.

The action turns into a nuzzle-fest.

MICK

(singling)

Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday.

You know I'm right.

No doubt I'm right.

FREEZE FRAME - SINGLE SHOTS OF COUPLES NUZZLING - The images tile until entire FRAME is filled with shots of nuzzlers.

MICK (O.S.)

(singing)

Everybody needs...

Everybody needs...

Everybody needs a nuzzle everyday!

FADE OUT.

CUT TO:

INT. BAY - DAY - ANIMATION - THEME MUSIC OVER

OUTSIDE MANATEE MANOR

The conch shell which caps one of Manatee Manor's large turret pops open. It hangs by one edge, like the open top of a teapot.

GAA-BLOOP! The MAGIC BUBBLE squeezes out of the turret, hovers, then floats lazily toward the surface.

INSIDE THE BUBBLE

Mia and Clark, wearing life jackets, sit in Clark's skiff. They wave at their new friends, who wave back from the manor's windows. Mr. Blink winks "goodbye."

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

Undulating shafts of sunlight lead the MAGIC BUBBLE up... through schools of curious exotic fish... up... up...

EXT. BAY - DAY - ANIMATION - "REAL WORLD"

...up through the surface... over the beach... past the lifeguard towers... above the pavilion... over the bridge...

Then down... down... gently down onto the waves... right where Mia and Clark rescued Muzzles...

The MAGIC BUBBLE vanishes, leaving Mia and Clark sitting in the skiff. They look at each other in amazement.

CLARK

That was great! I can't wait to go back!

MIA

I hope we can! But how do we find Muzzles?

MUZZLES (O.S.)

(calling)
Mia! Clark! Mia!

The Kids spin around! Spot

MUZZLES

not far from the boat! The Kids look ecstatic. Muzzles' head's above water.

MOVING IN CLOSE on Muzzles, she waves with one her flippers.

MUZZLES

Goodbye, kids. Goodbye. I'll be here tomorrow!

FREEZE.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO