

PLAY #27 HENRIETTA'S SUNFLOWERS

by

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## CHARACTERS

HENRIETTA

The matron of the sunflowers.

JIMMY

Her neighbor. Prince of the squirrels.

A GIANT SQUIRREL

A SUNFLOWER

## HENRIETTA'S SUNFLOWERS

(At Rise: At one end of the stage are a small stand of sunflowers. JIMMY walks to center stage with a bag and makes a small pile of orange-colored cheesy corn puffs. He stands back, crouches down, and watches. A moment later, HENRIETTA walks out from behind the sunflowers.)

HENRIETTA

Jimmy?

JIMMY

Hi Henrietta!

HENRIETTA

What are you doing hiding over there? And what's this?  
(She points at the pile.)

JIMMY

It's for the squirrels.

HENRIETTA

You're not feeding the squirrels are you?

JIMMY

Sure. Why not?

HENRIETTA

How long have you been doing that?

JIMMY

I don't know. Spring.

HENRIETTA

No wonder they're so gargantuan! I find them downright  
frightening.

JIMMY

They *are* healthy!

HENRIETTA

Maybe a bit too healthy.

JIMMY

Well... Cheesy corn puffs.

HENRIETTA

Well! That's not very healthy.

JIMMY

They love it! First they lick off the cheese. Then they they hold it between their paws and chomp away bit by bit on the crunchy part. It's really amusing. You wanna watch?

HENRIETTA

Jimmy? Squirrels are wild animals. They are not meant to be fed by humans. And frankly, these squirrels really are scaring me. There's dozens of them and they're voracious! You're turning them into little monsters. And furthermore --

JIMMY

They're hungry, Henrietta. And they're my friends.

HENRIETTA

Friends or not, they clearly do not need the kind of simple carbohydrate caloric intake of cheese puffs. Just the other day, I saw one several times larger than a raccoon.

JIMMY

They aren't that big, Henrietta.

HENRIETTA

You haven't seen that one? Well, he's been eyeing the sunflowers every day.

JIMMY

Squirrels like sunflowers. It's a natural order.

HENRIETTA

Not usually before they go to seed! Jimmy, you know how I am about my sunflowers. I simply can't have it.

JIMMY

I'm sorry Henrietta. But this brings joy to my life. And there's.

HENRIETTA

I'm asking you to at least just change their diet. They're clearly obese. They hop onto the flowers and breaking the stalks before they even have a chance to

bloom.

JIMMY

I hate to say this, but it's probably evolution in action.

HENRIETTA

If any evolving is happening I assure you it will be my heirloom sunflowers who come out ahead.

JIMMY

You think so, huh?

HENRIETTA

I know so. And I'm worried about the safety of your little furry friends if we don't find a peaceful resolution to this problem.

JIMMY

Come on! Henrietta... The squirrels would never forgive me if I suddenly stopped giving them cheese puffs. I have my own standing within my community of friends to be concerned about.

(A giant squirrel enters.)

HENRIETTA

Look there!

JIMMY

Oh! You're right! That is a big one! Come here, guy. See what I left for you?

(The squirrel goes to the pile of cheese puffs and eats them all. He snoops around JIMMY.)

You want some more?

(JIMMY puts a few more down. The squirrel eats them. Then looks to JIMMY.)

Whoa! That's enough for now, big boy.

(The squirrel wrestles JIMMY and steals his bag of cheese puffs and devours them.)

HENRIETTA

You see? What did I tell you? That is not a normal squirrel.

(The squirrel goes snooping around

HENRIETTA and her sunflowers.)

I'm warning you, Jimmy, to get your squirrel away from my sunflowers.

(The squirrel goes to the largest sunflower and starts stalking it.)

JIMMY

What am I supposed to do? This squirrel obviously has the upper hand. I'm sorry about your sunflowers.

HENRIETTA

You don't understand. These are not normal sunflowers. That flower's just going to seed and that's when...

JIMMY

That's when what?

(The sunflower starts bending and looping its head like a snake ready to strike. The squirrel chirps at it. It's a standoff. The sunflower takes a couple strikes at it. Finally the sunflower reels back and shoots the contents of its seed head at the squirrel, which falls over dead. Silence. JIMMY goes to look at the squirrel.)

HENRIETTA

I warned you. These sunflowers have been in my family a long time.

JIMMY

Your sunflower killed my squirrel...

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY