

It's a Magical World

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Based on:
"Real" life events

(C) 2011

Cast of Characters

John: Male. Mike's friend. More serious than Mike.

Mike: Male. John's friend. A little on the childish side.

Shirley: John's imaginary friend.

Rob: Mike's imaginary friend.

Lights up on the half of the stage that has the big real castle, the cardboard castle is in darkness. Three characters are having a snowball fight, perhaps using paper 'snowballs'. SHIRLEY and JOHN are teaming up to take on MIKE while ROB sits off to the side, looking bored, almost distraught at the scenario.

ROB and SHIRLEY are imaginary friends. ROB is MIKE's imaginary friend and SHIRLEY is JOHN's. MIKE cannot see SHIRLEY and JOHN can not see ROB.

MIKE

Hey John, are you excited for playing softball this spring? You know, because you throw like a girl!

SHIRLEY

I'd like to show you how a girl can throw!

MIKE completely ignores this comment as if he didn't even hear it, because he doesn't.

JOHN

Oh Ha. Ha. Better to throw like a girl then sound like one!

ROB

Don't listen to him, Mike. He's just over-excited that his left testicle dropped yesterday. Can we go now? There are things that need to get done...

JOHN completely ignores this comment because he also does not hear it.

MIKE

Well, Rob, maybe if you were here helping me, I wouldn't be getting creamed, and you would be having more fun.

ROB

It's hard to go have a snowball fight when there are things to do.

MIKE

Things to do, things to do, there are always things to do with you. Why don't you just come over and do this thing, I need more ammunition.

JOHN

You should focus on your enemy and not Rob's pestering.

(CONTINUED)

At this line JOHN should move into position and flank MIKE, firing an unrelenting snowball attack on his open weak side.

MIKE

Oh, snap!

MIKE runs for cover behind the teeter totter.

JOHN

Just because Rob is the only person that talks to you doesn't mean you should turn your back on me to listen to him. Oh! Sick burn!

MIKE

That wasn't a burn.

JOHN

Then why am I going to have to cool you down with this barrage of snowballs! Shirley, I need more ammo!

SHIRLEY

Don't call me Shirley! Call me... Princess Bubblesnap.

JOHN

Bubblesnap?!? Last time you wanted me to call you Captain Bejazzled, can you stick with one?

MIKE

Now who's distracted!!!

MIKE hits JOHN with a snowball. Hard. Maybe it's a dirty hit.

JOHN

Alright, good one, you win. I think it's time for us to get going. We've got work tomorrow and I've got stuff to do.

MIKE

Now you with the stuff to do? Where does everyone find this stuff to do? You sound like Rob.

JOHN

Well then maybe Rob was right for once.

SHIRLEY

Say whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat?!

ROB

Hey! For once?! I am a bundle of good advice, when have I ever led you astray?

MIKE

Well, there was that one time you said, "I triple dog dare you to go lick that frozen flag pole."

ROB

I saw it in that Christmas movie and everything worked out pretty well for that kid.

SHIRLEY AND MIKE

How much of that movie did you watch?

ROB

I'd say, enough.

JOHN

Come on we really have to go.

MIKE

What we really have to do is... race on the monkey bars!!

JOHN

Wait stop those are probably frozen over and slipper...

While JOHN is saying this MIKE runs over to the monkey bars, starts to climb on them and falls off of them, hurting himself. JOHN runs over to him. ROB gets up from where he is sitting and goes over to see if he is ok as well.

JOHN

Mike! Are you ok?!

ROB

What did you land on? Where does it hurt?

MIKE

I think I'm OK. I landed on my knee, just give me a second to walk it out.

MIKE gets up and paces around the playground stretching out his knee, leaning on ROB. JOHN goes over to the swings and SHIRLEY follows him, the two sit and swing.

SHIRLEY

I bet I can swing higher than you!

SHIRLEY attempts to back up this claim.

JOHN

I'm sure you can.

JOHN does not swing, looking at the ground feeling bad that MIKE got hurt.

SHIRLEY

Stop being a pooper, swing with me!

JOHN

No, someone else could get hurt.

SHIRLEY

Laaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaame!

ROB

All I'm saying, is the kid got the gun he wanted.

MIKE

Yeah, but then he shot his eye out!

ROB

No, he shot below his eye out. He stepped on his glasses, that was on him.

JOHN

(Ignoring that last exchange)

Can't you just leave me alone for a while? I shouldn't have even come here, I have so much to do today.

JOHN gets up and goes to sit on the teeter totter, trying to get away from SHIRLEY. SHIRLEY comes and sits down on it, John gets up, SHIRLEY goes crashing to the ground, comedy gold.

SHIRLEY

John, come on. Why won't you ever play with me anymore?

JOHN

Because you're not real! I made you. I created you--the mental exercises of a bored child, sick of playing with the same emotionless Legos and the painted-on faces of his Batman action figures. You're pointless.

At this point ROB and MIKE have made their way towards where JOHN and SHIRLEY are.

ROB

Pointless? We aren't pointless!

MIKE

(Overlapping) Pointless? John, you don't mean that.

JOHN

Yes I do, Mike. I am an adult, Shirley has no point in my life now.

SHIRLEY

Don't call me Shirley! I told you its Queen Forestpixie now!

JOHN

I just can't do this anymore.

SHIRLEY

But we were best friends.

MIKE AND ROB

(At same time as Shirley)

But you were best friends.

JOHN

We all have to grow up...

ROB

Right.

JOHN

...and leave those things behind

ROB

Wait, what? No.

SHIRLEY

What about all the fun times we had? Remember when you saved the kingdom from the army of ninja dragons?

JOHN

It was just pretend. I'm an adult, I don't have the luxury of "pretend."

ROB AND SHIRLEY

We are not just pretend. We're a part of you.

JOHN

Were a part of me, not anymore.

SHIRLEY

But you created me! The exercises of a bored mind, sick of Legos and old plastic dolls. You created me and that's what makes me real, real to you--

JOHN

Not anymore. I don't believe in you. I don't believe in you, Shirley. *(Turning away from her, and no longer hearing or seeing her)*

SHIRLEY

Don't call me Shirley. *(beat)* I said, don't call me Shirley! *(beat)* John? Can you hear me? *** *(he begins walking away)* Johnny! We're not done. *(increasingly desperate)* Fine! You can call me Shirley if you want to! It's OK, I'm not mad anymore, I promise. John. Please. Don't leave me. *(backs into the wood castle slowly)* Johnny? Please don't leave me.

*** Rob's next line starts here

ROB

(almost frantically) John take it back, please just take it back. I don't want to be alone, just listen to her. Please, you don't know what you are doing.

Castle door closes. ROB runs to the door, pounds on it and pulls it open, but SHIRLEY is gone.

ROB

Do you see?

MIKE

See what?

ROB

She's just gone...

JOHN

Can we just get out of here?

MIKE

Come on man, we don't have to leave yet.

ROB

Let him go Mike. It's time to let him go.

JOHN

We've both got work tomorrow.

ROB

He's not going to play anymore.

MIKE

(to John) Isn't that the point?

JOHN

To go to work tired and run down? *(laughs, turns to exit)*

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

To still have fun once in a while.

ROB

We can have fun on our own! Kings of the Castle!

MIKE

I mean, come on, when was the last time we played King of the Castle?

JOHN

Before today? (*beat, laughing a bit*) I don't even know.

MIKE

Remember when we built this place?

JOHN

I remember the no girls allowed sign.

MIKE

If only you could spell.

JOHN

Hey! G-U-R-L-Z is totally acceptable as an alternative spelling.

MIKE

Maybe if you're dyslexic.

JOHN

I don't think that's what that means.

MIKE

What?

JOHN

Dyslexic is a processing disability that results in the rearrangement of letters or...

MIKE AND ROB

Boring!

MIKE

You always had a stick up your butt.

JOHN

I'm surprised you didn't say I threw like a girl again.

MIKE

Was that supposed to be another burn? (*beat*) Come on, let's go back inside for a few.

(CONTINUED)

ROB

You guys gonna make another sign?

MIKE

We could make another sign.

JOHN

Sign?

MIKE

Why not? The three musketeers, together again, kings of the castle.

JOHN

Three?

MIKE

You, me and Rob.

JOHN

Still? Mike, come on man, grow up.

ROB

Don't listen to him.

MIKE

Grow up?

ROB

Don't listen to him! Not this way. It doesn't have to happen so fast.

MIKE

Why? Is it really any better without this?

JOHN

We're adults, man. Just get over it.

MIKE AND ROB

We can still have fun.

JOHN

It's not fun anymore.

MIKE

Don't be like that.

ROB

Let him go, Mike.

JOHN

I'm leaving.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

But we've got the afternoon, and this great castle. We haven't been here for years. *(beat)* Surely, you don't want to leave this behind.

Lights pulse and then go dark on Real Castle.

JOHN

(with a start) What?

MIKE

You don't want to leave this behind, do you? We have so many memories here. This castle is our childhood.

ROB

Don't make him do this Mike.

JOHN

This?

Lights come up on the Cardboard Castle.

This castle? Come on Michael, get real. Our great castle? Take a closer look. It's cardboard, cardboard and duct tape. That's the reality. Fucking tape holding this castle together.

MIKE

It was real to us.

JOHN

It was real. Was. *(Mike turns away)* Mike. Look at this.

JOHN walks to the castle and punches it, kicks it, tears at it, breaking a piece off and carrying it to MIKE.

MIKE AND ROB

What are you doing?

JOHN

(holding up the cardboard) Showing you what's real.

MIKE AND ROB

You didn't have to do that.

JOHN

Tell me. Admit this is cardboard, that it's not real. Admit it and I'll stay.

MIKE AND ROB

But it's ours!

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Tell me.

MIKE

Come on man, just let it go. Let's go do something else.

JOHN

I'm done.

MIKE

But, don't you want to play?

ROB and JOHN say their next several lines simultaneously. Lights begin to flicker on ROB.

JOHN

No.

ROB

Yes!

MIKE

Come on, it's just playing.

JOHN AND ROB

It's not just playing.

JOHN

It's a waste of time.

ROB

It's all we have.

MIKE

Really?

JOHN AND ROB

Yes, really.

MIKE

Is part of growing up being alone? If I leave too...
(beat) do you even have anyone else? (very long beat)
(End of simultaneous lines)

ROB

Let's get out of here. It's a magical world, buddy. Let's go exploring.

Mike thinks for a moment, then he and ROB exit together.

(CONTINUED)

Lights come up slowly on Real Castle. JOHN walks, cardboard in hand to one of the swings, and sits, swinging slowly. SHIRLEY climbs the tower and watches JOHN as lights fade.