

BORIS  
APRILOV

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CHIMMY

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STATE  
PUPPET  
THEATRE  
VARNA

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY:

DIMBY - puppet

DOMBY - puppet

MOXY - donkey

FOXY - fox

CHIMMY - villain



## ***ACT ONE***

*ACTOR: A clearing in the forest. Under a big dry tree a disused drum is standing. Birds' songs are in the air.*

*/A call for help is heard. Dimby rushes on the stage followed by Dombly/*

DIMBY: Dombly! Did you hear anything?

DOMBY: Yes. What was it?

DIMBY: I'm afraid somebody is calling for help.

DOMBY: Whoever can that be? */The cry is heard again./*

DIMBY: Now, listen!...We must render help at once.

DOMBY: Quite right. But let's think for a moment first for, when somebody is calling for help he must be in a pretty hard situation.

DIMBY: Yea, of course, why should he be calling for help otherwise?

*/While talking they come up to the drum./*

DIMBY: */Doubtful/* Was it really a cry for help?

VOICE: */The one that was heard awhile ago/* Of course it was!

DIMBY: */Frightened/* Hey! Who is that?

VOICE: It's me!

DIMBY: And who are you?

VOICE: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

DOMBY: Pardon?

VOICE: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

DIMBY: What is that?

CHIMMY: What?

DIMBY: What you just said.  
CHIMMY: I didn't say anything.  
DIMBY: Oh, you did say something.  
CHIMMY: I only said my name.  
DIMBY: Where are you?  
CHIMMY: I'm in the drum.  
DOMBY: What do you mean? In this drum?  
CHIMMY: Yes.  
DIMBY: Are you really in there?  
CHIMMY: You have no idea how very much in I am!  
DIMBY: Very well. And what do you want?  
CHIMMY: I want you to get me out.  
DIMBY: Can't you get out by yourself?  
CHIMMY: No, I can't.  
DOMBY: Let him get out the way he's got in!... That's it! Why don't you come out?... Come out the way...  
CHIMMY: Well, Getting in wasn't that difficult but coming out...  
DIMBY: And how did you do it?  
CHIMMY: I was just walking about. /Dimby and Domby look at each other/  
DIMBY: Ha!... So are we...  
DOMBY: But we don't get into drums.  
CHIMMY: Really?  
DIMBY: We go round them.  
DOMBY: This drum has been standing here for as long as I can remember but we always go round it. No one has ever fallen into it so far.  
DIMBY: /Indignant/ Getting into drums! Pooh-pooh!.. What if all of us started doing it!  
CHIMMY: Well?...  
DIMBY: There won't be a single drum left empty. Am I not right, Domby?  
DOMBY: Of course you are. It'll be full of full drums all around.  
DIMBY: Exactly!  
DOMBY: Just think of it!... Hey, you! What was your name?  
CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!  
DOMBY: I say CHIMMY, what is there inside the thing?  
CHIMMY: Nothing at all. It's all dark and empty. Never seen such empty darkness. /Knocks on the drum./ Do you hear?  
DIMBY: Yes, we do.  
CHIMMY: Quite empty.  
DIMBY: Domby, what do you think about it?  
DOMBY: Well... We've got to save him.  
DIMBY: Listen, we're going to save you! We'll find some big fellow and we'll see what can be done. But look, don't get lost! /Dimby and Domby exit/.  
CHIMMY: Get lost, indeed! I've already got lost!  
*/Moxy appears from the opposite side. He idly comes up to the drum, stops, yawns and scratches himself on it./*  
CHIMMY: Hey, who is there?

*/Moxy jumps off frightened and looks around. No one's in sight. He then carefully walks round the drum and gives it a resounding kick/.*

CHIMMY: Why do you kick at me?

*/Moxy runs off to a safe distance and after some hesitation ventures to speak/.*

MOXY: Hey, you... barrel!

CHIMMY: Yes?...

MOXY: */Taken a step back/* Some barrel!

CHIMMY: I'm not a barrel!

MOXY: Oh, you aren't, are you? Me... I'm a donkey. And what about... that...

CHIMMY: What do you mean?

MOXY: A barrel - a talking one at that.

CHIMMY: I'm not a barrel!!!

MOXY: Well, a drum, then.

CHIMMY: Stop being rude, I say!

MOXY: Rude, indeed! I was just going my way when all of a sudden...

CHIMMY: Yes? Go on.

MOXY: Well, all of a sudden somebody starts talking to me!

CHIMMY: Ha-ha... Indeed? Somebody started talking to you! You bet...

MOXY: */Starts shouting/.* You, barrel! A stupid drum! Wait until I kick you!

CHIMMY: Come on, kick!

MOXY: I'll show you! Just wait and see!

CHIMMY: I'm waiting all right. Don't worry!

MOXY: I'll teach you a lesson! */Drawing back/* Are you ready?

CHIMMY: Of course I am!

MOXY: Just a moment! */Forgets to come back, disappears in the direction he came from/.*

CHIMMY: Come on! What's the matter with you? */All is quiet/.* Hey, where are you?... You said you were going to kick me! */No answer. Dimby and Domby come on stage/.* Ha-ha-ha... Just look at him!

*/Dimby and Domby listen in surprise. Finally Dimby ventures to knock on the drum/.*

CHIMMY: Come in, please.

DIMBY: */Perplexed/* It's me.... Dimby!

CHIMMY: Hello! You were going to rescue me...

DIMBY: Our big friends are nowhere about at the moment, so we'll have to wait for them.

MOXY: */Sticking out his head mysteriously/* Domby, why are you talking to that contemptible barrel?

DOMBY: Come, come here.

DIMBY: We need you.

MOXY: */Whispers/* Dimby, who are you talking with?

DIMBY: Oh, with... Hey, what was your name?

CHIMMY: Chimmy jimmy chammy jommy!

DIMBY: You heard?

MOXY: And who is that?

DIMBY: I don't really know. /To the drum/ Chimmybimmy...Plimmyrimmy..  
what are you really like?

CHIMMY: Oh, I'm just Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

DIMBY: You see?

MOXY: /Astounded/ Ha!

DOMBY: Well, are you a human being or an animal?

DIMBY: Or are you just something?

CHIMMY: But I told you - Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

DOMBY: Look, we want to know if you are big or small!

CHIMMY: You fools! /An awkward silence follows/

DIMBY: Domby, don't be ridiculous! He can't be bigger than the opening of the drum. You or me, for instance, we couldn't get in. Moxy couldn't either. So Chimmy jimmy... or whatever he calls himself must be something small that can go through openings.

DOMBY: Yes, Dimby, but what about his name? How has that got in? Such a long name could hardly go into that size drum. I'm afraid part of his name is hanging somewhere outside the drum and if we look for it we'll certainly find it.

CHIMMY: Hey, how about getting me out first? I can't spend the rest of my life in here, can I?

DIMBY: Don't worry! This is no problem at all. /To the donkey/ Moxy!

MOXY: /Filled with apprehension/ Yes?

DIMBY: What do you suggest?

MOXY: Me?

DIMBY: Yes, you!

MOXY: I'd rather we went home now. That creature inside is neither an animal, nor a human being, not even a thing...

DOMBY: And what do you think it is?

MOXY: In my mind, it's just nothing.

DOMBY: Nonsense! It's got a name.

DIMBY: Such a long one, at that!

DOMBY: When a thing is nothing, it doesn't have a name, Moxy!

MOXY: Bah! I've come across so many NOTHINGS that have got NAMES! Yes, exactly, they've got names, they've got everything while actually... That nothing in the drum... shall I sing a song about it?

ACTOR: Here is the song that Moxy sang instead of trying to rescue Chimmy:

*There's something coming to you  
You say to yourself - that's something.  
You gaze at it - and lo it's just nothing.  
A nothing that's coming to you.  
A nothing that's talking to you.*

*Yea!*

*You can't turn a nothing into something.  
Since a nothing is just nothing.  
But the world judges by appearances  
So let the nothing pass for something!*

CHIMMY: Hey, you! Is that song about me?  
*/The trio falls silent/*  
DOMBY: */Uncomfortably/* Well, Moxy started it and we...  
CHIMMY: And now? Are you going to sing, or are you going to help me?  
DIMBY: Of course we are going to help you!  
CHIMMY: Then do it! I'm waiting here and you... singing!  
DOMBY: All right, all right!  
DIMBY: Moxy, was it you who started singing?  
MOXY: I don't remember.  
DOMBY: Of course it was him!  
MOXY: Oh, no. Not me!  
DOMBY: Dimby, he's denying it!  
DIMBY: Moxy, come now. Own up to it. Chimmy was waiting for us to save him  
and you started singing!  
MOXY: I'm not to blame. We all sang!  
DIMBY: Yes, but who started it?  
DOMBY: Moxy did!  
MOXY: No, I didn't!  
DIMBY: Moxy, say you did wrong! Poor Chimmy is in trouble and you started  
singing that offensive song!  
MOXY: It was you who started it!  
DIMBY: Well, really!  
MOXY: I was just keeping quiet, when you... you...  
DIMBY: */All in tears/* Moxy, you ought to be ashamed of yourself!  
DOMBY: Wait, Dimby! I'll prove to him he's not telling the truth. Moxy, you  
were standing here, weren't you?  
MOXY: I don't know.  
DOMBY: Say you were.  
MOXY: Very well, so I was.  
DOMBY: Dimby and I were standing here. We were, weren't we?  
MOXY: Well, yes, you were.  
DOMBY: And then, all of a sudden you started singing:  
***There's something coming to you  
You say to yourself \_ that's something.***  
DIMBY: */Joins in, imitating Moxy/*  
***You gaze at it - and lo, it's just nothing.  
A nothing that's coming to you.***  
MOXY: I agree, so it was. But then you took it up with:  
***You can't turn a nothing into something.  
Since a nothing is just nothing.  
But the world judges by appearances  
So let the nothing pass for something!***  
  
*/Silence/*  
CHIMMY: And then? What happened then?

DIMBY: /Innocently/ Whatever could have happened then?  
DOMBY: But Chimmy, don't you understand? We are trying to prove he was the one to start that song...  
CHIMMY: Come, come! He started it, you completed it... Forget it!...  
DIMBY: But we did prove he was...  
CHIMMY: It doesn't matter who starts a thing. The important thing is who finishes it.  
DIMBY: Chimmy, let me explain... We just felt like singing. We haven't sung for ages, you know.  
CHIMMY: So... Well, sing then! Sing to your heart's content!... Only, what about me? Who is going to get me out of here?  
DOMBY: Oh, don't worry! No problem at all!  
DIMBY: Wait a minute! Moxy!... Come on!  
MOXY: Come on what?  
DIMBY: Let's get him out.  
MOXY: Well, do. I don't mind.  
DIMBY: Stand up by the drum.  
MOXY: Why?  
DOMBY: Come now. /Takes him to the drum/  
DIMBY: /Sighing/ You are not big enough.  
DOMBY: And now what?  
DIMBY: Domby, won't a clever animal do better than a big one?  
MOXY: Look, I do know somebody clever!  
DOMBY: /Guessing right/ Why, yes! Let's call him!  
DIMBY: Ready... begin!  
All: Foxy-y! Foxy-y! Foxy-y!  
/Foxy comes ut to them from behind/  
FOXY: Oh, oh, what a surprise - three clever fellows!  
MOXY: Let's see what happens now!  
FOXY: Why, is anything wrong?  
DIMBY: Yes, very much so.  
DOMBY: He is in trouble.  
FOXY: "He"?  
DOMBY: Chimmy.  
FOXY: What is it?  
MOXY: An absolute nothing.  
CHIMMY: It's you who is a nothing,  
FOXY: /Startled/ Who is that?  
CHIMMY: Me.  
FOXY: /Whispers/ Who said "me"?  
DIMBY: I don't remember his name.  
DOMBY: Something that's got in through an opening.  
MOXY: A nothing!  
FOXY: No, Moxy! You're wrong there! That NOTHING said "me". When a thing says "me" about itself, it cannot be a nothing... it's SOMETHING. Moxy!... Say "me"!  
MOXY: Me.

FOXY: You see? You said "me", so you are something. Where there is a "me" there is something.

MOXY: Well, everybody knows about me...

FOXY: But he's also somebody. He's also...

CHIMMY: Look, are you going to save me?

FOXY: Quiet!... Who's that speaking?

CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

FOXY: Oh, your name is at least three metres long. Please say it again!

CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

FOXY: Are you in the drum?

CHIMMY: Yes, I am.

FOXY: And how do you happen to be there?

CHIMMY: Do I have to explain it all over again, you fool?

FOXY: That's right.

CHIMMY: I was walking about when I saw a drum in front of me. "Let me see what's on top of it", I said to myself. I got on it but there was nothing to see. Just a hole.

FOXY: I see...

CHIMMY: Exactly! Said I, "Let's see what's in the hole..." Well, it was dark inside. Said I to myself, "Whatever can there be in the dark?" so I hopped in and lo- plop!

FOXY: Was there anything in the dark?

CHIMMY: Oh, no, nothing.

FOXY: Just nothing?

CHIMMY: Not a thing, you fool!

FOXY: Well, now at least there is something in the drum - a noisy fellow with a long name. What was your name?

CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

FOXY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy. A nice name! Very long! I am crazy about long names. You can put them round your neck, wear them like stoles.

DOMBY: Foxy, you killed me! How did you remember it?

DIMBY: Extraordinary!

MOXY: Can you repeat it?

FOXY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy.

CHIMMY: Good for you! Very clever!

FOXY: Not at all. When I was at the seaside I met a jelly-fish by the name of Glagoabazubaduza. Since then long names have been no problem for me. Chimmy!

CHIMMY: Yes?

FOXY: Can you tell me what kind of creature are you?

CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!

FOXY: I mean what kind of animal.

CHIMMY: Well, I am what I said I am.

FOXY: Yes, but that was your name, right?

CHIMMY: Both my name and the other thing you asked about. /Pause/

MOXY: Let's beat it!

FOXY: Moxy, keep quiet! /To the drum/ Chimmy!

CHIMMY: Yes?

FOXY: Have you got parents?



CHIMMY: I don't know. /Pause/  
MOXY: You see?  
FOXY: Have you got brothers or sisters?  
CHIMMY: How could I know, you silly fool!  
DIMBY: Of course you must know. You either have them, or you don't have them.  
CHIMMY: I don't know, I said.  
MOXY: A most peculiar fellow.  
CHIMMY: /Shouts/ Listen, you either save me or go to hell!  
FOXY: There, there... Of course we'll save you.  
MOXY: Not me. I've got to go now.  
FOXY: Dimby, What do you propose to do?  
DIMBY: I think we should think about it first.  
FOXY: One should act promptly in such circumstances.  
MOXY: /Shouts/ I don't agree! Leave me out of this!  
FOXY: Moxy, what's the matter with you?  
MOXY: In the first place we don't know WHOM we are saving. Not even WHAT we are saving. What if it's something that should' not be saved at all?  
FOXY: Moxy, you are wrong there. If anybody needs your help, you try to help and that's all.  
MOXY: /Looking askance/ Is that so?  
FOXY: Of course it is.  
DOMBY: Mind you are not sorry about it!  
FOXY: Friends, such is the law: should anybody get into trouble - you've got to save him!... That's that... A law...  
MOXY: I doubt it!  
FOXY: Come, Dimby, bring a piece of rope! /Dimby exits. All is quiet/  
MOXY: Let's think a little first. We have to consider everything.  
FOXY: What? Again?  
MOXY: Yes!  
CHIMMY: /Shouts/ Stop it! Leave off!  
FOXY: Chimmy, are you all right?  
CHIMMY: Shut up! Stop rattling on! Where do I happen to be? Or perhaps this is a public gathering? Just talking and talking, and standing around! I'm sick of you all!  
FOXY: Wait a little. We'll get you out.  
CHIMMY: Me, standing in this horrid place and you... you...wagging your tongues! Holding a conference! You should be ashamed of yourselves!  
FOXY: All right, all right. We do feel ashamed. /All bend their heads/  
CHIMMY: I'll teach you a lesson when I get out of here!  
MOXY: /Shouts/ You heard him?  
CHIMMY: You good-for-nothings!  
MOXY: Foxy, I'm off!  
CHIMMY: Clear out, you silly ass!  
MOXY: Who's an ass?  
CHIMMY: You, of course! You've been going away ever since I heard your voice for the first time!

MOXY: Shut up! /Kicks at the drum/  
CHIMMY: Fool! That's the only thing you can do - kick! Kick at empty drums!  
Why don't you kick me?  
MOXY: Just come out...  
CHIMMY: Get me out and try...  
MOXY: Oh, I'll just burst!... Let's go away!  
*/Enters Dimby/*  
DIMBY: /Out of breath/ Haven't you come to a decision yet?  
MOXY: Dimby, while you were away, that pest in the drum was provoking and insulting me. I had to kick, and kick, and...  
DIMBY: As far as I understand that mysterious thing in the drum is not even a thing but a SUBSTANCE that pretends to be a thing.  
MOXY: /To Foxy/ Well, do you still intend to save him?  
FOXY: I've got to. Chimmy is in trouble.  
MOXY: Not in trouble, in a drum!  
FOXY: It's the same thing.  
MOXY: I insist on getting an answer about how he ever got in there. Dimby and Domby, you and I, we keep away from drums. We go round them, not like him...  
FOXY: There's no accounting for testes, Moxy.  
MOXY: No!  
FOXY: But, still, we do have to help...  
MOXY: Come now!  
FOXY: What do you mean?  
MOXY: Come on, let's go. /Exits/  
DOMBY: Foxy!  
FOXY: Yes?  
DOMBY: In my opinion... Please, try to understand... The evil thing in there has got a rather peculiar voice...  
FOXY: I get you, Domby. You may go.  
DOMBY: Excuse me but... Good-bye. /Exits slowly. Pause/  
FOXY: Well, Dimby, how about you?  
DIMBY: Oh, Foxy, are you sure he won't make away with us the moment we get him out?  
FOXY: Good-bye, Dimby. Why don't you go?  
DIMBY: I'm not afraid of death but I'll miss bathing in the river! /Dimby exits/  
Actor: Foxy sighed a long, sad sigh. In the silence that followed the faint song of birds was heard.

## ***ACT TWO***

ACTOR: The forest was sleeping in the nice tranquil afternoon. Sunrays pierced through it shaping spots of light on the grass. Butterflies were flying around, beetles were scurrying here and there, ants were rushing in all directions - life was going on all around: quiet, carefree, eternal.

CHIMMY: Hey, you... /Nobody answers/ Hey... /Silence again/ Say something!  
/Foxy doesn't stir/ Is there nobody out there? Where are you? /Frightened/ Help!...  
Help!...

FOXY: Go on!... Do some shouting for a change...

CHIMMY: Oh, you are here... Why didn't you say so?

FOXY: Because.

CHIMMY: Say something. Why do you keep silent?

FOXY: To punish you, of course.

CHIMMY: /After some thinking/ And who are you, please?

FOXY: I'm Foxy. So there's no need to put on airs. I've been through all kinds of  
dangers. I've been in an eagle's nest, I've been inside a shark...

CHIMMY: Yes, but you've never been through a drum!

FOXY: Stop talking nonsense!... I'll save you though you seem to be a nobody.

CHIMMY: Please do.

FOXY: Say "Please, Foxy". /Pause/ I didn't hear anything.

CHIMMY: Please, Foxy!

FOXY: That's the way I like you... And stop insulting your friends! We are trying  
to save you and you...

CHIMMY: I won't be doing it again, it's a promise.

FOXY: What was my name?

CHIMMY: I promise, Foxy.

DIMBY: /Comes on stage/ Foxy, I've come back!

FOXY: I see.

DIMBY: I agree that when somebody is in trouble, no matter who he is... You  
understand...

FOXY: I understand, Dimby. And now let's decide what's to be done.

DOMBY: /Comes on stage/ Foxy. Me... I...

FOXY: You've come back, I see. Domby, we've got to decide how to get that  
absolute fool out of... /Moxy appears/ Oh, Moxy, you wish to tell me something?

MOXY: E-r no, but since...

FOXY: Well?...

MOXY: I thought about everything. And since there is no other way, we've got to  
save him. It's our duty.

FOXY: That's the right attitude, Moxy! And now we have to find a way out for  
that brute.

CHIMMY: Foxy, please don't be offensive.

FOXY: Shut up!

CHIMMY: Very well. /Silence/

DIMBY: /Whispers/ You've brought him to order!

FOXY: The thing's as soft as butter!

MOXY: Foxy, Chimmy's a different fellow altogether!

FOXY: I did teach him a thing or two. He's ready to be saved. And now find a  
plank! Come on, Moxy!

MOXY: Come along friends. Didn't you hear what Foxy said?

*/Dimby and Domby throw a meaningful glance at Moxy and exit/*

FOXY: Moxy, you've become very diligent.

MOXY: Your orders must be fulfilled, mustn't they?  
FOXY: You are great, Moxy!  
CHIMMY: A great ass!  
MOXY: You heard him? He's at it again.  
CHIMMY: What did I say wrong? Foxy said you Are great and I simply confirmed it!  
MOXY: "Confirmed", indeed!  
CHIMMY: I meant no offence!  
FOXY: It looks like a quarrel again! Chimmy, say you are sorry!  
CHIMMY: I'm sorry, Moxy... You're not such a big ass!  
MOXY: Foxy, he's asking for trouble!  
FOXY: /Shouts/ Chimmy!  
CHIMMY: Allright! I'm sorry, Moxy!  
FOXY: Is that all right, Moxy?  
MOXY: Yes, quite.  
*/Dimby and Dobby bring the plank. They put it on a stump and thus make a spring-board out of it/*  
FOXY: One of us should, by all means, get on the drum . It is rather high but if we jump off the plank, we'll manage.  
- Lo!  
- How clever!  
- Just perfect!  
FOXY: Dobby, we're going to throw you up.  
DOBBY: R-r-realy?  
FOXY: Yes. Come over here...Step here!  
DIMBY: Mind you don't go through the opening.  
DOBBY: Foxy, can I go through the opening?  
FOXY: I don't think so. The opening is not that big.  
DOBBY: But still... Couldn't Dimby do it instead of me? He's quite good fit avoiding holes.  
DIMBY: Not at all! I did fall in on several occasions. Actually I'm falling in all the time. Holes simply draw me.  
DOBBY: Foxy, he's lying! /They start fighting. Foxy separates them/  
MOXY: Foxy, he's not lying. We always fall in together!  
FOXY: /Shouts angrily/ Dobby, now! Careful! Dimby, Moxy...  
*Alley-hop! /Dimby and Moxy jump up on to the plank. Dobby is thrown up and lands down on the drum/*  
DOBBY: What happened?  
CHIMMY: Hey, are you saving me?  
FOXY: Be patient! Now... /Starts saying something but is interrupted/  
DOBBY: How long do I have to stay here? Get me down!  
FOXY: Take it easy, Dobby! We'll save you.  
CHIMMY: What? Are you saving somebody else?  
FOXY: Quiet there!  
CHIMMY: You forgot all about me and started saving somebody else! You deserted me! For somebody else!

FOXY: /Kicking at the drum/ Keep quiet! /Silence/  
CHIMMY: How about a bit of singing? This is the right time for a song.  
FOXY: Do you want to make me angry?  
CHIMMY: Oh, no... But since you enjoy singing...  
FOXY: Moxy, give the rope to Dombly. /Moxy is giving it/ Dombly, drop one end of the rope into the drum! /Dombly is dropping it/ Chimmy, you know what to do, don't you?  
CHIMMY: What the hell do I want with this rope?  
FOXY: You climb on it.  
CHIMMY: Are you all right?  
FOXY: Why, what's wrong?  
CHIMMY: I can't climb ropes.  
FOXY: Can't you?  
CHIMMY: No, I can't! /Pause/  
FOXY: Then tie yourself to it so we could draw you out.  
CHIMMY: No, not me.  
FOXY: So you can neither climb nor tie yourself ?  
CHIMMY: That's right!  
*/The members of the rescue team look at each other in dismay/*  
FOXY: Chimmy, who are you after all?  
CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy.  
FOXY: Are you an animal? Or a human being? Or a thing? Or... perhaps you are a ghost? /Moxy starts trembling/  
CHIMMY: I don't know. I told you all I know... Chimmyjimmychammyjommy.  
FOXY: A head... Have you got a head?  
CHIMMY: A head? Let me see... Yes, I have one!  
FOXY: That's good!  
MOXY: /Sighs/ He's got a head!  
FOXY: And have you got legs?  
CHIMMY: Well... maybe... Yes, I have!  
FOXY: How many are they?  
CHIMMY: How could I know?  
FOXY: ARE THEY MANY?  
CHIMMY: I can't count them in the dark. /Oppressive silence/  
DOMBY: Oh, he can't count his legs!  
FOXY: Have you got eyes?  
CHIMMY: Yes, I have.  
FOXY: And a mouth?  
CHIMMY: Yes!  
FOXY: How about a tale?  
CHIMMY: I used to have one! /Silence/  
FOXY: /warily/ And haven't you got it now?  
CHIMMY: No, I haven't.  
FOXY: And... where is it?  
CHIMMY: It disappeared! /Sinister silence/  
DOMBY: /From the top of the drum/ Won't you get me down?

MOXY: Let's go away! Let's collect our Dombly and beat it!  
DOMBY: Oh, I'm afraid of...  
DIMBY: That thing is either a monster, or some creature, or... at least a ghost.  
MOXY: Foxy, it's high time you made up your mind! What if he should get on my back!  
FOXY: You're not the only one who's got a back!  
MOXY: It's obvious whose back he'd get on should he turn out to be a ghost!  
FOXY: There are no ghosts!...  
DOMBY: Get me down ana let's beat it as fast as we can!...  
FOXY: No, we can't. We were called to give help. He's in trouble and must be saved!  
MOXY: Foxy, say you are just as frightened as we are!  
FOXY: Well, with such companions...  
MOXY: So we leave off !  
FOXY: Just a moment! Moxy, wait a little! Chimmy!  
CHIMMY: Yes?  
FOXY: Can you swim?  
CHIMMY: But of course! Swimmimg's my force!  
FOXY: You aren't joking, are you?  
CHIMMY: Not at all!  
FOXY: Moxy, bring some hose, please.  
MOXY: Right away! /Exits/  
FOXY: Chimmy, you won't get drowned if we drop you into a river?  
CHIMMY: Oh, no!...  
FOXY: Mind you are not lying!  
CHIMMY: Lying my bat! /Moxy brings the hose/  
FOXY: Dombly, hold the hose. Now lower it into the drum!  
DOMBY: Very well!  
FOXY: Now jump off!  
DOMBY : /Jumps down/ What are we going to do now?  
FOXY: Didn't you get my idea?  
ALL: No!  
FOXY: Take one end of the hose and go to the fountain!  
ALL: Yes?...  
FOXY: Turn on the tap and...  
MOXY: We'll drown him!  
FOXY: No, not drown, save him, Moxy! Chimmy, did you hear?  
CHIMMY: I'm waiting for the water!  
FOXY: Come now friends!  
DIMBY: What about you? Are you staying behind?  
FOXY: Yes.  
MOXY: You are crazy! That animal is going to eat you up!  
FOXY: Chimmy, are you going to eat me up?  
CHIMMY: This is my own affair!  
MOXY: Shut up, you villain! /Kicks the drum/  
CHIMMY: Kick on, you coward!

DIMBY: /Kicking the drum/ Shut up!

DOMBY: /Kicking/ A monster!

CHIMMY: A bunch of cowards, that's what you are!

MOXY: It's you who is the coward! Why don't you come out?

CHIMMY: Why don't you come in?

*/The three of them start kicking the drum fiercely/ If only we didn't have to go to the fountain... /Bang!/. ... With the hose for the water... /Bang!/. ... We would have shown you... /Bang!/. ... We would have given you a good lesson! /Bang!/*

*/After giving the drum a last kick the three of them turn to Foxy panting/*

MOXY: So long, Moxy!

DIMBY: Good-bye, friend! If you insist on risking your life...

DOMBY: You could have lived longer! Should you need help, call us..

MOXY: So we could keep at a safe distance.

FOXY: So long, dear friends!... Go now!

All: Yes, but only because we've got to see to that rope...

*/The three of them exit. All is quiet. Foxy is by himself/*

*ACTOR: Here is what Foxy was thinking: "How wonderful the world is... Rich in all kinds of creatures: beetles, butterflies, bees, ants, Moxies, Dimbies and Dombies"...*

*He thought of his life during which he had to die several times at the hands of eagles and sharks. The unknown creature in the drum did fill him with fear. He might just be some matter... or... anti-matter! What if he could get transformed into anything! Or suppose it were a spirit!... Spirits may exist, after all; the opposite hasn't been definitely proved. Besides, there are distant, unknown worlds that keep on sending extraterrestrial beings on mysterious errands...*

*What if Chimmy, or rather Chiimmyjimmychammyjommy, were one of them... come to kidnap or even destroy him! Quite in the order of the day... as books say... and books reflect life, don't they?...*

CHIMMY: Foxy!

FOXY: Yes, Chimmy?

CHIMMY: Didn't you run off like the rest of them?

FOXY: No, I stayed.

CHIMMY: I see,... and you are not afraid?

FOXY: Well, yes... a little.

CHIMMY: Nice friends you've got! To desert you like that!

FOXY: They did get scared a little, but they'll come back.

CHIMMY: Ha-ha-ha!

FOXY: Wait and see! It has happened before.

CHIMMY: Very well. Why don't they turn on the water?

FOXY: Chimmy, please say what you are like!

CHIMMY: Chimmyjimmychammyjommy!... This is what I am.

FOXY: I'm burning with curiosity. This is why I stayed behind.

*/A strange noise is heard/ Chimmy! /No answer/Chimmy! /Foxy runs to the drum and knocks on it/ Chimmy!*

CHIMMY: Oh!... Ah!

FOXY: Are you all right, Chimmy?

CHIMMY: Wonderful!

FOXY: Speak, please!  
 CHIMMY: The water... Ah-a-a the water!... Wonderful water!.. Ah-a-a...  
 Oh...Water is the best thing in the world! O-ho... O-ho...  
*/Foxy feels somebody is behind him. Dimby has come/*  
 DIMBY: What's he making all this noise about?  
 FOXY: Why did you come back?  
 DIMBY: You know... One mustn't desert one's friends...  
 DOMBY: Foxy!...  
 FOXY: Is that you, Domby? Hello!  
 DOMBY: You knew we would come back, didn't you?  
 FOXY: And where is Mo-o... Oh, hello, Moxy! /Moxy has appeared behind him/  
 MOXY: I only went to turn on the water.  
 FOXY: /Turns joyfully to the drum/ Chimmy, my friends came back!  
 CHIMMY: I don't care!... Oh, the pleasure of it!...  
 DIMBY: I feel like bathing!  
 FOXY: Let's see what the thing is like and we'll go to the river!  
 CHIMMY: I'm coming!...  
 FOXY: Hurry up!  
 CHIMMY: Here I am! Here I am!  
 DIMBY: Come, you wicked fellow!  
 DOMBY: Come, you rascal!  
 MOXY: Come, you villain!  
*/The noise of running water is heard. Then all is quiet. Chmmy appears on the drum./*  
 CHIMMY: Chimmy, the Toad! Saved at last! /Sprinkles them with water./ Good-bye, you silly fools!  
*/Foxy bursts out laughing. The others join in. They are all roaring with laughter./*  
 ACTOR: "Ah-a," cried Foxy. "It's great to know you have saved a villain. In the books, when people get saved, they all turn out to be good, worthy fellows... But to save a villain!... Hey!...  
 ACTOR II: "Oh-ho...", said Dimby.  
 ACTOR III: "Oh-ho...", said Domby.  
 ACTOR IV: "If only I had known!", said Moxy.  
 ACTOR: The four friends make for the river, following the wet foot-prints of the  
**ANTI-MATTER!**  
*/The beating of drums is heard, then the sound of a trumpet, and finally the blast of a band. The actors start singing:/*

FEAR - IT'S SOMETHING  
 WE'RE BORN WITH  
 WE BEAR IT IN OUR HEARTS  
 DAY AND NIGHT.

IT SLEEPS DEEP IN US  
 AND WAKES UP WHEN  
 WE ARE IN TROUBLE.



FEAR IS IN ALL OF US  
IT GUARDS US  
AND WARNS US  
IN TIMES OF DANGER

ONLY A FOOL IS DEVOID OF FEAR  
YES, ANYBODY CAN FEEL FEAR  
BUT WHAT MATTERS IS  
HOW ONE REACTS TO IT.

***THE END.***

