

Courage the Cowardly Dog

"Wrath of the Librarian"

written by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Long, high view of the Farmhouse and surrounding grounds.  
Sunny sky, SQUEAKING WINDMILL.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK OF FARMHOUSE - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

COURAGE is ferociously digging a hole, pulling out buried objects:

AN OLD PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICH

Courage takes a bite... Smiles... Then...

COURAGE  
(disgusted)  
Yuch!  
(spits out bite)

Courage wipes his mouth, then continues digging, unearthing:

A SMALL MAN-MADE SATELLITE, which BEEP-BEEPS, BEEP-BEEPS...

Courage winds it up with its built-in wind up key. It takes off as Courage looks skyward.

He goes back to digging -- and digs up a book -- a library book. He looks at the cover.

COURAGE'S POV: BOOK COVER -- it's "PEWTER PETE AND CAPTAIN HOOF." On the cover is a picture of Pewter Pete -- a silver-colored boy, in leafy silver tunic and pointed hat, flying through the air.

ON COURAGE as he flips through the pages. Muriel's boots enter the shot and she speaks from O.C.

MURIEL (O.C.)  
Courage! I thought y'returned that  
t'the library ages ago.

Courage, realizing he's caught, shuts the book.

WIDER: INCLUDE MURIEL as COURAGE smiles at her sheepishly. Muriel takes the book and looks at the back page, checking the due date.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Oh my! This book is due two years ago next Tuesday! It's a wonder we all haven't been arrested and sent t'library prison.

ON COURAGE, profoundly frightened. In a thought balloon, he imagines the Family in a prison cell, with a human-size police book watching over them

ON MURIEL, handing the book back to COURAGE. (The thought balloon is gone.)

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Y'd better return this right away.

Muriel walks off. Courage looks at the camera, worried.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUSTY NOWHERE ROAD - DAY

COURAGE walks down the road, the copy of "Pewter Pete" under his arm. Up ahead, he spots:

A BOOKMOBILE: a library on wheels, kind of broken down, a trailer that has seen better days. A sign on the front reads "LIBRARIAN ON DUTY."

Flanking a shuttered service window (like on a catering truck) are two small statues on wheels: cats in the classic library lion pose.

A sign below the window reads: "RETURN OVERDUE BOOKS HERE."

Curious, Courage steps closer to the bookmobile.

The shutters blocking the service window slide open quickly and with a BANG! to reveal:

AN OFFICIAL-LOOKING WOMAN -- hair piled high and straight above her head, severe pointed glasses, angular features: the scariest LIBRARIAN anyone's ever seen. On the counter in front of her and to the side is a cash-register-type machine.

ON COURAGE

COURAGE

(yelp)

ON LIBRARIAN

LIBRARIAN  
(sternly)  
SHHHHH!!!

ON BOTH: Courage can't even bring himself to look directly at her. He averts his eyes, offers up the book, and...

COURAGE  
(apologetic babbling)

LIBRARIAN  
(interrupting)  
SHH!

COURAGE immediately SHUTS UP and assumes a contrite posture.

The Librarian takes the book and opens it to the back, looking at the due date.

COURAGE  
(babbling in explanation)

LIBRARIAN  
(interrupting)  
SHHH!

She hits a button on the cash-register-type machine.

LOW ANGLE: Above the window, a tote board lights up. The words "OVERDUE FEE" are atop a flashing amount: "\$3,972.43."

ON COURAGE as he panics, reaching into his pockets, pulling out ONE PENNY, two marbles, a centipede and a linty lollipop, which he LICKS CLEAN...

COURAGE  
(slurping sounds)

...and offers to the Librarian with a pleading squeal.

COURAGE (CONT'D)  
(pleading squeal)

LIBRARIAN  
SHHHHH!!!

COURAGE SHUTS UP.

The Librarian shoves all of Courage's offerings back toward him, then tosses the book back at him. She points up (reaching out from inside the window) at the tote board.

The number is increasing -- with a distinctive CHING-CHING-CHING sound with MUSICAL CUE -- as Courage watches in horror.

COURAGE  
(warbles pleadingly)

LIBRARIAN  
SHHH!!!

She points up at the increasing total. Her message is clear: Courage better come up with the overdue fee, or else!

ON COURAGE as he re-pockets all his stuff, backs away from the window, book in hand, upset.

ON LIBRARIAN as she again SHUSHES in Courage's direction, this time as though casting a spell in his direction.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)  
Shhhhhhhhhhhhh...

We hear the SHUSH like a WHOOSHING WIND...

...swirling around COURAGE, the vapor-like image of the letters "SHHHH" circling him.

The CAT STATUES turn their heads towards Courage and speak in overlapping dialogue:

CAT STATUES  
Return what you owe... Or you  
owe... and owe... and owe...

Then -- the "SHHH" blows open the book in Courage's hand, riffling the pages -- and entering the book.

Frightened, Courage slams the book shut and...

COURAGE  
(screams)

He runs off towards home.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Courage is on the Living Room floor, surrounded by whole and broken piggy banks, with mallet in hand.

Next to him, on the floor, is the overdue copy of "Pewter Pete."

COURAGE smashes a bank. A penny! Courage holds it up to examine it. From O.C., the FARMER'S HAND enters the shot and plucks the penny from Courage.

ON FARMER, holding the penny.

FARMER

Any money y'find in this house  
belongs t'me! No good penny-  
stealin' dog...

FOLLOW FARMER as he goes to his chair, looks around to make sure no one is looking, then lifts the cushion, revealing lots of change. He tosses the penny onto the pile -- CLINK -- drops the cushion back down and sits solidly on his savings.

MURIEL enters, walking down the stairs, holding an old sock. She reaches inside the sock and pulls out a dollar bill and some change as she crosses to Courage.

MURIEL

Courage, I don't think it's much,  
but it's all the savin's I've  
got...

The Farmer grabs the sock and money away from Muriel.

FARMER

If the dog has t'pay a book fine,  
he should earn the money his own  
self!

The Farmer tries to act nonchalant, whistling as he stuffs the sock and cash under his seat cushion, then quickly steps away from his chair.

ON MURIEL

MURIEL

Eustace, we should help the poor  
dear. He's in this way over his  
head.

The Farmer steps up beside Muriel.

FARMER

That's what y'get fer readin'  
books. TV's free.

Muriel bends down, picks up the book and glances through the pages.

MURIEL

Well, if we still have the book, we  
might as well enjoy it.

And with that, Muriel gets a nasty paper cut from one of the pages.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Yow!

FARMER

And TV don't give ya paper cuts  
neither!

The Farmer snatches the open book from Muriel, getting a paper cut from the same page, then dropping the book.

FARMER (CONT'D)

Youch! Stoopid sharp book.

ON THE BOOK on the floor. The pages riffle open as though a wind were blowing through...

CAT STATUES (V.O.)

You owe... and owe... and owe...

COURAGE watches, scared motionless as...

CU: MURIEL looking at her paper cut.

CU: FARMER. Same thing.

ON MURIEL

MURIEL

I feel... odd.

ON THE FARMER

FARMER

Me too.

ON COURAGE, growing horrified as he sees:

MURIEL AND THE FARMER start to transform...

The Farmer's hat turns into a pirate's hat. His clothing grows into a pirate captain's garb. And then...

The Farmer's hand turns into a CLOVEN HOOF!

FARMER (CONT'D)  
(pirate style)  
Arrrrr! I am -- Captain Hoof!

The Farmer grabs an umbrella from next to the front door, and puts it into a sheath on his belt as though it were a sword.

ON COURAGE

COURAGE  
(frightened yelp)

ON MURIEL, as she rips open her apron and house dress, revealing a silver leafy tunic and silver body stocking underneath, complete with pointy silver shoes. She places on her head a pointy silver hat.

MURIEL  
I am the wind. I am the skies. I  
am...  
(striking pose, hands on  
hips)  
...Pewter Pete!

ON COURAGE...

COURAGE  
(screams)

...as his ears turn into corkscrews, screw into the top of his head and pull out a cork, unleashing a rushing column of liquid.

ON FARMER AND MURIEL

FARMER  
I've gotcha now, Pete. By all the  
brine in all the seas, I shall hoof  
ya and feed ya t'the depths!

MURIEL  
Catch me if y'can, Hoof!

COURAGE watches as the Farmer chases Muriel around the Living Room.

Muriel makes motions as though she were flying, leaping up on the sofa and knocking it over as she leaps off...

Leaping onto the TV and knocking it over...

THE FARMER, in pursuit, waves his hoof around.

FARMER  
(menacing grunting)

ON MURIEL, dodging the Farmer.

MURIEL  
(laugh)

The Farmer chases Muriel into the kitchen.

ON COURAGE

COURAGE  
(gulp)

He puts on a heavy protective glove and carefully picks up the book from the floor. With book safely tucked under his arm, he dashes into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

COURAGE enters and finds:

MURIEL on top of the refrigerator.

THE FARMER throws a chair at her.

MURIEL leaps off the fridge...

...CRASHING through the kitchen table. Undaunted, she gets up and laughs at the Farmer...

MURIEL  
(laughs at Farmer)

...and grabs her rolling pin from the counter, wielding it like a dagger.

MURIEL (CONT'D)  
Y'll never get me, Hoof! Not as  
long as there's a wind t'carry  
me...  
(to Courage)  
...right, Blinkie, the Flying  
Faerie Girl?

ON COURAGE: He looks at the camera, disconcerted.

MURIEL (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
C'mon Blink!

ON MURIEL, beckoning Courage.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

To our home: Not Ever in a Million  
Years Land.

Muriel leaps onto the sink -- the jumps through the window --  
CRASH!

COURAGE

(panic warble)

ON FARMER

FARMER

(to Courage)

You're me first mate! Act like  
one! Grab yer weapon and follow  
Pete.

The Farmer takes a long French bread from the counter and  
tosses it to Courage, then climbs up and out the window after  
Muriel.

ON COURAGE, holding the French bread, thoroughly befuddled.  
He looks at the camera again and takes a bite off the end of  
the bread. It crumbles his teeth. Stale. He drops the  
bread and dashes out the back door, the book in his gloved  
hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. NOWHERE MOVIE THEATER - DAY

COURAGE, still holding the book (in his gloved hand), dashes  
up to the back of a small crowd, looking up at the movie  
theater marquee.

VOICES IN CROWD

It's a publicity stunt! / She must  
be attached to wires. / That is one  
chubby Pewter Pete.

Courage's eyes go wide and he quickly makes his way to the  
front of the crowd and looks up to see:

LOW ANGLE: MURIEL, standing on the top of the marquee, at the  
edge, poised to fly. The marquee reads "THE RETURN OF THE  
BOOK." There are colorful banners on ropes suspended above  
the marquee.

MURIEL

(to crowd)

...And if you all come with me  
t'Not Ever Land, you'll never grow  
old!

(spotting Courage)

Blink, come sprinkle fairy dust on  
all my new friends so they can fly  
away with us.

ON COURAGE: Still holding the book in his gloved hand, he quickly scales the side of the theater.

Before he can reach the marquee, a bowling ball blasts into the building right next to his head.

COURAGE

(screams)

He turns around to see, past the crowd:

COURAGE'S POV/LS: THE FARMER, across the street from the theater, in a small park, next to an antique cannon and statue of an admiral. He's got a pile of bowling balls. He loads another and shoots the cannon.

FARMER

(laughing)

ON MURIEL, who ducks as the ball nearly misses her.

The crowd is loving this, cheering and laughing.

CROWD

(cheers; laughter)

COURAGE, panicked, (with book in gloved hand) climbs onto the sign part of the marquee. He crosses to MURIEL and pulls her out of the way of the cannonballs.

Holding Muriel and the book, he grabs a rope holding one of the banners, then swings down, ripping through the banners...

...and SLAMS into a telephone pole. Muriel and Courage (book in his gloved hand) slide down the pole, breaking off the foot hooks.

COURAGE

Ouch! Oooch! Eeech!

Muriel lands on her feet, her hands on her hips.

Courage is crumpled on the sidewalk, book in gloved hand.

APPLAUSE from the crowd.

MURIEL

Oh, Blink, you are a clever one.  
But you seem to have forgotten we  
can fly!

COURAGE

(pained moan)

Courage spots:

DR. VINDALOO walking by, wearing his doctor gear. Courage  
stops him and...

COURAGE (CONT'D)

(babbles)

...while miming that Vindaloo should examine her; she's not  
well.

DR. VINDALOO

Let me have a look at her, see if  
there's anything to do. Anything  
at all.

Courage hears, from O.C.:

FARMER (O.C.)

Where's me first mate?!

WIDER: COURAGE, still holding book in glove, dashes through  
the crowd...

...to the park across the street, where the Farmer is still  
standing at the cannon, but out of bowling balls.

FARMER (CONT'D)

(to Courage)

Polish me hoof.

The Farmer extends his hoof to Courage and hands him a cloth.  
Courage polishes the hoof as the Farmer muses:

FARMER (CONT'D)

We need a plan... A plan to  
capture Pete... To the ship!

While Courage continues to polish, the Farmer lifts his hoof  
high, knocking Courage down. An ice cream vendor pedals by  
on his tricycle style ice cream cart.

FARMER (CONT'D)  
(spotting ice cream cart)  
It's me ship! Take back me ship!

The Farmer picks up Courage (the book in Courage's gloved hand) and throws him at the ice cream vendor...

...who is knocked off his seat and replaced by Courage.

CROWD  
(cheers)

The Farmer climbs on the front of the pedal cart, standing atop the ice cream bin as though he were standing at the prow of his ship.

FARMER  
Have at Pewter Pete!

Courage looks up ahead and sees:

MURIEL atop a tree in the park, poised to fly. Next to her, also poised to fly, is DR. VINDALOO!

ON COURAGE, pedaling as fast as he can towards the tree, still holding the book.

WIDER as Courage banks the cart hard before he gets to the tree, making the Farmer fall off.

ON FARMER on the ground.

FARMER (CONT'D)  
(calling after Courage)  
Y're drivin' rots. I'm droppin' ye  
from first mate t'second mate!

ON COURAGE, holding book, pedaling quickly at the tree. He's going so fast, that when he tries to break...

...he skids right into the tree...

...causing MURIEL and VINDALOO to fall from their perch...

...right into the ice cream bin. They emerge from the bin, safe and happy. Vindaloo is eating a Popsicle and Muriel has an ice cream cone upside down on her head.

MURIEL  
Thanks for spottin' us, Blink!

DR. VINDALOO  
(leans in; whispers to  
Courage)  
You are right. She is out of it.  
Nothing I can do. Nothing at all.  
(to Muriel)  
I'll see you in Not Ever Land!

DR. VINDALOO skips off through the park, arms outstretched like a plane.

ON THE FARMER, coming up behind Courage and Muriel.

FARMER  
Good work. Y'got Pete right where  
we want 'im.

COURAGE (still with book) looks up to find:

MURIEL is now atop a billboard.

ON COURAGE

COURAGE  
(scream)

THE FARMER draws his umbrella sword and, holding the pointed end, grabs the bottom of the billboard with the hooked end and swings himself up onto the top of the billboard.

CLOSER ON MURIEL AND FARMER as he flips his umbrella sword into the air and catches (in his normal hand) the hooked end of the umbrella. He wields the umbrella like a sword. Muriel draws her rolling pin dagger. The two go at each other, sword fight style.

THE CROWD has gathered around them and cheers them on.

CROWD  
(cheers; encouragement)

ON COURAGE in crowd.

COURAGE  
(worried babble)

There he notices, beyond the billboard, in the street: THE BOOKMOBILE, now parked in front of the movie theater.

THE LIBRARIAN is at the service window, enjoying the show. Courage, book in gloved hand, runs up to her...

COURAGE (CONT'D)  
(babbling)

...pointing at the book, then pointing at Muriel and the Farmer.

ON LIBRARIAN

LIBRARIAN  
SHHH!!!

She points out of the window and up the tote board, now reading \$7,256.92 -- and climbing! (CHING CHING CHING and MUSIC CUE)

The Librarian extends her hand as though to say "give me the money."

ON COURAGE

COURAGE  
(pleading babble)

ON LIBRARIAN, unmoved. She keeps her hand out.

ON COURAGE as he hears a LOUD CHEER rising from the crowd.

CROWD (O.C.)  
(cheer continuing through following)

He turns around to see:

MURIEL, at the edge of the park, hanging from a telephone line by one hand, fencing the Farmer, who is hanging upside down by his feet. The CROWD continues to CHEER WILDLY.

ON COURAGE, an intense thoughtful gaze on his face; then BLINK! -- his head turns into a light bulb, then back into his head. Idea.

WIDE: COURAGE, holding book, races into the movie theater. A moment later, Courage rushes out of the theater, dragging a huge theatrical curtain -- and still holding the book.

COURAGE races across the street...

...and climbs the telephone pole next to Muriel and the Farmer, who continue to fence.

ON COURAGE: Nervous but working quickly, he hangs the curtain on the telephone wire.

WIDE: THE CURTAIN IS CLOSED, blocking the crowd's view of the action.

CROWD (CONT'D)  
(dissappointed)  
AWWWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

ON COURAGE, wearing a straw hat and striped vest, now at a ticket booth by the side of the curtain. The "Pewter Pete" book is propped up next to him, above it a sign reading: "TICKETS \$100."

CLOSER ON COURAGE as we hear the crowd clamor for tickets...

CROWD (CONT'D)  
(clamoring)  
Outta my way! / I was here first! /  
Let me through!

...hands entering the shot, holding wads of 100 dollar bills.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOKMOBILE - DAY

Moments later.

COURAGE, again holding the book in his gloved hand, dashes up to the LIBRARIAN at the service window and drops a huge mountain of money in front of her.

THE LIBRARIAN takes the load of cash and puts it on a hanging fruit-stand type scale. The scale reads \$10,000.00.

ON COURAGE

COURAGE  
(babbles insistently)

ON LIBRARIAN

LIBRARIAN  
SHHH!!!

She points at the tote, which is at \$10,000.01

ON COURAGE: Frustrated, he rushes off again with the book.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Moments later.

THE FARMER has MURIEL blindfolded and ready to walk the plank -- actually a high dive board above a construction site. He forces her further with his umbrella sword.

MURIEL

I'm not afraid, Hoof! Blink will come and we'll fly off to safety.

ON COURAGE at his stand, this time selling popcorn to the crowd (with his free hand, because the other has the book). He's collecting bills and change this time. He looks up at Muriel, frantic to get his job done.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOKMOBILE - DAY

Moments later.

COURAGE, book in gloved hand, deposits another pile of cash in front of the LIBRARIAN.

She puts it on the scale with the other cash: it reads \$14,973.76.

She points up at the tote board, which now reads \$874,614,973.77.

ON COURAGE, indignant.

COURAGE

(indignant babble)

He angrily BANGS the bookmobile with the book. As a result, the first four numbers on the tote flash off, bringing the total back down to \$14,973.77.

COURAGE looks accusingly at the Librarian. She shrugs sheepishly.

ON COURAGE as he checks his pockets -- and pulls out the same stuff he had when he first visited the Librarian: two marbles, a centipede, a linty lollipop -- and ONE PENNY. He re-pockets the marbles, centipede and lollipop -- and flicks the penny onto the pile of money on the scale.

THE PENNY drops on top of the pile of cash on the scale. Immediately, lights flash and a BELL RINGS PERSISTENTLY: DING DING DING DING!

THE TOTE BOARD stops. Courage has satisfied the overdue fee.

THE CAT STATUES turn to him, speaking in overlapping dialogue as before:

CAT STATUES

You have returned... and paid...  
returned... and paid... what you  
owe... what you owe...

ON COURAGE AND THE LIBRARIAN. He hands her the book. Frustrated, she takes it and stamps it RETURNED.

COURAGE

Yes!

Courage runs off

THE LIBRARIAN yanks in the cat statues and slams the window shutters closed.

WIDE: THE BOOKMOBILE drives off.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

COURAGE runs through the crowd to find:

MURIEL AND THE FARMER fighting in the mouth of a giant anaconda in a zoo, still as Pete and Hoof. Suddenly...

BING! -- they change back to their normal clothes -- and their normals selves. They realize they're in mid-fight.

CLOSER ON MURIEL AND THE FARMER

MURIEL

Eustace, what're y'doin'?!

FARMER

Dang if I know, woman! What're you doin'?!

MURIEL

Whatever we're doin' -- let's get out of this crocodile!

FARMER

Works fer me!

They drop their weapons in the anaconda's mouth and hurry out.

COURAGE RUNS IN and hugs Muriel and the Farmer. The Farmer pushes him away, disgusted. The audience breaks out in APPLAUSE. The Farmer looks at the crowd -- and they all bow.

ON COURAGE, smiling. He lifts a magic fairy wand, leaps into the air and, like Disney's Tinkerbell on "The Wonderful World of Disney," tinks the center of the screen.

LIBRARIAN (V.O.)  
SHHHHHHHH!!!

BLACK

...as fairy dust shimmers down.

THE END