

BUNNICULA: A RABBIT TALE OF HORROR



Screenplay By
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Based On The Book By
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FADE IN:

EXT. MONROE'S HOUSE - WIDE SHOT - EVENING

It's a late, moonlit night, clouds roll across the sky. The clouds slightly cover a full moon as they pass. The wind WHIPS and WHIRLS wildly.

From HIGH ABOVE the Monroe's house appears scary and ominous. A SLOW ZOOM begins on the house.

O.S. HAROLD begins to speak.

As the CAMERA continues to ZOOM IN on The Monroe's house it becomes clear that it is not scary, it is nothing more than an average family's home.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

Dear Audience, I will try to tell you this story as simply as possible. To be completely honest, this tale will be hard for you to digest, as hard to digest as a dogbone after being fortunate enough to have gotten some leftover steak, forgive me though, I digress. I will lay out the facts just as they happened. Some will say non-sense, others might simply say creepy,

CAMERA PASSES THROUGH an upstairs window of the house.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CAMERA PANS around the bedroom as Harold continues to speak. The bedroom is that of a typical thirteen year old boy (messy bed, music poster, guitar on stand, clothes all over the floor etc).

HAROLD

(V.O.)

but I think all will agree on one thing, this is a story unlike any other, and may be impossible to find again, just like that perfect combination of ice cream in a late night sundae snack. Like I said, the story itself will be hard

(MORE)

HAROLD (Cont'd)
 enough to believe, but when you see
 who's...

CAMERA FREEZES on a CLOSE ANGLE of a Hostess cupcake, which sits upon a dimly lit night table.

Harold gives the impression that the Hostess cupcake is the narrator.

HAROLD
 (V.O.)
 ...telling it to you, you may just
 get right up and walk out of this
 theater.
 (beat)
 Hold on now, just stay in your
 seat. Did you really think a
 Hostess cupcake could tell you this
 story? That would be ridiculous.

PAN TO Harold, a long haired, medium sized "shaggy" dog laying on the floor in front of the night stand.

Harold speaks directly TO THE CAMERA.

HAROLD
 No, it's the dog staring at the
 Hostess cupcake that will share
 this tale of horror with you. This
 tale of a neurotic cat, a hungry
 dog, and a cute little bunny, a
 bunny that's a little different
 from most, a bunny
 named...BUNNICULA!

Lightening flashes.

CUT TO BLACK.

OPENING TITLE

Bunnacula: A Rabbit Tale of Horror

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MR. MONROE (JOHN), and MRS. MONROE (SUE), relax in separate chairs enjoying coffee and tea while browsing the internet on separate laptops. A fire burns warmly behind them directly in-between their chairs.

Mr. Monroe turns his head and opens his mouth to say something to Mrs. Monroe, he stops himself, then turns his attention back to his laptop.

Mrs. Monroe turns her head and opens her mouth to say something to Mr. Monroe, she stops herself, then turns her attention back to her laptop.

After a pause, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe both SIGH contently, and then without looking at each other, simultaneously reach out and hold hands.

APRIL, the youngest of the Monroe children, sits just below Mr. and Mrs. Monroe's hands happily playing with a "girly", pink toy laptop. She is a "cute as a button", 3 year old girl, wearing pink "footsie" pajamas, her blonde hair is in braided pigtales.

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

PETER, the 10 year old middle child of the Monroe's, lays comfortably, reading intently on his neatly made bed. He wears neatly pressed khakis, black socks, and a button down shirt. Peter stops reading, and peers curiously over his glasses at a stack of books sitting on his lap.

INSERT - BOOK TITLES

"A Tale of Two Cities"

"The DaVinci Code"

"Physics for Kids"

BACK TO SCENE

PAN TO CHESTER, an adult male cat laying at the foot of Peter's bed. Chester lays in the same position as Peter. One book is open in front of Chester and it appears as if Chester is reading as well. Neatly placed around Chester are books and magazines.

INSERT - BOOK TITLES

"A Tale of Two Kittens"

"The Da Kitten Code"

"Physics for Felines"

BACK TO SCENE

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

TOBY, the oldest of the Monroe children, is thirteen. He sits on an extremely messy bed, wearing cut off cargo shorts and a sports orientated t-shirt.

Toby squints his eyes and looks down intently. He focuses on putting the finishing touches on two oversized sandwiches that he is preparing on his night stand. He rubs his fingertips and thumbs together as the sandwich is completed. Candy, chips, and boxes of snack cakes are scattered, opened, and spilled throughout the room.

Harold stares from the floor, he is mesmerized at the progress of the sandwiches. Scattered all around Harold are a variety of dog food cans and dog snack boxes.

INSERT - DOG FOOD AND DOG SNACK PHRASES

"Tastes Just Like Bacon"

"Your Dog Won't Know The Difference"

BACK TO SCENE

HAROLD

(INTO THE CAMERA)

Do you think if I couldn't tell the difference, that I would be waiting patiently for Toby to finish this week's Friday night masterpiece. You know, so he can begin sharing it with his best friend Harold.

Toby's completed "masterpieces" are scattered around his desk and room (i.e. sandwiches, sundaes, nachos, pudding parfaits etc.).

HAROLD

(INTO THE CAMERA)

But of course I'll have to endure another painful comedy routine first before I get to eat.

Toby is overly dramatic while talking to himself, but he is loud enough for Harold to hear.

TOBY

Boy it certainly looks like I've
(MORE)

TOBY (Cont'd)
made way to much food again, it's a
shame so much will go to waste.

HAROLD
Bark! Bark! Bark!

Toby ignores Harold's barking.

TOBY
If only there was someone as hungry
as me I could share all this food
with.

HAROLD
(even louder)
Bark! Bark! Bark!

Toby turns abruptly and acts surprised that Harold is even
in the room.

TOBY
Harold? What are you doing here?

HAROLD
Bark!

TOBY
What's that, you want to play
catch, but Harold, you know it's
too late.

HAROLD
Bark!

TOBY
No? You don't want to catch? Well
then, are you looking to take a
walk, because I already walked you
earlier.

HAROLD
Baaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrkkkk!!!

Toby looks up and pretends to try and figure things out.

TOBY
No walk, no catch. Well you
couldn't possibly be hungry, I
mean, just look at all these top
notch, great tasting doggie treats.
Surely that's all any dog needs to
be happy, right?

Harold angrily KNOCKS down a box of treats on his left, and then KNOCKS another box of treats down on his right, then rudely turns his nose up.

HAROLD
(with disdain)
Bark.

TOBY
You are hungry? Well I had no idea,
lucky for you I've got...

Toby's hand starts for the extra plate of food.

Harold begins to perk up, then suddenly Toby's hand makes a sharp turn for the top draw of his desk instead.

Toby opens the draw and pulls out a bag labeled "EXTRA SUPER SOUR BALLS".

TOBY
...super sour balls, your favorite!

HAROLD
(INTO THE CAMERA)
Boy, you mistake a sour ball for a
dog treat just once, and Jerry
Seinfeld here never lets you forget
it.

FLASHBACK - EXT. MONROE'S BACKYARD - DAY

There is a brightly colored sour ball stuck on Harold's tongue. He runs frantically in circles while his drooling tongue hangs out of his mouth. Harold tries desperately to get the sour ball off his tongue by shaking his head vigorously back and forth.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - EVENING (BACK TO PRESENT)

Harold's face is down flat on the floor, and his paws cover his face.

HAROLD
(whimpering)
Bark.

Toby puts the sour balls back into the desk draw.

He grabs a second plate of food, set up exactly like his, and turns towards Harold with it.

 TOBY
 OK...OK...is this what you're
 looking for?

Harold leaps up and begins YELPING, BARKING, and jumping around.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

O.S. from Toby's bedroom Harold BARKS and YELPS.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe look up from their laptops and look at each other.

 MR.& MRS. MONROE
 (in unison)
 Friday Night Feeding Time.

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

O.S. from Toby's bedroom Harold BARKS and YELPS.

Peter and Chester look up from their books. They look at each other with disgust.

 PETER
 (to Chester)
 So immature. Those two are always
 thinking with their stomachs
 instead of their brains. Right
 Chester?

Chester nods and SNORTS in agreement.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harold and Toby continue eating, Harold pauses and looks up.

 HAROLD
 (INTO THE CAMERA)
 As you can see, all of us here in
 the Monroe household have our
 (MORE)

HAROLD (Cont'd)
 routines, and we've been pretty set
 in our ways for some time.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS

THE MONROE'S BECOMING A FAMILY - MONTAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe meet for the first time in a park. They date, begin careers, and eventually marry.

Mrs. Monroe is pregnant for the first time.

A basinet is in a hospital nursery, one basinet has a card on the crib reading "Toby Monroe". Mr. and Mrs. Monroe look through the glass at the baby with very content smiles on their faces.

Toby's 4th birthday. There's cake and candles. Toby's eating birthday cake very messily.

Toby's handed a present. It's Harold as a puppy. Harold begins eating birthday cake very messily right along with Toby.

Harold and Toby grow up together. They are always eating. The Monroe's are older too.

Mrs. Monroe is pregnant again.

A basinet is in a hospital nursery, one basinet has a card on the crib reading "Peter Monroe". Mr. and Mrs. Monroe, and Toby and Harold look through the glass at the baby, all have very content smiles on their faces.

Peter's 4th birthday. There's cake and candles. Peter is already in glasses and very serious. He is carefully and neatly eating the cake. Peter opens up a gift, it's a book, the book immediately goes under his right arm. Peter clutches the book tightly.

Peter gets another gift, it's Chester as a kitten. Peter puts Chester under his other arm and clutches Chester as tight as the book.

Chester and Peter grow up together, they are always reading. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe are older too.

Mrs. Monroe is pregnant again.

A basinet is in a hospital nursery, one basinet has a card on the crib reading "April Monroe".

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe, and Toby and Harold, and Peter and Chester look through the glass at the baby, all have content smiles on their faces.

CLOSE ON a young Harold's smiling face as he looks at April through the glass.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

CLOSE ON an adult Harold smiling.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - EVENING (BACK TO PRESENT)

CAMERA SLOWLY PULLS OFF Harold's smile. Toby and Harold are now on their backs, rubbing their stomachs. They MOAN in pain from having eaten too much.

HAROLD
(INTO THE CAMERA)
Like I said, we've all had our routines for a real long time. However, that was all about to change.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Monroe, Mrs. Monroe, and April continue to work on their laptops, while the fire burns warmly in the background.

MR. MONROE
(to Mrs. Monroe about April)
What are we going to do about this one's birthday present?

MRS. MONROE
Do we really want another pet John?

April speaks in a low voice, trying to imitate her father.

APRIL
Yes we do want another pet Sue.

Mr. Monroe rubs April's head affectionately and then answers for himself.

MR. MONROE

Well, Peter does have Chester, and
Toby has Harold, and --

APRIL

APRIL HAS NO ONE!

MRS. MONROE

I wouldn't say you have no one
April, but...it is a Monroe 4th
birthday family tradition to add
another mammal to our herd.

APRIL

But I don't want a MAMMAL. I want
my own pet.

Mr. Monroe stands abruptly and triumphantly points his
finger upward.

MR. MONROE

And a pet you will get! Pet stores
beware! Tomorrow the Monroes are on
the "PROWL L L L L L L L L L L" for its newest
family member.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Harold and Chester lay on the top step with their faces in
between their paws. They've been listening to the entire
conversation.

CHESTER

Well Harold, what do you make of
this?

HAROLD

Why do I have to make anything of
it Chester?

CHESTER

Because they are going to the pet
stores tomorrow.

HAROLD

You have to think positively
Chester, for me that means I'll be
getting a fresh bag of treats, and
if I'm lucky, a fresh bag of decent
treats from each pet store they go
to!

CHESTER

Come on Harold, do you ever think of anything other than food?

HAROLD

Uh...let me think, NO!

CHESTER

Will you please take this seriously Harold!

HAROLD

Take what seriously?

CHESTER

They're getting a new pet...for April...the whole balance of our existence will be thrown off!

HAROLD

What are you talking about Chester, what balance?

CHESTER

We'll have to begin sharing with "IT", sharing our toys, sharing our time, and even...sharing our food.

Harold sits up.

HAROLD

Now there you go, over-reacting again. Do I go anywhere near your books, bells with strings, or even that ridiculous rubber mouse?

CHESTER

No.

HAROLD

And does Peter play, sorry, I mean read and study with anybody but you?

CHESTER

No.

HAROLD

And does Toby play catch with anybody but me?

CHESTER

No.

HAROLD

And have I EVER, EVER...AND I MEAN
EVER, shared my food with anybody?

CHESTER

(sheepishly)

No.

HAROLD

Don't you see? You're getting your
fur in a bunch for nothing. You
need to relax. Whatever pet April
picks for her 4th birthday it'll be
fine, just wait, you'll see, it
will all work out --

From O.S. a chip bag RUSTLES open, Harold's ears perk up
and his attention is grabbed immediately.

HAROLD

-- now, I've got more important
matters at hand. Toby's going to
need help finishing off that new
bag of chips, and I'm just the dog
for the job.

Harold speeds off down the hallway, Chester is left alone
on the stairs.

Chester shakes his head in disbelief at Harold's lack of
interest.

Harold enters Toby's room, the door SLAMS behind him.

Chester speaks to Harold as if he's still sitting next to
him.

CHESTER

Well Harold, it looks like we're
going pet shopping tomorrow.

INT. MONROE HOUSEHOLD - MORNING

All the Monroe's frantically prepare to leave for a long
day of shopping. April is passed from family member to
family member in an effort to get her ready.

SERIES OF SHOTS

BATHROOM - Family members enter and exit.

VARIOUS BEDROOMS - Family members enter and exit.

LIVING ROOM - Family members pass each other on their way to and from the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Oversized plates of breakfast food sit on the table and the counter. As family members enter and exit they pick at the bacon, eggs, toast, sausages etc.

Harold sits mesmerized by the bacon, he does not move, nothing distracts him.

MR. MONROE

(O.S.)

5 minutes! We're pulling out in 5 minutes, everybody needs to be ready to go!

Chester enters.

CHESTER

Harold, come on, it's time.

HAROLD

Time for what?

CHESTER

Just follow me.

Harold glares at the plate of bacon.

HAROLD

(monotone and deliberate)
But I didn't get any bacon.

CHESTER

Please Harold!

HAROLD

(more deliberate and purposeful)
But I didn't get any bacon.

CHESTER

Harold! Come on! I'm begging you, there will be more bacon another day!

HAROLD
 (angry)
 But I want THIS BACON!

CHESTER
 HAROLD!

HAROLD
 (to himself)
 What I won't sacrifice for
 friendship.

HAROLD
 (to Chester)
 O.K. Chester, let's go. But this
 better be worth my while.

Harold and Chester simultaneously exit through the swinging
 kitchen door.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Monroe trots down the stairs happily HUMMING when he
 abruptly comes to a stop.

MR. MONROE
 Sue!

MRS. MONROE
 (O.S.)
 I'm coming John.

MR. MONROE
 No Sue, it's not that.

MRS. MONROE
 (O.S.)
 Then what is it John?

MR. MONROE
 It's Harold and Chester.

MRS. MONROE
 (O.S.)
 Just give them each a snack and let
 them out before we leave.

MR. MONROE
 Uh...I don't think it's that either
 Sue. You need to come and take a
 look for yourself.

Mrs. Monroe comes down the stairs and stops on the same step as Mr. Monroe. Both are extremely puzzled.

MRS. MONROE
Well this IS strange.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Harold and Chester sit motionless, side by side, blocking the front door.

MR. MONROE
Looks like they want to go pet shopping too.

Mrs. Monroe moves to the bottom of the staircase and leans over Harold and Chester as if they're very young children.

MRS. MONROE
(using baby talk)
Is that true? Do you two want to help pick out April's new pet?

HAROLD
(under his breath, to Chester)
Does she think we understand her better when she uses that voice?

CHESTER
Quiet Harold! We're almost on our way.

Harold turns quickly and glares at Chester.

HAROLD
Hey! I gave up bacon for you!

MR. MONROE
Okay boys, looks like you're coming along for the ride. You ready to get April her present, and you guys a new friend?

Mr. Monroe opens the front door.

Chester sprints out the door.

Harold saunters slowly behind Chester.

HAROLD
 (to himself)
 Sometimes I think I've already got
 one friend to many.

EXT. MONROE'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

All the kids run out one by one and file into the family mini-van. Chester and Harold are already in the back row, just waiting.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe exit the house last and enter the mini-van. As the mini-van pulls out of the driveway, Harold and Chester's faces are pressed up against the rear glass.

Chester is excited, Harold is aggravated.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - PET STORES - DAY

FADE IN SONG, "Gimme Dat Ding" by The Pipkins.

A) INT. GENEREIC PET STORE

All the Monroes are looking at kittens, they all seem interested except for Chester and Peter. Peter and Chester purse their lips and shake their heads no.

B) INT. SECOND GENEREIC PET STORE

All the Monroes are looking at puppies, they all seem interested except for Harold and Toby. Toby and Harold purse their lips and shake their heads no.

C) INT. THIRD GENERIC PET STORE

All Monroes show interest in some type of small animal (guinea pig, mouse, gerbil etc.) until Chester chases a mouse and Harold chases Chester. Mr. Monroe and Mrs. Monroe both shake their heads no.

D) INT. EXOTIC BIRD STORE

All the Monroes show interest in some type of exotic bird. Harold is motionless as a weird looking bird sits on his head. Chester is also motionless as an even weirder looking bird sits on top of his head. CLOSE ANGLE ON MR. MONROE'S FACE as he shakes his head no. PULL-OUT to reveal the weirdest looking bird of all sitting on top of Mr. Monroe's head. The bird is moving back and forth with the motion of Mr. Monroe's head.

E) INT. REPTILE STORE

Snakes and reptiles slither in their cages. Harold and Chester's eyes widen as they press their noses against the glass. April stands alone with an enormous snake around her neck. April shakes her head yes, everybody else in the family shakes their heads no.

FADE OUT SONG, "Gimme Dat Ding" by The Pipkins.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Monroes file into the house after a long day of shopping, everyone is exhausted. Mr. Monroe carries a sleeping April.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe converse while walking up the stairs to put April to bed.

MR. MONROE

(whispering)

Is there any pet out there for this little one? Because I don't think we could have gotten less done today if we tried.

MRS. MONROE

(whispering)

Well, at least we know what pets
(MORE)

MRS. MONROE (Cont'd)
she won't be getting. It'll make
tomorrow much easier.

MR. MONROE
(loud at first, then
whispering)
OH NO!!! Tomorrow is the All-Day,
All-Night Family Horror Film
Festival at the Filmore Theater.
We are NOT going anywhere near a
pet store tomorrow.

MRS. MONROE
(whispering)
Yes..Yes, "family horror film
festival", four little words that
are just so perfect together.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe enter with april.

MR. MONROE
This is a Monroe family tradition.
We've been going to this since we
were dating, heck, since we were
first married.

Mr. Monroe puts April in her bed, pulls the covers up to
her neck, and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

Mrs. Monroe leans over and gives April a kiss on the
forehead too.

MR. MONROE
In fact, our kids have never missed
the "family horror film festival"
and --

MRS. MONROE
O.k., o.k., I get the point. We
don't want to break the Monroe
family tradition.

MR. MONROE
(continuing, unphased)
-- during the black out of '94 we
made it to the Filmore, and...

Mr. Monroe CLICKS April's light off, a night light automatically turns on. The Monroe's conversation trails off.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

In through the front door a very tired Harold and Chester finally enter the house.

HAROLD

All that worrying Chester. I told you it would be O.K., they're not any closer to finding April a pet. Though I'm closer to finally getting that left over bacon. I can only hope they left that plate out for me.

Harold runs to the kitchen.

Chester follows slowly behind, he stops in the center of the living room and circles a few times before settling in and sitting down.

Chester talks to Harold as if he's in the living room with him.

CHESTER

Maybe you're right Harold, today was very encouraging, and with the film festival tomorrow, the Monroes are sure to be distracted for the rest of the month. After all, Halloween is their favorite time of year, and very little comes between them and their ghoulish ways. Yes Harold, I really think you may be right this time. I think everything is going to be O.K.--

From O.S. Harold's MUNCHING and CHOMPING is very loud.

Chester lifts his head and listens to Harold's MUNCHING AND CHOMPING.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Harold finishes his last bite. He rolls onto his back.

All four of his paws are in the air. He has a goofy smile on his face.

Harold closes his eyes, he is at peace.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

From O.S. Harold lets out a tremendous BURP.

Chester puts his head back down.

CHESTER
-- well, as O.K. as it's ever going
to be.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MONROE'S HOME - NIGHT

A bolt of lightening STRIKES. The fade to black is now the darkness of night.

Intense rain POURS down on streets, sidewalks, and across street lamps.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rain POUNDS against the windows. Chester calmly sits and reads a book.

INSERT - BOOK TITLE

"When Good Cats Go Bad".

BACK TO SCENE

Chester is unaffected by the horrible, scary weather.

Another tremendous CRASH of thunder and BOLT of lightening fill the room.

Harold races wildly into the living room, unable to stop, he slides across the wood floors and CRASHES into a wall.

HAROLD
Ohhhhh Chester, that was a loud
one, it sounded really, really
close. Did you hear it Chester? I
thought we were going to get it on
that one.

CHESTER

Do you know what the statistical probability of getting hit by lightning is Harold?

HAROLD

Right about now I'd say it's pretty high!

CHESTER

No Harold, the odds of getting hit by lightning are about one in seven hundred thousand. So the chance of us getting hit are very slim.

HAROLD

Well, if this storm doesn't stop the statistical probability that I'm going to wet myself is a thousand percent!

CHESTER

Take it easy Harold, you just need to relax.

HAROLD

I just wish Toby would get home from the film festival already, he always knows how to calm me down.

CHESTER

(to himself)

A box of donuts knows how to calm you down.

CHESTER

(to Harold)

Look at me Harold, you don't see me getting upset, that's because cats don't have irrational fears like you dogs.

HAROLD

"Irrational Fears"?

CHESTER

Yes. Irrational fears Harold. That's when someone has a fear of something that shouldn't be feared. For example, like how elephants are afraid of mice, how people are afraid of dentists, or how dogs are frightened by a thunder storm. You

(MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
 see Harold, us cats are too
 intelligent to be scared by
 irrational fears. Seriously Harold,
 you should really be more like me.

There is the biggest BOLT of lightening and CRASH of
 thunder yet.

The power in the house goes out, leaving Harold and Chester
 sitting in the moonlight.

The front door BANGS open just as another BOOMING CRASH of
 thunder and lightening HITS.

Harold and Chester glance at the door, just before the room
 goes dark, they get a glimpse of a towering silhouette
 standing in the doorway. It looks like a vampire. The
 room goes black again.

Lightening STRIKES again immediately. This time when the
 room lights up Chester is in Harold's arms, like a husband
 carrying his wife across the threshold.

The power comes back on.

In the doorway is Mr. Monroe. On Mr. Monroe's shoulders is
 a large flop eared bunny, BUNNICULA. In the light Harold
 and Chester see it was the outline of Bunnacula on his
 shoulders that made the silhouette look like a vampire.

HAROLD
 (while holding Chester)
 Yes, I should DEFINITELY be more
 like you Chester!

Chester jumps out of Harold's arms.

A dripping Mr. Monroe walks into the living room with the
 soaking wet bunny.

Bunnacula's face and underside are completely white. From
 the middle of his head, along the back of his ears and all
 the way down his back is jet black, it gives the appearance
 that Bunnacula is wearing a cape.

A dripping but elated April comes running through the front
 door, she runs in circles around Mr. Monroe and the bunny.

APRIL
 (singing while running)
 I have a bunny, I have a bunny, I
 have a bunny HEY HEY HEY. I have a
 (MORE)

APRIL (Cont'd)
 bunny, I have a bunny, I have a
 bunny and a brand new pet.

The remaining family members enter one at a time. They too
 are soaking wet from the tremendous thunderstorm.

Peter enters, April continues to run and chant.

Mr. Monroe continues to try and figure out where the bunny
 should go.

PETER
 A bunny seems like a ridiculous
 idea for a pet.

Toby enters, April continues to run and chant.

Mr. Monroe continues to try and figure out where the bunny
 should go.

TOBY
 I don't know Peter, I think he's
 kind of cute.

Mrs. Monroe enters, April continues to run and chant.

Mr. Monroe continues to struggle to try and figure out
 where the bunny should go.

MRS. MONROE
 (to Mr. Monroe)
 Well, taking an abandoned animal
 from the movie theater does seem a
 little crazy, especially when
 you're going to give it to your 3
 year old daughter as a pet.

April runs around Mrs. Monroe only.

MRS. MONROE
 John I really don't know if this is
 such a good idea.

MR. MONROE
 Of course it's not a GOOD idea,
 it's a GREAT idea!

Peter, Toby, Harold, and Chester all roll their eyes at Mr.
 Monroe's bad joke. Toby exits.

MR. MONROE
 Let's look at the facts Sue. We
 (MORE)

MR. MONROE (Cont'd)
 found this little guy on the night
 we kick off the Halloween season,
 during a thunderstorm, while
 watching Boris Karloff portray one
 of the greatest movie monsters of
 all time...Dracula!

Mr. Monroe raises his arms and does a Dracula-type LAUGH.

Harold and Chester reel back from Mr. Monroe, afraid of his
 Dracula impersonation.

Mr. Monroe continues to laugh.

Toby re-enters the living room with a cage and blanket for
 Bunnacula.

MRS. MONROE
 Oh John, you think everything is a
 "sign" if you can somehow relate it
 to Halloween.

MR. MONROE
 It's true, Halloween is "The Most
 Wonderful Time Of The Year".
 (beginning to sing it to
 the tune of the Christmas
 song)
 "There'll be ghosts trick or
 treating and everyone eating the
 candy for a year! It's the most
 wonderful time, it's the most
 wonderful time, YES it's the most
 wonderful time of the YEAR!"

Everyone shakes their heads as Mr. Monroe SINGS.

Mr. Monroe SINGS and moves around the room, SINGING to each
 family member. As he SINGS his last line, Mr. Monroe wraps
 his arms around Harold and Chester, all three rock back and
 forth as Mr. Monroe finishes the song.

MR. MONROE
 (to Mrs. Monroe)
 And besides, look at the note that
 was left with him at the theater.

Mr. Monroe takes a note hanging from Bunnacula's neck.

Mr. Monroe reads with a "Transylvanian" ACCENT, and is
 acting overly dramatic.

By the end of the note he is pretending to sob.

MR. MONROE

"Please take good care of our Bunny. We must return to the 'Old Country'. The journey will be long and too hard for our baby. Your kindness will be rewarded".

Mr. Monroe instantly "snaps" out of his fake tears.

MR. MONROE

You see, there's no way we can abandon him now, he's all alone, he's officially a Monroe.

(Beat)

Little Baby Bunny Monroe.

Everybody MOANS.

MR. MONROE

Prince Monroe?

Everybody MOANS.

MR. MONROE

Fluffy Monroe?

Everybody MOANS. Mr. Monroe opens his mouth to say another name but is interrupted by April.

APRIL

(O.S.)

Bunnicula.

Everybody turns to see April holding Bunnicula.

CUT TO:

April holds Bunnicula. She has him by the belly, his feet are dangling and his upper paws are outstretched.

MR. MONROE

Really? Because I thought Fluffy would be perfect.

APRIL

Bunnicula.

MRS. MONROE

Bunnicula it is, great idea April.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe begin walking out of the living.

MR. MONROE
 You know dear, Prince wasn't bad,
 what if it was Prince Bun-Bun
 instead?

MRS. MONROE
 (in a tone that suggests
 stop)
 John.

MR. MONROE
 How about Prince Bun-Bun the 3rd of
 Carrotville.

MRS. MONROE
 (in a stronger tone that
 says stop)
 John, it's Bunnacula.

MR. MONROE
 (to himself)
 Oh...alright, but Fluffy was pretty
 --

MRS. MONROE
 JOHN! ENOUGH!

MR. MONROE
 Yes dear. Now, let's talk about
 our big Halloween bash. This year
 I was thinking of making it a 70's
 theme. What do you think?

MRS. MONROE
 Whatever you want John.

MR. MONROE
 Because we could get some disco
 balls, have fondue, and I'm telling
 you the costumes would be "off the
 hook".

MRS. MONROE
 John?

MR. MONROE
 Yeah?

MRS. MONROE
 Please don't ever use the phrase
 "off the hook" again.

MR. MONROE

Yes dear.

The CAMERA PANS BACK to Toby and Peter as Mr. and Mrs. Monroe exit.

TOBY

Bunnicula? It's kind of catchy.

PETER

Bunnicula? It's definitely childish.

TOBY

You think everything is childish.

PETER

Well you eat like a child...Ring Dings, Doritos.

TOBY

That's brain food, dude.

Toby and Peter exit.

April bends over to put Bunnicula into the cage. She is repeating to herself over and over the bunny's new name.

Up to this point Bunnicula's eyes have been half closed, as she closes the latch and says Bunnicula's name again, Chester begins to show his jealousy for the new pet.

CHESTER

(to Harold)

Bunnicula...it's more like Barf-icula.

On the word "Barf-icula" lightening FLASHES and thunder CRASHES. April runs from the front of the cage to reveal Bunnicula's eyes are now wide open.

Bunnicula's eye are beady and bright red, and Bunnicula stares straight at Chester.

Chester pulls back and is visibly frightened.

Chester keeps his eyes on Bunnicula, but begins speaking to Harold.

CHESTER

Uh, Harold, can I see you in the Kitchen please.

HAROLD
Why? Can't you see me in here?

CHESTER
Harold!

HAROLD
Do you have leftovers for me in
there, otherwise I don't think I'll
be moving anywhere.

Chester moves towards the kitchen. He begins speaking very
deliberately, and enunciating each word separately.

CHESTER
Will...you..just...come...
with...me...into...the...
kitchen...PLEASE!

Harold begins to follow Chester, but mimics Chester as he
follows behind.

HAROLD
(to himself)
You're...just...so... DEMANDING!

CHESTER
I heard that!

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

While Chester speaks, Harold ROOTS around the kitchen
looking for food. He responds to what Chester says, but
never stops looking. Each time Harold responds, his nose
is buried in a different part of the kitchen.

CHESTER
Something just isn't right.

HAROLD
Tell me about it, the Monroes' are
way to clean. There's never
anything left on the floor to snack
on.

CHESTER
(with disgust)
I mean with Bunnicula.

HAROLD
A little jealous are we?

CHESTER
 ABSOLUTELY NOT!
 (Beat)
 Well, maybe a little, but that's
 not it. He just doesn't seem
 normal.

HAROLD
 You wouldn't seem "normal" either
 Chester if you were just abandoned
 by your family.

CHESTER
 That's just it Harold. Who
 abandons a bunny in the middle of
 the night, during a thunderstorm,
 at a theater showing horror movies?

HAROLD
 I don't know...Freddie Kruger?

CHESTER
 And not just any horror movie, but
 the original Dracula no less.

HAROLD
 What's your point Chester?

Chester makes his way to the swinging kitchen door.

CHESTER
 Just look at him...

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester slowly puts his head out of the kitchen door to
 look at Bunnacula.

Harold slowly puts his head out of the kitchen door, just
 above Chester's head, so he can look at Bunnacula too.

Bunnacula sits in the center of the cage. His eyes are
 staring straight ahead. Other than breathing very fast,
 Bunnacula is motionless.

As Chester describes each feature on Bunnacula, A CLOSE-UP
 of each physical feature is INSERTED. Each part of
 Bunnacula that Chester describes looks similar to the
 features of a "real" Vampire.

CHESTER
 ...those fiery red eyes, the pure
 (MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
 white body, the jet black back, and
 he's just dying to get out of that
 cage. It's like a tiny, furry
 vampire has been delivered to our
 home.

Both Harold and Chester slowly, and in unison, pull their
 heads back from the swinging kitchen door and into the
 kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

HAROLD
 A vampire Chester?

CHESTER
 YES, a vampire Harold?

HAROLD
 Why? Just because they found him
 during a Dracula movie? Don't you
 think you're being a little overly
 dramatic?

CHESTER
 No I don't Harold. I've been
 thinking, it's not just the movie
 or his appearance that's
 disturbing. For instance, take that
 note around Bunnacula's neck. The
 "Old Country"? His parents are
 going back to the "Old Country"?
 Where do think the "Old Country" is
 Harold?

Harold takes a BREATH to try and answer, but Chester
 interrupts Harold and answers his own question.

CHESTER
 That's right! Transylvania! And
 do you know who comes from
 Transylvania Harold?

Again, Harold takes a BREATH to try and answer, but Chester
 interrupts Harold and answers his own question.

CHESTER
 That's right! Dracula comes from
 Transylvania, the numero uno
 vampire of them all! And do you
 know what that means Harold?

Harold does not even attempt to answer.

CHESTER

Harold? Do you know what that means?

Harold continues to be quiet.

CHESTER

Harold? Harold!

HAROLD

Oh? I didn't think you needed me Chester. You obviously have all the answers.

CHESTER

Don't be so sensitive Harold. Just tell me what you're thinking.

HAROLD

What do I think? I think you need to give the little guy a break, it's been a long, confusing day for him.

Harold turns away from Chester and starts looking for food again.

HAROLD

Also, I don't think the Monroes' remembered to feed him. I know I wouldn't be able to get to sleep on an empty stomach. Just face it Chester, he's not a vampire, he's a bunny. And truth be told, he's kind of cute.

HAROLD

(to himself)

I can't believe they didn't leave anything for ME to eat either.

Harold strolls past a bowl overflowing with dry dog food. He stops and speaks directly INTO THE CAMERA.

HAROLD

I mean real food...

Harold goes back to wandering through the kitchen aimlessly.

HAROLD
 (mumbling to himself)
 ...like cupcakes, donuts,
 marshmallows.

CHESTER
 (to himself)
 Give him a break? Kind of cute?
 He didn't hear a word I said.

Harold's mumbling trails off.

Chester turns from Harold and heads towards the swinging kitchen door.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester's head is once again peaking out the swinging kitchen door, he glares at Bunnicula.

CHESTER
 (to himself)
 Give him a break huh? We'll see
 about that.

Bunnicula's red eyes are in a cold stare, his breathing is still heavy and quick.

THE CAMERA CUTS BETWEEN A SLOW ZOOM of Bunnicula staring straight ahead and a SLOW ZOOM of Chester staring at Bunnicula.

On the SLOW ZOOM of Chester, his eyes are getting wider, his jaw is dropping lower, and he is visibly worried.

On the SLOW ZOOM of Bunnicula, his BREATHING gets faster and faster.

At the end of the SLOW ZOOM of Bunnicula, his head turns sharply and he "shoots" his stare at Chester.

Chester GASPS and tries to pull his head back, but it gets CAUGHT in the swinging kitchen door.

Chester finally gets his head loose and pulls it back into the kitchen.

The kitchen door slowly swings back and forth.

MATCH DISSOLVE
 TO:

INT. MR. AND MRS. MONROE'S BEDROOM - MAGIC HOUR

A window shade slowly FLAPS back and forth.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe are in their bed sleeping.

Mr. Monroe is pushed all the way to the edge of one side of the bed while Mrs. Monroe is stretched comfortably across the entire rest of the bed.

Mrs. Monroe is SNORING.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Toby and Harold sleep in Toby's bed.

Toby is pushed all the way to the edge of the bed while Harold is comfortably stretched across the rest of the bed.

Harold is SNORING.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

April is sleeping in her bed.

April is pushed all the way to the edge of her bed.

An enormous amount of stuffed animals are taking up the rest of the bed.

April rolls over onto one of her stuffed animals causing the toy to make a SNORING sound.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peter is sleeping comfortably in his bed.

There is nothing else on the bed with him except a book neatly closed with a bookmark hanging out. PAN TO Chester sleeping on an area rug in the middle of Peter's room. Chester is restless, tossing and turning in his sleep. He MUMBLES to himself.

DISSOLVE TO:

CHESTER'S DREAM SEQUENCE - DEAD OF NIGHT

It is dark, there are CRASHES of lightning. Bright red eyes, fangs, and an "evil" version of Bunnacula's head floats by.

ON THE AREA RUG Chester continues to toss and turn.

Chester dreams that Bunnacula's cage door is open and the cage is empty. As lightning continues to CRASH, Chester dreams that Peter's room lights up. The lightning reveals Bunnacula sitting in Peter's doorway, staring at Chester.

Chester tosses and turns more violently on the area rug as his nightmare continues.

A BOOMING, final strike of lightening occurs in Chester's nightmare.

END DREAM
SEQUENCE.

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Chester JOLTS awake from the lightning in his nightmare.

Birds CHIRP, the sun shines into Peter's room. It's a beautiful day.

Peter is gone, Chester is alone on the area rug. Chester jumps up and runs out of Peter's room to make sure there is no truth to his nightmare.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester runs to Bunnacula's cage. He confirms that the cage door is closed and Bunnacula is safely locked inside.

Bunnacula is sleeping soundly. He is in the center of the cage breathing RAPIDLY, his eyes are closed.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Toby is not in the room, but Harold is. Harold is on the bed still sleeping soundly. Harold is smiling, LICKING his lips, and drooling.

Chester enters and tries to wake Harold. Harold is not budging.

DISSOLVE TO:

HAROLD'S DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

FADE IN SONG "Here You Come Again" by Dolly Parton.

Harold runs in SLOW MOTION in a field of daisies. Running in SLOW MOTION towards Harold is a human sized Hostess cupcake with white icing legs and arms. Both the cupcake and Harold have their arms held out lovingly. When they finally meet, they hold each other and spin in a circle.

Harold closes his eyes and begins to open his mouth. He moves in closer to take a bite of the enormous cupcake.

END HAROLD'S
DREAM SEQUENCE.

FADE OUT SONG "Here You Come Again" by Dolly Parton

DISSOLVE TO:

Chester being pulled in tight by Harold as Harold dreams he is pulling the cupcake in closer for a bite.

Chester is struggling to pull away as Harold's grip tightens.

Their faces and eventually their lips get closer.

When their lips finally meet, Harold opens his eyes to see he and Chester are kissing.

Both Harold and Chester reel back in unison and make a RASPBERRY SPITTING SOUND with their lips and tongue.

HAROLD

What in the name of pepperoni pizza
are you doing Chester?

Chester is PANTING and is out of breath.

CHESTER

Harold, I had a horrible, horrible
nightmare.

Harold stands up, stretches, and shakes out his fur.

HAROLD

Yeah, well my dream didn't end so
well either!

CHESTER

Harold, it was so real --

HAROLD

Mine was real too, so real I could
almost TASTE it!

CHESTER

-- so real, Bunnicula was out of
his cage, he was prowling through
the house stalking the Monroes,
stalking ME!

HAROLD

You really need to relax Chester --

MRS. MONROE

(O.S.)

JOHN! JOHN! Come down to the
kitchen, you need to see this!

Both Harold and Chester's ears and heads perk up when they
hear Mrs. Monroe's scream.

Harold and Chester turn and look at each other.

CHESTER

Relax you say? I don't think so
Harold! To the kitchen!

Chester bolts out of the bedroom.

Harold slowly leaves the bedroom, following Chester.

HAROLD

(to himself)

At least we're heading to the
kitchen. Maybe I can make my dream
a reality.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe are already involved in a conversation when Chester comes slinking in, followed by Harold.

MRS. MONROE

Well John, what do you think?

MR. MONROE

I don't know Sue, I'm not really an expert on wrinkled vegetables. Now, if it was wrinkled mother-in-laws, I'd be your guy.

MRS. MONROE

But they're not just wrinkled John, just look at them.

Mrs. Monroe holds up a variety of vegetables, they are white, wrinkled, and drained of any moisture.

MRS. MONROE

I mean they're white, shrunken, AND wrinkled. It's as if all the "juice" has somehow been sucked out of them.

Chester's eyes get real big, and his jaw drops as he turns to look at Harold.

Harold purses his lips, shakes his head, and rolls his eyes.

MR. MONROE

What exactly do you want me to do?

MRS. MONROE

Well Sherlock, I want you to start by figuring out what happened to all these vegetables.

MR. MONROE

How about I pick up some fresh vegetables on the way home from work and I'll ask Paul at "Paul's Produce Pickens'" if he's ever heard of anything like this before? Will that do?

MRS. MONROE
 (condescending)
 Yes dear. Thank you. You may
 begin your investigation
 immediately.
 (yelling to the boys)
 PETER! TOBY! Let's get a move on,
 the bus is going to be here any
 minute...
 (to Mr. Monroe)
 You're sure you don't mind dropping
 April off at my mom's today?

Mr. Monroe eats some toast and drinks some juice, he takes
 a bow and rolls his arm.

MR. MONROE
 I serve at your pleasure my lady.

Mrs. Monroe moves around the kitchen gathering plates and
 scraping all the leftovers onto one plate.

Harold analyzes her every move. His eyes get wider as the
 leftovers get bigger and bigger on the single plate.

Mr. Monroe exits.

MR. MONROE
 (yelling)
 April! Time to head to Nana's
 house!

Mrs. Monroe sets the plate of leftovers down on the
 counter, grabs two lunch bags, and walks out the kitchen
 door.

MRS. MONROE
 (yelling)
 Peter! Toby! Let's go. I've got
 your lunches.

Harold watches in horror as Mrs. Monroe exits.

The single plate of leftovers sit on the counter.

Harold's head slowly drops in despair.

Slowly the swinging kitchen door begins to stop. On the
 last swing of the door back in towards the kitchen, Mrs.
 Monroe re-enters.

Harold's head quickly picks up when she enters.

MRS. MONROE
 (to herself)
 Almost forgot.

Mrs. Monroe reaches towards the counter where the plate of leftovers are sitting. Harold's ears perk up, but Mrs. Monroe grabs her keys, which sit just past the plate.

Mrs. Monroe turns to walk out again. Just as Harold's head is about to drop a second time, Mrs. Monroe takes her hand off the swinging door and turns back towards the counter one last time.

MRS. MONROE

Oh...and for you.

Mrs. Monroe grabs the plate of leftovers and puts it down on the floor.

HAROLD

(to himself)

SCORE!

Harold dives into the plate of leftovers.

Chester follows Mrs. Monroe out of the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester watches all the family members exit the house.

Mr. Monroe and April come down the stairs first. Mrs. Monroe is at the bottom of the stairs, she gives them each a kiss as they exit through the front door. Mrs. Monroe hands April her backpack.

Peter comes down the stairs, grabs a lunch out of Mrs. Monroe's hand, she gives him a kiss as he exits through the front door.

Toby comes down the stairs, grabs a lunch out of Mrs. Monroe's hand, she gives him a kiss as he exits through the front door.

Mrs. Monroe follows Toby out and CLOSES the door.

Chester is alone in the living room with Bunnicula.

Bunnicula's eyes are closed, he is still in the center of the cage, and his breathing is quick and heavy.

Chester stares at Bunnicula.

Chester's eyes are slowly squinting. Chester's looks at Bunnacula with great suspicion.

Chester quickly turns and runs back into the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Harold is done with the plate of leftovers. The plate is spotless, but Harold continues LICKING the rim of the plate. Both paws hold the plate lovingly.

CHESTER
My god Harold, give it a rest,
there's nothing left.

Harold never picks his head up from the plate.

HAROLD
There's always something left
Chester...ALWAYS!

CHESTER
Harold. We need to talk. I don't
think I was dreaming last night.
It felt to real to be JUST a dream,
and now those vegetables.

The dried up, shriveled and white vegetables sit on the counter.

CHESTER
Just look at those vegetables, it
had to be Bunnacula.

Harold flips the plate over and starts licking the underside of the plate.

HAROLD
Why does it HAVE to be Bunnacula?

CHESTER
I know it has to be Bunnacula
because only a Vampire could have
done THAT, to THOSE vegetables.

HAROLD
We're still talking about
Bunnacula, right?

CHESTER
Absolutely.

HAROLD
(aggrieved)
Then why are you bringing up
Vampires again?

CHESTER
If you would just pay attention
Harold, you would understand.

HAROLD
(almost yelling)
I thought I was paying attention!
Will you just get to the point,
PLEASE!

CHESTER
Boy, you are very excitable Harold.
You know, it might be all that junk
food you eat.

Harold glares at Chester.

CHESTER
O.K., just settle down. It's really
quite simple Harold. One, vampires
do not sleep at night. They only
sleep during the day. The same
holds true for this rabbit. Two,
Vampires have long pointed teeth
called fangs.

HAROLD
Wait a second, don't we have fangs?

CHESTER
No, we have canines.

HAROLD
What's the difference?

CHESTER
Fangs are more pointed than
canines, and Vampires use their
fangs to bite people on the neck.
And Bunnacula definitely has fangs,
not canines.

HAROLD
Slow down. I saw Mrs. Monroe bite
Mr. Monroe on the neck once. Does
that mean she's a Vampire?

CHESTER

No, she's not a Vampire. She's a lawyer.

HAROLD

But Bunnacula hasn't bit anybody on the neck.

CHESTER

No he hasn't, but he has taken a "bite" from these vegetables.

HAROLD

But vegetables don't have necks.

CHESTER

You're right Harold. Vegetables don't have necks. It's kind of like how dogs don't have brains. My point is, look closer at those vegetables.

Harold moves closer to the vegetables. He moves tentatively and cautiously.

INSERT - CLOSE-UP OF VEGETABLES

Two, tiny are holes are in every piece of produce.

BACK TO SCENE

CHESTER

You see those two "holes", that's where Bunnacula used his fangs to suck out all the juice from those vegetables, leaving them all dried up and white.

HAROLD

Chester. There's one big problem with all of this. Bunnacula was in his cage...his cage is locked...it locks from the outside.

Chester walks out of the kitchen, Harold follows.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHESTER

That brings me to my third point. Vampires can get in and out of locked rooms. So Bunnacula has obviously figured out how to open the cage.

HAROLD

(sarcastically,
mimicking)
Oh Yeah..."Obviously".

Both Harold and Chester stare at Bunnacula.

CHESTER

Don't you see, it all adds up Harold. Out of the cage at night, sleeping all day, and those vegetables. Those dried-up, juice sucked out, shriveled little vegetables.

HAROLD

And how do you know all of this Chester?

CHESTER

I've read a horror book or two in my day.

Harold rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

Chester begins to pace back and forth in front of Bunnacula's cage.

HAROLD

I'll give you one thing Chester. Those vegetables are a little strange. But aren't you being a little overly dramatic. What if by some chance Bunnacula is the one that got the "juice" out of those vegetables, it's really not a big deal.

CHESTER

Not a big deal. NOT A BIG DEAL, Harold. Today it's vegetables...Tomorrow... THE WORLD!

HAROLD

You're crazy Chester. You really
are making way to much out of this.

Chester moves to the top of a bookcase and begins SHIFTING
books around on the shelf.

CHESTER

Crazy? We'll see who's crazy. As
soon as I do a little more
research, I'll know exactly what
I'm dealing with and I'll know how
I should proceed.

HAROLD

(puzzled)

Proceed?

CHESTER

Yes, proceed. How to move ahead
with a plan. You know, to go
forward.

HAROLD

Well then, I will "proceed" to
Toby's room and see what leftovers
are awaiting my arrival.

Harold exits the living room and runs upstairs towards
Toby's room.

Chester finally finds the book he's looking for. He jumps
off the bookshelf and lands on the living room floor in
front of Bunnacula's cage. Chester narrows his eyes and
slowly shakes his head back and forth.

Bunnacula is in his usual daytime position (center of cage,
eyes closed, and breathing heavy).

CHESTER

(whispering to himself)

You'll get yours little bunny foo
foo, make no mistake, you'll get
yours.

Chester digs in for a good long read. He reads, turns
pages, and nods to himself.

The sun starts to MOVE DOWN in the sky, TIME PASSES.

Chester continues to read, un-phased by how much time is
going by.

Peter and Toby enter with their book bags. They walk past Chester on their way to the kitchen for a snack.

TOBY

What is that cat of yours doing now?

PETER

He thinks he can read, those books are like a bell on a string for him.

Chester doesn't budge when the boys pass or when they talk about him. He continues to read and gather information.

The sun continues to MOVE DOWN in the sky.

Peter and Toby head back across the living room, as they turn to go upstairs Dad and April come in the front door.

Dad and April walk past Chester on their way to the kitchen to get a snack.

Chester continues to read, he is un-phased when Mr. Monroe and April pass by.

MR. MONROE

So how was preschool today?

APRIL

We made puppets, and Mrs. Robbins read a book, and we pretended to open a restaurant, and...

Chester continues to read. The sun continues to set.

April exits the kitchen and runs past Chester.

Mr. Monroe follows April. He stops at the bottom of the stairs.

MR. MONROE

(yelling)

Boys, let's go, practices start in 20 minutes!

Mr. Monroe and April exit through the front door. Toby and Peter run down the stairs and out the front door, following right behind April and Mr. Monroe.

Chester continues to read, he is unaffected by all the commotion.

Mrs. Monroe comes through the front door, the sun continues to set and the moon begins its RISE. She walks by Chester on her way to the kitchen.

MRS. MONROE
 (to herself)
 What to make for dinner?

INT. TOBY'S ROOM - EVENING

Harold lays on Toby's bed. Harold's head POPS up from an afternoon nap.

HAROLD
 Dinner!

Harold bolts out of Toby's room and comes running down the stairs to follow Mrs. Monroe into the kitchen. He is so out of control by the time he reaches the bottom of the stairs he SLAMS into the wall. He rights himself and starts off towards the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Harold passes Chester, he slows down for a second. Harold shakes his head back and forth in disbelief that Chester has been reading all day and into the early evening. Harold SNORTS and heads towards the kitchen.

Chester does not stop reading, even when Harold stops to look at him.

Bunnacula continues to be in the exact same position. His eyes are open now.

The moon is high in the sky.

Mr. Monroe, Toby, and Peter enter through the front door and head into the kitchen.

Chester continues to read.

MR. MONROE
 Hey Honey, Produce Paul says he's
 never seen this happen to any of
 (MORE)

MR. MONROE (Cont'd)
 his vegetables before, but it's
 nothing to worry about, it's
 probably just a bad batch of
 veggies. He gave me some fruit for
 our troubles. I told you I like
 that guy.

MRS. MONROE
 (O.S)
 Chester? Dinner.

Chester ignores the call for dinner and continues to read instead.

All the Monroes exit the kitchen and walk past Chester. The last one to pass is April. She stops and opens Bunnacula's cage, bends down and places a bowl of water, carrots, and rabbit food inside the cage. She closes and locks the cage.

For the first time all day, Chester lifts his eyes from his books and watches as April closes and locks Bunnacula's cage.

April exits the living room and runs to catch up with the rest of the family.

Chester stares coldly at the lock, then returns his focus back to his books.

Clouds begin to move across the moon.

Chester fights sleep. He tries to keep his eyes open and continue to read. Chester's eyes finally become so heavy, he falls asleep with his face in the book.

FADE IN SONG, "Dancing in the Moonlight" by King Harvest.

EXT. MONROE'S HOUSE - LATER

Leaves BLOW across lawns and onto empty streets.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester takes a deep breath in his sleep. He stretches, YAWNS, and rolls over to reposition himself.

Once Chester is comfortable in his new position, his eyes open slightly. Suddenly, both of Chester's eyes POP wide open and he jumps up.

Chester sees that the door on Bunnacula's cage is open, and Bunnacula is not in the cage.

The water bowl, carrots, and rabbit food are overturned. Chester panics, he looks around the living room for Bunnacula.

Chester finally runs up the stairs towards all the bedrooms.

FADE OUT SONG, "Dancing in the Moonlight" by King Harvest.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chester enters.

Harold and Toby are sleeping. Chester looks around for Bunnacula. When Chester does not see Bunnacula, he races out.

INT. MR. AND MRS. MONROES BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters.

Mr. And Mrs. Monroe are sleeping. Chester looks around for Bunnacula. When Chester does not see Bunnacula, he races out.

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters.

Peter is sleeping. Chester looks around for Bunnacula. When Chester does not see Bunnacula, he races out.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters.

Bunnacula sits on a hope chest at the base of April's bed.

Chester is shocked, he can't believe his eyes. Chester immediately races out of April's room.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters and runs to Harold.

Chester lifts Harold's ears and YELLS for him to wake-up.

Chester tries to drag him by the tail, but Harold does not move.

Chester lifts Harold's head and turns it towards the door.

CHESTER
(yelling)
Fetch Harold, Fetch! Fetch the
evil bunny!

Chester gives up after the third try. Chester races out of Toby's room.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters.

Bunnacula has moved off the hope chest and is now on the bed sitting right below April's face.

Bunnacula turns and SHOOTS Chester a look with fiery red eyes.

Chester stands up on his hind legs, SCREAMS in a high SHRILL voice, spins around a few times, and then dramatically passes out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

APRIL
(O.S.)
PETERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!

CUT TO:

April SCREAMS, her mouth is wide open.

The sun shines through Peter's window, birds CHIRP, morning has arrived.

Chester wakes up on the floor of April's room. He is in the same spot where he passed out the night before.

Peter enters April's room.

APRIL
Get your brainiac cat out of here
before he starts licking himself.

Chester GASPS at April's comment.

Peter looks at Chester over the top of his glasses.

PETER

(to Chester)

There you are. I thought you went out for a little morning mouse hunt.

(to April)

Relax April, he's not bothering you.

APRIL

He thinks he's smarter than me, and I don't like that.

Chester races out of April's room by running through Peter's legs.

PETER

(to April)

All fixed.

April folds her arms in disgust, and SNORTS. She falls backwards into her bed and pulls the covers over her head.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester races down the stairs and through the living room. He runs past Bunnacula's cage, forgetting to check the inside for Bunnacula.

Chester runs back to the cage, Bunnacula is locked securely inside. Bunnacula sits in his usual position (center of the cage, breathing heavy, eyes closed).

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters.

Harold finishes his breakfast scraps.

Chester settles in next to Harold and listens to Mr. and Mrs. Monroe's conversation.

MRS. MONROE

So now the fruits are white, shriveled, and dried up? What does Produce Paul think about that?

MR. MONROE
I don't know, let me check.

Mr. Monroe picks up a shriveled, dried up, white banana and pretends to talk into it.

MR. MONROE
Hello, Produce Paul? Yeah, hi. That free fruit you gave me, it's no good, it's beginning to resemble my mother-in-law and my wife would like to know --

MRS. MONROE
Ha! Ha! John, you're quite the funny man.

Mrs. Monroe leaves the kitchen in a HUFF, Mr. Monroe follows behind her.

MR. MONROE
I've got an idea. You know what we'll do, we won't eat the white, shriveled fruit. See, problem solved.

Chester watches in horror as Mr. and Mrs. Monroe exit.

CHESTER
Harold, do you hear that, they're giving up. Don't they see we're in danger.

HAROLD
In danger from what, disgusting fruits and vegetables? Besides, you heard what Paul said.

CHESTER
You're going to trust a man whose first name is "Produce"?

HAROLD
Good point.

CHESTER
Things are worse than I thought Harold. I think Bunnacula is going after April.

HAROLD

What? Now you've officially gone crazy. Why would Bunnacula want to hurt April? He's her pet, she's the one who saved him at the movie theater.

CHESTER

Last night I was reading --

HAROLD

That's your first problem.

Chester is undeterred by Harold's interruption.

CHESTER

-- I was reading that vampires prefer their victims to be young and innocent.

HAROLD

So.

CHESTER

So! I caught Bunnacula in April's room last night. I think he was going to hurt her.

HAROLD

(yelling, condescending)

Chester! HE'S! A! BUNNY!

(Beat)

A BUNNY! When was the last time anybody was hurt by a BUNNY!

Chester ignores Harold's plea for sanity and runs out of the kitchen, Harold follows.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester looks through his books.

Harold watches Chester as he looks for more information.

CHESTER

(to himself)

I need to protect her. I don't know how he's getting out of that

(MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
 cage, but tonight I need to keep
 him in there.

Chester frantically FLIPS the pages in one of the books.

CHESTER
 (to himself)
 Where is it? Where is it? There!
 There it is! That should work!

HAROLD
 What Chester? What will work?

CHESTER
 (to Harold, very
 indignant)
 Never you mind Harold. Never you
 mind!

HAROLD
 "Never you mind?" Who even speaks
 like that? What does that even
 mean?

CHESTER
 It means shoo, bug off, leave me
 alone.

Chester starts pushing Harold out of the living room.

CHESTER
 You think I'm crazy. The Monroes
 don't care. I'll just have to take
 care of this on my own. So you can
 go now Harold.

HAROLD
 It will be my pleasure, believe me.
 You don't have to push!

Harold begrudgingly walks into the kitchen.

Chester is alone in the living room. He turns and looks at
 Bunnacula.

CHESTER
 (to Bunnacula)
 You wait my fiery, furry friend,
 you just wait. As soon as
 everybody's asleep, you'll get
 yours.

Chester gives one last long stare at Bunnacula, then leaves the living room with his book.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Monroe and April are gathering baking supplies from the cabinets and refrigerator. The supplies are being neatly stacked on the counter.

Harold lays on the kitchen floor. His face is flat on the floor in-between his paws. He is perfectly still, only his eyes are moving from side to side and up and down, following all the ingredients as they are placed on the counter.

MRS. MONROE

So are you ready to help me bake my famous "graveyard of drool" triple chocolate Halloween cake for the party tomorrow night?

APRIL

Can I bake my own Mommie?

MRS. MONROE

Of course sweetie, I'll give you extra ingredients and you can make a small one for good ole' Harold here.

Harold's ears perk up.

Mrs. Monroe and April begin making the cake.

Mrs. Monroe presses the play button on an MP3 player, Halloween music plays low in the background.

QUICK, INTERCUT SHOTS of eggs being CRACKED, flour being SPILLED, sugar being ADDED, cake batter being STIRRED.

Harold watches every move from the floor.

CUT TO:

The uncooked cakes going into the oven.

CUT TO:

The cooked cakes coming out of the oven.

MRS. MONROE

Now we just need to let them cool,
and then we can put all the creepy
Halloween goodies on them.

Mrs. Monroe sets her cake on a cooling rack.

APRIL

I'm going to let my cake cool
outside so it's ready quicker.
Quicker is better. Right Mommie?

MRS. MONROE

Yes dear, quicker is better. If
you want to let yours cool off
outside that's fine. I don't think
Harold's going to know the
difference.

Harold makes an "I'm not stupid" face.

April carries her cake outside using Frankenstein and
Vampire pot holders. She sets it down on an outdoor lawn
table on the Monroe's deck.

April runs back into the kitchen.

Mrs. Monroe takes April's hand.

MRS. MONROE

Ready to go pick up the boys? They
should be done getting all the
decorations for the big party
tomorrow night.

APRIL

Yes Sir-ee Sandra Dee!

Mrs. Monroe and April leave the kitchen.

Harold sprints to the back door and sits. He gazes
lovingly through the door at the cake. Harold tilts his
head slightly.

FADE IN SONG (REPRISE), "Here You Come Again" by Dolly
Parton.

Harold continues to stare at the "cooling" cake.

CUT TO:

FANTASY SEQUENCE - EXT. MONROE'S DECK - DAY

Harold begins eating the cake. He smiles and laughs.

A small PINGING sound begins.

Harold stops eating momentarily to listen to the PINGING, he then continues to eat.

The PINGING gets LOUDER and more frequent. The PINGING causes Harold to have trouble concentrating on the cake, but he continues to eat.

The PINGING gets so loud it finally snaps Harold out of his daydream.

FADE OUT SONG (REPRISE), "Here You Come Again" by Dolly Parton.

END FANTASY
SEQUENCE.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Harold is "snapped" out of his fantasy by the PINGING of rain HITTING the glass door. He sees that it is raining heavily on his cake, ruining his treat.

FADE IN SONG, "McCarthy Park" (Someone Left The Cake Out In The Rain)" by Donna Summer.

The cake is getting destroyed by the downpour.

Harold's head tilts in the opposite direction, and a tear begins to fall from his eye.

INTERCUT SLOW ZOOM of Harold's tear and SLOW ZOOM of the cake getting ruined.

FADE OUT SONG, "McCarthy Park" (Someone Left The Cake Out In The Rain)" by Donna Summer.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. VARIOUS ROOMS MONROE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Low, soft lighting fills all the rooms of the Monroe household. The entire house is at "rest". Everyone in the Monroe household is asleep.

INSERT - CLOSE SHOT

A sewing box.

Chester's paw slowly ENTERS SHOT and reaches for the sewing box. He grabs an unknown object from the box then quickly pulls his paw out.

BACK TO SCENE

INSERT - CLOSE SHOT

A kitchen "junk" draw.

Chester's paw slowly ENTERS SHOT and reaches for the "junk" draw. He grabs an unknown object from the draw then quickly pulls his paw out.

BACK TO SCENE

INSERT - CLOSE SHOT

The interior of the refrigerator.

Chester's paw slowly ENTERS SHOT and reaches for the interior of the refrigerator. He grabs an unknown object from the refrigerator then quickly pulls his paw out.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

All of Chester's unknown objects are scattered around the floor. CLOSE SHOTS of yarn, scissors, tape, string.

The object from the fridge is among the yarn, string, scissors, and tape, but it is flipped over, and other items are blocking its identity.

Chester begins to frantically put something together with all the materials he has gathered.

While Chester works intently, the unknown object from the refrigerator begins giving off an odor. The odor "RISES" off of the pile of materials in the form of "fumes" WAFTING through the air.

The "fumes" MOVE ACROSS the living room, and then up the stairs.

INT. TOBY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The "fumes" move THROUGH the upstairs hallway and in THROUGH Toby's slightly opened bedroom door.

The "fumes" CRAWL across the floor, UP the bed, ACROSS a sleeping Toby, and finally INTO the nose of a sleeping Harold. Harold's heavy eyes open and he mumbles to himself.

HAROLD

Food.

Harold jumps from the bed.

Toby rolls over into Harold's vacated spot.

Harold sprints down the stairs and into the living room.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harold abruptly stops running.

HAROLD

What in the name of the all-mighty
Burger King is going on in here?

Chester is sitting in front of Bunnacula's cage. Encircling Chester on the floor are garlic cloves (unknown refrigerator object). Around Chester's neck is a ring of garlic, and on his head is a crown of garlic.

Harold SCANS the room to see garlic hanging from the windows and doors. Some garlic has been laid out like crosses.

Garlic "fumes" rise off of all the garlic in the living room.

Chester is very calm and relaxed.

CHESTER

Harold? What are you doing up?
It's very late?

HAROLD

What am I doing up? What are you
doing up? I thought there was some
leftover garlic chicken from
Hunan's House of Chinese. Instead
I find "Garlic-A-La-Chester".

CHESTER

I told you earlier today that I would take care of this Harold.

HAROLD

Take care of what? Ruining a perfectly good vegetable by getting cat hair all over it?

CHESTER

No Harold. This is for protection. My books say that garlic can be used to ward off Vampires. So this amount should keep Bunnacula in his cage all night.

HAROLD

And does the book say anything about the smell of cat and garlic all mixed together? Because I have to be honest, it's a little hard for me to stomach.

CHESTER

I'm doing this for all of us Harold. It's not just April who is in danger, it could be anyone of us that he sinks those furry little fangs into.

Harold walks back towards the stairs. He's shaking his head back and forth.

HAROLD

I'm going back to bed. You're on your own once the Monroes wake up.

Chester talks to Harold as Harold exits. Chester gets louder as Harold gets farther away.

CHESTER

Oh don't you worry Harold, the Monroes will understand. You'll see Harold, they'll appreciate all that I'm doing to protect them, to protect us.

(to Bunnacula)

They will see the importance of this, and you know what, they will thank me when it's all over.

They'll give me a real big thank --

Chester's voice trails off as he falls asleep.

He lowers his head onto his paws and smiles contently.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Chester is still sleeping and still has the smile on his face.

Chester is abruptly awakened by a hand grabbing him by the fur on his neck and quickly snatching him up.

The crown of garlic, the garlic necklace, and all the string and yarn fall to the floor as Chester is "yanked" up.

INT. MONROE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester is SPLASHED into a bathtub over-flowing with bubbles.

MRS. MONROE

I have no idea what has gotten into you Chester. Of all the stupid things. That garlic was for the Halloween party tonight. I was going to use it to make my famous "Gruesome Garlic Steak" kebabs!

Harold walks by the bathroom door. He stops and looks in at Chester in the bathtub, Harold LAUGHS.

HAROLD

(to Chester, sarcasticly)
Oh Yeah! "They'll understand, they'll appreciate all your efforts".

Chester HISSES at Harold and tries to lunge out of the bathtub.

Harold runs away.

Mrs. Monroe grabs Chester and SPLASHES him back into the bathtub.

MRS. MONROE

(yelling)
CHESTER!!! That's it mister! You need to relax. You need to calm down this instant! And I know exactly what you need --

CHESTER
No! Not the --

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester sits in his cat bed. He is dressed in cat pajamas. The pajamas are covered with cute little mice all wearing little cowboy outfits.

MRS. MONROE
(finishing Chester's
sentence)
-- Maverick Mouse Kitty Pajamas.

Chester lowers his head in shame.

MRS. MONROE
(using a baby voice)
Now isn't that better my little
Chester Wester? You just take it
easy in your favorite little
pajamas and I'll get you some nice
catnip.

Mrs. Monroe leaves Chester alone.

From O.S. Harold LAUGHS hysterically.

CUT TO:

Harold is on his back LAUGHING, all four paws are up in the air.

CHESTER
Oh please Harold, try to contain
your delight. You know how much I
hate these things.

HAROLD
Yes, but they bring me such
pleasure.
(calming down a little)
Seriously though, what are doing
Chester? I mean, look at the
little guy, he doesn't look good at
all.

For the first time Bunnacula is not sitting in his usual position as he sleeps. He is laying very low and leaning up against one side of the cage. His breathing is slower and not steady.

CHESTER

Exactly! The garlic worked! He couldn't get out last night and wreak havoc and despair upon us all!

HAROLD

I don't think that Bunnacula is capable of wreaking havoc and despair on anything. Did you ever consider that maybe he's just nocturnal?

CHESTER

Nocturnal Harold? Where in the world did you get a word like nocturnal?

HAROLD

You're not the only animal around who can read Chester. I really don't think he's dangerous to any of us, I think he just likes the "night life".

On the words "Night Life", Harold points one paw up and does a little dance move and shake with his body.

CHESTER

Cute Harold, the "night life".

HAROLD

Yeah, you know, he likes the
(beginning to dance
fully)
"night life, he likes to boogie, on
the disco 'round..."

FADE IN SONG, "I Love The Night Life" by Anita Ward.

Harold dances and sings with the real version of "I Love The Night Life".

Annoyed, Chester begins to walk out of the living room and towards the kitchen. IN THE BACKGROUND Harold dances.

Chester tries to shake the uncomfortable pajamas off. His shaking looks as if he is dancing to the music as well.

CHESTER

(to himself, but really
to Harold)
Funny, real funny. I'm going to
get out of these ridiculous things
(MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
and come up with a plan to end this
once and for all.

Just as Chester is about to exit the living room, he grabs a handful of books. He continues to shake in an effort to get the Maverick Mouse pajamas off.

Harold is alone in the living room. He continues to dance and sing.

FADE OUT SONG, "I Love The Night Life" by Anita Ward.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. VARIOUS ROOMS MONROE'S HOUSE - DAY

INTERCUT TWO MONTAGES

MONROES PARTY PREPARATIONS - MONTAGE

- The Monroes set up decorations.
- The Monroes dress in their 70's costumes.
- The Monroes put food trays and snacks out.
- Wherever food is being set up, Harold watches.
- Family members help get April ready.

CHESTER PREPARES FOR BUNNICULA - MONTAGE

- Chester alone in a secluded part of the house.
- Chester surrounded by books flipping pages.
- Chester getting the ridiculous pajamas off.
- Chester reads, takes notes, nods yes, nods no.
- Chester looks puzzled at what he reads.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The Monroes are dressed and the house is decked out in 70's decor.

They stand shoulder to shoulder in their 70's costumes.

Mr. Monroe is Elton John.

Mrs. Monroe is Wonder Woman.

Toby is Rocky Balboa, Peter is Mick (Rocky's manager).

April is Cher.

The doorbell rings.

The Monroes all "scatter".

Mr. Monroe answers the front door.

INT. SECLUDED CORNER MONROE HOUSHOLD - CONTINUOUS

Chester finally sheds the pajamas. He SLAMS his paw down on a page of an open book.

INSERT - CHAPTER TITLE

"How To Kill A Vampire"

BACK TO SCENE

CHESTER
(to himself)
That's it.

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S BATHROOM - DAY

MRS. MONROE
"I was going to use it to make my
famous "Gruesome Garlic Steak"
kebabs!"

END FLASHBACK.

INT. SECLUDED CORNER MONROE HOUSEHOLD - EVENING

CHESTER
STEAK!

Chester runs from his secluded area with his book under his arm.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Monroe's house is packed with guests.

Wild 70's costumes are throughout the house.

There is 70's MUSIC in the background.

Disco balls, fondue, and lava lamps decorate the house.

CUT TO:

Mrs. Monroe's "The Graveyard of Drool Triple Chocolate Halloween" cake. It sits on a table with other Halloween treats.

The cake is a mountainous, two tiered chocolate cake. The lower tier of the cake is a graveyard. The upper tier of the cake is a Dracula head which overlooks the graveyard. Chocolate "blood" runs out of Dracula's mouth and onto the graveyard.

Mrs. Monroe talks with GROOVY 70'S ROLLER GIRL

GROOVY 70'S ROLLER GIRL
Unbelievable Sue, just
unbelievable, this cake is even
better than last years. It simply
looks amazing.

MRS. MONROE
Well I did have a little help this
year.

Mrs. Monroe turns to look at April.

April stands behind the cake. She begins to drag her
finger across the icing.

Mrs. Monroe narrows her eyes in April's direction.

April runs off.

Mr. Monroe talks with SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER GUY.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER GUY
You've got to be kidding me John.
There is no way you can be serious.

MR. MONROE
I am serious.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER GUY
 How can you say that Freddy Kruger
 is in the same league as the
 original Frankenstein, that was
 Boris Karloff at his best.

MR. MONROE
 These are the new classics Tom, you
 just have to accept it, Freddy
 Kruger is a brilliant horror
 character.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER GUY
 Just look at yourself, how can I
 take anything you say seriously.

Mr. Monroe stands alone, looking "dopey" in his Elton John
 costume. He simply shrugs his shoulders, then continues
 his conversation.

CUT TO:

A young girl, DAPHNE (DAPHNE from Scooby Doo) stands up
 against a wall.

Toby leans on the same wall trying to impress her.

TOBY
 You know I'll be able to drive in 3
 years.

DAPHNE
 That's great, how far away will you
 be going?

The girl flips her hair to the side and walks off.

Toby is left alone.

TOBY
 (yelling like Rocky)
 Yo Mick! I've been knocked down
 here!

CUT TO:

Peter leans against a wall.

A young girl, VELMA (VELMA from Scooby Doo) stands next to
 Peter.

Peter tries to impress VELMA.

PETER

So you see, it's been proven that
fear is simply mind over matter.
All you have to do is keep things
under control in your mind. If you
can do that, nothing can scare you.

While Peter talks, Velma reaches forward towards Peter's
shoulder.

Peter thinks Velma is moving closer to give him a kiss.

VELMA

You've got a spider on your
shoulder.

Peter SCREAMS and starts to jump and flail his arms.

Velma walks away.

The party continues. The living room is packed, everybody
is having a great time.

Bunnacula's cage is in a quiet corner of the living room.
None of the guests notice he is there. He's awake, but
looks sick and very weak.

Harold follows guests around whose plates are over flowing
with food, he looks on in anticipation, hoping that food
will fall off a guest's plate in his direction.

Harold goes from guest to guest as each plate that passes
looks more promising.

Chester enters the living room, he seeks out Harold.

CHESTER

Harold, I need your help.

HAROLD

Not now Chester, I'm busy!

CHESTER

But I really need your help!
Please Harold! It's about
Bunnacula!

HAROLD

(very indignant)
Absolutely not! You've done enough
to that cute little bunny, and I'm
not about to be an accomplice to
anymore of your crazy plans.

Chester turns and runs out of the living room and into the kitchen. He returns from the kitchen with a big, juicy steak hanging from his mouth.

Chester stands in front of Harold with the steak.

HAROLD

O.K., what do you need me to do?

Harold, Chester, and the steak move to the secluded corner of the living room where Bunnacula is.

HAROLD

Now, what do you want me to do
Chester?

CHESTER

I need you to get Bunnacula out of
the cage.

HAROLD

How am I supposed to do that?

CHESTER

I don't know Harold, just try using
your head for a change. I have to
get my book to make sure I do this
correctly.

Chester leaves, bringing the steak with him.

HAROLD

You could leave that steak with me
you know.

Chester ignores Harold's comment.

Harold turns towards Bunnacula's cage.

HAROLD

(to Bunnacula)

Just use my head? What do you
think he means by that?

CUT TO:

Chester re-entering the secluded corner of the living room. He still has the steak, but he now has his book with him as well. He stops instantly, dropping the steak and book. Chester looks shocked.

CUT TO:

Harold's head is stuck in Bunnacula's cage.

CHESTER

Harold, what are you doing?
Haven't you gotten him out of there yet?

HAROLD

I can't get either of us out of here. My head's stuck!

CHESTER

Oh Harold, sometimes I wonder about you.

HAROLD

Me too!

CHESTER

Now I'll have to get you both out. I should have just done everything myself.

(Beat)

Listen, you pull your head out while I push against the cage.

HAROLD

Chester?

CHESTER

Yes?

HAROLD

I have a question before you begin.

CHESTER

Yes, what is it Harold?

HAROLD

Who gets the steak?

CHESTER

Don't worry about the steak Harold. Just pull when I say so.

HAROLD

You know Chester, if I knew what your plans were for that steak I might be a bit more motivated to help out here.

Chester ignores Harold's comment.

CHESTER

One...Two...Three...Pull!

Chester pushes while Harold pulls.

Harold, Bunnacula, the cage, and Chester all roll in different directions on the floor.

Harold's head is out of the cage. The cage is empty and Bunnacula is lying on the floor.

Bunnacula is breathing, but seems almost lifeless.

HAROLD

Excellent job Chester, he's out.
Now let's eat!

CHESTER

No way Harold. Just read this to me so I can be sure I'm doing this right.

Chester hands Harold the book.

Chester reaches for the steak.

HAROLD

Why don't you read and I'll hold the steak.

CHESTER

Uh...NO!

Harold starts to read from the book.

HAROLD

"...to destroy the Vampire and end his reign of terror, it is necessary to pound a sharp stake" --

CHESTER

A "sharp" steak? What does that mean, a "sharp" steak?

HAROLD

I don't know, let me taste it and I'll tell you if it's sharp or not.

CHESTER

Never mind, I'm sure this will do. It's filet mignon. Just keep reading.

HAROLD

"...it is necessary to pound a sharp stake into the Vampire's heart. It must be done when the Vampire is in a weakened condition and his powers are compromised."

CHESTER

(to Bunnacula)

O.K. then, this is it. I'm sorry it has to come to this, but if everybody would have just listened, this wouldn't have been necessary.

Chester DRAGS the steak over to Bunnacula.

Harold looks on in horror at the treatment of the steak.

Chester raises the steak above his head and begins to POUND the meat repeatedly onto Bunnacula's chest.

HAROLD

Are you sure this is what you're supposed to do Chester?

Chester continues to pound the steak onto Bunnacula's chest.

CHESTER

Am I anywhere near the heart Harold?

HAROLD

It's really hard to tell Chester. All I can really see are his ears.

Chester continues to pound the steak onto Bunnacula's chest.

CHESTER

Quick, check the book Harold, I'm running out of time.

HAROLD

O.K. Chester, but be careful, I think you're hurting him.

(to himself)

Not to mention what you're doing to that beautiful steak.

Harold looks at the book.

IN THE BACKGROUND Chester continues to pound the steak onto Bunnacula's chest.

As Harold reads to himself, he gets to the bottom of the page. When he turns the page, he sees a picture.

INSERT - PICTURE FROM BOOK

A sharpened wooden stake.

BACK TO SCENE

HAROLD

Chester, did you read this whole book?

Chester is getting tired. He is POUNDING slower and is SHORT OF BREATH.

CHESTER

No, I stopped once I knew how to defeat the beast. Why?

HAROLD

Oh, I don't know, maybe because you're using the wrong kind of --

Mrs. Monroe finishes Harold's sentence.

MRS. MONROE

-- STEAK!!! First the garlic, now my steak, you've ruined my steak Chester! John!

Mrs. Monroe grabs the steak off of Bunnicula's chest.

Mr. Monroe enters the part of the living room where all the commotion is going on.

MR. MONROE

What is going on?

Chester sneaks out of the living room and into the kitchen while Mrs. Monroe hysterically explains to Mr. Monroe what is going on.

MRS. MONROE

It's that cat. He's lost his mind. He's become obsessed with Bunnicula, and now he's dragged poor Harold into it.

Harold tries to look helpless.

MR. MONROE

Chester? This is Chester's fault?

Mr. Monroe looks around the living room for any signs of Chester.

MR. MONROE
Where is that darn cat anyway?

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Chester gets his water dish.

CHESTER
(to himself)
This may be my last chance. I don't
know if this water is holy or not.
(Beat)
How does water even get holes in
it?

Chester begins to leave the kitchen with his water bowl.

CHESTER
Well, the book does say "Holy water
thrown onto the Vampire will bring
the beast to it's knees". Do
bunnies even have knees? Oh it
doesn't matter anyway, here we go!

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester charges towards Bunnicula.

The Monroes and all their guests turn to see Chester running at Bunnicula with the water bowl in his mouth.

Chester rears his head back and throws the water in Bunnicula's direction. Everyone looks on in shock. As the water comes down, it misses Bunnicula completely, but SPLASHES Harold full in the face.

Harold is completely drenched and dripping.

MRS. MONROE
(screaming)
Peterrrrrrrr! Get that cat of
yours out of here this instant. I
want him out, out, out! It's
(MORE)

MRS. MONROE (Cont'd)
 outside for him tonight. He can
 think long and hard about what he's
 done.

PETER
 Oh, mom. I can't do that to him.
 I know he wouldn't put me outside
 if I made a bad decision.

MRS. MONROE
 Then maybe you'd like to join your
 beloved cat outside for the night.
 (screaming louder)
 John!

MR. MONROE
 Yes Dear.

Mr. Monroe picks up Chester by the scruff of his neck, he
 takes the bowl out of Chester's mouth.

Mr. Monroe tosses Chester gently, but unceremoniously out
 the front door.

CUT TO:

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe at the front door saying good night to
 their guests. As the guests pass by, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe
 apologize for the crazy antics of their pets.

When Mr. and Mrs. Monroe say good night to the last guests,
 they close the front door and walk through the living room
 towards the kitchen.

Mr. Monroe puts his arm around Mrs. Monroe as they begin to
 walk.

MRS. MONROE
 Seriously though John, what are we
 going to do about Chester?

MR. MONROE
 I don't know, what's the success
 rate for getting old, neurotic,
 bunny obsessed cats adopted into
 new, loving homes?

As Mr. and Mrs. Monroe walk through the living room,
 Chester's face is IN THE BACKGROUND, pressed up against a
 living room window.

From outside, Chester watches and listens as Mr. and Mrs. Monroe walk by.

MRS. MONROE

With the way he's behaving, he'll
be lucky if we let him become an
alley cat behind the house!

Chester looks nervous.

As Mrs. Monroe passes the living room window, she pulls the shade down on the window that Chester is looking through. She does this without ever looking towards the window or Chester.

Chester lowers his head as the shade gets pulled down in an attempt to still look into the house.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe enter.

Toby dries Harold with a big terry cloth towel.

April pets Bunnicula, she tries to give him food and water.

Bunnicula is still not looking well, and is not responding to April's affection.

MRS. MONROE

I mean seriously John, no steak for
our guests, Bunnicula looks
horrible, and Harold is sopping
wet! It couldn't have been a more
disastrous night.

Harold tries to look as pathetic as ever.

MR. MONROE

Aw, poor Harold. You've had a
rough night haven't you ole' boy.

Mr. Monroe gets Bunnicula from April. He exits to bring Bunnicula back to his cage in the living room.

Mrs. Monroe cleans the kitchen.

Toby and April exit.

Mr. Monroe re-enters the kitchen.

MR. MONROE

I can't believe that Bunny just laid there through all this commotion. I'm going to make an appointment with the vet and see if we can't figure out what's wrong with him.

Mrs. Monroe listens to Mr. Monroe while she continues to clean. She takes the uneaten, ruined steak and makes her way to the garbage pail.

MR. MONROE

Wait Sue. That steak's ruined anyway, why don't we let Harold have it? I think he deserves it after all he's been through tonight?

(to Harold)

Don't you boy?

Harold jumps up and shakes off the terry cloth towel he is wrapped in.

MRS. MONROE

Best idea I've heard all night.

Mrs. Monroe hands the steak to Mr. Monroe.

Mr. Monroe puts the steak on a plate and sets the plate on the floor for Harold.

Harold begins to eat.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe exit the kitchen and shut off the light on the way out.

Harold eats the steak alone in the moonlit kitchen.

IN THE BACKGROUND, just over Harold's shoulder Chester pulls himself up into the kitchen window and presses his face against the glass.

Chester looks in from the outside through the kitchen window to see what's going on. He struggles to keep himself from falling.

Harold continues to eat.

Chester slowly slips down from the window and out of sight.

FADE TO BLACK.

MR. MONROE

(O.S.)

Hut one. Hut two. Hut, hut, hike!

From O.S. Peter and Toby GRUNT and SNORT. They are playing football with their dad.

PETER

(O.S.)

Dad, I'm open!

FADE IN:

EXT. MONROE'S FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON

Beautiful and sunny, a perfect fall day.

Mr. Monroe, Toby, and Peter play football in the front yard.

Chester is still outside from the night before. He slinks behind a bush, undetected.

CHESTER

(to himself)

I've got to get back into that house, but how?

MR. MONROE

(to Peter)

So when you run a fly pattern, you have to make sure you cut real hard to the middle.

TOBY

Until I come across and...BAM!
Interception baby, game over!

PETER

We'll see about that. Ready dad, let's roll.

Mr. Monroe, Peter, and Toby run the play.

Peter runs across the yard and waits for his dad to throw the ball. Toby chases Peter.

Chester sprints out from the bush towards Peter.

As Mr. Monroe throws the ball Chester deliberately gets tangled in Peter's feet. Peter trips and begins to fall.

As Peter falls, he pulls Toby down with him.

As Peter and Toby hit the ground entangled in one another, the football DROPS to the ground and bounces in front of both of them.

PETER
(yelling)
Interference! Interference! Dad,
that's clearly interference! It's
my ball.

TOBY
(yelling)
No way did I interfere with you, it
wasn't my fault. It's my ball,
right dad?

Chester sits in the middle of all the chaos, just waiting.

MR. MONROE
It's interference all right, but
not from Toby. It was interference
from a deranged cat. Peter get
that cat back indoors where he
belongs, and we'll do the play
over.

TOBY
Do over, you've got to be kidding
me Dad, there's no do-overs in the
NFL!

MR. MONROE
Lucky for you this isn't the NFL.

TOBY
But dad, come on seriously...

Toby's voice trails off as Peter gets Chester by the collar and starts to lead him to the house.

Chester has a very satisfied grin on his face.

PETER
(to Chester)
You are just getting both of us
deeper and deeper into trouble.
You better get your act together,
and fast.

Peter opens the back door to the kitchen and Chester runs in.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Monroe and April prepare a salad for dinner.

MRS. MONROE
First you need to take the lettuce
and wash it?

APRIL
Why do you have to wash it?

MRS. MONROE
Well because its "dirty". In fact,
you don't just wash the lettuce,
you wash the carrots, the
cucumbers, almost everything that's
going into the salad gets washed.
They're all "dirty".

APRIL
(suspicious)
Why are they all so "dirty"?
(Beat)
Were they playing outside and
forgot to wash when they came in?

MRS. MONROE
Something like that.

As Mrs. Monroe and April talk, Chester tries to "slink" through unnoticed.

MRS. MONROE
(to Chester)
And where do you think you're going
Mister?

APRIL
Yeah Mister, where do you think
you're going?

Chester immediately runs over to Mrs. Monroe and April. He rubs up against their legs, he PURRS lovingly. He is going overboard to show what a good cat he really is.

Mrs. Monroe and April bend down simultaneously to pet Chester.

MRS. MONROE

That's a good cat. That's the cat we all know and love. It's good to have you back Chester.

APRIL

Yes, back to you Chester!

Harold enters the kitchen and sees all the affection being placed upon Chester. Harold is very suspicious of Chester's sudden change in behavior.

As Harold makes eye contact with Chester, Chester WINKS at him.

Harold just shakes his head at Chester then turns around and leaves the kitchen.

MRS. MONROE

(to Chester)

Now you go and lie down and I'll bring you your favorite toy. And a little of your extra "special" cat-nip.

Chester PURRS some more, gives one more big rub up against Mrs. Monroe's leg, and then leaves the kitchen.

Mrs. Monroe and April go back to working on the salad.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester enters. He lays down in his bed.

HAROLD

O.K. Chester, what gives?

CHESTER

(innocently)

Gives? What ever do you mean?

HAROLD

Oh just knock it off Chester, no one's in here but me. What's with all the "good" behavior; purring, rubbing, you know, all the stuff real cats like to do, but you hate.

CHESTER

Don't worry about me you lovable pooch, I'm feeling just purrrrrrrfect. And after tonight,

(MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
 so will the whole family. In fact,
 everything will finally be back to
 normal.

HAROLD
 Chester, if you're planning
 something else for that bunny,
 you're going to have to go through
 me this time.

Harold moves himself in front of Bunnacula's cage, putting
 himself in between Chester and Bunnacula.

HAROLD
 Bunnacula hasn't hurt you, me, or
 anybody in this family. And you
 know what he's...he's...he's my
 friend!

CHESTER
 (mimicking Harold)
 Oooh... "He's my friend", well by
 tomorrow you'll be looking for
 someone new to pal-around with.

Bunnacula looks extremely sick.

HAROLD
 Look at him Chester, haven't you
 done enough, what more could you
 possibly do to him?

CHESTER
 That's the beauty of it, I don't
 have to do anything to him. All I
 have to do is just sit here and
 wait. One more night in that cage
 without food, and he's as good as
 finished.

Harold pauses to think for a moment, he's unsure of what
 Chester means at first. Suddenly Harold realizes what
 Chester's plan is.

HAROLD
 (aggravated)
 You're starving him? That's your
 plan? Is that it? You're going to
 starve him to death?

CHESTER
 Brilliant, don't you think?
 (MORE)

CHESTER (Cont'd)
 Between the "night of garlic" and
 all the commotion at the Halloween
 party, he hasn't eaten in days, and
 he certainly isn't eating what's
 being left out for him.

CUT TO:

Uneaten rabbit food, carrots, and a full bowl of water next
 to Bunnacula's cage.

CHESTER
 All I have to do is make sure he
 stays put in that cage.
 (Beat)
 And with me at the watch, he won't
 be able to get out tonight at all.

HAROLD
 (sad and despondent)
 Why Chester? Why?

CHESTER
 Because he's a Vampire, and
 Vampires are dangerous. It's that
 simple. I know he looks all cute
 and cuddly, but deep down, really
 deep down --
 (pauses, then sighs)
 -- I shudder at the thought.

Harold lowers his head and sadly shakes it back and forth.

Mrs. Monroe enters. She sets the catnip down in front of
 Chester.

Mr. Monroe, Toby, and Peter enter.

Peter holds the football. Toby and Peter are still ARGUING
 about the game. They go straight through the living room
 and into the kitchen.

Mr. Monroe stops while Mrs. Monroe places the catnip down.

MR. MONROE
 Catnip? Chester's getting catnip?
 Have you gone as crazy as him?
 Have you forgotten about the last
 couple of days?

MRS. MONROE
 Oh, our good Chester is back dear;
 purring, rubbing, even following
 (MORE)

MRS. MONROE (Cont'd)
 directions. I'm just giving him a
 little reward.

Chester looks at Harold and grins.

MR. MONROE
 If you say so Sue. Anyway, I
 called the vet, he can't see
 Bunnacula until next week, but he
 said we should just keep trying
 different foods and maybe we'll
 find one he likes, and if we can
 find something he likes he may not
 be so tired all the time.

Chester's smile gets even bigger.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe move towards the front door.

MRS. MONROE
 (yelling to April)
 April, time to go, you don't want
 to be late for dance.

April comes running down the stairs in her dance outfit.

MR. MONROE
 (yelling to Toby and
 Peter)
 Let's go boys, we're all going to
 watch your sister sashay and
 pirouette.

Mr. Monroe does a little dance move.

Toby and Peter come running out of the kitchen, STUFFING
 their faces with snacks.

Mr. Monroe SUSPICIOUSLY GLARES at Toby and Peter.

MR. MONROE
 Take it easy with those cupcakes
 boys.
 (to Mrs. Monroe)
 Speaking of food, what are we doing
 for dinner? I'm already hungry, and
 we're not getting in until almost
 eight o'clock.

Mrs. Monroe takes April's hand.

MRS. MONROE

Have you ever had to worry about where your next meal is coming from? April and I took care of it already. We made a nice healthy salad. It's all ready, you can eat the second we walk through the door.

All the Monroes exit.

Chester is thoroughly enjoying his catnip.

HAROLD

You're just so proud of yourself aren't you?

CHESTER

(with a mouthful of
catnip)

Yes I am! I'm feeling pretty good; pretty, pretty good. Especially since I never got to enjoy my catnip the other day, you know, on account of those stupid pajamas.

Harold walks toward the kitchen.

HAROLD

(mumbling to himself)
You just keep eating you crazy cat.

CHESTER

What did you say?

HAROLD

I said, "Catnip Makes You Fat!"

CHESTER

(literally and
figuratively full of
himself)

Yes it does my friend, yes it does.

HAROLD

(mumbling to himself)
This isn't over yet. Not by the hair on that little bunny's chin is this over.

As Harold exits, Chester starts singing.

Chester sings to the tune of "American Pie" by Don Mclean.

CHESTER

"Bye Bye Harold go get some pie; My
catnip is delicious and I'm feeling
real high..."

Chester's singing FADES OUT as Harold enters the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Harold paces. He goes around and around in circles.

HAROLD

(to himself)

What am I going to do, what am I
going to do? If I don't do
something, Bunnacula's as good as
gone.

Harold goes through kitchen cabinets looking for anything
he can use to help Bunnacula.

HAROLD

(to himself)

Even if I could find something,
Chester's not going to take his
eyes off of poor Bunnacula.

As he opens one cabinet, Chester's box of catnip FALLS out
and SPILLS onto the floor.

HAROLD

(to himself)

Catnip! There's nothing here but
this stupid catnip! Chester and
his --

Harold pauses just before he is about to say catnip again.
He has a revelation, then says "catnip" like it has new
meaning.

HAROLD

(to himself)

-- CATNIP!!!

Harold runs to the swinging kitchen door. He slowly opens
the door and peeks into the living room.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chester is slumped over his empty bowl of catnip, he is sound asleep.

Harold gently pulls his head back into the kitchen.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

HAROLD
 (to himself)
 Oh that Chester and his wonderful
 catnip. I guess in all his glory
 he forgot how it puts him right to
 sleep.

Harold goes from ELATION, to instant SADNESS.

HAROLD
 (to himself)
 But now what, Chester's out of the
 way, but I still don't have any
 idea how to help Bunnacula.

Harold DROPS to the floor in complete frustration. He has a look of simply "giving up" on his face. As Harold is laying there, his eyes MOVE UP in despair. Harold notices the huge salad that Mrs. Monroe and April made for dinner sitting on the counter .

Harold's eyes get wide.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

MRS. MONROE
 "But they're not just wrinkled
 John."

CUT TO:

Wrinkled vegetables.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MR. MONROE
 "Produce Paul says he's never seen
 this happen to any of his
 (MORE)

MR. MONROE (Cont'd)
 vegetables before, but it's nothing
 to worry about, it's probably just
 a bad batch of veggies."

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. PRODUCE PAUL'S STORE - MORNING

PRODUCE PAUL is a short, round man wearing a green produce apron. He holds out a handful of vegetables and other produce while standing in the aisle of his "Produce Paul" store. He is surrounded by massive amounts of healthy vegetables and fruits.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

MRS. MONROE
 "I mean they're white, shrunken,
 AND wrinkled, it's as if all the
 juice has somehow been sucked out
 of them..."

CUT TO:

Shriveled, dried out vegetables.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

CHESTER
 "I know it has to be Bunnacula
 because only a Vampire could have
 done THAT, to THOSE vegetables..."

The word "vegetables" REPEATS OVER and OVER.

END FLASHBACK.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

HAROLD
 That's it!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harold crawls out of the kitchen very slowly on his belly, like a military crawl underneath barbed wire. He works his way past Chester, trying not to wake him.

Harold finally reaches Bunnacula's cage.

Harold starts to work on the front door of the cage.

HAROLD
 (to himself)
 Now how did I get this opened last
 time? C'mon, c'mon, I don't have
 much time.

Harold STRUGGLES with the cage door, then finally opens it.

HAROLD
 GOT IT!

Harold reaches carefully into the cage and gently pulls Bunnacula out.

Harold has Bunnacula by the neck, carrying him lovingly, the same way a cat would carry a kitten.

Harold quietly crawls back towards the kitchen past Chester, trying not to wake him.

HAROLD
 (to Bunnacula in a
 whisper)
 Just stay with me pal, I'm going to
 make it all better. You won't have
 to worry about that mean cat
 anymore.

INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Harold gets Bunnacula up onto the kitchen counter next to the big bowl of salad.

Harold gets the cover off the salad and tries to NUDGE Bunnacula closer to the bowl.

Bunnacula is still very lethargic and unresponsive. Harold gets down real close to Bunnacula's ear.

HAROLD

(whispering)

O.K. my furry little friend,
there's your dinner, please go get
it...please. Get your fill as fast
as you can little guy.

(looking around)

Look, we don't have much time, the
Monroes will be home any minute.

Being close to the salad and hearing Harold's voice,
Bunnacula starts to respond.

HAROLD

That's it, you've got it, come on,
you can do it, just get a little
something in you...please!

Bunnacula inches forward and begins to pull himself up to
the salad bowl.

HAROLD

There you go, now you've got it!

Bunnacula is about to take his first "bite".

From O.S. the swinging kitchen door BANGS open.

Bunnacula is distracted by the sound, pauses and looks up.

Harold looks in the same direction as Bunnacula.

Chester stands in the doorway, holding the swinging door
open.

CHESTER

NOOOOO! Harold, what are you doing?

HAROLD

Stay out of this Chester, you've
caused enough damage. Bunnacula
needs to eat, and I'm going to make
sure that he does!

CHESTER

That's what you think!

Chester LUNGES forward and jumps on Harold. They begin to
fight on the counter. The fight knocks Bunnacula and the
salad clear across the kitchen.

Suddenly Harold and Chester instantly stop fighting.

They simultaneously look towards the kitchen entrance.

Standing side by side is the entire Monroe family. Their jaws are opened, they are speechless.

Mrs. Monroe finally BREAKS the silence.

MRS. MONROE

What in the world is going on in --

From O.S. A loud, SUCKING and SLURPING interrupts Mrs. Monroe.

Everybody in the kitchen looks in the direction of the SUCKING and SLURPING at the same time.

Bunnicula is in a corner of the kitchen, the salad bowl is turned over on Bunnicula's head and he is surrounded and somewhat covered in salad greens.

Bunnicula SUCKS the juice out of a big, floppy piece of lettuce.

All the Monroes look at each other with surprise, confusion, and humor.

Harold and Chester, who are still entangled on the counter from fighting, look at each other.

MR. MONROE

"Produce Paul" is never going to believe this one.

Bunnicula continues SUCKING and SLURPING the juice out of the lettuce.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MONROE'S HOUSE - WIDE SHOT - EVENING

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Harold lays in the middle of the living room, he speaks directly INTO THE CAMERA.

HAROLD

Well, I told you from the very beginning, this was going to be a difficult story to believe, but I've told you the facts as they happened, and as most every story goes, all's well that ends well, and I guess the same could be said for all of us.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. MONROE'S DRIVEWAY - MORNING

All the Monroes, including Harold and Chester get into the family car.

Chester is extremely upset.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

The Monroes were able to get an emergency appointment with the veterinarian the very next day. But the appointment wasn't just for Bunnicula.

Chester tries to escape from the car.

Mr. Monroe catches Chester and puts him back into the car.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

So we all piled into the car, some of us more reluctantly than others, and we were on our way to getting all our problems solved.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

The VETERINARIAN examines Bunnicula.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

I have to say, that vet did a great job of working everything out.

Bunnicula is run through a series of tests.

He is hooked up to heart monitors, running machines, and breathing tubes. The vet presents Bunnacula with plates of varying kinds of food.

The veterinarian watches Bunnacula closely, and takes notes on his clipboard regarding Bunnacula's reaction to the food.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

The vet discovered a few things about Bunnacula. First, he said Bunnacula was suffering from extreme hunger. In all honesty, I could have made that diagnosis. He also said that Bunnacula had a very weak stomach, something he called "stomachous roughocous". All I know is it meant the little guy needed to be on an all liquid diet.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Mrs. Monroe uses a juicer to get juice from carrots and other vegetables.

Bunnacula is on the counter watching her.

Mrs. Monroe gives a baby bottle filled with freshly squeezed juice to Bunnacula.

Bunnacula SUCKS on the baby bottle, he absolutely loves it.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

Looks like carrot juice from here on out for the little guy. At least he won't have to go through that ridiculous routine of sucking on fruits and vegetables anymore.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

April tucks Bunnacula into a doll bed, which is next to her bed.

The doll blanket April uses to tuck Bunnacula in has little bunnies dressed in cowboy outfits all over it.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

Finally the vet said Bunnacula should be sleeping in the same room as the person he is most connected with, this would help get him on a normal sleeping pattern. I guess that means April's getting a new roommate.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - AFTERNOON

HAROLD

(V.O.)

Unfortunately for Chester though, the vet's diagnosis was not as simple.

Chester is on a therapist's couch. Chester is very animated with his body language and hands as he talks.

The PSYCHIATRIST listens intently and takes notes.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

The vet referred Chester to a cat psychiatrist, and after several intense sessions, the doctor determined that Chester was suffering from a severe case of sibling rivalry towards Bunnacula. I had to look up what sibling rivalry meant, and it turns out I was right again, Chester had been jealous of Bunnacula all along. Chester now sees the good doc' twice a week to help keep his emotions under control. She even has him reading "Finding Yourself Through Screaming A Lot".

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Chester stands on a chair in the living room holding a book, his mouth is wide open.

Each member of the Monroe family watches Chester while covering their ears.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

You don't even want to know how that is going.

(Beat)

And as for me, my heroic efforts to save my new friend didn't go unrewarded.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. MONROE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Harold sits at the dinner table with the Monroes.

HAROLD

(V.O.)

Let's just say I've been eating even better as of late.

Harold has a big napkin tied around his neck. There is a big plate of "real" food in front of him. Harold smiles from ear to ear.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. MONROE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Harold lays on the rug and speaks directly INTO THE CAMERA.

HAROLD

Yes, it certainly has been a crazy Halloween season for us Monroes, crazy even by our standards. But like I said, all's well that ends --

From O.S. the CRINKLING sound of a cupcake wrapper interrupts Harold.

Harold's ears PERK up.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

-- well, especially when it's Friday night and there's a Hostess cupcake waiting for you.

Harold gets up from the living room floor and begins to TROT up the stairs towards Toby's room.

INT. MONROE'S UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

At the top of the stairs Harold begins running.

Harold passes April's room and then disappears into Toby's room at the very end of the hallway.

April's door is opened slightly. The CAMERA MOVES IN THROUGH THE OPENED DOOR.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

April is asleep.

Next to April, sleeping on the doll bed is Bunnacula.

INSERT - CLOSE-UP

Bunnacula's sleeping face.

Bunnacula's eyes FLASH open quickly, and are bright red.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN "Why Can't We Be Friends" by War.

ROLL END CREDITS