The Hero, the Criminal and the Butler

*By Ameenah Dream Carraway*

Characters:

Sierra the Grapefruit- She is a grapefruit, but she has human mannequin arms and legs that make her look more like a human, and she has hair that is natural.

Steve the Picture Frame- He has a picture in his frame that is a picture of himself.

The Butler

Time: 5: 00 August 25th, the present

Place: Steve is in a box in the attic.

At Rise: Steve is in his attic listening to his owner speaking.

**Scene 1**

BUTLER: What is that? A grapefruit? And does it have hair? That’s disgusting? That can’t be real. I may have over done it last night with all that juice! I didn’t fall asleep until 12 o’clock midnight. This is disgusting! How can I eat this if it has hair?

(He throws her away in the box)

STEVE: Are you here to rescue me?

SIERRA: No, the butler threw me away in this box.

STEVE: He threw you away too?

SIERRA: Yes.

STEVE: What’s your name?

SIERRA: My name is Sierra.

STEVE: Sierra the…..?

(Pause)

STEVE: Grapefruit?

SIERRA: I don’t want to be a grapefruit!

STEVE: You don’t gotta yell at me like that.

SIERRA: You brought up the grapefruit part!

STEVE: Hey that’s just what you are.

SIERRA: I’m a grapefruit now. But I’m going to be a human one day.

STEVE: How are you gonnna become a human?

SIERRA: I’m gonna keep on asking my sister to turn me into a human, because she’s a witch.

STEVE: Why is she a witch? Because she’s ugly?

SIERRA: Shut up! My sister is not ugly! I’m talking about a magical witch!

STEVE: Don’t say “shut up” to me! I just misunderstood you!

SIERRA: I don’t want to talk about it. What’s your name?

STEVE: I’m Steve the Thief…Actually, Steve the Picture Frame.

SIERRA: Excuse me, did you just say thief?

STEVE: Um, no. I said Steve the Picture Frame, not Steve the Thief.

SIERRA: OK, this time \*I\* misunderstood \*you\*. As long as you’re not a thief. Criminals are stupid and smelly. Their families didn’t teach them right from wrong.

STEVE: I never knew my family. The butler took me from the store and nobody bought my family.

SIERRA : How long have you been in this box?

STEVE: I’ve been in here for five thousand years.

SIERRA: I feel so sorry for you. If I was in here for 5,000 years without my family or friends, I’d be pretty upset. I’m going to get out of this box, and I’ll rescue you, too. (whispers) I got a plan!

STEVE: Oh, yeah, and what’s that plan?

SIERRA (whispers): I throw a grapefruit blast at the wall. And then first you get out, then I get out, then we hide with all of those boxes of photos!

STEVE: That plan is never gonna work. I’ve been in this box for 5,000 years. It’s impossible to get out of here.

SIERRA: How could it go wrong?

STEVE: (Sarcastically) Oh, I don’t know. He might move the boxes and see us! He might eat you by shaving your hair off! Then he might throw me away and then the garbage truck will come and I’ll get thrown away with the garbage and I’ll get taken to the dump and they’ll burn me!

SIERRA: Just trust me. I know we can get out of here, because if we don’t I’ll never fulfill a dreams of becoming a human.

STEVE: OK. I’m going to trust you. But if I die, I’m putting this on you.

SIERRA: Just get out the hole!

(Sierra powers up her mannequin arms and throws a grapefruit blast at the wall of the box and it makes a gigantic hole . Sierra and Steve escape. Butler comes.)

BUTLER: He’s escaping!

(The Butler chases them. Sierra and Steve look around to see if they are safe. The Butler comes out and puts handcuffs on Steve.)

STEVE: What the heck!

SIERRA: What’s going on!

BUTLER: He is a criminal! A crook! A thief! He stole stuff, and took hostages and demanded money! I bought him to put pictures in, but then people at the police station told me about him.

SIERRA: Why didn’t you tell the police?

BUTLER: I forgot what box I put him in! I lost him for 5,000 years, but you helped me find him! Thank you! (To Steve) Now it’s time to serve your time in jail.

SIERRA: I can’t believe he’s a criminal!

STEVE: That’s wrong! I’m not Steve the Thief! I’m Steve the Picture Frame!

BUTLER: Well, Sierra, thank you for all that you have done. I will give you a reward.

(The butler gives Sierra a key to the city)

BUTLER: The key to the city! I got this from the mayor!

SIERRA: Cool! Can I open stuff with it? Like doors? Like doors to the zoo, or the movie theaters?

BUTLER: No.

SIERRA: OK. Goodbye.

(Sierra exits)

**Scene 2- The County Jail**

(Sierra goes to visit Steve at the jail.)

SIERRA: Hello, Steve.

STEVE: (coldly) What do you want?

SIERRA: What’s wrong with you?

STEVE: You helped me get in jail.

SIERRA: I didn’t know that man was going to arrest you, I was just trying to help you get out.

STEVE: I would rather be in that box than be in jail. It’s cold and it’s disgusting.

SIERRA: You don’t gotta be mad at me that you got arrested. It’s your fault that you’re a criminal.

STEVE: It’s not my fault that nobody taught me right from wrong.

SIERRA: Actually it is, you could have taught yourself right from wrong.

STEVE: It’s not my fault that I got taken away from my parents. It’s the butler’s fault.

SIERRA: Of course he took you because you belong in a store. People buy stuff from the store.

STEVE: So why are you here? Nobody bought you from the store? You should be dead. Somebnody should have eaten by now.

SIERRA: I live in Grapefrutiopia, nobody gets eaten there.

STEVE: You know that Grapefuritopia is just a big graprefurit that can get eaten by a human?

SIERRA: And you know we have alarms to tell us when a human is going to eat us, right? And that’s when we evacuate.

STEVE: If humans are so bad and you want to escape them, why do you want to be one?

SIERRA: So I can ride a bike and go jogging and do other human stuff.

STEVE: If you be a human, nobody will like you. You’ll be so different from the other grapefruits. The other grapefruits will make fun of you.

SIERRA: No they won’t. They have mannequin arms and legs like me. Half of them want to become human, too.

STEVE: Oh, well they never will become a human.

SIERRA: Shut up, you don’t know that I won’t become a human! Because you know, one day I might become a human, because of my sister.

STEVE: Oh, which one, the ugly witch one?

SIERRA: Stop calling my sister ugly! She’s beautiful, just like me! I’m done with this! I’m never coming back.

STEVE: I don’t care. I don’t want you to come back.

SIERRA: I wanted to try to help you, but you just trashed me.

(She exits)

**Scene 4 August 25th 2022, Spring**

*PLACE: The county jail*

*At Rise: Steve the picture frame is walking out of jail like nothing ever happened. He is acting like he’s cool.*

STEVE: I’m so happy I’m out of jail and I’m about to get vengeance on Sierra! She put me in jail. She will pay.

(he sings)

I’m gonna burn the flowers!

I’m gonna blow up the playground!

And rob the stupid school!

And then I’m going to get vengeance on Sierra!

(he does jazz hands)

STEVE: (Counting) A hundred and one…a hundred and two…a hundred and three thousand dollars! I’m glad the school had a fundraiser so I could take all the money from it! They are so weak! So hopeless! Now to get vengeance!

(Steve exits, and he finds a pencil hammer on the ground.)

STEVE: (Sweetly. He’s crazy) Oh look! A pencil hammer! It’s my lucky day!

(He walks around with the pencil hammer ready to destroy anything in his path. [note] A pencil hammer is a weapon that has a pencil as it’s handle, and which, when you hit people with it, sends pencils into people’s bodies, like an injection. See drawing.)

STEVE: Get out of my way! Get outta my way! I’ve got a pencil hammer!

(The butler enters, he is eating a donut)

BUTLER: This is delicious! I’m worried about Steve getting out of jail today. He will never change.

(Steve enters, and grabs the cop by the neck and holds the pencil hammer to his head. Unarmed, the butler is hopeless)

STEVE: I’ll hit him! I’ll hit him in the head! I gotta pencil hammer! I’m not playing!

(Sierra enters)

STEVE: I got a pencil hammer!

BUTLER: You don’t gotta do this man! I’m serious! I got the mayor on speed dial! And the other cops!

STEVE: That reminds me! Give me your phone! And all your electronics! And your gun!

BUTLER: I don’t got my gun! I’m on break.

STEVE: OK. (Quietly to himself) I’m gonna hit him in the legs because he arrested me, and he walked me to my jail cell! Now he won’t be able to walk me anywhere!

SIERRA: (to herself) I want to help, but he doesn’t trust me. I’ll disguise myself as a doctor!

(Steve shoots a pencil into the Butler’s leg)

BUTLER: Is anybody a doctor? Ahhhhh! Owwwww!

SIERRA: (Using a strange accent) I am a doctor!

(Sierra fixes him up)

BUTLER: Thank you! Wait… what’s your name?

SIERRA: Um… Rodney!

BUTLER: Thank you, Rodney!

SIERRA: Excuse me, sir, but you don’t have to do this? The cops might come and arrest you!

BUTLER: He doesn’t listen to reason! Trust me! I tried!

STEVE: Shut up, you, and shut up too! I don’t even know who you are! Get out, or I’ll shoot you in the leg, too!

SIERRA: If you don’t change your ways you’re going to keep going to jail and you’re going to die in there! You’ll die in there with all your regrets! You’re going to regret shooting an unarmed policeman in the leg with a pencil! And you would regret shooting another unarmed man!

STEVE: You sound like a woman, not a man!

SIERRA: I have a strange disease that makes my voice sound like a woman. Trust me. If you don’t change, your owner is going to come back and throw you away. But if you change, he won’t. He won’t even notice you.

STEVE: OK. But I want to go back to the store and be reunited with my family.

SIERRA: OK, I will help you do that! But just let go of the butler.

(He lets go and the Butler runs away, and screams like a little girl)

BUTLER: Ahhh!

STEVE: I know it’s you Sierra. Thank you for allowing me to be reunited with my family. For a reward, I will give you this pixie dust that I stole…borrowed…from some pixies fifteen years ago that can transform you into a human.

SIERRA: OK! As long as you borrowed it! Thank you!!!!!

(Sierra transforms into a human by spinning and hearing a song)

***The End.***