

**STATE OF EMERGENCY
or
NO PROBLEM**

**a comedy of occupation
for puppets**

by Edward Mast

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SAM

Some in the back aren't doing it. All together:
We're not on fire --

OFFICIAL

AAAND how can we help you today?

SAM

Hi hi hi yes hi great yes hi great great. So. No problem, no problem, just a little trouble about my IDFBL card.

OFFICIAL

Your IDFBL card?

SAM

My Identification Freedom Bank Life Card card, no big problem, just doesn't seem to be working.

OFFICIAL

I'MMM sorry about that sir, your Identification Freedom Bank Life Card, let me see it please.

SAM

Sure thing. Great. Great. Now we're making progress. Light at the end of the tunnel.

OFFICIAL

UH-ohhh.

SAM

Yes, yes, no problem, am I right?

OFFICIAL

I'MMM afraid your travel permit has been denied.

VOICES

UH-OH.

SAM

My travel permit?

OFFICIAL

Your travel credits are all used up.

SAM

Well if that's what it says it must be true. Because

SAM& VOICES

WHY WOULD THEY LIE?

SAM

But the fact is I haven't been uh

OFFICIAL
Been what?

SAM
Traveling. At all. And all my travel credits are gone?

OFFICIAL
WELL you have a number of water debits here.

VOICES
UH-OH. WATER DEBITS.

SAM
Water debits?

OFFICIAL
Have you been drinking water, sir?

SAM
I guess so, a little

OFFICIAL
And bluescreen debits of course.

SAM
Bluescreen?

OFFICIAL
Quite a long list of bluescreen debits. Have you been watching a lot of bluescreen sir?

SAM
Well some I guess. I like to relax with a bluescreen show at the end of a long hard day --

OFFICIAL
WELL THEN there you are. SOORRRREEEE.

SAM
NOOO PROBLEM, I understand, you have to keep strict control of our credits, what with

ALL
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

SAM
and all, but listen listen the fact is, not a problem but I'm in what you might call, well we're in what you might have to call a little tiny bit of annnnnn emergency.

OFFICIAL
EMERGENCY?

SAM
Yeah. Have to call it that. Yeah.

OFFICIAL
What kind of EMERGENCY.

SAM
Well my wife uh. She'sssss youknow um. Gonna have a little uh

OFFICIAL
Little what?

SAM
Baby.

OFFICIAL
OOOOOH, a BAAAAAby. Congratulations sir.

SAM
Yeah haha yeah yeah thanks so. Have a cigar.

OFFICIAL
I'm an automated checkpoint unit, sir.

SAM
Of course you are --

OFFICIAL
I don't smoke cigars.

SAM
Keep it for a friend.

OFFICIAL
And this isn't a cigar.

SAM
True.

OFFICIAL
It's a rolled up piece of newspaper.

SAM
Got me, hahaha. Not many cigars where I come from these days. So anyway

OFFICIAL
You're having a baby.

SAM
Yes.

OFFICIAL
And we hope you'll be very happy. NEXT!

SAM
But wait!

Sir? OFFICIAL

We're having a baby! SAM

And? OFFICIAL

We need to get to a hospital! SAM

Good idea. NEXT! OFFICIAL

But the only hospital is in Freedom City. SAM

I suppose that's true sir. NEXT! OFFICIAL

We can't go to Freedom City without going through this checkpoint! SAM

OHHHHHHHH I see. You'd like to go through this checkpoint. OFFICIAL

Exactly! See, I knew there'd be no problem -- SAM

But you can't go through with no travel permit, sir. OFFICIAL

But it's an emergency! SAM

Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! DALIA
(offstage)

I'm working on it, honey! Everything's going fine! No problem! SAM
See, it could happen any moment.

OOOOOOH I see, you have an EMERGENCY. Why didn't you say so? OFFICIAL

(Other heads appear. Official disappears for a moment.)

Hey buddy, you're holding up the line! ANOTHER PERSON

SAM
I've got an emergency! We're having a baby!

DALIA
(offstage)
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

ANOTHER PERSON
Emergency?

ANOTHER
Emergency?

ANOTHER
You call that emergency?

SAM
Yes, well

ANOTHER
I'm bleeding from my stomach.

ANOTHER
My foot's falling off.

ANOTHER
I'm coughing up blood.

ANOTHER
I just had a heart attack!

ANOTHER
I've been in a coma for three days!

ANOTHER
We all have to get to Freedom City!

ALL PERSONS
GET OUTTA THE WAY!

OFFICIAL
(reappears)
THAAAAANK YOU THAAAAANK YOU THAT WILL BE ALL, one at a time,
remain orderly, protecting your freedom, protecting your freedom. Now sir:

SAM
Great, terrific.

OFFICIAL
I'm dialing the Freedom Emergency Hotline number for you.

PHONE
beep beep beep beep beep beep beep

OFFICIAL

Speak clearly please and tell them you have an emergency.

SAM

Hello? Hi. Yes. Thanks. Listen, I have an emergency. My wife is in -- what? Yes. Great. Thank you. Uh --

PHONE

bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

OFFICIAL

Now if you'll hand that back. There we go.

SAM

Outstanding. Okay. Okay. So, what happens now?

OFFICIAL

They call me back and tell me if I should let you through.

SAM

Didn't I just talk to them?

OFFICIAL

Yes sir you did.

SAM

Wonderful. They said you'd let us through.

OFFICIAL

EXcellent. Now they just have to tell me.

SAM

How?

OFFICIAL

They'll call me.

SAM

Didn't youuuuuu just have them on the phone?

OFFICIAL

No sir, *YOU* just had them on the phone,.

SAM

And they told me --

OFFICIAL

OF COURSE they did. But they have to tell me.

SAM

Excellent. Can you call them?

OFFICIAL

I'm afraid not.

SAM
But you just did.

OFFICIAL
YOU did. I only dialed.

SAM
Okay, no problem, any idea how long?

OFFICIAL
Can't guarantee sir. They're very busy.

SAM
I see. Of course. Bump in the road, bump in the road.

OFFICIAL
Check back tomorrow if you like.

SAM
No problem, love to but tomorrow might be

DALIA
(offstage)
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! .

OFFICIAL
Too bad about those travel credits.

SAM
Yeah well

OFFICIAL
Maybe watch a little less bluescreen next time, ha ha ha.

SAM
Hahaha.

OFFICIAL
Or choose a local hospital?

SAM
There's only one hospital we're allowed to go to.

OFFICIAL
And where's that?

SAM
Freedom City!

OFFICIAL
That is unfortunate. Would you like to file a letter of complaint?

SAM
Oh no no complain? Me?

ALL
IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.

OFFICIAL
OR you can organize a legal protest.

PROTESTORS
(appear around the edge, signs and noisemakers)
ARRRGHRRRAARRAAARG!

OFFICIAL
Shall I print you out some signs?

SAM
NOOO thanks, protest? Not me. Everything's fine, what's to protest?

OFFICIAL
Good attitude sir.

DALIA
(offstage)
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

SAM
Ooookay, we'll try again later, if I could just.

SAM
If I could just.

OFFICIAL
Yes sir?

SAM
Get my uhhhh.

OFFICIAL
Your uhhhhh?

SAM
Card? Back?

OFFICIAL
Of course sir

SAM
Great.
Uh.
When?

OFFICIAL
After they call me back.

SAM
When will that be?

OFFICIAL
Can't guarantee.

OFFICIAL AND SAM
THEY'RE VERY BUSY.

SAM
Tell you what. Never mind the call. Cancel it. I'll just get my card back and --

OFFICIAL
Can't cancel a call sir.

SAM
Tell you what: if I could just get my card back --

OFFICIAL
BOOOP BOOOP BOOOP

SAM
Sorry?

OFFICIAL
Sir, my records show that you have made the same request three times.

SAM
Oh. What does that mean?

OFFICIAL
AUTHORIZING MODE TRANSER.

(Official turns into SOLDIER.)

SOLDIER
We are keeping your Identification Freedom Bank Life Card until further notice.

SAM
Okay, got it, got it, no problem. How long?

SOLDIER
BOOOG BOOOP BOOOP

SAM
Uh oh.

SOLDIER
That's three times for that question too.

SAM
No it's not - I only asked that once.

SOLDIER

It was implied in your earlier questions. Authorizing mode transfer.
(becomes TANK)

TANK

HANDS BEHIND HEAD KNEEL ON THE GROUND
HANDS BEHIND HEAD KNEEL ON THE GROUND

SAM

Wow that's impressive --

TANK

NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW

SAM

But I don't understand --

TANK

Authorizing mode transfer.

SAM

Uh oh. Excuse me, but I have to ---

HELICOPTER

CEASE ALL MOVEMENT
CEASE ALL MOVEMENT

SAM

run run run run pant pant run run run run run run

HELICOPTER

THIS IS YOUR WARNING SHOT
BOOOOOOOOOM
PROTECTING YOUR FREEDOM
PROTECTING YOUR FREEDOM

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
DEMOLISHED HOME

VOICES

Scene two: Protecting Your Freedom; DEMOLISHED HOME!!

(Sam and pregnant Dalia running.)

Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!
 DALIA

Are you alright?
 SAM

Ah! Ah!
 DALIA

Are you alright?
 SAM

Ah! Ah!
 DALIA

Dalia, is the baby coming now?
 SAM

Not now.
 DALIA

Good.
 SAM

But soon!
 DALIA

UH-OH!
 VOICES

No problem, no problem.
 SAM

What do you MEAN no problem??? The checkpoint is closed, we can't go through it because YOU spend all your time watching BLUESCREEN --
 DALIA

There are many educational programs --
 SAM

DALIA

And now they have your IDFBL card, which means we can't go ANYwhere, and I'm about to -- uh-oh, uh-oh

SAM

Uh-oh, uh-oh, labor pains?

DALIA

Not yet, no I'm fine, I'm fine.

SAM

Yes, good, everything's fine.

DALIA

Everything is NOT fine, what are we going to do?

SAM

No problem, just move to Plan B.

DALIA

What's Plan B?

SAM

We'll figure that out.

DALIA

If we go back there they'll arrest us. If we go to another checkpoint they'll arrest us. We should forget the hospital and go home.

SAM

Don't be quitter! My little boy is not going to be born in the bathroom!

DALIA

People do it all the time

SAM

We don't. We don't even have a midwife.

DALIA

We did till they demolished her house.

SAM

She must have done something illegal.

DALIA

She didn't do anything. They bulldozed her whole part of town for the Development Freedom Project.

SAM

Is there some other way past the Freedom Wall?

DALIA

I don't think so

SAM
What about through the woods?

DALIA
But the Freedom Fields outside the Development Freedom Projects are patrolled.

SAMI
By whom?

ALL
THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!
hooohohohohooo shudder

SAM
Oh that's right.

DALIA
We do NOT want to meet

ALL
THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!
hooohohohoo shudder

SAM
There's got to be another way.
We could try the double barbed wire Freedom Fence.

DALIA
But the soldiers there like to take trophies.

SAM
Is there an underground way?

ALL
UNDERGROUND!
Ooohohohohohoo shudder.

DALIA
That sounds as bad as

ALL
THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!
hooohohohoo shudder

EXPLOSION
BOOM!

LOUDSPEAKER
William and Mary Matheson.

ALL (with Sam and Dalia)
Thank you for protecting our freedom!

SAM
Sounds like they got another insurgent's house.

DALIA
Hope so.

SAM
Okay, we'll stop at our house and rest and then we'll ---

DALIA
What is that?

EXPLOSION
BOOOM!

LOUDSPEAKER
Joseph and Mary Bettleheim.

SAM
Thank you for protecting our freedom!
Boy they're getting a lot of insurgents today.

DALIA
Let's just go home and figure out what to do next.

SAM
Good idea. We're almost there.

EXPLOSION
BOOOOOOOOM!

SAM
Yes yes, thanks for protecting our --

LOUDSPEAKER
Samuel and Dalia Williams.

SAM & DALIA
WHAT!!!

LOUDSPEAKER
You heard me. Samuel and Dalia Williams.

MORE PEOPLE
(appear)
Boy that was close. Got those insurgents just in time.
Everybody okay?
I think they protected our freedom just in time.

VOICE
No explosions! No explosions!

ALL PERSONS
Shut up!

PERSON

Damn protestors.

PERSON

Don't worry. Nobody notices them.

SAM

But there's some kind of mistake.

PERSON

What?

SAM

Sam and Dalia Williams. That's us. I'm Sam Williams. This is Dalia Williams. Why would they demolish our house?

ALL PERSONS

GASP!

PERSON

You're insurgents!

PERSON

You're terrorists!

SAM

No no no hahaha it's some kind of error --

ALL PERSONS

HERE THEY ARE! HERE THEY ARE!

HELICOPTER

DO NOT MOVE
DO NOT MOVE
STAY WHERE YOU ARE

SAM & DALIA

run run run run run run run run run run run run run run

HELICOPTER

THIS IS YOUR SECOND WARNING SHOT
BOOM
THIS IS YOUR THIRD WARNING SHOT
BOOM

ALL

Thank you for protecting our freedom!

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
FREEDOM WALL

VOICES

Scene three: Protecting Your Freedom: FREEDOM WALL!!

SAM & DALIA

run run run run run pant pant run run run run run run run

SAM

no problem no problem no problem no problem

DALIA

There IS a problem! Our house was blown up!

SAM

What did we do?

DALIA

What do you mean?

SAM

Why would they blow up our house if we didn't do anything?

DALIA

It was a mistake?

SAM

But what if it wasn't? Maybe we did something bad without knowing it. Maybe we ought to turn ourselves in.

DALIA

They'll send us to a Freedom Reeducation Camp.

SAM

Maybe, but --

DALIA

Or they'll make us soldiers in Operation Freedom Freedom.

SAM

Maybe, but --

DALIA

This is a catastrophe!

SAM

Maybe our house was . . . on fire!

DALIA

On fire?

SAM

It happens. Our house caught fire, and they had to knock it down to put it out. That's it. Our house was on fire. Boy that's a relief.

DALIA

Our house wasn't on fire.

SAM

It musta been. Everything will be fine.

DALIA

EVERYTHING IS NOT FINE!

SAM

It will be though. Hey look.

DALIA

What?

SAM

There's the barbed wire. I don't see any soldiers.

DALIA

It's too dangerous.

SAM

We have to.

DALIA

Ow! Ow!

SAM

See what I mean?

DALIA

Okay. But be careful.

SAM

Alright. I'll lift the wire apart. You get through first. Careful. Careful. Are you through?

DALIA

Okay.

SAM

Now you hold the wire for me.

DALIA

Okay.

ALARM

BOOWOOP BOOWOOP BOOWOOP

Uh oh. SAM

Soldiers! DALIA

They're coming! SAM

Oh no! DALIA

You go ahead. SAM

I can't leave you here. DALIA

You have to! The baby! SAM

No! DALIA

Yes! The baby! The baby! I'll turn myself in. I'll be alright. Go! Hurry! SAM

I love you! DALIA

I love you! SAM
Bump in the road, bump in the road

Hey, hi, how ya doin. SOLDIER ONE

How ya doin? SOLDIER TWO

Uh. Fine thanks. SAM

Good. ONE

Good. TWO

So. ONE

So. TWO

ONE
Just wandering around in the middle of the night in a restricted zone?

SAM
Yep.

TWO
Fancy that.

ONE
Got your IDFBL card?

SAM
Uh.

TWO
No?

ONE
That's a shame.

TWO
Left it home, huh?

ONE
Poor choice.

TWO
Really poor choice.

ONE
Wife?

SAM
What about her?

TWO
Got one?

SAM
Yes.

ONE
Ohhhhhh, that's too bad. Family?

SAM
Child on the way.

TWO
Owwwch. That's a real shame.

ONE
I hate to hear that. Congratulations though. Little woman at home?

SAM
Yes.

TWO
With your IDFBL card, huh?

ONE
But here you are, restricted zone, no ID. Any excuse?

TWO
Didn't think so.

ONE
Can you think of any good reason he'd be out here, this time of night, right near the Luxury Freedom Suites?

TWO
Nope. You?

ONE
Nope.

TWO
Well that's that then. Between you and me: I don't care for this job. You?

ONE
Hate it. I got a wife and kids of my own.

TWO
Yeah?

SAM
Okay. Take me to the reeducation camp. Do they have bluescreen there?

ONE
Camp?

TWO
Bluescreen?

ONE & TWO
hahahahahahaha

ONE
Don't worry about camp.

TWO
No camp for you.

SAM
No? Great. That's terrific.

ONE
Because we're ready to do you a favor.

TWO
We could arrest you.

ONE
Send you to prison.

TWO
And you know what THAT'S like.

SAM
Yeah.

ONE
Yeah.

TWO
Yeah.

ONE
And maybe you'd get a trial.

TWO
Maybe.

ONE
But a trial, well frankly

TWO
You know those trials.

ONE
It'll end the same.

TWO
Just the same.

ONE
OR.

TWO
OR.

ONE
We can take care of it now.

TWO
No fuss.

ONE
No bother.

TWO
Simple, efficient.

Am I right? ONE
 Am I right? TWO
 Well SAM
 That's the way. ONE
 Best way. TWO
 The only way. ONE
 Good then; we're all agreed? TWO
 But hey - you won't be forgotten. ONE
 Because: TWO
 We've got: ONE
 THIS CAMERA! ONE AND TWO
 Won't need flash. ONE
 Plenty of light out here. TWO
 Hey - what if we take shots before and after? TWO
 Uh SAM
 Before and after! That's great! ONE
 Excuse me but . . . before and after what? SAM
 HAHAAHAHA ONE & TWO

You're okay, pal. TWO
 A real cutup. ONE
 Okay: step over here: TWO
 Plenty of light. ONE
 Ready. Ready. TWO
 CLICK. ONE&TWO
 Got it. TWO
 Okay, your turn. Ready. How about a little smile? ONE
 CLICK. ONE&TWO
 Got it. ONE
 Hey, let's get one together. TWO
 Yes! Wait - does this have a timer on it? ONE
 Oh, maybe not. TWO
 No tripod anyway. ONE
 Oh well. TWO
 You want one with both of you in it? SAM
 Yeah. ONE
 Let me take one. SAM

TWO
Hey, good idea.

ONE
That'd be swell of you.

TWO
Most people aren't so nice.

ONE
Some of them get downright cranky.

TWO
But you're a pal.

SAM
Well, you're just doing your job, right?

ONE
Right.

SAM
Can't be coddling terrorists, right?

TWO
Right.

SAM
Cuz I was just born on the wrong side of the Freedom Wall, right?

ONE
Right.

TWO
That's mighty decent of you to take such a progressive attitude.

ONE
Okay. Point and click.

TWO
Silver button, not the red one for the flashcube. Wait for the lights. Got it?

ONE
Wait.

TWO
What?

ONE
He won't be in the picture with us.

TWO
Oh. Don't worry: I've got PHOTOSHOP!

Great. ONE
 How about a closeup? SAM
 Sure! ONE
 Okay, big smile, eyes open wide, closer, closer . . . SAM
 FLASH! ALL
 Hey! ONE
 FLASH! ALL
 Hey! TWO
 FLASH! ALL
 Hey! ONE
 FLASH! ALL
 Hey! TWO
 YAAAAAH run run run run run run run run SAM
 Oh now look at that. ONE
 What a headache. Should we aim low? TWO
 You aim low, I'll aim high. ONE
 Full spectrum dominance! ONE&TWO
 BANG BANG BANG BANG RIFLES

ONE
Should we go after him?

TWO
Guess we have to.

ONE
Hate this job.

TWO
Me too. So: how old are those little ones of yours?

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

VOICES

Scene four: Protecting Your Freedom: THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!!!
 hoohooohoo shudderrrrrrrrrr

SAM

run run pant pant pant collapse
 Boy that was close huh? But I'm sure lucky. No problem. Lucky me, lucky me. I
 think I'm through the worst of it now.

MAN'S VOICE

Judges chapter 17 verse 13

SAM

Uh-oh.

WOMAN'S VOICE

But Chapter 18 verse 5.

SAM

Oh no.

ALL

THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!!! oohooohooohoo shudder

ADAM

(appears, towers over Sam)

Joshua chapter 22 verse 16.

EVE

(sticks head out off to the side)

What trespass is this you have committed?

(disappears)

SAM

I'm not trespassing.

ADAM

Mm. Chapter 42 verse 8.

EVE

(appears and disappears again)

You are a spy. You have come to discover the country's weak points.

SAM

No I'm not.

ADAM

Verse 7.

EVE
Where have you come from?

SAM
I live just down the mountain. I was walking and got lost.

ADAM
Uh huh: Joshua chapter 22 verse 14.

EVE
It is as I said: you are a spy.

SAM
No no, I'm lost, that's all. See, my wife is pregnant, and we were trying to --

ADAM
Ohhhoho! Genesis 17:20!

EVE
Fruitful and exceedingly numerous!

ADAM
Exodus 5:5.

EVE
These persons have grown to such numbers

ADAM
Genesis 1:10.

EVE
We must take precautions to stop them from increasing further.

ADAM
6:6

EVE
The Lord said: I shall rid the surface of the earth of these beings..

ADAM
Numbers 17:10.

EVE
I am going to destroy them here and now. (to Adam) Deuteronomy 1:14: Your plan is good.

SAM
Hallelujah! Hallelujah, I have seen the light!

ADAM
Exodus 8:16.

EVE
What?

SAM
I have seen the light at last! I'm ready! Take me into your fold.

ADAM
Genesis 3 verse 7.

EVE
Then the eyes of them were opened.

ADAM
Exodus 23:21.

EVE
Revere the Lord, and obey what he says?

SAM
I do. I will. You bet. Yes.

ADAM
Exodus 23: 22?

SAM
Uhhhhhhhh

ADAM
Aha! Genesis 6:5 !!

SAM
Uhhh gimme a minute --

EVE
Nothing but wicked schemes all day long!!

ADAM
Judith 16:17 !!

EVE
Woe to those who rise up against my people!!

SOLDIER ONE
Hi folks. Thanks.

SOLDIER TWO
We'll take it from here.

ADAM
Genesis 31:43.

EVE
All that you see is mine.

ONE
Heyhey, haha, we're all on the same side, right?

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
UNDERGROUND

VOICES

Scene five: Protecting Your Freedom: UNDERGROUND!!!

SAM

run run run still alive still alive not on fire not on fire Freedom City so close gotta get there now gotta be a way gotta be a way oh this is terrible.

pant pant

I must admit that some of this strikes me as . . . unfortunate. I swear I get so angry sometimes I could just PROTEST. Hey what does that sign say?

SIGN

Abandon all hope, you who enter here. By order of the military government.

SAM

What does that mean? I've never seen this cave before.

SIGN

Factory effluent channel. By order of the military government.

SAM

It's a sewer pipe! Hey, this might lead underneath the Freedom Wall. Eeeeuw what a smell.

SMELLS

sewage industrial waste methane boogers feet juice

SAM

But I've got to try it. I've got to go

ALL

UNDERGROUND!

oohooohoo shudder

THREE HEADED DOG

owf owf owf owf owf owf

SAM

A three headed dog? The factory effluent must create mutations. Wow it's dark. This smell is blocking my head. I'm hallucinating.

THREE HEADED DOG

Mngow mngow mngow

SAM

No worry. Everything's fine. Here kitty. I'm getting dizzy. I like this smell. It's earthy. Hey there are lights up ahead. What's that?

PEOPLE IN TATTERS

Hi Hello Welcome Welcome How are you Sit Sit Sit How nice to see you
 Comfortable?
 More tea?
 More sugar?
 Warm enough?
 It's great to see you.
 How've you been?

SAM

Uh

PEOPLE

You're here for the wedding, right?

SAM

Who's getting married?

PEOPLE

You're not here for the wedding?
 He's not here for the wedding?

SAM

I didn't know there was a wedding, but of course I'm happy to --

PEOPLE

This is your first time in the Land Underground?
 Hey! He's from outside!
 This is his first time in the Land Underground!
 First timer!!
 Ooooooooooooooooooooo.
 Welcome, welcome, welcome.

SAM

Thanks.

PEOPLE

What's it like outside?
 Is it all the same?

SAM

Same as . . . ?

PEOPLE

Are there still checkpoints?

SAM

Yes.

PEOPLE

(together)

AWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW.
 Are there still curfews?

PEOPLE

Who would come here?
If they didn't have to.
You must have to.
But you're lucky today. It's a wedding!

SAM

That's terrific, but I'm in kind of a hurry.

PEOPLE

Why?

SAM

My wife, you know. In the hospital.

PEOPLE

Going to have a baby?

SAM

Yeah.

PEOPLE

Congratulations!
Many happy returns!
Have a drink?

SAM

Uh . . . what's it made of?

PEOPLE

A child, a child, a child!
A little baby!
Drink this!

SAM

That's good. It's kind of . . . earthy.

PEOPLE

Have another!

MAN

Hey - is your wife in Freedom Hospital in Freedom City?

SAM

Boy I sure hope so.

MAN

I was just there. What's her name?

SAM

Dalia.

MAN

I met her!

SAM
You did?

MAN
Sure. She was having a baby? Got kind of a sharp mouth on her

SAM
That's her! Is she okay?

MAN
She's great! You're a dad!

SAM
I'm a dad?

MAN
Your wife had a healthy little girl.

SAM
A little girl?

MAN
You bet. She's adorable. No one could keep their hands off her. Everyone wanted to hold her; there were fights, I swear. Your wife named her Leyla.

SAM
Leyla.

PEOPLE
Awwwwwwwww.

SAM
Hey wait. We didn't discuss a name.

PEOPLE
Leyla's a beautiful name.

SAM
It is, but these things need to go through a process.

MAN
You can change it later if you want.

PEOPLE
Change Leyla's name? Why would you want to do that?

SAM
I don't want to change it, I just wanted to, you know, have my vote.

PEOPLE
Leyla, Leyla, Leyla!

SAM
I have a little girl named Leyla!

MAN
Congratulations, my friend.

SAM
Hey: how were you in the city?

MAN
Oh I don't live here. I just pass through.

SAM
Why?

MAN
I'm with the resistance.

SAM
Oh! You come here to recruit!

MAN
Recruit? HAHAHA! Do you see how they live here? I just pick up the ones who are already looking for us.

SAM
You always use this tunnel?

MAN
Nah. There are lots of ways. The checkpoints and walls are to stop you, not me. The military government can't stop me, and they wouldn't if they could.

SAM
Why not?

MAN
They need my acts of resistance to justify their military government.

SAM
Then why do you keep making trouble??

MAN?
What?

SAM
I mean there might be a few inconveniences now and again, but everything's basically fine, isn't it?

MAN
Basically fine?

PEOPLE
Basically fine?

SAM
Yeah, I mean, it was bad for a while, but then they elected that NEW PRESIDENT

and everything was better, right?

PEOPLE

OOOOOOOOOOOokay, look at the time, guess you've got to be going, huh?

SAM

I do?

PEOPLE

Yep. Sorry you have to run like this.
Don't be a stranger.
Have a drink for the road.

SAM

Okay. Let's drink to everything being basically fine!

PEOPLE

OOOOOOOOOOO no time for drinking!
You've gotta run!
Go visit that little girl of yours!
Go visit Leyla!

SAM

Hey that's right!

PEOPLE

Bye now!
Bye now!
Bye now!

THREE HEADED DOG

baaaaa baaaaa baaaaa
bukbukbuk
mmmmmmoo mmmmmmmoo mmmmmoo

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
FREEDOM CITY:
CURFEW

VOICES

Scene six: Protecting Your Freedom: FREEDOM CITY!!

SAM

Whoaaaa, that mud drink sure went to my head. Whooo!
 All that methane.
 Where am I? Outside again.
 There's Freedom City!
 Why was I going there?
 Oh yeah! Dalia's in the hospital! And Leyla!
 I made it past the Freedom Wall!
 I have to get to Freedom Hospital!
 See! I was right. We'll be fine! We'll be fine!

ALL

run run run run skip dance run run run

SAM

Wow. Call this a city? Where is everybody? It's deserted. Is it a holiday? What's going on? Hello? Hellooooo?

LOUDSPEAKER

ATTENTION. ATTENTION.
 CURFEW WILL BE LIFTED FOR 13 MINUTES.
 STARTING.
 NOW.
 DO NOT RUN.
 THERE WILL BE NO RUNNING.

PEOPLE

walk fast walk fast walk fast walk fast

SAM

Excuse me --

PERSON

(moving quickly past)
 sorry gotta go there might be FOOD.

SAM

Beg pardon --

ANOTHER

curfew lifted maybe get food for family gotta go OUTSIDE

SAM
 Could I just --

ANOTHER
 thirteen minutes thirteen minutes THIRTEEN MINUTES

SAM
 HEY!
 Excuse me!

PERSON
 hi hi lovely day how are you love to stop and chat but gotta dash

SAM
 Wait! What's going on?

PERSON
 house arrest lifted for thirteen minutes thirteen whole minutes there might be food in
 some of the shops excuse me please

SAM
 Where's the hospital?

PERSON
 Hospital? Hospital?

MANY PEOPLE
 HOSPITAL???? WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT THE HOSPITAL?????

SAM
 I uh sorry I was just --

MANY PEOPLE
 HOSPITAL?!?!?!?

SAM
 Never mind. Bye.

MANY PEOPLE
 HOSPITAL!!!!????? GO OVER THERE AND SEE THE HOSPITAL!!!! GO
 AHEAD!!!! GO OVER THERE!!!!!! SEE THE HOSPITAL!!!!!!!

SAM
 Okay! Thanks! On my way! No problem!

PERSON
 Okay. Sorry.

SAM
 No problem. Hospital here I come.

PERSON
 HOSPITAL?

MANY PEOPLE
DID YOU SAY HOSPITAL?

ALL
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

PERSON
Well it's been lovely passing the time with you but oh dear how the day runs on and I have a pressing engagement with some FOOD for my family and this curfew is only lifted once every WEEK so I'm afraid you'll have to let me GO now if it's not too much bother --

LOUDSPEAKER
ATTENTION
ATTENTION
CURFEW IS BACK IN FORCE
CURFEW IS BACK IN FORCE

PERSON
It hasn't been 13 minutes!

LOUDSPEAKER & OTHER VOICES
WARNING SHOT
BANG

PERSON
Oh dear - look at the time. I guess we don't need food after all. Bye now.

LOUDSPEAKER
CURFEW IS IN FORCE
CURFEW IS IN FORCE
CURFEW IS IN FORCE

SAM
I better hide!

LOUDSPEAKER
CURFEW IS IN FORCE

SAM
Behind that pile of rubble.

LOUDSPEAKER
CURFEW IS IN FORCE

LOUDSPEAKER
CURFEW IS IN FORCE
CURFEW IS IN FORCE
CURFEW IS IN FORCE

RUBBLE PERSON
Hey! Get down! Don't ruin my hiding place!

SAM
Who are you?

RUBBLE PERSON
They'll see us!

SAM
Why are you still out here?

RUBBLE PERSON
I stayed out too long. They had a sale on chocolate

SAM
How will you get home?

RUBBLE PERSON
I'll wait till dark. They protect our freedom a little less at night. Why are you out here?

SAM
I don't live in Freedom City. I'm looking for the hospital?

RUBBLE PERSON
Hospital? Hospital? HOSPIT --

SAM
NO NO don't start shouting! I just want to know where it is.

RUBBLE PERSON
It's nowhere.

SAM
Nowhere?

RUBBLE PERSON
You're standing on it.

SAM
This is an empty field with a bunch of rocks.

RUBBLE PERSON
Now it is. Bulldozers cleared away most of the wreckage so the Red Cross won't know there was a bombing.

SAM
Bombing?

RUBBLE PERSON
Military government had to give us an object lesson. They said it was hiding insurgents.

SAM
What was hiding insurgents?

RUBBLE PERSON
The hospital.

SAM
The hospital?

RUBBLE PERSON
Hospital? DID YOU SAY HOSPITAL --

SAM
When was it bombed?

RUBBLE PERSON
Yesterday.

SAM
Uh-oh, uh-oh, bump in the road, bump in the road

RUBBLE PERSON
What's wrong?

SAM
They wouldn't bomb a hospital.

RUBBLE PERSON
DID YOU SAY --

SAM
There was a woman and a little baby girl in there!

RUBBLE PERSON
And a bunch of other people too. Kaboom kaboom.

SAM
They wouldn't do that!

RUBBLE PERSON
Would too.

SAM
Would not.

RUBBLE PERSON
Would too!

SAM
Would not!

LOUDSPEAKER
CURFEW IS IN FORCE.

RUBBLE PERSON
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM.

placard:
Protecting Your Freedom
PEST CONTROL

VOICES:

Scene seven: Protecting Your Freedom: PEST CONTROL!!

(drum drum drum drum, Sam running fast)

SAM

run run run run run run run

problem NO

problem NO

problem NO

problem NO i'm FINE just FINE no PROBLEM no PROBLEM dalia DEAD leyla

DEAD so WHAT i'll be FINE why WORRY why WORRY i SAID no

PROBLEM do you HEAR ME no PROBLEM for the BEST that's RIGHT for the

BEST no PROBLEM no PROBLEM

pant

pant

pant

Maybe it didn't happen. Maybe they got away. Or maybe I'm a BACHELOR again. Bachelor! Free as a bird! No ball and chain, whee, lucky me, no baby, NO PINCHFACE MESSY DROOLING LITTLE GIRL, lucky me lucky me, hope Dalia got to hold her, Dalia, Dalia, Dalia, never MIND THAT now, moving on, moving on, today, first day, rest of my life, that's the spirit, as long as Dalia got to hold her, must have, everyone was holding her, maybe little Leyla knew how to smile, came out smiling instead of crying, he didn't say she cried, maybe she didn't cry her whole life, her whole life, lucky little girl, lucky lucky girl, lucky lucky lucky that's RIGHT i'm LUCKY do you HEAR ME i'm lllllllLUCKY!! Why'd they bomb the hospital? They had to make a surgical strike. Get it? Hospital: surgical strike! HA HA HA! I said HA HA HA! Some in the back aren't laughing! I said HA! HA! HA!

Ooookay, I need to calm down, lay low somewhere, consider my options. Lay low?

Underground! They'll take care of me! I'll go back underground! run run run

run. See? We'll be fine! Why worry! No problem! Noooooooooooooooooo problem!

SIGN

VERMIN EXTERMINATION PROCESS AREA.

SAM

What? What's this sign at the underground entrance for?

SOLDIER

Hey. You. What are you doing there?

SAM

What's going on?

SOLDIER

Freeze!

SAM

Yes sirree, freezing, here I am frozen! Can you tell me what's happening here?

SOLDIER

Vermin extermination. The sewerpipe is filled with rats.

SAM

What are you going to do?

SOLDIER

Close off both ends of the underground pipe, fill it with water all the way up, leave it overnight.

SAM

But you can't do that! Well you can of course, but you shouldn't. You see --

SOLDIER

You should be thanking us. You're always complaining about living conditions.

SAM

Sorry, sorry, what I'm trying to say is to say is, uh, would it affect your plans if you knew that there were people living underground there?

SOLDIER

Anything living in there isn't people. You shouldn't be here anyway. Where's your travel permit?

LOUDSPEAKER

Vermin extermination process beginning. Clear the area.

SOLDIER

Stay where you are.

SAM

Okay, but --

LOUDSPEAKER

Vermin extermination process beginning. Clear the area.

SAM

Okay!

SOLDIER

Come back here!

SAM

Okay!

LOUDSPEAKER

Clear the area.

SAM

Okay!

SOLDIER

Come back here!

Okay! SAM

Clear the area! LOUDSPEAKER

Okay! SAM

Come back here! SOLDIER

Okay! SAM

Don't move! Stay right there! Don't say a word! SOLDIER

Right! Maybe just one word. There are people in there! SAM

You're in a restricted area. You're talking just to gain time. SOLDIER

Okay now I don't want to be judgemental here but can we negotiate about this? SAM
That's it. Maybe if you tell me what you need to feel better about this? Let's all just sit down and ---

BANG. GUN

That was your warning shot. SOLDIER

Right. Got it. SAM

One more word out of you -- SOLDIER

Okay I'm quiet I'm quiet. SAM
It's just that

Vermin extermination process under way. LOUDSPEAKER
Water filling tunnel.
Restricted area.
Restricted area.

Alright. Get out of here. SOLDIER

LOUDSPEAKER

No entrance. No exit.
Restricted area.

SOLDIER

Are you deaf?

SAM

No, hahaha, hearing's fine. But they're telling me not to leave.

SOLDIER

So? You always run away.

SAM

How do you know that?

SOLDIER

Because you're all alike. Get lost.

SAM

Okay.

SOLDIER

Why aren't you moving?

SAM

I'm trying to, I really am. But my feet uh.
Come on now feet. Come on now legs. Don't be difficult.

SOLDIER

I said leave.

SAM

Right away sir. Feet, come on, we're friends.

SOLDIER

Get lost or you're dead.

SAM

Oookay, got it, very clear set of alternatives. It's just that --

LOUDSPEAKER

Vermin extermination process complete.

VOICES FROM UNDERGROUND

Yaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

LOUDSPEAKER

Some vermin are escaping.

PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

Hey! We're having a wedding!

Bang. GUN

Thunk. BODYBAG

Hey! I'm a civilian! ANOTHER PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

Bang. GUN

Thunk. BODYBAG

Hey! I'm five years old! ANOTHER PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

Bang. GUN

Thunk. BODYBAG

You. Get going. SOLDIER

SAM
Love to cooperate but oh no now my mouth no no don't say it no don't say it
everything's fine don't blow it don't say it don't say it THERE ARE PEOPLE IN
THERE YOU WILL KILL THEM YOU'VE GOT TO STOP KILLING PEOPLE
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP KILLING PEOPLE --

Bang. GUN

SAM
(is hit, falls very slowly)

AAAAXH!
This
might
be
a
prob
lem

DALIA
(voice offstage)
Sam! You made it home!

Dalia? SAM

(Dalia enters.)

DALIA
Oh Sam, dear Sam, you made it after all.

SAM
I did?

DALIA1
Did they hurt you? Oh my dear. It will heal. You'll be fine. We're glad you made it home

SAM
What happened?

DALIA
We left that hospital just in time.

SAM
You did?

DALIA
It was a miracle.

SAM
You were right, Dalia. You were right all along. Nothing's fine. Nothing's fine. There's really is a problem.

(Enter another Dalia.)

DALIA 2
No no no my love.

DALIA 1
Everything's fine.

DALIA 2
Everything's going to *be* fine.

DALIA 1
No problem.

DALIA 2
No problem at all.

DALIA 2
Everything's perfect.

SAM
It is?

(Enter another Dalia.)

DALIA 3
Everything's just perfect.

DALIA 1

They like us now.

DALIA 2

We're where they want us now.

DALIA 3

We're where they've wanted us all along.

DALIA 1

This is where we're allowed to be.

SAM

Where?

(Enter the same people from Underground who were shot in the last scene.)

PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

We can have our wedding now.

ANOTHER PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

No more sewage. No more stinky drinks.

ANOTHER PERSON FROM UNDERGROUND

Everything's perfect now.

DALIA 1

And you know what's best of all?

SAM

What?

DALIA 2

We have a beautiful little girl!

DALIA 3

Do you want to see her?

SAM

Of course! Leyla! Where is she?

(Dalia1 holds up a baby-sized body bag.)

DALIA

See how beautiful she is?

(The three Dalias toss the body bag back and forth. It floats gently through the air.)

DALIA 1

We have the most beautiful girl in the world. See? There. There now.

DALIA 1
She's a wonderful girl.

DALIA 2
She never cried.

DALIA 3
Her whole life.

DALIA 1
Never cried.

DALIA 2
Her whole life.

ALL
NEVER CRIED. HER WHOLE LIFE.

DALIA 1
You're so lucky. What do you say to your lucky girl?

DALIA 2
What do you say?

DALIA 3
What do you say?

ALL
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO YOUR LUCKY GIRL?

SAM
Uh.
No problem?

DALIA 1
That's right, daddy.

DALIA 2
That's right, daddy.

DALIA 3
No problem.

SAM
But --

DALIA 1
No problem.

SAM
But --

DALIA
Noooooo problem in the world.

SAM

But --

ALL THE DALIAS

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

problem.

Problem.

Problem.

Problem.

PROBLEM.

PROBLEM!

PROOOOOBLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEM

ALL

Protecting Your Freedom: THE END!

end