

The Simpsons

"Flandersville"

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ACT ONE

EXT. EVERGREEN TERRACE - DAY

FADE IN on a bright, clear April afternoon. Children play in the yards and in the street around the Simpsons' house.

One KID runs after a baseball and nearly gets hit by a taxi -- the driver screeches to a halt, and the kid protests, "Hey! I'm playin' catch here!" in *Midnight Cowboy* fashion.

JIMBO and NELSON roll MILHOUSE by in a garbage can.

We may or may not see a puma skulking by in the background.

DJ (O. S., filtered)  
It's a *beautiful* Easter weekend in  
Springfield, so be sure to get out  
and enjoy it. And now -- more AM  
favorites from the 70s!

The pan reveals a small, portable radio in the Simpsons' front yard. HOMER is in the middle of inflating a tacky Easter display -- a big, inflatable rabbit -- with a little tire pump.

The radio plays a very cheesy song. Homer sings along wordlessly, and pumps air into the rabbit. Just as he finishes that, there are the approaching musical bells of...

HOMER  
Ice cream! Woo-hoo!

Homer runs off. The bunny slowly deflates.

BART sneaks into the front yard with a canister clearly marked "Helium". He detaches the bike pump, attaches the canister, and releases bursts of helium into the bunny.

BART  
And... there.

The bunny is now floating at chest height. It isn't all the way re-inflated, so it looks a little creepy and decayed.

BART  
*This is a prop in search of a  
prank.*

As Bart thinks it over, a gust of wind catches the bunny and blows it out of the yard.

EXT. THE FLANDERS' FRONT YARD -- DAY  
ROD and TOD are playing a variant of "Chutes and Ladders" called "Chutes to Hell and Ladders to Heaven". Rod draws a card and reads it.

ROD  
Celebrate the rebirth of Our Lord  
-- go forward three spaces!

Tod, however, is not paying attention. He points, mute and horrified, towards the Simpsons' front yard.

Rod takes note of this, looks in the same direction, and screams.

The distorted bunny lurches forward, towering menacingly over the children.

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD -- DAY.  
Bart watches the bunny pursue Rod and Tod down the street.

Bart looks skyward.

BART  
Okay. I owe you one.

EXT. ABANDONED PLAYGROUND - DAY  
Even in daylight, it looks ominous. Broken-down swings. A tilt-a-whirl creaks around in the wind. Nails stick out of things. Rod and Tod look around with wonder.

Meanwhile, the bunny blows away in some other direction.

ROD  
(pointing)  
Swings!

TOD  
Yay!

INT. SPRINGFIELD MALL

Homer emerges from "Tasteless Lawn Stuff", whose front windows are populated with day-glo lawn gnomes and flamingos with silly facial expressions. He carries a box labeled "Giant Inflatable Easter Basket".

He takes a deep breath.

HOMER  
Mmm. Plastic.

Homer is stopped by a SCIENTIST.

SCIENTIST  
Sir... would you like to test free  
products for Verkaufen Yamamoto  
Industries?

HOMER  
Free products! Woo-hoo! Go me!  
Go me!

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD - DAY  
Ned talks to Marge across the fence.

NED  
Well, just as soon as you find  
those tools, Mrs. Simpson, I'll  
get that playground fixed up good  
as newdly-ew!

MARGE  
The Neighborhood Association is  
supposed to maintain the  
playground.

NED  
They can help! Many hands make  
light work.

MARGE  
Mmm.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - DAY

A large, brown-brick, two-story building that looks like it was built in the 70s and allowed to slowly decay.

There is a blank sign out front. Ned enters the building.

A montage shows Ned going through various doors and hallways, á la *Get Smart*. We may or may not notice one of the doors has a 'Beware of the puma' sign on it.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING ROOM

A dark, forbidding room, large enough to accommodate rows of folding chairs on one side and a long table with high-backed, comfy chairs around it on the other.

The table is occupied by various shady, criminal types. Two of them, RUDY and ROCKO, are contentedly counting out hundred-dollar bills. The audience chairs are empty, save for Ned, who cheerfully sits in the front row.

NED

See, you could just use some of those homeowners' fees and clean that playground right up!

ROCKO

We'll get right on that.

Another fellow, Rudy, tosses Ned a book of regulations.

RUDY

Read the rules, wiseguy -- you gotta be on the board to parcel out the funds!

They all laugh at Ned. Ned feebly laughs along, picks up the book, and walks out a bit disconsolate.

EXT. TESTING CENTER - DAY

A large building that looks like a cross between the Guggenheim and an iPod. A sign out front says:  
"Springfield Testing Center: Now 95% Monkey-Free!"

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Homer Simpson. How would you say  
you spend your time?

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM  
We see Homer head-on, in a white room, not unlike an Errol  
Morris documentary.

HOMER  
TV.

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Anything else?

Homer thinks about this.

HOMER  
Eating and TV.

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Very good....

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM  
Marge leans forward, talking eagerly.

MARGE  
... and those automatic toaster  
ovens in lab 3b were wonderful!

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Well -- we did have some questions  
--

MARGE  
The timer settings were excellent.

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM  
Lisa sits primly.

LISA

I'm studying the lives of the great women of the seventeenth century, and playing through my favorite parts of John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme*.

QUESTIONER #2 (V. O., whispered)  
That's not good.

QUESTIONER (V. O., whispered)  
Don't worry; the other kid balances her out.

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM

Maggie swipes the Questioner's pen and uses it for a pacifier.

EXT. TESTING CENTER

The percentage on the sign has gone from 95% to 98%. We may or may not notice a monkey fleeing the building.

SCIENTIST (O. S.)  
Congratulations! You are a perfect average family.

HOMER (O. S.)  
Woo-hoo!

INT. TESTING CENTER - WAITING ROOM

The Scientist is giving the Simpson family the good news and showing them a picture.

SCIENTIST  
You'll spend two weeks in this specially-engineered "House of the Future."

LISA  
Who knew mediocrity could take us so far?

HOMER  
I always believed in it.

EXT. THE FLANDERS' FRONT YARD - CONTINUING

Rod and Tod run up to their front door, where Ned has just emerged.

TOD

It's the bunny!

NED

Tod, the bunny isn't real, it --

Ned looks up and sees the floating bunny. Now it looks less ominous, and more pathetic.

NED

It's just a lawn decoration.

(with sudden resolve)

A lawn decoration that's gone too far!

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - THE NA

Same as before, except now the shady criminal types have bags of money on the table, and they're sneering at their audience, which consists of Ned and a group of his friends, including PRINCIPAL SKINNER and the unusually TALL GUY.

ROCKO

Look, pal. I don't care what that bunny did. You ain't on the board, you ain't settin' the agenda. Get him outta here.

RUDY

Right away, boss.

The door bursts open and a HIT MAN appears.

HIT MAN

Hey Rocko, I got a message from Jay Calabrese!

The hit man pulls a tommy gun, shoots down ROCKO, and immediately exits.

SKINNER

It looks like there's a vacancy.

TALL GUY  
I nominate Ned Flanders!

SKINNER  
Seconded.

Skinner nudges Ned towards the table; Ned stumbles into the chair.

NED  
Oh, I, uh... do we wanna allocate  
some money to the playground?

All the gangsters look at each other with alarm.

RUDY  
The gig is up! Run!

The gangsters all flee, carrying bags of money.

Ned and his friends look after them in confusion.

Fade in music as we cross-fade to Ned and his friends sitting around the table. Ned signs his name to an "Edict Against Oversized Lawn Decorations."

REVEREND LOVEJOY'S FRONT LAWN - DAY  
Ned hands the edict to REVEREND LOVEJOY. Lovejoy stands in his front yard, surrounded by day-glo lawn flamingos.

Lovejoy angrily crumples the edict into a ball.

LOVEJOY  
It's \*art\*, you philistines!

NED  
Reverend, I'm just going by our  
new rule book.

LOVEJOY  
Let me see this rule book.

Flanders sheepishly produces a thick book (noticeably thicker than the one we saw before) and hands it to Lovejoy.

FLANDERS

Here ya goh-di-lee-oh, Reverend.  
I, uh...

Lovejoy opens the book and disappears into his home. He slams the door behind him.

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD - DAY

Marge carries a few last things to the station wagon (which is packed). Maggie tries to carry a teddy bear out to the car, but keeps falling down. Bart and Lisa sit on the stoop.

Homer is looking at their copy of the edict, which is posted on the front door. The giant Easter basket is now missing from the lawn. Homer is emotionally upset. The rest of the family is close by.

HOMER

They took my novelty inflatable  
Easter basket!  
(to the heavens)  
Why must they destroy everything  
beautiful in my life!

In the background, the Easter basket floats through the air.

During the next conversation, a puma skulks towards Maggie. When it is quite close, Maggie finds a rolled-up newspaper and uses it to bat the puma on the nose. The puma skulks away again, looking hurt.

MARGE

They're making the neighborhood  
nicer.

HOMER

Oh, that 'neighborhood  
association' hasn't done anything  
good for us. Like when they  
stopped everybody from using the  
Giant Cage of Death.

BART

... or when they banned public  
nudity.

HOMER  
The "Halloween-Homer Rule".

LISA  
Or when they released pumas into  
the neighborhood, just so they  
could hunt them for sport.

HOMER  
Heh, heh. Big cats are funny.

EXT. HOUSE OF THE FUTURE - DAY  
Unlike the testing center, this looks like a cross between  
a very large igloo and an iPod. It sits at the center of a  
perfectly manicured lawn. Its front door has a key-card  
reader.

HOMER  
The House of the Future!

They all get out of the car.

MARGE  
Two weeks of the best that  
technology has to offer!

LISA  
A glimpse into our utopian future!

Homer approaches the front door.

HOMER  
And the best part is, we get paid  
for it!

Homer tries to open the front door with a key card. A  
little red LED lights up. It beeps. He tries again. The  
same thing happens.

HOMER  
Maybe it just needs a second.

Everyone waits a second. Maggie sucks her pacifier.

He tries again. Same result.

He loses it. Homer makes various annoyed noises as he tries to beat down the door.

BLACKOUT.

The Homer noises continue.

BART (O. S.)  
I'm gettin' the crowbar.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. HOUSE OF THE FUTURE - DAY

An hour or so later. The outside looks the same, except for how the front door has been pried violently off its hinges.

EXT. HOUSE OF THE FUTURE -- EVENING

Homer is cursing at something. We hear Spanish dialog on the TV.

INT. HOUSE OF THE FUTURE -- LIVING ROOM

Again, a similar floor plan to their usual house. The couch is made of some shiny material and the lamp looks like some funky sort of metallic plant life. There is no TV though -- instead, an entire wall displays Channel Ocho, which shows BUMBLEBEE MAN in a slowly sinking paddleboat.

Homer pounds his fist on a control panel. Marge looks on with concern.

The screen goes to static, and then displays a message.

SCREEN

Trouble with electronic equipment?  
Why not go to Mr. Fixit, in the  
Shelbyville Shopping Plaza.

HOMER

(overlapping)

Oh, just leave me alone!

The screen reverts to Channel Ocho.

HOMER

Channel! Up! Channel! Up!

MARGE

Homie, you could just turn the TV  
off.

HOMER

Oh, look at me, I'm trying to deal  
with the situation rationally. La  
la la la la.

MARGE  
Mmmmm.

The screen goes to static, and then displays a message.

SCREEN  
Domestic strife got you down? Why  
not try Doctor Smythe-Brown's  
couples counseling? Doctor Brown  
-- taking you from squabbling...  
to cuddling. (Results not  
guaranteed.)

They both glare at the TV. Homer turns it off.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - DAY

NED (O. S.)  
Okilee-dokilee, neighbors.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION MEETING ROOM

Ned has tried to smarten up his area of the table with a vase of flowers. The place still looks kind of daunting and, well, evil.

Ned has set up a flip chart. Its top sheet lists several bulleted items, including "Lawn Ornaments" (crossed out), "Fence Maintenance", "Mowing Requirements", and "Noise Ordinance".

NED  
Let's improve the neighborhood!

Jaunty music plays over a short montage. In each clip, we see a Neighborhood Association member delivering an edict. At the bottom of the edict, it says "Fix it, or be fined!"

\* Skinner posts a 'fence maintenance' form on a disheveled fence in front of Cletus's house.  
\* The tall guy posts a 'proper mowing' form on the front door of a home with waist-height grass. (A puma skulks through it.)  
\* Ned posts a 'reminder about the noise edict' to the Simpsons' front door.

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD - DAY  
The station wagon pulls up in the driveway.

MARGE (O. S.)  
We need the cat toys, egg coloring  
kit, and Bart's history book.

Everyone gets out of the car.

LISA (O. S.)  
And my saxophone!

MARGE  
And we have to get Lisa's  
saxophone.  
(sotto voce)  
She's getting kind of surly.

LISA  
(surly)  
I heard that!

MARGE  
(looking around)  
Everything looks so different.

LISA  
The car on blocks is gone from  
across the street, and the road  
isn't overgrown with poison ivy  
any more.

MARGE  
How nice!

They have reached their front door. Homer takes the edict  
posted to the door.

HOMER  
(reading)  
"Your home has been disturbing the  
peace and quiet of the  
neighborhood."  
(shouting)  
What?!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY - AERIAL SHOT  
Homer's shouted "What?!" echoes in the air.

INT. NED'S LIVING ROOM  
Ned looks over a series of gauges with various family names written on them. The one marked "Simpson" moves perilously close to the red.

NED  
Hmm.

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD - DAY  
Lisa has disappeared. The rest of the family looks over the form.

HOMER  
(reading)  
"Further blah-blah, dee-blah-dee-blah, will result in a fine." A fine \*what\*?!

MARGE  
I'm sure it's no big deal.

Lisa re-appears with her saxophone. She is happy.

LISA  
Ah.

Lisa plays a quick run of notes, ending in a high, squealing tone.

INSERT of the "Simpsons" meter pinging into the red zone.

INT. NED'S LIVING ROOM  
Ned looks disappointed.

NED  
Tsk, tsk, tsk.

Ned gets out a "Noise Edict" form and starts filling it out.

EXT. THE SIMPSONS' FRONT YARD - DAY

Homer is carrying a box with a bunch of unwieldy items -- bowling trophy, singing "Billy Bass" fish, skis -- and the others wait while Marge checks her list one last time.

Ned saunters up with the form.

NED

Howdy, neighbor! Looks like we  
have a bit of a noise problem here!

Ned hands him the form.

HOMER

Oh, another -- what?  
(shouting)  
A fine?!

It echoes. Ned chuckles.

NED

(to Lisa)

But just, y'know, lay off the  
flugelhorn and everything'll be  
copaciddly-etic. Okay?

LISA

(a bit traumatized)  
But -- no music?

NED

Toodles!

Ned exits.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - DAY

Same as before.

MARGE (O. S.)

But my daughter is a budding  
musician!

This meets with disapproving noises from the board members.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING ROOM

It looks a little more ominous. There are candles set up  
along the main table, in addition to Ned's vase of flowers.

NED

Exceptions wouldn't be fair.  
Little Lisa will just have to find  
quieter ways to spend her time.

LISA

It's like you're tearing away my  
soul!

SKINNER

Children are not permitted to  
speak!

Lisa looks sad. Ned crumples a bit.

NED

Aw....

Homer bursts into the room and slams the door behind him.  
He is disheveled, and something has scratched him across  
the shoulder, and he's visibly out of breath.

Everyone looks at him funny.

HOMER

I got lost! Lost and confused!

NED

Maybe I was wrong about the noise  
regulation.

HOMER

(advancing towards Ned)  
You're damn right you were!

NED

Homer -- uh.

HOMER

And you have a lotta nerve telling  
my daughter how to behave in \*my\*  
house!

Homer produces the noise fine.

HOMER

And here's what I think about your  
stupid little \*fine\*.

Homer starts playfully tearing up the fine.

He lights one of the torn strips with a candle, which quickly burns his hand. He drops it on the table. He panics, and douses the resulting flame by smashing the vase of flowers on it.

SKINNER

My god. He's broken every by-law  
except for the no-pants regulation.

HOMER

(removing his belt)  
Oh, \*yeah\*?!

Ned has gone from 'remorseful' to 'mad as heck'. He picks up a ceremonial gavel.

NED

This meeting is over.

Ned bangs the gavel.

HOMER (O. S.)

(singsong)

Look at me! Fancy-free!

Ned winces.

EXT. TESTING CENTER - DAY.

Now two monkeys hang out by the sign, which says:  
"Springfield Testing Center: Now 99% Monkey-Free!"

QUESTIONER (O. S.)

You have your saxophone with you?

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM

Lisa is being questioned. She holds her saxophone protectively.

LISA  
They'll take it from me when they  
pry it out of my cold, dead  
fingers.

Beat.

LISA  
What?

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM  
Homer is being questioned. He's out of his chair,  
obviously still steamed about the meeting.

HOMER  
And I says, "By-laws?! You know  
what I think about your stinkin'  
\*by-laws\*?!"

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Sir?

Homer sits back in his chair.

HOMER  
Let's just say I broke the "Homer-  
Halloween Law".

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Mr. Simpson, can you tell us  
anything about the house?

Homer abruptly changes gears from 'proud' to 'servile'.

HOMER  
Please -- we will do anything to  
stay there. \*Anything\*. Don't  
make us go back to the old  
neighborhood!

Homer breaks down and cries. The Questioner sighs.

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERROGATION ROOM

They're questioning Bart. There's a single bare light bulb hanging over him, and grubby concrete walls and furniture off in the dark.

BART  
Um...

QUESTIONER (O. S.)  
Did you destroy five hundred  
cleaning robots?!

BART  
(matter-of-factly)  
I dunno.

The questioner (unseen) hands Bart a photo of Bart smashing a small robot with his foot.

BART  
(matter-of-factly)  
That isn't me.

The questioner pushes a TV set into frame. We hear the audio of Bart laughing and squishing the cleaning robots.

Beat.

BART  
(matter-of-factly)  
Anybody can fake video.

INT. TESTING CENTER - INTERVIEW ROOM  
Marge is being questioned.

MARGE  
We decided to fight for Lisa's  
right to play music in our own  
home. Sort of our little crusade.

Marge does not hear the following exchange.

QUESTIONER #2  
(whisper)  
\*This\* was the 'average family'  
you promised us?

QUESTIONER

We'll rectify the situation, sir.

EXT. HOUSE OF THE FUTURE - DAY

All the Simpsons' stuff is out on the lawn. The family looks distraught. The scientist is there with a rather feeble-looking lackey named HENRY.

HOMER

But why?!

SCIENTIST

We wanted an *average* family for our tests.

HOMER

That's not fair! We're average! We'll send the smart one away to boarding school!

SCIENTIST

Plus, the boy kept breaking stuff.

HOMER

I knew it!

SCIENTIST

Take it away, Henry.

The scientist pulls out a remote control with a single red button. He presses the red button. The house folds itself up into a big white suitcase. Henry lopes over to it and tries to pick it up.

The 'suitcase' is incredibly heavy. Henry's back seizes up; Henry falls down.

HENRY

My spleen!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. THE SIMPSON'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

HOMER (O. S.)  
Channel up! Channel up!

INT. THE SIMPSONS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM  
Homer slumps on the sofa, watching TV. Marge enters.

MARGE  
Homie, what's wrong?

HOMER  
It's Channel Ocho again.

TV - CHANNEL OCHO

BUMBLEBEE MAN walks across an extraordinarily-fake-looking desert, carrying a glass of water.

Two MASKED MEN sneak up on him. One taps him on the shoulder; the other steals his glass of water.

BUMBLEBEE MAN  
¡Ai! ¡Banditos de agua!

A MARIACHI BAND appears and plays; the three of them dance.

INT. THE SIMPSONS' HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

HOMER  
Stupid arty foreign TV.  
(yelling)  
Channel up!

MARGE  
Our TV uses the remote, remember?

Homer looks over to the remote. It's over on the other side of the couch.

HOMER  
Eh.

Homer stays put, watching Channel Ocho as the music switches to fado singing.

EXT. EVERGREEN TERRACE - AFTERNOON

Bart skateboards out of the driveway on to the sidewalk, which is now painted pink.

He rolls for a bit, then looks across the street and sees a sign that says "Boys' Sidewalk" (that sidewalk is painted blue). He stops. Then he looks to his own sidewalk, which is painted pink. Then he looks up and sees a sign that says "Girls' Sidewalk." (Both of the signs have some recognizable Neighborhood-Association insignia on it.) Bart falls off his skateboard.

BART

¡Ay caramba!

(suddenly thoughtful)

All this time, I've been walking  
on the girls' sidewalk without  
even knowing it.

Bart has an attack of cooties.

JIMBO and NELSON roll MILHOUSE along the street in a garbage can. The garbage can has a few 'loose trash' edicts plastered to it. They roll to a stop. Milhouse groans.

JIMBO

Hey.

(singsong)

Bart's on the girlie sidewalk!

Nelson punches Bart in the gut.

NELSON

Ha-ha!

Bart groans.

NELSON

C'mon, lets grab some grub.

They turn Milhouse's garbage can around and head off the way they came.

Bart, laid out with a skinned knee and clutching his abdomen in pain, looks up at the sky. In the background, we hear a car pull up.

BART  
At least it can't get any worse.

SKINNER (O. S.)  
Bart!

BART  
(ANNOYED GRUNT)

Skinner gets out of his car.

SKINNER  
"Skateboarding" is forbidden by  
neighborhood edict 37-A.

He hands Bart an edict.

Skinner grabs the skateboard and gets back in the car.

Bart staggers to his feet and heads home, walking like an old man.

EXT. KWIK-E-MART - DAY

The Simpsons' station wagon is parked outside. A sign in the shop window advertises "The Sushi Slushee!" (Its price has been marked down from \$5 to \$3 to \$2 to \$1.) We hear a jar clunk into a shopping basket.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - BABY FOOD AISLE

Marge gets jars of baby food off the shelf and thunks them into the basket. Marge looks mad; it looks like a focused, determined kind of rage.

NED (O. S.)  
Howdeedoodle, neighbor!

Marge looks up and sees Ned waving back.

We don't see Marge's expression, but Ned's pleasant demeanor quickly melts away into something like fear. He attempts a weak laugh.

MARGE  
You! You and your stupid  
Neighborhood Association!

NED  
Oh, well --

MARGE  
Bart had his skateboard taken away!  
My husband can't decorate our lawn  
for Easter! And Lisa! Don't even  
get me started about Lisa!

INT. THE SIMPSONS' HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM  
Lisa plays a plaintive little melody on her saxophone, very  
very softly. She looks sad.

HOMER (O. S.)  
(shouting)  
Keep it down! We don't want  
another fine!

Lisa sighs.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - BABY FOOD AISLE  
Ned looks apologetic.

NED  
I know.

MARGE  
And -- what?

NED  
I didn't mean for it all to... oh,  
fiddle-faddle!

Ned looks around furtively to see if anybody heard that.

NED  
It's a big mess.

MARGE  
(nonplussed)  
Well... yes! Yes it is.

Ned sighs and exits. Marge watches him go. She's confused.

HOMER (O. S.)  
Half-off expired beef jerky!  
(meekly)  
Thank you god!

Marge looks up to see Homer triumphantly drop a jar of plastic-wrapped beef jerky into the basket.

HOMER  
What? What happened?

MARGE  
I don't know.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - SECURITY MIRROR  
We see a convex-distorted view of JIMBO, NELSON, and ED shoplifting candy from the store.

MARGE (O. S.)  
But I do know I'm not going to  
stand for this any more!

This gets Nelson's attention. Jimbo and Ed follow suit.

HOMER (O. S.)  
Huh?

INT. KWIK-E-MART - BABY FOOD AISLE

MARGE  
I'm not going to be told what to  
do in my own home!

HOMER  
You're right.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - CEREAL AISLE  
Homer and Marge are followed by Nelson and Jimbo.

MARGE  
Paying stupid little fines for  
breaking stupid little rules!

NELSON  
Yeah!

Jimbo punches a cereal display.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - FRONT COUNTER  
Marge is making her way to the counter, Homer following nervously in her wake.

MARGE  
And I'm going to give them a piece  
of my mind, right after I find my  
buy-one-get-one-free coupon!

INT. KWIK-E-MART -- COUNTER  
A small crowd has formed by the doors, and they applaud her.

APU  
I do not even live in your  
neighborhood, and yet I too am  
moved to righteous anger!

The crowd cheers.

EXT. CHURCH -- EARLY EVENING  
There is a lone plastic flamingo by the sign out front.

The sign out front reads, "Go ahead: \*make\* me take it  
down."

LOVEJOY (O. S.)  
What is it now, Ned?

INT. CHURCH -- LOVEJOY'S OFFICE.  
LOVEJOY sits at his desk, looking a little irate.

Ned sits across from him, still distressed.

NED

Today I told a little girl that she couldn't play her saxophone any more. I've had such good intentions the whole way. Where did it go wrong?

LOVEJOY

Maybe when you eliminated the finest lawn-flamingo display in the city.

NED

The Neighborhood Association is... a bunch of mean-spirited meanies. And I created this monster! And there's no way of stopping it!

Lovejoy steeples his fingers.

LOVEJOY

Don't be so sure.

Lovejoy plops the enormous book of Neighborhood-Association by-laws on his desk.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

The (lit) sign says "Secret Dead-of-Night Neighborhood Association Meeting Tonight!"

There is a crowd of miscreants in matching T-shirts, wielding torches and various mob-appropriate weapons.

The Simpsons' car pulls into the parking lot.

INT. THE SIMPSONS' CAR

The whole family is in the car. Marge looks straight forward, irate and determined. The rest of the family looks off to the side, at the angry mob.

The car pulls to a stop.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

A closer look at the angry mob shows that they are all wearing T-shirts with a picture of Marge on them. Apu has joined them. Nelson has a megaphone.

NELSON

... and Marge says we don't have  
to take this from them!

The crowd cheers.

INT. THE SIMPSONS' CAR

Everyone is shocked.

LISA

Usually I'm the intellectual  
leader of resistance movements.

BART

And usually I'm the lovable  
troublemaker. But... I've never  
been more proud of you, Mom.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION MEETING ROOM

The whole association is there. The Simpsons are in the audience, as is Reverend Lovejoy, as is the giant crowd of protesters.

NED

Before we get started.

Ned stands.

NED

I'm stepping down from our little  
group.

The board members gasp. The audience murmurs.

NED

My last action is to nominate  
Reverend Lovejoy to take my place.

TALL GUY  
(banging gavel)  
Let's vote.

LOVEJOY  
No need.

Lovejoy stands and opens up the book of by-laws. Ned sits with the audience, which eyes Ned mistrustfully.

LOVEJOY  
Turn to "Nomination Rulings", part two, paragraph thirteen, which says "Civic leaders do not need the nomination process."

The Association flips through their copies of the rules and they murmur among themselves.

BOARD MEMBERS  
He's right.  
It's right there.  
Who wrote that?

LOVEJOY  
And now we shall abide by part seven, paragraph three, which says that...  
(gesturing to the mob)  
... in a time of civil unrest, I may nominate myself 'presidentefor-life'.

The board members flip through their books again.

BOARD MEMBERS  
I don't like where this is leading.  
That's a stupid rule.  
He's got us.

Lovejoy crosses to Ned's empty seat.

LOVEJOY  
And to conclude, consider part twelve, paragraph one, which states I can now tell you this.

He sits.

LOVEJOY  
(to the board members)  
You're all fired.

Gasps of surprise around the table. The crowd cheers.  
Meanwhile, Bart gets a little misty.

BART  
I just saw my first bloodless coup!  
(to Marge)  
This is the best day ever!

MARGE  
Hmmm.

LOVEJOY  
And there is one last order of  
business...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

It's the abandoned playground from act one, but it's been fixed up real nice. Everything gleams, the landscaping is well-tended, and the children play there joyfully. Marge and Lisa sit on a bench off to the side.

MARGE  
Don't you like the new playground?

LISA  
I find it a troubling allegory of  
how a small, ruling class can  
dictate the -- HEY, SWINGS!

Lisa runs off.

LISA (O. S.)  
YAY!

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Nelson and Jimbo are idly rolling Milhouse along in a garbage can when they happen upon the playground. It gets their attention; they let Milhouse roll away from them. Milhouse rolls into something O. S.

JIMBO

Wow!

NELSON

They've got all-new stuff!

JIMBO

Let's burn it!

Nelson considers this for a second, and smiles at the happy children.

NELSON

Not 'til tomorrow, Jimbo.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Elsewhere in the playground, a gust of wind catches the grotesque bunny, and blows it up into the sky.

NELSON (O. S.)

Not 'til tomorrow.

The bunny quickly ascends higher and higher, until it disappears in the bright sunlight.

END OF SHOW