

"IN FLANDERS-FIELD"

written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

HOMER pours lime onto his lawn from a large bag as NED FLANDERS pokes his head over the fence.

FLANDERS

Fine diddly-day, Homer! How's it --

(NOTICES) Is that my lime?

HOMER

Is what your lime?

WIDEN to REVEAL Homer's lawn completely covered in a thick layer of white powder.

HOMER (CONT'D)

No lime here. This is...cocaine.

FLANDERS

Uh...you're emptying a fifty pound

burlap sack of cocaine onto your lawn?

HOMER

(ANGRY) Hey! You don't hear me pointing out the holes in your excuses, do you?

FLANDERS

No, I...I guess not.

HOMER

All right.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - SAME

MARGE is trimming the hedge between her yard and the Flanders' when she is **HIT** in the back of the head by a baseball. She finds Bart behind her holding a bat.

BART

(GROANS) That would've been a home run!

MARGE

Bart, you know our yard is too small for baseball! Why don't you play in the park across the street?

BART

I would, but they banned wooden bats, and I just can't abide aluminum.

Marge **MURMURS**, then notices ROD and TODD in their yard, rolling a dodge ball slowly between them.

TODD

You're rolling the ball too fast! It almost bounced that time!

ROD

I'm sorry. Safety is fun!

Suddenly, Marge hears the **CRACK** of a bat and **SHATTERED** glass. She turns and sees Bart standing beside a broken window, holding his bat.

BART

Mom, we need stronger windows.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bart runs around, **FIRING** a BB GUN repeatedly at a fly, making holes in the walls and shooting out light bulbs.

BART

Eat my sugar, will you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Marge enters as Bart **FIRES** again, destroying an URN.

MARGE

(GASPS) Those are your Grampa Bouvier's ashes! Every day it's more disobedience and destruction with you! Why can't you behave more like Rod and Todd?

Bart **SHUDDERS**, then notices the fly again, and **FIRES** after it. Marge **SIGHS** and sweeps up the ashes.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(TO THE ASHES) I guess this serves you right for giving him that BB gun.

(BEAT; THEN TO ASHES:) You heard me!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge sits in bed. Homer brushes his teeth in the bathroom.

MARGE

Homer, have you noticed that Bart's been unusually destructive lately?

Homer finishes brushing and gets into bed.

HOMER

Oh, Marge, I broke lots of stuff when I was his age. Toys, radio transmitters, Skylab...

MARGE

Well, I'm worried about him. I saw Rod and Todd playing nicely today. Maybe Bart should spend some time with them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOMER

All right. Tomorrow, I'll borrow Rod
and Todd from Ned. Just like I borrowed
this Abe Lincoln candy dispenser...

Reveal the machine, shaped like Lincoln's head, on the night
stand.

MARGE

Could you also stop "borrowing" things
from Ned? It's making Bart think that
stealing is acceptable.

HOMER

(SCOFFS) "Acceptable." You'll thank me
when we're feasting on M&Ms!

Homer pushes down Lincoln's top hat, making his mouth open.

ABE LINCOLN

(ELECTRONIC) Leave nothing for tomorrow
which can be done today. Please refill.

HOMER

(GROANS) No wonder he was assassinated.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CORRIDOR - DAY

CLOSE UP on a bag of M&Ms in a candy machine. The coil
turns, but they aren't released.

WIDEN to reveal Homer at the machine, which is tipped
backwards due to missing back legs. No candy can escape.

HOMER

(GROWLS) Damn Indonesian assembly!

He inserts another dollar. Then another. Getting angry, he
pulls a wad of bills out of his wallet.

INT. BURNS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MR. BURNS **LAUGHS** as he watches the scene on a security monitor. SMITHERS enters carrying two full garbage bags. He dumps dozens of candy machine legs out of the first bag.

SMITHERS

I got all the machines on Level Three,
sir. Your plan seems to be working.

Smithers dumps a pile of cash out of the second bag.

MR. BURNS

Excellent. Soon we'll finally be able
to repair Tower 2...

Through the window, we see one of the plant's cooling towers glowing GREEN, drawing all manner of AIRCRAFT towards it like a giant magnet.

MR. BURNS (CONT'D)

Or...I could give myself a nice bonus!

SMITHERS

(CHUCKLES) I'll go cook the books, sir.

BACK TO CORRIDOR

Homer inserts his last dollar into the machine as LENNY enters in a panic.

LENNY

Every machine in the plant is broken!

HOMER

All right, Homer. Think.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

Books! Use books!

HOMER

No! You always suggest that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

You want your precious candy, fatso?

HOMER

(BEATEN) Yes, sir.

HOMER'S BRAIN

Then giddyap!

LATER

Homer slides a thick book titled "NUCLEAR SAFETY CODE" under the machine, propping it upright. A CROWD around him **CHEERS**.

CARL

Now how do we fix the other machines?

HOMER

I'll go borrow us some more books!

The crowd **CHEERS** as Homer runs off.

EXT./ESTAB. FLANDERS HOUSE - LATER

INT. FLANDERS HOUSE - STUDY - SAME

Flanders enters in a panic, wearing two charred oven mitts.

FLANDERS

(WORRIED) What does the Lord say to do

if I burn the babyback-- (SCREAMS)

All of Ned's bookshelves are empty and the window is open.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

My Bibles! Someone stole my Bibles!

ROD and TODD run in.

ROD

Where are your books, Daddy?

FLANDERS

I don't know, Son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TODD

(POINTING) A clue!

Ned turns and sees a WHITE GLOVE lying on the window sill.
He picks it up -- it's monogrammed "N.F."

FLANDERS

This is my glove! (ANGRY) Homer!

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - SAME

Homer places his second-to-last Bible under a candy machine.
Lenny supervises.

LENNY

Gee, you're quite the Bible nut, Homer.

HOMER

You want this last one? Some idiot
wrote all over the margins.

He hands Lenny "The Flanders Family Bible," when a piece of
parchment falls out of it. Homer giddily picks it up.

HOMER (CONT'D)

A prize! Hehe, what's Bazooka Joe up to
this week? (READS) Oh. It's just words.

LENNY

What do they say?

HOMER

I know someone who can decipher it!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM - LATER

Lisa works at her desk as Homer runs in, brandishing the
document. He hands it to her.

HOMER

Lisa! Read for Daddy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA

Don't you know how to read?

HOMER

(SCOFFS) Lisa, reading is for nerds.

Just like backgammon and *Futurama*.

LISA

Hmm... "We in Congress do hereby grant the Town of Springfield, and the office of Mayor, to Jedediah Springfield and to his estate forever." Signed, in 1796. Oh my gosh! We need to get this to City Hall right away!

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Homer and Lisa come outside. Ned pops up behind the fence in a charred chef's hat, with burns on his face. The entire first floor of his house is ON FIRE.

FLANDERS

Say, Homer, can I get back my--

HOMER

Not now, Flanders, I'm busy!

He and Lisa hop into the car and **PEEL OUT**.

FLANDERS

Dang! Looks like I'll just have to put a stop to this myself! (SEES HIS HOUSE)
After I call the Fire Department.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - LATER

MAYOR QUIMBY reads the parchment at his desk across from Lisa. Homer is by the far wall trying to get a water cooler to work. He begins **BASHING** it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR QUIMBY

So what does this paper mean, exactly?

ANGLE - LISA

Off-screen, Homer **BASHES** the dispenser again, and there is a wave of **GUSHING WATER**. We hear a **GARGLED SCREAM** from Homer.

LISA

It means that if any of Jebediah's
descendants are alive today, they'd be
Mayor for Life and own the town! Not to
mention all the public utilities --

Homer appears behind Lisa, soaking wet.

HOMER

Own the town, eh? (DREAMILY) Hmmm...

DISSOLVE TO:

HOMER'S FANTASY

Homer prances around a Springfield Monopoly board, wearing the TOP HAT piece, **GIGGLING** and throwing multi-colored money around.

HOMER

Free monocles and top hats for all!

BACK TO:

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Homer is still **GIGGLING** and prancing around the office.

LISA

(TO MAYOR QUIMBY) Do you think any
Springfield heirs are still around?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR QUIMBY

(DISINTERESTED) Don't worry, little girl. The full resources of my office will be put towards, er...finding them.

Quimby reclines in his chair. Nothing happens. Lisa frowns.

MAYOR QUIMBY (CONT'D)

(SIGHS) Fine.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT YARD - LATER

Homer and Lisa pull into the driveway and exit the car.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter and **GASP**. The couch is missing; as are the coffee table, the TV stand and the fireplace. Marge enters from the kitchen.

HOMER

What the hell happened?!!

MARGE

(ANGRY) Ned came and took back all the stuff you "borrowed." Well, except upstairs toilet. You stained it so much it no longer matches their bathroom's color scheme.

HOMER

Whew. (SMILES) Good old Brownny.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and MAGGIE sit awkwardly on the floor watching the television, which is also on the floor.

ON TELEVISION

KENT BROCKMAN

In local news tonight, an old document owned by Ned Flanders, shown here in a family heirloom tri-corner hat...

A PHOTO of Ned in the hat comes up on screen.

KENT BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

...has surfaced saying that Jebediah Springfield's descendants actually own our fair city!

A PHOTO of Jebediah, wearing the exact same hat, comes up next to Ned's photo. They look exactly alike.

KENT BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

After weeks of exhaustive and expensive taxpayer-funded DNA testing, Professor John Frink has discovered a descendant!

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Homer dives up to the TV screen, stopping inches away.

HOMER

Oh, please be me! Daddy needs a new pair of...uh...yuh-- (PANICS) Mittens!

ON TELEVISION

PROFESSOR FRINK sits next to KENT BROCKMAN at the desk.

PROFESSOR FRINK

Greetings, Kent; townspeople. My tests have confirmed that your new Overlord and Mayor-for-Life is... Ned Flanders!

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

HOMER

(APOCALYPTIC) Nooooooooooooo!

He breaks down, and the family awkwardly watches him **SOB**.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Homer is still **SOBBING**. Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie look on, irritated. Homer eats his pork chops through **SOBS**.

MARGE

Oh give it a rest, Homer! I'm sure Ned won't be as bad a Mayor as you think.

HOMER

Then before you know it, it'll be "all-day church," "no drinking in church," "no pooping in the baptismal--"

MARGE

So take it up with him next week when the Flanders come over for dinner!

HOMER / BART

What?!

MARGE

Well why not? They're our friends! I thought it would benefit all of us to try a higher standard of civility.

HOMER

Oh, our standards are plenty high. Why just last night I used a Kleenex!

MARGE

(SKEPTICAL) For what.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOMER

(ASHAMED) A flea circus tent...

INT. SPRINGFIELD CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Quimby takes down curtains behind Ned, who searches through the drawers of his desk, finding one filled with CASH and another filled with PORN MAGS.

FLANDERS

Oh my!

He scoops out the porn and puts a BIBLE in. Quimby notices.

MAYOR QUIMBY

Hey! No Bibles in the Porn Drawer!

FLANDERS

It's the "Bible Drawer" now.

MAYOR QUIMBY

(SOLEMN) The time of Quimby has ended.

Quimby exits. A second later, the door **BURSTS** open, and a guy in a giant SUN MAN costume and two SCIENTISTS enter and approach Flanders. One scientist carries a model with a sheet over it and the other carries a large lamp. Sun Man's voice is slightly muffled by his costume.

SUN MAN

Greetings! Mayor Flanders I presume!

FLANDERS

Yes indeedy, my stellar feller!

SUN MAN

Fan-tastic. It's so great to finally meet an authority figure who's NOT in the pocket of Big Nuclear Power!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FLANDERS

No sir-ee! I'm snugly in the pocket of
Big Jesus!

SUN MAN

(BEAT) Fan-tastic. Then allow us to
introduce you to your clean and
efficient new SOLAR POWER PLANT!

Scientist #1 pulls the sheet off the model of a solar power plant, while Scientist #2 turns on the large lamp. Two PINWHEELS on the model begin to slowly turn while bad **TECHNO MUSIC** plays. Sun Man does an awkward, jerky dance.

FLANDERS

(IMPRESSED WHISTLE) Wow.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CITY HALL - EVENING

A LARGE CROWD, including the Simpsons, has gathered at the front steps, where a podium is set up.

ANGLE - PODIUM

Flanders walks up to the podium, flanked by Sun Man and the scientists. CAMERAS and FLASH BULBS go off.

FLANDERS

Greetings, fellow Springfield-erinos! I-

HOMER (O.S.)

Get to the point or shut up!

FLANDERS

Uh, okay, well...for my first act as
Mayor, I'm going to replace our crusty
old nuclear plant with a safe, Flander-
ific new solar power plant!

The crowd **GASPS**.

INT. BURNS MANOR - MASTER BATHROOM - SAME

Burns sits in the bathtub, watching the address on a small television. He **SQUEEZES** his rubber ducky in shock.

MR. BURNS

How dare he! Smithers, come quickly!

We've got some palms to grease!

Smithers enters.

SMITHERS

I'm way ahead of you, sir.

Smithers rubs his greased palms together and begins massaging Burns' backside.

MR. BURNS

I meant-- ohh, that's the spot...

BACK TO PODIUM

FLANDERS

Luckily, since the two plants are so similar in operation, every job from the nuclear plant can be transferred over to the new solar plant!

The crowd **CHEERS**. Sun Man grabs the microphone from Ned.

SUN MAN

Uh, except Safety Inspector. That job has been outsourced to Pakistan!

HOMER (O.S.)

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

ANGLE - HOMER

HOMER

(SEETHING) That's it, Flanders! That's
the last straw! Oh you'll PAY for this,
Flanders! You will pay!

BART

How?

HOMER

Well... (THINKS) Aha! Marge, don't wait
up for me tonight, I need to borrow
something from Ned.

MARGE

I don't think Ned's gonna let you
borrow the town, Homer.

Beat.

HOMER

(DEFEATED) Nuts.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)