

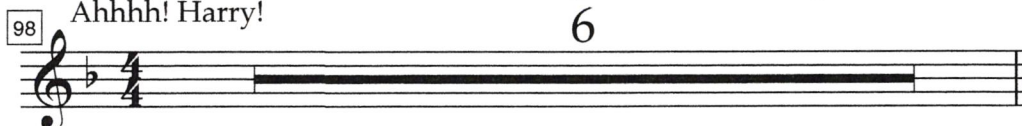


SCENE 1: THE WORMWOOD'S LIVING ROOM

(MR. WORMWOOD bursts in, pushing past MATILDA and speaking into a telephone.)

MR. WORMWOOD: Yes, sir. That's right, sir. One hundred and fifty-five brand new luxury cars, sir.

MRS. WORMWOOD: (screams noticing MATILDA reading a book)
Ahhhh! Harry!



MR. WORMWOOD

Hang on—

MRS. WORMWOOD

Look at this, she's reading a book. That's not normal for a five-year-old. I think she might be an idiot.

MATILDA

(reading out loud)

Listen to this: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

(MRS. WORMWOOD covers her ears.)

MR. WORMWOOD

Stop scaring your mother with that book, boy!

MATILDA

I'm a girl.

MRS. WORMWOOD

And she keeps trying to tell me stories, Harry. It's not normal for a girl to be all thinking—

MR. WORMWOOD

(into the phone)

I'm gonna call you straight back.

(hangs up, to MRS. WORMWOOD)

I'm trying to pull off the biggest business deal of my life and I have to listen to this?



MRS. WORMWOOD

What about me? I've got a whole house to look after, dinners don't microwave themselves you know! I am off to bleach my roots and I shan't be talking to you for the rest of the evening.

MR. WORMWOOD

But I'm going to make us rich!

MRS. WORMWOOD

How rich?

MR. WORMWOOD

Very rich. Russian businessmen. Very, very stupid. Your genius husband is going to sell them one hundred and fifty-five old bangers as... brand new luxury cars!

MATILDA

But that's not fair! The cars will break down, what about the Russians?

MR. WORMWOOD

Fair? Listen to the boy!

MATILDA

I'm a girl.

MR. WORMWOOD

Fair does not get you anywhere, you thick-headed twit brain! All I can say is thank heavens Michael has inherited his old man's brains, eh son?

MICHAEL

(watches TV)

Mi-chael.

MRS. WORMWOOD

Well, I shall take the money when you earn it. And I shall spend it. But I shan't enjoy it because of the despicable way in which you have spoken to me tonight.

(MRS. WORMWOOD exits.)

(#2 – INTRO TO NAUGHTY begins.) Cue

MR. WORMWOOD

(to MATILDA)

This is your fault! With your stupid books and your stupid reading!

