

Arthur "Mr. Ratburn and the Special Someone"

(bell ringing)

♪ ♪

RATBURN: Good morning, class. Did everyone enjoy the reading on lichens and liverworts?

ALL: Oh, yeah! They should make a movie.

RATBURN: Excellent. Then this pop quiz should be a breeze.

(all groaning)

BINKY: Come on!

RATBURN Oh!

(phone ringing with wedding tone)

(pushing button)

Hello, Patty. I'm afraid I can't talk right now. Oh, flower arrangements? I was thinking of sunflowers.

Yes, sunflowers do look a little silly, but perhaps pink? Yes, white is more elegant. Thank you, Patty. Goodbye.

(pushing button)

It was very rude of me to take that call. But it was important.

BUSTER: Are the flowers on the quiz too?

RATBURN: No, they're for a wedding.

MUFFY: A wedding? Who's getting married?

(chuckles, wedding music playing, ends abruptly)

RATBURN: Me.

ALL: (gasping)

FRANCINE: "Mr. Ratburn and the Special Someone."♪

MUFFY: Teachers don't get married. It's just... wrong.

ARTHUR: I guess they do have some sort of life outside the classroom.

BUSTER: No, they don't. When they go home, they sharpen pencils, eat kale, and dream up homework assignments.

(munching)

RATBURN (evilly): A 4,000-word essay on the color grey!

(laughing maniacally)

(coughing)

BUSTER: They don't even sleep. They just go into low-power mode and watch documentaries.

FRANCINE: That's ridiculous. But who on earth would want to marry Mr. Ratburn?

(door opens, gasps)

RATBURN: How about this table, Patty?

PATTY: That one has better light.

(all gasping)

PATTY: Green tea, steeped for precisely three-and-a-half minutes, an order of dry white toast, and some clean silverware.

(gasping)

RATBURN (awkwardly): Coffee, please.

PATTY: Now, what did you think of the caterer we met?

RATBURN: That salmon mousse he gave us was delicious.

PATTY (scoffs): I wouldn't feed it to a stray cat. And I don't even like cats. We'll keep looking.

RATBURN: Patty, not everything about the event has to be, well... perfect.

PATTY: Nigel, do you really want an A-minus wedding? I must confess, I expected more of you. You're too soft, Nigey. Too easygoing. We need to toughen you up.

(gasping, Buster munching)

PATTY: You just leave everything to Patty.

(sipping)

PATTY: I said three-and-a-half minutes. This is two-and-three-quarters.

FRANCINE: We need ideas, people. Ideas! If Mr. Ratburn marries Patty, our lives are toast.

BUSTER: Unbuttered toast. Like she ordered.

MUFFY: And sent back twice.

ARTHUR: She did seem kind of harsh, but we don't really know her.

FRANCINE: That's not the point! She said she was going to toughen Mr. Ratburn up.

MUFFY: Can you imagine what a tougher Mr. Ratburn would be like?

ARTHUR: Here's my homework, Mr. Ratburn.

RATBURN: Is that a...misplaced comma?!

Oh!

(Arthur gasps)

Bad grammar make Ratburn angry!

(Ratburn roaring)

Ratburn give even more homework!

(Ratburn roaring, Arthur screaming)

ARTHUR: Okay, how do we stop this wedding?

MUFFY: What if Mr. Ratburn was the exact opposite of what Patty was looking for? Someone like... this.

BUSTER (gasps): Where did you find that photo?

MUFFY: I made it with HippieMorph. It's a new app that turns anyone into a hippie. See?

BUSTER: Wow.

(Muffy pushing button)

BUSTER: I really like that look.

FRANCINE: Great idea, Muffy. But just a photo might not be enough. Here's what we're going to do; we're going to...

(whispering)

♪ ♪

ARTHUR (forced): Oh, Buster! I haven't slept in days! I think my schoolwork will suffer.

BUSTER: Oh, no! What is wrong, Arthur?

ARTHUR: It's this book. Kate will never sleep again if we don't read it to her. But we can't do the characters.

BUSTER: Oh, if only you knew of an actor you could record. Like someone who did voices for puppets.

RATBURN: (clearing throat): I might be able to help.

♪ ♪

MUFFY: There. Mr. Ratburn 2.0.

(Patty sipping, door opens)

♪

FRANCINE (whispering): He's not who you think he is.

♪ ♪

PATTY Hmm.

(door opens, closes)

RATBURN (on speakers): Oh, little uni-penguin, so soft and sweet.

I love your pretty horn, and your itty-bitty feet.

♪

BUSTER: Well? Does she look heartbroken? Or super angry?

(Patty laughing)

ARTHUR: she's laughing. Now she's sending back the toast. Something tells me she's not going to call the wedding off.

FRANCINE (sighs): Looks like we'll have to move to Plan B.

ARTHUR: You really think this will work?

FRANCINE: Sure. Mr. Ratburn and Ms. Turner are a perfect match. They both love books and libraries, and...books. We just have to make him see that she's a much better fit for him than Miss Meanie.

PATRICK: Welcome to Patrick's. Chocolates for any occasion, or just because you love chocolate. Free sample?

FRANCINE: Mmm.

ARTHUR: Mmm. What is that?

PATRICK: Semi-dark organic Mexican chocolate, hazelnut-flavored caramel, and a hint of orange zest. I call it the Frida Kahlo.

FRANCINE: We'll take it.

PATRICK: Shall I gift wrap it? Or if it's just for you, I'll give you some napkins and a glass of milk.

ARTHUR (chuckles): No, it's for our teacher.

FRANCINE: And our librarian.

PATRICK: Ah, some of my favorite people. Can I ask what the occasion is?

ARTHUR: We're trying to get them to be couple.

PATRICK: Hmm. I'm a big believer in chocolate, but I'm not sure it can make people fall in love.

FRANCINE: We're desperate.

PATRICK: Gotcha. Well, I hope love wins out. Good luck.

♪ ♪

(bell ringing)

(murmuring)

BUSTER: Hey, Mr. Ratburn, there's a special exhibit at the library on liverwurst.

MUFFY: He means liverworts--you know, the fascinating plant you gave us that super-fun quiz on? Want to go?

BUSTER (chuckling): That Ms. Turner. She makes the best exhibits.

MUFFY: Yeah, I bet there'll be chocolate and non-alcoholic champagne.

RATBURN: I'd love to, but what with the wedding preparations, I'm too busy. Oh, would you mind returning this library book for me?

♪ ♪

MUFFY: "Love Poems" by Pablo Neruda. Ooh! That gives me an idea.

FRANCINE: Where's Mr. Ratburn?

BUSTER (whispering): He couldn't make it. But Muffy improvised.

MUFFY: Hi, Ms. Turner. Mr. Ratburn wanted me to return this to you. Personally.

RATBURN: "My dear Paj Tuner. You are a book to me, a book I can't not put down. Will you make me happy? And erase this winkled frown? Shine on me like the loonely moon above and together we will build a liberry, a liberry of love. Nigal Ratburn."

♪

(pen scratching)

(Ms. Turner clearing throat)

MUFFY: Huh?

♪ ♪

MUFFY: "A Beginners Guide to Writing Poetry."

(all sighing)

ARTHUR: Is there a Plan C?

♪ ♪

ARTHUR: Hmm?

MUFFY: We got one too.

BUSTER: It looks like we're all going to a wedding.

FRANCINE: Or as I like to think of it, "Dawn of the Toughest Teacher Ever."

ARTHUR: There is this part in a wedding where they ask if anybody objects?

BUSTER: Yeah, I saw that on TV! If someone objects, the wedding is over. Then the bride flies away on a giant cricket!

ARTHUR: Huh?

MUFFY: Huh?

BUSTER: It was in a "Dark Bunny." But I think the law is accurate.

FRANCINE: It might be worth a try. But we'd have to do it together.

BUSTER: I'm in.

♪ ♪

BUSTER: We care for our teacher, and he deserves to be happy...

ARTHUR: To be with someone who is nice, kind, fun to be with...

MUFFY: Someone who likes him just the way he is.

FRANCINE: For all these reasons, we object to this union.

PATTY: Ah, the Frenskys.

(Francine gasps)

PATTY: Welcome! We're so glad you're here. Especially you. Nigel considers his students to be part of his family. I guess that makes us family too. Ooh! Ah, the Lundgrens! Welcome!

BUSTER: Doesn't the bride usually hide until the big moment?

MUFFY: She probably just doesn't trust anyone to do a good enough job.

♪ ♪

BUSTER: Huh?

FRANCINE: Huh?

PATTY: Welcome friends. Oh, I am so happy to be sharing this day with all of you, especially Nigel's third-grade class.

(Buster coughing)

PATTY: Yes? Is there something you'd like to share?

BUSTER (tentatively): Yes. We...Uh...

PATTY: Go on. You can say anything you like.

FRANCINE: We...(quickly)...think this tent looks beautiful.

PATTY: Thank you. But nothing is too good for my baby brother Nigey.

(all gasping)

(sobbing)

PATTY: Now Rodentia, don't be jealous. I'll officiate at your wedding too.

(playing "Cello Suite No. 1" by J.S. Bach)

ARTHUR: But, if Patty's his sister, then...

MUFFY: Who is Mr. Ratburn marrying?

(sobbing)

("Cello Suite No. 1" continues)

(dance music playing)

BUSTER: (mouth full): Mmm. This is the best cake I've ever had.

MUFFY: I wonder how many times Patty sent it back?

FRANCINE: Who cares? It was worth it.

ARTHUR: Mr. Ratburn is married. I still can't believe it.

FRANCINE: Yep. It's a brand-new world. But there's one thing that teachers should never, ever do.

BUSTER: What?

(funk music playing)

(crowd cheers)

ALL: Dance!