

THE ADVENTURES OF ELMO IN GROUCHLAND

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1 INT. LIMBO WHITE SCREEN

1

BERT walks in. He's in TOWEL AND SHOWER CAP. He carries a SCRUB BRUSH. He talks to himself. Obviously headed for the bathtub.

BERT
I can't wait to try out my brand new
scrub brush..
(glances toward CAMERA)
Oh. Hello.
(double takes)
Ahhhhhhhh!
(looks around - freezes)
Ernie! Ernie, come quick!

ERNIE enters.

ERNIE
What is it, old buddy Bert?

BERT
Out there! All those people?

Ernie looks toward camera - then comes forward until he's in ECU. His face FILLS the screen.

ERNIE
(to camera)
Oh! You're here! Those are my friends,
Bert. They've come to watch the movie.

BERT
Movie? What movie are you talking about,
Ernie?

ERNIE
You'll see, but first you might want to
put on some pants Bert, this movie is
rated G you know.

Bert looks down and realizes his state of undress.

BERT
Ahhhh!

Bert runs out.

ERNIE
(to audience)
It begins one sunny day in a place we all
know very well.
(yells off)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

ERNIE (cont'd)

Hey Bert, Do you know where that place
is, Bert?

Bert reenters tucking in his shirt.

BERT

What place?

ERNIE

I'll give you a hint, "Can you tell me
how to get to...?"

BERT

(feeling like he's on the spot)
Uh, uh, the train station?

ERNIE

No, Bert.

BERT

The Paper Clip Hall of Fame? The Taj
Mahal? I know, I know...New Jersey!

Ernie shakes his head and goes ECU.

ERNIE

(to camera)

I bet you all know! Come on let's tell
Bert, just yell it right out. "Can you
tell me how to get to..?"

VOICES

(audience track)

SESAME STREET!

ERNIE

That's right! The movie takes place on
Sesame Street!

BERT

You keep talking about this movie, what
movie?! What's the name of this movie?

ERNIE

You'll see Bert, right after the
countdown.

The COUNT appears.

COUNT

Did someone say count?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

ERNIE

That's right Count. Ready, everybody?
Count backward with us!

WHITE LIMBO CHANGES TO COUNTDOWN LEADER

ALL

(with audience voices)
Five! Four! Three! Two! One!

BERT

OK, now what's the name of the movie?

ERNIE

(looks up and then to camera)
Here it comes!

Ernie and the Count dash off to the sides.

BERT

(yelling, frustrated)
Where are you going? I want to know the
name of the movie. What's the name of the
movie?

Title: Elmo in Grouchland

Comes FALLING DOWN - Bert is stuck under a corner. He looks
up at the title and reads.

BERT

Elmo in Grouchland!
(to camera)
I had to ask.

Bert sighs and we...

DISSOLVE WHITE TO:

2 INT. ELMO'S BEDROOM-MORNING

2

RESOLVE FROM WHITE as we PAN THE ROOM. We hear a few light
snores. We see a HAT RACK with a PITH HELMET, A MATADOR'S HAT, A
BASEBALL CAP and other hats. There are also toys and books -
it's a kids room. We see a SMALL SLEEPING RED FIGURE snuggled
peacefully in bed cuddling a cozy, fuzzy, well broken-in BLUE
BLANKET.

The graceful score sounds music box-like as we go to CU of
the ALARM CLOCK. Just as it reaches it's pre-set wake up
time, the music turns to sweet glockenspiel. Finally, a
teeny, tiny, cute little muppet-like bird comes out of the
clock as sweet as can be and - SCREAMS!

(CONTINUED)

CLOCK BIRD
WAKE UP!!!!

The sleeper jumps out of bed before he's even awake. His BLANKET FLIES across the room, where it lands on the hat rack. It's ELMO - we see him head to toe.

ELMO
Elmo's up! Elmo's up!
(notices camera and stops)
Oh hi! You're here! Elmo didn't expect company this early. Elmo be right with you. First Elmo has to say good morning to his favorite thing in the whole world. Elmo's blanket. Good morning Elmo's blank...

Elmo looks around the room, freaking out a bit checking under stuff. Throwing stuff. He goes everywhere but to where Blanket is.

ELMO
...et. Blanket? Blanket? Oh no. Oh no!
Where is Elmo's blanket?

Elmo stops and goes ECU.

ELMO
(to camera)
Uh nice people can you see Elmo's blanket?

We see the Blanket in the background - it WAVES TO CAMERA!
The Blanket is "alive" in a limited way - using only rods and filament. It's alive for Elmo and the audience - no other characters see it move.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE
Yes!

ELMO
(waits for audience answers)
Where? Is it over there?

Runs across the room to right. Waits for response.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE
No.

ELMO
Is it over here.

Elmo runs to back of the room.

(CONTINUED)

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Yes!

Elmo stops and makes a slow turn and sees it! They both jump for joy.

ELMO

Oh, there's Elmo's blanket! Thank you everybody for helping!

ELMO

Now come down from there, blanket.

Elmo pulls down the blanket UPSETTING the hat rack and causing the hats to FALL DOWN landing one after another on Elmo's head - he looks like some crazy Carmen Miranda. Elmo has his blanket so he hardly notices. He gives the Blanket a big hug and we hear.

3 PRODUCTION #1 THE ELMO BLANKET SONG

3

It's an upbeat boy and his blanket song. It's a song about best friends. Elmo empowers blanket and blanket empowers Elmo. With his blanket he can do anything, be anything, go anywhere. They're a perfect team. Why, without his blanket - Elmo doesn't know what he'd do! Night time fears have no effect on him when he's got his blanket. And together they have so much fun!

As he sings he grabs the different hats incorporating them into the song using the blanket to live out fantasies: Wearing the PITH HELMET he's a jungle explorer swinging from his blanket - A JUNGLE VINE. Wearing a MATADOR'S HAT he's a bullfighter with his blanket - FOR A CAPE. Wearing a BASEBALL CAP he hits a home run using his blanket - FOR A BAT and flipping the BASEBALL CAP BACKWARDS he's a rock and roll singer using the blanket - FOR A MICROPHONE. Elmo vows to always take care of the blanket and never let anything happen to it.

A half full GLASS OF JUICE that was on Elmo's BEDSIDE TABLE spills on the blanket. Elmo lifts blanket and sees stain.

ELMO

Uh-oh, you know where we have to go now, blanket.

The blanket good naturedly "SHRUGS."

CUT TO:

4 INT. LAUNDROMAT-MORNING

4

THE SONG CONTINUES. The laundromat is filled with the Sesame Street Cast - the Count, Rosita, Baby Bear, Prairie Dawn, a Muppet Attendant, Susan and Bob. We track down a row of washing machines. Behind each one is a different Sesame Street character. They are all singing "ANYTHING TOGETHER"

CU DRYER: The Blanket is inside. Widen to see Elmo in the reflection in the glass. He is a little anxious being separated from his blanket. His anxiety is mirrored in a DANCE. From the TICKING of the dryers' timer to the VROOM VROOM of the dryer turning - all the sounds blend into a rhythmic fugue a la "Stomp". The WASHING MACHINE LIDS join in, and the whole laundromat comes to life, banging and spinning - a symphony of sound. GORDON carrying a LAUNDRY BASKET passes through frame. SOCKS from his basket pop up and sing a few bars.

Finally Elmo can't resist the music. He leads a dance line through the laundromat. It builds to a climax - BZZZ!

The dryer's done! Everything and everyone freezes - the door of the dryer bursts open and the Blanket, propelled by the last spin of the dryer, flies out and into Elmo's arms. DETERGENT BOTTLES pop like champagne decanters sending Elmo flying into a WHEELED LAUNDRY CART that rolls out the door until it hits the door stop. Elmo POPS out of the cart up, up, UP! INTO THE AIR FLYING OUT OF FRAME IN SLO-MO right past Luis who has just come by with his laundry basket.

LUIS

And I always thought doing laundry was boring!

CUT TO:

5 EXT. LAUNDROMAT - SESAME STREET B.G. CONTINUOUS

5

THE TOP OF THE FRAME - FEET FIRST - Elmo slowly enters. We see him HEAD TO TOE held aloft by his blanket which has become a PARACHUTE. They land gently.

ELMO

Thank you Blanket!

They hug.

ELMO (cont'd)

Elmo better get you home now.

Suddenly Zoe enters, she looks like she's been crying.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

7.

5

ELMO (cont'd)

Hey Zoe!

Zoe walks on, too rapt up in her own problems to hear Elmo. Elmo looks to camera puzzled. He chases after Zoe.

ELMO (cont'd)

Hey Zoe! What's wrong?

ZOE

I was supposed to go to the zoo today but my daddy had to work so he couldn't take me.

ELMO

Elmo has an idea. If Zoe can't go to the zoo, Elmo will bring the zoo to Zoe!

Elmo roars. Zoe looks at Elmo and without really softening says.

ZOE

What are you, a lion?

Elmo shakes his head yes and then runs around like a monkey, making monkey sounds. Zoe smiles a little.

ZOE (cont'd)

That's a monkey!

Elmo starts making snorting noises

ZOE (cont'd)

That's a pig!

ELMO

No. Elmo just has something in his nose!

Elmo makes more exaggerated sporting noises. Zoe laughs and so does Elmo.

ZOE

Thanks! You always make me feel better Elmo.

Elmo gives her a hug.

ELMO

Zoe's welcome.

As they hug Zoe feels his blanket. She takes it gently from his hands.

(CONTINUED)

ZOE

Wow! What a great blanket.

ELMO

(a little uneasy)

Thank you Zoe, it's very special and Elmo has to bring it back home... so Elmo needs it back now.

ZOE

(caresses her cheek with it)

Elmo, it's so soft.

ELMO

(nervous)

Listen. Elmo has a nice washcloth at home Zoe can hold.

ZOE

(enchanted by blanket)

But it's so pretty, and I only want to hold it for a minute.

She turns away dancing with it. Elmo runs around her to stop her.

ELMO

Elmo want's his blanket back now.

ZOE

Oh Come on Elmo, I'll be careful.

ELMO

(losing it and grabs blanket)

No Zoe, it's Elmo's blanket! It's mine, mine, mine!

Elmo PULLS blanket back.

RRRRR-IIIIIPP! The blanket RIPS!

For a moment TIME FREEZES!

ECU on TINY RIP in blanket.

It's just a small rip - but the sound amplifies it's significance - and it's obviously important to Elmo.

CU Reaction on Zoe - WORRIED.

CU Reaction on Elmo - HORRIFIED.

Then...

(CONTINUED)

(gasp)

Zoe looks in shock at the rip - still holding blanket.

I didn't mean to! It was an accident!

Zoe's not Elmo's friend!

(stunned)

I...I'm not your friend?

TELLY

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh . . .

THWAPP! Telly BURSTS right between Elmo and Zoe. The blanket hits Telly in the mouth throwing him even more off balance. He careens down the street with the blanket. Elmo is AGHAST.

(muffled)

... h h h h h h h h h h !

Stop Telly! That's Elmo's blanket!

(oc)

Heeeelllp!

Telly SCREAMS wildly. Elmo SPRINTS away in pursuit.

ANGLE on Zoe as CAMERA PULLS - we leave her ALL ALONE
standing by herself.

(calling off)

Elmo, I'm, I'm sorry! I just...

(after Telly)

Come back, blanket!

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (4)

5

ZOE
(crying a little)
Elmo...

In a montage of discontinuous quick cuts and single shot set ups, the chase unfolds.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. RUTHIE'S STORE.

6

Ruthie carries a tray of MING VASES out the door into the alley, to put on display in front of the store. Telly's headed right toward her! He pulls the blanket from his face.

TELLY
Uh oh. Coming through!

Ruthie side steps just in time. She sighs and looks at her vases relieved.

RUTHIE
That was close.

Then Elmo runs by and CRASHES right into her sending the vases and Ruthie flying. Elmo keeps going.

ELMO
(running ahead)
Excuse Elmo.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. THE FURRY ARMS.

7

Cookie is coming out of revolving door in hotel. He is holding a tray of large chocolate chip cookies.

Telly zooms through with Elmo in pursuit. They smash into Cookie shooting him right back through the door.

ELMO
Excuse Elmo.

The door spins wildly. On each spin a cookie gets thrown out the door. Cookie Monster is shot out last.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. SIDEWALK TO BIG BIRD'S NEST-DAY

8

In CU Elmo dives toward Telly and grabs hold of blanket, barely keeping his balance.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Now he has one end and Telly has the other just as they are coming to the SESAME STREET SIGN POST. Telly's like a drowning man - afraid to let go.

CUT TO:

9 THE SESAME STREET CORNER SIGN POST - ELMO AND TELLY'S 9
POV *

Telly and Elmo on either side of the sign. Blanket is dead center.

They SPIN around the pole finally LETTING GO! The blanket FLIES IN THE AIR sailing upward.

ELMO

Blanket... stop!!!

Telly continues on in one direction - still out of control. Elmo runs after the wafting blanket.

TELLY

Heeeeelllpppp!!!

CUT TO:

10 EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE-DAY

10

At one of the tables sits Fat Blue. Grover arrives as his waiter.

FAT BLUE

Waiter!

(looks up at Grover)

Oh not you again! Well listen, I'd like...

First Telly ZOOMS BY ONE WAY out of control and then Elmo CRISS CROSSES RUNNING BY THE OTHER WAY looking up at his blanket. They each enter and exit the frame neatly.

TELLY AND ELMO

Heeeeelllpppp!! Stop!

GROVER

This looks like a job for Super Grover!

Grover SPINS in place super fast. BLUE BLUR. When he stops he's SUPER GROVER!

FAT BLUE

But what about breakfast?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

12.
10

GROVER

No, thank you! Can't fly on a full stomach.

Grover FLIES off. USING A WIRE RIGGING.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. STREET BY 123 AND OSCAR'S CAN-DAY.

11

Big Bird is sitting on the stoop of 123. He looks up. We see the blanket wafting in the air.

Oscar walks by. He's about to SNEEZE. His hand is about to cover his nose when the blanket FALLS right into his hands.

Oscar SNEEZES into blanket. Big Bird is WATCHING. Oscar CASUALLY TOSSES Elmo's blanket into his trash can and walks on.

Suddenly we hear...

ELMO

Blaaankeeet!!!

Big Bird looks LEFT. Elmo is speeding in. Big Bird looks RIGHT. Telly is speeding in.

TELLY

Heeeeelp!!!

We hear Grover.

GROVER

Aiiiiieeeee!!

Big Bird looks UP and sees Super Grover speeding down. They are ALL heading for a COLLISION.

BIG BIRD

Look out!!!

TOO LATE. Telly, Elmo and Grover collide and fall to the ground in front of 123.

PAN DOWN ON CU of the pile of fur. Grover's at the bottom.

GROVER

Could somebody please get up? My little super body can not take this much weight.

A crowd gathers. (GINA, SUSAN, BABY BEAR, COUNT, ZOE, Big Bird, Rosita, Bob)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

GINA
Guys are you OK?

Elmo, Telly and Grover are helped up.

TELLY & GROVER
Yes!

ELMO
Elmo is fine, but where's Elmo's blanket?

BIG BIRD
(casual)
Oh, I saw it. It fell out of the sky and then Oscar sneezed in it, and than dropped it in his trash can.

ELMO
(also casual)
Oh so Oscar sneezed in blanket and then dropped blanket in Oscar's can with the other disgusting, slimy, yucky stuff.
Elmo sees. Excuse Elmo.

DOIING!!! ELMO goes into complete and utter shock and FAINTS - his little red feet fly up in the air.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. STREET BY 123 AND OSCAR'S CAN-DAY.

12

A RING OF FACES OUT OF FOCUS looking down. FOCUS UP on Big Bird, Bob, Gina, Susan, Telly, Cookie Monster, Baby Bear and some others all murmuring to each other.

ROSITA
Elmo, are you okay?

BABY BEAR
How many fingers do I have up?

The COUNT sticks his head over Baby Bear's shoulder

COUNT
Two, that's two fingers. Ha-ha-ha!

The usual THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE.

13 EXT. STREET BY 123 AND OSCAR'S CAN-DAY.

13

Looking down at Elmo who is sitting up.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

ELMO

Clear the way! Out of Elmo's way!

OUTSIDE CROWD. Elmo suddenly breaks his way through.

Elmo heads to Oscar's can. He sticks his head in and yells.

ELMO

Oscar, please bring back Elmo's blanket.

There is no reply.

ELMO

(a little upset)

Oscar! Elmo really needs his blanket,
please give it back now!

Again nothing.

ELMO

(crazed)

Oscar! Bring Elmo's blanket up now. Elmo
needs his blanket. Oscar! Oscar! Oscar!

Elmo BANGS on the can like a wild man! Gina lifts him off of
Oscar's can and tries to calm him.

GINA

Take it easy Elmo, I don't think Oscar's
home.

ELMO

Not home? Not home! Then how is Elmo
going to get his blanket?

SUSAN

I guess you'll just have to wait for
Oscar to get back.

Zoe timidly approaches.

ZOE

Elmo, I...

ELMO

Elmo doesn't want to talk to Zoe. It's
Zoe's fault that blanket is in Oscar's
can. All Elmo wants is his blanket back.

ZOE

(highly upset)

But Elmo I didn't...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

Elmo turns his back on Zoe. Bob kneels and comforts her.

BOB

Don't worry Zoe. Elmo's just a little
upset right now.

Elmo in background mumbling in B.G. pacing back and forth.

ZOE

But Bob...I didn't mean to rip his
blanket...I just wanted to hold it...and
then Telly came by and...

ELMO

Okay everybody! Break it up! Nothin' to
see here! Just a little red monster
waiting for his blanket. Move along, move
along!

The crowd dissipates reluctantly with various good-byes, ZOE
STARTS TO EXIT BUT STOPS, SHE LOOKS AT ELMO, ELMO LOOKS AT
HER AND THEN TURNS AWAY- ZOE SADLY EXITS. Elmo is left alone
at Oscar's can.

ELMO

Elmo can wait! Elmo will just wait right
here. No problem. Oscar will probably be
home any second. Elmo is waiting.

Elmo acts nonchalant.

Elmo looks around anxiously.

He starts to pace in front of the can.

He DRUMS on the can, slowly at first and then gets wilder.

ELMO

Enough waiting!! Elmo has to take matters
into his own hands!

Elmo yells into can.

ELMO

Don't worry blanket, Elmo's coming to get
you-u-u-u-u-u-u!

Elmo jumps into can and out of frame.

CUT TO:

14 INT. OSCAR'S CAN-DAY

14

Elmo falls into frame with a THUMP facing camera! There's A LONG DINGY HALLWAY behind him. He looks around. He sees walls covered with peeling wallpaper, a SIGN that says HOME, STINKY HOME. A CHANDELIER made of OLD SODA CANS.

ELMO

Gee...Elmo didn't know Oscar's place was so big?

Suddenly there's a HUGE SHAKING. From behind Elmo there's A FLURRY OF DUST - MASSIVE ELEPHANT LEGS (LEGS ONLY) are running toward him.

ELMO (cont'd)

What's that?

Elmo turns casually, sees legs, and turns back.

ELMO

(to camera)

Oh, Oscar's elephants...

(double takes)

OSCAR'S ELEPHANTS!!!

THE CAMERA SHAKES as the elephants run RIGHT TOWARD CAMERA. At the last moment Elmo DIVES out of the way. The elephant legs trample forward through frame.

Elmo rolls into frame in front of an old and abandoned doorway and catches his breath. Behind Elmo is a BOARDED UP DOOR covered with signs - "DANGER!" "GET LOST" "DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT OPENING THIS DOOR!" And there, SNAGGED on a NAIL of the door - right where the TINY RIP occurred - is Elmo's Blanket!

ELMO

Blanket! Elmo didn't think he'd ever find you in this place! Come on Blanket let's go home.

He pulls blanket, it's stuck! The blanket "SHRUGS."

He pulls some more. Still nothing. He puts ONE FOOT against the wall for leverage and pulls even harder.

Suddenly Oscar comes into view.

OSCAR

Hey, you little red menace. Get away from that door.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

17.

14

Elmo is still pulling, harder and harder. On each pull the BOARDS on the door LOOSEN and we hear a SUCKING SOUND. Things around the can start to shake and get blown about on every pull.

ELMO

Hi Oscar. Elmo will be right out of your way, just one more pull and Blanket should be off.

OSCAR

Elmo, noooo!

With one giant pull the blanket, the nail and boards all fly off. The DOOR FLIES OPEN revealing a CYLINDRICALLY SHAPED WORMHOLE - **created with bluescreen efx - the effect looks and feels like a CHUTE.**

Everything is being sucked into the wormhole - newspapers, trash, chattering teeth - **all animated with simple E-fan and monofilament...**Oscar runs for cover. Elmo grabs the doorjamb, the blanket is wrapped around the other side of the doorway. They both try not to be sucked in but it's too much for Elmo and the blanket. They can't hold on anymore.

TWUCK! Elmo and his Blanket SLIDE side by side down the shaft.

ELMO

Whoaaaaaaaah!

15 INT. WORMHOLE-CONTINUOUS-DAY

15

As Elmo flies down the wormhole, it's like a trip through a junk yard funhouse. Old tires and other junk floats past. There's all sorts of surreal stuff down there. Elmo holds onto his blanket as they twist, turn, swim, down the wormhole.

ELMO

This is fun, right blanket?

The blanket "NODS". They pick up speed and finally come to a DIVIDE in the wormhole and are SEPARATED! The blanket falls through one side and Elmo through the other.

ELMO

(echoing)

BLANKET!...Blanket...blanket...blanket...

Oh no...

Up ahead there is an OPENING that's FILLING UP with A DENSE GREYISH WHITE SMOG. As Elmo FLIES out - he lands with a THUMP into the fog!

16 EXT. SMOG/GROUCHLAND-DAY

16 *

We barely see Elmo -after a beat- a small red figure moves in and out of the milky smog. He can't see where he is going.

ELMO

Where is Elmo? Elmo can't see anything.
Maybe Elmo can blow this yucky smog away.

Elmo BLOWS the smog, but it has little effect.

ELMO

Elmo is too little to do this by himself.
If only Elmo had some help.
(beat)
Wait a minute!

Elmo has an idea. He goes ECU

ELMO

You're still here! Maybe if you help, we
can blow away the smog - together. OK?
Everybody help Elmo blow. One, two,
three. BLOW!

Elmo BLOWS. The SMOG MOVES A LITTLE.

SFX: BLOWING

ELMO

It's working. Keep blowing. Blow!

THE SMOG BEGINS TO CLEAR - AWAY AND BEHIND ELMO AS IF THE
AUDIENCE WERE REALLY BLOWING IT!

ELMO

We did it! Now Elmo can see again. Thank
you.
(looking around)
But, but where is Elmo?

We widen out and see Elmo is sitting on a huge pile of trash
in a garbage truck.

ELMO

(in wonderment)
Elmo has a feeling Elmo is not on Sesame
Street anymore!

Suddenly a GROUCH pops up from the pile.

GROUCH #1

You don't know where you are?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

Another GROUCH pops out of the trash.

GROUCH #2

Well you just happen to be in the
yuckiest place on earth.

Still another pops up.

GROUCH #3

A place where you can kick off your shoes
and smell your stinky socks.

GROUCH #1

Oh no, I think I feel a song coming on!

GROUCHES

Yuck!

Music starts up and the Garbage truck starts up.

The truck pulls around corner and reveals Grouchland.

17 **PRODUCTION #2 - "WELCOME TO GROUCHLAND - NOW SCRAM!"** 17

It's a song that defines Grouchland. Grouchland is the
opposite of the normal Sesame Street world. Elmo goes by
various parts of Grouchland, meeting various grouches.

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING IS ALL INTERWEAVED IN THE SONG. Shot in a
nonlinear fashion.**

The inconvenience store, where a line of people are grouching,
waiting and being heavily inconvenienced.

Grouch mother and baby. The baby burps and so does the
mother.

The car mess, where clean cars go in and muddy cars come out.

The Ugly Parlor, where grouches go to get bad hair dos.

Grouch ballerinas doing pas de deus in the mud.

The movie theatre. The Marquee reads, "Sharon Groan starring
in Basically Itstinks".

The Bad Humor ice cream truck where a vendor is handing out
ice cream cones with fish heads sticking out.

The OOPS man. (Like UPS) He is holding a box marked FRAGILE
and he drops it with a large crashing sound

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

The unwelcome committee. Various grouches on a buckboard stage telling Elmo to scram!

MUSIC ENDS.

18 EXT. GROUCHLAND TOWN SQUARE - DAY

18

The mayor Grouch pulls out a key to the city.

ELMO

Are you giving Elmo the key to the city?

MAYOR GROUCH

No, I'm going to lock everything up so
you can't get in!
(runs off)

ELMO

(laughs)
Wow, Grouchland sure seems like fun!

GROUCHES

(in collective horror)
[GASP!]

GROUCH #1

FUN? We're obviously giving you the wrong
impression. Here, read some of our brochures.

The grouches BOMBARD Elmo with crumpled up BROCHURES.

UNWELCOME

COMMITTEE GROUCH

You'll see we were voted one of the
world's worst places to visit, right
after Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

Elmo picks a brochure up.

ELMO

Elmo doesn't know how to read.

Suddenly we hear the ominous sound of beating helicopter
blades. THWACK! THWACK! THWACK!

An imposing shadow blankets all of Grouchland.

Wind blows and sends dirt and newspapers flying everywhere.

Grouch faces turn upward in fear and disgust.

GROUCH #2

Oh no, it's him again!

(CONTINUED)

WE HEAR THUNDEROUS BLADES AND MUSIC as THE SOUND AND DARKNESS INCREASE.

ELMO

(a little frightened)

Wh-wh-what's that sound?

Elmo looks up to see - THE ELECTROHUX. It's A GIANT FLYING MACHINE that is half 1968 Pontiac GTO and half old fashioned ELECTROHUX VACUUM CLEANER with a HELICOPTER rotor on top.

WE CAN'T SEE into the cockpit - it's DOMED and TINTED BLACK. The shiny new KILLER ENGINE chugs erratically. TURBO EXHAUST shoots out the back.

There's a SLEEK LOOKING SUCKING VACUUM HOSE made of real Corinthian leather that MOVES MENACINGLY. All the sucking is done with monofilament effects.

TRASH AND DEBRIS WHIRL about like a tornado as the ElectroHux comes in for a landing. ElectroHux effects are achieved with a small radio model and an actual full-sized version.

GROUCHES

Get lost! Scram! Beat it!

Everybody scatters as the VACUUM HOSE SUCKS the brochure out of Elmo's hand.

MECHANICAL VOICE

I'll take that!

ELMO

Wh-wh-who is that?

GROUCH #1

That's Huxley, the greediest guy in Grouchland. He's so greedy that he takes everything that isn't nailed down!

Cut to a shot of THE STATUE OF AN EXPLORER GROUCH. The vacuum sucks up the toupee off of the statue.

The ElectroHux lands and pulls up to a Grouch eating a sandwich.

MECHANICAL VOICE

Who's Salami and grape jelly sandwich is that, may I ask?

(CONTINUED)

SANDWICH GROUCH
(belligerently)
What do you mean? It's mine!

MECHANICAL VOICE
Wrong!

The Vacuum tube enters frame and sucks it out of his hand.

SANDWICH GROUCH
(angry)
Hey, he took my lunch.

BYSTANDER GROUCH
(reading a paper)
So, who cares!

The vacuum tube aims at the Bystander Grouch's paper and sucks it in the tube.

MECHANICAL VOICE
I'll take that, too.

BYSTANDER GROUCH
Hey he took my New York Slimes.

COP GROUCH
Tell it to someone who gives a
ratatouille.

The ElectroHux moves to a little grouch girl, GRIZZABELL. She is playing with her grouch baby doll.

MECHANICAL VOICE
Hey little girl, is that your "Soggy
Pants Stacy" doll?

GRIZZABELL
Yeah!

MECHANICAL VOICE
Wrong, I'm the one changing it's diapers
now!

The vacuum tube sucks the doll up. Grizzabell's hands won't let loose of it however. She is starting to be sucked up the vacuum tube with it. All the grouches continue to act indifferently to the other grouches plights. She is lifted off the ground when we hear.

ELMO
STOP!!!!

(CONTINUED)

The ElectroHux grinds to a halt. The vacuum drops Grizzabell. The grouches collectively gasp! Again! Everyone freezes. All eyes go to the ElectroHux.

The cockpit opens to reveal the ominous shadow of a man. He jumps out of the cockpit and lands.

The camera tightens in on his boots landing on the pavement with a burst of dust. We move up slowly to reveal - HUXLEY, he has a dark ugly sneer. He is boastful, strident and unkempt. He's human but he looks as close to a Muppet as a person can possibly look - which makes him very unpleasant looking.

HUXLEY

All right, who said that? Which one of you dares to question my evil ways?

All the grouches point to Elmo instantly.

ELMO

(gulps, frightened)

Um, um, Elmo said it. It's not nice to take things that don't belong to you!

Just then BUG, a Muppet, Huxley's slightly-dim-eager-to-please, henchman pops up.

BUG

(overly animated)

Hey boss, that's the one! I heard him! He said it! It's that cute little red guy - he's the one questioning your evil ways.

HUXLEY

(slow burn to Bug)

Well, well, well, thank you, Bug thank you, but - I THINK I HAVE EARS!! NOW SHOO!

Bug pulls out a SHOE from inside the ElectroHux.

BUG

Here's your shoe boss, your wish is my command!

HUXLEY

Not that kind of shoe, you incompetent insect!

Huxley THROWS shoe at Bug.

Bug jumps back into the vehicle.

(CONTINUED)

HUXLEY (CONT'D)

Now, my little shag carpet, you say it's not nice to take things that don't belong to me. Well let me fill you in on something, it all belongs to me!!! If I touch it I own it. Bug!

Bug pops up holding a tennis racket.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

You see this tennis racket?

Touches it daintily with his pinky. Bing!!

HUXLEY (cont'd)

I own it!

Bug pulls out a hammer.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

This hammer.

(touches it - bing)

Own it.

Bug pulls out a velvet painting of Elvis.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

This velvet painting of Elvis, didn't really want it, but...

(touches it - bing)

I OWN it! And this.

Bug takes Elmo's Blanket out.

ELMO

(panicked)

Hey that's Elmo's blanket.

HUXLEY

Ding dong, you're wrong. You see, I didn't borrow this blanket, I didn't rent this blanket, heck I didn't even take out a 36 month lease on this blanket. Nope.

His voice becomes harsh as he grabs the blanket from Bug.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

I OWN IT!!!!!!

(CONTINUED)

BUG

(admiring it)

I think it's made of all natural fibers,
maybe 100 percent cotton weave, very
lovely.

HUXLEY

You really know how to ruin a villainous
moment, don't you! Now get in the
cartoonishly evil vehicle and drive.

BUG

Sir, yes sir, sir!

ELMO

Wait! No! Blanket!

As Bug starts up the ElectroHux, Huxley sticks his head out. *

HUXLEY

I'd love to stay and chat, but I have to
get home and take a nap with my brand
new wooby! Say bye bye!

Huxley waves the blanket as the cock pit dome SLAMS SHUT.

ELMO

It's not a wooby, it's a blanket!

HUXLEY

Wooby!

ELMO

Elmo's blanket!

HUXLEY

Wooby!

ELMO

Come back with Elmo's blanket!

HUXLEY

Wooby!

The engine starts with a loud explosive sound and a burst of
NOXIOUS LOOKING FUMES.

DUST and TRASH fly everywhere as the VEHICLE RISES.

ELMO chases after the copter, like Willem Defoe trying to get
to the rescue chopper in Platoon, arms outstretched and
screaming in despair.

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Nooooo!!!

As the ElectroHux fades from sight, Elmo gives up the chase.

Not knowing what to do Elmo turns to the grouches. They're exiting the square DISPIRITED AND DOWN. Elmo runs to one of them, petitioning for help.

ELMO

Excuse Elmo but that Huxley guy took
Elmo's blanket.

GROUCH #1

Tough break kid, but - it ain't my problem!
Now scram!

Elmo turns and runs to find another grouch to get help.

ELMO

But Huxley took Elmo's blanket and said
he's not giving it back.

GROUCH #2

(in a trashcan, on the verge of
tears)
That makes me feel so bad inside.
(stops)
Wait a minute - I think it's just gas!

We hear a uniquely personal sound effect coming from deep
within the can. The grouch pops down in his can. Elmo is
alone. He walks sadly away. He has nowhere to turn.

ELMO

Now what is Elmo going to d...

Just then a hand reaches from behind a can and pulls Elmo
into the alley behind the cans.

ELMO (cont'd)

...Doooh!

19 EXT. GROUCH ALLEY-DAY

19

ANGLE BEHIND CANS.

We see that the hand belongs to Grizzabell. She is crouched
behind a can and nervously holding her doll.

ELMO

You're the girl with the doll?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GRIZZABELL

(whispers)

Yeah, the name's Grizzabell.

(looks around cautiously)

I just wanted to say th... thhh...

thhhh...

(takes deep breaths)

Thhhhhhanks! Wow, saying that ain't easy.

ELMO

Grizzabell's welcome! Grizzabell, how come all the grouches just let that mean Huxley guy take everything?

GRIZZABELL

Well, cause in order to stop Huxley all the grouches would have to work together, and grouches hate that.

ELMO

They do?

(thinks)

But Huxley took Elmo's blanket. Where did Huxley take Elmo's blanket?

GRIZZABELL

Look...

(looks around)

...maybe I can show you where your blanket is.

ELMO

Grizzabell would help Elmo?

GRIZZABELL

(Nervously, looking about)

Shhhh...don't let anybody hear you say that word! If my grouchy mother finds out I h-h-h-helped someone, I'd be grounded for a week. Follow me!

She walks out into alley cautiously, hugging tightly to the walls. Elmo follows.

20 EXT. SESAME STREET BY OSCAR'S CAN-DAY.

20

Telly is entering, looking for Elmo.

TELLY

Elmo? Elmo where are you?

(calls out)

Elmo! Elmo! Where are you Elmo?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Oscar pops up.

OSCAR

Would you pipe down! Elmo's gone.

TELLY

What? Oh no! This is terrible, it's all my fault. Elmo's gone. He's gone! Help! Help! Help!

Telly starts runs madly through the street screaming like a town crier. He runs to Cookie who is carrying a big plate of cookies.

21 EXT. SESAME STREET-DAY

21

Cookie looks around wondering what is going on.

COOKIE MONSTER

Wha? Wha? Wha?

Telly smashes right into Cookie and they both fall with a shower of cookies landing on them.

COOKIE MONSTER

Oh me having a bad cookie day!

They get up Telly is still screaming.

TELLY

Help! Help! Help!

Gordon, Maria, Big Bird, and Zoe all gather by Telly and Cookie.

GORDON

What's going on Telly?

TELLY

(totally freaked)

Oscar said that Elmo's gone. He probably went down into Oscar's can for his blanket, but instead of getting the blanket he got sucked into some far away and grouchy place. This is terrible! What are we gonna do? What are we gonna do?

GORDON

(laughing)

Easy Telly, Oscar probably meant that Elmo went home.

Oscar comes casually strolling through.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

OSCAR
No actually, the worry wart's right.

ALL
What?

OSCAR
Yep, Elmo got sucked down through a hole
in my can to Grouchland, USA!

All of the characters react, they are upset.

GORDON
Grouchland? You're kidding us.

OSCAR
Nope, he's there all right!

BIG BIRD
Well, he'll be back soon, right Oscar?

OSCAR
Sure, he'll find his way back...maybe.

All react.

ZOE
Maybe!?

OSCAR
Well, a grouch would know how to get back
but, of course, Elmo's not a grouch.

MARIA
We have to go down to Grouchland to get
him.

Oscar puts out his hands stopping them!

OSCAR
(realizing)
Oh, no you don't.

The gang rushes past Oscar knocking him down.

Oscar gets up dizzily!

OSCAR
Alright! But be careful I just had the
rugs dirtied.

22 EXT. OSCAR'S CAN-DAY

22

Back to can Big Bird's legs are sticking out of the can.
Telly and Gordon are still there with him.

BIG BIRD
I'm stuck. I'm stuck.

Gordon and Telly push down on his feet. We hear a POP and Big Bird's feet disappear down the can.

BIG BIRD (cont'd)
(screaming down can)
Thaaaaank Yooooou!!

CUT TO:

23 EXT. GROUCHLAND ROAD-DAY

23

A. POV SHOT THROUGH GROUCHLAND WOODS.

It's a cheap video camera look. There's a little red light in the corner of the shot. It blinks. It moves through bushes and under brush and finally it comes to Elmo and Grizzabell.

24 EXT.GROUCHLAND ROAD-DAY

24

ANGLE ON the backs of Elmo and Grizzabell as they walk.

THE CAMERA SLOWLY PULLS BACK as Grizzabell speaks -

GRIZZABELL
Well, there it is...

- REVEALING a road, the Grouchland COUNTRYSIDE, the MOUNTAIN ahead and a HUGE HOUSE (model) - Huxley's House - way up the mountainside.

GRIZZABELL
(cont'd)
...Greedy Huxley's house on the top of
Mount Pickanose...

Elmo and Grizzabell stop. This is the Grouchland countryside exterior that we use in various ways several times throughout film.

GRIZZABELL
(cont'd)
...that's where your blanket is!
All the way over there. Far, far away!

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Well Elmo has to get it back by tonight,
Elmo's blanket has never spent a night
without Elmo.

Grizzabell continues looking at the mountain. She wants to
stress her point.

GRIZZABELL

Maybe you're not hearing me, it's far,
far, far, far away!

ELMO

(gathering courage)
That's OK, Elmo's done harder stuff than
this before.

She stops dead in her tracks..

GRIZZABELL

Like what?

ELMO

Elmo learned to tie his own shoes.

GRIZZABELL

(sarcastic)

Well excuse me O brave and fearless one.

(crosses to Elmo)

Look, I don't want to sound like a
stereotypical grouch, but ...

(yelling)

Whatta you crazy! You've never even
crossed the street by yourself! Awful,
scary, terrible things could be waiting
out there. If you go, you might never
even make it home again.

(beat)

Oh well, I think I've helped enough, good
luck to ya!

She exits. Leaving Elmo alone. Elmo stands on a log and
gathers up his courage and yells off.

ELMO

(yelling off with false
bravado)

Well don't you worry about Elmo,
Grizzabell! Elmo's going to make it.
You'll see. Elmo gonna get to that
Huxley's house and get his blanket.

(CONTINUED)

Elmo takes a long hard look at Huxley's house in the distance. POV SHOT - OF HUXLEY'S HOUSE.

Elmo deflates.

ELMO
(getting frightened)
Oh who is Elmo kidding? Elmo is too
small for this. Grizzabell is right.

Elmo sits on the log.

ELMO
(depressed)
That place is far, far, far, far away.

As he expresses his doubt a nearby weed comes to life. His root-face pops out of the ground.

GROUCH PLANT
Why complain at least you have legs.

The root pops back into the ground.

ELMO
Who said that?

The root pops up again.

GROUCH PLANT
Me! The plant!! How come no one ever
thinks the shrubbery has anything to say!

Music comes up for.

25 PRODUCTION #3. "TAKE THE FIRST STEP"

25

The Grouch Plant starts to sing to Elmo. He is very wise and very enthusiastic. He challenges Elmo by encouraging him not to be rooted in the ground like he is, but to use his legs to take the first steps. He tells him that all he needs is inside and that he has to believe that he can do it! He is Elmo's little botanical Yoda!

Elmo stops mid song.

ELMO
How does a plant know so much?

GROUCH PLANT
I've been around. I'm a perennial! Now
listen.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

He continues and a back up choir of 9 various grouchified animals join in the song. They dance around the plant and Elmo.

This encourages Elmo to continue on with brave optimism to get his blanket back. As the music continues Elmo is convinced and decides to go on and take the first step. He leaves the plant and all the chorus.

ELMO

You're right! Elmo's gonna do it! Thanks everyone.

Elmo starts off on his journey. He takes a few steps, looks out toward Huxley's house and screams like a crazed and determined Scarlet O'Hara.

ELMO

You better watch out Mr. Huxley. Elmo's coming to get his blanket!

Elmo exits and the camera PANS up to find BUG hiding in a nearby bush with a comically huge and not in any way inconspicuous VIDEO CAMERA attached to his head.

SWISH PAN TO:

26 EXT. GROUCHLAND COUNTRY ROAD-DAY

26

CU - A TV MONITOR. The same image on a TV MONITOR fed from Bug's camera -

ELMO

(yelling to mountain)

You better watch out Mr. Huxley. Elmo's coming to get his blanket! And he's mad!

We widen from the monitor and see Huxley beside himself with laughter.

We widen further to see Huxley's Communications Watchtower:

27 INT. HUXLEY'S HOUSE/WATCHTOWER-DAY

27

Huxley's COMMUNICATIONS WATCHTOWER is a room that sticks out of the main body of Huxley's Huge House. It's got two monitors and a microphone slapped together with cable wires.

The PESTIES, little hand puppet minions appear throughout. They are loyal supporters of Huxley. There are 8 of them. The Pesties are a constant source of physical comedy. When Huxley laughs, they laugh. And when Huxley screams they run bumping into each other.

(CONTINUED)

At the moment the Pesties are giving Huxley a manicure and pedicure. Each Pestie works a different appendage.

Huxley wears a HEADSET MICROPHONE to communicate with Bug.
Huxley continues watching Elmo on monitor.

HUXLEY

Oh, that's rich. He's little and Red and he's coming to get his blanket...

(laughs some more)

I love it. I have to send this in to Grouchland's funniest home videos. It's better than the guy getting hit with a golfball in the...

The MONITOR GOES STATIC and a new image comes in - Bug.

BUG

Uh, excuse me, Boss. Didn't you hear the little guy? He's taking his 1st step.

(warily)

Shouldn't we do something?

HUXLEY

Well, ordinarily I wouldn't but I am feeling a bit saucy today. Perhaps I shall toy with the little red monster. But how?

(thinks)

Ahh! I know! I think it's time for Elmo to take a little trip to the tunnel! If you know what I mean.

(laughs at his thought)

Shot of monitor-Bug sitting on log. His mouth is full of potato chips making cartoonish chewing sounds.

BUG

(mouth full)

Whatch you shay bossh?

HUXLEY

(stops laughing)

Bug what are you doing?

BUG

(with his mouth full)

Jusht having a little shnack, hard to do your evil bidding on an empty shtomach, you know?

(CONTINUED)

HUXLEY

(calmly)

Listen Bug, and listen good. Are you listening?

SHOT OF BUG ON MONITOR. HE PUTS HIS FACE (WIDE ANGLE LENS)
CLOSE AS HE CHEWS HIS FOOD. *

HUXLEY (cont'd)

(screams)

Get back to work!!!! *

When he yells all the pesties giving him a manicure and pedicure are sent reeling back.

Bug also gets frightened and falls over backwards sending his chips flying up in the air. Huxley seethes. Bug flies off.

CUT TO: --

28 EXT. GROUCHLAND TOWN SQUARE-DAY.

28

Maria, Gordon, Oscar, Big Bird, Telly, Zoe, Cookie have arrived in Grouchland, they are in a big monkey pile of flesh and fur. Gordon stands up.

GORDON

(freaked out)

Whoa! This is freaky. In all my years of living on Sesame Street I've seen some freaky things but this is the freakiest. This is super freaky.

TELLY

Easy Gordon, sometimes you're way to excitable.

The gang crosses around the corner to the town. There are grouches about. The gang looks around, taking in their grouchy surroundings.

GROUCH #1

Oh no, more visitors! Welcome...now
scram!

GROUCH #2

Hey look who it is!

GROUCHES

It's Oscar! Who told you to come back here? No one wants you here, Get lost!
etc.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Ahh, who said you can never go home again?

MARIA

Oscar, maybe you can get your, uh, friends to tell us where Elmo is.

OSCAR

In a minute, in a minute. Let me just take a look around the old neighborhood. Revisit the places of my youth! Look there's my favorite mud hole...

MARIA

Oscar...

Oscar wanders off. He gets to the mud hole.

OSCAR

- hey where's the mud?

POV SHOT OF MUD HOLE-EMPTY

OSCAR

(looking around)

And my favorite rusty swing set! Oh man the swings are gone!

Moves to the swing set no swing in it.

OSCAR (cont'd)

And the toupee off the statue of Grouchland's founding father Francisco Imyellin! Gone! What's going here?

Moves to the statue of Francisco Imyellin. He scratches his head, perplexed.

CUT BACK TO:

All the Sesame Gang is asking questions.

SESAME GANG

We need help. Have you seen Elmo? Etc.

GROUCH CAB DRIVER

(from taxi cab)

Hey stop bothering us. First the Red Guy and now you! Go away!

BIG BIRD

Red guy? You mean Elmo? Elmo was here?

(CONTINUED)

GROUCH #1

I don't know, some whiny red furball who was all upset about his box spring or mattress or something..

ZOE

You mean his blanket?

GROUCH #1

Whatever!

He screeches off. Telly runs through outdoor cafe. Asking all the grouch patrons.

TELLY

Well will someone tell us where Elmo is? We have to know. Tell us? Where is Elmo?

Cookie runs through, tossing over patrons plates.

COOKIE MONSTER

And more importantly where are cookies?

TELLY

Cookie!

COOKIE MONSTER

Sorry. Me mean where is Elmo?

GROUCH WAITER

(french accent, whiny)

Hey, what do I look like Dear Crabby!? I can't answer no more questions. Now Scram!

ZOE

Look, look! There's a police officer.

ZOE'S POV SHOT-POLICE OFFICER, SWINGING HIS BATON ON STREET CORNER.

BACK TO GROUP.

MARIA

Let's ask him.

They move toward him.

The POLICE GROUCH is dressed like a sloppy English Bobby. He has the attitude of a gruff NYPD COP. Maria and the gang approach him. They surround him in a semicircle.

GORDON

Could you help us, please?

The cop reacts like he has been slapped. He turns quickly to Gordon. It jostles his big hat and makes it cover his eyes. He fixes it.

POLICE GROUCH

Please? What do you mean please? Who do you think you're talking to, mister?

GORDON

(puzzled)

What?

BIG BIRD

We just need someone to help us find our friend, please!

He snaps his head towards Big Bird. Again it causes his hat to fall over his face. He adjusts it.

POLICE GROUCH

Hey feather brain, I told him and I'm telling you. Cut it out, or I'll write you a summons.

ZOE

But you're not listening. Listen please.

Another head snap this time toward Zoe. Again the hat falls.

POLICE GROUCH

Alright, that's it. You're getting a ticket.

The police grouch takes out a ticket book and starts writing.

MARIA

I'm sorry officer, we're not from around here...

POLICE GROUCH

You're telling me.

MARIA

...so do you mind telling us what we did to get a ticket, please.

(CONTINUED)

The cop does a big Krameresque reaction and almost falls to his knees.

POLICE GROUCH

That's it ya wisenheimer. You're coming with me.

The Police grouch takes hold of Maria and starts to take her away.

MARIA

What? What for?

ALL

We need her to find Elmo, let her go.
Please. Please, let her go. Please. etc.

The cop's head spins from "please" to "please". It is like he is being pummeled from all around. His hat flies off and tickets fly everywhere. He gets dizzy from spinning. He blows a whistle and everyone stops. Just as Oscar wanders in to join the group.

POLICE GROUCH

Okay, that's it you're all coming down town with me. C'mon lets take 'em away.

A DEPUTY GROUCH enter. They grab everyone.

OSCAR

Huh, What's going on?

POLICE GROUCH

They broke the grouch law, Item 68
section 4 code B. No grouch shall at any
time use the word "please" in Grouchland.
Now let's go.

He grabs Oscar also and reads them their rights.

OSCAR

Hey you can't do that to me! I'm a
grouch.

POLICE GROUCH

(reading rights)

You have the right to scream your head
off. If you give up the right to scream
your head off, some one who screams their
head off will be provided to you...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

ZOE

(really worried)

Oh no! We're never going to find Elmo
now!

CUT TO:

30 EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE-DAY

30

We see a sign. It is next to a steel door that blocks the entrance to a tunnel. The sign has a picture of Huxley's mountain with the house on top on it. Underneath it has an arrow that points the opposite way of the tunnel entrance.

Bug enters sneakily. Looking around. Trying not to be seen. He hits a button next to the door and it opens. He then turns the arrow on the sign so it points directly into the tunnel's entrance. He runs and hides behind a near by bush.

Elmo enters singing and moving happily and looks up.

Elmo's POV The SUN IS HIGH above Huxley's House way up the hill - **this is the first of several shots where we gauge Elmo's progress on his journey - trying to reach Huxley's House before nightfall.**

Elmo than notices the sign that looks exactly like Huxley's.

ELMO

Hey that looks like Huxley's house. And there's an arrow pointing this way.

(points left)

Elmo bets that means he has to go in here to get to Huxley's house.

Elmo walks right into the tunnel. Bug pops up and watches him go in.

CUT TO:

31 INT. DARK TUNNEL-DAY

31

Elmo steps through the entrance of the tunnel! It is dimly lit.

ELMO

Wow! A tunnel. It sure is dark in here.

32 EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE-DAY

32

Bug is there. He hits the button by the door again. The steel door comes crashing down.

33 INT. TUNNEL

33

We see the entrance of the tunnel turn to darkness with a SLAM! All the light is gone and all we see are Elmo's eyes.

ELMO (cont'd)
Very dark!

Elmo's voice echoes and his eyes move from side to side.

ELMO (cont'd)
Which way does Elmo go now?

Elmo's move across the screen and we hear a cartoonish CRASH! Elmo's eye's move dizzily around the screen.

ELMO (cont'd)
Ouch! Elmo better be more careful.

Suddenly Elmo sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

ELMO (cont'd)
Ooh! there's a light. Maybe that's the way out!

He moves toward it. As he does, he gets more and more illuminated! The faint strains of Disco Music can be heard. As he gets closer the music gets louder and louder. We also see the light source is a disco mirror ball. He sees some posters on the wall (FARRAH, BRUCE LEE, CHERYL TIEGS). There's lava lamps and bean bag chairs.

Suddenly from out of nowhere pops a figure dancing like a mad man. It is Disco Roy, A man in his late 30's dressed like he is straight out of the 70's. He is wearing Bell bottom polyester pants, big platform shoes, a powder blue shirt with wide lapels, and Elton John type flashy sunglasses. He sports big sideburns and his hair has gone through a heavy duty Perm.

They see each other and are startled.

DISCO ROY
Ahhh!

ELMO
Ahhhh!
(nervous)
What's going on? Who are you?

DISCO ROY
(excited)
What's happenin' man!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DISCO ROY (cont'd)

The name's Disco Roy and you're the first person I've seen in a long time. Finally I have a dance partner. Come on, man!

Roy grabs Elmo and starts dancing like crazy around the place, celebrating. Elmo thinks it's fun. He joins in the dance. Roy and Elmo move through a couple of fun choreographed moves.

ELMO

Wow! This place is fun.

DISCO ROY

Yeah, I like it too. If you gotta be trapped somewhere it's good to like the place you're trapped in!

ELMO

Trapped? You mean Disco Roy can't get out of here?

DISCO ROY

No man! I'm stuck here like a Bee Gee's tape in a bad 8 track player!

ELMO

(stops dancing)

What does Mr. Disco Roy mean?

DISCO ROY

Let me explain. A long time ago I was the king of Grouchland's disco scene. I had all the right moves! The bump, the bus stop, the robot. But then this greedy guy came and took my dances and trapped me here!

(consoling himself)

Well, at least that Huxley didn't get my funky chicken.

Roy starts doing the funky chicken.

ELMO

Huxley, That's the same guy who took Elmo's blanket! That's why Elmo has to get out of here!

DISCO ROY

(a little crazed)

You don't get outta here, man. Nobody gets outta here!

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Don't worry. Elmo will find a way out.
Come on Disco Roy!

Elmo grabs a coal miners hat off a coal cart. It has a light on it. Puts it on his head and heads down another tunnel.

Disco Roy stops dancing. He yells to Elmo.

DISCO ROY

Look, I'd like to go to! But I can't! I'm stuck and I'll probably never get home again!

Elmo gets to the tunnels end but it's blocked by a cave-in. Elmo heads back to Roy.

ELMO

Home? Elmo forgot about home.

DISCO ROY

(wistful)

I'll never forget home! All the naughahide, all the polyester, all that thick shag carpeting.

ELMO

(thinking)

Disco Roy, if you're far away from home is it still your home?

DISCO ROY

(getting sad thinking of home)

Home is always home, man. That's why they call it home.

(looks at a mood ring)

Oh man, look! My mood ring says you're making me sad.

(starts to cry a bit)

We're never getting home. We're stuck! Stuck forever. It's hopeless. We're doomed.

Elmo gets mad.

ELMO

(having a temper tantrum)

Stop saying that! Elmo will find the way out! Elmo will. He will!!!!

Elmo jumps up and down on every "will". As he does a wall behind him crumbles a little. A little shaft of light peeks through. Elmo sees this. He gasps!

(CONTINUED)

ELMO (cont'd)

Look Disco Roy! There's light! That must be a way out! We just have to jump up and down. Like this!

(jumps)

Come on Disco Roy! Jump! Jump!

Roy does. The another hole opens in the wall throwing another shaft of light into the dim cave. They jump and jump but no more opens.

DISCO ROY

Hey man! It's no use. We can't knock this wall down! Where's the Bionic man when you need him?

ELMO

(realization)

Hey wait a minute.

ELMO GOES ECU.

ELMO (cont'd)

You guys can help!

DISCO ROY

(comes ecu, pointing at camera)

Them? They can see us? Groovy!

ELMO

Come on everybody! Elmo wants you all to stomp your feet. Or clap your hands. Or bounce in your seat. Come on!

Elmo and Roy start jumping again. The camera starts shaking and more holes open up in the wall sending more shafts of light in.

ELMO (cont'd)

(still to camera)

Come on, Elmo needs everybody! Please!

The camera keeps shaking more and more. The wall disintegrates into a cloud of dust and the tunnel explodes with light. Finally the entrance is open. Elmo and Roy stop jumping. The camera stops shaking.

ELMO (cont'd)

We did it!

(to camera)

Thanks everyone!

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (4)

They exit!

34 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - DAY

34 *

DISCO ROY
(ecstatic)
...Whoa! I'm free! I'm free!
(composes himself)
Well little man, it's time for me to
shake my groove thing! Good luck and keep
on truckin'!

Elmo giggles, as he watches Roy dance off.

ELMO
(to himself)
Elmo doesn't have a truck. Oh well.
Goodbye!

Nearby Pesties do a balancing act with a GIANT TEETERING
CAMERA.

CUT TO:

35 INT. HUXLEY'S HOUSE/WATCHTOWER-DAY

35

Huxley is again watching the image on the TV monitor. Bug is
there with him this time. Bug is singing & disco dancing
around the room to the music coming through the monitor.

He starts to do the bump up against Huxley.

HUXLEY
Excuse me Fred Astaire, ...

Huxley hip checks Bug and he goes flying.

HUXLEY (cont'd)
...but do you have any idea what this
means?

BUG
You don't like doing the hustle?

HUXLEY
No, it means that this little pesky bath
mat is still on his way here!

BUG
And that's a bad thing, right?

Huxley grabs Bug.

(CONTINUED)

HUXLEY

You have a brain the size of a cockroach!

BUG

Thank you.

Huxley crosses over into the MAIN HOUSE. It's a big interior set half play area and half WAREHOUSE. It's a Xanadu of junk and pilfered stuff, like the Library of Congress basement in Indiana Jones, it seems to go on forever.

To one side there's A BIG HEAVY STEEL DOOR. The ELECTROHUX rests within the room. It's vaulted ceiling opens up to allow the Electrohux to fly in and out. There's A CATWALK BALCONY surrounding the space with A DESCENDING STAIRCASE DOWN THE MIDDLE. There's a MASSIVE MECHANICAL CAGE that picks things up and drops them down on a CONVEYOR BELT with assorted stolen stuff.

Huxley pulls out Elmo's blanket.

HUXLEY

Why is that red furball so determined to get this blanket? There doesn't seem anything extraordinary about it - a normal stitching pattern, ordinary blue color.

Huxley examines one end of the blanket while Bug secretly caresses the other.

BUG

...and devastatingly cuddly!

Huxley LOOKS DOWN and sees the pathetically enraptured Bug.

HUXLEY

What do you think you are doing?

BUG

Holding Elmo's Blanket?

HUXLEY

Whose blanket?

BUG

Ya-ha, I mean y-y-your blanket.

HUXLEY

That's right my blanket, and I'm holding it now, maybe later I'll let you hold it.

(CONTINUED)

Huxley flicks the blanket and sends Bug flying across the room. He lands next to a discarded old tissue on the floor. He picks it up and hugs it pathetically brightening.

BUG

Hey tissue, maybe you can be my blanket.

HUXLEY

Bug! What are you doing?

BUG

Uh, just holding this tissue, boss.

HUXLEY

Who's tissue?

Huxley snatches the tissue away from Bug. Bug puts his head down, saddened.

BUG

Your tissue, boss.

HUXLEY

That's right mine, it belongs to me. Me.

(tunes up voice)

Mi, mi, mi, mi..my..me.

Immediately the Pesties scurry out from all parts of the room. They take their place as a chorus line and backup group.

36 **MUSIC STARTS. PRODUCTION #4 - "IT BELONGS TO DO-RE- 36
ME!"**

The song starts off as an operatically and formal with Huxley singing like one of the 3 tenors.

It suddenly take a dramatic shift to a maniacally up beat romp. Huxley dances and prances through his ill gotten gains singing about the joy of having it all.

As he sings he picks up assorted items with the word "Mine" stamped across them. He fondles, hugs and then discards them over his shoulder.

This seems to be a regular routine for Huxley, because Bug is dutifully behind him trying to catch each item. Of course he is bumbling and mumbling throughout as he dives and scurries to prevent any items from falling and breaking.

Throughout the song Pesties operate a **MECHANICAL CAGE** which drops stuff on the conveyor belt.

(CONTINUED)

There's a BIG HYDRAULIC STAMP that says "MINE" that comes down STAMPING everything IN RHYTHM.

There is a Big Lighting Change and from a SLIDE PROJECTOR we see slides of Huxley's ill spent youth. He uses Bug as a "CLICKER." Bug in turn pushes the slide projector button. Huxley dances IN AND OUT OF SILHOUETTE as we see slides of HUXLEY AS A BABY (just the same as now but with a pacifier and baby hat) stealing his Mom's purse through the bars of his crib while his mother isn't looking. We see HUXLEY IN SHORT PANTS - with a fishing pole, reeling in a shiny new Television. He is smiling happily! And we see HUXLEY AS A SNOT-NOSED KID WITH A BONE IN HIS MOUTH AND A DOG LOOKING AT HIM.

We see ELMO'S BLANKET move down the belt about to be stamped! It ESCAPES! (Unbeknownst to all but the audience - **using it's limited puppeted abilities**) only to be snatched by song's end by the evil Huxley.

The finale is an all out dance down a huge staircase that leaves the Pesties bumping into each other in disarray and Huxley delightfully exhausted fanning himself with the captive blanket.

Music ends. The Pesties run in with a cool beverage and a towel for Huxley. Huxley takes them.

37 INT. HUXLEY'S HOUSE/WATCHTOWER-DAY

37

Huxley turns to Bug.

HUXLEY

So, did you think of a plan to stop that Elmo pest yet?

BUG

(enrapt)

No boss, I was too busy listening to ya sing. You got a lovely singing voice.

HUXLEY

(on a wistful tangent)

Why thank you, I always fancied myself a singer. I almost performed in the bus and truck tour of Oklahoma...

(gets angry)

but they said I wasn't right for Ado Annie. But what do they know? I could be a girl who can't say no!!! Anyway, I digress, right now I need you to take care of my...

(with delight)

new arch enemy, Elmo.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

HUXLEY (cont'd)

Maybe you should arrange a little introduction for him to - the Queen of Trash.

BUG

Oh no! Not the Queen of Trash!

HUXLEY

And why not? Even I can't take on the Queen of Trash, and goodness knows I've tried. I always had my eye on that fabulous tiara of hers.

BUG

But Boss, he's just a little red guy - all alone, no friends, no nothing. He'll never make it all the way up here anyway!

HUXLEY

(sing songy)

Oh Bu-ug!!

Huxley POSES HIS FINGERS ready to flick Bug across the room.

BUG

(reassessing, nervous)

Gotcha Boss. I'm on it. You can count on me. I'm the man, I mean, bug, for this job. I'll take care of everything..

HUXLEY

THEN GET OUT!

Huxley FLICKS! Bug FLIES off, (WIRE RIG) He tries to make an effortless flight through window, but he misses and hits into wall. He gets up.

BUG

I think I'll take a cab!

CUT TO:

38 SHOT OF EXT. GROUCHLAND THROUGH A JAILCELL WINDOW

38

OSCAR

(melancholy)

Oh Grouchland, land that I loathe. What has become of you?

REVERSE ON JAIL CELL WINDOW SHOWING OSCAR'S FACE THROUGH BARS.

39 INT. GROUCH JAIL-DAY

39

Comprised of one large room divided into three cells. In the first one we see a Convict Grouch #1 being thrown into the cell by the Deputy Grouch with Oscar, Maria, Zoe and Cookie.

Oscar is still looking out the window. (THIS IS THE ONLY CELL WITH A WINDOW AND THE ONLY ONE WITH ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE.)

CONVICT GROUCH #1

(screaming)

I'm telling ya, the old lady was lying. I never helped helped her across the street. I was framed.

The jail cell is slammed behind him.

ZOE

I can't stop thinking about Elmo.

COOKIE MONSTER

Me can't stop thinking about cookies.

Looks at his cot.

COOKIE MONSTER

(cont'd)

Cot reminds me of soft marshmallow cookies.

Cookie starts eating his cot causing feathers and foam to fly everywhere. Pan to next cell where Big Bird is locked up with other grouches.

CONVICT GROUCH #2

This place stinks!

BIG BIRD

I know what will cheer you up.

Big Bird puts his wings around the Grouches and starts singing the opening notes of The Alphabet Song.

BIG BIRD (cont'd)

A, B, C, D, E, F, G...

CONVICT GROUCH #2

Help! Get us outta here! This bird's crazy!

Pan to another cell with Telly and Gordon. Telly is pacing back and forth in the cell. He flips out.

(CONTINUED)

TELLY

That's it, I can't take it anymore I demand justice. I want a lawyer! Call the media! Start a defense fund...

GORDON

Calm down Telly. Calm down. Let me get you some water.

(yells out)

Hey, can we get some water in here!

Suddenly a huge bucket of water hits Gordon in the face and soaks him.

GORDON

(deflated)

Thanks.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. GROUCHLAND COUNTRY ROAD-DUSK.

40 *

Redressed, all purpose Grouchland exterior. Elmo come to a ridge. Huxley's House is off in the distance but a little closer, and the SUN HAS DROPPED A NOTCH - everything glows with the evening sun.

Elmo is getting tired. He is walking slowly and feeling sorry for himself.

ELMO

Elmo didn't think it would be this hard to get his blanket back.

Suddenly from out of nowhere Bug whizzes into the shot riding a jackhammer. He is dressed like a construction worker, wearing a hard hat and overalls.

He rides right in front of Elmo with debris flying up from under him.

ELMO (cont'd)

(coughing from debris flying)

Excuse Elmo.

Bug continues Jackhammering, not hearing Elmo.

ELMO (cont'd)

Excuse Elmo.

Again Bug doesn't answer.

(CONTINUED)

ELMO (cont'd)
(screams)
EXCUSE ELMO!!!!

Bug jumps and the jackhammer goes a little out of control. He stops the Jackhammer and speaks with a heavy New York accent!

BUG
(vibrating from the jack
hammer)
Sorry Mac, You can't get through this
way. Men at work here.

ELMO
You don't look like a man at work, you
look like a bug at work. Like the bug
that was with that greedy Huxley.

BUG
Don't be silly, I'm a construction
worker. Can't you tell by my rippling
muscles.

Bug pathetically tries to flex. His arm droops sadly in the
wind.

ELMO
Well, Elmo just go around you.

Elmo tries to get around Bug, but Bug starts the jackhammer
again and moves the it in front of Elmo. Elmo tries a
different way. Bug cuts him off, he tries again to no avail.

BUG
Whoa! Sorry Mac, this whole area is
closed for construction. We're puttin' in
a new Tarbucks, cause there just ain't
enough of those places around when you
want a nice latte.

ELMO
But Elmo has to go this way to get to
Huxley' house!

Bug shuts jackhammer.

BUG
Hey look, your making me fall behind in
my work here, but you look like a good
kid, so I'll tell you which way to go. To
get to Huxley's just go through that dump
over there!

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Really? Thanks! It's hard to find nice bugs like you here in Grouchland who are helpful.

Bug stops dead in his tracks. He is caught off guard by this last comment.

BUG

(dropping his act)

Nice? You think I'm...nice?

ELMO

Very nice. Thanks for your help. Elmo really needs it.

Elmo gives Bug a big hug!

BUG

(unsure of what's happening)

Uh..uh..you're welcome!

Elmo lets go and leaves.

Bug watches pondering what he's done. He gulps.

BUG

He hugged me.

Bug leans on jackhammer. Suddenly the Jackhammer takes off and sends Bug out of control. He grabs holds of it. He is kicking up stuff everywhere and can't stop the jackhammer.

BUG (cont'd)

...Aaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhh!!!

CUT TO:

41 INT. GROUCHLAND JAIL-DUSK

41

The deputy grouch is at a desk reading a newspaper. Gordon is in his cell. He has taken a spoon off of a tray near the bars of his cell. He gets Maria's attention across the room. He shows her the spoon and pantomimes digging out the window in her cell. During the pantomime the deputy grouch looks up, Gordon pretends he's stretching and doing exercises. The deputy goes back to his reading. Gordon finishes his pantomime. Maria nods in agreement. Gordon turns to Telly.

GORDON

(whispers to Telly)

Telly!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

GORDON (cont'd)

We gotta pass this spoon down to Maria's cell She's gonna dig out the bars in the window.

Telly takes it.

TELLY

Gotcha!

(turns to Big Bird in next cell, whispers)

Hey Big Bird, take this spoon and pass it to Maria so she can dig a way out.

Big Bird takes it.

BIG BIRD

OK!

(turns to Cookie in next cell)

Hey Cookie take this spoon and...

COOOKIE MONSTER

Spoon? Me know what to do with spoon.

(bites it)

Awwwwmmmmmm!!!!

Cookie Monster takes the spoon and bites the end off of it.

SESAME GANG

Cookie! No!

ZOE

Ohhh!

Zoe is very upset. She moves to a cot on the verge of tears. Maria notices. She moves to her.

MARIA

Zoe, I know it's hard not to worry when your friend is in trouble, but we're gonna get out of here.

ZOE

But Maria, I don't think Elmo is my friend.

MARIA

What? Of course he is.

ZOE

No, Elmo told me I wasn't his friend anymore.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

MARIA

Well I think he was just upset. I don't think he meant it.

ZOE

But what if we don't find him, then me and Elmo will never be friends again.

MARIA

Don't you worry. We'll get out of here and find Elmo. And you'll see that he's still your friend. OK?

Maria puts her arm around Zoe. Zoe gives a half hearted nod. She is not convinced.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. DA DUMP-DUSK

42

Passing through the ARCHES of "Da Dump" Elmo enters a DRAB, STINKY LANDFILL. It's the FOULEST, STINKIEST, LOOKING garbage we've encountered in Grouchland. The FUMES are so bad there's a low lying GAS-LIKE FOG that covers everything.

ELMO

Pew!

(holds nose)

This short cut is very long and very stinky!

Elmo SINKS as he walks into the garbage. It's like quicksand.

Suddenly a trash bag comes to life. It causes Elmo to jump back in fear.

ELMO (cont'd)

Aaah!

Another bag comes to life and Elmo scurries away.

He jumps into a pile of trash that springs fully to life, it's one of the Dumpsters and it grabs Elmo.

DUMPSTER#1

Where do you think you're going?

ELMO

Nowhere Elmo was...

Another Dumpster comes to life besides Elmo.

(CONTINUED)

DUMPSTER#2

Silence! You're coming with us!!

ELMO

Where are you taking Elmo?

DUMPSTERS

(turn into a Vegas intro)

We're taking you to our Linty Leader, our
Stinky Sovereign, the Grand Dame of
Garbage, Ladies and Gentlemen, here she
is...The Queen of Trash.

As they speak 2 mountains of trash part like the red sea. The
GREY STINKY DULL garbage GLISTENS and GLOWS with subterranean
ORANGES and REDS and GOLDS as it reforms around him. HEFTY
GARBAGE BAGS come ALIVE and GARBAGE MONSTERS move to encircle
Elmo.

In the center of the parted trash is - THE QUEEN OF TRASH
rising. **This is done with a single hydraulic lift.**

As the Queen rises, Da Dump has transformed from DISGUSTING
TO BEAUTIFUL with lights underneath everywhere. Even the FOG
GLOWS. It's like a beautiful lost city of trash - an Atlantis
of Garbage

We see the Queen of Trash in all her glory. She is a sassy
mix of high fashion and trash. Her accessories are pure
garbage - SOUP CAN EARRINGS, GARBAGE BAG BALL GOWN - but it's
designed for maximum style. The ragged tire makes a perfect
QUEEN'S TIARA. The Queen sits upon a THRONE made of an OLD
CAR SEAT with BROKEN SPRINGS. STAIRS UNFOLD from her throne.
As she steps down the Queen breaks into song:

43 PRODUCTION #5-TRASH IS KING AND I'M IT'S QUEEN!

43

It begins as a slinky love ballad, in which the Queen revels
in trash. To her trash is like fine jewelry, she just has a
different perspective. During the song she picks up a tin
can. She waves her hand in front of it. When her hand has
passed over it a glint of light sparkles over it giving it a
fresh and almost beautiful appearance. She does the same
thing with an old metal toy.

The song rocks as the dump continues to transform
opening up like a rock and roll stage - with "rusty"
lighting trusses at various angles, integrated into
the look of the set. Various garbage bags, piles and sacks
come alive and sing and dance throughout.

44 EXT. DA DUMP-DUSK

44 *

The Song ends. Elmo is still held captive by the dumpsters.
The Queen moves towards Elmo.

QUEEN OF TRASH

Ahh, you brought me some new trash. You
shouldn't have...

ELMO

Elmo's not trash! Elmo's Elmo.

QUEEN OF TRASH

Don't be silly, if you weren't trash, no
one would have thrown you away. Now let's
see where should I put you. Hmmm, gotta
find the perfect place. I know...

She grabs Elmo. Sticks him in an old pile of tires. *

QUEEN OF TRASH

...Cozy isn't it? Welcome and enjoy your
new home. *

ELMO

But Elmo already has a home, on Sesame
Street. Elmo just has to get to Huxley. *

QUEEN OF TRASH

(shocked)

Huxley! So Huxley sent you huh? *

She topples the piles and Elmo rolls in them for a beat. *

ELMO

Whoah! *

(recovers)

But Huxley... *

QUEEN OF TRASH

Oh don't but Huxley me. I know what
Huxley wants. He wants you to come here
and take my beautiful trash. What did he
send you to steal? My Banana peel
Boustierre, hah? Hah?

ELMO

No it's just that Elmo wants to get
blanket...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

QUEEN OF TRASH

Oh so it's my potato sack blankets he
wants now, huh?

ELMO

Not the Queen's blanket, Elmo's blanket!
Mine.

QUEEN OF TRASH

You even sound like Huxley. My this. My
that. Mine, mine, mine.

As the queen continues we go tight on Elmo's face as he
listens. We flashback to (PART OF SCENE 5 THAT WE WOULD HAVE
ALREADY SHOT).

45 EXT. SESAME STREET-DUSK

45

ELMO

Elmo want's his blanket back now.

ZOE

Oh Come on Elmo, I'll be careful.

ELMO

(losing it and grabs blanket)
No Zoe, it's Elmo's blanket! It's mine,
mine...

THIS TIME Though Elmo's voice changes to Huxley's.

ELMO (cont'd)

(Huxley's voice, scary)
mine!

ELMO

(O.C.)
Noooooooooooo....

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

46 EXT. DA DUMP-DUSK

46

Elmo who has been struck by this vision is screaming...

ELMO

...oooooooooooooooooooo!

QUEEN OF TRASH

No? You mean you expect me to believe you
weren't sent by Huxley?

(CONTINUED)

ELMO
(recovering)
Yes!

QUEEN OF TRASH
Well prove it?

ELMO
How?

QUEEN OF TRASH
Give me something. That'll prove it!
Huxley can never give anything!

DUMPSTERS
(joining in!)
Give her something! Yeah, give! Give!

ELMO
Give what?

QUEEN OF TRASH
You must give her royal majesty - that
would be me - ,one hundred "razzberries."
See I just love razzberries.

ELMO
But Elmo doesn't have any fruit?

QUEEN OF TRASH
No, no, no! Like this.
(demonstrates)
Pfft! Oh that sound sends shivers down my
spine, you know what I'm saying?!

ELMO
Elmo can do that. Elmo know how to make
that sound.

QUEEN OF TRASH
Sure you can. Now I want you to give me
ONE HUNDRED RAZZBERRIES in oh let's
see...
(looks at her watch)
about 30 seconds - I don't like them
spread out. Now let me just get my
razzberry counter.

She places a BROKEN DOWN LOOKING COUNTER in the corner of
frame.

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Thirty seconds! To do a hundred, pffft?
That's too many!

QUEEN OF TRASH

He can't give anything, see. That proves
it. He's a Huxley spy. Seize him....

The dumpsters close in on him again.

ELMO

No, no! Elmo try!

QUEEN OF TRASH

(quickly)

Ready, set, go!

She looks at her wrist.

ELMO

Oh no! How can Elmo do this? How can Elmo
do this? Wait!

QUEEN OF TRASH

Hurry you're running out of time.

Elmo goes ECU.

ELMO

Do you know how to razzberry? It's easy!
Like this Pfft! Pfft! See? Can you do
razzberries with Elmo? Let's go!
Everybody!
(he razzes)
Pfft! Pfft! Pfft!

As Elmo does this it is counted 1,2,3 etc. on the counter.

QUEEN OF TRASH

Oh I love it! Oh thanks! It's all good.

The audience blows more razzberries! The counter reaches 100.

QUEEN OF TRASH

Alright. You've convinced me. You're not
with Huxley. You are free to leave and
pursue your blanket or any bed covering
of your choice.

ELMO

Thank you Miss Queen!

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN OF TRASH

You're welcome...

The Queen leans into him, intimately. Her demeanor has softened.

QUEEN OF TRASH

... You know, I'm sorry to see you go.
You'd have made a beautiful piece of
trash.

She passes her hand in front of him as she did with the can and the old toy. As she does Elmo gets a glow and sparkle about him.

On that note she SINKS back down into the junk. THE DUMP, THE GARBAGE MONSTERS, THE HEFTY BAGS RETRANSFORMS to their original condition - dull grey trash - the dump is no longer the gorgeous glowing city of trash.

A TEETERING PESTY HELD CAMERA PANS Elmo.

47 INT. HUXLEY'S WAREHOUSE/PLAYROOM-DUSK

47

We hear a regular TOCKING sound. We see a PING PONG table. And there's Bug, a paddle in each hand, playing a game of Ping Pong AGAINST HIMSELF. He's panting furiously as he ZIPS to the other end of the table just in time to hit the ball back to himself, then repeats the whole process. Huxley watches from above on a balcony moderately entertained, toying with Elmo's Blanket.

BUG

(panting)

Excuse me boss, but don't you want to play? It usually takes two.

HUXLEY

Why should I play, when you can do it for me? Besides, I think I'm winning!

BUG

Wha--

Unable to keep up and talk at the same time, Bug MISSES A SWING. The BALL bounces off the table and into - a MOUSEHOLE. There's a CRASH of glass and metal. A moment later a GROUCH MOUSE comes out of the hole clutching the ball and rubbing the bump on his head.

GROUCH MOUSE

I told you this time I'm keeping it!

(CONTINUED)

He goes back into the hole with the ball.

HUXLEY

Bug! That was the last ball!

(brightening)

Let's try boxing?

BUG

(disheartened)

Oh no!

Bug disappears in a pile of stolen stuff and then pops up in full BOXING REGALIA. A comically thick padded glove on each hand, shorts, a championship belt and head gear.

He begins to box himself. Hitting himself on either side of his head.

But Huxley's distracted. He sees ELMO ON THE MONITOR.

He looks at monitor and over his shoulder we see Bug continuing to beat the daylights out of himself.

HUXLEY

(in shock)

Why, that little red bath mat!

On this line Bug delivers an uppercut to himself that knocks him out.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

Bug! Take a look at this!

Huxley looks back and sees Bug isn't there.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

Bug?

Huxley looks to the ground and sees Bug.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

(angry)

Bug, stop playing games and come look at this.

Bug gets up woozy and punch drunk and looks the wrong way.

BUG

(in a stupor)

Okay Mommy!

Huxley grabs him shakes him and turns him around. Bug regains his consciousness.

(CONTINUED)

Bug sees the monitor - it shows Elmo leaving the dump.

BUG

(big)

Wow! Would you look at that. Boy! That Elmo's something huh? What guts, what spunk, what pluck, what chutzpah! What...

HUXLEY

(yells)

Bug!!!!

BUG

Ahh! Yes boss?

HUXLEY

You're really beginning to bug me.

BUG

It's probably because I'm a bug.

Huxley drops bug and SFX: Bug hits the floor. Huxley picks up blanket.

HUXLEY

What is it with this blanket?

Examining it closely, Huxley finds the RIP!

HUXLEY

(to blanket)

I have every reason to unravel you thread by thread.

There's a loose thread, he's just about to pull it.

BUG

(stopping him)

Uh boss, remember , how you said I could maybe hold the blanket later?

HUXLEY

Oh yes, I did.

BUG

Oh goody goody! Can I hold it? Can I? Can I?

HUXLEY

But Bug, it's not later, it's now. When it gets to be later I'll let you know.

(CONTINUED)

Huxley looks to the monitor. Sees Elmo. Walks to it seething!
He lifts a Garage door Clicker out of his drawer.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

But right now I have to take care of that
little red fuzz wad.

BUG

Boss!

Bug realizing what's going to happen jumps in front of
Huxley. Huxley pushes him out of the way.

HUXLEY

Out of my way Bug, It time to
release...The secret weapon.

BUG

(worried)

Oh no boss! Anything but that. You can't
do that to the little fellah!

HUXLEY

Oh really? I've had enough toying with
that little red lint ball. Just watch!

Huxley clicks his GARAGE DOOR CLICKER.

With A HEAVY MOAN a huge metal door begins to open.

Tight on Huxley's face. He gloats with delight.

Tight on Blanket as it scurries to a corner, crumpling
itself into a small shivering ball.

An ominous shadow emerges from within.

Tight on Bug shivering with fear.

HUXLEY

Come Tiny, there is work to be done.

THUMP! We hear GIANT POUNDING FOOTSTEPS that shake the earth as
the monstrous shadow turns to leave.

Bug looks sadly at the happy Elmo on the monitor.

BUG

(quietly to himself)

Elmo, be careful, you don't know what's coming!

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (4)

47

Unseen the blanket shivers in the corner.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. GROUCHLAND COUNTRY ROAD-DUSK

48

Elmo comes up over the hill just reaching the edge of the forest.

ELMO

[Sings chorus from Elmo and Blanket song]

Elmo looks up the mountain. It's backlit by the SETTING SUN over Huxley's place. Huxley's House is CLOSER. Time is running out.

RUMBLE! RUMBLE! Elmo hears a RUMBLING sound. It's low and deep.

ELMO

What was that?

Elmo looks down. There are RIPPLES in a puddle of muddy water with each RUMBLE, a la "Jurassic Park." CRACK! The sound of trees SPLITTING AND THUNDERING to the ground. ANGLE ON Elmo's terrified face.

BAAAWK! An EARSPLITTING CHICKEN SQUAWK reverberates through the air.

ELMO

It's...it's getting closer.

GROUCH ANIMALS run out of the woods.

GROUCH ANIMALS

Run away! Run away! The chicken is coming! The chicken is coming!

ELMO

Ha, ha, ha, Elmo's not afraid of a chicken.

(turns to camera)

Why should Elmo be afraid of a little chicken?

CRASH! The HUMONGOUS, MONSTROUS CHICKEN BREAKS through the trees BEHIND ELMO! He's the size of a Tyrannosaurus Rex - the Humongous Chicken is a handpuppet shot blue screen for size, there are no CGI FX. Elmo escapes toward camera!

ELMO

That's why!

(screams)

Ahhhhhhhhhh!

(CONTINUED)

THE GROUND SHAKES! There's another BAAAWK! The Humongous Chicken SCREECHES like Godzilla! CHASE SEQUENCE ensues in quick cuts:

Elmo ZIGS as the Humongous Chicken PECKS the ground around him.

Elmo ZAGS as the BEAK descends on Elmo and barely misses him - RIPPING out a chunk of bushes.

Elmo CLIMBS a tree and the Humongous Chicken SWIPES at him with his wing as Elmo climbs higher and higher.

At the top of the tree - there's NOWHERE TO GO! There's another tree!

Elmo LEAPS! But the Humongous Chicken GRABS him with one of his of wings!

The Chicken LIFTS him with his wing toward his mouth.

Elmo in a panic, grabs hold of a branch to save himself, but the branch snaps off into his hands as the chicken lifts him.

The chicken speaks. He is a big dumb, oafish bird.

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Bawwwwwwwkkkkk!!! Please prepare to be eaten little fellah!

ELMO

No you can't eat Elmo! Elmo is gonna get his blanket and nobody's gonna stop Elmo. Not even a big chicken. So out of Elmo's way!

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Baaaaawwwkk!! That was a very beautiful and moving speech! I've never seen anyone so little stand up to someone so big. Now what was it I was gonna do again?

ELMO

Let Elmo go?

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Yeah!

(remembers)

No! That wasn't it! I'm gonna eat you!

ELMO

What?

Too late. Elmo tumbles into the HUMONGOUS CHICKEN'S OPEN MOUTH.

(CONTINUED)

The MOUTH ALMOST CLOSES WITH ELMO INSIDE!

But at the last second it starts to open again. Elmo has PROPPED OPEN the Humongous Chicken's mouth with THE TREE BRANCH!

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

(talking with difficulty)

Uh ecthxcuse me! Pleash donth do thish.
You might knock one of my fillingsh loosh
and my dentisht wouldn't like that.

*
*
*

ELMO

Well then big chicken shouldn't eat Elmo!

*

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Sthop talking! My mommy alwaysh taught me
noth to eath with talking food in my
mouth.

*

ELMO

Well Elmo doesn't want to be an
appetizer.

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Well I donth want thish piecsh of wood
in my mouthsh!

ELMO

Well that will teach big Chicken not to
mess with Elmo!

*

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Well thish will teach you not to messh
with Tiny the humongous chicken!

*

The chicken rears it's head back and spits Elmo and the piece
of wood out of his mouth with incredible force.

ELMO

Uh-oh.

Elmo hurls out of frame.

The humongous chicken watches his little red opponent fly off
into oblivion.

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN

Tee-hee! I made little red guy fly like a
big bird! Hey wait a minute.

*
*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

48

HUMONGOUS CHICKEN (cont'd)
I'm a big bird and I don't fly. I better
go think of a better metaphor.

CUT TO:

49 INT. HUXLEY'S HOUSE/WATCHTOWER-DUSK

49

Huxley is watching his monitor. We see over his shoulder as
Elmo flies and disappears.

HUXLEY
(gloating)
Oh! I'm good. If there was an award for
most outstanding villain, I be getting
my acceptance speech ready. 'Cause I am
that good.

He laughs with fiendish delight. The blanket nearby shudders
in fear.

CUT TO:--

50 EXT. GROUCHLAND CLIFF-SUNDOWN

50

We see Elmo hanging by one hand from a small tree growing out
of the side of a cliff.

He slowly lifts his other arm and grabs hold of the branch.

Tight on his face as he uses all his strength to pull his
weary body up on to the ledge of the cliff to safety.

On the ledge, exhausted he collapses to the ground.

ELMO
This is so hard!

Just then the sun goes down completely. Leaving Elmo in
darkness.

ELMO (cont'd)
(pathetically)
Oh no, where is Elmo?

A coyote howls in the distance. Elmo feels the night sky
press heavier and heavier on him. He crawls to the corner of
the ledge.

An owl hoots creepily. He can hardly breathe. Elmo hugs his
legs tight to his body curled up like a ball.

ELMO (cont'd)
How does Elmo get out of here?

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

POV SHOT-DOWN THE CLIFF-EYES OF WILD ANIMALS IN THE DARKNESS.

Elmo shakes. A gust of cold wind blows. Elmo shivers more violently.

ELMO (cont'd)

(on the verge of tears)

Elmo never needed his blanket more in his entire life. Blanket where are you? Oh no Elmo is never gonna get his blanket back. Elmo failed!! First Elmo hurt Zoe's feelings. Then Elmo went and lost his blanket and can't get him back. Elmo is the worst friend a blanket or a monster could have.

51 MUSIC STARTS

51

PRODUCTION #6-"ALL ALONE"

A simple ballad where Elmo realizes he is backed into a proverbial corner. He has no where to go. He is in darkness. He is alone. It is a plaintive, soulful, contemplative song about going to sleep without the comforts he's used to.

More generally it is about things not going your way. In it may Elmo pose the question, "If you've done something wrong can you find forgiveness?"

As the last note of the song echoes, it hangs in the air. The camera pulls back and Elmo becomes a tiny red dot on a huge mountainscape. As the camera pulls back we now realize that he is close to the top of the mountain. Unbeknownst to Elmo, Huxley's house is 60 feet above him. The mansion sits ominously above him, a dark spectre in the clear night sky.

52 INT. GROUCHLAND JAIL-NIGHT

52

A small figure wearing a big hat and overcoat appears in the jail. Everyone is asleep.

MYSTERY GROUCH

(trying to sound gruff)

Psssst, Psssst. I hear you're looking for a little red guy named Elmo?

ZOE

(waking)

Maria! There's a grouch.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Look, if this is some kind of grouch
joke, we've heard them all already, so as
they say in Grouchland - scram!

MYSTERY GROUCH

No, no, no joke! I just really want to h-
h-h-h-help,

(to herself)

I just can't say that word "help."
Besides I sort of owe the little guy. He
helped me and then I kind of left him on
his own.

ZOE

Who are you?

MYSTERY GROUCH

Alright, alright, alright.

The hood is removed and we see it's - GRIZZABELL.

GRIZZABELL

Just don't let it get around that I'm h-h-
h-helping. Phew. Twice in one day. That
can't be good.

BIG BIRD

Just tell us what you know?

ZOE

Please!!

GRIZZABELL

Okay, listen. The Greedy Huxley has Elmo's
blanket. He's taken everything in
Grouchland, and Elmo's the only one who's
ever done anything about it.

GORDON

So where is he?

GRIZZABELL

He went to Huxley's. I told him not to
go.

Oscar waking up OVERHEARS, stands up, angry as heck!

OSCAR

Huxley? You mean first this Huxley guy
ruined my beautiful Grouchland, and now he's
messin' with my frie...

(CONTINUED)

Oscar stops before he finishes the word. The sesame gang look at Oscar in shock.

BIG BIRD

Oscar? Were you going to say friend?

OSCAR

Yeah, yeah, so the little stinkball is my friend. Don't make a big deal out of it. Now clear the way. I gotta do somethin' about this.

Oscar pushes his way to the window with a new found determination. He starts screaming at the top of his lungs.

52A EXT. GROUCHLAND JAIL-NIGHT

52A

ANGLE ON WINDOW FROM OUTSIDE.

We see Oscar screaming behind the bars.

OSCAR

Wake up, ya grouch potatoes!!! Come on!
Wake up! Wake up!

We see Oscar in the jail window. Grouches groggily enters frame, waking up, cautiously gathering. They carry LANTERNS and TIN CANS WITH CANDLES inside - lighting up the night.

GROUCHES

What? Whatta you want? I was just getting my ugly rest. What do we have to listen to you for? Go soak your head, etc.

OSCAR

Listen, I don't know if you Grouches know this or not, but some guy named Huxley's been taking everything from Grouchland.

GROUCHES

Yeah we know! Huxley. Leave us alone. Who cares?

OSCAR

(like Patton)

Who cares? Well you should care. This Huxley character is taking everything that makes Grouchland so disgusting. He's takin' our goo! He's takin' our gunk. He's takin our trash, our dregs and our junk. Well junk is what Grouchland was built on! We gotta fight for our Trash. Stand up for our Slop! Cause...cause

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

52A CONTINUED:

52A

OSCAR (cont'd)
(ALA JOHNNY COCHRANE)
...when they take our goo, we gotta do!
(builds it)
When they take our goo we gotta do!! When
they take our goo we gotta do!!!!

52B INT. OF JAIL-NIGHT

52B

The sesame gang joins in.

SESAME GANG
When they take our goo, we gotta do!

52C EXT-JAIL

52C

The grouches are getting swept up.

GROUCH #1
He's right? We gotta do.

GROUCH#2
But what? What do we gotta do?

OSCAR
I'll tell you what we gotta do. We gotta
cooperate. Work together! Stop Huxley.

GROUCH #1
But grouches don't cooperate.

OSCAR
Well there's a first time for every
thing.
(chants again)
When they take our goo, we gotta do!

GROUCH #1
Yeah! He's right. When they take our goo,
we gotta do!

The grouches all join in.

GROUCHES
When they take our goo, we gotta do! When
they take our goo...ETC.

The Grouches are stoked. A posse of Grouches gather ready to
march.

52D INT. JAIL-NIGHT

52D

The deputy grouch opens the cells as he chants along.

53 EXT. JAIL-NIGHT

53

Oscar and gang exit as everyone continues the chant, it becomes a battle cry.

GROUCHES

When they take our goo, we gotta do!

OSCAR

Now take us to Huxley's!!

The grouches lead the gang off as they all chant.

54 INT. HUXLEY'S SLEEPING AREA-NIGHT

54

Huxley is getting ready for bed. He is in his feety pajamas. The pesties are tucking him in.

HUXLEY

Ahhh, sweet victory! I'm going to have a good night sleep tonight, now that that little red fuzz ball is taken care of. But first I need my teddy bear.

A pesty brings in his Teddy bear.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

And my night cap.

Pesty brings in Night cap Huxley puts it on.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

And my toys and my cookies and my Bobby Vinton records and my power tools and my Glockenspiel.

Pesties in fast motion bring in arm loads and arm loads of stuff and pile it high on his bed.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

Ahh! Now I can go to sleep.

(lays down)

Wait!

(bolting awake)

Something's missing!

(thinks)

Oh I know. Bring me my wooby!

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

Pesty brings in blanket places it on pile. Huxley laughs and closes his eyes. The blanket looks miserable, his little blanket body withered in defeat.

CUT TO:

55 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE CLIFF-MORNING

55

The sun rises on a sleeping Elmo. He is still huddled in the corner curled in a ball. A little caterpillar moves next to him. Softly and sweetly and then.

CATERPILLAR

(screaming angrily)

Hey!!! Get up! Get your little red butt out of my spot.

Elmo bolts awake.

ELMO

Huh? Wha?

CATERPILLAR

I thought about rolling you off the cliff last night. You're lucky I was in a good mood.

Elmo looks sadly down at the ground. He sniffles and looks like he's about to cry. The caterpillar notices and softens.

CATERPILLAR

Hey kid, don't be so sad, I wouldn't really have rolled you off the cliff!

ELMO

Elmo's not sad about that, Elmo's sad because he hurt Zoe's feelings and he didn't get his blanket back.

CATERPILLAR

Huh?

ELMO

Elmo needed to get his blanket back, but Elmo couldn't do it! Elmo came all the way from Sesame Street, escaped from a tunnel, got past the Queen of Trash even got spit out of a giant chicken's mouth but Elmo still didn't get his blanket! Elmo can't do anything!

CATERPILLAR

Well, you did all that stuff?

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Yeah so?

CATERPILLAR

Then you can get your blanket!

ELMO

No! Elmo can't. Elmo's just a little monster!

CATERPILLAR

Little? Look at me! I'm just a tiny caterpillar, right?

ELMO

Yeah..

CATERPILLAR

Wrong! One day I'm gonna be a butterfly.

ELMO

You are?

CATERPILLAR

Yeah! But would you know it by lookin' at me? No, But I will. Cause I have what it takes, right here, inside.

(points to his heart)

And so do you kid! You proved it by getting it this far. Just look inside!

Elmo looks down at himself. Puzzles over it a second then comes to a conclusion.

ELMO

Hey Yeah! Inside! Maybe Elmo can do it! Elmo's feels inside that he can get his blanket. Now where is that Huxley's house?

(looks around)

CATERPILLAR

Huxley's house! Why didn't you say so? It's right above us!

Elmo looks up and sees it. He is very excited.

ELMO

Wow! Elmo is so close! Thank you, Mr. Caterpillar. Thank you!

Elmo starts climbing.

(CONTINUED)

CATERPILLAR

(yelling to him)

If the going gets tough just remember you
got a caterpillar who believes in ya!

We see a musical climbing sequence up the mountain.

56 INT. HUXLEY'S WAREHOUSE/PLAYROOM-MORNING.

56

Huxley just waking up is in a robe. He is wearing the blanket
on his head like a towel wrap to dry his hair. Bug is in an
apron cooking.

BUG

Morning boss, I made you some some
poached eggs. I pressed your favorite
pair of slacks, the ones that make you
look thin and villainous and I also got
your newspaper.

HUXLEY

Morning Bug.

(breathes in)

Ahh, it's a wonderful day. The sun is
shining. The birds are chirping and my
humongous chicken has defeated Elmo. I
just love life.

BUG

(in shock)

No!

HUXLEY

Yes, and the blanket is mine for
keepsies!

Huxley holds up blanket.

HUXLEY

I simply can't see what made this stupid
blanket so special? Why didn't he just
get a different one?

BUG

(sadly)

Maybe he loved that blanket!

HUXLEY

Oh what do you know? You're just a bug!

Huxley goes to swat Bug with the blanket when suddenly-
CRASH! Elmo BURSTS through the dingy warehouse shutters! He
lands at the top of the catwalk.

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Elmo wants his blanket back NOW!!!!

HUXLEY

Zoinks! The little piece of macrame
lives!

Elmo GRABS one of the industrial strength CHAINS that hang from
the ceiling of the warehouse.

Elmo SWINGS - Errol Flynn style - WHOOSHING down past the
stunned Bug and Huxley and SNATCHES his blanket right out of
Huxley's hands! Bug scatters.

CU ON ELMO AND BLANKET SWINGING - hugging - **puppeted**
blanket HUGS Elmo.

ELMO

Oh Blanket! Elmo loves you!

Elmo continues his SWING up, up, UP to the opposite catwalk.

HUXLEY

Don't let him escape with my wooby!
Pesties, sic 'em!

ON THE CATWALK Elmo and his blanket are confronted by the
PESTIES. THEY ARE ALL STRIKING KARATE POSES AND MAKING
COMICALLY THREATENING NOISES.

Elmo, holding the blanket is backed up on the catwalk by the
Pesties.

He takes one step back, two steps, on the third step he
falls off and out of frame.

CUT TO:

57 SHOT OF THE MASSIVE MECHANICAL ARM WITH A CAGE

57

Elmo and his blanket fall into frame and into the cage. The
cage slams shut forming a prison around them. Elmo is
frightened.

A HUGE LAUGHING CACKLE echoes through the warehouse as the
camera swishpans to see Huxley at the controls of the
Mechanical CAGE.

Elmo BEATS on the bars of the CAGE - his new prison - as
Huxley LAUGHS.

ELMO

Let Elmo and his Blanket go!

(CONTINUED)

Huxley raises the arm of the cage and brings it right to himself. They are NOSE TO NOSE.

HUXLEY

Oh! I really have to thank you for all the exciting entertainment. If it wasn't for you I think I'd just go crazy from the boredom.

Huxley SNATCHES Elmo's Blanket from inside the CAGE.

ELMO

Hey, give Elmo back his blanket.

HUXLEY

OK, you can have it back. Blanket high...

(holds it high)

Blanket Low...

(holds it low)

Blanket in the middle...

Huxley holds it out Elmo to grab. Elmo tries to grab it.

Huxley pulls it back at the last second and screams.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

...YOU'RE TOO SLOW!!!

Huxley PUSHES A BUTTON and the CAGE MOVES high over THE CONVEYER BELT. He PUSHES ANOTHER BUTTON and the BIG HYDRAULIC STAMP starts SLAMMING DOWN.

ANGLE looking down - Elmo hangs precariously over the conveyor ready to be DROPPED and TERMINALLY STAMPED AS HUXLEY'S PROPERTY!

Huxley places the blanket over his head and kisses it like a championship belt.

HUXLEY

I'm the man. I'm the man. You're just a little red friendless monster, but I'm the MAN!!! Whose the man? I'm the man!

ZOE

(off camera)

Stop right there you mean old Huxley!

The Sesame Street gang bursts in. It's a stand off. The Sesame gang are on one side of the room.

(CONTINUED)

Huxley is on the other with a remote control for his stamper and cage.

Elmo is in the middle swinging PRECARIOUSLY over the stamper.

HUXLEY

(SARCASTIC)

Oh, you do have friends - Oh and don't they look sweet. I bet you all just have a grand old time just cooperating together saying the alphabet and counting all day long.

(to the Pesties)

Pesties, get em.

The pesties start to move in on the gang.

Suddenly the grouches burst in behind them.

GRIZZABELL

I don't think so!

The pesties see them and freak out in fear. They desert. Hiding.

HUXLEY

(in shock)

Grouches? Cooperating?

Gordon steps forward and moves towards Huxley.

He gets ready to grab him when Huxley lifts up the remote control and screams, frightened.

HUXLEY

Take one more step and I stamp the little red bath mat and he's mine forever.

Huxley hangs a finger over one of the buttons. Gordon freezes.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

Say goodbye to your little friend...

Just as he's about to hit the switch to release Elmo from the Cage and drop him to the stamper, the stamper grinds to a halt.

HUXLEY (cont'd)

(in shock)

What happened? Who hit the on/off button?

(CONTINUED)

We cut to the stamper controls and see that Cookie is there holding the on/off button, which he has ripped from the control panel. It is round and shaped like a cookie. Cookie monster is devouring it.

COOKIE MONSTER

Oh, me thought it was a shiny new cookie.
(looks at it)
Oh well, close enough!

Cookie continues devouring button.

HUXLEY

Oh dear, I hate these last minute rescues.
Well they may save you, you annoying red monster, but they can't save your wooby.

Huxley holds up the blanket.

ELMO

It's not a wooby, it's a blanket!

HUXLEY

Well soon it will be nothing but thread!
Oh look! There's already a little rip!
You should really take better care of your things.

Huxley GRABS A DANGLING THREAD from the ripped corner of Elmo's blanket and threatens to pull.

ALL

[GASP]

HUXLEY

Oh that's OK, after all, it's mine now so
I can do anything I want with it.

Then suddenly there's the WHIRLING SOUND of the ElectroHux starting up!

THE VACUUM TUBE comes alive and flies over the crowd toward Huxley and SUCKS the blanket right out of his hands!

HUXLEY

Huh? M-m-m-my wooby?

ELMO

My Blanket!

AS THE BLANKET IS SUCKED OUT OF HIS HANDS, THE REMOTE GOES FLYING AND LANDS ON THE FLOOR, CAUSING THE CAGE TO OPEN.

(CONTINUED)

Elmo HANGS from the open door of the cage DANGLING above the crowd. Maria, Gordon, Big Bird, and Telly run under Elmo holding their arms out to catch him if he falls.

OSCAR
(to the rest of the gang)
Quick, stop Huxley!

MARIA
Elmo!

Zoe, Cookie and the grouches storm an off-balanced Huxley. But Huxley immediately recovers and SNATCHES Zoe. He HOLDS HER UP in the air threateningly over the stamper. He kicks THE STAMPER and it restarts, he threatens to drop Zoe on the Conveyor belt.

HUXLEY
One more step and the little orange
marmalade becomes mine forever!

Helpless the gang stops dead in their tracks.

ANGLE ON ELMO. He dangles above the crowd watching the stale mate below.

He looks up at the Electroyux where his blanket has gone and then down to Zoe. It's not even a choice. He knows what must be done.

With ONE GREAT LEAP he lets go of the bars of the Cage and grabs the HANGING METAL CHAIN.

He WHIPS THE CHAIN and in one neat move TWIRLS IT around Huxley.

HUXLEY
What the...?

The chain WRAPS Huxley MORE AND MORE TIGHTLY until - he can't hold Zoe and with a POP!

SHE POPS OUT - INTO ELMO'S WAITING ARMS.

ZOE
You saved me!

Elmo and Zoe hug.

OSCAR
We did it!

GRIZZABELL
We stopped Huxley!

(CONTINUED)

Everyone gathers to hug and congratulate each other. Elmo stops.

ELMO

Wait a second everybody! Where's Elmo's
Blanket!?

ALL EYES TURN TO THE DOMED HATCH of the ElectroHux.

IT OPENS SLOWLY - THERE'S BUG! WITH ELMO'S BLANKET!

ELMO (cont'd)

My blanket!

HUXLEY

It's mine!

BUG

Ding dong, you're wrong! It's Elmo's!!

Bug hands the blanket to Elmo. All cheer! Except Huxley of course.

HUXLEY

Bug how could you do this to me? I
thought we were friends.

BUG

No, you're a greedy selfish villain and
nobody likes to be friends with a greedy
selfish villain.

HUXLEY

Come on be a bug, give me another
chance.....What if I let you play with my
stuff? Then will you be my friend?

Bug turns his back on him. Huxley runs to him, pleadingly.

HUXLEY

Wait...what if I...if I give some of the
stuff back. Like...

(points to a grouch)

I'll give that guy over there his raw
sewage back, then will you be my friend.

Bug turns the other way.

HUXLEY

Oh all right. What if...What if...what if
I give it all back. How about then, huh?

(CONTINUED)

BUG
(thinks)
Mmmmmmm...Maybe.

HUXLEY
I'll do it! I'll change. I won't take
anything and I'll give, give, give.
(notices audience goes ECU)
Don't be so surprised, a guys gotta have
friends.

BUG
Less talkin', more givin'.

Bug starts to walk out. Huxley continues begging him.

The camera pans to everyone, celebrating and hugging! Even
the Grouches!

ELMO
Thank you everybody for helping Elmo.
Elmo sure is lucky to have such good
friends.

MARIA
We're really proud of you, Elmo.

ELMO
Come to think of it, Elmo's pretty proud
of Elmo.

BIG BIRD
You are one brave little monster.

They all give him congratulatory pats on the back.

ELMO
(goes ECU)
And thank you too. Elmo couldn't have
done it without you.

ANGLE on OSCAR CRYING!

OSCAR
(crying)
Ahh, finally Grouchland will be restored
to all it's grouchy glory.

BIG BIRD
Are you crying, Oscar!

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR
(trying to hide it)
No, I have something in my eye. Let me
borrow that Elmo.

Oscar grabs the blanket from Elmo and is about to blow his
nose in it.

ALL
Oscar, no!

Oscar stops.

OSCAR
Hey, I didn't do it!.

GRIZZABELL
Let's hear it for Elmo!

GROUCHES
Hooray!

On the cheer Oscar throws the blanket in celebration up into
the air.

Everyone looks up and gasps.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP of the blanket descending in slo-mo into

58 EXT. SESAME STREET-DAY

58

The blanket falls gingerly in the arms of Elmo. Zoe is their
with him. Music starts underscoring.

59 PRODUCTION #7 - REPRISE/LYRIC OF "WE CAN DO ANYTHING 59
TOGETHER"

The camera widens and they're are people dancing and
celebrating.

ELMO
Zoe, Elmo's sorry he hurt your feelings.
Elmo still wants to be your friend.

He looks at Zoe then down at his blanket. He slowly hands her
the blanket.

ZOE
Wow, Elmo! I can hold it?

(CONTINUED)

ELMO

Sure, what could happen?

Elmo looks to camera and laughs. Singing starts.

This time the lyrics of the song have been expanded to include Elmo, Zoe and all his friends. It's a song about how if they all work together there's nothing they can't do! There's lots of singing and dancing throughout.

In the middle of the song, we see Ernie and Bert dancing in the foreground backs to us, part of the crowd. Suddenly the background fades everyone disappears except Ernie and Bert who are in:

60 INT. LIMBO

60

They were part of the audience like us. They turn to camera!

BERT

(excited)

Is that it Ernie, is that the end?

ERNIE

Not yet, Bert! The end didn't come yet!

(laughs)

BERT

(apprehensively)

Oh no! Is something gonna fall on me?

He looks up nervously!

BERT (cont'd)

Are the words The End gonna come from up there and fall on me, Ernie?

ERNIE

Don't be silly Bert!

Bert calms down.

BERT

Oh good!

Suddenly the words "The End" rise from underneath bringing Bert up off the ground. Bert is startled. Ernie laughs.

BERT (cont'd)

Ahh!.

(CONTINUED)

ERNIE

They're gonna come from down there! Hee-
hee-hee!

(reads)

The End!

THE END continues to rise up out of frame with Bert on top!

BERT

(anxious)

Hey where am I going? Ernie, Ernie!!

ERNIE

Bye Bert!

(to audience)

Bye everybody!

Ernie fades and the credits roll to...

THE END