

WESTVILLE HIGH ESCAPADES

"OPEN HOUSE"

Written by

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ACT ONE

EXT. OUTSIDE WESTVILLE HIGH - AFTERNOON

A balloon tag labeled "Day 0" flies through the air to indicate a flash-forward.

BANNER Reads: "Open House for WESTVILLE HIGH!"

An explosion rocks Westville High on their open house, PRINCIPAL MIDDLESTON's, 54, and EMMA, 14, CLARA, 16, and SAMUEL, 17, dart to the scene first, while Miss Middleston tries to apprehend someone ...

INT. WESTVILLE HIGH PLANNING COMMISSION - DAY

A balloon tag flies on screen -3 days- .

MISS MIDDLESTON

Please come to order. Children, I am counting down ... Five ... Four ...Three ... That's much better. We have a lot to do, children.

Emma Martens, amateur geologist, raises her hand.

MISS MIDDLESTON

Yes, Emma?

Emma lowers her hand and begins to speak. Her stutter is more pronounced when she is nervous.

EMMA

M ... Mis ... Miss Midd.. middleston? Will we get to choose our-our own projects this year?

MISS MIDDLESTON

Yes, I believe it is time we found our true calling in life. Each one of you will design and present your own project. We have 4 days to finish. Any more questions?

Samuel Davis, a slick-talking male, born of traders, raises his hand.

MISS MIDDLESTON  
 Yes, Samuel? Before you speak,  
 please remove the hat. You're in  
 school not the playground.

Samuel, the slick smile on his face, removes the hat.

SAMUEL  
 Miss Middleston? Will we be  
 permitted to bring pets this year?

MISS MIDDLESTON  
 Well, Samuel, I suppose that would  
 be alright. No horses or large  
 dogs.

Samuel smirks. He puts a check-mark by the word MONKEY.

INT. LOCAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE - SMARTSVILLE - SAME DAY

A map shows the placement of Smartsville in relation to Westville. Arrows point to each town with a 40-mile marker. In another town, 40 miles away, a telegraph operator RINGS for ED SMITHSON, 30, a locally known crook wanted in three states for robbery. A post-office wanted sign hangs in the background with three states looking for him.

OPERATOR  
 I have a telegram for Ed Smithson.

ED  
 I'm Ed. I'll be right down to pick  
 it up.

EXT. LOCAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE - SMARTSVILLE - DAY

Ed runs down three people on the dusty sidewalk. He picks up his telegram, reads it a few times and stuffs it in his pocket.

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

He stops by the local newspaper office and finds the article he needed. The news story goes into his pocket as well.

INT. ED'S HOME - DAY

When he gets home, he picks up the phone and calls his brothers. The screen splits into a three-way image as they set a time to meet.

INT. ED'S HOME - DAY (LATER)

His brothers arrive for their meeting.

ED

Boys, have I got a job for you!  
Ever hear of a town called  
Westerville? They are having an  
open house three days from now.  
They are expecting a huge shipment  
of gold. Guess who is going to get  
it?

Phil, 28, slime, poke-faced with yellow teeth, and Hardy, 26,  
burly with longish hair and two-teeth missing, sit scratching  
their heads.

PHIL

The bank?

HARDY

The people of Westerville?

Ed looks at his brothers in disgust.

ED

We are! We are gonna rob the bank  
and steal that gold. I have the map  
and directions. We have some  
planning to do, boys.

Phil and Hardy look at each other and grin. Here comes the  
money ... They high-five each other and miss, falling.

Ed walks over to them, slaps them both on the back of the  
head and walks over to his table where he picks up his gun  
and accidentally fires off a round ...

INT. WESTVILLE CAVE - DAY (THE NEXT DAY)

Emma, dressed in overalls and gloves, carefully picks up the  
rocks that she collects. She looks them over and grabs the  
gold paint that she took from the school art room. She covers  
the rocks with paint and lays them out to dry.

Just as she turns to leave, she hears voices outside. She  
creeps to the entrance and listens.

EXT. WESTVILLE CAVE - DAY

ED

Look, boys, I found a great hiding place for us. See this here cave? Nobody has been here in years! It's perfect.

The horses NEIGH and the Smithson Brothers HOOT.

Emma peeks around the mouth of the cave. She grabs a firecracker and sets it off. The horses bolt. She bravely gathers her equipment and rocks, places them in a burlap bag, and quickly runs the other direction.

The men SHOUT trying to get the horses to come back.

INT. SAMUEL'S HOME - DAY

Samuel picks up his pet monkey, TOTO, and pats him on the head.

SAMUEL

Toto, we are going to have sooo much fun at the open house! Just wait until the kids get a look at you!

Samuel snuggles Toto and whispers in his ear.

SAMUEL

I can just see Miss Middleston's face when I pull you out of my box!

Toto jumps from Samuel's arms and races around the room, up the bookcase, onto the hanging lamp and swings, CHATTING up a storm. Samuel smiles at Toto's antics.

INT. WESTVILLE HIGH - AFTERNOON

Miss Middleston finishes the final invites to the open house; the first letter addressed to "The THREE CLOWNS" of Mullberry Way. Second letter to Feng Bao, a cook at the local Tavern, requesting refreshments for the open house. The final letter to Fredrick Gibbles, the male history and health teacher regarding the upcoming field trip to the Watering Hole Caves.

EXT. WESTVILLE HIGH - MAIN STREET - EVENING

FIRECRACKERS EXPLODE on the streets of WestVille. Horses RUMBLE through the road-way. The racket attracts the citizens, who peek out of their windows.

The wind picks up, and the sky darkens. A CLAP of THUNDER shakes the buildings. A ZAP of LIGHTENING brightens the sky and snaps a tree in half.

The horses THUNDER past the town and stop in a clearing with a grass and pond setting. Three strangers follow the horses ... GUNS SHOOTING wild ... The citizens cower in their homes.

Ticker bomb shows - Day 2 - Countdown to Open House.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

INT. WESTVILLE HIGH - DAY

A balloon tag flies on screen - 1 day - to the big event.

MISS MIDDLESTON

Children ... Children ... We must come to order quickly! I know the storm damaged a few areas, so today will be a half day. You need to set up your presentation areas before you go. Chop-chop!

Miss Middleston sits in her chair behind her desk, plops her tired feet on the desk, and wiggles her mismatched stocking toes.

The children rush to get their boxes ready.

Emma places her 'painted' rocks in her box, closes it tight and rushes off to find Odelia Driver, 29, a ruthless, disgraced, Pinkerton Agent, the closest thing to law enforcement for miles around.

INT/EXT. ODELIA'S HOME - DAY

Emma rushes up to the door, KNOCKS.

ODELIA

Come in! Come in, whoever you are!

Emma opens the door. Odelia steps up to the door.

ODELIA

What is it, Emma?

Emma tries to calm herself, but the stuttering starts up immediately.

EMMA

I ... I ... was ... I me . mean...  
I saw these st ...strange ... men  
yesterday. They said they we.. were  
... planning to rob the town blind!

Emma finishes and Odelia perks up.

ODELIA

Robbers? Here? Oh, how perfectly smashing. You must help me.

What did they say? What did they look like? When are they going to act?

Emma just stares at her.

EMMA

I ... I ... Don't know. Of course I will he ... help. Are you sure Y..You really want me?

Now Odelia stares.

ODELIA

Yes, of course, I am sure. Why wouldn't I?

EMMA

No ... nobody believes I can ... do ... anything ... I ... I ... stutter and I am a ... girl.

ODELIA

Now, that will be quite enough of that, young lady. Why do you think the men are here? Think carefully now.

EMMA

I heard something like ... open house or mouse or something like that and there were three, with bags and horses and stuff.

Odelia writes all this down in her handy- dandy notebook.

ODELIA

Good, good, now keep going, Do you think you could get me an invite to the open house?

Emma has a bright idea. A LIGHT BULB SHINES.

EMMA

I could have you as my guest! I ... I think ... I can do that. Miss Middleston said it was our project.

They begin to hatch up a plan to catch the bad guys.



INT. WESTVILLE CAVE - DAY

The Smithson Brothers use a lantern to light the cave. Papers, maps, and notes lay around them; three clown outfits along with guns and burlap bags sit to the side.

ED

Take a look at these here plans. I got them from the locey news stand. See the X? That's where all the loot is going to be. We need to check out the local area and make sure we know what's up.

HARDY

The Sky?

PHIL

I know. I know. Pick me!

ED

What, Phil?

PHIL

My hand! .... Get it?

ED

Will you two pay attention? We need to check out the town so we can rob them. Are ya with me?

The three brothers shake hands and gather everything into their bags in the corner.

INT. SAMUEL'S HOME - DAY

Samuel picks up Toto and carries him into his room. He finds a box and adds bananas, Toto's sleepy baby (corn-cob monkey) and a blanket. In a burlap bag, he places extra diapers, clothes and bananas.

SAMUEL

Come on, Toto, let's practice your juggling. Here are three balls. Catch!

Toto reaches out and catches the balls one at a time. Samuel laughs when Toto does a flip or two and still catches the balls.

SAMUEL

Pretty good, old boy. I wonder what else I can teach you to do. Have a banana.

Toto peels the banana and throws the skin across the room. Samuel watches it land. His smirk is back.

Samuel goes into his kitchen and finds five other banana skins. He places them into his burlap bag.

SAMUEL

This makes ten total banana skins. What do you think, Toto, is that enough to have some fun with on open house day?

Toto just looks at him and jumps up and down. Toto runs for his barrel drum and pounds on it. Samuel decides to add that to the box.

SAMUEL

I am so glad Ma and Pa traded those rats for you, Toto. We are going to have such fun, aren't we?

Toto jumps around doing cartwheels and finally falls asleep.

INT. GLOSSMAMER'S DRESS COMPANY - DAY

The letter from Miss Middleston arrives. Three clowns are needed for the Open House at Westville High. Miss Glossmamer punches the bell and three men bound into the room.

GLOSSMAMER

Boys, I have a job for you. You will be ready at 11 am on Friday. Your clown costumes are in the other room, all ready for you. The open house at Westville High is in need of your services.

The three men smile and rush off.

Ticker bomb shows - One Day - Count down to Open House.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

INT. WESTVILLE HIGH - OPEN HOUSE - DAY

Miss Middleston and the children make the final preparations for the open house. Feng Bao sets up the pies and colorful water he created. Everyone gathers in the central room.

MISS MIDDLESTON

Okay, Everyone, please take your seats and get ready to PAR-TAY! A round of applause for our very funny guests.

The three clowns enter, doing cartwheels and honking horns. Then three more clowns enter and begin interacting with the first three clowns. The room breaks out into applause. Miss Middleston counts.

MISS MIDDLESTON

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6! How did that happen? I only needed three.

Odelia suspiciously watches the clowns. She slides over to Miss Middleston.

ODELIA

What's up, Mia? You look confused. Anything I can help with?

MISS MIDDLESTON

I just don't know, Odelia. I am very sure I only hired three clowns and now I have six clowns.

ODELIA

Don't worry, Mia. Emma and I have everything worked out.

Odelia pats Miss Middleston. Miss Middleston gives Odelia a suspicious, shocked look.

Odelia claps once, and Samuel runs on stage, releases his monkey, and begins to throw balls to him. Toto catches and juggles the balls. Toto throws a ball to one clown, who reaches out for it, slips and falls, landing flat on his face.

Odelia CLAPS and Toto picks up a pie and throws it at Clown two. The clown spins around, sputters and falls to the ground.

ODELIA  
Go to it, Samuel.

Samuel takes a set of cuffs from Odelia and cuffs the two clowns together. The other clowns start laughing, all but one. The angry clown grabs for his gun but only finds a banana in his pocket.

The crowd LAUGHS. Ed reaches for Emma and wraps his arm around her.

ED  
Nobody move or I kill the girl. Who runs the bank? We want our money.

Ed reaches Phil and finds the second gun. He pulls it out. SHOTS RING out. BANG! BANG! BANG! The crowd becomes quiet.

MISS MIDDLESTON  
Well, I never! This will be the last time I hire clowns!

ODELIA  
Only half of the clowns are legit. I will take care of this! I will be a hero!

EXT. WESTVILLE HIGH - MAIN STREET - DAY

Ed rushes outside just as a storm hits. KA-BOOM! Thunder BOOMS and lightening STRIKES.

Emma rushes out after the noise startles Ed

Odelia rushes out. The tree has exploded and firecrackers blow up. Legs are wiggling under the tree.

Miss Middleston runs out of the school house and reaches out to apprehend Ed. The males present pull the half tree over and find ...

SAM, a missing hand-made puppet, dressed as a clown, is trapped under the tree. Emma rushes up to grab the puppet. She falls when the tree splits and hits her head on the wagon.

MISS MIDDLESTON Quick!  
Split up and search the grounds!  
They can't have gone far!

FENG  
What ... What ... do you want me to do with the food, Miss Middleston.

MISS MIDDLESTON

Take it to the Tavern. We have to find those crooks. Now, where are those other two crooks?

Feng begins to move the pies. Toto decides it is time to play. He eats a banana and throws the skin to the ground. The wet ground plus the banana skin catch Feng. He falls and pies go sailing through the air.

FENG

Oh, Crap ... Ouch!

Feng rolls over onto a gun. It looks fake. He pulls the trigger and BANG! Feng hits the wagon.

EMMA

What was that for? I didn't do anything!

Miss Middleston and Odelia run over to the wagon and pull the tarp. They both reach for Emma who holds tight to SAM. She is a bit woozy from the bonk on her head.

Feng tries to throw the gun down but only manages to set it off again. BANG! BANG! BANG! The bullets fly in three directions. One hits Odelia's special explosives. BOOM! The second lands in SAM the DUMMY, and knocks him out flat. The third shoots out and hits a water trough. The water drains out and right there is Ed, the third missing clown.

ODELIA

Alright, you bad man, hands up! Its time to see the inside of a real jail!

EMMA

You did it! You did it!

ODELIA

No, we did it! If it weren't for you, we never would have known about these three ruffians. This badge is yours, honey!

Emma smiles big, proud and excited.

MISS MIDDLESTON

I think I will go find those other two and clean up this mess.

Miss Middleston walks toward the school but finds just the cuffs hanging on the doorknob.

MISS MIDDLESTON

Oh no! ODELIA! Come over here!

ODELIA

What is it?

MISS MIDDLESTON

Just a small little thing, like  
cuffs that are hanging on the knob.  
What kind of cuffs were they?

Odelia slaps her forehead.

ODELIA

When I talked to Samuel about this,  
I thought he knew to grab my REAL  
cuffs! Now I'll never get my  
reputation back!

Just then three horses with riders flash by at a fast pace.  
The Smithson Brothers escapes yet again. They YELL!

SMITHSON BROTHERS

We'll be back! You can't hide that  
gold forever! Just you wait!

A cloud of dust blows through the town.

Samuel rushes out holding the loot from the burlap bag. In  
his hand, he holds the article about the gold shipment to  
Westerville.

SAMUEL

Miss Middleston, you will never  
believe this. Those were the  
Smithson Brothers and they thought  
this was Westerville. I guess they  
picked the wrong town, huh?

Pies, banana skins and balls all fly through the air. Toto  
hangs out on the porch, demanding attention. The people of  
WestVille feels the tension drop at the same time the rain  
falls.

ODELIA

Just another day in boring  
WestVille ... huh? Maybe it will be  
better next year!

Another pie flies through the air, SPLAT, right smack in  
Odelia's face, while everybody begins to HOOT!

THE End!