

IMAGINARIES

SCRIPT PERUSAL

Scene 2. A Call to Adventure

The Imaginary Friends all go off to be friends with Humans. GILLY is left behind.

GILLY

(muttering to themselves) What kind of friend are you.... Ugh! What is wrong with me?

BIG VOICE

What's the matter, Gilly?

GILLY

Oh, hey Big Voice... Everyone else has a Human friend. Why don't I? In the Pocket Guide, a Human just dreams you up, like... *(hard thinking)* Poof! So... What about me? I've been studying this book since I was a guppy. I know all the rules like the back of my fin! Someone *had* to imagine me, right? I keep turning pages, but I can't find the right answers.

BIG VOICE

You know Gilly, sometimes there are things you learn outside of the pages of a book.

GILLY

Are you sure? Because the book doesn't say that.

A beat.

GILLY

Once again, I'm left behind.
Flipping through this Pocket Guide
Left to wonder why I'm here and what I'm supposed to do.

Maybe I'm too hard to find?
Or maybe someone changed their mind...
Did a Human dream me up and then think...
"Oh, wait. Not you."

Because if anything that anyone has ever imagined is here
in
the Imaginary World.
And if anything that's ever been or ever could happen is here
in
the Imaginary World.

Then couldn't I be the exception
The one that breaks the rule
Everyone will find a friendship
Except for you.
Could that really be true?
Or is there something more
That I haven't thought to do?

I've tried to get things right
Precisely, to the letter
But though I try and try
Nothing gets any better!

It's like they're singing a song, but I just can't hear it
Like there's some hidden rumble, some secret call...
And though I'm not the kind that goes looking for trouble
I'm tired of being someone that looks and finds nothing at all.

But I can imagine
Me in the middle of all the action

ENSEMBLE

Imagine...

GILLY

I'm a master of pretending that I'm
Someone who matters
to somebody else, but then
I just can't seem to imagine who it is
Who would think of me as a friend?

[Dance Break]

ENSEMBLE

Someone who matters...

Someone who matters...

Someone who matters...

GILLY

I study and I read to be the best friend
I can be

But did I skip over a section? Is there
something that I didn't see?

Is there something wrong with me?

GILLY

But I can imagine
Me in the middle of all the action

ENSEMBLE

Imagine...

GILLY

I'm a master of pretending that I'm
Someone who matters
to somebody else, but then
I just can't seem to imagine who it is
Who would think of me..

ENSEMBLE

Can you imagine? Imagine...
Imagine... Imagine...
An Imaginary Friend!
Is someone who matters
To somebody else...

GILLY

Would anyone imagine me?

I just want to be
Someone who matters
To somebody else.

GILLY

And I wish I could imagine who it is
Who would think of me as a friend

There's some kind of rustle with the DOOR. Maybe it starts slightly open, and then it closes? It's enough that GILLY notices, but not enough to cause alarm.

FUZZBALL enters with a clipboard, humming along to the tune of their motif.

FUZZBALL

Bum buh-dum bum
Bum buh-dum bum
Bum buh-dum bum bum!

Bum-bum-bum!
I'm important!
Bum-bum-bum!
Checkin' doors and
When I verify they're dormant,
Then I check it off on my clipboard.
I keep things neat and sorted.
Keep 'em safe and sealed and boarded up
That's why I am important, cause
I keep the World safe.

FUZZBALL

Oh. Hi there, Gilly.

GILLY

Hi, Fuzzball.

FUZZBALL

Looking a little mopey there, Gilly.

GILLY

Yeah...

FUZZBALL

Please be mopey a little further that way. It's *extremely important* that I inspect this door.

GILLY

(*moving*) Is that why you were singing a song about how important you are?

FUZZBALL

Yes! That's exactly right. Singing about how important you are is one of the hallmarks of Important Imaginaries.

GILLY

Ah. Must be nice. Being important, I mean.

FUZZBALL

Indeed! It's wonderful! As an Imaginary Friend, I was important to one person. Now I'm important to the entire Imaginary World!

GILLY

Wait, *you* were an Imaginary Friend?

FUZZBALL

Oh my, yes. Hundreds of times.

GILLY

But you're not even... like... *fun*. What Human would dream you up to be their friend?

FUZZBALL

A Human who values efficiency! And fuzziness. But mostly efficiency. Now excuse me, Gilly. I'm trying to protect the Imaginary World.

GILLY

By checking an old door? How does that protect the World? It doesn't even go anywhere.

FUZZBALL

(pushes the door open) You're right! It doesn't. Which is exactly how it's supposed to be.

FUZZBALL

You've probably been wondering
Just what this ancient door was doing here...

GILLY

Well, I wasn't *really*, but-

FUZZBALL

You've probably been waiting
for an expert like myself to make it clear...

GILLY

I mean, uh...

FUZZBALL

There are doors like this all over the Imaginary World
But all of them are broken,
Just swinging on a hinge
And that's the way we like it
Because once upon a time, it
Would be possible for Humans to just walk right in...

GILLY

Wait, you're saying a Human could come in through that door?

FUZZBALL

Terrifying, I know.

GILLY

I don't think it's terrifying. I see Humans in here all the time with their Imaginary Friends.

FUZZBALL

That's the key, Gilly. When you see them, the Human is *with* their Imaginary Friend.

FUZZBALL

The Imaginary World is very fragile
Since Imagination's made it what it is
And a Human brain is so extremely powerful
Their thoughts alone could tear the place to bits

FUZZBALL sparks with agitation.

Just imagine what it's like
For a Human to arrive?

On their own? By themselves?
Without a Friend to supervise?
They bring in anger! Bring in fear!
And then those feelings all appear
Cause that's the way it works in here.

GILLY

Oh, I think I see!
With a Friend as their guide
They are safe here inside
But with no Imaginary
It gets scary.

FUZZBALL

Buddy, run and hide!
A Human with no Friend about
Is only trouble: there's no doubt
That's why I work to keep 'em out!
I keep this World safe!

GILLY

That seems important...

FUZZBALL

I'm important!

GILLY

So why isn't it recorded
In the Pocket Guide? You'd think that I
should know something like that before I
go and bring a Human Friend in here
to have adventures!

FUZZBALL

Well, in that case you both are safe
As long as you're together.

FUZZBALL

If you're the Human's Imaginary Friend, then you don't have to worry about any of this stuff, Gilly. If your Human needs help, you're there. That's what it means to be an Imaginary Friend.

GILLY

Oh. Right. *(beat)* Hey, Fuzzball?

FUZZBALL

Mm-hmm?

GILLY

Stuff like sadness and anger and fear... Do you ever feel that?

FUZZBALL

Of course I do! Everyone does.

GILLY

What do you do about it?

FUZZBALL

Oh, that's easy!
I ignore it.
I just think:
I'm too important!
Then I take that pesky feeling
And I shove it in a corner
Yeah, I treat it like this Door
I keep it safe and sealed and boarded up
And I go on bein' important, cause
I keep the World safe.
I keep the World safe!
I'm important!

FUZZBALL *exits.*

GILLY

(approaching the door, bummed) Well, nice to know that if I don't get to be an Imaginary Friend I could still do something equally as important, like... looking at old doors... *(sigh, beat)* It is pretty wild that Humans used to just... walk right in here...

GILLY surreptitiously checks out the door... reaches for the handle...

Suddenly, WIZARD LIZARD pops in. They are not wearing their hat.

WIZARD LIZARD

Gilly!

GILLY

Ah! Don't scare me like that!

WIZARD LIZARD

Sorry! I didn't mean to interrupt. It looks like you're busy doing something secretive with that door.

GILLY

(defensive) No, I'm not! You're not interrupting anything! What do you need?

WIZARD LIZARD

Ah- it's just- I tried pulling a bunny out of my hat, but it got stuck.

FOXBUNNY enters, tangled in a giant version of WIZARD LIZARD's hat.

GILLY

Is that... Foxbunny?

WIZARD LIZARD

I calculated space for the bunny, not so much the fox...

FOXBUNNY

Is that Gilly? Hey, Gilly! What are you doing here?

WIZARD LIZARD

Gilly's doing something secret with a door...

GILLY

No, I'm not!
www.fctheatre.com

WIZARD LIZARD

...and being really defensive about it.

FOXBUNNY

Is it like a fun door?

WIZARD LIZARD

No, it's more like a "*no one's supposed to touch this*" kind of door.

GILLY

No, it's not that at all! It's just a boring old door, see?

GILLY quickly opens the door.

FOXBUNNY

I wanna see! (*escapes the hat*) Oh, it really is just a boring old door... But, you know, if that's what you think is fun, Gilly, you go for it. Here, Wizard Lizard.

FOXBUNNY hands the hat back to WIZARD LIZARD as they both exit.

WIZARD LIZARD

(on exit, looking at the very large hat) Aww, you stretched it out.

Alone, GILLY can not help but return their attention to the door.

GILLY

...Hello? If there are any Humans listening out there, don't come in because you could destroy the world, but... Well, if you know any Humans who need an Imaginary Friend named Gilly, maybe you could tell them to imagine me a little harder? Please? (*beat*) Thank you.

GILLY listens. Nothing. GILLY turns away, defeated, leaving the door open, and kicks an imaginary pebble or something.

GILLY

(muttering) This is stupid...

Suddenly, the door slams shut.