



Androcles and the Lion

By George Bernard Shaw, adapted by LAMDA

Androcles is walking down a jungle path and comes across a lion. Androcles is initially frightened, but then realises that the lion has a thorn stuck in its paw. Androcles decides to help and befriend the wounded lion.

ANDROCLES: Meggy: run. Run for your life. If I take my eye off him, it's all up.

(The lion holds up his wounded paw and flaps it piteously before Androcles)

Oh, he's lame, poor old chap! He's got a thorn in his paw. A frightfully big thorn. *(Full of sympathy)* Oh, poor old man! Did you get an awful thorn into um's tootsums wootsums?

(The lion responds by moans of self pity)

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Now, now *(Taking the paw in his hand)*. Um is not to bite and not to scratch, not even if it hurts a very, very little. Now make velvet paws. That's right.

(He pulls gingerly at the thorn. The lion, with an angry yell of pain, jerks back his paw so abruptly that Androcles is thrown on his back)

Steadeeee! One more little pull and it will be all over. Just one little, little, leetle pull; and then um will live happily ever after.

(He gives the thorn another pull. The lion roars and snaps his jaws with a terrifying clash)

Oh, mustn't frighten um's good kind doctor, um's affectionate nursery. That didn't hurt at all: not a bit. Just one more. Just to show how the brave big lion can bear pain, not like the little cyrbaby man. Oopsh!

(The thorn comes out. The lion yells with pain, and shakes his paw wildly)

That's it! *(Holding up the thorn)* Now it's out. Now lick um's paw to take away the nasty inflammation. See?

(He licks his own hand. The lion nods intelligently and licks his paw industriously)

Clever little leone-piony! Understands um's dear old friend Andy Wandy.

(The lion licks his face)

Yes, kissums Andy Wandy.

(The lion, wagging his tail violently, rises on his hind legs and approaches to embrace Androcles, who makes a wry face)

Velvet paws! Velvet paws!

(The lion draws in his class) That's right.

(Androcles approaches the lion with his arms wide)