

WORDGIRL: THE CHEESE CRISIS

Written by

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Based on the PBS KIDS show WordGirl

LOGLINE:

When a rampant cheese shortage hits the city, a young vocabulary-savvy superhero along with her sidekick monkey must confront the scheming villains responsible, in order to stop the chaos and finally have a bite of her dad's delicious cheesecake!

INT. THE GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

A view of the city with a pan down to the grocery store. Becky, Bob, and Mr. Botsford walk down an aisle while Mr. Botsford checks his list.

NARRATOR

Just another day in the city, Becky, Bob, and Mr. Botsford make a trip to the grocery store to pick up some extra special ingredients for an extra special recipe.

MR. BOTSFORD

Thanks for coming with me you two! I appreciate the extra help.

BECKY

No problem dad! We can't wait to try some of your delicious Botsford cheesecake!

Bob squeaks excitedly.

MR. BOTSFORD

You know me Becky, only the best goes into Botsford cheesecake! Now the last thing on our list is a pint of Fancy Farms cream cheese. Once we pick up this baby we can get- SWEET SIZZLING SASPARILLA!

They arrive at the cheese section only to find it empty.

MR. BOTSFORD (CONT'D)

(PANICKING) It's gone, all gone!!

BECKY

The entire cheese section..

Bob squeaks.

BECKY (CONT'D)
You're right Bob, the only person
with a cheese craving this intense
could be Dr. TwoBrains!

Camera close up of Becky hearing Dr. TwoBrains offscreen.

DR. TWOBRAINS
(ASIDE TO HIS TWO HENCHMEN) AHAHA!
That was too easy! Careful boys,
don't want to damage the goods.

Exit Becky's closeup, Becky lies to go follow Dr. TwoBrains.

BECKY
Hey dad? Bob remembers he needs to
look for some uh..whole grain
mustard to go in his..emergency
sauce compartment!

MR. BOTSFORD
(DEJECTED) Ok Becky, don't take too
long. I'll be here..staring at the
empty cheese shelves.

BECKY
I won't!

Becky pushes Bob away from Mr. Botsford.

BECKY (CONT'D)
(ASIDE TO BOB) He's not too far,
let's go Huggy, WORD-UP!

Becky and Bob switch to their superhero alter egos; WordGirl
and Captain Huggy Face. WordGirl flies off carrying Huggy.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

In the store parking lot, Dr. TwoBrains watches his henchmen
load his cart full of cheese into the back of his van.

DR. TWOBRAINS
Let's hurry it up, it's warm today
and the cheese might spoil easil-

WORDGIRL
Stop right there TwoBrains!

DR. TWOBRAINS
WORDGIRL!

The Cheese Crisis

DR. TWOBRAINS (CONT'D)
(CASUALLY) Can you move a little to your left? You're blocking my cart.

WORDGIRL
Oh sorry. Wait- give back the store's cheese!

DR. TWOBRAINS
This? This isn't the store's cheese, it belongs to me.

He holds up a checkbook proudly.

DR. TWOBRAINS (CONT'D)
See? Paid by check.

WORDGIRL
Yeah right! I don't believe you.

The Grocery Store Manager randomly pops in.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER
Don't worry WordGirl! I checked him out myself. His check, checks out!

Grocery Store Manager pops out of the conversation.

WORDGIRL
Oh.

DR. TWOBRAINS
"Oh." Is right. Now if you'll excuse me I gotta go, don't want my cheese ice cream to melt.

WORDGIRL
Really? Even cheese ice cream?

DR. TWOBRAINS
Hey! I'll have you know it's a very popular flavor in the Philippines. Let's go boys!

Dr. TwoBrains and his henchmen hop in the van and speed off.

WORDGIRL
Huh, TwoBrains NOT stealing cheese.. how **peculiar**.

Captain Huggy Face squeaks in confusion.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

Yeah I know Huggy but the store manager said he paid for the cheese. Ugh let's get back to Dad, guess we can let it go this time.

Captain Huggy Face squeaks again.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

Huh? Wait, you actually need to buy some whole grain mustard? Heh, also **peculiar**. Sure Huggy, let's go!

They change back to Becky and Bob and head inside.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BOTSFORD HOME - NIGHT

We view the Botsford home from the outside with the lights turned on. Inside Mr. Botsford is clearing the dinner table.

NARRATOR

Back at the Botsford home..

MR. BOTSFORD

Sorry kiddos no cream cheese means no Botsford cheesecake tonight, we can try again tomorrow.

TJ

Don't worry Dad, your cheesecake is worth the wait!

BECKY

Yeah, it's not your fault Dr. TwoBrains bought out the store.

MR. BOTSFORD

Thanks kids, it's no cheesecake but I WAS able to whip up something almost as good!

BECKY & TJ

(EXCITED) Really??

MR. BOTSFORD

Toast pudding!

Mr. Botsford holds up a pan of gross looking toast pudding.

MR. BOTSFORD (CONT'D)

Now, who wants some?

The Cheese Crisis

TJ

Uh.. I think it just moved a lit-

BECKY

(INTERRUPTING) Wow looks yummy!
Thanks dad!

Becky and TJ look at the toast pudding nervously.

CUT TO:

INT. BECKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Becky and Bob are in their pajamas, getting ready for bed.

BECKY

Phew Bob, thanks for helping me
finish that toast pudding.
Definitely NOT as delicious as
Botsford cheesecake.

Bob gives a happy squeak as he pats his belly.

BECKY (CONT'D)

But I'm still not sure what to do
about TwoBrains! I mean, he NEVER
just shows up and pays for cheese.
It's always goop ray this or mouse
army that, something's **peculiar**
about this situation.

Bob squeaks in confusion as he's tucking himself into bed.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Oh sorry! **Peculiar** means for
something to be strange or odd, for
example TwoBrains paying for his
cheese was **peculiar** because he's a
villain. He usually just steals
cheese or whatever his evil mouse
brain tells him to.

Bob squeaks with concern. Becky tucks herself into bed.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Ugh maybe I AM just overthinking
it. Well, since he didn't commit a
crime I guess I can (YAWN) deal
with it all tomorrow. I won't give
up on helping Dad and I WILL have a
taste of Botsford cheesecake.

NARRATOR

(WHISPERING) Psst, hey... can you save me a piece when you do? Pretty please?

BECKY

(FRIENDLY) Oh fine, just because you asked nicely. Goodnight Bob, goodnight Narrator!

NARRATOR

(YAWN) Goodnight!

Becky turns off the lights.

CUT TO:

INT. THE GROCERY STORE - THE NEXT DAY

Becky, Bob, and Mr. Botsford powerwalk into the grocery store. Bob wears a workout headband.

NARRATOR

The next day back at the grocery store..

MR. BOTSFORD

Alright you two, we're almost there! We got here early so there should be plenty of fresh newly stocked..

They turn the corner and are shocked. All the cheese is gone.

MR. BOTSFORD (CONT'D)

..cheese?

There is a angry crowd around the cheese section. Mr. Botsford walks up and confronts the grocery store manager.

MR. BOTSFORD (CONT'D)

(DISTRESSED) What happened? Where's all the cheese?

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

I'm sorry sir, we just sold out! Two guys with distinguished mustaches in jumpsuits came in and cleared us cleaner than our new EZ Breezy Window cleaner- available in Aisle 7!

BECKY

(ASIDE TO BOB) It must be
TwoBrains' henchmen, they keep
buying out the cheese.. Time to put
a stop to this-

Mr. Botsford grabs Becky and Bob pulling them away suddenly.

MR. BOTSFORD

No time to waste! We need to hurry,
before these cheese snatchers make
it to every store in town!

Mr. Botsford pulls them both out of the store.

EXT. CHEESE CHASE MONTAGE - DAY

A montage of various people: Dr. TwoBrains, Henchman 1&2, and a shady woman buying out the town's cheese while wearing obvious disguises and fake mustaches throughout the sequence. There is a simplified map of the city with icons of the Botsford party (Mr.Botsford/Becky/Bob) and the Dr.TwoBrains party (Dr. TwoBrains/Henchman 1&2)driving to other grocery store icons on the map. Back to the normal show style, the Botsford car arrives at a grocery store just as Henchman 1 exits the store with a lot cheese in his shopping cart. Cut to Henchman 2 who is at a different store pushing a cart full of cheese. Security approaches, ready to arrest him but he waives his receipt and they let him walk away. Split screens of Henchman 1&2 buying cheese, TwoBrains leaving with cheese, and a shady woman ominously approaching a cheese section. Camera focuses on the shady woman's screen where she grabs all the cheese on display. She pushes her cart away and drops a piece of cheese. People start fighting over the fallen cheese like animals. After the crowd disperses, Mr. Botsford approaches yet another empty cheese section with Becky and Bob. He falls to the ground and throws his arms up.

MR. BOTSFORD

(WAIL) Noooooo!!!

A check flies in front of the camera to transition to a city tower headquarters.

CUT TO:

INT. MR BIG'S TOWER OFFICE - EVENING

Dr. TwoBrains and his henchmen enter a dark room with piles of cheese everywhere. Dr. TwoBrains approaches a dark figure facing a window with a view of the city.

DR. TWOBRAINS

Whew that made me break a sweat!
Thanks for the financial support
Biggie, it has been done! All the
cheese in the city belongs to MEE!!

The dark figure turns around, revealing to be fellow mind-control loving villain and businessman, Mr. Big.

MR. BIG

You mean partner, belongs to US.

DR. TWOBRAINS

(CLEARS THROAT) Oh yes, of course.

MR. BIG

(DEVIOUSLY) Excellent, phase 1 of
the plan is complete. Now that we
bought all the cheese in the city
and created a CHEESE **shortage**,
people will have to come to us if
they'd like a taste of ooey gooey
goodness! With all the cheese, we
have all the POWER! Leslie!

Leslie, Mr. Big's secretary steps in frame, she throws away the fake mustache on her face revealing to be the shady woman who took part in buying out the cheese.

MR. BIG (CONT'D)

Get things ready for phase 2, it's
time that we acquire some cheddar!

LESLIE

(MONOTONE) Yes sir.

Leslie walks away as we zoom in on Mr. Big and Dr. TwoBrains who each do their evil laugh side by side.

MR. BIG & DR. TWOBRAINS

(EXAGGERATED) AHAHAHA!

CUT TO:

INT. THE BOTSFORD HOME LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY MORNING

The Botsfords are gathered in their living room watching the TV as they hear recent news regarding the cheese crisis.

NARRATOR

The next day, the Botsfords gather
around the TV to listen to some
important breaking news.

The Cheese Crisis

TV REPORTER

Prices of cheese continue to increase after grocery stores all over the city remain sold out. This **peculiar** trend of purchasing large portions of cheese continues.

MRS. BOTSFORD

(CONCERNED) Honey, this cheese **shortage** is getting out of hand don't you think? It started with ricotta, then cheddar, now gouda! Where's mamma gonna get her gouda?!

TJ

I don't get why a **shortage** is a big deal, eating cheese never made me any shorter.

BECKY

No TJ. A **shortage** isn't when something becomes short, it's a state or situation in which something needed cannot be obtained in sufficient amounts. In this case no one can find any cheese because SOME people keep buying it all.

TV REPORTER

(INTERRUPTING) This just in! CEO Mr. Big has joined Dr. TwoBrains in a breakthrough announcement on the cheese **shortage** situation.

BECKY

(ASIDE TO BOB) Huh, Mr. Big? What's he doing with Dr. TwoBrains?!

On the TV, Mr. Big and Dr. TwoBrains stand side by side.

MR. BIG

Hello people of Fair City! I know this cheese crisis has been a rough for everyone. Well I just can't stand to see our city like this so I thought "what can I do to help?" Worry no more, I have great news! My friend here Dr. TwoBrains has graciously offered to supply cheese from his personal collection in order to help end this terrible cheese crisis!

Crowd cheers. Camera goes back to the Botsford living room.

The Cheese Crisis

BECKY

(OUTRAGED) B-but! I bet those two were the ones who bought all the cheese in the first place!

The Botsfords shush Becky. Camera looks back into the TV.

MR. BIG

But of course where there is supply there must also be demand!

DR. TWOBRAINS

(SMUGLY) -our demands to be exact.

MR. BIG

So! If you would like a piece of our much desired cheese, it is only fair we are offered something adequate in return! Something like cash or valuables will do nicely.

MR. BIG (CONT'D)

Deals will be conducted at the first ever Fair City Cheese Bank courtesy of me, Mr. Big! We hope with this generous act of generosity we can solve this crisis once and for all! But of course remember, first come first served-

DR. TWOBRAINS

-and supplies are limited.

End TV feature and back to the Botsford living room.

MR. BOTSFORD

Honey quick we need to get to the cheese bank before they run out of cheese! Grab the toaster! We can try trading it in for some swiss!

Mr. Botsford exits the house followed by Mrs. Botsford with her arms raised, she is holding a toaster.

MRS. BOTSFORD

Right behind ya honey!

Mr. and Mrs. Botsford get in their car and leave in a hurry.

TJ

(POUTY) Aw man, now we'll never get Botsford cheesecake!

BECKY

(ASIDE TO BOB) I knew they were up to something, let's check it out.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Hey TJ, Bob forgot his lucky soup ladle in Dad's car, we're gonna go get it back.

TJ

Oh, ok. Bob, just put your ladle in the soup drawer next time, that's where I leave mine!

Bob squeaks sheepishly. Becky and Bob head out the door.

BECKY

Ok Bob! WORDUP!

Becky and Bob switch to their superhero personas and fly off.

CUT TO:

INT. THE FAIR CITY CHEESE BANK - AFTERNOON

NARRATOR

At the newly opened 1st ever Fair City Cheese Bank..

The bank is full and chaotic, people are lining up to trade their money or random valuables for cheese. WordGirl and Captain Huggy Face burst through the door.

WORDGIRL

Whoa, people are really going crazy!

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

(TO THE CROWD) Everyone stop! What Mr. Big and TwoBrains are doing isn't fair! They're tricking you into thinking there's no cheese when really they bought it all and are trying to sell it back!

Few people pay attention but the Henchmen come out with more cheese and people flock to trade for it.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

There's too much chaos! Oh look Huggy, there's Mr. Big!

WordGirl heads down to Mr. Big, he is wearing Texas businessman garb with a golden belt and a ten gallon hat.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

Mr. Big!

MR. BIG

Why WordGirl! What brings you here?
Did you want to trade for cheese?

WORDGIRL

Give it up! I know you and Dr.
TwoBrains have been buying out the
stores across town!

MR. BIG

I don't know what you're talking
about. Dr. TwoBrains being in
possession of large amounts of
cheese is far from **peculiar**.
Anyways what proof do you have for
these accusations? I am but a
humble businessman, no mind control
involved this time either!

WORDGIRL

Well- wait till the mayor hears
about this he's gonna put a stop to-

She sees the mayor right behind her in line for some cheese.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)

(DISAPPOINTED) Mr. Mayor!

The mayor gives a sheepish smile and hides the key to the
city he was about to trade.

MR. BIG

You see WordGirl, people want
cheese and we graciously give them
cheese! It's quite simple really!

DR. TWOBRAINS

Hey wait just a second Big!

Dr. TwoBrains with Leslie approach WordGirl and Mr. Big.

DR. TWOBRAINS (CONT'D)

We need to talk about the "giving
the cheese" part. Your secretary
just told me we are running low on
mozzarella!

LESLIE

It's true sir, the pizza makers almost cleared us out but we did get some cool stuff like this gold plated pool noodle and limited edition squishy bunny.

Leslie squishes the bunny, TwoBrains folds his arms angrily.

MR. BIG

Well no worries, we can just make sure to keep buying all the cheese whenever the stores restock and we will have full contro- wait..oops.

The door to the bank opens dramatically as we see a group of heroic shadows stand at the door.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

Oh no you won't!

Everyone turns to stare as the Grocery Store Manager along with various other Grocery Store Staff walk in.

WORDGIRL / MR. BIG / DR. TWOBRAINS

(CONFUSED) The grocery store manager?!

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

Not only the grocery store manager but also PRESIDENT of the Grocery Store Managers Association! After noticing the rising cheese **shortage**, I called together an emergency meeting!

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Flashback to the Grocery store managers arguing and meeting in a grocery themed headquarters.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

Let's think fellows this can't be a coincidence I mean all our stores at once? It's fishier than week old salmon!

GROCERY STORE STAFF A

Let's examine the camera footage maybe there are some clues!

They play various videos at once and catch the villains taking off their fake mustaches. The Grocery Store Managers Association members react in shock.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER
(PRESENT, VOICE ONLY) Our security cameras caught you coming back time after time to clear our stores!

Flashback end.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)
According to Grocery Store Manager Association's handbook, it is unethical to frequently purchase immense quantities of items and resell them for personal gain! Now that we caught you, we hereby prohibit you villains from purchasing cheese or any item with intention to cause chaos, forever!

GROCERY STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)
(TO THE CROWD) People do not despair, we have more cheese coming in today! Everyone will have a chance to make a purchase and get a coupon for a free bag of gummy newts, available in Aisle 2!

The crowd cheers. WordGirl looks happy.

MR. BIG
Oh rats, well fair-schmair lets see if you remember all that hooplah-after a little mind control!

Mr. Big presses a button which activates mechanical arms to grab everyone's valuables. WordGirl destroys them but then a pair of arms clamp her in place. Mind control rays pop up.

WORDGIRL
Huggy quick! Activate plan number 386!

Huggy whips out his emergency sauce compartment and starts throwing sauce bombs at the mind control rays just before they go off, it hits the rays and they fry out. The villains try running away but Huggy launches sauce in their path and they slip and fall together. WordGirl breaks free and goes over to Huggy, the defeated villains lie fallen on the floor.

WORDGIRL (CONT'D)
Whoa Huggy! Nice skills.

The Cheese Crisis

Police officers arrive as the Grocery Store Staff help hold down the criminals.

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

Thank you WordGirl and Captain Huggy Face! Those ruffians caused quite the pickle. Don't worry about the mess, we'll get it cleaned up faster than a spill on Aisle 6!

WORDGIRL

Thanks Mr. Manager!

GROCERY STORE MANAGER

As a token of my appreciation you can have first pick of our new shipment coming in this evening! Do you have anything in mind?

WORDGIRL

Actually I do! Would your shipment include anything from Fancy Farms?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BOTSFORD HOME - NIGHT

Outside the Botsford home, we see through the window. Becky's dad is bringing out his freshly made cheesecake and placing it on the table. Everyone gets ready to eat the tasty treat.

NARRATOR

And so this **peculiar** cheese **shortage** is avoided thanks to the quick thinking of WordGirl and the saucy skills of Captain Huggy Face!

Camera pan up away from the window. WordGirl flies into frame with Captain Huggy Face on her back eating some cheesecake.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

(EATING) Join us again next time for another amazing, thrilling, and (MUNCH) -DELICIOUS adventure of WORDGIRL!

THE END