

A Scarecrow's Purpose

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Summary: A scarecrow, STEVE, becomes sentient after being created by the FELIX THE FARMER. FELIX explains to STEVE what his purpose is as a scarecrow, but STEVE becomes insecure and tries to look for a new purpose. With the help of his new friend, PETE THE PUMPKIN, he encounters various farm characters and tries to assume their purposes to no avail. Throughout his journey, he also encounters a group of crows who eventually attempt to destroy him and his friends. Finally, STEVE assumes his role that was given to him all along as scarecrow and accepts his purpose.

Character Breakdown

Steve the Scarecrow - handmade by the Farmer, isn't happy being what he was created to be, goes on a quest to find his purpose

Felix the Farmer - Owns the farm, made Steve the Scarecrow with their own hands and loves him

Pete the Pumpkin - Friends with Scarecrow, tries to help Scarecrow see that his purpose has already been given to him by his creator

Mosie the Cat - Sassy, lazy, and annoyed at most things; makes a show of being annoyed at having to show Kitten how things are done, but secretly likes and wants to protect Kitten

Sugar the Kitten - A little naive but excited about life; eager to prove herself to Mosie

Carl the Crow - Mean bully who loves to pick on (literally) the crops on the farm, goes along with what Caren does and says

Caren the Crow - Mean bully who loves to pick on (literally) the crops on the farm, somewhat the "leader" of the crow gang

Cathy the Crow - Mean bully who loves to pick on (literally) the crops on the farm, not the brightest of the bunch, gets picked on by the other two but is oblivious to this

Peach Gobbler the Turkey - famous Turkey singer-gobblist; very kind but also very busy thanks to their manager

Beaky the Turkey - Peach Gobbler's talent manager; keeps Peach very busy with many events and engagements

Juicy the Corn Stalk - Energetic, eccentric, and ready to party; full of themself and "frenemies" with Knobby

Knobby the Corn Stalk - Energetic, eccentric, and ready to party; full of themself and "frenemies" with Juicy

Properties List

- (1) Pitchfork
- (1) Scarecrow Stand
- (1) Flower
- (1) Bluetooth Headset/Cell Phone
- (2) Sunglasses
- (1) Mouse stuffed animal (to size)
- Various Hay stacks for set dressing

Costume Descriptions

Steve the Scarecrow - Flannel shirt, jeans, straw hat, sneakers/boots, straw bits

Felix the Farmer - Flannel shirt, jeans, straw hat, sneakers/boots

Pete the Pumpkin - Pumpkin costume, black/brown pants, black/brown shirt

Mosie the Cat - Black shirt, black pants, black cat ears, black cat paws

Sugar the Kitten - White shirt, white/khaki pants, white cat ears, white cat paws

Carl, Cathy, & Caren - Black shirt, black pants, crow beaks, black capes

Peach Gobbler the Turkey - Sequin dress, rear turkey feathers

Beaky the Turkey - Business shirt, business skirt/pants, rear turkey feathers

Juicy & Knobby the Corn Stalks - Corn cob costume, black/brown pants

[Lights up. STEVE THE SCARECROW is on his stand slumped over asleep. FELIX THE FARMER enters stage right humming happily to himself. He stops downstage center, noticing the audience.]

FELIX

Why, hello there! Have you been here this whole time? *(pause for audience response)* Well, my apologies for only just now seeing you! Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Felix! I'm a farmer around these parts. Let me tell you, farming is *hard* work. Can I tell you a secret? Some days, I just don't feel like doing it. Do any of you ever feel like that? *(pause)* You know what? That reminds me of a scarecrow I knew once! *[cross to STEVE]* His name was Steve, and he was my scarecrow.

[FELIX starts fixing STEVE'S straw and outfit trying to get it to look just right]

I had spent a whole week getting all his supplies and clothes together and finally, once I had put him all together, he -

[STEVE suddenly gasps loudly and wakes up with a start. He looks around and looks at FELIX. Both pause for a moment. Then both scream in fear.]

FELIX

My goodness, you gave me a fright!

STEVE

What-? Who-? Where am I?

FELIX

Calm down, you're perfectly safe! My name is Felix, and I'm your farmer!

STEVE

My...farmer?

FELIX

That's right! I made you with my own hands! Your name is Steve, and you're here to help scare off the crows who want to pick on my crops so they can grow big and strong without any fear!

STEVE

Crows? Crops? But I don't know about any of that stuff. I only just woke up!

FELIX

That's ok! I've equipped you with everything you need! See? You have a nice big pitchfork, a stand in the perfect location, and warm clothes for when the nights get cold.

STEVE

But what about the crows? How am I supposed to scare them away?

FELIX

You'll figure it out! The answer will come to you at just the right time. I gotta head back up to the farmhouse. Get yourself acquainted with everyone on the farm. I'll see you soon!

[FELIX exits stage left. At the same time, PETE THE PUMPKIN enters quietly from stage right, sees STEVE and stares at him in surprise and fascination.]

STEVE

[looking at where FELIX exited] Wait! But I still don't know what I'm doing!
[He sighs, turns, and screams when he sees PETE, who also yells in surprise.]
I am NOT a fan of all these jump scares!

PETE

You're telling me! You must be a really good scarecrow, you frightened me right off the vine!

STEVE

Yeah right. A scarecrow who gets scared instead of scaring others? Have you ever heard of anything more ridiculous?

PETE

I wouldn't be so hard on yourself. You're new here right? I'm Pete! *[he holds out a hand]*

STEVE

[shaking PETE's hand] Steve. As you can see, I'm the new scarecrow...unless...maybe I'm not supposed to be a scarecrow at all! Maybe I'm meant to do something else. I just gotta find out what that thing is!

PETE

Uh, I don't know. Didn't the farmer make you himself? I think he would know if he was making a scarecrow or not.

STEVE

[as if trying to convince himself] Well, maybe he thought he was making a scarecrow but actually meant to make...something else? I don't know! I just think I should try something new and see what sticks.

[SUGAR THE KITTEN suddenly runs on stage from stage right and pounces onto the ground with her hands cupped over something on the ground.]

SUGAR

Gotcha! *[she opens her paws]* Awww! Nothing! I thought I had him!

[MOSIE THE CAT enters stage right looking bored and annoyed.]

MOSIE

How many times have I told you? You have to be sneaky with light paws. The mice will never know what hit them. *[seeing PETE and STEVE]* Pete, who's the newbie?

PETE

This is Steve! He's a new scare-

STEVE

Scary and sneaky...cat!

[*MOSIE stares at him for a second and then starts laughing in what sounds like a cat hiss.*]

MOSIE

You are NOT a cat.

STEVE

Alright, I'm a scarecrow. But I think I can learn to be a cat! Will you teach me?

MOSIE

Uh-uh, no way. I have enough on my paws with this one [*indicating SUGAR who has continued looking for mice*]. She's my trainee so I can finally retire in peace.

STEVE

Please teach me! I promise you I won't disappoint you!

SUGAR

Come on, Mosie! Let him join us! It'll be fun having another buddy around!
Please? Pleasepleasepleasepleasepleaseplease-

MOSIE

Alright, fine! Just stop it with the "pleases!"

SUGAR

YAY!

MOSIE

Alright, the first thing you have to learn is how to sneak around. Something Sugar is still trying to master. [*SUGAR starts sneaking around the stage again looking for mice*] The key is to keep your claws from coming out and just using the pads of your paws-

STEVE

Uh...claws? Pads?

MOSIE

Yeah, duh.

STEVE

I don't have those. Is there a way I can get them?

MOSIE

Well, Sugar and I were born with them, so...no.

[SUGAR suddenly pounces again and catches something on the ground with her paws.]

SUGAR

IT WORKED! I GOT ONE! I GOT ONE! Thank you, Mosie! You're the best teacher ever! *[she hugs MOSIE, who does not hug her back and pretends to hate the hug even though she secretly likes it]*

MOSIE

Alright, that's enough. Let's head back to the house. *[to STEVE]* Sorry we couldn't help you out. Maybe you should go back to being a scarecrow. Bye.

SUGAR

See ya!

[They exit stage right.]

PETE

What'd I tell ya? You're a scarecrow! What's wrong with being who you are?

STEVE

Just because I'm not a cat doesn't mean I'm a scarecrow.

[Carl, Cathy, and Caren enter from stage left. They deliver the following lines while continuing to cross stage left before exiting.]

CARL

Sup Petey. Looking as orange as ever, right?

CAREN

Yeah, it looks like those cats might have thrown up on him.

[They all laugh evilly. CATHY laughs a little louder than the other two.]

CATHY

Hah! Get it? Cuz cat throw up is orange!

[The other two roll their eyes. They all exit stage right.]

PETE

Hah! Good one guys! Cat throw up! Heh...

STEVE

What was that all about? Were they...making fun of you?

PETE

What, those guys? Nah! We joke around with each other you know? It's all just for laughs!

[Off stage, we hear what sounds like a mix between singing and turkey gobbles.]

PETE

Did you hear that? Sounded like a-

[*BEAKY THE TURKEY enters stage left wearing sunglasses, talking into a bluetooth headset connected to a phone, and writing frantically into a planner notebook. PEACHY GOBBLER THE TURKEY follows her humming to herself and smelling a flower in her hand dreamily.*]

BEAKY

Now listen here, Jimmy Fowler, you may be the hot talk show host of the season, but you're going to have to do better than a year's supply of Mrs. Planter's Grape Nuts if you want my client on. It's a President's Pardon or no deal, got it? [*she hangs up the phone in annoyance. To PETE and STEVE*] Alright, back up boys. No crowding the talent! She needs plenty of space for her gobble chords.

PEACH

Oh, don't be so uptight, Beaky. I'd be happy to sign some autographs for fans!

STEVE

Uh...who are you?

PETE

Don't listen to him! He's new here. You're Peach Gobbler, the famous singer-gobblist right? I love your rendition of Total Eclipse of the Gizzard!

PEACH

Oh, you're too kind! I'm just happy to be able to pursue my passion!

BEAKY

Peach, we need a caption for the feather strutting picture you took earlier. How's "getting in shape for the harvest season #thankful #canigetagobblegobble" That last one has been trending all day.

PEACH

That sounds just fine to me, Beaky.

BEAKY

[*her phone starts ringing*] Oh, I have to take this. It's Oprah Wingfrey, and you know how she gets. [*tapping her bluetooth to answer*] Ophrah! Darling! [*walks upstage and mimes talking in the phone*]

PEACH

[*to STEVE*] So, you're the new scarecrow, huh?

STEVE

Why does everyone assume that?

PEACH

Because...you look like a...scarecrow?

STEVE

Well, what if I want to be a singer? Like you! Hey, maybe that's what my purpose is! I bet you could teach me!

PEACH

Oh, I'd be happy to teach you! I've never had a student before! Now, let me see. Well I suppose the first step is to open your beak...or mouth in your case. Then you just sort of...gobble! [*She makes a gobbling noise*]

STEVE

I guess I'll give it try. [*STEVE tries to gobble but it comes out sounding wrong.*] Um, that didn't sound right.

PEACH

Try making it sound more...gobbly. Like a turkey!

[*She gobbles again. STEVE tries to gobble but sounds bad still. She gobbles again after him. He tries to gobble. Eventually, PETE has had enough.*]

PETE

Alright, that's enough gobbling! Steve, I really don't think you're meant to be a singer-gobblist.

STEVE

Maybe you're right. Thanks anyway for trying to help me, Peach.

PEACH

Don't worry, Steve, you'll find your purpose!

BEAKY

Alright Peach, we gotta go! We're late for singing the national anthem at the Turkey Bowl!

PEACH

Bye!

[*They exit stage right. Carl, Cathy, and Caren enter from stage left.*]

CAREN

Oh, look who's still here! It's Candy Corn Pete!

CARL

Yeah, he's so sweet it makes us sick!

[*They all laugh together. Yet again, CATHY laughs a little louder and longer than the other two.*]

CATHY

Right! Cuz we don't like that he's nice! Cuz we're mean!

[The other two roll their eyes again.]

PETE

Oh, you guys are always joking around! Heh...

STEVE

Well, I don't think that was a very nice joke.

CAREN

Sorry, did you say something? All I heard was a bunch of hay.

CARL

Yeah, stay away from him he'll give you hay fever.

[They laugh, Cathy laughs loudest.]

CATHY

Yeah, hay fever! Because he's made of hay-

CARL & CAREN

We know, Cathy.

CAREN

Let's get out of here before we catch it.

[She pretends to start coughing, the others laugh. They exit stage right.]

PETE

Man, those guys are...fun.

STEVE

I don't like how they talk to you, Pete. You should stick up for yourself more.

PETE

Ah, well. I don't know. I don't want to cause any trouble.

STEVE

[suddenly looking to the back of the sanctuary] Hey, is that smoke back there?
And do I smell *[he sniffs]* corn?

PETE

Oh no...I know these guys. It's-

["It's Corn" by Songify starts playing. Juicy and Knobby suddenly emerge from the sanctuary doors through the stage fog and start strutting down the center aisle. They have sunglasses on and are giving high fives and fist bumps to various audience members. Eventually, they make their way up to the stage and pose together as the song ends.]

JUICY

What's up, y'all? It's your boys Juicy-

KNOBBY

-and Knobby! He has the juice.

JUICY

And he has the knobs!

JUICY & KNOBBY

WE'RE CORN!

PETE

Guys, the corn thing is so old now. Can you just let it go?

KNOBBY

No way! We're world famous! Didn't you hear the song?

JUICY

Yeah, we're totally viral. Also, corn is the most popular crop grown in America.

KNOBBY

Just admit it! I'm the best.

JUICY

Uh, you mean "we."

KNOBBY

Right! Right. We're the best.

STEVE

You guys are definitely cool. Can you teach me how to be like you?

JUICY

Uh...sure. [to KNOBBY] Psst, how do we teach someone to be corn?

KNOBBY

[*thinking for a second*] Hmmm...oh! I know! You have to get your food from the sun!

STEVE

The sun? How do I do that?

JUICY

One word.

JUICY & KNOBBY

Photosynthesis.

STEVE

Photosynthesis?

KNOBBY

Yeah! You basically just open your leaves and...absorb! Like this!

[KNOBBY and JUICY stand with their legs wide, open their arms out and lift their faces up as if basking in sunlight. STEVE copies their movement.]

JUICY

MMMMM! Tastes delicious!

STEVE

I don't taste anything.

KNOBBY

You don't feel yourself getting knobbier?

JUICY

Or juicier?

STEVE

Well, I don't have juices or knobs in the first place.

JUICY

That's too bad. I guess you'll never be rich and famous like me!

KNOBBY

Um, you mean us?

JUICY

Right! Right, like us!

[CAREN, CARL, and CATHY enter from stage right.]

CARL

Oh goodie! A whole feast just for us!

CAREN

Wasn't I just saying I was getting thirsty for some corn and pumpkin juice?

STEVE

Not these guys again. Hey Crows! Stop picking on my friends!

CATHY

Oh yeah? What are you gonna do about it?

CAREN

Yeah, you're a scarecrow who doesn't know how to scare crows! Pathetic.

CARL

Now, let's get some lunch!

[They start to walk menacingly toward JUICY, KNOBBY, and PETE who look terrified. Suddenly, everyone moves in slow motion. FELIX enters from stage right.]

FELIX

As the Crows got closer and closer, Steve realized something. I had given him a stand and a pitchfork. Maybe these were the tools he needed to get rid of the crows. Maybe he had everything he needed all along in order to fulfill his purpose. As he walked to the stand, he felt his courage grow. This is what he was made for. He stepped on to the stand, held up the pitchfork, and said-

STEVE

Hey Crows!

[CROWS turn and look at STEVE. They see the pitchfork and suddenly get very obviously scared.]

CAREN

Hey, Steve! Buddy! We were just joking around!

CARL

Yeah, we're nice crows!

CATHY

We didn't mean to call you a no-good straw Barbie!

CAREN

Cathy, we never called him that!

CATHY

Whoops!

STEVE

I got two words for you three: Beat it.

[The CROWS run off stage left. JUICY, KNOBBY, and PETE all sigh with relief.]

PETE

Thanks for saving us, Steve! What did I tell you? You were made to be a scarecrow!

STEVE

Yeah, I guess you're right.

[Everyone exits except STEVE, who stands center with his pitchfork and looks out across the farm with a content look on his face.]

FELIX

And so our eager scarecrow Steve learned that day that when you are made for a specific purpose, and you're given all the tools you need to succeed, you don't have to be afraid! All you have to do is trust in your Creator's plan and everything will fall into place. The End!

[Curtain call]