

MUSICAL CREATURES

EPISODE 1

"The Bad Manners"

Written by:
James Harland-Wright
Shelley Harland-Wright

Tiger and Bear
42 Hillview Circuit Kiama
NSW 2533
0437512386

MUSICAL CREATURES

Set in the beautiful town of Kiama... where the mountains meet the sea. 7 year old DJ and her parents run the Lighthouse Motel. DJ's daily jobs are greeting the guests and making sure the vending machine is working... with a little kick. When she gets a moment she heads upstairs to her bedroom where she keeps a vintage, portable record player under the bed. Inside it, there lives a group of Musical Creatures who are half animal and half musical instrument. No-one else can see them but DJ interacts with them every day solving dilemmas, exploring mysteries and answering questions in their universe that mirror what is happening in the Lighthouse Motel. DJ and her parents host a diverse collection of guests who spark the solutions and songs she creates with her friends Guiraffe, Porcipipes, Snute and Elepet... together they explore the joy and complexities in all aspects of life, (especially music!)

EXT. SKY - DAY

A **SINGLE MUSICAL NOTE** floats lazily across a blue sky. It wobbles. It twirls. It almost drops... then recovers. We follow its journey as it flies across the sky, in front of the sun, through the clouds and down a rainbow until it heads out of sight down the chimney of the Lighthouse Motel high upon the cliffs where the mountains meet the sea.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE MOTEL - FIREPLACE - DAY

The note WHOOSHES out of the fireplace and straight into—

DJ (7)

—who is standing there with her mouth open mid-yawn.

The note lands in her mouth.

DJ freezes.

She closes her mouth.

She pauses.

She opens it again—

A bright "C" NOTE rings out like a trumpet.

DJ laughs.

DJ

(laughing)

Oops! Mouth pop!

She skips away.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE MOTEL - FOYER

An **OLD-FASHIONED DOORBELL** rings.

DJ looks upstairs.

DJ

Mum?

Dad?

Hello?

MAKES AIR QUOTES

Busy again.

She opens the front door.

A **FRENCH FAMILY** stands there.

We only see the adults from the waist down.

At eye level: **TWIN BOYS**, one in **BLUE STRIPES**, one in **RED STRIPES**, both desperately licking fast melting ice creams.

DJ

G'day! Welcome to the Lighthouse Motel!

BLUE TWIN

(smiling)

Bonjour!

DJ

(delighted)

Bonjour!

They grin at each other.

The **RED TWIN** suddenly stomps his foot.

RED TWIN

Where's the bathroom? I'm busting!

An ADULT VOICE gently intervenes.

ADULT (O.S.)

Excuse me? How about, "Please can you tell me where the bathroom is?"

Red Twin huffs.

BLUE TWIN

(whispering to DJ)

Oh oh. We are in so much trouble.
My brother has been rude all day.
It is so unlike him.

DJ nods thoughtfully.

DJ

Bathroom's upstairs on the right.
Dad will be here soon to check you in.
I'll be right back!

She scurries off.

INT. DJ'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

DJ drops to her knees and pulls out a **VINTAGE PORTABLE RECORD PLAYER** from under the bed.

OPENING CREDITS SEQUENCE

She takes out a record from the sleeve of an album with the title 'Musical Creatures' and places the vinyl on the player. The title of the record is "Episode 1. The Bad Manners"

Lowers the needle.

The record begins to spin.

The sound of an orchestra tuning up is blending with musical snippets from songs by the Musical Creatures and random instrument sounds. As the groove deepens it turns into a spiral tunnel, and the room begins to rotate slowly, like the world itself is being spun. In a vortex of musical notes and rainbows

the room then enters the world of the Musical Creatures and DJ appears in their apartment.

THE ROOM STOPS SPINNING .

INT. MUSICAL CREATURES' WORLD APARTMENT

DJ is now sitting at the kitchen island in the apartment of the Musical Creatures **Guiraffe**, **Snute**, **Porcipipes**, **Elepet** and the visiting **Violion** triplets. They have a musical score and some croissants in front of them.

DJ

Hello my friends!

EVERYONE

Hi DJ!

DJ

How are you on this smashtastic day?

GUIRAFFE strums rhythmically.

SNUTE trills a note.

PORCIPIPES blasts a spiky bagpipe solo.

BABY ELEPET taps a **TRIANGLE**.

DJ

Still working on that trumpet Ela?

Elapet (blushing)

Oh DJ - I have been practising so hard but I just can't do it

DJ

Don't worry Ela you will get there soon

Elapet

I hope so. Snute says if I don't learn soon I won't make band and I will be 'irrelephant'

Snute

Sorry El, that was a bit mean of me but also Hissssssterical!

They all laugh.

DJ

What are you doing G?

Guiraffe

Well, I am glad you asked.

GUIRAFFE wheels out a chalkboard.

Three young **VIOLIONS VICKY, VICTOR, VERONICA** burst through the apartment door falling over each other

GUIRAFFE

Today, I am teaching these 3 crazy cats, the C chord and how to count to four!

Who knows the C chord?

They snap to attention.

Vicky plays a confident **C**.

Victor adds a strong **E**.

Veronica squeaks a wobbly **F#**.

The sound is... terrible.

They collapse in giggles.

GUIRAFFE

(smiling, firm)

Again, please.

They try again.

This time—

A **PLEASANT C CHORD**.

The Violions CHEER, leap up, point at a jar.

VIOLIONS

Treats! Treats! We get treats!

GUIRAFFE gasps.

GUIRAFFE

Well I never!
Sit down immediately!

They slump.

GUIRAFFE

Not once did I hear a *please*
or an *excuse me*.

VICTOR

My mum says it's the full moon.

VICKY

My dad says it's something in the water.

GUIRAFFE sighs.

GUIRAFFE

(sniffing)
Hmm. Where are your manners?

PORCIPIES

Sounds like they have lost their manners to me!

SNUTE

What do you think DJ?

DJ

Errrm. I think I might know what's going on here. They HAVE lost their manners and I know just what to do to find them.

GUIRAFFE

Let me guess. You will be needing a C chord...
and a count of four?

DJ

That's right!

Giraffe strums out a C chord and in unison the Violions clap

VIOLIONS

1, 2, 3, 4

DJ (singing) :
♪

You've lost your pleases
I wonder where they've gone
You've lost your thank-yous
I wonder where they've gone
Have you looked inside your pockets
Turned them inside out
I guess somewhere they're hiding
Deep within your mouth

[Chorus]

You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)
You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)

[Verse 2]

You've lost your excuse-mes
I wonder where they've gone
Oh, you've lost your friendlies
I wonder where they've gone

Have you looked inside your pockets
Turned them inside out
I guess somewhere they're hiding
Deep within your mouth

[Chorus]

You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)
You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)

Go find them
Cut to **VICKY**, shyly joining in.

♪ Please... ♪

VICTOR adds harmony.

♪ Thank you... ♪

VERONICA completes the chord.

♪ Excuse me! ♪

Baby Elepet hits the triangle.

TING.

DJ

Thanks everyone! Time for me to go now - have an epical day!

Snute

Here we go...

Guiraffe

How does she do it?

Porcipipes

(peaking through his pipes)

I can't watch! See you soon DJ!

DJ start walking towards herself in a full length mirror on the other side of the apartment.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE MOTEL FOYER.

DJ looks around the room, walks over to the Red Twin and whispers something in his ear.

RED TWIN

(taking a breath)

Please... can you tell me where the bathroom is?

DJ smiles.

DJ

Upstairs on the right.

RED TWIN

Thank you!

He runs off.

ADULT

(O.S)

Now that is some quality politeness

DJ

Manners matter.

Even when you're busting.

She laughs.

Credits Roll to full production version of the song 'Manners'

[Verse 1]

You've lost your pleases
I wonder where they've gone
You've lost your thank-yous
I wonder where they've gone
Have you looked inside your pockets
Turned them inside out
I guess somewhere they're hiding
Deep within your mouth

[Chorus]

You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)
You lost your manners
(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)

[Verse 2]

You've lost your excuse-mes
I wonder where they've gone
Oh, you've lost your friendlies
I wonder where they've gone
Have you looked inside your pockets

Turned them inside out

I guess somewhere they're hiding

Deep within your mouth

[Chorus]

You lost your manners

(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)

You lost your manners

(doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo)

Go find them

END CREDITS

Close on the **SPINNING RECORD.**

Fade out.