

(*coming forward*) (angrily)
Why don't you fight someone bigger?

SPONONO

WALTER

(he looks round as though he does not know the voice. Then he sees SPONONO. He delicately holds his nose between two fingers, as though there is an unpleasant smell)

Here's the Principal's bumsucker, boys.

(Each of his jokes is greeted with laughter from the sycophants)

Principal, you must forgive Johannes Mofoking.

SPONONO

He did, too!

WALTER

Principal, you must keep your eye on that fellow Walter.

SPONONO

That's right, too!

WALTER

Principal, you must give my little friend Ha'penny a badge.
(there are sniggers and these anger SPONONO)

SPONONO

Leave Ha'penny out of this.

WALTER

Why? *Because your bloody Court calls you Protector of the Small Kids?*

SPONONO

I look after him, that's why.

(he puts an arm round Ha'penny's shoulders)

To keep him from fellows like you! He's a small brother to me.

WALTER

~~Small brother!~~ Small wife, you mean!

SPONONO

(angered)
That's a lie!

WALTER

(to all)
I tell you, that's his small wife!

SPONONO

It's a lie, I say!

WALTER

I'll tell you a lie. I'll tell you the biggest lie in the whole reformatory.

(he calls out)

Jantjie! Tom! Themba! Fritz! Come here.

(Out come ~~FOUR SMALL BOYS~~, all apprehensive. WALTER speaks to JANTJIE) *two of his sycophants, & two other small boys, then let his sniggering & apprehensive*

You are Richard.

(He makes JANTJIE sit down. He speaks to TOM)

You are Dickie.

(He sees a BOY carrying a towel and takes it from him. He puts it round THEMBA to represent a dress. He speaks to THEMBA) *one of his sycophants*

You are Anna.

Ha'penny and the little girl you put a badge on?

(circled X)

Ha'penny enters subdud; goes straight to SPONONO via Fritz (to Ha'penny) (to the warden) What's Ha'penny, will come from the larder. How'd you know what the larder you mean? He you has a nice new badge.

WALTER (CONT.)

(He goes to SPIKE and looks at him isolently. with one uick movement he whips SPIKE'S scarf from his neck. He uses it to represent a dress on FRITZ. He speaks to FRITZ) *on (his eyeforb)*

You are Mina.

(There is more laughter from his sycophants. He siezes another towel and a Basotu hat, and makes himself up to represent MRS. MAARMAN. He looks at SPONONO)

Now let us play the Christmas game. *(CHORUS starts to sing SILENT NIGHT)*
(He stands before FRITZ. He speaks in a sugary voice. He mimes.)

For you Mina, a pretty pretty little doll. It can cry and it can speak, and it can bumsuck for a badge as good as anyone.

(He looks at SPONONO. He stands before THEMBA. He mimes)

For you Themba, these pretty little cups.

(He looks at HA'PENNY)

They're blue, Themba, ag such pretty pretty blue. Blue as the ~~sky~~ *Lanie's arse.*

(He looks at SPONONO, who is smouldering. He stands before TOM. He mimes.)

For you Tom, a football, to kick about the Yard.

(He looks at SPONONO)

You can kick it as hard as you like, and it won't say a word.

(He stands before JANTJIE. He mimes)

For you Jantjie, a pretty motorcar. Wind it up and start it going.

(He pretends that the car is coming straight for him. He pretends to be frightened and speaks in a falsetto voice. He lifts up the towel in a vulgar manner)

Oh you naughty boy, Richard, to frighten your old Ma!

(There is laughter from some. WALTER goes toward HA'PENNY and grins at him. HA'PENNY shrinks closer to SPONONO)

And for you Ha'penny, such a beautiful train. *(WALTER jumps toward the TRAIN DANCE)*
~~(He pretends to lay the tracks. He puts the train on the tracks. He watches it go round. He speaks~~

(WALTER speaks suddenly in his own voice)

Come on, Ha'penny, and play with your train. *(SPONONO'S says CHU CHU)*
(HA'PENNY does not move. He stays with SPONONO. WALTER looks at him cruelly)

You won't come, eh? *(CHORUS stop)*
(to the crowd)

D'you know why he won't come? Because there's no t#rain there. *(he kicks the train to pieces)* And there's no mother there. And there're no brothers and sisters waiting for him in Klipfontein. It's all lies.

SPONONO

(who has been watching in agony)

They're not lies! *(He catches Walter by the collar. He is menacing. Walter retreats)*

WALTER

~~(to SPONONO)~~

They're all lies!
(to the crowd)

I was cleaning there in the Lanie's office, and I heard old Mabaso ^{say Mrs. Maerman, she} doesn't want any more letters from him. ~~He writes her letters, but she won't write to him. He calls her mother, but she says she won't be mother to him.~~

SPONONO

(desperate to save HA'PENNY)

It's not true!

CHORUS

CHU CHU TRAIN DANCE



She says she's a colored woman, and she doesn't want any blood aid in her house.

WALTER

(to HA'PENNY)

Show us a letter then. Show us one letter you got from your Ma!

(HA'PENNY leaves SPONONO and takes a few small drunken steps into the centre of the stage. He stands alone in the circle. There is nowhere to turn. He puts his face in his hands, he crumples up and sinks to the ground. WALTER till in the costume of MRS. MAARMAN, falls on his knees, and puts his hands together, and calls out in Afrikaans.)

O liewe God! My arme seuntjie! Wat het hulle vir jou gemaak? O dear God! My poor little boy! What have they done to you?

~~Notes~~

~~up~~ INYANDA
WALTER. CHORUS up
INYANDA. (Now

follow



Descriptive
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(With a cry of fury SPONONO launches himself at WALTER. He catches WALTER on his knees, and falls on top of him. They fight fiercely. But WALTER throws SPONONO off. They stand up and glare at each other for a second. The crowd falls back. One BOY standing near WALTER calls out, Fix him, Sponono, and WALTER strikes him brutally in the face, with a crack that can be heard all over the Yard. Then SPONONO comes in to the attack again. Again he gets WALTER down and again WALTER throws him off. At first the fight goes in WALTER'S favour, but he begins to show signs of distress. Meanwhile the crowd shouts out encouragements. Moor hom, Sponono! Murder him, Sponono! Mbulale, Sponono! Moor hom Walter, Murder him, Walter. Kill him, boy! Slaa hom! Champion! Champion! Mshaye! Ashila! Ivume (for a good hit)! SPONONO sees that WALTER is tiring, but he knows that it is dangerous to grapple him. He adopts a spectacular technique. WALTER is breathing heavily; and does not take the offensive. Therefore he does not interfere when SPONONO, pushing the crowd aside, takes up a position about 10 yards from WALTER. Then he launches himself like a battering ram at WALTER, knocks him over, gives him a couple of blows, and then returns to his position. He launches himself again, with the same result. For the first time we see WALTER is afraid. He knows he cannot stand another assault. As SPONONO starts another run, WALTER whips off his heavy belt, with its dangerous buckle. SPIKE and others cry, Look out Sponono! pas op, Sponono! Pas op vir sy band! Look out for his belt! There are angry cries of Put down that belt! Los daardie band! Nou moor hom, Sponono! Now kill him, Sponono! WALTER whirls the belt round his head, and as SPONONO comes near him, he strikes him over the eye. With a cry of agony SPONONO drops to his knees, holding both hands to his eye. The blood pours down his face, and he calls on God and Jesus in his pain. In the open space is SPONONO crying out and holding his eye, and HA'PENNY in a motionless heap on the floor. WALTER is sullenly putting on his belt. Running footsteps are heard. The PREFECTS enter. One kneels on the ground by HA'PENNY. The other tries to see the damage done to SPONONO'S eye. WALTER watches sullenly.

CHORUS stops

The lights dim.