

# **THE BROWNS**

**By Rod**

*This is a modern parable relating to stewardship. Mr and Mrs Brown represent God. The twins represent us being left in charge of the Earth – but making a mess of our role as stewards of God's creation.*

*The narrators tell the story. Felix has to meow occasionally. The other actors simply mime. Some directions are given but feel free to improvise to illustrate the narration as fully as possible.*

## *CAST*

*Narrator 1*

*Narrator 2*

*Mrs Brown*

*Mr Brown*

*Lesley*

*Twin daughter or son of the Browns*

*Jo*

*The other twin*

*Felix*

*The Brown's cat*

*The friends of the twins*

*Any number will do!*

Narr 1        This is the story of the Brown family.

Narr 2        The Brown family consisted of ..

Narr 1        Mrs Brown [*Enter Mrs Brown*]

Narr 2        Mr Brown. [*Enter Mr Brown*]

Narr 1        And the twins Lesley.. [*Enter Lesley*]

Narr 2        .. and Jo Brown. [*Enter Jo*]

Narr 1        They shared their comfortable house and fertile garden with their cat, Felix. [*Enter Felix*]

Felix         Meow.

Narr 2        And they all lived happily ever after. The End. [*Makes as if to leave*]

Narr 1        No, stop! It's not the end.

Narr 2        Oh, isn't it? I thought that's how stories always ended.

Narr 1        Well, not this one.

Narr 2        You mean there's more?

Narr 1        Yes, quite a bit actually.

Narr 2 Oh right. Sorry. Carry on.

Narr 1 Thank you. *[Clears throat]* Mrs Brown looked after the house carefully. She was particularly proud of her sitting room with its Axminster carpet, which she hoovered daily. *[Mrs Brown mimes hovering and cleaning]*

Narr 2 She'd be better off with a Dyson.

Narr 1 I'm sorry?

Narr 2 Dysons are so much better than Hoovers. She wouldn't have to 'Dyson' daily. She'd probably get away with every other day or even just once a week.

Narr 1 Look, whether she used a Dyson or a Hoover is beside the point. Can I get on with the story?

Narr 2 I was only giving my opinion ...

Narr 1 I don't want your opinion. I want to tell the story. Now can we get on....PLEASE?

Narr 2 Very well. Mr Brown looked after the garden. He was especially proud of the vegetable patch, which he watered daily. *[Mr Brown mimes gardening and watering]*

Narr 1 One day, when Lesley and Jo were teenagers, Mr and Mrs Brown decided to leave them in charge of the house while they took a holiday. *[Mr and Mrs Brown get suitcases]*

Narr 2 They called the twins together and explained that they now trusted them to look after the house... *[Mr and Mrs Brown mime talking to the twins]*

Narr 1 "Remember to Dyson the carpet in the sitting-room", said Mrs Brown.*[She mimes this]*

Narr 2 "Remember to water the vegetables", said Mr Brown. *[He mimes this]*

Narr 1 "And remember to look after Felix", they both said. *[They stroke Felix]*

Felix Meow.

Narr 2 "No sweat dudes", said the twins. "You have like a wicked time. Things here will be cool. No worries".

Narr 1 "I think that means yes", said Mr Brown to Mrs Brown. So off they went on holiday. *[Exit Mr and Mrs Brown]*

Narr 2           Once they had gone, Lesley and Jo got together. “We have been given a great responsibility by Mum and Dad. It shows how much they love us.”

Narr 1           “‘It is an honour to have to look after the house with its Axminster carpet...”

Narr 2           “... and the garden with its vegetables...”

Narr 1           “... and dear old, cuddly Felix”. *[They stroke Felix]*

Felix             Meow.

Narr 1           “‘We need to celebrate this occasion in which we have been given so much responsibility.”

Narr 2           So they invited all their friends round and had a huge, monumental, mega fantastic PARTY! *[Enter friends]*

Narr 1           There was dancing to loud music. *[All dance]*

Narr 2           There was eating and drinking and much merriment. *[All mime eating, drinking, etc]*

Narr 1           They had a wonderful time enjoying all the good things in the house.

Narr 2           It was such a good party that it went on for several days.

Narr 1           Unfortunately, during the party – the house got ruined. There were horrible marks on the Axminster carpet. Nobody quite knew where they came from. *[All mime throwing up]*

Narr 2           Unfortunately the garden got ruined. The vegetables were trampled under foot. Nobody quite knew how this happened. *[All form a line and conga round in circles]*

Narr 1           Unfortunately they forgot to feed Felix. And some of the guests even went so far as to kick him. *[Some of guests kick Felix]*

Felix             Me ow, ow ,ow.

Narr 1           But Lesley and Jo were having too good a time to notice.

Narr 2           Until, suddenly, one day Mr and Mrs Brown returned. *[Enter Mr and Mrs Brown. Guests sneak away quietly]*

Narr 1           “‘What have you done to our lovely home?” said Mrs Brown. “My Axminster carpet is ruined”.

Narr 2            “What have you done to the garden?” said Mr Brown. “My vegetables are ruined.”

Narr 1            “And what have you done to poor Felix?” they both said. “He’s starving and in pain” [*They comfort Felix*]

Felix             Ow, ow, ow.

Narr 2            “We are disappointed in you. You have let us down,” they said.

Narr 1            “We entrusted you with the care of the home we created, with our plants and with our animal, but you have spoiled them all”. [*Lesley and Jo hang their heads in shame*]

*THE END*