

DEEPLY INDEBTED

By Rod

Based on Deuteronomy 15: 1-11, this sketch looks at the burden of debt and the principle of debts being written off after 7 years.

CAST

Wolf *A money-lender. Boss of 'Your Wonga Nolonga'.*
Ron *Assistant to Ebenezer. A bit of a 'heavy' but also his money man.*
Rachel Riding *In debt to 'Your Wonga Nolonga'.*

Wolf is seated at his desk. Ron enters leading a reluctant Rachel.

Ron I've got her for you, boss.

Wolf Thank you, Ron. Good morning Mrs Riding – or may I call you Rachel?

Rachel Rachel is fine Mr Wolf. You wanted to see me?

Wolf Yes, it is about your loan.

Rachel You mean the hundred pounds I borrowed from you?

Wolf Yes, the hundred pounds you borrowed from us here at Your Wonga Nolonga when was it Ron?

Ron *[Ron consults a sheet of paper]* Seven years ago boss.

Rachel I desperately needed the money to pay the rent after I was ill and unable to work.

Wolf A very touching story I am sure – don't you think, Ron?

Ron My heart bleeds, boss.

Rachel ... er er and I did pay back twenty pounds in the first year.

Wolf Yes you did, Rachel, but with our four thousand per cent representative APR you actually owed us four thousand pounds.

Ron Three thousand nine hundred and eighty if you take into account the twenty pounds she paid back, boss.

Wolf Precisely. Thank you, Ron.

Rachel I was still struggling. I needed money to feed my three children. I could only afford to pay back twenty pounds – er, but I did pay another twenty pounds the next year.

Wolf Which meant that after two years you owed us ... Ron?

Ron One hundred and seventy thousand pounds, boss. Minus another twenty pounds of course.

Wolf Of course. It is important to be accurate when it comes to DEBT (*Looks accusingly at Rachel*).

Rachel Oh, dear.

Wolf Oh dear indeed. And things got worse, didn't they, Ron?

Ron Yes boss. After three years she owed us seven million pounds, after four years three hundred million, after five years twelve billion, and after six years five hundred billion pounds.

Rachel I have paid twenty pounds every year...

Wolf Which is most commendable, Rachel, but now after seven years how much does she owe Ron?

Ron Twenty trillion pounds, boss.

Rachel Oh no. That sounds rather a lot. How many noughts is that?

Ron Thirteen.

Wolf But the debt is not nought – is it Rachel?

Rachel No. What can I do?

Ron Well, I wouldn't try asking the Government for help if I were you.

Rachel Why not?

Ron Because you owe ten times more than they do.

Wolf So you see, Rachel, we have a problem.

Rachel We?

Wolf We loaned you one hundred pounds. You have paid us back....how much, Ron?

Ron Seven years times twenty means one hundred and forty pounds, boss.

Wolf Yes, we gave you one hundred pounds; you have given us one hundred and forty pounds – but you still owe us twenty trillion pounds. It's a big problem.

Ron *[Giving sheet with summary of debt to Rachel]* It's a big debt.

Rachel *[Looking at sheet]* Oh dear, yes it is.

Wolf I reckon there is only one solution, don't you, Ron? *[They close in on her. She looks frightened.]*

Ron Yes, boss.

Rachel What do you mean? What is that?

Wolf We will have to cancel your debt.

Rachel What? Did you say c..c..c..cancel?

Wolf Do it, Ron.

Ron With pleasure, boss. *[Ron takes sheet of paper from Rachel and tears it in two.]*

Rachel *[Shaking hands with Wolf]* Oh thank you, thank you. You have no idea what this means. Finally I am debt free!

THE END