

Burr and the Squeakles
(First Draft)

by
Paul Hawkins

Animated Short Film

NARRATOR

Once upon a time, there was a village on a mountain top. And it was protected by a giant called Burr who was big and stupid and happy.

A small village of mud and straw huts sit on top of a mountain, as little people run around, squeaking and having fun. Then behind it, an ugly meat-headed giant smiles a big, stupid smile.

Every night Burr had the same dream of tree trunk house, and a beautiful girl who lived inside that he would love to meet.

Burr's smiles stupidly as he dreams, spooning the mountain: A blonde giant in a house made of tree trunks, flings her hair and faces us. She is meat-headed and very ugly.

Unfortunately Burr could not leave the village because of some mysterious magic hidden deep inside the mountain. The further Burr went from the mountain, the smaller and more frightened he became. He once tried to go to the village in the valley but was so scared by a snail that he never left the mountain again.

Burr's dream of the girl becomes a nightmare: a tiny Burr is forced to climb to a flower, out of 'biting' range of a ferocious, roaring Snail. The real Burr jerks violently awake, crushing a field of sheep with one huge foot.

He didn't mind, though, because he loved the Squeakles and he loved to help them.

It starts to rain on the village, and disappointed squeaks come out it, annotated with speech bubbles: ('Sky is crying,' 'Play time ruined,' 'Rain make peoples sad.') Burr moves to the village, covering it with his giant palm to stop the rain. The village squeaks again: 'It miracle,' 'No, it big giant,' 'Big giant is big, hurray!'

And the Squeakles loved him back, and made him a big beer each year for his birthday.

The villagers form a queue up to a glass mug as big as a house, pouring buckets of beer into it. When it is full, they squeak for the Giant ('You nice. Have beer!'). Burr drinks it with a stupid, happy smile ("Buurrrr!!").

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Sometimes the beer made him fall over...

The Giant falls towards the village, letting out a drunken "... bUrRr!...?", to frightened sounding squeaks ('This is problem', 'Run away!') and crushes a house.

...but he always helped fix anything he broke.

A sorry looking Burr picks up a whole roof from the Squeakles and moves it on to a house to the sound of forgiving squeaks ('Be carefuller, biggy!' 'Can't stay mad.') Burr smiles. ('Oh, happy giant is happy.')

However, as time went on, the Squeakles needed Burr less and less.

The village is now industrialised; dark plumes of smoke spill into the sky. Burr approaches wiith a smile, but the pollution makes him sneeze ("Ha..! Ha..! Ha... BURR!") A passing flock of seagulls are blasted from the sky.

Lonely, Burr looks sadly at the village, until a large raincloud glides over of it. He moves happily towards the village to help, but the Squeakles pop up a huge umbrella, squeaking triumphantly ('Umbrella? Stupid name,' 'Joking. It called a Flibblewibber,' 'Sensible. Peoples like it.')

Burr got sadder and sadder that he could not help the Squeakles, until one day they gave him an extra big beer for his 1000th birthday.

He "burrs" happily, and gulps it down in one ("Burr!" *Hiccup!*) and falls over again, crushing half the village.

When he wakes, he sees the villagers already repairing the damage with large cranes and machines. They see Burr, and chase him with guns and angry squeaks ('Beer makes stupid!' 'Peoples hate clumsies!' 'Stupid giant is stupid.')

They shot him with their guns and he ran away, getting smaller and smaller, and crying. With nowhere to else to go, he headed for the village in the valley, which seemed to get further and further away the smaller he got.

MONTAGE: Burr walks along, becoming man size and laughing at the size of a Snail./He keeps walking, now looking over his shoulder suspiciously at a snail half his size. He starts to jog as he becomes afraid./Finally, he runs full pelt from a giant snail ("BUUUUURRRRRR!!!").

Other giants may have given up,
but the thought of finding more
Squeakles to help made Burr carry
on. When he finally arrived,
however, he was so small that he
was even scared of the Squeakles!

Burr walks along the pavement, having to jump over the
cracks in the stones and avoid huge, terrifying shoes as
they thump the earth around him. The 'squeaks' of the
people are now low, booming hums.

Burr didn't like being so small
as everything scared him. One day
it started raining, and for the
first time in his life Burr and
had to take shelter.

Burr runs from huge droplets of rain that burst on him like
big water balloons. He cowers under an empty snail shell.

But just then, when Burr was
feeling sadder and smaller and
lonelier than he had ever before,
he saw something that was very
familiar from his dreams.

It's his dream girl's house, exactly as he dreamed, except
very, very small and made of twigs. Burr runs through the
meteor shower of rain drops and knocks on the door of the
house, which is opened by the beautiful giant from his
dreams...

Burr knocked on the door and met
Shurr, and she had never met
another being as small as her and
invited him in. She told Burr
that she had never left her house
because she was so scared of the
'Boomers.'

As Burr and Shurr drink from nut-shell cups around a bottle-
top table, a humongous cigarette butt lands outside the
house and shakes the building.

They talked about Burr's dream,
and then Shurr told him that she
also had the same dream every
night - about two magic crowns
hidden inside a mountain.

We enter Shurr's dream and the mountain is the same one
that Burr's village is on.

Burr knew it was his mountain,
and knew that the magic crowns
were what made him big.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Now Shurr had met Burr, she was no longer scared of leaving, and so they left the village in the valley. When they were together they didn't feel afraid, and as they travelled they both got bigger.

The two 'Giants' skip through blades of grass, happy, carefree and holding hands. Suddenly, a Snail appears - monstrous and demonic, and increasingly bathed in shadow. SQUASH! Burr's foot lands on it obliviously as they walk through a field of giant grass.

When they finally arrived back at the mountain, they were both giant once more, and the village had become a horrible place.

The village is now technologically futuristic - glowing adverts, huge buildings and hovering smog. In the giants' shadows, the villagers squeak threateningly ('Monster is massive, innit,' 'I iz hate giants,' 'Peoples kill!')

A missile is launched, but it barely reaches the sky when a big palm mashes it straight back down, squashing the village and blowing up the mountain ('Ow! That bare hurt and ting.') When the smoke is cleared, there are two magic crowns left in the rubble.

Shurr had gone a bit mad with the power of being big, and Burr told her off for squashing the Squeakles. But they found the magic crowns, which were the source of their giant size. Now they could go anywhere without getting small, so they travelled the world helping all the nice Squeakles they could.

A hurricane heads towards an undeveloped village ('Argghhh! Swirly wind thing!' 'This is problem.') But Burr and Shurr stand in front of it and the village is saved. ('That's handy,' 'We saved!' 'Let's invent love!') Then Burr and Shurr tread over some hills and are gone.

And the more they helped people, the more they fell in love, and sometimes they even had special cuddles.

The whole landscape starts to shake, including the village ('EARTHQUAKE!!!') THE END.