

**Scene:** A lost property office. *The gangster runs into the lost property office. There are police cars passing in the street at high speed.*

**Clerk:** Can I help you?

**Gangster:** (*Out of breath*) Where am I?

**Clerk:** You're in a lost property office.

**Gangster:** A lost property office?

**Clerk:** Yes. Have you lost something?

**Gangster:** Probably.

**Clerk:** What have you lost?

**Gangster:** I've lost my...umbrella.

**Clerk:** Ah, you want the Umbrella Section.

**Gangster:** The Umbrella Section?

**Clerk:** Yes. Go out into the street, turn left, and it's on the left.

**Gangster:** Into the street?

**Clerk:** Yes. You see, this isn't the Umbrella Section. This is the Animal Section.

**Gangster:** The Animal Section?

**Clerk:** Yes.

**Gangster:** In that case, I've lost my dog.

**Clerk:** You've lost your dog?

**Gangster:** Yes.

**Clerk:** Well, in that case, you want the Small Animal Section.

**Gangster:** The Small Animal Section?

**Clerk:** Yes. Go into the street, turn right, and it's on the right.

**Gangster:** Into the street?

**Clerk:** Yes. You see, this isn't the Small Animal Section. This is the Large Animal Section.

**Gangster:** The Large Animal Section?

**Clerk:** Yes.

**Gangster:** In that case, I've lost my elephant.

**Clerk:** You've lost your elephant?

**Gangster:** Yes.

**Clerk:** I see. Well, I'll need a few details. Would you like to sit down?

**Gangster:** I'd love to. *The gangster sits down.*

**Clerk:** Now, first of all: Name.

**Gangster:** Er... Winston.

Adaptation of: The lost Property Office. By Doug Case and Ken Wilson. 1995.

**Clerk:** Well, Mr Winston -

**Gangster:** No, my name isn't Winston. The elephant's name is Winston.

**Clerk:** I see. And what is your name?

**Gangster:** Churchill.

**Clerk:** (*Writing*) Churchill. Address?

**Gangster:** Er...Churchill's Circus.

**Clerk:** Oh, I see. It's a circus elephant.

**Gangster:** Is it? ... Yes. Yes, it is!

**Clerk:** When did you last see him?

**Gangster:** Who?

**Clerk:** The elephant.

**Gangster:** Oh, Winston. Well, we were on a bus yesterday -

**Clerk:** On a bus?!

**Gangster:** Yes.

**Clerk:** How did Winston get on a bus?

**Gangster:** How did Winston get on a bus?

**Clerk:** Yes.

**Gangster:** That's a very good question. Well... He waited at the bus stop, and when the bus came along, he put out his arm. And when the bus stopped, he got on.

**Clerk:** I see... so what you are saying is, the elephant got on the bus...

**Gangster:** Yes, well in fact, we were upstairs on the bus —

**Clerk:** Upstairs?!

**Gangster:** Yes. Winston wanted to smoke a cigarette.

**Clerk:** A cigarette?!

**Gangster:** I know - I tell him every day: 'Winston, smoking is bad for you.' But he never listens.

**Clerk:** Hmm. What happened then?

**Gangster:** Well, I fell asleep.

**Clerk:** You fell asleep?

**Gangster:** Yes.

**Clerk:** I see. Did the elephant fall asleep too?

**Gangster:** I don't know - I was asleep. But then I woke up, and Winston wasn't there.

**Clerk:** Hmm. Well, I'd better ask you a few questions about him. What kind of elephant is he?

**Gangster:** Oh, he's very nice - generous, loving...he likes collecting stamps.

**Clerk:** Collecting stamps... Yes, of course...

**Gangster:** Yes, he loves sticking them in his little book.

**Clerk:** No — when I say, 'What kind of elephant?', I mean: Is he an African elephant?

**Gangster:** Oh, no.

**Clerk:** So, he's an Indian elephant.

**Gangster:** No.

**Clerk:** What kind of elephant is he?

**Gangster:** Scottish.

**Clerk:** A Scottish elephant?!

**Gangster:** Yes. He wears a kilt.

**Clerk:** I see. What colour is he?

**Gangster:** Colour? Well, he's elephant-coloured.

**Clerk:** And what colour is that?

**Gangster:** Blue.

**Clerk:** Blue?!

**Gangster:** It was very cold yesterday.

**Clerk:** Yes, it was. Next question: Colour of eyes.

**Gangster:** Well, you know, like an elephant.

**Clerk:** What colour is that?

**Gangster:** Red.

**Clerk:** Red?!

**Gangster:** Green.

**Clerk:** Green?!

**Gangster:** One red, one green.

**Clerk:** One red, one green?!

**Gangster:** Yes. We call him 'Traffic Lights'.

**Clerk:** I see. Colour of hair?

**Gangster:** Hair?

**Clerk:** Yes

**Gangster:** He hasn't got any hair.

**Clerk:** I see. **(Writing)** Bald... So we're looking for a bald, blue, Scottish elephant, wearing a kilt and smoking a cigarette.

**Gangster:** Yes.

**Clerk:** Does he play the bagpipes?

**Gangster: (*Laughs*)** Of course not... He's an elephant.

**Clerk:** Of course, not... Is there anything unusual about him?

**Gangster:** No, nothing at all.

**Clerk:** Good. Now, Mr Churchill, what should we do if we find Winston?

**Gangster** Well...Put a banana in your hand, walk up to Winston, and say 'Kootchie-kootchie-koo'.

**Clerk:** What will Winston do?

**Gangster:** Well, if it's Winston, he'll sit down and he'll eat the banana.

**Clerk:** All right, Mr Churchill. Just wait a moment, and I'll call the Elephant Section.

**Gangster:** Fine.

**Clerk:(*The clerk picks up the telephone and dials a number*)** Hello? George? It's Brenda...I'm fine, thank you - and you? ... Good. George, have you got any elephants? You haven't? Hold on a moment. **(*To the gangster*)** He hasn't got any elephants.

**Gangster:**No elephants? Well, not to worry. Sorry to have troubled you. Thank you for your help. I'll be on my way. Goodbye. **(*He gets up. The sound of a police car passes in the street. He sits down again*)**

**Gangster:** Er...Ask George to have another look.

**Clerk:** All right. **(*On the phone*)** George, can you have another look?

**Gangster:** Tell him to look under the table.

**Clerk:** Look under the table...What? **(*To the gangster*)** He's got one.

**Gangster:** A table?

**Clerk:** No, an elephant.

**Gangster:** An elephant!

**Clerk:** Yes. It was under the table.

**Gangster:** Really?

**Clerk: (*On the phone*)** Yes, George, I'm listening...Yes...Yes...Yes...Yes...Yes. Hold on. **(*To the gangster*)** He's got a bald, blue, Scottish elephant, wearing a kilt and smoking a cigarette. It sounds like Winston.

**Gangster:** What about the banana?

**Clerk:** Oh, yes. **(*On the phone*)** George...I want you to put a banana in your hand and say 'Kootchie-kootchie-koo'...No, not to me, the elephant. OK? ... What? ... Oh, no!

**Gangster:** What's the matter?

**Clerk:** The elephant sat down.

**Gangster:** Good.

**Clerk:** On George.

**Gangster:** Tell George to give Winston the banana!

**Clerk:** Right. **(On the phone)** George? George! ... Get up and give the banana to the elephant...Hello? ...What?... Oh, no!

**Gangster:** What is it?

**Clerk:** He's eaten the banana.

**Gangster:** Who? Winston?

**Clerk:** No. George.

**Gangster:** Oh, no!

**Clerk:(On the phone)** George, I think you should bring the elephant down here. The owner is waiting to take him away...OK...Bye. **(Puts down the telephone)**

**Clerk:** Don't worry, Mr Churchill. Your elephant will be here in a moment.

**Gangster:** Look — before this elephant arrives, there's something you should know **(They hear the sound of an elephant)**

**Clerk:** Ah, that must be Winston.

**Clerk: (The sound of someone falling over)** And that's George.

**Clerk: (Someone knocks at the door)** Go on, Mr Churchill. Open the door.

**Gangster:** Oh, all right. **(He opens the door)**

**Gangster:** Hello, Winston. Kootchie-kootchie-koo!

**Policeman:** Mr Churchill?

**Gangster:** But...this isn't an elephant. It's a policeman.

**Policeman:** Very good, sir. Now, if you'd like to follow me...

**Clerk:** Goodbye, Mr Churchill. And don't forget: If you lose your elephant again, the Lost Property Office is here to help you.

**Gangster:** Oh, good. I'll remember that

***He leaves with the policeman***