

Bank Chairman

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MARY POPPINS

(Leaving the BIRD WOMAN staring at the amount he has given, GEORGE walks Towards the bank. For all his bravado, he is nervous now that the time has come. He shines his shoes on the backs of his trouser legs and enters the bank. The entire BOARD OF DIRECTORS is waiting inside the bank.)

DOORMAN

Mr. Banks is here.

CHAIRMAN

Come in, Banks.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRADING IN FUTURES,
JOBS ON THE LINE.

(GEORGE enters. He stands there, alone. MARY POPPINS and the CHILDREN observe the action, unseen.)

CHAIRMAN

Well, Banks, how did it happen? You turned down a scheme that was bound to make millions, and we want to know why.

(The assembled BANKERS wait. Firmly, GEORGE starts to speak.)

GEORGE

Then I'll tell you. I refused Mr. Von Hussler because his scheme was hollow. It had no product, it had no substance, it had no meaning outside the walls of a bank! Oh yes, he told me about assets and profits and growth, but there wasn't a word about people! I know that if a man puts any value on real life, then as far as you're concerned he's a wash-out, but I'm afraid I do value it, gentlemen. In short, George Banks, Esquire, has rediscovered the human race! I apologize for ruining the bank. But I do not apologize for understanding that there are more important things in life than making money!

*(The silence that greets this is not one of indignation but rather of bewilderment.
At last the CHAIRMAN speaks.)*

CHAIRMAN

Ruining the bank? Ruining the bank? Ruining the bank? My dear chap, what are you talking about? You've saved our bacon! Haven't you heard? Von Hussler's scheme has ruined our rival! You've kept us out of the nastiest scandal since records began! We don't want your apologies! We're offering ours!

GEORGE

Oh my word!

CHAIRMAN

Well, that's just in. We very much hope you might tell us how you did it. Just give us the word. It'll be quite safe with us.

GEORGE

(immobile for a second, but only for a second)

Give you the word? Give you the word? I'll give you the word all right:
SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS!

(GEORGE suddenly starts to laugh and spin and crash and shout.)

#21A – Give Us the Word

George

(GEORGE)

EVEN THOUGH THE SOUND OF IT IS SOMETHING QUITE ATROCIOUS,
IF YOU SAY IT LOUD ENOUGH YOU'LL ALWAYS SOUND PRECOCIOUS.
SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS!

(kneels at the CHAIRMAN's feet)

Oh, sir! Thank you!

CHAIRMAN

Now Banks—

(The door bursts open. WINIFRED hurtles in, running to GEORGE and guarding him with her body like a lioness.)

WINIFRED

Forgive him. It's not his fault. It's all because of his nanny, Miss Andrew!

CHAIRMAN

(starts up, a look of sheer horror on his face)

The Holy Terror! She taught me everything I know!

GEORGE

Then now's your chance to forget it!

WINIFRED

That's right! And if you want a fight about it, then you've come to the right woman!

(Placing herself in front of GEORGE, WINIFRED squares up and raises her dukes.)

GEORGE

It's all right, darling! It's all right! I haven't lost money at all! I've made the bank a fortune!

WINIFRED

Really?

(GEORGE takes WINIFRED in his arms but can't say more before they are mobbed by the cheering BANKERS. The CHAIRMAN claps his hands.)

CHAIRMAN

Gentlemen.

(to WINIFRED, gesturing toward the door)

Madam, if you please, we still have some business to conduct.

(WINIFRED stands firmly in place. The CHAIRMAN concedes, not that he has a choice in the matter.)

(CHAIRMAN)

Ah, well, Banks—George—by way of recompense, we'd like to offer you the job of senior manager with a salary at double—

WINIFRED

Exactly how much has he made for you?

(CHAIRMAN)

(knows he has been admonished)

Triple—

(WINIFRED coughs pointedly.)

Quadruple your present rate.

(GEORGE stands agape.)

WINIFRED

Close your mouth, George—we are not a codfish.

(CHAIRMAN)

Well?

GEORGE

(looks to WINIFRED for approval)

I accept, but you must understand one thing: from now on, my family comes first.

(CHAIRMAN)

(looks right and left for approval)

Agreed?

BANKERS

(nodding)

Agreed!

(Surrounded by a gaggle of ecstatic BANKERS, GEORGE and WINIFRED walk off together into their new life. MARY POPPINS and the CHILDREN follow as magical observers.)