

INT. OLD SET (GARAGE)

Open on a poorly made kids' show set. The film is of a lower quality, as if it were a cheap home video. JACK (M 19) sits in the frame wearing bright clothing. On one of his hands is a small puppet (GUMBLE), whom he speaks for in a high voice.

JACK

Well, Gumble, it's time for us to say
goodbye to our new friends.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

But I don't wanna say goodbye! I want
them to stay here with me.

JACK

Gumble, saying goodbye is a part of
life. We can't keep them here forever.
But you'll *always* have me.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

I love you, Jack.

JACK

I love you too, Gumble. Say goodbye!

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

Goodbye, everyone!

JACK

And remember kids, we'll always be
right here!

INT. PRODUCER'S OFFICE

Cut to a closeup on modern-day Jack (39) in normal camera quality. He is zoning out. Voices begin to emerge.

PRODUCER 1 (O.S.)

(Fading in)

Jack? You there? Jack?

PRODUCER 1

(Full)

Jack?

Jack snaps out of it.

JACK

Sorry. You were saying?

PRODUCER 2

We're adding a few more characters to

make the show more lively. That okay?

JACK

Yeah, yeah. As long as Gumble's there.

Closeup on Jack's face again. The producer ad-libs and fades out. The camera match cuts to Jack at home.

INT. HOME MONTAGE

Throughout the following montage, it becomes clear that Jack is washed up and rather depressed. Jack lives in a small apartment filled with memorabilia/fan art from his old show. Jack may be shown watching TV, having a beer, getting ready for bed, and going to sleep. In bed, he cuddles up with a plushie of Gumble. After a while, Jack opens his eyes. He seems frustrated, but desperate.

JACK (O.S.)

This isn't Gumble.

INT. STUDIO

The camera cuts to a new scene. Jack is arguing with the producers. He is holding a small puppet that looks a little like Gumble, but is definitely a different design.

PRODUCER 1

What the hell are you talking about?

JACK

This isn't Gumble. His eyes are too far apart, the ears are all wrong. I don't know who this is.

PRODUCER 1

Alright, so we changed some things up. Gumble just looked too old. We had a whole team working on this new puppet.

JACK

Puppet?! He's not just a puppet!

A stunned silence. Jack takes a deep breath to calm himself.

JACK

I'm not doing this show unless you let me use the original.

INT. GARAGE

The camera cuts to Jack opening a glass cabinet with the original Gumble sitting on a wire form. Jack picks him up

carefully, brushing off the dust. The sound of a studio audience clapping/cheering fades in.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Jack walks onto the stage, and the sounds begin to die down. It filled with a similar set to the one in the opening clip. The sound of his heartbeat mixes with the applause. Jack breathes heavily as he walks over to where Gumble is sitting on a piece of the set. He puts the puppet on his hand, and relaxes. Jack looks down at Gumble and makes him wave back at him, as if he was responding of his own accord.

JACK

Ready.

Jack suddenly gets into character, putting on a big goofy grin. He hides Gumble behind his back.

JACK

Hey there kids! Welcome to the Giggle Bunch! Let's give a nice fuzzy welcome to... Gumble!! Hello Gumble!

He pulls the puppet out from behind his back.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

Hiya Jack! What are we gonna do today?

JACK

Oh, we're going to go on a wonderful adventure! And we get to bring our new friends with us too!

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

Hooray! What are your names, kids?

Jack and Gumble stare at the camera, pausing for a moment so the kids can say their names. To us, it's just dead silence.

JACK

Nice to meet you! I just know we're going to be bestest buddies!

Just as Jack speaks, the lights in the studio go out. Jack is left alone in the dark. Even Gumble is no longer there.

JACK

What? Gumble? *Gumble where are you?*

GUMBLE

I'm right here, dipshit.

Jack turns around as the lights come back. Gumble walks out from behind the set, smoking a blunt.

GUMBLE

Oh yeah, that's the good stuff. I haven't had anything like this in years, 'cause you left me in that glass cage for *two fucking decades*.

Jack remains in his show voice for most of the scene.

JACK

Gumble. That is not a nice word to say. There are kids watching this.

GUMBLE

Wake up and smell the roses, buster! Nobody's watching this shit unless they're over 30.

JACK

No. No, bringing back this show is good. I can make a difference again...

GUMBLE

Jack, that show we made, you and me, *it* made a difference. We educated kids on the things they really needed: to grow up, get a life, move on; all the stuff you haven't been able to do. Face it, Jack, you're a fucking loser. Just like me.

JACK

Don't say that, Gumble. You had a great career.

GUMBLE

Oh yeah? Two years filming in a garage and then I get put in glass for the next 20? That's why you and I need to stick together. Jack, we can make our *own* reboot. Just you and me, the way it always was.

JACK

Gumble, no one's gonna watch some rinky-dink, homemade kid's show!

GUMBLE

Then what's the alternative? Sell out? They're using you, Jack. I can help you. I can do *anything* you want me to.

All you need to do is make sure we stay together.

Gumble holds up a needle and thread.

GUMBLE

Forever.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Producer 2 is on the phone. Jack can be heard screaming and breaking things behind him. Producer 1 is trying to stop him, but he eventually fails and is knocked out.

PRODUCER 2

Jack's gone nuts. Get security down here right the fuck now-

Jack hits Producer 2 from behind with Gumble on his hand, and he falls unconscious. Jack looks down at his hand. He has sewn Gumble onto it.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

Now, we can do whatever we want.

Jack begins laughing hysterically. He walks over to the only operating camera. The perspective switches to said camera.

JACK

Well, Gumble, it's time for us to say goodbye to our new friends.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

But I don't wanna say goodbye!

JACK

Don't worry! You'll *always* have me.

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

I love you, Jack.

JACK

I love you too. Say goodbye, Gumble!

JACK (AS GUMBLE)

Goodbye, everyone! Goodbye! Goodbye!
See ya next time! Goodbye!

Jack's voice trails off. The screen fades to black. END.