

LIFE'S LITTLE UPS AND DOWNS

"Episode #1829-A" (DEMO)

An original radio drama by

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LIFE'S LITTLE UPS AND DOWNS"Episode #1829-A Demo"

Note: This is a condensed version of Episode #1829, used to demonstrate old time radio productions for public presentations. It makes heavy use of sound effects since they are very visual and hence, popular with audiences. This excerpt runs about three and a half minutes instead of the usual fifteen.

CAST

ANNOUNCER	The announcer
BARBARA JONES	Wife, mother, homemaker
RAYMOND BROWN	Barbara's brother, age 27
DR. JACKSON DEBBS	Handsome doctor

Four sound effects artists and two walla artists are also required.

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"Episode #1829-A"

1. MUSIC: [A-1] EPISODE INTRO. DUCK FOR V.O. QUICK FADE AFTER
THE LINE: "AS BARBARA SAYS...".
2. ANNOUNCER: We bring you now, "Life's Little Ups... And Downs." (PAUSE) Barbara Jones, devoted wife and mother, is at the hospital visiting her brother, Raymond Brown. Raymond has returned home after disappearing two years ago while on a jungle Safari. At Seville Memorial Hospital, we join Barbara and Dr. Jackson Debbs at Raymond's bedside as Barbara says...
- SCENE ONE: INT. HOSPITAL - DAY
(BARBARA, DR. DEBBS, RAYMOND)
3. BARBARA: Is there anything you can do for Raymond, Doctor Debbs?
4. DR. DEBBS: Frankly, I'm puzzled, Barbara. Raymond appears to be perfectly normal...but in a catatonic state.
5. RAYMOND: (MUMBLES) VOOO VOOO VOOO VOOO VOOO VOOO
6. DR. DEBBS: There there, Raymond. (TO BARBARA) It could be some form of memory loss or perhaps even... island fever.

1. MUSIC: [A-2] RIP CHORD--LET IT FINISH.

2. BARBARA: (HORRIFIED) Island fever? Oh, no!

3. RAYMOND: (CRAZILY) No. No! Little people. Little heads.
Little little...No NO! NO! NNNNNNNNN! (HALTS)

4. DR DEBBS: Now, see Barbara? Raymond's catatonic--frozen
stiff. His eyes stare blankly. He's mute.
(CALLS OUT) Nurse! Another sedative, double the
strength. (FADING) Excuse me, Barbara. Nurse...

5. BARBARA: Oh, Raymond. Raymond! It's me, Barbara! Can't
you hear me Raymond. Can't you speak to me?
(SOBS)

PRODUCTION NOTE:

Put Raymond AND the sound effects through a reverb, to make it appear that we are inside his head, hearing his thoughts. As he speaks, sound effects fade in and out for a montage. His story will halt suddenly with a scream and we will return to the external world of his hospital room.

6. MUSIC: [A-3] JUNGLE FLASHBACK CUE. CONTINUE. DUCK AS NEEDED.

FADE ABRUPTLY ON "YAAAAAAA-" LINE.

1. RAYMOND: (DESPERATE) Barbara! I-I hear you, Barbara.
It's me, Raymond. I-I...can't...speak. (SIGHS)
If you could read my thoughts... The misery
I've... (PAUSE) My trip! My safari trip... The
plane! (PAUSE) ...flying... over the jungle...
2. SOUND: PLANE FLYING. CONTINUE.
3. RAYMOND: The jungle...so dense, so green (LOSING IT) so
so so so...foggy. The lightning that night!
4. SOUND: THUNDER. WIND--CONTINUE.
5. RAYMOND: The storm! Pilot couldn't couldn't couldn't
couldn't couldn't...
6. SOUND: PLANE SPUTTERS AND CRASHES.
7. SOUND: JUNGLE EGGS. BIRDS. CONTINUE UNDER. SOFT JUNGLE
DRUMS. CONTINUE UNDER.
8. RAYMOND: (HALTING) Alive! Hurt. Alone. Days. Weeks. No
food. Only...drums. The drums! Inside my head.
Pounding. Pounding...
9. SOUND: DRUMS INTENSIFY. CONTINUE.

1. RAYMOND: Then...voices! People. Little people!
2. SOUND: PIGMY VOICES: "UWALLA". CONTINUE. BUILD.
3. RAYMOND: They drag me over the mountains...
4. SOUND: HORSE HOOFS.
5. RAYMOND: Little people. Little heads. I recover but...
6. SOUND: PIGMY VOICES. COUGHING. BUILDS. SHAKERS.
7. RAYMOND: The little people...They...they...start to die.
They blame me...me. Blame me... No. NO!
8. SOUND: ANGRY PIGMY VOICES: "BROO-SHA". SHOVELING DIRT-
CONTINUE. DRUMS BUILD. SHAKERS BUILD.
9. RAYMOND: No! NO! Buried... alive...up to my neck.
Can't...move. Can't speak! Can't... Can't
(SCREAMS) Yaaaaaaaaa- (STOPS ABRUPTLY)
10. SOUND: ALL SOUND EFFECTS HALT. SILENCE. CUT
REVERB.

1. Barbara: (PAUSE) Oh, Raymond. If you could only talk to me! Don't just sit there staring! It's Barbara. Barbara! Can't you hear me? Oh, Raymond...
(SOBS)

2. MUSIC: [A-4] CLOSING THEME. DUCK FOR V.O.

3. ANNOUNCER: Was Raymond's ordeal only a dream? Will he ever speak to Barbara again? And what about Audrey Snead? Tune in tomorrow, when once again, we bring you (PAUSE) "Life's Little Ups... And Downs"--Same time, same station.

4. MUSIC: CLOSING THEME UP. LET IT FINISH.

THE END.

Radio Skills School

Microphone Technique:

- 1) Sensitive and dead areas. Don't touch!
- 2) Proximity effect. (Boomy if too close.)
- 3) Proper distance for radio acting.
- 4) Dynamics and distance. (Back off to yell.)
- 5) Off mic use for distant sounds. Asides.
- 6) Popping "P"s and S-S-S-Sibilance.
- 7) Mic safety. (hitting, blowing, dropping)
- 8) Assume every mic is always ON.
- 9) Quiet script page turning.

Radio Acting:

- 1) Quiet in the studio.
- 2) Don't cough, laugh, or talk during production.
- 3) Watch the director. Wait for your cue. (Q)
- 4) Speed equals excitement. Don't bore audience.
- 5) Jump in if there's dead air.
- 6) Wait for director's signal at end of show.

Radio Direction "Sign Language"

- 1) "Wait." Open hand.
- 2) "5-4-3---" Finger count down.
- 3) "You're on." Pointing finger.
- 4) "Wrap it up." Finger draws circles.
- 5) "Stretch it out." Pulling taffy.
- 6) "Louder." Pull ear.
- 7) "Quieter." Finger to lip (Shhhh-style)
- 8) "Cut." Finger slits throat.
- 9) "Come in" or "Back off" microphone.

“Life's Little Ups and Downs” - Back story

Our program, now in its eighth year, takes place in the quiet town of Seville, population 10,000-- “a town not much different than your own”, where everybody has at least heard of everybody else. The year is 1953. Our story concerns Barbara Jones, age 30, her family, friends and enemies.

When in high school, Barbara (then Barbara Brown), was engaged to Sterling Wood. Her best friend, Audrey Snead, helped them elope to New River City. Barbara and Sterling were secretly married, but “something” happened and Barbara came home alone. Sterling disappeared and was never heard of again.

Soon afterwards, Barbara's house burned down, killing her parents, but sparing Barbara, her brother-Raymond Brown, and dog, Fido. They went to live with Uncle Newton MacGillicuddy, who'd won the Irish sweepstakes, but didn't let anyone in town know, including his family.

After high school, Barbara got a job at Kay's bakery. Audrey was engaged to Adam Hamilton, Barbara's next door neighbor. For Audrey's wedding, Barbara baked the wedding cake herself. But to everyone's horror, Adam choked on the cake at the wedding banquet and died. To worsen matters, the hearse bearing Adam's body was stolen and the body was never recovered. Audrey harbors an intense hatred of Barbara to this day and has vowed to destroy her.

Barbara went to stenographer school and became a court reporter. That's where she met Sam Jones, who was on trial for drunk driving. Sam was very charming and very sorry for his offense--Barbara liked his humility. He was acquitted when the arresting officer couldn't appear in court.

After a brief courtship, Barbara and Sam were married and bought a house. Barbara had a son, Jimmy, now ten years old, and a daughter Sally, seven. Sam is a workaholic at “the office” where his young secretary, Janie Allen, seems to have many problems. The Jones' next-door neighbor is Susan Foley, the local door-to-door cosmetics saleslady. Susan was widowed when her fireman husband died in a blaze five years ago. Susan has a teen-age daughter named Mona, who has had some trouble at school. Barbara and Susan became fast friends. Susan is a mystery fan and suspects everything. What's more, she's secretly having an affair with Dr. Jackson Debbs, head internist at Seville Memorial Hospital.

Three years ago, Uncle Newton told Raymond of the secret fortune. Raymond stole some money, and married Gloria Meadows, a hostess at The Hi-Hat nightclub. A year later, Uncle Newton discovered the theft and confronted Raymond, who quickly left town on a Safari--leaving Gloria behind. Raymond's plane crashed in “the Jungle” two years ago and he was presumed dead. In the meantime, Uncle Newton died and Gloria had gotten a job at a realty company and married her boss, Steve Adkins.

Last year, on what would have been her 10th wedding anniversary, Audrey Snead tried to run down Barbara at a school crosswalk. Instead, she crashed her car and was paralyzed from the waist down. She became a manicurist at the Jo-Dee Beauty Salon, where she was befriended by Gloria Brown, who took pity on her. Audrey is taking advantage of Gloria to exact her revenge on Barbara.

Raymond Brown was recently discovered alive after two years in the jungle and returned to Seville. Barbara was very happy to be reunited with her brother, but Gloria was not. Because Raymond wasn't dead, Gloria's marriage to Steve Adkins was annulled and she reluctantly returned to Raymond. They didn't get along, partly due to Raymond's difficulty in adjusting to normal life after his terrible jungle ordeal. Just last month Raymond was caught at the apartment of Harriet Appleby, Seville's town librarian. Audrey tipped Gloria off,

who caught him and sued for divorce--then, somehow, she found out about the secret fortune. Gloria tried to stop the divorce proceedings, but he refused. Lately, Raymond became ill and was taken to the hospital.

“Life's Little Ups and Downs” - Synopsis for Episode #1829 (Regular length episode)

As our current episode begins, Barbara Jones is visiting her brother, Raymond Brown, in the hospital. Dr. Jackson Debbs explains that Raymond is now catatonic, suffering from some unknown disease. Raymond can't speak but we learn of his jungle ordeal as he remembers it. Barbara's 10 year-old son, Jimmy calls to talk to Raymond.

Audrey Snead and Gloria Brown are plotting to have Raymond committed to an insane asylum and Gloria declared his legal representative for the secret inheritance. Gloria pledges to help Audrey pay for an operation that will allow her to walk again. Audrey sobs as she recalls how Barbara baked the wedding cake that her groom, Adam, choked to death on.

Meanwhile, Barbara is baking cookies with her best friend, Susan Foley. They discuss the seriousness of Raymond's illness and Susan wonders if insanity runs in the family. Barbara gets another mysterious phone call from some man who wants to see her. She's very secretive about this and won't even share it with Susan. A strange package arrives at the house, containing a jungle idol. Barbara pricks her finger on a pin sticking out of the idol and passes out.

The next morning, Barbara's husband Sam awakens her. Barbara is troubled by a nightmare. As Sam leaves, Barbara fears Sam is taking a little too much interest in his secretary, Janie, and her problems.

“Life's Little Ups and Downs” - Synopsis for Episode #1829-A (Demo excerpt)

As our current episode begins, Barbara Jones is visiting her brother, Raymond Brown, in the hospital. Dr. Jackson Debbs explains that Raymond is now catatonic, suffering from some unknown disease. Raymond can't speak but we learn of his jungle ordeal as he remembers it.

Life's Little Ups & Downs - "Episode #1829"**CASTING MONOLOGUES**

Everyone in our workshop is asked to read some lines aloud in front of a microphone. The casting director will cast the roles in our production based upon these "lukewarm readings." Please take a moment to read the lines below several times, both silently and aloud. These monologues provide a "back story" giving an idea of who the characters are. Since radio actors often play several parts, we encourage the use of different voices or accents for the different roles. Radio dramas require both actors and sound effect technicians, so if you don't get the role or job you want this time, you can try again on next week's show. Parents may be enlisted if we have a shortage of actors, so please audition too.

ANNOUNCER: I'm the announcer. I introduce our 1953 soap opera and describe the setting for each scene. I make sure to mention our sponsor, Klenso detergent, the modern way to clean. At the end of the show, I entice the listeners to tune in again tomorrow for another episode of (PAUSE) "Life's Little Ups... And Downs."

BARBARA JONES: Hello, I'm Barbara Jones, a dedicated wife and mother. I try to get through the day taking care of my family, but something always comes up--like poor Raymond's illness or a dropped tray of cookies. But I'm certain I'll get by. "Stay cheerful," that's what I always say.

AUDREY SNEAD: I'm Audrey Snead, Barbara's ex-best friend. Years ago, my husband died and I hold Barbara Jones personally responsible. I was cheated out my happiness and I'll see to it that Barbara suffers for it even if I have to turn the whole town against her.

LITTLE JIMMY: Hi. I'm Jimmy Jones and I'm ten years old. My Mom is always baking cookies for my sister Sally and me. Mom's pretty swell. Sometimes she lets me stay up late to listen to scary radio shows, but not too scary. See ya!

RAYMOND BROWN: I'm Raymond Brown, Barbara Jones' brother. I'm suffering from an exotic disease that has left me unable to speak or move, but I can still think. I can vividly recall the terrible two year ordeal when, on a safari trip, my plane crashed. I survived, but was captured by pygmies and dragged through the jungle. If only I could tell Barbara what I've been through-- then, maybe, I could warn her...

SOUND EFFECT ROLES: "Episode #1829-A"

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #1:

THUNDER
JUNGLE SOUNDS
SHOVELING DIRT

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #2:

PLANE CRASHES
BIRDS
COUGHING PYGMIES

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #3:

PLANE FLYING, PLANE SPITTERS
JUNGLE DRUMS

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #4:

WIND
SHAKERS

WALLA WALLA:

PYGMY VOICES: "UWALLA"
ANGRY PYGMY VOICES: "BROO-SHA"

SOUND EFFECT HOW TO: "Episode #1829-A"**THUNDER:**

Shake 2'x4' high-impact polystyrene sheet/panel. (.60 mil)

JUNGLE SOUNDS -BRUSH:

Shake two little egg shakers -AND- make vocal animal sounds.

SHOVELING DIRT:

Shovel gravel in gravel box.

PLANE CRASH:

Crash box SFX device.

BIRDS:

Twist the little bird call -AND- make vocal bird sounds.

PLANE FLYING, PLANE SPUTTERS:

Apply vibrating pen toy to cardboard box, move it.

JUNGLE DRUMS:

One, or several drummers beat on tom toms.

1-2-3, ONE-2-3, 1-2-3, ONE-2-3, continue. Vary intensity.

WIND:

Crank wind machine SFX device or use mouth sounds.

SHAKERS:

Shake maracas as in a primitive ritual.

"SHH-sh-sh-sh, SHH-sh-sh-sh" continue.

WALLA-WALLA & VOICE EFFECTS:

PYGMY VOICES: "UWALLA" "NO SHENTO" "UWALLA"

COUGHING: PYGMIES DYING OF A HORRIBLE DISEASE.

ANGRY PYGMY VOICES: "BROO-SHA" "UWALLA" "BROO-SHA"

ENGINEER'S NOTES: "Episode #1829-A"

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT:

Two unidirectional dialogue mikes and one omnidirectional SFX mike. One CD player. This show requires a reverb for voice and the SFX mic--as called for in the script.

MUSIC CUES:

[A-1] Main theme: "Life's Little Ups and Downs" (0:24)

[A-2] Rip Chord #1 (0:03)

[A-3] Jungle Flashback cue (1:30)

[A-4] Wrap Up theme (0:24)

All music composed by Tony Palermo.

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