



# The Chucklers - a silent movie

A Movie Parties movie script

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## Cast of characters

Character	Played by
Ella : (the big sister)	
Carla : (the middle sister)	
Zoë : (the little sister)	

**Top director's tip:** Once you've made this silent movie, it is best viewed on your TV with the volume on mute to eliminate the sound you will inevitably have recorded. However, in the tradition of the great silent movies, you ideally need to fill this silence with some complementary music. If you can, find a suitable piece of music you can play in the background (say on a CD player) while you're watching the film. Alternatively, you can create the same effect using standard video-editing software on your computer. The effect will transform your 'mute' film into a genuine 'silent movie!'

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## Scene 1: The kitchen

*The kitchen is quiet.*

**Ella** Ella enters the kitchen looking as if she is doing something she shouldn't be. She looks around carefully, then opens a cupboard door. Inside, she finds a bag of small chocolate bars. She looks inside and picks out the last one. She puts the bag back in the cupboard, then sneaks out of the kitchen.

### director's tips

*[Throughout this movie, everyone needs to really 'ham it up.' In this case, Ella needs to almost tip-toe about and look around as if she's about to rob a bank!.]*

## Scene 2: The kitchen, a short while later

*The kitchen is quiet.*

**Carla & Zoë** The girls enter the kitchen chatting happily. Carla opens the cupboard door and takes out the bag of chocolates. She puts her hand in it but finds nothing. She turns it upside down and shakes it, but nothing falls out. She looks at the bag very crossly, then throws it to the floor. She motions to Zoë and they leave the kitchen, banging the door behind them.

*[Focus on the cupboard door while you're waiting for Carla and Zoë to enter.]*



### Scene 3: The living-room, a short while later

**Ella, then  
Carla &  
Zoë** Ella is sitting on the sofa, enjoying the chocolate she took from Carla's bag. She looks very pleased with herself. Very quietly, two faces peer round the door - it's Carla and Zoë. When they realise what Ella is doing, they look very cross. Carla shakes her fist at Ella (Ella can't see them from where she is sitting). Zoë then does the same.

*[Ella is taking no notice of what's happening by the door; she just carries on eating. Ideally the door should be out of her line of vision.]*

### Scene 4: The kitchen, a short while later

*Carla and Zoë have decided to try to find a way to get their revenge on Ella*

**Carla &  
Zoë** The girls have got a pair of binoculars and are painting the rims of the eyepieces black. They hope to persuade Ella to look through them so that she will be left with black circles round her eyes. They giggle while Carla paints, and look up at the camera from time to time, laughing mischievously.

*[If you don't have any real (or children's) binoculars in the house, you can make some using toilet roll inserts. The girls are obviously just pretending to paint the rims, but for effect they can be seen holding face paint, shoe polish, etc..]*



## Scene 5: Near a window, a short while later

*Ella is standing by a window. She is listening to music on her earphones, and dancing a little.*

**Ella,  
Carla &  
Zoë**

Carla and Zoë arrive. They stand next to Ella and take out the binoculars. Carla looks through them for a few seconds, and then suddenly acts as if she's spotted something really interesting. She points through the window excitedly and shouts at Ella to look; Zoë does the same. Carla offers the binoculars to Ella. Ella shakes her head, and motions that she's too busy listening to her music. She wanders away, still dancing to the music. Carla and Zoë are really disappointed. They walk off slowly, looking very cross that their plan hasn't worked.

*[Carla and Zoë have to be really excited when they start pointing out of the window; they might even tug at Ella's clothes to grab her attention.]*

## Scene 6: The living-room, a short while later

*Carla and Zoë have come up with another plan!*

**Carla &  
Zoë, then  
Ella**

Carla and Zoë walk into the living-room carrying two buckets containing shredded up newspaper. They climb up onto the furniture in order to place the buckets on top of the door. They leave the door as closed as it can be with the buckets on it, then run off to hide behind a chair, giggling as they go.

After a while, Ella enters the room. She pushes the door open, but the buckets don't fall on her. She is carrying a book with her

*[If you don't have one, it's worth borrowing a bucket or two for this scene...!]*

*[If Carla and Zoë have to move chairs, etc, to allow them to reach the top of the door, then film this too - it adds to the fun!]*



and she sits down to read it on the chair behind which Carla and Zoë are hiding.

From behind the chair, Carla and Zoë look at one another in disbelief.

After a short while, Ella gets up and leaves the room by the door with the buckets on it. They still don't fall on her.

When she is safely gone, Carla and Zoë come out from behind the chair. They stand looking up at the buckets and scratch their heads, clearly puzzled as to why their trick hasn't worked. Carla grabs the door and shakes it. The buckets fall straight onto their heads, with paper going everywhere. They totter off one behind the other, dazed and unable to see where they're going, the buckets still on their heads.

*[Secure the buckets on the top of the door - 'Bluetack' works well, providing Ella doesn't push the door too hard.]*

*[Take the 'falling bucket' shot in several stages, one after the other: 1. Carla and Zoë looking up, scratching their heads (buckets out of sight); 2. Quick shot of buckets; 3. Carla and Zoë shaking the door (buckets having been removed from the door at this point!); 4. Buckets falling from top of door (you can push them gently from behind) (the girls are out of shot at this point!); 5. Bucket landing on Carla's head as she looks up in despair; 6. Bucket landing on Zoë's head as she looks up in despair..]*



*[It's easy to make the buckets appear to fall on the girls' heads: get someone to hold the bottom of the upside-down bucket with their fingertips, then film Carla's head from close-in as they place the bucket on her head. At the last minute, just before your helper's fingers would come into shot, have them let go of the bucket - this effect can work really well.]*

## Scene 7: Near another window

*Carla and Zoë are trying their 'binoculars' trick again!*

**Ella,  
Carla &  
Zoë** Ella is sitting underneath a window - still listening to music. Carla and Zoë arrive and try their 'binoculars' routine again. This time, Ella points at her watch and rushes off. Once again Carla and Zoë trudge away looking deeply disappointed.



## Scene 8: The kitchen

*A kitchen chair has been placed in the middle of the floor. Carla is standing next to it, giggling. In her hand, she's holding a tube of Super Glue.*

**Carla,  
then Zoë,  
then Ella**

Carla smears Super Glue all over the seat of the chair. As she does so, she suddenly realises her hand is stuck. She tries hard to dislodge it but only succeeds in sliding the chair to and fro across the floor.

Zoë comes in and sees what has happened. She shakes her head and tuts. She goes over to help pull Carla's hand away, but gets stuck herself! The two of them continue to pull the chair to and fro, but they are stuck fast.

Ella enters, and waves at Carla and Zoë. The girls try to smile and wave back. They move themselves in front of the chair so Ella won't see that they're stuck. Ella settles down on a chair nearby and starts reading a newspaper. Carla and Zoë realise they've got to get away. They slowly drag the chair with them as they sidle out of the room. Ella looks at them just as they leave, and shakes her head in disbelief.

*[After you've got a simple shot of Carla, film a close-up of the bottle of glue; if you don't have one, stick a label on a suitable jar saying 'Acme Super-Strong Glue'.]*

*[The trick for both Carla and Zoë here is not to allow their hands to move from their position on the chair once they've been 'glued,' especially while they're moving the chair about - the end result is very effective.]*

*[If your kitchen floor isn't slippy enough, try putting the chair legs on pieces of cardboard.]*



## Scene 9: The kitchen

*Carla and Zoë have decided on a much more direct plan of attack...!*

**Carla & Zoë** Carla is soaking a flannel or tea-towel underneath the cold tap in the kitchen sink. Once she's finished, she wrings it out, then weighs it in her hand as if she's going to throw it. She looks at Zoë and they both cover their mouths and giggle.

*[Both girls can look directly at the camera once they start giggling here....]*

## Scene 10: Outside the back door

*Carla is crouching to one side of the back door, wet flannel in hand. On the other side of the door, also hiding, is Zoë.*

**Carla & Zoë, then Ella** Ella emerges from the back door with her coat on looking as if she's about to go for a walk. She pauses and looks up at the weather. As she does this, Carla gets up and throws her flannel directly at Ella. Just as she does this, Ella notices her shoelace is undone and bends down to tie it. Instead of hitting Ella, the flannel hits Zoë! Zoë picks the flannel off her face and looks completely exasperated.

*[The position of the camera is very important here - it needs to be facing Carla, in the position where Zoë is supposed to be hiding; this way, Carla will throw the flannel directly at the camera; the next shot will be one of Zoë being hit in the face with a flannel (someone can throw the flannel gently at Zoë from out of shot to achieve this effect).]*





## Scene 11: The kitchen

*Carla and Zoë are all out of ideas and have given up. They have put the binoculars on the kitchen table and are sitting staring at them looking very depressed.*

**Carla and Zoë** Carla and Zoë stare at each other, then at the binoculars, then at each other again. They sigh and then turn and walk out of the kitchen door.

## Scene 12: The kitchen, a short while later

*The kitchen is quiet. The binoculars are sitting on the table.*

**Ella** Ella comes into the kitchen wearing earphones and dancing. She sees the binoculars on the table and appears to remember that the girls have been trying to get her to look through them. She looks around for the girls but they're nowhere to be seen. She shrugs, picks the binoculars up, and puts them to her eyes, looking out of the window. When she takes them away from her eyes, she has black circles all round them. She shrugs again, puts the binoculars down, puts her earphones back on, and dances out of the room.

*[As before, take this shot in stages:  
1. Ella puts the binoculars to her eyes; 2. Stop filming now & use face paints to paint big black circles around Ella's eyes;  
3. From a different angle, film Ella taking the binoculars away from her eyes, revealing the black circles..]*

# The End