



36-Television Head **oo, oi, oy, -sion ending**

One fine day Dan took Rat The Cat to Pine Gulch to stay with an old friend, Sheriff Buck Truth.

“Rat,” said Buck, “I have to go chase a crook. I need someone here to look after things. I'd like to appoint you as Acting Sheriff while I'm not here.”

“Wow! Said Rat. “Rat The Cat, a sheriff! I

could hide on the roof and shoot at bad guys. No crook would dare come into town with me here!”

“Rat,” said Sheriff Buck, “I won't give you a gun because you would shoot your foot off.”

Rat was sad. His ears drooped. “You take all the joy out of being a sheriff,” Rat said.

“Your mission is to keep an eye on the town,” Sheriff Buck told Rat. Then Sheriff Buck gave Rat a badge and some cowboy boots.

“Well, what can I do,” asked Rat, since there are no bad guys to shoot?”

“Here's a broom,” said Buck. “You can sweep the back room. And my mule, Luke, could use a new shoe on his right hoof.”

“Not Luke!” said Rat. “Luke hates me!”

“Well, there is a moose that comes into town,” said Buck. “You might have to get rid of

him. And Old Lady Ruth has a goose that gets loose. You might have to catch her goose.”

“Boy,” said Rat. “Being a sheriff is not like how it is on TV. On TV the bad guy has a clever ploy to steal all the gold in the bank, and the sheriff goes in and *BOOMBOOMBOOM* shoots up the place. I used to want to be a sheriff, but this spoils that dream.”

“It took me some time to get used to it too,” said Buck. “But now I like it. I cook and clean up the joint, and I boil water for tea. Only once did I have to shoot someone. But not with a gun.”

“You *did* shoot someone?” Rat asked.

“Yeah,” said Sheriff Buck. “His name was Television Head. He said he was going to take over the world. He didn't do much, but people would sit and stare at his head forever.”

“So you shot him?” Rat asked.

“Yeah. With a special weapon I keep on a hook in the back room.”

“Was there blood?” Rat asked.

“No, no blood,” said Buck. “It was not *that* kind of gun. I put Television Head in jail, and he made a confession. He was sent off to prison. He toiled there for twenty years. He should be let loose any day now.”

Sheriff Buck left and Rat sat down at the desk. Soon the phone rang.

“Hello, Sheriff Rat speaking,” said Rat.

“This is Television Head,” said the voice on the phone. “I am coming to get you for putting me in the joint!”

“But that was Sheriff Buck Truth!” said Rat. “I’m not the one who put you in jail!”

“I don't care,” said Television Head. “I aim to get the sheriff whatever his name is.”

Rat hung up the phone, and the expression on his face was pure terror.

“Oh no!” Rat said. “I've got to hide!”

Rat ran out into the street, but he saw Television Head in a booth at the diner. Rat ran all the way to the edge of town where there was a big mansion, then Rat got up onto the roof of the mansion to hide. Suddenly there was a big explosion and the mansion was gone.

“Ha ha ha!” laughed Television Head. “No one can stop the invasion of Television Head! Soon the whole world will be my slaves, staring at my head and doing NOTHING ELSE!”

Rat ran back to the jail. He ran into the back room to look for the special weapon Sheriff

Buck had used to stop Television Head in the past. Rat tore up the back room looking for the special weapon. Rat found a box with a broom in it.

“This won't help!” he said.

Rat found a hula hoop.

“This won't help either!” he said.

Rat found a big, toy spoon.

“This won't help,” said Rat, “unless I'm REALLY hungry later!”

Rat found a pool cue.

“Aaaaagh!” screamed Rat. “This won't work and I'm lousy at pool anyway!”

Then Rat found what he was looking for. It was a little, black thing. He stuck the thing in his cowboy boot and ran out into the street to face Television Head. There Television Head stood, waiting for him. The people of the town

had come out to root for Sheriff Rat.

“Ha ha ha!” laughed Television Head. “Little, skinny, furry man – have you come out to face your doom? Soon your mind will belong to me!” All there felt the tension.

“No, Television Head!” said Sheriff Rat. “I may be little and skinny and furry, but you will never own MY mind! I can beat you because I have THIS!” Rat reached into his boot and pulled out the little black thing.

“Oh no!” screamed Television Head! “A remote control! But you don't have the guts to use it little furry man!”

Rat pointed the remote control at Television head and pushed a button. Television Head fell to the street, and all the people cheered for Sheriff Rat.

“I guess the only way to stop the invasion of

Television Head is to use the OFF button on the remote control,” said Rat.

A phone rang. It was a girl's cell phone. She answered, then yelled to Sheriff Rat.

“They say their name is Screen Head,” the girl told Rat, “and they want to get the sheriff who took down Television Head. They say they are smaller and can do so many things even Television Head can't do. They're coming for you Sheriff Rat!”

Oh no!

Vocabulary

long oo

zoo	broom	loose	hoof	soon
moose	roof	pool	booth	food
goose	boot	room	droop	doom
hoop	tool	fool	drool	boom
too	moon	tooth	shoot	mood
troop	spoon	stool	fool	cool

short oo

cook	look	took	brook	wood	soot
book	crook	shook	hook	good	foot

oo as a short u sound

blood flood

oo as a long u sound

door floor poor moor

oi

boil	soil	joint	broil	coin
toil	moist	point	spoil	foil

oy

joy boy toy coy ploy enjoy

-sion as shun

tension	passion
mansion	expression

-sion as zhun

television	excursion	illusion
explosion		invasion

Weird Words

they're	prison	hungry	thought
remote	clever	friend	answered
control	lousy	shoe	laughed
special	won't	imagine	phone
weapon	suddenly	license	badge
I'm	twenty	terror	edge

Dictation

A goose and a moose are loose on the moon.

The crook took a good book.

The flood was like blood from the hills.

There is a door in the floor of my booth.

Keep the soil moist so we will have food to boil.

It gave the boy joy to give the dog a toy.

The poor man will enjoy a good meal.

Is there tension in the mansion?

Was there passion in his expression?

Life on television is just an illusion.

There was an explosion and then an invasion.

A hug is a kind expression.

The moose is in the pool of the mansion.

The goose has a passion for thee cool brook.