

RUSTY

(Opening Monologue)

(& Monty the Bear Monologue)

The Train Yard.

NOTE: The four actors who play the engines of this railroad have no external “machine” pieces. They do not move mechanically or stiltedly. They may refer to their feet as wheels, but they walk normally. They are dressed in engineer’s overalls. The most important trait of these “engines” is their humanity.

LITTLE BLUE is the “Little Engine That Could.” She is one of the younger engines at the railroad. She also longs to grow up so she can someday leave the yard and pull the train like the adults. Here, at the top of the play, she has been playing with some of the other trains. She freezes.

RUSTY is the oldest engine at the railroad – warm & wise, but not weak or easily pushed around. In fact, she has no fear of Silver and easily stands up to him when she thinks he is wrong – which she seems to think he is about his running of this railroad. RUSTY obviously cares much for Little Blue – maybe seeing in Blue her own younger, high-spirited self.

Here, the train engine RUSTY has entered through her roundhouse door. She has happily watched Little Blue and now crosses downstage.

RUSTY *(to the audience)*

Welcome to the train yard where we train engines live! My name's Rusty – and like Little Blue here - we are both train engines here at the railroad. ... You do know what we train engines do, don't you? We train engines pull the trains. For example, on the call "All aboard" – I'm the engine that pulls the train taking the toys to the children up the mountain.

...Oh, but this story isn't about me – it's about Little Blue.

(smiles and gestures to Little Blue)

...She's the famous "little engine that could" – and this is her story.

BLUE *(unaware of Rusty)*

(Addressing train cars like old friends)

Now what are all you train cars doing out, huh? As Silver would say, "A place for everything and everything in its place."

RUSTY *(to audience)*

You see, since Little Blue's still a very young engine, it was her job to stay here in the train yard and put the train cars away.

BLUE *(to train cars)*

No, you can stay out a little longer, I guess.

RUSTY

But Little Blue wanted more. She wanted to leave the yard and pull a train – see the world.

BLUE *(talking to train cars)*

Do you think I'll ever be a big enough engine to pull a train?

RUSTY *(to the audience)*

So this is the story of how Little Blue grew up to become the famous 'little engine that could'

...But...well...right now, she still has a lot to learn.

**END OF SCENE- Continue to Part II
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PART II

RUSTY: (monologue)

AS MONTY THE TEDDY BEAR

In the musical “The Little Engine That Could,” Rusty is the train engine that pulls the train filled with toys. The toys in the show are actually hand puppets which the actors will control – making them talk and sing. Rusty assumes the role of the toy teddy bear named Monty.

MONTY THE BEAR is very lovable, childlike, sweet, a bit awkward, shy, bashful, open, naïve, and very huggable. He approaches life with a childlike innocence, but he can be the voice of reason & have good judgement – sort of like Rusty.

Monty is male – thus we prefer a lower voice for the bear. But he is a young male bear – so not too low pitched. The main quality we are looking for is very lovable.

NOTE: In the show the actress will sit the bear on her lap and work the puppet from behind with her hand. But for this audition, only your vocal interpretation is what we are looking for. It is not necessary to mime the puppet’s movements.

RUSTY (*to the audience*)

Now – it's my job to pull the train filled with toys. Oh, I also deliver good things to eat, but the toys are my favorite.

...Like this doll, ... or the clown,...(*picks up the large teddy bear*)... but... well,... actually - my favorite is this guy right here.

...Hey, I know -- let me introduce him to you. You see, his full name is Montgomery the Bear. But,... well,... since we're already friends, I call him - Monty.

...Hello there Monty, what's new?

MONTY (*Rusty using different voice*)

Well hey there, Rusty. How are you today?

RUSTY (*looking at Monty*)

I thought you might like to say hello to the folks out there

...You'll have to forgive him - he's kind of shy. (*to the audience*)

...Now c'mon, Monty – It's all right. They just want to meet you. (*to Monty*)

MONTY

Really? ...Well,...

...Gee,...

RUSTY

So, what do you think, Monty? Maybe I am getting too old to pull the Toy Express.

MONTY

Rusty, you never thought so before.

RUSTY

Yes...well...maybe now it's true.

MONTY

Well, then...I hate to have to say it – but I guess...I guess you'll have to tell them to find someone else.

END OF SIDE.