

CENTRAL PARK – AUDIO PLAY #5

CENTRALLY PARKED - PART II

performed by Becky (Gurtrude)

We are next to the Troll face. We listen to it speak.

GURTRUDE: Okay, you can do this Gurtrude.
When they ask to cross, you just say three words. Pay. The. Toll.
Three simple words.
That's all you need to do.
Don't say it yet though.
They're too far away right now.
But they still might hear you a bit and then ask you what you were saying and you'll have to repeat it and repeating is weak.
Don't be weak.
Weak trolls don't get money.
Money can be exchanged for goods and services.
Like baths. Like toilet paper. Like food.
So - weak trolls don't get food.
You have to be strong.
If only for the next few minutes.
Or longer.
Oh god, what if they challenge you to a fight?
You don't want to hurt anybody.
Okay. Okay.
Okay, what are three things you can see?
One - trees. Lots of trees.
Tall trees, wide trees.
Two - a man and a woman and a child, walking towards my bridge.
Three - um... uh... can I think about trees again?
There's mostly trees, not much else out here.
Okay now three things I can touch -
The bridge beneath my feet, the club in my hand, and uh - the club in my other hand
I'm ambidextrous.
Three things I can hear...
Birds. Wind. King Lizard stomping around.
Hey, I'm getting good at this.
Three things I can smell...
Oh...
I can smell nature. Nature has a smell. A sweet smell, sometimes.
I can smell me, I can smell my armpits especially.
And I can smell...
I can smell...
Humans. Humans smell yummy -

NO! You don't want to hurt anyone.
They're close enough to hear now.
Say the words.
'Pay the... troll'
Uh oh. That's not what you were meant to say.
The man is asking you a question.
He's asking why.
Respond to him.
Say something.
Anything.
'Toilet paper'
Anything but that!
Now the child is laughing.
And the woman too.
Just try again from the beginning.
'Pay the toll'
He's asking if the toll is toilet paper.
This is so embarrassing.
'Toll is money'
How much?
'How much you got?'
He's offering you a penny.
A penny. What a joke!
He thinks you don't understand money but you do.
Money can be exchanged for goods and services.
Tell him, let him know you know.
'I'm not stupid.'
He's saying he must have mixed you up with some other troll.
He's saying he's going to pass now, for free.
He's saying he'll challenge you to a fight.

She sighs.

This was so much easier when it was just goats wanting to cross.
Ah well. Let's see. What's that last sense - oh yes...
What are three things I can taste?