



A one-act dramatic play  
**The Man and the Fox**  
by Idries Shah

**CAST**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Rowba, a lovely brown fox

The Man

**Ideas for some props:**

A sack

Some stones

An area for bushes under which the fox hides

A net (perhaps something like paper with “netting” drawn on it)

# *THE SCRIPT*

**Narrator 1:** Once upon a time, when the moon grew on a tree

**Narrator 2:** and ants were fond of pickles,

**Narrator 3:** there was a lovely brown fox.

**Narrator 1:** He had soft fur,

**Narrator 2:** beautiful whiskers,

**Narrator 3:** and a fine, bushy tail.

**Narrator 1:** This fox, whose name was Rowba, was sitting beside a road one day,

**Narrator 2:** combing his whiskers with his claws,

**Narrator 3:** when a man came along.

**The Man:** May you never be tired!

**Rowba:** May you always be happy!

**The Man:** I'm feeling generous today. Is there anything you would like?

**Rowba:** I would like a chicken.

**All of the Narrators:** Because foxes love to eat chickens.

**The Man:** Come along with me, then, and I'll give you one! I have chickens at my house. We'll go there, and you'll have your chicken in no time at all.

**Rowba:** How marvelous!

**Narrator 1:** And he trotted down the road beside the man.

**Narrator 2:** When they got to the man's house

**The Man:** Wait outside. I'll go to the yard in the back and get you one of my birds.

**Narrator 3:** So Rowba sat down to wait and the man went into his house.

**Narrator 1:** Then the man took a sack and put some stones into it.

**Narrator 2:** You see, he was going to pretend there was a chicken in the sack.

**All of the Narrators:** He wasn't really going to give a chicken to the fox at all!

**Narrator 3:** When the man came out again, he handed Rowba the sack.

**The Man:** Here you are, there's a chicken in this sack.

**Rowba:** How wonderful!

**Narrator 1:** and he was just about to open the sack to eat the chicken

**The Man:** No! Don't open it here!

**Rowba:** Why not?

**The Man:** Well, the farmers around here can see us, and they won't like my giving a chicken to a fox.

**Narrator 2:** Of course, that wasn't true at all.

**Narrator 3:** The man just didn't want the fox to see that there were only stones in the sack.

**Rowba:** What shall I do, then?

**The Man** (pointing to the bushes): Do you see those bushes up there? Take the sack there and open it. Nobody will see you, and you can eat your chicken in peace.

**Rowba:** That's a good idea. Thank you very much!

**Narrator 1:** And he trotted all the way to the bushes carrying the sack in his mouth.

**Narrator 2:** As soon as Rowba crawled under the bushes, he opened the sack

**Narrator 3:** and saw the stones inside.

**Rowba** (muttering to himself): Strange! What kind of a funny joke is this?

**Narrator 1:** When he peeked out of the bushes,

**Narrator 2:** he saw that a net had fallen over him.

**All of the Narrators:** It was a trap!

**Narrator 3:** Some hunters had put a net there to catch any fox that went into the bushes to hide.

**Narrator 1:** At first Rowba was worried because he thought he might not get out of the net.

**Narrator 2:** But he was very clever.

**All of the Narrators:** Foxes are very, very clever, you know.

**Narrator 3:** He searched through the stones in the sack and found one with a sharp edge.

**Narrator 1:** With this, he began to cut the net.

**Narrator 2:** He cut a hole big enough for his left front paw to fit through.

**Narrator 3:** He cut some more, and soon the hole was big enough for his left and his right front paws to fit through.

**Narrator 1:** He cut still more, and soon the hole was big enough for his two front paws and his nose to fit through.

**Narrator 2:** He kept on cutting, and soon the hole was big enough for his front paws, his nose and the rest of his head to fit through.

**Narrator 3:** Then he pushed

**Narrator 1:** and wiggled

**Narrator 2:** just a bit more. And finally

**All of the Narrators:** Rowba escaped!

**Narrator 3:** As Rowba ran off down the road, he laughed and laughed and laughed.

**Rowba:** Men may think they are clever, but foxes are cleverer still!

**Narrator 1:** Now, all foxes know the story of Rowba and the man who promised him a chicken.

**Narrator 2:** And that is the reason why, whenever you see a fox,

**Narrator 3:** if you ask him to come for a walk with you, he won't.

**All of the Cast:** And that is why it is very, very difficult to catch foxes and why they live such a free and happy life.

**THE END**