

# A Fair share

By Steve Couch

Row of four people (A, B, C and D) sit in a line facing the audience, each clutching a single raffle ticket. Each of them looks anxious and tense, apart from A, at one end of the line, who is lounging back, relaxed with hands in pockets. There is a small table next to A. Facing towards A, B C and D (but still open to the audience) is the Master of Ceremonies.

**Master of Ceremonies:** And welcome to our daily food-share raffle. We're going to start drawing the prizes now. First prize is a bunch of bananas.

*(Everyone clutches their tickets hopefully.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** And the winning ticket is ... green 426.

*(Everyone looks at their tickets, and slumps disappointedly. A pulls a ticket from his pocket.)*

**A:** That's mine!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the bananas over to A, who puts them on the table next to him.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** The next prize is six bottles of water. The winning ticket is ... blue 139.

**A:** *(Pulls another ticket from his pocket.)* That's me as well!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to A.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** Next up is a tin of baked beans ... blue 66.

**B:** That's me! That's me! I've won something – I can eat tonight!

**Master of Ceremonies:** Sorry, I had the ticket upside down. Correction: the winning ticket is blue 99.

**A:** *(Shuffles through his pile of tickets.)* Yup, that one's mine. Put it with the rest.

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to A.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** A bar of chocolate: green 271.

**C:** Yes!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to C, who clutches it lovingly.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** A bag of crisps: blue 406.

**A:** Mine!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to A.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** A frozen pizza: green 211.

**A:** Me again!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to A.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** And our final prize today, a bag of apples ... green 398.

**A:** *(Searching through tickets.)* Uhhh ... wait a minute ... nearly there ... Yes! That one's me as well!

*(Master of Ceremonies takes the prize to A.)*

**Master of Ceremonies:** That concludes the sharing of the food. Eat well. *(Exit.)*

**D:** What do we do now?

**A:** We eat our lunch. *(Looks longingly at his pile of food.)*

**B:** That's easy for you to say – you've got almost everything.

**C:** Yeah – and we've got nothing.

**A:** You've not got nothing; you've got a chocolate bar.

**C:** But that's all I've got.

**D:** And I've got nothing at all.

**B:** Yeah, me too.

**A:** Well what do you expect me to do about it? It's not my fault.

**D:** It's hardly fair that you've got more than you need, and we've got nothing at all, is it?

**A:** It was a fair raffle. We all had the same chance – you just didn't buy enough tickets, that's all.

**B:** But we could only afford one ticket each, and you bought all the others!

**A:** Well I paid good money for those tickets, so I'm entitled to my prizes. It's my food and I'm keeping it.

*(Picks up all of his food and exits. A, B and C look at one another for a moment.)*

**C:** Does anyone want to share my chocolate?

*(Divides the bar into three and gives pieces to B and D as they exit.)*